

PRIDE OF FALLSBURG

Hurleyville General Store Honored

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – The Hurleyville General Store received one of four Township Awards presented by the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce at its annual dinner and Pride Awards Gala at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon in November. Store owners Denise and Rob Lombardi accepted the award.

“What we do would not be possible without our loyal customers,” Denise Lombardi said following the award presentation. “This community has given us so much more than we could ever give back. We thank you all for continuing to support our mission, and we thank the Sullivan County

Chamber of Commerce for being incredible partners supporting small businesses like ours.”

The Hurleyville General Store, located at 238 Main Street, recently celebrated its fourth anniversary. It has become a popular Main Street locale known for its welcoming atmosphere and its calendar of eclectic special events, including musical performances, book signings and lectures. The store and the Lombardis have received multiple awards since its opening, and were featured earlier this year in “The September 26 Project,” sponsored annually by the National Council on Severe Autism to provide reminders, inspiration and information

to autism and special needs families about emergency preparedness. Both Lombardis belong to the Hurleyville Fire Department.

The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce has been honoring businesses and individuals for 49 years. The Pride Awards Gala honors individuals, businesses and organizations from throughout Sullivan County for their community involvement and their contributions to the economic development in the county.

According to the

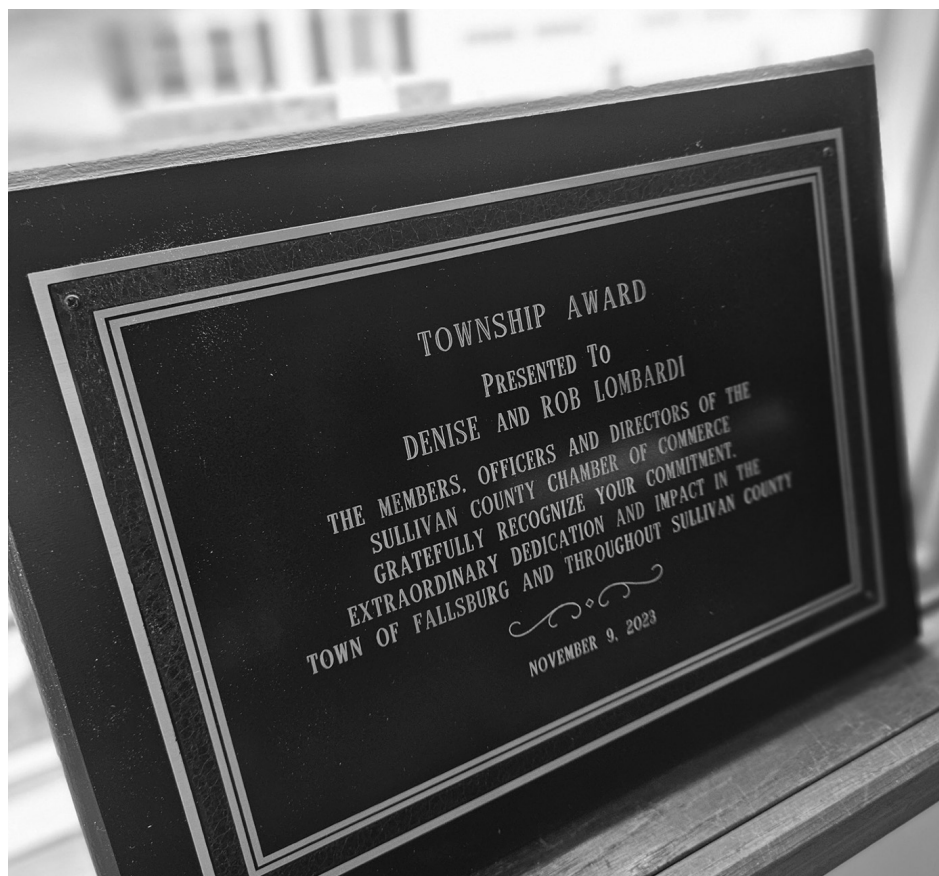


PHOTO PROVIDED
The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce's Township Award on display at the Hurleyville General Store.

Chamber of Commerce, everyone in Sullivan County is invited to participate in the nomination process, and the award winners are then chosen by a committee comprising past Businesspersons of the Year winners and the Chamber's Board of Directors.

“It is a way

to honor people throughout Sullivan County that wouldn't normally get recognized, but these individuals deserve the most prestigious recognition,” the Chamber of Commerce notes on its website.

The 2023 Pride of Community Award Winners are:

Businessperson of the Year
Joseph D'Abbraccio, DVM - Catskill Veterinary Services, PLLC

Distinguished Achievement Award
Mike Taylor, Combined Energy Services, Holiday Mountain, All-Gas and others

Distinguished Service Awards
Al Frangipane – St. Jude Children's Hospital, The

Lions Club and others
Julian Dawson, United Way
Emerging Leader Award
Bradlyn Matican – Insight Cipher

Township Awards
Nick & Kate Rusin, Parks-ville Priorities, Liberty Rising – Town of Liberty

Joel Weinberg – Mountain Mall – Town of Thompson

Denise and Rob Lombardi – Hurleyville General Store, Town of Fallsburg

Doug Doetsch and Susan Manning, Seminary Hill, Town of Delaware

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Workplace Excellence Award

Joan Patterson, RN, MSN
Crystal Run Healthcare

WELCOME TO THE HURLEYVILLE GENERAL STORE

Main Street's Award Winning Business

by Emily Arias

HURLEYVILLE – Many view the Hurleyville General Store as the heart of Main Street, but have no idea that the welcoming vibe of the place is backed up by a moving story.

Denise Lombardi co-owns the store with her husband, Rob. They live across the street, belong to the local fire department, absolutely love the community.

Ms. Lombardi was working as a C.P.A. on Long Island before she took the leap and opened her own store-- something she said was far out of her comfort zone--after her autistic son began living at The Center for Discovery.

And she knew she wanted to make her own small impact on the hamlet and create a business that her own son could be a part of. The Hurleyville General Store was born. She and her husband purchased a Main Street home in Hurleyville shortly after the store opened, when she realized how accepting and welcoming the community was.

“It doesn't matter if they can't adhere to social norms, we just want everyone to



PHOTO PROVIDED

Denise (left) and Rob Lombardi are co-owners of the award winning Hurleyville General Store.

feel welcome here,” Ms. Lombardi said of her concept for the business. She recalled a story in which she and her son had gone out to see the new Star Wars movie at a Long Island theater and he was so excited to be there he was flapping his hands and laughing. She was shocked when someone approached them and asked them to leave.

“He wasn't being loud or anything,” she explained. “He was just happy.”

Ms. Lombardi remembers this event often, and incidents like those are why she is so motivated to make the

General Store a place where anyone can go to purchase, visit, or work. She says those kinds of things happen more often than people might think, and she never wants anyone to feel excluded from anything the way her son was made to feel that day.

She first opened the Hurleyville General Store in September of 2019, but the ride has not always been a smooth one. Due to COVID, the store had to shut down almost immediately, and when it opened again, restrictions made it so that it couldn't function the way it

had before the shutdown.

People expected the old way of doing things, for the second wave of the store to be the same as the first, for everything to be unchanged, but it was difficult for Ms. Lombardi to meet those demands while struggling with the loss of momentum from the shutdown. Nonetheless, she persevered, and thrived, with the help of a newly formed partnership with the Neversink General Store.

The Hurleyville General Store has come a long way since those early trials, and it doesn't seem to be slowing down. Now, with the arrival of the Collaborative College High School to the hamlet, there are even more customers and visitors than before.

“The energy of the [CCHS] students has been so positive and fun,” Ms. Lombardi says.

From good food and drink to the pleasant, social atmosphere, the Hurleyville General Store has become an integral--irreplaceable--part of the hamlet's Main Street, and a common stop for most people visiting the town, student or adult.

A WINTER HOME IN HURLEYVILLE

Fort Delaware Exhibit To Be Housed at SCHS Museum

HURLEYVILLE – The Sullivan County Historical Society has added a new exhibit to its Museum at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville, but visitors will have only a limited time to see it.

Under a special arrangement with the Barryville based non-profit history education group, The Delaware Company, the Historical Society will provide a winter home for the interactive exhibit, “A Settlement Divided,” which will be on display in the Museum's Timeline Room through the end of April.

“A Settlement Divided” tells the story of the divided loyalties that tore apart Cushtunk, the first permanent European settlement in the Upper Delaware region, during the Revolutionary War. The exhibit was unveiled at Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg in July of this year. It was created by The Delaware Company, which operates Fort Delaware, was built by Media Dynamics of Waukesha, WI, and was made possible through funding from The Tianaderrah Foundation and a Preserve America grant from Americana Corner.

“We are excited to be able

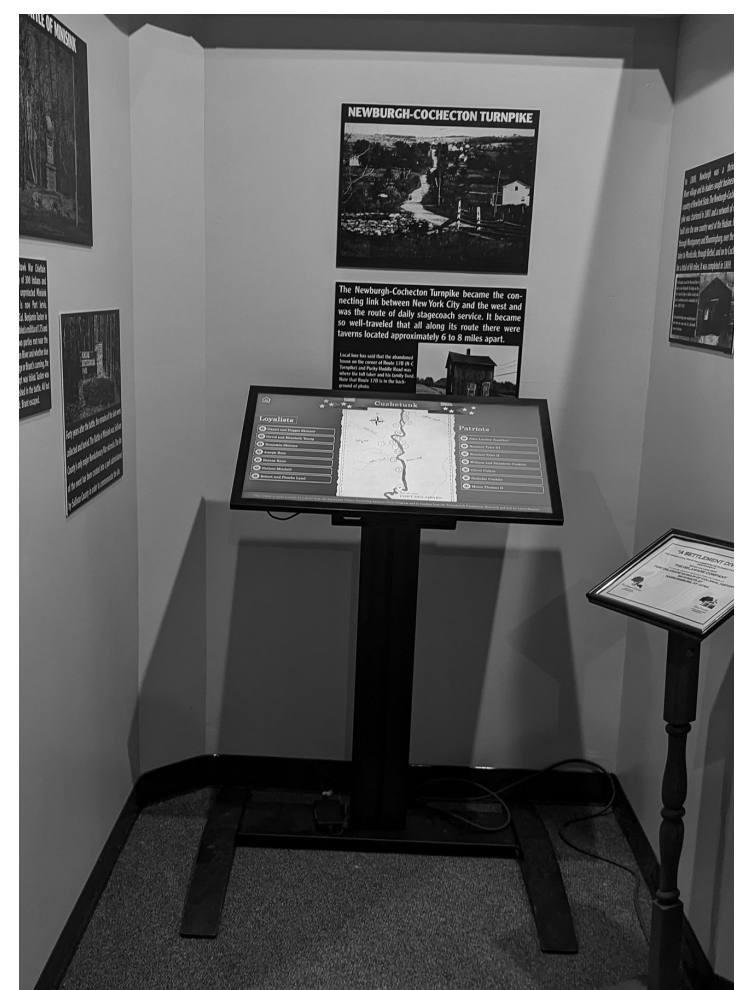


PHOTO BY RUTH HUGGLER

The interactive exhibit, “A Settlement Divided” on display at the SCHS Museum in Hurleyville.

to provide further opportunity for people to view the exhibit and learn more about the history and the people of Cushtunk, and we are grateful to the Sullivan County Historical Society for making that possible,” said Debra Conway, Executive Director of The

Delaware Company about the collaboration. “The story of the divided loyalties of the settlers of Cushtunk is just one of the many great stories we tell at Fort Delaware.”

Like most of the settlements in colonial America, the Cushtunk communi-

ty chose up sides as the War for Independence approached, and while there were settlers there who advocated for separation from England, there were many more who remained loyal to the King. In some cases, members of the same family ended up on different sides in the War. The exhibit tells the stories of many of the families and the choices they made.

“The Sullivan County Historical Society is excited to have the interactive display from the Fort Delaware Museum for the winter months. Its information about the Cushtunk settlers is a welcome addition to our Timeline Room for those who visit the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville,” added SCHS President Suzanne Cecil.

The Sullivan County Historical Society Museum is located at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History is located on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway at 6615 Route 97 in Narrowsburg. It is open May thru October.

Warming Centers Now Open for the Season

MONTICELLO-- Sullivan County has opened its two warming centers in Liberty and Monticello (note the location change from last year):

- **United Methodist Church, 170 North Main Street, Liberty**
- **St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 St. John Street, Monticello**

These facilities will remain open to anyone from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. every night through Saturday,

April 15, 2024.

“While last winter was relatively mild, we still had significant usage of both shelters,” noted Sullivan County Health & Human Services Commissioner John Liddle. “Almost 150 people used the Liberty shelter, for a total of close to 1,000 stays since it opened last November. Monticello opened in December and served 123 people, for just under 500

stays overall. Because of a sharp increase in evictions in recent months and a shortage of affordable and supportive housing inventory, we expect utilization to be higher this winter. Fortunately, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) supported our requests for additional funding to expand our operations this year.”

Warming centers in Sullivan County exist to



protect unsheltered individuals and families from the cold of the winter. Warming center staff are experienced and trained in

working with people who have complex and severe service needs. These locations offer people more than a place to sleep, and

human service providers from across the County chip in to help those in need gain access to medical care and other social service benefits.

Warming centers also give the vulnerable a place where they can feel safe. The Liberty warming center is directly across the street from the Village of Liberty police station, and additional funding granted by OTDA this year will provide onsite security at

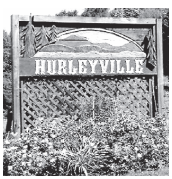
the Monticello warming center.

“We're very fortunate to have such strong community partners,” Deputy Social Services Commissioner Giselle Steketee added. “The team at the New Beginnings Community Worship Center and United Methodist Church have been exceptionally reliable and supportive as we've expanded our services in Liberty. We greatly appreciate St. John's

Episcopal Church stepping up to help this year in Monticello as the Ted Strobele Center gets the renovations it needs to serve the Monticello community for years to come, and we can't thank enough Kathy Kreiter and the Federation for the Homeless for stepping up once again to provide life-saving services to those in need.”

Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



HURLEYVILLE FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

The annual election of the Hurleyville Fire District will take place on Tuesday, December 12 from 6 until 9 p.m. at the Hurleyville Fire House.

All voters registered with the Sullivan County Board of Elections on or before November 20, 2023, and residing within the Hurleyville Fire District are eligible to vote.

HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)

Hurleyville-Sullivan First will hold the 27th Annual "Deck the Doors" Holiday Decorating Contest on Monday, December 18. Judging will begin at 6 p.m. Make sure your lights are on! All holiday-decorated doors in the hamlet, both residences and businesses, are eligible. Hurleyville business owners and members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First provide the prizes for the winners.

Hurleyville-Sullivan First continues to collaborate with the Hurleyville Hub on events that contribute to the ongoing revitalization of the hamlet. Members worked on the 2nd Annual Hurleyville Summer Festival in August, the 2nd Annual Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival in October, and "Holiday in Hurleyville" in December. Planning for festivals in 2024 has already begun.

For more information about Hurleyville and Hurleyville-Sullivan First, please visit the group on Facebook or at www.hurlevillenyny.com.

HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Information on Christmas Eve services will be announced on the bulletin board at the church.

The Bread of Life food pantry will be open Thursday, December 21 and on Thursday, December 28 from 3 until 5 p.m.

Youngsters are invited to participate in the fun and creative activities held at "Messy Church". Upcoming dates for "Messy Church" are Saturday, December 9 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 13 from 5 until 6:30 p.m. All children taking part in the fun activities must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday services are held at the church at 9 a.m. Children of all ages can attend Sunday school at the church during services.

Pastor Jorge delivers sermons on the church's page on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

All are invited to 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 Bible study group meets in the sanctuary at the

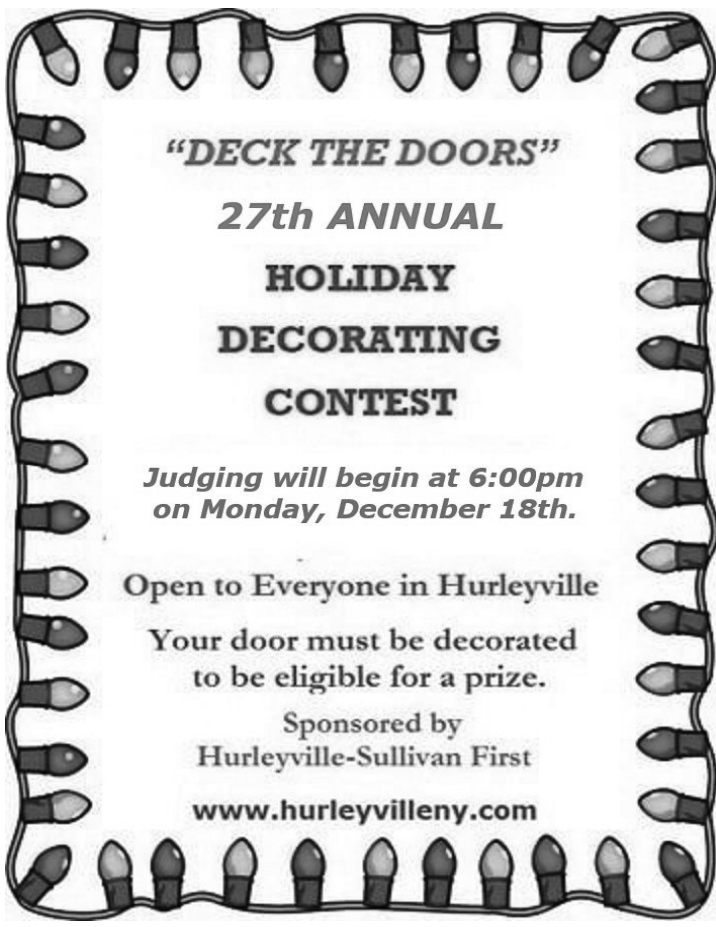


PHOTO PROVIDED

Judging for the 27th Annual "Deck the Doors" Holiday Decorating Contest will begin at 6:00pm on Monday, December 18. Don't forget to turn your lights on!

church every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Donations of diapers, new socks, new underwear and new t-shirts for children in foster care are being collected at the church. New t-shirts and new underwear for veterans along with new clothes for women who are starting over after escaping from domestic violence are also being gathered by the volunteers at the church. Please contact Cookie at 845-428-5871 or Goldie at 845-467-1641 for more information on the program.

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 host its first Open House at the museum on Sunday, December 10 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Fine art, crafts, books and photographs will be available for sale at the event...just in time for the holidays.

There will be a special exhibition of wood-fired earthenware pottery created and donated by the late Robert Segall. Proceeds from the sale of Mr. Segall's pottery, influenced by Pueblo Indian pottery and Japanese Bizen Ware, will be donated to local charities and non-profit organizations.

Little Sparrow will host live musical performances at the open house. Special guests will include Sullivan West senior Henry Simon and Rounder Recording artist Van Manakas.

The annual Holiday Theme Exhibit at the Sullivan County Museum will be open until January 3. The exhibit features holiday-themed trees, Hanukkah displays, and Kwanzaa displays created and decorated by individuals,

businesses, and organizations.

The historical and genealogical archives at the Sullivan County Museum are open for exploration on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

Guided tours of the museum...behind the scenes and regular exhibits...are available. There is no charge for the hour-long tours but registration is required. Please call 845-434-8044 to make a reservation.

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

The volunteers at the museum work on a variety of activities including research and exhibits. Anyone interested in exploring genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can contact the museum for information on volunteering.

The museum, located at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville, is open on Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Donations to meet the increasing cost of operating the museum are appreciated.

Visit www.scnyhistory.org to see the newly redesigned website for the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum. You can also visit the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum on Facebook.

COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

Homeowners whose wells are harmfully affected by the well-related activity that is going on at the proposed Gan Eden development, including water discoloration and repeated well maintenance, are urged to contact the building departments in the Town of Thompson (845-794-2500, extension 321) and the Town of Fallsburg (845-434-8811).

Members of CHNA joined Hurleyville residents at the Town of Fallsburg Zoning Board Meeting on November 16. The only item on the agenda was a request for a variance allowing a 12-unit cluster development on Mitteer Road. Local residents voiced their concerns with this type of develop-



THE CHRISTMAS TREES

Our Christmas tree exhibit is so nice to behold
With tinsel strips and popcorn strands
Sometimes presents laid below
All children check the stockings and there's not one piece of coal!

There's a scent that I smell as I enter the room
It surrounds me; it's the fragrance of pine
Then I realize that the trees aren't real
No matter, the scene has played tricks on my mind

Some trees might have lights that add to their glow
Those lights can be just strings of white
Other trees have lights draped over their limbs
Multi-colored ones that really excite

In addition, there are decorations
That pique our interest each year
Beautiful bulbs and family trinkets
One time there were small teddy bears

Now that you've been intrigued by
Just how creative our neighbors are
Take a bus ride or train to the city
Don't dare think about going by car!

The queen of trees is resplendent
So elegant when she's fully dressed
She stands statily in Rockefeller Center
This is one tree that's trimmed to impress

Yards of lights, oh, how they twinkle
The kids' eyes how they twinkle, too
The Swarovski star is her crowning glory
Take a selfie with this fabulous view

While surrounded by so many people
See the bird of peace; it's the dove
Look at the sky and say "thank you"
And resolve after this you'll spread LOVE

- Mimi
December, 2023

Fine Art, Crafts, Books, Music and More Frederick Cook Society Hosting Open House

HURLEYVILLE – Join neighbors and friends on Sunday, December 10 for a first-ever Frederick Cook Society Open House at the Sullivan County Museum! The holiday-themed event will include live music, as well as fine art, crafts, books and photographs available for purchase.

On display will be a special exhibition of wood-fired pottery, donated by the late Robert Segall, who visited Sullivan County many a summer. The Ohio native pursued a career in art in New York City, where his work has been exhibited in numerous public and private spaces. He taught ceramics at Hunter College, College of the City of New York, and Marymount Manhattan College. Major influences for his work include Pueblo Indian pottery and Japanese Bizen Ware. Proceeds from sales of his pottery will be donated to local non-profit organizations.

ment...including the effect on wells, the lack of water resources, and the harmful road conditions. The board agreed to keep the public portion of the meeting open until the next meeting in order to receive accurate and complete information from the applicant before acting on the request.

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



PHOTO PROVIDED

Earthenware pottery by Robert Segall (representative – these items will not be for sale)

The music will include performances by Sullivan West senior Henry Simon, Rounder Recording artist Van Manakas, and members of the band Little Sparrow.

Doors open at 11 a.m., and the event runs until 4 p.m. Admission is free.

The Sullivan County Museum is located at 265 Main Street, Hurleyville. Call 845-434-8044 for more information, or visit the Frederick Cook Society Website at www.frederickcookpolar.org.

The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

For those who missed me last month, I had dropped something on my foot right where the toes meet the foot, which has been not only painful but somewhat debilitating. It resulted in a "bone bruise," which there isn't much to be done about unless one "stays off of it" until it heals, and that can take months. Just shows how dangerous deep cleaning one's space can be!

I did attend the induction ceremonies (limping all the way) at THE NEW YORK COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME in late October. It was actually fun! I was privileged to be seated at his friends and family table along with friends LIL SCOLES and BILL GRIESBECK, DON CERCE, JR. and his wife SUSAN and one of the duo who unknowingly brought old friends LIL SCOLES and DON CERCE, SR. together again after 40 years, ALDO TROIANI. He and CAROL SMITH (LITTLE SPARROW) brought DON and SUSAN to the SULLIVAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM through the FREDERICK COOK SOCIETY, for their Sunday music series, and of course, DON CERCE, SR. who was an inductee to the HALL OF HONOR.

And a serious, heartfelt thank you to ALDO, who graciously agreed to take many of the pictures you see here today, as my phone remained the 100+ miles away in my car. You can't get me up before 6 a.m. without my forgetting something!

In talking to people, I learned the hall we were in started as a structure with a dirt floor and now all these years later, it is a large and impressive structure...and it was FILLED with people, inductees and their friends and family. Just for scale, the inductee I was there to see, DON CERCE SR, had 50 people!

One surprise, though, is that their museum, which is supposed to house many treasures, was not open. I would have paid the nominal fee to go through it as would have many others. Cortland is a two-hour drive from here but quite a bit longer for those coming from Long Island and other parts of the country.

It's going to be a very busy Holiday season! Another native son, SHANE RENNISON recently released his first EP titled NICE TO MEET YOU, which is getting a lot of



PHOTO PROVIDED

Don Cerce, Jr, Lil Scoles, AND inductee Don Cerce, Sr. (left to right).

excellent reviews. I caught him for the first time at this year's HURLEYVILLE MUSIC FESTIVAL and was quite impressed.

Sunday, December 10, the FREDRICK COOK SOCIETY hosts an Open House at the SULLIVAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM in Hurleyville. This too, is getting a lot of press because it features a collection of wood fired pottery donated by the late ROBERT SEGALL. Along with the performance of LITTLE SPARROW, the event will feature VAN MANAKAS and WAYNE LOPES, both

known nationally and internationally, will be performing from 1 -2 p.m. Also featured will be the wood-fired pottery by the late ROBERT SEGALL. All sales of the pottery will be donated. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the event is free.

One quick personal note before I sign off. My dear friend BEVIS GRIFFIN is being featured in THE JOURNAL OF TEXAS MUSIC HISTORY...a well-deserved honor, my friend!

May your Holidays be filled with love and light!

Until next time...

FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



THE WINTER SOLSTICE



PHOTO PROVIDED

The winter solstice this year will occur at 10:27 p.m. on Thursday, December 21. The winter solstice, also sometimes known as the first day of winter, marks the day with the shortest period of daylight and the longest night of the year. It occurs when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt away from the Sun.

The date of the winter solstice varies from year to year because the tropical year- the time it takes for the sun to return to the same spot relative to earth- is different from the calendar year. Not only does the solstice occur on a specific day, but it also occurs at a specific time of day, corresponding to the instant the North Pole is aimed furthest away from the sun on the 23.5 degree tilt of the earth's axis.

The solstice is referred to in some cultures as the "shortest day" or "extreme of winter." New York City will experience nine hours and fifteen minutes of sunlight, compared to fifteen hours and five minutes on the summer solstice. The North Pole has had no sunrise since October. The South Pole, though, will be basking in the glow of the midnight sun, which won't set until March.

The word solstice translates roughly to "sun stands still," deriving from the Latin "solstitium," containing sol, meaning "sun," and the past participle stem of sister, meaning "to make stand." This comes from the fact that the sun's position in the sky relative to the horizon at noon appears to pause in the days surrounding the solstice.

Ancient cultures viewed the winter solstice as a time of death and rebirth. The harsh winter months posed a real threat of starvation. Many early societies held solstice celebrations and rites that focused on the return of the sun and hope for new life. Cattle and other animals were slaughtered, followed by a feast on what would be the last fresh meat for several months. Scandinavian and Germanic pagans burned Yule logs as a symbol of welcoming back the light.

If you do burn a Yule log this month or sit by a fire, remember that the days actually start to lengthen after this December 21, even if our winters seem to last forever.

John "the Weatherman" Simon writes a regular column on weather for The Sentinel. He lives in Hurleyville.

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

Covering Main Street and Beyond

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GET READY FOR WINTER FUN

STARTING AT HURLEYVILLE'S MORGAN OUTDOORS

by Lily Barrish

HURLEYVILLE — Whether you enjoy winter outdoors or indoors, Morgan Outdoors is a special little shop right on Main Street that you really should visit. Owner Lisa Lyons has been connecting people with the great outdoors since opening the business in Livingston Manor in 2005. Sometimes it's with a great book, other times by offering them a fitting hike recommendation, the right gear, clothing, or footwear. Her goal is to equip you with the basics for staying warm and safe. The rest is up to you.

Winter is her favorite season, so winter lovers will feel right at home in the shop. If you're walking the dog or snowshoe-

ing to a mountain summit, you'll find warm layers and winter traction tools that enable you to happily and comfortably stay outside longer. Ms. Lyons's 18 years of experience really pay off when helping you find the right gear and just the right trail for a winter adventure. Using trail maps on the wall, she easily presents options that match your desires and ability with trail conditions and weather to maximize fun. Count on her to offer additional tips for making your outings special and memorable.

What are traction tools? They are great inventions that you put on your boots to ensure you stay surefooted on ice. Too many of us know the perils of falling on ice. So, Morgan Outdoors

stocks several types of traction, suitable for both town and backcountry use. And for enjoying deeper snow and exploring local trails, there are MSR snowshoes for children and adults that are easy to put on and built to last.

"We also rent great gear, so you can try something new, or check out gear before you buy it," Ms. Lyons said.

Rental options include microspikes for traction on backcountry trails, leg gaiters to keep your lower legs warm and dry, hiking poles to keep you steady, and a deluxe child carrier to bring little ones along. Using hiking poles with the carrier is a great way to stay sure-footed with precious cargo on your back.

If you're not a big fan of



PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH
Lisa Lyons in her store in the Main Street Mews in Hurleyville.

the cold, the bookshelves are filled with selections for nature lovers, gardeners, and curious minds. Guidebooks for hiking, birding, gardening, paddling, backpacking, camping, first aid, and outdoor cooking abound. There are sections for regional history and books by local authors, as well as a large children's book selection. Puzzles, puppets, and other games provide wonderful ways to warm up a winter day indoors. Browsing is welcomed and there's a comfy chair near the bookshelves so you can relax and stay awhile.

Another personalized feature the store offers is custom shoe and boot fit-

tings. Morgan Outdoors is known for quality footwear that is reasonably priced and durable (brands like Merrell and Keen), as well as a "sock wall" filled with warm and colorful socks, many with a lifetime guarantee!

"I am always on a quest for warm bed slippers as winter approaches" said loyal customer Jo Anne Barrish. "Lisa helped me find the right ones—warm, comfortable and well made".

With 18 years of experience under her belt, Ms.

Lyons is a winter expert to turn to in Sullivan County. You're guaranteed to walk out of her store ready to face wintry conditions with more confidence and comfort.

On January 1, Ms. Lyons will be leading a First Day Hike, sponsored by the NYS DEC at Mongaup State Park in Livingston Manor. Advance registration and hike details will be available soon. If you'd like them emailed to you directly, call the store at 845-793-4181.



Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

To G.F.

"A scrawny cry" — that's the sound Wallace Stevens described hearing outside his window one morning, "at the earliest ending of winter."

It's an odd location. Things are more liable to look scrawny than sound scrawny. The dictionary citations for the word all relate to objects *seen* — bodies, mostly. Stevens's "cry" might be an instance of the synesthesia one encounters in his poems. When I read it, I think of the wintry landscape out of which the cry (birdsong, it turns out) emerges. I think of the scrawniness that overtakes and replaces the last flare of fall foliage.

Now we're at winter's earliest beginning and nature is approaching peak scrawniness. The wizened herbage of the garden is brown and brittle. The trees are spectacularly denuded. Around our cottage, I can peer into the woods to a new depth, clear to a densifying tangle of bare branches. The visible world assumes the charm of the austere.

The aging year: in the cartoon iconography of New Year's, the passing year is represented by Father Time, a gaunt old man with a long white beard, bearing an hourglass or scythe, with a sash around his torso that reads (this year) "2023." He comes to hand over his time-keeping duties to the plump infant who will supplant him, whose sash reads "2024."

This stretch through December, the last leg of old Father Time's reign, is a period when the year acquires its "late style," sharing qualities that are often attributed to work produced by artists in their old age. Late style in the arts is a less copious mode of working, a paring down to essentials, a reduction of ornament, a simplification of texture, as time runs too short for anything but the barest, most economical expressive gestures. One critic's felicitous account of late style describes it as "various more or less intelligible performances by old brilliant people... where the bare outlines of a creative idiom seem finally to emerge from what had been the obscuring puppy fat of personableness, timeliness,

or sometimes even of coherent sense." So the baby fat of New Year's ages into the spectral gauntness of old Father Time.

In mid-November, I went to see Bob Dylan perform at the Kings Theater in Brooklyn. Now in his 82nd year (yes, two years older than Joe Biden), Dylan has been at it so long even his late style has a late style. He delivers his wispy recent songs in a softened, supple voice. No scrawny cry here! The lyrics shift about like elements of a mobile, each line hanging on its own thread, connected to the others in ways that don't adhere to the logic of narrative or metaphor. Dylan has left behind the obscuring elements of personableness, timeliness, and sometimes even coherent sense. He sings in units of sound that override syntax, so that lines like "Another day without end / Another ship going out" emerge sounding like two words, not eight. He slathers those lines like brush strokes upon the canvas of sound rolled out by the band, led by his own piano playing. If the songs could be translated visually, they'd resemble sumi-e paintings, strokes of ink handled with such dexterity they won't blot the highly absorbent rice paper to which they're applied.

What comes *after* late-ness? For nature, the stark outlines of winter give way to the regenerative promptings of spring. Nature's life is cyclical; human life, terminal. Late style, for an artist like Dylan, is a way to keep going in the face of the diminishment of aging and the prospects of mortality. "I sleep with life and death in the same bed," he sings, neither denying nor deriding the inevitable. I'm reminded of Yeats's aged man, deemed a paltry thing, "A tattered coat upon a stick, unless / Soul clap its hands and sing, and louder sing / For every tatter in its mortal dress." After such lateness comes — silence. We exited Kings Theater, into the chilly November night, quickened in our mortal dress.

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

SUNY SULLIVAN NUMBER ONE *Legislature's Promise Scholarship Cited*

LOCH SHELDRAKE — SUNY Sullivan has proudly announced a groundbreaking achievement as it emerges with the largest year-over-year increase in enrolling new students among all State University of New York community colleges.

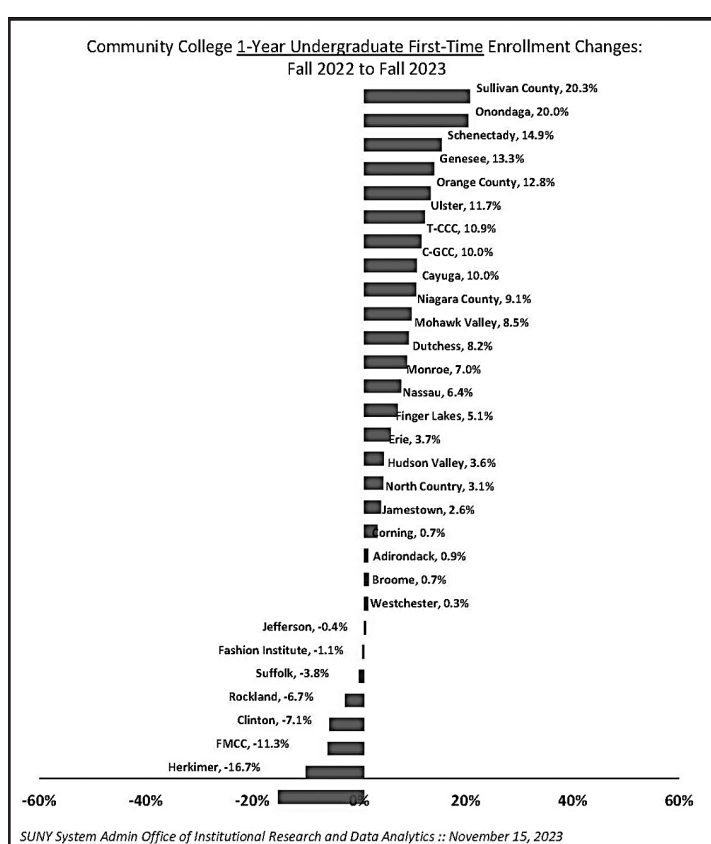
SUNY Sullivan experienced an unprecedented surge in new student enrollment, increasing new student enrollment by over 20%, compared to a 3.9% average increase in SUNY community college enrollment across the network, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to accessible and quality higher education.

For the first time in a decade, year-to-year total SUNY system-wide student enrollment increased, up 1.1 percent overall from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023 for a total of 367,542 students. Undergraduate first-time enrollment — a leading indicator — was up across all sectors

at 4.3 percent, a promising increase as SUNY works to fulfill Governor Kathleen Hochul's vision to transform higher education into a path to upward mobility. The technology sector showed the strongest increase at 13.3 percent, followed by community colleges at 3.9 percent.

"New York continues to make important progress towards building the best public higher education system in the country and as a result, more young students are choosing SUNY," Governor Hochul said. "I know firsthand that access to higher education is an engine for social mobility. That's why I will continue to make important investments in our higher education systems and take steps to ensure college is affordable and accessible for students of all backgrounds."

SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. presented the enroll-



GRAPHIC PROVIDED

ment data during a special meeting of the SUNY Board of Trustees. His presentation provided a breakdown per sector and by campus.

"There is a place at SUNY for every New Yorker, and

the great news is that more students across the state are discovering their SUNY success stories," Chancellor King said. "Governor Hochul and the legislature have made a significant invest-

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Vet 2 Vet Sullivan County

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MONTICELLO — Vet 2 Vet of Sullivan County was so pleased with the response last year that they're doing it again!

Military veterans will be able to get a free Christmas tree, generously donated by Delaware Valley Farm & Garden in Callicoon.

Trees will be available at the

office of Action Toward Independence, 309 E. Broadway, Monticello from December 1 through December 15. There is a limited quantity available, so veterans who are interested in obtaining a free tree should call at their first opportunity to reserve one. The phone number is 845-794-4228.

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From the Firehouse

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



THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BUREAU OF FIRE

WANTS YOU TO BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- Burn candles inside a 1-foot circle of safety
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets
- Never leave candles burning unattended
- Always extinguish candles after use
- Consider switching to battery-operated flameless candles

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.

Hard to believe that the year is almost over.

I have written about safety hints in all my columns. So let me tell you of some of my real-life experiences when things go wrong or not according to plan.

Just about all the holidays coming up use an open flame.

I have been to fires caused by candles that were left unattended and caused extensive damage to the home. They fell over or burned to the end, and started the holder and decorations on fire. I have seen menorahs fall over and start fires, and one even broke for an unknown reason, spilling the oil and starting a fire.

Overloaded electrical outlets are common hazards. Way too many lights, decorations, and devices decorated in to an outlet. Putting electrical cords under rugs. That one I have seen quite a few times. All caused a fire for me to respond to.

Furnace backfires (a/k/a poof back). Way too many to list. Some caused thousands of dollars worth of soot damage with no fire and then there are the ones that burnt the house down.

Another one that I have gone to way too many times are chimney fires. Some because they were not cleaned and as a result they burnt the house down, ruined the chimney, or caused significant damage to the house.

Also, went to stove/fireplace fires where the device was improperly installed. Again, with not a good end result.

Electric heating devices that were too close to combustibles or didn't have an automatic shut off when tipped over can also be a problem.

Kerosene stoves (heaters)

that used the wrong fuel and could not be turned off. Filling a hot heating device inside and spilling the fuel and starting a fire happens more often than you might think.

I have seen this scenario destroy several houses. Dumping fireplace or stove ashes out the back door, putting them in a plastic bucket and leaving it on the wooden back porch; or how about putting them in a paper bag and not making it out of the house with them. I have seen the results.

Now, let's go on the road: Driving way too fast on bald tires in the snow. This is never a good result. Most times it is easy for us to check the tires because when we arrive the car is on its roof.

Now we will head to the kitchen. Cooking fires are number one on the list of most caused structure fires. I have witnessed people putting food in the oven and going shopping to come home and find their home gone. Homeowner trying to put a grease fire out with water and spreading it throughout the kitchen. (Put a lid on it!)

As a side note, most of the activated alarms that we respond to are from burnt food. Activated alarms are still on the top of the list for our responses along with faulty smoke heads. Remember we respond to all alarms as if it were a real fire; we drop everything and respond.

I have responded to calls where the residents had CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning because there were no CO alarms present. Remember CO is a silent invisible killer.

This is a partial list of incidents that I have responded to in the winter months but especially during the holiday season. I hope you don't make my list.

Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Safe New Year and Seasons Greetings to ALL.

BE Safe Out There. Use Common Sense.

FCSD ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

FALLSBURG – The Fallsburg Central School District is proud to announce their honor roll and Superintendent's honor roll lists for the first marking period. These students were commemorated for their high academic achievement. These students are:

7th Grade

Honor Roll list: Yasmina Bache-Seraphin, Michael Damms, Vincent DeGraw Jr., Surey Delgado, Niyah Emptage, Jamila Ferreira, Sara Flores Ramos, Amelia Forman, Dina Gottlieb, Leyna Greenberg, Daniella Gutierrez Aleman, Angelina Lara-Jones, Ariyanna Laudadio, Emily Mackerley, Angelica Esperanza Martinez-Lopez, Patrick Maxwell Jr., Carlos Mazariago Pena, Rizzi Medina Carcamo, Maria Nardi, Nelcy Orelana Mejia, Easton Pugh, Christopher Flores, Samantha Saciolo, A'miyah Sellers, Joshua Velazquez, Valery Villatoro Hernandez, Honor Wilson, Kimberly Zempoaltecatl.

Superintendent's Honor Roll list: Jack Bensimon, Xzander Berrios, Adriel Canales Gonzalez, Joseph Cerone, Nicolas Ciorciari, Alyssa Florence, Keily Garcia Menjivar, Katherine Juarez Cadena, Lindsya Lopez Landaverde, Rebecca Moocz, Daniel Perez Martinez, Jeybi Rodriguez Canales, Mason Stafford-Martinez, Samuel Vega Rosales, Jaylisa Williams.

8th Grade

Honor Roll list: Elenora Ahmetaj, Michael Bane-gas Osario, Leila Basic, Keily Brizuela Fuentes, Ilana Burke, Zamari Caruthers-Little, Sophia Cordova, Deysi Diaz Hernandez, Mariama Gai, Isabella Gonzales, Carols Granados Reyes, Stephon Harris, Seniada Jeronimo Sanchez, John Ketcham, Alisson Lagos Guardado, Nazareth Manjarrez Paredes, Madelyne Maxwell, Jaqueline Mazariago, Paola Melen-dez Deras, Dayana Mendoza-Gallo, Kileen Milligan, Brianna Miranda, Evelyn Molina Ax, Melina Ortiz, Dillan Padilla Avila, Tatiana Parada, Siv Patel, Henry Reyes, Benjamin Santos Jr., Kiara Sauer, Luca Sinigaglia, Zayd Amir Snead, Joshua Tetteh, Helen Vasquez, Avery Wall-Carty, Lavante Ward.

Superintendent's Honor Roll list: Addison Alvarado, Autumn Rain Atkinson, Maddelynn DeMondo-Gernant, Nata-

lia Evangelista, Amhara Gillmer, Melanie Gomez Perez, Eriberto Gonzalez Jr., Jancarlos Guardado, Layla Hermann, Camdyn Hoefling, Kate Islas Escamilla, Sophia Jacobs, Ronny Mendoza, Pedro Pineda Ortiz, Payton Pisaniello, Keily Rosales Charuc, Kayden Saravia, Jiahnny Sebastian, Joslyn Smith.

9th Grade

Honor Roll list: Nataly Alcocer-Zapata, Oscar Carranza Pineda Jr., Fatoumata Gai, Riley Gorr, Hennis Gutierrez-Padilla, Chanel Han, Adryanna Kozachuk, Shelby Lyons, Conner McManus, Jozyr McNeil, Joshua Rosales, Swarly Salguero Palacios, Abigail Toledo, Xavier Young, Rodrigo Zacapex-pan Reyes.

Superintendent's Honor Roll list: Sarah Blume, Emina Cenovic, Jordyn Cerone, Carissa Ciorciari, Ashleigh Fuentes Ardon, Eric Moocz, Fabio Narkaj, Robert Perrera, Efrain Rodriguez, Alisha Tremper, Peyton Varner.

10th Grade

Honor Roll list: Edison Bastidas Avendano, Allyia Best, Bintou Darboe, Olivia DeGraw, Marcos De-rasLopez, Jonathan Bias Paredes, Jayden Edwards, Sebastian Fowler, Kaedyn Freeman, Luz Gualan Quinde, Hector Jami Cocha, Virginio Jeronimo Sanchez, Joey Ketcham, Eric Li, Johnarris Lopez-Landaverde, Carmen Velasco Montes, Jarvin Mejia Nunez, Austin Olmsted, Allanah Owens, Jamed Rosa Gonzalez, Isis Santos Berrios, Tracy Severino Paredes, Kierstyn Surerus, Nataly Zempoal-tecatl.

Superintendent's Honor Roll list: Angelina Alvarado, Saladin Basic, Karrine Bennett, Andrew Bensimon, Xzavier Berrios, Lee-Ann DiNapoli, Jacob Espinoza, Emma-bella Ferreira, Douglas Medina Carcamo Jr., Joslyn Odell Schreier, Madeline Pantel, Allison Rojas, Marilyn Santos, Skylar Wright.

11th Grade

Honor Roll list: Gelsey Aguilar Torres, Yoshua Bache-Seraphin, Maya Ballard, Rubin Bonilla Jr., Isaiah Brown, Eder Campos, Arslyn Cantave, Gabriel Castillo Azofeifa, Alexander Cruceta, Nehemiah Damon, Kenya Escalante, Luciano Esposito, Jaiden Figueiroa, Kaelyn Fuentes, Adrianna Garcia,

Andrew Garcia, Evyonna Gillard, Alana Gjeka, Amanda Gutierrez Padilla, Donovan Hart, Bryce Junior, Grant King, Daris Koljkenovic, Erli Maldonado Garcia, Mayline Maldonado, Nancy Martinez Cadena, Jamin McColough, Brianna McManus, Julia Miller, Juan Morales Perez, Rozana Narkaj, Brianna Noller, Danielle Olsen, Mauricio Ordonez Nunez, Dalila Ortiz Fuentes, Keven Padilla Perdomo, Asaria Ponce Ramirez, Marco Reyes Mansanarez, Emy Sierra Mejia, Khimani Tisdale, Ioannis Vernezos.

Superintendent's Honor Roll list: Isabelle Batista, Kimberly Diaz, Ethan Dunn, Isaac Hernandez Martinez, Hayden-Marie Herrera, Nicole Jimenez, Hannah Johnson, William Martinez Martinez, Rachel Montenegro Sandoval, Bella Muscia, Vivian Ordonez Cabrera, Cece-lia Riker Lainez, Jennifer Rios Nunez, Jaily Sebastian, Jordyn Wall-Carty.

12th Grade

Honor Roll list: Jasmine Acevedo, Esthefany Avila Menjivar, Gustavo Avila Morales, Jordan Batista, Madison Bertholf, Diego Bonilla, Nikolas Bonner, Emily Bou, Emily Castro Ramos, Kassandra Damms, Emma DeGraw, Emily DeLaCruz, Alaina Dinkel, Lilly Fairman, Jordy Fuentes Maradiaga, Kennyn Garcia Bonilla, Terrence Hayden Jr., Lidia Hernandez Ponce, Kristian Huttemeyer, Ashley Ingrassia, Karina Klimiuk, Jacob Lawrence, Aryana Mercado Dubon, Jennifer Morales Perez, Georgia'Rane O'Brein, Catherine Pena, Angela Pineda Loja, Selina Rodriguez, Alexandra Ruiz, Rugia-tu Sesay, Willson Torres Martinez, Ariel Vasquez, Isaiah Young.

Superintendent's Honor Roll list: Asly Avila Reyes, Haris Basic, Sher-lin Bruno Pinzon, Annge-leena Bruno, Alexander Depuy-McBride, Chloe Doolittle, Miya Ennist, Jaedon Espinoza, Brandon Fierro, Kevin Hernandez Martinez, Mia Irlbacher, Jame Islas Escamilla,

Angelina Levner, Adam Mednick, Cecelia Nor-ris-Yanes, Junior Ordonez Bonilla, John Padilla Orelana, Emily Perna, Jalysa Poindexter, Elizabeth Rivas-Ferrufino, Nadiushka Rosa Gonzalez, Bersat Selimaj, Charlotte Steing-art, Christopher Yautentzi Reyes.

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburgh

COMPILED BY **Sullivan County Historian John Conway**

December 6, 1916 Narrow Escape from Drowning

Three small children of South Fallsburg, who had been excused from school Wednesday afternoon a short time previous to the regular hour for dismissal, had a very narrow escape from drowning in the Fallsburg Lake. Grant Warren, the caretaker, heard their screams and discovering the little ones in the water called loudly for help, where-upon J C Reynolds, who heard him, went immediately to his assistance. By wading into the water up to his neck, Mr. Warren was able to reach them and they were carried to the school house and their parents notified. They were then sent home in automobiles. They were Irving Stratton, aged nine years, son of Lorenzo Stratton and Sylvester Bonney, age six, and William Bonney, age eight, sons of Harry Bonney.

December 27, 1930 Hurleyville Girls Hurt in Auto Crash

Miss Sarah Hillman, twenty, suffered severe lacerations of the face and body, and Pearl Jacobson and Mary Schubert, her companions, also of this village, were slightly injured Friday of last week when a car driven by Miss Hillman was struck by a Hi-Land bread truck at the intersection of Loch Sheldrake and Hurleyville roads. A brother of Miss Hillman was drowned ten days ago while skating on Morningside Pond.

January 1, 1937 Engagements Announced

Three engagements involving Hurleyville residents were announced during Christmas week.

The betrothal of Miss Frieda Wichinsky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wichinsky and Jerry Lax of New York was made public. The couple plan to wed in June.

On Christmas Eve, the engagement of Miss Marion Metcalf of Monticello, to Edward Reynolds, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Reynolds, was announced. They plan to marry soon.

Mr. and Mrs. B.M. Case of Rock Hill have announced the engagement of their daughter, Gladys, to Earl Peck of Monticello. Miss Case, a school teacher in the Mitter district in Hurleyville for the past four years, is a sister to Mrs. Peter



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO
Jay Quaintance was SUNY Sullivan president in 2017.

LaBaugh. No date has been set for the wedding.

Christmas at the County Home

Christmas was celebrated at the Welfare Home in the real old-fashioned way. Christmas Eve, by the light of the brilliantly lighted Christmas tree, welcomed the visit of Jolly Old Saint Nick, who visited each and every person in the institution bringing gifts that made joyous each one's heart. After singing Christmas hymns, several of the inmates contributed a song or piece to make the evening a pleasant one.

A little later, the Truthseekers' Club of Mountandale sang Christmas carols under the windows of the sick in all three of the buildings. The menu for Christmas day for the old folks was chicken, biscuits and gravy, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberry sauce, mustard pickles, mince pie, tea and coffee. There were seventy-eight at the home.

December 2017 Holiday Activities Abound in Hurleyville

It will be a busy December

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR KICKOFF

MONTICELLO – The New York State Department of Labor is excited to invite the public to the Hudson Valley Regional Virtual Career Fair, being held on Tuesday, December 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to promote job opportunities in the Hudson Valley Region.

To fully support organization's recruitment efforts, there will be a preview day on December 18 where job seekers can view content and job postings and prepare themselves for the "live" event.

The Virtual Career Fair will go live on December 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Following receipt of exhibiting business' registrations, businesses will receive an

in Hurleyville, starting with a festive new family-friendly event, Holiday in Hurleyville, on Saturday, Dec. 2.

The businesses of Main Street have come together to plan a day of shopping, arts and live music to kick off the holiday season in style. The bustle will continue throughout the month with ongoing exhibits, a holiday cabaret and a winter solstice celebration.

Free activities for Holiday in Hurleyville will begin at 11 a.m., Dec. 2, up and down Main Street. The Sullivan County Historical Society will have its annual holiday open house and a theme tree exhibit at the Sullivan County Museum. Fiber on Main is hosting a pop-up shop for Buck Brook Alpacas, a Roscoe farm and fiber operation that raises alpacas and produces hypoallergenic yarn. The fuzzy animals will be visiting Hurleyville as well, set up for children's visits outside the store.

SUNY Sullivan Announces Move to Division II

SUNY Sullivan President Jay Quaintance has announced that the College has opted to compete at the NJCAA Division II athletic levels in men's and women's basketball beginning with athletes enrolling for fall 2018.

SUNY Sullivan already competes at the Division II level in baseball. The remainder of the college's sports programs will remain at the Division III level.

LOCAL TEENS VISIT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

MONTICELLO – A group of approximately 30 Sullivan West high school students spent much of Thursday, November 16 learning about the people and offices who serve them.

"We were happy to facilitate a field trip so that local teens could better understand the important tasks Sullivan County government undertakes every day – and the important role they can play in accomplishing those tasks," explained Youth Services Manager Kristen Kitson, who oversees the Sullivan County Youth Bureau. "They came to ask questions and engage with leaders,

something we want to offer to all our school districts and their high school students."

The day kicked off with Legislature meetings, where teens learned in real time how resolutions are discussed and passed in committee. That was followed by insights from Legislature Vice Chair Mike Brooks, County Treasurer Nancy Buck, Deputy County Attorney Tom Cawley, Commissioner of Jurors Deanna Armbrust-Cruz and Information Technology Services Director of Application Development and Support Andrew McCabe.

"I was very impressed

with how attentive these high-schoolers were," Ms. Buck said. "They seemed truly interested in what we had to say and how they can be a part of County government. I welcome future visits like these, especially since some of these young people may one day be working in and running local government."

The Youth Bureau will be hosting Eldred Junior-Senior High School students in December, and Kitson encourages other area school districts to contact her to set up a visit: 845-807-0394 or Kristen.kitson2@sullivanny.us.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Sullivan West students listen to Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck and Deputy County Attorney Tom Cawley talk about their roles in County government during the first of a series of Youth Bureau-organized visits to the Government Center in Monticello.

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THE VERDICT PART II

The Verdict was originally published in 1908. It is in the public domain.

Mrs. Gisburn drew back the window-curtains, moved aside a jardiniere full of pink azaleas, pushed an arm-chair away, and said: "If you stand here you can just manage to see it. I had it over the mantel-piece, but he wouldn't let it stay."

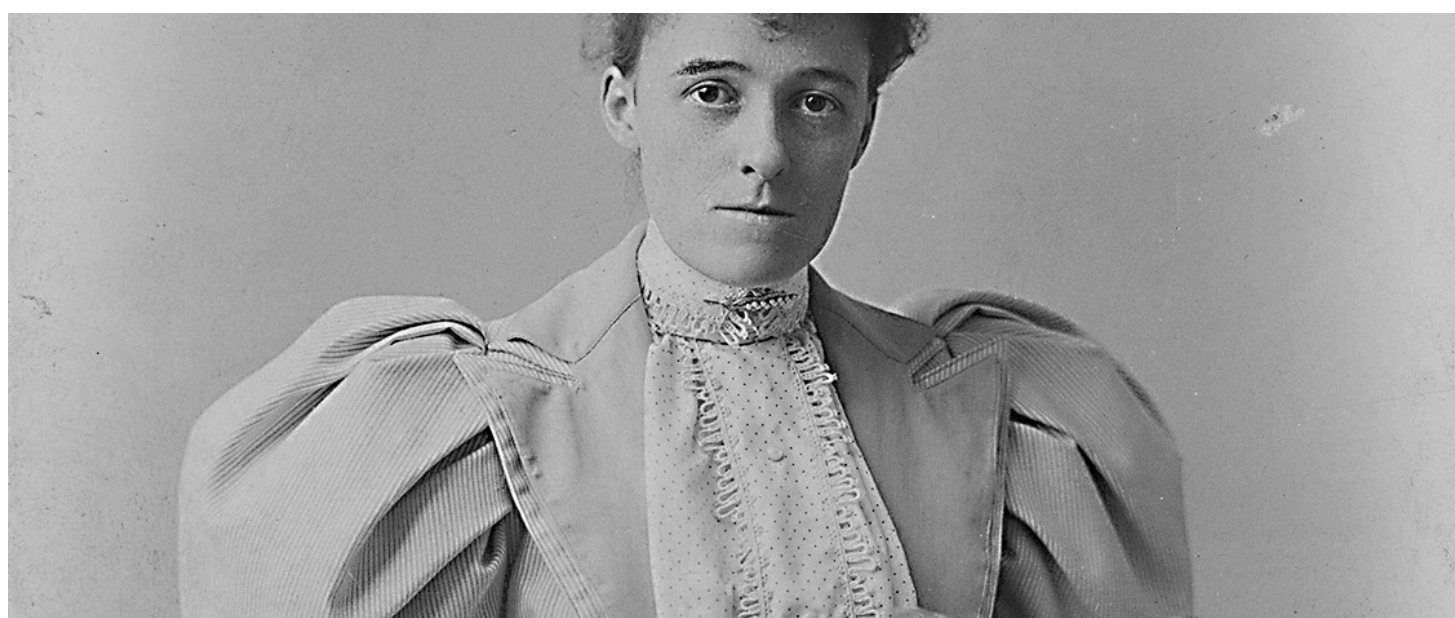
Yes--I could just manage to see it--the first portrait of Jack's I had ever had to strain my eyes over! Usually they had the place of honour--say the central panel in a pale yellow or rose Dubarry drawing-room, or a monumental easel placed so that it took the light through curtains of old Venetian point. The more modest place became the picture better; yet, as my eyes grew accustomed to the half-light, all the characteristic qualities came out--all the hesitations disguised as audacities, the tricks of prestidigitiation by which, with such consummate skill, he managed to divert attention from the real business of the picture to some pretty irrelevance of detail. Mrs. Gisburn, presenting a neutral surface to work on--forming,

as it were, so inevitably the background of her own picture--had lent herself in an unusual degree to the display of this false virtuosity. The picture was one of Jack's "strongest," as his admirers would have put it--it represented, on his part, a swelling of muscles, a congesting of veins, a balancing, straddling and straining, that reminded one of the circus-clown's ironic efforts to lift a feather. It met, in short, at every point the demand of lovely woman to be painted "strongly" because she was tired of being painted "sweetly"--and yet not to lose an atom of the sweetness.

"It's the last he painted, you know," Mrs. Gisburn said with pardonable pride. "The last but one," she corrected herself--"but the other doesn't count, because he destroyed it."

"Destroyed it?" I was about to follow up this clue when I heard a footstep and saw Jack himself on the threshold.

As he stood there, his hands in the pockets of his velveteen coat, the thin brown waves of hair pushed back from his white forehead, his lean sunburnt cheeks furrowed by a smile that lifted the tips of a



self-confident moustache, I felt to what a degree he had the same quality as his pictures--the quality of looking cleverer than he was.

His wife glanced at him deprecatingly, but his eyes travelled past her to the portrait.

"Mr. Rickham wanted to see it," she began, as if excusing herself. He shrugged his shoulders, still smiling.

"Oh, Rickham found me out long ago," he said lightly; then, passing his arm through mine: "Come and see the rest of the house."

He showed it to me with a kind of naive suburban pride: the bath-rooms, the speaking-tubes, the dress-closets, the trouser-presses--all the complex simplifications of

the millionaire's domestic economy. And whenever my wonder paid the expected tribute he said, throwing out his chest a little: "Yes, I really don't see how people manage to live without that."

Well--it was just the end one might have foreseen for him. Only he was, through it all and in spite of it all--as he had been through, and in spite of, his pictures--so handsome, so charming, so disarming, that one longed to cry out: "Be dissatisfied with your leisure!" as once one had longed to say: "Be dissatisfied with your work!"

But, with the cry on my lips, my diagnosis suffered an unexpected check. "This is my own lair," he said, leading me into a dark

plain room at the end of the florid vista. It was square and brown and leathery: no "effects"; no bric-a-brac, none of the air of posing for reproduction in a picture weekly--above all, no least sign of ever having been used as a studio.

The fact brought home to me the absolute finality of Jack's break with his old life. "Don't you ever dabble with paint any more?" I asked, still looking about for a trace of such activity.

"Never," he said briefly. "Or water-colour--or etching?"

His confident eyes grew dim, and his cheeks paled a little under their handsome sunburn.

"Never think of it, my dear

Edith Wharton

fellow--any more than if I'd never touched a brush."

And his tone told me in a flash that he never thought of anything else.

I moved away, instinctively embarrassed by my unexpected discovery; and as I turned, my eye fell on a small picture above the mantelpiece--the only object breaking the plain oak panelling of the room.

"Oh, by Jove!" I said.

It was a sketch of a donkey--an old tired donkey, standing in the rain under a wall.

"By Jove--a Stroud!" I cried.

He was silent; but I felt him close behind me, breathing a

little quickly.

"What a wonder! Made with a dozen lines--but on everlasting foundations. You lucky chap, where did you get it?"

He answered slowly: "Mrs. Stroud gave it to me."

"Ah--I didn't know you even knew the Strouds. He was such an inflexible hermit."

"I didn't--till after. . . . She sent for me to paint him when he was dead."

"When he was dead? You?"

I must have let a little too much amazement escape through my surprise, for he answered with a deprecating laugh: "Yes--she's an awful simpleton, you know, Mrs. Stroud. Her only idea was to have him done by a fashionable painter--ah, poor Stroud! She thought it the surest way of proclaiming his greatness--of forcing it on a purblind public. And at the moment I was _the_ fashionable painter."

"Ah, poor Stroud--as you say. Was _that_ his history?"

"That was his history. She believed in him, gloried in him--or thought she did. But she couldn't bear not to have all the drawing-rooms with her. She couldn't bear the fact that, on varnishing days, one could always get near

enough to see his pictures.

Poor woman! She's just a fragment groping for other fragments. Stroud is the only whole I ever knew."

"You ever knew? But you just said--"

Gisburn had a curious smile in his eyes.

"Oh, I knew him, and he knew me--only it happened after he was dead."

I dropped my voice instinctively. "When she sent for you?"

"Yes--quite insensible to the irony. She wanted him vindicated--and by me!"

He laughed again, and threw back his head to look up at the sketch of the donkey. "There were days when I couldn't look at that thing--couldn't face it. But I forced myself to put it here; and now it's cured me--cured me. That's the reason why I don't dabble any more, my dear Rickham; or rather Stroud himself is the reason."

For the first time my idle curiosity about my companion turned into a serious desire to understand him better.

"I wish you'd tell me how it happened," I said.

Part III of The Verdict will appear in the January edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel.

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 Adapted by: **Joe Landry**
 Music by: **Kevin Connors**
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December 8, 9, 7pm
December 10, 1pm
 General Admission **\$12**

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EMBRACING INCLUSIVITY AND WELL-BEING Town of Fallsburg Launches New Community Programs

FALLSBURG - The Town of Fallsburg is thrilled to announce the commencement of registrations for some dynamic community programs aimed at enriching the lives of its residents. These initiatives underscore the Town's commitment to fostering inclusivity, health, and recreation for individuals of all ages and

The Town of Fallsburg & The Yoga Space Catskills Present
COMMUNITY YOGA CLASSES
 Free for Fallsburg residents!
 Community Yoga (all ages): Sundays, 10:30-11:30am, beginning 11/26
 &
 Chair Yoga (adults/seniors): Fridays, 10:30-11:30am, beginning 12/8
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 Community members of all ages and abilities are invited to participate in beginner level yoga classes to get you moving, stretching, and smiling together!
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 Please note class times may change based on popularity/feedback
 To sign up with the Town of Fallsburg visit <https://forms.gle/1bV65dwy3g8f8A2dK> or scan code:

abilities.

The programs include: **Empower Video Gaming Club for Children and Young Adults with Special Needs**

In collaboration with the Kosher Garage - Fun Spot in Loch Sheldrake, the Empower Video Gaming Club is designed to provide an engaging and supportive environment for children and young adults with special needs. This program aims to foster social connections, boost self-esteem, and enhance cognitive skills through the medium of video gaming. The program was scheduled to start on November 30. This program is a monthly program that provides over two hours of unlimited arcade game play in Loch Sheldrake.

Yoga and Chair Yoga by The Yoga Space in Hur-

leyville

The Yoga Space in Hurleyville is partnering with the Town of Fallsburg to offer rejuvenating Yoga and Chair Yoga sessions. These programs cater to individuals of all fitness levels, promoting physical wellness, stress relief, and mental well-being. Participants can experience the transformative benefits of yoga in a serene and inclusive community setting. The yoga program started on November 26, and chair yoga will start on December 8. Both programs will meet weekly and provide an hour of yoga in Hurleyville.

Programs Coming Soon: Elementary Basketball, Elementary Soccer, High School Basketball Drill, Youth After-School Learn to Swim Program with

Hudson Valley Swim Zumba

These programs are made available free of charge for residents of the Town of Fallsburg, thanks to the town's commitment to promoting community engagement and well-being. Registration for these programs is now open, and can be completed conveniently on the town's website under community activities and youth activities. Residents are encouraged to secure their spots early, as spaces are limited.

Town of Fallsburg Supervisor Kathy Rappaport expressed enthusiasm about the launch of these community programs, stating, "We are excited to provide our residents with these enriching opportunities for growth, connection, and well-being. These programs reflect our dedication to

creating a vibrant and inclusive community for all."

For more information and to register, please visit townoffallsburg.com or contact the Town of Fallsburg at jedwards@fallsburgny.com or 845-434-8810 Ext 5.

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Vet 2 Vet Welcomes New Members



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mike and Thunder

MONTICELLO - Vet 2 Vet of Sullivan County (V2V) recently welcomed two new members to their Veteran Service Dog Program.

Say hello to Mike and Thunder!

V2V covered Thunder's adoption fees through the Sullivan County SPCA Animal Shelter in Rock Hill.

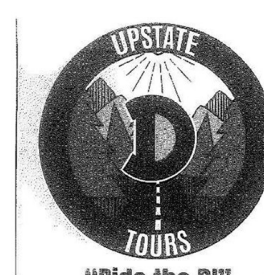
"The SPCA was absolutely wonderful throughout the whole process," said Veteran Peer Advocate for V2V, Stephen Murphy.

Training and supplies are free of charge to the Veterans in the program.

"These dogs are able to make a world of difference in our Veterans' lives," Mr. Murphy explained. "They help them to get out and live richer, fuller, happier lives."

For information about the Veteran Service Dog Program, or any of the services from V2V, call 845-794-4228, and ask to speak with a Veteran Peer Advocate.

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STARTING STRONG GENERALS SWEEP TIP-OFF CLASSIC

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE – The SUNY Sullivan men's basketball team started the 2023-'24 season, its first under interim head coach Simon Clement, on a high note as the month of November began, capturing both games in the school's

own Rolling V Tip-Off Classic at Paul Gerry Fieldhouse.

Clement, who had been an assistant coach at Sullivan since 2018, replaced longtime head coach Brent Wilson in September after Wilson was named Director of Athletics at Hostos Community College in the

Bronx. Wilson had phenomenal success at Sullivan both before and after the school's move from Division III to Division II, and guided the Generals to the last five NJCAA Region XV DII Titles, including two East District Championships and an appearance in the 2022 NJCAA National DII Final Four.

At the tip-Off Classic, the Generals outlasted the Raptors of Montgomery College-Rockville in overtime in the opening game on Saturday, November 4 by a 110-104 score, and then went to overtime again on Sunday to beat Howard Community College by a 90-86 margin.

The following weekend, Sullivan travelled to Monroe Community College in Rochester for the Murph Shapiro Tournament, and won its third straight overtime victory in the opening game, downing Jamestown Community College 88-84. The Generals dropped their first game of the season on Sunday, November 12, losing to the host team by 84-71.

On Thursday, November 16, the Generals welcomed the Hawks of Rockland County Community College to Paul Gerry Fieldhouse, and proceeded to send them home with a 99-52 thrashing. The Monroe College Invite in New Rochelle was

next on the schedule for Sullivan on Saturday and Sunday, November 18 and 19, and the Generals split the two games, dropping an 84-71 decision to Allegheeny College of Maryland on Saturday and then going to overtime—once again—to beat Hagerstown Community College 93-86.

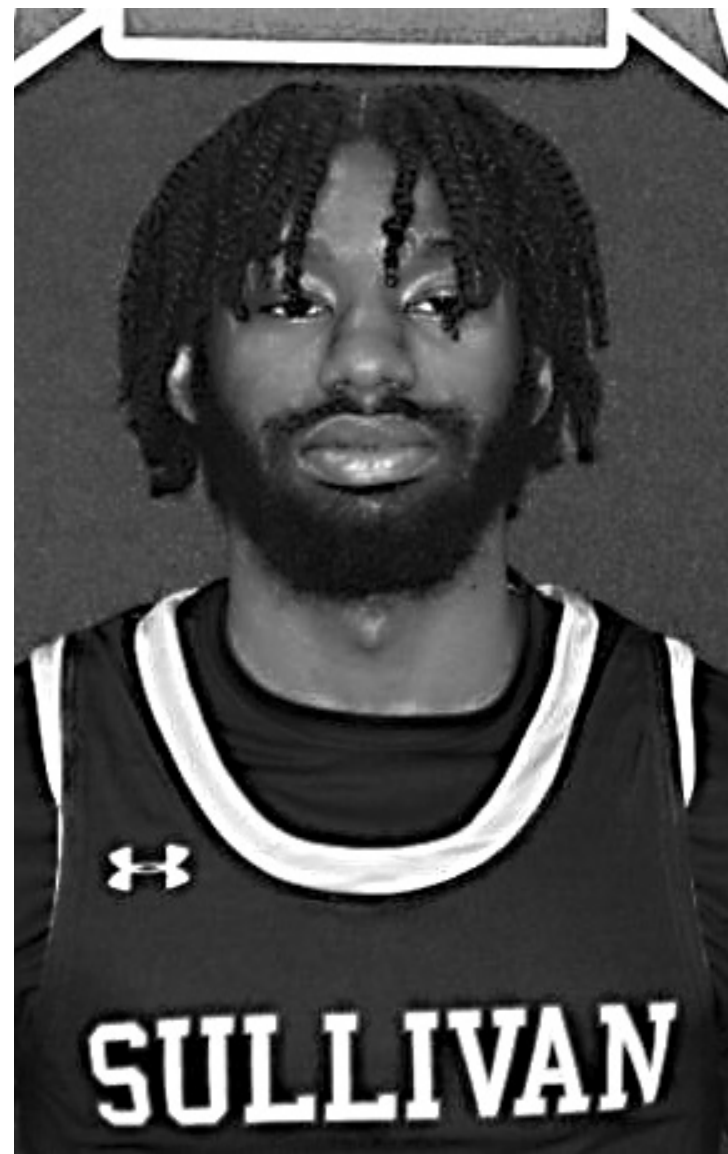
On Tuesday, November 21, the Generals travelled to Albany for a match up against Bryant & Stratton College, and ended up on the short end of an 81-71 score. But a week later, on November 28, the Generals travelled to Stone Ridge to take on the Senators of Ulster County Community College, and they fared

much better, capturing an 82-56 win.

Sullivan closed the month with a 6-3 record overall and a 2-0 slate in the Mid-Hudson Conference.

Freshman Tajuan Thomas, a 6'4" forward from Flushing High School in Queens, has been the most consistent scoring threat for the Generals through the first month, averaging nearly 15 points per game. Sophomore forward Jarell White has also excelled on offense for Sullivan in the early going, scoring at a 19.7 per game clip but has played in just three games thus far.

PHOTO PROVIDED
Tajuan Thomas



December Questions:

1. What is the nickname of Collaborative College High School (Hurleyville) sports teams?
2. What is the nickname of Eldred High School sports teams?
3. What is the nickname of Livingston Manor High School sports teams?
4. What is the nickname of Roscoe High School sports teams?
5. What is the nickname of Rondout Valley high school sports teams?

November Answers:

1. The first college football game played on Thanksgiving Day featured Yale and Princeton. What year was it? **(1876. Yale won 2-0.)**
2. What two college teams, at the time ranked first and second nationally, played a memorable Thanksgiving Day game in 1971 that turned out to be one of the most exciting college football games ever? **(Number 1 Nebraska beat #2 Oklahoma 35-31.)**
3. What two teams traditionally host NFL games on Thanksgiving Day? **(Detroit and Dallas)**
4. In what year did the NFL add a prime time game on Thanksgiving? **(2006)**
5. What two teams played in the first NFL Thanksgiving game to go into overtime? **(Detroit and Chicago in 1980)**

There was no winner last month.

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Fallsburg CSD Hosts Annual Fall Sports Banquet

FALLSBURG – On November 8, the Fallsburg Central School District held its annual Fall sports banquet at the high school auditorium. Sixty-one students were celebrated by their coaches and families for their exceptional athletic accomplishments. These students are:

Varsity Cheerleading

Coaches Award: Angie Rodriguez
Most Improved Award: Catherine Pena
Sportsmanship Award: Chanel Han

Varsity Boys Cross-Country

Most Valuable Player: Isaiah Hershewsky
Most Improved Award: Terrence Hayden
Sportsmanship Award: Azon Laurel
Rookie of the Season: Jefferson Banegas

Varsity Girls Cross-Country

Most Valuable Player: Meredith Anderman
Most Improved Award: Arrow Odell & Cassandra Damms
Sportsmanship Award: Arianna Gonzalez
Rookie of the Season: Shelby Lyons

Modified Boys & Girls Cross-Country

Most Valuable Players: Jiahnnny Sebastian & Autumn Rain Atkinson
Most Improved Award: Jermaine Troy Jr.
Sportsmanship Award: Dominico Retana
Rookie of the Season: Jiahnnny Sebastian

Varsity Football

Most Valuable Player: Donovan Hart
Coaches Award: Colin Pavese
Most Improved Award: Adam Frunzi
Offensive Player of the Year: Nick Storms
Defensive Player of the Year: Isaiah Young
Rookie of the Year: Jadiel Monche
Black Helmet Award: Nikolas Bonner & Ethan Dunn
Modified Football
Most Valuable Player: Michael Kehlenbeck

Most Improved Award: Rashan Lewis Jr.
Sportsmanship Award: Emmett Kleingardner

Varsity Boys Soccer

Most Valuable Player: Frank Trochez
Most Improved Award: Junior Ordonez

Leadership Award: Kevin Padilla

JV Boys Soccer
Most Valuable Players: Issac Rubio Granados & Alexandar Campos

Sportsmanship Award: Rodrigo Zacapexpan & Bryan Avelar Martinez

Most Improved Award: Nelson Sosa Cerrato

Modified Boys Soccer

Sportsmanship Award: Pedro Pineda Ortiz
Most Improved Award: Cristofer Pivaral Ballesteros

Leadership Award: Carlos Granados & Dillan Padilla

Varsity Girls Soccer

Most Valuable Players: Savanna Doty & Emily Perna
Most Improved Award: Marilyn Santos

Coaches Award: Nicole Jimenez

Modified Girls Soccer

Most Valuable Player: Paola Melendez Deras
Most Improved Award: Janiyah Ferguson

Sportsmanship Award: Layla Cruz

Varsity Tennis

Most Improved Player: Maiya Davis

Sportsmanship Award: Jaily Sebastian

Varsity Volleyball

Most Valuable Player: Ashley Ingrassia
Most Improved Award: Brianna Noller

Coaches Award: Maya Ballard

JV Volleyball

Most Valuable Player: Zoey Ketcham
Most Improved Award: Peyton Varner

Coaches Award: Addison Ingber

Modified Volleyball

Most Valuable Players: Maelynn Mann & Jaylisa Williams
Coaches Award: Layla Hermann

Most Improved Award: Leyna Greenberg

Sportsmanship Award: Addison Alvarado

Rookie of the Season: Kiara Allen

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COMETS GRID TEAM DROPS FINALE

Fallsburg Ends Season 5-3

by Win Hadley

FALLSBURG – The Fallsburg Comets varsity football team piled up 20 points in the first three quarters of their November 3 game against the Sullivan West Bulldogs in Lake Huntington, racing out to a 20-8 lead entering the final stanza, but ended up dropping their season finale 22-20.

It was a heartbreaking loss for Fallsburg, which outplayed Sullivan West for much of the game, nearly avenging an earlier 32-16 loss to the Bulldogs.

With the defeat, the Comets ended the 2023 season with a 5-3 record, while the win pushed Sullivan West's season slate to 8-1 and advanced them to a playoff game against undefeated Pawling on November 10, which the Bulldogs also won, putting them in the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dominick Scanna

state championship game on November 17.

Fallsburg's aerial tandem of quarterback Nick Storms to wide receiver Donovan Hart had another fine game, hooking up for two touchdowns. Storms ended the game with nine completions in 17 attempts, for 176 yards.

He also threw an interception. Hart recorded six catches in the game for 120 yards.

Both Storms and Hart are juniors.

Freshman running back Jadiel Monche racked up 66 yards and a score on the ground for the Comets. On defense, senior Isaiah Young

was a standout with eight tackles. Monche recovered a Sullivan West fumble and junior Ethan Dunn contributed an interception that he returned for 21 yards.

Following the season, Hart was chosen the team's Most Valuable Player for the year, while Storms was named Outstanding Offensive Player and Young Outstanding Defensive Player. (See separate story in this edition about the FCSD fall sports banquet and the players honored there.)

In addition, Hart and Isaiah Young were chosen by the Section Nine coaches to the All-Section Eight-Man first team, while Storms, Dunn, and Nikolas Bonner were named to the second team.

Head Coach Dominick Scanna was named Section Nine's Eight-Man Coach of the Year.

FIFTY YEARS AGO... Sullivan Cagers Eye Conference Crown

by John Conway

FALLSBURG – It was December of 1973—50 years ago this month—and the Fallsburg High School basketball team was riding a 17-game winning streak that had them closing in on a ranking as the best small school in New York State.

After decades as a member of first the D.U.S.O. League and then the D.U.S.O. Village League, competing against the likes of Monticello and Liberty, the Comets were competing for the first time in the Ulster County Athletic League in 1973, but the change in conferences had done little to interrupt their winning.

The team started the 1973-'74 season with four consecutive victories, ending December as the number two small school team in the state, behind only St. Francis of Athol Springs. The Fallsburg wins included such lopsided scores as a

115-50 win over Wallkill, a 92-35 thrashing of archrival Monticello, and a 106-64 victory over a winless Highland team. The Comets topped the century mark in points scored in two of their first four games, and as the month of December came to an end, were averaging 94.8 points per game.

Along with a stingy pressing defense, the strength of Coach Jim McDermott's Fallsburg team was its balanced scoring attack, with Albert Smith, Charlie Hinton, Sam Copeland, Rick Woodard and Terry Patton all capable of wielding a hot hand.

For example, in the game against Monticello, both Copeland and Hinton scored 26 points, with Copeland adding ten rebounds. Despite the easy victory, Copeland later told a Times Herald-Record newspaper sportswriter that the team "didn't play well."

In the Highland victory, it was Smith who led

the scoring for the Comets with 21 points, while Hinton contributed 16 and Copeland 14. Patton scored 13 points and Woodard 12.

When the month came to an end, the Fallsburg Com-

ets basketball team had yet to be challenged on the court, and was solidly atop the Tri-County area rankings compiled by the Times Herald-Record.

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