White Plains Salvation Army Brings Help to Needy

John Donahoe, White Plains Salvation Army Advisory Council, and his wife Debbie Donahoe, President White Plains Beautification Foundation, with three of their nine grandchildren at the Westchester Mall on Saturday, Dec. 12 ringing bells for the annual Red Kettle Christmas drive. Eighty-two percent of the donations go directly to program funding to help many White Plains families in need. Fellow Advisory Council member Joanne D’Addario (not pictured) was also ringing bells on Saturday.

Pets Alive Property to Transfer Back to Town of Greenburgh

The Pets Alive Westchester board announced Thursday, Dec. 17, their intent to give the former animal sanctuary property located at 100 Warehouse Road South in Elmsford back to the Town of Greenburgh for the purpose of the town working with another animal rescue to help them continue operation as a no kill animal shelter.

It looks like a new group organized by locals after the Pets Alive shelter closed on September 15, Paws Crossed, may take over operations with some former shelter employees in place and animals that had been moved, returned to their former home in Elmsford. This could happen as early as February 2016.

Financial problems and issues with the structural stability of the shelter’s building led to the closure. All animals that remained at the time of closure – over 60 cats and dogs - were transferred to the Pets Alive, Inc. no kill animal sanctuary in Middletown.

Prior to the closure of the facility, the board and the Town of Greenburgh administration discussed having Pets Alive Westchester turn the property over to the town. A deed restriction only allowed use of the property for either Pets Alive or Pets Alive, Inc.

Local Taxi Companies Price Gouged After Valhalla Train Crash

After Metro-North commuters were left stranded in the immediate aftermath of the tragic train crash in Valhalla this past February, State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman’s office recently reached settlements with two local taxi companies for violating New York’s price gouging laws. White Plains-based Intrepid Taxi Corporation and Mount Kisco-based Eagle Car Service were both found to have overcharged a passenger in the aftermath of the crash. State Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), a former chairman of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council, organized outreach to the Attorney General’s office after the Assemblyman learned of the price gouging allegations on Twitter.

Assemblyman Buchwald saw a tweet from Lewisboro resident Julie Alterio on the evening of the crash that said her husband, Michael Alterio, had been victimized by a local taxi company. Mr. Alterio was traveling to Golden’s Bridge on the Harlem Line and found himself stranded at the White Plains train station after his train could not continue north past the crash site. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Alterio hailed a nearby taxi, and the driver charged him more than 200 percent of the normal rate to travel from White Plains to
Acura of BEDFORD HILLS

2016 ILX
$229* LEASE FOR 36 MOS.
2.4-liter i-VTEC Engine, Keyless Access System and Pushbutton Ignition Multi-View Rear Camera, USB & iPod Integration
$2,490 due at signing. Excludes taxes, license, title fees & registration. No security deposit.

36 MPG Hwy† Model # DE1F3GW

2016 RDX
$339* LEASE FOR 36 MOS.
3.5-liter V-6 Engine Keyless Access System Multi-View Rear Camera USB/Ipod Integration Bluetooth HandsFreeLink
$2,990 due at signing. Excludes taxes, license, title fees & registration. No security deposit.

28 MPG Hwy† Model # TB3H3GJN

2016 MDX
$419* LEASE FOR 36 MOS.
3.5-liter V-6 Engine Keyless Access Functions Multi-View Rear Camera USB/Ipod Integration Bluetooth HandsFreeLink
$2,999 due at signing. Excludes taxes, license, title fees & registration. No security deposit.

26 MPG Hwy† Model # YD7H2GJN

GREAT DEALS ON 2015’s- WHEN THEY’RE GONE, THEY’RE GONE!

2015 TLX
$289* LEASE FOR 36 MOS.
2.4-liter Engine Keyless Access System Multi-View Rear Camera with Dynamic Guidelines USB/Ipod Integration
$1,990 due at signing. Excludes taxes, license, title fees & registration. No security deposit.

35 MPG Hwy† Model # UB1F3GW

Certified Pre-Owned Acuras

700 N. BEDFORD RD (Rt 117), BEDFORD HILLS, NY | 888-697-9166 | www.AcuraOfBedfordHills.com
OPEN: M-Th 9AM-8PM, F 9AM-6PM, Sat 9AM-6PM, Sun By Appt ONLY. SECONDS OFF THE SAW MILL PKWY

*Based on 2014 EPA mileage ratings. Diffs for comparison purposes only. Your actual mileage will vary, depending on how you drive and maintain your vehicle, driving conditions, battery age/condition Hybrid model, and other factors. †For qualified buyers.
White Plains Celebrates 100 Years as a City in 2016

January 1, 2016 will mark the 100th Anniversary of White Plains being incorporated as a city. In recognition of this important milestone, and to kick off the city's Centennial, the White Plains Historical Society will present Mayor Tom Roach with a ceremonial gavel used by White Plains' first Mayor, Farrington M. Thompson, at the first Common Council Meeting on January 1, 1916. The gavel will remain on loan to the city during the Centennial year.

Also celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2015, the White Plains High School Orchestra will be celebrated at Thursday evening's High School Winter Concert, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Alumni will be returning to play with the school's Symphony Orchestra in the concert finale and several former Orchestra Directors will attend. A photo gallery of WPHS Orchestras from 1915-2015 will be on display outside the auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

Design Students Take Over Empty Retail Windows to Provide Hopeful Messages

Design students at Purchase College, SUNY, have joined with the White Plains BID (Business Improvement District) to launch a new project called Art in Vacant Spaces.

Earlier this semester, School of the Arts Dean Ravi S. Rajan was approached by representatives of the White Plains BID who were concerned about the appearance of vacant storefronts in downtown White Plains. Leading up to the holiday season, the BID sought a solution to improve the visual appearance of several vacant storefronts hoping to enhance the overall ambiance and pedestrian experience in the city's downtown.

Rajan immediately thought of the senior level undergraduate students in Professor Warren Lehrer's Community Design class who work on pro-bono projects for non-profit organizations and the Purchase College community. “To be successful, the project had to be something more than co-locating student work into vacant spaces,” Rajan said. “The solution had to include all involved: the community in White Plains, the BID and businesses downtown, and the students and faculty of the college.”

Professor Lehrer came up with the plan to populate the storefronts with visual poetry. The School of the Arts hired poet Judith Sloan to research and interview people in White Plains and write site-specific poems for the project that would represent the feelings and experience of working and/or living in White Plains and would leave room for evocative interpretations by student designers. The students then visualized the poems via design, typography, color, shape, and image. The result is nine works throughout the downtown area that focus on infusing hope and expressing the energy and spirit of the city, its residents, and its work force.

The work will be installed this month. Sites include storefronts on Court Street, Martine Avenue, East Post Road, Mamaroneck Avenue, and Main Street that formerly held restaurants such as Legal Seafood, Applebees, and Atlanta Bread, as well as shops. The art will be on view for approximately three months, or until the individual stores are rented.

Student designers include William Pineda, Courtney Brown, Alexa Dragonetti, Erica Zhang, Tessa Goode, Elise Assenza, and Emily Richard.
Local Taxi Companies Price Gouged After Valhalla Train Crash — continued from page 1

Golden’s Bridge in Lewisboro.

The Attorney General’s office conducted an inquiry after being alerted to the incident, and determined that the catastrophic train accident, which shut down the entire Metro-North Harlem Line, caused an abnormal disruption in the transportation marketplace, thereby triggering New York’s price gouging laws. A settlement was recently reached between New York State and the Intrepid Taxi Corporation, which included a fine of $375 and a refund equal to the amount that Mr. Alterio was overcharged.

“The night of the derailment, I was worried about how I’d get from White Plains to my northern Westchester home,” said Mr. Alterio. “It was great to find a taxi, but I did not expect to get gouged. …”

A second price gouging victim, a Manhattan resident traveling on the same train as Mr. Alterio and was a customer of Eagle Car Service. He reported his claim directly to Attorney General Schneiderman’s office. According to representatives from the Attorney General’s office, Eagle Car Service was also fined $375 and ordered to refund the fare to the customer.

Planning Board OKs Windward Subdivision, Site Plan — continued from page 1

of plans.

Before the final approving vote, one resident said he felt traffic issues had not been thoroughly addressed. Counsel for the City of White Plains noted that the application before the Planning Board was for a residential subdivision and site plan and that if the Windward School violated the zoning laws, then policing action would be taken at that time.

During the same meeting, and referred to the Board by the Common Council for comment, the proposed development called The Boulevard on Maple and Post Road, featuring townhouse residences, retail, restaurants, sports club facilities, free parking and pedestrian access throughout the site, was well-received.

Seeking a change from B-2 to B-3 zoning to allow a fitness center, the developer explained to the Board that although White Plains had numerous fitness clubs at different price ranges around the city, the current trend was for specialty fitness operations that focused on spinning, yoga or Pilates, for example. These individual businesses would rent space in the fitness center and come and go as demand dictated.

The discontinuance of Brady Place in favor of pedestrian access was also considered a positive for the proposed Boulevard site. The Planning Board moved to inform the Common Council they had no objection to the developer’s requests, and even called the plan young and edgy.

The White Plains Rural Cemetery Association also came before the Planning Board on Dec. 15, seeking approval to operate a crematorium on their site in the maintenance area of the cemetery off of North Broadway. Cemetery management said they had only one acre left for burials and their business model needed a new financial avenue.

The Board decided to send a communication to the Council that they had no objection to the building of a crematorium on the site.

When the owners of the Esplanade Hotel, now operating as a senior service hotel, came before the Board, they seemed to expect to move through their plan to convert to rental residences with no hitchs. The request was for a change in the zoning text for the owners to have the right to adaptively re-use the buildings. However, the Board said they needed more information on how this would affect other areas of the city. The building owner is expected to work with city staff and return next month to the Planning Board with answers.

Pets Alive Property to Transfer Back to Town of Greenburgh — continued from page 1

municipal purposes or as an animal shelter.

The cost to repair the buildings was set at $1.1 million and Pets Alive put out a RFP (Request for Proposal) to invite other animal rescues to acquire the property. These efforts raised hopes but in the end did not result in a new rescue acquiring the property.

In recent weeks, local community members have communicated with both the Town of Greenburgh administration and Pets Alive Westchester board members expressing an interest in having the property revert back to the Town so that the Town could work with another animal rescue organization to reopen the shelter.

On a WVOX RADIO 1460 AM radio talk show hosted by Town Supervisor Paul Feiner, Town of Greenburgh Building Inspector John Lucido said that while parts of the Pets Alive building need major repair, which will be costly, another animal rescue organization could use part of the building under the guidance of a professional engineer. This would include use of the dog kennels. Lucido mentioned that even though the kennels could be occupied, the front part of the building by the loading dock had bad structural damage. Therefore, the entire front portion of the building – the lobby, the rooms where the cats were housed, and the upstairs quarters - per the engineer on record, should be walled-off and all utilities would need to be relocated to a safe part of the facility and away from the loading dock area.

No kill animal shelter facility at 100 Warehouse Rd., Elmsford.
By Albert Coqueran

The celebration continued for the Stepinac High School Football Team, as Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino visited the school on Friday, Dec. 18, to present the Crusaders Championship Team with a special recognition.

Astorino congratulated the 2015 Stepinac Football Team for their undefeated season, while going 12-0 and winning the CHSFL and CHSAA New York State Championships. “Congratulations! Every member of the team and the coaches deserve all the accolades for everything that you accomplished,” said Astorino. “It is not easy to start in the dog days of summer to deal with all the practices and week in and week out do what you needed to do to win. We are really proud of you.”

Astorino acknowledged Stepinac superstar wide receiver Terrell Morrison for his many fantastic receptions during the season.

Astorino also gave special recognition to Crusaders senior quarterback Tyquell Fields for his gallant effort while playing injured. “I know you played the last two games with a really nasty injury and you fought through the pain and helped your buddies win. Congratulations to you,” acknowledged Astorino.

Astorino presented a proclamation to Stepinac President Father Thomas Collins and Head Football Coach Mike O’Donnell proclaiming Friday, Dec. 18, 2015, as “Archbishop Stepinac High School Football Day” in the County of Westchester.

“Congratulations from the one million people in Westchester County,” the County Executive said.

Astorino was accompanied to the event by Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett and Westchester County Commissioner of Mental Health Mark Herceg. Plunkett graduated in 1967 and Herceg in 1987.

“Stepinac football winning and bringing the State Championship to White Plains, to the alumni and to Westchester County is important and that is why Rob Astorino is here today to recognize the hard work of these student/athletes,” said Plunkett.

Besides having a day set aside in their honor in Westchester County, each player on the 2015 Crusaders Championship Football Team received a Certificate of Recognition from Westchester County.

“Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino (second row center) joined by back row (l-r) Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, President Father Tom Collins, former Stepinac Trustees Chairman Bill Plunkett, famed alumnus Bob Hyland and Commissioner of Mental Health Mark Herceg, congratulated the Stepinac Football Team for the undefeated season, while winning the CHSFL and CHSAA NYS Championships.”

ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino (right) presents Stepinac President Father Thomas Collins with a Proclamation, which named Friday Dec. 18, 2015, as “Archbishop Stepinac High School Football Day” in the County of Westchester.

DECEMBER 18 - JANUARY 10

Tickets: $25 - $47

DECOY is recommended for audiences ages 6 and older. All persons entering the theatre, regardless of age, must have a ticket.
Pace Land Use Law Center Posthumously Honors DelBello

Pace Law School’s Land Use Law Center posthumously bestowed its Founders Award recently on Alfred B. DelBello. The center’s annual conference will now be known as the Alfred B. DelBello Land Use and Sustainable Development Conference.

John R. Nolon, Pace law professor and counsel to the center, presented the award to DelBello’s wife, Dee, at this year’s conference that was attended by 200 local officials and land use professionals. The Founder’s Award is given each year to carry on the legacy of Theodore W. Kheel, a famed mediator and arbitrator who used collaborative negotiation to resolve some of this region’s and our nation’s most critical disputes.

DelBello, who died this past year, had been mayor of Yonkers, Westchester county executive, lieutenant governor of New York and a land use attorney in private practice. He was dedicated to affordable housing and was equally friendly to the environment, building up the county’s role to preserve natural resources and environmental functions and serving as chair of the Westchester Land Trust.

He fostered economic development as well, establishing the county’s Office for Economic Development, bringing new energy and transportation resources to the county to attract new businesses and recruiting the private sector to locate here.

“Al DelBello is widely known as one of the most successful collaborative negotiators in government and private practice,” Nolon said. “He was also a pioneer in advancing sustainable development in Westchester and nationally. These are two concepts to which our center is dedicated.”

“As a practicing lawyer, Al DelBello served as a model for Pace Law students who observed his persuasive and effective manner when coaxing a local land use board to make the right decision,” said Jessica A. Bacher, executive director of the Land Use Law Center. “He was both a stellar collaborator and an innovator in sustainable development, an example to our center in its work and training of future lawyers – an inspiration to all those who worked with him on these issues.”

The theme of this year’s conference was “Reflecting on the Past, Planning for the Future: Celebrating 100 years of Zoning.” Former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening delivered the keynote address and discussed the evolution and importance of smart growth.

The conference also discussed transformative land use, zoning and sustainable development laws and policies that are shaping communities in the tristate region as current challenges are addressed. Panels used zoning’s centennial as a broad framework to discuss various land use topics and their promise for the future. The event brought together national, regional and local land use experts to highlight how communities are transitioning toward sustainability, disaster recovery and revitalization.
Police Blotter

Greenburgh Police Department

Burglary. On December 20, police responded to Summit Street regarding a burglary. The victim said that at 10:30 p.m. he entered his house and observed the rear, first floor kitchen window was ajar. He further observed that items that were usually left on the windowsill were knocked over and now laying on the kitchen floor and in the sink. The victim immediately walked outside the residence and contacted police headquarters. An exterior check of the residence was conducted and the rear, first floor window appeared to be wide open. No forced entry was observed. Furthermore, the front door of the residence was found to be ajar. The victim does not think he locked the rear kitchen window, but he does think that the front door was locked prior to him leaving the residence earlier in the day. The interior of the residence appeared to be ransacked and several drawers and closets on the second floor were emptied. The detective division was notified.

Petit Larceny. On December 19, police responded to a possible larceny in progress at S. Central Ave, Shoprite. The description given was that of a male, hair wearing a black bubble vest jacket with a brown sweater underneath, who was attempting to exit the store via the entrance door, pushing a shopping cart filled with unpaid meat products. Police observed a party matching the above description exit Shoprite using the entrance door and leave the shopping cart behind him as he exited the store. The loss prevention manager identified said party as the suspect involved. The suspect was seen several times attempting to exit the store without paying for items over the last few months and also at other Shoprite locations. The suspect was advised that he is no longer allowed on the premises. The loss prevention manager at Shoprite wanted to document the incident with no further police action at this time.

Burglary. At about 10 p.m. on December 18, police responded to a single-family residence for a report of a burglary. The victim reported that she came home at approximately 9:50 p.m. and when she opened her locked front door she noticed that boxes she had stacked in the living room were knocked over. Upon further inspection she observed that the drawer of the living room hutch was emptied onto the floor and her bedroom located to the right of the front door was ransacked. The victim immediately called headquarters and waited outside for the police to arrive. She was informed not to touch anything in the house. Detectives cleared the house, checked the outside of the premises and found an open window in the rear of the house leading into the dining room. This appears to be the point of entry. In addition there was a purple Steve Madden shopping bag on the floor, inside the premise, by the open window, which the victim claims does not belong to her. The victim was able to identify the floor on the side of the dining room, which leads to the outside was closed but unlocked. The victim said she secured the premises upon leaving that morning. The house is listed on the real estate market for sale.

Aggravated Harassment. On Dec. 18 the complainant received a threatening message on the Internet from a party known only as “Joe Steal.” She also reported that she and her boyfriend had been receiving threats and her laptop camera had been hacked for the past two months; live streaming through her webcam. She reports that some of her private information (last four numbers of social security, medical condition, credit card info, etc.) had been posted on different comment screens online throughout different websites she had visited. The boyfriend, who resides in Mt. Pleasant, had not wanted to report the incidents for fear it might make the situation worse. The complainant became concerned after receiving a threat referencing that she and her boyfriend would be killed on 12/24/2015. The comment has since been deleted but the complainant does have saved screen shots of past incidents where they stated different things about kidnapping and raping her, as well as threats to her family. The complainant believes the messages are coming from several different people, and may be related to past incidents where her boyfriend was being threatened by several individuals from Mt. Pleasant.
Keep the Lights on, the Cold Out and Provide Homes for the Homeless

Once again we ask you to join us as we address the challenges of maintaining each of our 30 apartments, the oldest being 50 and 90 years old, at the same time adding new properties to give security to additional needy families.

This is our 30th anniversary in which Sheltering the Homeless is Our Responsibility (SHORE), recently joined by I CARE, ask our friends to help address homelessness in central and lower Westchester.

As always, SHORE and I CARE board members work hard to keep our families comfortable in their homes. Though these families pay affordable rents, it’s not always enough to cover the upkeep expenses of the various properties. We also continue to make our current homes safe and energy efficient through weatherization projects on our older houses: Orawaupum Street and Wayne Avenue. A WestCop organization will ask SHORE to contribute $7,000 to an overall government-funded project costing $34,000, so as to fully insulate the interiors and replace drafty windows in these old houses.

This year we also hope to begin work at two new sites, providing two two-family homes for which SHORE will provide start-up money of $50,000. Contracts are being negotiated for the purchase of both lots and architect plans are being drawn up as well. Further funding is expected to be available through New York State.

To carry forward these critical efforts we have set a 2016 goal of $60,000 – a combination of the above described "lights ON, keep cold OUT” campaign ($7,000-plus) and the "new HOMES" ($50,000-plus). We count on your contribution to help us meet our goal. Please be generous. You may contribute on our website at www.shelteringthehomeless.org. Thank you for continuing to provide shelter to needy families in Westchester.

We wish you and your family a happy, healthy holiday season and a joyous New Year.

–Sincerely,
Susan McCarthy, RDC Chair, Board of Directors

–Caroline H. Silverston Chair, I CARE

Obituary

Mary Jane Denzer

Mary Jane Denzer, a fashion icon and White Plains resident died at the age of 83 in her home December 16. The cause of death was pancreatic cancer.

Denzer had been associated with the very best in good taste and haute couture for over 35 years, having moved her namesake boutique from its location on Mamaroneck Avenue to 7 Renaissance Square at the base of the second Ritz-Carlton tower in White Plains only one year ago.

Denzer was born in Manhattan and raised in Woodmere, Long Island. She attended Wheaton College.

During her career, Denzer dressed some of Westchester’s most popular and fashionable women. She was well known for her unique clothing selections usually created by popular designers and for her ability to identify up and coming stars in the world of haute couture. She traveled extensively from New York to Milan and Paris to select fashions for her clientele.

Denzer’s interest in fashion began at an early age. Her grandmother was a seamstress who made her own patterns and taught Mary Jane how to alter clothes to make the fit and the style just right. They would shop for fabric together and look at what the designers were doing at the time. The knowledge gained from this experience stayed with Denzer throughout her career.

Denzer modeled at Saks Fifth Avenue and Bergdorf Goodman. She later became involved with their special boutique events and trunk shows, learning how to shop and select designer fashions. The knowledge she gained from these experiences became the foundation for her own retail adventure.

Every year Denzer would choose a charity fundraiser. She raised money for such nonprofits as Channel 13, National Hemophilia Foundation, Pediatric Cancer Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the American Heart Association and White Plains Hospital. Family members have indicated the business is up for sale.

Denzer is survived by four children, Holly Alexander, Cathryn Ramin, Peter Jakobson and Tom Jakobson; three stepchildren, Alan Denzer Jr., Richard Denzer and Diane Bennett, and eight grandchildren. Her second husband, Alan Denzer Sr., died in 2006.

Funeral services are private and a celebration of her life will be held in January. Donations in Denzer’s honor may be sent to White Plains Hospital.

Joyce Gavin

Joyce M. Gaven a White Plains resident passed away on Dec.17. She was 69. Joyce was born on Aug. 4, 1946 in Johnson City New York, to Edward and Ruth (Brown) Simpson. Both have predeceased her.

Joyce worked as a tax analyst for Equitable Life in NYC, until her retirement. She married her loving husband Daniel Gaven on October 20, 1973 in St Vincent Ferrer Church in Manhattan. Joyce was a singer with the Westchester Concert Singers for many years. She also enjoyed researching her family genealogy.

She is survived by two daughters Christine Gaven, and Denise (Gabe) Robles of White Plains. She is also survived by two sisters Karol Pearson of Great Bend, PA and Karen Knapp of Marathon, NY and one brother Michael Simpson of Greene, NY. Joyce was predeceased by one brother Charles Simpson in 1993.

Helen Zuck

Helen Z. Zuck, a lifelong resident of West Harrison, passed away on Dec.13. She was 90. She was born in West Harrison, on January 18, 1925 to Vincent Zuck Sr. and Helen Silkatitis. She was educated in West Harrison and graduated from White Plains High School in 1942. She worked for Duvernoy Bakery and Dellwood Diary, both in White Plains. She was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church in West Harrison and was active in church affairs and was a long time lector. She was President of the Ll Joseph R. Grillo Post #5463 Ladies Auxiliary and was a member of the West Harrison Senior Citizens. She was predeceased by her brother Vincent C. Zuck.

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to pcasey@theexaminernews.com.

The White Plains Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.
What To Do About Senior Blues Over the Holidays

By Pat Casey

Feeling blue during the holiday season is cause for concern for people of any age. For an aging population going through the transition to seniorhood, the stress caused by societal pressure to be happy during the holidays combined with nostalgia and memories of large family gatherings can make those who are alone feel lonelier, leading to depression.

If you don’t know what to look for, the signs of depression can easily be missed explains Dr. George S. Alexopoulos, director of the Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Westchester Division. He advises older adults and families with senior members who might be spending time alone to take notice of subtle personality changes such as expressions of sadness, despondency, disengagement and short responses in conversation. “If a senior family member previously responded with excitement to interaction with grandchildren but begins to disengage by not looking up from the TV, for example, they might be depressed,” Dr. Alexopoulos explained. This can apply to any situation where prior positive responses are now met with negativity.

Older adults with children who have married or moved away may feel a sense of failure as parents when they are left alone, thinking, “I did everything and now I am on my own.” These negative feelings can then begin to have an impact on other areas of their lives, causing them to feel negatively about most things around them and especially themselves.

“Most people begin acting like seniors after the age of 65,” Alexopoulos continued, “but some people don’t exhibit senior behavior until they are 80 and others, especially if they have had a stroke, may experience behavior changes at a younger age.”

Medical health and mobility are key factors in seniors’ abilities to stay active within the larger societal group. If they tire easily or have limits to their physical abilities, they may retire from the group, causing feelings of loneliness.

“Nostalgia and memories of large family gatherings can make those who are alone feel lonelier.”

It’s the same in cultures the world over, people live in groups, Dr. Alexopoulos explained.

As a leading expert on geriatric depression, Dr. Alexopoulos heads up one of the signature programs at NYP Westchester Division. His research is recognized worldwide, but easily accessible by people living in Westchester.

If you are feeling depressed or know of a senior who you think might be depressed, there are several ongoing research programs at NYP Westchester that are free for those who qualify. Call 914-997-4331 to set up an appointment. Therapists can meet with you onsite at NYP Westchester or will come to your home to conduct an evaluation (as well a treatment) if mobility issues keep you from traveling. Physical exams and in some instances an MRI of the brain may be given.

For those who qualify, there are different therapeutic programs and study groups, some utilizing computers with software similar to playing a computer game. The research programs are open to people aged 60 and older and 50 for those who have experienced a stroke.

Dr. Alexopoulos’ advice to seniors is to stay actively engaged and to connect regularly with friends and members of the community. “If you like to work, take a job,” he says adding that it shows the job you like to do. The more productive and actively helpful you feel, the less lonely and depressed you will be.

Dr. George S. Alexopoulos is director of the Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Westchester Division and professor of psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College. He has been doing research on geriatric depression since 1980 and running the Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry at NYP since 1992. He has contributed several articles to the DSM 5 and is published internationally.

Be Careful, the Holidays is When Accidents Happen Most

During the holiday season when there is more festive activity around the house, there is also more risk of accidents that can cause harm to ourselves and damage our homes than at any other time of year. I was reminded of this just the other evening when my wife Margaret and I were decorating our tree. I had already gone through the ritual of attaching the three sections of the artificial tree to the base, strung the electric lights and together we were hanging the ornaments. Our tree ornaments consist mainly of those we’ve made ourselves through the years and those constructed with Styrofoam balls covered with ribbons and decorated with baubles and beads.

Those we’ve purchased are mainly of blown and pressed glass, some quite large and heavy. My wife, who was barefoot, was hanging one of those, a large green pressed glass piece shaped like a pine cone and seemingly weighing more than a pound, when it dislodged from its hanging device and plummeted like a torpedo and landed squarely on her toes. She yelled out, and in no time the little toe on her right foot was black and blue.

Before this mishap, my wife had asked me what my column was to be about this week, and I had suggested that it might be a fair warning to readers that more accidents happen in and around the home during the holidays.

An estimated 13,000 injuries requiring visits to the emergency room occur each year around the holidays, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reported 40 percent of deaths from home fires occur during the brief period between December and February. We also know that Christmas tree fires result in $17.5 million of property damage annually.

Let’s focus on accidents that can come about while decorating and observing the holidays.

If you buy a live Christmas tree, test it to make sure it isn’t dried out, which is a fire hazard. This is done by hitting the tree trunk against the ground. If a lot of needles fall off, keep searching for a healthier tree. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. When you get it home, cut off about two inches from the bottom at an angle. Fill the tree stand with water and keep it full every day.

Display the tree away from a heat source, such as a furnace or fireplace, and keep it away from doorways and main traffic areas. Live trees should not be left up longer than two weeks. Be aware that some artificial trees can also burn so check them for flammability and follow accompanying safety precautions.

To prevent an accidental tree fire, check holiday lights and extension cords for frayed or damaged cords and discard any damaged lighting strings. Do not attempt to tape or repair cords. Never link more than three strands of lights together, and always plug the lights into an extension cord before plugging into a wall outlet.

Another safety tip to consider is the age of your decorations. If you’ve had them for many years, it might be time to invest in a newer, safer set. Before regulations in the late 1970s, items such as tinsel, artificial icicles, glitter and painted figures often contained dangerous levels of lead, chromium and even arsenic. Angel hair (artificial snow) contained glass filings and some brands were even comprised of asbestos fibers.

Candles can also cause house fires, so you might want to think twice about leaving any room where one or more is aflame. During a five-year period, the NFPA reported that there were an average of 10,630 fires in the U.S. started by candles. More than half of them start because they were left too close to flammable items.

Candles should always be kept at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn. Other causes of candle fires include leaving them unattended in a room, someone simply bumping a table they’re sitting on or pets brushing against them.

There are more candle fires in December and January, with the top three days being Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

Here’s a final note that I hadn’t thought of until last year when I had a close call concerning the disposal of wrapping paper: when tearing presents, dispose of wrapping paper in a garbage receptacle. Never throw it in a fireplace. That can result in sparks that can trigger a larger fire within the home.

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Ravies Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PRimeWestRealEstate.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.
Tarzan, The Stage Musical Debuts at White Plains Performing Arts Center

Tarzan, The Stage Musical is playing at the White Plains Performing Arts Center through January 10. It is directed by Jeremy Quinn with music direction by Stephen Ferri and choreography by Lexie Fennell Frare. “In this day and age of constant human brutality and tragedy, the story of Tarzan reminds us of what’s really important, especially at the holidays, the unconditional love of true family, whether biological or chosen. And although we all ‘look’ different, under the skin we are just the same. Disney’s Tarzan is victorious in bringing to the stage a well-known story with unforgettable melodies and heart-pumping music perfect for the entire family,” said Jeremy Quinn in describing the production. Tarzan features music by Grammy and Oscar winning music pop icon Phil Collins and a book by Tony Award-winning playwright, David Henry Hwang. Based on the smash-hit Disney animated film, Tarzan tells the story of an infant boy orphaned in a shipwreck on the shores of West Africa. The child is taken in and raised by a tribe of gorillas. He becomes a man, thriving in this primitive environment, until the arrival of a hunting expedition and his realization of the world beyond his jungle home. Tarzan features high-flying excitement and hits like the Academy Award winning “You’ll Be In My Heart” as well as “Son of Man” and “Two Worlds.”

The cast features Kyle Arzaga (Young Terk), Nicolas Baumgartner (Clayton), Korie Lee Blossey (Kerchak), Jake Bridges (Snipes), Melanie Burg (Female Ensemble), Ben Carlison (Male Ensemble), Jessica Crilley (Female Ensemble), Jenna Dallacco (Jane), Deanna Giulietti (Female Ensemble), Jesse Goodman (Young Tarzan), Melissa Rose Hirsch (Female Ensemble), Darius Jordan Lee (Male Ensemble), Steven Liberto (Male Ensemble), Toby Miller (Professor Porter), Annie Nelson (Female Ensemble), Melanie Porras (Female Ensemble), Shawn W. Smith (Male Ensemble), Jeremy Swift (Male Ensemble), Jennifer Theriot (Kala), Cartreze Tucker (Terk) and Company.

By Nick Antonaccio

Wine Appreciation Goes Beyond Our Sensory Perceptions

Our perception, and the reality, of wine are influenced by many factors. Wine is not a monolithic sensory adventure. Each sip creates results in a confluence of taste and smell on our tongues, in our mouth and in our nose. This experience may differ with each sip of a glass of wine and each bottle of wine.

Our enjoyment of a glass of wine relies on our dominant senses of taste and smell. Scientific studies have analyzed these senses and their interconnectivity in creating an individual’s unique perception of wine. But are these senses absolute measurements of our understanding and perception of wine? Are they providing an unadulterated insight into a wine’s natural tastes and aromas? Or are there outside influences on our appreciation of wine?

Are there intrinsic, non-sensory components of our overall experience in tasting wine? And, if so, do these factors go beyond the science of our physiology? The short answer is a resounding yes.

The psychology of our appreciation of wine plays a role that is as influential as our natural senses. Beyond our sensory self-analysis, our opinion and evaluation of a wine is impacted by external influences. These tend to be subtle, and may confuse, even override, our senses of taste and smell.

Herein, several psychological influences on our perception of a wine:

1. History. If you make the effort to learn about the background and longevity of a long-standing winemaking family, your perception of their wine will be influenced beyond its taste and smell. A psychological bias is created for a family succeeding over several generations in the same land and culture. “It must be a good wine if this is the fifth generation winemaker.”

2. Culture. If you’re of the Pepsi Generation or the Got Milk era, your wine preferences have been strongly influenced by the advertising media. These, and similar, products influenced Americans’ palates to prefer creamy and sweet foods. This is why the American palate differs greatly from the Western European palate. Americans psychologically tend to prefer sweeter, less acidic wines; Western Europeans, more complex, drier styles.

3. Ratings. If the wine experts rate a wine highly it must be good. Before we imbibe the first sip of a rated wine, our brains have established a bias to a critic’s opinion. The psychological impact on our brain neurons can override our basic sensory perceptions. When wine critic Robert Parker introduced the 100-point rating system in the 1980s, Americans fell in line with an objective means of appreciating wine, although it is overwhelmingly subjective.

4. Mother Nature. I’ve blind-tasted wines that my senses of taste and aroma concluded were a particular grape, even from a particular wine region. Lo and behold, Mother Nature tricked my senses. The wine that convinced my senses was a French Bordeaux blend actually a Pinot Noir from Oregon. It can happen, much to the chagrin of my sensory receptors; bait and switch occurs regularly in our cerebrum.

5. Expectations. A study in the Journal of Marketing Research concluded (confirmed?) that many individuals’ expectations are easily managed. When presented with two wines of widely disparate prices to sample, participants preferred the wine they were told had the higher price, even though the prices of the wines were reversed. More telling, the tasters reached the same conclusion when the wines in the glasses were identical. “Expectations truly influence neurobiological responses,” write the authors.

Just as a color palate influences, but does not dominate, the image an artist depicts on a canvas, so too our sensory palate influences, but does not dominate, the canvas of our perception of wine.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
By Jerry Eimbinder

Here is a continuation of The Examiner’s New Year’s Eve Dining and Entertainment Guide. If a band or DJ is mentioned, dancing is usually offered. Prices shown do not include tax or gratuity unless otherwise indicated.

Dobbs Ferry: Cedar Street Grill. À la carte menu. Midnight champagne toast. Chris Conte Jazz Trio performs from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. $10 music-only charge applies.


Hastings-on-Hudson: Maud’s. À la carte menu includes filet mignon, sautéed shrimp with pomela and lots more. One thousand helium balloons form colorful ceiling with paper and gold garlands on the lights. Noisemakers, hats, necklaces and champagne liberally poured all night. Champagne toast at midnight. Watch ball drop plus DJ’s countdown to midnight. DJ Messiah. Champagne toast at midnight, party favors, hats, noisemakers, $75 per person. Add $40 for wine pairing, 20 percent gratuity added to bill. Last seating: 11 p.m.

Mount Kisco: Little Drunken Chef. Attendees can dress in Gatsby-style attire but not a requirement. Hats, noisemakers, wearable party favors reminiscent of the 1920s. Cash bar. Dinner plus glass of Champagne from 7:45 to 10:15 p.m. Soup or salad, tapas, entrée, dessert. $75 per person. $50 entry fee for drinks only after 9 p.m. Fee includes music, free raffle ticket, midnight Champagne toast, party favors. Last seating: 11 p.m.

Port Chester: Saltaire Oyster Bar & Grill. Four-course vegetarian menu. Amuse bouillabaisse ($34), John Fazio duck ($35), rack of lamb ($36) and Sugar Hill shell steak ($39). Champagne toast. Last seating: 11 p.m.


text continues...
ADOPTION
My greatest wish is to adopt a baby. A loving home awaits with secure, educated woman. Expenses paid. Call Anne-Michele 1-877-246-1447. Text 516-305-0144 or www.amadopt.info

AUTO DONATIONS
Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 315-400-0797 Today!

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 914-468-4999 Today!

HELP WANTED
AIRLINE CAREERS Start Here! Get trained as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call AIM for free information 866-296-7093

IN HOME PET SITTING
PLEASANT PAWS INN LLC Our home will be their home! 24/7 one on one love! We only take a small group of dogs. For quality care. Warm, cozy, relaxing no stress atmosphere. Large yard to play in! We look forward to having them be part of our family. Boarding: Daycare: Dog walker available to come to your home as well. Call Julie 914-906-8414 www.Pleasantpawsinn.com FB

LEGALS

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SORENSEN HC ADVISORS LLC. Articles of Incorporation filed with NY Socity of State (SSNY) on 7/7/14. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated agent as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Petersville Road, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: General.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF GELIX, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Sec’y of State of New York (SSNY) on 9/17/2015. Office location in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 333 N. Bedford Rd. Ste. 230, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Thrive HR Solutions, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/27/15. Office in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of M.J. Fish LLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY on November 17, 2015. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against may be served. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY shall mail process to 302 West Main Street, Suite 155, Avon, CT 06001.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF GELIX, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Sec’y of State of New York (SSNY) on 9/17/2015. Office location in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 333 N. Bedford Rd. Ste. 230, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: any lawful activity.

WANTED
MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry, books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-654-1683

WANTED TO BUY
CASH for Coins! Buying Gold & Silver. Also Stamps & Paper Money, Comics, Entire Collections, Estates. Travel to your home. Call Marc in NY: 1-800-959-3419

WANTED TO BUY
CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS Up to $35/Box! Sealed & Unexpired. Payment Made SAME DAY! Highest Prices Paid!! Call Juley Today! 800-413-3479 www.CashForYourTestStrips.com

MISCELLANEOUS
SAWMILLS from only $4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N

WANTED
CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS Up to $35/Box! Sealed & Unexpired. Payment Made SAME DAY! Highest Prices Paid!! Call Juley Today! 800-413-3479 www.CashForYourTestStrips.com

TO TOP CASH PAID ON THE SPOT! - WE BUY Baseball Cards, Autographs, Records, Silver Coins, Golf Items, Art, Jewelry, Comics Etc., Call Joe Today @ 914-310-5153

To Place a Classified Ad Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail classifieds@theexaminernews.com

WPHS Students Participate at Honors Music Conference

Five White Plains High School students were selected to perform in the 2015 New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Winter Conference in Rochester last week. This is the highest honor a New York State music student can receive. Left to right, the students are: Meredith Abato, violin; Sarah Samaranayake, viola; Isabelle Levine, soprano; Jacob Brady, bassoon; and Elana Hausknecht, euphonium. The students participated in three days of intense rehearsals with conductors from across the country and then performed in Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theatre for hundreds of music educators and family members. Their Music Teachers are Penelope Cruz, Kathryn Davis and Zachary May. Gary West, Coordinator of Fine Arts, commented that “White Plains is very proud to have five students chosen from our district and they represented us beautifully.”
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, Dec. 22
Tuesdays at Dorry's. Gather "conversation partners" weekly for informal table talk. This week Johnny Conyers, Founder and Executive Director Saving Our Society, which serves formerly incarcerated people with guidance, services and community during their transition from prison to independent living, will tell us about the organization's inspiring accomplishments and plans. There is no charge. Just come and order your food from Sylvania and enjoy the discussion and the company. Please join us. No reservations are needed. 6 to 7 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 914-682-0005.

Wednesday, Dec. 23
Art Series With Professor Valerie Franco: "Italian Creche and Semester Review." A look at the tradition of holiday creches throughout Italy – from small scale to large, public and private, with a special look at the collection of figures, handmade in Naples, that have been a mainstay of the Christmas tree exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for decades. There will also be a review of the artists from the last semester. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Thursday, Dec. 24

Friday, Dec. 25
Merry Christmas!

“It’s a Wonderful Life.” Frank Capra’s holiday classic about bank manager George Bailey (James Stewart) who, facing financial ruin and possible jail time, contemplates jumping off a bridge on Christmas Eve. Jacob Burns Film Center 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville, Noon. Every day through Dec. 31. Info and tickets: visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

“Heidi Man.” Come for a screening of this film about the old-time Jewish delis by touring some of the best establishments from Broadway to Hollywood. Followed by a deli lunch, raucous laughter, an existential discussion about what makes pastrami pastrami, a bissele of shpilkus and a reminder to renew your fitness club membership. Temple Shaaray Tefila, 89 Baldwin Rd., Bedford Corners. Noon. $18. Registration required. (Walk-ins cannot be accommodated.) Info and registration: Contact Robin at 914-666-3133 or e-mail rweber@templest.org.

Saturday, Dec. 26
Tarzan, The Stage Musical will play the White Plains Performing Arts Center Dec. December 26-30, Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m., Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m.; Wednesday at 2 p.m.; and January 10, Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m.; Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $25 - $47. A $135 Family Four Pack (2 Adults & 2 Kids tickets) is available for the 7 p.m. performances on December 18, 19, 26, 28, & 29. White Plains Performing Arts Center is located on the third level of City Center off Mamaroneck Avenue and Main Street in downtown White Plains. For tickets: visit the theatre box office Monday-Friday (11a.m. – 6 p.m.), purchase tickets online at www.wppac.com or call 914-328-1600. For Group Sales, contact barbara@wppac.com.

Holiday Howl. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it’s a special time for packs in North America. Guests will assemble gifts for ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and then enjoy watching the wolves tear them open. Also visit the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: $13. Children (under 12): $11. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

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

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it’s a special time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the high desert of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as their pups prepare for their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: $13. Children (under 12): $11. Also Dec. 30 at 11 a.m., and Dec. 28 at noon. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Sunday, Dec. 27

For the 12th year in a row, Heineken USA is partnering with The City of White Plains and the White Plains Business Improvement District on its New Year. Safe Ride. program, created to help local residents get home safely on New Year’s Eve. Through the New Year. Safe Ride. program, HEINEKEN USA will provide free and safe rides home for Westchester County residents of legal drinking age who celebrate New Year’s Eve in downtown White Plains. Between 11 p.m. on December 31 and 3 a.m. on January 1, a dedicated fleet of 30 cars will provide complimentary rides home for those 21 and older traveling from the heart of downtown White Plains to anywhere in the City or across Westchester County. The Safe Ride pick-up location will be located in the heart of downtown White Plains, on the corner of East Post Road and Mamaroneck Avenue.
Stepinac Basketball Starting to Mesh

By Albert Coqueran

The Stepinac High School Basketball Team under new Head Coach Pat Massaroni has a record of 2-4 to begin their 2015-16 season.

Massaroni, who was the Crusaders Varsity B Head Coach last year, succeeds Steve Herman, who stepped down after last season. Massaroni is a 2006 graduate of Stepinac and was the original Varsity B Head Coach when the program was initiated three years ago. He also works in the Stepinac Alumni office.

Herman led the Crusaders for two seasons, while compiling a 20-32 overall record, with a 9-17 record last season. The Crusaders were ousted in the First Rounds of both the CHSAA Playoffs and the Intersectional Playoffs last season.

Massaroni is a 2010 graduate of Marist College, who worked as Head Team Manager for both the Men’s and Women’s Red Foxes programs while attending Marist. His basketball pedigree also includes working as a Graduate Assistant for James Madison University, while attaining his Master of Science degree in Sports Management.

Massaroni is committed to advancing the Stepinac Basketball Program, which has been on the decline since the resignation of Head Coach Tim Philp after the 2013 season.

“I think there is pressure to win no matter where you are coaching but you have to take that pressure and run with it,” said Massaroni. “We have a very young and talented team but they are working and playing hard. Early on a couple of breaks did not go our way but we are going to get there just based on our work ethic and the talent we do have.”

And despite their 2-4 record, the Crusaders do have a slew of talent led by three prominent players in the CHSAA AAA. Forward Jordan Tucker is one of the most sought after junior recruits in the nation. He is averaging a double-double this season with 18 points and over 11 rebounds per game.

Tucker has received visits at Stepinac from many college coaches, including St. John’s University Head Coach Chris Mullins and Villanova University Head Coach Jay Wright. Tucker has also received attention from many other colleges such as, Kansas University, UCLA, USC, UTEP, Oregon University and Arizona University.

Most recently, Kentucky University Assistant Coach Tony Barbey visited Stepinac to watch Tucker score 16 points and grab seven rebounds in the Crusaders’ 71-55, win over All Hallows, on Friday, Dec. 18.

“Honestly the attention is something that I do not think about. I just play basketball. My Dad tells me not to think about the college coaches, they know what I can do already. I just play basketball and keep working hard and everything will fall in place,” commented Tucker.

Tucker and the Crusaders received a major boost to their basketball team when Mt. Vernon native Aundre Hyatt transferred to Stepinac from the Fort Green Military Academy. Hyatt is a 6’-5” forward/center who is averaging nearly a double-double this season with 15.4 points and nine rebounds per game.

“It was time for me to get back to New York basketball, I missed it. I have many friends here and my AAU coach took a job here last year and he influenced me to attend Stepinac,” said Hyatt, who is a sophomore this season.

The “Big Three” for Stepinac is rounded-out with point guard junior Jorden Means. Most recently, Kentucky University Assistant Coach Tony Barbey visited Stepinac to watch Tucker score 16 points and grab seven rebounds in the Crusaders’ 71-55, win over All Hallows, on Friday, Dec. 18.

“The attention is something that I do not think about. I just play basketball. My Dad tells me not to think about the college coaches, they know what I can do already. I just play basketball and keep working hard and everything will fall in place,” commented Tucker.

Tucker and the Crusaders received a major boost to their basketball team when Mt. Vernon native Aundre Hyatt transferred to Stepinac from the Fort Green Military Academy. Hyatt is a 6’-5” forward/center who is averaging nearly a double-double this season with 15.4 points and nine rebounds per game.

“It was time for me to get back to New York basketball, I missed it. I have many friends here and my AAU coach took a job here last year and he influenced me to attend Stepinac,” said Hyatt, who is a sophomore this season.

The “Big Three” for Stepinac is rounded-out with point guard junior Jorden Means, who is averaging 15.5 points per game. Means is the floor general and keeps the Crusaders “big three” offensive threat flowing accurately. “Having Aundre and Jordan really helps space the floor, so if all the attention is on Jordan then we get the ball to Aundre and if Aundre is getting the attention, we go to Jordan,” explained Means.

After beating All Hallows for their second win this season, Stepinac was edged by St. Francis Prep, 64-61, in the City Legend Invitational at the Gauchos Gym, in the Bronx, on Sunday. Tucker again scored a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds, Hyatt added 15 points and five rebounds, while Means contributed 14 points and four assists.

Stepinac is definitely starting to mesh under new Head Coach Massaroni and their superior talent with Tucker, newcomer Hyatt and point guard Means. But if there are any drawbacks to Stepinac this season, it is that they need that consistent fourth double-digit scorer and need to improve their free-throw shooting, which is at 65 percent this season.

“We need to play smart and hard throughout the entire game. This was a problem we had last year but I think this year we are getting it together and everything is a lot better,” said Tucker.

The 2015-16 Stepinac basketball team is led by new Head Coach Pat Massaroni (left), whose on-court talent includes, the “Big Three” (l-r) sophomore Aundre Hyatt, junior Jordan Tucker and junior Jorden Means.

Under the watchful eye of new Stepinac Head Basketball Coach Pat Massaroni (right), Stepinac sophomore transfer Aundre Hyatt practices free throws. Hyatt is averaging nearly a double-double this season with 15.4 points and nine rebounds per game but he and the team are struggling with at the free throw line posting a 65 percent average as a team.

Number 5, junior forward Jordan Tucker for Stepinac is one of the most sought after junior recruits in the nation. Tucker is averaging a double-double so far this season for the Crusaders, while netting 18 points and over 11 rebounds per game.
Super Bowl Champ Bob Hyland Presents NFL Gold Football to Stepinac

By Albert Coqueran

On Friday, Dec. 18, Stepinac High School famed alumnus Bob Hyland and his wife Liz joined the celebration of the 2015 Stepinac Football Team, when Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino proclaimed the day as “Stepinac High School Day” in Westchester County.

Astorino’s Proclamation was a countywide recognition for the Stepinac Football Team for their undefeated season, while capturing the 2015 CHSFL and CHSAA New York State Championships.

Hyland graduated from Stepinac in 1963 and was an All-American at Boston College, before being drafted in the first round by the Green Bay Packers in 1967. The Packers, led by the legendary Head Coach Vince Lombardi, won Super Bowl II during Hyland’s rookie year, making Hyland’s high school alma mater eligible to participate in the nationwide NFL Super Bowl High School Honor Roll initiative, which recognizes schools and communities that contributed to Super Bowl History.

The Super Bowl High School Honor Roll Initiative is a function of the 50th Anniversary of the Super Bowl this year. Every high school in the nation that had a graduate who was a player or coach on an active Super Bowl Roster will be recognized with a NFL Wilson Gold Football.

Bob Hyland (right), a member of the 1968 Super Bowl II Champion Green Bay Packers, presents an NFL Wilson Gold Football to his alma mater Stepinac High School. Stepinac President Father Thomas Collins (center) and Athletic Director Mike O’Donnell (left) accept the distinction, which symbolizes Stepinac’s participation in the NFL Super Bowl High School Honor Roll Initiative.

Hyland, after congratulating the Crusaders on their remarkable year, presented an NFL Wilson Gold Football to his alma mater Stepinac High School, which symbolizes their participation in the NFL Super Bowl Honor Roll Initiative.

In accordance with the initiative, every high school that receives an NFL Wilson Gold Football is provided with a new character education curriculum and the opportunity to apply for grants of up to $5,000 from the NFL Foundation to help support their football programs.

“The NFL is very proud of these high schools and they are very grateful to these schools for producing such good football players,” said Hyland. “Stepinac is doing a great job as are other high schools in the United States and the NFL benefits from it, so I guess this is their way of showing thanks.” Hyland played 11 seasons in the NFL.

Stepinac is the second high school in White Plains to have an alumnus award an NFL Wilson Gold Football. Famed White Plains High School graduate Art Monk (’76), presented a Gold Football to his alma mater, on November 6, 2015.

Hyland is presently the proprietor of the Sports Page Pub, which is located on Hamilton Avenue, in White Plains.
HIT ON 11
STAY 'TILL 12
RING IN THE NEW YEAR
WITH THE PERFECT PAIR

EMPIRE CITY CASINO