



The White Plains Examiner

Covering White Plains, Greenburgh and Harrison



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December 25 - December 31, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 384

Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit Newborns at White Plains Hospital



Newborns and babies in White Plains Hospital's Charles A. Mastronardi Neonatal Intensive Care Unit received a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus to celebrate babies' first Christmas. Mrs. Claus reads "The Night Before Christmas" to a newborn being held by JoAnne Nemeth, RN and Santa.

Residences Planned for White Plains City Square

By Pat Casey

At the Dec. 18 meeting of the White Plains Planning Board, a site plan amendment for City Square in the White Plains downtown, was discussed.

The city block that is well-known as one of the traditional gateways to White Plains, had been dedicated office space and home to some of Pace University's offices. The plan is for the familiar pink-colored buildings to continue to hold office space, but the request before the Common Council and out before the Planning Board for comment, is the addition of apartments and additional retail space.

The block, marked by Main Street, Bank Street, Martine Avenue and S. Lexington, covers 2.9 acres and contains three buildings. Pace is vacating its offices at 111 Martine, leaving 189,00 sq. ft. of space the owner wants to renovate into

188 apartments. Three floors above will be maintained as top-level office space. Two eateries and some retail are proposed for the ground-level.

One-hundred and twenty-four apartments already exist in the building on S. Lexington.

The plan includes 94 studios, 57 one bedroom and 37 two-bedroom apartments.

Six percent will be affordable units at 60 to 70 percent of the Westchester median income.

An underground parking structure containing 1,037 spaces will continue to serve the buildings on the block.

At 50 Main Street the plan calls for building a retail arcade to enhance the office entrance.

Planning Board members asked about the viability of adding more restaurants

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Abinanti Calls on Cuomo to Sign Legislation to Protect Toll Payers

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Greenburgh) and state Sen. David Carlucci (D-Clarkstown) called on Gov. Andrew Cuomo Dec. 20 to sign the Toll Payer Protection Act into law to protect the public from outlandish fees and penalties.

The two lawmakers made their pitch shortly after Cuomo announced the expansion of cashless tolling on all fixed-price toll barriers on the New York State Thruway.

The Toll Payer Protection Act responds to numerous complaints about the chaotic cashless tolling system used by the Thruway Authority, Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Port Authority.

"This legislation would establish



Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti and state Sen. David Carlucci urged Gov. Andrew Cuomo to sign new legislation that would put an end to the practice of exorbitant fines for drivers who pay their tolls by mail.

a reasonable user-friendly process to ensure that motorists receive timely notices and can easily pay their toll bills," Abinanti said. "It would ban the unconscionable practices of suspending vehicle registrations and imposing exorbitant fines and penalties on vehicle owners. The cashless tolling systems are not specifically authorized by New York State law and are of questionable legality."

Many vehicle owners claimed they never received their toll bills in the mail or were already sent to collections by the time they realized they had an

outstanding bill.

Additionally, many drivers said the fines and fees were higher than the tolls themselves, leaving them owing thousands to multiple collection agencies.

The legislation will ensure that vehicle owners are properly notified of tolls, protected against exorbitant penalties and safeguarded against auto registration suspensions for failing to pay a toll.

"We need a fair and efficient billing system in place that protects our drivers under the law," Carlucci said. "No one should be driven into debt or have their registration suspended due to toll-by-mail bills."

Both lawmakers noted that if the current system were working on behalf

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White Plains Ball Drop and Fireworks and 15 Years of Safe Rides Home

The White Plains New Year's Eve Spectacular will take place again this year at Court and Main streets to ring in 2019 with fun and celebration.

The free event, which is open to the public, begins at 10 p.m. on Dec. 31 and ends at 12:30 a.m. Jan. 1. There will be live music, a ball drop and fireworks at midnight by Zambelli.

Access to the event only at the following gated areas: Main St. at Church St.; Court

and the White Plains Business Improvement District for its New Year. Safe Ride. program.

Over the past decade and a half, the program has provided free and safe rides home to more than 5,000 Westchester County residents of legal drinking age who celebrate New Year's Eve in downtown White Plains.

The safe rides transportation stand will be on the corner of East Post Road and Mamaroneck Avenue between 11 p.m. Dec. 31 and 3 a.m. Jan. 1.

A dedicated fleet of cars, including at least one that is handicap accessible, will provide complimentary rides home for those 21 and older traveling from the heart of downtown White Plains to anywhere across Westchester County.

"Since 1873, Heineken USA has been a family-owned company that's dedicated to good corporate citizenship by giving back to the community," said Stephanie Kersten-Johnston, Director of Sustainable Business at Heineken USA. "We proudly



SHAN WONG, AZURE STAGES PHOTO

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, Tara Rush, Stephanie Kersten-Johnston and Carole Sears mark the 15th anniversary of Heineken's New Year's Eve Safe Ride program in White Plains.

call the city of White Plains not only company headquarters, but also our home. It's been an honor to work with our community partners over the past 15 years on the 'New Year. Safe Ride' program to help ensure that revelers enjoy their celebrations and arrive home safe."

A recent global study by Heineken found that 77% of respondents think there are circumstances where it is acceptable

to drink and drive, while 49% get 'caught up having fun' and find it hard to plan ahead. To this end, Heineken is encouraging everyone to plan ahead and utilize its convenient 'New Year. Safe Ride.' program so that they can enjoy the holiday season more safely and responsibly.

Heineken is also announcing a new product, Heineken 0.0 (pronounced zero zero), a nonalcoholic version of the company's namesake beer, which will launch nationwide in January 2019. Heineken 0.0 was showcased at a party in White Plains on Dec. 12

"The New Year's Eve Spectacular in White Plains has become the 'go-to' party for many Westchester County residents each year," said White Plains Mayor

Tom Roach. "By staying close to home in downtown White Plains, Westchester residents have a convenient place to have fun, and enjoy the New Year. Thanks again to Heineken USA for partnering with us through their highly successful New Year. Safe Ride. program. This program helps keep our streets safe and is an important part of the festivities," Roach said.

The safe rides transportation stand will be on the corner of East Post Road and Mamaroneck Avenue between 11 p.m. Dec. 31 and 3 a.m. Jan. 1.

St. at Martine Ave.; Renaissance Sq. at Williams St.; and Martine at Mamaroneck Ave.

For the 15th year in a row, Heineken USA, which is based in White Plains, is partnering with The City of White Plains

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Residences Planned for White Plains City Square

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Attorney William Null explains to the White Plains Planning Board that the proposal includes an enhanced entrance to 50 Main St. The popular sculpture of the business professional sitting on the steps with his open briefcase is not shown in the photo, but will remain in place.

to the White Plains downtown since other areas had not been successful in keeping restaurants busy. They asked if the space could be repurposed to serve other uses if necessary.

They were also concerned that plans to create arcades would encroach on public open space around the buildings.

Attorney William Null, representing the owner said the plan accommodated White Plains Transit District recommendations for enhancing the pedestrian experience from the downtown to the White Plains train station.

An entrance to underground parking on Main will be closed off and redirected to make the streetscape more attractive.

Abinanti Calls on Cuomo to Sign Legislation to Protect Toll Payers

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of drivers then fines would not exceed actual toll fares collected by the state. Cashless tolling began in April 2016 and the Thruway Authority collected more in fines than in fares from July 2017 to January 2018.

On average, toll-by-mail bills made the Thruway Authority about a \$1 million a month in revenue.

In related news, it was announced that cashless tolls will be coming to Interstate 95 in New Rochelle.

“I’m thrilled to see cashless tolls coming to Interstate 95 in New Rochelle. This is certainly a welcome holiday gift, as this was a measure that I long pushed for when I was a New York State Assemblyman and State Senator. The New Rochelle tolls, will join Yonkers’ tolls, utilizing sensors overhead that read a car’s E-Z Pass. The cashless system is easy and modern and keeps traffic moving – all positives,” County Executive George Latimer said in a press statement.

“This will relieve nearby residents of New Rochelle, Larchmont and Mamaroneck of the traffic back up at the tollbooths that generate air pollution for those living alongside I-95. It will finally eliminate the overflow traffic that clogs nearby streets whenever drivers leave I-95 seeking an alternate route.”



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Nita Lowey, First Woman to Chair House Appropriations Committee

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-Harrison), serving NY Congressional District 17, has been elected by the Democratic Caucus to serve as Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee in the 116th Congress.

Lowey will be the first woman in history to chair the House Appropriations Committee.

"I am honored that my Democratic colleagues have elected me to serve as Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee. We are ready and eager to lead the way in meeting the great responsibilities the American people have entrusted to Democrats—to invest responsibly to grow the economy, create jobs, and secure our nation.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee and in Congress to pass federal spending bills that provide adequate funding for health, education, child care, infrastructure, and other investments that improve our communities and help New Yorkers and all Americans. I am also committed to using Congress's constitutional power of the purse to provide robust, effective oversight of the Trump Administration and to reject funding that runs counter to the values and interests of hardworking families.

"The immense responsibility to fund



Nita Lowey

the government, keeping it open and operational, and to spend tax dollars wisely is particularly clear given the Trump Shutdown, which will harm American families, businesses, and communities. While Republicans have governed from crisis to crisis of their own making and failed to meet the most basic responsibilities of governing, Democrats will make government work for the people."

Buchwald Appointed Chair of Legislative Commission on Government Admin.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) has been named chairman of the New York Legislative Commission on Government Administration.

"In a time of rapid change driven by technology, the Legislative Commission on Government Administration's role in improving the effectiveness and accountability of state government takes on new importance," said Buchwald. "As the new Chairman of the Commission, I will work with colleagues and New Yorkers to identify new technologies, procedures and practices that will improve state government and provide better and more cost-effective services for the people of our great state."



David Buchwald



Woman's Club of White Plains Presents Abbott House with \$5,000



Each year The Woman's Club of White Plains Foundation donates funds to local non-profits. The recipient of proceeds from this year's Corks & Forks event was Abbott House, an organization that helps children in foster care and displaced, struggling families, as well as children and adults with developmental disabilities. The 6th Annual Corks & Forks event was a spectacular evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the garden of the CV Rich Mansion, followed by fabulous dinner fare in the ballroom. Guest enjoyed food and wine from local restaurants and specialty purveyors. A portion of the proceeds from this event will also help to pay for renovation projects to the historic home of the Woman's Club, the CV Rich Mansion where many volunteer and community events are held. In the photo: Elizabeth Buonamici, Lauren Candela-Katz Abbott House Chief Development Officer, Maryann Martin President of the Woman's Club of White Plains Foundation.

Have questions about healthy aging or the signs of dementia?
These programs offer answers.

**Join us at Mamaroneck Public Library
136 Prospect Ave., Mamaroneck**



"Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research"

11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 11

Learn about diet, nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement to develop a plan for healthy aging.

"Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters"

11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18

Learn about the 10 signs of Alzheimer's disease and why early detection is important to begin drug therapy and plan for the future.



To register for either program or with questions, call the Alzheimer's Association at **800.272.3900**.

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This advertisement is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

Santa and White Plains Fire Fighters Bring Cheer to Children's Rehab Center

On Dec. 14, White Plains Professional Fire Fighters IAFF Local 274 brought Santa Claus and his jolly friends Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Olaf, a Dalmatian and a minion to the John A. Coleman School and Children's Rehabilitation Center in White Plains for an unforgettable morning of joy and merriment.

Maureen Tomkiel, Executive Director of the John A. Coleman School, said, "The tradition of Santa's visit with the firefighters is truly the highlight of the



year for our children, their families and staff. The smiles on the faces of our students when the fire truck pulled up could light a thousand Christmas trees!"

This special event would not have been possible without White Plains Professional Fire Fighters IAFF Local 274 and this effort was spearheaded by fireman Tom Devine, IV and his father, long-standing Coleman School supporter, Thomas Devine, III.

Westchester County Government Not Yet Affected by Federal Shutdown

"The Federal Government shutdown has, at present, no direct impact on County functions and operations. In the short term, the affected Federal departments do not pose an immediate threat to our day to day responsibilities. However, the TSA employees working at the County

Airport are doing so voluntarily without pay. These are our neighbors and we need to be supportive of them as they work to continue to keep us safe. When the shutdown ends, they would hope to get retroactive pay.

"There will be impacts over the long haul

if the shutdown continues for an extended period of time, and my administration will continue to monitor the situation to best mitigate any impacts to Westchester County residents.

"It is an embarrassment to use a Federal Government shutdown as a tool to force

public policy choices. It's not how we operate here in Westchester. I, as the American people, hope this comes to a resolution before the impacts intensify."

— **Westchester County Executive**
George Latimer

Greenburgh Snow Angels Celebrate Another Year, Name Coordinators

I am pleased to announce the appointment of this year's Greenburgh Snow Angel coordinators: Jared Turell, a senior at Edgemont High School and Miles Cooperman, a sophomore at Ardsley High.

The best way to contact them to volunteer or obtain help is by emailing: greenburghsnowangels@gmail. We depend on volunteers from around the town to help those in need.

The snow angels try to match up volunteers with the elderly and disabled residents. The angels clear driveways and paths for seniors who are physically unable to clear the snow themselves.

This year the Poet's Corner Civic Association membership voted to donate \$500 for supplies to help the snow angel program.

Jared said he is interested in Snow Angels because he really wants to "help

out those in the community that can't help themselves, whether it be because of age, financial reasons,

or disabilities, even if it is something as small as shoveling their driveway." Jared has been involved with Snow Angels since last year, as well as founding his own school club, EdgemontFULL (Friends Using Leftovers Lovingly). There he collects leftover food

from families in Edgemont and

donates it to the White Plains Open Arms Shelter.

Miles also worked as a snow angel last year. He truly enjoyed being able to help those in need through the program. This year, he is excited to take a more active role as a coordinator of the program.

— **Paul Feiner,**
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

Against War

Dear Senators Schumer, Gillibrand and Congresswoman Lowey,

As my representatives it is your duty to decide whether our country goes to war or not. You and your Congressional colleagues have abdicated this responsibility and allowed our Presidents to make disastrous decisions.

Our wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, to name just three, have increased instability and terror. They boost profits for corporate campaign donors, but imperil our planet with pollution. The US Military is the world's biggest polluter and cause of climate change.

Gillibrand stands against sexism. Schumer gives unconditional

support to Israel. Nita Lowey is concerned with vaping and the addiction of our children. We can consider nuances and still live with these issues, but war and climate change have pushed our planet too far. Our world might become uninhabitable in our lifetimes. What about our children? Do we have the political will to save them?

Will we cease and desist from destroying our environment with war or will the incumbency of war and self-destruction become our legacy?

This is our watch.

Thank you for reading.

— **Steve Sloane, Ossining**

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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.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Happy, healthy, loved. These are the dreams we have for our families and friends.

So we cherish the moments that make us smile and inspire us to grow...
when we move, create, serve, play, teach, do. When we care.

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The Celtic Fringes: From the Mists of Time, Alive Today



By Brian McGowan

What do Ireland, Scotland, Brittany (France), Galicia (Spain), Galatia (Turkey) and Wallachia (Romania) all have in common? They are what remains of a culture older than

the classic Greeks and Romans, which echoes yet in the legends, music and customs of people who trace their roots back to a world pre-dating written history – that of the ancient Celts.

Originating in the Hallstatt territory (modern day Austria) during the Iron Age 3,000 years ago, the Celts spread across most of Europe prior to the emergence and ultimate dominance of the Roman Empire. They even ventured into western Asia.

My wife and I were astounded when we toured northern Italy a few years ago and visited the historic town of Bergamo, inhabited for the last 3,000 years, and were told by the local tour guide that it originated as a Celtic town. The might of the Roman Empire proved inexorable, and the Celts, never a united political entity, slowly fell, tribe by tribe, to the Romans.

The Battle of Alesia, fought in modern-day France in 52 BC, was an epic clash between the Romans under Julius Caesar

and a number of Celtic tribes united for a while under a chieftain named Vercingetorix. The Romans won. Had they not, might Gibbons in 1776 have written “The Decline and Fall of the Celtic Empire” instead?

In the wake of Alesia, the Celtic sun dimmed, until it shone only in the remotest areas at the edges of Roman expansion, what is today called “The Celtic Fringe,” that group of regions holding the cultural remnants of the ancient Celts. The “fringe” extends through many lands: Ireland, arguably the closest descendant; Scotland; Wales; the Isle of Man; Cornwall (England); Brittany; Galicia; and possibly even Galatia in modern day Turkey, to whose inhabitants St. Paul penned a letter or two.

Perhaps the greatest heritage shared among these regions today is musical, something very evident on a recent evening at the Sheen Center on Bleeker Street in Manhattan. It is where the Irish group Lunasa took the stage and regaled its audience with an extravaganza of sound, covering tunes both new and old, in what was billed as a Lunasa Christmas From Ireland celebration.

The Sheen Center, named for renowned progressive 20th century Roman Catholic

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, is an intimate venue with amazing acoustics and a perfect place for Lúnasa’s distinctive sound, bringing traditional Irish music to an entirely new level.

Lunasa has changed its cast since the group was founded in 1997. The only original member is Trevor Hutchinson, whose stand-up double bass fiddle provides a solid underpinning of sound to his fellow band members: uilleann piper Cillian Vallely; flutist and comic spokesperson Kevin Crawford; fiddler Colin Farrell; and guitarist Ed Boyd.

In several sets the band roamed far from the Emerald Isle and brought the audience to a foot-stomping, hand-clapping crescendo with several tunes from Brittany and Galicia, where the local tradition is alive and well and remarkably close to Irish trad, with similar instrumentation, meter and drive.

Another addition to the stage, reflecting Lúnasa’s continuing metamorphosis, was guest vocalist Ashley Davis, who performs often with the group, whom she affectionately refers to as “her boys.” Upcoming New York area appearances include the Tarrytown Music Hall (Mar.

16) and Symphony Space (Mar. 17), both featuring singer Natalie Merchant, a frequent collaborator with the band.

Finally, kudos to several readers in meeting the Dracula Author Challenge and correctly identifying Bram Stoker as the penman: Diane Couzens and Examiner wine columnist Nick Antonaccio.

Reader Merci Rogers also shared the historical figure upon whom Stoker based the character – Vlad III, a 15th century Prince of Wallachia. (That was once the homeland of the Celtic tribe Volcae. There’s that fringe again!). Vlad’s cruelty in battle against the Ottomans earned him the alias “Vlad the Impaler.” Kudos to all three.

A future collaboration between Nick and I will appear soon, as we research any potential connection between expatriate Irish monks of the Middle Ages and the development of European winemaking. Stay tuned!

Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx and is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, as his immigrant ancestors followed several paths to the New World. Reach him at brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com or on Twitter (@Bmcgowan52M). To see more of his writing on “things Irish,” follow his blog “Rethinking Irish” at www.rethinkingirish.com.

Guest Column

Obituaries

Richard R. Wyder Jr.

Richard R. Wyder Jr., passed away Dec. 20. He was 98.

Richard was born Nov. 16, 1920 in the Bronx to Richard R. Wyder Sr. and Jessica J. (nee Skethley) Wyder.

A proud veteran, Richard served in the Army during WWII. For many years Richard worked as a buyer for Electronics for Medicine, later renamed Honeywell, which was located in North White Plains.

Richard is survived by his nieces Kathy (William) Johnsen, and Karen Roberts, and his nephew Chris (Diane) Wyder. Also surviving is his sister-in-law Patricia Wyder, and several great nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his brothers Carl and Jess Wyder.

Frank H. Hodapp

Frank H. Hodapp, beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away on Dec. 20 at Rosary Hill Home after a long battle with cancer.

Frank was born on July 16, 1934 in White Plains to the late Edward and Sophie (Jurgielewicz) Hodapp. Frank grew up on Linda Avenue in Thornwood and attended Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains, after which he joined the United States Navy in 1951, serving during the Korean War until he left

the service in 1955. After retiring from Fire Service he joined the Naval Reserves and was called to active duty during Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf War. He served aboard the hospital ship the USNS Comfort in the Persian Gulf off Khafji, near the Kuwait and Saudi Arabia border. Upon returning, he received a proclamation from Westchester County for his service during Desert Storm.

On June 22, 1957 Frank married Mary O’Shea at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church in Mount Kisco and settled in White Plains where he became a White Plains Firefighter. After retiring from the department, Frank received his Associates degree from Westchester Community College and became an Inhalation Therapist at St. Agnes Hospital in White Plains where he worked extensively treating children with cystic fibrosis. He continued to serve his community by joining the Eastside Volunteer Fire Company and was an active member up until very recently.

For most of his life he was a CPR and First Aid instructor in the community teaching both adults and high-schoolers.

Frank was involved in many community activities including The Knights of Columbus, The Civil Air Patrol and was an active member of his parish, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in White Plains. He even served as an altar boy at the Rosary Hill Home.

He loved to travel, especially driving

across the U.S.A. and visited every state. He gave the best hugs, was funny and witty and told the best stories.

Frank is survived by his wife Mary, their four children Kevin (June) Hodapp of White Plains, Michael (Nicole) Hodapp of Vienna, VA, Patricia (Joseph) Sayers of Hawthorne, and Helene Hodapp of Peekskill; his four granddaughters Stefanie, Jennifer, Danica and Vanessa, his sister Connie and brother Edward, as well as numerous beloved nieces, nephews and in-laws.

Frank was pre-deceased by his brothers Robert and Gerald.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Rosary Hill Home 600 Linda Ave. Hawthorne, NY 10532

Sidney Simon

Dr. Sidney Simon, 94 years, passed away on Dec. 20.

He was born in the Bronx on Aug. 6, 1924.

Dr. Simon is survived by his cherished wife of 70 years, Janet Lonker Simon. He is also survived by his loving daughters, Nancy Simon (Richard Johanson), Judy Simon (James Doherty), Gail Simon Socolof (Robert Socolof), and his devoted grandchildren Noah Jampol, Renée Jampol, Benjamin Doherty, Alexander Doherty, Anna Socolof, William Socolof.

As a practicing physician for over 65 years, and a professor of medicine, he

impacted the lives of so many extended family members, patients, students, colleagues and friends.

Rose Grosskopf

Rose Grosskopf (nee Cannistra), a W. Harrison resident, died Dec. 17 at the age of 91. She was born July 20, 1927 in White Plains to the late Emilio and Romana Cannistra.

On Aug. 30, 1953 she married David Grosskopf, he predeceased her in 1988.

Rose worked as an Administrative/Event Planner for Ennis Associates for 15 years, retiring in 2009. She was very active at St. Anthony of Padua Church, where she was a member of the Ave Maria Guild, Parish Council, and Festa Chairperson and also served on the architectural review board for the Town of Harrison. She was an avid reader and loved to travel, go bowling, play cards and gamble.

She is survived by her children Diane Inzitari of Stamford, CT and Gail Mellea of W. Harrison, her grandchildren Lisa and Matthew Inzitari and Joseph and Mark Mellea and her great grandchildren Trey and Hailee Rose Kancyr. Also surviving is her sister-in-law Sandra Cannistra, several cousins, nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by a brother Nick Cannistra and sister Catherine Pratt.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Anthony of Padua Church, 85 Harrison Street, W. Harrison, NY 10604.

Cruising Along the Spanish Route of the Early Monks and Pilgrims



By Nick Antonaccio

Over the past few weeks, our virtual summer tour of the Spanish wine regions has taken us along the Mediterranean Coast. We've experienced wines from the Alicante, Valencia, Jumilla, Penedes and Priorato denominations.

Today, we're pulling up stakes and traveling to the fourth of Spain's six primary wine regions: the Ebro River Valley.

This is the motherlode of Spanish wines and culture. This northeastern

region is more fertile than the Meseta and Southern regions, more diverse than the Mediterranean Coast regions and more emblematic of Spain's surge in quality wine production than the other regions.

The Ebro River Valley consists of six classified subregions, each unique unto itself. The most popular and the most sophisticated are Navarra and Rioja. The others, all producing excellent wines are Calatayud, Campo de Borja, Carinena and Somontano.

Let's resume our virtual tour by following the course of the Ebro River as we trace its origins to the mountains of Cantabria in the northwest. From Priorato we travel through hilly terrain and visit tiny towns that evoke Middle Ages architecture; many are still agrarian based.

Here are ideal towns to use as our base of operations as we immerse ourselves in the culture and history of the region and of Spain itself.

The Ebro River was the lifeblood of northern Spain for centuries, primarily as a pilgrim route. Many monasteries and churches still stand as monuments to the dedication and fervor of Catholics visiting holy sites. The castles that dot the landscape were home to famous royalty; even the Knights of Templar "hung out" here.

Fast forward to the 20th century, when Americans first became aware of the unique culture of this area through the writings of Ernest Hemingway. ("For

Whom the Bell Tolls," his immersion in the Franco-period civil uprisings and "The Sun Also Rises," the introduction to many Americans of the running of the bulls in Pamplona.)

Until we reach Rioja, the history of winemaking in these regions is sparse: mostly inferior wines that were consumed locally. The resurgence of Spain's wine economy has emphatically reached this area. Even in these "lesser" regions, fine wines are produced and exported to the U.S. It is an economically thriving area, unlike other regions and

other industries, which are still feeling the long aftereffects of the Great Recession.

When we reach Navarra and Rioja, the climate, the terrain and the wine passion change significantly. This is the heart and soul of Spanish wine history.

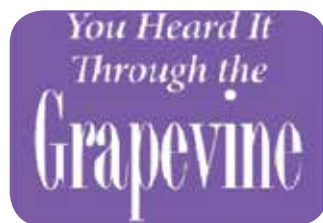
Navarra was predominately a Garnacha-based region until about 20 years ago, when the local winemakers realized that their soil and microclimate were ideal for growing the esteemed Tempranillo grape variety. Then, shockingly at the time, they went one step further and blended the Tempranillo with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Today, world-acclaimed wines are produced that offer unique aromas and flavors to the American palate.

Rioja has been a world-class wine region since the 19th century. Most Americans remember these wines as astringent, dry, with little fruit forward taste. That has dramatically changed in the last 20 years.


The young winemakers who have assumed responsibility for centuries-old wineries and vines have crafted wines with elegant texture, sophisticated balance and complex structure. They approach winemaking in the same manner as the highly respected Bordeaux vintners and the results are outstanding. Using Tempranillo as their foundation, they have become organic alchemists; in fact, fewer wines coming from this area are 100 percent Tempranillo, a striking departure from the past.

There are many individual wines coming from the Ebro River Valley, but space this week does not permit the proper focus. Next week we'll delve into selections that I recommend. Have your wine glasses at the ready.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted numerous 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.



'Ebro River Valley...the motherlode of Spanish wines and culture.'



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Winter Bites and Pieces 2019



By Morris Gut

Hearty winter dishes are a good respite from the cold, and restaurants throughout Westchester are putting out their seasonal best. Here are a few of my recent indulgences.

Seasonal Baccala at Trattoria Vivolo, Harrison. Chef-owner and personable host Dean Vivolo of Trattoria Vivolo in Harrison 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 pizza; fresh old-fashioned Meatballs and Sausage; Rabbit



Corned beef Reuben at Dunne's Pub, White Plains.

Cacciatore; Crostino di Polenta, topped with wild mushrooms, gorgonzola and tomato sauce; Lasagna Bolognese al Forno; Osso Buco, tender braised veal shank; occasional Roasted Porchetta; and warm fresh Zabaglione with fresh fruit for dessert. Good wine list. Sparkling lights evenings. Open 7 days. Free parking. Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison. 914-835-6199, www.trattoriavivolo.com.

Buffet Feast at Mughal Palace, Valhalla. Celebrate with vibrant flavors of India. Owner Mohammed Alam of Mughal Palace in Valhalla is serving flavorful regional specialties to kick off the season. An all you can eat Indian brunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., more than a dozen selections from salad, main courses to desserts with all the trimmings. Cost is \$15.95 per person. Dinner is a la carte and begins at 5 p.m. Look for such specialties as: Lasuni Gobi, cauliflower florets tossed with bell peppers, onion, garlic and green herbs; Chicken Barbacue Kabab, marinated boneless chicken cooked in the tandoor oven; Lamb Bhuna, pieces of lamb cooked

in a medium spiced sauce of bell peppers, tomatoes and fresh Indian herbs; and Mango Chicken, boneless chunks of chicken cooked with fresh mango, ginger, garlic and dry spices. A glass of lassi with help wash it all down, and don't forget the delicious house made Indian breads to scoop up the sauces. Bar/cocktails. Open 7 days. Alam also operates Ambadi Kebab & Grill in White Plains. Mughal Palace, 16 Broadway, Valhalla. Phone: 914-997-6090, www.mughalpalace.com.

Soup Dumplings at Mister Chen, Mamaroneck.

In recent years, finding a good Chinese restaurant in Westchester has become a difficult endeavor. But now we have Mister Chen, which opened this past year on Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck, with a modernized Chinese menu espousing popular traditional regional dishes. And while it is located in a cluster of Asian-Fusion eateries, it is carving out a place all its own thanks to owner Paul Chen and his mom who is head chef. I was excited about the dumpling station where you can watch the cooks prepare a variety of Chinese dumplings from scratch. Soup dumplings have always been a pet passion of mine and one evening I was so smitten



Soup dumplings at Mister Chen, Mamaroneck.

that I ordered two rounds, six to an order, served in their steam boxes. Take a careful bite and suck up that delicious warm broth, then savor the delicious pork or crab filling. If you are a novice, the staff will show you how. Have also enjoyed their Pork Belly Sandwich, General Tsao's Chicken, and Jumbo Prawns with garlic sauce. Mister Chen, 265 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck. 914-777-1212, www.misterchen.com.

Corned Beef Reuben at Dunne's Pub,

White Plains. Dunne's is a neighborhood treasure, an authentic Irish tavern with all the traditional Gaelic accoutrements intact. New owner Declan Farrell, who also operates Vintage on Main Street, White Plains, has taken great strains not to get caught up in the modernist Irish mode so prevalent these days. It is a friendly, home-style place with a good kitchen to boot, dishing out generous servings of traditional Irish-style fare at prices that will leave some money

in your wallet. Declan and his staff know how to pour that pint of Guinness while keeping the crowd in spirited conversation. Try such kitchen favorites as their fabulous Corned Beef Reuben Sandwich, Plain Jane Burger served on a

Kaiser roll, Beer Battered Fish & Chips, Grilled Irish Bangers, and Cheddar Cheese Meatloaf served with Irish beans and mashed potatoes. Their Sizzling Steak is a tasty eye catcher. There is an exciting live Irish music session every Wednesday



Seasonal Baccala at Trattoria Vivolo.

night. And Oktoberfest is celebrated the first Thursday of every month all year. Open 7 days for lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Municipal parking. Dunne's Pub, 15 Shapham Place, White Plains. 914-421-1451, www.dunnespubandrestaurant.net.

SOFT POLENTA WITH GRAVY AT LE SIRENE, LARCHMONT!

Soft Polenta with Gravy at Le Sirene, Larchmont. Recent tastings of Octopus Carpaccio, Eggplant Parm, Ai Tre Formaggi Pizza, house made stuffed Stromboli, and comforting Soft Polenta with delicious gravy, made my palate swoon. Fratelli Bruno are veteran restaurateurs who also own such venerable dining rooms as San Pietro, Caravaggio and Sistina in Manhattan. They know how to cook with finesse the authentic Italian way: "Let natural food flavors express themselves," is their culinary philosophy. Owner Cosimo Bruno is general manager and host, but

also shares kitchen duties with talented Executive Chef Alberto Pepe. Let their signature flavors guide you into the pastel dining room. The bar/lounge is a good spot for cocktails and a snack. The Brunos know their wines. Cosimo is a Certified Sommelier. The 'pizzaoli' is at his wood fired pizza oven at the end of the bar ready to prepare over a dozen of his tasty individually styled pies. Le Sirene, 1957 Palmer Ave., Larchmont. 914-834-8300, www.lesireneristorante.com.

Indoor Farmers Markets Right Now

Some of our most popular markets will be operating indoors all season, and while you may not get all the harvest can produce, it still is a good place to pick up a variety of artisanal goods such as meats, cheeses, jams, breads, etc. Here are some area purveyors. Happy grazing.

Pleasantville Farmers Market, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. Saturdays,



Soft polenta at Le Sirene.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through May. www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org

Mamaroneck Indoor Farmers Market at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 168 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through mid-April. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

Gossett's Farm Market, South Salem, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. www.gossettbrothers.com

Cold Spring Farmers Market, Parish Hall, St. Mary-in-the-Highlands. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. www.csfarmmarket.org

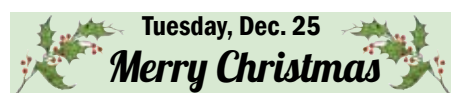
Hudson Valley Regional Farmers Market, Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. www.hudsonvalleyfarmersmarket.org

Westport Farmers Market at Gilbertie's Herb Farms, Sylvan Road, Westport, CT. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. www.westportfarmersmarket.com

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

Happenings

The Examiner is happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event to pcasey@theexaminernews.com. For a full listing of the upcoming week's events, visit www.theexaminernews.com and click on Happenings.



Wednesday, Dec. 26

Kwanzaa celebration. 2 p.m. at the Thomas H. Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains. The program includes Traditional Drumming by Kofi and Sankofa Dance & Drum Ensemble, and performances by White Plains Youth Bureau drummers and dancers, White Plains Steppers, Praise Dance, Storytelling and books for children, and more. A free cultural Karamu feast will be provided by ShopRite following the program. Kwanzaa, an African-American festival meaningful for people of all faiths is celebrated by family and friends who gather to share food, light candles, and think about particular values that make meaningful community. This year we will celebrate all seven Kwanzaa principles. Free and open to the public.

Lunchtime Meditation. A weekly meditation program. Brief beginning instruction will be followed by meditation. No experience or special equipment needed. A guest instructor will lead the program the first Wednesday of each month; 12:15 to 1 p.m. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains. For more information, contact Christiane Deschamps at 914-422-1496 or cdeschamps@whiteplainsny.gov.

Holiday Howl. Get outside during the holidays and 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 assemble "wolfy" gifts for ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and then enjoy watching the wolves tear them open. Guests can also behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 26 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Light-o-Rama Christmas Light Show. The Serratore Family is pleased to announce that their humble Light-o-Rama Christmas light show is now running. The show is 22 minutes long and can be enjoyed from the privacy of your vehicle by tuning into 88.1 FM. Happy holidays! 22 Pine St., Mount Kisco. Dusk until 9 p.m. (The show runs in a continuous loop.) Daily through Jan. 6.

Westchester's Winter Wonderland. A one-of-a-kind holiday event featuring the Santa Experience, unlimited skating, a circus, great rides, food trucks, gift vendors and more on weekends and select dates through December. Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. 5 to 9 p.m. \$20. Also Dec. 27, 30 and 31 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Dec. 28 and 29 from 5 to 10 p.m. Info: Visit www.Wwinterwonderland.com.

Cinema@theTrove. Toy Story, the original version. This delightful movie provides the answer to a child's most important question: What happens when you leave toys alone in a room? Well, it seems that they come to life! As entertaining as it is innovative, Toy Story kicked off Disney/Pixars unprecedented run of quality animated films. The voice of Tom Hanks stars in this popular classic. Rated G. 80 mins; 7 to 8:30 p.m.; White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

Thursday, Dec. 27

Family Karaoke. Free event, but come early limited seating. Tickets 30 min before; 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

Westchester's Winter Wonderland. A one-of-a-kind holiday event featuring the Santa Experience, unlimited skating, a circus, great rides, food trucks, gift vendors and more on weekends and select dates through December. Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. 5 to 9 p.m. \$20. Continues daily to Dec. 31. Info: Visit www.Wwinterwonderland.com.

"The Madness of King George." It's 1786 and King George III is the most powerful man in the world, but as his behavior becomes increasingly erratic, ambitious politicians and the scheming Prince of Wales threaten to undermine the power of the Crown and expose him. Written by one of Britain's best-loved playwrights, Alan Bennett, this epic play features Mark Gatiss in the title role and Adrian Scarborough. A broadcast from London's National Theatre. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 p.m. Members: \$20 Non-members: \$30. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Friday, Dec. 28

Evening Howl for Adults Only. Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolves in North America while enjoying a spread of wine and cheese. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with Ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially behold the center's critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves, too. For adults 21 years old and up. Wolf Conservation Center, South

Salem. 5:30 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Moondance: The Ultimate Van Morrison Tribute Show. Rock 'n' roll doesn't get any better than Van Morrison. Van the Man has done it all, from classic rockers like "Brown Eyed Girl" and "Domino" to legendary tunes like "Tupelo Honey" and "Into the Mystic," the legend has never failed to impress music lovers around the globe. The show captures the Van Morrison concert experience like no other. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$24, \$28 and \$32. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Monday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve Celebration. A gala celebration includes a culinary feast, an astounding musical, "Phantom," dancing into the night with the Tuxedo Parc Orchestra, and at the stroke of midnight, raise a glass of bubbly. An open bar for the entire evening, lavish hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a sumptuous dinner featuring a choice of a variety of entrees. Champagne and noisemakers at midnight. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$391 per couple (includes tax, gratuity and parking). Private luxury boxes (for parties of at least eight): \$470 per couple. Info and reservations: 914-592-2222 or www.broadwaytheatre.com.

New Year's Eve Spectacular. White Plains New Year's Eve Celebration featuring music, entertainment and fireworks. Street to be Closed - Mamaroneck Avenue from Main Street to Martine, Main Street from Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd. to North Broadway, Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd. from Quarropas Street to Main Street, Court Street from Martine Avenue to Main St. and Martine Avenue from Mamaroneck to South Lexington Ave.; free event open to the public, 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 1
Happy New Year 2019

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Lunchtime Meditation. A weekly meditation program. Brief beginning instruction will be followed by meditation. No experience or special equipment needed. A guest instructor will lead the program the first Wednesday of each month; 12:15 to 1 p.m. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains. For more information, contact Christiane Deschamps at 914-422-1496 or cdeschamps@whiteplainsny.gov.

Tech for Adults. "Open VR(Virtual Reality)" learn about Virtual Reality and try our "VR" equipment, such as the

Oculus Rift or the HTC Vive Pro. All equipment is provided; Beginners are encouraged; Registration is required. A signed permission waiver (if under 18, in person at the library by parent or legal guardian) is required before using Virtual Reality Equipment. 12 to 1 p.m. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

Poetry Slam. Our exciting "1st Wednesday" series continues with Open Mic, SLAM competition and feature performances from guest poets from around the country! To take part in the open mic or slam, please register between 6:30 and 7 p.m. Slam poets should bring at least one original poem of up to 3 minutes. Registration closes promptly at 7 p.m., and the program starts shortly thereafter. Co-hosted by local poet and slam-master Eric ZORK Alan. All are welcome! Questions? Contact program librarian Ben Himmelfarb by phone (422-6980) or e-mail (bhimmelfarb@whiteplainslibrary.org). Poetry Slam is a project of the White Plains Library Foundation. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WEBER ROSSELLI & CANNON LLP filed with SSNY on 8/8/2018. Office in Westchester, SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7 Skyline Drive – Suite 350, Hawthorne, NY 10532. **Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF SURETY TITLE AGENCY COASTAL REGION, L.L.C. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/6/18. Formed in NJ on 10/12/99. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to 853 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050. The office address required to be maintained in NJ is **11 Eves Dr., Ste. 150, Marlton, NJ 08053. Cert. of formation filed with State Treas., 33 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SU-JEAN STUDIO LLC filed with Secretary of State NY on 11/14/2018. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **33 Windmill Rd., Armonk NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 10/18/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC, 351 Manville Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KABATCHNICK ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS LLC Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/7/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **18 Belmont St., White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ROMANOFF ELEMENTS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/25/2018. Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to **Carol Romanoff 55 Byram Ridge Road, Armonk NY 10504 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, serial number pending, has been applied for by the undersigned to permit patrons to bring wine, beer and cider for on premises consumption under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 141 E. Post Rd., White Plains, NY 10601 – **Am-badi Kebab and Grill Corp. d/b/a Am-badi Kebab and Grill.**

Articles of Organization (DOM-PROF. LLC). Erica O'Connor PT PLLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 11/6/18.

continued on next page

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Disney's Beauty and the Beast at White Plains Performing Arts Center

Step into the enchanted world of Broadway's modern classic Disney's Beauty and the Beast as the White Plains Performing Arts Center (WPPAC) presents its dazzling holiday production playing through January 13, 2019.

A timeless family favorite, Disney's Beauty and the Beast tells the story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. Now a hideous beast, the prince must learn to love and earn love in return, before the last petal of an Enchanted Rose falls. Should he fail, he would be doomed to remain a beast for all time.

All of the fanciful characters, such as Cogsworth, Lumiere and Mrs. Potts are also trapped in this spellbound form until the Beast can learn to love and have his love returned.

The cast includes Shaunice Alexander (Ensemble), David M. Beris (Maurice), Elizabeth Brady (Babette), Robbie Crandall (Chip), Brendan Doyle (Cogsworth), Katie Jo Flanagan (Ensemble), Michael Hardenberg (Ensemble), Apryl Higgins (Ensemble), Katelyn Lauria (Madame de la Grande Bouche), Paulette Oliva (Mrs. Potts), Robert Peterpaul (Lefou), Patrick Pevehouse (Lumiere), Taylor Rivera

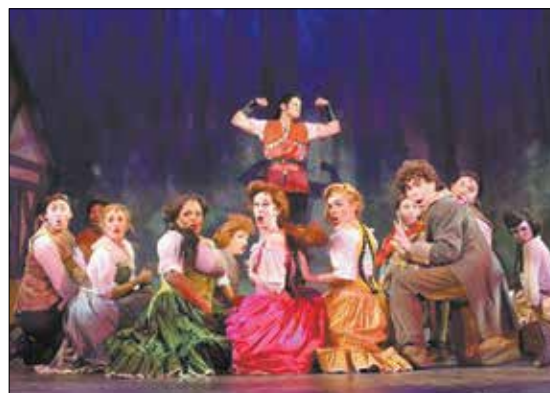


Erica Lustig as Belle.

KATHLEEN DAVISSON PHOTOS

(Ensemble), Kristen Seggio (Ensemble), Tori Sicklick (Ensemble), Daniella Tamasi (Ensemble), Raleigh Tyler (Ensemble), Julius Williams (Ensemble), Adam Winer (Ensemble) with Tom DeMichele (Gaston), Ezekial Andrew (Beast) and Erica Lustig as Belle.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is Directed by Frank Portanova with Musical Direction by Stephen Ferri and Choreography by Lexie Fennell Frare. Scenic Design by Christopher and



Tom DeMichele as Gaston and Robert Peterpaul as Lefou with the Ensemble.

Justin Swader, Lighting Design by Jamie Roderick, Wardrobe Supervision by Samantha Irons, Sound Design by Robert McGarrity, Stage Managed by Jessie Jardon and Megan E. Coutts.

Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, Book by Linda Woolverton.

White Plains Performing Arts Center's production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast is the largest and most elaborate in the 15 years history of this regional theatre.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast will play the White Plains Performing Arts Center Thursday, Dec. 27 2 p.m.; Friday, Dec.

28 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 29 7 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 30 2 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 3 2 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 4 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 5 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 6 2 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 9 11 a.m.; Friday, Jan. 11 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 12 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 13 2 p.m.

Tickets \$35 to \$43.

The White Plains Performing Arts Center is located on the third level of City Center off Mamaroneck Avenue in downtown White Plains. For tickets visit the theatre box office

Monday-Friday (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.), purchase the tickets online at

<http://wppac.com/>, wppac.com or call 914-328-1600.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is a WPPAC Mainstage Production, which is a professional production featuring union and non-union actors from Broadway, national tours and regional theatre across the country. These productions are created from scratch, staffed with professional production teams (directors to designers), large live orchestras and boast high-quality sets and costumes.

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continued from previous page

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EXAMINER SPORTS

Stepinac Edged by Ravens and Warriors in 20th Anniversary Slam Dunk Tournament

By Albert Coqueran

Stepinac Head Basketball Coach Pat Massaroni has too much class to single out a referee's foul call late in the game as a reason for the Crusaders' loss in the opening round of the 20th Anniversary Slam Dunk Tournament. However, that particular foul call changed the momentum and had a huge impact on the outcome of the game.

Crusaders Malcom Chimezie fouled out on a controversial offensive foul call with 1:49 remaining in regulation time, while the Crusaders were winning 58-56. Chimezie at the time had scored eight second-half points and was an aggressive presence under the basket.

"It was huge for him to foul out at that time when we had a chance to score two points and extend the lead; that was a big call which took away our chance to go to the foul line," mentioned Massaroni. "But I think there was a lot more to our loss than just that call. We turned the ball over too much and did not get key stops down the stretch," continued Massaroni.

And of course, Massaroni's analogy is not merely tactfulness; it is valid. It was not just one foul call that made the difference in the Crusaders, 72-69 loss to St. Raymond in overtime in the Slam Dunk Tournament.

The Crusaders led by as much as eight points late in the third quarter and maintained the lead until 12.8 seconds left in regulation time. Crusaders RJ Davis made two free throws to put the Crusaders ahead 60-57 with 18 ticks left on the clock. But Ravens Malachi Smith was left open to counter with a three-point shot to tie the game.

Adrian Griffin, Jr. playing in his first game this season after missing five games with a fractured foot did all he could to win it for the Crusaders. However, his looping lay-up circled the rim and missed



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Despite Stepinac losing two games and finishing out of the running in this year's 20th Anniversary Slam Dunk Tournament. Crusaders junior guard RJ Davis had a spectacular tournament while scoring a total of 51 points and grabbing 15 rebounds, while shooting a remarkable 16-of-18 from the foul line in two games.

at the buzzer to yield overtime. "I could not believe it. Nonetheless, my body feels good and I am just glad to be back with my team," commented Griffin.

Griffin was hardly at full strength but he took the team on his back in OT, while scoring a clutch three-pointer, up-and-under layup and snatched a crucial rebound with 28 seconds left in overtime.

However, Ravens Gray Grant and Jalen Reneau answered to neutralize every Crusaders game-winning threat. Even when Crusaders guard Eduard Minaya scored to bring the Crusaders within one point with 8.6 left in OT. Grant, the 6'6" junior, surfaced again under the basket for two-points to put the game away for the Ravens, 72-69.

Chimezie's fifth foul was called in the heat of the game with him going to the hoop when he bumped a Ravens defender

who was already falling backwards and moving his feet while attempting to regain his balance. Chimezie should have been shooting two free throws or a "no call" might have led to two points for the Crusader big man.

The play certainly did not lose the game for the Crusaders but it surely was a controversial call that had a major impact on the eventual outcome of regulation time. Another crucial aspect of the Crusaders loss to the Ravens was their insurmountable 25 turnovers in the game.

Davis scored 18 second-half points for a total of 24 points and shot 11-of-13 from the foul line in the game. Griffin ended the game with a double-double of 14 points and 14 rebounds.

It was a rough weekend for the



Adrian Griffin, Jr. returned to the Stepinac rotation in the opening round of the 20th Anniversary Slam Dunk Tournament, at the Westchester County Center, Dec. 21. Griffin missed the initial five games this season with a fractured foot. The Crusaders sophomore phenomenon completed the two-game Slam Dunk contest with a total of 27 points and 19 rebounds.

Crusaders in the 20th Anniversary Slam Dunk Tournament. On Dec. 22, in the Third Place game, the Crusaders were edged by Curtis High School of the PSAL, when Warriors Adeleye Oyekanmi hit a 50-foot shot at the final buzzer to beat them, 72-69.

With the loss to Curtis, the Crusaders finished out of the running in this year's Slam Dunk Tournament. They are presently 1-6, this season with a tough CHSAA AA schedule ahead of them. Long Island Lutheran won the Championship in Bracket II of the 20th Anniversary Slam Dunk Tournament by beating St. Raymond, 69-52.

Tigers Lose Both Games in 20th Anniversary Slam Dunk Tournament

By Albert Coqueran

The White Plains High School Boys Basketball Team also did not fare well in the 20th Anniversary of the Slam Dunk Tournament, at the Westchester County Center, held Dec. 19-22. As their City of White Plains high school basketball counterparts, the Stepinac Crusaders, the Tigers lost both games in this year's Slam Dunk Tournament.

The Tigers lost to an aggressive fast-paced Newburgh Free Academy team in the Opening round, 70-48, on Dec. 19. The Tigers committed 21 turnovers and shot poorly from three-point range while hitting only 3-of-16 shots in the game.

Tigers junior Eisaiah Murphy scored a game-high 16 points and grabbed six rebounds.

But it was not enough to make up for



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

Tigers player Joe Carrier, pictured center against Newburgh, is a pesky defender.

the Tigers inadequacy on the boards, while being outrebounded 41-to-26 and the Goldbacks 19 assists to the Tigers mere nine assist in the game.

Tigers Head Coach Spencer Mayfield has been trying to implement a progressive starting line-up, while sophomore Mekhi Woodbury is not quite recovered from an injury. The Tigers have a very young team without a senior on the roster.

Recently, Mayfield has been starting two sophomores, including Joe Carrier (pictured center against Newburgh) and Tymir Greene with his three juniors, Murphy, Quion Burns and Jayon Norwood. Carrier is a pesky defender and Greene is efficient running the point. However, Burns needs to limit his turnovers, while committing a total of 11 turnovers in the two games of the

Slam Dunk.

Murphy scored 12 points and secured seven rebounds and Burns added nine points, seven rebounds with three assists in the Tigers lost to Bryam Hills, 57-42, in the Third Place game on Dec. 20. Nevertheless, the eight turnovers by Burns in the game seemingly neutralized his offensive production.

It was not a good holiday weekend for high school basketball fans from White Plains, as the Tigers and Stepinac finished out of the running in this year's Slam Dunk Tournament. The Tigers are presently 5-3 thus far this season.

Iona Prep won the Bracket I Championship of the 20th Anniversary Slam Dunk Tournament; as Gaels Ronald Green, Jr. tipped in a Marquis Dukes miss at the final buzzer to beat Newburgh, 43-41.

..... EXAMINER SPORTS

Stepinac Football Honored by City of White Plains and Signing Day

By Albert Coqueran

The 2018 Stepinac High School Football Team assembled at the City of White Plains Winter Fest to be presented a special recognition from White Plains Mayor Tom Roach.

Mayor Roach presented Crusaders Head Football Coach Mike O'Donnell with a Proclamation, while proclaiming Wednesday, Dec. 19, as "Stepinac Crusaders Day" in the City of White Plains.

The distinction presented to the Stepinac Varsity Football Team by the Mayor was for their accomplishments this season while winning the 2018 CHSFL AAA Championship and CHSAA New York

State Championship. It was the second consecutive year the Crusaders won the

CHSAA NYS Title and their fourth CHSFL AAA Championship in five years.

Earlier on Dec. 19, nine Stepinac student-athletes signed Letters of Intent to



PHOTOS COURTESY STEPINAC ATHLETICS

Mayor Tom Roach (fourth left) and the City of White Plains proclaimed Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018, as "Stepinac Crusaders Day" in the City of White Plains. Also, Roach presented each member of the 2018 Stepinac Varsity Football Team with a Certificate of Recognition for their accomplishments this year while winning the CHSFL AAA and CHSAA NYS Championships.

further their academic and athletic careers in college. The nine student-athletes and

the colleges they will attend in September included: Chris Fowx, Temple University, Jonathan Mucciolo, Sacred Heart University, James Prince, Howard University, Shawn Harris, SUNY Stony Brook will play football. Also, Dom Nicolo, a member of the Stepinac Championship Football Team opted to play baseball and will be heading to Southern Connecticut State University. Also signing Letters of Intent to play baseball are, Chris Fox, Dominican College and Jonathan DeLango, College of Mount St. Vincent

The University of Vermont signed Colin Sharkey to play Lacrosse and Den Monexant signed to play soccer at SUNY Delhi University.



Earlier in the day, on Dec. 19, five members of the Crusaders 2018 NYS Championship Football Team signed Letters of Intent to continue their academic and athletic careers in college. The signees included (seated l-r) Chris Fowx, Temple University, Jonathan Mucciolo, Sacred Heart University, James Prince, Howard University and (standing l-r) Dom Nicolo, Southern Connecticut State University, who opted to play baseball and Shawn "Big Play" Harris, SUNY Stony Brook.

NY Knicks Kevin Knox Cooking Both On and Off the Court

By Albert Coqueran

The NY Knicks selected Kevin Knox from the University of Kentucky in the first round, ninth overall in the 2018 NBA Draft. Knox, a 19 year old NBA rookie, has been making a name for himself recently in the community and on the basketball court.

The Knicks 6' 9" small forward has been seen playing video games with youngsters in the community and even got behind the hibachi and took cooking lessons during his inaugural visit to a Benihana Restaurant. "That was fun. Actually it was my first time being at a Benihana Restaurant. My father, my cousin and my agent were also there, so I had a really great time and was able to cook," said Knox.

However where Knox is doing most of his "cooking" is on the basketball court this season for the NY Knicks. Knox had a breakout game against the Milwaukee Bucks on Dec. 1. He scored 26 points, dished four assists and grabbed four rebounds, in 37 minutes of play.

Ever since Knox surged against the Bucks, the rookie sensation has been validating that the Knicks did not waste their ninth overall pick in this year's NBA Draft on him.

In 11 games inclusive of Dec. 1 versus the Bucks, Knox has averaged 17.6 points per game, while logging 33.7 minutes per game. During his 11-game run, Knox also lit up the stat sheet with two big games against the Charlotte Hornets, including 26 points and 15 rebounds on Dec. 9 and 20 points on Dec. 14.

Furthermore, in the Knicks last two games versus the Philadelphia 76ers, on Dec. 19, and against the Atlanta Hawks on Dec. 21, Knox has maintained his recent offensive consistency. The Knicks rookie scored 21 points and 24 points respectively and secured six rebounds in each game.

"I am just playing a little harder, more aggressive offensively and defensively, my motor has picked up a lot recently and that is something that was slipping early on but I cannot let it slip any longer," stated Knox.

The NY Knicks are certainly on a downward slide, while losing nine of

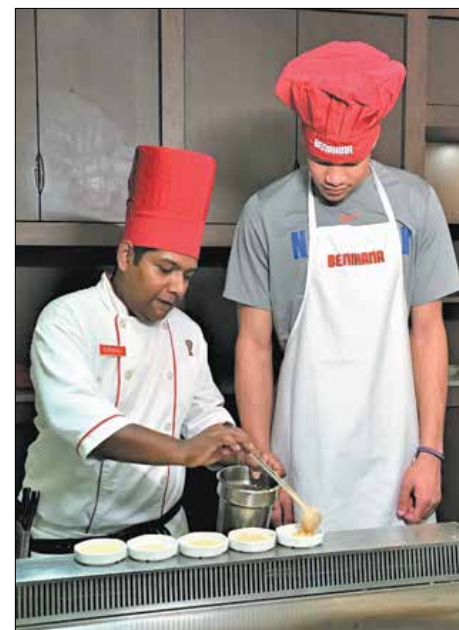


PHOTO COURTESY OF NY KNICKS

NY Knicks Kevin Knox (right) visited the Benihana Restaurant in Manhattan, as part of MSG Food Week in September. Knox got some hibachi cooking lessons from Chef Nirmal. Recently, Knox, the Knicks first round draft choice this year, has been giving some lessons of his own on the basketball court. The Knicks forward has averaged 17.6 points per game in last 11 games.

the 11 games where Knox has proved productive in December. The orange-and-blue at present have a dismal 9-25 record thus far this season and remain 15.5 games behind the Eastern Conference leading Toronto Raptors.

Nonetheless, with 48 games still to play this season, if Knox can remain steadfast on the court and some of the other Knicks "young guns" join in on offense and more importantly on defense; a 10-game winning is not out of the question for the Knicks in the near future.

Just do not depend on superstar Kristaps Porzingis coming to the Knicks rescue anytime soon. Porzingis is progressing well from his ACL tear last season in February. But the 7'3" forward/center will not be reevaluated by NY Knicks team doctors until February 2019, and he will not see action until at least that time.

Westchester Knicks Drop to 14-7 with G League Showcase Losses

By Albert Coqueran

The Westchester Knicks, the NBA G League affiliate of the NY Knicks, traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to participate in the 2018 NBA Gatorade League Showcase, from Dec. 19-21.

The local Knicks departed the confines of Westchester County with a 14-5 record and an uncontested first place ranking in the NBA G League Eastern Conference. However, the trip

to the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas did not prove productive for the local Knicks.

On Dec. 19, Westchester was beaten 113-106 by the lowly Iowa Wolves (7-12), who sit in second to last place in the G League Western Conference.

Subsequently, on Dec. 21, the local Knicks were outlasted by the Western Conference Austin Spurs (11-8,) in their final showing in the 2018 NBA G

League Showcase. The Spurs, the NBA G affiliate of the Antonio Spurs, beat the Westchester Knicks, 99-88.

"The Showcase was a great experience for me and my team. We didn't win like we wanted to, but we have some things to go back home and work on," commented Westchester Knicks guard John Jenkins.

With these two NBA G League Western Conference teams handily defeating the Westchester Knicks in the

G League Showcase this year. One would have to wonder what would happen if the local Knicks progressed to the 2019 NBA G League Championship, which is a strong possibility this season.

The Westchester Knicks will return to Westchester County Center, after the Christmas holiday, when they take on the Capital City Go-Go, the NBA G League affiliate of the Washington Wizards, on Thursday, Dec. 27, at 7 p.m.



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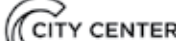
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★ HEINEKEN encourages revelers 21+ to always drink responsibly, and is providing free rides to residential destinations within Westchester County. Visit the Safe Rides transportation stand on the corner of East Post Road and Mamaroneck Avenue between 11 pm - 3 am. Open to New Years Eve Spectacular attendees 21 and older!