

THE PLACE TO BE

Senior Cinema Social is Returning

by Lily Barrish

HURLEYVILLE — Senior Cinema Social at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre was such a success that it will be continuing in 2024. And after receiving feedback from attendees, HPAC has been exploring even more community outreach programs and possibly adding a senior dance program to its 2024 program schedule, as well.

HPAC, Sullivan County Human Rights Commission, and Sullivan County Senior Alliance have partnered up to provide local seniors with an afternoon that makes them feel less isolated.

The program started last May with the goals: accessible enjoyment, improved

social life and stronger networks.

A fully accessible monthly film screening followed by coffee and cake are made possible by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. It took a couple of months for the program to really take off, but once word of mouth spread and senior groups got involved there were few seats left empty.

"It's so important as we get older to stay connected to family, friends and the community. Kudos to HPAC for putting together a senior program that helped make that possible for us," said Elsie Kopcha, a senior volunteer at HPAC.

After visiting the facility and being made welcome, multiple seniors have vol-

unteered for future HPAC events. Volunteer coordinators assign tasks best suited for each individual such as welcoming guests or providing information to visitors. Coordinators get to know the volunteers and assign tasks matched to their capabilities.

Never is anybody turned away for lack of payment, so if the \$5 ticket price is too hefty arrangements can be made. Any senior can be dropped off and picked up for free every two hours during the week by taking the B Route on Move Sullivan. It comes right to HPAC's door. There is no service offered on weekends.

Senior Cinema Social is a community program that's not designed to make a profit. If you'd like to offer sup-



PHOTO PROVIDED
Elsie Kopcha (left) and Donna Harness enjoy cake with "Barbie" at a Senior Cinema event at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center.

port and can afford to help, there is a donation bin in the lobby.

"We are a non-profit and want to give back to the community. We always welcome donations," said Tialisa Whipple, marketing and sales manager.

Ms. Whipple is part of the entire interactive experience on the second Thursday every month. She gives a speech at the beginning, mingles with the crowd, and serves cake at the end. The doors open for arrival at 1:30 p.m., with the film starting at 2, and socializing after with a departure time of 4:30.

The Liberty Diner already caters to seniors with their early bird specials, so it made sense for HPAC to approach them about sponsoring the

event. They gave a resounding yes, and routinely delivered a tasty sheet cake with a customized message written to seniors in the icing.

In addition, McDonalds sponsored the coffee for the movie, "80 for Brady."

"80 for Brady" was the only sold-out show last year. The maximum audience size is 128.

"In my lifetime, the actresses in that movie are all so iconic. It's such a lovely little theater, and I'm always happy to be there. Every time I've been there, the staff has been so friendly," said Nan Kristt, who's first time attending Senior Cinema was in September.

The films, "Next Chapter Bookclub" in October and "Moving On" in No-

vember were also well-attended. Along with these newer movies, classics such as "Moonstruck" have been shown.

"Senior Cinema was the place to be on the second Thursday of the month if you were looking to enjoy a great movie in a comfortable theater setting topped off with a piece of delicious cake and fun conversation afterwards," Ms. Kopcha said. "And all for the bargain price of \$5! It just didn't get any better than that in my opinion. Definitely can't wait for Senior Cinema 2024."

Seniors are appreciative to be recognized in this way. Stay tuned for details about the upcoming season.

ANOTHER "HOLIDAY IN HURLEYVILLE" SUCCESS!

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE — Ever since 2017, the first Saturday in December has featured exciting events, festivities, music and food as the hamlet celebrates Holiday in Hurleyville, and 2023 was no exception.

The most recent event, sponsored by Hurleyville Hub, was praised by many who attended as among the best ever.

"We had lots of visitors and great weather!" one of the organizers said afterward. "Thanks to everyone who participated, and special thanks to the volunteers who designed, decorated, distributed and worked behind the scenes."

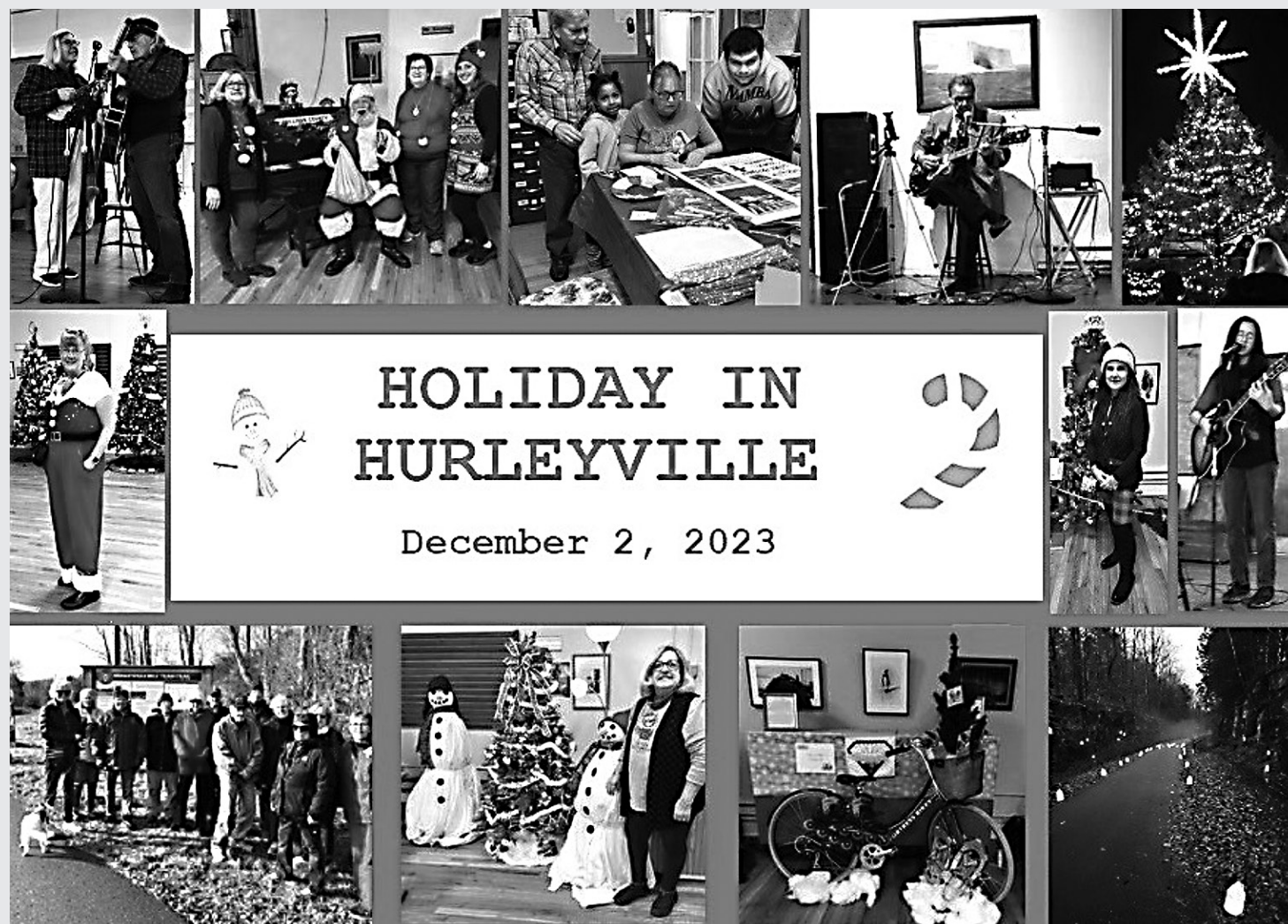
The festivities included a

raffle, for which five winners were picked: Ken Mickle, Lizzie Hannold, Alison Parker, Ginger McCarthy, and River N. Among other goodies, prizes included movie tickets from HPAC, candy from the Hurleyville General Store, and gift certificates from La Salumina, the Pickled Owl, and Morgan Outdoors.

Hal Simon, owner of Fortress Bikes, and a member of Hurleyville Hub, said it was an amazing day, starting with the great weather.

"The town was filled with people having a great time and enjoying the season," he said. "We really showed off the best of Hurleyville."

The 2024 Holiday in Hurleyville event has already been announced for Saturday, December 7.



PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN

Legislature Approves 2024 County Budget

Adopts Brooks' Proposed Compromise on Funding Increases

MONTICELLO — Sullivan County Legislators have approved the 2024 Sullivan County Budget, though not all of them were completely happy with the outcome.

The \$291,024,284 budget comes with a 1.4% tax levy increase to cover an unexpectedly high hike in health insurance costs, but does not propose incurring new debt.

"This Legislature is leaving Sullivan County in the best financial position it's ever been in, but we could have left it in an even better position," said Legislature Chairman Robert A. Doherty. "I'm disappointed we raised taxes, especially since we have \$71 million in our fund balance. I think we unnecessarily burdened the people of Sullivan County."

"Unfortunately, we had to raise taxes to cover this unexpected health insurance increase," stated District 2 Legislator Nadia Rajsz. "Overall, though, we have a good bud-

get."

"I'm happy with how the budget will be funded. I think it strikes the right balance," noted District 3 Legislator Mike Brooks, who proposed what was ultimately agreed upon: to cover half of the \$2 million health insurance shortfall with a tax increase, and the other half with monies from the County's unexpended fund balance.

"It's a fair budget," added District 4 Legislator Nick Salomone. "We all compromised on it, as much as we could."

"I did not want to have a tax increase," said District 5 Legislator George Conklin. "But at the end of the day, we compromised, and due to prudent budgeting and management, we've kept this budget pretty trim."

"I think it's a good budget," remarked District 6 Legislator Luis Alvarez. "I'm concerned with what the State

is going to demand of us in 2024, and we need to be prepared for that."

"We had to do something to address this surprise health insurance increase," explained District 7 Legislator Joe Perrello. "It's a good, solid budget, and they voted on it the way I wanted. I'm a negotiator, and in the end I was aiming for a 1.4% tax increase."

"No one likes raising taxes, especially when the County is in the best fiscal shape it's been in years, but due to uncertainties with the State and the economy, it was prudent for us to do a small percentage increase," noted District 8 Legislator Ira Steingart.

"My compliments to the County Manager's Office, the department heads and everyone who was involved in creating this budget," said District 9 Legislator Alan Sorensen, who — like Steingart — is retiring from the Legisla-

ture at the end of this month. "I'm very happy to leave Sullivan County in better financial condition than I found it 16 years ago, when I first became a legislator."

Highlights of the Adopted 2024 County Budget include:

- An historic \$23.6 million for road and bridgework throughout the County, to be achieved without going into debt by bonding
- \$2 million for a Housing Trust Fund to address the housing crisis in the County
- \$2 million to provide for the design and renovation of County office spaces, as prioritized by the next Legislature
- \$700,000 for the Sullivan Promise Scholarship Program, which provides up to two full years of tuition-free attendance at SUNY Sullivan for local high school graduates
- \$470,000 to expand Move Sullivan's popular bus routes

to Cohecton, Eldred, Foxcroft Village, Grahamsville, Jeffersonville, Livingston Manor, Narrowsburg, Neversink and Roscoe

- \$424,000 for the next Legislature to offer to eligible community nonprofits via the Discretionary Funding Program
- \$360,000 to replace patrol vehicles in the Sheriff's Office
- \$300,000 (an increase of \$100,000 over last year) for the Youth Bureau to fund local organizations serving youth and their families
- \$300,000 to demolish blighted properties via the Sullivan County Land Bank and the Remove Unsafe Structures (RUST) Program
- \$165,000 to hire new dispatchers in the Sheriff's Office, thus allowing two more deputies to head out on road patrol duties
- \$150,000 for a Water Resource Study to map the in-

ventory of this liquid necessity, especially in areas facing development

- \$100,000 for improvements to Lake Superior State Park (which the County manages), including expansion of the beach and walking trails
- \$45,000 for an Animal Control Officer to liaison with Public Health on rabies issues

In order to attract talent to the extremely busy District Attorney's Office, the 2024 Budget sets all vacant Assistant District Attorney positions at a floor of \$90,000 a year, along with salary increases for existing ADAs. Also, new positions will be added to Office for the Aging (Personal Care Aides) and Public Health (Community Health Workers and an Epidemiologist Supervisor) to boost the County's health rankings.

With the enacting of the new state laws, newly created villages in New York will now need to comprise a minimum of 1500 residents. Another of the governor's negotiations lowered that requirement from the 2000 residents stipulated in the legislature's version of the law. Under the old law, only 500 residents were required to form a village.

There are currently 532 villages in New York, although that number has been declining. While only six new villages have been added in the past 30 years, 28 villages have dissolved in that same period. Discussions arise from time to time about the advisability of dissolving some of Sullivan County's six villages, but none has ever reached a referendum.

Sullivan County's six villages are Monticello, Liberty, Wurtsboro, Bloomingburg, Woodridge and Jeffersonville. Only Woodridge (1911) and Jeffersonville (1924) were incorporated after 1900.

Residents who favor the creation of the village claim it would allow them to construct more sidewalks and better lighting. Opponents say they fear the new government would facilitate over de-

SULLIVAN COUNTY'S NEW VILLAGE?

Ateres vote Set for January 18

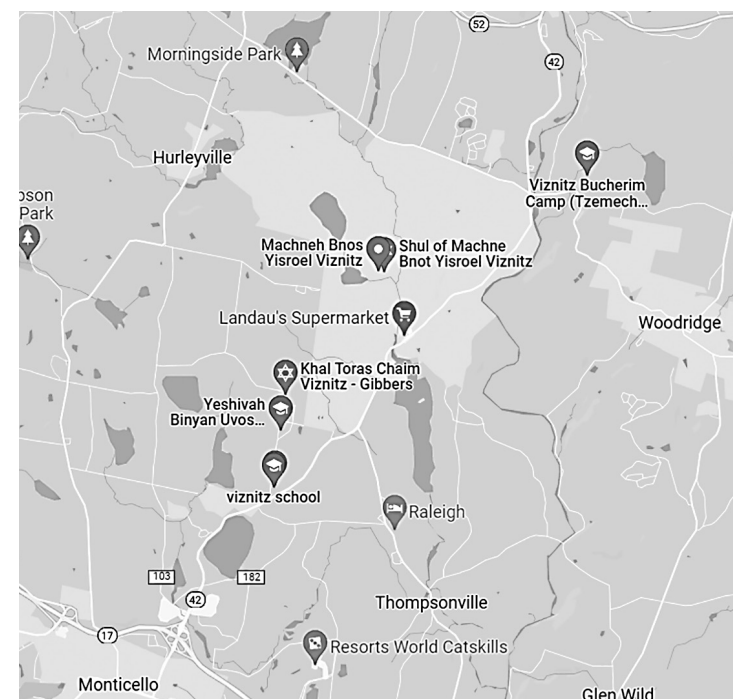


PHOTO BY GOOGLE MAPS

by John Conway

New York governor Kathy Hochul signed two bills last month that will make it tougher than ever for communities to incorporate in the state, but that doesn't mean Sullivan County might not soon have its seventh village.

Governor Hochul negotiated amendments to the bills that would exempt the proposed village of Ateres, in the Kiamesha Lake area of the towns of Thompson and Fallsburg. Ateres means "crown" in Hebrew.

If approved in a January 18 referendum set by the supervisors of those towns, Ateres would comprise approximately 1.5 square miles and a population of 834 children and adults. The new village has been proposed by the Viznitz Hasidic community that has resided in that area for decades.

Residents who favor the creation of the village claim it would allow them to construct more sidewalks and better lighting. Opponents say they fear the new government would facilitate over de-

velopment.

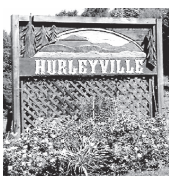
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Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)

Hurleyville was imaginatively and brilliantly decorated for the 2023 holiday season. There were seven winners in the 27th annual “DECK THE DOORS” holiday decorating contest sponsored by Hurleyville-Sullivan First.

The winners were:

LeeAnn and Ron Besimer
Ginny and Tom Becerril
Main Street House
High Standard Suites
Hurleyville United Methodist Church
The Ramos Family
Laura Schultz

LeeAnn and Ron Besimer were added to the “DECK THE DOORS” Hall of Fame. Other “Hall of Famers” include:

The Ditchik Family
The Dromazos Family
Ruth and Dick Forest
Ryan Forest
Diane and Tony Harvey
Dawn and Shawn McCarthy
Terry McGrath
Cathy and Bob Orlowsky
The Rose Family
Jakuin and Ken Saunders
Leisha and E Snihura
Annette and Ernest Wood

Prizes were provided by the Arati Store, Media Berghout, Catskill Amusements, izzy’s aunt, Jampond, QQL Enterprises, LLC and LouAnn Rexford.

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

HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The volunteers at the Bread of Life Food Pantry served more than 500 individuals in November. The food pantry will be open on Thursday, January 18 and on Thursday, January 25 from 3 until 5 p.m. The members of the church will be joining other churches at the Kerhonkson United Methodist Church on Sunday, January 6 for Epiphany services. The services will begin at 3 p.m. and will be followed by a potluck dinner.

Sunday services are held at the church at 9 a.m. Children of all ages can attend Sunday school at the church during services. Please note there is no Sunday school on the first Sunday of the month.

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 – 8 p.m. The prayer line phone number is 605-472-5491 and the access code is 251678.

The adult Bible study group meets in the sanctuary at the

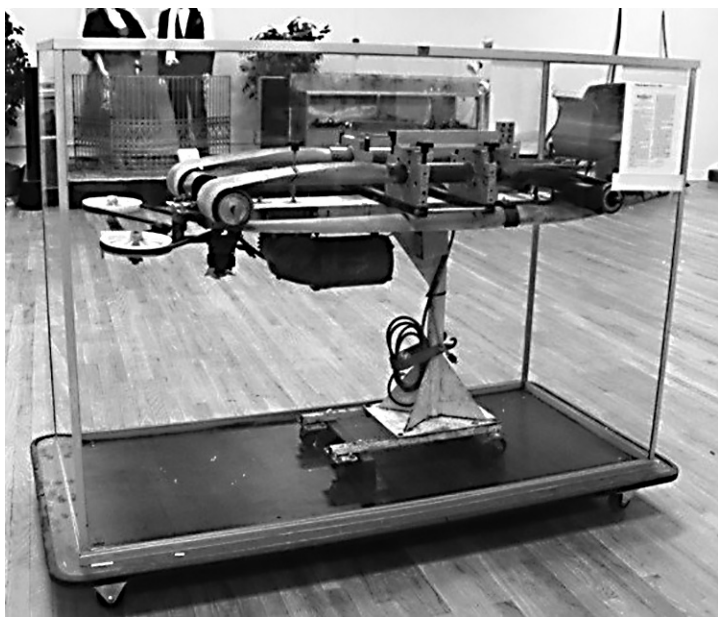


PHOTO PROVIDED

Lebel Wichinsky’s patented bagel making machine is on display at the Sullivan County Museum at 265 Main Street.

church every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

“Messy Church” will not be held in January. Upcoming dates are Saturday, February 10, Saturday, March 9, and Saturday, April 13, from 5 to 6 p.m. All children taking part in the fun and creative activities must be accompanied by an adult.

The volunteers at the church are collecting diapers for First Way Life and adult briefs for the Office of the Aging. They’re also gathering t-shirts, jeans and new underwear for veterans along with hygiene products for the homeless. 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 is sponsoring the First Annual Winter Bagel Fest at the museum on Sunday, January 7 from 2 – 3 p.m.

The story of Hurleyville native Louis “Lebel” Wichinsky, inventor of the bagel-making machine, appeared in the August 16, 2016 issue of The Hurleyville Sentinel:

While stationed in England with the U.S. Army Air Force in 1942, Lebel met two brothers who owned a bakery in London. The brothers challenged Lebel to build a bagel machine. He tinkered with a bagel machine while he served as an aircraft mechanic during Israel’s fight for statehood in 1948. He continued to work on it when he got home to Hurleyville. He discovered that a patent for a similar machine had been awarded to a man named Louis Gendler in 1904. Lebel’s machine had one significant improvement: a kneading plate. His machine could turn out six hundred dozen bagels in one hour.

Lebel’s machine is on display at the Sullivan County Museum. Come to the event to find out if it still makes bagels. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free and there will be live music by

Little Sparrow, with special guests Henry Simon and Jeff Anderson.

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 the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum at www.scnyhistory.org or on Facebook.

COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

The members of CHNA appreciate the community’s support of their efforts to protect our environment and to preserve our neighborhood. They extend their best wishes for a safe, healthy and happy New Year to their friends and neighbors.

Newly elected Fallsburg Supervisor, Michael Bensimon, will join the February meeting of CHNA. The meeting, open to the public, will be on Wednesday, February 28 at 7 p.m. The members of CHNA want to ensure that the Supervisor is aware of the deleterious effects that the proposed Gan Eden Estates development project would have on the Town of Fallsburg and, in particular, the hamlet of Hurleyville.

The group will present a synopsis of the project and the history of CHNA’s active participation in monitoring the approval process. They plan to share information on some of the project’s potential negative impacts to our community:

- The scope of the project – 534 townhouses, 89 buildings, community center, pool, athletic courts and fields, 400,000-gallon water



January

January can be the start of big and positive things
Of engagement proposals, college enrollment
and new job hirings
It can be the time to take a different path in life
To wake up with the mindset to decrease
your levels of strife

Life isn’t easy for many – work, health
and family can be a source of stress
But remember, you must pay attention
and care for yourself in order to be at your best

Could it be that communication isn’t going so well?
Which has things always up in the air
Or is it the news that has you upset?
You can’t be blamed for feeling despair

Just think about actions you can take that
will help you survive
Set your mind in a positive state,
one where you’re glad you’re alive

Then here’s a step that you can take that
might lift your spirits high
Prepare a nice smile for someone sad
as you pass them by
Giving of yourself to others, a kind word,
a smile or a gentle touch
Can make you feel great when the person responds
with “Thank you very much!”

- Mimi
January, 2024

FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



SNOWFLAKES

We have all seen snowflakes, and in many cases probably more than we have liked. But how many of us have really ever looked at a snowflake carefully?

Wikipedia tells us that “a snowflake is a single ice crystal that has achieved a sufficient size, and may have amalgamated with others, which falls through the Earth’s atmosphere as snow. “Each flake nucleates around a tiny particle in supersaturated air masses by attracting supercooled cloud water droplets, which freeze and accrete in crystal form.”

The crystals take on complex shapes as they move through layers of different temperatures and humidities in the atmosphere, so each flake differs in detail from every other. That’s why we often hear people say that “no two snowflakes are exactly the same.”

To quote the website, snowcrystals.com, “not all snowflakes look like six pointed stars. Many do, but there are also quite a few odd-looking crystals falling from the winter clouds.”

Snowflakes can generally be categorized into eight

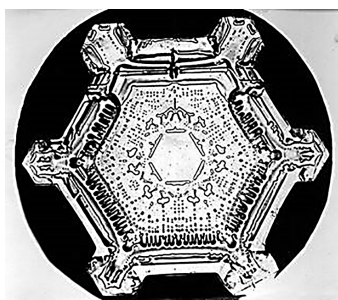


PHOTO PROVIDED

broad classifications: needle crystal, columnar crystal, plate crystal, combination columnar and plate crystal, columnar crystals with extended side planes, rimed crystal, irregular snow crystal, and germ of snow crystal.

Snow appears to the human eye as white in color, even though it is actually made up of clear ice. That is because of the diffuse reflection of the entire spectrum of light by the small crystal facets of the snowflakes.

So next time you see a snow pack, remember that it is made up of innumerable individual snowflakes, no two of which are exactly alike.

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

tank, over 2 miles of interior roads

- A major impact on municipal and private water supply – primary wells for Gan Eden are in the Town of Fallsburg
- Threatening effect on neighboring wells as far away as Mongaup Road
- Adverse effect on neighboring wetlands
- A dangerous effect on fire-fighting needs
- Harmful 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.columbiabiahill.org and on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your environment and your community.

The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

Does anyone else have this cold of the century? I know four. Sure, it starts off as an innocent cold, but it just doesn’t go away. After a few weeks, some are still coughing. Others keep the congestion and sneezing. And still others just still feel lousy. It put a real damper on feeling festive.

A fantastic afternoon of music on December 3, in the midst of an exhibition of the wood fired earthenware pots of the late ROBERT SEGALL, at the SULLIVAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM this last Sunday, thanks once again to the generosity of THE FREDRICK COOK SOCIETY. Fan favorite, LITTLE SPARROW (ALDO TROIANI and CAROL SMITH) took the stage first with the great JEFF ANDERSON on bass, HENRY SIMON on guitar and vocals, and ELLEN IOVINO, vocals and percussion. The showstopper here was the rendition of “TENNESSEE WHISKEY,” where it seemed everyone in the audience went quiet. But, this was just the warmup. From seemingly note one, incredible jazz guitarists VAN MANAKIS and WAYNE LOPES had the audience in the palms of their hands. When one would “come to,” one couldn’t remember if they had been holding their breath or had simply forgotten to breathe while under the musical spell.

December 15 was CON QUESO!!! (or “with cheese” if you are not familiar with the term) at CABERNET FRANK’S. When the duo of DAVID MILNER and MITZI MILNER came up with the name, they also had a concept: Choosing the “cheesiest” songs they can find. To explain this further, I went to a modern dictionary that described the “informal” use of the term as being “blatantly inauthentic.” And dear reader, this describes so many of the love songs over the decades that they had a plethora to choose from. And it’s always just plain fun! Catch them at CABERNET FRANK’S on January 5 at 8 p.m.

“The darkness became an ache so she cupped stars in her hands.”

This is the first line of “How It Really Happened,” just one of the marvelous poems in LISA TITUS’ book, “FIRST TIME EVERY TIME.” I met Lisa a few years ago, and in the course of our conversations I found I was talking to the Poet Laureate of Sullivan County! Who knew that was even a thing here?

I consider Lisa one of those dear friends, so of course I went to her poetry reading and book signing on a Wednesday night at, of all places, CABERNET FRANK’S in Parkville. As Wade, one of the owners, put it: “Where else can you find a poetry reading in a roadhouse!” Lisa presented three from her book to a packed house! Again, who knew? All that I spoke to were there specifically for this, a tribute to her talent. And it is even more so, because this is not a self-pub-

lished book. Kudos my friend!

On Sunday, January 7, from 2 – 4 p.m., don’t miss the opportunity to view what could be the very first automated bagel producing machine at the FIRST ANNUAL WINTER BAGEL FESTIVAL at the SULLIVAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM in Hurleyville. The event is hosted by LITTLE SPARROW (CAROL SMITH and ALDO TROIANI), who will be performing with guests HENRY SIMON and bassist JEFF ANDER-

SON. Learn how LOUIS WICHINSKY (dubbed the Hurleyville Hero of bagel making), back in 1942, was challenged to create this machine...so he did! This event is sponsored by THE FREDRICK COOK SOCIETY, and admission is free. And don’t miss JAKE-TOWN ROAD January 20 at the HASBROUK TAVERN!

Time to mask up again folks. Nasty things showing up in the local school systems and it’s a short jump from there. Until next time....

Sullivan Debuts Tax Lookup Website

Former Site No Longer Being Updated

MONTICELLO-- Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck is pleased to announce a new way for the public to access tax records.

“We’ve worked closely with Total Collection Solution, an upstate-based company, to create and test this web-based platform,” Ms. Buck explained. “It’s a truly ‘live’ system, with real-time updating of data, including recent payments.”

Accessible at ny-sullivan-county.totalcollectionsolution.com, the site replaces TaxLookup.net as the go-to location for Sullivan County tax data. To log in, type “sullivan-public” in the username field, and “public” in the password field.

Properties in all 15 townships are available to review. (TaxLookup.net information will no longer be updated for Sullivan County, though historical records may continue to be available.)

Note that the County Treasurer’s Office only collects delinquent taxes (taxes from



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck

2023 and earlier). Taxpayers should pay their 2024 County/Town taxes directly to the Town in which their property is located.

“Most towns are also setting up their own web-based portals to this new system,” noted Deputy County Treasurer Kathleen Lara, “so that property owners can more directly access their data through their respective town websites.”

The County Treasurer’s Office welcomes questions at 845-807-0200 or by visiting the office.

LA SALUMINA

HANDMADE TUSCAN STYLE SALUMI

210 Main Street, Hurleyville, NY, 12747
lasaluminany.com
 845.640.6400
info@lasaluminany.com

@LASALUMINA

Hurleyville United Methodist Church
263 Main Street
Hurleyville, New York 12747

Come and join us for:

Activities

Songs

Food

Games

Crafts

Stories

February 10th, March 9th, April 13th

5:00pm - 6:00pm

Please join us for family fun.
Church Done Differently
Questions? Please call 845-428-5871.
We will be happy to answer any questions.

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

Covering Main Street and Beyond

245 Main Street
Hurleyville, NY 12747

845-707-6000
hurleysent@hotmail.com
www.hurleyvillesentinel.com

Editor-in-Chief John Conway
 Website Editor Kathleen Sullivan
 Contributors: Kelly Adams, Emily Arias, Lily Barrish, Hope Blecher, Elaine Corrington, Brian Dennis, Win Hadley, Jack Halchak, Jane Harrison, Rose Mandelbaum, Mimi, Jack Robbin, Jonathan Shimkin, John Simon, Denise Sullivan

FORAGE AND GATHER

HURLEYVILLE'S NEWEST BUSINESS

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE — The newest shop in downtown Hurleyville is Forage and Gather Market and Café, which opened at the very end of November 2023. It is located at 234 Main Street in the Main Street Mews building, the fourth and final commercial space in the building, which is now fully occupied. I met with Cat Wilson, the owner / manager of the new shop and also the manager of Decant Wine and Spirits in the same building. She was cooking at her Mountaintale location, the site of the original Forage and Gather Market and Café at 81 Main Street. With the lunch rush starting soon, we had about 30 minutes for a quick question and answer session while she worked, prepping and cooking food for the day.

Q. How did Forage and Gather Market come to be?

We signed the lease in February 2020 to build a wine shop called Willow and Post in Mountaintale, that is now closed. Great timing, with a full-blown pandemic about to begin, complete with lockdowns that shuttered almost all businesses. By April 2020, the people who were supposed to rent the main retail space at 81 Main Street in Mountaintale moved back to Australia because of the pandemic. They were worried that they might get stuck here in the US. I did not plan to work in the restaurant industry again, but we had a Panini press, a blender, and a hot plate, so we created a menu of smoothies, soups, and sandwiches.

The previous tenant left a sandwich bar type of table, and we used it. We created a small menu, and it grew and grew. Because of the pandemic, there were a ton of people living in the area, and it's a big open space, so people felt safe to go in and out for food. We didn't get our liquor license until September 2020, so thank God we opened Forage because how were we going to pay

the rent otherwise? We also started with a small variety of groceries. Everything that you see on the shelves now was requested by customers, or because I can't get these products anywhere else.

So, the benefit of having your own shop is you can get products that you like. That's how it started. We just kept reinvesting in the business, and we built the commercial kitchen two years ago. And that's when things really took off.

When you have a commercial kitchen, you need a chef and that doubled our expenses. I was the chef for the first year, and we were open six days a week. I was burning out fast, and my friend Julia came on board and saved me. She's incredible, I love her, and we created a brand for her called Hecho Por Julia. She makes pickled vegetables and an insanely good salsa. She makes her own homemade soups, and we are known for our soups. Julia and I have very different cooking styles, and we like to work together and collaborate. That's fun.

Julia's here full time and I'm now in the kitchen Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Julia's days off. Forage and Gather Mountaintale is open five days a week for the winter and then we'll be back to seven days per week in the summer. Hopefully, we'll have another Co-chef in 2024. I'll be bouncing around in the three stores (Mountaintale and Hurleyville Forage and Gather Markets, and Decant Wine in Hurleyville). Next year will be our 4th year in business. We're almost year four. That's huge to survive three years in a restaurant, especially with lockdowns.

Q. Did you start the business alone?

It was me with my now ex-husband and his mom, who worked with me most of the time. I could not have done it without her. She's incredible.

Unfortunately, because of the divorce, it was a little awkward, and we had to



PHOTO BY DENISE SULLIVAN
Cat Wilson (left) and Alyssa Reeve in front of the Hurleyville location of Forage and Gather.

part ways. She was a force of nature. We worked our butts off to build the business here. Now, Julia is the chef, and I'm running the businesses myself, with an incredible staff. We have 13 staff members between the three locations - Forage Mountaintale, Forage Hurleyville, and Decant Wine and Spirits. Staffing is really hard. I've been in the industry long enough to spot people that I call floaters. They're the kind of people that float into a town and float out again. I was a floater for a while. I went from restaurant to restaurant and worked in half the restaurants in Sullivan County.

Q. Can you name any of them?

I was a sous chef at Rolling River Cafe in Parksville. I loved it there. They (Rob and Kim Rayevsky) taught me about true hospitality, and they inspired this place, inspired everything I've done since, really. Great people. I'm excited for their new project that they're doing, a double Decker bus restaurant up in Parksville.

Q. How did you get into food service?

My mom was a waitress, so I was rolling silverware at age seven, when she didn't have a babysitter. I would do all the side work for the waitresses. I started hostessing and bussing tables when I was 11 years old, and I have been in and out of the industry ever since. I've

worked in fine dining. I've worked vegan, fast food. I've worked in a shot-and-a-beer bar. I've worked in fine cocktail bars, worked at mom and pop places. I've worked in an Outback Steakhouse. I worked for Foster Hospitality. I managed the North Branch Inn for them. That was a wonderful experience. Sims (Foster) put total faith in me to get that place off the ground, and we nailed it. I worked with Eric Hill, and there were four of us that ran it, and it was so much fun.

Q. What made you decide to expand Forage and Gather in Hurleyville?

Essentially, someone walked into my store, the Willow and Post wine shop, and they said, "I want to work with you to do this in Hurleyville." And that was the owner of Hurleyville Mews. So, I partnered with them to build that space. And when it was finished, we liquidated Willow and Post, moving the inventory to Decant because managing liquor distribution and receiving up here is an actual nightmare. It was too much for me to handle, and the sales in Mountaintale were declining, while Hurleyville was doing really well. And so we just put all of our money on that horse.

We deal with small companies. To stock Decant, there are 34 different vendors that I work with just to get the products in the store. There are over 300 SKUs (Stock



PHOTO BY DENISE SULLIVAN
Forage and Gather in Hurleyville was designed to be a community space to sit and have coffee and...

Keeping Units, numbers assigned to products) so it's a lot to keep track of. When Decant was up and running well, he said, "Well, I have this other space in the Muse and I'd like to partner with you to put something in it. And we put our heads together for several months. We asked locals what they wanted. What it really came down to is people just wanted a community space, to sit and drink coffee, have a sandwich. It just so happened that we already had a place like that in Mountaintale. So, we said, "Well, why don't we do it again?"

The design of the Hurleyville space doesn't include a commercial kitchen, and that was intentional, because the space is too small to really facilitate that. Forage in Mountaintale is 2-1/2 times the footprint of the Hurleyville store. So, I've really had to be thoughtful about what we're going to fit in there. They're starting fresh breakfast sandwiches in the morning soon. Because it's winter, we're dropping down just to a few days a week delivering fresh food there just because of staffing. Everybody needs a day off. But ultimately the goal is to create / build a centralized kitchen where we can make everything, a production kitchen. Delivering food from Mountaintale to Hurleyville would stop, we wouldn't have to drive back and forth anymore.

Q. What are some of the goals for the new Forage and Gather in Hurleyville?

The goal is to have longer hours there in the summer season, and eventually have some open mic nights, beer and wine, with live music. I'm working with Samara at All That Glitters is Old to do some fun evening events at all the Mews businesses—the Mews Collaboration. We're going to have a rotating live music night every Sunday in a different store. And then I would pour free wine, there'll be some cheese and snacks and it's literally just for people to hang out. And to bring people into our stores. It's a little community in the building. I think that Hurleyville needs a little more nightlife. Just a little more spice. Hurleyville's got so much going for it. I saw that at Holiday in

Hurleyville, everyone came out and so many people put in time and effort for it. I was so blown away!

We just need a few more evening choices for people. Thursday nights at Tango Café are hopping because it almost begins the weekend, and people love that. Fridays, we could have open mic nights at Forage and Gather and then have the rotating Sunday events. We want to give people a reason to come out. There's no cover fee, just come enjoy the space, try some new things.

You have to not be afraid to take risks, and I'm betting on Hurleyville to only get better. Forage and Gather is not leaving Mountaintale. We're not going anywhere. The goal of the wine shop and Forage in Hurleyville is really just to give people more reasons to come to the town. I feel that when you have multiple thriving businesses, it just gives people more of a reason to come to town.

I'm excited to be in Hurleyville, and to just have this opportunity. I just wanted to get the market/cafe open. I had hired Alyssa two months prior, and I didn't want to lose her. So, we opened early, before the light fixtures were delivered.

We're doing the grand opening in January 2024, and we'll start announcing open mics then. So, we're looking forward to the new year in the new store with new events. People like Sims Foster empowered me. I asked him, "What if I screw up?" and he said, "We'll figure it out." And I did screw up, and we did figure it out.

So, my mantra to my staff is, "It's just a cafe. We go home at 6." My staff are so dedicated, they'll get pretty stressed out sometimes if there's an issue. And I tell them that it's alright as long as we are still moving forward. It will be fun to have live music on Sundays with the tastings. I'm excited to have more time in Hurleyville.

Forage and Gather Market and Café is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is located at 234 Main Street, in the happening hamlet of Hurleyville.

Happy New Year!



Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

Advent offers a gentler entrée into the spirit of Christmas than the consumer stampede of Black Friday, that Oklahoma Land Rush of adrenalized merchandising. Advent isn't a holiday as such; it's the inaugural season of the liturgical year in the Roman Catholic tradition, and includes, according to the US Conference of Bishops, "an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining the heart for the full joy of Christmas."

As the inception of an annual cycle, Advent bears comparison to Simchat Torah in Judaism and the call to Muslims to complete their reading of the Quran during Ramadan. When you come to the end of the story, you simply start over again. For the devout, the story is inexhaustible.

"Advent," say the American Bishops, "is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas" — a lovely sonorous phrase. The register of the solemn has been pretty much expelled from our expectations of the season. For the religious, at least, the full joy of Christmas compels its inclusion.

"Advent" means *arrival*, though *anticipation* is more like it. It's a hopeful, forward-looking season. The word derives from the New Testament term for the Second Coming, a prospect that has generated its share of anticipatory zeal over the centuries.

I'm familiar with Advent by way of the secularized variety of Advent calendar. Through the years, we have pored over virtual Alpine Villages and Dickensian Cities, looking within their crowded scenes for the door or portal of the day, and the secret that lies behind it. Each day, a new surprise; each day, a small rehearsal of the sense of anticipation that radiates from the prospective Ultimate Arrival of December 25.

We count the numbered portals down, one by one, week by week. This doesn't so much quicken the momentum toward Christmas as slow things down, as ritual tends to do, allowing us to indulge an almost voluptuous

sense of anticipation, able to accommodate whatever one might be looking forward to: the Nativity, the arrival of Santa Claus, the momentous transition of solstice, the descent of peace on Earth & goodwill towards all, etc.

One advantage of prolonging the state of anticipation in this way is that it side-steps the hitch in all devoutly desired arrivals — the "morning after" quandary. When the countdown reaches its final number, what happens next? And what happens after that? What has actually changed? Perhaps the Ultimate Arrival is better off deferred.

In a sense, history is a perennially deferred Advent calendar, whose final door is never opened, never even glimpsed. The Messianic promise that time — human time, historical time — will cease, awaits fulfillment yet. Our world stumbles on in the interim, taking the task of ending historical time into its own hands, and doing a credible job of hastening things along.

The onset of Advent brings days that darken earlier and ever more quickly. I'm startled by the brevity of the transitions from sundown to full-on night, as if the days were running out of time and sought to cut corners by eliding dusk. All the lights of the season — candles and bonfires and the myriad electric twinkling things — complement or contest (depending on your perspective) that darkness. There's an Advent tradition called the Christingle: a cored orange, representing the world, holding a candle, illumining the world. Advent, that hopeful season, lights the days leading up to December 25. And after Christmas, there's another door on our calendar preparing to open, a door that could really use some of that light and hope; its number is "2024."

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

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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.

In December, the Fire Department held their annual elections, for 2024:

Line Officers:

Chief - Charlie Payne

1st Assistant Chief - Fred Froehlich

2nd Assistant Chief - Tony Harvey

Captain - Joshua Colon

1st Lieutenant Ron Besimer

Captain of the Fire Police - Eddie Ayala

Executive Officers:

President - Jim Kaufman

Vice President - Tom Becerril

Treasurer - John Jaycox

Secretary - Erica Payne

Congratulations to all the

officers, and I wish you a

safe and productive year.

At the annual meeting we

held our Memorial Service

for all our fallen Brothers

& Sisters who answered

their last alarm. For 2023,

no new names were added

to the Memorial Board.

This is the second year in

a row that we did not have

to add any names to the

board. As my many years

of service add up, I can

say that I knew more than

three-quarters of the names

as they were read off and

recognized by the ringing

of the bell.

In 2023, a number of

firefighters took numerous

classes, including: Hazard

Materials Refresher, Emer-

gency Vehicle Operations

Course (EVOC), Basic

Exterior Firefighting Op-

erations (BEFO), Fire Of-

ficer I, Highway Safety for

Emergency Responders,

Fire Police Class, Traffic

Incident Management Sys-

tems, NYS Officer Devel-

opment, Firefighter Con-

tamination Reduction &

County Launches One-Stop Assistance Tool

'Unite Us' Portal Aims to Ensure Help Delivered When Needed

LIBERTY – The Sullivan County Department of Social Services (DSS) has announced a new way for the community to access all the services available to them.

“A fillable form at <https://sullivanny.us/Departments/familyservices> enables anyone to request support with life’s challenges from the Department, plus a growing list of community partner agencies,” explains Sullivan County Health & Human Services Commissioner John Liddle. “When users complete the online form, they are entered into a secure, coordinated network of community resources, powered by Unite Us.”

Unite Us (www.uniteus.com) is a software solution that’s designed to bring sectors together through technology to drive the collaboration to identify, deliver, and pay for services that impact whole-person health.

“As of today, there are 23 different organizations serving Sullivan County that are connected to the platform, and we are working every day with Unite Us and partners

in the community to add more organizations. This network also connects us to hundreds of agencies across New York State,” noted Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Giselle Steketee. “The best news is that this referral service is absolutely free, and it saves people from having to reach out and provide their information to a host of different providers. One request for any of the services posted on the website will get the process of getting help started, and connections to each needed service are usually established within 48 hours.”

When the system was first tested in Sullivan County in September, it was able to connect someone looking for assistance with food and housing at DSS. Sullivan Allies Leading Together (SALT) and the Sullivan Fresh Community Cupboard were able to deliver a package of emergency food assistance within an hour.

“What excites me most about this platform is that we are now truly able to give the community

access to the dozens of available services we provide alongside our partners from a single access point,” Mr. Liddle said. “It’s all too common for folks in Sullivan County to think that we don’t have resources to help those in need or that critical services can only be found by travelling outside of our County. Through this solution, we are continuing to improve our capacity to deliver vital health and human services, and Unite Us is making it much easier to access the robust network of resources we already have.”

The County and its partners are also starting to get specific data on services that are needed in the community that are NOT currently provided by a member of the network.

“Collecting data on what we don’t have is important as well, because that demand signal helps us reshape what we provide to meet community needs and to present winning arguments to State and Federal agencies for additional funding,” Ms. Steketee said.

CATSKILL EDIBLE GARDEN PROJECT 2024 GRANTS RELEASED

Grow the Next Generation of Food Entrepreneurs in Your School or Community

LIBERTY – Sullivan 180 has released the 2024 Catskill Edible Garden Project grant applications for Sullivan County schools, daycare facilities and organizations serving youth who would like to engage in creating edible gardens. Applications are due February 1.

The Catskill Edible Garden Project is a partnership between Sullivan 180, Catskill Mountainkeeper, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The project engages schools and community organizations in the design and activation of edible gardens as living, outdoor,

educational, and gathering spaces. These projects offer access to healthy local food, “hands-on” experience, and exposure to food and agriculture as important aspects of our community and culture.

The program provides funding support, technical assistance, educational programs, and design as well as staff to facilitate the development and build of gardens.

“The importance of the school garden is to teach students year after year about good healthy eating habits and how easy it is to grow their own food. It also gives them a sense of

community and belonging. This is their garden; they planted it and grew it! I would recommend that all schools get involved in creating a school garden. It is fun, satisfying, and educational, and it can be life-changing for the future adults that you are teaching” said Dennis Lankau, Garden Coordinator for the Kenneth L. Rutherford Elementary School in Monticello.

For more information or to download the application, go to www.Sullivan180.org/grants-scholarships or call (845) 295-2680.

BENJAMIN COSOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Tyler Torres.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Muhammed Kasama, Brianna Johnson, and Mason Li.

Grade 5

Honor Roll: Dilver Aleman, Arabella Almodovar, Hayden Atkins, Kadija Bamba, Ava Berrios, Isaac Castillo Miranda, Aubrianna Clark-Wheat, Aaron Cubias, Muhammad Dumbuya, Nelson Duque Moroy, Lithys Fuentes Ardon, Emanuel Granados, Jordan Ketcham, Ashley Leon Santos, Bryan Lopez-Romero, Alexandria Mann, Marvin Martinez Gonzales, Camden McKenny, Theresa Medina, Samuel Melendez, Erick Rivera Moreno, Christian Robles Hernandez, Kendra Rodriguez, Madison Samora, Derrick Saravia, Blerina Selimaj, Blinera Selimaj, Melanie Wang, and Benjamin Wizwer.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Bryan Balcazar Lavin, Anthony Frunzi, Se-

lina Lazroe, Grayson Munger

Grade 6

Honor Roll: Yasmina Aquil, Giselle Ascencio Martinez, Ellis Basic, Darlin Chub Ujpan, Mylaan Dolberry, Dania Duque Enamorado, Shamiah Foy, Janary Fuentes Ardon, Gensis Gonzalez Alvarez, David Hernandez Martinez, Carsyn Hoeffling, Madison Lucas, Hanna Manjarrez Paredes, Victoris Manjarrez Paredes, Jackelyne Mariaca, Reja Meer, Dylan Osbourne

Ariel Payne, Logan Retana, Genesis Reyes-Robles, Makayla Rivers, Malika Rivers, Leon Rodriguez Morales, Leonardo Rojas, Anthony Santos Morales, Zhara Snead, Fernando Turcios Garcia, Heaven Wilson and Allison Yautentzi Reyes.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Walker Budde, George DiNapoli, Jessica Saciolo, and Holly Surerus.

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallburgh

COMPILED BY Sullivan County Historian John Conway

January 14, 1938 Drivers Warned Against Dangers of Winter Roads

Driving at reduced speeds will prevent many “winter” accidents, Motor Vehicle Commissioner Charles A. Harnett told State motorists today.

“Driving hazards increase during the winter months with the combination of early darkness and unfavorable weather conditions,” Harnett declared. “Reduced speed enables the motorist to have his car under better control and to cope more effectively with whatever emergency might arise.

In addition to emphasizing the need for keeping windshields clear of ice and snow, the Bureau offers the following suggestions for application of brakes on slippery roads.

1. Use your brakes carefully. Press lightly at first and release quickly. A series of brief, moderate brake actions will aid in stopping car without skidding.
2. Keep the wheels of the car revolving to prevent skidding and to stop more quickly.
3. Take your foot off the gas, but do not release the clutch until the car is almost to a standstill. The slowing down of the engine will aid the brakes in reducing speed.
4. In case of a skid, turn your steering wheel so that the front wheels will be headed in the direction the car is skidding. This will tend to bring to rear wheels back into their proper position on the road.

Teachers Hear Plea for Zeal

Although he condemned their objectives, Dr. Roland G. Will, education instructor at the New Paltz Normal School, recommended the zeal of Italian, German, and Russian teachers to almost 300 teachers who met at the Monticello High School on Monday night to form the Sullivan County Teachers Association. Chairman of the meeting was William McKernan, principal of Woodridge High School.

“We must have the zealot’s desire to do something about things that trouble us,” Dr. Will said in his discussion of dangers presently confronting democracy, and of the influence teachers might exert in eliminating them.

“The difference between the real teacher and the complacent routinist is a knowledge of what is happening outside the classroom and correlating it to classroom instruction,” Dr. Will remarked. “The danger to our democratic way of life is no longer theoretical or remote, but a real thing, now with us,” Dr. Will warned. “If we teachers could become as enthusiastic about the teaching of democracy as the teachers of the three dictatorial countries are about their own current national philosophies, we would no



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO
Skiers at Walnut Mountain in Liberty.

January 15, 1937 Liberty Ski Fans Greet Light Snow

With the ground again blanketed with a light fall of snow after two weeks of the balmy weather in the memory of Sullivan County natives, sponsors of the Liberty Winter Sports Program renewed their activities this week on Walnut Mountain, where, if the snow holds out, Sullivan’s first contingent of skiing fans from New York City will disport themselves this weekend. On Friday night at seven o’clock, the first of a series of O&W weekend snow trains is slated to leave Weehawken.

The first O&W Sunday snow train was to have been run last Sunday, but the lack of snow called the trip off.

Dry Township Receives Last Liquor Tax Refund

Neversink township, which adopted local option by a vote at the November election, received this week from County Treasurer Roy C. Johnston the last revenue which it will derive from the alcoholic beverage tax. Towns in which local option exists cannot share in the pro rata distribution of beer, wine, and liquor taxes. The final check for Neversink, Mr. Johnston disclosed, was for \$926 and represented a delayed payment for the period ended September 30th.

Hillig Introduces Two Dairy Bills

Assemblyman Otto Hillig introduced two bills in the Assembly this week, both of which pertain to dairy farming.

The first would provide for the creation of a committee to be appointed by the Governor to make an investigation of the spread between the price paid to the dairyman and that paid by the consumer.

The second bill provides authority to the Department of Agriculture to audit the books and records of all milk dealers including co-operatives. This would check up to ascertain whether or not the milk producers are receiving fair financial returns on the milk shipped by them.

January 2017 World Renowned Wild Life Experts at Arts Centre

Fortunately rain is a symbol of good luck in Africa, because it was a rainy Saturday when the Hurleyville Arts Centre hosted the African Wildlife Foundation for a discussion about the ravages of ivory trafficking.

Hurleyville Arts Centre and AWF hosted a screening of the Leonardo DiCaprio documentary, “The Ivory Game,” on May 13, followed by a panel discussion about ivory trafficking and the declining African elephant population. The event was held in conjunction with a conservation-themed art exhibit across the street in Gallery 222, curated by Six Summit Gallery.

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THE VERDICT PART III

The Verdict was originally published in 1908. It is in the public domain. This is the conclusion to the story.

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.

He stood looking up at the sketch, and twirling between his fingers a cigarette he had forgotten to light. Suddenly he turned toward me.

"I'd rather like to tell you--because I've always suspected you of loathing my work."

I made a deprecating gesture, which he negated with a good-humoured shrug.

"Oh, I didn't care a straw when I believed in myself--and now it's an added tie between us!"

He laughed slightly, without bitterness, and pushed one of the deep arm-chairs forward. "There: make yourself comfortable--and here are the cigars you like."

He placed them at my elbow and continued to wander up and down the room, stopping now and then beneath the picture.

"How it happened? I can tell you in five minutes--and it didn't take much longer to happen. . . . I can remember now how surprised and pleased I was when I got Mrs. Stroud's note. Of course, deep down, I had al-

ways felt there was no one like him--only I had gone with the stream, echoed the usual platitudes about him, till I half got to think he was a failure, one of the kind that are left behind. By Jove, and he was left behind--because he had come to stay! The rest of us had to let ourselves be swept along or go under, but he was high above the current--on everlasting foundations, as you say.

"Well, I went off to the house in my most egregious mood--rather moved, Lord forgive me, at the pathos of poor Stroud's career of failure being crowned by the glory of my painting him! Of course I meant to do the picture for nothing--I told Mrs. Stroud so when she began to stammer something about her poverty. I remember getting off a prodigious phrase about the honour being mine--oh, I was princely, my dear Rickham! I was posing to myself like one of my own sitters.

"Then I was taken up and left alone with him. I had sent all my traps in advance, and I had only to set up the easel and get to work. He had been dead only twenty-four hours, and he died suddenly, of heart disease, so that there had been no preliminary work of destruction--his face was clear and untouched. I had met him once or twice, years before, and thought him insignifi-

cant and dingy. Now I saw that he was superb.

"I was glad at first, with a merely aesthetic satisfaction: glad to have my hand on such a 'subject.' Then his strange life-likeness began to affect me queerly--as I blocked the head in I felt as if he were watching me do it. The sensation was followed by the thought: if he were watching me, what would he say to my way of working? My strokes began to go a little wild--I felt nervous and uncertain.

"Once, when I looked up, I seemed to see a smile behind his close grayish beard--as if he had the secret, and were amusing himself by holding it back from me. That exasperated me still more. The secret? Why, I had a secret worth twenty of his! I dashed at the canvas furiously, and tried some of my bravura tricks. But they failed me, they crumbled. I saw that he wasn't watching the showy bits--I couldn't distract his attention; he just kept his eyes on the hard passages between. Those were the ones I had always shirked, or covered up with some lying paint. And how he saw through my lies!

"I looked up again, and caught sight of that sketch of the donkey hanging on the wall near his bed. His wife told me afterward it was the last thing he had done--just a note taken with a shaking

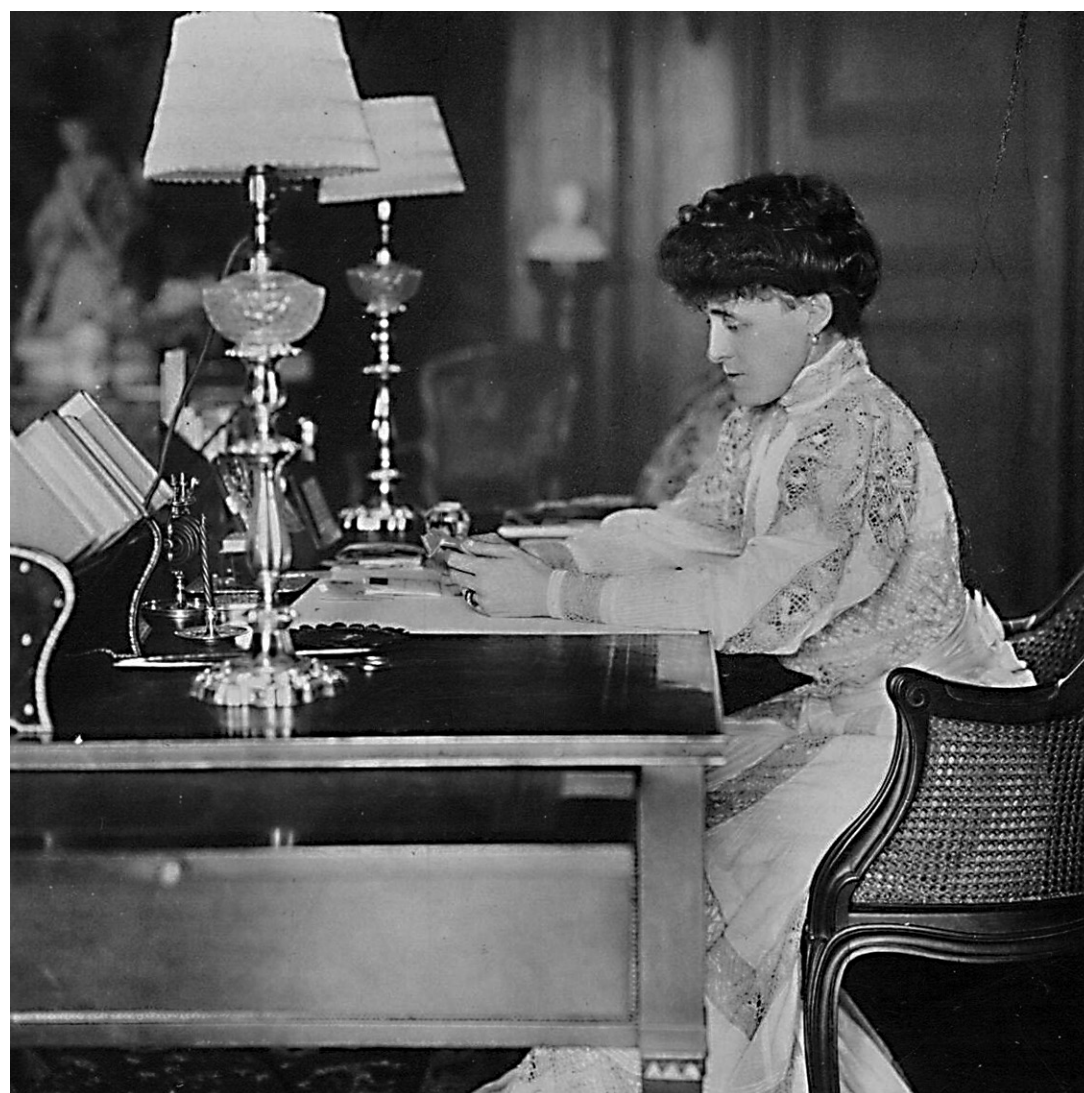


PHOTO PROVIDED
Edith Wharton

hand, when he was down in Devonshire recovering from a previous heart attack. Just a note! But it tells his whole history. There are years of patient scornful persistence in every line. A man who had swum with the current could never have learned that mighty up-stream stroke. . . .

"I turned back to my work, and went on groping and muddling; then I looked at the donkey again. I saw that,

when Stroud laid in the first stroke, he knew just what the end would be. He had possessed his subject, absorbed it, recreated it. When had I done that with any of my things? They hadn't been born of me--I had just adopted them. . . .

"Hang it, Rickham, with that face watching me I couldn't do another stroke. The plain truth was, I didn't know where to put it--I had

never known. Only, with my sitters and my public, a showy splash of colour covered up the fact--I just threw paint into their faces. . . . Well, paint was the one medium those dead eyes could see through--see straight to the tottering foundations underneath. Don't you know how, in talking a foreign language, even fluently, one

says half the time not what one wants to but what one can? Well--that was the way I painted; and as he lay there and watched me, the thing they called my 'technique' collapsed like a house of cards. He didn't sneer, you understand, poor Stroud--he just lay there quietly watching, and on his lips, through the gray beard, I seemed to hear the question: 'Are you sure you know where you're coming out?'

"If I could have painted that face, with that question on it, I should have done a great thing. The next greatest thing was to see that I couldn't--and that grace was given me. But, oh, at that minute, Rickham, was there anything on earth I wouldn't have given to have Stroud alive before me, and to hear him say: 'It's not too late--I'll show you how?'

"It was too late--it would have been, even if he'd been alive. I packed up my traps, and went down and told Mrs. Stroud. Of course I didn't tell her that--it would have been Greek to her. I simply said I couldn't paint him, that I was too moved. She rather liked the idea--she's so romantic! It was that that made her give me the donkey. But she was terribly upset at not getting the portrait--she did so want him 'done' by some one showy! At first I was afraid she wouldn't let me off--and at my wits' end

I suggested Grindle. Yes, it was I who started Grindle; I told Mrs. Stroud he was the 'coming' man, and she told somebody else, and so it got to be true. . . . And he painted Stroud without wincing; and she hung the picture among her husband's things. . . ."

He flung himself down in the arm-chair near mine, laid back his head, and clasping his arms beneath it, looked up at the picture above the chimney-piece.

"I like to fancy that Stroud himself would have given it to me, if he'd been able to say what he thought that day."

And, in answer to a question I put half-mechanically--"Begin again?" he flashed out. "When the one thing that brings me anywhere near him is that I knew enough to leave off?"

He stood up and laid his hand on my shoulder with a laugh. "Only the irony of it is that I am still painting--since Grindle's doing it for me! The Strouds stand alone, and happen once--but there's no exterminating our kind of art."

That concludes our section. Fictional Fallsburg Constable Bronco Kelly returns next month in another of Jack Robbin's popular adventures. Don't miss it, exclusively in The Hurleyville Sentinel!

TRIVIA CONTEST FOR A CAUSE!

HURLEYVILLE – Everyone is invited to join the fun at Casa Mia Restaurant, 205 Main Street, Hurleyville, for an afternoon of trivia, great food, fantastic raffle prizes, and loads of laughs when the Kiwanis of Woodridge hosts "Trivia for a Cause" on Saturday, January 27. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. with Trivia starting at 1 p.m.

There is a \$25.00 entry fee per person, which includes delicious food, beverages, and entry for an amazing door prize. Raffles and 50/50 tickets are extra. Advance reservations are required and must

be received no later than January 12. To make a reservation, or if you have any questions, please contact Diane at 845-866-3204 or Debbie at 845-798-8795.

Proceeds will go toward local Kiwanis projects, including donations to local food pantries, winter outerwear for young children, dictionaries for fourth graders, scholarships for graduating seniors, summer reading books for children graduating from Head Start as well as kindergarten and those entering first grade, and much more.

Hope to see you at Casa Mia on January 27!

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FALLSBURG – On December 20, 2023, three Benjamin Cosor Elementary school students, Awa Gai, Pedro Mendieta Quiroz, and Blerina Selimaj, and one Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School student, Angelina Levner, were named recipients of the Al Rasnick Do the Right Thing Award.

The purpose of the award is to commemorate students who have demonstrated excellent behavior and were caught doing a good deed. Teachers and staff nominate a student that they consider to be a positive role model and positive influence.

The award has been a tradition at Fallsburg since 2004 when then-School Resource Officer Ed Liotard had the prize accredited for the district after observing the Miami Police Department's version of the Do the Right Thing Award. Since then, it has been financially support-



PHOTO PROVIDED
(Left to right) Bart Rasnick, Angelina Levner, Pedro Mendieta Quiroz, Blerina Selimaj, Awa Gai, and Dr. Ivan Katz at the awards presentation.

ed by the Town of Fallsburg judge Bart Rasnick, and the Fallsburg Police Department. It was eventually renamed the Al Rasnick Do the Right Thing Award to commemorate Bart's father, the late Al Rasnick.

Judge Rasnick provided re-

marks during the ceremony, emphasizing the importance of family influence when it comes to children's behavior.

"Though these young students are getting the award, it is all trickled down from the parents, the guardians, and the grandparents," he said.

"They're the ones who instill it in these children to do the right thing."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ivan Katz, congratulated the award recipients and wanted to thank the Rasnick family for their many years of contribution to the award.

DO THE RIGHT THING FCSD Hosts Award Ceremony

DVAA Seeking Architect



PHOTO PROVIDED

NARROWSBURG – The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) has been awarded a planning grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to secure the services of a qualified architect to help restore, renovate and add programming space to the historic 1894 Arlington Hotel which houses DVAA's offices, galleries, and recital hall.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the four-story building is located at 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY. It has been home to DVAA since 1981.

The grant will support preliminary design work, schematic drawings and a historic structure report. Completion of this phase is projected for 2024, followed by further phases over five years. The chosen architect for a successful first phase will be favorably considered for the entirety of the project.

"This project is driven by the inspiring input DVAA received from community members gathered over a series of focus group conversations we conducted over recent years and our responsibility as stewards of this historic structure.

This award is a vital spark to the start of an exciting new chapter for DVAA," notes Ariel Shanberg, DVAA's Executive Director.

Interested individuals and firms should contact Capital Project Manager Jeff Allison at cap@delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

DVAA serves as the arts hub of the Upper Delaware Valley and Sullivan Catskills Region, giving artists platforms year-round to share their voices in galleries, on stages, and at festivals, including Riverfest in July and the Big Eddy Film Festival held every September.

DVAA funds Sullivan County creatives and cultural organizations through its role as the county's Arts Council. In 2023, DVAA re-granted nearly \$95,000 to 45 grantees. In addition, DVAA served as Fiscal Sponsor to various projects, helping secure \$92,000 in additional funding for the arts to the groups in the region.

DVAA is located at 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg. For more information, visit delawarevalleyartsalliance.org or call (845) 252-7576.



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SENTINEL SPORTS



WINTER ON THE RAIL TRAIL

TO PLOW OR NOT TO PLOW... AND OTHER QUESTIONS

by Win Hadley

HURLEYVILLE – Another Hurleyville History Hike on the Milk Train Trail is in the books, and as has been the case for the past several years, one of the most persistent questions that came up during the hike was not about history, but about the use of the rail trail in the winter months.

“Since it is conducted in December, people on the Holiday in Hurleyville hike almost always ask about plowing the trail,” Sullivan County Historian John Conway, who leads and narrates the hikes, said recently. “They want to know if the trail is plowed in the winter and if not, why not?”

The Milk Train Trail is not plowed in the winter,

he explains, for a number of reasons. Some of the reasons are cost driven, as it is expensive to allocate a crew and equipment to clear the trail after each storm. In addition, repeated plowing of the trail would inevitably lead to quicker degradation, as the weight of the equipment, the impact of the plowing itself, and the effect of ice melting chemicals would significantly shorten the life of the asphalt on the paved sections of the trail.

But not everything is always about money.

Another important reason for not clearing the trail of snow is to provide a convenient place for winter recreation on cross country skis and snowshoes.

“This was an important

consideration when the initial plans for the Milk Train Trail were being developed,” Conway said.

It does not seem that the lack of snow removal has significantly reduced traffic on the trail in winter, as walkers, joggers, skiers, and snowshoers are seen utilizing both sides of the Hurleyville trail virtually every day.

Which brings up a few common sense rules for using the Milk Train Trail—or any hiking trail, for that matter—in the winter months, and the Rails to Trails Conservancy has some suggestions. In fact, in 2021, the RTC published a blog entitled, “Winter ‘Share the Trail’ Etiquette and Safety Tips,” compiled by Amy Kapp.

In the article, Kapp quotes Eric Oberg, the RTC’s Midwest Regional Director, pointing out that “a helpful piece of advice for people out on the trail is to let go of the idea of ‘winter’ as being unique with regard to trail use, and think of it as another season of opportunities to be out and about—but with a few more considerations for the colder and wetter condition. Remember that when it comes to being safe and conscientious, all the things you’d do in the summer or warmer months of the year still apply.”

The article goes on to list six “golden rules” for trail use, applicable all year around:

1. “Use safe speeds” and be courteous regardless of your means of convey-

- ance.
 2. “Keep right and pass left,” know which side to use, and when.
 3. “Standing still? Stand aside.” Take your break—and your chat—off the trail.
 4. “Mind your pets,” keep them leashed, and close by.
 5. “Be alert” to your surroundings.
 6. “Know and follow the rules” and be a hero.
- The RTC also reminds trail users that despite the colder temperatures, it is just as important to stay hydrated in the winter months as it is in the summer. And, of course, dressing appropriately is one of the most important factors in ensuring a safe and enjoyable time on the trail.

Tom Sexton, the Director of RTC’s Northeast Region, recommends “wearing layers (synthetic wicking materials are best), and starting out just a little cool so you don’t overheat and sweat once you get going. A backpack is also handy if you need to shed an outer layer.”

Perhaps RTC’s Oberg summed it up best when he said in the article, “stay hydrated on the inside, and dry on the outside.”

Follow these simple guidelines, and the rail trail experience will be a pleasurable one all year around, plowed in the winter or not.

SENTINEL FILE PHOTO
With a few common sense rules, the Rail Trail can be as much fun in the winter as it is the rest of the year.



100 VICTORIES!

Coach Newberg Reaches Century Mark with Lady Generals

by John Conway

LOCH SHELDRAKE – The Lady Generals of SUNY Sullivan won four games without a loss in the month of December to end the year with an 11-2 record.

The first of those four wins, a 120-49 victory over Westchester County Community College, was Coach Ben Newberg’s 100th win as head coach at Sullivan.

Newberg, a Sullivan County native, graduated Monticello High School, earned his bachelor’s degree from SUNY Albany



PHOTO PROVIDED

Coach Ben Newberg

and an MBA from Mercy College. He was named head coach at Sullivan in

March of 2021.

The Lady Generals’ month also included a 74-

28 win over Orange County Community College in Middletown and home and home victories over Harford College of Maryland. Sullivan won the Loch Sheldrake game over Harford by a 109-42 margin on December 9 and a week later won again, this time in Bel Air, MD by 83-40.

Brianna Jackson, a 5’5” freshman guard from Brooklyn is the leading scorer for the Lady Generals to this point in the season, averaging 16.3 points per game. Shonyae Edmonds, a 5’10” freshman forward from Albany is next with

15.2 ppg, while also contributing 10.1 rebounds per contest.

The Sullivan women are next in action on January 5 and 6 in Herkimer, with games against Niagara and Herkimer. Road trips follow, first to Scranton, PA, where they take on Lackawanna College on January 11 and then to New Rochelle, for games with Erie Community College and Monroe College on January 13 and 14. The Lady Generals return home to Paul Gerry Fieldhouse on January 23 when they host the Monroe College Mustangs in a Tuesday evening contest.

by John Conway

LOCH SHLEDRAKE – The SUNY Sullivan Generals men’s basketball team won four out of five games in December, and ended the year on a winning note with a hard fought 93-86 victory over Cecil College at the Cecil Holiday Mixer in North East, Maryland.

The Generals have won five out of their last six games, and stand at 10-4 on the season as 2024 begins.

Coach Simon Clement’s squad has been led this year by Tajuan Thomas, a 6’4” freshman forward from Flushing, Queens. Thomas has averaged 15.6 points



PHOTO PROVIDED

Coach Simon Clement

per game. Naquan Pounder is the team’s second leading scorer at this point, contributing 10.8 points per contest along with 9.4 rebounds, tops on the squad. Pounder is a 6’5” swingman from South Shore High School in Brooklyn.

Sullivan opened the month with an 81-71 win over conference foe Westchester, with Thomas leading the way with 23 points. Andre Bowles chipped in with 16. Next came an 86-79 win over another conference foe, archival Orange County Community College in Middletown. Bowles and Erik Jarecki led the way in that win, with 16 points apiece.

The Orange win was followed by an 81-80 squeaker over Essex County College, in which the Generals were

forced to withstand a furious second half rally by the visiting Wolverines. Thomas scored 25 in that win, while also collecting 13 rebounds.

The Cecil Holiday Mixer was next, and on Friday evening, December 15 the Generals dropped their opening game to CCBC Dundalk by a 75-68 margin. The win over the host Seahawks followed.

Sullivan is next in action on Friday, January 5 at the Philly Classic in Herkimer, NY. They open the weekend with Niagara County Community College and then play nationally ranked Monroe Community College of Rochester on Saturday afternoon. A road game at Lackawanna College in Scranton, PA follows on January 11.

The Generals return to Paul Gerry Fieldhouse on January 25 when they host the Darius Lee Memorial Classic by taking on Erie County Community College on Friday night and County College of Morris on Saturday.

The Darius Lee Memorial Classic is played to honor the memory of former Sullivan star Darius Lee, who was an innocent bystander killed in a drive-by shooting in New York City in June of 2022.

FIFTY YEARS AGO... No Stopping Streaking Comets

by John Conway

FALLSBURG – It was January of 1974—50 years ago this month—and the Fallsburg High School varsity basketball team was riding high, ending the month with an 11-0 season slate.

More impressively, the

Comets had claimed 25 victories in a row since their last defeat, 20 of them in the regular season. Fallsburg had also won 25 straight home games, and 46 of its last 47 on its home court.

In order to get to that point, Fallsburg had to survive a scare on its home court on Tuesday, January

15 against the Ellenville Blue Devils. It took a ten-foot jumper by Rick Woodard with just three seconds remaining in overtime to seal a 65-63 win and keep the Fallsburg streak alive. Charles Hinton led the scoring in the nail biter, with 20 points.

The Comets’ month ending victory over John A. Coleman High School of Kingston on Tuesday, January 29 was a much more typical game for Fallsburg, which ended up with a 97-63 win. The game was never in doubt, as Charles Hinton pumped in ten points in the first quarter to spark a 28-11 advantage. At halftime, the score stood at 47-26 and, as the Times Herald-Record newspaper reported the following day, the only question that remained was “how much Fallsburg would win by.”

Rick Woodard led the Comets with 23 points, Dave Hinton chipped in with 21. Charles Hinton finished with 18 points, while Sam Copeland had 16.

The loss left Coleman at 3-7 on the year.

The previous Friday, the Comets had demolished Pine Bush 78-31 after rac-


ing out to a 35-17 halftime lead. Sam Copeland led the Fallsburg attack in that win, with 33 points. It was the second time that season that the six-foot three-inch junior had topped the 30 mark in a game. Hinton contributed 19 points, but Pine Bush coach George Druttman attributed the lopsided loss to the Comet defense.

“They’ve got a damn good press, and I think it shook our kids a little,” he told a newspaper reporter. “They just took the ball away from us and ran with it.”

Although Copeland and Hinton were the only two Fallsburg players—of the eight who saw action in the game to reach double figures in scoring, Druttman seemed to take a swipe at Fallsburg Coach Jim McDermott for running up the score.

“In that final period, I went mostly with my bench,” he explained. “He had his starters in there most of the way, that’s why the score was as bad as it was.”

The Bushmen fell to 3-7 on the year with the loss.




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BALLGAME BAFFLERS

BY BRIAN

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

January Questions:

1. When was the first National Hockey League game played?
2. What was the first team from the United States to join the NHL?
3. Which team has won the most Stanley Cup championships?
4. What is the oldest arena in the NHL?
5. What is the newest arena in the NHL?

December Answers:

1. What is the nickname of Collaborative College High School (Hurleyville) sports teams? (**Raptors**)
2. What is the nickname of Eldred High School sports teams? (**Yellow Jackets**)
3. What is the nickname of Livingston Manor High School sports teams? (**Wildcats**)
4. What is the nickname of Roscoe High School sports teams? (**Blue Devils**)
5. What is the nickname of Rondout Valley high school sports teams? (**Ganders**)

There was no winner last month.

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