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Drug rehab facility has shaky record

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The operator of a 108-bed combination drug rehab and homeless shelter facility planned for Wakefield may have a shaky track-record.

Allegations of poor management have plagued Project Renewal at their Times Square area Geffner House, a halfway house serving a population similar to the one the non-profit would serve under a city contract at 4380 Bronx Boulevard.

The New York Post reported on issues on Project Renewal's single room occupancy building near Times Square in December 2011.

According to court documents, two lawsuits also have been filed in federal court by former employees Rodney Raspberry and Chester Johnson alleging discrimination and civil rights infractions.

Both men, who are black Muslims, alleged discrimination on the basis of their religion while working at a Project Renewal facility at 8 E. 3rd Street in Manhattan.

Senator Jeff Klein has been monitoring the situation, especially with three facilities serving homeless and/or chemically dependent people looking to set up shop within a few blocks of one another in Wakefield.

Continued on page 34



Photo by Walter Pofeldt

PUERTO RICAN PRIDE ON DISPLAY

Skyla Aponte 8 years old holds the Puerto Rican flag while marching in the 25th Annual Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade on Sunday, June 3.

OUTLET MALL FOR CINEPLEX

Screen to go dark at Whitestone

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A major Bronx cineplex could soon be a "Woodbury Commons" type retail outlet mall.

The Whitestone Cinemas at 2505 Bruckner Boulevard, home to the Whitestone Multiplex Cinema since 1983 and a drive-in theater before that which opened in the 1950s was sold for a reported \$30 million.

Sources said that the buyer is now putting together a team that in the next few weeks will begin outreach and planning to develop a mall.

The site on Bruckner Boulevard was sold Wednesday, May 9 from the movie amusement company KBT Theaters LLC of Norwood, MA to a subsidiary of the real-estate holding company Lightstone Group, according to

the city Department of Finance website.

Community Board 10 district manager Kenneth Kearns said that he had heard about plans to develop the site into a Woodbury Commons-style outlet mall, but at that time it was not confirmed.

There is also a lease agreement on file for KBT Theaters to continue leasing the property.

A spokeswoman for the Lightstone Group declined comment on the property and its future use.

Any business or non-profit that would bring large amounts of truck traffic would cause issues because the roadway infrastructure nearby needs a great deal of repair, said Jim McQuade, chair of CB 10's Economic Development Committee. If there were

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Locals not surprised at Throggs Neck vet's arrest

BY KIRSTEN SANCHEZ

The arrest of a local veterinarian charged with illegally dumping euthanized house pets off a highway came as no surprise to a number of Throggs Neck locals.

Dr. Andrew Manesis, 66, of New Canaan, CT, owner of Throggs Neck Animal Hospital at 3800 E. Tremont Avenue, was charged May 29 with petit larceny, scheme to defraud and violating environmental conservation law.

Officials say Manesis was paid by pet owners to dispose of the animals in a dignified manor.

Throggs Neck local Amanda Morley said she was not completely surprised when she heard about the charges against Manesis.

"Growing up, I always had cats, and so there were times when I needed to bring them there," Morley said. "He was a miserable human being and he just seemed mean, like he had no care for the animals he treated, so when I heard about the story I wasn't completely surprised. But it's heartbreaking."

Morley said she will not be bringing her cats to that hospital any more.

"As convenient and close as that place is, I will not be going back," she said.

Mari Aponte, a Throggs Neck resident who brings her dog Kobe to the animal

hospital, said she always liked Manesis and thought he was very friendly, and although her husband thought he was very "money hungry", she continued to use his services.

After she learned of the allegations brought against the veterinarian, Aponte said she was shocked.

"I was uncomfortable when I heard what happened," Aponte said. "You feel like you can't even trust a doctor."

Aponte said she started using the hospital five years ago, when she decided to switch veterinarians.

"I used to bring my pet to Manhattan, but this place was closer, so it was easier," she said. "But now, I am going to take him back to Manhattan."

Some 35 euthanized pets were found by a NYS Department of Transportation worker in black plastic garbage bags along the Hutchinson River Parkway in Westchester County.

Manesis, who has been in business in the Bronx since 1981, was arrested on Friday after being pulled over in Portchester.

According to police, the motive for Manesis dumping the euthanized animals along the highway is unknown.

The arrest came as a result of an investigation by the Westchester County

police and the Humane Law Enforcement Division of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Westchester.

The investigation began April 5 when 26 dead cats, eight dogs and a lizard were found in brush along the highway.

After determining all of the animals were individually owned, detectives used identification from one of dead cats to track down the owner, who then led them to Manesis.

Police also used evidence from the scene to track down two other owners and link the cases to Manesis' animal hospital.

Pitbull owner James Chiu, who was shopping for his pet at the Schuyler Pets store on E. Tremont Avenue, said he felt Manesis was just out to make money and didn't really care about the animals he was treating.

"I've been there twice, and his services were less than mediocre for the amount of money he charges," Chiu said. "I was not impressed with him for what I paid for."

The owner of a pet store, who asked not to be identified, said he has heard a number of people complain about the vet.

"A lot of people talk about him," he said. "I have heard a lot of negative things about him."



Photo by Kirsten Sanchez

Mari Aponte, a Throggs Neck resident, says although she liked Dr. Andrew Manesis and the Throggs Neck Animal Hospital, after the veterinarian has been charged with illegally dumping the bodies of euthanized pets along the highway in Westchester County, she will no longer bring dog Kobe to be treated there.

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'Ghost bikes' tell a sad tale

White-sprayed memorials mark location of fatal bike accidents

BY DAVID CRUZ

They're known as Ghost Bikes, haunting shrines that have cropped up across the borough to call attention to what bike advocates call an "epidemic."

Spraypainted in a ghostly white hue and chained to lampposts and other fixtures, the bikes are memorials for those who died near the location, doing what they love. A metal plaque also lets passerbys know a life was lost.

The practice - with old bikes not involved in the incidents - dates back to 2005.

The latest Ghost Bike went up May 3 at St. Anns Avenue and 132nd Street in Port Morris to commemorate the death on that date last year of Louie Morales, 18.

Police said Morales was riding his dirt bike for the first time when he was accidentally hit and instantly killed by a FedEx truck near the entrance to its facility there.

Members of his Ruff Ryders group, a recreational motorcycle team, honored him with a traditional bike. Several roses, now wilted, were placed on the seat.

"He was a true biker and the heart of the team," read the brief eulogy on the website, ghostbike.org.

Morales was the ninth victim to be remembered with a ghost bike, organized by the group in conjunction with Transportation Alternatives.

Another Ghost Bike memorial sits at Crotona and East Tremont Avenue to mark where community activist Megan Charlop died when she was fatally struck by a city bus.

Richie Powers, Charlop's widow, said while the

ghost Bike gesture is noble, he'd rather avoid going there.

"That location is a reminder of the whole day," said Powers, who refuses to ride a bike since his wife's 2010 fatal accident.

The volunteer-based group started out in St. Louis in 2005, expanding as far as the Ukraine.

"It's important that we recognize someone from our community who's been killed instead of forgetting it happened," said Leah Todd, a 7-year volunteer organizer with Ghost Bikes.

Group members learn about the death through phone calls and media reports. Junked bikes are donated to the organization to stand in as memorials for the victims.

"It's important to draw attention to the deaths because this is an epidemic in the city," she said.

The city Department of Transportation said only one bike rider died in 2011.

Todd said the organization will keep putting up Ghost Bikes. "We look forward to a day when we don't have to do it anymore," she said, "Until then, we'll keep installing them."

To learn more about the organization go to www.ghostbikes.org.

Reach reporter David Cruz at 718-742-3383 or email dcruz@cnglocal.com.



File photo courtesy of ghostbikes.org

Another bike was installed back in 2010 for Megan Charlop, a beloved bike advocate from Norwood.

KHCC annual awards gala

The the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center will hold their annual fundraising gala, A Light for All: The Beacon on the Heights, at the New York Botanical Garden on Thursday, June 14, at 6 p.m.

The honorees include Richard O'Brien from Apple Bank and Angela Vassos of The Ethical Culture Fieldston School. In addition, Truda Cleaves Jewett will be receiving the first Bernice Stern Award for Outstanding Community Service.

This award will be presented each year to a notable woman for her outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the community. It is intended to reflect the spirit, energy, and generosity of Bernice Stern.

The evening will include a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, dinner, and dancing. The master of ceremonies is Bronx historian Lloyd Ultan.

Richard O'Brien came to the Bronx at the end of the 60s to attend Fordham University. After completing his BA, he elected to stay in the Bronx. He entered the financial services industry holding various positions in retail bank lending. Subsequently he also obtained a degree from St. John's University. Richard joined Apple Bank in 1985.

He is currently community reinvestment officer and vice president, Administration in the Residential Lending Division. Richard also serves as a board member of the Leviticus 25:23 Alternative Fund.

He and Susan married and purchased a home in Kingsbridge Heights in 1980. Richard and Susan are the adopted parents of Arleene and China and adopted grandparents to Terrence and Bryce. A neighbor recruited him to join the KHCC board in 1982.

He has served since then as the longtime treasurer and currently is board chair.

Before entering the field of education, Angela Vassos received a degree

in Anthropology from City College, and did field work in Psychological Anthropology. During the 1970s and 80s, she conducted national trainings in community service and worked to advance the pedagogy and methodology of service learning in public and private schools.

With the National Association for Experiential Education in the 1990s, Angela helped to put over 250 community service programs on the ground nationwide.

She is currently Director of Community Service and Service Learning Programs for the Ethical Culture Fieldston School. In that post she has worked with hundreds of Fieldston students performing community service at our agency.

Born in Greece to parents who had fled communism in Albania, Angela came to the U.S. when she was 12 years old. She has a continuing passion for community building and activism, and enjoys gardening, reading, and traveling.

Truda Cleaves Jewett has contributed tremendously to the well-being of countless children and families in the New York area through her tireless work to support organizations that serve them.

Jewett was educated at George Washington University and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has served as the executive director of the Coro Foundation and the assistant executive director of External Affairs of the Children's Aid Society.

Jewett has served as a trustee for over a dozen organizations in New York City and elsewhere, including the National Theater of the Deaf and the Edwin Gould Foundation, and is a recipient of the Harvard Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Service to the University.

She is married to C. Lincoln Jewett.

To register for this event or to make a donation, visit www.khcc-nyc.org. For inquiries, contact Neill Bogan at nbogan@khcc-nyc.org.

Thessalonía celebrates pastor's 30th year

The Thessalonía Worship Center culminated its week-long celebration commemorating the 30th pastoral anniversary of Rev. Dr. Shellie Sampson, Jr. and first lady Deloranzo Sampson on Saturday, May 26, at The Venetian.

Since 1982, Thessalonía Baptist Church has transformed into the Thessalonía Worship Center, achieving the highest level spirituality through outreach to south Bronx community with a weekly food pantry, annual children's street fair, and

senior citizen's programs. Under the stellar leadership of the Rev. Dr. Shellie Sampson, Jr., the church accomplished: the opening of the Thessalonía Cultural Community Cultural Center, a five-million dollar facility with a 500-seat capacity banquet hall where Rev. Sampson serves as CEO; the establishment of the Thessalonía Elementary Academy (grades K-8) and the Thessalonía Institute of Education, which provides continuing religious education and where Pastor Samp-

son serves as president. His ministry and vision has spread internationally by way of the AIM Foundation where Thessalonía is working to empower the people of Ghana, West Africa through education, health (establishment of a clinic and health education, and self-sustaining businesses.

A native of Newark, NJ, Rev. Sampson, Jr. not only serves Thessalonía as pastor, he is also the president of Baptist Minister's Conference of Greater New York and vicinity, Dean

of Christian Education of United Missionary Baptist Association of New York, and regional vice-president of the Empire Baptist Convention. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Natural Science from Rutgers University, Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Drew University, and a Ph.D. in Urban Education & Psychology from Temple University. He is married to Deloranzo Sampson, headmistress of Thessalonía Academy and a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Preston grad already accepted into med school

5 BRONX TIMES JUNE 7 - 13, 2012

BY KIRSTEN SANCHEZ

Like a lot of other graduating high school seniors, Sofia Ahsanuddin will be heading off to college this fall - with one exception.

She already has a guaranteed seat in medical school.

Ashnuddin, 17, valedictorian of Preston High School Class of 2012, will be attending Brooklyn College.

Assuming she completes undergraduate work, she will be automatically accepted into the college's affiliated medical program at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

"I won't have to go through the application process to get into medical school," she said. "I think I will still have to take the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test), but mostly just for preparation purposes."

Ashnuddin came to the U.S. from India when she was just a month old. Her father is a business owner,

her mother a homemaker.

Ashnuddin said she decided this year medical school would be the best choice for her.

"I love science and I love to help people, so what would be a better career choice for me?" she said.

I love science and I love to help people, so what would be a better career choice for me?"

Ashnuddin said she thinks studying ophthalmology would be a good fit, because the gift of sight is something many people take for granted.

Besides upholding a grade point average of 100.46 because of advanced level

classes, she was president of the National Honor Society, president of Amnesty International Club, and a member of the chemistry and science clubs, all while taking three buses daily to get to school from her Pelham Parkway neighborhood.

"Sofia has matured into a remarkable young woman, someone with not only an outstanding academic record and enormous intellectual potential, but also someone who evinces a passion for effecting important social change on a large, even global, scale and someone who will be a wonderful advocate for the marginalized and disenfranchised," said Preston High School Principal Jane Grendell.

Ashnuddin participated in two summer internships: as a research analyst at the United Nations and as an issue analyst for Americans for Informed Democracy.

When she isn't busy with school or school activi-



Photo courtesy of Preston High School

Sofia Ahsanuddin, this year's graduating class valedictorian at Preston High School - and already accepted to medical school after completing college - is flanked by proud parents Shaheen Ahsanuddin and Mohammed Ahsanuddin.

ties, she said she likes soccer, biking, and basketball.

"I wish I could have participated more in sports at Preston, but I found it extremely hard to balance or-

ganized sports, academics and extra-curricular activities," she said.

Going forward, she said she will miss how less serious she took life in high

school.

"High school was like having training wheels on, I could make mistakes and have the chance to do them over again. I will miss that."

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Photos by Laura Stone

CROWLEY VISITS YMCA DIABETES PROGRAM

Congressman Joseph Crowley visited the Bronx Y.M.C.A.'s Diabetes Prevention Program, on Wednesday, May 2. Crowley spoke to the group about the importance of preventing the disease.

(Above) Pictured are (l-r) the Bronx YMCA's Sharlene Brown; Judy Ouziel, the executive director of Strategic Initiatives; and Congressman Crowley.

(Below) Congressman Crowley listens to Roslyn Thomas' diabetes prevention success story.



Youth open produce market

From July 10 to August 28, in partnership with Inwood Go Green, we will be holding a Youth Operated Farmers Market Stand on Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. in Van Cortlandt Park near 242nd Street and Broadway. Here is your chance to buy fresh locally-grown produce while supporting a youth development program.

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park is hiring 14 to 20 year olds to work the Farmers Market Stand! In addi-

tion to helping community eat healthier through offering more fresh fruits and vegetables at the farm stand, interns will learn about the entire food system.

Youth will work Tuesdays from 2:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and be available the last week of June for training. 14 to 17 must have working papers before training starts. Applications available at www.vancortlandt.org are due by June 11.

Bronx YMCA fights bullying

The Bronx YMCA, 2 Castle Hill Avenue, will host a free community event, entitled "Born This Way," on Saturday, June 9, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Join the fight against bullying at the Bronx YMCA.

Food and entertainment will be provided.

For further information or to volunteer call (718) 792-9736.

BY FATHER
RICHARD F. GORMAN

I truly enjoy comedy. There is nothing that will bring a smile to my face or haul a hearty guffaw from my gut more than a cleverly crafted joke or a dexterously manufactured remark or aside tinged with just the right amount of sarcasm and/or wit.

On the other hand, something rather sad and nauseating has happened to the concept and the content of comedy as of late. It has become quite evident from a visit to a comedy club, from watching a television program, or from going to a show. Comedy has become rather dark, even foul. Witticism and high-minded sarcasm has been almost exclusively swapped for crass insult and abusive affront. Comedy, rather than elevating the spirit and inciting the intellect, has mutated into a weapon of total destruction aimed at ravaging another's dignity or annihilating another's integrity and reputation. Civility has been exorcised by the demons of crudeness, rudeness, and the uncouth. The substance of jibe and wisecrack has been substituted for insensitivity to culture, ethnicity, race, and sexuality. Love of country is mocked. The sacredness of institutions that knit together the multi-faceted and strained strands of our social fabric is debased. Sexual vulgarity and foul language have supplanted brainy humor and creative hilarity as the staple of slapstick.

While certainly this lamentable circumstance is enough to trigger abhorrence and/or to elicit alarm, what even more profoundly disturbs "Yours Truly" is a feature of many comedians -- as well as other so-called artists, for that matter -- that is a puzzling as it is deplorable. Indeed, it rises to the level of the scandalous. Far too many of our self-proclaimed "artists" -- i.e., those who are supposed to elevate humanity by the creation of art or who accomplish a mission or an objective with skill and originality, imagination, and ingenuity -- either at the outset or in the course of their presentation give honor to God for their talent and for the success that they have realized in life. More often than not, because said "art-

civic center

Community Board #12

ists" are apparently of the same Christian background as am I, they give praise to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, lauding him as the source and the inspiration of their art. Certainly, as a member of the clergy, I cannot argue with such spirituality and sentiments. The quandary and conundrum that arise is my mind, though, is why and how such "artists" believe that Jesus is the basis and the stimulus for the outlandish crudity, impropriety, boorishness, tastelessness, and the expletive-laced and sexually coarse brand of comedy that spews forth from their brain and their mouth. Is this garbage the evidence of the grace with which God and His Son have imbued the "artist" in his/her life? How are the splendor and the grandeur of God manifested by foul language, defiled thoughts, and sexual depravity? Jesus taught us with such abominable notions, tactless insults, and inappropriate words? Since when have some "artists" been bestowed with the divine imprimatur to use the utterly repulsive "F-word" and "N-word" for the supposed sake of a laugh? This inquiring mind would really want to know.

Interestingly, since his emergence as a foremost star of football at both the collegiate and professional levels, now New York Jets back-up quarterback, Tim Tebow, has been the object of mockery, misgiving, skepticism, criticism, and even scorn for his genuine earnestness and obvious authenticity in his public demonstration of fidelity to his Christian faith. Fascinatingly, and somewhat amusingly, a host of individuals, from fellow athletes to sports commentators to media folk to proponents of antithetical agendas to just plain people on the street, have taken offense, called into question, and looked at askance Tim Tebow's straight-forward practice of Christianity and his frank public witness to his beliefs. They hurl accusations of incredulity relative to his spiritual integrity and of a

personal boorishness which disrespects others, asserting that somehow Mr. Tebow's honesty and sincerity in undertaking to lead a life characterized by traditional and truly Christian values is a threat to the individual freedom of others to make their particular life choices. Perhaps, it is my own limited intellectual capacities that prevent me from comprehending in what fashion and for what reason(s) others can loudly and without reservation profess points of view and engage in lifestyles adversative and openly contemptuous of Christianity without regard for the feelings of Christians and yet escape public reproach and disparagement while Tim's candor and openness in being Christian intimidates those who do not believe as he thoroughly does. The thought does occur to me, nonetheless, that what really threaten Tim Tebow's detractors are the truth of his Christian commitment and the actuality of his practice of it. The world simply finds it difficult to stomach "the real thing" and Tebow is "the real thing." The world prefers those who pay lip-service to principle but who fall right into line with not-to-be-challenged political correctness and the oppressive control of "Big Brother" and "doublethink" expressed in "Newspeak." "Talking the talk" while neglecting to "walk the walk" presents no challenge to others. Some would aver, I imagine, that such is the essence of a worldly success achieved by adherence to the proverbial adage of "getting along by going along."

I do not write this column in order to question the sincerity of others in the practice and the profession of their faith or of no faith at all. I am merely inquiring if what one says and the fashion in which one lives are in sync, or as Jesus says in the 20th Verse of the 7th Chapter of The Gospel of Saint Matthew: "Wherefore, by their fruits you shall know them." [N.B.: See, no "cuss," "N," or "F" words!] Tim Tebow excels in this regard every bit as much as he does as a quarterback. More public personalities need to follow his example. It would not be such a bad idea if all of us, please pardon the pun, would try to "tebow" a bit better and a touch more frequently.

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LABOR TROUBLE

We hear **Gov. Cuomo's** nomination of Bronx Assemblyman **Peter Rivera** as new state labor commissioner might be hitting some rough seas.

Rivera's former law partner and campaign treasurer, **David Griffiths**, 66, was convicted last week in Manhattan federal court of fraud and obstruction of justice in the theft of funds from the ghost-like Parkchester non-profit Neighborhood Enhancement for Training Services (NETS) where he served as executive director. Peter pumped \$2 million in state funds and loans into it, with his son on its payroll.

There's also some question of the Parkchester/Castle Hill pol listing his district residence at the two-bedroom Parkchester apartment where his son's ex-girlfriend and son lived.

The full senate still has to vote on his nomination, but it hasn't scheduled a hearing, even with a June 21 senate recess looming.

With no love lost between them, Senator **Ruben Diaz Sr.** told us he plans to demand the senate kill Cuomo's nomination.

Cuomo announced his nomination of the first high-ranking Latino to his administration at November's legislative Somos El Futuro confab in San Juan, but some are wondering just how well Cuomo's staff vetted Peter.

SNOOKI WATCH

One of our Deep Threats tells us Bronx Boro Prez **Ruben Diaz Jr.** REALLY laced into political operative **Scott Levenson** at last week's Brooklyn Democratic Party Dinner.

Scott's managing **Mark Gjonaj's** race against Assemblywoman **Naomi Rivera**, and Ruben accused him of party disloyalty for supporting a challenger against an incumbent, especially after all the work the party's thrown to Levenson, who runs The Advance Group.

We hear Snooki's camp is a tad nervous over heavy connec-

tions Gjonaj (Jo-Nigh), a local Realtor, has with local landlords. Reason? Getting into those apartment buildings to leave campaign literature and get petition signatures.

He's also signed up heavyweight election law lawyer and former Senate Minority Leader **Marty Connor** to fight any nominating petition challenges.

Meanwhile, it doesn't hurt Snooki that Albany's PURELY NON-POLITICAL re-districting shifted her 80th Assembly District lines out of a mostly white area and westward into one that's 67% Latino... Rivera? Is that a Hispanic name?

Snooki's also getting support from three big unions - DC37 municipal workers, Local 32BJ Service Employees International Union and the United Federation of Teachers. It didn't hurt that she was among the legislators who voted NO to cutting retirement benefits for future public employees - including

teachers. It passed anyway, but Snooki got the brownie points for union support.

EMPTY CHAIRS

Two candidate confirmations as of our Tuesday deadline for BronxNet cable-TV's Monday night candidates' debate for Rep. **Charlie Rangel's** newly re-districted seat that now takes in the Bronx: Craig Schley and Joyce Johnson. BronxTalk host Gary Axelbank still holding empty chairs for Charlie, state Senator Adriano Espailat and Clyde Williams.

Co-hosted by the Riverdale Press and the Norwood News, the debate airs 9 p.m. Monday.

GUSTAVO BRAWL

Some folks have charged that challenger **Manny Taveras** is a stalking horse for Charlie Rangel to keep west Bronx state Senator **Gustavo Rivera** pre-occupied from helping Rangel's lead challenger, Upper Manhattan/Riverdale state Senator Adriano Espailat.

But we hear Tavares is seri-

ously independent, and has now picked up campaign workers involved in getting out the local Dominican vote for DR presidential candidate **Hipólito Mejía** - who just lost.

DOUBLE DUTY

Benny Catala, the incredible shrinking man on that diet, doing double duty, handling Highbridge/Concourse Assemblywoman **Vanessa Gibson's** 77th A.D. reelection campaign while running to win back his male district leader's seat from Mark Escoffery-Bey in the Sept. 13 primary. Perennial candidate **Anthony Curry**, out of **Richie Soto's** Rising Voices Coalition, nibbling at Vanessa's elective ankles.

Then again, it doesn't hurt to have a minor challenger to justify fundraising. Just sayin....

Soto meanwhile, says he's taking on Morris Heights Assemblyman **Nelson Castro** - and he means it this time, dammit! Unlike various prior races where

he's usually dropped out.

WITH A CEL-RAY

If Mayuh **Mike Bloomberg** really wants to get serious about city health, the heck with big gulp drinks. He should ban chopped liver, and pastrami sandwiches, starting at Liebman's on Johnson Ave. in Riverdale, one of the few remaining Bronx kosher dell's. Dozens of 'em began fading out in the Seventies. These days, you couldn't make a *minyán*. But don't ban the Dr. Brown's Cel-Ray, of course....

COP CORNER

Condolences to family of 48th Precinct Officer **Esther Sanzo**, 37, a 15-year NYPD veteran killed early Monday in a one-car accident on the Palisades Parkway near Nanuet.... We hope Lt. **Jim Hanvey**, squad boss at the 45th Precinct, is following doctors orders, and that's all we're gonna say....

Got some hot gossip? E-mail Kappy at bkappstatter@cnglocal.com.

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Photo by Patrick Rocchio

Homeowner George Weier outside his Harding Park home on Prentiss Avenue that he's owned since 1982 and is now fighting to save from foreclosure.

Harding Park foreclosure workshop set for tonight

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Throggs Neck resident George Weier is one of many area residents struggling to hang on to their homes as the foreclosure crisis gripping the country continues.

The economic downturn has hit the electrician hard, and he has been without steady work since being laid off in September 2011, when the company that he worked for closed up shop.

Weier will be among those attending a workshop this evening called "Preventing Home Foreclosures: Knowing Your Rights and Finding Assistance."

Sponsored by Senator Jeff Klein, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, the workshop will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Harding Park Home Owners Association at 1820 Gildersleeve Avenue,

and is being held in collaboration with Legal Services NYC's Bronx Foreclosure Prevention Program.

"By hosting this forum, I'm hoping to help people like George," Klein said. "If you own a home - or hope to own one in the future - this event is for you. Everyone who stops by gets all of the information they need about mortgages and loan modifications."

In Weier's case, he negotiated a three-month extension that allowed him to pay a third of his income from unemployment compensation, about \$500 instead of his \$2,300 regular monthly payment to One West Bank.

But the bank recently told him he was no longer eligible and appears to be headed for foreclosure on the Prentiss Avenue home he bought in 1982.

He has fallen behind on payments before, sometimes as long as nine months, but said he has always caught up. Weier believes he is close to having his number called by his union, Local 3, for more work.

"I am going to go to the forum to speak about where I stand," Weier said before the program. "I am hoping for some support so I can get through this with the bank another month or so until I can get a job. I can't pay a \$2,300 mortgage on an income of \$1,620 a month."

Having the workshop in Harding Park, known as Little Puerto Rico for its large Spanish-speaking population, is important because any language barrier can hamper efforts by a homeowner to stay in their homes, said Assemblyman Crespo.



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40th PCT.

THURS, MAY 17th, 1:50 p.m. — East 148 St. and St. Ann's Ave. Police removed another gun from local streets. This time with an arrest a 38-caliber revolver was vouched as evidence for the pending trial.

SUN, MAY 20th, 2:55 a.m. — 560 East 144 St. Police investigators are looking into an incident that sent three males to Lincoln Medical Center and St. Barnabas Hospital. The three male victims suffering from bullet wounds were all reported to be stable condition. Detectives are trying to determine what had occurred.

SUN, MAY 20th, 3:55 a.m. — 645 Courtlandt Ave. Authorities were alerted that a male had been shot. The victim was reported to be in critical condition at a local hospital. Local detectives are handling the ongoing inquiry.

41st PCT.

THURS, MAY 17th, 8:00 p.m. — Longfellow Ave. and Oak Point Ave. Authorities are looking into a fatal multivehicle accident. The accident claimed the life of a motorcycle operator officials reported. Involved with the accident was a city Dept. of Corrections bus which was transporting 11 prisoners besides two corrections officers. Due to the seriousness of the incident, specially trained police investigators from Highway 1's Accident Investigation Squad were summoned to the scene after learning that there was a death connected to the accident. Two Corrections Officers required medical attention, none of the prisoners were injured.

FRI, MAY 18th, 12:40 a.m. — 941 Faile St. A semi-automatic pistol was taken away from its owner by police. The owner failed to obtain the proper license to maintain a gun in NYC. The 25-caliber pistol was vouched as evidence.

FRI, MAY 18th, 11:50 p.m. — 596 Southern Blvd. Another gun was taken off of Bronx streets. This time with an arrest, the weapon was vouched as evidence by local police pending court appearances.

SAT, MAY 19th, 1:40 a.m. — 923 Simpson St. Continuing to keep pressure on, police made another arrest for a person who failed to obtain the proper license to own and carry a gun in NYC. The suspect was arrested and the gun was vouched as evidence pending the court trial.

SAT, MAY 19th, 10:15 a.m. — 1004 Southern Blvd. Police investigators are looking for two Hispanic males who robbed a jewelry store. At gunpoint the two unknown culprits tied up the store's employees before fleeing with an unknown amount of jewelry from the store's safe.

SAT, MAY 19th, 11:50 p.m. — 1033 Ave. St. John. A 21 year old black male will be facing a judge after being found with an unlicensed handgun. Taken away from the culprit was a 380-caliber pistol. The gun was vouched by the arresting police officers.



POLICE BLOTTER

42nd PCT.

THURS, MAY 17th, 6:00 p.m. — Park Ave. and East 170 St. Detectives are looking for the person who shot a teenager. A 19 year old black male was shot once in the lower torso. The teen was treated at St. Barnabas Hospital.

FRI, MAY 18th, 4:35 p.m. — 1600 Webster Ave. Another semi-automatic pistol was taken off of Morrisania streets by police. A black male was arrested by police who acquired the information that the culprit failed to obtain the proper NYC license to possess a gun. The 380-semi-automatic pistol was vouched as evidence.

SUN, MAY 20th, 11:50 p.m. — Lincoln Medical Center. Authorities are looking into the death of a four month old baby girl. Officials are told that the Hispanic infant had suffered from several different medical conditions. The Medical Examiner's office will determine if the death is suspicious.

43rd PCT.

THURS, MAY 17th, 2:45 p.m. — 834 Olmstead Ave. An inquiry was started after officials learned that a grocery store had been robbed. Two black males at gun point robbed the neighborhood business of an unknown amount of money and the store's cash register.

FRI, MAY 18th, 12:45 a.m. — 1117 Boynton Ave. Two Hispanic males picked the wrong person to try and rob. The pair picked an armed security guard who has the proper license to possess a gun. The pair attempted to take the victim's wallet when a struggle broke out over the gun. One of the culprits was shot in the stomach during the struggle. The injured culprit was taken to Lincoln Medical Center. Detectives are assigned to the inquiry.

SAT, MAY 19th, 2:00 a.m. — 1750 Watson Ave. Authorities are looking into an incident where shots had been fired. An unknown person fire several bullets through a bedroom window. None of the occupants were injured.

SAT, MAY 19th, 9:10 a.m. — 784 Castle Hill Ave. Additional police officers were summoned into the area after a local bank was robbed. The culprit passed a note to a teller demanding money. The thief fled with an unknown amount of money before police were called.

MON, MAY 21st, 9:50 a.m. — 1744 Watson Ave. A vehicle owner summoned police after finding a bullet hole. The owner informed authorities that some unknown person fired a bullet into the driver's door.

MON, MAY 21st, 6:30 p.m. — 2151 Story Ave. Three Hispanic males stated that they were detectives in order to gain entry to a home. One of the males when as far as having a badge hanging from a chain that was around his neck. Once inside the apartment the trio searched for valuables taking eighty-dollars from the victim's purse.

44th PCT.

SAT, MAY 19th, 12:20 a.m. — 1080 Ogden Ave. Police sleuths are looking for the person who shot a 43 year old male in the ankle. The Hispanic male victim was treated at Lincoln Medical Center for a bullet wound to the ankle.

SAT, MAY 19th, 12:50 p.m. — Grant Ave. Police officers were able to take another pistol off of local streets. This time with an arrest, a 25-caliber pistol was vouched as evidence. Its owner could be facing a year in jail.

MON, MAY 21st, 1:45 p.m. — 3204 Park Ave. Investigators are trying to learn about an incident that sent a female to Lincoln Medical Center. The female victim had been shot in the arm officials indicated.

45th PCT.

SAT, MAY 19th, 11:20 a.m. — Randall Ave. and East Tremont Ave. Firefighters and police officers were called to the busy Throggs Neck intersection after a male was spotted placing a suspicious package into a mail post. Local police officers determined that they had sufficient reasons to request units from the Emergency Service Squad to respond. These highly trained experts after checking determined that the Bomb Squad was needed. In addition local firefighters besides an ambulance crew responded to standby as Bomb Squad members checked the mail box. The male had left the scene officials indicated, but police continued with their search. Coming up empty handed officials then decided to check for the mail truck that had made the latest pick-up from the drop-off box. Emergency units next responded to the post office at Lafayette Ave, near White Plains Rd. to check for the package. The package was not located authorities indicated.

SUN, MAY 20th, 1:00 p.m. — Zerega Ave. and Westchester Ave. A dispute ended with a person being stabbed. The injured victim was suffering from a wound to the right side and another wound to the left thigh. Local sleuths are handling the inquiry.

46th PCT.

SUN, MAY 20th, 3:45 p.m. — Webster Ave. and East Tremont Ave. A state employee was arrested and charged with domestic assault. The culprit was identified as a state corrections officer.

47th PCT.

THURS, MAY 17th, 12:15 a.m. — 3764 Bronx Blvd. A 25 year old Hispanic male was arrested after police learned that the young man failed to obtain a permit to own a gun in NYC. The 25 year old man was arrested and the 40-caliber pistol was vouched as evidence.

THURS, MAY 17th, 4:35 a.m. — 4541 Carpenter Ave. A 24 year old woman was transported to Montefiore Hospital's North Division after being shot. The young black woman was suffering a bullet wound to the left knee cap. Local sleuths are looking into the incident.

FRI, MAY 18th, 6:30 p.m. — 4065 Carpenter Ave. Police investigators are looking into a home invasion that sent the occupant to a medical facility. The unknown black males wearing masks and hoodies to cover their true identities were able to gain entry into the home. The occupant was struck once in the rear of the head. The staff at Montefiore Hospital's North Division treated the victim as the culprits made off with an unknown amount of money.

48th PCT.

THURS, MAY 17th, 1:15 a.m. — 2123 Boston Rd. The medical staff at St. Barnabas Hospital worked on a 22 year old male. The black male had been shot twice in the left leg. The male victim was listed in stable condition.

FRI, MAY 18th, 10:35 a.m. — 752 East Tremont Ave. Police are looking to question a black male about a bank robbery. The unknown male at gunpoint passed a note to a teller. The culprit fled with five hundred dollars and a die-pack official indicated. Detectives collected evidence at the crime scene.

SAT, MAY 19th, 12:35 a.m. — Bathgate Ave. and East 183 St. The medical staff treated two persons who were apparently victims of a shooting. A 22 year old Hispanic male walked in to the hospital seeking assistance for a bullet wound to the back, leg, and arm areas. An older Hispanic male, age 26 years, was suffering from bullet wounds to the right leg, in addition to being shot twice in the back. Local detectives have been tasked with the assignment to figure out what had occurred and to arrest the responsible perpetrator.

SAT, MAY 19th, 3:00 a.m. — East 183 St. and Bathgate Ave.

Another arrest was made by police for a person who failed to obtain the proper NYC license to own a gun in the Bronx. The gun was taken away from the culprit and vouched as evidence.

SUN, MAY 20th, 9:15 a.m. — Arthur Ave. and East 187 St. A park was searched by officials after a caller indicated that a bomb had been placed in the playground. A search was conducted by police officers who came up empty handed.

MON, MAY 21st, 12:17 a.m. — East 180 St. and Lafontaine Ave. A 28 year old Hispanic man made an unexpected trip to St. Barnabas Hospital. The man required medical attention after being shot in the leg. Local detectives are handling the inquiry.

49th PCT.

THURS, MAY 17th, 8:00 p.m. — 2165 Bolton St. Police investigators are looking for three black males who committed a home invasion. At gunpoint the trio secured the occupants before fleeing with an unknown amount of money.

MON, MAY 21st, 8:30 a.m. — 744 Morris Park Ave. Another motorist was arrested for interfering with government administration. Authorities were informed that the culprit had pushed a traffic agent in an attempt to prevent the city worker from scanning the vehicle's registration tag.

50th PCT.

MON, MAY 21st, 2:30 p.m. — 3718 Riverdale Ave. Police investigators are looking into a bias incident. Authorities were summoned to the Corner Café where in the bathroom there discovered two swastika's. Now officials are trying to find the responsible person.

52nd PCT.

FRI, MAY 18th, 12:00 a.m. — Jerome Ave. and West Gun Hill Rd. A Hispanic male was transported to Jacobi Medical Center in serious condition after being stabbed. The victim was stabbed twice officials indicated in the right arm and also the right torso. Apparently the attack was instigated by a lover's triangle. Two suspects were arrested as authorities also recovered two knives.

FRI, MAY 18th, 9:00 p.m. — 2995 Marion Ave. A teenager was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital after being assaulted. The 15 year old Hispanic teenager male was stabbed once in the back. Detectives are looking into the incident.

Transit

SAT, MAY 19th, 1:45 p.m. — Fordham Rd and Jerome Ave. Emergency units responded to the IRT # 4 train line after a woman fell off the train platform. A moving train struck the woman trapping her under the train and detaching the lower part of the leg. Firefighters and Emergency Service Squad police officers worked to free the trapped woman. Once freed, the woman

was handed over to a team of Rescue Paramedics from FDNY's EMS Bureau. The female victim was transported to the trauma center at St. Barnabas Hospital. The incident is under investigation by Transit District # 11 police officers.

MON, MAY 21st, 4:15 p.m. — Westchester Ave. and Jackson Ave. Transit District # 12 officers are working with 40th Pct. investigators after a strong armed robbery occurred. Additional police officers were dispatched into the area 7 also to check near-by train stations after the culprit fled.

Housing

SAT, MAY 19th, 1:05 a.m. — 792 Courtlandt Ave. Police sleuths are looking for two armed males. The unknown Hispanic males at gunpoint committed a robbery. Officials indicated that no one was injured. Police officers from Housing's PSA # 7 are working with members of the 40th Pct. Detective Squad on this inquiry.

SUN, MAY 20th, 7:00 p.m. — 1372 Washington Ave. Police officers from Housing's PSA # 7 were called to the scene of a weapon discharge. An unknown person alerted authorities that a weapon had been fired. Police officers arriving at the scene recovered evidence that could be helpful to detectives.

MON, MAY 21st, 5:45 p.m. — 540 East 144 St. A teenager was taken into custody. Police officers from Housing's PSA # 7 arrested a 17 year old black male after finding the teen in possession of a 38-caliber revolver. The handgun was vouched as evidence.

Fire Log

SAT, MAY 19th, 5:24 a.m. — 33 Buchanan Pl. A raging conflagration caused a frame dwelling to collapse. Local fire companies were engaged in battling another fire when the initial alarm was received. Engine 71 along with Tower Ladder 31 were assigned first due at the burning building located one block south of West 183 St. at Grand Ave. Filling out the assignment were engines 46, 95, and 79 along with Ladder 27 and Battalion 27. The firefighters had to travel a further distance to reach the burning structure. As they arrived the smoke-eaters were met by an intense blaze that was generating radiant heat. A hose line in addition to a stang nozzle was quickly placed into operation. Within minutes the structure collapsed without any of the firefighters being injured.

MON, MAY 21st, 4:40 p.m. — Baychester Ave and Boston Rd. Fire units answering a call for an accident found four vehicles involved in the mishap. Using the Hurst Tool, better known as the 'Jaws of Life' was used to free trapped occupants. Ten persons were injured including seven children, who were all treated at Jacobi Medical Center. Working at the scene under the direction of the 15th Battalion were Engines 38 and 66, Ladders 51 and 61 besides several ambulances from the EMS branch.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bloomberg's creating a nanny state

Dear editor,

Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants to dictate to us how much soda we should drink. With this action Mayor Bloomberg confirmed what I wrote a few weeks ago on one of my "What You Should Know" columns, that some elected officials want to create in New York a Nanny State.

For your information, in case you did not read it before I am including inserts of what I wrote before.

You should know that some Members of the New York State Legislature are pushing hard to prevent McDonald's and certain restaurants from giving out toys to children when they receive their meals unless those meals meet certain standards.

Senate Bill 6386, sponsored by Senator Gustavo Rivera, and Assembly Bill 7662, sponsored by Assembly Member Felix Ortiz, both Hispanic and Puerto Rican, are calling for a law to dictate which restaurants may or may not distribute toys or as they call them, "incentives," to children, especially poor children in our communities, when their parents take them to McDonald's or any other restaurant to purchase a meal. Now Mayor Michael Bloomberg has join them in banning the sale and purchase of any bottle of sodas of more than 16 ounces.

It does not make sense and it is disturbing to see these same elected officials fight tooth and nail to give a woman the right to kill an unborn baby, because according to them, it is a woman's choice to do what they want with their bodies. Michael Bloomberg, Gustavo, Felix and others have no problem in being pro-choice and giving a woman a right to murder an unborn baby, but they have problems and are willing to take away the right of the mother and father or child to eat whatever they want.

Don't get me wrong, I believe that obesity is a problem and that people should be more careful with what they eat, but if people want to be fat and eat hamburgers or anything they want, it is their right to allow them to eat whatever they want. I think that it is a lot better to be fat than to terminate the life of an unborn, innocent baby. Does anyone believe that people are elected into office to regulate what food and drinks moms and dads can serve their children?

Do these same elected officials who fight for any woman to have a supposed right to choose to kill her unborn baby realize that they are way out of line to try to assume authority over moms by telling them what to give her child to eat or drink?

When pro-lifers like me state the obvious that abortion affects two lives and that the fetus is a life, and that to crack their skulls with forceps or to use saline water to be evaporated, the pro-choice, pro-abortion politicians argue back with that old cliché "my body, my choice". I'm pretty sure that Mayor Bloomberg, Assembly Member Ortiz and Senator Rivera would stand by their side.

How can those same officials think they have the right to tell moms how they should feed their children or what to drink?

Parents struggle to do what's best for their children, and at least so far, in this country parents are not dictated to by local elected officials about how to feed their children. If they want to cook at home, they can. If they want to go out and eat and drink 32 ounces of soda, they can.

You should know that there are more important issues before us in the State and City of New York, and we sure don't need Mayor Bloomberg, Senator Rivera, Assembly Member Ortiz and others to divert our attention by creating a Nanny State.

Senator Rev. Rubén Díaz

Plan moves forward

Dear editor,

Government and state agencies continue to negotiate with insurance companies and are initiating changes to health care plans for 2013 based on the Affordable Care Act law that will be fully enforced by 2014. Are they that confident that the Supreme Court decision in June will be to uphold the mandate in the Affordable Care Act or do they know something we don't? Will their decision be based on law or political affiliation?

If upheld the executive and legislative branches authority would not be undermined since they did sign it into law, or maybe so much has been done to change health care over the past few years they can not revert back. Maybe this was the plan all along, we will just have to wait and see.

Robert Neglia

Get priorities right

Dear editor,

Mayor Bloomberg and the first lady should get their priorities in order. Instead of dictating what people can eat they should concentrate on the drug problem in this country that destroys family life and causes robberies and murders.

Emma Damm

Let us hear from you

Letters to the editor are welcome from all readers. They should be addressed care of this newspaper to John Collazzi, Publisher, the Bronx Times Reporter, 900 E. 132nd Street, Bronx, NY 10454, or e-mail to bronxtimes@cnglocal.com. All letters, including those submitted via e-mail, MUST be signed and with a verifiable address and telephone number included. Note that the address and telephone number will NOT be published and the name will be published or withheld upon request. No unsigned letters can be accepted for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

More than a name

Dear editor,

I'd like to comment on the feature story entitled, "It's no longer Lehman."

Even a name change like Throggs Neck High School won't help students who have either failed or dropped out.

Changing the faculty and principal won't help a failing student body. It's the students that are the problem, not the teacher, and not the principal.

I've seen students bad mouth the school because of bad academics, poor subjects, and an inability to learn.

Al Agovino, Jr.

Don't despair

Dear editor,

When lame duck Bloomberg finally exits the stage and the Democrats regain the mayoralty, the sky will not fall despite the dire predictions expressed by an "alarmed" citizen in last week's edition.

This citizen displays an extraordinary obtuseness when he laments the fact that with Bloomberg's departure his "management team" will also disappear.

He regrets the fact that the expertise and experience of this team will be lost from city government.

I wonder why anyone would despair when this clique can no longer feed at the public trough.

Their "wisdom" has cost the taxpayers of the city untold millions of dollars due to their inept performance during the City Time and 911 Tech scandals.

The same writer also demonstrates a remarkable disingenuousness when he bemoans the fact that with a new mayor, Bloomberg's vaunted team will not be retained.

Whenever a new mayor, governor, president or CEO takes office, -news flash here - he brings in his own team. There is nothing remarkable about this policy. It's just common sense.

The writer also expresses a longing for the "good old days".

His definition of the "good old days" is when the Republicans are in power. Fortunately, most of the voters in NYC do not agree with this opinion.

Pasqual Pelosi

Losing parking space

Dear editor,

Not only do the muni meters create a paper trail, which has now become the merchants' responsibility, but the parking situation on Tremont Avenue has become haphazard at best.

With the elimination of the parking meters, parking spaces have been compromised, due to the fact that drivers now park helter skelter.

Whose bright idea was this anyway?

Marge Forsberg

BRONX Times

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NEWS ITEMS: Readers are welcome to suggest news items of interest. Call the Editorial Department at (718) 742-3393 or e-mail to bronxtimes@cnglocal.com.

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Bronx beat

Monkey video sends funding message

The **Wildlife Conservation Society** released a homemade video called "A Bronx Zoo Monkey Gets an iPad" was created to inspire New Yorkers to send a message to City Hall to restore the budget cuts to New York City's cultural organizations, including the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium.

City Hall has proposed a cut of almost 58 percent to operating support for WCS's Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium. The video uses humor to bring attention to the seriousness of the proposed cuts and encourage viewers to take action by visiting www.wcs.org/cityhall to sign the petition and send a message to City Hall.

The video shows a Bronx Zoo mammal curator and zookeeper who had just given the zoo's pygmy marmosets – a species of monkey – an iPad, thinking they might use the paint function as part of their daily enrichment. Instead they are shocked to see the monkey writing "Save Our Funding" on

the iPad screen and setting up a web link where people could sign a petition to send a message to City Hall.

In the fiscal year 2012 adopted budget, the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium received a total of \$8.2 million from the city for operations. Next year's 58 percent cut to the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium translates to a loss of \$4.7 million reducing city support for the zoo and aquarium to \$3.4 million.

As New York City lawmakers negotiate the executive budget proposal, WCS is asking New Yorkers to go to www.wcs.org/cityhall to sign a petition urging officials to restore funding for the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium, and all our city's cultural organizations. New Yorkers, families, businesses, and community and political leaders can collectively make a difference for culture in New York City by sending a message to City Hall that if this cut of nearly 58 percent is

implemented, the impact will be immediately felt in communities across all five boroughs.

More than 150,000 messages have been delivered to City Hall since 2008 in support of culture.

Go to www.wcs.org/cityhall to sign the petition and save New York City's cultural organizations.

Community Board 12 and Sustainable South Bronx will host a home energy conservation seminar on Thurs., June 21, at 7 pm. Tired of paying high utility bills or living in a drafty house? Come out and learn how Sustainable South Bronx can help you gain access to free energy audits, reduce high utility bills, and save money! The seminar will be held at Town Hall, 4101 White Plains Road at 229th Street. Contact Cynthia Ngombe, Community Greening organizer, at (646) 400-5437 or cngombe@ssbx.org for more information.

BCA's Blanks, Blocks and Bloopers workshop session at Barnes & Noble

Presented by the Bronx Council on the Arts' Bronx Writers Center, Blanks, Blocks and Bloopers Work Session is workshop for writers that includes hands-on writing exercises, discussion of structure, storytelling and voice, and a Q&A with Maria Romano, director of the Bronx Writers Center. Bring a notebook, a pen and your work in progress! The session will be held at Barnes & Noble at Bay Plaza on Friday, June 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome. Reserve your seat at <http://bronxwriters6152012.eventbrite.com>.

Maria Romano, director of BCA's Bronx Writers Center, will facilitate the workshop. Originally hired as a consultant to manage The Big Read in 2008/2009, Maria holds a BA in English from Yale University and an MFA in Creative Writing from The New School. She teaches writing to middle school and high school students for the Fordham University Science and Technol-

ogy Entry Program and was a Curriculum Advisor for Girls Write Now, a writing and mentoring non-profit. She is a Bronx resident and an award-winning writer of short stories.

Blanks, Blocks and Bloopers Work Session is one of a series of free workshops for writers produced by the Bronx Writers Center. Upcoming BWC workshops through September 21, 2012 at Barnes and Noble at Bay Plaza are:

- Getting to the Finish Line: How to Prepare Your Writing for the Next Stage on July 20,
- First Lines: Getting Started on Your Writing Project on August 17, and
- Ask and Editor: Ask an Agent on September 21.

For additional information on this workshop or other events presented by the Bronx Writers Center, call (718) 931-9500, ext. 21, e-mail bronxwriters@bronxarts.org, or visit the Bronx Writers Center's web pages at www.bronxarts.org.

Barnes & Noble at Bay

Plaza is located at 290 Baychester Avenue in the Co-op City section of the Bronx. To find out about other literary activities at the store, please call 718-862-3945 or visit www.barnesandnoble.com (click on "Stores and Events").

The Bronx Writers Center supports and develops the appetite for writing and reading in the Bronx. The BWC searches for and promotes new voices and audiences and engages the community in literary and literacy programs.

The Bronx Writers Center, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts, is supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Robert A. Bowne Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts' Literature Program, NYC Council Member James Vacca, the Simon Bolivar Foundation, New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, the National Endowment for the Arts, and NYC Department of Small Business Services/Avenue NYC.

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ROCKING THE BOAT SETS SAIL WITH BRAND NEW WOODEN BOAT



And it's a nautical "Heave Ho, Me Hearties" as students and staff haul the 14-foot vessel out of its workshop, carefully working their way to the waters of the Bronx River.

Students from Rocking the Boat set sail with a brand new 14-foot wooden sailboat they built. The Saturday, June 2 event unveiled the *Current*, made by students using traditional boat-building techniques, launched at Hunts Point Riverside Park near the group's headquarters. Live music by Abrazos Orchestra laid the track for the event that showcased the dedication by Rocking the Boat. The group empowers young people challenged by tough economic and social conditions. Young people work on building boats, learn how to sail and help on projects to restore the Bronx River.

(Right) Rocking the Boat students lift the *Current* out of the shop, preparing the traditionally made wooden boat for its first journey on the Bronx River.

Photos by Eddie Soto



(Above) And away we go! Students see all their hard work pay off as the *Current* embarks on its first maiden trip down the Bronx River. The group departed without the mast since rough winds rocked the boat a bit too hard.

(Right) The boat has its name emblazoned on its stern.

(Left) Rocking the Boat Program Director Bryce LeFort (r) readies the boat with Program Assistant Boris Regalado, setting up the mast and sail.





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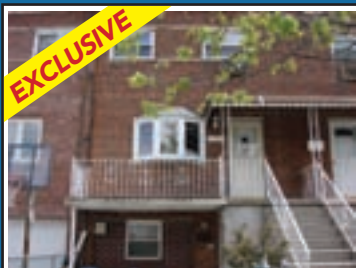
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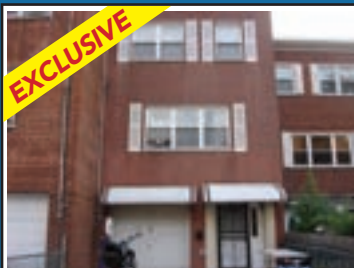
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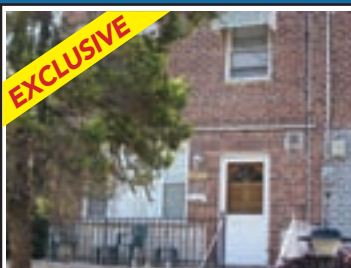
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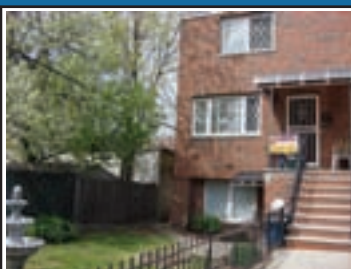
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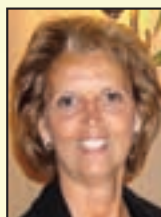
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St. Barnabas Hospital waves the banner of diversity

Efosa Imafidon, Chief Rehabilitation Therapist in the St. Barnabas Rehabilitation and Continuing Care Center, says it makes him feel very proud.

Cheryl Gale, a registered nurse in the infusion center at St. Barnabas Hospital, admits to feeling a little overwhelmed by it all.

Arlene Allende, the hospital's senior vice president for Community and Intergovernmental Relations, just shakes her head and laughs.

This is what having your face staring down on motorists and pedestrians from 50-foot high will do to you.

Imafidon, Gayle and Allende are three of the five St. Barnabas Hospital employees whose visages were recently unfurled on giant banners displayed outside the Bronx hospital (at 3rd Avenue and 183rd Street). The others featured are Dr. Paul Chu, director of the Pediatric Dental Program, and Alida Esquea, who works in the environmental services department.

The banners introduce the hospital's "DRIVE to Patient-Centered Excellence" campaign. DRIVE is an acronym for Diversity, Respect, Integrity, Vision and Excellence. The campaign will also appear in select print advertising.

"We serve an incredibly diverse community and have a staff comprised of people from many different cultures and origins," said Len Walsh, the hospital's executive vice president and chief operating officer. "We wanted the banner to reflect this diversity and represent to the community people from different aspects of the hospital experience. Bright, hard-working and well-liked, these five take a great amount of joy in their jobs and serve as excellent ambassadors for the hospital."

The diversity campaign itself actually kicked off nearly a year ago when

a large map of the world was placed in the cafeteria and staffers were asked to place pins in their country of origin. They were found to come from nearly 100 countries and to speak more than 50 different languages or dialects.

Gayle, who is Jamaican by birth, has lived in the United States for 27 years and worked at St. Barnabas Hospital for 19 of them. Her warm manner and bright smile greet patients receiving treatment at the newly expanded infusion center. She has an unusual connection with the hospital – it's where she met her husband and where three members of her family also work.

She said she is looking forward to driving past the hospital with her two children, 11-year-old Eric and 16-year-old Kike. She believes they will be "very proud to see mommy up there" and will be inspired.

Imafidon, better known as "EJ," was responsible for organizing the hospital's African Day – the most recent of the hospital's diversity events. Prior celebrations, which feature speakers, music and food, were also held earlier this year to highlight important dates for Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, China and Ireland, with the Philippines scheduled for June.

Born in the United States, EJ spent much of his first 12 years in Nigeria before moving with his family to the Bronx. As a student attending Fordham University, he first stepped foot at St. Barnabas Hospital, in the emergency department, after spraining his ankle while playing soccer. After receiving his doctorate in physical therapy, he was hired by the hospital eight years ago.

Allende is a well-known figure both inside and outside the hospital walls. A member of the hospital's senior management team, she was selected as an Outstand-

ing Woman Leader at the 2010 Bronx Sheroes Awards ceremony for her commitments to business and community affairs and, more recently, as one of the Bronx's 25 Most Influential Women for 2012. Very often the face of the hospital at community events and meetings, she fosters relationships between the hospital and community boards, local organizations and elected officials.

"It's a real honor to be included in this banner," said Allende, whose parents came to the Bronx from Puerto Rico. "The campaign itself shows the hospital's commitment to diversity and let's the people in the community know that we understand and appreciate both their differences and similarities."

Dr. Chu is Chinese-American, born in Houston and raised in San Francisco. After graduating from the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, he did his pediatric dental residency at St. Barnabas Hospital in 2002. Asked to stay on as the assistant director of the program after completing his residency, he said he felt as proud of being asked to appear on the banner as he did when offered that position.

"I put in on Facebook and sent it to my parents," said Dr. Chu. "They were thrilled. My father recently had a heart attack, but is hoping to come out here again soon to see it."

Esquea, a long-time employee of the hospital, was recently named as the hospital's employee for the quarter. A native of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, she was cited in the nomination form for her hard work, her commitment and "always having a smile on her face."

Photographer Bud Glick shot the photographs, which were styled by Michelle Malavet, the hospital's graphic designer.

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**Event will be held out-side Bronx House (990 Pelham Parkway South)
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*For questions about the Stop n Swap, please
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Bronx scene

Top journalist at Bartow-Pell

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road, will welcome award-winning journalist Guy Gugliotta on Tuesday, June 19, at 7:30 p.m., as part of its Local Author Spotlight series. Gugliotta, a Pelham resident, will discuss his new book, *Freedom's Cap: The United States Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War*. Publishers Weekly called *Freedom's Cap* an "intensely researched historical gem," and Kirkus Reviews cited "political moves that would make Machiavelli blush." There will be a booksigning and reception after the presentation.

Gugliotta covered Congress during a 16-year career as a national reporter for the Washington Post where he also wrote a column, *Capitol Notebook*, on the Post's Federal Page. Before joining the Post, Mr. Gugliotta was a foreign correspondent for the Miami Herald, covering Central America's guerrilla wars, Colombia's drug wars, the Iran hostage crisis, and the overthrow of the Shah.

Registration is requested. Cost is \$10 for adults; \$7 for seniors and students; and free for members. Call (718) 885-1461 for more information and to register. For directions and upcoming events, visit www.bpmm.org.

• Wave Hill Events June 15-22	21
• Big Names In Music Set For Empire City	22
• Do You Remember - Astronaut Mario Runco, Jr	35

King of Latin Soul at Lehman Center; Morrisania walking tour; BAAD Festival

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts continues its eclectic 31st season with the "King of Latin Soul," Joe Bataan, whose magnificent voice and unique style of music have made him a global legend. Also performing will be one of the greatest Philly-soul groups of their era, Blue Magic, whose string of soul hits include "We're On the Right Track," "What's Come Over Me," "Just Don't Want to Be Lonely" and "Spell." The concert, on Saturday, June 23, 2012 at 8pm, is produced by Mario A. Torres Productions in association with Lehman Center. Lehman Center is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West. Tickets are \$50, \$45, and \$35 and can be purchased by calling (718) 960-8833. Low-cost on-site parking is available for \$5.

Morrisania: From Suburbia to the Grand Concourse, a walking tour, will be held on Sun., June 24, at 10 am. The cost is \$20 (\$15 MAS members). The **Municipal Art Society of New York** offers a lesson in urban renewal by way of a walking tour of Morrisania led by urban geographer Jack Eichenbaum. Participants should be prepared to walk two miles. Visit www.mas.org/tours or call (212) 935-2075 for reservations [required] and information.

The Out Like That! Festival at BAAD! - **The Bronx Academy of Art & Dance** returns for its 12th year. The festival kicks off on Thurs., June 7 to Tues., June 28, with dance, theatre, film, and performances. Some events are free and all shows are at BAAD! 841 Barretto Street. For information call (718) 842-5223.

Space available for Kingsbridge Heights Community Ctr. Summer Day Camp

Places are still available for the affordable, high-quality summer experience for children and youth at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center.

Tye Summer Day Camp offers children a truly meaningful summer. Participants build lasting relationships with peers and mentors while having fun and learning new skills. Whether it's interacting with nature at Rockland State Park or performing at the end of summer show, children between the ages of 6 and 14 get a well-rounded and enjoyable summer vacation they will remember for years to come.

Children will participate in three field trips a week in addition to literacy activities, sports, gardening and much more summer fun!

Participants can get involved for the full session from July 9 to August 17 or separate sessions July 9 to July 27 and July 30 to August 17. Summer Day Camp is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with early drop-off and extended day available. They offer sibling discounts and accept ACD/HRA vouchers.

For more information about camp contact Lamont Jackson at ljackson@khcc-nyc.org or (718) 884-0700, ext. 188.

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Wave Hill events June 15-22

Oh, Poppa, take off your tie (or apron) and relax! Your kids (or grandkids) know that a morning or afternoon at Wave Hill—heck, just make it the whole day—will set you up right. Is there a better time than mid-June, lush and bright and full of promise, to give them another chance to say thank you for all you do? Let them lead you down the garden path, through the gallery, or way back in historical time. Or beef up on summer grilling tips. Create your own mementoes together at the Family At Project. Or just pull up a Wave Hill chair and take in the landscape, gardens, birds and rolling river. It'll feel good.

Friday, June 15; Friday, June 22, Yoga Together: Jumping frog, twisty owl, downward dog, oh my! Child and parent or caregiver practice fun yoga poses that build strength, increase flexibility and relax the body and mind in this one-hour class taught by Lisa Ferraro, an instructor at

Yoga for Bliss. Incorporate breathing and relaxation techniques into a dynamic and playful experience that you and your child can enjoy together. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a mat if possible. Recommended for ages 2-5. Sessions are held outdoors only and are weather dependent. Call (718) 549-3200, ext. 245 by 8 a.m. on the day of the class for weather updates. Session fee: \$15 member/\$23 non-member. Session fee includes one adult and one child. Registration opens onsite at 9:30 a.m. on the grounds, 10 to 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, TAI CHI CHUAN: Quiet like a mountain, moving like a river, Tai Chi is a sequence of gentle movements based on images found in nature. Short and long form classes are led by Irving Yee, an active member of the William CC Chen Tai Chi School. Sessions are held outdoors only and are weather dependent. Call (718) 549-3200, ext. 245 by 8 a.m. on the day of the

class for weather updates. Session fee: \$15 member/\$23 non-member. Registration opens onsite at 9:30 a.m. On the grounds, 10 a.m. beginners, 11 a.m. intermediates.

Saturday, June 16; Sunday, June 17, Family Art Project—T's For Dad And Me: Explore and sketch Wave Hill's gardens and woodlands. With fabric markers and special crayons, put your favorite summer image onto a T-shirt that you and Dad will be proud to wear. Free, and admission to the grounds is free until noon. Ecology Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 16; Tuesday, June 19, Gallery Wave Hill History Walk: Discover the fascinating history of the gardens, buildings and the people who once called Wave Hill their home, with historian and Wave Hill Garden Guide Deirdre LaPorte. Free, and admission to the grounds is free until noon. Meet at Perkins Visitor Center, 11 a.m.

Saturday, June 16; Tuesday, June 19, Gallery



Photo courtesy of Joshua Bright

Wave Hill Father's Day Family Art Project.

Tour: Join an exhibition interpreter for one of our regularly scheduled tours of Tending toward the Untamed: Artists Respond to the Wild Garden. Wave Hill's Wild Garden serves as inspiration for new painting, photography, animation,

sculpture and installation, by artists Gary Carsley, Chris Doyle, Julie Evans, Isabella Kirkland, Janelle Lynch, Rebecca Morales, Erik Sanner and Anat Shiftan. In the Sunroom Project Space, Annie Varnot creates a serene space for con-

templating life's impermanence and the potential for growth and renewal. Tours take place Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m. through August 18. Free with admission to the grounds. Glyndor

Continued on next page



Offer valid on new memberships only at any New York City YMCA location from 5/14/2012 through 7/2/2012. "Summer Memberships" are valid from date of join through 9/3/2012. Family Membership includes 1 or 2 adults with children under age 18 residing in the same household; must be paid in full at time of registration; cannot be combined with any other offer and are non-transferable. Valid government-issued photo ID is required. Park Slope Armory YMCA, Ridgewood YMCA and Flatbush YMCA do not offer a swimming pool. *Some pricing exemptions apply.

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Big names in music set for Empire City

The biggest names in the music industry will make their way to Westchester County when Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway launches its nine-week Sunday Summer Concert Series beginning July 1, president Timothy J. Rooney.

The Marshall Tucker Band, Pat Benatar, Frankie Avalon, Sara Evans, and the Village People are among the headliners for the concerts which will be staged outdoors on the raceway's track apron on nine consecutive Sunday nights. The seating capacity is 1,000 trackside.

"We are delighted to

bring such great musical talent to Empire City," said Rooney. "The summer concerts are another major step in providing the finest entertainment experience for our patrons, and bringing new fans to the casino and raceway."

Tickets will go on sale immediately by visiting www.empirecity.com/summer-concerts or on the casino's second floor. Affordable ticket prices range from \$22.50 to \$50.

Cornell Gunter's Coasters, The Platters and Sounds of the Drifters will be the series-launching act on July 1.

Flea market at NE Bronx Sen. Ctr.

The North East Bronx Senior Citizen Center, 2968 Bruckner Boulevard, will hold a flea market on Tuesday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Included will be jewelry, brick-a-brac, Avon, books, toys, handbags, etc. All are welcome.

Interested vendors should call (718) 892-6090.

Wave Hill plans a mixture of family events

From previous page

Gallery, 2 p.m.
Saturday, June 16, Cooking Demo—Herbal Grilling: Calling all dads! Gather 'round the grill and learn to cook alfresco with fresh summer herbs, just in time for your summer barbecues. Sample delicious grilled goodies seasoned with herbs and herbal marinades with a chef from Great Performances. Nondads welcome! Free with admission to the grounds. On the grounds, 1 p.m.

Sunday, June 17, Hatha Yoga: Release stress and find refuge from city life by practicing seasonal yoga, surrounded by the beauty of Wave Hill. Hatha Yoga involves the use of physical postures, breath control and meditation to create a supple, strong and relaxed body-mind. Classes are led by Neem Dewji, certified in Hatha and Therapeutic Yoga from The Yoga for Health Foundation in Bedfordshire, England, and The Integral Yoga In-

stitute in NYC. Participants should bring a mat, dress in loosely fitting clothing and come to class with breakfast well digested. All levels welcomed. Sessions are held outdoors only and are weather dependent. Call (718) 549-3200, ext. 245 by 8 a.m. on the day of the class for weather updates. Session fee: \$15 member/\$23 non-member. Registration opens onsite at 9:30 a.m. On the grounds, 10 to 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, June 17; Tuesday, June 19, Garden Highlights Walk: Join in for an hour-long tour of seasonal garden highlights. Free with admission to the grounds. Meet at Perkins Visitor Center, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19, Stories In The Garden: Each week, a "mystery reader" from Wave Hill's staff shares a few of her or his favorite stories with budding young naturalists. Sessions are held outdoors only and are weather dependent. Ideal for ages 3 and up and their adult com-

panions. Free, and admission to the grounds is free until noon. On the grounds, 11 a.m.

Thursday, June 21, Artists' Circle: Capture the beauty of Wave Hill's landscape in these drop-in, open-air studio sessions. Wave Hill provides easels and boards, and you bring art-making materials and paper or canvas. All levels welcome; new artists encouraged! Facilitated group

critique at the end of each session. Weather dependent. Session fee: \$10 member/\$18 on-member. Registration day-of at Perkins Visitor Center starting at 9:30 a.m. Meet on the grounds for critiques. This weekly series continues through August. Register at Perkins Visitor Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wave Hill is located at 675 West 252nd Street. For further information call (718) 549-3200, ext. 232.

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Astronaut, Mario Runco, Jr., from Highbridge

Astronaut Mario Runco Jr. was born on January 26, 1952 and raised in the Bronx at 1215 Nelson Avenue in Highbridge where he attended Sacred Heart Elementary School which is located at 1248 Nelson Avenue just across the street on the next block within view of his home. Upon graduation in 1966, he attended Cardinal Hayes High School on the Grand Concourse at 151st Street, graduating in 1970. He then enrolled in City College where he earned a bachelor's degree in Earth and Planetary Science in 1974. He earned his Master of Science degree in Atmospheric Physics from Rutgers University two years later.

He worked briefly as a New Jersey State Trooper before enlisting in the Navy in June of 1978 where he worked in a variety of positions. He served aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau as a meteorological officer until December of 1983 after which he taught at the Na-

do you remember

by Bill Twomey

val Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. His next shipboard assignment was as commander of the USNS Chauvenet, a survey vessel. He was chosen as an astronaut candidate on June 5, 1987 and qualified in August of 1988. Thereafter, he took part in three space flights: 1991, 1993 and 1996 and logged over 551 hours in space.

His first mission was aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis which was launched on November 24, 1991 and completed 110 orbits of earth. It successfully launched the 5,200 pound Defense Support System Satellite before landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California on December 1, 1991, several days early. The total time in space for the mission was 6 days, 22 hours, and 50 minutes.

His next mission was aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor (STS-54) which was launched from the Kennedy Space Center at Merritt Island, Florida. It was launched on January 13, 1993 and successfully deployed a NASA Tracking and Data Recovery Satellite.

Also of significance to Mario Runco is that he then became the 48th American to walk in space. The space suit, as an aside, cost 10 million dollars. The mission lasted for 5 days, 23 hours, and 38 minutes before returning to the Kennedy Space Center.

His final space mission was aboard Space Shuttle Endeavor (STS-77) which was launched on May 19, 1996. That flight successfully deployed two satellites which included the Spartan



Mario Runco, Jr., Bronx astronaut.

/ Inflatable Antenna Experiment and a small satellite test unit. The mission lasted 10 days and 39 minutes, returning to earth on May 29,

1996 at 7:09 a.m. The Bronx can be very proud that a native son was among the select few chosen for NASA's space program.

Giglio Feast in Belmont

The Giglio will return to Little Italy in the Bronx during the Feast of St. Anthony to be held from June 6 to 10 at E. 187th Street and Arthur Avenue. The feast is sponsored by Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

The focus from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 9, will be on the Giglio, with a procession scheduled for Sunday, June 10, at 5 p.m.

The Giglio is an approximately 60-foot wooden structure adorned with religious articles. There are full-size statues of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Anthony, St. Paulinus and St. Jude. The structure weighs several tons and will be carried by approximately 120 people. There will also be an authentic Giglio band to accompany the dancing of the Giglio.

The feast will include games, rides, and amusements and music by Charlie Russo Band, DJ Tony, Kiss Alive, the Gio Venuto Band and the Hit Squad.

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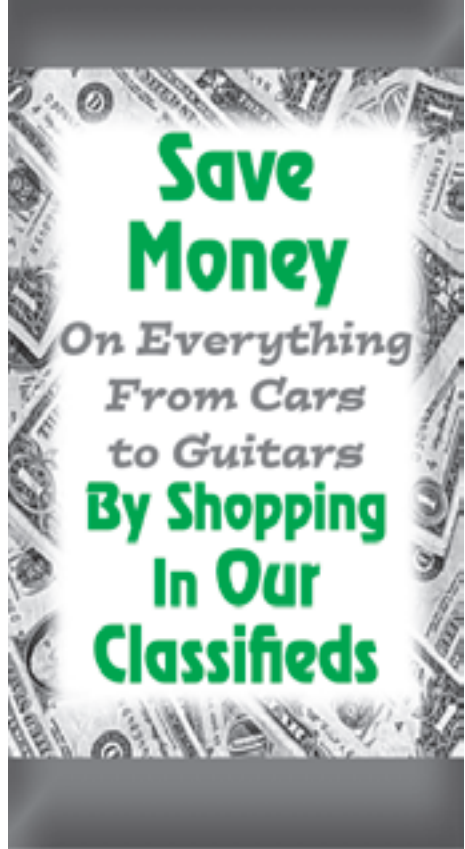
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PIPE DREAMS

By Bob Connolly

Changing of the guard

Heat Brings Feet

I'm hoping that Memorial Day will signal A-Rod's bat to wake up. Last season Derek Jeter kept hearing that he was over the hill early in the year. But then as the weather grew warmer so did his game.

Hopefully the pin strippers will come out of hibernation.

I wonder if warm Yankee Stadium winds give lift and distance to fly balls.

The Darkened Light

The Chicago Cubs hired Theo Epstein to carry the light that would lead the team into the World Series winners circle. But as of 5/22 the Cubbies have a record of 15-26, are in last place in the NL-Central, and have lost their last six.

So, my question to Theo is- How is it working out for you, so far?

HMMM, my Yankees aren't doing that much better right now. They've gone 3-7 in the last 10 and lost the last three.

Theo shed some light on this problem. He's gathering as much young talent for the Cubs that he can and not rush bringing them up to the big club.

Their calendars for ML service time won't start moving toward player arbitration until they do reach the majors. The ideal theory here is that they'll all develop together (think the "Core Four" here).

So, maybe Epstein DOES have

Continued on page 32

Single spells redemption

Catcher's walk-off clinches title

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Same hitter. Same pitch. Similar situation.

Albert Fernandez was at bat with the chance to win a championship for Monsignor Scanlan. It was the catcher who struck out looking to end last year's finals and the memory had been eating him up inside ever since.

"I was so confident," Crusaders coach Keith Del Valle said. "I wanted Albert at the plate - nobody else. He needed it."

Fernandez didn't disappoint. St. John's Prep pitcher Gabe Adams threw him an inside fastball and the senior chopped it into the hole between shortstop and third base. The Red Storm also tried to bust him inside in the same spot last season.

"It didn't work this time," Fernandez said. "Thank God."

Pinch-runner Brian Cantero came in from third and top-seeded Monsignor Scanlan pulled out a 3-2, walk-off win over No. 6 and rival St. John's Prep to win its second CHSAA Class A title in three years. Fernandez, pitcher Christian Lo-



Photo by William Thomas

Monsignor Scanlan celebrates its victory.

zano and first baseman Michael Soto - who have dubbed themselves The Big Three because they've been together since they were freshmen - shed tears of joy after the victory.

"Last year he made a big mis-

take, but this year he finished it," an emotional, choked-up Lozano said. "He fought until he got his pitch."

Scanlan (11-4) went ahead 2-1 in the bottom of the sixth when Ruban

Collazo was hit by an Adams pitch and came around to score on an error. But like it has been with these two teams - this is their fourth straight meeting in the finals - St.

Continued on page 32

Horace Mann falls in heartbreaker in NYSAISAA final

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Ray Barile met his players in the circle as Holy Child celebrated wildly a few feet away. It was the third straight time Horace Mann had reached the NYSAISAA softball final and the third straight the Lions had fallen short of the ultimate goal.

"I said, 'Hey, I can say the same thing as last year - it's great we're here,'" Barile said after his team's 5-3 loss Tuesday at Manhattanville College. "But just look at that celebration over there. That's the celebration we want next year."

Horace Mann (10-5) loses just two seniors - Cara Annunziata and Billie Kanfer - and brings back a

core that has been to at least two state championship games. This one will sting for awhile, though, because of just how close the Lions came and all the fight they showed.

o 5-3 and then ace Mia Farinelli danced out of a big jam in the bottom of the sixth.

"That's when I thought we were gonna win the game," Barile said.

It was not to be, though, as close as the Lions came. They lost last year, 13-6 in nine innings, and the year before they fell, 9-0, to rival Poly Prep. Barile joked with his players that maybe they need to find a better coach - he's now 0-4 in NYSAISAA finals.



Photo by Christina Santucci

Horace Mann coach Ray Barile told his team after Tuesday's NYSAISAA final loss that he wants to be back there celebrating in 2013.

Manhattan College picks up Bronx native Pankey

6'9" forward opted to transfer near ill mom

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Former Archbishop Molloy and St. Anthony of Jersey City standout Ashton Pankey will transfer to Manhattan College, sources report.

The 6-foot-9 forward, who spent two years at Maryland and is known for his rebounding and shot-blocking acumen, visited Manhattan on Friday after seeing Iona and Fordham earlier in the week. The Bronx native opted to transfer to become closer to his ill mother, he said in a previously released statement.

"My mom is the rock in my life and I promised her I would take care of her like she did for me," Pankey said in the statement. "Therefore, I am choosing to put my family first and look for a school closer to home.

He missed his entire freshman because of a

stress fracture in his leg aside from one minute. He averaged 4.7 points and 4.9 rebounds in 32 games last year.

He scored in double figures four times – he had 17 points against Radford – and reached double figures in rebounds three times.

The Jaspers will reportedly apply for a waiver to get Pankey eligible for the coming season. He has three years of eligibility remaining.

Manhattan is coming off a big year under first-year coach Steve Masiello. It went 21-13 and 12-6 in the MAAC. Pankey will likely start in the front-court alongside MAAC Defensive Player of the Year Rhamel Brown, who starred at Transit Tech in Brooklyn. George Beamon, Mike Alvarado, and Emmy Andujar all return to form a solid nucleus.

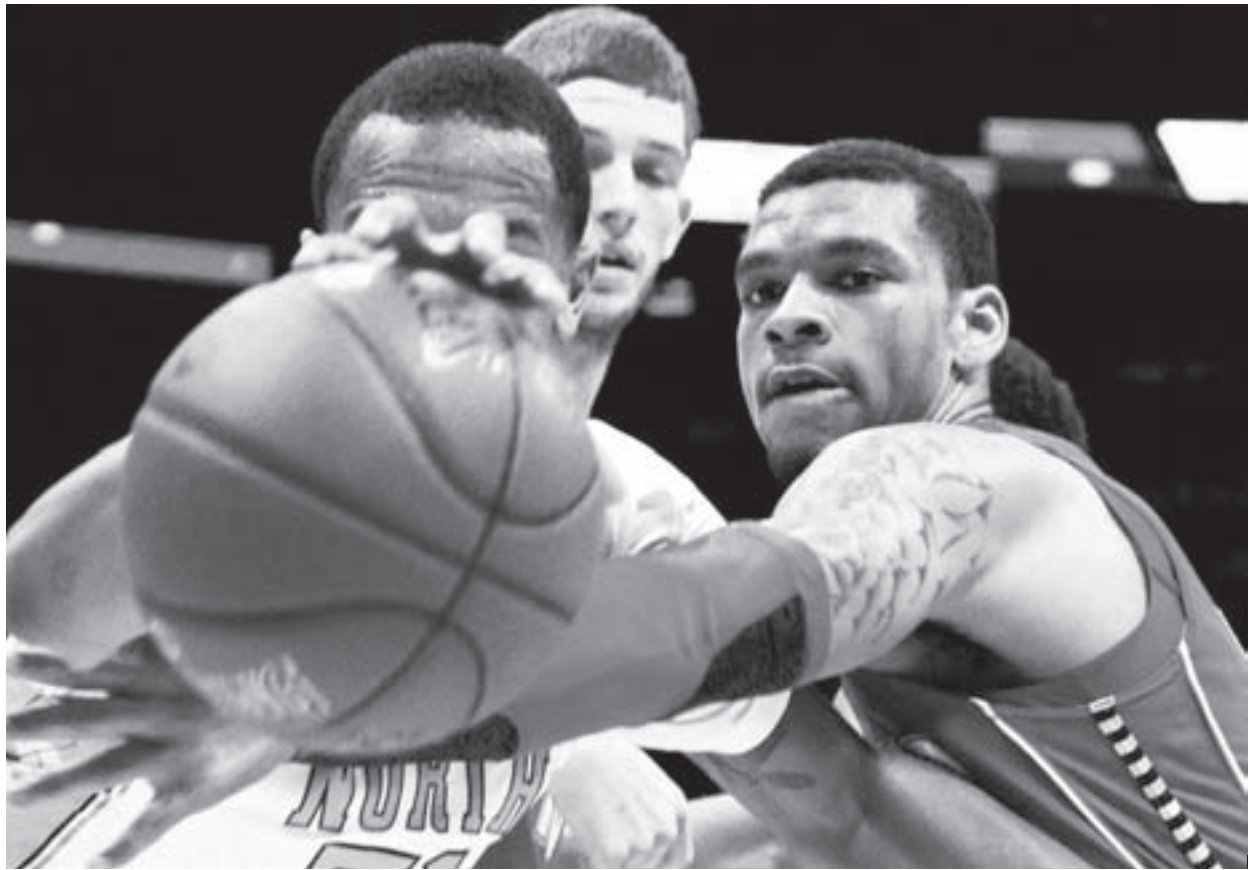


Photo courtesy of AP

Ashton Pankey has decided to transfer to Manhattan College.

Undermanned but determined, New Heights 17s win Super 16 Showcase

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

The New Heights 17U was shorthanded last weekend. Maybe they should attend events with less than their entire roster more often.

Despite missing forward Jordan Washington and shooting guard Josh James, New Heights claimed the Memorial Day Super 16 Showcase in New London, Conn., its first tournament crown of the young AAU season.

New Heights topped Rivals Basketball Club (Mass.) in the championship game on Cardinal Hayes' Jalen Jenkins' game-winning shot off a high-low with highly recruited senior Chris Obekpa of Our Savior New American. New Heights won five games in all.

"The chemistry is building, guys are getting more confident in their roles, guys are more familiar with one another," coach Kimani Young said. "We defended. We talked about holding

teams under 40 points – that's our goal. When we do that, we give ourselves a chance to win."

They received major contributions from Jenkins and Obekpa, the shot-blocking specialist; Curtis forward Hassan Martin; Christ the King point guard Malik Harmon; and Seton Hall Prep shooting guard Mike Bourke.

Cardinal Hayes junior point guard Tyler Wilson was pivotal, scoring and distributing.

"Tyler's playing with more offensive confidence and I told him, when he's scoring the ball, it just makes us a better team," Young said. "He's such a good passer and a general and a floor leader, but he has to score for those things to be able to happen. He's the key for us to reach our potential."

It was a big performance for the group, which is different from last year's collection of players. That team

made a habit out of winning titles, and Young thinks this edition is similarly capable, if not more so.

"The team is very comparable to the team we had last year," Young said. "It's a different team. I think that obviously what Chris brings to the table changes us a little bit. We can trap, press, we can gamble because he's such a protector of the basket. It's definitely a group I'm having fun coaching."

He hopes it will carry over into the heart of the AAU season. His team has enjoyed solid turnouts, reaching the semifinals of national tournaments such as the Adidas VIP Exclusive Run in Las Vegas and Real Deal in the Rock in Arkansas.

Up next is Rumble in the Bronx the weekend after next followed by a series of trips in June and during the July live recruiting period capped by the Adidas Super 64 in Las Vegas at the end of the month.

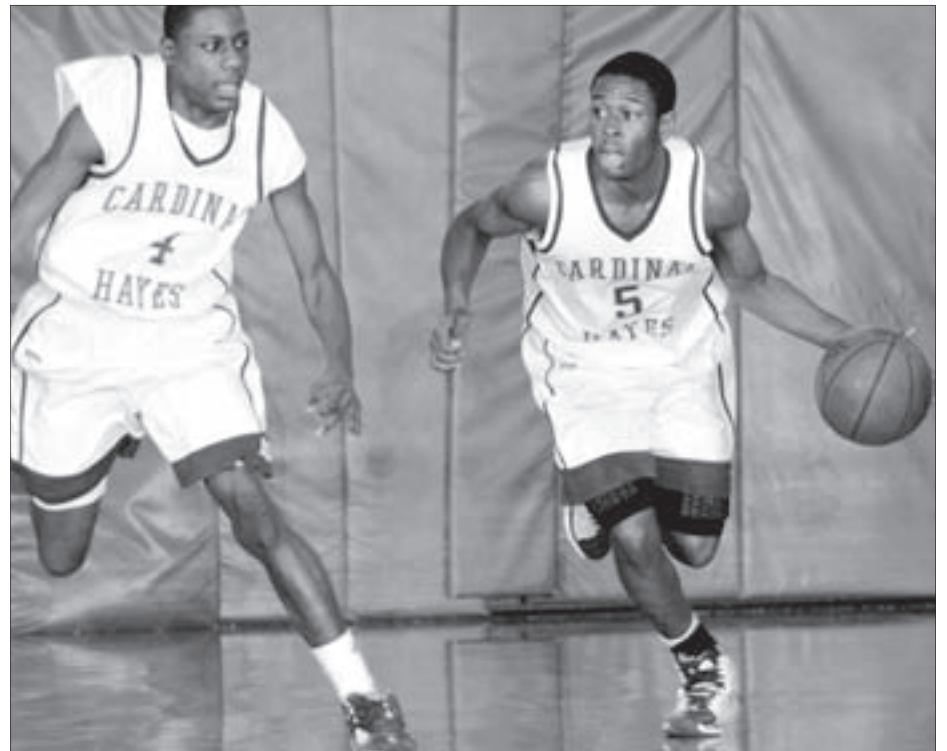


Photo by Denis Gostev

Cardinal Hayes' Tyler Wilson was a major contributor in New Heights' 17U title in the Memorial Day Super 16 Showcase last weekend.

DeMaria saves the day; sends Iona to CHSA finals

BY MARC RAIMONDI

To Joe Finnegan, it was a hit, the game was tied and he had to focus on the next batter.

"I already put it through [into the outfield]," the Iona Prep pitcher said. "I blacked out after that."

Fordham Prep pinch-hitter Paul Pache sent a sharp grounder deep into the hole between short and third for what seemed to be a sure single. Iona shortstop Vinny DeMaria ranged to his right, backhanded it and made a Jeter-esque throw. Pat Decea stretched at first and a sliding Pache was called out to end the game with Kevin Lynch stranded on third.

Sixth-seeded Iona Prep held on for a thrilling, 1-0 win over archrival and No. 4 Fordham Prep in a CHSAA Class AA baseball championship round winner's bracket game Sunday night at St. John's University. The victory puts the Gaels (17-6) in the finals Friday back at Jack Kaiser Stadium and ignited a wild celebration at shortstop.

"My biggest fear since I was a little kid was to be on the bottom of the pile," DeMaria said. "Now I'd give anything to have that feeling again."

Iona Prep is trying to win its first intersectional title since 2003 in legendary coach Fred Gallo's final season. It'll await the winner of an elimination game Tuesday between Fordham Prep

and No. 5 St. Joseph by the Sea.

"Vinny showed up at the end with a big-league play," Gallo said. "Can't be any better."

Meanwhile, Finnegan pitched the game of his life, a five-hit shutout against his team's most hated adversary with a championship berth on the line. Now, Iona will have to be beaten twice to lose the title in the double-elimination format.

And to think Gallo was going to remove Finnegan after the third inning. He hasn't been one of the Gaels' top pitchers this spring, but his classmates wouldn't let Gallo take him out.

"The seniors attacked me," Gallo said.

Added Finnegan: "No shot he was taking me out."

Gallo told Finnegan "prove me wrong" and he set about doing it against one of the best lineups in the league. He didn't strike out a batter, but used his stellar defense to near perfection. Finnegan also walked just one.

"I wanted to be wrong," Gallo said. "I'm usually right – that's what I was afraid of. I told him, keep getting outs and you're staying out there."

It almost all fell apart in the seventh. Finnegan got the first two outs quickly. Then Robbie Lynch smoked a line drive to center. Dan Fischer came in too far and the ball sailed over his head all the

way to the wall. Lynch ended up at third and Finnegan promptly hit Kevin Flynn with a pitch.

Fordham Prep coach Pat Deane then pinch hit Pache for Mick Regan. Pache hit it hard, but evidently too close to the Iona College-bound DeMaria.

"Once I caught it, I said, 'I'm throwing it,'" DeMaria said. "Whether I get him or not, it was worth a try."

Deane adamantly argued the razor-close call at first place. Ironically, Iona got its lone run in the third inning when Fischer was called safe at first on a disputed call that scored Matthew Henry.

Fordham Prep (15-8) meets St. Joseph by the Sea in an elimination game 6 p.m. Tuesday at St. John's for the right to face Iona in the finals. Fordham's A.J. Pinto was almost as good as Finnegan, giving up just three hits and that one unearned run.

It was just 10 days ago that Fordham beat Iona, 9-1, in a first-place division tie-breaker game. Gallo called it the worst performance by his team in his 28 years at the helm.

Now here the Gaels are, going to the finals after winning five straight games, including a stunner over the rival Rams.

"I'm a firm believer," DeMaria said, "that everything happens for a reason."

Fordham Prep wins tennis title

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Fordham Prep doesn't have that one superstar, a singles player who can beat anyone other team's top guns. What the Rams do have is balance and depth – in spades.

"We could put out another two doubles teams and we'd be fine," coach Kevin Pigott said.

That's why they were so confident heading into a rematch with Iona Prep, the team they fell to during the regular season. Fordham Prep hit its stride at the right

time and knocked off its rival, 3-2, to win the program's first CHSAA Class AA championship since 1997 on Tuesday at the Billie Jean King USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing.

"The kids were psyched," Pigott said. "It's an exciting thing."

Fordham fell in first and second singles, but prevailed in the two doubles match and also third singles. Freshman third singles Andrew Hauser pulled out a gutsy performance over Justin Cramer,

6-2, 7-5. Pigott called that one of the keys to the Rams title.

"He went for the jugular," the coach said. "I'm watching this freshman and you could just see from his body language when it was 5-5, I thought he was done. But somehow he pulled it off."

Alex Parisi and Dillon Breuning beat Will McMillian and Ryan Kinchoe, 6-0, 6-2, at first doubles and Neeson Dailey and Dan Neeson defeated Will Burke

Continued on next page



Photo courtesy of the Zodiacs

Coach Francis and coach Dinkins, with winners of the bantam boys 100 meter race.

ZODIAC TRACK TEAM RESULTS

Compete in Youth Challenge #3

BY WINSTON DINKINS

On Saturday, May 20, the Zodiacs competed in the Youth Challenge Series #3 at Icahn Stadium (Randall's Island), which hosted the trials for the Adidas Grand Prix for 7 and 8 years old fastest kid in the 100 meters and the Youth Girls and Boys 4 x 400 meter race.

The lead off athlete for the 4 x 400 youth girls relay tripped and fell to the ground. One official tried to stop the race, but when he notified the starter, there was no more bullets in his piston (to stop a race, the starter shoots his piston a second time). At this time, the Zodiac athlete got up and started running and the officials let the race continue. The other girls were too far for the Zodiac athlete to catch. A protest was issued and the committee director of the Adidas Grand Prix will allow the Zodiac Youth Girl's Relay Team to compete at the Adidas Grand Prix. The Zodiacs Track Team wishes to say thanks to the meet director of the Youth Challenge Louis Vazquez and the meet director of the Adidas Grand Prix.

On Saturday, May 26, the Zodiacs hosted the Eliza-

beth Gaynor/Robert Taylor Track Meet Invitation and it was a great success. There was plenty of food, from jerk chicken, fried chicken, burgers, hot dogs, peas and rice, sea food salad, chicken salad, ices and much more. Some of the best teams from the tri-state area competed and performed well.

The Zodiacs thank the following teams for bringing their athletes to the track meet: Metro Eagles Track Club (TC), Jeuness TC, Envy TC, Ruff Kutz TC, Metropolis TC, Quiet Storm TC, New Horizon TC, Awesome Power TC, Truman HS, New Horizon TC, Extreme Runners TC, East New York Impalas TC, Bronx Tigers TC, Equality Charter School, Speedy World TC, Rising Stars and Success Academy Charter School.

Special thanks to the out-of-town teams that came: Team East Orange, Morris County TC and Bergen County TC and the many local and out of town unattached athletes. We would like to thank the coaches of the Ruff Kutz TC, Bronx Tigers TC, Envy TC and Rising Stars TC for lending a hand to make the meet a success.

Also, special thanks

to the Zodiacs alumni and officials who set up the races, which was no easy task. They had to organize over 400 children for their events, (3000 meters, 1500m, 800m, 400m, 200m, 100m/ finals, babies' race, shot put and long jump.

The staff, parents and friends worked extremely hard to make this meet a success, from working at finish line, to preparing and selling food or working at the registration table, setting up hurdles or equipment to coaching our children. It was a total team effort.

Join one of New York's top track and field teams. The Zodiacs compete all year round in multiple events from Cross Country to In-door and Out-door Track and Field meets. The children learn how to balance sports and education. If you have or know of any children between the ages of 6 and 16, who are looking to utilize track and field to improve their horizon, contact president Thomas Francis at (718) 679-2060 or co-president Winston Dinkins at (914) 441-6196, email WATCLT@AOL.COM or visit our web site www.ZODIACSTRACK.ORG



Photo courtesy of the Zodiacs

Coach Dinkins (middle) presented shirts to our National Champions Aaliyah Wajid (left) and Andrea Amoroso (right).

Zodiac Bantam Div. competes in Queens

BY WINSTON DINKINS

. On Saturday, June 2, the Zodiac's Bantam Division and older competed in the Mid Atlantic Track & Field meet at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens, NY.

On Sunday, June 3, the Sub-Bantam and younger competed at the Primary Invitational Track Meet in Red Hook Brooklyn. At both meets, they performed well and won many awards.

On Saturday, June 2, some of the Zodiacs ran with their schools in the NYC DOE Elementary & Middle School Championship. The top three in their event and division was awarded medals and earned the right to say that they are the best in the city. The following athletes medaled: Darius Gordon, 1st place in the 1600 meter run and 2nd place in the long jump. Josephine Kendall took 3rd in the 6th grade 400 meter race. Oliver Morgan won the 6th grade 100 meter race and took 2nd place in the 200 meter race. Marion Osie-Boateng was part of the 1st place 7th/8th grade girls 4 x 100 relay.

On Saturday, June 9, the Zodiacs have 10 athletes participating in the Adidas Grand Prix for 7 & 8 years old fastest kid in the 100 me-

ters and the Youth Girls and Boys 4 x 400 meter race.

They will be on the field with some of the best in the world, such as Jason Richardson, Jesse Williams, Aries Merritt, Sanya Richards-Ross and Tyreek Hill, who last weekend set the track world on fire with a scorching double of 10.19 at 100 meters and 20.14 for 200 meters at the Golden South Classic. To work-out and compete next to the best athletes in the world, will be great for the Zodaics. Tickets are now available at adidasgrandprix.com or by calling 1-877-849-8722.

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Pipe Dreams: Ax-man cometh; Knucklehead award

From page 29

a plan.

Nova-Coates

I looked at Ivan Nova's (3-yrs.; 23-8; 4.27 ERA) career and how it seems that the Yankees always seem to hit well behind him and it reminded me of retired NY right hander Jim Coates.

Coates' 9-yrs show a 43-22 overall record but 37-15 in 5-yrs in NY. His 9-yr ERA was 4.00 but his NY ERA was 3.64. The Yankee bats came alive when he pitched.

It seems Nova has had the same effect in regard to Yank hitting. He has a 23-8 record and a, not-so-stellar, ERA OF 4.27.

Changing Of The Guard

"The old order changes," wrote Tom Boswell (DC Post). "Often, it's hard to know who is arriving. But it's usually clear who's leaving. This time it's the Red Sox, Yankees and Phillies.

Don't say "goodbye" to these household-name teams; they have the most wins in baseball over the last nine years. But feel free to say "see you around," as in, see you around second, third or fourth place but not much on the top of the heap for several years.

The most basic reason the Yanks, Red Sox and Phils have had mundane springs can be found in the simplest location: the disabled list. The better you are, the harder you probably play.

The further you advance in postseason, the more games you endure, year after year. Parades have a price.

The inevitable link between age and injury is only exacerbated by long contracts. Success in baseball forges its own anchors. Sooner or later, almost every World Series winner, hoping to keep everybody happy, signs a contract so long and so dumb that, with hindsight, you can hardly believe it."

NBA West

San Antonio is going up against Oklahoma City and Bruce Jenkins is rooting for the Thunder to beat Greg Popovich, Tim Duncan, and Tony Parker. He wrote, "We can only hope it goes seven. In the wake of injuries, thugery, dissention and incompetence we've seen too often in the playoffs so far, we could all use a break."

The Ax-man Cometh

The Orlando Magic fired their coach Stan Van Gundy and "split" with GM Otis Smith. So I guess that Dwight Howard won their power struggle.

It's always easier to swallow the salaries of the coach and GM than eat the salary of the player.

I Have To Say It

Lupica (NY Daily News) had a really good thought when he said that the Orlando Magic should ask Donnie Walsh to be the general manager. I agree.

Auerbach's Damnation

Frank Fitzpatrick (Philly Inquirer) wrote a letter he might have written to Red Auerbach in his column. "I thought," he composed, "I'd write because I wasn't sure they had wireless in hell."

He is just as mad at Auerbach as I still am. All of those Boston wins in the 60's and 70's sting and that infernal victory cigar, that infernal cigar still smells badly. "I don't know how the eternal-damnation works, but if you ever get a day off from the brimstone and suffering, please reply. I'm not expecting you too, though. I hear the mail service is horrible in hell, even though the place is teeming with disgruntled postal workers."

Perry Posts

Dwight Perry (Seattle Times) sent along these posts: "Talk about astronomical: Houston's Astrodome cost \$35 million in 1965 to build. It would cost \$70 million to demolish it now.

Eugene Polley, inventor of the TV remote control, has died at age 96. Couch potatoes immediately honored him with a mute-button moment of silence."

Knucklehead Of-The-Week

Scott Ostler (SF Chronicle) nominated the Raiders' new coach Dennis Allen for the award Memorial Day Weekend. He wrote, "The Raiders' new coach - and gen-

eral manager Reggie McKenzie - vowed to change the Raider image and build with character. No criminals or outlaws.

Allen says his players won't necessarily be held accountable for "pastsins," those committed prior to his hiring. Really? As long as a Raiders player hasn't shot at anyone in the last couple months, or his crime wasn't committed on company property, he's good to go?

Somewhere, Al Davis is winking."

Safeguards

There have been many reports about the presences of CTE (Chronic Trauma Encephalopathy) with regard to head injuries suffered by athletes.

More than one retired NFL player has said that he wasn't going to allow his children play school football. Naturally these statements elicited replies that said, "So and So made a lot of money playing football in the NFL and now he's turning his back on the league."

Of course these people would never allow their children ride in an automobile without being strapped in or being in a car seat.

Theme Song

"RJ Currie has a theme song," Greg Drinnan (Kamloops News) wrote. "Suggestion for the New Jersey Devils' playoff run: 'He ain't heavy, he's my Brodeur.'"

Msgr. Scanlan catcher's walk-off clinches title

From page 29

John's Prep (8-8) answered back. Carlos Mayorga walked with one out against Scanlan reliever Joel Paulino, moved to second on a Mike Aspen-

leiter walk, took third on Michael Perez's single and scored on an error to tie the game at 1.

The blown save spoiled a great outing by Lozano, who

gave up one run on four hits with five strikeouts in six innings. The lone run came in the first on an Edwin Vidal RBI double, but the senior right-hander settled down to allow just two more hits. Fernandez drove in Scanlan's first run on an RBI single, also in the first inning.

In between, there were twists and turns. Adams gave up just the three runs with nine strikeouts, but Scanlan had seven hits and ample opportunities to score. Aspenleiter threw out three runners at the plate, including two on the same play - a rare feat - in the fourth inning. Lozano was right on Julius Ubarri's heels and Vidal, the catcher, tagged them both out one after another.

Del Valle could laugh about it afterward. This was his first title as head coach after his older brother, Kevin, led the Crusaders to the crown in 2010. Kevin is now the Salesian coach and he was watching from the bleachers Sunday as his brother took home another crown.

"I just had to get it done to calm the heckling down at the dinner table," Keith Del Valle said.

Fernandez needed to do it for himself, to erase the nightmares from last season.

"It bothered me up until that at bat right there," Fernandez said. ... "When I got to first base, I teared up. It's probably the last time I'm gonna play with those guys. I love them."

Fordham takes tennis cup

From previous page

and Brendan Rooney, 6-2, 6-4, in second doubles.

Iona Prep's Decklon Cunningham beat Oscar Magalong, 6-3, 6-3, in first singles and David Commender was victorious over Rob Gittings, 6-4, 6-4. But Fordham prevailed anyway. It was the deeper, more balanced squad and will take its momentum into the Mayor's Cup this

weekend back in Flushing.

Pigott isn't sure what seed his team will receive, but is hoping for something in the top five or six. Fordham is usually in the tournament, but typically at No. 8.

With the CHSAA title the Rams could be higher. They have yet to advance past the Mayor's Cup quarterfinals in Pigott's 10-year tenure.

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Give your best pooch free exam on Sunday

BY KIRSTEN SANCHEZ

Be a responsible pet owner, bring your four legged family members to a free health clinic for dogs.

Dog owners can save money by bringing their pets to a free health clinic on Sunday, June 10 at Fordham Plaza in the Bronx.

The rain date for the event will be Sunday, June 17.

The clinic, sponsored by the Mayor's Alliance for NYC Animals, Low Cost Vet Mobile, ASPCA and Animal Care and Control of NYC, will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with no pre-registration necessary.

Dogs will receive free DHPP and rabies vaccines along with identification tags and microchips.

Jane Hoffman, president of the Mayor's Alliance, said the vaccines serve many purposes.

"DHPP prevents common dog diseases such as distemper and parvo, but also protects them against dog viruses as well," Hoffman said.

"The rabies vaccination is important, number one, because it is the law, and number two, to protect our dogs if they happen to come in contact with other dogs or wildlife that may have rabies."

Hoffman said microchipping is important because if a person's dog happens to get lost and wind up with animal control, staff can scan the microchip and return the dog to its owner.

The alliance will attempt to do six more clinics for dogs and cats this summer.

"As long as we can continue to do this, we would love to keep

doing it," Hoffman said. "It really is a good deal, if a pet owner was to take their pet to a clinic and had to pay for these services it would cost them hundreds of dollars. Here, you are getting it for free."

Cineplex theater property sold to mall developer

From page 1

some other use that would require a great deal of new construction and excavation at the site, it might require extensive environmental remediation as well, McQuade added.

"The whole parking lot is built on swamp land," McQuade said. "And the property would likely be tagged for environmental remediation because it is so close to Westchester Creek. Their outflow is right into the creek."

The addition of still another shopping center, with construction on the Hutchinson River Parkway service road of a new Target and several other stores, in addition to a nearby Home

Depot, Pepsi bottling plant, and other industrial business on Brush Avenue, would further strain the infrastructure, McQuade said.

Local businessman and CB 10 member Bob Bieder speculated that it is likely that any tax abatements issued for the construction of the movie theater may have expired, and the land may have needed to be sold.

"Lightstone Group is an investment company and this is a place for them to put money," Bieder said. "They are chomping on properties, looking to invest their money somewhere."

Bronx Times Reporter columnist and historian Bill Twomey said that the



Photo by Patrick Rocchio

The Whitestone Cinemas property at 2505 Bruckner Boulevard has been sold.

first drive-in opened in New Jersey in 1933, but the Whitestone Drive-In opened at the height of the public's interest in drive-ins before

experiencing a decline in the 1970s.

"I remember going there as a kid," Twomey said. "Many people would

pile into the car because they charged something like 50 cents per car, and then once they were inside, they would pile out."

Drug rehab facility operator has a shaky record

From page 1

Project Return plans to renovate the now-vacant building that formerly housed Balfor Industries.

"Based on the information that has been relayed to my office, I have serious concerns about Project Renewal's ability to move into the Wakefield/Woodlawn area in good standing with the community," Klein said. "Recent news accounts, combined with the claims made in these lawsuits, have only heightened my concerns."

As an agency, Project Renewal is not what it purports to be, charged Community Board 12's chairman, Father Richard Gorman.

He said he believes the facility could be too large, where residents are bullied by other residents - one of the allegations the Post reported at Geffner House - if it is not properly managed.

"I don't feel that it is the type of operator that we would want doing this work in our neighborhood," Gorman said.

He said "herding" people who are homeless, have mental problems or drug addition into buildings with over 100 beds and creating a "homeless colony" is not an effective way to deal with that population.

Wakefield Taxpayers & Civic League leader Mary Lauro said she takes issue with the fact that this building is about 50 yards from the former Muller Army Reserve Center at 555 Niered Avenue, also a proposed site for homeless housing, and

I don't feel that it is the type of operator that we would want doing this work in our neighborhood.

Father Richard Gorman

also about four blocks away from another facility for homeless individuals that will be opening on White Plains Road.

Her group and the Woodlawn Heights Taxpayers and Community Association have collected hundreds of petition signatures opposing the facility, she said.

Department of Homeless Services spokeswoman Heather Janik, who spoke on behalf of Project Renewal when their spokeswoman declined comment, said that



Photo by Patrick Rocchio

A building that used to house Balfor Industries at 4380 Bronx Boulevard may soon be home to a 108-bed chemical dependency treatment program.

outreach has been conducted.

"Homeless Services has had extensive meetings with community and elected

officials surrounding this facility," Janik said. "We will continue to outreach to them throughout the process. As with all our facili-

ties, Homeless Services only opens a shelter when all applicable state and local laws and regulations have been met."

Tips for whitening your smile professionally or at home

BY DR. WILLIAM WOLFSON

Our office is all about helping patients achieve their most beautiful smiles. We believe every person should have teeth that he or she is proud to show off to the world. One of the easiest and most effective cosmetic options available today is teeth whitening.

Technically the term "teeth whitening" refers to removing debris and plaque from the surface of teeth to restore them to their natural colors. However, we often use the term teeth whitening in common vernacular to mean teeth bleaching or using carbamide or hydrogen peroxide to whiten teeth beyond their natural shades.

Teeth bleaching formulations are available for at home and professional

Dental Diary

uses. Professional whitening products are more effective (they have a higher concentration of peroxide). Consequently, they also whiten teeth faster than at-home products; patients see results after just one or two appointments. On the other hand, over time all whitening or bleaching procedures will eventually get your teeth to almost the same white shade. In office bleaching, however, will get the best and fastest results.

At-home products are weaker formulations; so

many patients have to use them every day for weeks or months to see results. Higher concentrations of bleach can not be used in a home setting. The chemicals can burn the soft tissues of the mouth. This is why most patients will not be able to achieve optimal whiteness with over the counter products alone, but they may be able to whiten dental enamel a number of shades. Because

these products are less effective they are also generally less expensive and many patients enjoy that these products are easy to use at the patient's convenience.

When a dentist or dental hygienist administers teeth whitening treatment, he or she is able to control the level of whiteness achieved, and make certain that the chemicals and bleaching agents never

touch your sensitive soft tissues. Often a masking chemical is painted on the gum tissue to protect it from the bleaching agents. Your dentist will also be able to minimize tooth sensitivity and irritation by tailoring your bleaching treatment to you. If you have been considering whitening your teeth, you should consult with your dentist before pursuing treatment. Your

dentist can tell you if your mouth is healthy enough for cosmetic work, and he or she can help you determine how you can whiten your teeth most effectively.

Just mention this article. Dr. William Wolfson is the director of Morris Park Dental Associates, located at 960 Morris Park Ave. Just dial (718) D-R-S-M-I-L-E or 718-377-6453 to schedule an appointment.

Lincoln unit is certified

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center announced that its palliative care services have successfully met all the rigorous safety and quality standards set by the Joint Commission in order to receive the national accreditation agency's two-year Advanced Certification – its highest level of distinction for palliative care programs. This recognition makes Lincoln one of only 12 hospitals in U.S., one of two in New York City, and the only one in the Bronx, to have demonstrated the highest commitment to excellence, and the patient and family-centered care that is vital to ensure a good quality of life for patients and families facing the complexities of serious illness, chronic pain and end of life.

The Joint Commission's new Advanced Certification Program for Palliative Care is designed to recognize inpatient programs that have a formal, organized palliative care team of experts who work together with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. To achieve certification, hospitals must also demonstrate strong leadership support, a focus on patient and family engagement, a process to support care coordination

and communication across all levels of care and providers involved with the patient, and the use of evidenced-based national guidelines.

Lincoln Hospital's Palliative Care program has been in operation since 2004 and is directed by Abdul Mondul, M.D., Chief of Palliative Care, along with a specialized team of doctors, nurses, social workers, a psychologist and a spiritual counselor. The program is designed to ensure a seamless coordination of care with the patient's entire medical care team – including primary care physicians, nutritionists, rehabilitation specialists and community organizations. It is offered to patients of any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and is not limited to patients at the end of life who choose to forgo medical interventions. It is also provided along with the appropriate curative treatments and with a focus on chronic pain management. Over the past three years, the hospital has experienced a steady increase in the demand for inpatient palliative care consultation. To date, the Palliative Team has been involved in the care of more than 3,000 patients with advanced diseases -- 97% of those patients are members of minority populations.

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