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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 128

Harrison Police Dept. Super Crime Fighter Retires

By Jon Craig

The latest retiree from the Harrison Police Department is credited with finding missing persons, making major drug busts and snatching burglars in the act. And Sgt. Edward Detlefs' crime fighting partner is just 12 years old. Arby, a German Shepherd, served on the Harrison police force since March 2004. His last day of work was Jan. 20. He'll continue to live with the Detlefs family who helped raise him.

As a member of Harrison's K-9 division, which has two other dogs, Arby caught four burglars, two of them still inside the homes they broke into.

Harrison Police Chief Anthony Marraccini announced Arby's retirement to the town/village board last month. "They go to work every day that the police officer goes to work. They're out on the front lines. They do a lot of good for the community. It's really a difficult task. It's difficult and they go out there and perform," Marraccini said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRISON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arby, a member of Harrison Police Department's K-9 division since 2004, retired on January 20.

Marraccini should know. The chief served as Harrison's first K-9 handler in the mid-1980s, and the department has employed another 10 dogs since. The other two German Shepherds currently in service are Von, 9, assigned to Officer Antony Salov and Beni, 2, assigned to Officer Erin Hinchey.

Arby once helped locate a missing child who suffered from autism. And two years ago, Arby found three kilos of cocaine in the hidden compartment of a vehicle. He's helped in numerous other narcotics arrests, the chief said.

Each dog completes rigorous, competitive training in Columbus, Ohio, according to Detlefs. The dog's personality snaps on and off like a switch from home life to work, he said.

The department recently received a \$25,000 donation from the Tananbaum Foundation to buy another canine, defibrillators or to be spent at the chief's discretion.

Greenburgh Expands Background Checks for New Hires

By Jon Craig

The Town of Greenburgh, saying it wants all its employees held to the same hiring standards while keeping children safe, is expanding its use of background checks.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner said nothing triggered the change, which was suggested about a year ago by the town's Commissioner of Parks.

"It's nice to know the kids are safe," Feiner said.

The town now requires all new and rehired seasonal workers ages 18 and older, and all new full-time and part-time

public employees to undergo the checks. They are consistent with what is now required of town managers and public officials, Feiner said.

According to a resolution passed by the Town Board, the change helps "preserve the safety and well being of the public and government employees."

Prior to an offer of employment, the candidate's application will be sent to the contractor selected by the Town to perform a criminal background check. The background screening shall include but not be limited to Social Security

continued on page 7

White Plains Continues to Promote Cycling as Part of its Complete Streets Program

By Pat Casey

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 29, a gathering of over 30 cyclists met at White Plains Public Library to talk about cycling in the region and to hear from Mayor Tom Roach about his plans for bicycles in the city.

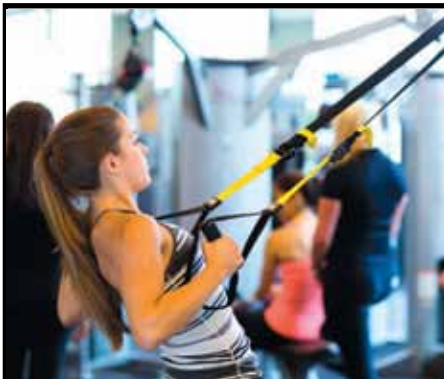
The Westchester Cycle Club and the Bike Walk Alliance of Westchester & Putnam sponsored the event.

Dave Wilson, an avid cyclist and WCC board member, had organized similar meetings in Putnam County and decided it was time to bring the focus to Westchester.



Cyclists gathered for the opening of Phase 1 of the introduction of bicycle lanes to White Plains in 2012.

continued on page 2



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White Plains Continues to Promote Cycling as Part of its Complete Streets Program

continued from page 1

Mayor Roach was joined by Deputy Commissioner of Parking, City Transportation Engineer Tom Soyk, who is working with the mayor and Common Council on moving White Plains in the direction of a Complete Streets model, where pedestrians and cyclists are considered as important as automobiles.

To date the city has established bicycle lanes in two phases to bring cyclists to and from the Transcenter and middle of town with a focus on the south end of the city. During the Phase 3 roll out, lanes will continue to the south end, with the goal of connecting all the lanes to each other.

When queried why there were no bicycle lanes on Mamaroneck Avenue, both Roach and Soyk explained that with parking on the avenue and cars moving fast, there was no room. However, dedicated lanes on Waller Avenue, running parallel to Mamaroneck Avenue offered a safer alternative path to get to the same destination.

The mayor indicated he was interested in building a bike lane that would run in both directions from Barker Avenue on N. Broadway to the entrance of I-287. Again, this path would need to be built, not just painted as lanes on the street, to ensure cyclist safety.

Bicycle racks will also be added to city garages. "These keep getting filled up," Roach said. Other racks will be supplied

by private businesses.

Mayor Roach was enthusiastic about making White Plains more cyclist friendly. He said he was surprised the city was still the only municipality in Westchester with dedicated bicycle lanes.

Before ending his portion of the meeting, Roach told the cyclists in attendance that they had to pay attention to the traffic rules, which was especially important for urban cycling.

Other news coming out of the meeting was the announcement of a new bicycle shop opening in late February on Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains across from the YMCA.

Called Cycle Works, the new venture will operate as a full service shop selling bicycles and accessories and doing repairs.

Mark Laloo spoke about Bike Helmet Day, planned for May 3rd at Delfino Park and open to White Plains children. There will be helmet fittings and a bike rodeo.

Laloo is looking for volunteers to help



Cyclists make the turn from Martine onto Mamaroneck Avenue during the 2013 White Plains Criterium.

with the event and welcomes interested parties to contact him at electrovelo@gmail.com.

Rich Payne of Downtown White Plains Criterium said the next Criterium race would be held June 8th.

Entering its third year, the Criterium continues to contribute proceeds to NCADD (National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence).

The 2014 White Plains Criterium was awarded the New York State Criterium Championships, which Payne explained is an honor, especially for an organization in

its third year.

For more information about the White Plains Criterium visit www.whiteplainscrit.com.

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Greenburgh Supervisor Comments on Pete Seeger, Concerns about County Gov't.

By Pat Casey

At a meeting with Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner on the morning that we all heard about the death of folk icon Pete Seeger, Feiner said he had been inspired with the vision to name the new Tappan Zee Bridge after the famous environmental activist and songwriter.

By 11 a.m. that same day an email had gone out with the suggestion and already several hundred responses had come back with enthusiastic support for the idea. By this writing, that number has reached into the thousands with several online petitions created and people contacting Governor Cuomo and their State representatives pressing the idea forward.

Feiner considers the initiative to name the new bridge spanning the Hudson River after Seeger a real grassroots movement because "it has been taken up by average residents."

"I think it's an exciting bridge and Pete Seeger was one of the first to fight for a cleaner Hudson River. He spoke about it decades before many others and I think he inspired a lot of people to fight for the environment," Feiner said.

As a government official and public servant, Feiner also considers himself a citizen activist. "I have been on the Clearwater a few times and years ago when I lived in Hastings I was involved with Ferry Sloops, which was a sister



Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner

organization to the Clearwater," he explained. "I was an admirer of Pete Seeger. I met him a handful of times. He made a big difference without holding public office. He really changed the lives of many people in the region and had a positive impact on the environment."

Feiner, who says he is on email a lot, often throwing out ideas and making suggestions, was surprised by the instantaneous positive responses.

As Greenburgh Town Supervisor, Feiner has more things on his mind than renaming the Tappan Zee Bridge and he says he is very concerned that Westchester County government is not meeting its responsibilities.

"I think Astorino running for governor is bothersome," Feiner said. "Within a few

hours of reelection he was campaigning for governor. We are paying him \$160,000 a year and if he is not working 40 hours a week as County Executive, then he should give back part of his salary."

Feiner's criticism of the county executive

"Pete Seeger really changed the lives of many people in the region and had a positive impact on the environment."

includes what he calls the political feud between HUD and the county that is keeping CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) funding from reaching constituents. The longer the county refuses to comply with certain requirements of the HUD affordable housing settlement, the more funding is held back from all Westchester HUD programs.

"There is over \$500,000 being held back from Greenburgh," Feiner explained.

One situation that particularly bothers Feiner is that streetscape improvements for the Union Baptist Church on Manhattan Avenue, which is celebrating their 100th anniversary, cannot be done because the funding is not available.

"We are being hurt by this political feud. We cannot do a project which the community and church were depending on," he said.

Feiner also blames the county for not giving timely consideration and permission to Greenburgh to begin making renovations to the affordable housing development once run by WestHelp.

"Because of the Tea Party focus on zero percent tax increases, the county is putting off repairs until tomorrow," Feiner contends. "At some point someone is going to have to spend money on the deteriorating infrastructure. In the future, whoever replaces Astorino is going to have a problem," he concludes.



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John F. Kennedy Magnet School Students Give Back During MLK Day of Service



John F. Kennedy Magnet School 3rd graders gave back during a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Clay Art Center on January 18. Over 35 students and parents visited the center to create unique, hand-painted clay tiles as part of a service event in partnership with the Volunteer Center of the United Way. Students learned about Martin Luther King Jr. during school and brainstormed ideas to include in their tiles. The decorated tiles will be permanently installed at Clay Art Center, 40 Beech Street, Port Chester to beautify the classroom spaces.

Acknowledging White Plains Youth Bureau Mentors

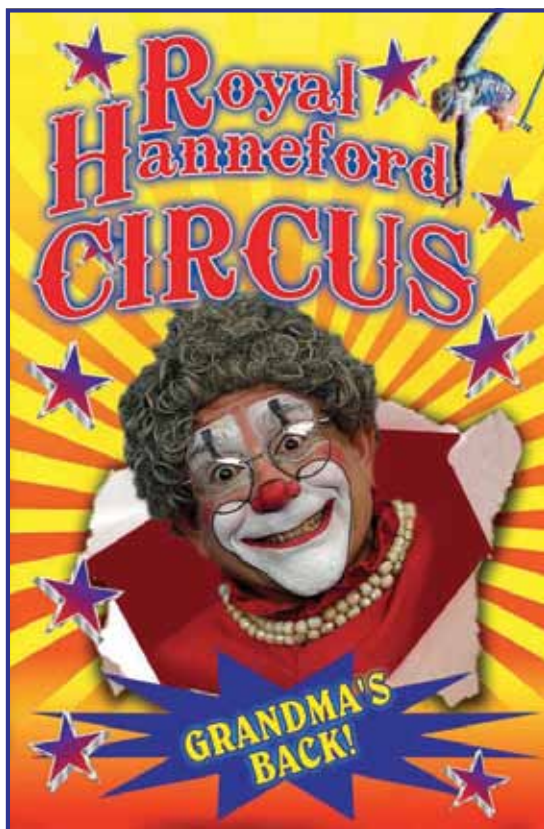


The White Plains Youth Bureau's Mentor Program celebrated January as National Mentoring Month. Several of the mentors met with Mayor Roach at White Plains City Hall to mark the occasion. The Youth Bureau's Mentoring program was organized in 1988. The program has helped more than 300 youth through a one to one relationship with a mentor. Frank Williams, director of the Youth Bureau describes the mentor program as one of the Youth Bureaus best-practiced programs. "Youth are able to develop a life changing relationship through their connection with a mentor. Their grades improve. They develop self confidence and they begin to map out a career plan," Williams said.



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Senator George Latimer on Unfunded Mandates and Common Core Curriculum

By Pat Casey

State Senator George Latimer (D-Rye) serves a diverse District 37 with communities from Bedford Hills to parts of New Rochelle and Yonkers. In a recent interview with Examiner News editors he was frank about some of the most pressing issues facing his constituents: taxes and the Common Core Curriculum.

Having heard Governor Cuomo's State of the State address, Latimer said he was encouraged by the Governor's message that property taxes should be frozen, but was concerned that he heard nothing specific relating to mandates not funded by the state that were largely responsible for pushing taxes up.

"The problem with high property taxes, though not totally, is that they begin with state unfunded mandates," Latimer said. "There are large unfunded mandates like county Medicaid costs, which 49 states don't require, but New York does."

Acknowledging that if the state took Medicaid back in one fell swoop, it would probably be a \$7 billion hit to the state budget that no one would expect, Latimer proposes the Medicaid mandate be phased out over time.

"I support a five-year phase back and would require the county government to reduce the property tax levy by whatever amount is saved," he said. "Two hundred twenty million dollars is the tax levy



State Senator George Latimer

impact of the Medicaid mandate. In year one, \$40 million of that would be saved."

Latimer believes smaller mandates such as the MTA payroll tax could be eliminated and is co-sponsoring a bill with District 37 Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Sleepy Hollow) that suggests if the state is going to cap property taxes at 2 percent, then the unfunded mandate for pension costs should also be capped.

"The best way to get property taxes down, not just frozen, is to relieve the state mandates that the local governments must pay and require every dollar saved

must be dropped to the bottom line," he emphasizes. Noting that there are ways the state could fund such a move, Latimer said New York may have the highest property taxes, but it does not have the highest income and business taxes.

Regarding the Circuit Breaker, Latimer supports the concept, but says different municipalities have different needs and what will be considered a significant attempt to share or consolidate services is yet to be determined.

"The Governor is trying to get communities to stay within the tax cap, but schools are now straining after two years. The premise from some state officials is that local communities do not control their expenses, but they do," Latimer contends. "The easier strategy is to phase out mandates, require that local governments drop their total tax levy by what they are saved and then each municipality can determine locally what they want to do in terms of services."

With the Board of Regents moving full speed ahead with the Common Core Curriculum, Latimer says that the goal to attain higher standards is laudable. "At some point before they graduate you have to test students and they have to show competency. We have SATs and Regents exams that do that," Latimer said.

Latimer would like to see a moratorium on the Common Core Curriculum, but

figures within a system that wants to move forward quickly, there will be some form of compromise.

"My first concern is that we are doing this without the stakeholders having a buy in. The teachers, administrators, parents, school boards have not been made a partner in the implementation of this. I have learned that you cannot implement something so drastic from the top down. We need a time out and a moratorium on implementation. The Regents does not like that idea. They see a national vision, but it hasn't been proven by the consumers of the service and hasn't been proven by the stakeholders," Latimer said.

Latimer is also not convinced that the collection of so much data is needed and believes it ultimately violates privacy. "Not only are they collecting academic data, but behavioral data as well," Latimer said. "How will that impact someone in their future?"

Latimer also believes that aggregating data will ultimately bring down those schools that are already doing well. "To treat all school districts the same as if all are equally bad, is a waste of taxpayer money," he said. "What's the rush?"

If in five years it turns out that a mistake was made, then those five years are lost on the students who participated. "I don't want people trying to test their theories of education out on my kid," he said.

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Renowned Choreographer Appointed Artistic Director at Steffi Nossen Dance

By Jon Craig

Choreographer Peter Pucci of Mount Kisco has been appointed artistic director of the Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation based in White Plains.

Pucci is an artist in residence at Manhattanville College in Purchase, and a guest artist at the Juilliard School of Drama.

The appointment was announced by Executive Director Kaylen Ratto Giannini.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation, I'm thrilled that the illustrious Peter Pucci has joined the Steffi family to bring an exemplary artistic direction to our students and community," Giannini said.

"With Peter at the helm, we expect our students to gain remarkable exposure to the contemporary dance world and to grow exponentially as artists," she said. "In addition to our stellar faculty, Steffi dancers continue to have the most qualified and passionate instructors in all of Westchester County."

Pucci, a 20-year resident of Mount Kisco, brings four decades of award-winning international experience as a dancer, choreographer and teacher to his new role. He will begin his tenure as producer of the foundation's annual Community and Benefit Concerts March 27-29 at the SUNY Purchase Performing Arts Center. Pucci currently is setting a new work on



Peter Pucci is the new artistic director at Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation.

the Steffi Nossen Dance Company to be premiered on the program.

"For me it's an opportunity to work with a lot of wonderful teachers," Pucci said in a recent interview. He said he's participated in many Steffi Nossen workshops.

Steffi Nossen School of Dance's core curriculum focuses on traditional techniques, taught there for more than 75 years, an attribute that makes it one of the finest modern dance schools in the nation, according to Pucci.

Pucci received a BFA in modern dance from the North Carolina School of the Arts. He was a principal dancer, choreographer and rehearsal director with Pilobolus Dance Theatre for nine years, touring internationally, before forming his own company, Peter Pucci Plus Dancers (PP+). PP+ has performed extensively, including six seasons at New York's Joyce Theater. Pucci has created ballets for many of the top ballet companies including the Joffrey Ballet and the Dance Theater of Harlem. He works as a Movement Director for theater productions regionally and in NYC including recent productions at New York's Roundabout Theatre Company, Washington, D.C.'s Shakespeare Theatre Company, and the Big Apple Circus.

Most recently, Pucci was commissioned to create the choreography for "Dream On By" with music by Paul Simon for the State Street Ballet in California. Among his many choreography awards are a Special Drama Desk Award for work in Horton Foote's "Orphan's Home Cycle," Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Choreographer for "Queens Boulevard (the musical)" and ArtsWestchester Artist of the Year.

Pucci will oversee the artistic vision of the Foundation, Choreography Showcase, Benefit and Community Concerts, Guest Artist Series and Master Class programs.

"It is with great pleasure that I accept the position," Pucci said. "I look forward to sharing all the experience and knowledge that I've gained through my work with professional dance and theater companies and to join my experience with that of the (foundation's) visionary history and incredible faculty, staff, students and community."

Pucci said he's had the good fortune of working with Steffi Nossen dancers in the past as a choreographer, saying he'd "always admired the level of commitment, integrity and tradition that the school embodies."

"My goal is to increase our level of excellence, to implement professional protocols, to broaden our student base, to add appropriate repertory and to support in every way what I feel is one of the very best dance schools in the country."

The Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation, formerly the Dance in Education Fund, is a 77-year-old not-for-profit dance advocacy and community outreach organization, which seeks to foster the arts in Westchester County. The Foundation supports and promotes arts, allowing for dance education and performances to be available to broad and diverse populations. Through significant artist support, outreach classes and free performances, the Foundation introduces dance to traditionally underserved children and adults.

Through the support of the Foundation, the Steffi Nossen School of Dance enables all students, including those with special needs, the opportunity to participate in their extensive programs and classes in a supportive, non-competitive environment. A generous financial aid and scholarship program supports those with significant economic challenges. With a sterling reputation in the industry, Steffi Nossen is a leader among dance schools, focusing on the growth of students' mind, body, spirit and character. For more details, go to www.pucciplus.com and www.steffinossen.org or call 914-328-1900.

AT&T, Harrison

By Jon Craig

If you've had bad luck ordering cellphones on the Internet, or are in need of reliable, painless customer service to buy a new phone or gadgets, you're in luck.

The AT&T Store in Harrison Shopping Center is under new management with a team of helpful technicians and sales associates.

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Week

a cracked screen on my new Samsung Galaxy S4 in the severe cold last month. The manufacturer wanted \$200 to replace the screen. But I had the good fortune of opening my original account at the Harrison store. That meant

not being placed on hold indefinitely on the phone, not guessing the best course of action, and the sense I had someone watching my back.

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Local AT&T salesman Oscar Cohn and technician Joshua Rodriguez were able to give sound advice, help cut through remote service center red tape and provide a free replacement phone during the weeks I would have otherwise lost navigating my first-ever phone repair.

Harrison customers can also enjoy a \$100 discount on new accounts at the store, 347 Halstead Ave.



The AT&T store at 347 Halstead Avenue, Harrison, is under new management.

Greenburgh Expands Background Checks for New Hires

continued from page 1

verification, address traces and criminal record checks.

Applicants will be denied employment if convicted of a sex offense or violent felony, and all other felonies within 10 years. Violent misdemeanors within

five years, and more than one drug or alcohol offense also may bar employment, according to the town's resolution.

All information gathered by the screening is to be kept confidential, and there is an appeals process.

YMCA Welcome Reception for Cynthia Rubino of Yorktown



Over 100 business and professional leaders in Westchester came together on January 29th at the YMCA, White Plains to welcome its new CEO/President Cynthia A. Rubino. Rubino was previously the COO and Vice President for Government Relations for Berkeley College. Among those in attendance were Business Council of Westchester CEO Dr Marsha Gordon, Business Council president Steve Jones, Anthony Justic, partner at Maier, Markey, Justic, LLP, Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson, principal of Thompson and Bender Media Relations as well as many government officials and community leaders. Rubino outlined her plans for fundraising and future growth of the Y and also announced the appointment of community leader Anne Ring as The Y's new Director of Fund Development and Communications. The YMCA CNW is a multi-faceted operation that is one of the largest providers of childcare services in the county with more than 500 children a day in afterschool programs serving seven school districts. The Y branches provide day care, fitness and pool facilities, housing, summer camps, and fitness classes. Camp Combe located on 80 rustic acres in the town of Putnam Valley services over 550 children and teens each day during the summer months. Pictured above L to R. YMCA Director of Fund Development and Communications Anne Ring, Ralph Penny, President of YMCA Board of Governors, YMCA CEO/president Cindy Rubino.

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Obituaries

Legendary Folk Singer Pete Seeger Remembered for Activism

By Rick Pezzullo

Legendary folk singer/songwriter Pete Seeger, an environmental activist and founder of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, died January 27 at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. He was 94.

Together with his late wife Toshi, Seeger founded Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., and the Great Hudson River Revival, the annual music and environmental festival that takes place at Croton Point Park in Croton-on-Hudson every summer.

"Pete Seeger was a hero to millions who knew him or followed him while he lived," Riverkeeper Executive Director Paul Gallay wrote in a tribute to Seeger. "Pete will go on inspiring those who endeavor to heal us humans and our one lonely planet, long after we say our final goodbyes to the man himself."

Seeger and Hudson River Sloop Clearwater played an important role in the passage of laws to clean up the nation's waters. In 1972 Seeger and the Clearwater crew sailed the sloop to Washington, D.C. while Congress was debating the Clean Water Act. Seeger personally delivered a petition with



hundreds of thousands of signatures to Congress and then proceeded to hold a spontaneous concert in the halls of Congress. A few weeks later the Federal

Water Pollution Control Act was passed in 1972 over then President Richard Nixon's veto.

Seeger, who lived in Beacon for

many years, is regarded as an iconic American figure, and a pivotal person of the 1960s American folk music revival, playing a banjo bearing the words, "This Machine Surrounds Hate and Forces it to Surrender." Through his music, he reached multiple generations and strongly believed that if you can inspire people with music, you can change the world from the bottom up with grassroots activism. His example has become the template for the generations in speaking out about the state of affairs in the world and expressing them.

In 1996, Seeger was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as an early influence. Ten years later, Bruce Springsteen honored him with "We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions," a rollicking reinterpretation of songs sung by Seeger. Seeger always encouraged audiences to join in and participate in his performances. In January 2009, Seeger joined Springsteen, grandson Tao Rodriguez-Seeger, and the crowd in singing the Woody Guthrie song "This Land is Your Land" during the finale of President Barack Obama's inaugural concert in Washington D.C.

Raymond Bello

Raymond P. Bello, a resident of White Plains, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on January 29 at White Plains Hospital. He is survived by his wife Susan and children, Michael Bello, Teresa Bello Skroly, Thomas Bello, Barbara Bello Dann, Raymond Bello, Jr. and Rheanna Greenberg Bello. He had 16 grandchildren and two great grand children. Ray was the Executive Director of BEST Physical Therapy Associates in Pelham, where he specialized in ergonomics and helping injured workers return to work. He had four U.S. patents for devices to enable workers to work safely and without pain.

James Schaefer

James J. Schaefer, of White Plains, died

January 29. He was 90 years old. James was born in Rochester, March 3, 1923 along with his identical twin brother George. During World War II, he served as a pilot, flying B17 and B24 aircrafts, with the 485th Bomb Group, 15th Air Force in Italy. He graduated from the University of Rochester in 1949, and attended St. Johns School of Law. James married Norma in 1950.

James was involved in many volunteer activities. He coached Our Lady of Sorrows Church boys and girls recreational teams. As a committee member for the White Plains Dept. of Recreation and Parks Youth Sports he voted to include all youths in sports activities. He served as chairman for both the Rec. Department's Youth Baseball Executive Committee and

City Touchdown Club. He coached the Haviland Manor youth baseball team. In 1977, he received special awards for exceptional service and contribution from the White Plains Department of Recreation. He was a past president of the Haviland Manor Neighborhood Association.

In 1990, James retired after 38 years with Allstate Insurance Company. He and his wife Norma volunteered for pro golf tournaments at Westchester, Sleepy Hollow and Wykagyl County Clubs. As a volunteer at St. Agnes Hospital, he amassed over 5000 hours in transport until it closed. He switched to White Plains Hospital and accumulated another 2200 hours. Jim volunteered at the election polls as an inspector in White Plains Districts 1 and 14.

He is survived by his six children, Mari of Wayne, PA, James of San Diego, Hugh (Anne) of Arlington, VA, Michael of White Plains, Cecilia (Glenn) Berger of Ridgefield, CT and Patrick (Amy) of Huntington, NY. He also leaves behind six grandchildren, Kevin, Patrick, Matthew, Joseph, Kelly and John, many nieces and nephews.

Reva Epstein

Reva Mae Paul Epstein, passed peacefully on January 27. She is remembered as a tireless volunteer with over 80 years of public service as past Sisterhood Vice President and in other official capacities of the Westchester Reform Temple, Life member and former officer of Brandeis

University, Democratic Westchester Country Volunteer Chairwoman, Heathcote School Fun Day Chairwoman, founding fundraiser for Lincoln Center, countless causes including the Mount Sinai Medical Center, Make A Wish, and National Academy Reva Paul Prize. In the 1960s, after working as a stockbroker, she began creating sugar art.

Reva Mae is predeceased by her husband Seymour S. Epstein and survived by her two children Ellen and Paul.

Leonard Watson

Leonard Rene Watson, a lifelong resident of Greenburgh, died on January 27. He was 59 years old. He was the second of two children born to Mary H. Watson of White Plains and Robert O. Watson of Sandy Hook, Virginia. He attended the public schools of Greenburgh District #7.

During most of his adult life Leonard worked in the construction trades and had several companies serving the needs of the Greenburgh/White Plains residents. Leonard was a "Jack Of All Trades" and was always willing to lend a helping hand to friends and neighbors.

He is survived by his Mother, Mary; four children, Raron, Kenneth, LeShan and Amber; a brother, Gregory; two grandchildren, Za'Niyah and Hunter; and a special friend Shirleen Major, and many relatives and friends.

From the Harrison Mayor and Town Hall, February 3, 2014



Ron Belmont, Supervisor/
Mayor of Harrison

I am happy to report that the Westchester Arts Council's Arts Alive Project has awarded the Harrison Public Library a \$1,000 grant for "Discover Japan through Music."

According to Library Director Galina Chernykh, the Library will host an array of musical concerts and workshops for all ages. This is an excellent way to promote the exchange of cultural traditions. For more information, please contact the Library at 835-0324.

On a related note, the Harrison Public Library is offering a series of wonderful concerts in February. On Sunday, Feb. 16 at 2 p.m., NYC-based Finnish singer songwriter, Paual Jaakkola will sing traditional Finnish songs and on Sunday,

Feb. 23 at 2 p.m., pianist, MIKA, will play samba jazz, Brazilian music and bossa nova. I encourage all residents to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities.

The Department of Recreation is offering several February youth activities. Nerf Hockey, Mini Day-Camp (during the school break), Girls Volleyball Camp and Photoshop classes are available and are sure to be a big hit.

It's never too late to think of spring. Registration for the Harrison Little League (Girls Softball) and Harrison Babe Ruth League is underway. Registration deadline for Girls Softball is February 26th and the deadline for Babe Ruth is March 2nd. Late fees apply. For detailed program information and applications, please visit any Harrison Rec. Center or the Harrison website at www.harrisonpl.org.

Guest Column

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the success of the Harrison JV and Varsity Cheerleaders. The Varsity and JV squads made an impressive showing at Putnam Valley High School's cheerleading competition, on February 1st, with the Varsity squad taking 1st place and the Grand Championship. The Recreation Girls Team placed 3rd in their division. In addition, the Varsity squad recently qualified for a

UCA National competition taking place this month at Disney World, Orlando. Congratulations to the squads and wishing the Varsity team great success at the national meet.

In closing, I have recently received a notification from the office of John Banks, Vice President of Government Relations for Con Edison. The utility company is reminding consumers that they can spread their energy expenditures out, over

a 12 month period, in order to alleviate the impact of gas and electric supply costs. These costs dramatically increased, in January, as a result of the extremely cold temperatures affecting our region. Con Ed also recommends that customers take simple, trouble free energy-saving steps to reduce their bills and offers payment plans, and other options, to assist consumers in controlling their bills. For more information, visit their website at www.coned.com.

The next "Lunch with the Mayor" is on Friday, Feb. 7 and I will be at Cobblestone, located at 620 Anderson Hill Road in Purchase. On Friday, February 14th I will be at Aquario, located at 141 Lake Street in West Harrison and will be joined by Legislator Benjamin Boykin, a member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. I will be at these locations from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and look forward to meeting with residents and talking about issues facing our community.

Helping Boys Succeed With Common Core

By Edmond J. Dixon

By now it has become apparent to academics, administrators, parents and teachers that, in general, boys are underperforming in school, and it may get worse.

It will take some creativity to teach some elements of Common Core, the educational initiative set to be implemented throughout most of the United States, in a way that's conducive to how most boys best learn.

Common Core has been criticized by educators and other experts as demanding standards that are static, arbitrary and generally antithetical to creativity and innovation. Yet, initial results in Kentucky, the first state to use the program, have been positive. The state's graduation rate increased 6 percent from 2010 to 2013, and the percentage of college-ready students increased 20 percent.

"Any parent or teacher who wants a boy to be successful with Common Core must understand two crucial ideas: motivated

engagement and discretionary effort.

Because the new curriculum is designed to improve critical thinking, which requires a deep understanding of the material, boys must be both motivated and deeply engaged to learn. That's what it will take for them to independently put in the necessary hard work involved in learning – discretionary effort – without nagging.

Only by doing this will they be able to meet the new learning requirements; we are already seeing the negative consequences of not doing this with boys.

Two real-life examples reveal volumes about how the male brain works.

Boys need a worthy challenge: Both NBA greats Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, who have long since been friends, are always eager to talk about their former rival. Both say that they simply would not have had the same legendary career

without the rivalry; it made them better. When Johnson left the NBA, Bird said he just wasn't as interested in the game.

The male brain responds to a challenge it deems worthy. A student who daydreams during algebra class and appears lazy, may also pour attention and effort into mastering a skateboarding trick. Constructing a challenge for the male student will do wonders to engage his learning.

Boys crave legitimacy. Think about all the colleges in the United States. Now imagine trying to craft an NFL playoff-style system that fairly selects the No.1 college football team. Does it seem impossible? Aren't there too many teams?

The NCAA has been trying to figure out a system for establishing a legitimate No. 1 team for decades, and it's finally going to implement one next season. Whether or not it works, the effort put into such an endeavor has been considerable. Why so much time and energy for a game?

Because the male brain craves legitimacy; boys will only agree that something is meaningful or valuable if there is a valid process for establishing that value. In the classroom, helping boys understand why and how learning a concept, skill or calculation has value for them will go a long way toward motivating them to learn.

Edmond J. Dixon, Ph.D., is a pioneer in the field of cognitive-kinesthetics for learning and a human development specialist with more than 30 years of experience as a teacher, administrator, writer, researcher, and parent of boys. He is the founder of the KEEN Differentiated Learning Group, an organization dedicated to helping struggling learners, and the creator of KEEN 5X, a series of strategies for classroom engagement and learning that were have been used with more than 50,000 students and teachers. He has authored, "KEEN For Learning" and "Literacy Through Drama."

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**

The Pete Seeger Bridge Spanning the Hudson River is a Great Idea

Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner is to be complimented on his enthusiasm and commitment to name the new replacement bridge for the Tappan Zee Bridge after folk icon Pete Seeger.

The timing is almost prophetic, as Seeger's passing in 2014 nearly coincides with the beginning of work on the construction of the new bridge.

Putting vision aside, a bridge spans the distance from one place to another. In the case of the Tappan Zee Bridge, the sense of place that the bridge and Hudson River engenders is one of majesty at the foothills of the Catskill Mountains. The views are awe-inspiring at any time of day, during all weather conditions and in any season.

The Hudson River is one of the major assets of New York State and a place where local residents and visitors alike

can enjoy the natural environment, either along its shores or sailing upon its waters, or driving across it on a bridge.

No one is better known for loving this particular place of all places as much as Pete Seeger. The great work of his lifetime was spent in fighting for its preservation, in protecting the wildlife in both the waters of the river and along its banks. For people of the Hudson Valley Pete Seeger is known as the defender of the river. He chose to live here with us along its banks.

Pete Seeger is also famous around the world and naming a bridge after him above the water where he sailed his sloop the Clearwater makes that bridge an attraction, a place to come and see and spend time breathing in the beauty that surrounds.

There have been suggestions that the

bridge should be named for Veterans. They also have a right to a naming of importance. But a Veteran's bridge spanning the Hudson does not resonate with the same passion as the name Pete Seeger.

There have also been suggestions that the bridge be named for corporate sponsors such as Citicorp, Morgan Stanley or PepsiCo because they would sponsor the bridge and could reduce the toll expenses and upkeep for the people using the crossing.

There can be corporate sponsors and they can be acknowledged. But a name should be inspiring. It is a good idea that people be reminded of the environment because it is the place where you are and that place in the case of the Hudson River and its major bridge deserves something special as does its potential namesake.

Letters

Why Westchester Does Not Need Saint Francis

We taxpayers we should applaud and be grateful for Mr. Saland for sharing his advice on Westchester Medical Center's interest in purchasing Poughkeepsie-based St. Francis Hospital. Mr. Saland's analysis is on target without compromise. As a former resident of Dutchess County and former consultant retained by St. Francis 10 years ago, tasked to assess, identify, plan and estimate the cost of rebuilding the hospital's aged construction and facilities infrastructure, [I determined there were] many improvements required to pass Joint Commission accreditation. Years of mismanagement

and the abandonment of serious infrastructure preventive maintenance, will require large infusions of cash to make it a credible hospital; all to be paid by Westchester taxpayers.

It is also important to note, Saint Francis Hospital's inability to compete with Vassar Medical Center a few miles away, also in Poughkeepsie. Over the past few decades Vassar Medical Center has greatly expanded its campus and services, while Saint Francis Hospital experienced serious and steady decline.

Taxpayers should also be aware that the last major Medical Arts Building built over the past two decades is owned

by private developers who have long term leases with the hospital. In essence, for the most part Saint Francis Hospital is a Healthcare retail mall, renting space to private Healthcare developers and providers. We need to be wise and to look behind the façade. These long-term leases will also have to be picked up by Westchester County taxpayers.

Sadly, Saint Francis is in the intensive care unit of financial instability. Admitting it to the WMC's Emergency Medicine Department will only place it on life support to be paid by Westchester's taxpayers.

—Richard Cirulli, White Plains

STEM-themed Winter Recess Vacation Camp

The White Plains Youth Bureau After School Connection program will host a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) themed Vacation Camp during the Mid-Winter school vacation, which runs Tuesday, February 18 through Friday, February 21, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Church Street School. The vacation camp is open to all residents of White Plains in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. Students must register in advance.

Students will have the chance to

explore interests in all the areas of STEM and also take a STEM-themed field trip. The camp will also offer arts, sports and games to make for a full day of enrichment.

For additional information or to register, please call the After School Connection Program office at the Youth Bureau at 914-422-1378 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. or email Sherry Bannister at sbannister@whiteplainsny.gov.

Third Annual Brain Bee

Burke Rehabilitation Center is hosting the 3rd Annual Westchester County Brain Bee on February 27 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.

The contest is open to all high school students in Westchester County. The competition will be judged by a distinguished panel of neurologists and

the winner will go on to compete in the national Brain Bee tournament.

Students can prepare for the Local Brain Bee by studying the 2012 edition of Brain Facts, published by The Society for Neuroscience. This publication is available as a free download at SFN's homepage.

For additional information or to register, call 914-597-2237 or email jgoodman@burke.org.

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.



The Value of Video Games



By Dr. Jaime Fleckner Black

Over the past few decades numerous studies have investigated the negative consequences of gaming, including depression, violence, and addiction. Recently researchers have taken a closer look at past studies and are conducting new ones that indicate video games might actually improve learning, health, and social skills. Given that 97 percent of children and adolescents in the United States play video games for at least an hour per day, shouldn't we aim to understand potential benefits while also reducing the risks?

Contrary to the stereotype of gamers as loners, more than 70 percent of gamers actually play with a friend, and millions of people worldwide play virtually as part of a community. In these communities players must make quick social decisions about who to trust or reject. Players must cooperate in order to achieve goals, solve problems, handle frustration, and recover from disappointment quickly. Individuals who play together must also navigate interpersonal conflicts that arise when choosing a game or deciding where, when, and how to play. Although the majority of gaming occurs in a social setting, much of the past research is based on children and adolescents who play alone.

The research in general has been so

elusive in part because there are so many different types of video games. What the newest research is suggesting is that cooperative video games may encourage cooperation in the real world even if games are violent in nature. Strategic games that involve role-playing seem to improve problem-solving skills and school grades, according to one 2013 study. Another review of past studies found that shooter video games strengthened cognitive skills (e.g., spatial navigation and reasoning, memory, and perception) just as much as academic classes designed to foster these abilities.

When used appropriately, gaming offers emotional benefits. A number of studies have linked playing preferred video games with positive emotions, improved mood, and feelings of control and competency. Games like Angry Birds that are easily accessible and don't require

a big commitment can promote relaxation and reduce anxiety. Gamers often describe gaming as intrinsically rewarding.

Many adults worry about certain games because they expose children to sexual and aggressive themes. Parents need to use judgment to decide if their child is developmentally capable of grasping the content and separating games from reality. Whether or not certain games are allowed in your home,

however, chances are your child will be exposed to violent and sexual images elsewhere. Parents can use discussions about games (whether or not you own them) to increase awareness of morals and values. Find out why your child wants to play a certain game. Show interest. Don't shame children so they avoid coming to you for answers. Take the time to discuss the "adult" aspects of these games rather than avoiding them.

A lot of this boils down to common sense, it seems. If a child is friendless, neglected, and spends hours upon hours staring at a screen shooting virtual players at the expense of real, nurtured relationships, he will probably be maladjusted and more likely to make bad life decisions. But the video games themselves probably would not cause violence on their own. When people are scared they often cherry pick evidence to make their point. Yes, Adam Lanza played violent video games. But he was reportedly far more obsessed with playing Dance Revolution. Factors other than video games contributed to the unfortunate outcome at Sandy Hook Elementary.

Games can give children and adolescents a sense of connection and provide opportunities to practice teamwork. Games are even being devised that foster self-efficacy and help children with cancer adhere to treatment. Focusing on the enormous positive potential of video games will allow us to capitalize on what is already a cherished staple in our homes.

Dr. Jaime Black is a licensed psychologist practicing in Westchester and New York City. Jaime works with high-functioning individuals on the autism spectrum, doing psychotherapy, conducting evaluations,

Don't Let Your House Get Caught With its Pants Down!

While usually it is the function of buyers to order a home inspection once they decide to place an offer on a house, would you consider it outrageous if I were to suggest that a seller should order one even before the home is listed?

Would you think it even more extraordinary if I suggested that you order a home inspection even if you are not considering selling your home in the near future?

I thought about inspections recently when Matthew Albano of True View Home Inspections emailed me the design for a brochure he is planning. It encourages home sellers to beat buyers to the punch by engaging his services to inspect their homes in advance of listing.

Albano's note reminded me of that cautionary and amusing sign I found on the exit door of the men's room in that London theater that read, "Please inspect yourself before returning to your seat." Who else but the British would remind a gentleman to make sure that he wasn't walking around with his fly open?

It might seem like a trans-Atlantic stretch, but after a surprising experience I suffered with my own house, I want to place a sign on the door of every house for sale warning that it should be pre-inspected to ensure the owners are not caught with their fly open, or as in my own case, with their pants down.

Here's my story of woe and involves

how I first met Matt.

My wife and I had found buyers for our lovely 18th century home who had ordered the requisite inspection. Since I had completely restored the home and kept it in impeccable shape, I thought nothing of it.

When the inspector arrived, however, he avoided my glance for some reason. I decided to leave the premises to avoid apoplexy. When I returned, I was told by the buyer's agent that the deal was off. Apparently, the wife, a skittish type to start with, totally freaked when the inspector found one flaw with the house. Just one. A portion of the house's sill resting on the stone foundation had been compromised with dry rot.

Unfortunately, the inspector told her that the house was likely "sinking" as though, like the Titanic, it was about to plunge into the abyss. The wife, without so much as asking if this was something that could be fixed, scurried from the house like a rat leaving a ship, and we lost the sale.

Needless to say, I was turned off



By Bill Primavera

by this engineer's lack of communication skills in describing this defect of which I was totally unaware. He might have told her that it could be fixed, but he didn't. That's when I called my own engineer who had been highly recommended by another agent in my office. That happened to be Albano.

He had a much more agreeable manner when he arrived, assuring me that "my job is to find any problems, not to sugarcoat them, but to suggest ways they can be fixed. I've seen very few problems that are unfixable."

This is my guy, I thought! This is the kind of engineer that sellers should know. In my case, my vengeance comes

from telling my buyers which engineers best communicate problems and how to fix them, rather than those who feel they're doing their job if they kill the deal. I name names.

Bottom line: Albano recommended some contractors who could fix my problem with the sill. I did exactly that to assure myself that, indeed, my house is perfect. Albano returned and completed an engineering report, which I now have in my hot hands, ready to welcome any buyer with full confidence.

Here in a nutshell is the smart reason to do a pre-listing inspection of your own home before placing it on the market: It reassures prospective buyers that there is nothing to hide, that all systems have been checked and that you as a seller have maintained the house well. It also gives you a good position in the negotiating process to stand firm in the price point you want to achieve. To further enhance your standing, you might also want to purchase a home warranty protection program whose premium doesn't come due until closing.

If you're not planning to sell soon, you might still want to do a full home inspection. Who knows what quiet problems may be lurking undetected? Catch those things before they become bigger problems. It could be the best \$450 or so that you ever spent.

To reach Matt Albano for either a pre-listing or peace-of-mind inspection, call True View Home Inspections at 914-831-2187. Don't risk having your home caught with its pants down.

Bill Primavera is a Residential and Commercial Realtor® associated with Coldwell Banker, as well as a publicist and journalist who writes regularly as The Home Guru. For questions about home maintenance or to engage him to help you buy or sell a home, he can be emailed at Bill@TheHomeGuru.com or called directly at 914-522-2076.

WHITE PLAINS AFTER DARK

HAPPY HOUR

Beechmont Tavern – 3-7PM,
Weekdays ½ appetizer specials, drink specials, WINGS!

Black Bear Saloon – 4-7PM,
Weekdays All drink ½ off, \$5 appetizers

Bob Hyland's Sports Page Pub –
4-7PM, Weekdays \$1 off all drinks

City Limits – 9PM, Daily
\$4 wines and draft beers, \$7 cocktails,
25% off appetizers!

Brazen Fox – 4-8PM, Weekdays
\$4 drafts, \$5 martinis, \$5 cocktails, \$5
wines, \$15 samplers

Elements – 4-8PM, Daily
\$3 and \$4 drafts, \$5 wine and well
drinks, \$6 select martinis, \$8 mojitos

Executive Billiards – Happy Hour,
3-7PM, Mon-Thurs \$10 per hour per
table, \$3 beers

Lazy Boy Saloon – 4-7PM, Weekdays
Beer and drink discounts

Porter House – 12-8PM, Mon-Sat
\$3 and \$4 drafts, \$5 martinis and
cocktails, ½ off appetizers at the bar

Ron Black's Beer Hall – 4-8PM,
Weekdays \$4 and \$6 beers pints, \$5
wines, appetizer specials

Wicked Wolf Tavern – 4-7 PM,
Weekdays ½ off all drinks, \$5
appetizers

Vintage – 11AM-7PM
Live bands, \$4 drink specials

TUESDAY, February 4

The Brazen Fox
10-11PM Bonus Night

Elements Jazz Tuesdays – Michael
Friedman Quartet; 6:30-9:30PM

Lazy Lounge Bar Trivia – 9PM
Ron Black's Beer Hall
Battle of the Brains Trivia – 8PM \$100
for the winner!

Wicked Wolf Tavern Tijuana Tuesdays
\$2 Coronas, \$2 Tequila Shots, \$2 Tacos

WEDNESDAY, February 5

Black Bear Saloon Beat the Clock
Wednesdays \$2 domestic drafts
starting at 7PM, prices go up 50 cents
every half hour, \$5 fishbowls



Bob Hyland's Sports Page Pub

Trivia Night – 7:30PM sign up, 8PM
start

Brazen Fox Ladies Night 5-11PM. A
portion of all proceeds is donated to
the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Dunne's Pub Music Seisun – 7:30-
10:30PM Traditional Irish music with
Brian Conway and friends!

Executive Billiards Ladies' Night
\$10 Ladies play all night, \$4 tropical
ball drinks

Lazy Lounge JAM SESSION 9PM-
1AM Featuring: Curtis Winchester,
Gil Parris & Special Guests! Great
Beer, Wine and Food Specials all night!

Ron Black's Beer Hall
Beer-BQ 4– 10PM; featuring special
beer of the night.

Wicked Wolf Tavern
Acoustic Wednesdays featuring Dan
Barrios 9PM

Vintage Team Trivia – 7:30PM with
Quiz Master Dan Doherty



THURSDAY, February 6

Black Bear Saloon Big Ass Beer
Thursdays \$10 1-liter boot for all
drafts, \$5 refills

Brazen Fox Suds for Scrubs – 9PM
Show your Medical ID for \$5 drafts!

Dunne's Pub Oktoberfest every third
Thursday Ron Black's Beer Hall
DJ Bingo 7:30PM

Vintage White Plains Idol Karaoke
8PM to Midnight

FRIDAY, February 7

Black Bear Candy Land, 9 PM to close

The Brazen Fox DJ party After 11 PM

Lazy Boy Saloon BIG SALAD:
Featuring Christine Tambakis from
Tangled Vine!

Porter House Live DJ – 11PM

SATURDAY, February 8

The Brazen Fox DJ Party After 11 PM

Lazy Lounge Live DJ!

Porter House Live DJ – 11PM

Know the perfect place to go for a night out this week? Submit event to pcasey@theexaminernews.com

Barbershop Chorus Gives New Option for Valentine's Day Gift

By Martin Wilbur

If you don't know what to get that special someone for Valentine's Day, the Westchester Chordsmen have an idea for you.

Quartets from the barbershop chorus will make the rounds to homes, offices, hospitals and businesses throughout Westchester and Putnam counties on Thursday, Feb. 13 and Friday, Feb. 14 to surprise recipients with singing valentines.

For a price starting at \$60, a spouse or significant other can be serenaded with two love songs, a rose and a valentine's card that can be redeemed for two tickets to the Westchester Chordsmen's May concert in White Plains. Reservations can be made by phone or online but must be completed before this Sunday, Feb. 9.

Howard Sponseller, who has been a member of the Chordsmen and has been part of the singing valentines for more than a decade, said the satisfaction of seeing someone completely surprised



Looking to give your spouse or sweetheart more than another box of chocolate or another humdrum dinner out, the Westchester Chordsmen can sing to your honey for Valentine's Day.

or overcome with emotion has been a fun and rewarding part of the annual tradition. And those who will receive the singing valentines are truly surprised,

especially when the singers show up in tuxedos. The recipients are not given a clue beforehand, Sponseller said.

"It's incredible to watch the expression on people's faces when we sing to them," he said.

The Westchester Chordsmen, which formed in 1953, has been offering singing valentines for more than 20 years. For this year, about a dozen quartets have formed from the membership of the roughly 60-member chorus.

Those making the reservations can choose from several standard love songs, including "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," "Love Me Tender" and "I Don't Mind Being Alone (When I'm Alone With You)."

Reservations for the \$60 basic package is for one of three four-hour windows on either day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 to 5 p.m. or 5 to 9 p.m. The two \$90 packages include one rose but arrival within a one-hour window or a dozen roses within a four-hour timeframe. For \$120,

sweethearts can get the dozen roses and the guaranteed one-hour window. All options include the concert, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 17.

"We'll go wherever romance abounds," Sponseller said.

In his years participating in the singing valentines, Sponseller said the most unusual venue he's gone to was an auto repair shop. Another time, his group had consecutive reservations at a nursing home when a husband and wife called to have the quartet sing to the other--and neither one knew what their spouse had planned.

Sponseller said they have kept the song options pretty basic since the chorus regularly practices a handful of standards. That way, in case one member of a quartet is unavailable a substitute member can be seamlessly included.

For reservations or more information, call 914-713-4311 or visit www.chordsmen.org/singing-valentines.



Happenings



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

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Tuesdays at Dorry's. The Jewish Ghetto of Venice: A Study in Survival and Resistance. On March 29, 1516, the Jews of Venice were forced to move to an area of the city that came to be called the Ghetto, the first time that term was used for a neighborhood in which an urban minority population was segregated from the dominant culture. The gates were demolished by French troops under Napoleon in June, 1797. During the almost 300 years of its existence, the Ghetto reflected the fortunes and decline of the Venetian Republic, defined the culture of Italian Jewry and forged a legacy of survival and resistance. Anne D'Orazio's talk will highlight the events that led to the establishment of the Ghetto, the nature of life within the Ghetto and the forces that contributed to the liberation of the Ghetto's population at the end of the eighteenth century. Anne D'Orazio, who teaches Constitutional History and International Law at Westchester Community College, attends Dorry's and shares with us her broad range of knowledge and interests. Everyone is invited to join this weekly table talk at 6 to 7 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains. Call 914-682-0005 for more information.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Noonday Getaway Concert. Pianist Sergei Kvitko charmed our Downtown Music audience last season with his iconic rendition of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition". He returns, with narrator Ken Beachler, for a performance of Claude Debussy's The Toy Box and Francis Poulenc's The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant. Great fun for all ages. 12:10 p.m. Downtown Music at Grace, Grace Episcopal Church, 33 Church Street (Main Street at Mamaroneck Avenue), White Plains. Admission is free.

The American Civil War. Men of Color, To Arms! The United States Colored Troops. The service of the Men of African Descent, who Lincoln credited with turning the tide of the war, presented by The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in association with The White Plains Historical Society. Open to the public; 7:30 p.m. at The Purdy House: 60 Park Ave., White Plains. For further information contact: 914-949-4679 or Program@CivilWarNY150.org.

CivilWarNY150.org.

New Media Lecture Series. Zach Gage; 6:30 p.m. Neuberger Museum of Art at SUNY Purchase, Harrison, New York.

Thursday, Feb. 6

Pedal-Off Reception. 2014 CycleAbility Challenge reception at Travelers Rest Restaurant, Route 100, Ossining; 6:30 p.m. The Challenge takes place May 30 through June 1, 2014. It is a 3-day, 200-mile bike tour from Patterson, NY to Vermont. Proceeds from the Tour benefit individuals with disabilities served by Special Olympics New York-Hudson Valley Region and South East Consortium for Special Services, Inc. Call 845-765-2497 or email tgilli@nyso.org for ride information.

Friday, Feb. 7

Parent/Child Valentine's Dance. Sponsored by Greenburgh Dept. of Parks & recreation for children in grades K through 5. 7 to 9 p.m. at Anthony F. Veteran park, 11 Olympic Lane, Ardsley Multipurpose Center. Must pre-register to attend. Admission \$5/person for advanced registration. \$10/person day of the event. Snow date Saturday, Feb. 8. Light refreshments will be provided. Call 914-693-8985 Ext. 116 for more information and to register.

Saturday, Feb. 8

Teatown's Hudson River Eaglefest. Teatown Lake Reservation celebrates the return of the eagle to the lower Hudson Valley. Come for a full day of activities to celebrate our national symbol. Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson. 10 a.m. Pre-sale tickets: Adults (14 years old and up): \$10. Children (5 to 13 years old): \$8. Children (four years old and under): Free. Day of event: Adults (14 years old and up): \$15. Children (5 to 13 years old): \$10. Children (four years old and under): Free. Info, a free schedule of events and pre-sale tickets: 914-762-2912 ext. 110 or visit www.teatown.org.

Sunday, Feb. 9

Intergenerational Klezmer Band. The Westchester Klezmer Program's Intergenerational Band will perform at the Community Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains at 2 p.m. The origin of the group began with nine-year-old fraternal twins wanting to have a different kind of music at their Bar Mitzvah when their dad suggested learning klezmer (traditional Jewish dance music). They then gathered friends and hired a klezmer music teacher, Lisa Meyer, a famous klezmer violinist and became known as "KlezKids" and went on to perform in nursing homes as part

of their Bar Mitzvah project. In 2001 well-known family music teacher Kenny Green became their director and in two years the group grew to 16 youths and four adult musicians. By 2005 the group was incorporated as the not for profit corporation The Westchester Klezmer Program composed of multiple bands with over 50 musicians performing community service at various venues. The Program seeks to give hands-on experience for beginners as well as accomplished performers in all age groups. The Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism is sponsoring this event as part of its ongoing series of outreach programs for non affiliate Jewish and non Jewish members of the Westchester community. Although there is no charge for admission, a suggested donation of \$10 would be welcomed. For more information visit www.wchj.org.

Brett Band for Kids. YWCA Family Fun Day 3 to 5 p.m. features Valentine's Day crafts, carnival games, raffle, bake sale and a performance by the Brett Band at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10. YWCA White Plains and Central Westchester, 515 North Street, White Plains. To get tickets, stop by the YWCA or contact the Events Office at events@ywcapcw.org.

"Baskets & Beyond." The Pound Ridge Historical Society will host the Westchester Area Basketmakers Guild for another exhibit and sale. The guild will exhibit baskets and other traditional and contemporary crafts including quilts, penny rugs, handspun yarn, hooked rugs, note cards, jewelry and woven goods. There will also be demonstrations of basket weaving and spinning. Pound Ridge Museum, 255 Westchester Ave., Pound Ridge. 12 to 3 p.m. Free admission. Info: 914-764-4333 or email info@poundridgehistorical.org.

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.

Finding and Feeding Winter Birds. Learn what birds wintering in our area like to eat and where they find shelter. The walk includes a visit to the Bird of Prey exhibit and busy bird feeders, as well as a search for more elusive feathered friends. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99

Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Included with museum admission. Members: Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"Memento" Opening Reception.

This art exhibit draws from the Christian tradition of the memento mori, an artistic or symbolic reminder of the inevitability of death. Featuring depictions of memento mori, which emphasize Heaven, Hell and salvation of the soul in the afterlife. The Castle Gallery at the College of New Rochelle, 29 Castle Place, New Rochelle. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Exhibit runs through March 30. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 12 to 4 p.m. Info: 914-654-5423 or www.cnr.edu/cg.

"Brother Sun, Sister Moon." Director Franco Zeffirelli depicts the life of Francis of Assisi. A brief discussion will follow. Presented by Westchester Community College's Il Club Italiano. Westchester Community College's Classroom Building, Room 100, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-6790.

Wednesday, Feb. 12

"Dad's in Heaven With Nixon." A special one-night screening of this film by Tom Murray, whose brother Chris suffered brain damage at birth and was subsequently diagnosed as autistic. As their mother unites the family to maximize Chris' potential, his father, a charismatic entrepreneur with issues of his own, refuses to participate. Followed by a Q&A with autism experts and a reception. Presented in Partnership with Pleasantville SEPTA and New York Collaborates for Autism. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$7. Non-members: \$12. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org. or www.pvillesepta.com.

Garbage to Black Gold: Food Waste Composting. Why Not in Westchester? They're doing it in San Francisco, Portland and Seattle—families putting their kitchen food waste out with their recycling and trash for municipal pick-up. What was garbage is turned into valuable compost rather than land-filled or incinerated. Can this be done in Westchester? Plans for a municipal food waste composting pilot are waiting to be implemented. Find out how it would work and how to support this initiative. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Refreshments by Sierra Club at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Snow date: Feb. 13. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.



The Titanic Sets Sail on Stage at Westchester Broadway Theatre

By Christine DiTola

Come aboard the "Titanic" at The Westchester Broadway Theatre. This new and more intimate version of the 1997 Tony Award Winning Musical has set sail on the WBT stage.

Based on the true story of the great ship's maiden voyage in 1912, the show takes us from her departure in Southampton, England to sinking in the Atlantic after striking an iceberg. This chronicle follows several real-life passengers and crew, as well as fictional characters representative of the era.

In its first incarnation, the musical won five Tony Awards, including Best Book (Peter Stone) and Best Score (Maury Yeston). It had what was at the time a record-setting 10 million dollar budget. The original show, set on a tilting stage with a tri-level ship and 40+ actors, left much less to the imagination.

Hard-pressed to keep the show alive in regional theatre because of the expense involved, this edition of "Titanic" was developed. It has stripped away all the bells and whistles, paring the show down to its essential core – it's not about the ship; it's about the people on it.

A deceptively simple first act provides a commentary on the rigid social class system of turn of the century British culture. We see the 1st class enjoying the lavish privileges the ship provides, the 2nd class vying for position and desperate to hobnob with the upper crust and the 3rd class relegated to the lower levels, longing for a better life and opportunity



The Cast of "Titanic" at Westchester Broadway Theatre.

JOHN VECCHIOLLA PHOTOS

in America. Everything is societally status quo. Until the iceberg...

Then BANG, Act 2 begins and everything is changed in an instant. The audience is taken on an emotional journey, watching the characters make life and death decisions. Who stays? Who goes? I found myself constantly asking: "What would I have done in this situation? Would I have been given a choice?"

These seemingly simple characters were caught unawares as they romanticized this new technology and the progress it brought to their lives. Suddenly, they are faced with watching the destruction of all that they relied on as truth, the shattering of seeming invincibility. For the survivors, hopes and dreams for their futures are forever changed.

The Westchester Broadway Theatre has unquestionably captured the mood of

the musical without trying to exploit the spectacle. Beautiful moonlit nights under breathtaking stars and simple projections guide us to a personal understanding of what it must have felt like to sail on the Titanic

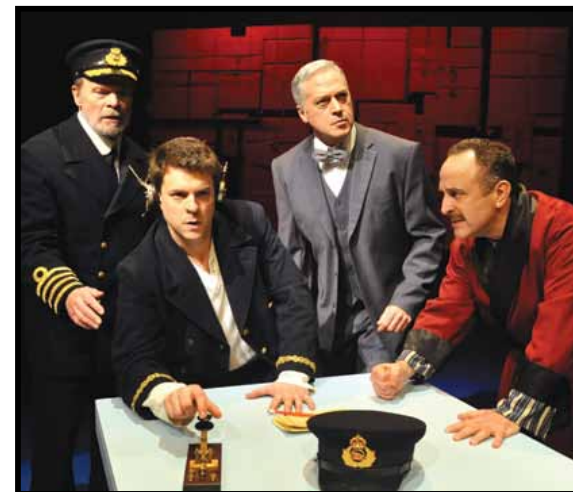
This smaller, yet equally effective version, uses the eyes and emotional response of the actor to convey the grandness of the Titanic. To see the ship, the actors look directly into the audience, and through their minds' eye the magnificence of the Titanic emerges.

A series of plain white boards are arranged as the backdrop, onto which are projected images of the ship, dates, timelines from the Captain's

log and heart-wrenching photos of the passengers on board the Titanic. These depictions create a powerful reality for the audience.

This is a true ensemble piece; the actors' voices soar through the air with masterful skill. Singling out one or a few of the performers would be a disservice to the whole of this precisely meshed unit. Director Don Stephenson has assembled a well-crafted cast and uses it efficiently to create this moving depiction of a moment in history.

"Titanic" runs through February 23rd. For tickets and information visit www.broadwaytheatre.com or call 914-592-2222.



L to r: The telegraph quartet. William Parry (as Captain Smith), Jeremy Ellison Gladstone (as Harold Bride), Tom Hewitt (as Thomas Andrews) and Adam Heller (as J Bruce Ismay).

Teatown's 10th Annual Hudson River EagleFest This Weekend

For the past 10 years, Teatown Lake Reservation has celebrated the return of the eagle to the lower Hudson Valley with a festival known as Teatown's Hudson River EagleFest. The event began as a small, but enthusiastic gathering of about 300 attendees in 2005 when it was first held on Teatown's property.

Teatown's 10th Annual Hudson River EagleFest, a favorite winter event in the region, will be held this Saturday, Feb. 8 at Croton Point Park, which can accommodate 5,000 attendees for a full day of activities to celebrate our national symbol. Programs are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

Ten additional eagle viewing sites will be hosted by collaborating environmental organizations along the Hudson River. The newest location is at Rockwood Hall in Sleepy Hollow.

Amazing live raptor shows are always a fan favorite and will be held throughout the day. Additional activities range from guided and independent eagle viewing, bus tours, storytelling, a tent brimming with children's programs and activities, bird walks and displays from 30 area organizations. Entertainment and educational shows take place all day long



in The Eagle Theatre and Eaglet Stage under much-appreciated heated tents.

Food for purchase will be provided by the Wobble Café.

This year, Teatown is selling general admission tickets which will allow entrance to all of the tents and to take advantage of all of the day's activities for

one price. Pre-sale tickets are \$10 for adults (14 and up), \$8 for children (5-13) and free for children 4 and under. Tickets sold at the venue on the day of the event will cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for children and free for children 4 and under.

Everyone is encouraged to arrive early to the bird shows in the Eagle Theatre as seating will be on a first-come-first-served basis. To purchase pre-sale general admission tickets, visit www.teatown.org. A general admission ticket allows you to attend as many shows in the Eagle Theatre/Eaglet Stage as you want (as long as there are available seats). Purchase bus tour tickets by calling the Teatown office at 914-762-2912 ext. 110. Tickets for the bus

tours (for age 14 and up) are \$25 each and often sell out.

Eagle Viewing Sites

Guests can enjoy eagle viewing locations and activities along the Hudson River at no additional charge. Each is staffed by eagle experts with spotting scopes. When

it's time to warm up, attendees can take a break in the heated tents and buildings and enjoy hot cocoa at the following sites:

Trailside Museum and Zoo, Bear Mountain State Park

Bear Mountain State Park, Bear Mountain

Boscobel House and Gardens, Garrison

Croton Boat Ramp at Croton-Harmon Train Station

New Croton Dam, Cortlandt George's Island Park, Montrose Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center, Sleepy Hollow

Riverfront Green Park, Peekskill Rockwood Hall, Sleepy Hollow Steamboat Dock Park, Verplanck

Parking is free and available in the park. Overflow parking is available in the Village of Croton, lot A. Shuttle buses will bring guests from the outlying lots and the Croton Harmon Train Station to Eagle Headquarters throughout the day.

In the event of severe weather, the alternate date for EagleFest will be Sunday, Feb. 9. Please check Teatown's website, www.teatown.org, for program details and weather updates, or call 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

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LIFEGUARD FDR STATE PARK IN YORKTOWN is now accepting applications for summer lifeguards. Must have current certifications in Red Cross Waterfront Lifeguard, FA, CPR, AED, must pass the NY State Parks LG Exam. Must be at least 16 years old & able to work full/part-time. \$15.48/hr. Apply in person.

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.....WHITE PLAINS EXAMINER SPORTS.....

Huskies Continue to Roll in 59-56 Win Over Palisade Prep

By Skip Pearlman

The Harrison High boys' basketball team continued its strong play Friday night with a 59-56 win over a strong Palisade Prep team in non-league action at Harrison High School.



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS

Harrison's Zac Evans squeezes between two defenders with an athletic move Friday night.

In a game that was close all the way, it was a 20-13 third period advantage that gave the Huskies – who have now won 13 of their 14 games – a little breathing room.

"Our defense had been okay in the first half," Huskies coach Gary Chiarella explained of his strategy coming out of the locker room. "But we were trying to spread the floor a little more (in the third period), open up the middle. It created a lot of opportunities and we hit four three's."

And down the stretch Harrison did what it had to do.

With the game tied at 46-46 with under 5:00 to play, the Huskies went on a 7-0 run go up 53-46 and take control. The Phoenix (13-3) sliced the deficit to two (58-56) in the final minute, but Matt Stein's free throw with four seconds provided the final margin. Isaiah Ward (who led the Phoenix with 18) had a chance to tie it for PP at the buzzer, but his three-pointer was no good.

"That was a good game, and they're a very good, athletic team," Chiarella said. "And Isaiah Ward is one of the best players

in the section, so that was a good win. We had a week off, and we were a little slow. But our defense kept us in it. We weren't shooting great, but our defense has been strong."

Chiarella said defense has been the team's rallying point, and that the team's defensive ability and unselfish attitude have been keys to the team's strong start.

"Our defense has been our main strength," the coach said. "We're able to put five players on the court who can shoot, score, shoot three's, play defense. You can't key on one guy. Every night it's a different guy doing it. That's been the best part of it."

Friday night it was senior guard and captain Coby Lefkowitz who led the Huskies with 17 points, 10 rebounds, two assists and a pair of steals.

Senior captain Matt Stein added 14 points, including three three-pointers, senior captain and point guard Nick Esposito had 11 points,

six rebounds, five assists and two steals, and sophomore Zac Evans tossed in eight points and grabbed eight boards.

"Lefkowitz had his best all-around game, without a doubt," Chiarella said. "He had steals, blocks, drew a charge, did a little of everything. And we needed it. Stein played a good game for us, and Trent Lefkowitz gave us some nice minutes off the bench with his defense. Justin Stagg came in off the bench and hit two three's for us. That gave us a nice spark, and he's been doing that all year. Joe Nannariello (10 rebounds, three points) has also been solid for us."

"The kids support each other, there's no selfishness," he added.



Huskies senior guard Nick Esposito goes to the basket in win Friday night at home.



Joe Nannariello of Harrison puts up a shot in win Friday night. Nannariello snagged 10 rebounds for the Huskies.

"They work together, they practice together. This team has been the best in that area – they're all in it together."

The coach added that while the Huskies are well aware of the streak they have going record-wise, they aren't taking anything for granted, because they've been down



Harrison's Coby Lefkowitz had 17 points and 10 rebounds in a win over Palisade Prep Friday night.

this road before.

"We try to stay focused on the next game," Chiarella said when asked about the shiny record. "No, we didn't see 13-1 coming, but we've had the good record in the past, then faded. This year we're not fading."

Harrison was staring at a big week to close out regular-season play. The Huskies (who are tied with Fox Lane for first in the league) were set to host Greeley Tuesday at 6:15 p.m., and Harrison plays in the Dick McDonald Tournament, starting with a 6:15 p.m. game Thursday at Fox Lane. That game could determine the league champion. The tournament championship game will be at Woodlands HS Saturday at 5 p.m. The consolation game is set for 1 p.m.

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.....WHITE PLAINS EXAMINER SPORTS.....

Falcons Run Out of Gas in Fourth, Fall to Lions, 64-49

By Skip Pearlman

The Woodlands High School girl's basketball team stayed with Bishop Loughlin in an intense and physical matchup Friday night in Hartsdale, but it was the Lions who prevailed, out-lasting the host down the stretch to claim a 64-49 victory.

In a high-energy game that was close most of the way, the Lions (9-11) led 12-9 after one, 30-24 at the break, and 46-42 at the end of three quarters.

But Woodlands had to sit two of its best players for stretches during the final eight minutes, and the result was an 18-7 run by Bishop Loughlin that sealed the win for the Brooklyn squad.

The game was part of the Coaches vs. Cancer Showcase, and Woodlands fell to 6-9 overall with the loss.

Despite the setback, Falcons coach Tyron Postell saw positives.

"I thought we played great," Postell said. "Our defense was pretty tough. Everybody was defending, touching the ball, boxing out, doing a lot of things we haven't been doing. So I think the girls took a lot from the loss. We started doing a lot of good things."

"In the fourth quarter two of our best players were out for a time," Postell added. "Teisha Hyman landed awkwardly on her knee, and sat a bit, and Imani Tilford was cramping up. We were kind of out of firepower, and Bishop Loughlin took advantage. But it was a great effort by both teams."

Tilford, a senior guard, led Woodlands with 19 points, seven rebounds, six assists and a pair of steals. Hyman, a seventh grader, added 15 points, five assists and four steals, and freshman guard Jazmyn Michaux had nine points, four rebounds



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTOS

Imani Tilford led the Falcons with 19 points in a home loss Friday night.

and three steals.

"Jazmyn handled transition well," Postell said. "And she's a defensive juggernaut. She also had 50 points on the JV (earlier this season), so I pulled her up. Tilford had a nice game for us, we go where she takes us. And Hyman also had a nice game. And Jayda Yizar and Raynesia McShaw had 16 rebounds between them."



Seventh-grade point guard Teisha Hyman of Woodlands drives to the basket Friday night at home.



Woodlands' Sahiyaa Harrison (22) takes a hand in the face from BL's Oshunremi Iwelu (22).

They both did a nice job."

Postell sees his young team heading in the right direction.

"We're very young, we have a lot of girls who are first-year players," the coach said. "So I see a lot of growth, and I think we'll be there when it counts."

Kasey Brown led the Lions with 17 points, Lynette Taitt added 13 and Kiana Clark had 11.

Woodlands was scheduled to play in the Dapper McDonald Classic this weekend. The Falcons play Port Chester Thursday in the first round, and Saturday's action includes the boys championship game at 5 p.m., and the girls championship game at 3 p.m. at Woodlands HS. Girls consy is at 3 p.m., boys consy is set for 1 p.m.

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.....WHITE PLAINS EXAMINER SPORTS.....

Tigers Continue Losing Streak in Mt. Vernon, 54-50

By Albert Coqueran

The White Plains High School boys' basketball team's 12-2 record this season is impressive, especially after finishing with an 8-12 record last season.

However, a blemish that still remains on the Tigers basketball program is that they have not beaten Mt. Vernon High School, in Mt. Vernon since 1995. Furthermore, the last time the Tigers beat Mt. Vernon in any gym, was on February 1, 2010, when they won at home during the regular season.

With the addition of freshman Jordan Tucker and standout guard Mike DeMello's growth in AA basketball, combined with the maturing of senior forwards Justin Tapper and Marshon Morris; this seemed to be the year that the Tigers would notch another win against the Knights.

However, with famed Mt. Vernon legend Rudy Hackett's jersey hanging retired on the gym wall, his nephew senior Tyger Hackett sunk four straight foul shots in the last 12 seconds of the game and the Knights beat the Tigers, 54-50, in a slugfest in the Mt. Vernon Gym.

Hackett also made a crucial three-point shot at 3:57 of the fourth quarter to put the Knights ahead, 49-42, just as the Tigers



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS
Mt. Vernon Head Coach Bob Cimmino (right) greets White Plains forward Justin Tapper, during introductions of the Tigers versus Knights game on Friday. Tapper injured his knee two days prior but tough it out and played to score eight points and grab 13 rebounds.



Tigers freshman Jordan Tucker (right) makes a move on two Knights defenders, who collapse on defense to double team him. Tucker had 15 points and seven rebounds in the Tigers, 54-50, loss at Mt. Vernon.

had closed the gap to 46-42. "He (Hackett) had another huge three-point shot in the New Rochelle game this week; so he is stepping up, he is seizing his opportunity and helping," stated Mt. Vernon Head Coach Bob Cimmino.

Ironically, this game for Mt. Vernon began quite similar to how their first meeting this season did for White Plains, when the Tigers lost, 47-39, on January 8.

Knights star forward Brandon Martin had to sit the first half, after picking up two quick fouls in the first 90 seconds of the game. Comparably, on January 8,

DeMello, the Tigers leading scorer, picked up two fouls in the first two minutes of the game and had to sit the first half.

Martin ended the game with a mere four points after playing only six minutes in the game. He had 15 points in the Knights vs. Tigers first contest this season.

The Tigers played Mt. Vernon tough, while ending the first quarter of a defensive battle leading 10-7 and winning at halftime, 27-24. Tucker dominated the first half with 13 points, including three shots from behind the arc. But the freshman could only manage two points in the second half. "As soon as I came

out in the second half, I noticed they put Akeem (Krubally) on me with a box-and-one to follow me everywhere," stated Tucker, who finished the game with 15 points and seven rebounds.

Despite outscoring the Knights 17-13, in the fourth quarter, the Tigers mustered only six points in the third quarter against the Knights 17 points, which was the difference in the game. "We started to get away from what we had success with in the first half," said DeMello. "We executed

our game-plan perfectly in the first half and then it kind of fell apart," commented DeMello, who had a game-high 18 points.

White Plains fought to the very last second of the game but the Knights wielded their swords and held off the charging Tigers. DeMello hit a three-point shot with 6.4 seconds left on the clock to bring the score to 52-50.

With 3.7 left in the game there was a controversial foul call on Tigers Morris that appeared to be a jump ball. Hackett made both free throws and sealed the game for the Knights, 54-50. Before Hackett shot the free throws, the Tigers bench was screaming for more time to be put back on the clock concerning the foul. Nevertheless, the referees did not adhere to the fervent request from the Tigers bench.

Hackett scored nine points in the game but none more important than his four free throws in the last 12 seconds. Knights Akeem Krubally had a team-high 12 points and Marques Henry had 11 points.

Tapper who was ailing with a bruised knee scored eight points for the Tigers, including shooting six of eight from the foul line and grabbing 13 rebounds. "He gutted it out with a bad knee and fought through it. There was no way he was not going to play today. I was concerned for his health but he battled," said Mayfield.

The White Plains against Mt. Vernon varsity was the feature game as part of the Knights Coaches vs. Cancer Super Classic. The White Plains Junior Varsity led by Head Coach Davon Wilson loss to the Mt. Vernon JV, 66-48, in the first game. Tuckahoe High School beat Edgemont, 62-55, in the third game, on Friday, at Mt. Vernon High School.



No matter what Tigers Head Coach Spencer Mayfield (center) drew-up during timeouts; it was just not enough to beat the Knights for the first time in Mt. Vernon since 1995. The Tigers were defeated by the Knights, 54-50, on Friday, Jan. 31.

.....WHITE PLAINS EXAMINER SPORTS.....

Stepinac Lineman Brian Harris Honored with Golden Dozen Award

By Albert Coqueran

On Thursday, Jan. 30, Stepinac High School senior Brian Harris was honored as a Golden Dozen Scholar-Athlete, at the 41st Annual Golden Dozen Awards Banquet, at the Westchester Country Club.

Harris was a Captain who played center and defensive tackle on the Crusaders Football team. He was recognized as one of the top 12 scholar-athletes by the Westchester Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, distinguished as the "Golden Dozen." Mike Amicucci from Harrison High School was also named as a Golden Dozen honoree.

However, besides the top 12 honorees, there was a Second Team of 24 student-athletes chosen, which included seniors Cameron Crabbe and Chris Jordan from White Plains High School and Kourtney



[L-r] Stepinac Head Football Coach Mike O'Donnell, Golden Dozen Award recipient lineman Brian Harris and Assistant Coach Andy Martinez, at the Golden Dozen Awards ceremony, at the Westchester Country Club.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPINAC ATHLETICS

Blanding from Woodlands High School.

Harris was also awarded the Christopher Mello Scholarship, which was presented to him by Mello's father Doug Mello, at the Golden Dozen Awards ceremony on Thursday.

The scholarship is in memory of Chris Mello, who was a former Rye High School football player and Golden Dozen recipient. Mello died at the young age of 25 years aboard American Airlines Flight 11, which was the first plane to hit the World Trade Center, on September 11, 2001.

Harris was named the CHSFL Lineman of the Year and was selected to the All CHSFL, All County and All New York State teams, in 2013. He is being recruited by Trinity College, Catholic University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Assumption College.

Seattle Seahawks Marching Band Visit Greenburgh School

Students at Greenburgh's NY School for the Deaf were treated to pre-Super Bowl entertainment Friday by 10 members of the Seattle Seahawks' marching "Blue Thunder."

Town Supervisor Paul Feiner said he's inspired every time he visits the school, also known as Fanwood, on Knollwood Road. But he called this visit "an amazing experience."

Even though the students can't hear

or are very hard of hearing, they reacted positively to the drummers' vibrations, visuals and rhythms.

The publicity tour included other school visits prior to Sunday's game at MetLife Stadium. Seahawk running back Derrick Coleman is the first legally deaf offensive player in the NFL and the first deaf man to play in the Super Bowl.

— Jon Craig

Tigers Lukas Repetti Accepts Four-Year Scholarship to University of Albany



By Albert Coqueran

White Plains High School tight-end, defensive end and punter Lukas Repetti of the Tigers football team has accepted a four-year athletic scholarship to attend the University of Albany.

Repetti was an outstanding player on both sides of the ball for the Tigers football team last season, as they captured their first Section 1 Championship since 1979.

On offense, the Tigers tight-end caught 14 passes for 235 yards and one touchdown. At the defensive end position, Repetti made over 60 tackles and had seven sacks, while being named the Defensive MVP of White Plains Football Team last season. He also

punted 29 times and averaged 34 yards per kick.

"I am very thankful for the scholarship, it helps my family," stated Repetti. "I am really excited about the University of Albany. I love the school and I am excited to be a Great Dane," he added.

Repetti was selected as the "Outstanding Lineman" of the Section 1 Football Championship game against North Rockland. Repetti was also named to the 2013 All-League Team and distinguished as the Co-Lineman of the Year in AA League 2. He was also selected to the 2013 All Section Team, Journal News First Team and New York State Third Team. Repetti is also an ace pitcher on the Tigers Baseball Team.

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