

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

A Beautiful Day for Holiday in Hurleyville



Historical Society's annual Theme Tree Exhibit at the County Museum was particularly cited by visitors as a highlight of the day.

The accompanying photos are by Lily Barrish Levner.

PHOTOS BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER

1. The magnificently appointed ballroom at HPAC prior to the evening holiday concert.
2. Some of the revelers at the evening tree lighting ceremony.
3. Many visitors stayed well into the evening to take in all of the events.
4. The Sullivan County Historical Society's popular Theme Tree exhibit at the County Museum was a highlight of the day.
5. The lighted tree by the municipal parking lot on Main Street.
6. Rabbi Zierler spoke at the tree lighting and Minora unveiling.
7. The weather cooperated as the evening was cold but clear.



A TASTE OF SULLIVAN

Eat Well and Support NAMI

MONTICELLO – Need a last minute gift or stocking stuffer? Give the gift that keeps on giving (no, not that one!) You can enjoy good dining all year, while helping support NAMI Sullivan by purchasing a discount card that can be used at over twenty local restaurants and eateries all over the County. A Taste of Sullivan is in its sixth year raising much needed funds for NAMI Sullivan County, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Your one-time purchase of \$25 for the discount card is a tax-deductible donation to NAMI Sullivan. The card entitles you to unlimited use from January 1 thru December 31, 2026 at participating businesses for the offer they're extending; be it a discount on eat-in or take out or a free item with purchase.

Special thanks to all of the restaurants taking part – BVH Sports Bar (Barryville), Mountain View (Bloomingburg), Local Pizza, Western Inn (Callicoon), Annie's Ruff Cut (Cochecton), Homestead Restaurant at the Eldred Preserve (Eldred), Aroma Thyme Bistro, Tony & Nick's Italian Kitchen (Ellenville), Casa Mia, Forage and Gather Café, Tango Café (Hurleyville), The Cabin, Jeff's Diner (Jeffersonville), Sorella Pizza (Kauneonga Lake), Casa Di Longobardi, Chick-E-Ribs, Liberty Diner, New Munson Diner, Star Bar and Grill (Liberty), Woodstock

Way (Kauneonga Lake), Ciao Bella, DeFillipi's Bakery, El Tequilero Mexican Restaurant, Miss Monticello Diner, Monticello Bagel Bakery, Salt & Pepper: The Kitchen, Solaia, Starters, Tilly's Diner, Yanni's (Monticello), Basbousa (Mountaindale), Blue Fox Restaurant (Narrowsburg), Neversink General Store (Neversink), North Branch Inn (North Branch), The Brew, Dutch's, El Sombrero, Kevin's Valley Table, Pizza the Rock, Rock Hill Café and Deli (Rock Hill), Courtyard, Rockland House, Roscoe Beer Company, Roscoe Diner, The Spotted Owl Café and Grill (Roscoe), White Sulphur Springs Inn (White Sulphur Springs), Las Mananitas, Pasta D'Oro (Wurtsboro) and Park Bar (Yulan)

Cards can be purchased online with PayPal, debit or credit card by visiting namisullivan.org – or you can purchase them with a check (made out to NAMI Sullivan) in the amount of \$25 per card. You can either pick them up in person, or include your mailing address and phone number so that we can get the cards to you. Mail to: NAMI Sullivan, 20 Crystal Street, Monticello, NY 12701. Proceeds of this and all fundraising stay local and go to expand opportunities and enrich the lives of people living with mental illness and their families. For additional information, phone (845) 794-1029.



USDA VISITS TCFD

Touring Children's Specialty Hospital

ROCK HILL – The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development team paid a visit to The Center for Discovery's Children

Specialty Hospital in Rock Hill earlier this month.

It was USDA support, including a critical low-interest loan that helped make the

groundbreaking facility possible. TCFD leadership, including President and CEO, Dr. Teresa Hamlin, was grateful to be able to show how the partnership is now transforming care for children on a daily basis.

The children from the CSH created their own special thank-you notes to share with the USDA team - a heartfelt reminder of the impact of the collaboration.

Representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture toured the TCFD Children's Specialty Hospital in Rock Hill this month.



PHOTOS PROVIDED
TCFD President and CEO, Dr. Teresa Hamlin explains the trademarked SynergE6 program to the USDA visitors

HEAP SEASON IS OPEN

Funding Restored, Applications to be Accepted

LIBERTY – The 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) season got underway in Sullivan County on December 1, according to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

"The original date of November 3 was delayed due to the Federal government shutdown. Now that the shutdown has ended, we're glad to be able to offer this lifeline to eligible Sullivan County residents," notes Sullivan County Health & Human Services Commissioner John Liddle.

What to Do if You're Seeking HEAP Benefits

Sullivan County's HEAP Office has been open all along to answer questions and help applicants (845-807-0142, heap@sullivanyny.gov). Those who already received early outreach letters will automatically receive their HEAP benefit. Those who have yet to apply should do so at www.mybenefits.ny.gov, or at the Department of Social Services, but please call ahead to confirm.

Applications can also be obtained from the County's community partners (please call first):

- Action Toward Independence, 845-794-4228
- Independent Living, 845-794-3322

• Sullivan County Office for the Aging, 845-807-0241

Who Is Eligible for HEAP

Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, the primary heating source, and whether or not the household has a member who is under age six, over age 60, or is permanently disabled.

HEAP this year will provide a one-time benefit of between \$400 and \$996 for a delivery of home heating fuel, dependent on the type of system used at the residence. (An Emergency HEAP benefit, offering another fuel payment, is anticipated to become available in January.)

Income thresholds have already been established by New York State:

Household Size	Monthly Income Maximum
1	\$3,473
2	\$4,542
3	\$5,611
4	\$6,680
5	\$7,749
6	\$8,818

The Sullivan County HEAP Office can be reached at 845-807-0142 (hit option #2) or heap@sullivanyny.gov. The fax number is 845-292-4651.

At Mamakating Historical Society

[illegible]

PHOTO PROVIDED

In the words of Andrea

Reflecting on the planting, Harris Seletsky shared:

"It was an honor to represent the Town of Fallsburg and to be a part of such a meaningful initiative. We are very fortunate and grateful that this project crossed our path and we were able to contribute. It was beautiful and special to see and watch so many

I believe the community complements the mission of the worldwide Daffodil Project, and that of organizations such as Sullivan Allies Leading Together, the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, the Sullivan County Legislature, NY State Assembly, Bold Gold Media, Temple Shalom, and Hope's Compass; each of whom had a representative among the volunteers getting their hands onto bulbs and knees into good ol' Mother Earth. In his complimentary style, Jerry Klinger shared, "The Compass of Dignity for all humanity guides Hope Blecher's life. Without Hope's Com-

The public is invited to keep up to date with future plantings and events. They can go to www.HopesCompass.org, www.DrHope.sHub.org, and/or follow me on Facebook at Hope's Compass, a nonprofit fund of The Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan. For those interested in supporting this project, tax-deductible donations are accepted at Hope's Compass Fund | Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan.



Heinz Petzold

PHOTO PROVIDE

Although Snow Devils are extremely rare, tornadoes during the winter season are not. Find out why in a future column From the Weather Center!

The logo for Decant Wine & Spirits is an oval emblem. The word "DECANT" is written in a large, stylized, serif font across the top. Below it, "WINE & SPIRITS" is written in a smaller, simpler font. To the right of the text is a small illustration of a wine bottle. The entire logo is enclosed in an oval border with decorative swirls and dots.

845.693.4245
decanthurleyville@gmail.com



PHOTO PROVIDED

There will be refreshments available for everyone while you take in the sights and sounds of electric trains made by compa-

nies such as Lionel, Marx, and American Flyer. Toy trains are loved by all ages, so why not join in with the fun? And who knows, it might even inspire you and

your family to dust off that old train set in the attic! For more information, call 845-857-8635 or email ma-makatinghistorical@gmail.com.



I've heard too much and seen too much
To let go of what I'm feeling
The hate that's being spewed these days
Makes me dizzy and I wonder how we're dealing

With the words and actions done out loud
So, I've decided to revisit a poem I wrote in 2023
In the hope the words will make
A dent in our humanity

You can say you hate the snow or rain
Or that traveling is a hateful chore
You can say you hate the summer heat
But that's what fans and AC are for

You can say that you hate mustard
On a bun with ham and cheese
Because this is how you'd order it
Add some extra mayo, please

You can say that you hate reading
Turning pages of a book
You prefer to read by Kindle
Once you find a cozy nook

Let's remove the HATE word from our mouths
Unless used as shown above
Try lessening the use of this four-lettered word
Let's express ourselves with more LOVE

It's really unkind to hate people
For their color, their race or their creed
Remember the words of the Golden Rule
To treat others as you'd like to be treated
The world would be better indeed!

- Mimi
December 2025

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Holiday Decorating Contest

**Judging will begin at 6:00pm
on Thursday, December 18th.**

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THE ONE AND ONLY JANIS FROM CASA MIA

by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE – Janis (she does not want her last name used, and like with Elvis or Cher, it seems unnecessary) has been serving customers inside the Main Street restaurant that is now called Casa Mia for 36 years. When she started, it was Nardi's Frankie & Johnny's. Now it's co-owned by Margarito Balcazar and Antonio Maricaca. She's a staple at the Italian eatery that's been in Hurleyville for more than 50 years.

Henrique Pride, nephew of Frank Nardi, has worked with Janis for 14 years now.

"She has a lot of repeat

customers. She gets a lot of requests; she knows everyone," he said, adding that when they have difficulty with a party or a customer, Janis usually steps in to help and quite often she knows the customer already.

"I wouldn't be the person I am today without Papa John," said Janis, referring to the original owner of Frankie & Johnny's. "I think Frankie & Johnny's and Casa Mia have the best lasagna in the country and I have a foodie friend who confirmed that."

A photo shared on Facebook in the Sullivan Post group featured Janis and Sheriff Mike Schiff. It got hundreds of likes and



PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER
Janis at work at Casa Mia in Hurleyville

many loving comments. A sampling:

"My favorite waitress."

"We love Janis. She has served and taken care of my family for years."

"Janis is the OG waitress."

And, pulled from a Yelp review: "Janis our waitress sets a great example of what excellence in the restaurant/ hospitality business should be."

"Janis brings in a lot of people. I know Janis's mother. I used to plow her driveway, and I'd see her mother at Nardi's Frankie & Johnny's. She would come in with her friends often. She'd always say,

"my daughter works here,"" said Hurleyville's Ralph Burger.

Janis has two beloved rescue dogs. The older one is a 16-and-a-half-year-old beagle named Snoopy, who she adopted at six weeks old. Sundance is an eight-and-a-half-year-old Golden mix. She drove down to New Orleans to get him after her friend, the dog's first adopted owner, passed away.

"I'm still going strong, just like Papa John and his wife Mary," she said.

Retirement is not on the horizon for Janis anytime soon, so you still have plenty of time to eat a delicious meal served by a special waitress when you stop by Casa Mia.

OPINION: Heiden Road Warehouse Project: Potential Catastrophe for the Neversink River and Our Communities

This is an opinion piece submitted by Fallsburg's Future, and does not necessarily represent the opinion of The Hurleyville Sentinel, its publisher, editor, or staff. The opinion is presented as written, and has not been edited or fact-checked. The Hurleyville Sentinel welcomes other responsible viewpoints on this and other topics.

Dear Friends

and Neighbors,

The Catskills are facing one of the most reckless development proposals in recent memory: a 1.5-million-square-foot warehouse and trucking terminal proposed by Kroger USA on the banks of the Neversink River in the Town of Thompson. To put that into perspective, this is the equivalent of 25 football fields—a massive industrial footprint on one of the region's most environmentally sensitive rivers.

This is not just poor planning—it is a direct threat to our water, wildlife, and the very character of the Catskills. The Neversink River is globally recognized as a cold-water trout fishery and home to endangered species like the Brook Floater. It supports recreational fishing, tourism, and local livelihoods.

A project of this magnitude brings inevitable thermal pollution, storm water runoff, chemical contamination, sedimentation, habitat destruction, and aquifer depletion—all of which pose

irreversible damage.

Some have suggested exploring an alternative location for the warehouse. But this raises serious questions: how can a project of this size—25 football fields—be relocated without simply transferring the environmental damage elsewhere? Moving it away from the Neversink may spare that specific waterway, but it would still require massive impervious surfaces, heavy industrial use, package plants, and expansive paved areas. These impacts do not disappear—they only shift. Moreover, we have no information on what the warehouse will store or whether hazardous materials might be kept on-site, which is especially concerning when combined with proximity to groundwater and streams.

Despite these risks, the Draft Scoping Document released by the Town of Thompson Planning Board fails to adequately assess the full scope of the environmental and public health impacts. Residents, anglers, hunters, and environmental groups—including Catskill Mountainkeeper, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, and Trout Unlimited—are calling for a much more comprehensive review.

Supporters of the project argue it could bring jobs and economic benefits to Sullivan County. However, that outcome is far from guaranteed. Development



PHOTO PROVIDED

proposals often promise "job creation," yet the reality can be far more limited—and sometimes those jobs never materialize. In some cases, tax subsidies or abatements offset much of the projected revenue gains, meaning residents shoulder the environmental burden while receiving little in return. Without transparency on employment, ownership, operations, or tax agreements, the community cannot realistically weigh the benefits against the risks.

Why this project is dangerous:

The proposed warehouse would rely on private wells and septic systems, dramatically increasing stress on the region's aquifers. Its location directly on the Neversink's western bank means that millions of square feet of impervious

surfaces will contribute to stormwater runoff, thermal pollution, and sedimentation—all of which degrade water quality and fisheries habitat.

The project would also bring:

- Thousands of truck trips, resulting in diesel emissions and air pollution.
- Noise and light pollution affecting nearby residents.
- Aesthetic and scenic destruction of a critical natural corridor.
- Increased risk of flooding and climate-related impacts.

Disadvantaged communities near the project would bear the brunt of these impacts, raising serious environmental justice concerns.

Package plants, which many large developments

depend on, have a troubling history in this region. They are often poorly maintained, fail over time, and release untreated or partially treated wastewater into the environment. A warehouse of this magnitude would require significant wastewater and storm water infrastructure—creating long-term liabilities that the community may ultimately pay for, financially and environmentally. The scale of the building alone makes even minor system failures catastrophic.

What must be done:

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be expanded to rigorously examine and mitigate all potential harms, including:

- Riparian buffer loss.
- Aquifer depletion and reduced base flows.
- Thermal runoff and sedimentation.
- Wastewater and septic contamination.
- Trucking emissions and chemical pollutants.
- Fisheries, wildlife, and endangered species impacts.
- Community character and scenic impacts.
- Climate-related risks.
- Full alternatives and mitigation, including a no-build option.

Beyond technical assess-

ments, the Planning Board must protect sensitive habitats, maintain riparian setbacks, and ensure that vulnerable communities are not disproportionately harmed. Public engagement is critical: residents must have access to information, opportunities to review studies, and the chance to provide meaningful input.

A call to action:

This is a potential disaster for the Neversink River, the Catskills, and all of us who rely on these resources for clean water, recreation, and community well-being. Residents can submit comments directly to the Planning Board, urging them to require a full, rigorous, science-based environmental review before moving forward. You can send your comments to the Thompson Planning Board by emailing planning@thompsonny.gov or calling the Planning Board Secretary at 845-794-2500 x321, because every voice matters.

We cannot allow one industrial project to permanently compromise one of New York's most important river systems. The Neversink River is too vital to gamble with—and the time to act is now.

Fallsburg's Future is a community network of concerned Fallsburg residents established in January 2016. Its Mission is to help guide the urban development of the town of Fallsburg and its five hamlets, to promote its sustainable economic development, protect the fragile beauty of its natural habitats and enhance the opportunities and quality of life for all its residents and visitors. We hope to curb the suburban sprawl that is threatening the town's physical infrastructure and destroy the natural beauty that the area depends on for its future development. See us on Facebook and our website fallsburgsfuture.com.



Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

I first heard the term "stick season" in the song of the same title, from 2022, by Noah Kahan. It's Vermont vernacular for the time of year between the last autumn leaves and the first winter snows, when nature is at its barest and bleakest.

I've always known that time as, prosaically, "late autumn." It used to be a relatively short transitional passage, but it's been expanding over the years. I remember the first time I came to Sullivan County, on the weekend after Thanksgiving in 1980, and found a landscape deep in the grip of winter. There was snow on the ground and lakes frozen enough to walk on. Autumn had been left far behind. Thanksgiving was then a winter holiday; now, it's an autumn one. The seasonal goalposts have moved. Nowadays, even Christmas can feel like an autumn holiday, when the snow holds off till January.

If this extended autumn merits a title of its own, stick season seems apt. The world, drained of color and foliage, takes on the lined quality of an etching; the branches of the bare trees look like textbook illustrations of the nervous system. The diminishing daylight, the monochromatic wash of grey trees against grey skies, can actually depress serotonin levels and give rise to a type of autumnal melancholy — seasonal affective disorder, or SAD.

Noah Kahan's song is an ode to melancholy. He sings in the key of plaintive: "And I love Vermont, but it's the season of the sticks..." That "but" marks the season as an ordeal weighing him down, though whether the heaviness is induced, or just confirmed, by the season is ambiguous. There's certainly a sufficient degree of disorder in our time to season anyone's affect with a strong dose of rue.

For Kahan, the immediate cause of his state is romantic deflation: he's been ghosted so severely by his girlfriend that even her mother "forgot that [he] existed." Kahan rhymes "sticks" with "exist(ed)," which is a stretch, but then stretching is one of the things we like rhymes to do, and the song takes pleasure in doing so. "Exist," he sings,

then pauses before adding the "ed" as a separate sound, spilling over into the next line — a type of aural enjambment. This small playful jolt parts the air of melancholia. Within that air, the trees may look like withered sticks but, shift your perspective, and there's an astringent beauty to them; their bareness opens up vistas; one can see through the branches into depths previously obscured by verdure. Perhaps the singer is seeing into himself as well, into traits he might not admire ("I just like to play the victim") but finds bracing to confront.

"Stick Season" mixes lament with something that's not at all lamentable — the inherent pleasures of songcraft and music-making. Noah Kahan may feel stranded in a desolating landscape, but he has also found a home in the place celebrated by Leonard Cohen as the Tower of Song, an estate abuzz with the collective effort of all the world's songwriters. It's where Cohen could overhear Hank Williams working away, floors above him; it's where the braiding together of sorrow and beauty, lament and elation, is understood as part of the natural order of things — confounding, perhaps, but no more paradoxical than the fact of summer and winter being part of a single year.

This knowledge is at the heart of another "Ode to Melancholy," the one written by John Keats in 1819, which enshrines "Veil'd Melancholy," figured as a woman, within "the very temple of Delight" — not outside the temple's precincts, in opposition, but as an inherent part of the temple's structure. She has her niche and is not to be dislodged. The metaphor is familiar territory to poets and songwriters; it's the country in which Kahan's song is situated.

As stick season comes to an end, Christmas arrives, bearing the emblematic tree, whose leaves, ever green, never fall, and whose branches, adorned with lights, counterbalance the year's darkest days.

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

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From the Firehouse

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



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

Wow, December already.

It is now officially heating season. I hope by now that you have serviced your furnace and cleaned your chimney.

One of the concerns about this heating season is the state of our economy. With different programs stalled or reduced I have some concerns.

If you intend to use an old heating device that has been in the attic or in the back of the garage, PLEASE think twice before using it.

If you must use it:

If it is electric, examine the cord to make sure it is not frayed or brittle. If you do not have the instruction book for the device, Google the make and model and read the instructions. Make sure the safety features work. Clean it thoroughly before using it. When in doubt, DO NOT use it.

For a fuel-fired device, do the same thing. Read the instructions. Pay close attention to the fuel that is required for the unit. That wick in the unit may be old, dirty, deteriorated and overall, in bad shape. Replace it, or do not use the device.

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BUREAU OF FIRE
WANTS YOU TO BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

Most important is making sure the safety devices work. When you pick it up, it should shut off. This would be the same as tipping over. If that feature does not work, do not use it.

Always refuel your unit OUTSIDE. Use the fuel that is required for your make and model heating device.

Keep combustibles at least three feet away for any heating device. Most importantly, make sure you have working smoke detectors and working carbon monoxide detectors.

As stated in my November column, a startling statistic that was presented by OFPC (Office of

Fire Prevention & Control): From January 2025 to the middle of October 2025, there were 116 civilian fire deaths in 89 incidents. Only 21 percent of the incidents

had working smoke detectors. Twenty-one percent! That is unacceptable. The fire service has run many, many campaigns about how ‘Smoke Detectors Save Lives.’

Some other random safety hints for the Holiday Season:

Do not leave lit candles unattended; better yet use battery powered candles instead.

Do not throw wrapping cord for any heating device, plug it directly into the wall. Make sure to water your Christmas tree every day.

Keep your Menorah on a level, fireproof surface when lit. DO have a Safe Holiday Season and a Happy & Safe New Year.

MISSING MEALS Food Pantries in Sullivan County Try to Bridge the Gap



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The Bread of Life Food Pantry is located at the Hurleyville United Methodist Church at 263 Main Street.

by Emmett Schwalb

SULLIVAN COUNTY – Across the country, food pantries and their customers are struggling. With prices on the rise, many families are turning to local pantries to meet their needs.

“Many families in our community lack financial means, nutrition, education, transportation, or face a combination of barriers to access nutritious food,” said Audrey Garro, the executive director of A Single Bite, a nonprofit organization dedicated to feeding and educating Sullivan County. “Missing meals can be temporary or long-term, and can be caused by poverty, unemployment, high housing & food costs, chronic health conditions, systemic racism and discrimination.”

A Single Bite is just one of the organizations in Sullivan County that is dedicated to feeding residents who are struggling right now.

During the last government shutdown, which lasted from the beginning of October to the middle of November, individuals who relied on SNAP lost their benefits. This caused a major increase in families across the country who need support. As well, with grocery prices on the rise, every day citizens are struggling.

Focusing on Sullivan County, there is limited access to food due to how rural the county is. There are a limited number of large scale grocery stores in the county, which is home to around 80,000 residents in roughly 1,000 square miles. From this, local pantries are having a difficult time trying to keep up with demand.

“I think our biggest problem is that with the current economy and the cuts in USDA products, our grant money is only lasting 4 months instead of a year,” explained Lonnie Lindsey, who co-runs the Bread of Life Food Pantry at the Hurleyville United Methodist Church on Main Street in Hurleyville. The Bread of Life Food Pantry relies almost entirely on government funding.

“Ten percent of households lack the resources to access healthy food, or are food insecure. One in five children in Sullivan County faces food insecurity and 28% of children live below the poverty line,” said Audrey Garro.

Both A Single Bite and the Bread of Life food pantry have seen a dramatic increase in customers. “We now serve at least 70 families a week, and have an average of 10 new families a week,” said Lonnie Lindsey from the Food Pantry.

“In September, we were feeding 625 people. Today, 1,200 people. Some of the increase is due to heightened public awareness during the SNAP crisis, but the underlying need runs much deeper,” explained Audrey Garro.

“To meet demand, A Single Bite has incurred emergency operational costs, including purchasing nearly double the amount of food, in addition to the thousands of pounds of

donated product. They [A Single Bite] expanded countywide meal delivery routes, creating more fuel costs to get food to where it is needed most and to retrieve donated food. They have

hired a full-time culinary associate, and seen increased energy use in their kitchen.

Volunteer hours have risen by 30%. Without additional support, they fear being unable to sustain current distribution levels, according to Audrey Garro of A Single Bite.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry has been providing support for community members since 2000. A Single Bite was founded in 2019 and, “by the end of 2025, they [A Single Bite] will have delivered 220,000 meals, shared educational or food sourcing materials with 11,000 households...” explained Audrey Garro.

You can support A Single Bite its Liberty location, or by delivering meals and importantly, by making a donation in any amount to help them purchase local food to feed and educate children and their families.

Call 845-482-1030 or visit asinglebite.org to donate, volunteer or learn more.

And to support The Bread Of Life Food Pantry, Ms. Lindsey says, “community members can donate their time, or money, or non-perishable food items, also hygiene products are always needed.”

Financial donations are preferred by the Pantry and can be sent in the form of checks directly to: Bread of Life Food Pantry, PO Box 64, Hurleyville, NY 12747.

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburgh

COMPILED BY **Sullivan County Historian John Conway**

December 27, 1930 High School Notes from the Announcer

Outplaying Hurleyville from start to finish, the Roscoe quintet rang up its first victory in the Catskill Mountain League at Roscoe. Both teams fought hard, but Roscoe, the better team, won.

Hurleyville was the first to score when our dashing forward, Charles Yavorofsky made two foul shots. Immediately after this, Al Keating broke loose and made a nice hang shot making the score 4-0. At this point Roscoe began using its scoring ability and quickly sprang into the lead.

In the second half, our boys fought hard, but could not make their shots good. They kept Roscoe’s scoring down, but could not add any points to their own score. The final score was 25-14.

There was a preliminary game between the girls of both schools with victory for Roscoe. Both teams, scrapping hard, made the game a treat to the eye. The score was 19-12.

People You Know

Among those who attend college and are spending the Christmas vacation with their parents are: Rose Cohen, Sylvia Garelick, Rose Wizwer, Lillian Lawrence, Herbert Billowitz, George Schmuckler, Milton Schmuckler, Betty Simmons, and Paul Raskin.

January 2, 1932

J. Maxwell Knapp Appointed

Attorney J. Maxwell Knapp of Hurleyville has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Commission on the Monticello-Bloomingburg Road. The position was made vacant by the death of William A. Williams of Liberty.

Christmas Finds Children in Need

Children undernourished and inadequately clothed were discovered by Probation Officer Alexander Conroy as they distributed 125 baskets of food provided by the Monticello Lodge of Elks.

The food baskets were distributed in Fallsburg and Monticello, Bethel, Lake Huntington, Glen Spey, Barryville, Bloomingburg, and Roosa Gap. Every family given food included from two to six children. One family had ten. In nearly every instance, according to Mr. Conroy, the fathers had been out of work for from two to three months.

S.P.C.A. May Stop All Work in Sullivan County

For the first time in more than 25 years, the Sullivan County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is seeing the necessity of stopping all work because of the lack of funds to go on with. Already we have had to refuse to advance money to keep stock from starvation this winter, in more than one case. In some of these cases, there are little children who are depending on milk for a large part of their daily food, but as we are unable to furnish food for these cattle, they will have to be sold at a sacrifice, entailing addition-



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

J. Maxwell Knapp

al hardships on both parents and children.

January 1, 1937 Appointed Referee in Albany Cases

Special County Judge Henry F. Gardner of Callicoon has recently been appointed referee in eighteen cases commenced by different property owners in the City of Albany against the Commissioners of Taxation and Assessment of that city. These cases have been commenced in the Albany County Supreme Court by those property owners, each of whom has valuable property interests in Albany. The order appointing Judge Gardner as referee direct him to hear the cases in Albany.

Masonic Lodges Install New Officers

Masonic Lodges in Monticello and Liberty will install new masters and officers elected last week. Charles Horton was chosen Master of the Monticello Lodge, and Albert Hadden as master of the Mongaup Lodge, Liberty.

Wallace C. Budd, Summitville postmaster, was chosen to head Wawarsing Lodge, Ellenville, and was installed last week. Kiamesha Chapter, Eastern Star of Monticello chose Mrs. Edna David-

son, matron and Mrs. Harriet Knapp, associate matron.

December, 2016

Enjoying Nature's Gifts

Teachers and administrators at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School (BCES) are encouraging students to explore nature in the outdoors, right on the Fallsburg school campus.

With the help of a Sullivan Renaissance Healthy Community Grant, teachers Ms. Leah Exner and Mr. Mark Spina developed a partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and local businesses to clear and redevelop a hiking trail in the woods behind the school.

The grant writers wanted to allow the school’s children, families and community to experience the wonder of nature in their very own backyard.

December, 2018

Fallsburg Maker's Club Begins New Adventures

Students in grades 7, 8 and 9 at Fallsburg Junior/ Senior High School have a unique opportunity to explore quadcopters, laser cutting, 3D printing and a host of other creative prototyping at THINC-- the Technology Hub and Incubator-- (formerly known as the Hurleyville Maker’s Lab) during the 2018 – 19 school year.

The Fallsburg Maker’s Club is part of Fallsburg’s extended day program. These grant-funded programs offer participating students academic enrichment and support in Math, Science, Social Studies, ENL, Spanish, English Language Arts, Regents Review, as well as a variety of college preparation, career readiness, mentoring programs and college visits.



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MOUNTAIN MAÎTRE D' MYSTERY

CATSKILLS CAPERS II

An Excerpt from the novel by Lily Barrish Levner

It's the Golden Era in the Catskills, but some skeletons won't stay buried. In the summer of 1954, Abe and Dotty are back at work in the thriving hotel industry. The Catskill Mountains are buzzing with top-notch entertainment, packed dining rooms, and lively bungalow colonies. When a decades-old skeleton is unearthed in a secret room at the courthouse, the past collides with the present. "Mountain Maître D' is the second book in the Catskills Capers series. Here's an excerpt...

DOTTY

"Every hotel claims to have the best facilities and the greatest rates," Dotty told Eva, pointing to the New York Times travel section covered in advertisements encouraging guests to come to the mountains.

Eva placed a bowl of chopped liver with thin slices of rye bread on the card table. "The Concord is number one."

Wholeheartedly agreeing, Dotty settled into her seat next to the hosta garden and pulled out her official 1954 National Mah Jongg League card. Together, the dear friends removed the three sets of suits called Bams, Cracks, and Dots from the carrier. Two other

waitresses were expected to join them for their weekly game.

After her two children were born, Dotty no longer worked weekday meals. She had been a waitress at the renowned Concord Hotel ever since graduating high school in the Bronx. By chance, she was assigned Eva as her roommate. It was that same year, 1944, that she learned to play Mah Jongg.

1944 brought a lot of memories to the forefront. That was when, in the middle of the Danny Kaye show, Irving Cohen, the head maître d' at the hotel, had fired them. Thankfully, he had needed their help so desperately that he had rescinded all their terminations immediately. Dotty shook thoughts of that night away—she did not like to think of the gangster who kidnapped them, driving them to Rochester, trapping them in the cubbyhole, and then what followed.

Eva went back inside, and Dotty picked up the latest issue of the local Republican Watchman newspaper. A headline caught her attention as she was flipping through.

"Locked Door at the Courthouse Raises Questions"

She touched her above-

shoulder-length, dish-water-blond hair while continuing to read about the electrician asking for permission to remove the locks.

Eva peeked over her shoulder. "What could they be hiding in there?"

Always intrigued by a good mystery, Dotty made a note to watch for updates on the story as it progressed.

"I forgot to make the natural soda pop. Come, there's time to pick fresh yagdas." Eva was carrying a bottle of seltzer in one hand and a pitcher and a wooden spoon in the other.

Dotty closed the newspaper and looked across the street, her view of the blueberry bushes in the field obscured by Eva's white Chevrolet parked under her carport. "Mrs. Steingold warned you to stay away."

Eva rolled her eyes. "Come, we don't have much time." She began crossing the street, her chestnut-colored curls speckled with sunbeams.

Hershel, the talent booker at the Concord, known as "the Casanova of the Concord," was driving up the hill in a black Cadillac Eldorado. "Hello!" he shouted.

Dotty waved while Eva twisted her face into a sneer. "I have news," Hershel

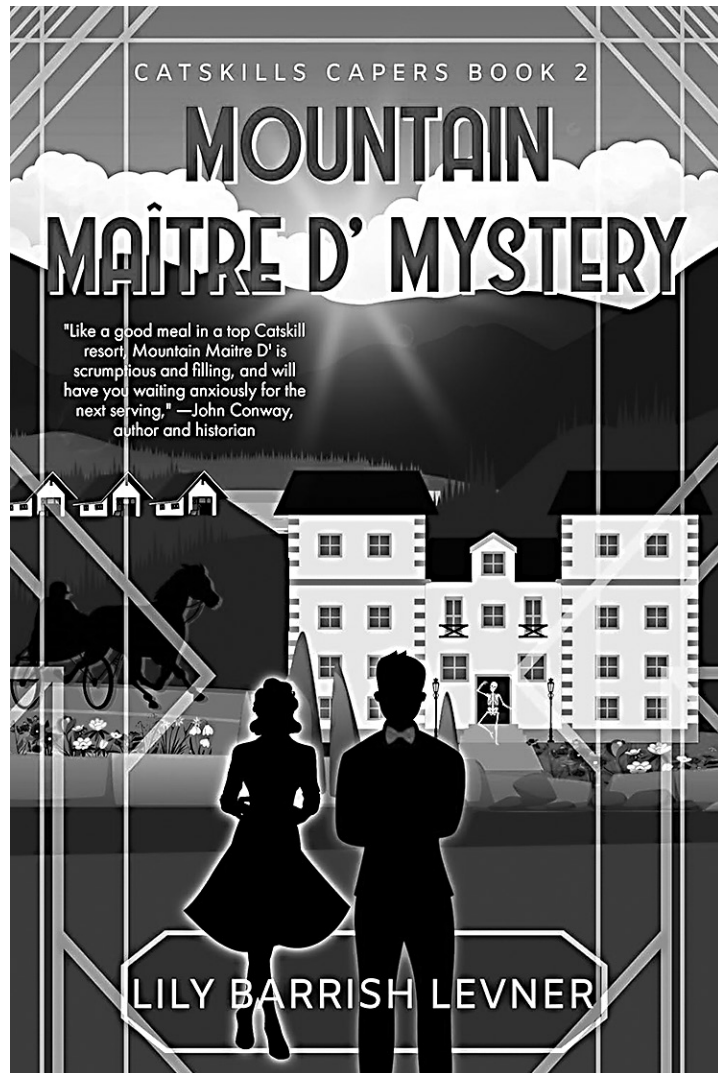


PHOTO PROVIDED

hollered, idling in his Cad-
dy.

"Well, spit it out already," said Eva.

"I'm going to work at the Laurels!"

"Why would you want to do that?" asked Eva.

"I'm ready for a change."

"Oh, admit it, you just want to go to where the young singles are," Eva

spat.

Hershel smirked. "Think what you may."

The Laurels had a reputation as the place to go if you wanted to see the sunrise over Sackett Lake.

It was not uncommon for the 1,000-seat nightclub to still be bustling at the crack of dawn. Popular comedians would show up

unannounced and leave the guests clutching their stomachs.

"Have you told Arthur yet?" Dotty asked, swallowing hard. She did not like the idea of leaving Arthur in the lurch during the busiest season.

Arthur Winarick, the owner of the Concord Hotel, was a successful businessman. Before becoming a hotelier, he was a barber with access to alcohol due to his profession. It was the Prohibition era when he and his chemist brother partnered to launch Jeris Hair Tonic. Bootleg liquor was how he made his fortune. When Grossinger's, the most lavish hotel at the time, turned him away, he vowed to create the largest hotel in the mountains. He accomplished that with the Concord, purchasing concrete and steel structures from the 1939 World's Fair. He also dismantled a ferryboat he had bought for the steel.

"I'm headed to meet with him now." Hershel waved a hand in the air and revved his engine.

"If I had chosen to stay with him, my life would have been one tumultuous act after the next." They watched him disappear up the hill and around the bend.

There was no way Dotty was going to argue against

that. She had been pleased when Eva and Leon became a solid couple. Leon was Abe's co-captain in the staff dining room. He was a refugee from Poland. Eva was a refugee from Austria.

In her gingham pedal pushers, Dotty squatted down beside a patch of blueberry bushes.

"There's nothing more delightful than a yagde warmed by the sun," Eva repeated what she said every single time.

Dotty bit down on a tart-tasting blueberry as a robust middle-aged woman was coming straight at them with a gardening hoe in hand.

Eva blew air out of her lips before saying, "Hello, Mrs. Steingold."

"Stay away from my yagde bushes!" shouted a furious Mrs. Steingold.

Dotty jumped up. Every summer, they picked fruit from their former landlord's property, but Mrs. Steingold had been prickly about it ever since they had built their own houses.

"I know all about Bill's card den he's running from one of my bungalows." Mrs. Steingold was shaking her gardening hoe in the air.

Dotty had yet to visit the bungalow that Bill Graham turned into 'the spot to play cards for the summer,' but

she did know that Eva was a regular. Eva was the queen of card games in the region.

"Nobody is getting hurt; we are just having fun," Eva snickered, yanking a plump blueberry from a branch.

"I'm kicking Bill out this weekend—that's all he paid me through. I want him gone." Mrs. Steingold cursed in Yiddish. "Makshayfe! Dum-mkopf."

"Bill was a 'One Thousand Children' survivor," Eva reminded her.

Dotty thought it was extraordinary that Bill was one of the children rescued from the Nazis in Europe and brought to the United States as an orphan. She knew he had been awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for serving in the Korean War and had an aspiration of being a concert promoter. She, like everyone else, could tell he was going to make a name for himself. And she knew Mrs. Steingold was stuck with him for the summer; she would not actually toss him to the curb.

If you would like to read more, "Mountain Maître D' Mystery" can be purchased wherever books are sold locally and online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

DRAMATIC WORKSHOP PRESENTS RADIO PLAYS

LIBERTY-- The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop cordially invites you to usher in the Holidays with your talented and dedicated community members.

On Friday and Saturday, December 12 and 13, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, December 14, at 2 p.m., the SCDW will perform three radio plays – each will warm your heart and tickle your emotions.

The show begins with an original play written by Peter Nastasi and directed by Jean Eifert, entitled, "Molly's Holiday Gift." With Christmas rapidly approaching, Molly, who is of the Jewish faith, grows increasingly upset that all school activities focus on Christmas rather than on Hannukah. In this heartwarming tale, Molly's classmates devise a plan to provide Molly with an unexpected holiday "gift."

**SULLIVAN COUNTY
DRAMATIC WORKSHOP**

**HOLIDAY
SHOW**

"Big Little Jesus," written by Jack Webb and directed by **Dawn Perneszi**, based on a 1953 episode of Dragnet, brings a poignant tale to our stage.

"Our Miss Brooks, Christmas Gift Mix-up," directed by **Peter Nastasi**, tells a hysterically comic anecdote about regifting.

"Molly's Holiday Gift," written by Peter Nastasi and directed by **Jean Eifert**, offers a look at a touching account of holiday spirit.

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This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regift program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature and administered by Delaware Valley Arts

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

Then, a throwback to a 1953 episode of the popular radio show "Dragnet" titled, "The Big Little Jesus" will be performed. In this radio show, the actors portray two police officers investigating the theft of a statue of the infant Jesus from a Los Angeles church. It is imperative that the statue be found before the Midnight Mass service. Ultimately, the statue is returned in an

unexpected and emotional turn of events. Director Dawn Perneszi brings this story to life!

And finally, who can forget "Our Miss Brooks"? The SCDW thespians perform the episode "Christmas Gift Mix-up" in which, working on a limited budget, Miss Brooks, an English teacher at Madison High School, regifts a present given to her by her landlady, Mrs. Davis, to her colleague, the bashful biology teacher, Mr. Boynton, who subsequently regifts the item to Principal Conklin. In turn, Conklin regifts the item to the Head of the Board of Education. As the characters unknowingly regift the same item, hilarious comedic confusion ensues. Playfully directed by Dawn Perneszi, the audience can expect to end the show with a smile.

All three pieces will be performed at the Cornell Cooperative Extension building, 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty. General admission is \$12, and includes coffee, tea and desserts – or donate an unwrapped toy (value \$5 or more) for our Toys for Tots and pay only \$7.

The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop wishes a Happy Holidays to all!

For more information call Jean, at 646-996-4188.

A HOPE FILLED AFTERNOON IN HURLEYVILLE

Meet the Author Held at Forage & Gather



by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE – Dr. Hope Blecher Croney displayed a plethora of her books on Thursday, November 20, at Hurleyville's Forage & Gather. An educator for 40 years, she displayed books ranging from the educational to the bestselling "Mission Hope" anthology series. Not eponymous with her name, each book is a collection of essays by various authors.

"We're trying to uplift people through poetry, prose, and artwork," Dr. Blecher Croney said.

PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER
Dr. Hope Blecher Croney and books at Forage & Gather.

HEAP's Heating Equipment Repair Program Taking Applications

LIBERTY – The 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) will begin accepting applications for the Heating Equipment Repair & Replacement (HERR) benefit on December 11.

HERR benefits are available to assist HEAP-eligible households with the cost to repair or replace the applicant's primary heating equipment. Applicants must:

- Be 60 years of age or

older (or at least one of the documented homeowners be 60+)

- Own and live in their home as their primary residence
- Have their home's primary heating equipment inoperable and/or unsafe, as documented by a participating HEAP vendor
- Apply via www.my-benefits.ny.gov or by contacting the County offices listed below

Sullivan County's HEAP

Office continues to be available to answer questions and help applicants (845-807-0142, heap@sullivanny.gov). Sullivan County's Office for the Aging stands ready to assist, as well: 845-807-

0241.

Applications can also be obtained from the County's community partners: Action Toward Independence, 845-794-4228, or Independent Living, 845-794-3322.

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RAIL TRAIL PROVIDES GREAT EXERCISE IN ALMOST ANY WEATHER

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – As evidenced by the footprints and ski tracks less than 24 hours after the season’s first accumulating snow storm dumped between six and eight inches on the region on an early December Tuesday, both sides of the Milk Train Trail in Hurleyville remain popular places to visit in virtually any type of

weather.

One walker on Wednesday afternoon noted that trudging through the ankle-deep snow provided “twice the exercise in half the distance. As long as the sun is shining, I’m here,” he said.

When the east side of the trail was cleared of snow later in the week in anticipation of the luminaria placement for the Holiday



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY

Despite the significant early season snowfall, both sides of the Milk Train Trail were heavily used by the following afternoon.

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 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.

And on the Wednesday after the storm, there were tracks indicating that in addition to regular foot traffic, there were both skiers and snowshoers on the trail.

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 conveyance.
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. Do not be deterred by the condition of the trail. With a little caution and common sense, and the proper clothing and footwear—don’t forget the cleats if it is icy—it can be utilized in almost any weather.

AVA CONTINUES HER WINNING WAYS Finishes Third at Chattanooga Choo Choo Event

by John Conway

CHATTANOOGA, TN—Local racer Ava Diehl, an eighth grade student at Liberty Middle School, last month finished third in the Stock Division of the Choo Choo Classic Invitational Race in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The race, sponsored by United States Derby Racing (USDR) was only open to a select group of racers from around the country, as anyone interested in participating had to submit a resume’ to be considered. Only 16 racers were selected to compete in each category.

Ava’s resume is impressive, as among other accomplishments, she competed at the All-American Soap Box Derby World Championships in Akron, Ohio this past summer, where she had a productive week, finishing in third place in the Rally Challenge race, second in the Rally Stock All-Star race, and second again in the Rally Stock Division Championship race.

Ava races under the Mojo Racing banner, named for two of her mentors, Morgan



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ava Diehl in action at the Choo Choo Classic



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ava (front center) poses in Chattanooga with her prizes along with her mother, Melissa (front left) and her father, Mike (rear left), Morgan Van Keuren (front right) and Joe Van Keuren (rear right).

and Joe Van Keuren, the father and son duo who were largely responsible for reviving gravity racing in Sullivan County after a decades long

absence. The Van Keurens accompanied Ava to Chattanooga, along with her parents, Mike and Melissa Diehl of White Sulphur Springs.

in Hurleyville event, it became even busier, as locals and visitors, bundled up against the cold—colder even than typical for this time of year—were out in force.

The Milk Train Trail is not usually plowed in the winter for a number of reasons. Some cost driven, as it is expensive to allocate a

GENERALS DROP FOUR STRAIGHT

Now Stand at 4-8

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE – The SUNY Sullivan Generals, now playing once again in Division III of the National Junior College Athletic Association, lost four straight games over the past month, dropping their season mark to 4-8. The team stands at 3-4 in the Mid-Hudson conference.

The Generals’ latest loss was a 76-61 setback at Nassau Community College on December 7. The Lions led virtually the entire game, racing out to a huge 34-22 halftime lead and substituting freely in the second half. Only one of Nassau’s starters played more than 25 minutes in the game, and eight of the 11 players who saw action logged ten or more minutes. Sullivan freshman guard



PHOTO PROVIDED

Xavier Beckford scored 21 points to take game honors as the leading scorer, and was the only General to reach double figures.

On the season thus far, Beckford is averaging 12.6 points per game, second best on the team. Freshman forward Tomas Hernandez leads the Generals in scoring with a 15.2 ppg average. Freshman swingman David Fowler is the only other Sullivan player averaging in double figures

for the season, contributing 12 points per game.

As of press time, The Generals had three away games left to close out the month of December, beginning with Dutchess County Community College in Poughkeepsie on December 9, followed by a trip to Bayside to take on Queensborough Community College on December 11, and then to Monroe University in the Bronx on Saturday, December 13.

Boxing Documentary Draws Crowd

“Ringside in the Mountains” At HPAC Cinema

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – “Ringside in the Mountains,” the newly completed documentary about the history of boxing in the Catskills made its big screen debut at an invitation only viewing at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre cinema on Saturday, November 29. About 100 people watched the film, and applause was heard throughout.

The film is produced by Evan Haiman’s Baker Street Productions with Hurleyville businessman Hal Simon, proprietor of Fortress Bikes, a co-producer. It now heads to Teaneck, New Jersey where it will make its public debut at the Flixfest film and music festival there on Sunday, December 14.

The documentary has been described as “the Sweet Science meets the Borscht Belt. Ringside in the Mountains tells the story of this idyllic



PHOTO PROVIDED

Among the celebrities attending the invitation only showing at HPAC in November were authors Lily Barrish Levner (second from left) and Barry Lewis (right). Posing with them are Ms. Barrish Levner’s husband Jeremy (left) and the film’s creator, Evan Haiman. Mr. Lewis appears in the film.

area in Upstate New York that just happened to be the training ground for some of the greatest fighters of the 20th Century.”

A number of local faces show up in the film, along with many of the boxers who once called the Catskills home, if only for a few weeks at a time.

The tradition of boxers training at Sullivan County hotels dates back to about 1910, but really became popular in the 1930s when champions such

as Barney Ross, Jimmy Braddock, and Jimmy McLarnin trained at local hotels. This trend continued throughout the next few decades, and eventually nearly every fighter of any renown trained here at least once.

Rocky Marciano, who retired as the undefeated World’s Heavyweight Champion in 1956, not only trained, but lived at Grossinger’s. All of this and more is covered in the film.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fallsburg CSD Honors Fall Scholar Athletes

FALLSBURG – The Fallsburg Central School District is proud to honor its NYSPHSAA scholar-athletes for the 2025 fall season. The NYSPHSAA recognizes teams and individual athletes who excel academically within each sports season. To qualify as a scholar-athlete team, at least three-quarters of the students must maintain a grade point average of 90.00 or above. This season, the girls cross-country team, girls volleyball team, and boys cross-country team were recognized as scholar-athlete teams.

Girls cross-country scholar-athlete team members: Autumn-Rain Atkinson, Bethany Carvajal, Jennifer Fuentes Pine-da, Alisha Tremper, Noelle Varner, and Helen Vasquez.

Girls volleyball scholar-athlete team members: Addison Alvarado, Ashleigh

Fuentes Ardon, LeonJahnaeSkye Fountain, Emily Garcia, Layla Hermann, Camdyn Hoefling, Zoey Ketcham, Nayelis Martinez, Madeline Pantel, Joslyn Smith, and Peyton Varner.

Boys cross-country scholar-athlete team members: Ayden Carpenito, Leeland Hadden, Treyvon Hayden, Conner McManus, Jozyr McNeil, Eric Moocz, Robert Perrera, and Zayd Snead.

Girls soccer individual scholar-athletes: Deysi Diaz Hernandez, Alisson Lagos Guardado, and Marilyn Santos.

Boys soccer individual scholar-athletes: Bryan Avelar Martinez, Oscar Caranza, Douglas Medina Carcamo, and Daniel Perez.

Cheerleading individual scholar-athletes: Lindsay Ladaverde Rodriguez, Michelle Maradiaga, and Nelcy Orellana Mejia.

**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!

December Questions:

1. He scored 110 points in three games at the 1964-65 ECAC Holiday Festival college basketball tournament at Madison Square Garden, and was a near unanimous choice as tournament MVP, even though his team won just one game. Who was he?
2. In that same 1964-65 Holiday Festival, this legendary coach’s team won the championship in his final season with an upset victory over the nation’s top team in the final game. Who was the coach?
3. This freshman was chosen the Most Valuable Player in the 1981 Holiday Festival as his team won the championship. Who was he?
4. In what year was the first ECAC Holiday Festival basketball tournament held at Madison Square Garden?
5. What was the last year the Holiday Festival basketball tournament was held at Madison Square Garden?

November Answers:

1. From 1951 to 1963, these two NFL teams played each other every Thanksgiving. What are the two teams? (**Detroit Lions and Green Bay Packers**)
2. The Dallas Cowboys have traditionally hosted a Thanksgiving Day NFL game since 1966, a string that was interrupted for two years, in 1975 and 1977. What team hosted the NFL Thanksgiving Day game those two years instead? (**St. Louis Cardinals**)
3. What two NFL teams played in the first Thanksgiving Day game to go into overtime? (**Detroit Lions and Chicago Bears in 1980. The Bears won.**)
4. What player made the infamous “butt fumble” in a Thanksgiving Day game in 2012? (**NY Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez.**)
5. This running back rushed for an NFL record 273 yards in a Thanksgiving Day game. Who was he? (**O.J. Simpson of the Buffalo Bills in 1976.**)

There was no winner last month.