



The WHITE PLAINS Examiner



FREE

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Woodlands Girls Basketball Upset Westlake, Head to Semifinals

By Skip Pearlman

The Westlake High girls basketball team knew right from the start of last Tuesday's Class B quarterfinal this was no ordinary No. 7 seed coming onto their home court.

And the Woodlands girls proved that point by riding an 18-6 second quarter run to a 64-52 victory over the No. 2 Wildcats, and moving on to the semifinals at the Westchester County Center.

Woodlands, which improved to 10-10 with the win over Westlake, was scheduled to face No. 3 Briarcliff Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., with the winner advancing to the Class B championship game, set for 12 noon on Saturday, March 1.

Westlake had its way in the first quarter, hitting shots and racing to a 22-15 lead after the first eight minutes.

But Woodlands turned it around in the second, switching to a man defense, and dropping an 18-6 run on the Wildcats to grab a 33-28 halftime lead.

Westlake came out of the locker room and tied the game with a pair of three's,



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTO

The Woodlands girls celebrate winning a trip to the County Center for semifinals, after beating Westlake last week.

White Plains Gears Up for St. Patrick's Day Festivities

By Pat Casey

Celebrating the wearing of the green has been a longtime tradition in White Plains that begins with a bright green line painted down Mamaroneck Avenue along the St. Patrick's Day Parade route and continues until the last of the festivities occur after the official feast day on March 17th.

Saturday, March 8 marks the 17th annual White Plains St. Patrick's Parade, which begins promptly at 12 noon, beginning on Mamaroneck Avenue at Old Mamaroneck Road and ends at City Hall on Main Street, White Plains.

Mary Helen Jordan will be this year's Grand Marshal and lead the parade along with her aides, Kevin Dervin, Linda Devine, Tom Eaton, Sue Fuller, White Plains Fire Department Lt. Kevin Heffernan, and Christine Roithmayer.

As a second generation Irish American, Mary Helen Cronin Jordan has served as a dedicated volunteer in White Plains for more than 50 years.

She attended Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy where she discovered her love of volunteerism thanks to the Sisters of the Divine Compassion. Her

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but from there, the Falcons maintained their edge in the second half, out-scoring Westlake 15-12 and 16-13 in the third and fourth, respectively.

Woodlands' superior athleticism allowed the Falcons to pull away in the fourth, consistently forcing turnovers and out-rebounding the host.

Teshia Hyman's two free throws with 3:45 left put the Falcons up 55-45, and Woodlands extended the bulge to as many as 18 (63-45).

Westlake coach Sean Mayer said he knew the game wouldn't be a typical No. 2 vs. No. 7 meeting.

"Three (Imani Tilford) and four (seventh-grader Teshia Hyman) on Woodlands are tough, and they were on their game tonight," Mayer said. "When that happens, and their other players chip in as well, Woodlands is a tough team to beat. That's what happened tonight. Tilford and Hyman were just on fire, and their teammates finished down low, they

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Planned Renovation Gives New Read on Old Harrison Library

By Jon Craig

Major renovations of the Harrison Public Library may come to fruition this summer after more than 20 years of discussion.

The Harrison Town Board gave its OK during its last meeting on Feb. 10 to enter into a contract with H3 Hardy Collaboration, a Manhattan architectural firm, for a \$3.6 million project at 2 Bruce Ave.

The library, which gets about 200,000 visits annually, will be renamed the Richard E. Halperin Memorial Library Building.

Plans include doubling the size of the

children's library section, creation of a teen center and adding new computers and other modern equipment to bring the aging library up-to-date.

Ross Halperin, executive director of the Harrison Public Library Foundation, has led a fund-raising campaign named after his father, Richard E. Halperin, who died in 2008.

More than \$1 million in private donations has been committed, some of it from residents who donated money for engraved bricks.

With H3 Hardy signed on to manage construction, the library's first meeting

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work with cancer patients at Rosary Hill was especially fulfilling, and it served to direct her towards a life of community service and caring for others. A graduate of Manhattanville College, she married Jim Jordan of White Plains, and together they raised seven children in the Gedney Farms neighborhood.

Mary Helen was a Trustee of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, and president of the OLS School Committee. She is an active Eucharistic Minister in the parish today, and orchestrates OLS efforts to bring food to the Open Arms Shelter and Grace Church Community Center.

As a volunteer and board member for Meals on Wheels, she has been delivering food to homebound White Plains residents for 30 years. For 28 years, she has led a contingent of volunteers who provide meals to the Sharing Community soup kitchen in Yonkers. She volunteers with Hospice and Palliative Care of Westchester and with Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, comforting the sick and bringing them Communion. An early advocate of S.H.O.R.E. (Sheltering the Homeless is Our Responsibility), Mary Helen has served as Board member, committee chair and volunteer for the group. She has also served as President of the Alumni Board of Manhattanville College.

Mary Helen Jordan is recognized by Good Counsel with its Wall of Fame Award; by Archbishop Stepinac with the Evangelium Vitae Award for public service; and by Manhattanville with a Distinguished Alumni Award and many more.

Following the parade, the local Irish

establishments continue the fun with music and cultural food and beverage.

Later in the evening at 6 p.m., another White Plains tradition, The friendly Gathering, an Irish dinner and sing-a-long, will be held at the Kearney Gym on Good Counsel Campus at 52 North Broadway, White Plains.

In its 25th year, this grass roots organization was originally founded to raise funds and support for organizations serving the community.

This year, White Plains Meals on Wheels and Nick Wolff, realtor and community advocate will be honored.

The event benefits the RDC Center for Counseling & Human Development, which for the past 23 years has provided affordable and compassionate counseling



Nick Wolff is the recipient of The Sister Joan Haley Spirit of Compassion Award.



Meals on Wheels of White Plains volunteer Al Dold, works with a team of people to bring food to seniors who otherwise might not enjoy a fresh hot meal each day.

Councilman John Martin is the Chairman of the White Plains St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

services and targeted outreach through special programs.

The Msgr. Ed O'Brien Community Service Award will be presented to Meals-on-Wheels, which since 1979 has been delivering meals to those in White Plains who are unable to shop and cook for themselves. The volunteer effort, which serves some 60 individuals daily, allows residents to live at home safely, independently and with dignity.

Named for a founder of the RDC Center for Counseling & Human Development, The Sister Joan Haley Spirit of Compassion Award will be presented to Nick Wolff, a life-long White Plains resident. Mr. Wolff is a realtor whose civic leadership has helped enhance our community. Over the years he has been involved in various organizations including the United Way, Thomas H. Slater Center, Rotary Club, El Centro Hispano and The Center for Literacy Enrichment.

"White Plains is a big city that feels like a small town thanks to organizations like White Plains Meals-on-Wheels and individuals like Nick Wolff," says Sr. Patricia Sheridan, Director of the Center for Counseling & Human Development. "The efforts of the dedicated MOWWP volunteers, many of whom have delivered hot meals and warm smiles for years, and the boundless energy of Nick Wolff benefit residents of all ages and all walks of life."

The Friendly Gathering features a corned beef and cabbage dinner, Irish songs and a performance by The O'Rourke Academy of Irish Dance. There also will be a Live Auction for golf foursomes at Westchester and Bonnie Briar Country Clubs as well as other premium items. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door; seniors are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Reservations are strongly encouraged. For reservations or more information, contact 914-798-1106 or rdccenter@optonline.net.

Planned Renovation Gives New Read on Old Harrison Library

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to discuss designs and construction deadlines will be scheduled soon, according to Halperin.

Groundbreaking is expected to begin in June.

Daria Pizzetta, the architecture firm's project manager, will work with library officials to scale back some aspects of the work if fund-raising goals aren't met, according to town officials.



The Harrison Public Library is due for a major facelift.

After discussions between the Town Board and Harrison Public Library Foundation last April, Harrison agreed to spend \$1.1 million on interior upgrades to the library. These include new plumbing

and ventilation.

The town is expected to spend about \$650,000 over five years for maintenance, about \$450,000 for the cost of a new television studio in a joint project with Cablevision.

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Astorino Expected to Announce Decision Soon on Run for Governor

By Neal Rentz

Rob Astorino barely had time to enjoy his resounding re-election as Westchester County executive in November when speculation almost immediately began to swirl about the Republican's potential run for governor.

That decision will apparently be announced as soon as the end of this week.

Bill O'Reilly, a campaign spokesman for Astorino, said a decision could be made by Friday about whether the county executive plans to take on Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a fellow Westchester resident.

"The best possible scenario for Westchester taxpayers would be County Executive Astorino running for governor while continuing his reform work in the county," O'Reilly said. "The key drivers of runaway taxes and a stagnant state economy are in Albany and the county executive is pounding away at them every day. In short, a vacuum is sucking money out of Westchester, its school districts and municipalities, and its plug is in Albany. That plug needs to be pulled, and Andrew Cuomo isn't pulling it."

It's been no secret that Astorino, 46, has been mulling a gubernatorial run. State Republicans began courting him soon after he won a second term, he told The Examiner following his inauguration ceremony Jan. 1.

The county executive has a long record



County Executive Rob Astorino, shown here at his New Year's inauguration, could announce his run for governor in the coming days.

in public service in Mount Pleasant. The Hawthorne resident and Westlake High School graduate was elected to the Mount Pleasant Board of Education as a 21-year-old college student at Fordham University. He also served for 12 years as a town councilman.

Prior to being elected to the Westchester County Board of Legislators in 2003, he began an extensive career in broadcasting, including stints with WFAS, ESPN Radio and MSG Network. He also hosted a program on Sirius satellite radio with New York Archbishop Cardinal Edward Egan.

On New Year's Day, Astorino said Cuomo has a record "that's not worthy of

re-election."

"It's something I have to consider because maybe you get this shot once," Astorino said. "But I feel very, very strongly about the direction this state is going in, and it's not the right one and that concerns me."

O'Reilly said Astorino realizes he has a fundraising disadvantage.

"He knows that he cannot match Gov. Cuomo dollar for dollar, but he is confident he can raise enough money to win," O'Reilly said. "He raised \$7 million in his re-election race and has more than \$1 million on hand today."

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Joan Maybury, who served with Astorino until he left the town board to take his seat on the Board of Legislators in January 2004, said Astorino was always very involved, whether on committees or the board of education, before being elected to the town board. Another asset was his ability to reach consensus.

As a councilman, Astorino was always well versed on the issues, Maybury recalled.

"He was extremely diligent," she said.

Mount Pleasant Councilman Carl Fulgenzi said he had fond memories of working with Astorino in town government and would be a solid choice for governor.

"He was always a professional, dedicated to what was best for Mount Pleasant," Fulgenzi said. "I always found him easy to discuss issues with, even if we did not always agree on the topic. He worked well with other board members."

While his former town board colleagues support an Astorino run for governor, County Legislator Peter Harckham (D-North Salem) said the county executive should instead focus on county government.

When he ran for re-election last year, Harckham said, Astorino promised to deal with county issues for another four years, but he cannot fulfill that pledge if he runs for state office.

"We have enormous challenges," he said. "The challenges call for a full-time county executive."

Harckham chided Astorino for the county's lower bond rating and the loss of federal aid for failing to fulfill terms of the county's affordable housing settlement with the federal government.

Harckham said Cuomo, who lives in New Castle, deserves a second term.

"The governor is doing a terrific job," Harckham said. "He's cut taxes. He's created jobs."

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Happy 282nd Birthday General George Washington, First U.S. President

By Pat Casey

It was a fun and interesting time for local history buffs at the Jacob Purdy House National Historic Site on Sunday as members of the White Plains Historical Society, government officials, citizens and members of the local militia that reenact historical battles raised the American flag, sang patriotic songs and celebrated George Washington's 282nd birthday.

Guest speaker Barnet Schecter, author of "The Battle for New York" and "George Washington's America: A Biography through His Maps" kept an audience that filled the Jacob Purdy House to capacity spellbound with his discussion about the role of New York and specifically

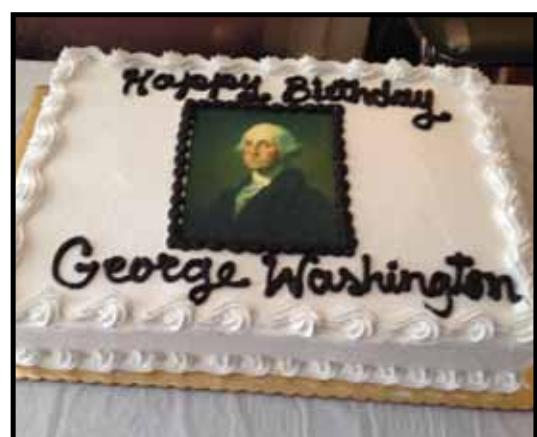


HOWARD WALDMAN PHOTOS

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, an actor playing the role of General George Washington, and Councilwoman Beth Smayda at the Jacob Purdy House.



The White Plains militia escort General George Washington.



Sheet birthday cake from Stop and Shop.

Westchester County during the Revolutionary War.

"Westchester was like a demilitarized zone during the Revolutionary War," Schecter said. Washington maintained much of his operations in New York and that provided a separation point between the British fronts in the north along the Hudson River up to the Canadian border and those in the south around Philadelphia, he explained.

Schecter noted that it actually took seven years for the war to end



Guest speaker Barnet Schecter with some birthday cake.

and that it was when the British finally closed down their operations and left Manhattan that the war was truly over.

Audience members speculated about the reasons for British Admiral Howe's seeming lack of interest in forcing the revolutionaries to surrender after losing battles, especially the Battle of White Plains.

After losing ground at Chatterton Hill, Washington was able to escape with his

troops to fight and win another day.

Schecter credited Howe's attitude to a general misunderstanding on the part of the British at the time that the revolutionaries were fighting for their freedom and that an enemy fighting for an ideal will fight hard and do what is necessary to win and that often means not following conventional forms of warfare.

Hot cider and a birthday cake baked at Stop and Shop were served in celebration.

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West St. Subdivision, Hindu Temple Focus of White Plains Planning Meeting

By Pat Casey

The public hearing for a three-lot subdivision at 221-227 West Street, White Plains opened with comments by Leslie Sneider, legal counsel for the Windward School, which has been donated the property and is seeking to build three homes on the land.

A previous design proposal that included a ball field has been dropped.

The current proposal focuses on six acres of land, 3.6 acres to be left undisturbed, on an environmentally sensitive site.

Neighbors from surrounding properties, many living on Collyer Place, came to express opinions about the development, many chiefly concerned about storm water management issues and flooding, which has been an ongoing problem in the immediate area.

Underground water storage, pipes and rain gardens comprise a complicated design and engineered method for managing storm water.

A former driveway that would be repaved and widened according to the preliminary proposal became a major issue for neighbors who said they did not want a public road created on the property.

At the moment, the road is considered private, but the developer indicated it would be built according to White Plains specifications in the case it became a public road in the future. It includes a



Screen shot of White Plains Planning Board meeting February 18. Architectural renderings of a proposed Hindu Temple on North Street are on the easel.

roundabout for the three sites to have access to the main driveway (road) that empties onto West Street.

Several aggravated neighbors who said there had been no consideration given to the city's policy to create linkages between open space parcels quoted the White Plains Comprehensive Plan, which it was mentioned is due for an overhaul.

The property in question had at one time been on a list of open space parcels that the city had considered purchasing. The city, however, did not make the move to buy the property even though there is another city-owned parcel adjacent to this site, and that parcel is protected as open space.

Residents objected to the developer's claim there are no unique or rare animal or plant species on the site and that the site has no historical relevance.

Robert Hoch, president of the White Plains Historical Society explained that during the Revolutionary War and previous to that time, West Street had been the carriage road to Rye. "Many of the founding families such as the Gedneys, Havilands and Purdys, lived in the area," Hoch said.

Hoch also noted that the 200-year-old stonewalls on the property and a burial ground near Windward Avenue, were indeed of historical significance. He asked that the Planning Board resist the plan that would change the character of the neighborhood.

The other highlight of the Board meeting was site plan application for a Hindu Temple at 390 North Street.

The new property owners, Hindu Temple of Tri-State, had purchased the site two and a half years ago. The parcel is 1.75

acres, and sits between a private residence on one side and the Shinnyo-en Buddhist Temple on the other.

The 15,000 square foot facility would house about 100 people at regular events, and up to 250 at one or two special events during a year. The parking lot would accommodate 92 cars. An off-site satellite parking arrangement with another entity was being considered to accommodate parking during the larger events.

The architect for the North Street temple was advised by a consultant in Mumbai, India to ensure the building is constructed according to the correct Vedic design and proportions. One consideration is that the entrance, and all deities, face east.

The lower level includes a community room with the temple space above it. The façade will be steel with marble. Three steeples reaching a total of 76 feet from the ground will be made from sealed copper, giving the structure a Malaysian-style look. Religious murals will be placed on the face of the building.

Because of the placement of the building on the proposed site plan, the structure would be set back so that it was not imposing and screened by landscaping.

White Plains Planning Commissioner, who was present at the meeting, spoke about the attractiveness of the design and its suitability in the diverse community of White Plains.



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Greenburgh Town Supervisor Looks Back to Plan Forward Through Storms

By Jon Craig

Greenburgh's town leaders are hoping to mine some positive solutions from the winter of our discontent.

Supervisor Paul Feiner is soliciting comments from residents on this winter's snow removal successes and nightmares. Feiner also offered some of his own observations, suggestions and criticisms.

"This has been a horrible winter for every public works department in the state," Feiner said. "Lots of snow. Lots of potholes caused by the weather."

Feiner said the town's public works department (highway, sanitation, water department), parks department and police try very hard to be responsive. "Many people have sent me emails or called me praising their hard work and responsiveness during this difficult winter season," Feiner said. "A number of people have also been volunteering as snow angels this season helping the disabled/elderly with snow removal. The volunteer

efforts of our snow angels are greatly appreciated.

Feiner offered these observations:

1. In areas where parking is a problem, for example Fieldstone and Rockledge, the Police and Public Works departments have been working very hard to keep these areas safe, however, I think we need to look at the underlying issue that some residents have nowhere to put their cars. We have spoken to a number of our veteran plow drivers and it really appears that the number of cars in these developments has doubled. This has made our efforts to clear snow very troublesome.

2. Sidewalks assigned to the state Department of Transportation and others have been covered by tremendous amounts of snow. It has become evident that the state DOT is not clearing these walks. Also, homeowners are not equipped to remove snow of this magnitude.

3. Residents plowing their driveways into streets, clearing their cars off in the

street and throwing snow into the street because they have no more room on their property for it, is a problem the police and DPW will continually monitor.

4. Broken mailboxes. This is not usually caused by a plow hitting the post but by the volume and weight of the snow snapping the post. These are usually replaced within a few days.

5. Sanitation Department garbage and recycling cancellation. This is almost unavoidable after a storm due to the fact that more and more sanitation employees are involved in the snow removal operations. We have tried to alter operations to prevent this, but this year due to the severity of the storms it has been very difficult.

6. Fire Hydrants. The fire departments help clean up the snow from hydrants. However, there are thousands of hydrants around town. It would be helpful if people would "adopt a hydrant."

7. Potholes. After storms, potholes are a

big problem. We are now addressing these with a hot mix, because we purchased a hot box. This piece of equipment keeps the asphalt hot so the asphalt doesn't set up before we are able to fill. However, due to the conditions of some of our roads we still need to use some of the cold patch, as we just can't keep up. The cold patches don't last very long. This is an ongoing issue.

8. Cars blocking the road and preventing or restricting plow access. The Police and DPW try to address this as quickly as possible. However, this usually accounts for half of the "My street hasn't been plowed yet" calls.

9. Town Vehicles. This has been a very hard year on the fleet. But thanks to the hard work at the repair shop its hasn't been too much of an issue. This is the second year in a row that we had had a truck catch on fire (without any injuries). We still have trucks on the road that date back to 1976.

Responsibility and Accountability Not So Clear During Storm Clean Up

By Pat Casey

With the same storm problems as other municipalities in the area, White Plains circulated a memorandum Friday to inform residents of pothole repair work being done over the weekend.

With short supplies of materials an issue brought on by the overwhelming

demand, the areas scheduled for weekend repair included South Kensico (Main Street to Brockway Place), Mamaroneck Avenue (Maple to Rutherford), and the Intersection of Mamaroneck Avenue and Post Road.

The memo further noted that White Plains DPW crews had filled over 7,000

potholes this season and that there are over 17 miles of roads owned by Westchester County in White Plains. "Although White Plains DPW does remove snow from these County roads (under a specific contract with the County DPW), the City does not maintain or repair these roads," the notice said.

These roads include: Aqueduct Road, Bryant Avenue (North Street to Westchester Avenue), Central Avenue, Central Westchester Parkway, Hamilton Avenue, Mamaroneck Avenue (Bryant to Harrison Border), North Street, Old Mamaroneck Road, Orchard Street (North Broadway to Central Westchester Parkway), Post Road, Route 22 (North and South Broadway to Post Road), and Westchester Avenue.

With regard to the clearing of passenger access to the bus stops, Andrew Ziegler spokesman for the Westchester Bee Line Bus system, said mobility issues were paramount during recent storms and almost impossible to surmount because of the volume of snow.

In response to questions about who is responsible for creating a clear path to the bus stops, Ziegler said each municipality is responsible for the sidewalks and the roads. "Paths at the curb to allow passengers safe access to the busses should be shoveled," he said.

However, the bus stops with shelters that have advertising, and Ziegler believes that all the sheltered stops in White Plains have advertising, are the responsibility of Clear Channel, which has a contract with the county.



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New Tappan Zee Bridge to be Open to Traffic by 2016

By Janine Bowen

A special adviser to Gov. Andrew Cuomo on the New Tappan Zee Bridge project told a crowd in Greenburgh on Wednesday that traffic could start to use the first of two new spans as early as 2016.

Brian Conybeare, speaking in a forum at the Greenburgh Public Library hosted by the Westchester branch of the American Association of University Women, led a discussion and progress report on the new bridge's construction.

"I just love the look of the new bridge and the process by which it's starting to unfold," Conybeare said.

The new bridge will feature two spans with a total of eight lanes of traffic as well as express bus lanes. In order to improve traffic flow, the new bridge will also feature several turn-around lanes, which will provide motorists with a way to get off the bridge in the event of accidents and traffic back-ups.

The project, which will begin to progress rapidly once warmer weather arrives, is expected to create thousands of jobs in the state. The work is being led by Tappan Zee Construction, a consortium of companies, including several local ones. The lead design firm on the project, HDR, is located in Pearl River, while Granite Construction has its northeast headquarters in Tarrytown.

"Our goal is to get as many local companies involved in this as we can and



Brian Conybeare, Gov. Cuomo's special adviser on the New Tappan Zee Bridge, gives an audience in Greenburgh a progress report on the project.

it is working... So far the lion's share of the contracts have come from New York State companies," Conybeare said.

A bike and pedestrian path will be featured on the northern span, which is expected to be completed in 2016. Once the northern span is finished, all traffic will be gradually moved onto it as the southern span, where the old bridge is currently located, is built. The entire project is expected to be completed by 2018.

Electronic toll collecting may be the only method used for the New Tappan Zee. The process, which is being tested during the construction phase, will allow residents with E-ZPass to pay tolls without slowing down. For drivers without E-ZPass, the system would photograph

vehicles' license plates and a bill would be sent via mail.

"We anticipate going to all electronic toll collecting, permanently, on the bridge," said Conybeare, who pointed out that issues such as toll collection for those without E-ZPass must still be resolved.

He also mentioned the potential for Westchester and Rockland residents to receive a toll discount. While the current bridge toll is \$5, that is expected to rise sharply to help pay for construction costs.

Public involvement will also be sought. Officials, who are aware of the imposition that construction will place on residents who live near the bridge in both counties, have set up cameras to allow viewing of the construction on the project's website, www.newnybridge.org. Air pollution and noise level alerts will also be posted on the site.

"All major projects do this kind of monitoring, but none of them have ever put it on their website publicly for people to see, and Gov. Cuomo wanted this to be the most open infrastructure project in the history of New York," Conybeare said.

He said crews are working to reduce noise during construction by using vibratory pile drivers and bubble curtains to trap the sound in the water. This limits disturbance for residents and helps protect endangered Atlantic and Shortnose sturgeon that are native to the Hudson River.

Although preliminary construction has begun, the bridge's final design is not yet complete. The state's design-build law allows construction to begin on approved parts of a project while other designs are still worked on. According to Conybeare, designs for the final bridge are about 75 percent complete, with work still needing to be done on items such as improvements to the pedestrian and bike path.

The New Tappan Zee design also accommodates the eventual inclusion of a Metro-North rail line.

Aside from the construction, Conybeare also addressed another hot topic surrounding the bridge—the potential for a new name. Recently, there has been talk of naming the new bridge after Pete Seeger or calling it the Purple Heart Hall of Fame Memorial Bridge.

A quick survey of the dozens of local residents at the meeting revealed that a majority hope to see the name remain. Conybeare explained that Tappan Zee has regional significance; Tappan having been the name of a Native American Tribe in Rockland while Zee is the Dutch word for sea. He said he doesn't expect the name to change.

"Nobody at our level is talking about a new name for the bridge," Conybeare said. "As far as I know, the new name is the New Tappan Zee Bridge. We're focused on building a bridge, not on the calls to rename the bridge."

NYS Dept. of Motor Vehicles Changes Rules for Middle Names on Drivers Licenses

By Jon Craig

For married women or same-sex couples who once encountered problems and high costs changing their legal names on driver's licenses or registrations, a local assemblyman managed to prompt change.

In response to inquiries from Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will now provide a much simpler process to change middle names to maiden names on a driver's license upon marriage. The DMV will only require a marriage certificate to make this change. Previously, the process had proven time-consuming, requiring as many as three visits and costing hundreds of dollars.

"This policy is gender neutral," Buchwald said at a Wednesday news conference outside the DMV offices in White Plains.

Buchwald said he learned about the unnecessarily burdensome requirements from personal friends who shared their marriage stories. The assemblyman and his fiancée, Lara, plan a March wedding, a fact that generated hearty applause.

Newly married same-sex couples also can more easily change their names on DMV documents, Buchwald said.



Assemblyman David Buchwald with Senator Andrea-Stewart Cousins at a press conference last week announce a change in the legal filing status for middle names on driver's licenses and registrations.

The assemblyman called DMV "thoroughly responsive. They were consummate professionals."

Buchwald was joined by Professional Women of Westchester Vice President Rose Colonna, American Association of University Women Westchester Branch President Jane Pendergast, Women's Enterprise Development Center Executive Director Anne Janiak, Woman's Club of White Plains President Susan Rade Doherty, State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, Presidents from

local branches of the League of Women Voters, and Danielle DiBiase Esposito, a resident of the 93rd Assembly District who told her personal story.

"This is a victory for women and married couples across New York," Buchwald said.

This is a practice that has become more commonplace in recent years, with best-known examples including former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton of Chappaqua.

The new policy recognizes that middle names now often change at the time of

marriage, and such changes should be just as easy for newlyweds as altering their last name. Prior to Buchwald's inquiry, the DMV often only recognized a change of middle name when the individual pursued one of two difficult pathways. One was to provide a series of documents that was sometimes impossible to obtain. Alternatively, an individual could change their name legally through the court system, a burdensome process that would take several months and cost at least \$100 in fees.

"The fact that a married woman is now able to use her maiden name as her middle name on her driver's license without a court order process and a hefty fee is an important victory for women," said Woman's Club of White Plains Co-President Cathy Schuber.

Professional Women of Westchester Vice President Rose Colonna added: "As professional women, many of us start our careers while we are single and, in many cases, it becomes a dilemma as to which name to use professionally once we are married. With this sensible change in state policy, we can focus our time and energy on our businesses, career and families. This is one less cumbersome obstacle for professional women."

Fenom Fitness, Harrison

By Jon Craig

Arash Mohit is a certified athletic trainer who specialized in working one-on-one with children and their families most of his adult life. So when the graduate of Scarsdale High School, who's now in his late thirties, opened a fitness center in Harrison last fall, it was a perfect match for his gifts and interests.

Earlier in his career, Mohit attracted headlines for teaching kids to ride bicycles at \$75-an-hour, a phenomenon that became known as "parental outsourcing." He is running with the "back to basics" idea on a broader scale in Harrison.

Mohit realized his lifelong dream in November when he opened Fenom Fitness center in an underutilized industrial center at 67 Grant Ave. not far from the A&P and a peaceful marsh.



Children participate in a well-rounded workout at Fenom Fitness.

There's plenty of parking for 70 cars next to the 13,000-square-foot facility. Parents have relatively easy access to drop off and retrieve their children, or stick around to watch them play and train. Or, parents can even work out themselves in another wing of the complex.

Children enroll in six-week or 12-week sessions, and so far, most have decided to renew the short-term memberships.

Fenom also offers yoga, pilates, zumba and spin classrooms, but Mohit's business focuses on kids' programs, a void not met by other area fitness centers.

Mohit prides himself on offering a "private school atmosphere," smaller, more effective classes that target specific fitness and skills' goals. His afterschool programs enroll a maximum of eight to 10 children so the ratio between trainers and kids remains smaller, "versus being a babysitter."

So it's typical to find one or two trainers spotting four or five children on treadmills. Children also are matched up with "age appropriate" fitness equipment.

Mohit currently has six trainers working at Fenom. He hopes to add one or two per month. He has found it easier to train good people, than try to shape good trainers' people skills. "I try to find really

good personalities," he said last week.

The Scarsdale native also loves working with families who appreciate the value of working out. "They have the money and they want the best," Mohit said of Sound Shore-area parents. "If you're offering the best, you don't have to worry about competition."

From 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., the children split up into gender and age groups and participate in team play or individualized circuit training. The importance of fitness and conditioning is stressed throughout. Five kids may be on the treadmill while another five work on sports skill training. Others take on cardio, strength and conditioning work. Last week, kids could be found playing dodge ball with a newer, softer "rhino" ball on a basketball court enclosed by walls with bright graffiti painted by a renowned Argentinian artist. Children also are offered "boot camps" in such sports as basketball, baseball, hockey, lacrosse or soccer. There are batting cages and individual workout rooms featuring mats and weights. Mohit also aims to sub contact unused space to other area trainers and fitness experts. Mohit believes more children can benefit physically and emotionally from a well-rounded exercise routine exposing them to many sports than specializing in one



Arash Mohit runs Fenom Fitness in Harrison. The large mural in the photograph includes graffiti by an Argentinian artist.

or two. The homerun hitting stars might make up 30 percent of the population, he said, but he'd rather cater to the other 70 percent who can learn to do several sports competently. He's found it also builds self-esteem.

Adults and children can stop in for a workout and pay a small fee.

Mohit also offers private rentals of space and plans specialized camps this summer. For more information, call 914-732-3000. Detailed daily schedules of group and individual classes also can be found on the Internet at www.fenomfit.com. Fenom's regular hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Son of Rockland County Exec Announces House Bid Against Lowey

By Janine Bowen

Christopher Day, the son of Rockland County Executive Ed Day, announced Sunday that he will run against Rep. Nita Lowey for the 17th Congressional District seat this fall.

Day, 29, a New City resident, is planning to earn the Republican nomination. He said he believes he can bring new vigor to the district, which includes portions of Westchester and Rockland counties. Lowey was first elected in 1988.

"I care about the issues and challenges that we face on a day-to-day basis, and we currently have a congresswoman who is failing to address those issues, focusing instead on partisan politics and prolonging her political career-in large part because she herself doesn't have to face those very issues," he said Monday in an email interview. "Faced with a government that is failing us, I felt the call to step up to serve my community, as I have in the past, and provide that representation we are lacking."

Day said he plans to focus on several topics that have proven to be hot-button issues for local residents, including the separation of federal education funding from the Common Core Standards. Day said control of education must be returned to parents and teachers, something that



Christopher Day plans to challenge Rep. Nita Lowey in the 17th Congressional District race later this year.

many local school officials have been calling for.

He also said that he would push for "true reform" of Obamacare after he experienced problems when his fiancé faced a coverage gap due to the botched implementation.

Day intends to fight against the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and its attempts to interfere with local zoning.

The challenger is a Yale graduate who earned an MBA from Columbia Business School. He currently works as the vice president for the Israel-focused investment firm Selway Capital.

Day said his efforts as campaign manager for his father helped to familiarize himself with the issues that most residents view as important. However, he doesn't believe his father's recent political success will give him an advantage. The elder Day won election to his first term as Rockland County executive in November.

"By managing his campaign I was able to get involved on many key issues and with many community groups within Rockland County and I got to speak to many voters on all sides of every issue to see what they really care about," Day said. "That experience was invaluable, but in the end I fully expect that the voters will judge me on my own qualifications and not my name, and I am happy to put those qualifications forward."

Day served with the Army in Iran and Afghanistan and was awarded The Bronze Star. His standing as a local family man with the same day-to-day concerns as

many voters will help him bring the needs of the district's residents to Washington, he said.

However, Day will have to overcome a sizable Democratic registration advantage. He said local voters would be willing to cross party lines if they believe in his platform and qualifications.

"[The voters] generally prefer to judge the individual over participating in traditional partisan politics," Day said. "To that end, I will continue to speak to all corners of this district, regardless of race, creed, or political affiliation, and not only introduce smart, free market solutions to issues like income inequality, economic upward mobility and women's rights, but will continue to work with activists and communities to assist with any day-to-day challenges they face."

Currently, Day said he was not aware of any other Republican candidates interested in running for the seat.

Lowey's campaign office was contacted for comment on Monday but did not return phone calls.

**SMALL NEWS
IS BIG NEWS**

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



Ron Belmont, Supervisor/
Mayor of Harrison

In speaking with residents, concerning issues that face our community, I understand the frustration many feel with the onslaught of snow, sleet and freezing rain our region has experienced this year. This precipitation has required that our Highway Department continue to plow and salt our roadways. January and February presented freeze and thaw cycles that created the perfect condition for pothole formation. As water or condensation builds up and freezes, on the road's surface and in the cracks, the top layer of asphalt or pavement loosens and at times breaks free, thereby creating potholes.

After removing the snow, and insuring that our roadways are safe and passable, DPW crews work diligently to address potholes, on municipal roadways,

and are currently employing a more permanent patching application. I am pleased that Harrison is ahead of many other municipalities in pothole response. Several main thoroughfares, which run through our municipality, are state or county roads. Should a dangerous condition, on a state or county road, come to our attention, Town personnel send an alert to the appropriate municipal office. I appreciate everyone's continued patience as we keep up with this season's wintry weather.

This year's Youth Art Month kicks off with a reception in Town Hall on Sunday, March 2nd from 1 to 3 p.m. I encourage all residents to visit our municipal building, throughout the month of March, and view the extraordinary talent.

In recognition of the season preceding Lent, I recently joined the Seniors as they celebrated Carnival. Brightly colored beads were worn and everyone enjoyed lively conversation and a delicious meal.

This tradition is a harbinger of spring and I'm sure all attendees are eager for the warmer weather that lies ahead.

Recently, I attended the NY State Society of Professional Engineers Annual Dinner at Westchester Manor. It was a wonderful event and I would like to congratulate Harrison resident, Ralph Peragine on receiving the Outstanding Service to the Chapter Award. As a professional engineer, Ralph has contributed his knowledge and skill in an effort to improve our communities. It was an honor to be at the Dinner and celebrate this significant achievement.

I would like to take this time to recognize the Harrison High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team. Last week they made it to the Section I semi-finals making them eligible to compete for the championship title at the County Center. Congratulations to the team and coach as they finish a great season. Special recognition goes to Matt Stein for being named to the All Conference Team and to

Nicholas Esposito for being named to the All Section Team.

In closing, I would like to bring your attention to this year's town-wide clean up event. Harrison's Spring Spruce-Up Weekend will take place on March 22nd-23rd. Municipalities are obligated, by NY State Department of Conservation, to make certain that areas, leading to storm drains, are free from garbage and debris. By clearing rubbish from central areas, parks and roadways, Harrison will satisfy this state mandate. Materials and instructions will be provided, on site, by group leaders. If you are interested in joining this very worthwhile event, please contact my office.

The next "Lunch with the Mayor" is on Friday, March 7th. I will be at Pizza 2000 located at 339 Halstead Avenue in downtown Harrison. On Friday, March 14th, I will be at Fuji Sushi located at 216 Harrison Avenue. I will be at these locations from 12:30 to 1:30 and look forward to meeting with residents and talking about issues facing our community.

Guest Column

Police Blotter

Greenburgh Police Department

Grand larceny. Thomas Cleary reported \$15,800 worth of Apple iPhones, iPads and iPods were stolen from 3 Warehouse Lane, Elmsford, sometime before Feb. 21.

Possession of Stolen Property. About 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 18, police were called to the Knollwood Shopping Center parking lot, 101 Knollwood Road on a shoplifting complaint. About \$558 worth of items was reported taken without payment from the CVS store. Stolen goods included 16 cans of Enfamil baby formula and three Philips Norelco razors. Police charged two people in the parking lot with criminal possession of stolen property.

Driving while Intoxicated. Rizvan M. Zia was charged with DWI, with a blood alcohol content of 0.21 about 4 p.m. on Feb. 8 while pulling out of the parking lot at 791 S. Central Ave., Scarsdale. Zia's car was impounded.

Assault reported. Police responded to 210 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, about 9 p.m. on Feb. 8 on a report of a man being beaten by five other males. Tajuan L. Herring, 37, was leaving the Azteca restaurant as police arrived. He had a bump on his forehead and cuts to his hands. He was transported to Westchester Medical Center where it was determined he also had a broken left forearm. Police are investigating. No arrests made.

Outstanding Warrant. Walter Swinney was arrested on Feb. 9 about 12:40 p.m.

while walking near 90 Manhattan Ave., White Plains. He was found to have an active warrant and extradition notice for failing to pay a fine.

Petit Larceny. Paulo Dealmeida was arrested about 5:20 p.m. Feb. 9 and charged with shoplifting at Stop and Shop, 610 White Plains Road, Tarrytown.

Criminal Trespass. Deandre Thiapen was charged with third degree criminal trespassing and resisting arrest about 11 a.m. on Feb. 10 at 3 Oak St., White Plains after a short foot chase from Warren Avenue.

Unlawful Possession of Marijuana. Police responded to Edgemont High School about 3:45 p.m. on Feb. 11 on a report that a small bag of marijuana and a smoking pipe had been found. A student suspected of possessing the burglary drugs was suspended and sent home in the custody of a parent. Police planned further discussions with the student's mother.

Burglary. A superintendent at 45 East Hartsdale Ave., Hartsdale, reported about 11 a.m. on Feb. 14 that someone was trying to steal a Cannondale mountain bike near the lobby of his building.

Stolen Bikes. Vladimir Lezaja reported that two mountain bikes were stolen from the laundry room of the apartment building sometime before Feb. 13 from 11 Columbia Ave., Hartsdale.

Under the Influence. Police arrested Douglas Dupree at 90 Manhattan Ave., White Plains for public appearance under the influence of drugs about 9:30 p.m.

on Feb. 15. He was found staggering in a hallway and moaning while refusing to take orders from police.



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

When Weather Extremes Create a Road Map for the Necessary Shared Services

The angst felt across the board by residents, government officials and businesses due to the extreme weather of recent weeks, highlights once again the very clear fact that when Mother Nature wreaks havoc, it can hit us in many ways: destructive winds, high waters, freezing rain, ice, and unusually high accumulations of snow.

During the storm and in the aftermath, people trying to make their way to and from jobs or other activities, once again found their mobility stifled.

In the three municipalities covered by this newspaper: Greenburgh, Harrison and White Plains, each mayor or town supervisor expressed frustration about

complaints from residents as well as businesses, which expressed that cleanup operation was taking too long.

In each situation there was confusion on the part of the public about who is responsible for clearing what.

Is it the Department of Transportation that clears the path at bus stops or is it the municipality? Who plows the roads and who fixes the potholes? What happens when a private entity is responsible and they don't follow through to provide safe passage for the public?

It's important to look at these new and extreme situations and try to figure out how to handle them better the next time around.

But there's another possible scenario that might be on some leaders' minds, though they have not expressed themselves yet.

Constrained by budgets and boundaries, the most logical questions of residents about where they should turn actually points out the need for municipalities to stop trying to look inward as the only way to find solutions to their problems.

Yes, there may be a clear delineation of who is responsible for what, but if it would help to make things simpler, work faster and possibly even save money, isn't this the time to begin seriously looking at shared services?

Food Bank for Westchester is Accepting Hunger Heroes Nominations

The Food Bank for Westchester has announced a call for nominations for its 2014 Hunger Heroes Breakfast. The honor recognizes a volunteer, a service provider and a donor that have made exceptional strides against hunger in Westchester County.

The Hunger Heroes Awards Breakfast will be held Thursday, June 5, at the Tappan Hill Mansion in Tarrytown.

Nominations are open to any worthy candidate serving the hungry, and are accepted in the following categories:

The Volunteer Award acknowledges a volunteer or group of volunteers who have provided outstanding service in helping to alleviate hunger in the community. The Service Provider Award honors an agency or program that has provided outstanding hunger relief service to its community. The Donor Award applauds an individual or corporation who has been generous in the fight against hunger in Westchester County.

Last year's honorees included

volunteer Duke Searles for his work with Hudson Valley Hospital VA Food Pantry in Montrose, Leake & Watts Healthy Futures Program & Youth Gardens as the Service Provider and Panera Bread Westchester for their donations of healthy food to hunger-relief programs in Westchester.

Nomination applications are due April 1, 2014. Applications and guidelines can be downloaded at: www.foodbankforwestchester.org and are also available by calling (914) 923-1100.

Obituaries

Pearlie Muller

Pearlie Muller, born October 1st, 1929 in rural South Carolina died on February 21 at the age of 84 in her home in White Plains.

Born to Frank and Annie Harley she was the youngest of 10 siblings (Six brothers: Frank, Abraham, Eugene, Roosevelt, Henry and Joseph. Three sisters: Josephine, Gracie and Elmior) and the last to depart this earth.

With her spouse Oran Muller, Pearlie moved to New York. They had five children: Oran Jr. (deceased), Dwayne (56), Stephanie (54), Andrea (49) and Velda (46). She also had nine grandchildren: Crystal, Alana, Brett, Brandon, Lauren, Shaquetta, Shawanda, Zamara, and Dwayne Jr. She lived long enough to also celebrate seven great grandchildren.

She worked at AT&T for over 30 years.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that a donation be made to the American Diabetes Association, 110 Corporate Drive #104, West Harrison, NY 10604.

John O'Reilly

John V. O'Reilly, 92, of Valhalla, passed away February 18. He was born October 28, 1921 to the late Thomas and Marguerite O'Reilly. A D-Day Veteran, John served in the US Navy during WWII on the USS Augusta. He worked as a master plumber for 30 years before retiring in 1986.

John is survived by his four daughters: Susan Lambert, Kathy Hahn and her husband Douglas, Marianne Cohen and her husband Gary and Joan O'Reilly and her husband Kevin Callaghan. He

is also survived by Vivian O'Reilly, nine grandchildren: Jesse, Meagan, Michael, Tara, Kristopher, John, Jennifer, Amanda and Jason and a great granddaughter Lydia.

He was predeceased by his three brothers Thomas, Edward and Richard and a son in law Thomas Lambert.

Bartolo Drago

Bartolo Drago of White Plains died on Feb. 14 at his residence.

He was 77.

Drago was born on Jan. 26, 1937, to the late Salvatore and Francesca (nee Giambona) Drago in Capaci, Sicily. He is survived by his devoted wife, Mary (nee McVicker) Drago, of White Plains; by his loving children, John (Michelle) Drago of Red Hook, N.Y., Anthony (Dagmara) Drago of Shrub Oak and Amy (Dan) Drago-Jordan of Hopewell Junction; and his six cherished grandchildren. He also leaves behind a brother and four sisters. He was predeceased by his three brothers and one sister.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Feb. 17. A funeral Mass was held at St. John the Evangelist Church in White Plains on Feb. 18 followed by interment at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Greenburgh.

In lieu of flowers, donations to a charity of one's choice would be appreciated.

Ann DeCarlo

Ann T. DeCarlo of White Plains died on Feb. 11 at White Plains Hospital Center.

She was 89.

De Carlo was born on Feb. 8, 1925,

to the late Antonio and Maria Claroni in Giuliano, DiRoma, Italy. DeCarlo was a hairdresser for many years in the Fleetwood section of Mount Vernon.

She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Salvatore DeCarlo, in 2003. DeCarlo is survived by her two loving daughters, Diane Taylor and Sally Goldberg, and cherished granddaughter Rebecca Goldberg, all of Westchester; two sisters, Jen (Matthew) Paulo of Gilbert, Ariz. and Ida (Ed) Massaro of White Plains; one brother, Salvatore (Lucille) Claroni, of White Plains; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Feb. 18. A funeral Mass was held at

Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne on Feb. 19 followed by interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

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.



CAMP GUIDE 2014

Proper Time and Effort Crucial to Finding the Right Summer Camp

By Janine Bowen

Although the weather outside has been cold and snowy, summer will be here soon, which means schools will be out and camps will be in session.

Parents may already know of some good camps or where they're sending their children this summer, but what they may not know is that the nonprofit American Camp Association (ACA) offers free services to help match a child with an accredited camp that meets each family's needs.

"There are camps that can fit just about anybody's requirements...and I think it's something that, without getting some type of advice from somebody who knows camp, it's very difficult for some people to make the decision, or sadly, they make the wrong decision," said ACA Director of Camper Placement Renee Flax.

Flax has worked at the ACA for 16 years, and her sole job is to help parents find the right camp for their child. She speaks with parents to get an idea of what they and their child are looking for. Flax not only considers factors such as budget and type of camp, but also the personality and hobbies of a child to help find a good match. In addition, she can also help

parents find camps that will accommodate dietary or religious needs.

Flax said finding a camp can be a confusing process. Oftentimes, parents get overwhelmed trying to figure out subtle differences between programs. She also acknowledged that a lot of parents are unaware of many of the options available to them when choosing a camp. For example, most parents do not know that many accredited camps offer tours as well as "Rookie Days" where children can try out a camp for a day.

"That's something that most people don't even think about or know is available to them," Flax said.

She stressed that parents need to do their homework when searching for a camp. She said too many families choose a camp based on the advice of other parents, but don't consider the differences between children that could make a camp a good fit for one youngster and not the other.

Flax also warned parents that if they aren't looking at accredited camps they will need to be very careful during their research process. Currently, the ACA is the only organization that accredits camps. There are more than 300 criteria needed to gain accreditation.

"We are ensuring the public that [these] camps are living up to the highest standards that any camp can live up to," Flax said. "It's like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval for camps."

Although summer camp is still several months away, Flax recommended that parents begin looking into programs during the winter in order to reduce their

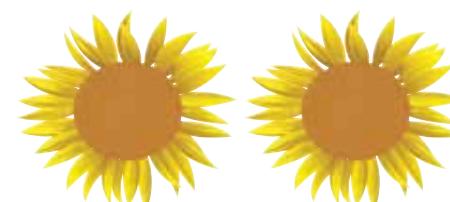
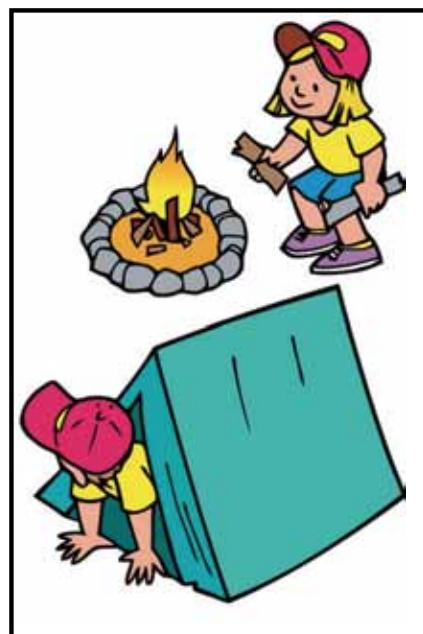
stress and avoid picking a camp that has reached capacity.

"Parents will make a more educated decision if they give themselves time to thoroughly look through camps and all of their materials," Flax said. "An early start will also avoid getting locked out of a camp that you think would be a good fit for your child."

Flax noted that whether parents use the ACA to find a camp or elect to go through the process on their own, the key is to devote time and effort and avoid waiting until the last minute.

"Put some effort into it and you won't make a mistake if you do your research," she said. "If you try to do this simply, and you spend very little time, you may be lucky and find the right camp, but very often you don't."

To learn more about the American Camp Association and its services visit www.ACA-nynj.org.



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Pairing the 2013 Oscar-Nominated Movies With Wine



By Nick Antonaccio
The 86th Academy Awards show airs this Sunday. This is my sixth year of presenting the Best Picture nominees and creating hypothetical pairings of wine with the top contenders.

I've distilled my list to five of the nine nominees.

"12 Years a Slave," based on the true story of Solomon Northup, a free black man who lived in New York with his wife and children; in 1841 he was surreptitiously kidnapped and sold into slavery for over a decade.

Getting ready for the festivities.

Sent to Louisiana, the movie follows his travails in a microcosm of the degradation of blacks during the slavery era. In graphic detail, we are immersed in the horror of this dehumanizing period of history. But Solomon's spirit of survival carries him through his ordeal, persisting in the face

of seemingly insurmountable odds.

This movie should inspire us to cherish America's principles and the equal rights of all. Sitting with fellow citizens, sipping on an aged Port, provides an environment to do so. These wines represent a centuries-old Portuguese respect for the land and its people that persists today.

"Gravity." Just when you think all is right with the universe, disaster strikes. The shuttle crew sent to repair the Hubble telescope is thrown topsy-turvy, wreaking havoc on the lives of the crew. While the cinematography and special effects are amazing, the storyline is rather pedestrian. This movie may win the most awards, but perhaps not Best Picture.

So too, California red wine blends. Americans rave about them but their essence is often devoid of intrinsic character. Tethered to Zinfandel or Cabernet Sauvignon, they can't seem to find their way through the enological universe.

"American Hustle." The Led Zeppelin song in the background screams out: "Good times, bad times, you know I had my share." In 1978, con man Irving Rosenfeld and his seductive partner Sidney Prosser are on top of the world, raking in hordes of cash from unsuspecting marks. Good times soon turn sour as they get caught up in the middle of a government sting

operation. The movie's blatant message: everyone hustles to survive, is ever present.

Just as Irving and Sidney get trapped in lifestyles perceived to be desirable, others get trapped in wines perceived to be high quality. My generation embraced the popular wines of the late 1970s because of their "cool" factor. There were many other,

better, choices than Blue Nun or Mateus, but we fell victim to the advertising cons of the day.

"The Wolf of Wall Street." Wow! Sex, drugs and wild parties; something for every moviegoer. In 1995, at

age 26, Jordan Belfort made \$49 million as a Wall Street stock hustler. His real-life escapades, eventually shut down by the FBI, landed him in jail for three years. But not before he enjoyed the decadent excesses of his wealth.

What better way to celebrate the ethos of Belfort than Champagne? A few years ago, billionaire Mark Cuban held a celebratory dinner featuring a \$90,000 bottle of Armand de Brignac Champagne. That says it all when you're trying to impress friends and clients.

"Dallas Buyers Club." Mathew McConaughey brings us back to 1985, and the shocking times when HIV/AIDS

was rampant across the globe. Diagnosed as HIV positive, his character seeks a way to prolong his life. Not accepting his 30-day death sentence, he is able to find experimental drugs for himself and then attempts to distribute them to other victims. Battling the government and the medical establishment, and with the unlikely help of a similarly afflicted transvestite, he creates a way to distribute his illegal drugs (hence the name of the movie) and prolong his life.

Zinfandel represents the persona of this movie. This wine is a chameleon of sorts. It can be an in-your-face fruit bomb or a sophisticated, thought-provoking statesman - at times misunderstood, at other times irrepressible.

Which movie will win the coveted Oscar? Sit back on Sunday night with your favorite wine in hand and enjoy the festivities.

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.



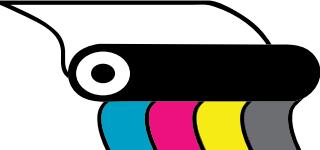
You Heard It Through the Grapevine



young adults in making various dishes. Tarrytown House Estate & Conference Center provides various culinary packages for meeting planners that serves as an activity for participants to

test their skills and engage in team building activities through a wide variety of live culinary experiences, such as one mirroring the popular Iron Chef.

Pictured above: Back row from left: Sterling Fite, Salvador Gutierrez, Daniel Bonnet, Nicole Paige, Maureen Higgins, Executive Chef Chris Hettinger. Front Row from left: Brandy Overby, Evana Ferguson, Deasia Dell, Genesis Wyatt, Karen Byrd, Tamara McCallum.



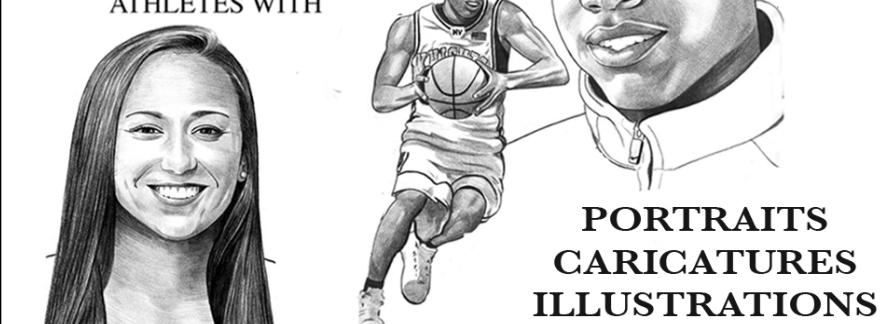
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Everyone is Irish on St. Paddy's Day



By Morris Gut

The leprechauns are coming. St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17, will be celebrated with all its local color. And this year it falls on the tail end of a weekend, no less. Of course, there are the annual parades.

The annual White Plains parade will take place on Saturday, March 8. Throughout Westchester, towns and villages are hanging shamrocks on storefronts and homes giving the county its sparkling moment in the Emerald Isle. Here are a few suggestions if you want to partake in the traditional foods and reveling sprinkled with a good dose of blarney. Be sure to check ahead for special events, and larger groups are advised to make advance reservations. *Erin Go Bragh.*

Irish Seisiuns at Dunne's Pub

The green line had already been painted down Mamaroneck Ave. Regulars began to gather at Dunne's Pub on Shapham Place in White Plains early, taking their seats at the bar for their first taste of happy hour, hungry patrons filing in to be seated in the cozy dining room. It was Wednesday evening, and at Dunne's the reveling was about to begin.

Dunne's Restaurant & Pub is a neighborhood treasure, an authentic Irish tavern with all the traditional Gaelic accoutrements intact. Over the years owner Sean Dunne has taken great strains

the draw this night as it has been for over 15 years. It is orchestrated each week by award winning musician Brian Conway and it begins promptly at 7:30 p.m. It is like taking a trip to Ireland without leaving Westchester and I recommend a dose of it to all.

Along with such spot-on kitchen specialties as their fabulous Corned Beef Reuben Sandwich, Plain Jane Burger served on a Kaiser roll, Beer Battered Fish & Chips, Grilled Irish Bangers, Gaelic Steak with an Irish whiskey cream sauce mushrooms and fresh tomatoes, Cheddar Cheese Meatloaf served with Irish beans and mashed potatoes, even a house version of the Italian favorite Chicken Scarpariello.

Special Hint: If you crave Oktoberfest specialties year-round, Sean Dunne tells us he serves an Oktoberfest menu the first Thursday of each month.

The crowd here is most welcoming, so come in and join the fun.

Dunne's Restaurant & Pub is located at 15 Shapham Place, just off Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains. The restaurant is open seven days a week for lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Price range: appetizers from \$4. Main courses and sandwiches: \$6.95 to \$17.95. Bar/lounge. Casual dress. Reservations suggested for larger groups. Ample municipal parking

Menu Movers & Shakers

Irish specialties and spirits; Red Line Saloon, 5739 Albany Post Road, Cortlandt Manor (914-358-5740) will serve \$5.

pints of Guinness along with corned beef and cabbage, Irish bangers, and homemade Shepard's pie; Brian Mahon's Porter House and Hudson Grille, 169 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains (914-831-5663) will have platters of Irish food available; Vintage, 171 Main St., White Plains (914-328-5803) is where Declan Farrell and his staff will be serving a full roster of entertainment and Gaelic specialties; and Elements, 161 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains (914-358-

Ellie Cucino suggest such specialties as: a flavorful Hot Antipasto; Angel Hair Abissi Marini, thin egg noodles in a light cream sauce with shrimp and mushrooms; Veal Chop alla Griglia, with mushrooms and roasted potatoes; a wonderful version of fresh Branzino, or the tender Grilled Lamb Chops (if they're on the menu grab them). Michael's son Dean operates Trattoria Vivolo in Harrison and there will be a touch of the Irish there as well. Private party facilities. Open 7 days. Free parking. www.lariservarestaurant.com

Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison 914-835-6199

Surprise again. Chef-owner Dean Vivolo's mom is Irish so you can expect



The famous Reuben sandwich at Dunne's Pub.



Irish music 'Seisiun' at Dunne's Pub, White Plains.

not to get caught up in the modernist Irish mode so prevalent these days. It is a friendly, authentic home-style place with a good kitchen to boot, dishing out generous servings of Irish-style fare at prices that will leave some money in your wallet. Sean and his nightly barkeep Edmund also know how to pour that mug of Guinness while keeping the crowd in spirited conversation.

But it was Wednesday here, and the buzz about the Irish 'Seisiun' (sort of an Irish musical jam open to all comers), was

next door. Phone: 914-421-1451. www.dunnespubandrestaurant.net.

More St. Patrick's Day Options

Brodie's Pub, E. Main St., Mohegan Lake (914-528-1614) will feature Irish entertainment, bagpipers, step dancers and Irish kitchen specialties all month;

Lazy Lounge right next to Lazy Boy Saloon, 152 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains (914-761-0272) will offer live music and kitchen treats; Brazen Fox, 175 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plans (914-358-5911) will have a full menu of traditional

4930) where host Brian McGroarty will offer generously prepared Irish fare. Bob Hyland's Sports Page Pub, 200 Hamilton Ave., White Plains (White Plains Mall; 914-437-8721) will be serving traditional Irish food along with their regular menu of reasonably-priced 'Hall of Fame' specialties: Fish and Chips; Homemade Shepard's Pie; Sizzling Fajitas; BBQ Babyback Ribs; Cobb Salad; and Oriental Chicken Pasta. There are finger foods galore, along with such indulgences as burgers, sandwiches, hot dogs and sliders. Tighe's Tavern at 174 Martine Avenue, White Plains (914-684-9405) has been in the business of serving up fine Irish fare at the same location since 1935. Be sure to stop for good home-style cooking and Irish beer.

Irish Where You Least Expect It

La Riserva, 2382 Boston Post Road, Larchmont 914-834-5584

Surprised? Proprietor Michael Vivolo has been serving 'the Italian classics' here for 35 years and the warm atmosphere and friendly ambiance keep it a treat. Chef Vivolo's wife Margaret is Irish so you can be sure there will be a few Gaelic favorites on the menu, too. Be seated in the lovely refurbished dining room, now part vintage photo gallery, and let veteran manager

some Gaelic favorites here too. Dean serves his robust regional Italian cuisine out of a vintage diner just across from Harrison's Metro-North station. The semi-private rear greenhouse holds up to 50 guests. If you come on your own, sit at the counter, tuck into a booth, or take a table in that rear greenhouse and enjoy the surprising contemporary and traditional flavors emanating from his kitchen: Fresh spring salads; Crostino di Polenta, topped with wild mushrooms, gorgonzola and tomato sauce; Lasagna Bolognese al Forno; Osso Buco, tender braised veal shank; occasional Roasted Porchetta; and warm fresh Zabaglione with fresh fruit for dessert. If the name Vivolo sounds familiar, Dean's dad Michael Vivolo is owner of the venerable La Riserva in Larchmont. The restaurant takes on a special glitter evenings. Good wine list. Open 7 days. Free parking. www.trattoriavivolo.com

Morris Gut is a restaurant consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for over 25 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. E-mail: gutreactions@optonline.net.

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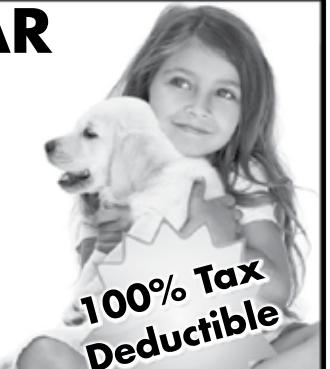
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Tuesday, Feb. 25

Westchester Community College Film Series: "Red Like the Sky." A nearly sightless boy is sent to a school for blind children where he secretly discovers the possibilities of recorded sound. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-5616.

Tuesdays at Dorry's. Andrew Courtney, artist, teacher, activist for social change creates documentaries with photographs. His primary focus has been refugee camp communities, and the culture of struggle. His portfolios include work in Viet Nam, Northern Ireland, South Africa, Nicaragua, Cuba, and the West Bank. Since 1988 he has made 22 journeys to the Middle East including Israel, the Palestine territories, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. He will speak about his special international exhibit, "Guardians of the Mosque, The African Palestinians of Jerusalem." Currently showing at the Ossining Public Library, this exhibit has been featured recently in Atlanta, Georgia, Washington DC, San Diego, California, and New York City. Andrew will discuss this work for Black History month, and will touch on the other African populations in the region. For 32 years, Andrew was a teacher of Fine Arts at Woodlands High School in Greenburgh. He has been a WESPAC member since 1982. Andrew Courtney has been an exhibiting artist for 60 years. All are welcome to join a group of interested community members who gather weekly for dinner to share information and conversation. Food ordering begins at 5:30 p.m. Presentation from 6 to 7 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains. Call 914-682-0005 for more information.

Purchase Presents Soul Voices: "Stand!" Purchase Soul Voices, a premier 60-student vocal ensemble, will present an inspiring celebration of Black History Month featuring a mix of musical genres including spirituals, gospel, soul, rhythm and blues, funk and jazz. Recital Hall at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 7 p.m. Free.

"Lincoln Revisited." Pleasantville resident Bob Huerster, a Lincoln enthusiast for almost 30 years, will look beneath the familiar image of Lincoln and highlight some of the personal qualities and skills that contributed to his greatness. He will also recommend books about our 16th president, including the one that first sparked his interest in him. Mount Pleasant Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Noonday Getaway Concert. The A.W. Duo – cellist James Waldo and pianist Alonya Aksyonova return to Downtown Music with a program entitled "Modern Romantics: Debussy and Myaskovsky." Of the Duo, Ellen Dressler Moryl, founder of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston says, "These gifted young players are true artists who can transport the listeners in their audience straight to heaven!" 12:10 p.m. Downtown Music at Grace, Grace Episcopal Church, 33 Church Street (Main Street at Mamaroneck Avenue), White Plains. Admission is free.

Thursday, Feb. 27

Third Annual Brain Bee. Burke Rehabilitation Center is hosting the 3rd Annual Westchester County Brain Bee at 4:30 p.m. in the Rosedale Conference Room of the Billings Building on Burke's main campus at 785 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains.

Great Books Forum Series: "A Streetcar Named Desire." An opportunity to encounter extraordinary works of classic and modern literature along with other interested readers from the college and the community. Along with the works themselves, discussions focus on issues of context and interpretation. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Professor James Werner at 914-606-6840 or email james.werner@sunywcc.edu.

Friday, Feb. 28

Armonk Antiques Show Preview Gala. Kick off the weekend festivities with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres benefit party for the North Castle Historical Society. Money raised from the party will go toward ongoing community projects and advancement of education in the arts. Brynwood Golf & Country Club, 568 Bedford Rd., Armonk. 6:30 to 8 p.m. \$50. Info and tickets: Contact Sharon at 914-273-6605.

Saturday, March 1

Armonk Antiques Show. Presenting about 30 dealers specializing in fine formal and rural American, English and Continental furnishings; exceptional works of art; important Asian, English and domestic ceramics; rare books and documents; designer and estate jewelry; arts and crafts pottery; early brass candlesticks and copper; Oriental rugs; eclectic decorations; cool folk art; figural cast iron door stops; silver; German Black Forest carvings; needlework samplers; nautical Woolies; garden antiques; and more. To benefit the North Castle Historical Society. Brynwood Golf & Country Club, 568 Bedford Rd., Armonk. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. \$10 (unlimited re-entry). Also March 2 from 11 am. to 5 p.m. Info: 845-876-0616, visit www.barnstar.com or email barnstar1@aol.com.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why March is a special time for packs in North America. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Also March 8, 16, 22, 25 and 28. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Animal Adventures: Amazing Arthropods. Meet a few of Teatown ambassador animals in this program featuring animals with six and eight legs. For families with children four years old and up. Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. 11 a.m. to noon. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

Wolf Tails for Kids: Mythology of a Predator. This program discusses the relationship between the wolves and humans of the past. Guests will be introduced to various wolf mythologies and have a chance to create their own and share, if desired. Then, guests will visit the center's ambassador wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$13. Children: (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Exhibit Opening: 1 Camera, 2 Hours, How Many Plastic Bags? A special documentary art exhibit featuring a collaborative project by high school students from all over Westchester who are taking on the challenge to photograph as many plastic bags on the loose in their environment as they

can with just 1 camera in 2 hours. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 4:30 p.m. Free. Exhibit runs through April 30. To participate in the project and/or contribute artwork, contact Braeden Cohen at bcohen@greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"Out of Time." A soul-stirring, multimedia collaboration linking two monumental works of art and music about time, loss, devotion and remembrance. Surrounded by painter Cleve Gray's enormous, multi-paneled installation, "Threnody," commissioned by the Neuberger Museum, the internationally acclaimed Music from Copland House ensemble performs composer Olivier Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time." Followed by a reception with the artists. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 7:30 p.m. Museum members and Friends of Copland House: \$25. Non-members: \$35. Info and tickets: 914-251-6125.

Sunday, March 2

Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education. Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Meets every Sunday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Arctic Fest: Wings and Wolves. Guests will learn about the harsh habitat that some very special animals call home. Master falconer Brian Bradley of Skyhunters in Flight will present his beautiful feathered ambassadors that call the high arctic home and will do a flight demonstration. Guests will also visit the center's resident wolves and enjoy hot beverages in our woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. Noon. \$20. Space limited; pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Sugaring Sundays. From tapping to collecting, boiling to bottling, Teatown's naturalists will be in Warren's sugarhouse sharing facts and folklore about this sweet time of year. All welcome. Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Also March 2 and 9. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

WHITE PLAINS EXAMINER SPORTS

White Plains Season Ends with Loss to Spring Valley in Section 1 Quarterfinals

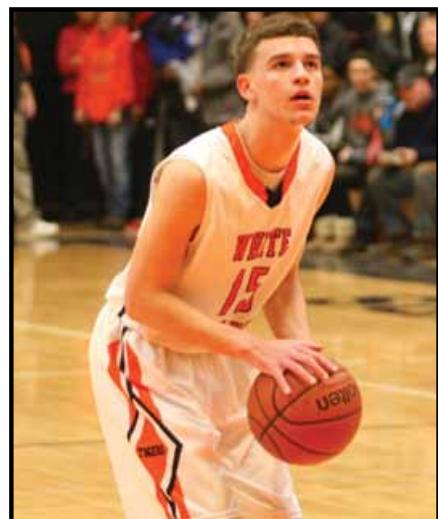
By Albert Coqueran

Sitting on the balcony of the Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel, in Honolulu, while enjoying my first two-week vacation in many years, I noticed on my laptop that the White Plains Tigers dealt Ketchum High School a decisive blow in the First Round of the Section 1 AA Boy's Basketball Playoffs.

The number three seeded Tigers beat the number 14th seeded Indians by 24 points, 59-35. Tigers' standout freshman Jordan Tucker scored 19 points and star guard senior Mike DeMello had 15 points in the win.

Before leaving for a warmer climate, I mentioned to White Plains Head Coach Spencer Mayfield that I would be back to cover his team in the second round of the Section 1 Playoffs. Mayfield immediately replied to me, "I have to make it past the first round first."

Although, understanding to never overlook an opponent, my mindset remained no matter who the third seeded Tigers faced in the first round, considering their quality of play this season, they would advance to the Quarterfinals. White Plains compiled an impressive, 15-3 regular season record this year.



Tigers guard Mike DeMello shot five-for-seven from the foul line and ended the game with 16 points and eight assists. But it was not enough to make up for a 23-4 third quarter deficit to Spring Valley, as White Plains lost 69-66, to the Tigers from across the Hudson.

However, the Quarterfinals presented a much different challenge for White Plains, than the 14th seeded Ketchum Indians did in the first round. The sixth seeded Spring Valley High School Tigers brought two tall muscle men across the river positioned in the front court, in Kai Mitchell and Jordan Duncan, who both measure six feet and five inches. They also traveled to town with speedy Ricky McGill at guard.

Nonetheless, the White Plains Tigers broke out of the gate in the first half with their own brand of speed and muscle in



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Tigers Jordan Tucker passes under pressure in the White Plains vs. Spring Valley Section 1 Quarterfinal game. Tucker had 19 points in the game but in the third quarter his two points was the only field goal for White Plains, which led to a 69-66 loss to Spring Valley.

the Harry Jefferson Gym.

The speedy DeMello dribbled past Spring Valley defenders and dropped 12 first-half points. Tucker with his sleek gazelle type play roamed every part of

attacked the paint. They also utilized their speed on both offense and defense and disrupted White Plains' game plan.

Spring Valley's aggressiveness created confusion in the White Plains Tigers



The Tigers honor the playing of the National Anthem prior to the start of the Section 1 Quarterfinal game at White Plains High School. However, there will be no National Anthem for the White Plains (16-4) at the County Center this year, as their outstanding basketball season comes to an end with a 69-66 loss to Spring Valley.

the court and scored 10 points, including three shots from behind the arc.

Tigers' forwards Justin Tapper and Rexler Noel played beyond expectations in the front-court battling Spring Valley's big men Mitchell and Duncan for rebounds, while creating second chance points on offense. Even feisty senior Chris Jordan came off the bench for the Tigers to score six first-quarter points, while shooting four-for-four from the foul line.

The Tigers thrilled their fans packed into the Harry Jefferson Gym in the first half and went into the locker room leading 41-30, ahead by 11 points.

But the Tigers from across the Hudson River came out a different team in the second half. Spring Valley used their big men in a very aggressive manner and

offense and the home team began fumbling away the ball. Spring Valley used Duncan, Mitchell and guard Jarimar Joseph in the high-post trap, which kept DeMello and Tucker at bay. "In the first-half we were beating them. I guess whatever their coach said to them at halftime woke them up and they came out and punched us in the mouth in the third quarter," commented Tucker.

When the third quarter ended the score had turned in Spring Valley's favor 53-45. The Tigers from across the river had outscored the hometown Tigers, 23-4 in the third quarter. "I got on my knees and prayed (at halftime)," jested Spring Valley Head Coach Willie Worsley, regarding his teams' third quarter surge. "Really, what I did was refer to my basketball religion,



Spring Valley's forward Jordan Duncan (left) drives on White Plains forward Justin Tapper for two of his ten second-half points. Duncan finished the game with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

"if we are going to lose, let's lose fighting. If we are going to lose let's lose our way," stated Worsley.

The Tigers fought back on their home court behind Tucker's seven fourth-quarter points. DeMello assisted Noel, who hit a timely bucket and White Plains was back in the lead, 66-65, with 1:20 remaining in the game.

Noel stepped up again and made a huge block to get the ball back and Mayfield called timeout. With the crowd in frenzy, on the ensuing play Spring Valley brought Mitchell out from the post to join McGill and they trapped DeMello, who turned the ball over on the sideline near half-court.

McGill who went three-for-three from the foul in the game made two essential free throws with 36.7 seconds left on the clock to put Spring Valley in the lead 67-66.

Spring Valley played the fourth quarter like Tigers, as did the Tigers from White Plains. But it was their lack of offense in the third quarter that sealed the home teams' fate, as 24-3 will remain in the White Plain Tigers memories for sometime. "They pounded us inside and got some transition baskets. We just could not score and took a few ill-advised shots. It was more Duncan and McGill who pounded us inside in that quarter and got second chance points," stated Mayfield.

When the ball was deflected by Spring Valley on the Tigers last possession and Jordan missed a jumper at the top of the key, Mitchell was there for the rebound. He threw an outlet pass to McGill, who scored his 18th point. Spring Valley 69, White Plains 66. "They [White Plains] went down fighting until the end. It was a good victory for us because of who we played," admired Worsley.

The White Plains Tigers end the year 16-4, as did the Spring Valley Tigers. The only difference is that Spring Valley advances to play in the Semifinals of the Section 1 Playoffs, against number two seed Clarkstown South, on Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. at the Westchester County Center.

WHITE PLAINS EXAMINER SPORTS

Irvington Boys Punch Ticket to County Center with Rout of Briarcliff

By Skip Pearlman

The Irvington High boys basketball team has been on a roll all season, and in last Tuesday's Section 1 Class B quarterfinal against Briarcliff, the top-seeded Bulldogs just kept getting better as the game progressed.

That was not a good sign for the No. 9 Bears, who didn't.

Irvington led by seven at halftime, and stretched that lead to 14 by the end of three, en route to a 58-34 victory, putting the 18-1 Bulldogs in Monday



Irvington's Jon Goldreich soars to the rack in playoff win over Briarcliff last week.



Irvington's Adrian Valdes goes strong to the basket in quarterfinal playoff win over Briarcliff last week.

night's Class B semifinal against No. 4 seed Putnam Valley (17-3). The winner advances to the Class B final, set for Saturday, March 1 at 2 p.m.

The Bulldogs got the same kind of balanced scoring they've been getting all season. Kevin Tierney led the way with 15 points and seven rebounds, Andrew Brennan added 13 points, senior captain Jon Goldreich added 12 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and senior captain Mike Macchia chipped in with eight points and eight rebounds.



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS
Mike Macchia (33) of Irvington tries to hang on to loose ball in win over Briarcliff.

"We squeaked one out against them in January, so the kids were into it," Irvington coach Mike Auerbach said. "They knew what was at stake, what was on the line."

Auerbach pointed to one thing when asked about keys to controlling Briarcliff (9-11).

"Our defense was as good as it's been all season," he said. "That helped us build a lead steadily. They did a nice job handling our pressure, but I felt if we kept up our defensive effort, we'd be OK."

Irvington's offense, as it has all season, came from multiple sources. "We've been balanced all year," Auerbach said. "You never know where it's going to come from.

"Kevin was great in the first half," the coach added of Tierney. "He's been our leading scorer all year. Brennan stepped up and hit a couple of threes. His outside shooting really helps. And Scott Eisland came off the bench for us and gave us rebounding and hustle."

The Bulldogs – winners of 13 straight – have come a long way since last year's 7-13 finish.

"Several of our kids dedicated themselves to getting better," Auerbach said of the turnaround. "They really committed themselves, they got tired of losing."

Irvington's last County Center appearance was in 2011, and the 'Dogs lost in the semifinals. Auerbach said the team is proud, and confident, to be the No. 1 seed.

"We're excited," Auerbach said of having a chance to play for the title. "I'm not totally surprised. I saw some promise last summer. But you never know if you'll reach the County Center. But we feel we can win the whole thing, and go farther. We think we're the favorite."

Woodlands Girls Basketball Upset Westlake, Head to Semifinals

continued from page 1

did some good things. So when we went to double them, their teammates got open looks.

"We hung with them, we played them tough, and I'm very proud of our girls," Mayer added. "We were the No. 2 seed, but Woodlands is not a No. 7 seed. Everyone in the paper had Woodlands winning this game tonight. It's not your typical seven seed."

It was Tilford, Woodlands' senior team captain, who was nearly unstoppable, leading the Falcons with 27 points and 11 rebounds. Hyman was just as explosive, adding 25 points and grabbing 12 caroms. Lourdes Turner added 10 points.

"I think it was a very competitive game," Woodlands coach Tyron Postell said. "I think our conditioning and intensity kicked in in the second half. But getting to the County Center feels great, especially with the makeup of this team. They're dedicated to working hard and getting better. We have nine first-year varsity



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS
Teshia Hyman of Woodlands soars for a twisting jumper in quarterfinal win over Westlake.

players on this team, and they get their work ethic, and learn, from Imani."



Imani Tilford of Woodlands scored 27 points in a quarterfinal win over Westlake.

Tilford didn't let her team down on this night, repeatedly penetrating the Westlake defense with a lethal combination of speed

and power.

Tilford was thrilled to reach the County Center in her senior year. "It's great," Tilford said moments after the game. "At the beginning I didn't really think we could do it, but in the middle we started picking it up, so I'm really proud. Tonight, they were playing aggressive at the beginning of the game, but in the second half we came out a whole different team, we played harder defense, we got back, we executed, and we ran our plays."

Mayer said Westlake enjoyed great success this season.

"The girls had a phenomenal year," he said. "We won the league, won 14 games, played a lot of close games, some overtime games. To get to a No. 2 seed was great. It's a little disappointing now, but the girls did a great job."

This is the first time the Woodlands boys and girls teams have reached the County Center in the same season since 1978.

WHITE PLAINS EXAMINER SPORTS

John Jay Early Onslaught Finishes Titans in Division 2 Quarterfinal

By Skip Pearlman

In last Wednesday's Division 2 ice hockey quarterfinal between Rye Town/Harrison and John Jay, it became clear early on that the No. 6 seed Titans had their hands full.

The third-seeded Indians managed to out-shoot RT/H by a 16-2 margin in the first period, and popped two goals past



Jake Picker of Rye Town/Harrison looks to pass in last week's playoff loss to John Jay. Skip

the Titans defense and net minder Brian Ketchabaw, setting the tone for the game.

Jay went on to record a 5-2 victory, improving to 19-3, in a game played at the Brewster Ice Arena. The Indians went on to lose to Rye in the Division 2 semifinals.

Rye Town/Harrison closed a solid season at 13-8, but Titans coach Peter Thomas didn't feel his team played its best game in the loss.

"I think we have to learn how to win," Thomas said. "I think some of our guys



Rye Town/Harrison's Brian Kelly (8) and Ryan Morningstar (24) look to get puck out of their own zone in playoff loss to John Jay.



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS

Rye Town/Harrison's Zach Smolev (right) tries to get puck out of goal mouth before JJ's Mark Leprine (11) can get to it, as keeper Brian Ketchabaw looks on in Titans' quarterfinal playoff loss.

were intimidated by the importance of the game, and we didn't execute because of that. In time, I think we'll be more at ease in these situations. We just didn't put as much pressure on Jay as I wanted; we didn't take the game to John Jay."

John Tobin put the Indians on the board midway through the first, and with Jay controlling play and creating opportunities, it was Shawn Smith who gave Jay a 2-0 lead with 3:04 remaining. Mark Leprine and Tobin converted again in the second, putting the Titans in a 4-0 hole entering the third.

"Once they popped a couple in, it was an uphill battle," Thomas said. "The first period ended up setting the tempo for the game. We have come back in some games and won it in the third, but this was such

a big crowd, and such an important game. We weren't able to change the momentum of the game. John Jay (which went to the state final last season) is a battle-tested team."

Ryan Morningstar got Rye Town/Harrison on the board with 7:49 left in the



Rye Town/Harrison's Joe Juliano looks to move the puck in last week's playoff loss to John Jay.

game, off an assist from Jake Picker.

Ryan Cavanaugh gave John Jay a 5-1 lead shortly after, and Mitchell Milbauer scored for the Titans to close it out, off a feed from Ian Bass.

Ketchabaw finished with 41 saves, keeping his team within striking distance. Jay goalie Matt Lanza finished with 14 saves.

"Ketchabaw was huge for us," Thomas said. "He makes it a game. It could have been a lot worse if he didn't play as well as he did. And Brian Jacobs was solid all-around, he brought a lot of intensity. Milbauer and Morningstar also never gave up, they kept trying to create."

Thomas was pleased about the team's progress during his first season as head coach.

"Overall it was a good first year," he said. "We won the league, were Conference 3 champs, and had a lot of good wins. I'm pleased with the progress, I think a lot of positive growth has taken place this year."

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GCA Cougars Defeat Mother Cabrini High School



BETH CLEARY PHOTO

Good Counsel Academy High School Varsity Basketball Team defeated Mother Cabrini High School February 22 at Sacred Heart High School by the score of 63-21 in the CHSAA Class B Quarterfinal Game. The following players were high scorers: Johanna Levine 16 points, Kathleen Massaroni 12 points, Paige Gilbride 10 points. In the photo above, Paige Gillbride shoots a foul shot during the game.



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