

Valentine's
Day Dining
Deals
Page 11



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Page 14

FREE

Covering White Plains, Greenburgh and Harrison

February 7-February 13, 2017

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 286

World Interfaith Week Celebrated in White Plains



RALPH COFFEY PHOTO

Representatives from several different religious traditions gathered at the Shinnyo-en Buddhist Temple in White Plains, Sunday, for the 13th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice Celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week. Three Proclamations recognized World Interfaith Harmony Week from Westchester County Legislator Benjamin Boykin, White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach, and Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino. Among those pictured are: Rev. Meredith Garmon (Unitarian Universalist), Renee Fogarty (Society of Friends – Quaker - Moment of Silence), Subodh (Hindu), Jatinder (Sikh), Rev. Qalvy (Buddhist), Ralph Coffey (Humanist), Rabbi Roger Ross (Jewish), Angela Anderson (Church of Latter Day Saints – Mormon), Vivian Bergenthal (Baha'i), Remi Alap (Institute for Peace and Transformational Leadership), Subodh and Trishala Jain, Dr. Shaik Ubaid (Muslim), Fr. John Martin (Christian), Renee Fogarty (Society of Friends – Quaker), and George Stonefish (Native American).

Support for Westchester Resistance at WP Rally

NYS Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) partnered with a diverse coalition of community organizations to host the Westchester Resistance Rally at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University in White Plains on Saturday afternoon. The event was organized in opposition to policies issued via executive order by President Donald J. Trump. Stewart-Cousins stood with local leaders, elected officials and Westchester community members who came together in support of human rights and in opposition to policies banning immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries and the construction of a multi-billion dollar wall between the United States and Mexico.

New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who has investigated President Trump's foundation and Trump University, appeared as a special guest.

continued on page 2

Young Techies Set to Square Off in Mobile App Development Bowl

By Anna Young

Scores of students stormed the court to loud cheers at the Westchester County Center last Friday afternoon kicking off the third annual Westchester Smart Mobile App Development Bowl.

More than 350 students from over 40 high schools and colleges in Westchester, Rockland, New York City, New Jersey and Massachusetts and from as far away as Scotland registered for the competition, an event that challenges students to use technology to find solutions for problems facing today's society.

"We have built an innovative platform that showcases the talents of our students

and pushes the boundaries of their potential while also benefiting all of our communities," County Executive Rob Astorino said. "Smart kids, smart phones, making a better, smart future."

Over the next two months, teams will participate in technology workshops preparing them for this year's challenge – developing a mobile application that will improve an aspect of daily life for people over 65 years old.

"What is truly amazing about what's going to happen over the next two months is that all of our applicable teens are going to create things that your

continued on page 2

Cell Service May Soon Improve in E. Irvington

According to Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner, residents in East Irvington may soon see improvement in their cellphone service – if a proposal for a new cell tower is approved.

At last week's Town Board meeting representatives of Homeland Towers, LLC, made a proposal to lease space at a town-owned property near the Taxter Road park for a cell tower. The property is currently a capped landfill.

The proposal is for an initial term of 10 years with up to nine renewal terms of five years each. As consideration, the Town would receive a minimum rent of

\$2,000 per month with 2 percent annual increase or 35 percent of gross revenue of rents received from co-locators on the tower, whichever is greater.

"The Town Board has not yet determined whether we want to refer this to the Antenna Review Board or whether to consider the lease," said Feiner in an email. "We're seeking community input. In as much as this is totally discretionary on the part of the town; we have the ability to propose a counter offer."

"The tower would be designed to

continued on page 6



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Young Techies Set to Square Off in Mobile App Development Bowl

continued from page 1

parents and grandparents could not even have imagined," Astorino said.

The competition is a joint initiative of Astorino's Office of Economic Development and Pace University's Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Informative Systems.

Dr. Jonathan Hill, dean of the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems at Pace, said students who develop their skills have the promise of generating greater success in the future, but most importantly will improve the lives of others through the use of technology.

"The apps you develop literally help people in critical ways to have better lives and to use technology to make their lives richer, better and easier," he said.



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Students from Pace University who will be participating in this year's Westchester Smart Mobile App Development Bowl, among the more than 350 who will be competing. They were joined last Friday at the event's kickoff by County Executive Rob Astorino.

Contestants will present their final apps to a collection of judges from various industries at Pace on Apr. 28. Winners will receive cash prizes, paid internships, tech gear and a trip to Google headquarters.

"At its core, the mobile app competition positions Westchester as a place where smart things happen, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering and

math," Astorino said. "I'm very proud of this competition and the excitement that it generates and I can't wait to see what our students create this year."

Among the local colleges that will be represented include Pace University, Westchester Community College and The College of Westchester. High schools include Croton-Harmon, Fox Lane, Harrison, Irvington, Mamaroneck, Rye, Scarsdale, Valhalla, Westlake, White Plains and Ossining.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Support for Westchester Resistance at WP Rally

"As President Woodrow Wilson once said, 'The history of liberty is a history of resistance,'" said Senator Stewart-Cousins. "The organic demonstrations of people all over the world underscore the importance of American ideals and values. As an elected official, people want to know where I stand. I'm happy to stand with people who build bridges—not walls—and fight discriminatory policies, no matter who orders them. I'm proud to be part of that resistance."

The event followed weeks of protests and rallies since the Presidential

Inauguration. Senator Stewart-Cousins spoke at the New York City Women's March last month and, after last weekend's immigration executive orders, introduced the New York State Senate Democratic Conference's Resistance Agenda. This plan includes legislation that prohibits the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and local law enforcement officials from enforcing these orders, as well as a bill that prohibits SUNY and CUNY schools from collecting personal data regarding the immigration status and country of origin of students.

Stewart-Cousins hosted the rally in partnership with many organizations, including the

Immigration Justice Clinic at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, the Lower Hudson Valley Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union, Cabrini Immigrant Services,

us out of this false crisis."

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) said, "New York has benefited tremendously from our diversity. Welcoming immigrants isn't just a vital part of our history from the days of Ellis Island, it is a practice that continues to enrich our community. To have



New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, appeared as a special guest at Saturday's Westchester Resistance Rally in White Plains. Many local government officials also attended the rally.

Community Voices Heard, the Yonkers Islamic Center, the Muslim American Society of Upper New York, St. Catherine AME Zion Church, Calvary Baptist Church, the Minister's Fellowship Council of White Plains and Vicinity, Temple Beth Shalom in Hastings-on-Hudson, Temple Israel of New Rochelle, My Sisters' Place, and a myriad of labor and civic organizations.

Many local government leaders also participated.

State Senator George Latimer (D-Rye) said, "There is a frenzy in the moment, manufactured by politics, feeding on fear. It was this way in 1919. It was this way in the 1950. In both cases, the fear was unfounded. And the fear dissipated. And so it is again. Reasonable people will lead

Westchester leaders come together and reaffirm our commitment to a tolerant society that appreciates immigrants and refugees is inspiring."

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) said, "Every one of our families has, at one point, been an immigrant in this country, whether they came here this year, 10 years ago or 100 years ago. That we should not be welcoming to immigrants or refugees goes against the standards and principles that have been part of this country's foundation for nearly 250 years."

"Dr. King reminded us that, 'For evil to succeed, all it needs is for good men to do nothing,'" said Stewart-Cousins. "We are compelled to act when policies threaten the foundation of American values."

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Woman's Club of White Plains Donates \$15,000 to YWCA



The Woman's Club of White Plains ended its centennial year by presenting \$15,000 to the YWCA of White Plains & Central Westchester, continuing a partnership begun in 1921. The relationship between the Woman's Club and the YWCA goes back almost as far as the Woman's Club itself. The Community Girls Works program was conceived by the Woman's Club in 1921 to address the needs of young working women and girls. It was hugely successful and rapidly expanded to include a variety of classes and activities. By the end of the 1920's, almost 3,000 girls and women had participated. In February 1929, the Woman's Club submitted an application to the national YWCA for a branch in White Plains to take over this increasingly popular program. By April 1929 the YWCA of White Plains was a reality. At the Woman's Club Gala of the Century in November, the YWCA was honored for its community service. Pictured left to right: Chrissy Esposito, Pat Jones, Lynn Pollack and Maria Imperial, YWCA with Colleen Fay and Christine Roithmayr, Woman's Club of White Plains.

Pace Women's Justice Center Honored at Woman's Club Tea



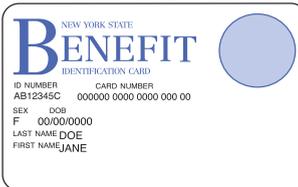
On Jan. 29, The Woman's Club of White Plains held their annual Winter Tea, with all proceeds from the event going to the Pace Women's Justice Center's new walk-in legal clinic. The clinic, opening Fall 2017, will be the only one of its kind in Westchester County and will provide free legal services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. It will be an innovative and model program that will remove several of the obstacles that victims face when coming forward: services will be free, available without an appointment, physically accessible, and will connect clients with the full spectrum of services that they may need—whether it be ongoing legal services or social services through our community partners. Pictured left to right: PWIC Executive Director Cindy Kanusher, Esq.; White Plains Woman's Club members Linda Cuono, Eileen McGarvey, and Phyllis O'Keefe; PWIC Advisory Board Member Gretchen Flint, Esq.



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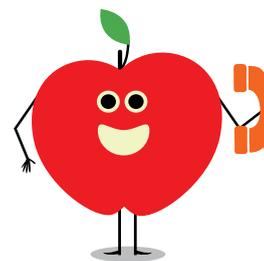
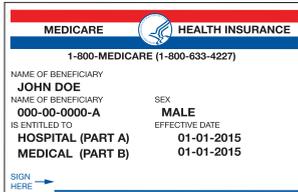


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School Aid, Tax Cap Relief the Focus at W'chester State Budget Forum

By Neal Rentz

School funding was a key topic addressed at a state budget forum held by a group of Westchester Democratic state legislators at the Greenburgh Public Library last Friday.

Much of the discussion on the proposed \$152.3 billion budget focused on the need to increase state aid for school districts in Westchester County and to provide districts relief from the tax cap.

Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter said she disagreed with a proposal from Gov. Andrew Cuomo to potentially cut school aid during the middle of the 2017-18 school year if he deemed that the federal government had not provided the state with enough aid.

Local school districts need additional state funding for programs to provide English language instruction and other programs to assist immigrant students, Fox-Alter said.

She said the current state law of requiring a budget that exceeds the tax cap to pass with at least 60 percent of



Local Democratic state representatives participated in a state budget forum last Friday at the Greenburgh Public Library. Shown above, from left, are Assembly members David Buchwald, Steve Otis, Gary Pretlow, Sandra Galef, Shelley Mayer, Thomas Abinanti and state Sen. George Latimer.

voters must be changed. If 60 percent or more of the members of a board of education agree to override the tax cap then a simple majority of district voters should be enough to approve that budget.

Many of the ideas expressed by Fox-Alter were shared by Lisa Davis, executive director of the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association, including a majority vote needed to override the tax cap.

Davis said the current aid formula is harming districts in Westchester because the state is overestimating its wealth. Three-quarters of school budgets in the county are spent on employee salaries and benefits, she said.

The cost of providing education is more expensive in Westchester than other parts of the state because the cost of living is higher than in

other regions, Davis said.

Like Fox-Alter, Davis said school boards should have the power to exceed the state tax cap and those budgets should only need a majority vote of district residents.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) said he agreed with Davis that the state aid formula are unfair to Westchester districts and needed to

be changed to reflect the higher cost of living.

SUNY Purchase President Thomas Schwarz asked legislators for funding for capital improvements at the Performing Arts Center. One of the proposed projects for the theater is to make it handicapped accessible, he said.

The college also wants to make improvements at the facility so it may be used for additional arts and media instruction. Schwarz estimated the project would cost \$32 million.

Buchwald responded that he wanted the college to provide additional information about the proposed capital projects.

Schwarz told legislators additional state aid was needed by public colleges in New York. Currently 35 percent of the college's funds come from state aid, while 65 percent is provided through student tuition, he said.

About 100 students at SUNY Purchase would be eligible for free tuition under Cuomo's plan.

In addition to Buchwald, other state legislators who attended the forum included Assemblyman Steve Otis (D-Rye), Assemblyman Gary Pretlow (D-Mount Vernon), Assemblywoman Sandra Galef (D-Ossining), Assemblyman Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers), Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) and state Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye).

Jean McMahon-Amodio Scholarship for Stepinac Students Established

To honor the memory of Jean McMahon Amodio, a life-long resident and strong supporter of the White Plains community who passed away on November 30, 2016, the McMahon family and Stepinac High School have established the Jean McMahon Amodio Memorial Scholarship.

Each year, the scholarship will be awarded to help educate an outstanding student "who, without such a gift, would be unable to attend Stepinac." Because of the McMahon and Amodio families' deep roots in White Plains, preference will be given to a student in that community. Jean was co-owner and treasurer of McMahon, Lyon & Hartnett Funeral Home.

The scholarship kicks off with a partial

tuition scholarship in 2017 with the goal of creating an endowed scholarship that will provide tuition assistance to a rising senior starting next year. The selection of the scholarship recipient will be determined by Stepinac and awarded at the beginning of the academic year.

Stepinac was selected because of the family's history with the school and their strong belief in the core values of a Catholic education. Jean's husband, Frank Amodio and son, Kevin Amodio, are Stepinac alumni (respectively, Class of '70 and '03). Jean was a graduate of Maria Regina High School.

For more information about the Jean McMahon Amodio Memorial Scholarship Fund including how to make a donation, call 914-946-4800.

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Homeless Man Pleads Guilty to Rape and Robbery

Akhim Blount (DOB 7/1/79) of Valhalla, pled guilty before Judge Susan Cacace (Westchester County Court) to three counts of Predatory Sexual Assault, one count of Rape in the First Degree, two counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree, two counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, two counts of Robbery in the First Degree one count of Robbery in the Second Degree, and two counts of Robbery in the Third Degree, class "D" Felonies.

On September 11, 2015 at approximately 8:30 p.m., the defendant approached the 57 year old female victim in the vicinity of 106 Belmont Avenue in Yonkers. He grabbed her from behind around the neck and throat, obstructing her breathing. He forced her into a yard

located on Belmont Avenue and threw her to the ground.

The defendant repeatedly threatened the victim by telling her that he had a knife and would cut her head off. He then demanded she take off her pants and underwear. Fearing for her life, she complied. The defendant raped her. When she began to scream, the defendant covered her mouth and nose with his hand, preventing her from breathing.

The defendant got off the victim, dragged her deeper into the yard towards a wooded tree line, where he sexually abused her further. He then demanded she turn over her money and other personal property. The defendant told the victim not to move because if she did he would shoot her. He then left the scene with the



of the car and ran to a Good Samaritan who lent her a phone to call police.

On September 23, 2015 at approximately 7:30 p.m., the victim, a 22 year old woman, was sitting in her car at the Cross County Shopping Center in Yonkers when the defendant jumped into her front seat. He grabbed the victim by the back of the head and by her arm and violently pulled her towards him in the front seat. He told her not to move threatening that if she did, he would cut her with a knife. Terrified, the victim struggled with the defendant and managed to run from the car to the safety of a Good Samaritan. The defendant grabbed her purse containing her wallet, her iPhone and sneakers that she had just purchased.

victim's money. The victim waited a few minutes and then called police.

On September 13, 2015 at approximately 8:15 p.m., the defendant approached a 37 year old woman just getting out of her car in the parking lot located at 801 Bronx River Road in Yonkers. He demanded she get back in the car displaying what appeared to be a handgun. The victim attempted to hand over her wallet and iPhone. That is when the defendant shoved her into the front seat and grabbed her pants in an effort to remove them. The victim struggled with the defendant as he forcibly groped her. That is when she broke free, jumped out

Yonkers Police arrested the defendant on September 23, 2015 in reference to the Cross County Shopping incident. An intensive investigation, which included DNA evidence, resulted in the defendant being linked to the previous incidents.

The defendant's remand continues. He will be sentenced on April 25, 2017.

The defendant faces a maximum of 25 years to life in state prison as a second violent felony offender.

Assistant District Attorney Michelle Lopez of the Superior Court Trial Division is prosecuting the case.

Cell Service May Soon Improve in E. Irvington

continued from page 1

support co-location of the wireless carriers, as well as the Town's Emergency Services equipment. The top of the tower and space within the secure fenced compound would be reserved for the Town's use throughout the term of the lease at no cost to the Town. Accordingly, the facility would remedy gaps in wireless and emergency service communications. Homeland Towers is willing to design

the site to have the appearance of an evergreen tree in order to eliminate any perceived aesthetic impact. The site would be (built) in accordance with all FCC safety guidelines," Feiner said.

The final design of the facility would be subject to review under the Town's Zoning Code.

Feiner is seeking input from residents in the E. Irvington section of town.

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Obituaries

John Vincent Bonistall

John Vincent Bonistall, a Harrison resident, died Jan. 31 at the age of 60. He was born December 31, 1956 in Pittsburgh, PA to Clifford A. and Grace C. Bonistall.

John was the Assistant Administrator in the Comptrollers' office for the Town of Harrison for the past 12 years.

He is survived by his mother Grace Bonistall, his brothers, Clifford, David, Mark and Alan Bonistall and his sisters, Carol Harrington, Melissa Morini and Susan Vatalaro. Also surviving are 21 nieces and nephews, Meghan Schuler, Kathryn Casciano, Molly Evans, Amy and Steven Bonistall, Tara Noland, Emily Postel, Beth Romer, Kristen Link, Alan and Brandon Bonistall, Sara, Julia, Laura and Olivia Morini, Elizabeth and Abigail Cowan, Rachael Haas, Thomas Vatalaro, Jourdan Vatalaro and Morgan Vatalaro and his 13 grandnieces and grandnephews, Timothy and Tessa Schuler, Mia, Cara and Owen Casciano, Chloe, Reese and Luke Evans, Isabelle and Emelia Link, Elliot Noland, Samuel Vatalaro and Harrison Haas.

John loved spending time with all of his family.



Gerard Lyons

Gerard "Rod" Lyons, 70, of White Plains, passed away Jan. 30. He was born January 27, 1947 in the Bronx, to the late Mary Jane (Shanley) and John Joseph Lyons. He graduated from Xavier High School, and earned his Bachelor's degree from Loras College.

Gerard was the owner of Lyons Exterminating Co. for 35 years and was known by his nickname "Doctor Death." He loved to golf, travel, enjoy wine, and was a huge Yankees fan.

Gerard is predeceased by his sister Noreen Burke of MA and CA. He is survived by his wife Lynn Lyons of White Plains and her parents, Raymond and JoAnne Wheeler of CT. He is also survived by his twin brother Chris Lyons (Kathy) of VT; his sister Theresa Brosnan of Cape Cod; his nieces: Mary Kaye Ashkenaze (David) of CA, and Kate Leffingwell of NYC; his nephews: Michael Brosnan of CT, and John Brosnan of MA; his grand niece and nephew, Kerry Anne and Joshua Ashkenaze of CA; and his sister-in-laws: Anne Newman (Rick) of CT, and Sharon Wheeler Napoli (Tony) of CA.



William J. McMahon

William J. McMahon, Jr. 93, of White Plains, entered into eternal life surrounded by his cherished family on Jan. 30. Bill was born in Jeddo, PA on November 3, 1923 and with his family returned to White Plains in 1928. He was the son of Leonora Ellen Swift and William J. McMahon, Sr. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 62 years, Leila Blanche McMahon (nee Jeannotte) in 2008. Together they lovingly raised their three children, Anne FitzSimmons (John) and William J. McMahon III (Joanne) of White Plains and Mary McCormack (John) of Poughquag, NY. Bill was one of nine children: he was predeceased by Annie Lee, Thomas McMahon, Mary Veatch, Helynn Kapp, John McMahon, Patsy Bola, and Peggy Calabrese. He is survived by his sister Bonnie Sommerhoff of Plantation, FL. Bill's grandchildren and great-grandchild were the joy of his life. The grandchildren are Sean (Kimberly), Brian (Molly), and Kayla McCormack, John William and Mary Kate FitzSimmons, and Billy (the 4th), Casey, Megan, and Jessica McMahon and great-grandchild Jackson McCormack. Bill was very proud of his service to his country during WWII. He enlisted in the United States Navy in January, 1941 and

was honorably discharged in November of 1946. He was one of the youngest sailors to achieve the rank of Chief Petty Officer during his service. He served at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Seattle NAS, San Diego NAS and various locations in the South Pacific. Bill was appointed to the White Plains Fire Department in June, 1951. He achieved the ranks of Lieutenant, Deputy Chief and was promoted to Chief of the Department on April 4, 1977. He retired in March of 1986. After retirement Bill was very active in the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. He was diligent in his efforts to promote legislation requiring sprinkler systems in new construction. He was sworn in as the president of the State Chiefs in June of 1989. Bill and Blanche enjoyed traveling and after retirement they visited many different countries. This was only accomplished after they had visited all 50 states. When they were home they spent much of their time with their children and grandchildren. Bill was also known for his long walks. A walk to Armonk and back was routine. The family thanks the team from Phelps Memorial Hospital Hospice, Dr. Indio, Dr. Green and Father Timothy Wiggins for their kindness and compassion.



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Statement from Mayor Roach on the President's Executive Order on Immigration

The City of White Plains is a diverse, vibrant and welcoming community. As Mayor, protecting the rights of all those who live, work, and visit here is paramount.

In White Plains we recognize that immigration is part of our national story. It was an immigrant, Alexander Hamilton, whose command of artillery held off British and Hessian troops during the Battle of White Plains, allowing General Washington to preserve his army, and

ultimately, our nation. The contributions of immigrants to our city and our nation have continued to this day.

The recent executive order issued by President Trump regarding "sanctuary cities" is of great concern. There is no clear definition of what constitutes a "sanctuary city" and therefore we do not adopt that term in White Plains. We believe it is more helpful to discuss our actual policies:

Our police officers have not and will not inquire regarding an individual's

immigration status.

We believe enforcement of federal immigration law lies with federal enforcement agencies not local police forces and we proceed accordingly.

We adhere to the practices outlined by Attorney General Schneiderman in his recently issued guidance to local governments. We were pleased to have been consulted during the drafting of those guidelines.

Our practices represent proper

community policing, focused on building and maintaining trust and cooperation between the police and the community. Studies have demonstrated that these policies reduce crime and create a safer environment for all.

All of our policies are in compliance with the law and the Constitution and we are prepared to defend them in a court of law if necessary. We are proud of our policies and will continue to protect the rights of all those within our borders.

Walk for Women Veterans

The Barbara E. Giordano Foundation will hold its first annual Walk for Women Veterans in honor of National Military Appreciation Month on Sunday, May 21, at Pace University, 861 Bedford Road, Pleasantville. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. and the walk kicks off at 9:30 a.m., and will take place around the campus.

Everyone must register in order to walk. There is no fee to register. The first 200 registrants receive a Walk for Women Veterans wristband and any individual walker who fundraises \$150 or more receives a commemorative 2017

Walk for Women Veterans tee-shirt.

Money raised from the walk will go towards establishing and delivering the much-needed services and programs for woman veterans and their families. These will include peer counseling, peer support groups, employment assistance, childcare, housing, specialized programming (healing from military sexual abuse, creative arts for self-expression, skills to help cope with transitioning to civilian life, resource guides to services - VA and non-VA), and educational forums (holistic health,

job training, stress management).

This family friendly event is stroller and handicap accessible. No pets except for service dogs. Kacey Grean of Radio 100.7 WHUD will serve as emcee. For more information, to register a team, or walk as an individual, visit www.giordanofoundation.org, call 914-686-8002, or email walkforwomenvets@gmail.com.

The Barbara E. Giordano Foundation provides holistic health and education programs and services that "fill the gap" between what is already available

and what is still needed to help women veterans and their families live productive and healthy lives. The Foundation is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization and is named after the late Barbara E. Giordano, a nurse, hospital administrator and author who championed the cause for every patient, demanding the best of care for each individual. While she possessed an incredible knowledge of "traditional" medicine, she had a strong dedication to holistic health education programs for women.

Free Income Tax Preparation at the White Plains Library

The AARP Foundation Tax Aide program is being hosted by the White Plains Public Library. Both English and Spanish speaking staff will be on site. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning February 1 through April 18.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, an AARP Foundation program, helps low-

to moderate-income taxpayers have more discretionary income for everyday essentials, such as food and housing, by assisting with tax services and ensuring they receive applicable tax credits and deductions.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is available free to those above taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older. Through

a cadre of trained and IRS-certified volunteers, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service has helped low- to moderate-income individuals for more than 40 years in every state and the District of Columbia.

To expedite preparation of your return, please bring the following applicable

forms: Last year's federal and state returns, W-2 forms, 1099 forms, Health care information, photo ID, social security/ITIN card, and bank information if direct deposit of your refund is desired.

For more information, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit: <http://whiteplainslibrary.org/2017/01/free-income-tax-preparation-at-the-library/>

St. Christopher's to Use Goats to Motivate Children on the Autism Spectrum

On 35-acres of secluded, wooded property overlooking the Kensico Reservoir sits the Jennie Clarkson Campus, specializing in programs for children on the autistic spectrum. The St. Christopher's REACH program will include an Animal-Assisted Therapy Program using goats this spring. REACH provides placement for males and females

aged 12 to 21 who are cognitively limited with intensive treatment needs. Research suggests there is a great benefit to using animals of any type in therapeutic environments. Incorporating animals into therapy can assist in decreasing aggression and negative self-image while increasing cooperative behavior, empathy and social relatedness. In the presence of

animals, children and adolescents tend to talk more openly and those on the autistic spectrum display more social relatedness.

"The animals will live on the campus' 2.5-acre farm and fuse together animal-assisted therapy and nature-based education. There's an endless list of ways we can incorporate the animals into the St. Christopher's curriculum," said Anne-Marie Sasso, St. Christopher's consultant and Certified Therapeutic Livestock Coordinator. "Beyond inspiring them with empathy towards all living things, the goats will afford children opportunities to share experiences and learn new skills, as well as improve their work ethics." The organization will bring the animals to state and county fairs allowing the children the chance to be in a public setting to work on presentations and behavior.

There will be an event to welcome the goats to campus this spring. St. Christopher's staff are actively working to prepare for their arrival with the addition of a barn on campus. "We will go to great lengths to provide each animal with the utmost nutrition, housing, and veterinary care, and to be sure that they benefit as

much from the interactions as the children do," said Dr. Donald Antonecchia, Chief Operating Officer, St. Christopher's. "Any and all support is welcomed as we prepare to take a step forward in our programming for our children."

For more information on St. Christopher's visit www.stchristophersinc.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.

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The Front Door Reflects the Soul of the Home

It's the wisest advice any home seller could receive: check out that front door! It can be the key to a home's personality, either reflecting the condition of the space within – or contradicting it.

Just as a person is judged within a few seconds of a first meeting, a house is judged in great part by the condition, functionality and look of its front door.

If the door needs painting or is warped and if the hardware is tarnished and in poor working order, a pall can be cast over the entire house as being outdated. Perhaps some homeowners are unaware of a deteriorating front door because most people drive into their attached garage and walk directly into the mud room or kitchen. However, visitors and prospective home buyers would come only to the front door.

While the functional purposes of a front door are to withstand the elements, help toward energy efficiency and provide protection for the home, visitors view it as an aesthetic statement, even a psychological one. If the door is attractive and in good shape, that perception extends to the entire household – and to its owners as well.

Some door problems can be repaired and others cannot. If the door is improperly hung, has trouble closing or latching, is only slightly warped or is just sticking, these problems may be worth fixing. But if it has rot or is outdated in

style, consider the options for replacement.

Whether you use a contractor or a handyman for door replacement, you'll get different opinions about which kind of new door to choose. Some would suggest that the best material to use is wood. Steel or aluminum may be recommended as the most sturdy and secure, but according to most remodeling contractors, the most popular choice today is the high-quality fiberglass door. The insulation quality of the latter is better than that of a wooden door, and it will not warp or crack.

The feature I like best about a fiberglass door is that the manufacturers have managed to develop an incredibly realistic grain that matches real wood. Also, there is a great number of door styles and beveled glass options available. Fiberglass can be stained or painted, and fancy hardware can be applied to them, just as you would a wood door.

That brings us to the subject of the door hardware which, in aesthetic terms,

can make a door “pop,” but if it's worn, that pop can be a dull thud. The polished look is one factor, but a lock and handle's functionality is the primary thing to consider. Basically, locksets fall into two different categories, mortise or cylindrical. While I don't fully understand the mechanical workings of these two types of locks, my trusted locksmith tells me that mortise locksets, which are installed into a rectangular dugout in the door, offer the ultimate in security, design and ruggedness.

The choice of locksets and handles can be a daunting experience. When I went hunting for new hardware, I was overwhelmed by the selection available. I took

a picture of the set I thought the most attractive and showed it to my locksmith and asked him to supply the best choice for my door, which was a genuine antique, and the lock required all sorts of considerations for its installation. Better to leave such things to the experts, unless you're a great do-it-yourselfer, which I am not.

Highly polished solid brass knobs, backplates and thumb latches are

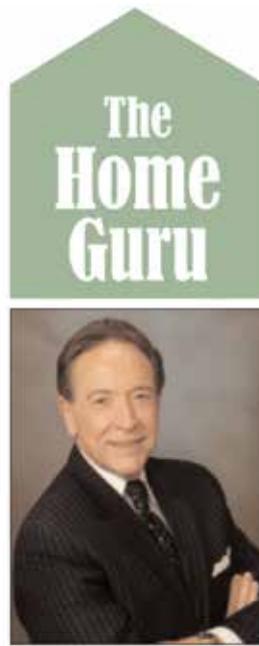
desirable but, fair warning, they can be quite expensive.

When it comes to selecting a color for the front door, it is a situation of relating to, or contrasting with, one of the other tones found in the house or the landscape that surrounds it. Most people today are choosing a deep green or red to have their front doors stand out.

One cardinal rule about color: a front door should never be stark white. The theory here is that the door should relate to the landscape in some way and pure white is rarely found in nature. The large casing around the door should be a different color than the door itself. The casing should be treated like a trim, which matches the windows and other trim.

For those of you with a bent toward feng shui, you know that the front door is the main source of a house's energy. But practically and simply put for both curb appeal and resale value, spruce up the front door, and in a sense, you have a new home.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com, and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

Man's Adaptability in the Face of Climate Change



By Nick Antonaccio

The end of weather as we know it is on the horizon and we're all slowly going to drown or starve or move to Mars. Or maybe not.

As scientifically based as this topic should be, there are varying, diametrically opposed viewpoints on our purported demise. Most appear to be science-based, others ideologically-based.

Regardless of one's viewpoint, documented changes are underfoot in the wine industry.

In the vineyard, climate is one of the most influential factors affecting grape production, characteristics and quality. The early Romans understood this and planting patterns did not materially change in the ensuing millennia. Cabernet Sauvignon fares best in warmer climates; this is where you will generally find them planted. Pinot Noir thrives in cooler climates; look to the Burgundy region of France for the best expressions.

If there are major changes in these conditions, the characteristics of the end product – the glass of wine you and I consume – will likely change, upsetting centuries of local traditions and economics.

Much is riding on the potential long-term effects of climate change. But how does one determine the veracity of climate

change claims?

There are two primary means: scientific study and anecdotal experiences.

Scientific studies have shown that the planet is warming. Not analogous to a slow, constantly rising curve on a chart or graph, but more so in protracted periods of high and low swings, a saw-tooth graph whose extreme points reach new highs with each changing pattern.

One study predicts that by 2050 nearly one-quarter of areas in major wine-producing regions will no longer be suitable for grape-growing, according to Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Anecdotal experience provides first-hand evidence. Vineyard owners around the globe have been reporting the need to harvest their crops earlier than ever in their lifetimes. Not every year, but a trend is clear. And not in significant numbers of days or weeks, but rather a few days or a week each year.

Another study analyzed centuries-old vineyard records kept by winemaking monks in France. The very detailed records showed stable harvest dates from the 14th century onward. Over the most recent quarter century, however, harvest dates have been trending earlier, in

increasing frequency.

Enterprising British winemakers analyzed warming patterns several years ago, decided to take advantage of this new phenomenon and successfully planted Chardonnay and Pinot Noir vines. Today, British sparkling wines produced from these grapes are receiving worldwide accolades.

What does the future hold for the wine industry and the agriculture industry in general?

Overall, we must not lose sight of what has enabled man to overcome past calamities and natural disasters throughout history: resistance and ingenuity.

Battling climate change in the vineyards will test man's ingenuity and adaptability. Short of succumbing, man's determination will seek survival options. Here are several:

Different grape varieties may be planted that thrive in a locale's changed climate. But what of the supplanted grapes? Will wines formerly produced in cooler climates head toward extinction? Man's ingenuity and innate entrepreneurship will likely capitalize on unintended consequences.

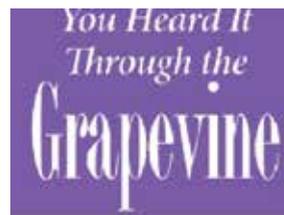
As man invents and develops advanced technology, the threat of climate change will become a top priority in this field. This is already evident in the science

of genomics. Scientists working at the University of California-Davis are embarking on a major new endeavor – to define the genetic makeup of individual grape varieties to unlock the attributes of genes associated with climate resistance, flavor, aroma and hardiness. First up: Cabernet Sauvignon's 19 chromosomes. The ultimate goal is to enhance DNA traits to better adapt to changes in future growing conditions.

A pioneering winemaker in California, Randall Grahm, has made a personal commitment to preserve, and improve, future grapevines that are true expressions of place and terroir – and will contribute to offsetting the climate change effects of drought and higher temperatures.

Some might say if we can't rely on the accuracy of a meteorologist's short-term prognostications, why should we rely on the long-term accuracy of a climatologist? In the face of long-term evidence and the potential consequences, do we have a choice?

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. 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.



Romance Over Food and Wine on Valentine's Day, Part 2



By Morris Gut

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 is Tuesday, Feb. 14. Warm things up a bit, make a whole week out of

it. Restaurants and nightspots are gearing up to serve some of their most titillating specialties. Here is an eclectic round up of delectable dishes and dining venues for you and your loved one and don't forget to reserve early.

Lusty Italian Cooking. This modern Italian restaurant currently marking a first anniversary in Westchester serves a robust menu of signature specialties by talented Chef Giuseppe Fanelli. There is a bustling main dining room with white leather high back chairs and a more intimate room upstairs with windows overlooking the wooded surroundings. Let general manager Michael Colucci and his team take you on a most flavorful tour: Inside Out Meatballs, Brussels Sprout Salad, Angry Lobster, Kobe Beef Ravioli, Frenched Chicken scarpariello-style, and their extraordinary house made



Antipasti platter for two at Ernesto's.

Pappardelle with smoked duck. There's even a Fat Bastard Burger loaded with the works, if you wish. Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Attractive bar/lounge with seating for 10. Tredici North, 578 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase; 914-997-4113; www.tredicinorth.com.

A Taste of the Exotic. The exciting sights, scents and exotic flavors of regional India cuisine come alive at Mughal Palace, 16 Broadway, Valhalla; 914-997-6090. Proprietor Mohammed Alam and his friendly professional staff are great tour guides and always strive make your visit a pleasant one. There is a daily all you can eat Luncheon Buffet offering a changing variety of fresh menu specialties. Over a dozen selections with all the trimmings from soup, salad and fresh baked breads to main courses and dessert is fixed price, all you can eat. The buffet is served daily 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. If you are new to the cuisine, it is a great way to taste a variety

of dishes at one sitting. Buffet served: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily, \$12.95 per person; \$14.95 Saturdays; \$15.95 Sundays. The fresh made Indian breads are a must to help lap up those delicious gravies: Nan, Onion Kulcha and Garlic Nan are favorites. A variety of Indian beers or Mango Lassi will help you wash it all down. A Winter Special offers 20% off selected beers and wine throughout the week; www.mughalpalace.com.

Italian Flavors to Swoon Over. Genial hosts Ernesto Capalbo and Charlie Gambino of Ernesto's Ristorante, 130 W. Post Road, White Plains, 914-421-1414, have given the restaurant a fresh contemporized look. The sparkling 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 venue for networking. There is Kitchen Counter lunch for \$10.95 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 \$17.95. There will be additional Valentine's Day specialties like house made Heart Shaped Lobster Ravioli. The regular Italian-American menu is always available as are private party facilities for up to 75 guests. Let the veteran floor staff led by Elio, Geovan and Juan see to your needs. Ernesto moved his popular pizza shop down to the corner and named it Pizza Cucina where you can still get all your favorites fresh-made. If you ask, they will prepare a special heart shaped pizza. Pizza Cucina is located at 102 Post Road, White Plains; 914-752-4611. On and off premise catering. Free and municipal parking; www.ernestoristorante.com.

Love, Croatian-Style. There will be a vivacious Valentine's menu for \$65. Truffles, too! For years Jerry Tomic, a native of Croatia, dreamed of bringing a true taste of home to Westchester. He premiered Dubrovnik, 721 Main Street, New Rochelle, 914-637-3777, Westchester's first restaurant devoted to Croatian cuisine and atmosphere, a multi-level 85-seat establishment with seasonal outdoor patio, state of the art temperature controlled wine cellar, al fresco wood burning rotisserie BBQ, lush seasonal herb garden and bar/lounge. Talented chef Selendic and his team man the kitchen and they will transport you to the beautiful Adriatic on the Dalmatian Coast in flavorful style. Joining Tomic is veteran restaurateur and floor manager Nada Bernic, previously of The Terrace in Manhattan. Most everything is house made from the bread to desserts. Try the Warm Octopus Salad; Steamed Mussels; Bay Scallops on the Shell; Fresh Cod Filet with grapes, olives, pearl onions; Mama Tereza's lobster, shrimp, scallops, fish, clams and mussels steamed in a seasonal broth over pasta; Grilled Rack of Lamb; or whole roasted fish prepared out

on the BBQ. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner. Live entertainment. Reservations suggested. Private party facilities. Valet parking; www.durbrovnikny.com.

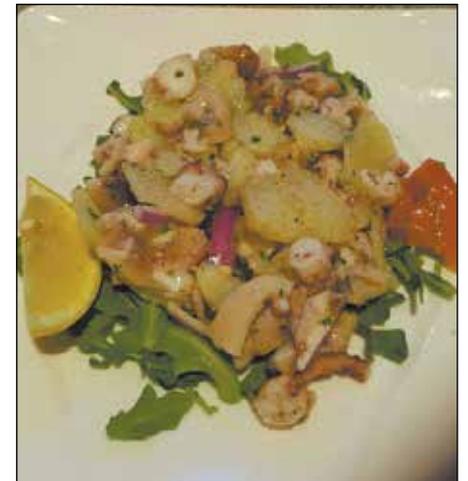
Share an Antipasti Platter. It usually begins at Chef Tony Spiritoso's signature Antipasti Bar. Tony has brought his vintage bright red slicing machines along wherever he has been, and they are ready to roll. Breads are served in folded paper bags. And the wine selection is among the best in Westchester. A titillating combination for the palate. The name 'La Bocca' comes from the famous open-mouthed statue in Italy 'La Bocca Della Verita' (the mouth of truth) via the classic film 'Roman Holiday'.

There is banquette and table seating in the main 80-seat dining room, while the bar is often a perfect spot of networking. There is a new wine room for private events for up to 60 guests. Tony and his son in law Alessandro and the veteran staff will take good care of you. Great menu starters right now also include: Crespelle Fiorentino, eggplant rollatine with ricotta cheese and spinach in a pink sauce; Mozzarella di Bufala, Buffalo mozzarella served with tomato and basil; Insalata Contadina, arugula, pear, walnuts and bleu cheese; Polpo alla Calabrese, octopus sautéed with cherry tomato, hot pepper, garlic and oil; and Tony's popular Sapori d' Italia, a selection of Italian delicatessen. La Bocca is located at 8 Church Street, White Plains; 914-948-3281; www.laboccaristorante.com.



Seafood Platter for two with fresh pizza bread at Mamma Francesca.

Love on the Sound Shore. An extraordinary 5-course Valentine's dinner will be served for \$59.95 per couple. The regular menu will also be available. When Nick DiCostanzo was growing up on the Island of Ischia on the Coast of Naples in Italy, his earliest memories were of the simple seaside meals he would enjoy with his family, farm-to-table and of course sea-to-table. As proprietor of Mamma Francesca Italian Restaurant in New Rochelle for over 30 years, located on the banks of Long Island Sound with 6-story views of the 'Queen City's' seafaring



Octopus salad at Dubrovnik, New Rochelle.

boat clubs, this culinary philosophy still holds true, albeit with a sprinkling of contemporary taste. Specialties include: fresh Ischia Salad; individual sized pizza; Giant Meatballs; good retro versions of Chicken, Veal or Shrimp Parmigiana; Mamma's Chicken Breast Europeo, stuffed with prosciutto, mozzarella, mushrooms and spinach in a Marsala wine sauce; a big platter of Misto Frutti di Mare loaded with shrimp, clams, calamari and mussels in a red sauce over linguini; and Pork Chops or Sirloin della Nonna, served with sliced potatoes, peppers, mushrooms and onions. Daily Happy Hours. Party facilities and off-premise catering. Free parking. Mamma Francesca, 414 Pelham Road, New Rochelle; 914-636-1229; www.mammafrancesca.com.

Pucker Up in a Booth at the Diner. The regular menu will be served along with extra specialties. Chef-owner and personable host Dean Vivolo of Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison, 914-835-6199, serves his robust regional Italian cuisine out of a vintage diner just across from Harrison's Metro-North station. Sit at the counter, tuck into a booth, or take a table in the rear greenhouse and enjoy the surprising contemporary and traditional flavors emanating from his kitchen: tasty thin-crust pizzas; Gnocchi con Chinghiali, wild boar ragu and pecorino; Pappardelle di Cortina, rabbit sausage, porcini mushrooms, radicchio, rosemary and butter; Crostino di Polenta, topped with wild mushrooms, gorgonzola and tomato sauce; Lasagna Bolognese al Forno; a wonderful Linguine ala Vongole; fresh Branzino; Osso Buco, tender braised veal shank; Grilled Rack of Lamb; and house made Ricotta Cheese Cake for dessert. If the name Vivolo sounds familiar, Dean's dad Michael Vivolo is owner of the venerable La Riserva in Larchmont. Good wine list. Open 7 days. Free parking. www.trattoriavivolo.com.

Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food & dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591; gutreactions@optonline.net.



The Restaurant Examiner



Restaurants With Special Valentine's Day Dining Deals

By Jerry Eimbinder

Many Westchester and Putnam restaurants offer special incentives for celebrating Valentine's Day, including the eateries listed below. With some exceptions, the regular menus or limited versions of it will also be available. Prices shown for prix fixe menus do not include tax, tip or beverages, unless otherwise noted. This guide shows selected dishes only and does not cover all prix fixe choices or all specials offered at the listed restaurants.

5 Spice Teahouse & Restaurant (Mount Kisco). Five-courses (\$79 per couple). A red rose for the ladies and a glass of red or white wine is included. Reservations limited to 20 couples.

12 Grapes (Peekskill). An à la carte dinner and two shows with seating at 5:30 to 6 p.m. and 8 to 8:30 p.m. Special menu. Vocalist Maria Grispin, bass/percussionist Joe Spinelli and Claudia Grispin on keys perform Broadway, jazz and R&B favorites.

251 Lex (Mount Kisco) and 273 Kitchen (Harrison). Four courses (\$79). Fresh shucked oysters and Mediterranean maze. Entrées: Falafel, brazen, Spanish octopus, cavatelli and lamb ambbol ocnese, pork shank and prime steak.

Alvin & Friends (New Rochelle). Three-course menu (\$60). Includes glass of champagne. Specials: rack of lamb, snapper, Creole chicken. Dessert sampler includes chocolate covered strawberries, white chocolate-covered brownies and red velvet bread pudding. Pianist Dinah Vero performs.

Augie's Prime Cut (Mohegan Lake). Heart-shaped lobster ravioli with a pink champagne sauce (\$16).

Benjamin Steak House (White Plains). Three courses (\$89), including coffee or tea. Entrées: Porterhouse steak, Chilean sea bass, surf (lobster tail) and turf (filet mignon).

Ben's of Scarsdale (Scarsdale). Free dessert with any sandwich or entrée. Desserts include, but are not limited to, chocolate babka, seven-layer cake, chocolate or raspberry rugalach.

Bistro 146, (Pleasantville). Three-courses (\$55). Entrées: pan roasted Alaskan halibut filet, 14-ounce lobster tail with hollandaise sauce and Nantucket Bay scallops, prime Chateaubriand steak, sushi-grade bluefin tuna. Desserts: fruit tart, mousse duo, molten lava layer cake, red velvet cookie.

Cafe of Love (Mount Kisco). A la carte choices: lobster bisque, seared scallops with cocoa sauce, caviar and kale, ribeye for two with two sauces, bordelaise and chimichurri, lobster fettuccine with champagne sauce, raspberry panna cotta and cookie platter.

California Pizza Kitchen

(Scarsdale). One appetizer, two entrees and one dessert (\$35).

Captain Lawrence (Elmsford). Five-course dinner plus passed appetizers (\$75). Wine from Whitecliff Vineyards in Gardiner, N.Y. paired next to Captain Lawrence ales. One seating at 6:30 p.m. (Plan to stay at least three hours.)

The Chophouse Grille (Mahopac). Specials: Osso bucco (American milk-fed veal shank slowly braised in its natural juices with touch of reduced red wine and fresh herbs); vegetable strudel topped with crumbled stilton cheese wrapped in phyllo dough; baked-in four-cheese béchamel sauce and English Dover Sole, roasted whole, filleted and deboned at table side.

Chutney Masala (Irvington). Three courses (\$49.95). Entrées: Spinach and cheese dumplings, eggplant, Chicken Tikea Masala, ginger lamb chops, Alaskan salmon, mango shrimp and curried lobster.

The Cookery, (Dobbs Ferry). Two three-course dinners are available (\$75 each). Both come with continuous passed bites and a glass of champagne. One has as entrees ravioli, radiatore with lamb Bolognese, pork osso bucco, chicken, spaghetti with pork and clam sausage, granzino, market steak and market fish. The other menu offers oxtail raviore, grilled beef heart and fried chocolate with spicy cream.

Division Street Grill. (Peekskill) Seafood, duck breast, chicken, steak and more.

Empire City Casino (Yonkers). Dan Rooney's three-course with scallops or salmon as entree and triple chocolate tower at \$40 or Nonno's Trattoria three-course dinner with surf (two lobster tails) and turf (two filet mignon steaks) at \$75 per couple. Add \$10 for two glasses of champagne.

Half Moon (Dobbs Ferry). Three courses (\$65). Entrées include yellowfin tuna, surf and turf, Long Island duck, chicken, ribeye steak and lobster ravioli. Trio dessert sampler.

Harvest on Hudson (Hastings-on-Hudson). Three courses (\$69). Entrées include shrimp risotto, striped bass, salmon, chicken cacciatore, pork mignon, short rib and lamb chops.

Himalaya (Scarsdale). Three courses at (\$80 for two). Himalayan cocktail. Entrées: Veg Korma, Murgh Makhini, chicken tandoori and beef curry. Roses for the ladies.

Hudson House River Inn (Cold Spring). Three-course meal (\$47). Appetizers include lobster bisque and Maryland crab cakes. Entrées: sea scallops and salmon combination, butternut squash ravioli, chicken with lump crabmeat and short ribs.

Il Sorriso (Irvington). Three-course meal (\$45). Appetizers include fried eggplant with cheese and asparagus. Entrées include salmon filet and jumbo shrimp with clams, peas, pancetta, oil and vinegar sauce. Three-layer red velvet cake dessert has layers of strawberry syrup and cream.

La Panetiére (Rye). Six courses at \$90 or \$140, if wine-paired. Limited a la carte menu also available. Heart-shaped hot chocolate-molten cake and frozen lingonberry sorbet. Ladies take home a bag of chocolates and a rose.

Little Drunken Chef (Mount Kisco). Three courses at 5 p.m. (\$55) or 7 p.m. (\$60). Entrées include ravioli, chicken and lamb chops. Glasses of wine and champagne included. Desserts: creme brûlée, vanilla and strawberry tart, chocolate-dipped strawberries. Ladies receive a rose.

Mediterraneo (Pleasantville). Three-course meal (\$55).

Moderne Barn (Armonk). Three course meal (\$78 per person or \$118 with select wine pairing). The regular a la carte menu will not be available.

MP Taverna (Irvington). Specials include lobster bisque, crispy shrink and mushroom and roasted parsnip risotto. Chilled rose-scented Zabaglione with raspberries, crystalized ginger and candied rose petals (\$49.95).

Patsy's (New Rochelle). Entrées include surf (filet mignon) and turf (lobster tail) for \$36. Desserts include chocolate-covered strawberries.

Plates (Larchmont). Three-course dinner (\$80 to \$85). Entrées: bronzino, filet mignon, veal fettuccini, chicken and braised short ribs. Early-bird seating (\$65).

RaaSa (Elmsford). Special dishes: paneer and vegetable spring roll (\$11), eggplant chaat (\$10), basil shrimp (\$13), lamb bhuna stewed with onions (\$21), Hariyali murgh, a chicken tenders dish (\$20) and Masaledar sabji, melange of vegetables (\$17).

Red Hat on the River (Irvington). Hors d'oeuvres. Three-course courses (\$72). Entrées include fish stew, Atlantic fluke, Scottish salmon, duck and cherry and short rib bourguignon. Dessert tasting for two.

Rinis (Elmsford). Three-course menu (\$29.95). Entrées include Long Island duck. Vocalist Freddie Lando performs. No cover charge.

River City Grille (Irvington). A la carte menu. Entrées include mushroom ravioli (\$23), chicken breast (\$24), veal cutlet (\$24), felt mignon (\$32) and twin lobster tails (\$44).

Ritz-Carlton Lobby Lounge (White Plains). Three-course menu (\$75) includes chocolate polenta cake or yuzu

mousse cake, glass of prosecco and chocolate-covered strawberries. Specials: filet of beef and horseradish-crusted salmon.

River Grill, The (Sleepy Hollow). Surf and turf (crabmeat jumbo stuffed shrimp and eight-ounce steak) at \$26, lobster and crab ravioli (\$24), stuffed chicken breast (\$21). Complementary glass of wine or champagne toast.

Ruth's Chris Steak House (Tarrytown). Nearly sold out. Check availability with restaurant.

Sambal (Irvington). Three courses (\$49.95). Includes glass of sparkling wine. Entrées: Chicken green curry, red snapper, lamb Massaman curry, Thai beef and broccoli, Penang duck, Pad Thai shrimp and Drunk Man noodles.

Sam's of Gedney Way (White Plains). Three-course menu (\$48) or items from the same menu with a la carte pricing. Entrées: lobster pappardelle or prime rib with Yorkshire pudding. Desserts include berries in a chocolate box.

The Seafood Grill (Armonk). Newly opened. Will serve prix-fixe menu to be determined.

Tarry Tavern (Tarrytown). Candlelit room. Veal sweetbreads with wild mushroom ragout, braised short rib, and beef tenderloin. Chocolate truffles and chocolate-covered strawberries (\$55).

Thyme (Yorktown Heights). Entrées: Murray's French cut chicken breast, Berkshire double-cut pork chop and Meyer Ranch-aged ribeye. Dessert: Moscato poached pears or raspberry rice pudding. Complementary champagne and chocolate roses for the ladies (\$90).

Toasted Barrel (Tarrytown). Menu includes complementary bottle of house champagne (can be upgraded for \$15). All appetizers accompanied by salad. Appetizers include lobster tail. Entrées: lamb chops, red snapper and filet mignon (\$85).

Trattoria Vivolo (Harrison). Specials plus Cacciucco di Mare (lobster tail, shrimp, vongole, mussels and more.)

Valley Restaurant (Garrison). Closed on Feb. 14. Prix-fixe \$89 menu on Feb. 10-11 will offer poached shrimp cocktail, East Coast oysters with American caviar, Nantucket Bay scallops, Long Island duck with foie gras and dessert taster.

Vue (Peekskill). Four-course meal (\$69 per couple). Entrées: Diver scallops, seafood paella risotto, duck confit and 14-ounce ribeye pan seared with crumbled gorgonzola. Dessert choice: Bourbon creme brûlée or chocolate pot de creme.

Westchester Broadway Theatre (Elmsford). Dinner and performance of The Piano Men.

Zuppa (Yonkers). Three-course meals (\$70). Complementary glass of prosecco.

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LEGAL NOTICES

75 HILLSIDE AVENUE, LLC FILED AN ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION with the NYS Dept. of State on 12-9-16. The office of the LLC is located in Westchester County. The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at: **John Credaroli, 2 Columbus Avenue, Valhalla, NY 10595. Purpose: Any lawful business activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TAX-SOLUTION4EXPATS.COM, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/14/2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Seung Yup Kang, 27 Overlook street, Mount Vernon, New York 10552. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HARD-CORE REALTY LLC FILED WITH SSNY ON 12/6/16. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **829 Franklin Avenue, Thorn-**

wood NY 10594. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WOLVERINE SECURITY LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/26/2016. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **373 Downing Dr., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: Security Business.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LEARNING ANALYTICS GROUP, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/07/2011. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **2435 Pinetree Pl Yorktown Hts, NY 10598 Purpose: any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONE HOME INSPECTIONS, LLC. Filed with SSNY on January 3, 2017. Office in Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC. upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Lisa Stone 2245 Mark Rd., Yorktown Heights NY, 10598. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF THE FORMATION OF: HALITE GROUP, LLC. ART OF ORG. filed with SSNY on 12/30/16. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process: **156 Great Oak Lane, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: any lawful acts. Provides management consulting services.**

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC, a foreign limited liability company ("LLC") Cert. of Authority filed with Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/14/16. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, SSNY shall mail process to: **David**

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Happenings

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

Tuesday, Feb. 7

Stories & Stuff. "The Cat's Meow" including a craft activity, for ages 4 and 5 without adult. Literacy connections are made at "Stories & Stuff" where stories are centered around a theme and children listen & interact with corresponding rhymes, songs and/or finger plays. A final craft project ties in with the topic fostering a sense that stories are imaginative, yet lasting, and continue to enrich our creative thoughts and play; 4:30 p.m. at White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

Tuesdays at Dorry's. Navigating the World of Fake and Real News. Fake news is a topic we hear a lot about, but is it as simple as figuring out what's fake and what's real? Ben Himmelfarb is a Librarian at White Plains Public Library who

specializes in local history programming and adult services. Join Ben to learn some skills for determining what is true and how to analyze your information sources to make sure you are the best informed that you can be. In this participatory workshop, we will also discuss strategies for dealing with rapid news cycles, social media dynamics, and how the library can help if you are feeling overwhelmed. Tuesdays@Dorry's gathers conservation partners every Tuesday to share a meal and learn from presenters invited each week. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. presentation 6 to 7 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, 914-682-0005.

WPLWV Forum. "The Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of New York State's Constitutional Convention Question." The League of Women Voters invites the public to discuss the question of holding a constitutional convention. Church Street School Auditorium, 295 Church St., White Plains; 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Snow date: Feb. 28. Info: 914-761-4382 or visit www.lwvny.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 8
Noonday Getaway Concert.

Downtown Music at Grace welcomes a duo that marries the shining bravura of the operatic stage and the intellectual brilliance of the concert hall, mezzo-soprano Blythe Gaissert and double bassist Louis Levitt collaborate on an intimate program of works for voice and bass. Together, they trace a line from Anne Boleyn to Kate Bush, exploring the idea of the Bright & Shiny from surface-level pleasures to the darker cost of its pursuit. Presented in partnership with The Phoenix Concerts. A Downtown Music Debut; 30-minute free concert; 12:10 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 33 Church St. (Main Street at Mamaroneck Avenue), White Plains. This concert is made possible with the generous support of Hudson Grille and Lilly's, White Plains.

Lunchtime Meditation. At the White Plains Library a weekly meditation program. No registration or equipment necessary. Starts promptly at 12:15 p.m. with the first few minutes devoted to beginning instruction. For information please contact 914-422-1496 or cdeschamps@whiteplainsny.gov. The White Plains Public Library is located at 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

Jazz Improv with Pete Malinverni. Most people, even those who've enjoyed Jazz for many years, don't really know what happens on the inside of an improvised Jazz performance, from the viewpoint of the players. In this presentation, Pete Malinverni offers a look behind the curtain in a clear, quick and fun examination of the various elements of music (melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, form) and how each can be used to reflect and express human reaction. Malinverni is Head of Jazz Studies in the Purchase College Conservatory of Music and a highly respected presence in local, national, and international club and concert performances; 12:30 p.m. General admission: \$10; free to Purchase College students, staff, and faculty, and Neuberger Museum of Art Members.

Energy: Climate Culprit to Atmosphere Hero. The use of fossil fuels to power 21st century civilization has taken a big toll on people and the environment. Renewable sources of energy, ones that come from the sun and the wind, are the cornerstone of the sustainable future that Westchester and New York State are calling for. In partnership with the Lower Hudson

continued on page 15

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continued from previous page

B. Petshaft, P.C. 222 Bloomingdale Rd, Ste 116, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF: RAY BLUE MUSIC, LLC. Articles of organization filed with NY Sec. of State (SSNY) on 11/29/16. Office in Westchester County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 107 Armstrong Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566, which is also the principal

business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE G ELITE SPORTS AND FITNESS, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/22/16, with an existence date of 01/01/2017. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 39 Hilltop Dr., Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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EXAMINER SPORTS

Stepinac Edges Iona Prep in Classic CHSAA AA Rivalry Game

By Albert Coqueran

Stepinac High School versus Iona Preparatory School in any competitive sporting event is always a fierce rivalry. The historical rivalry between the two Westchester County Catholic high schools was no more evident than during the Crusaders versus Gaels varsity basketball game, held at Stepinac High School, on Friday, Feb. 3.

The game was certainly a classic as the Crusaders (14-6 overall, 10-3 CHSAA AA) beat the Gaels, 55-50, to hang on to First Place in the Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) AA. When second place Cardinal Hayes (15-6, 10-5 AA) beat St. Raymond, 91-83, earlier on Friday afternoon, the win for Stepinac was crucial for them to maintain first place status with four games remaining in the regular season.

Freshman guard R.J. Davis was doing what all underclassman do after games, tending to chores, while carrying the Gatorade Bucket for cleaning with help from a coach. However, ten minutes earlier Davis, an extraordinary freshman basketball player from Greenburgh, was carrying the Crusaders varsity basketball team to victory in what is thus far their biggest game of the season.

Stepinac led in the game from three minutes of the first quarter and secured a lead by as much as 10 points with 2:30 remaining in the third quarter. But the Gaels grinded back behind forward Souleymane Koureissi scoring eight of his total 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Even while the Crusaders shut down Koureissa's complement scorer Gaels Bryce Willis with none of his total 11 points coming in the fourth quarter. Iona



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Stepinac guard Jordan Means (right) and Iona guard Souleymane Koureissi (left) were called for a double-foul on this play but it surely appears that Koureissi initiated desperate defensive measures by grabbing Means jersey in the thriller at Stepinac that the Crusaders won, 55-50, on Friday.

outscored the Stepinac 19-15 in the fourth quarter to close the gap to within two points, 47-45 with 1:29 left in the game.

But when Davis's upperclassman, Alan Griffin and Xavier "The X-Man" Wilson stepped up to make a huge double-block and Griffin secured a jump ball with 1:08 left in the game. The 15 year-old Davis displayed undoubtedly that he can play with the "big boys" at crunch time.

Davis scored 11 of his game-high 17 points in the fourth quarter to lead Stepinac to victory. He had already driven to the hoop for two points at 3:36 of the fourth quarter to keep Stepinac ahead, 43-36, and then swished two free throws at 1:30 to



Stepinac Head Coach Pat Massaroni (right) puts his remarkable 15-year-old freshman point guard R.J. Davis (left) back in the game after a brief rest. Davis scored a game-high 17 points, while shooting 11-of-12 from the foul line to lead the Crusaders charge over the Gaels, 55-50, on Friday, at Stepinac High School.

keep the Crusaders up by five points.

Nonetheless, after the Crusaders maintained possession on the Griffin jump ball, Davis drove the length of the court and scored an "And-1" with 1:04 left in the game to put Stepinac in the lead 50-45.

It seemed like every time his team needed

him this freshman was there to pick his team up. "Definitely, I just love to win and hate to lose; having that mentality to make big shots to help my team win is a great feeling," said Davis.

The young freshman also made two more crucial free throws with 20 seconds left on the clock to make the score 53-50. Davis shot a remarkable 11-

of-12 from the free throw line for the game. "It is my confidence and trusting in my teammates and to have the ball at crucial times of the game means a lot, while executing down the stretch,"

commented Davis.

"R.J. (Davis) plays a lot older than his age and

made some big time plays for us. Under a minute to go he took the ball coast to coast for the And-1. We were reeling a little bit at the time and that was huge for us," acknowledged Stepinac Head Coach Pat Massaroni.

Stepinac has won eight of nine games dating back to beating Iona (12-9, 8-6 AA) the first time this season on January 13. The Crusaders remain in First Place in the CHSAA AA but Massaroni is quite aware that his team has no room to become complacent.

"We won eight of nine games and swept our rival that always feels good but our ultimate goal is to try and win games in the Playoffs. Yes, (first place) definitely feels good but you do not want to lose that spot especially with Hayes, St. Raymond and Mount St. Michael right there," said Massaroni.



Stepinac forward Xavier "The X-Man" Wilson (left) and Iona Prep forward Josh Alexander (right) tip off what became another classic CHSAA AA rivalry game between the Crusaders and the Gaels in front of a standing room only crowd.



The Stepinac Gym was sold out days prior and packed to capacity for the varsity basketball game against rival Iona Prep. Stepinac staff (standing l-r front), James Goldmann, Patsy Manganelli and Patrick Henderson guard the baseline as standing room only attendees wait for seating during the earlier Junior Varsity game.

EXAMINER SPORTS

Stepinac Signs Six on National Letter of Intent Signing Day

By Albert Coqueran

Stepinac Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Mike O'Donnell referenced National Letter of Intent Signing Day as "like Christmas for college coaches." Well, as long as at least six Stepinac senior football players maintain their 3.2 GPA, as it was on National Letter of Intent Signing Day, it will be "like Christmas" to them as well.

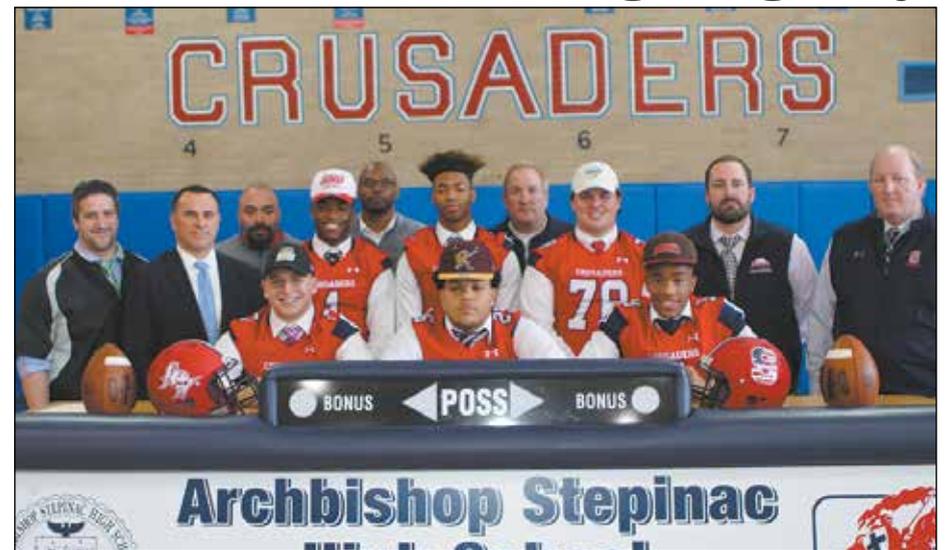
Six players from the 2016 Stepinac Football Team signed Letters of Intent to attend colleges on National Letter of Intent Signing Day at Stepinac High

School on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Crusaders running back Antonio Giannico signed to attend Bryant University, in the Division 1 Northeast Conference. "I could not be happier for him," said Antonio's father, Anthony Giannico. "It has been his dream since he played youth football to play football at the Division 1 level. It was his decision to attend Stepinac and it has been nothing but a positive experience," proudly stated the elder Giannico.

Also signing Letters of Intent at Stepinac on NLI Signing Day was defensive end Izayah Powell, who will attend prestigious Bronx University, of the Division 1 Ivy League and strong safety Devonte Myles, who will attend Sacred Heart University of the Division 1 Northeast Conference. Also, Stepinac offensive guard John Walsh signed to attend Ithaca College of the Division III Empire 8 Conference.

Gannon University, while seeking to improve its football



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Stepinac seniors in their red jerseys signed National Letters of Intent on NLI Signing Day, at Stepinac High School, on Wednesday, Feb. 1. [L-r sitting] Antonio Giannico (Bryant), Louis Blackwell (Gannon), Izayah Powell (Brown) and (standing middle l-r) Devonte Myles (Sacred Heart), Tyger Winston (Gannon) and John Walsh (Ithaca). The players were celebrated by their coaches, (l-r) Greg Sanzari, Jonathan Demarco, Andy Martinez, Sheddric Wilson, Kevin Magee, Ken Barger and Head Coach Mike O'Donnell.

program inked two of Stepinac's top seniors, including wide receiver Tyger Winston and linebacker Louis Blackwell. The Golden Knights of the Division II Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference finished 1-6 PSAC, 5-6 overall last season.

"I cannot be more proud! My

parents are happy. I am happy with my choice of college and I have a former teammate coming with me. It is going to be a fun experience," said Blackwell. "Congratulations and many blessings," acknowledged Stepinac President Father Thomas Collins to all the Signees.

plant makes its own heat. 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.

Winter Wolves for Kids. Children will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role they play in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves; they're out searching for prey as their growing pups experience their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador Wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Hot beverages will be served. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. and Feb. 12 and 25 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Saddle Up Saturdays With Jonathan Demme: "Meek's Cutoff." This series returns to try and recapture the heady thrill of settling into the theater for the delicious ritual of getting immersed in a full-tilt Saturday Western matinee. Demme will appear at select screenings. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Most Saturdays through March 25. Info and tickets:

Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

"Heart of the Matter" Opening Reception. An emotive selection of imagery associated with the heart of what reaches us and touches us most deeply during this romantic time of year. Works in photography, oils, acrylics, printmaking, mixed media, fiber and sculpture depict the artists' personal interpretations of what the heart of the matter means to them. All work on display is for sale. Mamaroneck Artists Guild, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Feb. 25. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-834-1117 or visit www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org.

"Last of the Red Hot Lovers." America in the 1960s, an era that encouraged love, was populated by Mad Men and Mod Women trying to navigate the new normal. In this freshly conceived production of Neil Simon's classic, true comedy ensues when a modern man in the hip '60s looks for something new and different, but ends up finding himself in the same situation, again and again. A presentation by the Walnut Street Theatre. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. \$24. Seniors and students: \$22. Children (under 13): \$18. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts. Tickets will also be available at the door.



Stepinac High School senior Antonio Giannico (center) signed a Letter of Intent to attend Byrant University, as his mother Jacque and father Anthony look on with proud smiles.

Happenings

continued from page 13

Sierra Group. Part of the Climate Science, Climate Action Series. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"Rare Birds." A little-known film that chronicles the Norwegian National Ballet's staging of a new version of "Swan Lake." A mesmerizing and heartwarming film because it is so stunning and lyrical. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Friday, Feb. 10

Full Moon Wolf Walk. Celebrate the first full moon of 2017 (the "Wolf Moon"). While keeping warm by the outdoor fire pit, guests will enjoy warm drinks, sugary treats and likely the symphony of howls from the 21 wolves that call the Wolf Conservation Center home. Learn about the history of wolves in the United States, their importance as part of a healthy ecosystem and the efforts to save these magnificent creatures for future generations. Please bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 6 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

"Two Henrys." In the dead of winter, Henry flies from New York to Florida to offer condolences at the funeral of a father figure he never knew. But as the booze flows at the wake, are the surviving widow and her grown daughter ready to raise a glass to the unexpected guest? A staged reading of this humor-laced drama about guilt and grief, perceptions and prejudices and the urge to find a family. Featuring Kenneth Jones and Susan Pellegrino and directed by Scott Alan Evans. Followed by a Q&A with the participating artists. A Hudson Stage Company production. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7:30 p.m. \$10. Info: Visit www.hudsonstage.com.

Saturday, Feb. 11

Teatown Hudson River EagleFest. Feature live birds of prey shows, two screenings of the film "Eagle Huntress," music by Tom Chapin and other artists and guided bus tours to visit all the key eagle viewing spots. Some events require advance reservations. Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults: \$22. Children \$12. (Pre-sale tickets available through Feb. 8). Info and tickets: Visit: www.teatown.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

EMPIRE CITY
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Siggy Flicker

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
8PM- 9PM • ENTERTAINMENT LOUNGE

A portrait of Siggy Flicker, a woman with long, wavy, light brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile, resting her chin on her hand.

Come meet Siggy Flicker,
relationship expert,
matchmaker, Star of *Bravo's*
Real Housewives of New Jersey.

First 100 guests in line will
receive an autograph.