



Area State Legislators React to Silver Indictment

By David Propper and Martin Wilbur

Last Wednesday, New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver was on stage and earning praise from Gov. Andrew Cuomo during the unveiling of Cuomo's 2015 Opportunity Agenda.

The following day, Silver was handcuffed and in the custody of federal authorities, arrested amid corruption charges just as the Assembly's legislative session and budget negotiations were set to get underway.

Silver, a Manhattan Democrat, was accused of receiving more than \$4 million in kickbacks in exchange for using his political power to influence real estate developers to use his law firm, part of a five-count indictment.

The longtime lawmaker and political power player was



New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver

released on \$200,000 bail, surrounded by throngs of reporters as he left the federal courthouse in lower Manhattan following his arraignment.

Reaction to Silver's travails from some of Westchester's state legislators was predictable, with fellow Democrats urging caution and to let due process run its course before reaching conclusions. Meanwhile, one Republican, similar to many of his party brethren who have chafed at Silver's two-decade rule in the Assembly, immediately called for his resignation.

Published reports Sunday night indicated that Silver is likely to temporarily step down as speaker pending the outcome of his case.

In a phone conversation on Monday with Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) the Examiner was informed that Democratic members of the Assembly had formed a Suburban Caucus. "This is comprised of about 23 members from

the Hudson Valley, Nassau and Suffolk counties, Paulin explained. "We decided we wanted a seat at the table."

The formation of the caucus dissolves any possibility of a five-member team to work with a temporary speaker that was proposed Sunday night.

"We agree that Silver should step aside temporarily to allow for the furthering of the Assembly and the Institution," Paulin said.

Republican Steve Katz (R-Yorktown), one of Silver's harsh GOP critics, called for him to resign from office last Thursday afternoon. Katz didn't mince words, proclaiming, "The emperor has no clothes. Good riddance to a filthy, corrupt, sleazy politician who should have been gone years ago."

"This man has been corrupt for the last 20 years," Katz also said of Silver, who referred to him as a "crumb" at one point during an interview.

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White Plains Planning Commissioner Ousted from Post

By Pat Casey

In a surprise and somewhat unprecedented move, White Plains Planning Commissioner Elizabeth Cheteney was asked to resign from her post last week and a subsequent unanimous vote by the Common Council on Thursday sealed her removal.

Conversations with Council members after the fact indicate they were not given specifics as to the reason for Cheteney's removal, but were asked in conversations with Mayor Tom Roach to support his administration's decision.

It is not clear if Cheteney did resign as

asked or if the Council vote was needed to force her out.

Comments by Mayor Roach at the time of the vote as recorded by several media outlets are brief. The Mayor said, "We have decided to go in a different direction."

One of the major land use decisions in front of the White Plains Council is the Special Permit and Site Plan proposal for the French American School of New York (FASNY). This project, however, was not under the purview of Cheteney, but former White Plains Planning Commissioner

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Local Lawmakers Give Cuomo's Proposals a Tepid Response

By Martin Wilbur

Area state legislators gave Gov. Andrew Cuomo's State of the State address last week mixed reviews, generally lauding him for proposals to encourage business growth but leveling strong criticism against his education policies.

Cuomo, who delivered a nearly hour-and-a-half address in Albany last Wednesday afternoon where he also unveiled a proposed \$150 billion 2015-16 budget, laid out an ambitious agenda which includes substantial money for infrastructure projects and a bold social agenda, that among other things, would significantly raise the minimum wage.

However, several local lawmakers talked of their disappointment and frustration that a proposed \$1.1 billion increase in state aid for education will come with a series of conditions that are likely to be met by stiff opposition from both sides of the aisle and possibly alienate teachers' unions.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said that the state is "accelerating down the wrong road on education." There were no plans offered to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which reallocated a portion of education funds to close a state budget gap under former

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While Katz strongly pushed for Silver to leave office, Assembly Democrats stressed patience for the embattled speaker. Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) said she was still digesting the facts when reached last Thursday.

"We do live in a country where you are innocent until you've been proven guilty," Galef said.

The longtime legislator said she thinks the Assembly can continue to function despite the charges leveled against Silver, noting "we have a lot of great leaders up here in the Assembly."

"And the speaker didn't do everything, believe it or not," Galef stressed.

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) said that it is important for Silver to remain in office as the legislature is about to enter the critical state budget review period. While the legislative process wouldn't grind to a halt without him, Silver is such an experienced negotiator, he would be missed.

"Even with that indictment, he is far more qualified to be the leader of the Assembly than many of his colleagues," Abinanti said.

Abinanti also said the public should be careful not to judge Silver too quickly, particularly with the history of overzealous prosecutors providing headline-making splashes of arresting Albany leadership only to see them walk

free. In the past 25 years, three legislative leaders--former Speaker Mel Miller, ex-Senate Minority Leader Manfred Ohrenstein, both Democrats, and Joseph Bruno, the former Republican Senate Majority Leader--were brought up on charges but were all eventually acquitted or cleared of wrongdoing, he said.

"History has shown there have been those who have made a name for themselves attacking leadership," Abinanti said.

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye), who served for eight years in the Assembly under Silver until elected to the Senate in 2012, said he doesn't think the Assembly's day-to-day work will be affected by Silver's indictment, since there are multiple lawmakers in both houses who are key figures in the budget process.

"Sitting in the Senate, it's impossible for me to know how the Assembly members will deal with the matter, but we in the Senate should just focus on our own responsibilities," Latimer said.

Senate Democratic Minority Leader Andrew Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) shared Latimer's sentiments, adding that the Silver affair was distracting from the important work that has to be done.

"Perhaps if we had been able to do a sufficient job of policing ourselves, then things might be different," she said, noting that the Moreland Commission

was shut down because of the passing of ethics reform." Still, a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty, Stewart-Cousins added.

Meanwhile, Katz argued that any Assembly member who isn't calling for Silver to step aside should be ashamed of themselves. Katz wants to see Silver out as soon as possible and believes he won't go

out without "kicking and screaming."

"This is a man whose sole desire is to go down in history as the longest standing Assembly leader," Katz said. "It doesn't matter what the atmosphere, the poisonous, toxic, corrupt atmosphere that he has engendered, he has encouraged."

Pat Casey contributed to this article.

White Plains Planning Commissioner Ousted from Post

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Sue Habel, who has been working on the proposal on a project basis.

Cheteny was involved in the writing of a new historic preservation law for the city and numerous changes to the Zoning Code to promote mixed-use applications

that would allow residential and some business and retail operations in certain areas of the city needing preservation from blight or overdevelopment.

There was some supposition by one Councilmember that Cheteny did not agree with the location of all the bicycle paths developed in White Plains.

Cheteny was known for her strong work as an environmentalist and according to members of the White Plains Council she spent many hours – after hours – working on the White Plains plan for future sustainability.



Former White Plains Planning Commissioner Elizabeth Cheteny attended the city's Planning Board meetings. She is seen here in the orange shirt at the August 2014 meeting.

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Local Lawmakers Give Cuomo's Proposals a Tepid Response

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governor David Paterson, and does not project levels of school aid.

Furthermore, Cuomo's education plan bases half of teachers' evaluation on standardized test scores when there is already excessive mandatory testing, Latimer said. The "one-size-fits-all approach," which lumps the challenges of urban districts with suburban districts, is misguided.

"The majority of Westchester's school districts do not need these changes -- they are performing at a high level of excellence already," Latimer said. "And I certainly don't think the problem with our results with students falls primarily on the teachers."

Latimer said he intends to support some local and regional projects that have been proposed such as mixed-use developments at Metro-North train stations, reducing the net income tax on small businesses from 6.5 percent to 2.5 percent over three years and adding a renter's credit to tax relief provisions when a community complies with the tax cap.

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) was even more forceful in his disdain for many of Cuomo's education plans, but also criticized the governor's failure to directly help property taxpayers.

The \$1.1 billion in extra education

aid would go a long way to easing local homeowners' burden, but Abinanti said conditions such as delaying the granting of tenure to teachers to five years, offering a \$20,000 bonus for higher performing teachers and emphasis on test scores won't improve education.

"He's diverting the money for the kids' benefit and that's not right," Abinanti said. "We all know that more money is needed and he's failing to provide the proper funding."

The assemblyman said if tenure is extended to five years that would make some teachers vulnerable to the whims of districts, which could keep on taking in probationary instructors. Also, schools wouldn't benefit from teachers competing against each other for a bonus.

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) said she was happy with the "legitimate conversations" the governor's speech would encourage and that that alone was a step in the right direction for bipartisan communication. "Talking about how to improve our student outcomes in this competitive world is important," Stewart-Cousins said on a local Albany cable interview. She agreed with Cuomo that good teachers should be incentivized and that bad teachers should be removed from the classroom.

Stewart-Cousins also acknowledged that while she was supportive of the

increase in the minimum wage (\$10.50 per hour statewide and \$11.50 per hour in New York City), she felt it would be difficult to pass through the Republican controlled Senate and that it was not strong enough for the Working Families Party that had supported both her and the governor for election.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) said she was pleased with the more than 4 percent boost in spending. As a longtime supporter of a circuit breaker to help property owners, she also supports that initiative and the property tax credit programs.

Galef also agreed that it is worthwhile to use \$5 billion in legal settlements on infrastructure projects.

But Galef said she was hesitant to support the expansion of charter schools--with the ceiling being raised from 460 to 560 charters statewide -- and a new teacher evaluation system in which 50 percent of the evaluation is students' performance on standardized tests.

"I tend to think that's probably very high," Galef said.

State Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown), in the capital for his first State of the State address, praised Cuomo's proposals to lower the small business tax rate to 2.5 percent over the next three years and improve the state's infrastructure, which should help to create jobs.

He also complimented the governor for using the \$5 billion legal settlement to pay to repair crumbling roads and bridges and make investments in new water and sewer systems.

"There are several worthy infrastructure projects in the Hudson Valley that I commend the governor for presenting and will work in a bipartisan manner to generate support for them," Murphy said.

However, he said he wants to see the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which he called a "scheme" that took 5 percent of school funding away in 2009, eliminated. The GOP Senate Majority Conference plans to make that a major push this session, Murphy added.

The most caustic criticism came from Assemblyman Steven Katz (R-Yorktown), who called Cuomo's agenda an "ultra liberal screed that is intended to try and prop him up as a presidential contender."

"I think that he has done nothing to eliminate the barrier that there are for businesses to come in and thrive," Katz said, noting the only reason the budget may be balanced is the money from the \$5 billion settlement.

Pat Casey and David Propper contributed to this article.

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White Plains Student Wins Exhibit Marketing Design Contest



The Katonah Museum of Art has announced that White Plains High School Senior Max Crowley had the winning invitation design for the upcoming exhibition, Young Artists 2015. Based on votes from participating students and the KMA Board, staff and volunteers, Max's artwork was chosen from 42 entries from 24 local high schools. It will be used as the postcard invitation sent to more than 3,000 people, in addition to a poster and press image representing the exhibition. The exhibition will begin with a reception on Sunday, March 1, 3-5 p.m., and all 42 designs will be on display along with artwork from local high school seniors. Max is a Vice President of the High School's chapter of the National Art Honor Society and also Art Director of the school's award-winning literary publication, Roar. He plans to pursue a career in art, according to his Art Teacher, Michael Chiariello.

White Plains Eastview Neighborhood Could See New Parking Structure

By Pat Casey

According to a public hearing at the January meeting of the White Plains Planning Board, the Eastview neighborhood could get a new parking structure if discussions between the White Plains Urban Renewal Agency and a new owner/developer of the property located behind the Westchester Burger Company and Stop and Shop are finalized.

Part of the deal would give the city a possible 153 new parking spaces to add to its inventory in the near downtown area.

Part of the plan calls for the driveway next to the Westchester Burger Company, now used to access parking for the restaurant at the rear, to be turned into a one-way access onto the site that would

contain the new parking structure and eventually a new residential development.

Planning Board members were excited that the plan could give safe pedestrian access between Eastview and Westchester Avenue.

Concerns were raised about the already dangerous for pedestrians situation at the Stop and Shop entrance on Westchester Avenue and Board members provided commentary for the Common Council that requested the situation be looked at with regard to any new driveways in the area.

Asked if the proposal had a positive relationship with the city's existing Comprehensive Plan, Board Chair Michael Quinn gave an "Unqualified, yes."

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Food Bank Rolls Out New Truck to Help Feed the Hungry

A new Food Bank for Westchester truck that was unveiled last week will help the organization recover at least twice the amount of excess food from supermarkets and other commercial establishments throughout the county.

Funded by a grant from Purchase-based PepsiCo, the Food Bank recently acquired a 16-foot refrigerated Freightliner to add to its fleet. About 10 feet shorter than the rest of its trucks, it will be able to maneuver in tight quarters and through the narrow streets that are common in many lower Westchester communities, such as Yonkers, Mount Vernon and New Rochelle, said Ellen Lynch, the Food Bank's executive director.

Until now, the Food Bank has been unable to retrieve food from more supermarkets in its Retail Recovery Program because it has been difficult for drivers to expediently get into and out of some locations.

Supermarkets that are part of the program have donated excess food, including more nutritious produce, that might otherwise be thrown out. The program also includes larger bakeries and specialty food stores.

PepsiCo, a longtime supporter of the Food Bank since shortly after the organization's launch in 1988, gave the grant that bought the \$90,000 truck and provided another \$70,000 in related



Left to right, Rick Rakow, chairman of the board, Food Bank for Westchester; Food Bank Executive Director Ellen Lynch; Deputy Westchester County Executive Kevin Plunkett; back row, Sue Norton, PepsiCo vice president of global citizenship; and Toby Pidgeon, director of operations at Food Bank for Westchester with the organization's new truck.

expenses, including first-year operating costs. Last Wednesday, the new truck left on its maiden voyage from the Food Bank's 37,000-square-foot distribution center in Elmsford.

"They're supporting us in every possible way and this is one fabulous example of it, and it really helps us be able to take food that's available in the county that would otherwise go to waste," Lynch said of PepsiCo's effort.

Last year, the Retail Recovery Program provided 271,000 meals to hungry families in Westchester, said Toby Pidgeon, director

of operations for the Food Bank. Estimates project that number will increase to about 550,000 meals annually as a result of the new truck, he said.

Sue Norton, PepsiCo's vice president of global citizenship, said the corporation jumped at the chance when Food Bank representatives approached them about obtaining a truck that would help it to reach thousands of needy families.

"We've made the donation to fund the truck and the driver and had a fun time designing (the outside) of the truck in a way that brought to light the Food Bank

vision and mission and the vision that we have at PepsiCo for serving Westchester," said Norton.

The Food Bank has been picking up food at all Stop & Shop locations throughout Westchester and at select A&P and Shop-Rite stores, Pidgeon said. Other stores participating in the recovery program are Whole Foods, DeCiccio's, Sam's Club, Trader Joe's and BJ's Wholesale Club. Other stores are invited to sign on as well.

"We already have 30 pickups on schedule for the PepsiCo truck," Pidgeon said.

Also on hand for the truck's launch was Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, who called last Wednesday "a very special day."

"This is something to celebrate in Westchester County, not because of the county but because of the people who will benefit," Plunkett said.

The Food Bank distributes about 7.2 million pounds of food each year to 265 hunger relief programs, including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and day care and residential centers. It is estimated that about 200,000 Westchester residents are hungry or considered at risk of going hungry.

Retailers interested in participating in the recovery program should contact Food Bank Food Sourcing Manager Bob Silvia at 914-909-9621.

Greenburgh Town Board Introduces Massage Parlor Regulation

The Greenburgh Town Board has proposed legislation, drafted by Bob Bernstein, chairman of the Edgemont Community Council, to regulate massage parlors in the community, considered to be a quality of life matter.

In an email from Town Supervisor Paul Feiner, he says the action is being taken to protect the public from unlicensed establishments that perform massages on unsuspecting persons, and also from establishments operating under the guise of being a massage establishment, when actually engaging in illegal activities,

and subjecting the public to exposure of unclean, unhealthy and possibly contaminated conditions. The legislation also takes into consideration sex trafficking in persons and commercial sexual exploitation.

Special permits, fees, licenses and operation requirements for massage establishments are included in the proposed legislation.

A public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 11th at 7:30 p.m. at Greenburgh Town Hall.

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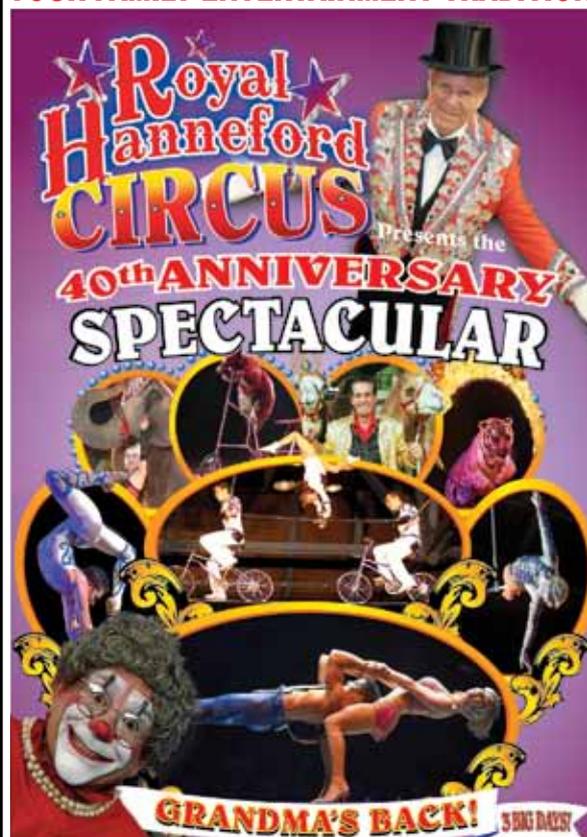
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White Plains League of Women Voters to Honor Libby Hollahan

The League of Women Voters of White Plains will honor Libby Hollahan at its Annual Winter Party on February 8th at the home of Janice Abbott and Richard Bernstein, 177 Soundview Avenue from 3 to 5 p.m. Food will be served and everyone is invited to attend.

Ms. Hollahan has had an outstanding career in both public service and volunteer activities. At present, she is Executive Director of the White Plains Public Library Foundation, where she is working to support the Library's long term and current program needs. As director, she has brought in major funding for programs, building projects and technology.

Ms. Hollahan moved to White Plains in 1983 with her husband Tom and raised three children, Bobby, John and Laura, all graduates of White Plains High School. For over a period of 10



Libby Hollahan

years, in her first career, she worked at Citigroup as a corporate banker and at Moody's Investors Service as a corporate bond analyst.

When her third child was born she began her second career, this time as a community volunteer. At first she volunteered at the Early Childhood Board of Advisors at Memorial

Methodist Church, then became extensively involved in the White Plains School district, including serving three years as co-president of the High School PTA. She also served as a board member of the White Plains and US Figure Skating Association.

Building on her experience in community involvement, she began her third career as a development professional, working in the development departments of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and Purchase College on fundraising, grant writing, special events and donor communications. In 2009 she joined the White Plains Public Library Foundation, first as a development

consultant and then as its Executive Director, from 2010 to the present.

Both the League and the White Plains community have been extremely fortunate to have benefited from Libby's contributions during her three careers. Since 1998 she has been active in the White Plains League of Women Voters, serving first as Education Committee Chair on its Board, and then running its Annual School Board Candidate's Forum and helping out in many ways whenever we called on her. She is also a board member of the White Plains Rotary Club, co-chairing its Community Service Committee.

The cost of the dinner on February 8th is \$30 per person/\$45 for two in advance, or \$35 per person at the door. Make checks payable to LWVWP and send to Marjorie Davies, PO Box 2032, White Plains, NY 10602-2032.

Westchester's Main Street Market for Valentine's Day

With Valentine's Day two weeks away, shop for local delicacies and gifts at the Main Street Market, to be held on Sunday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

A variety of vendors, artisans and food producers all from the tri-state area will sell fresh local foods, such as meats, cheeses, baked goods and wine as well as products such as hand-made jewelry,

soaps and body butters. And, to tempt shoppers and to help them make their selections while looking for one-of-kind handmade items or unique gifts, food vendors will offer samples.

While shopping, enjoy this month's featured entertainers Bob & Norm, a musical duo comprising Bob Goetz (bass and vocals) and Norman Dodge (guitar and vocals), who have been working together for over 21 years. This

partnership has resulted in an extensive song list, which enables them to field most requests from their audience, making for an interactive experience not offered by most other bands. They cover classic rock favorites, from the Allman Brothers to ZZ Top and everything in between.

Admission is free. Parking fees apply at the County Center lots. A list of vendors and valuable coupons are available at

countycenter.biz.

The Main Street Market is sponsored by Westchester County Parks and Friends of Westchester County Parks, Inc. The final market date for this year's program is March 22, 2015.

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Police Blotter

Defendant Gets 25 Years for Pushing Student in Path of Train

Howard Mickens, 41, a White Plains homeless person was sentenced to 25 years in prison on his December 2014 guilty plea for attempted murder in the second degree when he pushed student Maya Leggat in front of a Metro-North Railroad train at the White Plains station in September 2013.

“Without any warning or prior interaction, this defendant pushed a young woman on her way to school in front of a moving commuter train. While this young woman’s quick and clear headed thinking saved her life, this defendant will now be

held to account for his actions and serve the maximum sentence allowed by law,” District Attorney Janet DiFiore said in a statement about the case.

On September 25, 2013, at approximately 11a.m., the defendant and the victim were on the platform at the Metro North White Plains train station. As a train was entering the station, the defendant approached the victim from behind and pushed her into the path of the oncoming train.

The victim was then struck by the train, resulting in numerous injuries, including

a broken back, a severed finger, multiple broken bones and lacerations across her body. The train’s operator put the train into emergency mode and contacted dispatchers.

The defendant then attempted to flee the scene, walking away from the platform and down a set of stairs. Several witnesses to the incident followed him and shouted for the police. Upon seeing two Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) police officers, the witnesses shouted to the officers that the defendant had just pushed a woman in front of the train. One officer

then took defendant into custody, while the other went to the victim to provide medical assistance. The officer and other emergency personnel who arrived on the scene provided the victim with first aid and she was then transported to the hospital.

The defendant was detained at the scene for a brief period of time and subsequently placed under arrest.

Assistant District Attorney Timothy Ward, Deputy Division Chief of the Superior Court Trial Division prosecuted the case.

Greenburgh Police Department

Possession of Stolen Property. On the afternoon of January 14, while traveling southbound on Central Avenue, police officers observed a vehicle make a right turn into the Sunoco Gas Station at 17 North Central Ave without signaling the turn. A NCIC check on the vehicle received a hit for a vehicle reported stolen from Waterbury Police Department. The theft was confirmed. As the vehicle left the gas station by making a left turn in front of a “no left turn” sign, the officers proceeded to conduct a felony traffic stop. Three occupants were removed from the vehicle. All passengers were handcuffed and placed under arrest. A search of the vehicle showed that the ignition had been tampered with and was unable to be turned off. The key appeared to be forced and lodged into the ignition operation of a motor vehicle. All suspects were transported to and held at police headquarters.

Criminal Mischief. On the morning of January 14 police were called to the parking lot of Granada Crescent for a report of damage to a vehicle. Upon arrival the victim told police that the gear shifter to his Cadillac Escalade was ripped off the steering column and that his personal belongings had been rummaged through with some thrown onto the ground of the parking lot although nothing had been taken. The victim further said that the registration on his front windshield was also ripped off and that the steering column was found under the vehicle. The victim reported that his son had last seen the vehicle with no damage the night before and that the driver’s side door was left unlocked. The victim further noted that he observed the vehicle parked next to his was also damaged with two broken windows. As canvass of the area resulted in no further information.

Suspicious Incident. On the afternoon of January 14 police officers responded to a report of a suspicious incident at 247 N. Central Ave, Radio Shack. Greenburgh Police were notified by Westchester

County Police that the store manager contacted them stating he was locked in the store bathroom and that there was a possible dispute in progress with a customer. Several additional police units were dispatched. Upon arrival police observed several customers inside the store with no unusual activity. Upon entering the store officers spoke to the customers who reported no suspicious or unusual activity. A store employee said everything was fine and that his manager was in the back room. When police made contact with the store manager, he said the incident was a misunderstanding. He stated he was in the back room of the store when someone tried to open the door. When he asked who was there he did not recognize the voice or what the person was saying. The manager then called his co-worker who was working in the front. First the coworker immediately hung up the phone and when he called him back asking if there was a problem, he did not give him a clear answer and immediately hung up again. The manager said that he then locked himself in the bathroom and called 911. When officers asked the employee working in the front of the store what happened, he said he did receive a call from his manager, but that he misunderstood what he was asking and did not know there was an issue until police arrived. The manager then said he believed that an AT&T representative who was no longer on scene was trying to get in contact with him at the back room. The manager told police he would work on a better communication system with his employees to indicate any urgent issues at the store.

Suspicious Incident. On January 14, police officers responded to a residence on Edgepark Road. The homeowner said he had observed a black male inside a tan GMC Yukon parked in front of his house possibly taking pictures of him and his two children as they were walking towards their house. The homeowner said he then took pictures of the vehicle as it left the area towards the Bronx River Pkwy. Police canvassed the area with

negative results. Based on a search of the license plate number of the car taken by the homeowner, police were able to get a phone number for the car owner. Police spoke with the car owner who said he is a real estate inspector working for ABC Premiere Services and was checking up on a property located on Edgepark Road. He reported that part of his duties includes taking pictures of properties, but that he did not take any pictures of the reporting homeowner or his property. Report filed for documentation purposes only.

Petit Larceny. On January 14, the Loss Prevention Manager at TJ Maxx came to police headquarters to report several incidents of larceny committed by an employee. That employee was fired on January 13. On December 19 the employee allegedly completed a customer return in the amount of \$25 and handed the customer a blank store gift card while keeping the card with the \$25 balance. Then on December 26, the same employee completed another customer return in the amount of \$74.22 and handed the customer a blank gift card and kept the card with the \$74.22 balance, and on December 27 again completed a customer return in the amount of \$15.50 and once again kept the card with the customers balance and issued the customer a blank gift card. Over the same period of time

the employee also allegedly removed about \$50 of cash from the cash drawer in increments of \$10 and \$20. All the reported thefts were recorded on store video and the cash drawers came up short on each of the reported dates. The employee provided a written statement admitting her actions. Total amount of cash is \$50. Total amount on gift cards is \$114.72. The store is pursuing charges.



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Winter Storms Should Trigger Winter Health Warnings for Residents

Old Man Winter had really geared up to deliver its first substantial snowfalls to our area this week.

While this usually means lots of winter fun and outdoor activities for the kids and winter sports enthusiasts, unfortunately, every year hundreds of people injure their backs, or even worse, suffer heart attacks, from shoveling snow. Typical winter conditions (a little more than an inch of snowfall and temperatures that dip below 20 degrees) cause death rates from heart attacks to triple among men 35 to 49 years old.

"While the temperature is not going to be extreme, shoveling snow can still be very dangerous for many people, particularly if the right precautions aren't taken," said Dr. Ivan Miller, medical director of the Emergency Department at Westchester Medical Center. During the winter months snow removal may be a necessity, but it must also be considered a

physical activity that should be carefully undertaken. Westchester Medical Center wants to remind everyone of the potential dangers associated with the snow. There are some tips that can help alleviate this hassle and keep you, your back and your heart safe so that you can enjoy the winter wonderland around you.

If you've ever had a heart attack, if you have heart disease or high blood pressure, you probably don't want to do the shoveling yourself. Like starting a new exercise program, at the very least, you should consult your doctor before attempting it.

Do not work to the point of exhaustion. If you become short of breath or have difficulty breathing or feel tightness or discomfort in your chest, stop immediately.

Get a neighborhood kid to shovel your walk or dig out your car. Volunteer to do it for an elderly or infirm neighbor or

relative if you are physically able.

Take it slow! Pace yourself. Shoveling (like lifting weights) can raise your heart rate and blood pressure dramatically. Be sure to stretch out and warm up before taking on the task.

Avoid driving if possible. Slick and icy road surfaces can be deadly. Staying off the road allows road crews to properly clean the road surface, which makes travel safer for everyone. If you must drive, use caution.

Additionally, anyone who will be spending time outdoors at any other time during the winter, should be aware of the signs and symptoms associated with cold-related emergencies. "If you think you may be suffering from the effects of the cold, remove yourself from the element immediately and seek medical attention if necessary," Miller said.

This article was provided by Westchester Medical Center.

Obituaries

Gaierose Haskel

Gaierose Haskel of White Plains died January 24. She was 88 years old. Gaierose was born July 3, 1926 in White Plains, daughter of the late William and Marguerite Popkave.

She worked as a Public Health Nurse for Westchester County and later for Wayne County in Newark, NY for 35 years. In recent years she volunteered at Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester. Gaierose was beloved by her family and many friends and also enjoyed the Opera.

Surviving are her four children, Abbie (Ed Caskey) Schonfeld, Patricia W. Haskel, William D. (Donna) Haskel and Dorinda Haskel Palladino. Five adoring grandchildren and three cherished great grandchildren also survive her. Gaierose was predeceased by her husband in 1960, Samuel E. Haskel, MD and son-in-law Richard P. Schonfeld. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Calvary Hospice, 1740 Eastchester Road, Bronx, NY 10461.

Anthony Marano

Dr. Anthony J. Marano, a White Plains native, passed away January 22. He and his wife, Mary (Marbach) were married for 56 years and raised three children, Thomas, Kathryn and Michele Russo (Greg). He was pre-deceased by an infant daughter, Jennifer in 1973.

He was also predeceased by his parents Mary (Perrotta) and Tony Marano as well as a brother Alphonse Marano, a sister Sara Didyoung, a niece Anne Marie Marano, a nephew Keith Didyoung and his son-in-law Charles F. Thompson. He is survived also by his sister-in-law Josephine Marano, a niece Carole Stein

(Drew) and a nephew Glenn Didyoung.

At birth he was nicknamed "Champ." He lived up to his name in every way throughout his whole life. "Champ" exhibited a deep love not only for his family, but for the whole White Plains community and the W.P. schools and football programs. At White Plains High School he was President of the G.O. (General Organization), captain and fullback for his beloved varsity football team, which went undefeated in the early 50s under the legendary Couch Glenn Loucks. He graduated from White Plains High School in 1952, receiving more scholarships than any other graduate up to that time. He accepted a full Tyng Foundation Scholarship from Williams College, graduating in 1956 and then continuing on the scholarship to Cornell Medical School in N.Y.C. graduating in 1960. From 1963-1968 he was at Mt. Sinai Medical School on a National Institute of Health Fellowship.

He and Mary raised their family in White Plains and he practiced cardiology there for 45 years. He was known not only for his knowledge, but also for his kind and gentle ways. During these years he served as Chief of Cardiology and President of the Medical Staff.

In 2005 W.P. Hospital dedicated unit 4F "The Anthony J. Marano, MD Cardiac Care Unit."

"Champ" was a physician for the White Plains School District for many years and was honored at a Board of Education meeting in July 2011. He was Chairman of the Tiger Fans Committee for a long time and always showed his pride for the players and coaches. He was inducted into the White Plains High School Hall of Fame in 1998.

His most satisfying accomplishment was being the founder and Medical

director at the very first Mobile Life Support System in Westchester County in 1976.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations in his memory be sent to White Plains Hospital for the Dr. Anthony J. Marano Cardiac Care Unit.

Helena Lowden

Helena H. Lowden a resident of White Plains passed away on January 21. She was 79. Helena was born on Aug 14, 1935 in the Bronx to Jacob and Rose (Hecht) Cohen. She donated much of her time to U.C.P. of Westchester. She is survived by two sons Craig D. Lowden of White Plains and Dean L. Lowden of Fishkill. Also surviving is one sister Shirley Cohen of White Plains. Two cherished grandchildren Michael and Alexander Lowden, and her longtime companion James Peterson.

The family request donations be made to the American Heart Association

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.



What's the Most Popular Home Project? Beats Me!

In my many years as both a homeowner and home styles journalist, I have observed that home repair and improvement projects tend to fall into three categories: the ones you need to do, the ones you want to do and the ones you do solely to increase the value of your home.

The urgent projects you find in the first category, such as leaky pipes, cold furnaces or an invasion of termites, are the ones most likely to grab the dollars in the average homeowner's repair budget. Postponing these repairs can not only make a home uncomfortable, but can also lead to a small problem getting worse and costing even more to repair.

Projects meant to boost a home's value take on their own urgency when we first begin to anticipate moving. The scruffy front door that we learned to ignore or the outdated bathroom vanity suddenly stands out as a liability that could make our home harder to sell. We consult lists of which projects will give us the most bang for our buck, spruce up what we can, and when it's all done we may sit back and think, "Gee, it wouldn't be so bad to stay here now."

The home improvements that are left "for later" are the ones that have no particular urgency or potential return on investment but would please us personally. Now that I am finally ensconced in my new residence I can enjoy a few projects for pleasure, with the first major one being the installation of custom shelving. The past few years have certainly been a whirlwind of projects, repairs and contractors for me and Mrs. Home Guru, and it got me wondering what other homeowners were working on, and how much of it was a result of urgent need and how much was for personal expression.

To satisfy my curiosity, I first turned to Angie's List, the well-known website where paid subscribers rate local businesses. On their home page (once you have subscribed) they list the top 20 most popular services under "Home, Yard, Auto, Pets & More." As might be expected, urgent situations made up

nearly half of the list, with plumbing, heating and air conditioning and roofing comprising the top three.

Other practical and sensible services that were most needed included carpet cleaning, pest control, large appliance repair, housecleaning and general handyman services. The services on the list I could imagine being either for fun or for increasing value included interior and exterior painting, landscaping and general and kitchen remodeling. I was amused to see "moving" at the bottom of the list, as though the beleaguered homeowner has finally said, "Enough!"

HomeAdvisor.com offers a similar service as Angie's List and their site gave me a little more data to explore. Their top projects are listed in order of popularity within each category, but I was most interested in their extensive list of most popular projects by city. At the risk of reading too much into things, but also acknowledging that The Home Guru can be allowed a few flights of fancy, I decided to compare New York with Tampa and Minneapolis.

Judging by the list, New York comes across as a city of serious builders. Two of the three top projects as of this writing involved architects/engineers and concrete, reminding me of the city's well-known canyon of skyscrapers. The third project in the top three was heating and furnace systems, reflecting the brutal winters that often hit New York. Finally, although home security services made the list of top 50 projects in each of the three cities I viewed, nowhere did it rank as high as it did in New York, coming in sixth. Even with crime in New York at relatively low levels, the residents there still need to feel safe.



By Bill Primavera

The two top projects in Tampa were designers and decorators and garages and garage doors, reflecting a population who can devote a little more time to the upkeep of their homes, as opposed to tending to urgent repairs. As befitting a location in a warm climate, swimming pools were in the top 10 along with pest control. The cold weather here in New York may drive some pests indoors to live with us, but at least it also culls some of the population each year, so we have that working in our favor.

Finally, I perused the top projects in chilly Minneapolis, and found that the top 10 included insulation, windows and snow removal service. But

it's not always winter in Minnesota, so I shouldn't have been too surprised to see decks made the top 10 as well. I imagine that when the summers are short, you would want to be outside enjoying them as much as you can.

It seems that nationwide we are a diligent bunch, prioritizing our home projects by urgency first before turning to those that give us pleasure.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and

Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of Bill Primavera and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



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Ernesto's, White Plains to Mark 25th Anniversary



By Morris Gut

Veteran restaurateur Ernesto Capalbo, founder of Ernesto's Ristorante in White Plains, and co-host and general manager Charlie Gambino, have been nearing a milestone 25th Anniversary with a major enhancement and upgrade of the dining rooms and bar lounge, a fresh contemporized look that feels most comfortable to patrons. There is ample room for private parties and events, and for those who frequented Ernesto's over the years, a major convenience is the addition of new restrooms on the dining room level.

The former attached pizzeria has been moved down W. Post Road and renamed Pizza Cucina boasting a jazzy new red logo and playful design, serving



Linguini with clam sauce at Ernesto's.

many of Capalbo's most popular pizzas, sandwiches and main courses for eat in or take out. According to Capalbo, the idea was to maintain Ernesto's as a more

formal space for dining and catering.

Founded in 1990, Ernesto's has been serving its Calabrian-style Italian-American cuisine to waves of local movers and shakers. One day it might be the Mayor huddling with a group at a rear table, on another it may be judges and officials of every stripe all partaking in the 'cucina rustica' of southern Italy as presented by the friendly, professional staff.

Ernesto's is not what you would call 'trendy' as so many other restaurants strive to be, but it surely is a safe haven you can pop into for some generously served hearty platters of food without the hyper-pretentiousness so much at play today. Tasty does not have to be trendy, something we are quick to forget. Want proof? Just check out some of these delicious house specialties we have enjoyed on recent visits.

For starters, the old-fashioned Hot Antipasto, I rate it one of the best in the area, loaded with fresh baked clams, shrimp, eggplant rollatini, stuffed mushrooms and artichoke hearts, or a warming bowl of Pasta Fagioli, with beans and prosciutto in a light tomato broth; or the classic Spiedini Romana, sliced bread layered with mozzarella lightly battered and sautéed, served with anchovy sauce. The Cold

Seafood Salad is outstanding.

Hearty pastas include: Orecchiette Broccoli Rabe in a broth of infused extra virgin olive oil with garlic sauce; Pappardelle Mare & Monti (a special one day) with sautéed shrimp, sea scallops, mushrooms, sun dried tomatoes in a pink sauce; and Spaghetti al Tartufo alla Romana, with mushrooms, artichoke, peas, garlic and oil and white wine. A

fine version of Linguine with clam sauce is served as is a decadent house made Ravioli.

Generously plated main courses include: Veal Chop Valdostana (another special) topped with prosciutto, mozzarella and mushroom sauce; traditional Costolette di Maiale all' Aceto, double cut pork chops with sweet or hot vinegar peppers, chardonnay, caramelized onion, garlic and beef stock sauce; a fine version of Filet of Sole Francese in a white wine and lemon



Mashed potatoes with lamb chops at Ernesto's.

sauce; and their signature Combinazione Oreganate, with shrimp, jumbo sea scallops broiled with chardonnay wine, lemon, fresh herbs, touch of garlic and seasoned bread crumbs. If the Baby Lamb Chops are on the menu, grab them! They are tender and delicious.

Special Hint: The sparkling spirited bar area offers Happy Hours Tuesday through Friday, 3 to 6 p.m. with reasonably priced beers, wines and \$5. Martinis. It is a good spot for networking. There is a 3-course prix fixe luncheon for \$14.95 served Tuesday through Friday from noon to 3 p.m., and 3-course Early Bird Dinners are served 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday priced at a reasonable \$19.95. There are private party facilities for up to 120 guests.

Ernesto Capalbo and Charlie Gambino along with their veteran floor staff Elio, Geovan and Juan look forward to spoiling you...and that's comforting to know.

Ernesto's Ristorante is located at 130 West Post Road, White Plains (Rt. 22). The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner Tuesday thru Sunday. Main courses at lunch: \$8.95 to \$29. Dinner

main courses: \$14.95 to \$29. Cocktail area. Happy Hours. Semi-private party/meeting facilities for up to 120 guests. Children's menu. Take out. Major credit cards. Casual dress. Free and municipal



Cold seafood salad at Ernesto's.

parking. Reservations accepted; suggested for larger groups. Phone: 914-421-1414. www.ernestosristorante.com

Reveling on Valentine's Day, Lunar New Year, and Carnival in February

Amore! The coupling of good food and wine with the sensual is the aphrodisiac of literature and verse through the ages. Pucker up! Valentine's Day, Feb. 14th is coming! Make it a full-fledged Valentine's Weekend. Restaurants and nightspots are gearing up to serve some of their most titillating specialties. And don't forget the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Goat, beginning on Sunday, Feb. 19th; Carnival, celebrated around the world

throughout the month of February; and of course Fat Tuesday, Feb. 17th will offer an eclectic roundup of delectable dishes and dining venues in coming weeks.

Want to Cook Asian Yourself?

In the meantime, if you are an intrepid home cook and want to pull the old wok out of the closet and oil it up, you may want to visit Kam Sen Foods, 22 Barker Ave. in the White Plains Mall (914-428-4500) for some of your authentic Chinese ingredients. This Asian market draws quite an ethnic crowd daily for its pan-Asian products, produce, meats and seafood. There's also sprawling H-Mart, 371 N. Central Ave., Hartsdale (914-448-8888). The Chinatown markets in Flushing and Manhattan are great but will take a bit longer to reach. www.kamsenfoods.com or www.hmart.com

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



A view of the new dining room at Ernesto's, White Plains.





The Restaurant Examiner



Shakiban's Newest Endeavor: Fine Dining, Family-Style

By Jerry Eimbinder

You may have eaten at one of the many dining establishments founded by Par Shakiban during his more than 40 years in the restaurant business. Eateries he launched include Patisserie Salzburg of Scarsdale and Rye, Brezza in Armonk, Eclisse Northern Italian in Port Chester, Eclisse of Stamford and Eclisse Mediterraneo Cucina and Laguna in White Plains.

Now he is applying his know-how and experience to family-style fine dining.

Last Saturday his 16-month-old, 180-seat restaurant, Taleggio Italiano Classico, in White Plains was converted from an upscale dining establishment into a family-style restaurant while keeping most of the same dishes on the menu. Each oversized appetizer or entrée can feed two to three people.

Family-style restaurants are rare today, although Carmine's and Tony's Di Napoli appears to be a successful example of this concept in New York City.

Typically, the appetites of four or even five people can be satisfied by ordering two appetizers and two main courses, said



Taleggio Italiano Classico is located on the Post Road in White Plains.

Taleggio Italiano Classico General Manager Charles Amchir. He mentioned that options will be available for single diners or couples.

Amchir, who came aboard a month ago, previously held managerial posts with the Greenwich Lobster House, Cafe Mozart in Manhattan, California Pizza Kitchen at the Willowbrook Mall in Wayne, N.J. and at Via Vanti! in Mount Kisco.

Another of the changes at Taleggio, Amchir said, will be an increase in the number of seafood items offered.

For first-time visitors or guests seeking a delicious three-course dinner, I recommend:

Appetizer: Scrumptious Spanish octopus with garlic and oil. Boiled and lightly charred on the grill, it's so thick it looks like a big chunk of lobster meat.

Entree: Veal Sorrentino with marsala sauce. Two layers of thinly pounded veal are topped with eggplant, prosciutto and mozzarella.

Dessert: Chocolate cake. Filled with lots of chocolate mousse and delivered from Patisserie Salzburg.

Red or white sangria is offered by the pitcher.

The restaurant is open seven days a week with lunch service beginning at noon each day and dinner service starting at 4 p.m. The kitchen closes at 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday closings vary, so check with the restaurant.

A recently opened 24-hour municipal parking garage is located directly behind the restaurant. Parking is \$1 per hour and is payable by cash or credit card. The walk from the garage to the restaurant entrance requires only a few steps.

Taleggio Italiano Classico is located at 189 E. Post Rd. (at the corner of Walker Avenue) in White Plains. For more information, call 914-761-1111 or visit www.taleggiorestaurant.com, 914-761-1111.

Analyzing This Year's Super Bowl From a Culinary Perspective



By Nick Antonaccio

Super Bowl Sunday brings together friends and family to indulge in the biggest junk food day of the year.

Once a year we indulge guilt-free in those waist-widening, artery-clogging foods we try to fastidiously avoid all year. And what better way to wash down those calories and fat than with your favorite beverage.

But what to consume on this traditional National Junk Food Day?

According to the National Restaurant Association, 48 million Americans will order takeout food. What will we be eating? For 69 percent of us, we will be noshing on chips, dips and salsa and 63 percent will be inhaling chicken wings. In fact, National Chicken Council projects that 1.25 billion chicken wings will be devoured. They calculate that is enough to put 572 wings on every seat in all 32 NFL stadiums.

A few statistics as a reference point for the game:

On the field: The New England Patriots are appearing in their eighth Super Bowl (tied for most all-time), with three wins. This is the Seattle Seahawks' third appearance with one win. Two proven

teams vying for additional glory.

Off the field: The average price of a ticket to the game is expected to reach a record high of over \$3,000. The average viewer will be spending an average of \$78 on food, beverages and team merchandise. That adds up to a whopping \$14.3 billion. A 30-second commercial costs a record \$4.5 million.

With these factoids as a base, here's my premise for this week's column: a Super Bowl Challenge for the best food, wine and beer produced in the two rival football regions.

Food: Each region has its iconic foods. Which is superior?

From the culinary heights of haute cuisine in the downtown area to the ultimate Italian comfort food in the North End, Boston diners have numerous fine choices. Iconic dishes like New England clam chowder and Boston baked beans are steeped in the colonial underpinnings of the city and region. And don't forget the fresh cannoli at Mike's Pastry.

But don't count out Seattle. Its proximity to Northwest waters makes it famous for fresh seafood sold at Pike's Place Fish Market. A sample dish that showcases Seattle's culinary diversity is cedar-planked salmon with wild huckleberry

demi-glace, caramelized Walla Walla sweet onions and Washington apple pie.

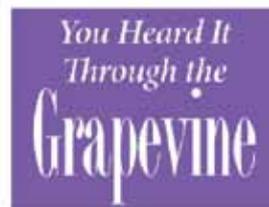
If this category determined the Super Bowl winner, New England would win hands down.

Wine: Washington State is one of the premier producers of fine Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux blends. There are over 700 wineries, a number of which are a short distance from Seattle. Quilceda Creek, Andrew Will and Chateau Ste. Michelle consistently produce quality wines year after year.

Although Massachusetts' Westport Rivery produces a worthy sparkling wine and Rhode Island's Sakonnett Vineyards offers Cock of the Walk Red, they can't compete with the terroir of Washington State.

Seattle dominates New England in this category.

Beer: Craft beers are growing in popularity, a testament to the new generation of talented brew masters. Both teams' quarterbacks are stars, Russell Wilson having more recently come into prominence and Tom Brady continuing to exert his inimitable perseverance and talent on the playing field. So, too, the beers of each region. Each city overflows with craft breweries – over 150 each,



several with national reputations.

For Seattle, look for those available in our area: Pyramid, Red Hook and Elysian. Of course, Boston has its Samuel Adams. This is the most difficult category, but I have to give the nod to Sam Adams for its consistent performance, its skill at offering a wide range of choices and the beautiful women it seems to attract – just like the Pats' Brady.

Which team will claim bragging rights for the next year? Which region will claim culinary dominance? Whatever your plans are for the Big Day, relax with your favorite junk food, your beverage of choice and enjoy the game.

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



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Happenings



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Wednesday, Jan. 28

Art Series Discussion: Charles Christian Nahl. Born in Germany in 1818, Nahl was a child prodigy whose talents with watercolors were developed by the age of 12. After studying with Emile Jean Horace Vernet in Paris, his family went west to participate in the California Gold Rush. Nahl's unique eye on America's west would forever change the way the world saw that region. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Thursday, Jan. 29

"The What, Where and How of Dr. Who." Travel through time with Clive Young as he presents this celebration of 50 years of the most popular Sci-Fi TV series in America. Designed for avid fans and newcomers, Young will give the audience a behind-the-scenes peek and highlight unforgettable exploits of the 11 doctors over the series' 50-year run. This multimedia program will feature surprise guests, amusing trivia and more. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Saturday, Jan. 31

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. Every Saturday and Sunday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Feeding Fun. It's mealtime for the animals. Come see what's on the menu and learn how the critters stay healthy. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5 per person. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

WPYB Dance Benefit. World renowned dancer and Tony Award Nominee Desmond Richardson will thrill the audience with his awe-inspiring leaps, effortless extensions and exquisite muscle control when he performs at the Friends of the White Plains Youth Bureau's 10th Annual Dance Benefit, Reflections on Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, 7 p.m. at the White Plains Performing Arts Center. The Benefit also serves as the kickoff event for the Youth Bureau's year-long 45th anniversary celebration. Other performers include ALEEArts, O'Rourke Irish Dancers, Keen Dance Theater and, highlighting the benefit's theme of reflecting on the role of dance in the Youth Bureau's history, a performance by Dancers Supreme, a group directed by former Youth Bureau participant Vanessa Aird. The Benefit will also honor Dorothy Schere as the Community Honoree and Thomas Eaton as the Education Honoree. The Friends will recognize Schere for her decades of service to White Plains in a variety of roles, including President of the Board of Education and a member of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board. The Friends selected Eaton for his 40-plus years of service as a teacher, school administrator, coach and mentor to his students throughout White Plains. VIP tickets for the Benefit are \$125 and general admission tickets are \$50 and \$30. VIP tickets include a reception immediately after the performance. Tickets are available at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 City Place, 914-328-1600, wppac.org and at the White Plains Youth Bureau, 11 Amherst Place, 914-422-1378.

Sunday, Feb. 1

Wolf Tails for Kids: Mythology of a Predator. A program that discusses the relationship between the wolves and humans of the past. Guests will be introduced to various wolf mythologies and then have a chance to create their own and share, if desired, before visiting ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Zephyr and Nikai and the center's critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves, too. Don't forget a camera. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Animal Athletes. Come meet and learn about some of the most amazing athletes in the world, then put your

own athletic prowess to the test. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5 per person. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Winter Wolves. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr as well as the centers critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Also enjoy hot beverages in our woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Feb. 7, 14, 16, 18 and 22 at 11 a.m. and Feb. 14 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Danceworks for Children. The dance company of Westchester Community College, a diverse ethnic and cultural combination of college students and alumni, will perform a special program for children who are invited to join the action on stage. For children three years old and up. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 3 p.m. \$10. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Winter Interlude. Enjoy a mid-winter festival, a musical prelude to the Super Bowl, with a playbook of captivating and soothing compositions for strings. Featuring Violinist Victor Lioni and the Camerata Chamber Group. Westchester Community College's Classroom Building, Room 200, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 3 p.m. \$18. Seniors: \$16. Students: \$12. Info and tickets: visit sunywcc.edu/SmartArts. Tickets may also be purchased at the box office 30 minutes before the performance.

Monday, Feb. 2

Wild Encounters Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Participants enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$9 per child. Non-members: \$12 per child. Every Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Telephone Support Group for Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer. This new Support Connection group offers the opportunity to share information and experiences with women across the country who are living with breast cancer. Share information and experiences. Confidentially discuss concerns and gain support from others who understand from the comfort of home. Open to women nationwide living with recurrent, advanced stage or metastatic breast cancer. 7 p.m. Free. Meets the first Monday of every month. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Wednesday, March 11

School Budget Forum. The White Plains Board of Education has announced the district's 2015-16 budget planning schedule. The district is seeking broad input on the budget from the community, at two Budget Forums: on Wednesday, January 21st, and Wednesday, March 11th. Both are in the B-1 Room at White Plains High School, at 7:30 p.m. Additional meetings will take place in the community and any group or organization wishing to host such a meeting may contact the Superintendent's Office at 422-2033. All residents are invited to attend these sessions, to participate in focused dialogue on spending efficiencies, areas of concern, budget priorities and creative ways to increase revenues. A review of the district's financial situation, the state's and city's financial constraints, and other issues relating to development of the budget will be presented. The district will also hold two Public Hearings: the first on March 9, on the Preliminary Proposed Budget, and the second on May 11 on the Board of Education's Adopted Proposed Budget.

Winter Sports in County Parks - Ice-skating. When weather permits, there is ice-skating at numerous locations, listed here. Ice is checked daily. Look for a "Skating Today" sign posted, which indicates safe conditions for that day. Blue Mountain Reservation, Welcher Avenue, Peekskill; Wampus Pond, Route 128, Armonk; Mountain Lakes Park, Hawley Road, North Salem; Willson's Woods Park, East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon; Tibbetts Brook Park, Midland Avenue, Yonkers.



EXAMINER SPORTS

Tigers Losses to Mt. Vernon and Williamsport Contribute to Lackluster Season

By Albert Coqueran

White Plains Head Basketball Coach Spencer Mayfield sat in his office, on Wednesday, Jan. 21 contemplating how tough a season it has been for his team.

The Tigers had just lost to Mt. Vernon High School, 58-45, in their home gym, in a game that fell apart for them in the third quarter.

Mayfield was aware that this season would be somewhat of a rebuilding year having lost Mike DeMello, Justin Tapper, Rexler Noel, Marshon Morris, Chris Jordan and Cameron Crabbe to graduation. However, he was not truly aware how much of a rebuilding process it would be until sophomore forward Jordan Tucker announced that he would be transferring to Stepinac High School, in August.

Mayfield got help when he picked up a valuable asset in junior guard Luis Cartagena, who transferred from Yorktown High School to White Plains, after moving here this summer. However, as well as Cartagena has played this



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Tigers Head Coach Spencer Mayfield (center) has a few words of instructions for Lamar Noel (left), as he substitutes for his promising junior guard during the Tigers loss to Mt. Vernon, 58-45, on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

season, he needs his supporting cast of six juniors and four seniors to complement him.

Although, the Tigers (3-11, 1-4 Section 1 AA) were defeated by the Knights (11-3, 6-0 AA), they played a much more competitive game than they did in their last contest, at Mt. Vernon. The Tigers were blown out of the Mt. Vernon gym by 44 points while only mustering 24 points on offense in a shocking, 68-24, debacle, on January 6.

The Tigers not only played a better game this time against the Knights, while losing 58-45. Mayfield admitted that if his team could play the way they played in the first half for the rest of the season, he would take it. "Yes, if we could play like the first half; if we could bottle that first half we could play with anybody," said Mayfield.

The Knights scored the first 10 points of the game but the Tigers responded to end the first quarter 12-5. Then the Tigers stepped up to unexpectedly outscore the Knights, 19-13, in the second quarter, to end the half only one point down, 25-24.

It was tireless rebounding and a strong defensive effort by senior forward Kevin Trapp that helped the Tigers maintain momentum in the first half. Trapp, in fact, played solid throughout the game in the paint,

while fighting for position and rebounds with some of the best front-court players in Section 1. "I think it is the coaches. The coaches have really instilled in me to play hard, rebound and box-out at all times in the game," said Trapp.

Trapp, who scored seven points in the game, hung tough under the hoop with the likes of Knights' Marco Morency, who had 18 points and 12 rebounds, Noah Morgan, 10 points and five rebounds and Greg Calixte, six points and six rebounds in the game.

"Trapp is an undersized power forward who has been giving us everything that he has all season. Pound for pound he has been holding his own with a lot of bigger players and has done a good job," explained Mayfield.

Cartagena did not have his best game against the Knights in the rematch, while scoring a mere nine points with five of those points coming on free throws. The steadfast junior seemed to let the Knights defenders take him out of his game, while driving to the hoop with authority but forcing shots.

However, it has been Cartagena, who has been the most consistent player for the Tigers through their struggles this season. "Luis is doing pretty well. He is learning to play point guard. He has a lot of athletic skill and ability, he just needs to learn how to play the position a little better," said Mayfield.

In order for Cartagena to implement his entire game repertoire, he needs players like junior guard Cheroqui Layne to play

up to par. Layne, a quick strong guard, who can drive to the hoop with power, did not play his game against Mt. Vernon. The result was that Layne did not score in the game.

Conversely, a pleasant surprise for Mayfield this season has been the progression of junior guard Lamar Noel, who has been responding on both sides of the court. Noel, the younger brother of last year's standout forward Rexler Noel, is a speedy guard who handles the ball well and is very aggressive on offense and defense.

Noel with juniors Juan Diego Vargas and Taylor Nussbaum have displayed that they can be an effective supporting cast to Cartagena and seniors Robert Walker, Nijee Lewis-Jones and Trapp. However, for the Tigers to at least win their remaining three games in the regular season, they need Layne to execute his strength inside and drive to the hoop.

The Tigers season took a tumble when they lost six consecutive games between December 20 and January 10. After losing to Mt. Vernon for the second time this year, the Tigers took their annual trip to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, Jan. 24, where they were beaten by the Millionaires, 59-49.



Tigers junior guard Taylor Nussbaum (left) has proved this season that he can be a defensive presence, as he defends Knights Jamie Wilshire (right).



Mt. Vernon's guard Marco Morency leaps to get a shot off despite the defensive efforts of Tigers forward Kevin Trapp. Morency had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Knights, as they beat the Tigers, 58-45, on January 21.



Tigers junior guard Luis Cartagena (left) slips under Knights Justin Alleyne with his trademark backward layup; but it was not enough as Mt. Vernon beat White Plains, 58-45.

The Tigers have three games remaining this season, including two Section 1 AA contests. They play Scarsdale at WPHS, on Tuesday, Feb. 3, and then they travel to Mamaroneck to play the neighboring Tigers, on Thursday, Feb. 5.

Mayfield would be the first to admit that the White Plains Tigers season has been a disappointment this year. Their record remains 3-11 overall and 1-4 in Section 1 AA. Even if the playoffs will have to wait until next season, if they could win their remaining three games, it may give Mayfield and the Tigers a better feeling regarding how this season came to pass.

EXAMINER SPORTS

NY Rangers Assist Initiative Helps Refurbish Playland Ice Casino

By Albert Coqueran

Before the Madison Garden Training Facility opened in 2002, the New York Rangers would hold their practice sessions at the Playland Ice Rink, in Rye.

The Rangers certainly did not forget where they came from; as for the past two years the Rangers supported by Chase Bank have worked to help refurbish the Playland Ice Casino, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

The Rangers and Chase donated \$25,000 to the Playland Ice Casino and they have worked jointly with Westchester County over the past two years to repair damages to the Ice Casino. Some of the refurbishments initiated through the New York Rangers Assist Initiative for the Playland Ice Casino, included repairing the roof, installing a new dehumidification system and replacing damaged boilers.

On Sunday, Jan. 25, the Rangers and Chase with the town of Rye and Westchester County commemorated the work completed by the NY Rangers Assist



Members of the 1994 NY Rangers Stanley Cup Championship Team, including [l-r] Mike Richter, Mike Hartman, Alexei Kovalev, Adam Graves, Stephane Matteau and Glenn Anderson joined Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino (center) for a ceremonial puck drop before playing an exhibition game to celebrate the refurbishment of the Playland Ice Casino, in Rye.

Initiative, by hosting a celebration at the Playland Ice Casino.

Members of the 1994 NY Rangers Stanley Cup Championship Team, including Mike Richter, Adam Graves, Stephane Matteau, Alexei Kovalev, Mike Hartman and Glenn Anderson joined

Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino to celebrate the refurbishment of the Playland Ice Casino.

As part of the celebration, the Stanley Cup Champion Rangers coached a "Try Hockey for Free" clinic for 85 children from ages 4-10 years old on the ice at

Playland. Also, the Rangers hosted a "Free Family Skating Session" whereas 150 people participated in the event.

The Rangers highlighted the afternoon by playing an exhibition game between members of the 1994 Stanley Cup Championship Team, coaches and Playland Ice Casino volunteers. Astorino stood center ice and dropped a ceremonial puck before the start of the game.

The Rangers alumni game was hosted by Rangers Public Address Announcer John Sheatsley and the National Anthem was sung by legendary Rangers Madison Square Garden anthem singer John Amirante. About 350 spectators attended the game.

The Family Skating Session and the "Try Hockey Free Clinic" were free to the public. The Rangers alumni exhibition game cost \$15.00 to attend with all the proceeds going to the "Friends of Westchester County Parks."

Besides the \$25,000 donated by the NY Rangers and Chase through the Rangers Assist Initiative for the Playland Ice Casino, about another \$12,500 was raised during the Playland Ice Casino celebration, on Sunday, Jan. 25.

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