

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

Covering Main Street and Beyond.

VOLUME 7.

HURLEYVILLE, SULLIVAN COUNTY, N.Y. | JANUARY 2022

NUMBER 1.

A NEW YEAR BORN

BECOMING THE INSTRUMENT

*Jazz Legend Kenny Werner
at Hurleyville General Store*

HURLEYVILLE – When we hear music, we often experience how the physical flirts with the spiritual in profound and moving ways. But what we don't realize is that this confluence is possible not just in music, but in life, and it's easier than you think, says the founder and musical director of the Effortless Mastery Institute at the Berklee College of Music, Kenny Werner, in his new book, "Becoming the Instrument: Lessons on Self-Mastery from Music to Life" (Sweet Lo Press; January, 2022).

Mr. Werner, a South Fallsburg-based, internationally renowned American jazz pianist and Grammy Award nominee, has an in-person book event scheduled at the Hurleyville General Store on Saturday, January 15 at 2 p.m.

The new book begs the question: how can you channel your potential to live a more creative and fulfilling life? It serves as a follow-up to Mr. Werner's landmark book published 26-years ago, "Effortless Mastery: Liberating The Master Musician Within," which sold more than 150,000 copies and was translated into seven languages. It led to the development of the Effortless Mastery Institute at Berklee College of Music, where Mr. Werner is the Artist Director.

Packed with profound insights and uplifting anecdotes from his 40 years of studying, performing and teaching music, "Becoming the Instrument..." is a guide for accessing the spiritual in our everyday existence and applying it to the pursuits we love. Mr. Werner shows how musicians, artists or even business people can allow their "master creator" within to lift their performance to its highest level, showing us how to be spontaneous, fearless, joyful and disciplined in our work and in our life.

Whatever you are trying to

master, Mr. Werner says, the key is learning how to slip into "the space," the place beyond the conscious mind that allows us to effortlessly embody whatever we are doing. Entering this sort of flow state may seem esoteric and difficult to achieve, but Mr. Werner has easy exercises that allow you to access this and achieve mastery. As he points out, "mastery is not perfection, or even virtuosity. It is giving oneself love, forgiving one's mistakes, and not allowing earthly evidence to diminish one's view of one's self as a drop in the Ocean of Perfection."

"And here is the good news: You don't have to be a musician to have the experience!" Mr. Werner says.

Mr. Werner has been a world-class pianist and composer for over 40 years. His prolific output of compositions, recordings and publications continue to impact audiences around the world. In 1996 he wrote his landmark book, "Effortless Mastery: Liberating The Master Musician Within." He was awarded the 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship Award for his seminal work, "No Beginning No End," a musical journey exploring tragedy and loss, death and transition, and the path from one lifetime to the next. He has performed with such legendary musicians as Dizzy Gillespie, Betty Buckley, Toots Thielemans, Charles Mingus, Marian McPartland, Bobby McFerrin, Lou Rawls, Michel Legrand, Gunther Schuller, Bill Frisell, Pat Metheny, Elvin Jones and many more.

Mr. Werner has composed for international orchestras, received numerous NEA grants and been nominated for an Emmy Award.

His new book will be available at the Hurleyville General Store. It is 268 pages in paperback, and sells for \$24.95.

RAIL TRAIL PROJECT GETS STATE FUNDS

More Than \$800K Coming to Sullivan County



The O&W Railway bridge that once spanned the Neversink River near Woodridge. Fortunately, the replacement bridge, for foot traffic only, will need not be so elaborate.

MONTICELLO – The project to restore the bridge over the Neversink River in order to connect completed sections of the O&W Rail Trail in the town of Fallsburg will benefit from a \$750,000 grant from New York State, it was announced last week.

In all, Sullivan County is set to receive more than \$800,000 for two major restoration projects, thanks to State funding just announced through the CFA (Consolidated Funding Application) program.

"I look forward to partnering with the Town of Fallsburg and the Village of Monticello on initiatives that promise to greatly enhance their respective communities," Sullivan County Planning Commissioner Freda Eisenberg related. "I'm already grateful for their collaboration with our hard-

working Planning team to ensure we won State backing for these transformative efforts."

A combination of \$750,000 in funding awarded to the Town of Fallsburg from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic preservation will be leveraged with funds from other State, Federal, local and private sources to construct a bridge over the Neversink River. The "Neversink Crossing" project will connect two existing sections of Sullivan O&W Rail Trail to create a 13-mile route between Mountandale and Ferndale.

The Town is partnering with the County on this segment of what will one day be a 50+/-mile rail trail spanning nearly the entire width of Sullivan County from Mamakating to Rockland. Currently, Fallsburg is

working on a piece of this project that will connect the Neversink crossing to downtown South Fallsburg, where the trail picks up the existing segment into Hurleyville.

"I have long envisioned a bikeway over the Neversink River to connect the O&W Rail Trail from Mountandale to Hurleyville," said District 9 Legislator Alan Sorensen, long a champion of local trails. "This project will help to transform the segments of the O&W Rail Trail into a cohesive trail system that will become a regional recreational destination."

Separately, \$54,690 from the State will go to the Sullivan County Land Bank Corporation to develop a feasibility study and operating plan to redevelop the Broadway Theater in the Village of Monticello. This

landmark downtown theater has been an eyesore for over two decades. The project will pave the way to identify a developer and operator to renovate the theater into a community asset and contributing business for residents and visitors to enjoy.

"This is an exciting win that will literally get us 'across the river' and closer to the finish line," noted Legislator Ira Steingart, whose District 8 encompasses both the rail trail and theater properties. "My thanks to our Planning Division, the Town of Fallsburg, the Village of Monticello, Sullivan Renaissance, Granite Associates, Congressman Antonio Delgado, former NYS Senator Jen Metzger, current NYS Senator Mike Martucci and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther for their support."



Do-Over In Hurleyville *Business Pivots with COVID*

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE – Everyone deserves a do-over, a fresh start, and a place of their own. A hopeful mantra at the beginning of a new year, this phrase is especially true for the many new neighbors that have relocated to Hurleyville and to Sullivan County in the past two years. Jacque Leventoff and Charlie Mangini of Do-Over Real Estate Solutions in Hurleyville say that even vacant properties and houses in major disrepair deserve do-overs. And those may be among the few available options right now in the hyperactive local real estate market.

But Do-Over, a new residential redevelopment company with an office on Main Street in Hurleyville, offers a variety of real estate solutions, many aimed at homeowners who may be stuck with over-leveraged or structurally unsound properties. They have created a business model to buy houses, work with a network of contractors to spruce them up and do repairs, and then sell to what seems like a never-ending throng of buyers.

For Ms. Leventoff, a Fallsburg native, Hurleyville seemed like a logical location for Do-Over Real Estate Solutions when it was established in 2020. A licensed Realtor, she has always encouraged people to live in or visit the Catskills, even though she finds more people are looking for homes than the market has to offer. So, renovating vacant properties and offering them to

buyers would help with the local tax base, and bring new neighbors into communities. More customers for local businesses and more community volunteers could support Hurleyville and the surrounding towns.

Mr. Mangini, who went through his own personal career do-over, got the business name from a line in the movie City Slickers, starring Billy Crystal.

When his friend Phil is complaining that his life is over, Crystal's character, Mitch Robbins, says to him, "You remember when we were kids, and we were playing ball, and we hit the ball over the fence out of bounds, and we yelled, DO OVER? Your life is a do-over. You've got a clean slate."

COVID restrictions and a lack of inventory soon prompted the business to pivot, like so many others. In keeping with the do-over spirit, they purchased a former bungalow colony behind their office on Hope Street in Hurleyville, and began renovating what have turned out to be beautiful Airbnb rentals.

Formerly owned by the Multari-Ginsberg family, the group of small houses needed only minor improvements, so the Hope Street compound was the perfect property to convert to vacation rentals. Ms. Leventoff envisions a little agri-hood, where renters can step outside and pick fruit or vegetables from a garden. A large family could rent all the houses for a reunion or a wedding, and enjoy a healthy outdoor experience that includes nearby rail trails to walk.

It was the old casino, a one-level building on the property, that prompted them to think about visitors who might need special accommodations. They began to research and plan for a universally accessible cottage for visiting families with children at The Center for Discovery or one of the other nearby residential care agencies. The couple found that this option does not exist in any other local vacation rental, and they're hoping for a special designation for the home when it's finished.

Designed to be an accessible home-like setting for a family to enjoy together, this Hurleyville do-over is thoughtful and smart.

Here's to a happy and healthy new year!

RENAISSANCE HOSTS G2R EVENT

LIBERTY – Sullivan Renaissance has announced that registration is now open for its G2R Winter Symposium on Wednesday, January 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The virtual event, presented via ZOOM, is free and will explore the "Sullivan O&W Rail Trail – Past, Present, and Future" with County Historian John Conway, Freda Eisenberg and Heather Jacksy of Sullivan County Planning and the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance.

Mr. Conway will talk about the historical contributions that the O&W Rail system had on Hurleyville

and other towns along the cinder track. Ms. Eisenberg and Ms. Jacksy will join the conversation to share the work of the Alliance and to provide an update on current trail projects and future plans for expansion to connect up to 50 miles of trails in the County.

The G2R Winter Symposium is the kick-off event for the 2022 Sullivan Renaissance grant season. Renaissance program staff will be present to speak about grants for community beautification, business assistance, neighborhood revitalization, municipal partnerships; as

well as volunteer and intern opportunities.

"The G2R Event is a great way to get caught up on some exciting projects happening in our County," Denise Frangipane, Executive Director at Sullivan Renaissance, said. "We are looking forward to the program and to sharing what is coming up with Sullivan Renaissance in 2022"

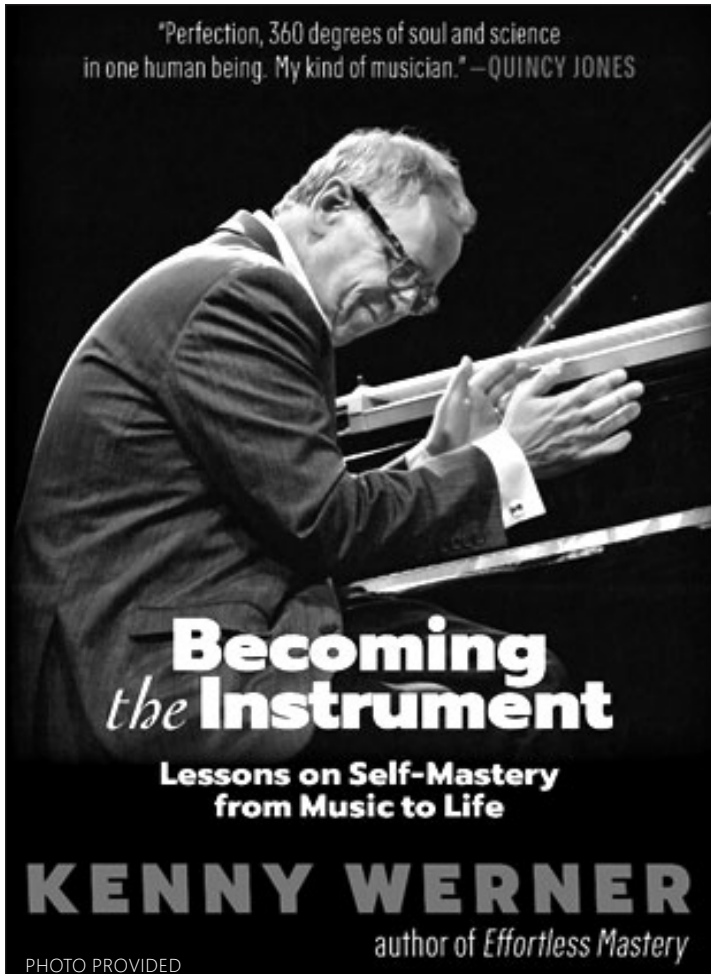
Visit SullivanRenaissance.org to register. Create a remote watch party with a friend or two, and learn what is new at Sullivan Renaissance in 2022.

ABOUT OUR HEADLINE

We once again turned to the world of poetry for the headline in this month's edition, this time to the work of Helen Hunt Jackson, an American poet and writer who lived from 1830 to 1885 and became an activist on behalf of improved treatment of Native Americans by the United States government.

Her best known work is the novel "Ramona," published in 1884. The book remained popular for decades, and was later a favorite of early movie makers. D.W. Griffith, who made many movies filmed partly here in Sullivan County, adapted it in 1910, starring Mary Pickford and Henry B. Walthall. Donald Crisp, who also got his start in movies made locally, made a three hour long feature length version in 1916.

But it is Ms. Jackson's poetry that inspired the headline for our paper. In the poem, "New Year's Morning," she expresses the thought that every morning can be, in a sense, the beginning of a new year. The poem ends with the lines: "Only a night from old to new;/ Only a sleep from night to morn./ The new is but the old come true;/ Each sunrise sees a new year born."



Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



HURLEYVILLE FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

The holiday spirit was beautifully displayed again in Hurleyville in December. Creative and imaginative decorations on homes and businesses spread holiday cheer throughout the hamlet.

Hurleyville-Sullivan First held the 25th Annual “DECK THE DOORS” Holiday Decorating Contest on December 16. The winners were:

- The Barefoot House (TCFD)
- The Becerril Family
- The Besimer Family
- The Castillo Family
- Ann Finneran and Richard Seehausen
- Chrissy and Maria Frunzi
- Diane and Tony Harvey
- The Hoag Family
- Kaitlin Lacey and Romar Carabello
- Sonya and Bob Robinson
- Dana and Jim Schmidt
- Laura Schultz

Prizes for the winners were provided by the Arati Store, Casa Mia, Catskill Amusements, Fortress Bikes, the Hurleyville General Store, the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, izzy’s aunt, Jampond, La Salumina, the Pickled Owl, QQL Enterprises, LLC and LouAnn Rexford.

Bold Gold Media Group contributed a \$1,000 advertising package for the winning business...the Hurleyville General Store.

The Ditchik Family, The Rose Family and Annette and Ernest Wood were selected to become part of the “DECK THE DOORS” Hall of Fame. Other “Hall of Famers” include:

- The Dromazos Family
- Ruth and Dick Forest
- Ryan Forest
- Dawn and Shawn McCarthy
- Terry McGrath
- Cathy and Bob Orlowsky
- Leisha and E Snihura

Please visit www.hurlevilleny.com for more information about Hurleyville-Sullivan First. You can also visit Hurleyville-Sullivan First on Facebook.

HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Bread of Life Food Pantry at the church will be open on Thursday, January 20 and on Thursday, January 27 from 3 until 5 p.m.

Sunday services at the church begin at 9 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to attend Sunday school at the church during services.

Pastor Jorge is delivering sermons online on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN

One of the first selections for the “Deck the Doors” Hall of Fame continues to be magnificently decorated every year.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN

Goldie Lacourt and Cookie Cross brought information on fun activities for young people at the Hurleyville United Methodist Church to “Holiday in Hurleyville” in December.

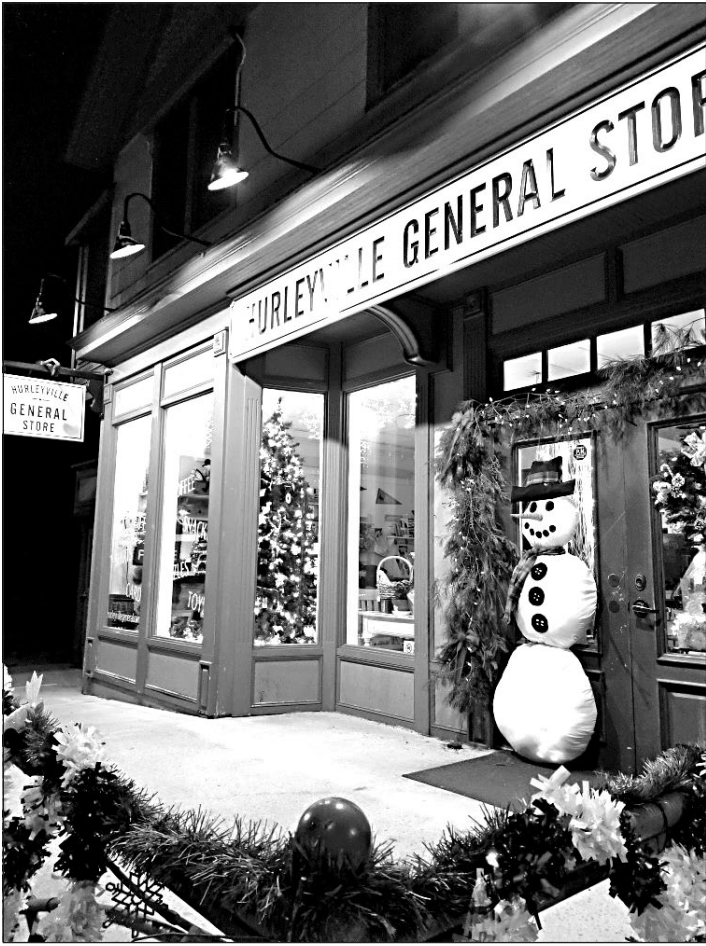


PHOTO BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN

The Hurleyville General Store won the “Best Business” prize in the 25th Annual “Deck the Doors” Holiday Decorating Contest sponsored by Hurleyville-Sullivan First.

The Bible study group meets in the sanctuary at the church every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Fully vaccinated churchgoers do not have to wear a mask in the church.

You can pray with others over the phone on the church’s prayer line on Sundays from 7– 8 p.m. The prayer line phone number is 605-472-5491 and the access code is 251678.

Volunteers at the church plan to start “Messy Church” again in February. Children attending this event enjoy arts & crafts, singing and other activities

that teach the Bible in a fun way. All children taking part in the fun must be accompanied by an adult. “Messy Church” is tentatively scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month at 5 p.m.

Youth Group meetings and the women’s group meetings are still cancelled for now.

Please call Katrina at 845-436-7942 for more information. You can also get updates at the church’s page on Facebook.

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Guided tours of the museum...behind the scenes and regular exhibits...are available on Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. There is no charge for the hour-long tours but registration is required. Please call 845-428-3111 to register.

“To the Mountains by Rail,” just republished by Myron Gittell of Load ‘n Go Press, is available for sale at the gift shop at the museum. The book, first published in 1970, describes the history of the railroads in the “Mountains” and their substantial impact on the resort industry in Sullivan County.

Donations to the Museum and the Historical Society are always welcome. Contributions help to meet the growing increase in the cost of operating the museum.

Anyone interested in genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can send an email to info@scnyhistory.org for information on volunteering at the museum.

Please call the museum at 845-434-8044 or email info@scnyhistory.org for more information.

The museum, located at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville, is open on Tuesdays through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Per Sullivan County guidelines, visitors to the Museum are required to wear masks.

Go to 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.

Please email Suzanne Cecil at scecil@hvc.rr.com if you have any questions.

COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

The members of CHNA appreciate the support of the community for the group’s efforts to protect our environment and our community.

The CHNA steering committee meets monthly in preparation for the next appearance of the Gan Eden Estates project on the agenda of the Town of Thompson Planning Board.

The project is a disturbing threat to the environment and will have a grievous impact on the quality of life in the community. Major concerns that cannot be pointed out too often are:

- water supply
- wastewater treatment plant and discharge
- 534 units in 89 structures
- 4 miles of paved roads
- possibility of more than 3,000 residents
- 1,100 parking spaces
- storm water runoff
- traffic
- noise pollution
- light pollution
- electric grid capacity
- 110-foot 400,000 -gallon on-site water tank

Members of CHNA are also monitoring the dubious over development in the area of Huschke Road and East Mongaup Road.

Visit CHNA at www.columbiahill.org and on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your environment and your community by demanding responsible and sustainable development.

The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

On December 11, I took advantage of the unbelievably warm weather to go out to CABERNET FRANK’S. SLAM ALLEN had been scheduled, but had to cancel due to a last minute cruise ship booking, so THE JOHNNY JULES BAND stepped up for the night.

I haven’t seen Johnny since early in the summer, so it just seemed to me that the fates were all in my favor to make this gig, especially with the new mask mandate going into effect the following Monday.

THE JOHNNY JULES BAND, at its core, consists of JOHNNY on guitar and vocals, DAVE D’ARCY on bass, and BOB DEL-ASSANDRO on the Dobro. If you’re not familiar with this band (but if you read this column, I don’t know how you couldn’t be) their music is a most pleasant blend of Blues/Country/Pop/Folk/Old/New that appeals across all ages. There was a table of 30-something women celebrating a birthday who had seen them at THE FAT LADY CAFE this summer and had heard they were at CABERNET FRANK’S and decided this is where they, too wanted

to be. Another young man had been at FROGGY DAZE, one of the festivals they played. Another person I spoke to earlier in the week about live music and groups, had told me how much he had liked this band and when I told him where they were going to be...well, he and his spouse showed up, too. And it’s not just with the audiences that they are extremely popular.

That night, it was the core band plus three, because it seems everyone wants to add their instruments to THE JOHNNY JULES BAND. MANGO MIKE saw them at a festival and early in the summer and began sitting in with various instruments. For this gig, it was the banjo, adding that edgy staccato to even the Christmas songs without being obtrusive or overpowering. I’ve seen PAUL STARK with them quite often, again with a variety of instruments. Saturday, it was the mandolin, which added a brightness to the high notes. And then there was JOHN CONDON, a retired New York City firefighter, who, when they have a gig, will drive in with his full set of drums

whenever he can. His drumming corresponds well with DAVE D’ARCY’S bass, enhancing the anchor of the bass within the group.

So let me tell you how unusual this is: First, it’s not unusual for a musician to show up and sit in with any group. It IS unusual for three to join the core group on a stage...and sound like they have all played together forever! Everyone there got to see the group they love...with a coat of frosting!

I was pretty sure this would be my last outing until the cases started to go down again. I was wrong. On December 20, I was invited to what can only be described as a “Musician’s Luncheon” in a private home hosted by guitar man BILL GRIESBECK and the “Lady with the Fiddle,” LIL SCOLES. Two members of THE JOHNNY JULES BAND were there (JOHNNY and BOBBIE D), along with LITTLE SPARROW (ALDO TROIANI and CAROL SMITH). And OH the stories! About how they all first met. Gigs that didn’t go so well. Places they played before I moved up here. Just so much fun to

just sit and listen to.

The food was wonderful, a real feast. And that wasn’t all. After lunch, came the music. Six uber-talented musicians in a circle in this living room, each picking a song to do with the others adding their instruments and voices. I was in heaven, and so honored to be a part of it as the “audience.” (Trust me, no one wants ME to sing. Ever. I know my limitations!)

I was treated to “JUST BUMMIN’ AROUND,” Instrumental standard “BOIL THAT CABBAGE DOWN,” “TENNESSEE WHISKEY,” “TOGETHER AGAIN,” “TOMORROW’S GONNA COME,” “YOU NEVER EVEN CALLED ME BY MY NAME,” and so many more, including some I’m still trying to identify. For probably the first time ever, I really, really enjoyed Country-ish music. What a great day!!

And THAT may be the last I go out for a while. Please, everyone be very careful out there. These spikes right now are not Omicron, but still Delta.

Stay vigilant and stay masked friends.

Until next time.....

BCES SGA Gives Presents to Pre-K Children

FALLSBURG – On December 23, Benjamin Cosor Elementary School (BCES) Student Government Association Advisor Peter Dworetsky arrived at the morning and afternoon sessions of Pre-K classes with three SGA elves to provide Christmas gifts to all the children.

He told the classes that the group purchased and wrapped all the gifts for the past many years. Sixth graders Heaven Mathews, Kiara Sauer and Stephon Harris spoke on be-

half of the SGA brothers and sisters, and told the younger children how happy they were to bring smiles to their faces.

In the afternoon class, they each shared what was the most special Christmas gift they ever received. The day coincided with the school’s annual Pajama Day so many of the children as well as staff were wearing pajamas. It made the occasion seem like Christmas morning around the Christmas Tree.

The Pre-K children thanked

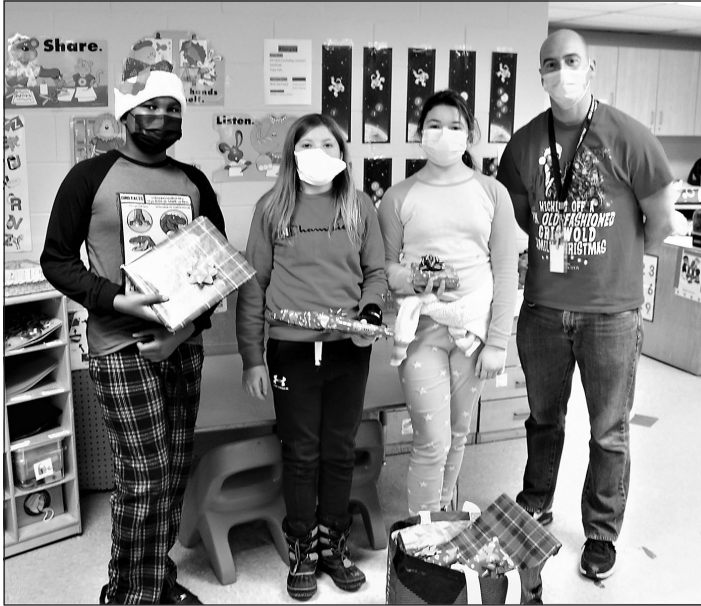


PHOTO PROVIDED

Shown (left to right) are SGA representatives Stephon Harris, Heaven Mathews, and Kiara Sauer with their Faculty Advisor Peter Dworetsky.

the SGA after they received the individual gifts at a special table set up with gifts next to cut-outs of different shapes. Each child had been given a cut-out to match up with the presents. That was probably the idea of Mr. Dworetsky, who is the school’s Math Coach.

Pre-K teacher Mindy Con-

ciatori and her faithful Assistant, Jennifer Varner, were very pleased to watch the children opening their gifts and shouting out a very loud “Thank you” to the wonderful visitors bearing such wonderful presents.

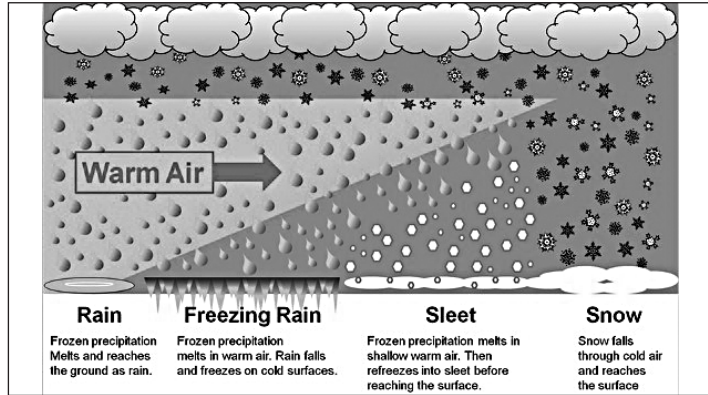
What a great way to end the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year!

FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



FREEZING RAIN



According to the National Weather Service in Blacksburg, VA, freezing rain occurs when “the layer of freezing air is so thin that the raindrops do not have enough time to freeze before reaching the ground.”

Instead, the water freezes on contact with the surface, creating a coating of ice on whatever the raindrops contact. Freezing rain is dangerous because the ice can create slick spots on roadways, causing motorists to lose control of their automobiles with little to no warning. Also, ice on tree branches and power lines can cause them to snap or break.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says that freezing rain is “most commonly found in a narrow band on the cold side of a warm front, where

surface temperatures are at or just below freezing.”

The accompanying diagram shows a typical temperature profile for freezing rain.

In the United States, most ice storms are in the northeastern part of the country, but damaging storms have occurred farther south. An ice storm in February of 1994 resulted in tremendous ice accumulations as far south as Mississippi, and caused reported damage in nine states.

The worst ice storm on record occurred on December 4 and 5 in 1964.

Freezing rain caused ice accumulations of up to 1.5 inches and crippled east central New York. Many residents were without power for up to two weeks, and schools had to be shut down for a week.

Poetry by Mimi

M.L.K.

He spoke quietly until his footsteps reached the pulpit
He walked gently until he strode across the Edmund Pettus Bridge
He learned about how to interact with others
For example, how Mahatma Gandhi lived

He was very much an admired leader
Who fought valiantly to gain some equal rights
The work he took on kept the candle burning
Or the lamp’s light that burned morning, noon and night

He smiled meekly when he met someone in person
Shook hands firmly and exuded divine grace
Just before his last night living he preached soulfully
And his voice rang out like thunder in that place

He described the dream he had about the mountain
Its top was truly in his sight
We’re left knowing that he wanted change sincerely
Lost his life as he fought for equal rights

- Mimi
January, 2022

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PATIENCE, NOT PANIC

County Public Health Says It's the Best COVID Response

LIBERTY – As COVID-19 cases continue to climb locally and statewide, Sullivan County Public Health Services is remaining focused on vaccination, education, and self-empowerment.

“As I’ve been saying since the pandemic began, staying safe from COVID starts with each of us taking personal responsibility,” Public Health Director Nancy McGraw said. “That’s become even more important now, as this new wave has stretched government and healthcare resources to their limits. For example: the dramatic and ongoing spike in coronavirus transmission has overwhelmed the State’s contact tracing system, meaning that it could be days before those exposed to someone with COVID-19 get follow-up notification.”

Thus, Sullivan County Public Health Services recommends the following if someone tests positive, either via an at-home test or one rendered in a professional setting:

1. Isolate the positive case from other family members. Household members who are not positive should wear masks while in the home, and quarantine. Those who are fully vaccinated (two or more doses)

- do not need to quarantine.
2. Notify close contacts so they can decide to get tested if they become symptomatic. However, anyone who is fully vaccinated (two or more doses) and is a close contact of a positive person does not need to quarantine unless they become symptomatic – but they should wear a mask at all times indoors.
3. Anyone who tests positive should not attend work until there’s a dramatic improvement of symptoms, plus three (3) days without a fever (without the use of fever-reducing products). They must also wear a mask while in public: KN95s are recommended. Contact the Community Assistance Center at 845-807-0925 to find a

local supply point.

4. Public Health and its local healthcare partners are not recommending a confirmatory PCR test after a positive at-home test. Should someone test positive via an at-home kit, they should follow the steps outlined above.
5. If shortness of breath or worsening of symptoms is encountered, do not hesitate to call 911.
6. The above information does not take the place of medical advice from a provider; the individual’s particular healthcare provider should be notified about specific symptoms or treatment questions.
7. Vaccination remains the best defense against serious complications from COVID, hospital-

ization, and death. Please visit www.sullivanny.us for a regularly updated list of clinics and pharmacies in Sullivan County where you can receive vaccines and boosters.

The NYS Department of Health issued an updated Advisory which supersedes portions of previous guidance related to returning to work after COVID-19 infection and reduces the isolation period from 10 days to 5 days under certain circumstances: www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/12/return-to-work-isolation-guidance_12-24-21.pdf.

Please call Public Health at 845-292-5910 if you are under isolation and need guidance for returning to work.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO
Nancy McGraw

“This is a tough and concerning surge of cases and will not likely improve until well after the holidays,” acknowledged Ms. McGraw, “and we ask everyone to use patience and educate yourself about staying safe and well. Each of us can take steps to protect ourselves and our families from COVID, just like with any virus or illness. And the more we take these steps together as a community, the better our outcomes will be.”

PAPER CLIPS...

by Elaine Corrington

Oh PLEASE...A Sort of Happy New Year...

When you have lived a long time, you discover that “Happy New Year!” is not just something you say. For some people, it is said with a sense of history, personal expectations, some good luck along the way, finding actions and thoughts that can help others who have not had your good luck for the past years, and an amount of luck that makes you feel even more confident that the coming year can be good for you and those you love. You even try to include those who have been disgustingly contributory or celebratory to some of the bad things that came your way some of the time in an off year. There was enough good that remembering the year could make you happy and more available at times. Even in the face of horrific heart-breaking moments, you are aware that some bad luck teaches you how to re-observe and change to better luck, maybe not for yourself in the moment, but to help others who are traveling similar pathways to results that could be awful to pathways that may be better due to the resources and experiences you have learned about. Some of the most welcome support, advice in the moment, and creating some new years in the future, come from people who understand your pain and your possibilities, because they know it too. It may not be right away, but just about everybody I know has some of that history. Some people never do get those moments to feel like they can move forward. We often learn lessons we absolutely do not want to learn.

The past couple of years have, of course, been extremely challenging. It is hard to look and listen in any situation and feel like screeching out “Happy New Year!!!” to anyone. We can’t believe it. The effects of the hard and shared news for all of us are apparent and cautionary if we are paying attention: and how can we not? The good and joyful moments pale by what we see with our families and friends, our large and small communities, our heroes, our enemies, our leaders, our stars, our good thinkers, our creative students of life, and those who think differently. We begin to realize that participating in even small acts of companionship, humor, creativity, sweaty and thoughtful help-- and recognition of the help of others-- can allow us to begin to re-evaluate our responsibilities and options. Health, Wellness, and Wonders. How quickly might you be able to see a turn-around in those areas? Every single step you take in those areas allows you to maybe not look at this Happy New Year as a speedy done-deal, but as a time to remember later as the road not taken to regrettable consequences. Can we make it the road taken together for the Wonders, Health, Wellness that will make for a not-forgotten possibility for a Happy New Year and supportive future?

It’s a PLAN.

LOCAL KIWANIS CLUBS SPREAD CHEER

MONTICELLO – The members of the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge joined forces once more to bring holiday cheer to the Office for the Aging Meals on Wheels Participants as well as local families serviced by the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless.

They presented little gifts and greeting cards to Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless Program Administrator Kathy Kreiter and to Office for the Aging Director Lise-Anne Deoul and Nutrition Services Coordinator Jane Bozan. The gifts included an assortment of holiday solar dancers, play dough, coloring books, hats, gloves, scarves, Find the Word and Crossword Puz-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pictured are Office for the Aging Director Lise-Anne Deoul, Aging Services Aide Albert Patalona, Nutrition Svs. Coord. Jane Bozan, Monticello Kiwanian Sheila Lashinsky and Woodridge Kiwanis Pres. Diane Garritt.

zles, body lotion, playing cards, stuffed animals and holiday mugs filled with candy.

In addition to the Kiwanis Club members, the Monticello High School Key Club, Mrs. Jill

Weiner’s Liberty Middle School Class as well as the Aktion Club of Sullivan County, comprised of individuals from Arc The Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and Center for Discovery, contributed a large amount of beautifully hand-made greeting cards and gifts.

The main mission of this project was to give back to the community and to reassure the recipients that people were thinking of them and wanted to make their holiday a little more enjoyable.

For more information about Kiwanis - contact Monticello president, Marvin Rappaport, at 845-701-1655 or Woodridge president, Diane Garritt, at 845-434-7023.

LEARNING THE BUSINESS: CCHS Students Visit Sentinel

By John Adams and Jason Gebhardt

HURLEYVILLE – On October 18, Investigative Journalism students at the new Collaborative College High School (CCHS) interviewed County Historian and Hurleyville Sentinel editor John Conway, and made many new discoveries.

“Immediately, once we walked in, he began talking about the importance of newspapers in small towns,” said Nicolo Micara, a student in the CCHS Investigative Journalism class. Mr. Conway was very passionate about this, and explained that at one time Narrowsburg, White Lake, Jeffersonville, Wurtsboro and many other Sullivan County towns had newspapers, and some had two. Where once there were all those newspapers, now there are only a few.

Not long ago, small towns used to be self-sufficient. They would likely have a grocery store, pharmacy,

newspaper, and whatever else was necessary to preclude residents from having to travel long distances. Some of these once-thriving towns have begun to revitalize, often with the help of external groups or organizations such as The Center for Discovery in Hurleyville. When this happens, residents of the town are usually unaware of what is happening. This can lead to some confusion and misunderstanding as properties are being bought and sold and sometimes leads to opposition towards the movement, which then leads to the revival fizzling out, leaving the town nearly as desolate as it was in the first place. This is where a local newspaper can help, Mr. Conway said.

“I thought it would be a good idea to revive the community newspaper that was here up until the 1940’s,” Mr. Conway said.

The goal was to bridge the communication gap between diverse residents in

the small town, and to have a free community newspaper that would allow residents to get reliable news. Since newspapers are becoming more and more passé, it is becoming increasingly difficult to get local news. He wanted to make accessing local news easier.

Mr. Conway also taught the students techniques for writing journalistic articles. They learned about the importance of lead sentences to hook the reader and to front load information.

“It was very much an in-depth learning experience on writing journalistic pieces and what is happening to newspapers,” said Rose Mandelbaum, a seventh grade journalism student. “I enjoyed the experience.”

Kelly Adams, CCHS Investigative Journalism teacher, said that having Mr. Conway available to CCHS

as a resource was invaluable. “Our weekly meetings were excellent opportunities for the students to learn from someone who has been involved in journalism as a career.”

At present, Hurleyville is rapidly being improved with new businesses like the Hurleyville Arts Center and CCHS High School, and the newspaper has been a vital step in this renovation, allowing people to get informed on the new and great things in this fine town. The Hurleyville Sentinel has been a great success. However, in the last decade, more than 2,000 American newspapers have winked out of existence, according to Penny Abernathy, a University of North Carolina researcher. CCHS journalism students are excited to be a part of keeping this newspaper alive and full of news.

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Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

In a recent poem, Louise Glück designated December “the month of darkness,” and, solstice-wise, that’s certainly so, yet I find the light of December the most compelling of the year, as if its beauty were in inverse proportion to its growing scarcity, and I don’t mean just because of the augmented glow of the month’s celebratory candles and bonfires and Christmas lights; I mean the natural light alone, in all its shifting registers, undergoing variations on any given day that feel unique to the season – the way, for example, on a morning when there’s been snow-fall overnight, one can tell, even while it’s still dark, that something has happened, for the reflective property of the blanketing whiteness appears to amplify whatever ambient light is at large in the atmosphere – starlight or moonlight or unseen frequencies the eye can’t detect – and gives rise to a subtle shimmer, like a glamour, too fine to register directly on the senses yet impressing itself upon one’s awareness nonetheless, drawing one forth into the new day, primed for the more pronounced greeting of a wintry sunrise, the kind where a furiously concentrated patch of red or purple lies low across the horizon, compressed down by masses of dark cloud and looking like a tear or rift in the cloud fabric through which color is seeping, until the dense light gradually softens and spreads more generally abroad in a suffusion of red and pink and violet, so that by the time I’m on my way to work, skirting the southern end of Loch Sheldrake, the lake itself has become one huge reflective surface, mirroring the sky’s colors and gracing the world with a continuous flush of color in all directions at once, at least for a few minutes, until it settles down to the transparency and more sedate delineations of day, which signals a shift of my attention to the workday ahead, during the course of which I pause only in passing to notice the light, the peculiar sheen of the December sky, buffed by the colder air like polished metal, glinting a flinty blue or gray (and such a fine array of grays in winter: silver and stone, charcoal and slate), gradually modulating, as the day dwindles and the dark comes on again, into the Blue Hour (that brief period when the sun dips below the horizon and the atmosphere becomes most receptive to the blue-indigo-violet end of the spectrum, around 4:30 in the afternoon at mid-month), which smolders down quickly into night, and the only light that remains on my drive back up Route 17 is vehicular – the red of brake lights and the glare of high-beams, stretching out along the road like a string of Christmas tree lights – until I return to Divine Corners Road, which is always a few degrees darker than anywhere else, a long stretch of unsettling darkness punctuated by a series of irregularly placed streetlights, each one casting an isolated pool of light down upon the road, each pool a thrill to plunge into and out of again, each one a marker that I’m closer to home, my progress punctuated as well by the glow emanating from the windows of scattered houses along the way, like ports of call on a dark sea, till I arrive at the last lit window: **home**, that harbor and hearth where all the shifting registers of the day’s light resolve into sleep, into whatever light it is by which we see our dreams – the unchanging, continuous, interior light of our own sentience, that animates our eye from within and makes it so that, whatever conditions our waking eye encounters, when we wake, we wake to our eye’s own light.

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

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From the Firehouse

by Jack Halchak, Past Chief H.F.D.



The Hurleyville Fire Department is always looking for help, to fight fire or support those that do. We even supply all the gear and provide all of the training needed, for free. Stop by any Monday night and find out how you can help.

Our annual elections were held in December, and these are the officers for 2022:

- Line Officers:
Chief - Charlie Payne
1st Assistant Chief - Fred Froehlich
2nd Assistant Chief - Tony Harvey
Captain - Alan Price
1st Lieutenant - Pete Micheletti III
2nd Lieutenant – Michael, Spinelli
Captain of the Fire Police- Eddie Ayala
Executive Officers:
President - Jim Kaufman
Vice President- Miranda Behan
Treasurer- John Jaycox
Secretary- Erica Payne
Officer at Large- Roger Dainack

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers.

Not much has changed in a year. Our firehouse is still closed to non-emergency service personnel. We are still conducting our monthly meetings and having our drill nights.

I have often lectured, scolded, begged you to get

**Hurleyville Fire Department
Town of Fallsburg Youth Commission
34th Annual Ice Fishing Contest**

Morningside Lake, Hurleyville 12747
614 Brickman Road

Sat. Feb. 12, 2022 7 am - 3 pm

Adults \$5.00 -- 15 and under Free
TROPHIES * PRIZES * BAIT
REFRESHMENTS * RAFFLES * FUN

SPECIAL FIREMAN'S CONTEST
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up to date info J.W. Halchak on facebook

and maintain working CO detectors. From reports that I am seeing it looks like the family of seven in Minnesota may have died from CO poisoning. At press time the authorities are looking at two possible sources, the furnace, and the car in the garage. They did find a CO detector in the house with the batteries removed.

Maybe by the time you are reading this we may have some snow on the ground. As a reminder to the snow removal people,

snowplowers, etc. PLEASE DO NOT bury fire hydrants while plowing driveways. Needless to say, you can affect the water supply for a fire. If you are capable when digging your walkways out how about cleaning out around the hydrant in front of your house.

Cold weather hopefully will show up soon. The Hurleyville Fire Department in cooperation with the Town of Fallsburg Youth Commission will be holding their 34th Annual

Ice Fishing Contest, Saturday, February 12, 2022. The contest will take place on Morningside Lake 614 Brickman Road in Hurleyville from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Registration will take place the day of the contest at the lake. Registration is \$5.00 for adults and free for those 15 and under. Refreshments and bait will be available. We will also drill holes for you, if needed.

There will be an adult and youth division with trophies for first, second and third in the following categories: PERCH, PAN FISH, BULLHEAD, WALLEYE AND PICKEREL. All fish must be legally caught and of legal size.

There is also a special Firemen's Contest. The RICH FARQUHAR MEMORIAL CHIEF'S CUP, goes to the top firemen's fishing team. A team can be one, ten or as many that shows up. All team members MUST belong to the same fire department. As in the past the cup is passed from year to year to the winning team. There is also a first, second and third place team trophy in the fireman's contest.

More info and up to date info can be found on my Facebook page J.W.Halchak Hope to see you there.

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburgh

COMPILED BY Sullivan County Historian John Conway

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when local newspapers were arguably at the peak of their popularity, it was common for papers to publish so called "Industrial Editions" that featured what would later be termed "advertorials" describing the merits of local businesses. As far as we can determine, the Hurleyville Sentinel never produced one of these publications, but both the Republican Watchman and the Sullivan County Republican, larger circulation newspapers published in Monticello, did.

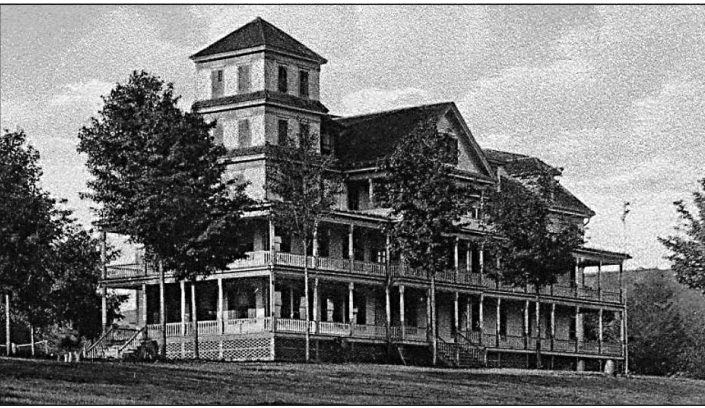
Here we reproduce an excerpt describing a Hurleyville business taken from the January 28, 1898 Republican Watchman special edition.

January 28, 1898, Republican Watchman

Columbia House
John H Knapp, Prop.

Take the state of New York from its apex at Franklin County down to New York City and west to Buffalo and one cannot find a more sightly [sic] or picturesque spot on which to erect a summer hotel than that on which the Columbia is located at Hurleyville, N.Y.

The house is situated in the most attractive and pic-



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The Columbia Hotel in Hurleyville circa 1898.

turesque portion of Sullivan County, on a most beautiful towering eminence three hundred feet above and overlooking the pretty village of Hurleyville, and a most beautiful and picturesque expanse of country for miles in extent, with the ranges of the Shawangunk and Catskills mountains in the background. The intervening country is variegated with fertile meadows, delightful forests, waving fields of grain and sparkling brooks laughing and dancing over their rocky beds on their way to the Neversink.

Dotted here and there throughout this panorama of natural beauty are pretty farms, homes surrounded by lovely orchards and beautiful flower gardens with herds of cattle grazing in the productive pastures nearby.

Nowhere can the situation of the "Columbia" be surpassed for healthfulness of climate and grandeur of scenery and nearby are some of the highest mountain peaks between New York City and the Great Lakes. The house is on a level with the Hotel Wawonda at Liberty and is built on solid rock with excellent sanitary arrangements and perfect drainage.

The "Columbia" was erected five years ago for the sole purpose of catering to the summer trade and is replete with every convenience calculated to enhance the comfort and pleasure of guests. It is located on a farm of one hundred acres, with a splendid grove of stately maples, covering thirty acres near the

house.

The house contains about fifty rooms, all large, airy and well ventilated, furnished throughout in the most modern style, heated by steam, with both hot and cold water, closets and baths on every floor. The verandas are wide and spacious, strewn with hammocks and easy chairs and the lawns are large and attractive and are well adapted to outdoor games and amusements. There is a bowling alley and large amusement hall on the premises situated a convenient distance from the main building.

Both the water and ice used in the house are obtained from one of the largest and best springs in the country, which is located near the house.

The dining rooms are large, cool and comfortable, and are plentifully supplied with all the substantial [sic] and delicacies of the season, the milk, butter, eggs, poultry, maple syrup and vegetables being the product of the farm in connection, thus insuring purity and freshness in every way.

It has always been the aim of the courteous and pleasant proprietor, with the aid of his worthy wife, to make the "Columbia" one of the excel-sior hotels of this section of the state and that they have been successful is clearly indicated by the steadily-increasing popularity which the house enjoys in connection with its enviable business status.

A good laundry and livery

are in connection and the rates are from \$7 to \$15 per week, according to room. Transient rates are \$1.50 per day. In order to reach the "Columbia" from New York take ferry at West 42nd or Franklin streets via N.Y.O. & W. R.R. to Hurleyville, 11 miles without change.

Mr. John H Knapp, the populist proprietor of the "Columbia" is of the old and well known family of Knapps, his ancestors having come from Connecticut and settled in the vicinity of Hurleyville more than 100 years ago.

The "Columbia" is unique in its exceptional equipments [sic] and in the excellence of its cuisine. Spacious parlors, luxurious lounging rooms, broad and shady verandas, combine to make it the favorite lounging place of the best class of people of our large cities. Its landscape views are unsurpassed for their magnificence and grandeur. Late in the day when the sun sheds its brilliant rays upon the mountain tops, down through the ravines and valleys the scene is grand beyond description.

The nights are always cool at the "Columbia" and malaria and mosquitos are unknown.

The grounds of the hotel embrace many acres, the greater portion of which has been improved for the pleasure of the guests. They are furnished plentifully with summer houses, rustic seats, pleasant walks and grand drives.

At sunset, the landscape is transcendent with the soft shade and delicate tints of the sky, the atmosphere aglow with color and there comes to one the novel experience of not alone beholding the distant glories of the west, but of actually standing in and being surrounded by the effulgence of the dying day. It is in such an environment and atmosphere that the guests of the "Columbia" find rest, health and pleasure and the dreams that make life worth living.

THE WINTER SOLSTICE IN HURLEYVILLE AND AROUND THE WORLD

by Brian Dennis

HURLEYVILLE – The winter solstice celebration has become a tradition here in Hurleyville over the past several years, but elsewhere in the world, many commemorations of the event predate written history.

According to the History Channel, the winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, it takes place between December 20 and 23, depending on the year. (The reverse is true in the Southern Hemisphere, where the shortest day of the year occurs in June.) Cultures around the world have long held feasts and celebrated holidays around the winter solstice. Fire and light are traditional symbols of celebrations held on the darkest day of the year.

The winter solstice is the day of the year with the fewest hours of daylight, and it marks the start of astronomical winter. After the winter solstice, days start becoming longer and nights shorter as spring approaches.

As noted on the website History.com, "humans may have observed the winter solstice as early as Neolithic period—the last part of the Stone Age, beginning about 10,200 BC."

"Neolithic monuments, such as Newgrange in Ireland and Maeshowe in Scotland, are aligned with sunrise on the winter solstice. Some archaeologists have theorized that these tomb-like structures served a religious purpose in which Stone Age people held rituals to capture the sun on the year's shortest day.

"Stonehenge, which is oriented toward the winter solstice sunset, may also have



PHOTO PROVIDED

been a place of December rituals for Stone Age people."

Ancient Romans held several celebrations around the time of the winter solstice. Saturnalia, a holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture, was a weeklong celebration in the days leading up to the winter solstice.

Saturnalia was a hedonistic time, when food and drink were plentiful and the normal Roman social order was turned upside down. For a month, enslaved people were given temporary freedom and treated as equals. Business and schools were closed so that everyone could participate in the holiday's festivities.

In addition, members of the upper classes often celebrated the birthday of Mithra, on December 25. Mithra was an ancient Persian god of light. It was believed that Mithra, an infant god, was born of a rock. For some Romans, Mithra's birthday was the most sacred day of the year. In the later Roman Empire, Mithra blended with Sol Invictus, god of the "unconquered sun."

Some theorists believe the early Roman Catholic Church may have chosen the same date for Christmas in order to supplant pagan rituals, though many Christian scholars dispute this.

St. Lucia's Day, A festival of lights in Scandinavia honors St. Lucia, one of the earliest Christian martyrs. It was incorporated with earlier Norse solstice traditions after many Norsemen converted to Christianity around 1000 A.D.

As a symbol of light, Lucia and her feast day blended naturally with solstice traditions such as lighting fires to scare away spirits during the longest, darkest night of the year.

On St. Lucia's day, girls in Scandinavia wear white dresses with red sashes and wreaths of candles on their heads, as an homage to the candles Lucia wore on her head to light her way as she visited imprisoned Christians, carrying forbidden food in her arms.

The Chinese celebration of the winter solstice, Dong Zhi (which means "Winter Ar-

rives") welcomes the return of longer days and the corresponding increase in positive energy in the year to come.

In Japan, the winter solstice is less a festival than a traditional practice centered on starting the new year with health and good luck. It's a particularly sacred time of the year for farmers, who welcome the return of a sun that will nurture their crops after the long, cold winter.

People light bonfires to encourage the sun's return; huge bonfires burn on Mount Fuji each December 22.

"Yalda night" is an Iranian festival celebrating the longest and darkest night of the year. The celebration springs out of ancient Zoroastrian traditions and customs intended to protect people from evil spirits during the long night.

On Shab-e Yalda, (which translates to "Night of Birth"), Iranians all over the world celebrate the triumph of the sun god Mithra over darkness. According to tradition, people gather together to protect each other from evil, burn fires to light their way through the darkness, and perform charitable acts.

For the Native American Zuni tribe, one of the Pueblo peoples in western New Mexico, the winter solstice signifies the beginning of the year. It's marked with a ceremonial dance called Shalako.

After fasting, prayer and observing the rising and setting of the sun for several days before the solstice, the Pekwin, or "Sun Priest," traditionally announces the exact moment of itiwanna, the rebirth of the sun, with a long, mournful call.

With that signal, the rejoicing and dancing begin, as 12 kachina clowns in elaborate masks dance along with the

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5:30 PM via Zoom**

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O&W Rail Trail: Past ✨ Present ✨ Future

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Freda Eisenberg and Heather Jacksy, O&W Trail Alliance**

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2022 Grant Programs, Internships, Scholarships,
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THE COLUMBIA COP CAPER

Part VII

An Original Short Story by Jack Robbin

Fallsburg Constable Bronco Kelly is helping out his old boss, Ben Knapp, owner of the Columbia Farm Hotel, by serving as security for the weekend while the hotel entertains a few hundred New York City cops. Bronco has discovered that the room of wealthy socialite Louise Corning has been broken into, and thinks her missing son, Edwin, may be involved. When we last left him, Bronco was on his way to question Mrs. Corning about her son's possible whereabouts when he heard his name whispered from a dark corner of the room...

I was on my way to the stairs leading up to Mrs. Corwin's rooms when I heard a voice whispering my name from a darkened corner behind the stairwell.

"Mr. Kelly!" the whisper repeated. "Over here...it's Edwin."

I walked over, and was only mildly surprised to find Edwin Corning crouching down in the corner, mostly obscured by an overstuffed chair.

"Mr. Kelly, I need to talk to you," he whispered nervously. "I think I am in big trouble. Really big trouble."

I quickly looked around, making sure no one saw me walking over to the corner, where Edwin was mostly hidden by the chair and overhang of the staircase. He seemed more scared than anything else.

"Edwin, do you realize everyone is looking for you? Where have you been?"

"I've been hiding," he said quietly, "I was trying to decide what to do."

"What to do about what?" I asked. "Did you have anything to do with your mother's jewelry going missing?"

"Yes. I did."

"You took them? Where are they?"

"Not exactly. But I know who did."

"Let me guess," I said. "Jeremy Cruckhorn?"

Edwin looked at me with surprise. "How could you possibly know it was Jerry?"

"That's not important, Edwin. But I need to know where he is right now."

"I'm afraid I can't tell you that," he said, looking down at the floor. "This wasn't supposed to happen like this at all. I was just showing him the jewelry, honest. He grabbed it and took off. I tried to stop him, but he shoved me, and I tripped and fell. I haven't seen him since."

He continued staring at the floor and began sobbing softly.

"We're going to have to go talk to Sergeant Mangan," I told him after some time had passed. Finally, he looked up.

"I need to apologize to my mother first, if that's okay," he said, getting control of himself. "I owe her that much."

I escorted him as unobtrusively as possible back upstairs to Mrs. Corning's room. There was a small gathering outside her door, including Troopers Mangan and Elliott. I whispered to Edwin to stay put at the end of the hall and walked over to Mangan. I asked him if Edwin could see his mother for a minute before speaking with him. Mangan was adamant at first that it was out of the question, but eventually relented.

"I'll give him one minute...literally one minute," he said to me. "And you have to be with him."

I took Edwin by the arm and we walked into the room where Louise Corning was



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED
"I'll give him one minute...literally one minute," Mangan said.

staying, while Bill Elliott held the door for us, closing it softly after we entered the room.

Mrs. Corning was lying on the bed. She looked relieved when she saw Edwin.

"My Lord, Edwin," she said. "where have you been?"

Edwin didn't sugar coat anything, but owned up to his role in the burglary. He explained to his mother that he had met Jeremy Cruckhorn the previous summer at sleep-away camp in the Adirondacks. The Cruckhorn

boy was a scholarship case - his parents would never have been able to afford such a place—and he dressed and talked and acted very differently from all the other boys, so no one wanted to associate with him. Edwin wasn't very popular himself, so the two had become friendly.

Jeremy was always trying to prove himself to the other boys, Edwin said, and had gone out of his way to act like a tough guy by generally disobeying all of the camp's rules. He was constantly stealing cigarettes from the cafeteria workers, pilfering candy and soda from the commissary, and sneaking off to visit the girls' camp on the other side of the lake. Edwin had often aided and abetted him in his transgressions.

"I don't think he is really a bad kid," Edwin said. "It's just that he is always trying to prove to everyone that he is."

When the two had bumped into each other at the caddy shack at the Columbia, they had picked up where they had left off. Jeremy seemed fascinated by the fact that Edwin's mother travelled with a staff, and had a group of rooms at the hotel and he had asked to see them. When Edwin agreed, the two of them waited until everyone else had gone out and snuck into the rooms.

"When Jerry saw your jewels, he got a crazy look in his eyes," Edwin told him mother. "I let him hold a couple of pieces and then he refused to give them back. I tried to take them, but he pushed me away and I fell back over the corner of the bed and hit the floor pretty hard. He took off, and I have no idea where he went."

Mrs. Corning had sit up in the bed, and was looking at her son while he spoke.

When he paused, tears began to form in the corners of her eyes. Edwin's eyes matched hers.

"I'm sorry, Mother," he said softly.

I tried not to be too abrupt about it, but I finally took Edwin by the arm again.

"Come on," I said. "Now you've got to tell Sergeant Mangan the same story."

It looks as if Fallsburg

Constable Bronco Kelly is on the verge of solving the theft of the Corning jewels from the Columbia Hotel. Now he just needs to locate young Jeremy Cruckhorn, whose father is a New York City police officer, and hope that he still has the jewels. Our story continues in the next edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel.

The Art of Being

by Deborah Chandler, Ph.D.

Silence

Even when I sit for meditation, my mind spins out images, thoughts, and arcane bits of my history. There is no silence. But a discovered a secret. I can escape from the domain of my noisy mind into what I call my inner realm.

What is this inner realm? I can describe my experience. In the inner realm I have no desires. I am not doing. I am not posing. I am not achieving. I am just there, suspended in stillness. Sometimes I see movement—maybe light. Sometimes no light but yet no darkness.

My inner realm has many names. Many poets, artists, seers have described their encounters with this enchanting space. TS Eliot in *The Four Quartets* wrote of it:

At the still point of the turning world...at the still point, there the dance is...
Except for the point, the still point, There would be no dance, and there is only the dance.

This dance is the timeless expression of being, without name or substance. From the still point the dance emerges. This is an actualization of being in its purest form, a mere pulsation. As this pulsation spreads, we create worlds for ourselves.

At times, silence can be scary. In the silence we can feel lost, disconnected from the familiar noises and

scenes our brains generate. Our brains process the input from our sense organs. Usually, this is our most familiar awareness of who we are. We listen to our brains and deduce our identities. So, when we step into the inner realm and leave the productivity of our brains, who are we?

In the silence of the inner realm we leave behind our familiar labels: name, job, families. Without these we open into a space that cocoons us in light, peace, and love. When first encountering this possibility, we marvel at the effortlessness of being suspended in silent joy. I find it strange that while I go about my daily tasks of living, I am also that without name or substance, just a throb of being.

For me, many years elapsed between when I began exploring meditation and when I encountered my inner realm. At first, I meditated with two mantras, one on the in-breath and one on the out breath. My mind was so busy and noisy, I could barely hear the mantras over the clatter. Slowly I had moments of silence. But I wasn't ready to let this stillness be my guide. I was still enamored of my mind. I rejected the unscientific asser-tion of an inner realm.

However, once revealed, the truth of the inner realm transcends doubts. The inner realm becomes the sanctuary of silence.

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Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre

Social Workers Distribute Warm Clothing at FCSD

FALLSBURG — For as far back as anyone can remember, Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) has been distributing warm coats and other clothing during the very cold Catskill winters.

With the support of the school nurses, administrators and social workers in both school build-

ings, families with special needs benefit from the donations of school staff, local service agencies such as Kiwanis and Elks, and, especially, from Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther's office.

The actual donations are handled by the Social Workers in both buildings.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Posing with some of the winter coats are: (left to right) BCES School Counselor Gayle Raskin, Social Workers Jillian Guerra, Nicolette Capocciamo, Kylee Cortes, and Francine LaDonna.

Delgado Announces Nearly \$11 Million for Town of Thompson

MONTICELLO — Congressman Antonio Delgado (NY-19) has announced \$10,912,000 in Rural Development grant and low-interest loan funding for water infrastructure improvements for the Town of Thompson. The funding was allocated through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utility Service Department and will be used for two key projects in the Harris and Melody Lake sewer districts. The first Rural Development investment will deliver \$915,000 in Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants and \$312,000 in loans to the Melody Lake Water

District. The second project will deliver a direct loan of \$4,000,000 and two grants totaling \$5,685,000 for the Harris Sewer District.

"Investing in our water infrastructure is critical to ensuring every household in NY-19 has what they need to stay safe and healthy," said Rep. Delgado. "This funding will benefit more than 15,500 upstate New Yorkers and will directly invest in Thompson's water systems. I am proud to announce this funding and will keep fighting to update and improve infrastructure across our district."

"To say we are grateful is an understatement. We would have been thrilled to receive a \$1-2 million grant, but the USDA awarded our projects with nearly \$7 million in grant funding — and about another \$4 million in low-interest loans. Our grant application showed exactly how the funds would be used, and it's clear that the USDA sees value in our plan to update our sewer and water infrastructure," said Town of Thompson Supervisor Bill Rieber.

The project in the Melody Lake Water District will replace water mains, install a new hydro pneumatic tank, extend the casing on a well, and construct a new building with a flow meter. The project in the Harris Sewer District will replace three of the existing pump stations (Harris Pump Station, Old Route 17 Pump Station and Benmosche Pump Station) and add one additional pump station (Kaufman Road Pump Station).

Congressman Delgado has consistently fought for investments in rural infrastructure. He recently announced over \$425 million in funding coming to the district for water infrastructure. He also voted to send the bipartisan infrastructure law to President Biden's desk to repair and improve upstate infrastructure.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The Sullivan County Treasurer's Office spent weeks collecting 25 bags and boxes of necessities like food, toiletries and clothes - all donated by employees, the Liberty Pet Ranch and Body, Mind, and Spirit Wellness Center. Yesterday, the team loaded up their vehicles and took these gifts over to the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless to be distributed to all in need. The effort proved so successful that the Treasurer's Office is considering repeating it throughout the year, not just during the holidays.

FROM THE FALLSBURG LIBRARY

by Amanda Letohic

It's a New Year and we're bringing it in with fun new Take & Make crafts for January!

For kids we have fun beaded safety pin art. Make a cute snowman and penguin out of beads and safety pins! This month, for adults, we have Hot Cocoa Bomb kits. An awesome way to get warm after being outside in this cold, New York, winter weather! Call or email Miss Amanda at 845-436-6067 ext. 102 or aletohic@rcls.org to reserve your kits. We will hold them for 3 days for you to pick them up.

January usually brings nasty weather and some weather related closures. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page and if you're unsure if we're open, call us before you head out. If we are open and you don't want to brave the cold January winter weather, remember we have tons of e-content for you to enjoy! You can still access thousands of e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, and e-videos with your library card! Just download the Overdrive or Libby app onto your computer, tablet, or smartphone. You can also access them through our website at www.fallsburglibrary.org.

Keep in mind, our hours have changed for the winter months so check our website or call us for the updated hours. We are open for regular library business but a mask must be worn correctly (covering nose and mouth) for your entire visit for anyone over the age of 2 regardless of vaccination status.

Stay up to date with all things Fallsburg Library through our Facebook Page and Website. Again, we thank you for your continued support during these unprecedented times. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without you!

SENTINEL SPORTS



COACH OF THE YEAR MONTICELLO'S CHRIS RUSSO HONORED

MONTICELLO – Monticello High School boys' basketball coach Christopher Russo has built up quite a following for the team on social media, where he shares the team's highlights, celebrates wins, and gives players shout-outs to an eager audience, all under the hashtag #GreatDayToBeAPanther. Today, it's a great day to be Coach Russo.

Coach Russo has been named as the 2020-21 New York Boys Basketball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). He was nominated for the honor by former Roscoe Athletic

Director, Fred Ahart, and Monticello Central School District Director of Athletics, Kurt Buddenhagen. According to the organization, the award recognizes those who are leading their sport, shaping their athletes, and contributing in a positive way to their community.

Coach Russo certainly fits the bill on all counts. He has coached basketball for 13 seasons, with 116 all-time wins. In that time, he has created a conduit between the sport and the community, creating several philanthropic initiatives, including the BCANY vs. Cancer Classic, the Slam Dunk Games, the Jingle

Ball Classic and the Monticello High School Awesome Alliance – programs that have helped support cancer and heart disease research, provided Christmas toys to children at Sullivan County Head Start, raised nearly \$50,000 for the oncology unit at Garnet Health Medical Center and facilitated participation in sports for athletes of all abilities.

Coach Russo is well-known for his propensity for developing meaningful connections with his players, inspiring them to be great on the court, in the classroom and in the community. He believes that athletics are a key compo-

nent in the development of young men and women, teaching and reinforcing the value of commitment, hard work and sacrifice.

"While high school athletics can be a source of entertainment and school pride, it also allows participants to reach out to those in need," he said. "In a variety of ways, athletics can be the means by which our student-athletes can give back to their community, promote good will and drive the causes that spark positive changes."

This isn't the first time Coach Russo has been recognized for his excellence – he's been a three-time recipient of the Sul-

livan County Democrat's Coach of the Year Award, a three-time recipient of the Basketball Coaches Association of New York (BCANY)'s Section 9/ Mid-Hudson Chapter Class A Coach of the Year Award, and the 2018 recipient of the BCANY's Ben Nelson Service award, among other accolades.

He has held numerous leadership and positions in the Basketball Coaches Association of New York, including president, vice president, and executive director. He has also been a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in Middletown for 25 years, where he has served as the school's ath-

letic director, and organized the parish's basketball camp since 2001.

"Coach Russo was mentored by two absolute legends in the local and state basketball community: Coach Fred Ahart and Coach Dick O'Neill," Mr. Buddenhagen said. "Filling those shoes was no easy task, but he is following in their footsteps and carving out his own legacy. We congratulate him on this extremely well-deserved honor."

PHOTO PROVIDED
Monticello Boys' basketball coach Christopher Russo.



COVID Disrupts Basketball Season

SUNY Sullivan Men Ranked Eighth in the Nation

by John Conway

LOCH SHELDRAKE – The SUNY Sullivan Generals men's basketball team has had more time off than they anticipated thus far this season.

COVID protocols have once again disrupted the college season, as the Generals saw their last two games of December, against the Community College of Baltimore County - Dundalk and Cecil College—both scheduled to be played in Maryland—and their first two games of January, against Monroe County Community College and an undetermined opponent in Herkimer, cancelled due to

what Sullivan Athletic Director Chris DePew called "an abundance of caution with travel so far away" and the sudden rise in COVID cases nationwide.

The Generals men currently stand at 9-2 on the season, and are in the midst of a five game winning streak that has them ranked number eight in the country among Division II schools.

Sullivan is now scheduled to resume action on Thursday, January 13 against Lackawanna College in Scranton, PA. Three other road games follow, with the Generals not returning home to Paul Gerry Fieldhouse until Tuesday, January 25, when they host



PHOTO PROVIDED
Kareem Welch

Dutchess Community College in a 7 p.m. contest.

In light of the fact that the women's basketball team also had some games cancelled due to COVID concerns, DePew says the school is anticipating things quickly returning to normal, noting that "we look forward to getting things started back up."

The Generals are aver-

aging just shy of 91 points per game through their first 11 contests, with sophomore guard Kareem Welch leading the way with 20.0 ppg. Freshman forward Jarrell White is second at 16.4 points per game, while three others are also averaging in double figures. White leads the team in rebounding with 9.9 per contest, while sophomore guard Jalen Reneau tops the squad with 5.5 assists per game.

by John Conway

LOCH SHELDRAKE – First year coach Ben Newberg has to be happy with the play of his SUNY Sullivan women's basketball team so far this year.

The Lady Generals recorded four wins in December to enter the new year with a perfect 13-0 slate, good enough to rank 19 in the nation among division II schools.

Sullivan's most recent win was an impressive 95-50 victory over Monroe Community College in which the Lady Generals raced out to a 52-18 halftime lead. Freshman center Deivejon Harris led the way for Sullivan, scoring 16 points and grabbing 17 rebounds in just 16 minutes of play. Sophomore guard Infinity Hammonds chipped in with 13 points off the bench, while Anisa Perry and Gabrielle Jeridore contributed eight points apiece. Harris leads the lady Generals in scoring on the year



PHOTO PROVIDED
Deivejon Harris

with a 14.4 ppg average, while Hammonds is second AT 13.5. Perry averages 9.8 points per contest. Harris is also the team's leading rebounder, averaging 11.7 boards per game, while Jeri-

dore is second at 9.6. Hammonds leads the women with 3.5 assists per game, while Barbara Bruno of second at 2.9.

The Lady Generals were scheduled to start the New Year off with a contest at 8-3 Herkimer County Community College (also the Generals) in Herkimer, but the host school cancelled the game due to COVID concerns.

Next on the schedule is Monroe College-Bronx in New Rochelle on January 15.



BALLGAME BAFFLERS
BY BRIAN

Here are five ballgame bafflers for your consideration. The first person to email the most correct answers to hurleysent@hotmail.com will win a prize. Have fun!


January Questions:

1. What year was the very first Rose Bowl game played?
2. Which NHL team has played the most Winter Classic games?
3. The 1992 AFC Wild Card game on January 3, 1993, featured the biggest comeback in NFL playoff history. What two teams were involved?
4. What Year did Yankee Stadium host two NHL Games?
5. Which NFL teams have won the most combined league championships and Super Bowls?

Last month's answers:

1. Which charter member of the Atlantic Coast Conference won the very first ACC Tournament in 1954? (**North Carolina State**)
2. Where is NCAA basketball's annual Holiday Festival traditionally played? (**Madison Square Garden in NYC**)
3. What women's college basketball coach is only second to UCLA's John Wooden with six NCAA National Titles? (**Pat Summitt**)
4. What was the first Division-I school to lose the N.C.A.A. basketball title game in two consecutive seasons? (**Ohio State lost to Cincinnati in 1961 and 1962**)
5. What women's basketball great and former WNBA player was the first woman to be a Harlem Globetrotter? (**Lynette Woodard**)

There was no winner last month.



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FIFTY YEARS AGO... Sullivan Basketball Had a Rough Month

by John Conway

The month of January, 1972—50 years ago—was not kind to the men's basketball team at Sullivan County Community College. The Generals had started the season with high hopes thanks to the presence of high scoring forward Ron Sprung and talented newcomers such as former Fallsburg High standout Willie Baker, but they never could seem to put together a full game of solid play.

A home game against arch-rival Orange County Community College in the Liberty High School gymnasium on January 6 unfolded as a veritable microcosm of the Generals' month—and its season.

With Sprung and Jim Williams leading the way in the first half by combining for 33 points, the Generals raced to a 45-43 halftime lead over the Colts, and seemed poised for an upset. Then it all began to unravel in the second half, as Orange coach Bob Lake switched his own high scoring forward, former Washingtonville star Sam Quimby, to guard Sprung. The Colt star held his counterpart scoreless for the first ten minutes of the second half, and the Colts pulled ahead to stay.

It didn't hurt that Quimby, who had quietly scored ten points in the first half, erupted for 21 in the second, ending with a game high 31 points. Sprung, meanwhile, did not net his

first second-half field goal until 10:23-- by which time the Colts had raced ahead 73-62-- and then didn't score again for another two-and-a-half minutes. He ended up with ten points in the half, finishing with 26, despite never visiting the foul line during the entire game.

Orange would lead by as many as 15 points in the closing minutes, before settling for an 89-79 win. The loss dropped the Generals to 2-9 on the year.

A game against Bronx Community College on January 27 was another all-too-typical performance for coach John Webster's 1972 Generals. Despite leading 65-62 early in the second half, Sullivan faded badly down the stretch, eventually losing the non-conference contest 107-90.

Once again, Sprung had a strong first half, scoring 21 points, but managed only ten more in the second half, finishing with 31. Williams and Larry Hill each scored 16 for the Generals.

It wasn't as if all of Sullivan's losses were blow-outs, as by the end of the month of January they had lost four one-point contests, closing out the month with a 3-14 record on the season.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Sullivan's Liam Bullock recorded three pins enroute to winning the Nassau Open 133-pound title in December.

LIAM BULLOCK ON TOP

Sullivan Wrestler Takes Nassau Open Title

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE – The SUNY Sullivan wrestling program was back in action in December at the Nassau Long Island Open in Garden City, and one General returned home a champion.

Generals 133-pounder Liam Bullock, a sophomore from Chester, NY, recorded three pins and a decision to capture first

place in the tournament, which included unattached wrestlers from throughout New York State and beyond. No team scores were kept at the event.

Bullock's toughest match was his opening round clash with Jesse Keesal of Camden County College, which Bullock won 14-8. Keesal ended up finishing fourth in the weight class. Bullock fol-

lowed with three pins, including one in just 1:16 and another in 1:22 to claim his title with an unbeaten 4-0 mark.

It was Bullock's first collegiate tournament championship.

Other SUNY Sullivan wrestlers taking part in the Open were Adonis Morano at 184 pounds, and Elijah Perez and Jeremy Jenkins, both of whom competed at 174 pounds.



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