



## Basketball School Day Sends Anti-Bullying Message

By Albert Coqueran

The Westchester Knicks had a sold out crowd for their initial "School Day" at the Westchester County Center, when they faced the Erie Bayhawks, in an 11 a.m. contest, on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

The theme for the Westchester Knicks "School Day" was to educate the students in attendance concerning Anti-Bullying, as they watched the local Knicks in action.

The Anti-Bullying campaign was orchestrated by Traciana "Bully Proof Diva" Graves, who gave motivational speeches to the students during timeouts and at halftime during the game. "If you believe who you are on the planet matters then stand," spoke Graves to the children from center court. "Say something beautiful," encouraged Graves,



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

Francesca De lia (center) and Carys Daly (third right) from Good Counsel Academy Elementary School participated in the ball transfer ceremony during pregame festivities, before the Westchester Knicks played the Erie Bayhawks, on "School Day" at the Westchester County Center, on Wednesday, Dec.3.

who is the founder of the "Say Something Beautiful" Anti-Bullying Campaign.

The National Anthem on "School Day" was sung by students from Pearl River Middle School. Francesca De lia and Carys Daly from Good Counsel Academy Elementary School in White Plains participated in the Ball Transfer ceremony during pregame festivities.

Good Counsel also received the honor to participate in the pregame introductions, as they lined up with the Westchester Knicks team to greet the starting line-up, as Public Address Announcer Mark Fratto introduced the team.

"Our Principal Pamela Matott

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## Frank's Nursery Site Sale Impacted by DEC Review

In a communication by Victor Carosi, Greenburgh Commissioner of Public Works, the Town Board was informed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NY DOT) that the status of the former Frank's Nursery site and its potential sale would be impacted by the amount of remediation required.

Previous development proposals for the spot, including a sports dome had met with much controversy, but had not considered the potential contamination of the land.

Anthony Catalano, P.E., of Woodard

& Curran Engineers met with representatives from the Spill and Remediation Department and Solid Waste Department of the NYSDEC, informing them that Greenburgh intended to sell the site for future development and uses could vary from storage facility, to assisted living, sports fields, and residential uses.

According to Carosi, the DEC views the site as impacted from two separate issues: the old spill action for which the permitting is still not resolved, and the buried fill identified after the Town's initial site investigations.

*continued on page 2*

## White Plains Council Closes FASNY Hearings

By Pat Casey

It has been several years since the French American School of New York (FASNY) purchased the 129-acre site formerly occupied by the Ridgeway Country Club. The debate has been fierce at times, including a lawsuit from the Gedney resident association, large town-hall meetings with several hundreds attending, slogans, signs, reports, investigations and more reports, public hearings and written responses at each point in the application process.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the final adjourned public hearing on both the

partial closure (even with limited public access) of a portion of Hathaway Lane and the Special Permit and Site Plan for a regional school campus, this chapter of White Plains history is nearing a close. The White Plains Common Council, lead agency on the special permit and site plan decision, voted unanimously to close the hearings and extend the 10-day written response time to 15 days to allow for last-minute submissions. Barring any unexpected actions, the final vote will take place within a matter of weeks, if not days.

During the final days of the hearings,

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### White Plains Council Closes FASNY Hearings

*continued from page 1*

the back and forth took the tone of a courtroom with stern voices and deep questioning, most notably by Councilman Dennis Krolian and Councilwoman Milagros Lecuona, concerning many aspects of the development plan.

Michael Zarin, the lawyer representing FASNY, along with architects and traffic consultants, rewrote, redrew and responded at each point.

Krolian paid particular attention to traffic safety in the immediate neighborhood of the school should Hathaway Lane be closed to traffic during school days. Requesting NY DOT accident reports, he made a final request

for information including 2013. FASNY had provided accident reports through 2012.

Krolian also read a letter from the White Plains Board of Education that said the FASNY traffic plan would create an unsafe situation for the district's school children, referring to it as a "critical safety issue." He also commented on Zarin's response that suggested the Board of Ed did not have sufficient experience on regional school campuses and student populations to make the comments it did and also said the Board of Ed had met with FASNY over the several year process and had not made any conclusive statements until

this final hour.

Lecuona took offense at the tone of Zarin's response to the Board of Education and suggested he should apologize.

Lecuona, holding up a sheet of paper with a drawing, scoffed at the 3-D illustrations of the property FASNY had presented at her request. Zarin said that sheet did not represent the 3-D work that had been submitted and said tens of thousands of dollars had been spent on preparing the information. He suggested the resident drawing Lecuona proffered as a better example was not 3-D, but an aerial view and not what she had requested.

Several Council members asked about

the mandatory busing plan FASNY had developed, trying to determine which hours were considered as peak and if the 530 vehicle cap was appropriate for two phases of building construction over 10 years, when the cap might be exceeded during phase 1.

Other questions related to landscaping and adequacy of screening, stormwater management below ground, access of public safety vehicles should Hathaway lane be closed and the issue of a possible addition to the response time for the Fire Department protecting the Gedney neighborhood.

### Frank's Nursery Site Sale Impacted by DEC Review

*continued from page 1*

With respect to the old spill, the DEC suggested they will likely require over excavation of the impacted area to remove any remaining contaminant, followed by a ground water monitoring program, if future sampling after the excavation warrants such action.

Regarding the buried fill, the DEC and consultant agreed additional field sampling and investigations are needed to more fully define the nature and extent of any contamination prior to making any

determination on a cleanup protocol.

Woodard & Curran will develop a scope for supplemental sampling for the old spill area and for plans and specifications for a review by the DEC and then submittal to the Town. It will also develop a work scope for supplemental fill investigations and coordinate with the DEC and then provide to the Town for approval. A further scope for any supplemental Soil Management Plan will follow after direction is provided by the DEC.

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# New White Plains Cabaret Law Anticipated for Early 2015

By Pat Casey

The regularly scheduled Common Council meeting for December 1 in White Plains focused in large part on outstanding applications for cabaret licenses at the various entertainment establishments in the city's downtown. They were all adjourned to the next monthly meeting on January 5.

With establishment owners asking why it is taking months for the applications to be processed, Mayor Tom Roach explained that a new law is being written that would enable applications for the special permits to go through more quickly and even eliminate the need for some businesses that might not need the permits. Roach further suggested that owners check the current law to make sure they actually need a permit to operate the type of entertainment they are proposing.

Coughlan's on South Broadway had a hearing in process and nearby residents, representing the 10601 zip code area – the White Plains downtown – said the vibrant

quality of their life on weekdays was raised to a loud thumping from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. on weekends and has to end.

Despite the allowed noise levels in the city, many residents said they would like to see updated regulations and the music volume reduced and for the front doors of establishments to be kept closed. "They seem to be open at all times," one resident said, adding "This is messing with our sleep and making us grabby the next day."

Other residents said they would like to see Coughlan's relocate the club to a better, more appropriate location in White Plains.

Coughlan's lawyers said police reports indicated the decibel levels were within legal range and that people should call the owner's cell number, which he had given out, if the music is too loud.

Executive Billiards, Ron Black's, Ichiro Asian Fusion and The Red Plum, all located on Mamaroneck Avenue, had their cabaret license hearings adjourned to January 5.

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## YMCA Hires New Childcare Director

Tom Hay, Executive Director of the White Plains YMCA, has hired a new Childcare Director. Elizabeth Lavine Russell will be responsible for managing the infant/toddler, pre-school, Universal Pre-K and after-school programs at the White Plains Y branch and in the Scarsdale, Rye Brook and White Plains school districts. She is responsible for staff recruitment and training and develops all age-appropriate curriculums for children in YMCA care. She is the community liaison with local and state childcare licensing agencies and school districts and is representative to the Childcare Council of Westchester. She is also in charge of vacation day camp and our summer vacation camp program in White Plains. Russell has a B.A. in Sociology and English from the University of Vermont and an M.S.T. in Elementary Education from Fordham University. She holds numerous certifications as a public school teacher and for teaching children with disabilities. She is SmartBoard trained and has extensive experience using the iPad as assistive technology for children. She lives in upper Westchester with her husband and two children.



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# Major County Drug Bust Nets Over 80 Suspects, Additional 20 Outstanding

"City Sweeper 2" a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional street level narcotics investigation resulted in the arrests of approximately 33 individuals in the City of White Plains and 50 individuals in the City of New Rochelle last week. There are arrest warrants outstanding for approximately 20 additional individuals.

The seven-month long investigation by the White Plains Police Department, New Rochelle Police Department, Westchester County Police Department, DEA, FBI and the Westchester District Attorney's office resulted in the charging of a total of 100 individuals for narcotics trafficking. Each of the 100 subjects has, or will be charged upon their arrest with the street-level sales of controlled substances. The majority of the sales involved crack-cocaine, although there were a number of heroin sales made throughout the investigation. There were also several sales of hydrocodone, PCP, morphine and fentanyl. The purchases ranged in price from \$20 to \$100.

According to the County DA's office, indictments were obtained on 39 of the approximately 100 subjects of the investigation, and approximately 29 indictments have been unsealed to date in Westchester County Court, charging those 29 with criminal sale of a controlled substance and criminal possession of a

controlled substance.

"All levels of law enforcement, federal, county and local, collaboratively working together, coalesced, allowing this multi-faceted investigation to neutralize dozens of street level narcotics dealers. Of those who have been indicted, we intend to vigorously prosecute the individuals among them who have violent criminal histories or are significant dealers without drug problems. However, we will certainly consider our judicial diversion drug treatment program as an alternative for those who have made these drug sales in their own," said District Attorney Janet DiFiore in a statement announcing the arrests.

Since November 19 in the City of White Plains, the White Plains Police Department has arrested approximately 33 individuals for drug sales. Arrests of at least six more individuals are expected.

On December 3, in the City of New Rochelle, the New Rochelle Police Department has arrested approximately 50 individuals and expects to arrest approximately 14 more.

Bail was set at various amounts for those charged in Westchester County Court. The other individuals have been in arraignment in the City Courts of New Rochelle and White Plains.

Defendants who have prior felony

convictions face a maximum of 12 years in prison. Those without prior convictions face a maximum of nine years in prison.

Westchester County Assistant District

Attorney Tom Luzio, Chief of the Narcotics Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Kevin Kennedy of the Narcotics Bureau supervised the investigation.

## White Plains Phys. Ed. Teacher Honored

Laura Owen, Physical Education Teacher at White Plains High School for the past 13 years, was named 2014 Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NYS AHPERD). The award is in recognition of Owen's dedication to professional excellence, her demonstrated leadership and her exemplary work. It was presented at the Jay B. Nash Awards Dinner at the Annual Conference of the organization on November 21, in Verona, New York. Owen was actively involved in recreating the school's physical education program to meet the needs of the diverse population of students. According to Jennifer DeSena, Coordinator of Athletics and Physical Education in White Plains, "Laura's commitment, dedication and passion for her students, athletes, the school community and her profession is unmatched. She is dedicated to creating a curriculum that teaches her students not only the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle, but also the importance of being "physically educated."



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# Westchester IDA Approves Financing for Two Major Rivertowns Projects

Westchester County's Industrial Development Agency (IDA) approved financing and incentives for \$51.9 million in new projects in Hastings-on-Hudson and Dobbs Ferry last week. The two projects -- a new rental apartment building and a Hilton Garden Inn -- are expected to create 318 construction and permanent jobs.

The IDA approved a sales tax exemption of \$380,780 and a mortgage tax exemption of \$299,000 for Ginsburg Development Companies (GDC) for the development of Saw Mill Lofts in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson. The project will create 100 construction jobs over 18 months and three full-time permanent jobs upon completion. The \$34.9 million rental development will feature 66 apartments, of which 12 will be designated as affordable. The project was previously approved to receive \$1,166,000 in financial support from the County of Westchester for land acquisition and infrastructure, and will count toward the 750 units required under the 2009 housing settlement with the federal government.

Located on a 7.45-acre site on Saw Mill River Road, Saw Mill Lofts will consist of two 3-story buildings and one 2-story building. Of the 12 affordable units, three will be available for households earning up to 50 percent area median income (AMI) and nine for households up to 60



(L. to r.): Martin Berger, principal of Saber Dobbs Ferry, LLC; Jim Coleman, Westchester County IDA Executive Director; Jen Stebbins, XSS Hotels Financial Strategist; Mark Stebbins, XSS Hotels Principal; William M. Mooney III, director of economic development for Westchester County; Deputy County Executive Kevin J. Plunkett; Bruce Lozito, Esq., community planner for Ginsburg Development Companies; Stephen J. Hunt, Westchester County IDA Chairman; and Westchester County Executive Robert P. Astorino.

percent AMI. The project also includes the dedication of 1.8 acres of parkland and open space to the village as well as a publically accessible 10-car parking lot and a pedestrian bridge providing access to the county's South County Trailway, which runs parallel to the property. GDC is not seeking a payment in lieu of tax agreement from the town.

GDC, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has built many

residential developments in the region including Harbors at Haverstraw, Livingston Ridge in Dobbs Ferry, Ichabod's Landing in Sleepy Hollow, Mystic Pointe in Ossining, Marbury Corners in Pelham and Christie Place in Scarsdale.

The IDA approved a sales tax exemption of \$1.2 million and a mortgage tax exemption of \$200,000 for XSS LLC for the development of a 138-room

Hilton Garden Inn to be built as part of the Rivertowns Square mixed-use retail development in Dobbs Ferry. The \$17 million hotel, which is located just off the Saw Mill River Parkway at 35 Livingston Street, will create 165 construction jobs over the next 12 months and 50 full-time permanent jobs upon completion. The 83,000-square-foot hotel will be built above a 127,000-square-foot retail space.

The Hilton Garden Inn is expected to meet a growing demand for hotel accommodations in the Rivertowns area, as well as support the overall improvements at Rivertowns Square, including \$4 million of offsite traffic improvements and related work. Earlier this year, the IDA approved \$1,609,402 million in tax incentives for the \$52 million Rivertowns Square project, which will create 660 full and part-time jobs and 475 construction jobs.

XSS LLC is a hotel development company led by founders Mark Stebbins and Leo Xarras who together have more than 45 years of hotel development experience. Based in New Hampshire, the company currently has projects in development in New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Florida. The company, along with its sister company Colwen Management, operates 26 hotels on the East Coast.

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# Refurbished Pediatric Emergency Room Unveiled at Westchester Medical Center

By Albert Coqueran

On Thursday, Dec. 4, the Garden of Dreams Foundation unveiled a newly refurbished Pediatric Emergency Department at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at the Westchester Medical Center.

The Garden of Dreams Foundation is a non-profit organization that works with the Madison Square Garden Company to positively impact children facing obstacles in their lives. The refurbishment of the Pediatric Emergency Department at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital is a function of the Garden of Dreams newly launched Giving Program, whose main goal is to provide vital resources and aid to partner organizations and their communities in the tri-state area.

"This is absolutely wonderful; they have done so much for us in terms of helping the patients and the patient's families during very trying times. I am very thankful for this partnership with the Garden of Dreams Foundation," stated Michael Gewitz, M.D., Physician-in-Chief of the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

The Master of Ceremonies for the unveiling of the refurbished Pediatric Emergency Department was N. Y. Knicks Halftime Reporter and Today Show correspondent Jill Martin.

Also in attendance were Tad Smith, Madison Square Garden Company CEO and Board Member of the Garden of



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Tyler Meorado (center), prepares to cut the ribbon with help from children Juliana Pierre and Jack Pastor, as attending dignitaries and hospital staff witness the official opening of the Garden of Dreams newly refurbished Pediatric Emergency Department at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at the Westchester Medical Center.

Dreams Foundation, Michael Israel, President and CEO of the Westchester Medical Center and Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino.

They were joined by Knicks legend John Starks, NY Liberty Legend Kym Hampton, NY Rangers legend Rod Gilbert and present Rangers Chris Kreider and Anthony Duclair for the unveiling ceremony.

The refurbishment of the Pediatric Emergency Department included a 130-foot mural painted by renowned artist James Kimack of KimackDesign and newly painted murals in the reception area, main corridor, patient rooms and

trauma bays. Also, new furniture was added that combined to create a more comfortable and soothing child-and-family-friendly environment in the emergency room.

"This is a great thing," commented Westchester County Executive Astorino. "I was here last May when my daughter broke her elbow doing cartwheels, which luckily was not something a lot worse. But as a parent you sit in the waiting room and you are stressed out, so to have an area which is comforting is really important."

Tyler Meorado has been a patient at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital since he was six years old. Meorado, who is presently 14 years old, had a liver transplant in 2011.

Meorado was given the honor of cutting the ribbon to officially open the newly refurbished Pediatric Emergency Department.

"Going through what any child goes through, we all have our own situations, but this hospital does a really great job of making me feel special and giving me good care along the way," said Meorado.

This is Anthony Duclair's first season with the NY Rangers and at a young 19 years old, he could relate quite well to the meaning of this charitable endeavor by the Garden of Dreams Foundation.



Jill Martin (left), the Halftime Reporter for the NY Knicks and Today Show correspondent hosted the unveiling of the refurbished Pediatric Emergency Department at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. She is joined by [l-r] Liberty legend Kym Hampton, a smiling Jack Pastor and Knicks legend John Starks.

"I think the Garden of Dreams has done a really good job supporting children in need. Anytime you can be part of that and help put a smile on children's faces, I am up for it," said Duclair.

The Maria Fareri Children's Hospital is one of our original partners of the Garden of Dreams Foundation. Knicks legend Starks has often visited ailing children at the hospital during the eight years of their partnership. "This is a great honor on behalf of the Garden of Dreams Foundation to be involved with the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and this incredible refurbishment of their Pediatric Emergency Department," said Starks.



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# Mary Jane Denzer, Westchester's Most Fashionable Destination

By Pat Casey

The name Mary Jane Denzer has been associated with the very best in good taste and haute couture for over 35 years. Having recently moved from its previous location on Mamaroneck Avenue to 7



KENNETH GABRIELSON PHOTO

Clothing on display at Mary Jane Denzer.

Renaissance Square at the base of the second Ritz-Carlton tower in White



RANDY O'ROURKE PHOTO

At a recent fund-raising event at the store a model shows off a Zuhair Murad dress to Mary Jane and a long-time customer, Liz Garger, Chief Institutional Advancement Officer at the Music Conservancy of Westchester.

Plains, the store features only the highest quality in designer evening gowns, dresses, separates, accessories, jewelry and shoes.

Some of Westchester's most popular and fashionable ladies are dressed by Mary Jane Denzer, the woman behind the store and its name. A perusal of the local society pages shows how they stand out, but Mary Jane does not talk about the women she dresses, rather she expounds on the creative qualities of personal presentation that pull an outfit together and enhance the beauty of the woman wearing it.

"I know what I like, and I know what works" Mary Jane says, explaining that her unique selections are created by well-known designers as well as those not so well-known, but up and coming stars in the world of haute couture.

She travels extensively from New York to Milan and Paris to select the fashions on display in her store, each presented in such a way as to highlight the fabric,

texture, color and quality of construction that makes anything purchased more a work of art, than a mere item in a wardrobe.

Mary Jane Denzer focuses on eveningwear for special events such as holiday parties, fundraisers, weddings, Bar Mitzvahs and other gatherings where women want to look not only their best, but outstanding in the crowd.

Mary Jane remembers that her interest in fashion began at a very early age. Her grandmother was a seamstress who made her own patterns and

taught Mary Jane how to alter clothes to make the fit and the style just right. They would shop for fabric together and look at what the designers were doing at the time.

She carries this knowledge with her today, giving personal assistance to all of her customers. A team of seamstresses works for the store, located in an area at the back of the premises where fit and style are perfected for each customer's unique needs. Store Manager, Anastasia, who has been with Mary Jane for 11 years, coming with her own base of fashion knowledge, has learned from Mary Jane and carries forth the art of design perfection.

As a young woman, just starting out, Mary Jane modeled at Saks Fifth Avenue and Bergdorf Goodman. She later became involved with their special boutique events and trunk shows, learning how to shop and select designer fashions. The knowledge she gained from these experiences became the foundation for her own retail adventure.

In the store today, the spring collection is in full swing with pink and white dresses on display in the windows and yellows, lilac, purple and a new color "paprika" sprinkled throughout the racks.

For spring there is a mix of fabric texture and pattern in the outfits, Mary Jane explains. "It is not easy to do, but when done well the look is fabulous. I was thrilled when I saw this," she said.

The designers are also bringing back a more feminine look with fitted waists and skirts that flair.

The designs are pure glamor, straight

from the Red Carpet with a lot of new talent from Italy, France, Australia and Lebanon. "Lebanese designers are very hot right now," Mary Jane explains.

While Mary Jane has made a name for herself well outside of Westchester – she has customers who travel from Manhattan, Connecticut and New Jersey and several who fly in on their private jets from Dallas and California – Westchester is her home. She moved from Greenwich to White Plains about 14 years ago and has witnessed the tremendous growth of the city in recent years.

"I am working with the third generation of families of some of my customers," Mary Jane said. "I dress grandmothers, their daughters and their granddaughters."

She sees the new generation of women as very sophisticated and independent and working in positions that at one time



Evening gowns are displayed in a special section of the store at Mary Jane Denzer.

were traditionally held by men. "They need to dress well to make a statement," Mary Jane says.

This week, Thursday, Dec. 11 and Friday, Dec. 12, (9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., both days) fast-rising Lebanese designer Tony Ward will be featured at the store in a one-of-a-kind trunk show. His gowns and couture dresses stand out on the Red Carpet as feminine and sophisticated.

Tony Ward was educated in London and enrolled in the prestigious L'Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne. He worked with Claude Montana at Lanvin, Gianfranco Ferré at Christian Dior, and Karl Lagerfeld at Chloé before he was ready to launch his own brand. He is excited to be bringing his designs to Mary Jane Denzer in White Plains.

Delighted with the new location at the Ritz-Carlton, Westchester, which she says is a "perfect fit" Mary Jane invites new customers to come by the store during regular hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Appointments, recommended for anyone wishing more personalized attention, can be made by calling 914-328-0330.

Visit [www. http://mjdenser.com/](http://mjdenser.com/) for a complete list of featured designers and information about special events held at the store.



KENNETH GABRIELSON PHOTO

Mary Jane Denzer is located at 7 Renaissance Square, White Plains.



KENNETH GABRIELSON PHOTO

Mary Jane Denzer with her constant companion Bodhi

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## A Yes Vote on FASNY Could Set Dangerous Precedents

Now that the White Plains Common Council has closed a years-long consideration of two applications of the French American School New York (FASNY), it's time to reject FASNY's mammoth institutional building project that is inappropriate for a low-population-density residential neighborhood.

If approved, all eyes will be on the White Plains Board of Education, which in September issued a stinging rebuke of the proposed FASNY school's impact on street traffic, given FASNY will build its main entrance almost on top of the city high school's main entrance. If this congested area can't handle the increased traffic, safety and lives will be at risk.

FASNY complains about the length

of its applications process. But I've been to public hearings and seen FASNY constantly make major changes to its plan, after citizen critics pointed out obvious deficiencies—some of which mysteriously sailed through preliminary city approvals.

I've seen FASNY spokespersons congratulate themselves on being allegedly responsive with massive changes. But it seems to me FASNY's original proposals seriously overreached; it's their fault it took so long.

Most closely watched will be the Common Council's decision on whether to hand over a city street to FASNY, which is a stand-alone FASNY request. I find it astonishing that FASNY bought a 129-acre property (the former Ridgeway

Country Club) but claims it can't fit its school in this vast tract without taking over a city street—which is a vital avenue for a nearby firehouse. This street takeover is a tacit admission that the property isn't suitable for FASNY's intended use. FASNY even bought a nearby large-lot house—taking even more property off the city's tax rolls.

If that city street takeover is approved, the city sets a perilous precedent that it can expect future applicants to cite in seeking to appropriate public property for private use. That's a very bad precedent indeed that is among the many problems with FASNY's applications at the White Plains Common Council.

—Robert Marich, White Plains

## Greenburgh Schools Seeks Architects and Engineers to Mentor Students

The Greenburgh school district is planning to work with the ACE mentoring program and is seeking architects, engineers and firms willing to mentor students.

The ACE Mentor Program is a not-for-profit organization that helps prepare high school students for careers in design and construction through mentoring by industry professionals. The program was founded in New York City in 1995 by leading architects, contractors, engineers and owners. It has grown to more than 8,000 students and 2,500 mentors in 200 cities and 40 states. Since its inception, the program has served over 5,000 students in New York and 65,000 students nationwide. Over 900 students have registered for the 2013-2014 program season in New York alone. 72 percent of ACE students are minorities and 49 percent are female.

ACE New York has awarded \$1,887,000

in scholarships to 915 program graduates.

Teams are made up of 15-30 students and 5-7 mentors from different industry disciplines. A Team Leader sets the project schedule, prepares meeting agendas and may host or arrange the meeting location. At least 15 biweekly meetings are held from 4 to 6 p.m. during the school year. Mentors present industry overviews, assign activities from ACE's Best Practices Manual and guide the students through the development of a design project. At the end of the season, students present their project just as a real design team would present to a potential client. Scholarships are awarded to top students at a luncheon in May.

To sign up to mentor, apply www.acementorny.org and send your availability from 4 to 6 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays to edjerman@optonline.net.

## Obituaries

### Frank DiTraglia

Frank DiTraglia of Hartsdale, died suddenly December 5. He was 61 years old. Frank was born January 22, 1953 in the Bronx, son of the late Silvestro and Adeline DiTraglia. Frank is survived by his two children, Frank and Anna, as well as a sister Joanne (Rick) Mingone, a brother John (Gail) Sasso, a niece and several nephews. Frank was predeceased by a sister Kathryn. He worked as a driver for the local 282 and 553 unions, concrete and fuel delivery. He is an Ardsley volunteer fireman. Interment will be at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Valhalla, Tuesday, Dec. 9.

### Serafina Sore

Serafina N. Sore, 80, of Scarsdale, passed away on December 1. She was born in the Bronx on December 25, 1933 to the late Rose (Trevisano) and Anthony Casella. Serafina married John Sore on June 11, 1955 in the Bronx.

Seri was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to all who knew her. She was an artist, a writer, a very good cook, a nature lover and so much more. She will be deeply missed by all whose lives she touched.

Seri is survived by her husband John, her daughter Sarina Penichet of Somers, her son John D. (Rebecca) Sore of New Zealand, a brother Joe Casella and her five grandchildren: William, Jacqueline, Luis, Brittany and James.

**Examiner Media** is publishing a special real estate section insert, **The Real Estate Examiner**, in next week's newspapers. The Real Estate Examiner will be included in all four of our Dec. 16-22 editions.

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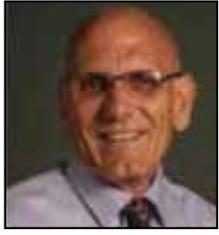
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The White Plains Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.



# From the Harrison Mayor and Town Hall, December 8, 2014



**Ron Belmont,**  
Supervisor/Mayor of  
Harrison

On Friday, December 5th, the Town /Village of Harrison was notified that Moody's, a bond credit ratings service, has raised Harrison's bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1, which is one notch below the highest designated rating of triple A. Harrison's rating has significantly improved over the course of the last several years, increasing from Aa3 in 2011 to the current Aa1 rating. Moody's cites several factors for this year's rating rationale: the Village's improved financial position, a sizeable and affluent tax base, which is expected to benefit from commercial development in the near term, and a manageable debt burden with a lower than average pension liability. They also cite, as strengths, Harrison's large tax base, which is also expected to benefit from commercial development, and our municipality's healthy financial position bolstered by recent reserve growth. I am encouraged by this recent report and am confident that Harrison will continue along this very steady and favorable trajectory. I would like to thank town personnel for all their hard work in preparing for this review.

In other good news, at the December 4th Town Board meeting, the Town Board adopted the final budget for 2015. Once again, Harrison is within the tax cap mandated by Governor Cuomo. For the 2015 tax year, the levy increase allowed is under 2 percent. The 2015 tax rate, for the town of Harrison, is 1.986 percent. What this means to the average tax payer in Harrison is, if the assessed value of your home is between \$650,000 and \$700,000, your increase is less than \$7.00 a month. You will still be receiving exceptional municipal services. As in previous years, Harrison will not be utilizing a NY State program which allows local municipalities to borrow in order to pay their pension bills. Harrison will once again be paying the entire bill, at the end of 2015, without

borrowing.

Curb side, bulk leaf collection will be in effect through December 12th. At that time, the Highway Department will make a final curb side collection, in each neighborhood, after which residents must place any additional leaves in brown bags for collection by the Sanitation Department. At present, most leaves are piled on the roadside, thereby

narrowing the passageway, so please drive cautiously as we continue to clear our municipal roadways.

Each year, the weather pattern determines when the leaves fall, and some years, like this one, all of the leaves dropped at the same time. This means that our crews take longer to remove the piles. Town personnel make every effort to remove the leaf piles as quickly as possible. To expedite the process, we ask that residents remove all rocks, bottles,

branches and other debris, take leaves to the curb and avoid parking on or around the piles. It is also important that leaves are not placed in the storm drains, or catch basins, as this may cause flooding. Our Department of Public Works is not able to indicate exactly when crews will be in a specific neighborhood, or on a particular street, as those work details are contingent on the day to day progress of our Highway Department during the leaf removal season. I appreciate your patience as we continue to clear our roadways.

## Guest Column

*The second easiest way to*  
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*for the holidays.*

**Metro-North is making your holiday travels simpler than ever this year.**

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## Police Blotter

### Robert Mizell Sentenced in Tarrytown Kidnapping and Robbery

Robert Mizell, 28, of the Bronx, was sentenced to 18 years in prison on his August 2014 guilty plea to kidnaping, robbery, criminal possession of a weapon and assault, relating to the abduction and robbery of car service driver Aneudy Lendoff.

"Car service drivers face many challenges in a day's work but being robbed, abducted and held at gunpoint should not be one of them. Due to the quick thinking by the victim, he was able to escape, ultimately leading to the arrest of the defendant," said District Attorney



Janet DiFiore.

On September 19, 2013, at approximately 10:45 a.m. the defendant entered the DAT car service at 650 Sound Shore Avenue in the Bronx requesting a cab to take him to

142nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan.

Once in the vehicle, the defendant pulled out a .38 caliber revolver pointed it

at the victim and said "we are now going to Albany."

The defendant ordered the victim to disable the video camera in the livery car and then, at gunpoint, ordered the victim to give him his cell phone and money. The victim gave the defendant his iPhone and \$125 in cash.

The defendant then told the victim to pull off at exit 23 on the Saw Mill River Parkway in the Town of Greenburgh and pulled into a parking lot forcing the victim at gunpoint into the trunk of his cab.

After driving around in the vicinity of

Nepperhan Road and Tower Hill Road, in Tarrytown, the victim was able to unlatch the trunk and jumped out of the moving vehicle fracturing his ankle. He was then able to contact Tarrytown police who found the defendant driving the victim's livery cab and in possession of the victim's cash, and iPhone.

It was later determined that the defendant was a state parole absconder and on Federal parole.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Lana Hochheiser of the Career Criminal Bureau prosecuted the case.

#### Greenburgh Police Department

**Suspicious Incident.** On November 24th residents of a home on Juniper Hill Road in White Plains called police to report that some time during the day, an unknown person had tied a bed sheet to a piece of exercise equipment inside of the home's bedrooms and exited. Between 1:30 and 3 p.m. the home was reported empty. At around 3p.m. while the home was occupied by several family members, they heard a noise from the bedroom. It sounded like a object or person falling and banged into the floor. However no one checked the bedroom until 5:30 p.m. when they found the bed sheet out the open window. The room was checked and nothing appears to be missing. The occupant of the room was not home at the time and could not verify if anything was taken.

**Burglary.** Police officers were dispatched to 2 Lawrence St., Ardsley, on Tuesday, Nov. 25 when an employee reported that on opening the business that morning he noticed several things missing. Among the items taken were a cash register, three iPads, and two laptop computers. An initial exterior check of the premises revealed a door on the side facing Lawrence St. to be slightly cracked open as well as a possible heavy foot impression in the ground in close proximity to the door. Further investigation revealed an employee was recently terminated for theft and that she and several friends were

observed on camera near the iPads. When confronted by the businesses owner, each was given the choice to return the item stolen and no report would be made on the incident. The next day items were returned, however a walkthrough by detectives showed that one security camera had several wires disconnected and another camera on the second floor had been removed completely. Further investigation is pending.

**Grand Larceny.** On November 26, Greenburgh Police responded to a call from a resident on Clayton Road, Scarsdale. The victim reported that she was missing a pair of pearl earrings, her engagement ring, and an iPad. She stated that the jewelry was last seen on October 8 and was left in a file cabinet in her bedroom. She said she normally locks the cabinet but may have left the lower drawer, where she keeps her jewelry, unlocked. There were no signs of forced entry and the only key is kept on her house key ring in her possession. She also stated that the box in which her engagement ring was in, also contained a pair of diamond stud earrings, which were there but one of them had a different backing. She advised that she does have cleaning ladies at the house on Wednesdays (who have worked for her for four years), but she had not yet spoken to them about the missing items. The victim was advised to speak with the housekeepers to see if they had seen or placed the items elsewhere, and then

contact the police department. Police contacted the victim a short while later and she reported that one of the housekeepers was unaware of where the jewelry was but had offered to help her look for it, the iPad was found in the home. She also reported that she has a large amount of jewelry and had not fully searched the cabinet to confirm whether or not the items were in fact missing. Officers will follow up.

**Petit Larceny.** On November 26 at about 9:30 p.m. police officers responded to a call of a possible theft at the Best Buy on Central Avenue, Hartsdale. Upon arrival, the officers spoke to the security guard for Best Buy, who reported that two suspects were observed on video surveillance concealing and placing merchandise into a duffel bag. The security guard noted that when they had passed all points of purchase, he approached the suspects at the exit and brought them into the security office, and then called the police department. The stolen merchandise was photographed and turned back over to Best Buy. A copy of the surveillance video of the incident was vouchered into evidence.

The suspects were placed under arrest and transported to police headquarters. They were due in court on December 5.

**Burglary/Illegal Entry.** On November 26 Police responded to a residence in Elmsford on a report of a burglary. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who reported that at approximately 11 a.m. she had locked and secured her apartment. When she returned at approximately 10:15 p.m. she noticed the door leading into her apartment was slightly opened. She pushed the door open and immediately upon entering noticed the shade by her kitchen window had been tampered with. Upon entering her bedroom, she found the door leading into the closet opened and a plastic dresser in the closet was pulled open. When she looked in the drawer, she noticed a jewelry box, containing about \$20,000 worth of jewelry was missing. Other family members had left earlier in the day and had not returned home. The victim, when interviewed, revealed that in the last two months she had multiple maintenance workers and contractors in

her apartment, and that one maintenance worker had been in the closet a few weeks ago to repair that door. A full interior check found the window in the kitchen, which leads to a balcony, unlocked and the blinds partially opened. A check of the balcony did not find any footprints in the snow nor was the snow disturbed on the handrail. It did not appear that entry was made through the window but instead the front door. A closer look at the doorframe revealed small pry marks but no damage to the locking mechanism. While on scene, the victim was able to provide four sets of keys but reported that the maintenance workers also had keys to the apartments and have access whether or not the homeowner is present. A canvass of the building for potential witnesses was not completed due to the late hour of the night. A Crime Scene Roster was completed and submitted. No further information could be obtained at the time.

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# Small Ways You and Your Kids Can Help Animals

Many of us love animals. However, many of us are also unaware of the small choices we make each day that can impact our beloved animals. Here are six simple choices you and your family can make together to help animals and be an active part of the solution.

*‘Children who just want to spend time with animals can help by volunteering at a local animal shelter.’*

**Involve children’s schools.** Many schools are required to have a Social Emotional Learning curriculum, and the Mutt-i-grees Curriculum is one such program. Mutt-i-grees is an innovative program that teaches children about compassion, tolerance, diversity, and

empathy using children’s innate love for animals.

**Adopt, don’t shop!** Most pet store dogs come from puppy mills, and many dogs that are supposed breeders are actually puppy mill puppies too. It just isn’t that hard to create a wholesome looking website or to falsify lineage documents. Puppy mills are commercial breeding facilities that treat dogs inhumanely to produce a profit quickly. Shelters, on the other hand, rescue animals that need homes. These animals are capable of being fantastic pets and companions – no less so than any other dog or cat. Why support a horrendous industry (and spend hundreds to thousands of dollars) when you can adopt an animal in need?

**Choose nature sanctuaries and parks over circuses or animal theme parks like SeaWorld.** It is unnatural for animals to live in captivity, especially in conditions created by places like circuses. Animals

## Parenting Pep Talk



By Dr. Jaime Fleckner Black

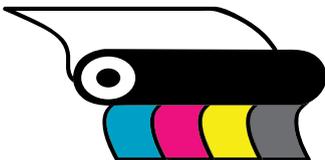
who travel in circuses spend much of their time confined in small trucks and are beaten into submission. Nature and animal sanctuaries, on the other hand, rescue and rehabilitate animals, and they offer tours and fun activities for children and adults. Families can visit the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale or Green Chimneys in Brewster. Also consider animal-free circuses like Cirque de Soleil for some outstanding entertainment.

**Use your children’s creativity to help.** Children love to be creative to help a cause. One member of the Youth Animal Protectors (YAP) Club, an organization that teaches children how their choices impact our local and global communities, makes and sells bracelets and donates the proceeds to organizations like the Northshore Animal League. Other children create Facebook pages and utilize other social media to help educate others about animal welfare and ways to take action. Children who just want to spend time with animals can help by volunteering at a local animal shelter.

**Choose products wisely.** Despite the alternatives, many companies routinely test their products on animals. It simply isn’t necessary to mistreat animals so they can test our shampoos, for example, before we do. Involve your children in deciding which brands to buy. There are many cruelty-free brands (Seventh Generation, Trader Joes, and Method, to name a few) that you can buy just as easily as other brands. To check which brands are on the “do not test” or “do test” list, check the Peta.org website, visit the online Peta Mall, or take a look at leapingbunny.org.

**Enjoy some meat-free meals.** It’s not necessary to go completely meat free to make a difference. Even limiting meat consumption can help reduce animal cruelty, and many experts agree that it is better for your health. When you do buy meat, look for brands that treat animals humanely.

*Dr. Jaime Black is a licensed psychologist practicing in Westchester and New York City. Jaime works with high-functioning individuals on the autism spectrum, doing psychotherapy, conducting evaluations, and facilitating various socialization groups including an improv social skills group. Visit [www.spectrumservicesnyc.com](http://www.spectrumservicesnyc.com), e-mail [JaimeBlackPsyD@gmail.com](mailto:JaimeBlackPsyD@gmail.com) or call (914)712-8208.*



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# When Winemakers Age Wines for a Consumer's Enjoyment



By Nick Antonaccio

The aging of wine is a rather open-ended term lacking any specificity to a particular wine. Your concept of aging may be a matter of a few days – or hours. Mine may be several decades.

While one consumer may not have the patience or ideal storage environment to age wine properly, another may invest thousands of dollars in a state-of-the-art home wine cellar to allow a fine wine to develop and mature over an extended period.

## 'Ready for immediate consumption'

A number of wine regions and individual wineries around the world age certain of their wines at the winery before they are released in the marketplace. Thus, a consumer has the choice of purchasing wines that have been "pre-aged" and ready for immediate consumption. When you pop open that bottle you purchased today, it may already have been coddled

through several years of aging.

Typical winery aging for both reds and whites is 12 to 15 months. However, some wines are intended to be consumed fresh and even a bit effervescent; they are released after just a few months aging. Examples: Rosé, Beaujolais Nouveau.

Certain reds are mandated by regulatory bodies to be aged for a specific period before release.

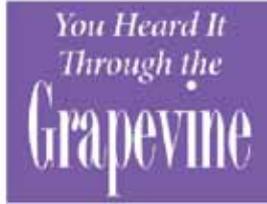
Example: five years for a Brunello di Montalcino. Add an additional year and the winemaker may add the term "Riserva" on the label. When you purchase a Brunello, the label will thus indicate the period of aging at the winery.

Such rules govern other red wines as well. In other wine regions, local practice is considered sacrosanct.

Example: in the Bordeaux and Burgundy regions of France, local winemakers typically will age wines in their cellars for two years before release. The responsibility for continuing the aging process necessary for the wine to fully develop (as many as 20 years) is left to merchants and collectors with personal wine cellars.

Each release date is governed locally and may or may not carry a unique term designating the age. Of course simple math is a key indicator. E

Example: If you purchase a bottle of Spanish Rioja from the 1997 vintage with the term Gran Reserva on the label, your smartphone browser will tell you that it was aged in barrel and bottle at the winery for five years and your smartphone calculator will tell you it has been aging away from the winery for an additional 12 years. A unique wine that goes beyond regulatory guidelines: Vega Sicilia Unico, a world-renowned Spanish wine that is typically aged in the winery for 10 years (or more) before release, making it one of the longest held wines in the world.



As one might expect, having a wine aged under the controlled environment and professional supervision at the winery will extract the greatest expression of the wine and assure the consumer of its "provenance," the documented history of the cellar conditions under which a wine has been stored.

Another example of prolonged aging: select Champagnes. Certain vintages are outstanding compared to others; Champagne makers, like the producer of Dom Pérignon, often age these bottles longer – up to 15 years – before releasing them into the market, where under proper storage conditions they may age

gracefully for several more decades.

Needless to say, each release of Vega Sicilia and Dom Pérignon carry an associated premium to compensate the wineries for the added cost of long-term cellaring, and the allure that a rare wine generates.

The choice is yours. Purchase a young, built-to-last wine and age it yourself in your (expensive) home wine storage unit or purchase a winery-aged wine, at a considerably higher cost than a typical bottle of wine, and enjoy it at your convenience. Next week I'll focus on several at-home wine storage options.

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.



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## The Restaurant Examiner



### Former Gracie Mansion Chef Reopens Restaurant With New Menu

By Jerry Eimbinder

After eight weeks of intensive renovation, Anna Maria's in Larchmont reopened last week with a new menu. The interior of the 40-seat restaurant has been completely redone; the furniture is new and an 800-pound cement bar has been built on the premises.

Wednesday Pasta Night returns this week, but unlike in the past, the pastas and appetizers will change weekly.

"Guests will be able to choose from four appetizers and six pasta dishes each week at a prix-fixe cost of \$19 per person," said co-owner Anna Maria Santrelli. Thursday Ladies Night (a first at Anna Maria's) debuted on Dec. 4. From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., female guests can order discounted specialty drinks--wine at \$5 per glass and selected bottles of beer at \$4.

The menu includes several appetizers not offered on the previous menu such as grilled octopus, pesto and mac cheese, farrotto with wild



mushrooms, mixed olives and meatballs made with veal, goat cheese and eggplant.

New entrees on the menu include panko-crusted North Atlantic salmon at \$25; grilled branzino at \$26; chicken martini at \$25; and veal parmigiana (previously



Anna Maria Santrelli

available as a special only) at \$29. The signature dish is black-ink fettuccine.

For the first time in its history, the eight-year-old restaurant will have a bar menu. The bar has eight stools and plenty of standing room.

Happy Hour is celebrated at the bar only Tuesday through Thursday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with red, white and sparkling wine at \$5 each and discounts for beer

and specialty drinks.

Bartender James Welsh, a Mount Kisco resident, said that popular drinks include Napoli, a combination of limoncello, cola and fresh lemon, and Contractor's Delight, made with Stolli vodka, club soda, a splash of cranberry and lime wedge. Both drinks cost \$9.

Lunch service from 12 to 3 p.m. will return shortly. Sunday brunch will soon be introduced beginning at 11 a.m.

The walls, formerly red/burgundy, are now colored "Mount Rainier Gray" and the ceiling has been redone with "Ashland Slate" paint.

Santarelli served three New York City mayors — David Dinkins, Rudolph Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg. She fed many celebrities during her 13 years as executive chef at Gracie Mansion, including Harrison Ford, Danny DeVito, Woody Harrelson, Barbra Streisand, Billy Crystal, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Francis Ford Coppola and John Kennedy Jr. The restaurant is co-owned by Jennifer Esposito.

Anna Maria's Restaurant is closed on Mondays. It is located at 18 Chatsworth Ave. in Larchmont

Contact: 914-833-0555 or visit [www.annamariaskitchen.com](http://www.annamariaskitchen.com).

### Tarrytown's SB&G to Ring in 2015 with New Name, Menu

By Jerry Eimbinder

Many changes lie ahead for SB&G, the restaurant at the Sheraton Tarrytown Hotel.

"We will ring in the new year with a new name and a new menu," said manager Michael Dizzine.

The new name has not yet been made known.

The new menu is still a work in progress, too, but a number of decisions have been made, Dizzine said. The new restaurant will offer:

1. An impressive and well-stocked bourbon and whisky bar.
2. Theme nights devoted to specific types of food and/or beverages.
3. A greater variety of small plates and tapas.
4. Beet salad and crab cakes, both very popular, will be retained.
5. Omelet and waffle stations will be added to Saturday and Sunday buffet brunches, currently priced at \$19.95 for



Restaurant manager Michael Dizzine, left, and chef Michael Koonce

adults and \$12.95 for children.

6. Filet mignon will be replaced by petite filet mignon.

7. Live entertainment with no cover charge will be presented on Friday and

Saturday evenings beginning about 7 p.m.

8. Wine-coupled, prix-fixe dinners are coming.

9. Heat lamps will be used to extend the outdoor patio dining season.

10. Burgers and a soup/half-sandwich combination (each currently priced at \$9.95) will carry over to the new luncheon menu.

"The new menu dishes will be New American Cuisine," said chef Michael Koonce, "but it's too early to say much more than that."

Koonce was previously a line chef at the Loews Regency Hotel and The Water Club in Manhattan and is a graduate of the New York Restaurant School.

Dizzine grew up in Nyack, graduated from Johnson & Wales University in Providence with a bachelor's in hotel management. He was the food and beverage manager at Comfort Inn & Suites in Nanuet prior to assuming his present duties a year ago.

SB&G is located adjacent to the lobby of the Sheraton Tarrytown Hotel at 600 White Plains Rd. (Route 119)

Call 914-332-7900 for more information.

# Santa's Mail Box



Santa Claus has set up a special mailbox on the front steps of City Hall in White Plains. The Mayor's office says it is very honored that Santa has once again chosen White Plains for this very important purpose (they think it's because the city has been especially good this year). Santa has invited all City of White Plains resident children

to write to him using his special mailbox.

Children may drop their letters in the mailbox any time by Friday, December 19. Children should remember to include their return address so that Santa can send them a personalized reply. White Plains City Hall is located at 255 Main Street.

# EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

120914

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## LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A LICENSE, NUMBER 1282689, FOR BEER AND WINE** has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer and wine at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 84-86 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 for on premises consumption. Muse Paintbar LLC

**TOWN OF SOMERS NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS** THE TOWN OF SOMERS is advertising the availability of two newly constructed One Bedroom Affordable Housing units located at 341 Route 202 in the historic Somers Hamlet. These bright and airy, finely finished second floor walk-up apartment units are available to one person households whose maximum annual income is no greater than \$58,100 and to two-person households whose maximum income is no greater than \$66,400. Estimated rents are \$1,373 to \$1,416. Please contact the Town of Somers Planning Office at 914-277-5366 for an application. Applications will be accepted from Tuesday, December 9, 2014 through Noon on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 in the Office of the Somers Town Clerk, Somers Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, NY, 10589.

**Classified Ad Deadline is Thursdays at 5pm for the next week's publication**

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# 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](mailto:pcasey@theexaminernews.com).*

## Tuesday, Dec. 9

**Tuesdays at Dorry's.** San Miguel is a gem of a town tucked away in the mountains northwest of Mexico City. Today it's a haven for artists, writers, musicians and the like. However, San Miguel has a rich history as a colonial city, and as a route in the mining of silver. Barbara Wexler will talk about her experiences in San Miguel and will highlight some of the events and attractions that beckon her back year after year. "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, Dec. 10

**Noonday Getaway Concert.** Jörg-Michael Schwarz, violin, and Dongsok Shin, harpsichord, principals of the internationally acclaimed REBEL Ensemble for Baroque Music, play Sonatas of J. S. Bach. 12:10 p.m. Free admission. At Grace Episcopal Church, corner of Main Street and Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains.

**Lunchtime Concert: Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons."** The Purchase College Camerata, presents this concert featuring four young virtuoso violinists from the college's Conservatory of Music—Gustavo Briceno, Emily Frederick, Lauren Jenkins and Sarah Tusch. An orchestra of strings, harpsichords, and guitars, a grouping typical of 18th-century Venice, will accompany the soloists. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 12:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit [www.neuberger.org](http://www.neuberger.org).

## 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. 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.

**10 Ways to Make Your Holidays Gorgeous, Green and Gracious.** Tips on how to celebrate the holidays, minus the fuss and waste, not to mention saving money and reducing stress. Bring your

own green holiday ideas to share. Program presented in partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. For adults and high school students. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

## Thursday, Dec. 11

**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 sale will continue through Saturday, Dec. 20th unless sold out. Trees are priced according to type and size. Thursdays and Fridays 4 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays & Sundays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## YMCA Healthy Lifestyles Seminar.

**Bullying: Advice for Parents and Children** – Wendy Kaufman - Westchester Family and Community Services is part of an ongoing YMCA seminar series at the White Plains facility on Mamaroneck Avenue, Thursdays through February 5th; 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Members of the White Plains YMCA may attend all sessions within the series for free. The presentations are open to the community at large (\$5 for adults and \$2 for children, for each date). Adults wishing to attend all 10 dates may do so for \$40 (at \$10 savings), and children for \$15 (a \$5 savings). For more information call 914 949-8030, ext. 215 or visit [www.ymca-cnw.org](http://www.ymca-cnw.org).

**"A Midsummer Night's Dream."** The Armonk Players presents this Shakespeare comedy, directed by Christine DiTota, is replete with confused lovers, mischievous fairies, eager to please mechanicals and a changeling, one of his most popular and widely-performed plays. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. Adults: \$20. Students: (18 and under): \$10. Dec. 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit [www.armonkplayers.org](http://www.armonkplayers.org).

## Friday, Dec. 12

**Maryknoll Christmas Concert.** This annual concert of religious and traditional music welcomes the Christmas season. Led by a choir composed of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll Lay Missioners and friends and neighbors. Everyone of all faiths are welcome. Light refreshments after the concert. A visit from Santa to greet all children and the young at heart. Our Lady Queen of Apostles Chapel, 55 Ryder Rd., Ossining. 8 p.m. Free. Info: Visit [www.maryknollsociety.org](http://www.maryknollsociety.org).

**A John Denver Christmas Starring Ted Vigil.** A heart-warming tribute that has

become a holiday tradition, celebrating the season with the beloved songs of the Rocky Mountain troubadour. Featuring cherished songs such as "Rocky Mountain High," "Annie's Song," "Sunshine on My Shoulder" and all of Denver's hits, as well as some of the holiday season's best-loved songs. Ted Vigil's uncanny physical and vocal resemblance to Denver will charm the audience with this inspirational tribute. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 8 p.m. \$29 and \$39. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039, visit [www.paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://www.paramounthudsonvalley.com) or e-mail [boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com](mailto:boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com).

## Saturday, Dec. 13

**Train: Your Ticket to the Great Outdoors.** A display of model trains presented by the Yonkers Model Railroad Club. This marks the 10th consecutive year of this exhibit that is designed for train lovers of all ages. Featuring a special 12- by 18-foot display of HO gauge model trains traveling through countryside scenes of natural beauty, modeled on the terrain of upstate New York and New England. Includes admission to all manor house exhibits. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults: \$10. Seniors: \$9. Children (2 to 12 years old): \$8. Dec. 13, 14, 20 and 21. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Wolves of North America.** Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this time of year is special for packs in North America. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa and Zephyr and will meet almost eight-month-old ambassador pup Nikai. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 14, 20, 26, 28 and 31 at 11 a.m. Dec. 14, 20 and 27 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 29 at noon. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Family Second Saturdays:** Geometric Expression. Explore the use of simple forms that artists inspired by Suprematism used in their artwork in a tour of: "This Leads to Fire: Russian Art from Nonconformism to Global Capitalism, Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation Collection." In the studio, play with the basic elements of art to create an expressive masterpiece. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-251-6113.

**Pack Chat for Kids.** Children will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role of wolves in the natural world. Guests will visit the ambassador wolves and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. For children four to eight years old. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12):

\$11. Also Dec. 27 and 30 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Information and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**"A Christmas Carol."** Master storyteller Jonathan Kruk brings to life the classic Charles Dickens story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future with musical accompaniment. Includes complementary admission to A Holiday Open House, across the street at Philipsburg Manor. Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow, 430 N. Broadway (Route 9), Sleepy Hollow; 3:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. Adults: \$24. Children (under 18): \$20. Historic Hudson Valley members receive a \$5 per ticket discount. Also Dec. 14, 20 and 21. Info and tickets: 914-366-6900 or visit [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org).

**"Messiah-Sing."** This annual performance, featuring professional soloists and a string quartet, will be joined by the Bronxville High School Choir and the Bronxville High School Orchestra. Sing Handel's great Oratorio and be a part of this wonderful family tradition of fellowship and music. Reception to follow. The Reformed Church, 180 Pondfield Rd., Bronxville. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-337-6776.

**It's a Wonderful Life.** Archbishop Stepinac High School Drama Club presents the classic holiday story, It's A Wonderful Life based on the iconic Frank Capra film. The cast of about 40 young thespians will take to the stage for performances at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and again at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14 at Stepinac's Major Bowes Auditorium, 950 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for senior citizens and children under 12 and can be purchased by calling (914) 946-4800 ext. 200. For more information go to [www.stepinac.org](http://www.stepinac.org), email: [theatre@stepinac.org](mailto:theatre@stepinac.org) or visit Facebook: Stepinac Drama Club Page.

**Teen Night Holiday Dance.** Hey White Plains 6th, 7th and 8th graders, come on over to Eastview Middle School (Lower Gym) for a "Teen Night and Holiday Dance" from 7 to 10 p.m. Teens can get into the holiday spirit with their friends and enjoy music and dancing with a DJ. There is no entrance fee, but teens are asked to donate a canned good or toy for a needy family. Registration is required because space is limited. Please call or email the Recreation & Parks Department at 914-422-1336 or [loconnor@whiteplainsny.gov](mailto:loconnor@whiteplainsny.gov) to register by 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, and provide the student's name, grade and school. Teens must attend school or reside in the City of White Plains. Eastview Middle School is located at 11 Amherst Place in White Plains.



EXAMINER SPORTS

# Falcons Win Big in Opener, But Fall to Eastchester in Tournament Title Game

By Skip Pearlman

After routing their opening-round opponent last Thursday in the first round of the Eastchester Tournament, the Woodlands Falcons boys basketball team got clipped, 56-55, by the host Eagles in the championship game Saturday night at Eastchester HS.

Woodlands fell to 2-1, despite 26 points from All-State senior forward Jamil Gambari, and 17 from senior guard Ross Joseph.

"We struggled at the end of the game," Falcons coach Bob Murphy said. "Eastchester played well, they outplayed us late in the game. We played well early, but they played well late."

Eastchester's Stefano Scarpa hit one of two free throws with 11 seconds left to give the Eagles the lead. Eastchester trailed by as many as 16 early on.

"We had a chance to win it at the end," Murphy added of the Falcon's final opportunity at a game-winning possession. "But we threw the ball away on an inbounds pass with 2.4 seconds. It was frustrating... because we're a better team than we showed late. If we stayed within the system we probably would have won. But we allowed Eastchester to have confidence at the end. They were more pumped up. At the end we got out-coached, out-played and out-

hustled."

But Murphy said that some good can come from the loss.

"It wasn't a bad loss," the coach said. "It can allow us to step back and identify who we are."

The Falcons had no trouble getting past Hunter College High School, posting an 87-49 victory the prior Thursday in the tournament's opening round.

Gambari delivered 21 points, Brandon Johnson added 18, Joseph had 17, Pierre Lys scored 11, and Rashad Baker had 10.

"It was a one-sided game, we were able to control play," Murphy said. "And all five of those guys played really well for us. Also Denzel Small played very well - he gave us all-out hustle and hard work on the floor."

One day earlier Woodlands opened the season with a 69-51 win over Briarcliff.

Gambari led the way with 22, Johnson added 17, and Ross chipped in with 15 points.

"It was good to get the first game out of the way," Murphy said. "We played hard and aggressive - that's the style we want to show throughout the season."

Woodlands travels to take on White Plains Saturday at 4:15 p.m.

## Basketball School Day Sends Anti-Bullying Message

continued from page 1

and our secretary Ms. Smith organized the event and we got this wonderful opportunity to attend the game and be on the court. Their anti-bullying rally is a positive message and the children are learning a lot," said Gina Nieves, a fourth grade Home Room and fifth grade Social Studies teacher at Good Counsel.

The Westchester Knicks did not

at the Westchester County Center, if the Westchester Knicks score 100 points or more, all fans in attendance are treated to free wings at Buffalo Wild Wings.

"It is so awesome to be here today, this game is really cool. I am having a great time," said, Caroline Smith, a sixth grade student at Good Counsel.

The Westchester Knicks record this



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Students from Good Counsel Academy Elementary School enjoy the Westchester Knicks versus the Erie Bayhawks.

disappoint the over 2400 energetic students in attendance, as they beat the Bayhawks, 100-94 for their fourth win of the season.

All the students and adult fans in attendance at the game could bring their game-tickets to Buffalo Wild Wings for a sample of free wings. During games

season is 4-5, after losing on the road to the Grand Rapids Drive, 111-88, in Michigan and the Ft. Wayne Mad Ants, 97-86, in Indiana. The Westchester Knicks return home to the Westchester County Center to play the Rio Grande Valley Vipers, on Friday, Dec.12, at 7 p.m.



Guard Andre Barrett is greeted by students from Good Counsel Academy Elementary School, as the Westchester Knicks starting line-up is announced during pregame festivities on "School Day" at the Westchester County Center.



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## EXAMINER SPORTS

# Stepinac Season Ends at 12-1, with Defeat in Opening CHSAA State Championship

By Albert Coqueran

At 3:09 of the first quarter when Canisius High School punter Michael Tarbutt punted into his own man in the end zone and pushed the ball out of bounds for a Stepinac safety; it seemed like an omen that Stepinac High School would be crowned the inaugural Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) State Football Champions.

In the first play from scrimmage in the CHSFL AAA Championship game, Stepinac forced a safety on a bad hike by Iona Prep and went on to win the game 16-14, to capture the 2014 CHSFL AAA Title.

Nonetheless, that outcome was not to be against the CHSAA number one team in New York State, the Canisius Crusaders from Buffalo. The Stepinac Crusaders the number two team in NYS, battled to the last second but were defeated by the upstate Crusaders, 23-10, at Mitchel Field, in Uniondale, on Sunday, Dec. 7.

"It was a great atmosphere and really great game. I am just proud of our players and our program and the way we just kept



Stepinac quarterback Brandon Coleman crosses the goal line on a seven-yard run to give the Crusaders the lead, 10-6, in the third quarter of the inaugural CHSAA State Championship game, at Mitchel Field, in Uniondale, N.Y. on Sunday, Dec. 7.

fighting back all season and finished it today," said Canisius Head Coach Rich Robbins.

Both teams came into the inaugural CHSAA State Championship with undefeated records. The Canisius Crusaders, 11-0, won the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association (MMHSAA) Championship the past three straight years. The Stepinac Crusaders were 12-0, after winning their first CHSFL AAA Title since 1955.

Stepinac quarterback Brendon Coleman, as he has done throughout this season, made one last-ditch effort to lead his team to victory. With Canisius leading, 16-10, at 2:23 of the fourth quarter, Coleman ran 50 yards from scrimmage to the Canisius 25-yard line. He was about to score and tie the game, when he was run down and tackled by upstate Crusaders defensive back Mitch Thomas, who also had 103 yards rushing on the offensive side of the ball.

However, as mistakes plagued Stepinac all afternoon in the wind and cold at Mitchel Field,

junior quarterback Tyquell Fields was sacked. Then Coleman threw his second interception on the day to linebacker Jerome Brundidge, who ran 70 yards for a touchdown with a minute left in the game. Brundidge was awarded the inaugural CHSAA State Championship Defensive MVP for his efforts.

"That was a great play but there are no moral victories in that, you have to finish the play and score," commented Coleman, regarding his 50-yard run. "I am going to go to sleep tonight thinking about cutting back on that player and scoring," said Coleman, who finished with a game-high 122 yards rushing.

"It was a great game; Canisius is a very, very good team. The wind played a major factor and neither team could move the ball into the wind," said Stepinac Head Coach Mike O'Donnell. "We had our shot at the end when Brandon broke away for the run; but their player made a great tackle to keep him out of the end zone," stated O'Donnell.

Stepinac did have their chances to win but their mistakes against the number one team in the State equaled defeat. Besides Coleman's two INTs, Fields also threw two interceptions.

However, it may have also had something to do with the number one recruit in NYS,

Canisius defensive lineman Tyrone Wheatley, Jr. who stands 6' 6" and weighs 265 pounds rushing the quarterback.

After one of Fields interceptions in the first quarter, Canisius place-kicker Michael Tarbutt, set up for a 60-yard field goal, as the press box at Mitchel Field broke into laughter. But when Tarbutt's field goal attempt hit the crossbar and bounced over for three points, to put Canisius in the lead 3-2, all in attendance at the State Championship Game were amazed.

"We practiced and practiced and we had a couple of 65-yard field goals, so we thought we had it there," said Tarbutt, who kicked three field goals in the game and took home the Offensive MVP Award for the inaugural CHSAA State Championship.

Stepinac led 10-6, at 9:35 of the third quarter, after Coleman crossed the goal line on a seven-yard keeper and fullback Daniel Negron ran in a two-point conversion. However, Wheatley, Jr. crashed the line and blocked Pat Heffernan's punt at 11:35 of the fourth quarter and two minutes later Crusaders quarterback Jacob Loucks ran 16 yards to pay dirt to give Canisius the lead 13-10.

The game came down to Tarbutt's third field goal in the game and Brundidge's pick six to end the game, 23-10.

Canisius remains undefeated, 12-0 in 2014 and wins the inaugural CHSAA NYS Football Championship. Stepinac losses one game all season, 12-1, but the big game and was awarded the Runner-up Plaque of the inaugural CHSAA State Championship.

"The first ever Catholic High School State Championship was a good football game. It was a well played game by both teams but we just came out on the lower end of it," concluded O'Donnell.



Stepinac team captains, Dwayne Scott, Daniel Negron, Brandon Coleman, Malcolm Major, Demarcus Miller and Gavin Heslop are presented the CHSAA State Championship Runner-up Plaque, after losing to Canisius High School, 23-10, and finishing the season 12-1.



And to the victor goes the spoils" as the Canisius team captains, Tyrone Wheatley, Jr., Solomon Renfro, Mitch Thomas, Michael Keneflick and Josh Huffman are awarded the inaugural CHSAA NYS Championship Plaque, after defeating Stepinac 23-10.



Canisius kicker Michael Tarbutt (left) won the Offensive Most Valuable Player Award of the inaugural CHSAA State Football Championship. Tarbutt kicked three field goals in the game and one for as long as 60 yards to the amazement of all in attendance.

ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

EXAMINER SPORTS

# Woodlands Boys Will Need to Stay Focused to Repeat as Sectional Champs

By Skip Pearlman

This winter's Woodlands High boy's basketball team has a tough act to follow. Last year's Falcons put a historic



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS

All-State and All-Section 1 forward Jamil Gambari would love to lead the Falcons back to another sectional title.



Senior Ross Joseph elevates during last winter's playoff run.

season in the books, rolling to a Section 1 Class B title, and advancing to the NYS final four for the first time in 23 years.

Woodlands ended up losing to Section 6 champ Olean in the state semifinal, closing the winter at 19-6.

Despite losing starting guards Najee Khan and Abdoulaye Sow to graduation, the Falcons return some good talent, including three returning senior starters who sparked the team's playoff run last year – All-State and All-Section forward Jamil Gambari (6-3, last year's team captain), All-Conference guard Brandon Johnson (5-10,) and Ross Joseph (6-1 G/F). Throw in another key returning player – 5-8 senior guard Pierre Lys, and transfers Rashad Baker (5-8, senior guard) and Kyle Smith (6-4, junior) should be solid additions.

So it's easy to see why expectations are high for this season's squad.

Seventh-year coach Bob Murphy knows he has talent, but he also knows the team will need leadership and focus.



Senior guard Pierre Lys is one of four key returning Falcons.

“We need to be focused and determined to play a team game – night in, night out,” Murphy said. “We have four highly experienced players back from last year's team, but replacing the back court experience and leadership of Sow and Khan will be hard to do. The focus again this year will be on pressure defense, in an effort to keep opponents off-balance for 32 minutes.”

Murphy added that there's no specific formula for success – many things have to come together if the Falcons want to defend their sectional title.

“If we want to repeat as sectional champs, we're going to have to play great basketball at sectional time,” the coach said. “Anything beyond that has to do with lucky bounces of the basketball. There is no formula... we hope to be playing great basketball late in the season – but nothing is promised.”

Woodlands opened the season last week with a pair of wins, then lost to the Eagles in the Eastchester Tournament championship game (see related story).

The Falcons are scheduled to face White Plains Saturday at 4:15 p.m. at White Plains HS.

## Stepinac Basketball Hardwood Club 2014 Inductees



KEVIN ULRICH PHOTO

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, the Stepinac High School Basketball Program held their annual Hardwood Club Dinner to celebrate this year's Crusaders Basketball Hall of Fame inductees. Pictured (front l-r) are Kay and Brad Steintal of Rye Brook, who received the Hardwood Club Service Award, with Brian Lynch of Glenn Rock, New Jersey and George Dwyer of Fort Myers, Florida, who were members of the Crusaders 1970-'71 basketball team. (Back l-r) include inductees, Kyle Walsh of White Plains (Class of '98) and Stephen Mullery III of McLean, Virginia (Class of '85) with Dan Donovan of Vernona, N.J., Gene Slattery from Dobbs Ferry and Bill Kolman, who were also members of the 1970-'71 team.



Falcons All-Conference guard Brandon Johnson returns for his senior season.

# EXAMINER SPORTS Woodlands Girls Hold on Through Two Overtimes, Deny Pleasantville, 71-65

By Skip Pearlman

When Pleasantville forced overtime on a wild three-pointer at the buzzer against Woodlands last Friday night, it seemed like the Panthers – finding new life – had all the momentum.

But a calm Woodlands squad stuck to its game plan, and despite the Panthers



Falcons assistant coach Grant Valentine and the Falcons talk strategy during Friday's double overtime win over Pleasantville.



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS

Teisha Hyman and the Falcons held on for a double-overtime win at Pleasantville last week.

forcing a second overtime, the Falcons stayed the course and carved out a 71-65 victory on Pleasantville's home court.

For the Falcons it was a lot of Jasmine Michaux early, and more Teisha Hyman late. Hyman, an All-Section HM guard,



Jasmine Michaux glides in for two of her 12 points vs. Pleasantville.



Mariah Cherry of Woodlands had a team-high 25 points vs. Pleasantville.



Falcons guard Kalena Menard tiptoes the sideline Friday night at Pleasantville.

regulation,” Falcons assistant coach Grant Valentine said. “But we made some turnovers... and then they hit that three. I expected it – that’s how basketball is. But in overtime it came down to toughness. Our girls have been working hard, and I knew they wouldn’t be tired. In the clutch, they’re always in control, and we made our free throws down the stretch – that was huge.”

Valentine pointed to several contributors down the stretch.

“Teisha showed great leadership,” the coach said of Hyman, who looks and plays more like a seasoned veteran than an eighth-grader. “We’re on the road, and she stepped up her game on the court, and she was vocal as a leader. Kalina Menard, another eighth-grader, stepped up and was a big presence, and Mariah – inside and outside – was unbelievable. All three had a remarkable game for us.”

Pleasantville (1-2) was led by Josie Amerson’s 27-point effort. Ann Marie DiCarlo and Courtney Sheehy each added 15 for the Panthers.

delivered 24 points, including 12 in the two OT sessions. Michaux finished with 12, as did Kalena Menard. And Mariah Cherry was everywhere for Woodlands, pouring in 22 points.

“We had chances to put it away in



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