

## AN EXTRAORDINARY TREASURE

### A Unique Gift for Valentine's Day

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE—Although it is likely that no one in or around Hurleyville will present their loved one with a puzzle purse or a pressed flower for Valentine's Day this month, as is common in some other parts of the world, creative people seem to always be on the lookout for unique gifts for February's most intimate holiday.

This year, a collaboration between the Hurleyville General Store and a new Hurleyville business called Milk & Honey may provide the perfect answer.

On Thursday, February 8, the two businesses will present a Valentine's Charcuterie Class, providing participants with an opportunity to learn to make the perfect charcuterie board, which can then be gifted to a loved one for the holiday.

Or not.

"Material gifts are out, and gifting experiences is in!" says Melissa Jaycox, owner of Milk & Honey, who will be presenting the program. Ms. Jaycox recently returned to "her roots" in Hurleyville after having started the business in Virginia.

"I think that whether you are in a relationship or not, people are interested in learning and having a new

MILK & HONEY  
X  
HURLEYVILLE GENERAL STORE

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Valentine's  
Charcuterie Class

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AT 6:00PM

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\$60 per  
person

experience," she says. "To learn the art of a fine snack with your partner or a friend is a good time, a memorable experience that you take with you."

Ms. Jaycox says she often gets requests to host charcuterie classes, and has presented similar programs for groups and private parties. She says it provides people with a reason to get together and enjoy great food and wine.

"Isn't that something everyone wants?" she asks.

The class will run from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hurleyville General Store at 238 Main Street, and will provide education on all the products being used, including some information on name protected cheeses, and then move forward into proper

preparation, cutting, and styling, she says.

Ms. Jaycox is particularly excited to be collaborating with the Hurleyville General Store on the program.

"I love the space!" she says emphatically, particularly noting the "long farm table so everyone will have enough space to work on their charcuterie."

She is also excited about the opportunity to work with HGS owners Denise and Rob Lombardi.

"When I moved back to Hurleyville, they took a chance on me and my business, and offered to stock my products," she says. "Their faith in me is unwavering, and I feel the same way about them. Their store is a fantastic community space."

She says she hopes this collaboration is the first of many with HGS, and there have already been discussions about offering other classes centering on making pasta and making ice cream.

The Valentine's Day Charcuterie Class is \$60 per person, and includes a complimentary glass of wine for all participants aged 21 or older. Space is limited, and spots are filling fast. Reservations should be made in advance through Event Brite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/valentines-day-charcuterie-making-class-tickets-804060836607?aff=ebdss-bcategorybrowse>).

People looking for more information should call Ms. Jaycox at 845-866-4786.

### Everything Bagel at the Sullivan County Museum

SCHS Honors Bagel Making History

by Lily Barrish

HURLEYVILLE — The first winter Bagel Fest at the Hurleyville museum attracted a full house on an icy Sunday in January. A majority of the crowd were seniors. Carol Smith, Executive Director of the Frederick A. Cook Society, organized the event, and was pleasantly surprised at the turnout.

Ms. Smith first contacted Jeff Siegel, the man responsible for starting the Monticello Bagel Festival several years ago. The Bagel Festival has become the biggest one-day festival in Sullivan County, and last summer drew an estimated 15 to 20 thousand attendees. Not wanting to step on any toes, Ms. Smith was thrilled when Mr. Siegel threw his support behind her idea.

Ms. Smith, also a member of the local band Little Sparrow, accompanied by her bandmate and husband, Aldo Troiani, sang and played guitar for the audience. Jeff Anderson joined them on bass. Sullivan West senior Henry Simon also sang and played guitar while the crowd ate their bagels. The Museum provided an assortment of bagels from the Monticello Bagel Bakery free of charge, sponsored through the Frederick A. Cook Society.

The festival recognized

both National Bagel Day on January 15, and inventor extraordinaire, Louis "Lebel" Wichinsky. Mr. Wichinsky's creativity started when he was a kid right here in Hurleyville. At 14 years old, he built a real airplane that his mom helped him construct with flour sacks. He crashed it up on the hill where The Center for Discovery's Big Barn now sits. His minor injuries required stitches, but otherwise he was fine.

Mr. Wichinsky is credited by many with creating the prototype bagel machine. Born the son of a baker, he was stationed in England during WWII, when a London baker put the challenge to him, "You Yanks can do anything. How is it you haven't yet built a machine to make bagels?" He jumped at the challenge, and on March 8, 1966 he filed a dough-kneading-machine patent.

Later on, he figured out a way for a 1980 Volkswagen Rabbit to run on vegetable oil.

"He never quit. Until the day he died, he was always working on things," said Jim Mack, Mr. Wichinsky's son-in-law.

For about three years, Mr. Mack worked alongside his father-in-law. They'd travel back and forth from the likes of New York City and Long Island, repairing and building new bagel machines. Lend-



Carol Smith of the sponsoring Frederick Cook Society serves cookies at the Winter Bagel Fest.



Jim and Ceil Wichinsky Mack pose with the bagel making machine at the Sullivan County Museum.

er's Bagels in Connecticut was one of their clients.

Mr. Mack is the only person who now knows how to work the bagel machine. At the winter Bagel Fest, he explained how it functioned, pointing out "the dough goes in at this end under the plate and then it's forced between a canvas belt."

He was also able to give key information such as, "the machine produced one bagel per second. Dozens and dozens an hour. The machine made two-point-five ounce bagels; usually bagels are three-point-five to four ounces."

Ceil Wichinsky Mack and her husband drove down from Schenectady for the event.

Under the moniker "Memories of the Bagel Baker's Daughter," Ms. Mack continues to share her father's astounding accomplishments by public speaking at schools, libraries, museums and colleges all over upstate New York.

When Ms. Mack spoke to the crowd, she was as gracious as can be.

"I'm happy to be here. I went to school here, so did my brother. My dad went to school here from kindergarten until 12th grade. His eight brothers and sisters also went here. Thank you for remembering my dad."

She also shared a memory that still stands out in her

mind today. "I learned to square dance in the parking lot."

Ms. Mack's ties to this area, and specifically to the Borscht Belt era, run deep—her parents met right here in Hurleyville. Her face lit up as she remembered how her mother spent many summers at a boarding house that was located near the current fire station. It was after her dad returned from World War II that he was driving his bakery truck down the road and her mom waved him down. He dropped her off in Loch Sheldrake and then went back to the boarding house and told Ms. Mack's maternal grandmother that he was going to marry her daughter.

A lot of people still have stories about the legendary personality of the bagel man in Hurleyville. With a plethora of inventions under his belt, he was nothing short of remarkable and left an unforgettable stamp on this region. Celebrating him, with his daughter and son-in-law in attendance made for a very special day at the Museum.

Thank you to Carol Smith and Aldo Troiani for planning the enjoyable afternoon and to the band Little Sparrow for the entertainment. The bagel machine is on display in the Museum's auditorium during normal business hours. Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

### ATERES STILL IN LIMBO

by John Conway

KIAMESHA — The referendum on the creation of the new village of Ateres proposed for the towns of Thompson and Fallsburg in Sullivan County was held as scheduled on January 18, although the results of that vote have not yet been certified. As The Sentinel went to press, it seemed questionable whether they would be, and the next steps in the process were not clear.

Supervisors in the two towns had indefinitely postponed the vote the day before it was to be held, since the New York State Assembly had not yet acted upon Governor Kathy Hochul's amendments to the new law governing the creation of villages, but their decision was overturned by State Supreme Court Judge Stephan G. Schick, who issued an early morning order on Janu-

ary 18 that the vote was to be held as originally scheduled.

As of press time, the State Senate had approved the amendments, but the Assembly still had not. It was not clear whether there were enough votes in the Assembly to pass the measure.

Although the results of the referendum have not been certified, an unofficial report indicated that the creation of the village was overwhelmingly approved, as expected,

by a 224-2 margin.

If it becomes official, the village of Ateres will comprise approximately 1.5 square miles straddling the Thompson-Fallsburg line, with a population of 834 men, women, and children. Under the new state law, which will govern the creation of villages going forward, a minimum population of 1500 is among the requirements for forming a new village.

### HPAC HOSTS SUMMIT

The 3rd Annual MLK Day of Service Youth Summit



Featured speaker Duncan Kirkwood addresses participants during the Day of Service Youth summit at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center.

HURLEYVILLE — The 3rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Youth Summit was held on Friday, January 12 at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center. This free event was open to Sullivan County youth (grades 11 and 12) to experience the importance of their voice and their ability to act for change.

The day began with a viewing of Dr. Martin Luther King's "Blueprint for Life" speech, and was followed by a return engagement of the popular and dynamic keynote speaker, Duncan Kirkwood, Director of the Center for Resiliency at Villa Maria College, Army National Guard Master Resilience Trainer, and Author of "Re-

routing: Resilience Tools and Tactics".

The morning program then featured Sullivan County Poet Laureate Sharon Kennedy-Nolle, and Mykenzi Williams, Youth Poet Ambassador.

Participants were guided to create their personal blueprint for life through interactive activities designed to open their minds and hearts to greater service for themselves, their schools, and their communities. They also had the opportunity to interact with several "blueprint facilitators," volunteers with various backgrounds who shared their own stories and personal journeys. The day culminated with connections

to "doors of opportunity" through a variety of community partners.

The MLK Day of Service Youth Summit is presented by Sullivan 180, Action Toward Independence Inc., Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center, MISN CAPP (Maternal Infant Services Network Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention), Rural Migrant Ministries — YEG (Youth Economic Group), SALT (Sullivan Allies Leading Together), the Sullivan County Youth Bureau and the Center for Workforce Development.

Vote Held; Certification Awaits  
Legislative Action



## Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



### HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)

The members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First are dedicated to the ongoing revitalization of “the liveliest little hamlet in the Mountains.” This dedication is displayed through the collaboration and joint efforts with other community groups.

Hurleyville-Sullivan First is one of the sponsors of the “4th Annual SnO&W Snowshoe Walk & Run” on Saturday, February 24. The free event will begin at 10 a.m. at the entrance to the Hurleyville O&W Rail Trail on Main Street.

Members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First have begun working with the Hurleyville Hub on plans for festivals in 2024:

- 3rd Annual Hurleyville Summer Festivals on July 18 and August 15
- 3rd Annual Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival on October 13
- Holiday in Hurleyville on December 7.

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

### HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Bread of Life Food Pantry will be open on Thursday, February 22 and on Thursday, February 29 from 3 until 5 p.m.

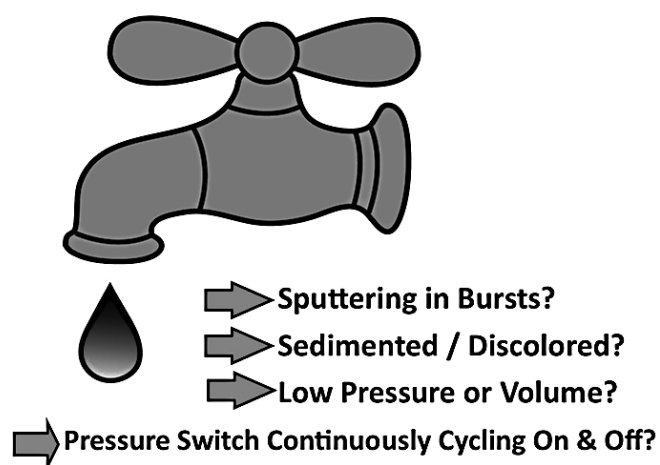
Sunday services are held at the church at 9 a.m. Children of all ages can attend Sunday school at the church during services. Please note there is no Sunday school on the first Sunday of the month.

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 to 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 church every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

## WATER PROBLEMS?



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[www.columbiahill.org](http://www.columbiahill.org)

[www.facebook.com/columbiahillny/](https://www.facebook.com/columbiahillny/)

“Messy Church” will be held on Saturday, February 10, on Saturday, March 9 and on Saturday, April 13 from 5 until 6:30 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 or Lonnie at 845-798-4809 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 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 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 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](http://www.scnyhistory.org) or on Facebook.

### COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

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. at the Hurleyville Firehouse, 166 Main Street.

The members of CHNA want to ensure that the Supervisor is aware of the community’s concerns with high density/non-sustainable residential development in Fallsburg. Major concerns of community residents include:

- Frightening scope of proposed developments
- Dangerous impact on water supply... municipal and private
- Adverse effect on neighboring wetlands
- Perilous effect on fire-fighting needs
- Harmful effects of runoff
- Wastewater treatment plant discharge
- Wastewater treatment plant failure
- Hazards of increased traffic
- Loss of community character

Visit CHNA at [www.columbiahill.org](http://www.columbiahill.org) and on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your environment and your community.

### A VALENTINE’S DAY IDEA

Many couples exchange a nice greeting  
One that expresses their love  
Some will give the other a present  
That says “You’re the one I’m thinking of.”

There are couples who plan a date night  
But others might decide to stay home  
The homebodies decide to pop popcorn  
Grab a beverage and turn off their phones

The relax and watch a good movie  
Later, talk of the love that they have  
Recount the years that they’ve been together  
Mixing wonderful times with the bad

This Valentine’s Day make others feel special  
Think of someone not your husband or wife  
Take note of a good friend or relative  
One who has deeply impacted your life

It’s the person with a shoulder to cry on  
An ear to listen or arms giving a hug  
Receiving a note or a card from you  
Will give their heartstrings a warm tug

Happy Valentine’s Day!

- Mimi  
February, 2024

## FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



### WHY IS FEBRUARY SO COLD?



PHOTO PROVIDED

Have you ever wondered why the month of February is always so cold here in the northern hemisphere?

You might expect that it is because the distance between the Earth and the Sun varies, and the farther away the Sun is, the colder the temperature. But, that isn’t necessarily true, and the answer is more complicated than it might seem.

According to the Almanac.com website, the distance of the Earth from the Sun varies from 91.4 million miles in early January to 94.5 million miles in July, meaning the Earth is actually closer to the Sun in our winter. So, that’s not it!

Instead, the website notes, “the answer lies in the 23.5 degree tilt of the earth’s orbit as it revolves around the sun.”

That tilt also accounts for the fact that the southern hemisphere experiences summer while the northern hemisphere is immersed in

winter, and vice versa.

Comparing the forecast for this upcoming month of February, 2024 with historical data, it is predicted that this year we will have a colder and wetter February than usual. The average temperature for Sullivan County in February is 22.76 degrees, but for this year we can expect an average temperature of just 20 degrees. Total precipitation for February 2024 is projected to be 3.5 inches, a full 1 inch above the average February total. Total snowfall for the month averages 13.7 inches, but for 2024 we should expect 14.16 inches of snow in February.

Of course, a forecast is just a forecast, and we can still hope that February will not be as cold as they say it will be, because you never know.

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

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## The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

And just like that “poof” I was transported back to Mid-west winters as a kid. I hope you are doing well as this instantaneous winter set in. I had forgotten (thankfully) what 13 degrees in full sun felt like. I had also forgotten how bone chilling a wind dropping the air to below zero at that same temperature can be. Yes, I did go out in it for three necessary stops.

A week ago Wednesday, I went out to CABERNET FRANK’S to see my friends CASWYN MOON and FAITH KELLY. These two have made the phrase “35 gigs in 40 days” a reality in their tours. They are back here until March, when they are off again in March. They too, are ones to see now in a small venue before you can’t. On that note, remember I said that about THE ELECTRIC CHORDS. New York City has discovered them with their second booking at the iconic THE BITTER END.

On the frigid last Friday, I ventured out to see SHANE RENNISON at the TANGO CAFE in Hurleyville. I heard him for the first time this summer at the HURLEYVILLE MUSIC FES-

Playing one’s original music

live, mingling with the patrons on a one to one basis in say, Nashville, is far more effective. Plus, that same brutal schedule vastly affects the performance as I have witnessed after they return. Their duets are stronger, their solos are more dynamic. And FAITH debuted some of her new material that will be released soon. Her unique style combined with her unbounding energy in her stage performance is unparalleled. CASWYN, with his more low key originals, is a great balance. Low key, but just as powerful. I strongly suggest getting out to see them before they are off again in March. They too, are ones to see now in a small venue before you can’t.

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TIVAL and I was impressed enough to stop and listen. Since then, he has released his first EP entitled NICE TO MEET YOU, which has, well, exploded in the buzz on the internet. And what does that mean? That means it has been reviewed by established podcasts, etc., put out by respected music critics, and it is all good. I don’t think I have ever seen so much good press on a new performer.

And it’s all valid. In person, SHANE delights with a laid back style with music with poignant lyrics whether it is a cover or an original. But don’t be swayed by “laid back.” There is a lot of power behind that music. And I can attest that all of the great reviews are justified. Bottom line is whatever the song, it resonates with the listener. Here’s another performer that you had better see now in the small venues.

Please join me in prayers for my friends STEVE and ANGEL, who are facing some health problems right now.

Stay safe, stay well, and stay WARM!

Until next time...

## SYDA Foundation Donates to Fallsburg Central School

FALLSBURG – On January 11, the SYDA Foundation donated \$4,000 to the Fallsburg Central School District. Gail Fairbank Roch, representing the SYDA foundation, personally delivered the check to Dr. Ivan Katz, Superintendent of Schools.

The SYDA Foundation has remained a close supporter of the school district for many years and has made yearly donations to the Fallsburg Central School District for decades. The funds will go toward supporting educational programs.

Dr. Katz, wishes to thank the SYDA Foundation for



PHOTO PROVIDED

FCSD Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz and Gail Fairbank-Roch of the SYDA Foundation.

their continuous support of the district and their generous donation.

“The SYDA Foundation

is a true school community partner and has been for many years,” Dr. Katz said.

## Sullivan 180 to Host Upcoming Trainings on Vaping Prevention

LIBERTY – Sullivan 180 will be holding two trainings for individuals to become facilitators of the evidence-based CATCH My Breath Youth Vaping Prevention Program. The trainings will take place on February 16 and March 15 from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. at the CVI Building in Liberty. Sullivan 180 is seeking school staff, youth workers, and community volunteers who are passionate about community health and are willing to lead this program with young people in school and after-school settings, as well as community youth organizations.

According to the Mid-Hudson Regional Community Health Needs Assessment, Sullivan County suffers from the highest rates of smoking in the Hudson Valley. The average age of a new smoker in New York State is 13 years old. The CATCH My Breath pilot study found

that if implemented as intended, roughly 45% of students would NOT try an e-cigarette in a given year. The overall goal of CATCH My Breath is to prevent the initiation of e-cigarette use among students and is designed to help students:

- Discover that non-use of e-cigarettes is the norm for adolescents
- Identify reasons why young people might start using e-cigarettes
- Recognize the subtle, and not so subtle, messages in e-cigarette advertising
- Practice skills for resisting peer pressure and advertising pressure to use e-cigarettes
- Decide on their personal reasons not to use e-cigarettes and set goals for future non-use

After completing the training, one trainee from the Boys & Girls Club recommended this training because “[they] are easy to understand and very informative. It gives [educators] a better understanding of how the youth may think when it comes to vaping.” A

nurse from Fallsburg Central School District wrote: “Go to this training! The info is important and good to know.”

Adults trained will gain free access to the complete curriculum to guide young people, grades 5–12, through the program which is known to reduce the chances of youth starting a lifelong addiction to nicotine. Educators will receive CTLE’s for completing this training thanks to an agreement with Sullivan BOCES. Partnering organizations including Catholic Charities and Tobacco Free Action Communities Reality Check Program will also be on hand to provide schools with support and additional resources.

Registration for this training is required by contacting Nicole Blais, Sullivan 180 Prevention Coordinator, at 845-295-2684 or [nicole@sullivan180.org](mailto:nicole@sullivan180.org).

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# FALLSBURG TOWN BOARD REORGANIZES

## MEETINGS MOVED TO YOUTH & SENIOR CENTER

by John Conway

**SOUTH FALLSBURG** — The Fallsburg Town Board held its reorganizational meeting on January 8, welcoming a new Supervisor and two new Councilmen.

Fallsburg Town Justice Robert Scheinman was on hand to swear in the officeholders, and Sullivan County Legislators Joe Perrello and Amanda Ward, both of whom represent legislative districts that include parts of the Town of Fallsburg, also attended, as did Town Clerk Paul Grogan.

Michael Bensimon, elected Supervisor by a large margin over incumbent Kathy

Rappaport in November, presided over his first meeting. The new Town Board members are Jeff Weiner and Nathan Steingart. Mr. Steingart has previously served on the Town Board. The two newcomers join incumbent Board members Sean Wall-Carty and Miranda Behan.

Mr. Bensimon has a background in finance and government, and ran on a platform of upgrading infrastructure in the town, in particular water and sewer, and “streamlining regulations to support entrepreneurship and bring new businesses” to the town.

“Ensuring we have reliable water and sewer systems, ad-

ressing traffic congestion, and enhancing emergency communications are crucial,” he told the Sentinel during the campaign. “We must also focus on protecting our natural resources and rural character while accommodating sustainable growth.”

The Town Board has announced that future meetings will be held on Tuesdays at the Senior/Youth Center at 12 Laurel Avenue in South Fallsburg. Following a legislative meeting on Tuesday, February 6, there are Town Board work sessions scheduled for February 13 and February 27. Both work sessions will be held at the Senior/Youth Center at 6 p.m.



Posing at the Fallsburg reorganizational meeting in January were (left to right): Councilmen Jeff Weiner and Nathan Steingart, Sullivan County Legislator Joe Perrello, Supervisor Michael Bensimon, Councilwoman Miranda Behan, Town Clerk Paula Grogan, Sullivan County Legislator Amanda Ward, and Councilman Sean Wall-Carty.

PHOTO PROVIDED

## TOWN OF HIGHLAND HOSTS PROGRAM

*Telling the Story of an 1892 Lynching in Port Jervis*

**ELDRÉD** — In honor of Black History Month, the town of Highland will present a program by Michael J. Worden at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 10 at the Town Hall in Eldred about the 1892 lynching of Robert Lewis in Port Jervis.

Mr. Worden’s book on the subject, “Lynched by a Mob” was released last year.

Robert Lewis was an African American who as a long-time resident and an employee of the Delaware House hotel was well known to the residents of Port Jervis. On June 2, 1892, he was accused of sexually assaulting a white woman. He was pursued and restrained by a mob of angry townspeople, dragged through the streets of the city, and

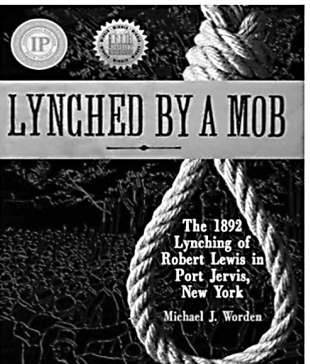
### LYNCHEd BY A MOB

**The 1892 Lynching of Robert Lewis in Port Jervis, New York**

**Date:** Saturday, February 10th

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Place:** Town of Highland Hall  
4 Proctor Road  
Eldred, NY 12732



In Honor of Black History Month, the Town of Highland welcomes Deepark Historian, retired detective, and true crime author Michael J. Worden to present his award-winning account of this lynching that took place in our own backyard. Admission is FREE. Books available for purchase and signing.

**Snow Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2024

For further information, call Highland Historian Debra Conway at 845-551-4808.

hanged from a tree. No one was ever charged in the crime, which was largely ignored by history until recently.

Mr. Worden, the town of Deepark Historian and a retired Port Jervis police detective, has thoroughly investigated the incident as only someone with his training could, and has presented on it often, including a recent program at the D&H Canal Museum in High Falls that was televised on CSpan.

The Town of Highland program has been organized by Town Historian Debra Conway. Admission is free. In case of postponement due to inclement weather, the snow date is Saturday, February 24.

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

## THE HEALTHIEST FIRE DEPARTMENT

*This Year’s Competition Heating Up*

**LIBERTY**-- With the success of the 2023 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge, and based on participant feedback, the 2024 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge launched on January 1, 2024. This year, 20 of Sullivan County’s Volunteer Fire Departments have joined, and in just three short weeks, have completed almost 200 healthy activities!

The challenge calls attention to the mental and physical health of our firefighters. From the moment the tones drop, a firefighter’s heart rate increases 47 beats per minute. Firefighting is physically and emotionally demanding. More than half of all firefighters have elevated blood pressure, are obese and pre-diabetic. 90% or more have poor diet or exercise habits, additionally, suffering from heart disease, PTSD and lead in suicide more than any other first responder. Firefighters

are consistently managing the balance between family, work and serving their community. Absorbing the trauma of each call has impacts that are not always visible or obvious.

“This challenge began last year, providing great opportunities for our firefighters to participate in some healthy fun, healthful, creative meals, and thinking outside the box challenges,” Sullivan County Fire Coordinator John Hauschild said. “This is another opportunity to honor our brave firefighters of Sullivan County for their commitment and hard work they have completed during the challenge to remain healthy.”

This year’s participating fire departments include Bloomingburg, Grahamsville, Highland Lake, Hortonville, Hurleyville, Jeffersonville, Kauneonga Lake, Lake Huntington, Livingston Manor, Loch Sheldrake,

Lumberland, Monticello, Narrowsburg, Rock Hill, Roscoe-Rockland, Smallwood-Mongaup Valley, White Lake, Woodridge, Wurtsboro, and Youngsville.

To make this challenge fun and competitive, departments receive credit in the form of “turtle points” for each health focused activity they complete. The department that earns the most turtles will be eligible for grant funding through Sullivan 180 and its partners. The grant level is based on the final points completed by September 1, 2024. The two departments that earn the most turtle points will be eligible for amounts of \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Additional grants will be awarded based on a tiered point system. Winners will be announced at the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Parade in Livingston Manor on September 7, 2024.

During last year’s chal-

lenge, departments chose better food options, increased physical activity, and recognized the sense of comradery that returned to their houses and between departments (with a little competition, as well). Grahamsville Fire was named the Healthiest Fire Department and awarded a well-deserved grant in the amount of \$15,000. Jeffersonville Fire was awarded a \$10,000 grant, coming in second. To follow the challenge and its participating departments, visit Sullivan180.org.

Sullivan 180 is working to build a healthy community, one degree at a time, through people, places and policy with support from Bold Gold Media Group, Manor Ink, The River Reporter, The Sullivan County Democrat and WJFF Radio Catskill. Learn more at Sullivan180.org or Facebook.com/Sullivan180inc.

## TIME AND THE VALLEYS HOSTS VIRTUAL TALK

*A Catskill Carnival: My Borscht Belt Life: Lived, Lost and Loved*

**GRAHAMSVILLE**-- “A Catskill Carnival: My Borscht Belt Life: Lived, Lost and Loved,” is an illustrated talk by author Bart A. Charlow on his book by the same name, to be held virtually by the Time and the Valleys Museum on Sunday, February 11, at 2 p.m.

The program is a memoir of Bart Charlow’s early years growing up at the Irvington Hotel in South Fallsburg, coming to terms with it, and cherishing its life lessons. Mr. Charlow describes memories of his youth, the hotel scene, and more. It takes you behind the scenes, where life was tough, turbulent, and alternately warm and hard. This is the real Borscht Belt, told by a third generation insider with no illusions. Set during the Golden Age of the Borscht Belt, learn how it flourished and faltered, how it felt to watch the life you knew and your livelihood fall apart, and how to pick it all up again in new ways. The dying embers of a life that was never before and will never be again.

Admission to this virtual only program is free for Museum members, and \$5 for non-members. To join the program, please register by email at [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org) and put Borscht Belt Talk in the subject line, or call 845 985-7700. A link will be sent to you. Non-members will be asked to please first make a donation on the Museum’s



PHOTO PROVIDED

A popular postcard showing the Irvington Hotel in South Fallsburg.

website: [www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org).

About the speaker: Born into the carnival life of a Borscht Belt Catskills hotel family, Bart A. Charlow, has never let the ordinary constrain him. From professional photography to painting, he has always set his creativity free, now entering into the realm of authorship. His first book, “A Catskill Carnival: My Borscht Belt Life Lived, Lost and Loved,” is a memoir of his early years in a unique setting, coming to terms with it and cherishing its life lessons.

Retiring from over 50 years

as a career CEO, a Licensed Family Therapist, and an educator, today Mr. Charlow shares the wisdom gained by acting as a coach and mentor to nonprofit executives. His background is broad and deep. Originally trained in the sciences, he switched majors to Anthropology, later attaining a Masters Degree in Counseling.

He has been a favored speaker on TV, radio and in print media for decades. Among honors he holds is the Jefferson Award for his community leadership and service. For pleasure, he pursues plein air painting and leads

a group of artists regularly. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, grown children and grandchildren.

About the Time and the Valleys Museum: Connecting Water People and the Catskills, the Museum is open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., Memorial Day through September and from October to May by appointment and during programs. Located at 332 Main Street in Grahamsville (St. Rt. 55), admission for adults is a suggested donation of \$5, children under 16 \$2, and children under six are free.

I’ve noticed the same words cropping up again and again in articles about the prospects for the year ahead. One of them is “trepidation.” Another is “unprecedented.” Then there are multiple variations on the themes of “gloomy, daunting, and fraught.”

I’ve felt these things, too. It makes adopting a resolution for the new year challenging; it certainly takes the wind out of the sails of aspirational uplift, those rosy mottos we like to draw on for support in the face of uncharted territory. Every new year is uncharted territory, of course, but the extent of 2024’s is off the charts. The start of a presidential election year folds quadrennial concerns into the mix of perennial ones: global warming, spreading wars, the ever-evolving COVID virus.

Deep into January I was still irresolute. Then I read the following passage in Naomi Klein’s “**Doppelganger**” (an indispensable book), in which she recounts sending a copy of one of her previous books to English writer and activist John Berger:

“Many people have said they found the book enraging, but his response was very different. He wrote that, for him, the



### Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

book ‘provokes and instills a calm.’ When people and societies enter into a state of shock, they lose their identities and their footing, he observed. ‘Hence, calm is a form of resistance.’”

“Calm is a form of resistance.” Now, those are the words I will carry with me into this new year – not quite a resolution or command, but a simply stated observation with coiled power at its heart.

The opposite of calm is: agitated, distracted, unsettled. These are the feelings that underlie all those “trepidation” pieces I’d been reading. Intensify those feelings, intensify agitation and distraction enough, and you are unable to get a handle on what’s happening; you lose your footing, as Berger said – you become unmoored.

of governance in his novel “1984,” that it was “designed to diminish the range of thought.” But the public speech of our time, and the algorithms by which it is propagated and circulates through the body politic, seems designed to disable the very faculty of thought itself.

Klein and Berger are each clear about what they mean by calm. “It’s important to distinguish between numbness and calmness,” cautions Klein. Calm is not about turning away, averting one’s glance, or withdrawing into a state of quiescence. It is about clear perception, seeing what’s in front of one’s nose, making connections, deepening comprehension. It arises from active engagement, not from passivity. It can co-exist with outrage and passion, and not be eclipsed by them.

Calm is a form of resistance to the destabilizing effects of living in a state of reaction – upset, anger, fear – that is renewed on a daily basis. A condition of hyper-reactivity is induced by constant exposure to social media, that “sea of non

sequiturs,” Klein calls it, a sea that sweeps one up and pulls one down; it’s induced by the threat of violence in the land, and by violent rhetoric that sucker-punches your adrenals and sends cortisol surging through your system.

The opposite of living in reaction is reflection, “the methodical work of mapping the moment and ordering the inundation of information that we are all in,” as Klein defines and exemplifies it in “**Doppelganger**.” Such methodical work is the product of reflection, and calm is a prerequisite for the work of reflection.

At a time when losing one’s footing, a sensation of a vertiginous slippage, is a daily experience, a mere headline-scan away, it is good to invoke the power of reflection, a precious human endowment. That power can be blunted or enhanced; it cannot be taken away. Cultivating that capacity in the year ahead will likely be not just a form of resistance, but a matter of survival.

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## From the Firehouse

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



### THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BUREAU OF FIRE

#### WANTS TO KNOW

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT STORM?



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

We have picked up a new firefighter this year already. Welcome aboard Cristobal Isler Biaz.

Fire stats are in for 2023. Overall fire calls for Sullivan County were down 300 calls from 2022. There were 6,406 total calls dispatched in 2023. Activated alarms in 2022 were 1,587 and for 2024 there were 1,537, brush fires in 2022 were 117 and in 2023 98, there were 325 structure fires in 2022 and 321 in 2023, drownings/water rescues 22 in 2022 and 15 in 2023, other types of rescues calls in 2022 there were 35 and in 2023 there were 50, dispatches to motor vehicle accidents (MVA) in 2022 were 780 and in 2023 there were 743 and there were 487 calls in 2022 for trees & wires down and in 2023 there were 497.

In 2023 there were 85 Line of Duty Deaths (LODD) in the fire service nationwide. This is down from 101 in 2022 and 139 for 2021. There is as of January one LODD. Remember here in Sullivan County we are all Professional Volunteer Firefighters.

We have had some snow in the last few weeks and I would like to remind those plowing please do not plow snow up against a fire hydrant.

The weather has been a mixed bag of unceasingly warm, then freezing, rain, snow, sleet and whatever Mother Nature throws at us. Are you ready for the next storm emergency? Will you be OK without power for a couple of days?

The Hurleyville Fire Department in cooperation with the Town of Fallsburg Youth Commission will be holding their 36th Annual

Ice Fishing Contest, Saturday, February 10th, 2024. The contest will take place on Morningside Lake, 614 Brickman Road in Hurleyville from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Registration will take place the day of the contest at the lake. Registration is \$5.00 for adults and free for those 15 and under.

As I write this article, in the third week in January there is enough ice for fishing, but we will need more for the contest. You can check my Facebook page for updates. J.W. Halchak

Refreshments and bait will be available. We will also drill holes for you if needed.

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

There is also a special Firemen's Contest. The RICH FARQUHAR MEMORIAL CHIEF'S CUP goes to the top firemen's fishing team. A team can be one, ten or as many that show up. All team members MUST belong to the same fire department. There is a first, second and third place team trophy in the fireman's contest. I am sure past champions Smallwood Mongaup Valley, Monticello, Neversink and the Loch Sheldrake Fire Departments will be there in full force to try and win it again.

This contest has produced some real big fish in the past years. As in the past, a good time is had by all. For more information please contact:

J.W. Halchak (845) 436-5418 or George Price (845) 434-3475 or on Facebook J.W. Halchak

Visit us at [www.hurlevillenyc.com](http://www.hurlevillenyc.com) to see pictures of previous contests.

BE Safe Out There. Use Common Sense.

## CAS Celebrates Black History Month

Thurman Barker and Paul D. Miller a/k/a DJ Spooky

LIVINGSTON MANOR -- Catskill Art Space is pleased to announce a multimedia evening of contemporary performance in celebration of Black History Month at Catskill Art Space, 48 Main Street, Livingston Manor, kicking off President's Day Weekend on Saturday, February 17. The evening will begin with "African/American Composers, Then and Now," a lecture and performance presented by Thurman Barker, from 4 - 5 p.m., followed by screening of DJ Spooky's multimedia film remix, "Rebirth of a Nation," from 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. Both events take place in CAS's second floor River Gallery. Mr. Barker and Paul D. Miller, a/k/a DJ Spooky, will be in attendance for audience questions and talk-back. The two performance events offer opportunities to reflect on the important artistic contributions of Black artists, while examining historic and present-day narratives around race and power in America.

Thurman Barker's presentation and performance invites audiences to examine the impact of Black Jazz composers on compositional music today. The narrative intertwines historical context with Mr. Barker's own orchestral compositions, drawing on his experience writing for chamber orchestra and work with orchestras in Chicago and New York. The presentation includes live performance from the dynamic percussionist himself of selections from Mr. Barker's trio's latest release, "IMPACT!"

Paul D. Miller, a/k/a DJ Spooky's "Rebirth of a Nation" reinterprets D.W. Griffith's infamously racist silent film, "The Birth of a Nation," to create a commentary on exploitation and political corruption in America's history and present-day society. Mr. Miller writes, "We live in an age where media across all platforms has come to reflect the toxic sensibility of an era dominated by a hyper-partisan political discourse. 'The Birth of a Nation' is generally considered one of the most controversial films of all time, and could be considered a precursor to the media landscape of our time."

#### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Thurman Barker is a celebrated percussionist who built his career on innovation. As a professional musician, composer, and college professor, he brings endless passion and decades of experience together to entertain, educate, and expand the horizons of his art. Since creating Uptee Records in the early 80s, Mr. Barker has previously released six recordings as a leader. In 2016, Mr. Barker began writing for Chamber Orchestra. His wealth of knowledge was built through his association with countless incredible collaborators. Most notable musical experiences have been with the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). As a charter member of the group, Mr. Barker first appeared in AACM productions with Joseph Jarman's pioneering ensembles. He then went on to record and play with many members, including Dr. Muhal Richard Abrams, Amina Claudine Meyers, Anthony Braxton,

Leroy Jenkins, Roscoe Mitchell, and Henry Threadgill. After moving to New York in the late 70s, Mr. Barker worked and recorded with Sam Rivers and Cecil Taylor. Thurman Barker became a Professor Emeritus of Bard College in Music/Jazz Studies in June 2021. He is a recipient of a 2022 NYSCA award for composition as well as numerous Meet the Composer grants.

Paul D. Miller, aka DJ Spooky, is currently Artist in Residence at Yale University Center for Collaborative Arts and Media (2023-2024, extended). He is a composer, multimedia artist, and writer whose work engages audiences in a blend of genres, global culture, and environmental and social issues. Mr. Miller has collaborated with an array of recording artists, including Ryuichi Sakamoto, Metallica, Chuck D from Public Enemy, Steve Reich, and Yoko Ono amongst many others. His 2018 album, DJ Spooky Presents: Phantom Dancehall, debuted at #3 on Billboard Reggae. Mr. Miller currently lives and works in Roscoe, NY.

#### ABOUT CATSKILL ART SPACE

Catskill Art Space (CAS) explores contemporary art practices of emerging and established artists. Through exhibitions, performances, classes, lectures, and screenings, CAS fosters creative community in the Catskills.

Established as Catskill Art Society in 1971, CAS reopened in October 2022 as Catskill Art Space following a major renovation and expansion of its multi-arts center, located in the picturesque hamlet of Livingston Manor in the Western Catskills. CAS presents a rotating slate of exhibitions, performances and other events featuring national and regional talents, alongside long-term installations of works by James Turrell, Sol LeWitt, Francis Cape, and Ellen Brooks. Learn more at [catskillartspace.org](http://catskillartspace.org).



PHOTO PROVIDED

Thurman Barker

FROM THE FILES OF...

# THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburg

COMPILED BY Sullivan County Historian John Conway

### February 19, 1937 Airport for Sullivan is Otto Hillig's Plea

Assemblyman Otto Hillig appeared before the Sullivan County board of Supervisors to urge progress on the proposed Sullivan County Airport. Pointing out that there is now no field in the county large enough any but small planes, Mr. Hillig said he thought a large port would benefit the territory in many ways and probably would be the means of increasing its visitors.

He said he, as a member of the aviation committee of the Assembly, would aid the county in any way possible. The landing field, however, is purely a county project under WPA. The federal government has approved the field, and WPA funds were reportedly set aside for it some time ago. Up to now, board members have complained that there is not enough labor available in the county to proceed with the project. It is understood that about 100 laborers would be required. A recent report on unemployment figures indicated there were between 150 and 200 men unemployed.

#### Hurleyville School Notes

The Senior operetta, entitled "Hansel and Gretel" is ready to be resented tonight, Friday, February 19, This affair is to be a very successful one as a large crowd is expected. The scenery for the play was cleverly constructed and painted by our very competent artist, Mrs. LaBagh. Mrs. Wood, who is in charge of the costumes, has done a remarkable job in this line. The musical selections, under the direction of Miss Horne, are beautifully sung, with the sweet voices of the children blending with the mature voices of the older children.

The story of Hansel and Gretel is illustrated perfectly and beautifully in this



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO  
Otto Hillig

operetta, as it was produced at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City, only in miniature style.

Last Wednesday, the Hurleyville basketball team beat the Fallsburg team with a final score of 16-15. At the end of the first half, the score was 11-3 in favor of the Fallsburg boys, but the second half showed speed and rapid progress on the part of our team. Thursday evening, Hurleyville will meet Woodridge at the Woodridge school. The boys are making preparations and have been practicing hard for the Jeffersonville game this Tuesday evening at the Hurleyville school.

#### News and Personal Notes About Town

Shirley Todras returned home this week after a visit with relatives in New York. Her small nephew, Harold Halsby, returned with her for a vacation.

Misses Gail and Pearl Jacobson and brother Perk spent Sunday with relatives in New York.

Burton Knapp, after a month's sojourn in Miami, Fla. with his parents, has returned to Hurleyville.

Mrs. Maxwell Pierce, principal of a school at Glenhead, L.I., visited relatives in Liberty over the weekend, and spent Wednesday here with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Durland. Mrs. Pierce, the former Grace Evans DeKay, is well known in this region.

### February 26, 1937 Week-end Business Good, Hotel Managers Report

Hotels and boarding houses throughout the County reported unusually good patronage for the Washington's Birthday week-end. In spite of bad

weather, hundreds came into the County by rail, bus and private car. Sunday's heavy rains ruined skating and kept a majority of the visitors indoors during the entire stay. Hotelmen reported there had not been a comparable mid-winter week-end crowd during the recovery period.

#### Rain Damages Roads

Supervisors who visited the Courthouse Tuesday reported damage to town and county roads from mudslides and washouts as a result of the heavy rains over the week-end was almost as extensive as the usual spring damage.

#### Hurleyville School Notes

On Tuesday evening, the Jeffersonville basketball team met our varsity to play a very interesting and very close game. At the end of the first half, Hurleyville was in a five point lead and still were in that position at the close of the third quarter. The final quarter saw some well-directed long distance shots on the Jeffersonville team and with the aid of a few free throws, tied the score at 14-all. The game ended in a draw, so an overtime period was played. In this last heat, the Jeffersonians won the game by three points. Fine playing and good sportsmanship was displayed by both teams.

### February 2018 Healthcare Number One

For the first time ever in this country there are more people employed in healthcare than in any other sector of the economy. In this case, Sullivan County is considerably ahead of the curve, as that milestone occurred here in 2012. And healthcare became the number one employer in New York State five years before that.

"In 2000, there were 7 million more workers in manufacturing than in health care. At the beginning of the Great Recession, there were 2.4 million more workers in retail than health care. In 2017, health care surpassed both," Derek Thompson writes in a recent article in The Atlantic entitled "Healthcare Just Became the U.S.'s Largest Employer," citing statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Fallsburg CSD Celebrates Students-On-A-Roll Recipients

FALLSBURG -- On January 18, the Fallsburg Central School District presented 61 students with the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Student-On-A-Roll Award. This award recognizes students who have made significant strides academically and behaviorally. Students are nominated by teachers who have observed their growth in the past marking period.

The following Student-On-A-Roll recipients are: Celeste Aguilar Calderon, Holman Bacca Bonilla, Diego Balcazar Lavin, Saladin Basic, Andrew Bensimon, Xzander Berrios, Sarah Blume, Monica Brown, Mario, Cadena Romero, Ayden Carpenito, Nehemiah Damon, Surey Delgado, Maddelynn DeMondo-Gernant, Deysi Diaz Hernandez, Niyilah JEmptage, Luis Fajardo Molina, Emabella Ferreira, Brayan Pavon Flores, Daniel Fontane, Demetrius Fontane,



PHOTO PROVIDED

Student-On-A-Roll recipients left to right) Amanda Gutierrez Rodriguez, Holman Bacca Bonilla, and Emmett Kleingardner, with Fallsburg JSHS principal, Shana Bruestle.

Natalie Fuentes Blandon, Fatoumata Gai, Isabella Gonzalez, Jancarlos Guardado, Daniella Gutierrez Aleman, Amanda Gutierrez Rodriguez, Leeland J Hadden, William Hamilton, Mikayla Harrington, Mykala Hines, Jefferson Jami Cocha, Senaida Jeronimo Sanchez, Jozyr McNeil, Katherine I Juarez Cadena,

Zoe Ketcham, Emmett Kleingardner, Dalila Koljenovic, Azon Laurel, Cessy Lezama Rodriguez, Tiffany Maccagli, Stefan Mapes, Douglas Medina Carcamo, Emy Sierra Mejia, Heysel Mejia Corcio, Dayana Murillo Madrid, Danielle Olsen, Brayan Pavon Flores, Justin Peralta Rosa, Easton D. Pugh, Selina Rodriguez,

Jeybi L Rodriguez Canales, Keily Rosales Charuc, Swarly Salguero Palacios, Axel Salinas Mejia, Marilyn Santos, Tracy Severino Paredes, Conner Torres, Naronline Umanzor Reyes, Marisol Vasquez Nunez, Sierrra Velazquez, and Mabelin Videz Zacarias.



#### OUR NEW LOCATION:

250 MAIN STREET  
HURLEYVILLE, NY 12747

#### OUR NEW HOURS:

Wednesday	4:00pm - 7:00pm	Open Studio
Friday	3:00pm - 5:00pm	
Saturday	11:00am - 4:00pm	

845.693.1674  
[www.fiberonmain.com](http://www.fiberonmain.com)  
[fiberstudioonmain@gmail.com](mailto:fiberstudioonmain@gmail.com)

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# OVERTHROW

An Original Short Story by Jack Robbin

I had a feeling on that Monday morning in September of 1939 that the hotel fire I was called in to investigate was something more than just a random accident, but at the time I had absolutely no idea the adventure it would soon lead me on.

In my more than seven years as Fallsburg Town Constable, I had encountered many different types of crimes and almost as many different types of criminals, but the case that began to unfold that morning stands in a class by itself.

My phone rang shortly after seven o'clock, just as Irene and I were sitting down to breakfast. I was closest to the phone and picked it up on the second ring. It was my old friend Jay Lass, a Sullivan County Deputy Sheriff.

"I hope you've had your breakfast already," he said after we had exchanged perfunctory greetings. "Harry wants you to meet us at Lasky's Lodge. We'll be there in about 20 minutes."

"Okay," I answered, looking for a little more information. "Can you tell me what it's about?"

"I would, but I'm not entirely sure myself," Jay replied. "There was a fire there overnight, and old man Lasky seems to think it's something we're going

to want to take a look at."

I agreed to meet Jay and his boss, Sullivan County Sheriff Harry Borden, at Lasky's Lodge, and hung up the phone. Since the old hotel was just five minutes or so from my house by car, I sat back down to finish my breakfast, engaging Irene in small talk until it was time to leave.

"I'd better get going," I told her as I grabbed my car keys off the counter. "You know Borden doesn't like to be kept waiting."

She smiled and nodded.

I pulled up to the main house at the Lasky Lodge before Borden and Lass arrived, got out of the car and surveyed the area. The hotel was small by current Sullivan County standards, and the main building was a three-and-a-half story wood-framed structure, dating back to about 1890, and renovated several times since. One of those efforts had involved a stucco finish and the addition of a few flourishes designed to evoke the then-trendy Mission style architecture that had since gone out of fashion. I knew there were several other buildings on the grounds, including a couple of houses, one of which had been built by Samuel Lasky shortly after he bought the place about 20 years before. Some workers lived in the

other home. There was also an annex building, containing about 20 guest rooms that had been built about the same time as the residences, and a casino, constructed more recently.

There was no sign of anything amiss outside the main house, but I could smell smoke, which I determined came from around back. Just as I took a few steps to investigate, the Sheriff's car pulled up with Jay at the wheel. Borden was seated in the back. Jay got out and opened the door for him and he climbed out, looking a bit childlike standing next to Jay's six-foot-two inch frame.

Harry Broden looked more like a politician than a law enforcement official. He wore glasses and his thinning hair was close cropped. He was dressed in a sharply pressed dark grey suit, crisp white shirt and a light grey tie with a subtle red stripe running through it. His black shoes were freshly shined. He had been elected to a second three-year term the previous November, becoming the first Sullivan County Sheriff to succeed himself, thanks to a change in the New York State law.

I watched while he stood there silently, sniffing the air. Then he nodded to Jay and the two men walked to-

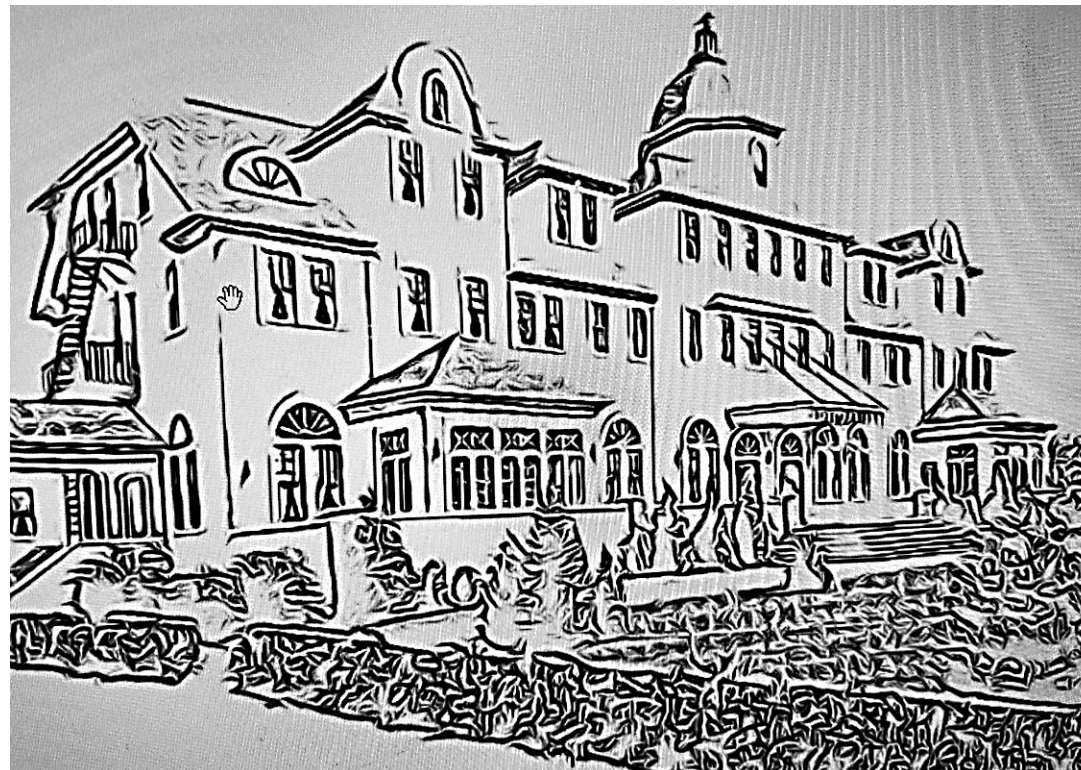


ILLUSTRATION BY JACK ROBBIN

The main building was three-and-a-half stories, and had been remodeled with a stucco exterior and palladian windows to evoke the once popular Mission style architecture.

ward me, Borden in front, and Jay two steps behind him.

"Kelly, I think you get taller every time I see you," Borden said smirking, extending his hand, which surprised me. "Thanks for meeting us."

"Of course," I said, shaking his hand perfunctorily. "I take it this is about the fire I can smell, but there must be more to the story?"

Borden shrugged, and looked back at Jay.

"Tell him what we know, Jay."

"Not much really, Bronco.

Lasky called this morning, told me he had discovered the fire late last night, put it out himself, and said he was sure it wasn't an accident. He asked me to come out and have a look. I thought we'd better have you come along."

The three of us started walking around the side of the main house toward the back, and just as the charred remains of a small building came into view, so did a large older man with a stubble of a black and grey beard.

"Gentlemen," he said in

a deep gravelly voice as we approached. "Thank you for coming. I have something to show you I think you will find very interesting."

"You're Lasky?" Borden asked.

"Yes, my apologies," the man said. "I'm Samuel Lasky. Constable Kelly and Deputy Lass I know, but I don't believe we have ever met."

"Sheriff Borden."

"Of course. I should have recognized you. I voted for you twice."

"Hopefully not in the same election," Jay said,

chuckling. Borden shot him a glance.

"So what do you want to show us?" I asked Lasky. "Something to do with the fire?"

"Yes, to do with the fire. Bobby, one of my workers, lives in that house... well, he did, until last night. We were working late, draining the pipes in the cellar of the main building here, trying to get finished before the cold weather, when we heard an explosion. An explosion. Like nothing I have ever heard. We came running out, and the house was burning, already beyond saving."

"Okay, so maybe there was gasoline or coal oil in the house that ignited somehow?" I asked.

"It was not that kind of explosion," Lasky said, obviously annoyed. "It was like nothing I have ever heard."

He started to walk toward the smoldering ruins of the house.

"Bobby and I worked for hours to get the fire out," he continued. "We couldn't even sound an alarm because we were afraid one of the other buildings would catch. Bobby just now went to get cleaned up. As you can see, I haven't even been to bed yet."

"So what is it you want to show us?" Borden asked once we had reached what

had been the house.

"Over here," Lasky said, walking beyond the embers to a grassy area and a clump of trees that showed signs of being singed by the blaze.

"There are tire tracks here in the ground, where there shouldn't be, and a bunch of these," he said, bending down and picking up something small he held up to show us.

"What is that?" Borden asked.

"A match. There are a few of them here on the ground, all used."

"So you think someone drove in here and intentionally started the fire?" Borden asked.

"I think someone bombed the place," Lasky answered.

*Welcome to the start of another Bronco Kelly adventure by local author Jack Robbin. Bronco Kelly is a fictional character, but many of his adventures are based on actual historical events. The Lasky Lodge and Samuel Lasky are also fictional, but Sheriff Harry Borden and Deputy Jay Lass are real life historical figures, although no representation is made as to the accuracy of their characterizations in the story. Watch for Part II of Overthrow in the March edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel.*

## STUDENT DAYS AT FORT DELAWARE

### 2024 Schedule Announced

NARROWSBURG — The Delaware Company, the Barryville-based non-profit history education group that operates Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg, has announced the 2024 schedule for Student Days at the Fort.

For decades, school groups from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania have taken advantage of the special rates to spend a day at the living history museum, where interpreters in period attire tell the stories of Cushtunk, the first permanent European settlement in the Upper Delaware River Valley. Often times, schools will also include a narrated visit to the nearby Minisink Battleground as part of the trip. The Battleground was the site of a Revolutionary War battle in which residents of Cushtunk fought on both sides.

"We invite students to learn about the Lenape tribe of Indigenous People and their interaction with the European settlers, visit with a working blacksmith, explore frontier



PHOTO PROVIDED

Students visit with the blacksmith at Fort Delaware during the spring of 2023.

cabins, learn from candle makers, spinners and weavers, and about 18th century medicine," said Debra Conway, Executive Director of the Delaware Company. "And they will also learn about the important role the environment-- the river, the forests,

the soil-- played in the life of these early settlers."

Student Days for 2024 are currently scheduled for Thursdays and Fridays, May 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31, and June 6, 7, 13, and 14 in the spring, and

September 19, 20, 26, 27 and October 3, and 4 in the fall.

For more information about Fort Delaware Museum, contact The Delaware Company via email at [info@thedelawarecompany.org](mailto:info@thedelawarecompany.org).

## DRAMATIC WORKSHOP ANNOUNCES CABARET

HURLEYVILLE — The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop is happy to announce its 2024 February Cabaret. Three performances, Feb. 16, 17 & 18, will keep audiences tapping their feet, clapping their hands, and singing along as a very talented cast leads a trip down a magical, musical path of melodic tributes to classic Broadway, movies and more.

Directed by Richie Chiger with Leon Hilfsstein on keyboard, Richie and Teri Paris hold the event together as emcees. The multi-talented performers include Heather Strauss, Maria Nardi, Dylan Jones,

Alberto Santiago, Amber Schmidt, Teri Paris, Lynne Porter, Annabelle Segal, Lori Schneider, Isabel Lopez-Diaz, Sally Gladden, Makenzie Rainey, Lordesa Hunt and Lilyanna Mitchell.

Performances are live, on-stage, at The Center Stage, 269 Main Street, Hurleyville. 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16 and Saturday, Feb. 17, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 18.

General admission is \$12 and includes coffee and desserts. For more information, call Producer Dawn Perneszi at 845-796-8399 or email her at [nyx6117@yahoo.com](mailto:nyx6117@yahoo.com).

## Radio Catskill Helping Build a Statewide Network

LIBERTY— A dozen public media newsrooms across New York state have joined forces to form the New York Public News Network (NYPNN).

Radio Catskill is now part of a stronger team to enhance collaboration and information sharing. By coordinating editorial planning and sharing digital, audio, and video stories, the NYPNN aims to offer deeper, more relevant coverage, reduce overlap, and feature the broadest possible range of diverse voices that make the Empire State special and unique.

"Joining NYPNN transforms our journalism coverage for our listeners," said Tim Bruno, General Manager of Radio Catskill. "As part of this statewide network, we're able to connect our communities to the unique issues, perspectives, and ideas that influence our lives and that broaden our understanding."

The following public media stations are part of this initiative:

WAER, Syracuse  
WAMC, Albany  
WBFO, Buffalo  
WJFF (Radio Catskill), Liberty  
WMHT, Albany  
WNYC, New York City  
WRVO, Oswego  
WSHU, Connecticut/  
Long Island  
WSKG, Vestal  
WSLU (North Country



PHOTO PROVIDED

Left to right: Patricio Robayo (WJFF), Jason Dole (WJFF), David Sommerstein (NCPR), Tom Magnarelli (WSKG), Emily Russell (NCPR), Denise Young (WXXI), Randy Gorbman (WXXI), and J.D. Allen (WSHU).

Public Radio), Canton  
WLIW, Long Island  
WXXI, Rochester

The stations understand the significance of collaboration and sharing among its member newsrooms to maximize reporting efficiency and provide New Yorkers with a comprehensive understanding of major stories across the state, from climate change to policing, health care and gun rights. The effort builds on the work of Karen DeWitt, who has covered state government and politics for all the stations from the Capitol Bureau in Albany since 1990.

"It's so important to keep our listeners all across New York informed about what goes on at the Capitol and to explain how it impacts their daily lives — this new

collaboration builds on that work," Ms. DeWitt said.

A representative from each member station participates in a weekly meeting to share insights on the statewide significance of locally produced stories to actively find ways and opportunities for targeted statewide collaboration throughout the week.

The originating station retains editorial control over shared content, while the receiving station may edit content to fit its broadcast needs. To meet ethical journalism standards, a correction policy is outlined, ensuring swift corrections for inaccuracies and proper communication with other stations.

## BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY



Thursday, February 22nd  
Thursday, February 29th

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Hurleyville United Methodist Church  
263 Main Street  
Hurleyville

**Russell's Garage**

- 24 Hour Towing & Flatbed Service •
- Complete Automotive Repair •

738 Loch Sheldrake Hurleyville Rd  
Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759  
(845)436-0037

Join us for the 4th Annual  
**Sno&W Snowshoe Walk & Run**  
along the historic O&W Rail Trail in Hurleyville  
**Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 10 AM**

O&W Rail Trail Entrance | 212 Main Street, Hurleyville  
Off-street parking available; leashed dogs welcome

Participants are encouraged to bring their own snowshoes or similar gear if they have them. The first 20 people to arrive needing equipment will receive their choice of either a free snowshoe or microspike rental, depending upon trail conditions. Snowshoe rentals will be available at a discounted rate of \$12 through Fortress Bikes, and Morgan Outdoors will be offering a "Sno&W Special" microspike rental for only \$5 (normally \$12).

This free event is brought to you by:



# SENTINEL SPORTS



## BUILDING A WINNING CULTURE

### THE RISE OF FALLSBURG FOOTBALL

FALLSBURG — Good things come to those who wait, and that especially rings true for the Fallsburg Comets varsity football team. After finishing the 2023 season with a 5-3 record and winning their first-ever playoff game, the Comets have a newfound optimism for their program’s future. They are also entering into uncharted territories as they have never before experienced a period of success. Their path to becoming a winning program has been a long and challenging one.

Things were off to a disappointing start for Fallsburg when they began their varsity program. From 2010 to 2012, the team finished with a 1-26 record and was outscored 1,135-260. Problems with the program went beyond just a lack of playing experience. Losing players due to being academically ineligible was the most significant setback. But most

of all, the team also found it challenging to draw interest from more students to play. This ultimately led to the program to fold.

Despite no varsity football team in 2013 and 2014, the District maintained its modified and junior varsity programs. The possibility of reviving the varsity team was in serious doubt. It only took the resilience and initiative of Dominick Scanna, a Benjamin Cosor Elementary School first-grade teacher and experienced youth baseball coach, to restore hope in a comeback.

Coach Scanna was determined to keep the program alive in any way possible after becoming the head coach of the restored varsity team in 2015. The program’s absence disheartened him, but he was also concerned about the lack of football sports connection with the district and community. He believed sports, particularly football, are essential to

building community bonds.

“I figured that it [the varsity football program] would be a good program for our community,” he said. “It felt like our community was severed; there wasn’t a good connection between the school and community. Football can fix that.”

He viewed the role of a coach as more than simply guiding the players to victory but also being a positive influence in the players’ lives. He wanted to create an environment that allowed his players to flourish outside of the football field. Providing extra tutorial help, hosting team dinners, and opening the weight room in the offseason offered such an environment. But despite his best efforts, many of the problems that plagued the team in their first few seasons continued to persist.

The Comets finished their first season back in 2015 with a 0-7 record, one of



Coach Dominick Scanna addresses the Fallsburg squad.

PHOTO PROVIDED

their losses resulting from a forfeit. Things only worsened in 2016, as the team registered another winless record of 0-8; all but three games resulted in a forfeit

due to a lack of eligible players. With no end in sight to their roster and performance issues, the program folded yet again in 2017.

This seemed like it was indeed the final nail in the program’s coffin. A glimmer of new hope came to pass in 2018, thanks in part

to the introduction of eight-man football. The program now had another fighting chance for survival.

Several schools throughout Sullivan County transitioned to eight-man football, and Fallsburg was right there with them. Coach Scanna would not take this

new opportunity for granted, as he believed it was the team’s last saving grace.

“We went to eight-man to save our program,” he said. “A lot of schools went to eight-man to win and build off of wins and hopefully bring [more] players in. Because if you win, kids want to play. We did it strictly to save our program.”

The transition to eight-man football did pay off significantly as the team snapped their 29-game losing streak (which was the New York State record at the time) in the 2018 season. Although, the win didn’t come until the very last game when Fallsburg triumphantly defeated visiting Dover 34-26. That single win, after it looked certain that the team was headed for another winless

season, was precisely the kind of momentum the team needed.

There were clear signs of maturity and growth within the Fallsburg football program in the following seasons. The team has compiled a 13-21 record between the 2019 and 2023 seasons. There was also a considerable decline in the number of players on the academically ineligible list throughout this period, with 2023 being the first season not to have a single player make the list. And after achieving the once unthinkable endeavor of winning a playoff game, Fallsburg now strives for newer heights.

The 2024 season will introduce new challenges to the Fallsburg football team as they transition back to 11-man football and elevate to Class B competition. When asked about how he feels about the change, Coach Scanna said, “The goal of our program was to go back to 11-man and not to stay as an eight-man for life.”

### Fallsburg Recognizes Scholar Athletes

FALLSBURG — In January, 38 Fallsburg CSD student-athletes were recognized as NYSPHSAA scholar-athletes for the 2023 Fall season.

Each season, the NYSPHSAA honors teams and individuals who excel academically. To qualify as a scholar-athlete team, at least three-quarters of the students on the team must have a grade point average of 90.00 or above. The Fallsburg girls’ cross-country and volleyball teams were recognized as scholar-athlete teams.

Members of the girls’ cross-country team that received the recognition were Meredith Anderman,



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fallsburg varsity volleyball head coach, Amy Hobby (left), and scholar-athletes (l to r) Gelsey Aguilar Torres, Hannah Johnson, Brianna Noller, Kaitlyn Pedersen, and Jordyn Wall-Carty.

Kassandra Damms, Arianna Gonzalez, Angelina

Levner, Shelby Lyons, Francely Maradiaga, Cecelia Norris-Yanes, Joslyn Odell, Iliana Pinzon, Jaily Sebastian, and Alisha Tremper. Members of the volleyball team were Gelsey Aguilar Torres, Maya Ballard, Arslyn Cantave, Emily Castro Ramos, Ashley Ingrassia, Hannah Johnson, Jennifer Morales Perez, Brianna Noller, Kaitlyn Pedersen, Georgia-Randle O’Brien, and Jordyn Wall-Carty.

In addition to team recognitions, sixteen athletes

from the boys cross-country, football, boys soccer, and girls soccer teams were named individual scholar-athletes. Those students were Asly Avila, Nikolas Bonner, Jonathan Dias Paredes, Donovan Hart, Mia Irlbacher, Nicole Jimenez, Daris Koljenovic, Marco Manzanarez, Nancy Martinez, William Martinez, Adam Mednick, Eric Moocz, Dalila Ortiz, Emily Perna, Marilyn Santos, and Isaiah Young.

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE — The Lady Generals basketball team of SUNY Sullivan has been on a tear for most of the 2023-’24 season, racking up victory after victory, including Coach Ben Newberg’s 100 win at the school.

The Lady Generals had rolled to a 15-2 record,

compiling eight victories in a row, when they travelled to New Rochelle on January 14 to take on the Mustangs of Monroe College. Sullivan started the game cold, and found themselves trailing 16-13 after the first quarter, and 35-24 at halftime. A furious second half rally fell just short, as Monroe held on to record a 59-57 win, dropping Sullivan

to 15-3 on the year.

Shonyae Edmonds, a freshman from Albany, NY, led the Lady Generals, pumping in 17 points and corralling 16 rebounds. Brianna Jackson contributed 13 points for Sullivan.

After a return engagement against the Mustangs in Loch Sheldrake was postponed, the Lady Generals travelled to Syracuse to bat-

tle Onondaga Community College. This time, Sullivan raced to an early lead, going up 21-17 after the first quarter, only to trail by two at the half. Things went downhill from there, and Sullivan managed just seven fourth quarter points, losing their second game in a row, this time by a 78-63 margin. Onondaga improved to 17-1 with the win.

### Celebrate Winter at the 4th Annual SnO&W

#### *Snowshoe or Hike on the Historic O&W Rail Trail in Hurleyville on 2/24*

HURLEYVILLE - Come out and celebrate winter with the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance on Saturday, February 24 at 10 a.m. on the historic Milk Train Trail in Hurleyville.

The SnO&W started in 2020 as a snowshoe fun run and walk, and rotates locations each year to feature a different segment of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own snowshoes or similar gear if they have them. The first 20 people to arrive need-

ing equipment will receive their choice of either a free snowshoe or microspike rental, depending upon trail conditions. Snowshoe rentals will be available at a discounted rate of \$12 through Fortress Bikes, and Morgan Outdoors will be offering a “SnO&W Special” microspike rental for only \$5 (normally \$12).

“The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail is a trail for everyone, and winter is a great time to experience the trail!” said Heather Jacksy, from Sullivan County Planning and member of the

Alliance. Visit the event Facebook page at [bit.ly/2024SNOW](https://bit.ly/2024SNOW) or call (845) 807-0531 for more information.

Participating fire departments in the Sullivan 180 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge will receive 3 points for attending with five or more active members.

The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance grew out of the 2019 Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Feasibility Study and is a partnership of local government entities, non-profits, and volunteers

which serve as the stewards for the trail. For more information about the O&W Rail Trail and the work of the Alliance, visit [www.SullivanOandW.com](http://www.SullivanOandW.com).

Sullivan 180 is working to build a healthy community, one degree at a time, through people, places and policy with support from Bold Gold Media Group, Manor Ink, The River Reporter, The Sullivan County Democrat and WJFF Radio Catskill. Learn more at [Sullivan180.org](http://Sullivan180.org) or [Facebook.com/Sullivan180inc](https://Facebook.com/Sullivan180inc).

### FIFTY YEARS AGO... Fallsburg skiers defend Section Nine crown

by John Conway

McAFEE, NJ-- It was February of 1974—50 years ago this month—and the boys ski team from Fallsburg High School closed out the month by successfully defending the Section Nine championship

they had captured the year before.

The Comets were nearly six full seconds better than the second place Ontario boys, with a team combined time of 332.88 to 338.72. The races were held at the Great Gorge ski area in McAfee, NJ.

The Monticello boys’ team, which had been expected to be right in the thick of things in the title chase, had considerable difficulty on the icy slalom course, and despite a strong showing in the giant slalom race, failed to finish in the top ten. Suffern, Rondout Valley, and Middletown rounded out the top five.

Chris Dill led the Fallsburg skiers by capturing second place finishes in both the slalom and giant slalom, to give him the best overall combined time. The Comets Ira Steingart finished fifth in the slalom and seventh in the giant slalom, to take fifth place combined. Dill had finished in ninth place in the Sectionals the year before at Great Gorge, while Steingart had been the top Sullivan County finisher, in fifth place.

“Our team did great because we hung together and knew we each had to put in a good run,” Dill told the Times Herald-Record newspaper following the races.

Monticello sophomore Rob VanEtten easily won the giant slalom competition by more than a second over Dill, but fell in the slalom competition and did not finish. Monticello’s Bucky Lauferweiler, who was ninth in combined time, was the top finisher for the school, nearly seven seconds behind Dill’s winning combined time.

The top ten finishers in combined time comprised the Section Nine team that would compete in the New York State Championships at Belleayre Mountain in March.

### 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](mailto:hurleysent@hotmail.com) will win a prize. Have fun!

#### February Questions:

1. How much did a ticket to the very first Super Bowl cost?
2. What is the highest score ever by one team in a Super Bowl game?
3. Who was the first singer to perform at a Super Bowl Halftime Show?
4. Approximately how many chicken wings are consumed on a typical Super Bowl Sunday?
5. What famous jeweler makes the Lombardi Trophy for the Super Bowl winner?

#### January Answers:

1. When was the first National Hockey League game played? (December 19, 1947)
2. What was the first team from the United States to join the NHL? (Boston Bruins, 1924)
3. Which team has won the most Stanley Cup championships? (Montreal Canadiens 24)
4. What is the oldest arena in the NHL? (Madison Square Garden opened in 1968)
5. What is the newest arena in the NHL? (UBS Arena in Elmont, NY, home of the Islanders)

There was no winner last month.