



The White Plains Examiner

Stepinac Wins Epic Football Battle



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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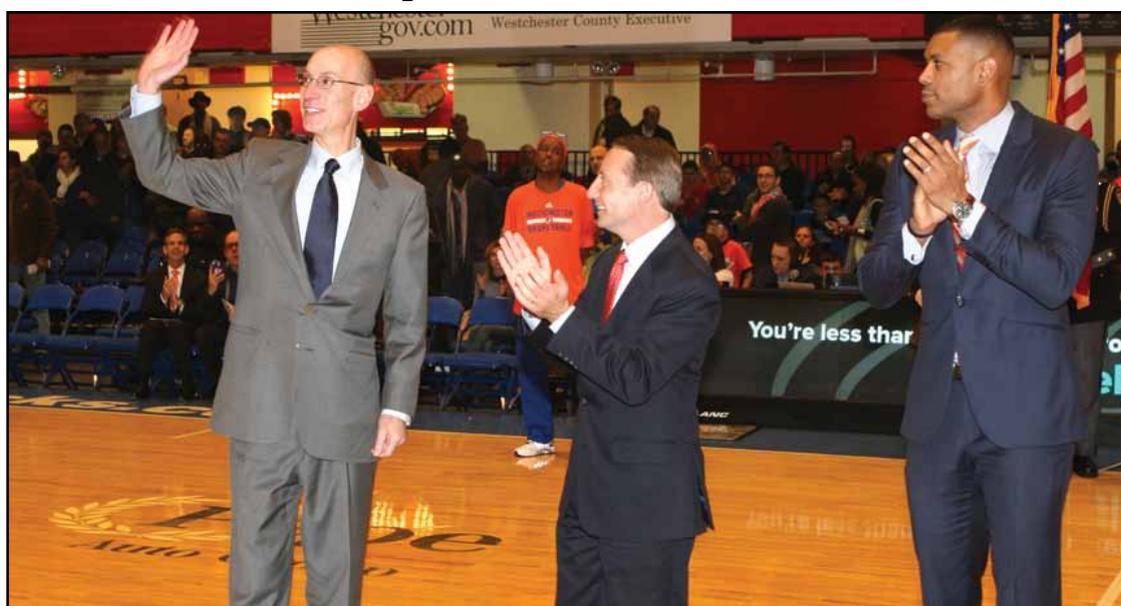
Westchester Knicks Home Opener a Gala Event at the County Center

By Albert Coqueran

On March 10, it was announced that the NBA Developmental League and the Madison Square Garden Company acquired the right to own and operate an NBA D-League Team, which would be the exclusive affiliate of the New York Knicks and play their home games at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

The Madison Square Garden Company and the NY Knicks announced the name of the new D-League team as the Westchester Knicks and displayed their new logo on May 14. On October 8, they hired Kevin Whitted as their inaugural Head Coach.

Presently, the Westchester Knicks are off and running and exciting fans at the Westchester County Center. The Westchester Knicks had a festive event for



[L-r] NBA Commissioner Adam Silver is applauded by Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino and Westchester Knicks General Manager Allan Houston as he greets fans at the Westchester County Center during pregame festivities at the Home Opener of the Westchester Knicks, on November 19.

ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

their inaugural Home Opener at the Westchester County Center on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino made his way into the arena, as did Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett. "I am excited. We negotiated for about six months on a contract that was favorable to both sides; we wanted to do it and the Knicks wanted to do it and we just said let's get it done and we did," said Astorino, who spearheaded the process to bring the Westchester Knicks to the County Center.

"This is the accumulation of a lot of hard work by a lot of good people. This is the start of something hopefully really great for a really longtime," Astorino continued as he greeted fans

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Elmsford Food Bank Receives 800 Turkeys from Stop & Shop

By Pat Casey

Elmsford-based Food Bank for Westchester and the Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless were busy last week distributing 800 turkeys donated by the Stop & Shop Supermarket Company to 57 different food collection and emergency food distribution agencies in Westchester.

Volunteers from various agencies jumped in to distribute the turkeys in one massive countywide effort.

"Stop & Shop is a great supporter of the Food Bank all year long in many capacities. Its turkey donation this season will enable us to distribute more

turkeys this Thanksgiving," said Ellen Lynch, executive director, Food Bank for Westchester.

The Food Bank and Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless recently joined forces to attack hunger in the county. They acknowledged that the holidays are increasingly busy, especially Thanksgiving.

"Our collaboration with Food Bank for Westchester enables us to share resources, be efficient, distribute more Thanksgiving meals and feed more hungry people. Turkey requests from our food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters have increased by 48 percent this

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White Plains Thanksgiving Day Turkey Bowl Canceled

By Albert Coqueran

As reported in my story in the White Plains Examiner, on Oct. 7, due to the Stepinac varsity football team's success this season and the establishment of the newly formed Catholic High School State Football Championship this year, the possibility existed that the City of White Plains traditional Turkey Bowl football game pitting White Plains High School against Stepinac High School could be canceled.

On Monday evening, Nov. 17, the probability of this disappointing outcome became a reality. "In a joint decision between White Plains High School and Archbishop Stepinac High School, it has been announced that this year's

Turkey Bowl slated for Thursday, Nov. 27th, between the two schools has been canceled," announced Mike O'Donnell, the Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Stepinac.

O'Donnell cited an issue with the New York State Sports Standards as the reason for the cancellation of this year's Turkey Bowl. The New York State Sports Standard requires four nights rest for teams between games.

Stepinac has achieved a remarkable undefeated record this season. They played in the Catholic High School Football League (CHSFL) AAA Championship game against Iona Prep, on Saturday and

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White Plains Thanksgiving Day Turkey Bowl Canceled

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beat Iona to win the CHSFL Title. They will advance to represent the CHSFL in the inaugural Catholic High School State Championship game, against the

decision, on Monday, Nov. 17, was that Stepinac could not expect nor did they think it was fair for the White Plains



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

In 2010, the traditional Turkey Bowl pitting White Plains against Stepinac delivered a thrilling contest for local football fans during the Holidays. Nevertheless, it was made official, on Monday, Nov. 17, that the Turkey Bowl would be canceled for the second consecutive year.

winner of the Buffalo Catholic League Championship.

The Catholic High School State Championship is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 30, at Hofstra University, at 1:30 p.m. If Stepinac played in the Turkey Bowl on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 27, they would not meet the requirements for rest according to the New York State Sports Standards.

The Turkey Bowl game would have to be played and finished by Wednesday afternoon in order to meet the NYSSS requirements for a team to rest between games.

"Stepinac has had a successful season to date, putting itself in a position to possibly continue playing past Thanksgiving Day," commented O'Donnell regarding the Nov. 17 decision. "If Stepinac were to advance to the inaugural Catholic High School State Football Title game scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 30, we would not have the required rest between contests, as required by The New York State Sports Standards," explained O'Donnell.

Another issue that brought this final

Tigers to practice all this week, with merely the expectation of playing in the Turkey Bowl. Consequentially, the Tigers would not know if the game was still scheduled to be played until Saturday, evening Nov. 22, depending on whether Stepinac were to lose on Saturday, in the CHSFL AAA Title game.

"The game is a great tradition for both schools and the White Plains community. It is a shame that we will not be playing in it this year," said O'Donnell, the Stepinac Athletic Director and Head Football Coach. O'Donnell went on to say, "We could not give White Plains a 100 percent commitment to play the game and it was not fair for them to sit around and wait for a possible game."

This is the second consecutive year that City of White Plains high school football fans will have to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, without the traditional Turkey Bowl. Last year's Turkey Bowl was canceled due to the overwhelming success of the White Plains High School Tigers, who won the Section 1 AA Title and advanced to the New York State Championship Game.

Elmsford Food Bank Receives 800 Turkeys from Stop & Shop

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year. We are very grateful to Stop & Shop for partnering with us in our mission to meet the overwhelming need in Westchester County," said Jeanne Blum, executive director, Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless.

The Food Bank for Westchester, one of eight regional food banks in New York State and a member of the Feeding America network, acquires, warehouses and distributes more than 7.2 million

pounds of food annually to 265 frontline hunger-relief programs, including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, day care and residential programs. The organization estimates that one in five Westchester County residents, approximately 200,000 people, are hungry or at-risk of being hungry. One-third are children under the age of 18 and 22 percent are seniors over the age of 60.



The Greenburgh Police Department volunteered their time to unload 800 turkeys as part of Stop & Shop's annual Turkey Express Program. Helping to pass the first pallet of turkeys into the warehouse was the Food Bank for Westchester, Westchester County Executive Rob P. Astorino, the Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless and Stop & Shop reps.

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Donating Food, Money, Time During the Winter Season Is a Community Effort

By Pat Casey

Gearing up for the cold weather of the Holiday Season, many groups around Westchester have been collecting necessary items and volunteering to pass around the good cheer. As most of these organizations will continue their efforts over the coming weeks – some ongoing – there is plenty of opportunity to volunteer or make a donation.

This past Saturday, Congregation Kol Ami of White Plains served Thanksgiving dinner to 75 residents of the Coachman Family Center and shelter at their temple

Monday. First announced on September 11, the Diaper Bank has since been collecting all sizes, types and brands of disposable diapers and wipes and is now ready to assist families struggling to afford clean diapers in Westchester.

Motivated by the motto “Changing Babies... Changing Lives,” the Diaper Bank will give families an opportunity to apply for a package containing a week’s supply of diapers and wipes up to three times a year per child. Intended to help get families through the tough times, the Diaper Bank will begin by serving families through the Department of Social Services (DSS). The goal is to expand to serve nonprofit agencies as well.

Proof of Westchester County residency and a child’s birth certificate are required for eligibility. A family does not have to be an existing client of DSS to apply for diapers. Applications can be obtained and submitted at any of the county’s district offices – located in Mount Vernon, Peekskill, White Plains and Yonkers – or can be downloaded from the JLCW’s website at jlcwcentralwestchester.org/diaperbank. Diapers will be distributed on a monthly basis from the district offices with designated dates and pick-up times. Applications will be due approximately a week before the distribution dates.

For more information about receiving or donating diapers, contact the Junior League of Central Westchester at 914-723-6442, jlcwdiaperbank@gmail.com or



The Junior League of Central Westchester opened the Westchester County Diaper Bank. The opening was celebrated with a ribbon cutting.



Stepinac students rallied to the cause of helping growing numbers of homeless families in New York City keep warm during the winter.

on Soundview Avenue.

The Wal-Mart Foundation, with Thanksgiving as a target date, awarded the Food Bank for Westchester \$75,000 for emergency food distribution efforts.

The Junior League of Central Westchester officially opened the Westchester County Diaper Bank

www.jlcwcentralwestchester.org.

Archbishop Stepinac High School students recently mobilized to donate more than 100 coats and other warm winter apparel to support The Children’s Collective’s 24th Annual Coat Drive. Stepinac contributed the most number of coats of all the organizations and schools that participated in this year’s drive. Sterling Lanken, a volunteer with The Children’s Collective and Stepinac President Father Thomas Collins marked the occasion with students who were on hand to help fill the non-profit organization’s van.

PJ of Patrick’s Pub in White Plains is continuing the tradition of collecting warm blankets and coats for homeless people on the streets of New York City this year. Unworn socks are also a welcome donation to ward off the bitter cold. White Plains residents can drop off good quality (slightly worn) blankets and coats at 39 Howard Avenue, White Plains. Angela is doing distribution.

The town of Greenburgh is resuming

efforts to locate Snow Angels who will assist seniors/disabled residents clear their driveways of snow. The Snow Angels program was started over 20 years ago and depends on volunteers. Last year more seniors were helped than ever before, but every year the group loses some volunteers.

According to Town Supervisor Paul volunteers will clear driveways of seniors (meals and wheels recipients), those with disabilities, and residents on fixed incomes that have health problems. The snow angels who volunteer for this category will not charge a fee.

Some volunteers will be matched with a family; others will be on call, volunteering occasionally during the winter months.

Student volunteers will receive certificates of appreciation and letters of recommendation when applying for jobs/colleges. Contact pfeiner@greenburghny.com if you are interested in participating in the program.

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White Plains Public Schools and Teachers Reach Agreement, Sign Contract

By Pat Casey

It has been over two years since the White Plains Teacher's Association and the Board of Education were able to agree on a contract, but earlier this month, after several failed attempts the two sides settled. The contract in place in 2012 remains essentially the same except for specific areas regarding salary increases, health insurance contribution changes and time spent at required meetings.

According to the Memorandum of Agreement, the contract runs from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017. While Step increases (automatic pay increases based on longevity in the school system) have been maintained, there are no salary increases for school year 2014/15 and no retroactive increases.

During the current school year, teachers who have worked 20 Step years and who have two full years or more of service to the White Plains School District will receive a one-time non-recurring payment of \$750, which will be made on April 9, 2015.

During school year 2015/16, effective July 1, 2015, there will be an across-the-board increase of 1 percent with an additional \$600 added after the percentage increase for Step 20 educators. In 2016/17 the across-the-board increase will be 0.50 percent with an additional \$600 for Step 20 teachers.

As of July 1, 2015, teachers who have reached Step 20 will be eligible for a longevity payment if they have worked a minimum of 15 years for the White Plains Public School District and if they have remained on Step 20 for at least two full years. Once eligible, longevity payments will be automatic and not based on performance.

Under the new agreement, effective January 1, 2015, Southern Westchester Schools Consortium Health Plan (SWSCHP) will be the only health care plan offered by White Plains Schools to unit members and retirees eligible for health insurance.

Employee contributions are: 2012-2013, 10.5 percent; 2013-2014, 10.5 percent; 7/1/2014-12/31/2014, 10.5 percent; 1/1/2015-6/30/2015, 11.5 percent; 7/1/2015-6/30/2016, 12.5 percent; and 7/1/2016-6/30/2017, 13.5 percent.

The health insurance buyout for 2012 through 2015 is 40 percent of premium; 2015-2016, 35 percent of premium; and 2016-2017, 30 percent of premium.

Regarding planning and preparation time required of teachers during the school year, the new contract specifies that "By Sept 15 of each school year, the principal and building representative will determine priorities for the building for the first semester and by January 15th for

the second semester. Once determined the principal and/or his or her designee will work with the teacher representatives to schedule meetings to address these priorities for the school year. One prep per cycle can be administratively directed for meetings with administrators, consultants and ICS. This includes all meetings with administrators, consultants, and ICS's. This clause does not include post-observations and CSE meetings." Special area teachers may be required to attend, in addition, no more than three citywide special area meetings per year except in emergencies. A schedule of such meetings will be distributed in September

for the year.

The contract was negotiated in part by Interim Superintendent of Schools Timothy Connors, who at the recent Board of Education meeting said: "Everyone worked hard to come to an agreement and we can now move on and devote full time to the business of educating students."

In related news the Board of Education voted to adopt the Veteran's Tax Exemption, which will be utilized for the 2015/16 school year tax levy.

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The Network Support Company, Elmsford

By Pat Casey

The Network Support Company has actually been in business 18 years, operating out of Connecticut with a growing number of clients in New York, especially in Westchester County. That's why Founder and CEO James Kennedy decided to open a satellite office in Elmsford; the company is already doing so much business here and has a core group of New York employees focused on the region.

"We focus on small to mid-sized businesses, that's our specialty," Kennedy



James Kennedy, CEO and Founder of The Network Support Company.

how they interact within a network."

Security is one major concern that Kennedy sees popping up for companies as their systems become more complex. "Often, in trying to provide as much transparency as possible for employees and clients, companies create problems they never saw coming."

Kennedy says that enabling mobile applications is a challenge, especially when setting up security. "You want things to be secure in a corporate network but you also have to be flexible. We can help establish those criteria, such as requiring a password change every 90 days. You also have to be able to wipe out a device remotely, especially if it is misplaced or lost," he explained.

TNSC provides, through in-depth assessments, a complete picture of the strengths and weaknesses built into a company's network. "We can build from the ground up or tweak and maintain, according to a company's needs," Kennedy says. "You know you have a problem when you have to call tech support all the time."

TNSC has several proprietary capabilities such as a workstation recovery system that can get computers up and running in 15 minutes.

"We provide an automated roll out of core applications for a business and then monitor and upgrade the network as necessary," Kennedy said, noting that he often gets calls from a company's CFO or even the IT department, who need help.

"We provide a unique approach to networks management," Kennedy adds. "We are currently working on a system that analyzes a business's core applications for the purpose of monetizing network applications."



The key to this is development of a system of analytics that looks at how to convert data into information. "One of the ways to do this is to look at yearly cycles and identify where changes can be made for improvement or to develop better cash flow projections, for example," explained Kennedy.

To provide these services to the smaller business, Kennedy looks at what the larger

companies are doing. "There are some very powerful IT systems out there," he explains. "I try to find a way to make them affordable to the smaller company."

TNSC charges a fee for an initial assessment. "We look at an organization, determine where the risks and exposure are and what needs to be done, Kennedy said. "Many times people take the assessment and try to do the work themselves, but they usually come back."

In the end, Kennedy believes that being proactive is the key to having a successful network and therefore a better business. "If you can anticipate a problem before it happens, then you save money," he says.

TNSC has just finished pulling together a second daily shift to make their support operations 24 hours seven days a week. "There is a lot of training and a lot of teamwork that goes into encouraging employees to push the envelope for themselves and the projects they work on," Kennedy says, proud of a company culture he has developed that puts doing the "right thing" first. TNSC's engineers hold over 100 technical certifications as a result of their ambitious training programs.

To find out more about TNSC visit the company website at www.networksupport.com or call 800-222-3893.

"Often, in trying to provide as much transparency as possible for employees and clients, companies create problems they never saw coming."

said in a recent interview with The White Plains Examiner.

Small businesses have growing technology needs, according to Kennedy. "With the growth of Cloud-based networking and increased employee mobility, there is a level of complexity and sophistication that often goes beyond the average engineering expertise. We have developed a proactive approach to managing networks that looks at all the operations and assets of a company and

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Associate Publisher

Peter Stone
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Chief Financial Officer

Pat Casey
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Editor-in-Chief

Bill Primavera
bprimavera@theexaminernews.com
Real Estate Editor

David Propper
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Reporter

Neal Rentz
nrentz@theexaminernews.com
Reporter

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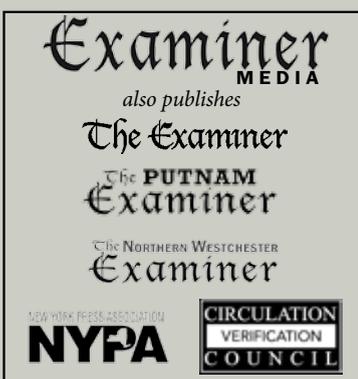
Dina Spalvieri
dspalvieri@theexaminernews.com
Designer

Paul Cardi
pcardi@theexaminernews.com
Account Executive

Nina Harrison
nharrison@theexaminernews.com
Account Executive

Jeff Ohlbaum
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com
Account Executive

Corinne Stanton
cstanton@theexaminernews.com
Media Consultant



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Black Friday Is Coming, County Offers Holiday Shopping Tips

With the holiday shopping season rapidly approaching, the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection offers the following useful tips to make your shopping experience stress-free.

Comparison shop for the best price. Find out all you can about an item before you purchase it. Know the refund policy of the merchant you are buying from. In a retail store, the refund policy must be posted at the point of sale.

If an advertised sale item is not available, ask for a rain check. You are entitled to it.

When making purchases, keep your receipts together and organized. Quickly

retrieve your credit cards after using them. If you pay by credit card, the credit card company can help you when you have a dispute with a merchant. Find out the warranty information about a product before you purchase it (this will vary from product to product.) Sometimes warranties are offered by the merchant as well as the manufacturer and your credit card company.

Cyber Monday shopping. This year, more than 50 percent of holiday shopping will be done online. Shop with companies you know or who have provided good service to people you know. Use secure web sites that begin with https:// rather than just http://. Be

sure to review the website's privacy and security information. It is wise to use sites that have customer service phone numbers as well as e-mail addresses.

Don't wait until the last minute to make an online purchase. Understand what costs are associated with shipping and handling. Confirm delivery dates with merchants, but remember factors outside the control of the merchant can affect delivery times.

If you experience a problem with a purchase, contact the Department of Consumer Protection at 914-995-2155, via e-mail at Conpro@westchestergov.com or online at consumer.westchestergov.com/

NYS Should Reimburse First Responders Helping Buffalo with Snow Emergencies

The three paid fire departments in Greenburgh – Fairview, Hartsdale and Greenville – have received an official request to help Buffalo with its recent snow related emergency. At least 12 deaths have been attributed to the heavy snowstorms that buried parts of Buffalo and Erie County last week. Residents have been trapped in their homes and roofs have collapsed. This week Buffalo officials expect significant flooding because of warm weather melting the snow.

According to Fairview Fire Chief Howard Reiss the three Greenburgh Fire

Departments are sending firefighters trained in collapse operations to the Buffalo area for a 72-hour deployment. Fairview, Hartsdale, and Greenville are sending a combined 12 members and are joined by Yonkers and White Plains Fire Departments. They have already hit the road. Chief Reiss indicated, "We are truly proud to be able to answer the call for assistance."

I would like to salute the three paid fire districts for helping out during this emergency. I have reached out to the Governor's office and will be contacting

other state officials this week requesting that the state (or FEMA) reimburse our three paid fire departments and other local government entities for personnel and other related costs associated with assisting Buffalo. New York State has a \$5 billion surplus. The three paid fire districts and all local governments are working hard to keep their tax increase below the tax cap.

–Paul Feiner,
Greenburgh Town Supervisor
(from an email)

A Thank You from Assemblyman David Buchwald

I want to thank the people of my State Assembly district for finding me worthy of a second term as their representative. Support from my constituents is not something I take for granted – it is something I try to earn every day. I will continue to roll up my sleeves as I've done

since you first put your faith in me. One of the great joys of my job is working hand in hand with my constituents, whether in passing meaningful legislation, promoting neighborhood events, recognizing the accomplishments of area residents, or working together to solve

problems related to State government.

I look forward to hearing your voices over the next two years, and I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

–David Buchwald,
NYS Assemblyman 93rd District

Obituaries

John Casey

John "Jack" D. Casey III, a resident of White Plains for 67 years, passed away November 19. Jack was born April 30, 1947 in White Plains to the late John D. and Catherine Casey, Jr. Jack married Kathleen "Katie" McNeil on December 2, 1967, who predeceased him in October 2012.

Survived by his five children - Christine (Steve) Schulz, Lauren (Eric) Wolf, Shannon Casey, John D. (Sandra) Casey IV and Stephen (Adina) Casey, as well as his sisters - Patricia Mullin, Catherine Stevens and Colleen Spor. Also survived by eight grandchildren, Sydney, Jack and Dylan Wolf, Justin and Christopher Schulz, and Jack, Colin and Aiden Casey.

Jack graduated from St. Bernard's Grammar School in White Plains, Cardinal Farley Military Academy in Rhinebeck, and Belknap College in Center Harbor, NH.

He was an active parishioner at Our

Lady of Sorrows and a member of their Men's Club, as well as a 20-year member of Westchester Country Club.

Jack worked in the automotive industry, beginning his career at Royal Motors, a family-owned business. Most recently he was employed as a sales consultant at Smith Cairns in Yonkers.

Memorial gifts in memory of Jack will be added to the Jack and Katie Casey Scholarship fund at Westchester Community College. To make a secure gift online: visit www.mysunywcc.org/donations; choose Memorial and Commemorative gifts. Please be sure to include "IMO Jack Casey" in the comments section

By mail: Please make your check payable to "Westchester Community College Foundation" and indicate IMO Jack Casey in the memo section of your check. (Credit cards are also accepted.) Send your donation to Westchester Community College Foundation, Hartford Hall, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595.

A donation form can be downloaded from: <http://www.sunywcc.edu/about/foundation/make-your-donation/>

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to pcasey@theexaminernews.com.

The White Plains Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOE DEMARTE



An Educational Evening with Raptors in the Rafters

Thursday, Nov. 20, Jim Eyring, a professor and assistant director of the Environmental Center at Pace University, conducted his 20th “Raptors in the Rafters” birds-of-prey demonstration at the White Plains Church Street Elementary School. With a crowd of well over 100 elementary students, and their parents and siblings in attendance, Eyring enlightened and entertained the crowd with the five birds of prey he brought: a barn owl, peregrine falcon, kestrel falcon, gyrfalcon and Harris hawk. Some of the birds flew in front of and even over the crowd, much to their amazement and enjoyment. It was clear that both presenter and audience enjoyed their time together with these beautiful birds.

The CWAS (Central Westchester Audubon Society) leaders were also there to celebrate and present an award to their past President of 12 years, Jeanne Alpert and to welcome their new President Lisa Curtis.



Bet Am Shalom’s 21st Annual Judaica Craft Show in White Plains

By Pat Casey

A dazzling array of Judaica crafts and jewelry will be shown and sold at the 21st Annual Judaica Craft Show, Saturday, Dec. 6, 8 to 11 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This juried show includes hundreds of unique works from the U.S., Canada, and Israel, in all price ranges including ceramics, silver, fabric, and more for ritual, decorative and practical use in the home and synagogue.

Heading up the craft show committee

this year is Phyllis Herz, who with over 200 volunteers from the Bet Am Shalom Synagogue in White Plains, pulls together a wonderful event that is anticipated by both artists and shoppers alike each Holiday season.

“We expanded the base of invites this year to cover as many areas as possible,” Herz said in an interview on Monday. “Because of that, we doubled the number of applicants.”

As a juried show, only those artists with the highest quality are accepted.

Herz explained the mission is to keep a balance of the different types of Judaica on exhibit across the various materials entered.

There are 20 Israeli artists featured in the show this year and 12 artists new to the show.

In addition to the traditional jewelry, ceramics, fabrics and other works of art three local authors, all members of the Bet Am Shalom community,

will be part of an author’s circle where they will sign books, each just published this fall and focused on an aspect of Jewish culture.

Joseph Berger, a former writer and columnist for The New York Times just published “The Pious Ones: The World of Hasidim and Their Battles with America” (Harper Perennial). Jonathan Slater will show his new book, “A Partner in Holiness: Deepening Mindfulness, Practicing Compassion and Enriching Our Lives through the Wisdom of R. Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev’s Kedushat Levi” (Jewish Lights Publishing). And, David Arnow (co-author with Paul Ohana), presents “Leadership in the Bible: A Practical Guide for Today” (iUniverse).

As in past years, food will be available on Saturday night with complimentary wine and dessert and a Sunday café will offer food for sale.

The ILAN Center of Israel, serving people with special needs, is the not-for-profit beneficiary of proceeds from the show.

Admission is \$8 per person (Sunday re-



Contemporary menorah.

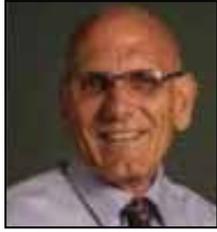


Artistically crafted earrings.

entry free if paid Saturday night), or \$7 with online voucher.

The show is held at Bet Am Shalom Synagogue, 295 Soundview Avenue, White Plains. For additional information and directions call 914-946-8851 Monday through Friday or visit www.betamshalom.org, where a discount admission voucher may be found.

From the Harrison Mayor and Town Hall, November 24, 2014



Ron Belmont,
Supervisor/Mayor of
Harrison

Last week, the Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Luncheons were held in both Downtown and West Harrison. Over 100 guests were served turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, vegetables and several selections of the most delicious pies. Many of the guests have been enjoying this annual banquet for a number of years, and look forward to it with great anticipation. Thanks to the Recreation Department for organizing the event. This feast is truly one of the highlights of my holiday season and it was wonderful to be included.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to extend my congratulations to Bob Amelio and Rocco Turso. Both of these Harrison residents have been selected by a panel of judges and will be inducted into the Westchester County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. It is an honor to recognize both of these deserving individuals for their service to Harrison and to the greater Westchester community.

Harrison's own Cris Spinner, music teacher and host of her own radio program, The Cris Spinner Show, heard every Tuesday at 8 p.m. on WVOX

1460 or WVOX.com, is producing and performing in Voices Heard 6 - Celebrate the Holidays, a concert to benefit The Center for Discovery. The event will be held on December 7th at the Will Library in Yonkers at 2:30 p.m. Kick off the holidays with a fabulous concert of holiday favorites. Visit the following link for all information and to order your tickets: voicesheardholidayconcert.eventbrite.com/

On Sunday, December 7 at 3 p.m., The Hudson Valley Chamber Singers will be performing in Harrison's Town Hall. The 15-member group, under the direction of Eugene Sirotkine, will perform, free of charge. The 40-minute concert, "Music on a Sunday Afternoon," has been selected for musicality and beauty. The Hudson Valley Chamber Singers will be performing pieces by Mozart, Bach and other giants of classical music.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the Annual Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast hosted by the American Jewish Committee of Westchester and Fairfield Counties. It was a very informative event focusing on ways in which different religions can build relationships by mutual understanding and cooperation. Together, different faiths can unite, collaborate and

advocate on issues of common concern. It was a wonderful symposium and I was honored to attend.

In closing, some residents have contacted my office inquiring about our area's feral cat population. Many have expressed concerns as well as support for these cats that also call Harrison "home."

Feral cats are members of the domestic cat species, just like pet cats, but are not socialized and are, therefore, not adoptable. Cats have been living outdoors, near humans, for thousands of years. They typically live in groups called colonies and have strong social bonds with their colony members.

Trap-Neuter-Return is an effective and humane way to stabilize feral cat populations. Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian, where they are neutered and rabies-vaccinated. Kittens and socialized cats are placed into loving homes. Healthy, adult feral cats (cats that are wary of human contact) are returned to their colony site, where volunteer colony keepers provide them with ongoing care and shelter. Trap-Neuter-Return works. No more kittens. The cats' lives and health are improved, and the population stabilizes and declines over time. The behaviors and stresses, associated with mating, spraying, yowling

and fighting, stop.

Harrison is partnering with The New Rochelle Humane Society to conduct Trap-Neuter-Return for local feral cats. If you have questions about this program or want to help get feral cats in your neighborhood TNR'd, please contact Town Clerk, Jackie Greer at 914-670-3030.

The next "Lunch with the Mayor" is on Friday, December 5th. I will be at Cobble Stone located at 620 Anderson Hill Road in Purchase. I will be at this location from 12:30 to 1:30 and look forward to meeting with residents and talking about issues facing our community.

Guest Column

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Five Tips for a Stress-Free Thanksgiving

Whether you are hosting your own Thanksgiving dinner or attending someone else's, Thanksgiving can be stressful. Traveling, guests, family dynamics, cooking and cleaning, etc. can all be nerve wracking. It doesn't have to be that way. Here are five tips for making the holiday go as smoothly as possible.

Plan ahead but expect some unexpected. If dinner is at your place, prepare as much as possible in advance. Shop early and prepare foods that don't need to be made on Thanksgiving Day. Have movies, games, and other activities ready for the children in the house so you can attend to whatever you need to without too much interruption. Have rooms ready and pre-assigned for guests to avoid potential conflict. If traveling, expect traffic and have activities for children in the car or on the plane. Recognize that things won't always go your way. Food might not come out perfectly, a relative could be running late, or your child could decide to throw a tantrum just as guests are arriving or when you enter a family member's home. Think about these possibilities ahead of time and prepare coping strategies just in case. Hopefully you won't have to use them, but you will have them in your pocket for a quick reference.

Flip the switch on expectations of

family members.

Many of us have family members who are difficult to tolerate and whom we know we will see during the holidays. Certain events are unavoidable but our attitude towards them and how we conduct ourselves can be controlled. Rather than dreading the presence of particular individuals and focusing on their flaws, try to list qualities you like about them in advance. Maybe Uncle Joe is loud and dominates conversations, but the kids find him hilarious, and he keeps them entertained while you prepare food. Aunt Sue might irritate you by prying into your business, but you know that she means well and she happens to scrub all the pots and pans without being asked or complaining. Make the most out of time with relatives. You'll have more fun if you try to view them through a more positive lens.

Parenting Pep Talk



By Dr. Jaime Fleckner Black

Accept help. This one is pretty simple. If someone offers to make dessert and you hate baking, say yes and thank you. If someone offers to help clean or read the kids a story before bed, say yes and thank you. Sometimes the little things can make a huge difference on your stress level.

Don't be too hard on yourself. Let's face it. No matter how hard we try, we will all likely be less healthy and eat more than usual on Thanksgiving. Try to enjoy without overindulging but remember that weight management is more

about your eating and exercise habits throughout the year than on holidays. Let yourself enjoy some rare treats and go back to a healthier lifestyle on Friday. Try to avoid the mentality that lets you eat the whole cake just because you had a slice. Instead of thinking of Thanksgiving as "kicking off" the holiday season of overeating, view time spent with family on holidays as days of indulgence.

Be unconventional if it suits your family. Some families are too busy to cook elaborate meals. Making the turkey,

stuffing, and everything else, takes planning and a lot of time. If you and your family decide to order in or go out for dinner, don't think that you aren't instilling family values in your children. Thanksgiving and holidays in general are about spending time together, not about making "game changing turkeys" as some magazines would like you to believe.

Dr. Jaime Black is a licensed psychologist practicing in Westchester and New York City. In addition to providing general mental health services, Jaime works with individuals of all ages on the autism spectrum, doing psychotherapy, conducting evaluations, and facilitating social skills groups. Visit www.spectrumservicesnyc.com, e-mail JaimeBlackPsyD@gmail.com or call (914) 712-8208.

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The Concept Behind Creating Wines for the Decades



By Nick Antonaccio

There is an ongoing debate of whether wine should be consumed young or after a period of aging. I am a proponent of consuming wine as it is released by a winery. Much of the wine released by winemakers is released young, primarily to generate the cash flow that permits investment in next year's vintage. As a result, much of the wine sitting on wine shop shelves is sold young – and drunk young.

These wines provide instant gratification and satiate our appetite for pleasant wines at affordable prices.

But there is another stratosphere of wine being produced. These wines are revered for their propensity to develop over decades, resulting in a fine wine that is significantly more refined - and desirable - than the ready-to-drink bottles. These wines have garnered their own descriptive nomenclature: cult wines, collectors' wines and wines built to last.

The term built-to-last sums up the intentions of winemakers and the desires of wine connoisseurs. As a living organism, wine is not a static agricultural product. Its shelf life is dependent on the underlying

raw material and the production processes employed by winemakers. But the one factor that influences the greatness of these wines is the fortitude and patience of those who purchase these bottles. Time is the ultimate determinant that unleashes the potential greatness – or at times the ultimate downfall – of a built-to-last wine.

What makes these wines so different from the overwhelming majority of other wines produced; and why are they so much more expensive?

There are four basic components of wine, each present in varying degrees and exerting varying influences: tannins, acidity, taste and alcohol. The combination of each of these determines the final style and life cycle of wine.

Tannins provide longevity. The level of acidity and taste (fruit) in a wine will determine its balance and age worthiness. As a wine matures, alcohol will tend to mellow the overall character of the wine, making it more approachable and pleasant. By manipulating these components, a winemaker is able to craft a particular style and aging potential.

For example, in the Bordeaux region of France, vintages can be erratic; the influence of the four components can be daunting. Achieving the ideal balance that

influences the longevity and maturation of a wine may be hindered by nature. This is why these wines are created from a blend of up to five different grape varieties. If the winegrowing season has been ideal, the fruit component of the harvested primary wine may dominate the other three components, potentially producing a fruit-forward wine that will peak-out after several years and then begin to quickly fade.

To achieve the desired balance for sustaining, and enhancing, the life of this wine, a winemaker will blend in a second wine that has high acid, a third wine to add backbone and tannins, even a fourth and fifth wine to manage alcohol levels and color intensity.

Likewise, if the winegrowing season has been poor, the fruit component may be weak and lacking finesse. To achieve the desired balance, one to four additional wines may be added to the primary wine, ultimately producing an amalgam of the best qualities of each.

On to pricing. The top wines from Bordeaux and Burgundy invariably command marketplace prices in the thousands of dollars – per bottle. The cost to produce these wines can be significantly

more expensive than most wines, but rarely equate to the geometrically higher prices in the market. The single most influential factor contributing to the high cost of these wines is market appeal. Their reputation commands higher prices. Their scarcity fosters higher prices. Their status symbol status creates irrational exuberance among high-end collectors, and drives up prices.

Just as human development is impacted by an individual's history and environmental influences, so too is it with wine. Likewise, fine wines require patience, often measured in decades, before their full potential is reached and a superior end result is achieved.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine





Happenings



We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Pat Casey at pcasey@theexaminernews.com.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Pancakes with a Side of Santa. Tickets (\$10 per person) are on sale now; seating is limited. The event is Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at YWCA, 515 North Street, White Plains. Santa's menu includes Prancer's pancakes, Blitzen's milk, Dancer's juice, Comet's clementines. Activities include a holiday story reading, crafts, gift from Santa and commemorative holiday items for sale. Open to the public, children under 1-year-old are free. Pre-registration at the YWCA Front Desk is required by December 1. No walk-in registration. For more information call 914-949-6227 ext. 109.

Tuesdays at Dorry's. Reflecting on the election. Michael Hackett and Julie Carran will facilitate a discussion to process the midterm election, three weeks later. Please bring your concerns, ponderings or speculations. Some of our questions: Do the election results reflect economic insecurities or a cultural backlash? Were the results a rejection of Obama or an embrace of the Republicans? To the extent that they were a rejection of President Obama, what was about his policies and what was about his race? Were the voters tired of the gridlock in Washington? Why are the Democrats doing so poorly among working class white voters? Why do voters appear to vote against their own economic interests? And—or—what are YOU thinking about all this? "Conversation partners" come weekly for informal table talk. There is no charge. After voting just come and order your food from Sylvia and enjoy the discussion and the company; 6 to 7 p.m.

Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

White Plains Outdoor Farmers Market. The last day of the Farmer's Market for the season; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Farmer's Market is located on Court Street between Main Street and Martine Avenue.



Thursday, Nov. 27 Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, Nov. 28

Christmas Tree Sale. The North White Plains Fire Company No. 1 will be hosting its annual Christmas tree sale as a fund raising event again this year. This event will be held at the firehouse, located at 621 North Broadway, North White Plains. All ages are welcome, and parking is free. The first sale date will be Friday, Nov. 28th and will continue through Saturday, Dec. 20th unless sold out. Trees are priced according to type and size. Thursdays & Fridays 4 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays & Sundays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Free B-12 Shots. Feeling tired, weak and a little blue? Stop by Formé Urgent and Wellness Center, 7-11 South Broadway, White Plains for your free B-12 shot. B-12 is a vital nutrient commonly found in meat, seafood and dairy products. Benefits of B-12 include an increase in metabolism and energy as well as a mood booster. In addition to increasing our mood and energy, B-12 helps keep the nerves and cells in our body healthy and strong.

School's Out/Arts In. Looking for something for your kids to do when they have no school? Get inspired by the Katonah Museum of Art's exhibition "Lethal Beauty: Samurai Weapons and Armor" with fun art activities each day. Today, create unique holiday cards using Japanese batik techniques on paper. For

children three years old and up. Children under six and under must participate with an adult; for children seven and older, adults must remain at the museum. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children of members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Adults: Regular museum admission. Info: Visit www.katonahmuseum.org.

Trains: Your Ticket to the Great Outdoors. Display of model trains, presented by the Yonkers Model Railroad Club. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members-Adults: \$10. Seniors: \$9. Children (2 to 12): \$8. (Includes admission to all Manor House exhibits.) Also Nov. 30. Info: 914- 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Saturday, Nov. 29

Small Business Saturday. Shop Small, Save Big event in White Plains at participating retailers. Coupons, savings and special offers. Special American Express credit at participating stores. Get a Special Discount Card at Cambria Suites (250 Main Street, White Plains) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for shopping all over the city.

Westchester's Winter Wonderland. This holiday season more than 2.5 million LED lights will transform the Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla into a festive wonderland for families and friends to celebrate the spirit of the season. Presented by Westchester Medical Center, the program will open the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 29. Winter Wonderland will be open Wednesdays through Sundays until December 14. Beginning Wednesday, December 17 through Sunday, January 4th the program runs continuously from 4 to 10 p.m. weekdays and Sundays, and 4 to 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Monday, Dec. 1

Student Art Show. A wide range of work by students by Westchester Community College students enrolled in the visual arts seminar, a one-credit portfolio development and professional practices course, will be showcased. Westchester Community College's Fine Arts Gallery, third floor of the Academic Arts Building, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Dec. 1. Show hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Info: 914-606-7867 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/gallery.

YMCA Holiday Open House. Santa Sampler of Free half-hour classes. Body pump 5:30 to 6 p.m.; Spinning 6 to 6:30 p.m.; Pilates 6:30 to 7 p.m.; Yoga 7 to 7:30

p.m. Complimentary refreshments and holiday treats. Opportunity to buy a "Y" Holiday ornament and fulfill a "Y" Wish on Giving Tuesday; 250 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. Call 914-949-8030 ext. 221 for more information.

Ongoing Events

"Becoming Disfarmer." The first museum exhibit in the New York metropolitan area of works from commercial photographer Mike Disfarmer, whose postcard-sized portraits, made between 1915 and 1959 in Heber Springs Ark., vividly and artfully depicted everyday people in rural America. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. Gallery hours Tuesday through Sunday 12 to 5 p.m. \$5 Seniors: \$3. Children (under 12) and Purchase College students, faculty and staff: Free. Exhibit continues through March 22, 2015. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit www.neuberger.org.

Russian Art Exhibit. This Leads to Fire - Russian Art from Nonconformism to Global Capitalism, selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation collection; Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, SUNY, through January 11, 2015.

"Notable Neighbors in New Castle." New Castle has been home to many notable residents, past and present, who have made an impact locally and nationally. The exhibit highlights some of these people who have lived in town. Horace Greeley House, 100 King St., Chappaqua. Exhibit open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Free. Exhibit runs until January 2015. Info and appointments: 914-238-4666 or visit www.newcastlehs.org.



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The Restaurant Examiner



Examiner's Dining Guide for Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Attendees

By Jerry Eimbinder

Set in modern time, the William Shakespeare comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be performed at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk by the Armonk Players from Dec. 6 to Dec. 14.

Cast and crew members from nearby communities are Brandi Danielle Gestri (Armonk), Music Arranger Michelle DeAngelis (Bronxville), Director Christine DiTota (Carmel), Anthony Barresi Jr. (Goldens Bridge), Tom Ammirato (Mount Kisco), Choreographer Christine Gavin (Ossining), Heidi Giarlo and Tony Val (Port Chester), David Morabito (Sleepy Hollow), Leah Wend (Valhalla), Steven Bendler (Yonkers), and Bruce Apar (Yorktown). Out-of-town cast members include Jennifer Edwards Kawa (Inwood, NY) and Julia Ryan (Ridgefield, CT).

The admission cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, 18 years old or younger.

Whippoorwill Hall is at 19 Whippoorwill Road East, Armonk, NY. More play information is available at www.armonkplayers.org.

To help attendees find places to dine, this article provides the following local restaurant suggestions.

Amore Pizzeria & Italian Kitchen. The menu is described as "authentic, real boot Italian" by co-proprietor Mark Mazzotta. Slowly braised pork osso buco is a special — not always available. Served with roasted root vegetables in a Chianti wine/natural au jus sauce, it arrives over porcini scented, creamy Arborio risotto (\$26). Mark and his brother Joseph



From left: Actors in A Midsummer Night's Dream Jennifer Edwards Kawa (Helena), Steven Bendler (Lysander), Brandi Danielle Gestri (Hermia) and Anthony Barresi Jr. (Demetrius).

opened Amore 20 years ago; it relocated ten months ago to a building resembling a Tuscan farmhouse. 1 Kent Place, Armonk. 914-273-3535.

The Beehive. Uncle Louie's Moussaka (\$17.95) and chicken a la francese with misko orzo (\$19.95) are popular. A family-owned restaurant operated by Executive Chef Peter Modroukas, his wife Anne, their children Valerie Ladis and Dean Modroukas, and Valerie's husband Peter Ladis. 30 Old Route 22, Armonk. 914-765-0688.

Fattoria Dinner House. Grilled octopus over chickpea and arugula salad is high in popularity, said Owner James Contacessa. "It's cooked and braised overnight, then grilled soft and tender in the middle with a little char on the outside," he said. 575 Main Street,

Armonk. 914-273-8000.

Fortina. John Nealon, an Owner, said the most popular entrée is pork braciola with Sunday Sauce and broccoli rabe (\$18) and the most ordered specialty pizza is The Luigi Blanco — burrata, robiolona, parmesan and black truffle (\$21). 17 Maple Avenue, Armonk. 914-273-0900.

Gavi. Its most popular entrée is veal scaloppine Martini — veal crusted with parmesan in a white wine and lemon sauce (\$21), Owner Frank DeCarlo said. Most popular pasta is Trenette Riva — linguine with shrimp, crabmeat and arugula in a blush sauce (\$22). 15 Old Route 22, Armonk. 914-273-6900.

Marc Charles Steakhouse. The most popular entrées are the 44-ounce Porterhouse for Two (\$89) and the apricot-glazed Colorado lamp chops

(\$49), Chef/Owner Mark Mazzarulli and General Manager Georgietta Viggiani said. 94 Business Park Drive, Armonk. 914-273-2700.

Mariachi Mexico. Chef Joana Herrera's colossal tiger shrimp with a house-made tamarind-glaze over sautéed baby spinach is a best seller (\$26.95). Also popular: chile marinated pork loin and grilled pineapple tacos al pastor; enchiladas mole topped with lettuce and cotija cheese; and a chip trio with house-made chips and red, tomatillo, charred tomato salsa. 405 Main Street, Armonk. 914-273-6805.

Moderne Barn. The latest pasta dish to be created in Chef Ethan Kostbar's kitchen is house-made Meyer-lemon parpardelle and veal mushroom goulash (\$22). 430 Bedford Road, Armonk. 914-730-0001.

Opus 465. Not on the menu but offered as specials are Dark Moon Scallops with jumbo scallops, Basmati rice, butternut squash purée, and grilled asparagus (\$25), and chicken pot pie with shredded chicken, peas and carrots and a pastry crust (\$18), Chef/Owner Mark Mazzarulli and General Manager Georgietta Viggiani said. 465 Main Street, Armonk. 914-273-4676.

Restaurant North. The menu is not available in advance. It changes daily and is heavily dependent on what's available from local farms and providers of meat, seafood, herbs and fresh produce. Owners: Wine & Spirits Director Stephen Mancini and Chef Eric Gabrynowicz. 386 Main Street, Armonk. 914-273-8686.

Zero Otto Nove. Specialties include baked rigatoni with meatballs (\$21.95), breaded pork chop (\$20.95) and grilled salmon (\$25.95). Chef/Owner Roberto Paciullo has two Zero Otto Nove's in Manhattan and Roberto's in The Bronx. 55 Old Route 22, Armonk. 914-273-0089

White Plains Public Library Recognized for Building Project

White Plains Public Library was selected by the New York Library Association's Public Library Section (PLS) to receive a 2014 Building Award for The Edge teen section opened in December 2013.

The focus of the award is the impact that a construction project has had on the library's ability to provide services to its community. Emphasis is placed on projects that demonstrate cost



effective solutions to space challenges as well as innovative usage of space and floor plans.

The Edge was selected because PLS was impressed that in addition to providing a welcoming space for the local teen population, The Edge also features a technology lab where classes on topics such as computer programming and 3D printing are held.

The Edge is phase one of a three-

phase renovation of the White Plains Public Library's first floor.

The White Plains Public Library is located at 100 Martine Avenue, White Plains. For more information visit the Library's website at whiteplainslibrary.org or call 914-422-1480.



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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2015 PROPOSED WESTCHESTER COUNTY BUDGET NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held by the Westchester County Board of Legislators on the matter of the Westchester County Budget for the year 2015 and the Memorandum of Proposals of the Committee on Budget & Appropriations, if applicable, at the Westchester County Board of Legislators which is located at 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor in White Plains, New York, on December 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The County Budget and the Committee on Budget and Appropriations Memorandum of Proposals, if applicable, will be open to inspection by any persons at the office of the Clerk of the County Board of Legislators during business hours. Information concerning the entire Budget, as well as copies of the Budget itself, may be viewed on-line at www.westchestergov.com or obtained from the office of the Budget Director, 3rd floor, Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601. (Please note that the charges for the various budget documents are as follows: \$30.00 for the Proposed 2015 Operating Budget; \$30.00 for the Proposed 2015 Capital Budget, \$25.00 for the Districts Budget or \$75.00 for the complete package. The Budget {operating, capital and district} is also available on CD for \$15.00) Those attending the Public Hearing have the right to provide written and/or oral comments concerning the entire budget. **Dated: November 19, 2014 TINA SECKERSON Clerk of the County Board of Legislators Westchester County, New York**

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EXAMINER SPORTS

Stepinac Wins Epic Battle and the 2014 CHSFL AAA Championship

By Albert Coqueran

The Catholic High School Football League (CHSFL) celebrated their 60th Anniversary this year with one of their most competitive rivalries playing probably the greatest AAA Championship game in history.

After the whistle sounded for the end of this historic contest, CHSFL President Chris Hardardt presented the Michael Cunnion Memorial Trophy to Archbishop Stepinac High School for defeating Iona Preparatory School, 16-14, in a game whose excitement will last a lifetime.

It is the first time that Stepinac has claimed the CHSFL AAA title since they shared it with St. Francis Prep in 1955. "Obviously these are two really good football teams and that is how the game played out. Iona gave us all we



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Pandemonium broke out at Fordham University, on Saturday, when Stepinac won the 2014 CHSFL AAA Championship and went undefeated with a 12-0 record in the CHSFL this year.

infraction, which was the Gaels six-yard line. Even more disastrous for the Gaels, on the very next play a bad hike sent the ball into the end zone for a safety. Stepinac was leading 2-0 and receiving the ball with only 24 seconds having lapsed on the game clock.

Malcolm "Big Play" Major made the Gaels pay for their two early mistakes by running 29 yards for a touchdown within a minute after the safety. After Crusaders kicker Matthew Tierney kicked the extra point, the game stood still for about six minutes at 9-0. Then linebacker Demarcus Miller decided to show up and intercepted Iona's QB Robert Madison and ran the ball back 55 yards for a touchdown.

The score remained, 16-0, in favor of the Crusaders with their portion of the 6000 fans in attendance extremely enthusiastic at Jack Coffey Field. But anyone who is acquainted with this staunch rivalry is quite aware that a Vic Quirolo led Iona football team is not going to lie down.

Madison quieted the Stepinac faithful and energized the Iona fans by hitting his wide receiver Brian Thompson with a 25-yard touchdown pass at 1:12 in the first quarter. However, the extra point failed which kept the score 16-6 for the Crusaders at the end of the first quarter.

In the second and third quarters both teams exhibited defensive showdowns, while coming up even with no scoring in those quarters. But Madison sent the Iona fans into a frenzy when he struck pay turf with a 47-yard touchdown pass to Dylan Mucci at the start of the fourth quarter.

Moreover, the maroon and gold

faithful almost leaped out of the stands when Iona faked a kick PAT and holder Lyle Bennett reached the ball over the goal line for a two point conversion. Now we have a game at 16-14!

Miller had two crucial interceptions in the game and his second interception was the stuff that wins are made of. With the Gaels threatening to score and take the lead at 7:15 in the fourth quarter, Miller snatched Madison's pass out of the air on his own

10-yard line and thrilled the crowd. "I am glad I was able to do it, if it was Gavin (Heslop), Jaychar (Howell) anybody to electrify the team. We were down a little bit and we needed that," said



The Crusaders faithful packed Jack Coffey Field, at Fordham University to support their team. They even painted their chest Crusaders red and brought a Fathead of Head Coach Mike O'Donnell.

Miller, who was presented the Defensive MVP Award for his efforts.

The game came down to two more possessions for Iona. Iona got the ball back after their defense held to force a punt. But Crusaders' kicker Patrick Heffernan got the bounces of his life after a good kick and the Crusaders downed the ball on Iona's six yard line.

As Iona's bench yelled, "It is up to you number seven" while calling out Madison's number; Crusaders Robinson Del La Cruz, Terry McDonald-Preston and Daniel Negron sacked Madison. The Gaels found themselves with a two-point deficit and having to punt with a minute and a half left in the game.

But the Gaels excellent defense got the ball back to their quarterback one more time. Nonetheless, Crusaders' cornerback Terrell "T. J." Morrison intercepted Madison in the closing seconds of the



Stepinac Head Football Coach Mike O'Donnell (left) is presented the Michael Cunnion Memorial Trophy by CHSFL President Chris Hardardt for the Crusaders winning the 2014 CHSFL AAA Championship, at Fordham University, on Saturday.

game and raised the ball high in the air as the Stepinac faithful went ballistic.

Stepinac won, what I would call, the greatest football game, in the most spectacular atmosphere that I have ever witnessed. Kicker Matthew Tierney's two extra points or Stepinac's safety to start the game was the difference in the historical contest.

"To finally be at the top with the crown,



Crusaders Offensive Coordinator Joe Spagnolo hugs his two quarterbacks Brandon Coleman and Tyquell Fields after Stepinac won the CHSFL AAA Championship for the first time since 1955.

this is unbelievable because there are some good teams in AAA! Everybody thought Stepinac could not win the big game and we finally did it," said Crusaders quarterback Brandon Coleman, who was the Offensive MVP of the Championship Game.

Stepinac will play the winner of the upstate Monsignor Martin Association Football League Title, in the inaugural Catholic High School State Championship Game, on Sunday, December 7, at 2 p.m. at Mitchel Field, in Uniondale. The Catholic High School State Championship was postponed from Sunday, Nov. 29, to Sunday, Dec. 7, due to the enormous snow accumulation in Buffalo.



At the end of the game, the scoreboard tells the story on Jack Coffey Field, at Fordham University, on Saturday, as Stepinac High School is crowned the 2014 CHSFL AAA Champions.

can handle. I have a lot of respect for their staff and their players," said Mike O'Donnell, Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at Stepinac.

It was a cold and blustery evening in the Bronx and the game at Fordham University began at about sundown at 4:30 p.m. At the start, it appeared as if Stepinac was destined to win. Stepinac won the coin toss and deferred receiving the kickoff.

Iona's returner Taj Marable ran the kickoff back to Stepinac's 48-yard line. Nonetheless, a holding penalty on Iona brought the ball back to the point of



Archbishop Stepinac High School is the 2014 Catholic High School Football League (CHSFL) AAA Champions.

EXAMINER SPORTS



Falcons QB Myles Thigpen finds room to run in state quarter final vs. Millbrook.



The Woodlands football team poses with the Section 1 Class C championship trophy at Mahopac High School.

SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS



Rashad Baker was one of several key players for the Falcons this fall.



The Falcons celebrate after topping Rye Neck in the Section 1 championship game.



Omar DeBerry (56) and Dondi Crawford (52) celebrate a big play during sectional championship game at Mahopac HS.



Miguel Lanier of Woodlands picks up yardage against Millbrook in state quarterfinal loss.



Senior team captain Jonathon Stewart had a solid season for the Class C champion Falcons.

Look Back at a Great Woodlands Football Season



Woodlands coaches, players and families were thrilled to win a sectional title.



Woodlands coach Mike Meade tries to rally the troops in NYS quarterfinal loss to Millbrook.



The Falcons walk off the field for the last time in 2014. Woodlands won the Section 1 Class C championship and went 4-5, losing to Millbrook in the state quarterfinal.

EXAMINER SPORTS

Westchester Knicks Home Opener a Gala Event at the County Center

continued from page 1

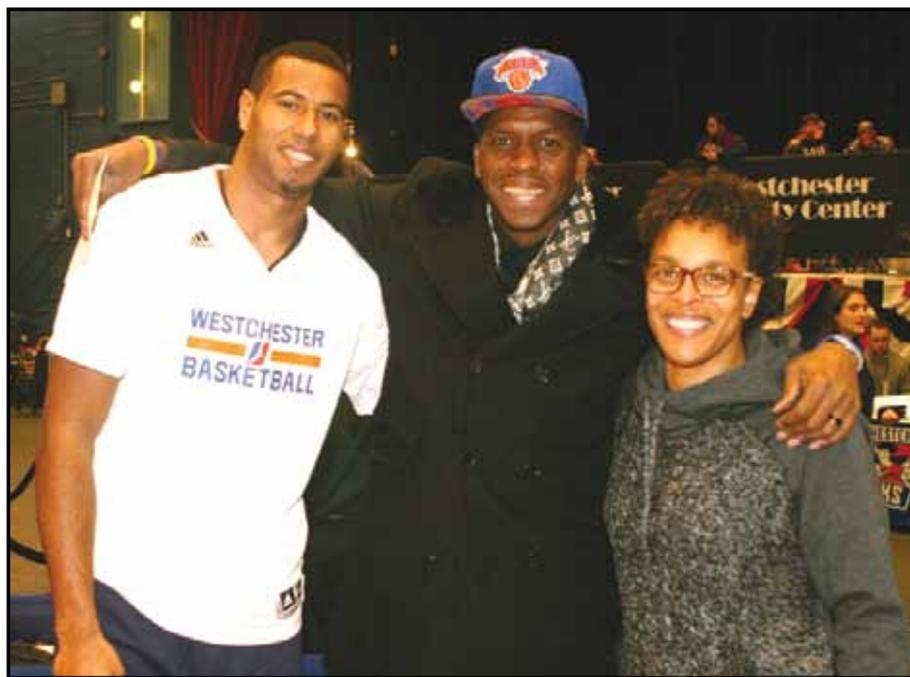
walking into the County Center. "People are going to see really great basketball here tonight. This is high quality basketball at a very affordable price."

The Westchester Knicks Home Opener was a showcase event with the Westchester Knicks City Dancers exciting the crowd. MSG Company Executive Chairman James L. Dolan sat courtside with Tad Smith, the President and CEO of the MSG Company and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, who were accompanied by Steve Mills, the GM of the NY Knicks and Knicks legend Larry Johnson.

Kathleen O'Connor, the Commissioner of Westchester County Parks and Recreation announced before the game: "We are just thrilled. I was just told by the Ticketmaster Box Office that we are sold out for tonight." The County Center is presently set up to accommodate 2100 people for Westchester Knicks games.

Also sitting courtside to watch the game was NY Liberty legend Teresa Weatherspoon with her godson Devin Van, who plays football in the White Plains Youth League. "Spoon" as she is affectionately known, presently resides in White Plains. "This is such a great thing for the city, it is a great environment, great basketball and it is just good for the City of White Plains, which is such a wonderful place to live," said Weatherspoon.

"Spoon" was joined at courtside by St. John's University legend Felipe Lopez, who presently works for the NY Knicks. Lopez



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

[L-r] Westchester Knicks forward Orlando Sanchez is greeted by his fellow St. John's University alumni legend Felipe Lopez and NY Liberty legend Teresa Weatherspoon, before the start of the Westchester Knicks Home Opener.

Westchester County Center. The only thing they could not produce was an Opening Night victory. The young Knicks were defeated by the Canton Charge by one point, 86-85. "It is tough, but it is a learning experience," commented the Westchester Knicks inaugural Head Coach Whitted. "We started off playing very well and then as the game progressed

the young Knicks came back to excite fans at the Westchester County Center, by attaining the first victory in franchise history, by beating the Grand Rapids Drive, 97-83, on Friday, Nov. 21.

Westchester Knicks forward Thanasis

Antetokounmpo had 11 points, six rebounds and six block shots in their first franchise win. Guard Andre Barrett had 13 points and forward Ben Strong added 12 points. Todd Mayo led the way on offense with 20 points, while shooting 6-for-6 from the free throw line. "It was a pretty good game. It feels good to get the win tonight but I wish we could have got it on Opening Night," said Mayo.

Antetokounmpo was selected as Player of the Game for the Westchester Knicks initial franchise win. "It is not just about me, it is about the team. We got the first win in franchise history and we had great teamwork tonight and that is what defines us," said Antetokounmpo.



West Point Staff Sergeant Jeremy Gaynor thrilled the crowd with his rendition of the National Anthem accompanied by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety Ceremonial Unit who presented the

attended the game to support the Knicks organization and to encourage his fellow Red Storm alumnus Orlando Sanchez, who made the opening night roster of the Westchester Knicks.

The Knicks had a gala event for their inaugural Home Opener at the

we got a little stagnant and got a little lost out there as far as executing."

The Westchester Knicks started their inaugural season, 0-2, while also losing their season opener to the Oklahoma City Blue, 91-84, in Oklahoma City, on Nov. 16.

However, after their Home Opener loss,



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EXAMINER SPORTS



Sarah Navara (9) celebrates a goal with teammates in a win over Port Chester.



Harrison's Erin Nelson (25), Julia DiRusso (1), Erica LaManna (7) and Emma Smolev (27) after an early-season win.

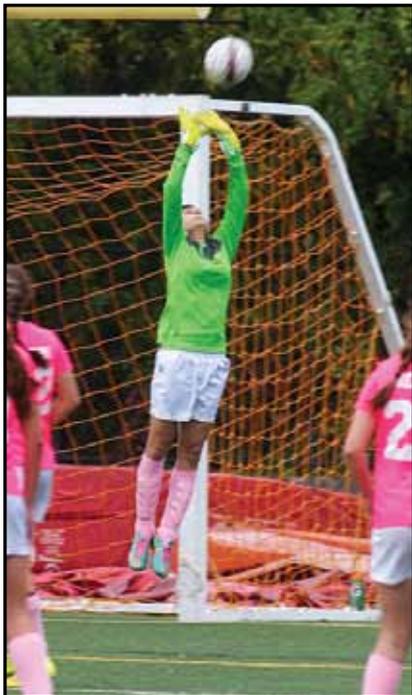
SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS



Harrison's Jessica Scazzero (11) fights off a defender to gain possession in a win over Port Chester.

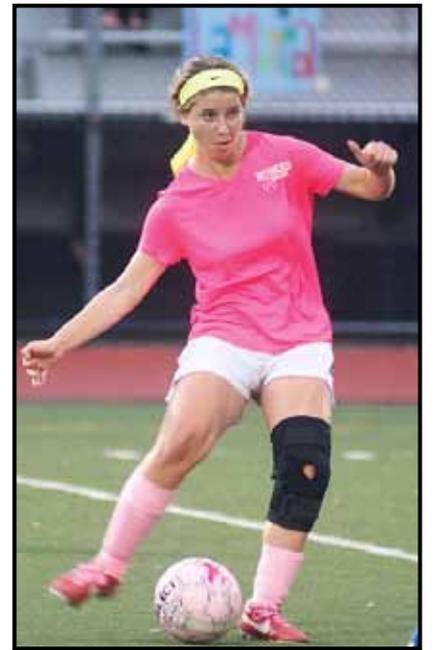


Jordan Specht (14) delivers a pass in an early-season Harrison victory.



Harrison keeper Cailyn Burgos goes high for a save.

Harrison Girls Soccer: A Good 2014 Fall Season



Harrison's Emma Smolev and the Huskies wore pink for the team's "Play for a Cure" game.



Maya Samad looks to send the ball downfield in an overtime loss to Pearl River.



Nicole Waldman goes high for a ball in a game against Pearl River.



Karina Brachlow (L) and the Huskies went 6-9-1, and lost in the first round of the playoffs this fall.

EXAMINER SPORTS

White Plains Tigers Come Through in Football All-Star Game

The Westchester United Youth Football league held its 7th annual All League, All Star Game Friday night at White Plains High School. At the conclusion of the season, the league's head coaches met to discuss, debate, and ultimately select the players from each conference who they deemed as the best of the best. The league is comprised of teams from Scarsdale, Ossining, Cortland, Putnam Valley, Shrub Oak, and two from White Plains, the Tigers and the Bernies. At the end of the process, Head Coach of the Tigers, Chris Hatzilouloutis, said he had never before seen such speed and talent on one team.

The White Plains Tigers had five athletes voted to the South Conference All-Star Team. Running back Jayson Crilley, quarterback Brody McGuinn, and linemen Sidney Moshette, Jacob Petfield, and Reuban Villa. After being informed of their selection, the South team met at White Plains High School where they were introduced to their new teammates and proceeded to spend the rest of the week putting all the parts together, by practicing a new offense, defense, and special teams. The last night of practice



Pictured from left to right celebrating after the victory Jayson Crilley, Brody McGuinn, Reuben Villa, Jake Petfield, and Sidney Moshette.

was held in a cold drizzling rain but it ended with the boys having a pizza party in the field house while getting to know

their new teammates better.

After five consecutive years of coming out on the short end of the scoreboard

the South convincingly won this year's installment by a score of 16 to 6. Quarterback Brody McGuinn led the team on two sustained scoring drives in which his usual backfield mate, Jayson Crilley, pounded the ball between the tackles and bounced it around the edge on one impressive run after another. After a rollicking on field celebration the boys were questioned about the experience. Crilley said, "There was some serious hitting going on out there." McGuinn added, "Their defensive front line was awesome and the speed of game was just amazing. Once the ball was snapped if I didn't get the ball out quick I was in big trouble."

White Plains' own Jim Huebner, who is also the founder of the program, heads the Tigers organization and it's multiple teams. The program serves children in the White Plains area from 1st through 8th grade. They begin with flag football and as the boys get older they progress from there through the more competitive levels of tackle football. The Tigers take all comers regardless of experience or ability. So check them out.

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