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WHAT TO DO SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT



Satisfying the outdoor itch

STORY AND PHOTOS BY VINCENT KURZROCK

f you are looking for something to satisfy the adventurous outdoor itch in your life, look no further than Morgan Outdoors located right on Main Street in Hurleyville.

Founded in 2005 in Livingston Manor, owner Lisa M. Lyons relocated the store after 17 fantastic years in 2022 to make her business more accessible by having it closer to the center of the county to better serve residents and the community. Lyons also picked the location because it is next to the welcoming Hurleyville Rail Trail and only twenty miles from the Red Hill Fire Tower.

Lyons is very passionate about the outdoors and the products she sells reflect on all aspects one can get out of enjoying the world around you. Morgan Outdoors offers rentals on the side of shopping. Their hottest sellers for shopping are Darn Tough Socks, Merrell and Keen Shoes and Boots, and Kuhl Men's Pants. Their top selling rentals are hiking poles and microspikes that one can put on their shoes to safely walk across ice. Their gear can be reserved by phone at 845-693-4181 with a credit card on hand.

As stated on their website, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6W



Lisa Lyons is enthusiastic to share her love for the outdoors and eager to have everyone feel the same.

These books welcome whomever steps through the front

Worried about being careful on the ice? Slip MicroSpikes onto your footwear and walk across ice with confidence.

Lisa Lyons emphasizes the comfort of your footwear. It will not sit right with her if you leave with a shoe or boot that doesn't fit.

Need a hat, sweater or coat... you'll find it at Morgan Outdoors.

Morgan Outdoors also offers snowshoes for the mountain hiker.











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welcome to Holiday Mountain Ski & Fun Park

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4W

Morgan is committed to finding quality products at reasonable prices for their customers and delivering outstanding customer service. They pay particular attention to finding products suitable for novices and they create programs and events that promote trying something new.

"Winter outdoor adventures are more fun if you are dressed to stay warm and dry, you have traction for walking on ice, and you are aware of the weather forecast and prepared for it," said owner Lisa

Morgan Outdoors has plenty of deals. On their Cinderella Table, they have half price for shoes and boots. As Lyons emphasizes, "if the shoe fits". The Sock Basket has deals on Darn Tough and Wigwam

Morgan Outdoors sometimes also hosts nature related excursions, such as hikes to the top of Walnut Mountain and walks along the Hurleyville Rail Trail. These events must be registered in advance if you wish to attend.

Lyons is also very interested in topographical maps, which are also sold at the store, and she sometimes educates those wishing to learn about them and reading them.

"I love reading maps, especially topographic ones because they show details of our landscape!" said Lyons, "It's so cool how a 2-dimensional map can describe a 3-dimensional world."

"I love sharing this skill with others to give them a little independence from electronic devices. It's so much fun!"

Their website proudly states that they are much more than a store. They also take great pride in being a resource for outdoor information and a center for a wide range of activities ranging from seasonal hikes to weekly yoga classes.

Their hours are as follows:

Mon, Thur, Fri, Sat: 10 am to 6 pm Sun: 10 am to 3 pm.

Morgan Outdoors also offers gift certificates of any amount.



Clockwise from above left:

Morgan Outdoors not only has accessories for the outdoors, but apparel as well

Drawers filled with Topo Maps. Lyons finds much enjoyment in seeing a 3D image translated to a 2D plane with these maps.

Alongside this real bird's nest, **Morgan Outdoors** carries all sorts of books to educate on different species of birds.

With Darn Tough socks, you're guaranteed to have warm feet for years without needing another pair.





What to Do

'Great Ideas and Activities to Enjoy Winter'

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I WHAT TO DO SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT



BY DEREK KIRK

hile the whipping wind and sheer cold may be a draw to many who crave the winter world and all it has to offer, some prefer staying indoors where the weather can't keep you down.

To those who like to stay on the inside, there are a number of places to visit and activities to take part in as the cold weather makes its mark. Here, you'll find a handful of ideas to keep the busybody busier without the baffling cold – like taking a trip to the movie theater, going to one of your favorite restaurants or even an afternoon at the museum.

The Callicoon Theatre, a living landmark in the hamlet of Callicoon that carries on the tradition of the bona fide silver screen, has a great rotation of films, events and community gatherings that enable cinephiles



Indulge in and teach a hobby.

from all around the county to enjoy. Take a friend or two out, grab a ticket and some buttery popcorn and get lost in another world – preferably somewhere warmer.

If a trip to the movies isn't what warms your soul, then a fresh plate of delicious food from your favorite restaurant might just do the trick. There are so many fantastic eateries that are open and waiting for you, including the many historic and staple diners sprawled out around the area.

One fun foodie challenge this winter could be to stop in at every diner, and mark them off your list. Then when you see all your friends when the weather turns warm again, you can tell them all about how you have tried them all, and join them on a trip to the one that stood out among the

Once you've seen the next big blockbuster and had a lovely meal from your new (or old) favorite restaurant, the history of Sullivan County remains on full display year-round at one of the many museums scattered around.

Some of those include: The Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville, the Museum at Bethel Woods, the Liberty Museum &



Cozy-up with a book.

Arts Center, Catskill Art Space and the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, plus so many more! Each has a focus on different significant aspects of the county, and these institutions have each accumulated and garnered a wealth of creativity and history.

Even if all of these activities don't entice you to get up out of the house this winter, then fear not! At the Canal Towne Emporium, you can pick up so many knick-knacks, games and indoor activities that keep you entertained for hours as the snow flies outside.

Winter won't last forever and the warmer days will return, but for now – the great indoors of Sullivan County offer a great deal of things to do until then.



Enjoy a game of cards with friends.



Share the Snow!

Tinter is a great time to be outside in New York. Winter hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting/trapping and ice fishing are among the most popular activities available to residents and visitors alike. Whether you seek solitude or excitement, you can find it in New York during the winter.

One Property, Many Uses

Many forms of winter recreation can and do take place simultaneously on the same public or private property without conflict. It just takes a little advanced planning, respect, and common courtesy among users.

Whether recreating on public land or private land where you have permission, you should be aware of the types of activities that also may be taking place on the property you are using. It's always a good idea to ask a landowner if others will be present when you wish to pursue your pastime, whether that involves snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, trapping, or hunting rabbits or deer.

We all share the outdoors, the snow, the woods, and the fields. Just as it is the case during warmer months, being considerate of others is vital when sharing the snow in winter.

Hunters: Be aware that others may have permission to ski, hike, or ride on property you hunt. You should also understand that snowmobile clubs prefer to mark trails with posts and signage before the ground freezes, so you may wish to avoid known snowmobile trails in late hunting seasons. As always, be alert to other users and practice safe use of firearms.

Recreationists: Be aware that hunters may be present at any time during the fall and winter; deer hunting occurs between Christmas and New Year's Day, and small game hunting continues through February. Hunters are trained to identify their target and what is beyond, and New York hunters have an exceptional safety record.

Be Considerate of Others: Treat other users as you would like to be treated. Accept that a temporary interruption in your activity may occur, just as your presence may be a temporary interruption to others. If you see another party, announce your presence with a

"hello" rather than a wave.

Practice Safety: Whether you are hunting, hiking, or skiing, it's a good idea to wear some brightly colored clothing when you are recreating outdoors, whether or not hunting seasons are open. Bright clothing will help you be seen if you are lost, injure an ankle, or if you break a binding or have an equipment failure.

Landowners: As a property owner, you decide who is welcome on your property and how it can be enjoyed. Your generosity is appreciated, whether you are providing a critical link in a snowmobile trail network, or serving as a gracious host to those who may use your property for other purposes. Your goodwill is recognized in the General Obligations Law (GOL), which provides protection from liability when you allow people to access your land for recreation without cost. The GOL applies whether you allow a single activity or permit multiple uses, and whether your property is posted or not.

Remember: We all share public lands and public resources.

Let's all "Share the Snow!"



9W

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A winter wonderland atop the mountain





STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ANTHONY MORGANO

hen looking for where to go this winter, look no further than the newly-opened Roscoe Mountain Club.

Although the golf course is closed for the season, the club is open and there's plenty to do and see, including an ice-skating rink that has taken over the tennis courts for the season.

The new ownership group envisioned a year-round property, opening the amenities of the Roscoe Mountain Club to guests to use throughout the colder months.

"We envisioned the ice rink as a place for people to come and enjoy," Outdoor Rec Coordinator for RMC Jennifer O'Brien said. "We have top of the line rentals available and we're trying to get people out to enjoy the club."

On New Years Eve, in just their

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Left: The skate rental booth is right next to the entrance to the ice, offering customers a place to grab what they need.

second weekend having the ice rink open, an event hosted by the club was packed with guests ice skating and enjoying the patio area.

With open skate hours on Tuesday and Sunday, and the option to reserve the rink on other nights, there's always time to go up and enjoy the facilities. On Thursday night they host Pucks and Pints, for pickup hockey on the ice.

The rink is surrounded by a plexiglass tall enough to keep spectators safe during hockey games, while still offering great vantage points of the ice.

Employees of Roscoe Mountain Club showed off a new RMC logo while working at the ice rink. Entitled "Hooked on Hockey," the logo mixes elements of fly fishing and hockey as a tribute to the location of the club and one of the key attractions of the area.

They're hoping to keep the ice rink going until the middle of March, and are planning other upcoming events, so be sure to check their website at roscoemountainclub.com

Through coordination with NHL's Learn to Play initiative, the Roscoe Mountain Club was able to get extra skates for school kids interested in learning.



The patio next to the ice rink offers spectators a great place to stay warm as they watch the skaters on the ice.

The rink, nestled comfortably on the tennis courts, has a path from the parking area and the barn. Roscoe Beer Company was hosting a pop-up at the Barn during the New Years event, and will likely be back more throughout the winter.

The Barn is a great place to warm up after being out on the ice, with bathrooms and a large lounge area.

The patio, while exposed to the elements, has multiple fire pits to stay warm while out next to the ice.

"It's a lot busier than we expected," O'Brien said on New Years Eve. "It's great to see people coming up."



13W

The path to the ice rink starts at the barn and leads skaters through the woods towards the tennis courts which have been altered for the winter months.



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Holiday Mtn. continues work on opening for season

BY ALEX KIELAR

riginally planning on opening for Christmas weekend, Holiday Mountain, under leadership by new owner Mike Taylor, has been hit with uncooperative weather that is very un-winter-like of late. The Holiday Mtn. team embarked on their first night of snowmaking on Thursday, December 21 as they tried out their brand new snowmaking infrastructure that includes new pumps, electrical, air and water piping, valve sheds, gun pedestals and snow guns.

They were able to lay down quite a bit of snow upon testing out the new equipment and figured out what adjustments would need to be made. But with temperatures rising into the 40s and 50s throughout Christmas weekend and into the following week, they chose not to waste time and resources on attempting to build a base that would only melt shortly



thereafter. With temperatures dropping back down into the 30s over New Year's weekend, they returned to snowmaking and are getting closer to being able to open for the season.

The latest update as of Wednesday, January 3 was that they were able to make snow about 10 hours each night over the previous two nights.

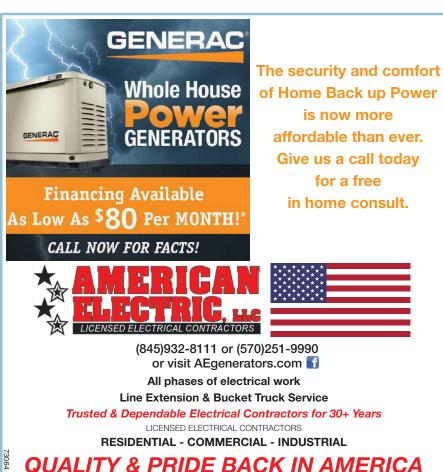
"Whenever the temps and humidity allow, the Holiday team will keep pushing since we want to ski as much as you do," they said.

Since Taylor bought the ski hill back in June from former owner Craig Passante, his team has been working hard on reinvigorating the mountain to bring it back to a peak skiing atmosphere.

Holiday Mountain announced

on Friday, December 22 that their Camp Holiday program, in which skiers ages 5 to 16 of all skill levels can participate, has been canceled for this season. But once the season does open, there are several opportunities for ski and snowboard lessons as well as snowtubing on their new 400 foot snowtubing run at the North Lodge. The snowtubing run features 12 lanes of snowtubing, serviced by its own conveyor lift. Time slots can be booked on Holiday's website, skiholidaymtn.com, so that there is never a wait. There are five sessions available on Fridays, six sessions on Saturdays and four sessions on Sundays at a rate of \$25 for an hour and a half.

The ski mountain will have six ski trails open for the 2023-24 season which will be serviced by two chairlifts and a brand new learning center which will be serviced by its own "magic carpet conveyor belt for beginners. Ski and snowboard lessons are available









Left: The Holiday Mountain team has picked back up snowmaking this week.

Right: All new trail signs have been installed at Holiday.



through their snowsports school as well as all new rental equipment. The lessons can also be easily pre booked online through the website, skiholidaymtn.com. Private lessons, group lessons and beginner package lessons are all available to book on the website. as well as multi-week programs and a development race program. Information regarding the purchase of daily and season passes as well as season lockers and season VIP parking can also be found at the website.



New Holiday Mtn. owner, Mike Taylor, with his youngest daughter, Harley.

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