

## THE SAGELY STRONG

### Decant Wine Shop Opens on Main Street

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE-- Cat Wilson knows a lot about wine, and she has curated a splendid collection of wines and spirits at Hurleyville's newest business at 234 Main Street, Decant Wine and Spirits.

Located in the impressive Mews building, the shop is so visually appealing that it could be an event space for parties and social gatherings. With sustainable homemade concrete countertops and old school wooden shelves reminiscent of the luncheonettes and pharmacies of the old Hurleyville heydays, Decant is welcoming, stylish and interesting to explore. And Ms. Wilson makes customers comfortable among the legions of pretty bottles, which can sometimes be intimidating.

She asks for customer requests and writes their suggestions on butcher paper hanging attractively near the front window of the store. Her philosophy is, "you shouldn't have to spend



PHOTO BY DENISE SULLIVAN

Decant is the newest business to open in the Main Street Mews building in Hurleyville.

more than \$20 for a bottle" and she proves it by offering over 50 different wines and spirits under 20 dollars at Decant. There are some as low as 12 dollars, and some for special occasions that cost much more. Ms. Wilson says she is obsessed with

wines (lucky us!) and prefers what she calls "low intervention" wines, meaning those that are low in all the bad stuff – pesticides, added sugar and other additives.

A Mountandale native and co-proprietor of Forage and Gather Market with business



PHOTO BY DENISE SULLIVAN

Well-designed displays instantly welcome customers to Decant.

partner Lisa B. Ms. Wilson has developed a passion for wines as she progressed through her young career in the culinary arts as a student, kitchen helper and sous chef. She learned from local chefs and developed interests in sustainable farming, distill-

eries and vineyards, forging friendships within the industries. She works with 20 small wine and spirit vendors/distributors, many of whom she met at Forage and Gather's wine shop, Willow and Post, also in Mountandale. Currently, her favorite



PHOTO BY DENISE SULLIVAN

Decant's Cat Wilson has curated a fascinating collection of wines.

wines are from Oregon, Italy and the country of Georgia.

Gathering information for this article on a warm Saturday in March at Decant's soft opening involved tasting different wines and snacking on goodies from nearby La-Salumina. (It's a tough job

but someone's gotta do it).

Friends and neighbors stopped in to taste and shop. A Georgian wine distributor who now lives locally talked about the ancient wine growing region of Kakheti while pouring samples of interesting red wines that had been

aged in clay vessels underground. Did you know that vineyards in hotter climates produce sweeter wines and colder areas produce the more acidic, dry wines? Or, that people who make wines don't always grow grapes?

If you are new to learning about wines, Ms. Wilson says it's never too late to start. In your learning journey, you might search different regions of the world, along with their cultures and foods. That may lead you to travel to visit new places, because wine is as good a reason as any to choose a traveling adventure.

For now, you can explore Decant Wine and Spirits Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12 to 6 p.m. Starting in late May, Decant will be open seven days a week, and until 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Stay tuned for the grand opening in mid-May of yet another cool place in the happening hamlet of Hurleyville!

## "HARD WORK" PAYS OFF

### Sullivan County continues to lead state in job growth

by John Conway

ALBANY — Sullivan County set the pace for job growth in New York State again in February, continuing a trend that started last year.

According to preliminary seasonally adjusted figures released in March by the New York State Department of Labor, the number of private sector jobs in New York State increased during February by 21,200, or 0.3 per cent, to 8,233,700. The number of private sector jobs in the U.S. increased by 0.2 per cent in February.

New York State's private sector jobs (not seasonal-



PHOTO PROVIDED  
Sullivan County  
Legislature Chairman  
Robert A. Doherty.

ly adjusted) increased by 244,800, or 3.1 per cent, over the year in February 2023, which matched the 3.1 per cent increase in the number of private sector jobs in

the U.S.

From February 2022 to February 2023, Sullivan County added 1,200 private sector jobs, nearly three times as many as all but one other rural county in the state (Genesee County added 500 jobs to rank second). In addition, Sullivan's 4.4 per cent growth over the year was nearly double that of the next largest increase in any NYS county outside a metropolitan area. Even New York City, which far and away showed the greatest job growth for metropolitan areas in the state, experienced only a 4.2 per cent gain.

Sullivan County Legisla-

ture Chair Robert A. Doherty has credited the continuing growth in the county's economy to hard work.

"The county legislature has achieved financial stability for the first time in two generations," Mr. Doherty pointed out. "This stability has created an environment that encourages investment and job growth."

Mr. Doherty has noted that the Legislature and the County's administrative staff have supported industry in making job growth a priority-- especially following the economic devastation wrought by the COVID pandemic-- and would continue to do so.

## HPAC Secures Historic Building for The Black Library

MONTICELLO — The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is excited to announce the signing of a lease with the Sullivan County Land Bank for the historic Key Bank Building at 418 Broadway in Monticello. The building will soon be transformed into The Black Library, a vibrant community space celebrating and educating on Black history and culture. The space is expected to open to the public in two months.

HPAC's Co-Executive Directors, Tal Beery and Ellyane Hutchinson, expressed their enthusiasm for this significant milestone.

"This is a big moment. The Black Library will serve as a vital resource for our diverse community, offering a platform for education, dialogue, and artistic expression," Mr. Beery said.

"By repurposing this historic building, we're not only preserving a piece of Monticello's heritage but also creating a space for the next generation of artists to thrive," Ms. Hutchinson added.

Douglas Shindler and Michael Davis, Co-Program Directors of The Black Library, also shared their excitement. Mr. Shindler said, "The Black Library will be a beacon of knowledge,



PHOTO PROVIDED  
Janet Carrus

space," Mr. Davis said.

Before opening to the public, Mr. Shindler and Mr. Davis will make necessary improvements to the interior, including painting, hanging shelves, and updating the bathrooms. To keep the community informed and engaged, they will host open monthly meetings where anyone can learn more about the project and discover ways to get involved.

Janet Carrus, President of the Board of HPAC, acknowledged the impact of this development on the community.

"The establishment of The Black Library in this historic building demonstrates our commitment to expanding cultural opportunities and dialogue in the region. We're incredibly grateful for the support from Creatives Rebuild New York in making this vision a reality," Ms. Carrus said. "We



PHOTO PROVIDED  
Ellyane Hutchinson

are also deeply grateful to the board of directors of the Sullivan County Land Bank who have done incredible things for our community, including showing visionary support for this important project."

The Black Library will carry a diverse collection of books by Black authors, exhibit visual art by Black artists, offer educational workshops for children and adults, and host talks and community discussions. Welcoming local residents and visitors of all backgrounds, the project will promote greater understanding of Black history and culture, advocate for racial justice in Sullivan County and beyond, and act as an incubator for the next generation of local artists.



PHOTO PROVIDED  
Tal Beery

For more information about The Black Library, please visit [www.theblack-libraryny.com](http://www.theblack-libraryny.com) or contact Douglas Shindler at [shindlerdoug@gmail.com](mailto:shindlerdoug@gmail.com).

About Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre: The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is a nonprofit organization located in Hurleyville, NY, dedicated to fostering cultural understanding, creative growth, and a vision centered on respect for people and the planet. The center provides facilities for diverse events and serves a wide range of community members. For more information, please visit [www.hurleyvilleartscentre.org](http://www.hurleyvilleartscentre.org) or contact Tal Beery, Co-Executive Director, [talbeery@hacny.org](mailto:talbeery@hacny.org) or (917) 710-8246.

## ABOUT OUR HEADLINE

The headline for this month's edition comes from a poem from the renowned Irish writer Hilaire Belloc entitled "Heroic Poem in Praise of Wine" and, of course, pertains to our main story about the opening of Decant, the new wine shop on Main Street.

Belloc's poem starts like this:

To exalt, enthrone, establish and defend,  
To welcome home mankind's mysterious friend  
Wine, true begetter of all arts that be;  
Wine, privilege of the completely free;  
Wine the recorder; wine the sagely strong;  
Wine, bright avenger of sly-dealing wrong,  
Awake, Ausonian Muse, and sing the vineyard song!

Open for business now, Decant will announce a grand opening ceremony soon, so watch for it, as the liveliest little hamlet in the Mountains adds yet another happening place!



PHOTO PROVIDED

HURLEYVILLE — The Leadership Sullivan class of 2023 will hold a "Fun Walk" at the Hurleyville Rail Trail on Sunday, May 21. The walk, a benefit for the PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program, will begin at 11 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

There will be plenty of raffles during the event. Prizes include a pass for 4

to the Kartrite Indoor Waterpark and a pair of lawn seats at Bethel Woods.

More information for walkers and sponsors will be available soon.

The mission of Leadership Sullivan is to develop informed and committed leaders from all segments of the community who will apply their collective experience and skills to serve,

strengthen and improve the quality of life for all people who live and work in Sullivan County.

The PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program improves the dental health of children by providing comprehensive, high quality dental services through prevention, detection, treatment and education.

## Burn Ban Now in Effect Statewide

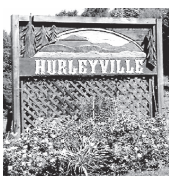
MONTICELLO — With the New York State Burn Ban now in effect and running through May 14, Sullivan County Fire Coordinator John Hauschild is emphasizing the fact that open burning isn't just illegal — it's incredibly dangerous. "Some snow cover re-

mains, but vegetation is still dry and easily set aflame by sparks and ash," he explained. "I'm urging everyone to avoid open burning and the consequences that can come with it: callouts of local fire departments, damage to plants and properties, and injuries — even death."

According to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), open burning of debris is the single-largest cause of spring wildfires in the State. For details on the burn ban, visit the DEC's website at [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/32060.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/32060.html).

## Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



### HURLEYVILLE SULLIVAN-FIRST (HSF)

The volunteers in Hurleyville-Sullivan First have begun working on several new projects. New solar powered strip lights will be added to the historical kiosk in the Hurleyville Firemen's Park. A wayfinding sign will be installed at the Community Gateway that will guide folks to all the great places to visit in Hurleyville. Parking signs will be added to direct drivers to public parking lots.

The group will continue to enhance and maintain completed projects:

- the signs and stone planters at the entrances to Hurleyville
- the stone planter at the Hurleyville Firehouse
- the Little Free Library at the Hurleyville Firemen's Park

Everyone is welcome to come out and help plant annuals and perennials in the barrels on Main Street and in the stone planters. Work dates will be announced soon.

Please visit [www.hurleyville.com](http://www.hurleyville.com) for more information about Hurleyville-Sullivan First. You can also visit Hurleyville-Sullivan First on Facebook.

### HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Save the date! The church is hosting a spaghetti and meatball dinner on Saturday, April 29. Volunteers will start serving at 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Children under six can enjoy the delicious dinner free of charge.

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 delivers sermons online on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

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

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

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

The next "Messy Church" will be on Saturday, April 8 at 5 p.m. Youngsters are invited to join in the creative and fun activities at "Messy Church" while learning about the Bible. An adult must accompany children taking part in the fun.

Volunteers at the church are collecting socks, gloves, hats, underwear and diapers for children in foster care. They are also gathering paper goods for Preventive Services. This county program supports par-

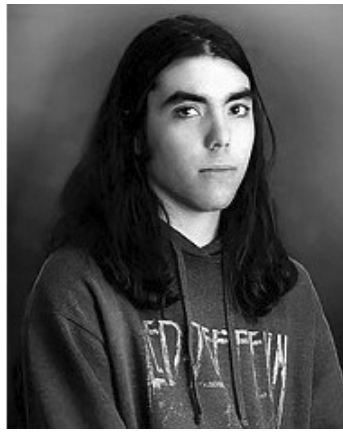


PHOTO PROVIDED

**Guitarist Henry Simon, a high school student from Jeffersonville, will perform at the Sullivan County Museum.**

ents in their efforts to keep their children safe and healthy in

their own homes. Please contact Cookie at 845-428-5871 or Goldie at 845-467-1641 for more information.

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

### THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Frederick Cook Society will present an afternoon of music at the Museum on Sunday, April 16 from 2 until 4 p.m. Local superstars guitarist Henry Simon and bass player Jay Brooks will join Little Sparrow in a program of music from the '60s and the '70s. Admission is free. Donations to support the musicians are always appreciated. Delicious refreshments will be served. Call 845-434-8044 or visit [www.facebook.com/littlesparrowny/](http://www.facebook.com/littlesparrowny/) for more information.

The Sullivan County Historical Society plans to hold a Cornhole Tournament beginning in May. The tournament will continue through the summer. More information will be announced soon.

The society is also planning to host more "Meet and Greet" get-togethers for Sullivan County historians at different locations throughout the county.

More information on play readings at the Museum in May will be available soon.

Guided tours of the museum are available at no charge. Please call 845-434-8044 to make a reservation.

Anyone interested in genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can send an email to [info@scnyhistory.org](mailto:info@scnyhistory.org) to find out about volunteering at the Museum.

Sullivan County memorabilia and books recounting the history of Sullivan County are available at the museum gift shop.

Volunteers are available to help visitors explore the historical and genealogical archives at the. The archives are open on Wednesday from 10:00am to 4:00pm or by appointment.

The Museum, located at 265

Main Street in Hurleyville, is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Museum will be closed on Sundays until April.

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.

### COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

Members of CHNA continue to focus on the proposed Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill at their monthly meetings.

The proposed project will endanger the community and the environment in so many ways including:

- Scope of the project – 534 townhouses, 89 buildings, community center, pool, athletic courts and fields, 400,000-gallon water tank, over 2 miles of interior roads
  - Threat to municipal and private water supply – primary wells for Gan Eden are in the Town of Fallsburg
  - Harmful effect on neighboring wells as far away as Mongaup Road
  - Adverse effect on neighboring wetlands and wildlife
  - Dangerous effect on fire-fighting needs
  - Destructive effects of runoff – flooding on Main Street, Columbia Drive and Mongaup Road, danger to downhill wells, flooding of Congregation Anschei Cemetery
  - Wastewater treatment plant discharge via a ditch, not a pipe – a threat to residences, Fallsburg town wells, Congregation Anschei Cemetery
  - Wastewater treatment plant failure – a threat to residences, Fallsburg town wells, Congregation Anschei Cemetery
  - Questionable structural integrity of on-site dam with 3-acre pond
  - Hazards of increased traffic
  - Hazards of entrances to the development
- Visit CHNA at [www.columbiahill.org](http://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.



### A HINT OF SPRING

I can't wait 'til I see the first crocus  
Or the heads of the first daffodils  
I can't wait to take walks on the trail  
Or go hiking around Walnut Hill

The year is going by so quickly  
And the clocks have turned forward, you see  
Each evening has gotten much lighter  
No having the doldrums for me

It's true that sunlight makes us feel good  
Most everyone loves being alive  
Now's the time to enjoy the outdoors  
Don't spend so many hours inside

Sunshine is good for our health  
It provides us with vitamin D  
Just make sure you put on your sunscreen  
Burns live in the skin eternally!

- Mimi  
April, 2023

## The future of the newspaper

Opinion by  
Jeanne Sager/Inside Out  
(Reprinted from the Sullivan County Democrat)

"Whoaaaaaaa! We're going to be in the paper! Can it be the front page?"

If you want to win the heart of a newspaper's photojournalist, this is your road map.

I'd been wandering a Sullivan West Elementary School classroom for the past half hour, capturing the frenetic energy of a few dozen fourth and fifth graders for a story on the school's KC (Kindness and Compassion) Club and their efforts to bring a little cheer into the lives of local residents fighting cancer when one student asked the question surely on all of their minds.

"Where will these photos go?"

Explaining that they would land on the Democrat's pages elicited abrupt cheers and the aforementioned list of outbursts and queries.

In a time when newspapers around the country continue to fold at a shocking rate of around two per week (according to 2022 statistics), it's hard to overstate the importance of educating our kids on newspapers and why it is that we exist.

As the only reputable, researched and vetted local news, newspapers serve a crucial role, especially for small communities like our own. There is no TV affiliate and that's going to show up at local town board meetings or

even county legislature meetings — at least not on any regular basis. There's no one else who will keep you up-to-date on local tax hikes and budget shortfalls, nor is there anyone else who will show up at an elementary school on a random Wednesday to capture the magic of young people trying to do something good for their community.

Today's kids are our future readers and future subscribers. They need to understand the value of a newspaper for what it brings to a community.

But perhaps even more importantly, they need to understand what a newspaper is for what it doesn't bring.

It doesn't bring a bunch of half-truths and innuendos or randomly regurgitated "facts" gathered up and spit out without attention to order or nuance. It doesn't present opinions as truths or force a personal agenda. It's a place where facts are studied, investigated and then presented. It's a place where splicing quotes to form alternate narratives is strictly prohibited and there's a responsibility to the truth.

In short, a newspaper is not social media.

So long as newspapers exist, there will always be a place for our kids to find the antidote to the untruths and unbalanced opinions they'll find on your average social platform.

But that existence depends on educating our kids ... and not letting social media do it for us.

## The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

That groundhog was absolutely right, wasn't he? What crazy weather!! Still, it let up just enough for me to get out a bit...

On a Saturday afternoon, I was able to catch FAR BEYOND GONE (finally!) at the ROSCOE BEER COMPANY. They are a cover band that stretches beyond the norms of classic rock to include major 1990s hits like 'Creep' by Radiohead and 'Champagne Supernova' by Oasis. They present a strong, cohesive unit, with an ease in their playing that made me think they've been together for quite a while. And, unless you are looking for it, you may miss the intensity behind that ease.

If you've never been to the TANGO CAFÉ in Hurleyville, it was the first "Manhattan vibe" café to open in this area. St. Patty's evening was POISON LOVE, the trio turned duo for the night, with JOANNE WASSERMAN BRINKERHOFF and her husband DAN BRINKERHOFF, which was fitting because what's better to celebrate with than a guitar and a fiddle!

Missing was percussionist SAMMY ALEXANDER. There is something so "feel good" about their music! Their sets comprise almost completely original music, and these originals are great "story" songs, which, if you truly listen, you will invariably find something that resonates with you and be as hooked as I am. If I see them three times during the summer, I'll hear three completely new sets of songs. JOANNE is the prolific songwriter, putting observation of the life around her into a song. Last time I saw them, she was also the principal vocalist. That too has shifted. It was DAN who did most of the singing; his voice very reminiscent of an early NEIL YOUNG (ala Harvest Moon).

THE OTHER BAND is great fun! They have great fun with each other on stage which automatically makes everyone "feel good." This, however, takes nothing away from their musicianship. When I first saw them back in December at DAVID AND THERESA TREYSTYN'S HEARTBEAT MUSIC HALL OF GRAHAMSVILLE, it was bassist JESSIE NORMAN who took the majority of lead vocals. This night, JESSIE took the lead on several songs, as did drummer DAVE MUCCI. As did keyboardist DANA GABRIELSEE. Guitarist JAMES RATNER, who one can say IS the lead vocalist has a unique timber to his voice that I haven't quite figured out yet, which makes it intriguing. And GREG FISKE on sax (saxophone), well, there is none better.

And, I saw them at the 17 WEST BREWERY on Sullivan Street in Liberty. My musician friends have been telling me about this new venue since it opened in November of last year. Why? Live music is a big part of what they serve there! There's even a "flutters" banner out front proclaiming this. The entrance

is in the back, so keep that in mind. The interior is cozy and the band was set up in enclosed area just off the main rooms that may be open-air, once the weather permits. If, like me, you are not a beer drinker, they offer a drinks menu that in-

cludes options for people like us. And the atmosphere that owners MICHAEL and TINA have created is warm and inviting and well worth stopping by.

*Stay safe, stay well  
Until next time...*

## FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



### Alberta Clipper

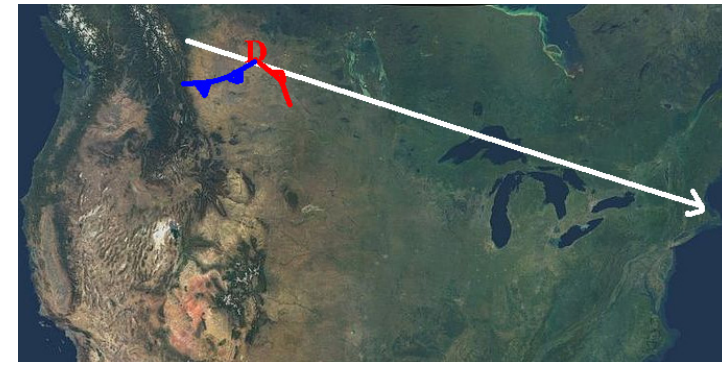


PHOTO PROVIDED

The typical track of an Alberta Clipper.

According to meteorologists, Alberta Clippers get their name based on two things: they form in Alberta, Canada, and they move much faster than most low pressure systems.

Alberta Clippers are fairly common systems, but only about 10 per cent of the storms track south of the Great Lakes. Only the strongest clippers end up producing more than six inches of snow.

Clippers can pack a windy punch, and because of their speed, forecasting is difficult, as a small change in the speed or track of the clipper can

mean a big difference for who sees snow and who does not.

The Alberta Clipper is also known by various other names, including Alberta Low, Alberta Cyclone, Alberta Lee Cyclone, Canadian Clipper, or simply Clipper. The clipper part of the name comes from the clipper ships of the 19th century, the fastest ships of their day. The Alberta Clipper name dates back to the late 1960s.

These storms can also sometimes produce significant temperature drops and blizzard conditions, but are generally not big snow producers south of Boston, MA.



OUR NEW LOCATION:

250 MAIN STREET  
HURLEYVILLE, NY 12747

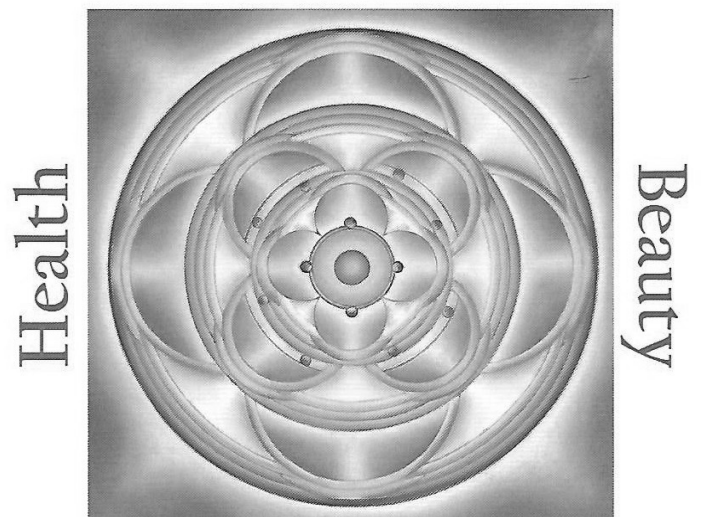
OUR NEW HOURS:

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>4:00pm – 7:00pm</b>	<b>Open Studio</b>
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<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11:00am – 4:00pm</b>	

845.693.1674  
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## FCSD Provides Career Guidance



PHOTO PROVIDED

FALLSBURG — On March 16, English Language Learner students of Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School met with their guidance counselor and Spanish-speaking teachers over breakfast to discuss college and career choices. This event was a component

of the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, a program that aims to reduce obstacles for disadvantaged students.

The purpose of this event was to provide resources for English Language Learners and help guide them toward a more prosperous life beyond graduation. Language

barriers and a lack of financial support can discourage students from applying for college or pursuing career training program. With enough assistance, they will have the ability to mobilize upward in the workforce and set an example for future generations.

# MEET MIKE SCHAPIRO

## Audio Event Engineer and Stagehand

by Lily Barrish

HURLEYVILLE – Mike Schapiro lives in the Hurleyville fire district and for the past 15 years he's volunteered at the Hurleyville Fire Department, mainly helping with extrication.

Mr. Schapiro is the oldest of two brothers and a sister. Both of his parents grew up in the Bronx, and achieved remarkable careers. His father, Phil, played trumpet in a renowned symphony until 1964.

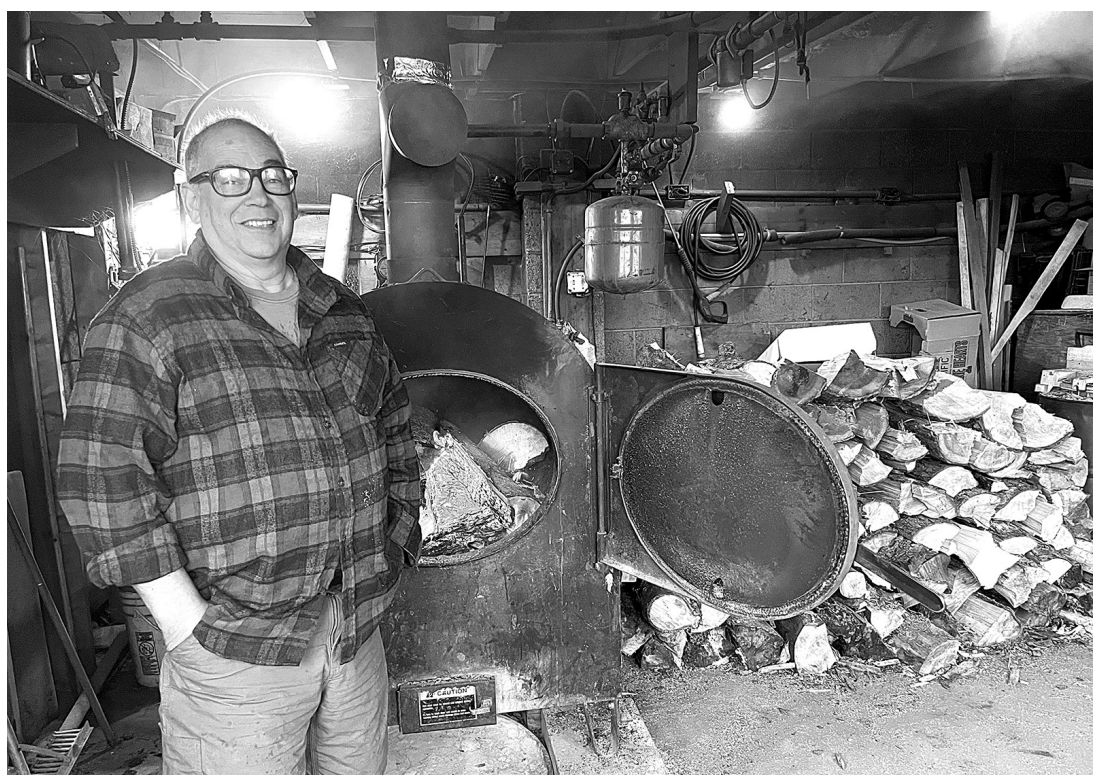
"It was when Kennedy got shot that he decided he didn't want to be a trumpet player anymore. He switched to producing in the entertainment industry and started his own company called Phil Schapiro, Inc. Then he sold the idea of a goodwill tour by an American orchestra to the state department," Mr. Schapiro said.

His father's friend, Paul Taubman, was the conductor for the All-American Big Brass Band, so the elder Mr. Schapiro reached out to him and they ended up touring Africa for six months. Back in the states, his father lucked out, and walked away with the touring equipment, which included the stage and the sound system.

His father's first big production was the Stony Brook Music Festival for Ward Melville, who owned Thom McAn shoes. He also managed artists like Jan Peerce, considered the "Pavarotti of the '60s."

Much of Mr. Schapiro's childhood is filled with memories of doing audio with his dad for Little League parades and Knights of Columbus events. Officially, he has been working in the business since he was sixteen.

His mom, Elaine, graduated from the City College of New York with a degree in electrical engineering. She



Mike Schapiro filling his wood burning boiler.

PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH

designed parts for the SR71 and the Nike missile series, which were the first missiles that the United States developed for the military.

"She was literally a genius. When she was 11 years old, the principal told my grandma, you have to take this girl out of school; the tests couldn't measure her intelligence. Grandma ignored them and kept her in normal public school," Mr. Schapiro said.

He grew up in Bayside, Queens and attended Baruch College, graduating with a degree in Business Management. After his dad died in 1986, and Phil Schapiro Inc. shuttered, Mr. Schapiro relocated to Yonkers for eight years. He co-founded his own sound company there called SnowH—the acronym for Schapiro Now Operating With Hulsmeyer. (Rob Hulsmeyer was his partner.)

For 15 years Mr. Schapiro was "the guy" at Ellis Island; he was the only one there with the expertise to do the correct sound for events such as the NECO awards (National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations) and big

charity events. From 1974 until the closing of the Concord Hotel, he had a side gig, assisting Billy Vine, doing staging for big shows. Philly Greenwald, the impresario at the Concord, introduced him to Mr. Vine when they did the sound for an event called, "celebrities for George McGovern for president."

In 1991, Mr. Schapiro bought 16 acres in Sullivan County from the bank. It was in terrible shape. There were five buildings: three barns and two houses. He put a lot of money into the place: structural, walls, septic, waterline – everything.

"The house and land were perfect when I first saw them, because I had plenty of room to store all of my stuff. I can live like a human with grass and a pool up here," he said.

To start, he lived in one of the barns and used a kerosene blower to keep warm. The bathroom was in the smaller house and a plank was used to connect it to the other house. A deck was added for accessibility between the two houses. Once he finished the little house,

he lived in it for seven years before settling into the larger house.

When he moved to Monticello, he and his partner had split up amicably, so he fully owned his company. To this day, he does audio at the Villa Roma three or four times a week. He has an assistant for conventions and bigger shows. He's done audio for the Bagel Fest in Monticello, Francis S. Currey Day in Hurleyville, and many local outdoor events. He still works corporate events in New York City, as well. He was a stagehand at Bethel Woods for a couple of years, too.

His life has never been dull. Past assignments include manning the sound at the Prince of Morocco's birthday bash in Morocco, George Soros's millennium New Year's Eve party at his house in Bedford, and the reintroduction of the Statue of Liberty. One of the biggest events he's ever been in charge of was Liberty Weekend.

M. Schapiro has done all of the audio for president's speeches since Ronald Reagan – other than Barack

Obama, but he did do an event for Michelle Obama. He's done countless high-end weddings and society events.

"I did George Bush's audio the night before his presidential election at the Helmsley Building, then did Hillary's victory party for the Senate the next night. It was crazy logistics," he said.

During Al Gore and George Bush's debate, Mr. Schapiro was the one who suggested they use handheld mics instead of body mics, knowing the audio would work better that way.

For fun, he enjoys boating, snowmobiling, riding his ATV, swimming, and hosting barbeques for friends and family.

"Luzon Station was awesome—I used to live there, and was so sad when it closed," he said, referring to the restaurant that once operated on Main Street in Hurleyville. He also used to eat at Frankie and Johnny's all the time.

Not only is he accomplished in his career, he has a huge heart and a generous spirit. Seventeen years ago, he took in a four-year old girl, like a foster situation, and she still lives with him currently. He's had legal guardianship of Savanna since she was sixteen-years old and couldn't be prouder that she is on her way to becoming a New York State Trooper. He also has the same arrangement with her younger brother, Maleke.

"My greatest accomplishment in life is being their guardian," he said. Last year, he added two shepherd/boxer mixes to their family.

"I love living upstate. Mowing my lawn is my favorite thing—it's why I moved here. It's rewarding," he said. "Thank God for Hurleyville; I'll always be here."



## Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

Winter keeps moving its goalposts, calendrically speaking. I remember when November was a reliably wintry month, snow on the ground and lakes iced over by Thanksgiving. No longer. Now it's January or February before winter gains any traction. This year, in our neck of the woods, it made a sputtering sort of progress. Occasional storms occurred in discrete bursts, punctuated by stretches of such balminess that the whole could barely be dignified with the word "season."

Instead, there was a whole slew of weathers, as if the year had been put in a blender and poured out in random patterns that defy expectation. February saw sixty-degree days followed by days at single, or negative, digits, a whiplash effect that engendered a state of climate dysphoria. Wearing T-shirts and shorts in February may appear cool (so to speak), but did not look right to me. It felt weird.

Weird weather, of course, has been a traditional figure for disturbances in the moral order of the world, as far back as the ten plagues of Egypt, one of which was hail. Shakespeare's troubled kingdoms suffered their climatic disorders; Macbeth's witches brought

baleful weather. That such weather was anomalous was the point; it was weird in the context of an assumed normality, a baseline. What happens when the anomalous becomes the norm? What happens when the underlying rhythm of the seasons goes wonky?

The seasons tell a primal sort of story, moving across time, as stories do, replete with themes and variations, intricate causal linkages, rotating casts of characters (animal, vegetable, arboreal) undergoing various degrees of transformation. Taken together, the four form one sheaf in nature's book of narratives, along with the diurnal rhythm of the day, the changing ratio of light and dark from solstice to solstice, the phases of the moon and the zodiac's traversal of the heavens. Our lives are embedded in these sustaining proto-narratives. Cultures once embroidered them with myth; these days, we attend to them, at best, with an instinctive sense of ritual observance.

The season-story is both linear, within a given year, and cyclical, over time. Almost 40 years ago, a song by XTC asked: "Who's pushing the pedals on the season cycle?" It's poignant to hear that now. In 1986, the cycle itself was

a given, not open to question; the song's question was merely metaphysical. But now it appears that the cycle itself is losing definition. The spring-like days of February told a tale of unraveling sequence, the familiar progressive momentum replaced by a sense of stasis, of waiting for something to arrive that never quite – never fully – did. This winter lacked resolution. "We tell ourselves stories in order to live," in Joan Didion's famous phrase, and this time round it felt like we're losing the plot.

Or perhaps the seasons are now telling us a different story, an unaccustomed plot we're reluctant to follow or interpret. On some level, we recognize a huge change coming, whether we gauge that change by the measurables of rising temperatures and sea levels, or by something more intuitive, a by-the-pricking-of-my-thumb sensation, as disquieting as spring in February. The change is happening for all of us, acknowledged or not. The seasons will continue to tell us about it. I wager one day we'll see snow in July.

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

## Advocates Speak at Fallsburg Central School



PHOTO PROVIDED

FALLSBURG – On March 10, Fallsburg Central School welcomed back speakers Kirby Jones, Eric Kussin, and David Hymowitz to share their positive mental health messages during the Superintendent's Conference Day. This was their second visit to the school this year alone.

Kirby Jones is a Master Instructor for Handle With Care, an advocacy organization that provides behavioral training services for schools, healthcare facilities, juvenile programs, and families. He is also a certified health, safety, and security trainer for the state of New Jersey and a volunteer coach for the Special Olympics. Above all, he is a fierce advocate for the well-being of children. Mr. Jones stressed the importance of addressing the needs of students. His message focused on the idea that providing nourishment, love, and safety is crucial to building trust and a strong relationship with a child.

Eric Kussin is the founder of We're All A Little Crazy, a 501(c)(3) organization (#SameHere) that advocates for stripping away the stigma associated with mental illness. His main objective

is to provide a socially acceptable space for people to share their struggles.

David Hymowitz also came to speak alongside Eric to further discuss the message of #SameHere. He is currently the director of #SameHere Schools and Programs, but is also an experienced social worker, certified trainer for FEMA's Crisis Counseling Program, and adjunct professor at Hofstra University. The purpose of his program is to partner with school districts and provide curricula, exercises, and sessions geared

toward improving mental health for the students, teachers, and staff.

These speakers were resounding favorites among faculty and staff. So much so, that the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz, in response to multiple requests from staff, brought these popular speakers back for a second set of conference day presentations. Having these gentlemen share their experiences was exactly the kind of motivational staff members in the district were looking for.

## Join the Sullivan 180 Merchant Discount Program

FERNDAL – Sullivan 180 announced that the 2023 Merchant Discount Program will continue to offer grants and support efforts in Sullivan County to build a healthy community, one degree at a time. Through the Merchant Discount Program grant recipients are able to take advantage of specified discounts on the purchase of supplies and materials for their grant funded projects.

Sullivan 180 offers grants to schools, community groups and municipalities for beautification, community development, and healthy community initiatives. Grant amounts range depending on the program and project. Sullivan 180 is inviting businesses to help these dollars go farther in this effort; while at the same time encouraging local spending. To participate, your business would offer a discount rate on products or services for Sullivan 180 projects. You set the discount amount. Discounts typically range from ten to 20 per cent (or more).

Once enrolled you will receive a list of participat-

ing 2023 Sullivan 180 grant recipients and projects. Each project leader will be given an official Merchant Discount Card that will signal to you they are making an authorized purchase for their Sullivan 180 project.

By participating in this valuable program, area businesses can join volunteer groups who have collectively raised several million dollars that have been reinvested in building healthy communities through people, places and

policy.

For information on how to get involved email kathleen@sullivan180.org or call 845.295.2452.

*Sullivan 180 is working to build a healthy community, one degree at a time, through people, places and policy with support from Bold Gold Media Group, The River Reporter, The Sullivan County Democrat, Manor Ink and WJFF Radio Catskill. Learn more at Sullivan180.org or Facebook.com/Sullivan180.*

## PETITIONS FOR FCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

FALLSBURG – Petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education of the Fallsburg School District are now available in the Central Office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Petitions must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the district. They must be returned to the District Clerk between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on April 17.

The following vacancies

are to be filled on the Board of Education:

Mr. Joe Collura- 3-year term  
Ms. Renee Kates – 3-year term  
Ms. Colleen Picciotti- 3-year term

Each vacancy is a separate office and separate petition is required to nominate a candidate to each separate office.

Anyone with questions can call Sarah Satz, District Clerk at 434-6800, ext. 1215.

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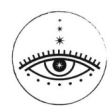
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## From the Firehouse

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



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

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 the training needed, for free. Stop by any Monday night and find out how you can help.

I have some very exciting news to announce. In cooperation with many agencies, Sullivan County, Sullivan County Bureau of Fire & EMS, New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC) Sullivan County BOCES, Sullivan County School Districts, just to name a few Sullivan County BOCES will be offering a Fire Science Program starting in the 2023-2024 school year. The plan is to offer Firefighter 1 to the juniors and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to seniors in the program. When finished, they will have a Firefighter 1 accreditation and the plan is to have the students take the national exam for Firefighter 1. Upon passing the national exam, it will be excepted throughout the United States. Also in the planning, the student would take the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course the second year. All the logistics are being worked out now.

Right now, it looks like the Firefighter 1 class will be in the Sullivan County Emergency Service Training Center.

How great will this be: a student graduating high school with their high school diploma and a certification as a firefighter with Firefighter 1 and an EMT certification.

Well, Mother Nature threw us a curve. We had a short brush fire season in February, and then winter returned. The forecast looks like we may be headed back to brush fire season. Warm temperatures and windy conditions have eaten the snow and dried things up. Remember the **BURN BAN** is effect from **March 16th thru May 14th**. There is no open burning of any kind during this period. In these dry conditions all it takes is one spark, one piece of burning paper and a little wind to start a brush fire.

Mother Nature dumped a lot of snow in parts of the county and very little in other parts. As I write this, a department went out to a brush fire. My



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

lawn is bare and dry, but the field behind the house is still snow covered. The ground may be mud, but the surface grass and brush is dry, and will burn.

Since the last column it has been busy County wide. With all the snowstorms and high winds many departments were dealing with downed trees and wires. Remember **NEVER** attempt to move a downed wire, drive over it, or just ignore it. You do not know if it is alive (energized) or dead, being back fed by a homeowner's generator, crossed with other wires that are hot or by another circuit. Fire departments don't touch them why would you? Call 911 for any trees across the road and any downed electric pole and wires, Stay away from them.

With the numerous power outages that we have had, are you ready for the next one?

We had a couple of structure fires during the storms, and two people go through the ice and drown. There were two activated alarms in recent days that turned out to be working structure fires. Activated alarms are treated no differently than any other dispatch.

You changed your clocks, did you change the batteries where appropriate in your **Smoke Detectors** and **CO alarms**? Push the test button on the ten-year battery de-

tectors to make sure they are working.

Some recent statistics according to a study (FASNY) Firemen's Association State of New York conducted:

- 93% of the Firefighters in New York State are volunteers.
- They save taxpayers \$4.7 billion.
- Property taxes would increase by 28.3% to go to paid departments.

In Sullivan County, there are 40 fire departments. All are volunteer, with Monticello having paid drivers. There are about 1,250 volunteer firefighters County wide.

Fire doesn't care if you are paid or volunteer, highly trained or poorly trained, it is out to get you.

Let me end this column with a quote from Dennis Smith. He was the founder and first editor of "Firehouse" magazine, and wrote "Report from Engine Co.82"

Dennis said, "Firefighters may be the most ubiquitous civil servants we have. Think of a natural or manmade disaster you might have seen on television or read about in the papers... and in every photo you see, every paragraph you read, there will be firefighters. Paid or volunteer, often at great personal risk they are there giving of themselves for others."

Be Safe Out There

## Former Homestead Student Wins Gold Medals in Scholastic Writing Contest

by Rose Mandelbaum

HURLEYVILLE -- A Homestead graduate has proved her talent and work ethic as a young writer with wins in the Scholastic art and writing contest for teens.

"I have always loved writing, ever since I can remember," said Marcy Hill, a senior at Wayne Highlands High School. "I would always journal or write stories. I think it was either fifth or sixth grade—the year I started at Homestead—when I started working on a novel and my passion really started to emerge."

Apparently, persistence pays off: Ms. Hill has two gold medals in short story and flash fiction categories, and two honorable mentions in poetry and flash fiction from the Scholastic regional contest.

The competition is open to middle school and high school students ages 13 and up, and entry costs a small fee. Participants are judged in 28 categories, including 11 related to writing. Writing categories range from memoirs and personal essays to journalism and dramatic scripts. The contest opens in September and deadlines are in December or January, depending on the region.

Ms. Hill discovered the Scholastic contest through her Creative Writing teacher at her high school. She explained that she has applied to competitions before, including Scholastic, without luck. Still, she kept submitting. "Last year, when I found out I had lost on a piece I worked really hard on, I started working on the story I won a gold medal for this year."

She attended the Homestead School at Glen Spey from sixth through eighth grade, before it expanded to the Hurleyville campus. There, she participated in many writing activities, including working as a student editor for the literary magazine, The Notebook.

Ms. Hill's favorite memories from the Homestead include building an outdoor dome with the rest of the middle school, as well as participating in Shake-

peare plays: "This year, my high school is doing Macbeth, and it's brought back memories," she said with a laugh.

When asked what she gained from her years at the Homestead, Ms. Hill didn't hesitate to answer.

"The friendships that I made there," she said. "I made true bonds and met people who inspired me to write. It was great to be in an environment with so many young people who shared my interests, and who were passionate about the same thing."

She added that in public high school, "a lot of people don't want to acknowledge what reading and writing mean to them. I feel like the Homestead really nurtured those interests."

Ms. Hill's advice for other young writers was simple: to write.

"It sounds cliché, but there's no other way to put it. Just making a routine of writing, whether it's journaling or fiction, will really inspire you."

She added that reading a lot is also important for any aspiring writers, sharing that books, including teen coming-of age stories like 1999's "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," have been important to her as a writer as well as a reader.

Because of her wins on a regional level, Ms. Hill will be entered into the nationals for the flash fiction and short story categories. However, she says she's not focused on competition right now. Instead, she's been busy putting together a writing portfolio and preparing for her applications to university.

"I think, for right now, my next goals are to choose a college that will help strengthen my writing and nurture my passion," she said. Her colleges of choice include Emerson College in Boston, Arcadia University in Pennsylvania, and St. John's in Queens, as well as colleges in Germany.

"In the future, I think it would be really great to have a book published," she continued, "but for right now I'm just focusing on the college and major I would like to do."

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.

### 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 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 Mentech, Ernest Porter, Ike Fraley, Joe Sabin-sky, and Phil Miller.

### April 23, 1937 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 de-



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

**Hurleyville businessman John S. Prince, dead at 66.**

famatory 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.

### April, 2017 Hurleyville Highlighted in "State of the County" Address

In a speech that described a "renaissance" in Sullivan County, District 6 Legislator Luis Alvarez specifically named the hamlet of Hurleyville as a community that epitomizes the revitalization of the tired Borscht Belt region.

Mr. Alvarez, who serves as chairman of the county legislature, gave the annual State of the County address in front

of about 75 people at the Cablevision building in Liberty on March 16. His theme was "Let's walk together," as he talked about an economic comeback in the county.

Tourism brought in \$26 million in revenue last year, Mr. Alvarez said, and he believes it will be "stronger than ever" with upcoming projects like Montreign Resort Casino at Adelaar and Veria Wellness Center. Outdoor activity projects like the O&W Rail Trail and a bike path between Loch Sheldrake and Hurleyville will bring in outdoorsy visitors, Mr. Alvarez said, and provide fitness opportunities for residents as the county works to fight its low health ranking.

Mr. Alvarez praised The Center for Discovery for its work on both projects, and SUNY Sullivan for its help with the bike path. The Center for Discovery has spearheaded tens of millions of dollars of investment into the county, Mr. Alvarez said, and it has helped transform the hamlet of Hurleyville into a creative, vibrant, and inclusive community.

"If you get a chance, those of you who haven't seen it, take a moment and look what Hurleyville looks like today and the amount of work that's been done there," he said, also complimenting the Hurleyville Arts Centre. "They've done a great job, great work there."

## PAPER CLIPS...

by Elaine Corrington



### EARTH DAY: BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Holidays, both religious and historical (memorable or not), Spring, good deeds, bad deeds, vacations, sports, nature was starting to bloom up (if the snow kept on following in your state!). Special desserts and dinners. Renewing dancing and sports, celebrations in different states, putting up bird houses...and Earth Day? Why, it didn't even get invented until 1970!

This year, Earth Day is on April 22.

It seems amazing that Earth Day didn't come along sooner. Remember when people perked up their gardens and covered them on nights of bad weather? Remember the Hurleyville people who got together to do little gardens at home and then got groups together to make luscious gardens and decorate entrances to towns and Rail Trails? Remember putting in a few plants for infirmed neighbors?

Even if you are older than those moments, you might remember Hurleyville in its formative days-- when what we now call "litter" was just dirt, for Pete's sake. No wrecked clothing, no papers, no electronic garbage, no old mail, no rude notes, no food wrappers, no broken parts of bikes or cars, no mounds of paper towels or Kleenex. On and on. Now it is not just shoveled dirt, but lots and lots of ugly garbage drifting down the street, and you just have to appreciate people who are picking it up, leaving our roads beautiful, at least for a little while.

Thanks to people who take notice and even just pick up a little, the idea of Earth Day was an attractive idea. It sort of makes it my favorite holiday in Hurleyville!

Want to join in on Earth Day this year, and commit yourself to a little (or large) project in honor of a day that was long in coming and sorely needed? By yourself or (gasp) with a group, you can do what you want. The earth will appreciate it.

Would you like to get kids involved too? Great idea, though they may not be ready to volunteer their time yet, but they can have a growing appreciation by just honoring and loving the idea. How about choosing and caring for a little garden, and then making a work of art using the dried- up flowers and leaves, gluing them on paper, and hanging them as a work of art? Frame it!

And di I mention that it helps the earth? Grow veggies for town food pantries, and grow them in a location where you can look at them instead of at growing stacks of garbage. Everyone will be impressed with the ideas for Earth Day... Late, but not lost!

**HAPPY EARTH DAY!!!**

## TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING

### County Litter Pluck Returns

MONTICELLO -- Sullivan County's Annual Roadside & Trail Litter Pluck launches April 1 and runs all the way through October 31, 2023. By resolution of the County Legislature, the disposal fee is waived during that time for roadside and public trail litter at County-operated transfer stations.

This popular annual event is coordinated by the County's Parks, Recreation and Beautification Department, and the Division of Public Works.

"This is a great way to 'clean ourselves up' as we start a new tourism season," Legislature Chairman Robert A. Doherty said. "One of the first impressions we make on visitors is the state of our roads. Frankly, we all feel better when our roads

look better, and this is an opportunity to work on a project we all agree about."

Residents who wish to participate in the Litter Pluck may pick up their free disposal coupons, along with program guidelines, at their town or village hall, any County-operated transfer station, or the Sullivan County Parks, Recreation and Beautification Department in the Government Center. Participants will be asked to register at the County-operated transfer station at the time of disposal.

For more information about the Litter Pluck, please contact the Sullivan County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beautification at 845-807-0287 or email [separks@sullivanvny.us](mailto:separks@sullivanvny.us).



## Roadside & Trail Litter Pluck Event

**April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

**Litter Plucked from Sullivan County Roads and Public Trails accepted "FREE" at County operated Transfer Stations!**

**Free disposal coupons required and may be obtained at the following locations:**

- Town and Village Halls
- Sullivan County Parks and Recreation Office: [separks@sullivanvny.us](mailto:separks@sullivanvny.us)
- County Operated Transfer Stations
- Can't Hurt Steel: [canthurtsteelfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:canthurtsteelfoundation@gmail.com)
- Catskill Mountainkeeper: [beth@catskillmountainkeeper.org](mailto:beth@catskillmountainkeeper.org)
- Mamakating Environmental Education Center: [Jackie.Broder@mamakating.org](mailto:Jackie.Broder@mamakating.org)
- Smallwood Civic Association: [smallwoodcivic@gmail.com](mailto:smallwoodcivic@gmail.com)
- Town of Liberty Parks and Recreation: [p.r.dept@townofliberty.org](mailto:p.r.dept@townofliberty.org)

**For further information contact: Sullivan County Parks & Recreation Office**  
**Email: [separks@sullivanvny.us](mailto:separks@sullivanvny.us) or call (845) 807-0287.**

Visit [Trailkeeper.org](http://Trailkeeper.org) for a complete list of trails in Sullivan County.



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

# THE YOUNG PITCHER

by Zane Grey

*The novel, The Young Pitcher was originally published in 1911 by Zane Grey, who would go on to become a prolific author of popular westerns. The Young Pitcher is one of a handful of baseball stories he wrote. It is in the public domain, and as a tribute to the opening of baseball season, we offer this excerpt...*

When the umpire called the game there were perhaps fifty students in the bleachers and a few spectators in the grandstand, so poor an attendance that the State players loudly voiced their derision.

"Hey! boys," yelled one, "we drew a crowd last year, and look at that!"

"It's Wayne's dub team," replied another. They ran upon the field as if the result of the game was a foregone conclusion. Their pitcher, a lanky individual, handled the ball with assurance.

Homans led off for Wayne. He stood left-handed at the plate, and held his bat almost in the middle. He did not swing, but poked at the first ball pitched and placed a short hit over third. Raymond, also left-handed, came next, and, letting two balls go,

he bunted the third. Running fast, he slid into first base and beat the throw. Homans kept swiftly on toward third, drew the throw, and, sliding, was also safe. It was fast work, and the Wayne players seemed to rise off the bench with the significance of the play. Worry Arthurs looked on from under the brim of his hat, and spoke no word. Then Reddy Ray stepped up.

"They're all left-handed!" shouted a State player. The pitcher looked at Reddy, then motioned for his outfielders to play deeper. With that he delivered the ball, which the umpire called a strike. Reddy stood still and straight while two more balls sped by, then he swung on the next. A vicious low hit cut out over first base and skipped in great bounds to the fence. Homans scored. Raymond turned second, going fast. But it was Ray's speed that electrified the watching players. They jumped up cheering.

"Oh, see him run!" yelled Ken.

He was on third before Raymond reached the plate. Weir lifted a high fly to left field, and when the ball dropped into the fielder's

hands Ray ran home on the throw-in. Three runs had been scored in a twinkling. It amazed the State team. They were not slow in bandying remarks among themselves. "Fast! Who's that red-head? Is this your dub team? Get in the game, boys!" They began to think more of playing ball and less of their own superiority. Graves, however, and McCord following him, went out upon plays to the infield.

As Ken walked out toward the pitcher's box Homans put a hand on his arm, and said: "Kid, put them all over. Don't waste any. Make every batter hit. Keep your nerve. We're back of you out here." Then Reddy Ray, in passing, spoke with a cool, quiet faith that thrilled Ken, "Peg, we've got enough runs now to win."

Ken faced the plate all in a white glow. He was far from calmness, but it was a restless, fiery hurry for the action of the game. He remembered the look in Worry's eyes, and every word that he had spoken rang in his ears. Receiving the ball from the umpire, he stepped upon the slab with a sudden, strange, deep tremor. It passed as quickly, and then he was eying the



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

first batter. He drew a long breath, standing motionless, with all the significance of Worry's hope flashing before him, and then he whirled and delivered the ball. The batter struck at it after it had passed him, and it cracked in Dean's

hit an easy fly to Homans, and the next had two strikes called upon him, and swung vainly at the third.

Dean got a base on balls for Wayne, Trace went out trying to bunt, and Ken hit into short, forcing Dean at second. Homans lined to third, retiring the side. The best that the State players could do in their half was for one man to send a weak grounder to Raymond, one to fly out, and the other to fail on strikes. Wayne went to bat again, and Raymond got his base by being hit by a pitched ball. Reddy Ray bunted and was safe. Weir struck out. Graves rapped a safety through short, scoring Raymond, and sending Ray to third. Then McCord fouled out to the catcher. Again, in State's inning, they failed to get on base, being unable to hit Ken effectively.

So the game progressed, State slowly losing its aggressive playing, and Wayne gaining what its opponents had lost. In the sixth Homans reached his base on an error, stole second, went to third on Raymond's sacrifice, and scored on Reddy's drive to right. State flashed up in their

half, getting two men to first on misplays of McCord and Weir, and scored a run on a slow hit to Graves.

With the bases full, Ken let his arm out and pitched the fast ball at the limit of his speed. The State batters were helpless before it, but they scored two runs on passed strikes by Dean. The little catcher had a hard time judging Ken's jump ball. That ended the run-getting for State, though they came near scoring again on more fumbling in the infield. In the eighth Ken landed a safe fly over second, and tallied on a double by Homans.

Before Ken knew the game was half over it had ended—Wayne 6, State 3. His players crowded around him and some one called for the Wayne yell. It was given with wild vehemence.

From that moment until dinner was over at the training-house Ken appeared to be the centre of a humming circle. What was said and done he never remembered. Then the coach stopped the excitement.

"Boys, now for a heart-to-heart talk," he said, with a smile both happy and grave.

"We won to-day, as I predicted. State had a fairly strong team, but if Ward had received perfect support they would not have got a man beyond second. That's the only personal mention I'll make. Now, listen..."

He paused, with his eyes glinting brightly and his jaw quivering.

"I expected to win, but before the game I never dreamed of our possibilities. I got a glimpse now of what hard work and a demon spirit to play together might make this team. I've had an inspiration. We are goin' to beat Herne and play Place to a standstill."

Not a boy moved an eyelash as Arthurs made this statement, and the sound of a pin dropping could have been heard.

"To do that we must pull together as no boys ever pulled together before. We must be all one heart. We must be actuated by one spirit. Listen! If you will stick together and to me, I'll make a team that will be a wonder. Never the hittin' team as good as last year's varsity, but a faster team, a finer machine. Think of that!"

## How Can Sullivan County Be More Resilient?

### Two Interactive Tools Invite Public to Participate

MONTICELLO — Sullivan County is developing a countywide plan that will identify and improve what drives the County's resiliency, through the perspectives of economy, community, and environment.

"Resiliency" describes a community's ability to

withstand and recover from damaging economic, environmental and climate events, and to learn from these challenges and build on strengths in preparation for future challenges. To achieve this, Metropolitan Urban Design (MUD) Workshop, a multidis-

ciplinary team based in Brooklyn, is helping the County identify local threats and challenges; analyze the current state of the County's physical, economic, social and institutional infrastructure; and develop key actions to make the County stronger and more resilient.

"We hope to draw upon residents' vast and unique knowledge of Sullivan County and our existing community networks, institutions and organizations," explains Interim Planning Commissioner Heather Brown. "For example, how might future events such as extreme weather, economic disruptions, flooding or changes in the growing season put stress on us? How might our schools, farms

and businesses be affected? What do we need in terms of housing, energy and water resources? How do we help our most vulnerable neighbors? That local knowledge is vital."

MUD Workshop has set up two interactive online tools to collect these insights. At the project website ([www.resilientsullivan.com](http://www.resilientsullivan.com)) is an overview of resiliency issues and a set of town and village fact sheets (click the "Engage" tab) that provide baseline information about our communities. The "Connect" tab offers residents the opportunity to provide feedback or steer project leaders toward additional important information.

At <https://mudworkshop>.



PHOTO PROVIDED  
**Sullivan County Interim Planning Commissioner Heather Brown**

[mysocialpinpoint.com/sullivanresiliency](https://mysocialpinpoint.com/sullivanresiliency) is a mapping tool that allows users to pinpoint a location in any of the County's 15 towns and six villages — right down to a specific property or street intersection — and provide a note about economic, environmental or social resiliency relevant to that location.

"Please take the time to help us plan for our own future," urges District 8 Legislator Ira Steingart, chair of the Legislature's Planning Committee. "Visit both sites and share your special knowledge of Sullivan County and your own community — you know it better than most!"

Questions about the planning process for "Resilient Sullivan" can be directed to the Division of Planning and Community Development at 845-807-0527 or via e-mail at [planning@sul-livanny.us](mailto:planning@sul-livanny.us).

## Town Launches Free E-Waste Recycling Program

SOUTH FALLSBURG — The Town of Fallsburg has announced the launch of a new free e-waste recycling program for May. Starting on April 21, residents of Fallsburg can bring their old electronics to Morningside Park in Hurleyville for safe, eco-friendly disposal.

E-waste, or electronic waste, refers to any old electronics no longer functional or useful, including old computers, cell phones, televisions, and other electronics that contain harmful chemicals that can pollute the environment if not disposed of properly.

"Our town is the only large town in the area that does not have a way for residents to get rid of their e-waste," Fallsburg Supervisor Kathy Rappaport said. "Right now, they must travel to other municipalities, which is just wrong. We need to bring free services like this into Fallsburg. If we want to keep Fallsburg clean, we must give people access! We're thrilled to launch this new e-waste program for our community."

The free e-waste program runs until May 20,



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO  
**Fallsburg Supervisor Kathy Rappaport**

and is open to all residents of Fallsburg. Drop-off times are daily from 8

a.m. to 4 p.m. The Town of Fallsburg is committed to promoting sustainability and

protecting the environment for future generations. By participating in this program, residents can help the town achieve that vision, and keep the community clean and green.

For more information about what kinds of electronics can be recycled, please visit the Fallsburg Town website, or contact the Supervisor's office.

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# SENTINEL SPORTS



## STREAKING SULLIVAN BASEBALL SEASON DEFINED BY STREAKS

by John Conway

LOCH SHELDRAKE — Bad weather continues to plague the SUNY Sullivan baseball program (see Fifty Years Ago... column below) as the Generals home opener against Lackawanna College on March 28 had to be postponed due to poor field conditions at Diamond Park.

Other than the weather, the 2023 baseball season for Sullivan has thus far been defined by streaks—two in particular—which have left the Generals with a 5-9 won-loss record as the month of March drew to a close.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO...

#### Sullivan Baseball Plagued by Bad Weather

by John Conway

FALLSBURG — It was April of 1973—50 years ago this month—and the Generals of Sullivan County Community College were about to open their college baseball season. The problem was, the lingering winter weather had prevented the team from practicing outdoors, even weeks after the calendar had argued that spring had arrived.

In fact, when the team opened its season on Saturday, April 7 with a doubleheader at home against Orange County Community College, it had practiced just two days outdoors.

An article about the team in the Times Herald-Record newspaper on Thursday, April 5, quoted SCCC head coach Roland Gray as saying the “terrible weather” had him totally “in the dark” about his team’s potential, with the season opener just days ahead.

Sullivan began the season on Sunday, March 5 with a doubleheader in Brooklyn against Kingsborough Community College. With little practice time leading up to the opener, Sullivan dropped both games, losing 3-1 and 14-4.

The following week, new head coach Randy Delanoy’s Generals began their annual southern swing through Maryland and the Carolinas, only to have the first two games of the trip—against the College of Southern Maryland in La Plata, Maryland—cancelled. The next day, the team was in New

Bern, North Carolina for a doubleheader against Craven Community College, which they swept, downing the Panthers by scores of 13-6 and 12-0 to begin a five game winning streak.

Then it was on to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for seven games in four days.

The Generals beat Montgomery County Community College on Sunday, March 12 by 6-1 and then squeaked by North Central Missouri College in a 12 noon contest the next day by a 5-4 margin. That game was followed by a 3 p.m. game against Montgomery College-Rockville, which Sullivan won 6-5.



Randy Delanoy

PHOTO PROVIDED



### 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!

#### April Questions:

1. What MLB pitcher has made more Opening Day starts than any other?
2. Two players share the record for most career home runs hit on Opening Day. Who are they?
3. In what stadium did “streaking” fans disrupt the Opening Day game in 1974?
4. Since William Howard Taft threw out the first pitch on Opening Day in 1910, every U.S. President except two has thrown out at least one Opening Day first pitch. Which two did not?
5. One U.S. president actually threw out two first pitches in the same game, one right-handed and one left-handed. Who was this ambidextrous president?

#### March Answers:

1. What are the names of the two spring training leagues major league teams play in? (**Grapefruit League and Cactus League**)
2. The New York Mets train in Port St. Lucie, FL. What is the name of their spring training complex? (**Clover Park**)
3. What major league team plays its spring training games at Publix Field at Joker Marchant Stadium? (**Detroit Tigers**)
4. What two major league teams play their spring training home games in Surprise Stadium? (**Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers**)
5. The New York Yankees’ spring training headquarters is George Steinbrenner Field. What was the previous name of the complex, opened in 1996? (**Legends Field**)

There was no winner last month.

That left the Generals at 5-2 on the season.

On Tuesday, March 14 in Myrtle Beach, Sullivan lost a close 7-6 game to the Community College of Rhode Island in a 12 noon contest, and then lost again in a 4 o’clock game—to Brookdale Community College of New Jersey—by an 11-3 score.

The next day, the Generals dropped two more in Myrtle Beach, losing a heartbreaker to Montgomery County 3-2, and then getting trounced by the County College of Morris (New Jersey) 18-5.

Sullivan left South Carolina with a 5-6 record,

and then, playing their eighth game in five days, were on the losing end of a 29-5 score against Harfor Community College in Bel Air, Md. The high scoring Fighting Owls had already played 20 games on the season at that point.

The following week, the Generals recorded road losses to Lackawanna College in Scranton 14-4 and Monroe College in New Rochelle, 3-2. That brought them back to Loch Sheldrake for the home opener last week on a seven game losing streak, but the field was just not ready for play.

As the Sentinel went to

press, the Generals had rematches scheduled against County College of Morris in Randolph, New Jersey on April 2 and against Monroe College in Loch Sheldrake on April 4.

Sullivan is next in action on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 6-8 against arch-rival Orange County Community College. The teams square off for 4 o’clock games in Middletown on Thursday and Friday, and then meet in a doubleheader in Loch Sheldrake beginning at 12 noon on Saturday. At press time, the Colts stood at 0-12 on the season.

### GENERALS BASKETBALL WRAP-UP

#### Men, Women Drop District Games

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE — Given the perennially high expectations for both the men’s and women’s basketball programs at SUNY Sullivan, their 2022-2023 campaigns can probably be chalked up as disappointing—if both programs capturing a Region XV championship can be considered disappointing.

Both the men, who finished the season with a 22-8 record, and the women, who ended up 19-10, lost their District East A/B tournament games, which would have qualified them for their respective national championships. The men ended up with ranked 14 in the nation in the final NJCAA Division II poll.

The men fell 63-54 to the nationally second ranked Niagara County Community College Thunder Wolves in their District game, played in Loch Sheldrake. It was the second time the Thunder Wolves had bested the Generals this season, as they had scored a 77-65 win at the Philly Classic in Herkimer in January. Niagara County lost in the second round of the NJCAA championship tournament to eventual champion Milwaukee Area Tech.

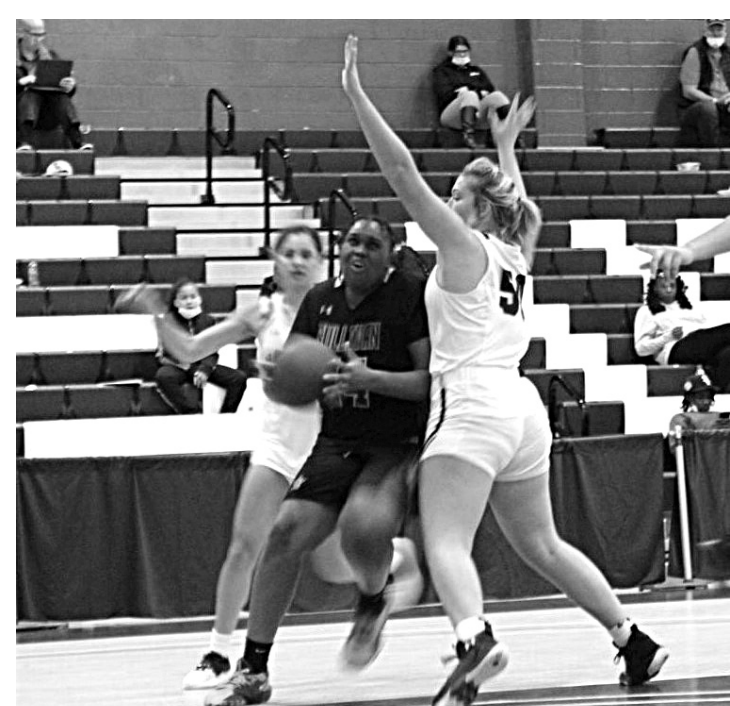
On the year, standout sophomore guard Jay Alvarez led the Generals in scoring and rebounding, with averages of 21.9 points and 8.6 boards. Kipplyn Richvine, also a sophomore guard, contributed 12.6 points per game, while sophomore guard Jair Currie chipped in with 12.4 points. Currie also led the team in assists with 4.2 per contest.

Sullivan’s Lady Generals also lost their District East championship game to Niagara County, dropping a



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Jay Alvarez



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Deivejon Harris

64-60 decision at home. Sophomore center Deivejon Harris ended up leading Sullivan’s women’s team in scoring on the year with a 16 points per game average, while also pulling down

14.3 rebounds per contest, tops on the squad. Freshman guard Brianna Maple was the only other Lady General to average in double figures, with 14.3 points per game.

### HIKES SCHEDULED FOR CELEBRATE TRAILS DAY In Hurleyville and Barryville

by Win Hadley

HURLEYVILLE — The non-profit history education group, The Delaware Company, has announced it will be collaborating with longtime Sullivan County Historian John Conway on two History Hikes to commemorate the Rails to Trails Conservancy’s national Celebrate Trails Day this month.

Mr. Conway, who in February marked his 30th year as the official County Historian, is also the president of The Delaware Company.

The Hurleyville History Hike, which will take place on the eastbound side of the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Participants gather to hear Sullivan County Historian John Conway (foreground) at one of last year’s History Hikes at the Minisink Battleground.

Milk Train Trail, is sched-

uled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, which is officially Celebrate Trails Day, as well as Earth Day. Hikers will gather at the trail head sign by the basketball courts just off the municipal parking lot on Main Street in Hurleyville.

The Highland History Hike, at the Minisink Battleground Park in Barryville, will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 23.

Hikers will leave from the Benjamin Tusten Pavilion adjacent to the parking lot at the park, which is located at 58 County Road 168, just ¾ of a mile east from Route 97, north of Barryville.

There is no need to register for either hike. Participants should just show up at the designated time, Mr. Conway said.

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