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Dec. 29-Jan. 4, 2012

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SOUNDVIEW'S END APPEARS CERTAIN

Co-op City's post offices get reprieve

BY VITO SIGNORILE

The delayed closings of Co-op City's post offices are providing the community more time to reverse the United States Postal Service decision.

A late October report stated that the USPS would continue to close locations throughout the country due to a large budget deficit, including Co-op City's Einstein Post Office at 127 Einstein Loop and Dreiser Loop Post Office at 179 Dreiser Loop.

Congressman Joe Crowley, who has been fighting against the USPS closings within his district, joined hundreds of local residents on Monday, November 14 in front of the Einstein Post Office for the first of many rallies to keep Co-op City's post offices open.

On Tuesday, December 13, Crowley announced that the USPS has delayed the closure or consolidation of thousands of post offices throughout the country, including Co-op City's two locations, until May 2012.

"With the holidays just days away, this decision is welcome news for families in the Bronx. While this decision does not mean our postal facilities are in the clear, it does allow for more time to seek alternatives to help the USPS meet its financial obliga-

Continued on page 18



Photo courtesy of CASA

Residents Take Sheridan Avenue Landlord To Court

Residents of 1520 Sheridan Avenue protest outside their building on Tuesday, December 20. They have been without gas since August and went to Bronx Housing Court to pressure landlord Chestnut Holdings to restore the service. See story on page 4.

Judge rules state can stop Medicaid

BY BILL WEISBROD

The lawsuit to keep Soundview Health Center in New York State's Medicaid program has hit a dead end.

On Thursday, December 22, Bronx Supreme Court Judge Mark Friedlander ruled that he had no authority to overturn the state's decision to remove Soundview, which was founded by former Senator Pedro Espada, from Medicaid.

Earlier this year, the State Department of Health and Office of the Medicaid Inspector General ruled that Soundview did not have a legitimate Medicaid compliance program. Soundview's lawyers tried fighting the ruling in court, but Friedlander's decision effectively ends that battle.

Soundview received approximately $10 million from the Medicaid program last year, and will struggle to stay open without the financial support.

Continued on page 18

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Four organizations to run probation program

BY BILL WEISBROD

The Department of Probation has named the four organizations that will implement the Bronx portion of a pair of city-wide programs aimed at helping young men in the criminal justice system.

SoBro, The Fortune Society and the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services each received contracts to implement the Young Adult Justice Scholars Program in community boards 1 through 6, and 9. They will work towards pushing young Bronxites towards completing their GEDs and higher education.

The Osborne Association will run the Young Adult Justice Community Program in community boards 1 through 3, and will look to get young men more involved in their communities and attempt to direct them towards stable careers.

Both programs are funded through the mayor's $127 million-dollar Young Men's Initiative, which is designed to improve outcomes or young black and Latino males in New York City.

Exact terms of the contracts were not disclosed, but each runs for three years, beginning in January, 2012. The programs will receive a total of $3.9 worth of funding each year, spread out across the entire city.

The ultimate goal of the two programs is to keep young men who are in the criminal justice system from going back into, or from ever entering prison. Most participants will be referrals from the Department of Probation.

Each organization will run the programs differently. SoBro, for example, will be focusing on preparing participants for the GED exam. It is also working on a "leadership development component," which will help participants with issues such as time management, anger management and understanding their personal decision-making processes.

SoBro will run the program out of its main office on Bergen Avenue between East 149th Street and Westchester Avenue.

The Fortune Society will bring young Bronxites out to its headquarters in western Queens. It will offer small cash incentives for achieving academic goals, such as advancing a grade level or a perfect attendance record.

The Osborne Association, which is based on Westchester Avenue in Longwood, will be the only agency in the Bronx implementing the Justice Community program. It will only touch on academics through a GED component.

Eric Legrand fundraiser at Yankee Bar & Grill

The Yankee Bar & Grill located at 844 River Avenue, and its owners Nick Madio and Tracey Madio, are opening their doors for a fundraiser for the The Eric Legrand Patriot Saint Foundation, on Friday, December 30, beginning at 11 a.m.

Eric LeGrand was paralyzed in a college football game last year. He played for Rutgers University. His injury touched the hearts of thousands of people because of his desire and courage to move forward. When LeGrand rejoined his teammates in a wheelchair on the field at another game, it was voted by Sports Illustrated fans as the 2011 Sports Moment of the Year.

The Eric Legrand Patriot Saint Foundation was started to help with financial needs for him and his family.

The foundation and Legrand will be selling his apparel during the Pinstripe Bowl, where Rutgers will be playing Iowa State.

Food and beverage discounts will be given to everyone who supports the fundraiser.

2 Bronx art groups win $35K awards

BY BILL WEISBROD

Two Bronx arts organizations are $35,000 richer after being named winners of Union Square Arts Awards.

BombaYo Youth Project, which started in Fordham, promotes Afro Puerto Rican dance and music was awarded. The other recipient - Young Urban Christian Artists (YUCA) is a Highbridge-based free graphic design program for high school students.

They were among six organizations from across the city to be recognized with the Union Square Arts Awards, which are given out each year to arts organizations that work with youth and families in low-income communities.

For all the students BombaYo has helped, cofounder Jose Ortiz said the program actually saved his own life 12 years ago.

"I was depressed and I was going through a lot of stuff, so I wanted to do something for myself and when I thought about that I decided I wanted to drum," Ortiz said. "I had always wanted to do that, and it was a transformation."

Ortiz was a supervising school aid at P.S./M.S. 279 on Walton Avenue, so instead of taking up the instrument on his own, he started a drumming group with the school's students. That became the basis for BombaYo. By 2004, Ortiz was taking students throughout the borough, and the city to perform.

"People kept calling us and asking us to play," Ortiz said. "A lot of older people were very appreciative. They said 'you really remind me of Puerto Rico' and they really enjoyed seeing a lot of young people playing traditional music."

Ortiz met BombaYo cofounder Melinda Gonzalez while playing a concert at Hostos Community College. In 2006, they officially formed BombaYo, as a program for high school students. Participants are selected through an audition process and receive a $2,000 stipend for playing with the group throughout the summer.

Ortiz also gives free drum classes for senior citizens at the Betances Community Center on St. Ann's Avenue every other Wednesday night. He lives in Belmont, but BombaYo does not have a set home. So Ortiz plans to use the award to find a permanent rehearsal and teaching space.



Photos Courtesy of Union Square Awards

BombaYo cofounders Melinda Gonzalez (l) and Jose Ortiz (c) accept the Union Square Arts Award during a ceremony at Riverside Church in Manhattan on Friday, December 2.

YUCA was started in 2006 at Harvest Fields Community Church on East Tremont Avenue by William Acevedo, a professional graphic designer. His thesis at Pratt Institute was on how companies market to youth through images, and the social responsibility that goes along with that.

"I was thinking we could use our skills for selling more than soap. Along with selling products we can use this to really transform communities and bring people together," Acevedo said. "I was attending that church and it occurred to me to do some art classes there."

By 2010 the program had outgrown that space, moved to the Highbridge Community Church on Ogden Avenue.

Students participate in four ten-week cycles throughout the year, with about 25 students per cycle. They learn about painting, screen printing, drawing, as well as consumer-oriented graphic design. Students come from all over the Bronx, and many have gone on to attend Art and Design High School in Manhattan.

"We'll always take the money," Acevedo said about the award. "But it's really the recognition."



William Acevedo, founder of YUCA, accepts the Union Square Arts Award during a ceremony at Riverside Church in Manhattan on Friday, December 2.

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Sheridan Avenue tenants head to court

Building has lacked gas service since August fire

BY BILL WEISBROD

Sheridan Avenue residents, frustrated with the lack of gas in their building since August, have taken their landlord to court.

About 35 tenants of 1520 Sheridan have joined with non profits Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) and Urban Justice Center to take building owner Chestnut Holdings to Bronx Housing Court, where they are demanding immediate action to turn the building's gas back on.

The parties first met in court on Thursday, December 15, when Chestnut's lawyers initially asked for an adjournment. They convened again for a hearing on Thursday, December 22 at which point the building management company claimed gas would be back on by the end of February.

"The tenants and I echoed to the judge (Jerald Klein), that's completely unacceptable," said Urban Justice Center lawyer Sadia Rahman, who is representing the tenants.

Residents held a protest in front of the building on Tuesday, December 20. They are due back in housing court on Tuesday, January 17.

A fire occurred in early August. Aside from cutting off all gas service to the building, it also displaced residents of 14 of the building's 72 units.

CASA, which is based in the Bronx, started working with the residents of 1520 Sheridan in mid-October. The residents found out abut the organization through their neighbors at 1504 Sheridan, a Chestnut-owned building that shares the same Mount Eden block as 1520 and has also experienced fire-related problems. They began working with CASA in mid October.

> We're taking the landlord to court so we can get service. We have a lot of elderly people, a lot of sick people, we demand to be treated with respect.
>
> **Betty Velez**

"We were talking about what was wrong at 1504 and what's wrong here," said 66-year-old resident Nilda Hock. "About how we didn't have any gas since (Saturday) August 6, the big fire."

The biggest issue for the tenants who remain in the building is their inability to use gas to cook.

"We're spending a lot of money going out or bothering people," said Hock, who has lived in the building for nearly 40 years. "And the electricity is high, because we use hot plates."

Tenants also claim heat and hot water have been spotty at best, turning on for less than an hour each day.

Betty Velez lives at the six-story building with her two great grandsons aged 7 and 10, and an 8-year-old granddaughter. She said the lack of gas ruined any plans for a holiday celebration at home.

"We had no Thanksgiving, we had no Christmas," the 64-year-old said. "We're spending so much money sending out for food. We're taking the landlord to court so we can get service. We have a lot of elderly people, a lot of sick people, we demand to be treated with respect."

Tamara Czyzyk, director of housing organizing for CASA, said that the lack of gas problem is common, and the longer landlords drag their feet, the longer tenants are forced to wait.

"We've seen a lot of fires in the Bronx, or problems with gas lines and we've seen what landlords do," she said. "It's a long process."

Calls to a law firm representing Chestnut Holdings were not returned.

BORICUA COLLEGE

Established in the early 1970s, Boricua College focuses on the needs of Puerto Rican and Latino students in New York City, while serving a diverse population of students from all over the metro area. Fields of study include childhood education, human services, business administration, liberal arts and sciences, and inter-American studies. ◆ The college employs one of the largest concentrations of Latino bilingual professionals in the city, including 130 full-time and 100 part-time faculty and staff members. Boricua is a broad-based source of expert knowledge about Latin America, the Caribbean and the experience of Puerto Rican and Latino immigrants in the Big Apple. ◆ The most exciting new development is the Bronx Campus, a 14-story tower that houses the college's academic and administrative offices as well as a 260-seat theater, a museum, a cultural center, a library, a high school, a college prep program, and an after-school program for children of Boricua students. ◆ The new vertical campus can serve 2,000 full-time students and will be a part of Boricua Village, which includes 700 units of affordable and moderate housing, underground parking, retail space and a plaza.
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POLICE BLOTTER

40th PCT.

MON, NOV. 28th, 3:30 p.m. – Jackson Ave. and East 149 St. A woman was arrested after having a dispute with a city bus driver. It is charged that the driver told the female passenger that dogs were not permitted on the bus. The female proceeded to spit on the city worker. He driver then punched the woman in her face. The woman was arrested and transported to Jacobi Medical Center for treatment of a cut to her lip.

MON, NOV. 28th, 5:00 p.m. – East 149 St. and Third Ave. Local detectives are looking for a Hispanic male. The unknown culprit staged a strong armed robbery before fleeing the area.

MON, NOV. 28th, 11:35 p.m. – 225 East 149 St. A parking attendant was robbed by two black males. The armed pair removed three-hundred dollars in cash in addition to the victim's wallet. Police officers searched the area, but the search proved negative.

THURS, DEC. 1st, 4:55 p.m. – College Ave. and East 146 St. Police arrested another teenager. This time a 17 year old black male was taken into custody after being found with a 380-caliber pistol. The weapon was taken away from the teen.

THURS, DEC. 1st, 10:30 p.m. – East 156 St. and Tinton Ave. Authorities are looking into a shooting. A 20 year old black male arrived at Lincoln Medical Center with a bullet wound to the back in critical condition.

41st PCT.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 3:00 a.m. – 945 East 163 St. Police investigators are looking into an incident where a victim was slashed during a robbery. The victim lost a cellphone during the incident but was also treated at St. Barnabas Hospital for a slash wound to the face.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 7:35 a.m. – Timpson Pl. and East 149 St. A male required medical attention after being attacked. Apparently two male ran up to the victim, stabbing him before fleeing.

TUES, NOV. 29th, 6:05 p.m. – 1232 Prospect Ave. A 16 year old male was arrested by local police officers. The teen was found in possession of a 357-caliber revolver. The gun was taken away from the teen and vouched as evidence.

42nd PCT.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 11:45 p.m. – 1291 Union Ave. Authorities launched an inquiry into a multi-victim assault. Officials report that the five victims were either stabbed or slashed during the incident. Three of the victims were transported to St. Barnabas Hospital while the other two victims were taken to Lincoln Medical Center.

FRI, DEC. 2nd, 8:15 p.m. – 997 Southern Blvd. Police investigators are looking into an incident where a 20 year old black woman was the victim. The young woman was suffering from a bullet wound to the chest upon arriving at Lincoln Medical Center in critical condition.

43rd PCT.

TUES, NOV. 29th, 12:15 a.m. – 870 Rosedale Ave. Police officers patrolling the area from the Bronx Task Force arrested a Hispanic male who failed to have a license for a gun that was in his possession. The 43-caliber semi-automatic pistol was taken away from the 33 year old man and vouched as evidence.

TUES, NOV. 29th, 12:15 a.m. – 870 Rosedale Ave. Police investigators are looking into a shooting that sent a male to Jacobi Medical Center. The injured male had been shot twice in the leg. The victim was reported to be stable condition.

WED, NOV. 30th, 6:05 a.m. – Leland Ave. and Archer St. The medical staff at Jacobi Medical Center came to the aid of a 35 year old Hispanic female. The woman had been slashed once to the left side of the neck. Police are looking to question a black male.

44th PCT.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 4:40 a.m. – 1142 College Ave. Three suspects were arrested by police officers looking into a shooting. A 20 year old black male was shot once in the left arm. The victim was taken to Lincoln Medical Center for care. A gun was recovered by police.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 6:10 a.m. – East 167 St. and College Ave. A 28 year old black male was arrested after being found with a gun. Taken away from the male culprit was a 9-mm pistol. The weapon was vouched as evidence.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 9:00 p.m. – 190 West 170 St. Police investigators are looking into a home invasion. Two armed Hispanic males entered a home being occupied by two families. At gunpoint the two culprits took fifty-dollars and two watches from the families.

TUES, NOV. 29th, 2:15 p.m. – 3125 Park Ave. A 25 year old woman was transported to Lincoln Medical Center after being shot. While waiting for an elevator, the woman was shot in the leg. She was reported to be in stable condition. Local detectives are conducting the inquiry.

WED, NOV. 30th, 7:50 p.m. – 1177 Anderson Ave. Six police officers were injured while trying to assist an emotionally disturbed person. Once in custody, after being Taser, the person was transported to Lincoln Medical Center. The injured police officers were treated at Lincoln, Bronx Lebanon Hospital, and also Westchester Square Hospital.

THURS, DEC. 1st, 6:15 a.m. – 1001 Woodycrest Ave. Police officers were made aware of the non-suspicious death of a two-year old Hispanic boy. The infant was born with health issues authorities indicated.

45th PCT.

THURS, DEC. 1st, 2:15 a.m. – 120 Asch Loop. Authorities were called after a 62 year old black male apparently took his own life. The man jumped from the 25th floor to his death from a building in Co-op City.

46th PCT.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 7:35 a.m. – 2350 Creston Ave. Police investigators are looking into the death of a Hispanic male. The male, believed to be in his twenties, apparently jumped from a building's roof to his death.

WED, NOV. 30th, 6:15 a.m. – 150 East 182 St. Authorities are searching for three suspects in connect with an armed home invasion. Displaying a gun besides a knife the trio stopped the victim while in the building lobby. The male was forced back into his apartment where the robbery occurred.

FRI, DEC. 2nd, 6:50 p.m. – 365 Ford St. An inquiry was launched by detectives looking into a reported robbery. A 42 year old Hispanic male was kicked and punched by several unknown males. The man had just completed a delivery at the building when he was attacked. The culprits fled with an unknown amount of cash.

47th PCT.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 8:35 p.m. – 4129 White Plains Rd. A search was conducted for a black male. The unknown culprit apparently used a chair to strike a worker over the head. The thief then ripped the cash register off the counter. After breaking the cash register open, the thief fled with two-hundred dollars in cash.

TUES, NOV. 29th, 7:50 p.m. – 1421 Needham Ave. Detectives are looking into a push-in robbery that netted the culprits in the area of $30,000 in cash. Posing as delivery men, the two male culprits pushed their way into the home.

TUES, NOV. 29th, 10:55 p.m. – 3998 White Plains Rd. Police sleuths are looking into the robbery of a commercial premise. At gunpoint the culprits were able to escape with three-hundred dollars in cash.

WED, NOV. 30th, 1:45 p.m. – 4428 Dereimer Ave. Authorities are looking for two males who robbed the home of a female. The mask wearing culprits at gunpoint pushed the female victim back into her home. The two culprits fled with an unknown amount of jewelry.

SAT, DEC. 3rd, 4:40 p.m. – 3218 Eastchester Rd. A 40 year old black male was transported to Jacobi Medical Center after being attacked. The man arrived suffering from a stab wound to the left shoulder.

48th PCT.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 3:40 a.m. – Webster Ave. and East 175 St. A 20 year old male was arrested when police found him in possession of a gun. Taken away from the young male was a 9-mm pistol.

MON, NOV. 28th, 1:45 p.m. – 2419 Hoffman St. Additional police officers were needed at the scene of a barricade situation. An emotionally disturbed person kept local police officers at bay. Specially trained police officers from the Emergency Service Squad were summoned to the scene and were able to gain control of the occupant.

THURS, DEC. 1st, 1:10 a.m. – Third Ave. and East 179 St. Police officers from the Bronx Anti-Crime Unit took a 37 year old Hispanic male into custody. The man was found to be in possession of a 9-mm pistol without having the proper license to possess a gun in NYC.

SAT, DEC. 3rd, 2:20 a.m. – 2022 Webster Ave. Ten arrests were made as police removed two more guns from people who illegally possessed the weapons. Vouched as evidence were a 22-caliber semi-automatic pistol in addition to a 9-mm semi-automatic pistol.

SAT, DEC. 3rd, 4:15 a.m. – 2268 Washington Ave. Police are looking to question a family member in connection to a stabbing that sent a 34 year old Hispanic man to a near-by hospital. The Latino man was treated at St. Barnabas Hospital for a stab wound to the back area.

49th PCT.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 1:25 a.m. – Allerton Ave. and Fish Ave. An electrical transformer exploded causing a several block black-out. City officials indicated that the hardest hit structure in the affected area was a nursing home causing a removal of all serious patients who were on life supporting equipment including oxygen. The facilities emergency back-up generator failed to power the multi-story facility. Ambulances responded to the facility to orderly redeploy the patients who needed to remain on life supporting equipment. A 49 year old woman who relied upon a ventilator died during the incident officials indicated. Of the 200-bed facility, 37 patients required emergency assistance and they were taken to area hospitals by EMS crews. The power outage affected nearly four thousand residents. Con Edison crews were able to restore partial electrical power within two hours and electricity flowed through-out the entire area by 6 a.m.

MON, NOV. 28th, 2:55 p.m. – 1601 Bronxdale Ave. Police officers were summoned to the scene of an accident involving a motorcycle. The motorbike driver apparently lost control of the bike and was struck by an oncoming van. Specially trained police officers from Highway 1's Accident Investigation Squad are assisting with the inquiry.

THURS, DEC. 1st, 12:05 a.m. – 2712 Allerton Ave. Another unregistered gun was taken out of the hands of a person who failed to obtain a permit for the weapon. Without the proper NYC license, a person can be arrested for carry a gun or for possession a gun within the city limits. Taken away from the male culprit was a 38-caliber revolver.

THURS, DEC. 1st, 7:50 a.m. – 2766 Barnes Ave. A 37 year old Hispanic male was arrested after being found in possession of a 9-mm pistol. The weapon was vouched as evidence for the pending court procedures.

FRI, DEC. 2nd, 5:10 a.m. – 1556 Williamsbridge Rd. Authorities are looking for a male who stabbed two persons before fleeing. The older victim, a 54 year old male was stabbed once in the left armpit while the younger victim, a 22 year old male was stabbed in the left knee. Both victims were transported to Jacobi Medical Center.

50th PCT.

THURS, DEC. 1st, 10:15 p.m. – Broadway and West 230 St. A 50 year old Hispanic man arrived at a Westchester County hospital seeking aid for a stab wound. Police in Lower Westchester were dispatched to the Lawrence Hospital. The male victim was suffering from a stub wound to his left side. Bronx detectives will handle the inquiry.

52nd PCT.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 10:40 p.m. – University Ave. and West Fordham Rd. A semi-automatic pistol was taken away from a 21 year old Hispanic male. The 45-caliber handgun was vouched as evidence for the pending court procedures.

SUN, NOV. 27th, 11:50 p.m. – Hull Ave. and East 209 St. Police investigators from the Webster Ave. Squad are looking into a shooting that sent a 19 year old boy to Montefiore Hospital. The Hispanic youth was suffering from a bullet wound to the back area.

WED, NOV. 30th, 1:00 p.m. – 2674 Valentine Ave. First responders came to the aid of a 41 year old black male. The man was suffering from a stab wound to the abdomen area. It was determined that the wound was self-inflicted. As investigators looked into the incident, authorities learned that the male was wanted in connection with a homicide inquiry that was ongoing in Manhattan. The man was treated at St. Barnabas Hospital.

Transit

SUN, NOV. 27th, 4:40 p.m. – 389 East 149 St. A police officer from Transit District # 12 arrested a 38 year old black male. The male suspect was in possession of a 45-caliber pistol when arrested. The weapon was vouched as evidence for the pending legal procedure.

WED, NOV. 30th, 3:30 p.m. – Intervale Ave. and Westchester Ave. Police officers from Transit District # 12 are working with investigators from the 41st Pct. Detective Squad. Members of the two units are looking into an incident where an unidentified person was shot in the face four times by a 'BB' gun at the train station.

Fire Log

THURS, DEC. 1st, 6:20 a.m. – 645 Caldwell Ave. Fire alarm dispatchers started to receive conflicting information about a building burning. Fire units were started out to the first reported structure located near East 156 St. Arriving units indicated that in deed they were faced with a working fire. Engine 71 and Ladder 55 were first to arrive with Engine 73 and Ladder 42. Squad 41 arrived third due. Battalion 26 requested additional help at 6:23 a.m. The fire was on the third floor within a six-story high apartment house. Personnel from the ladder companies went to work in various locations within the burning structure conducting searches for trapped residents and fire extension as the engine crew stretched a hose line to the third floor. Within minutes as the chief completed his size-up of the situation, an additional engine and ladder companies were requested. A second hose line was stretched and placed into operation before the fire started to darken down. Searches were all proving to be negative indicting that none of the residents were in danger. At 7:05 a.m. the incident commander indicated that all secondary searches were completed, no victims were found. The situation was under control in minutes afterwards.

SAT, DEC. 3rd, 6:11 p.m. – Tilden St. and Bronxwood Ave. Engine 62's crew arrived at the scene of a vehicle accident. The officer quickly notified Bronx Fire Dispatchers that a person was trapped under a vehicle. Ladder 32 enroute to the incident was directed to prepare to use their Hurst Tool. Within seconds, two more fire units, Rescue 3and Squad 61, carrying the 'Jaws of Life' were leaving their fire stations heading toward the crash site. Within 15 minutes two injured persons were being transported to an area hospital.


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doesn't want Quinn as next NYC mayor

Dear editor,

Former Mayor Edward I Koch recent endorsement of New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn for Mayor in 2013 was disappointing.

Speaker Quinn years ago morphed from being a liberal independent reformer to seasoned Democratic party machine leader.

Her method in defeating any legislation she doesn't like is to deny 50 other members of the New York City Council the right to vote up or down on the proposed legislation by refusing to allow bills out of committee to a full vote.

To maintain control of the Council, Speaker Quinn hands out lulus to loyal members from $4,000 to $28,000 per year for chairing Council Committees.

She tolerates Council members with potential conflicts of interest by allowing income from outside second jobs and campaign contributions from City Hall Pay for Play contributors including unions real estate, businesses and political action committees.

Quinn has raised over $4 million for her 2013 Mayoral campaign from these same special interest groups.

Many of these are looking for favors in return at taxpayers expense.

She allows the wasteful spending of Council members administrative budgets used to pay for personal office items.

Travel abroad at City expense to foreign countries is used to curry favor with ethnic constituents and is also funded.

She supported allocating millions of dollars in member items for local pork barrel projects.

Quinn has failed to support an honest reapportionment of district boundaries after the 2010 census to promote real competition for future contests.

The five NYC Democratic County political bosses have never cared if you are liberal or conservative, gay or straight, man or woman -- just play ball like Speaker Quinn and you can become one of the chosen in the smoke filled clubhouse back room.

Quinn is cut from the same cloth as past Speakers, like the late Tom Cuite, Peter Vallone Senior and Gifford Miller in ruling the Council in a dictatorial style.

With friends like these, would you really want to see Quinn as Mayor?

Larry Penner

Foley was a tireless advocate for education

Dear editor,

Public schoolchildren in the Bronx lost a tireless advocate and defender with the passing of Rose Foley. I loved and admired her. She was very supportive while we were fighting to get M.S. 194 built and encouraged my writing and advocacy for public schools in this era of public school privatization.

She was one of my role models and I will miss her. But Rose, wherever you are, don't worry, we will keep fighting the good fight, just as you always did.

Sandi Lusk
WSZIO



Photo by Bill Weisbrod

Benedetto hosts annual coat drive

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto held his annual coat drive at his office on East Tremont Avenue on Wednesday, December 21. The collected coats went to nonprofits throughout the Bronx. Above, (l-r) Benny Westindi, Yvonne Murphy of Haven of Hope Domestic Violence Prevention, Benedetto, Paulina Magnetti of the Bronx Provider-Consumer Alliance, Dennis Howard and Craig Kennedy of Bronx Psychiatric Center.

No discounts for our Military

Dear editor,

For all of the monthly deals and special offers Planet Fitness advertises, it is a shame that they refused to give military courtesy to my son and his buddy who are here for two weeks on leave from the Army.

Merry Christmas to you too, PF.

Lisa Tell

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.

Many helped car accident victum

Dear editor,

On December 24, I was involved in a car accident at Gillespie and Zulette avenues. I don't know how to thank all the wonderful and caring 'angels' that came to my aid. The prompt response by the 45th Precinct, EMS and FDNY was greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank the caring woman who sat with me and offered to pray with me while waiting for EMS to arrive. I'm sorry I don't remember her name.

Benjamin and Jessica, from EMS, thank you for comforting me during the whole ordeal, and to the fire dpeartment, who worked to remove me from my car and gently placed me on the stretcher.

Lastly, I want to thank all the caring staff at Jacobi Medical Center's Emergency Department, especially Dr. Nashley Hannigan, MD, who took such good care of me.

God belss yo all.

Eleanor Crean

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BRONX Times

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Readers are encouraged to send us their viewpoints. Name and address must be included, but will be withheld upon request. Letters should be as brief as possible, not exceeding 200 words. Mail to The Bronx Times, 900 E. 132nd Street, Bronx, NY 10454 or e-mail to bronxtimes@aol.com.

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

Touchstone Health names new President

Touchstone Health Inc. (Touchstone Health HMO, Inc. - Medicare Advantage HMO), has named Robert Caione, president and Chief executive officer. Caione brings more than 20 years of health care finance and operations experience. He assumed the duties of acting president and CEO of the company in October of this year after serving for more than two years with Touchstone Health as chief administration officer. Caione will also serve as chairman of the HMO Board at Touchstone Health.

In addition to taking on the role of President and CEO at Touchstone Health, Caione also serves as the chief operating officer for its subsidiary, Compliant DRG.

Caione holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Fordham University.

***

The **Lehman College Foundation** announced that Myrna M. Rivera, an alumna of Lehman College and founder and board chair of Consultiva Internacional, Inc., has been elected chair of the foundation's board of directors. She has served on the board for six years and chaired its Investment Committee since 2006.

The foundation raises, invests, and distributes private funds for scholarships, faculty support and other educational needs of Lehman College, a senior college of The City University of New York. In 2010 and 2011, hundreds of Lehman students received $1.1 million in scholarships made possible by contributions to the Foundation.

Rivera, who earned her master's in mathematics from Lehman in 1975 and received the college's 2006 Alumni Achievement Award, succeeds David H. Levey, an independent political economist who has served as board chair since 2006. He will continue on the board as chair of its Investment and Finance Committee.

Along with other pioneers of the early 1980s, she contributed to developing standard investment practices for endowments and foundations, pension funds, insurance companies, credit unions, individuals and families. In addition to the John Ellis, Jr. Excellence Award, she has been honored with the Joyce Johnson Award of the National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP) for contributions to the advancement of women and minorities in financial services; the Highest Leaf Award from the Women's Venture Fund of New York for entrepreneurial excellence; and inclusion by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the "Top 100 Influential Hispanics."

***

Jennifer Hangan of the Bronx has become an independent consultant with TastefullySimple, Inc., a national direct sales company featuring more than 60 delicious, easy-to-prepare foods.

As an independent business owner, Hangan offers delicious food samples at home taste-testing parties, along with easy ideas for everyday meals, recipes, serving suggestions and fun. All of Tastefully Smple's products are open-and-enjoy or can be prepared by adding only one or two ingredients.

***

The **Uptown Coffeehouse** opens its' 25th season with Danny Kalb on Sun., Jan. 8, at 5 pm., at its new address, City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, lower level, City Island.

Admission is $15, children under 12, $5. Bronx Cultural Cards are accepted.

Danny Kalb, founding member of The Blues Project, is considered one of America's foremost guitarists and blues artists. His playing has been called both mesmerizing and pure magic and in a few chords Danny has shown why he's considered by many to be a guitarist in the class of Eric Clapton or Carlos Santana.

Danny, a Mount Vernon native, picked up the guitar at age 13 and never put it down. He later honed his trade jamming with greats John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters and soon became an established player in the Folk and Blues revival scene of Greenwich Village. The Blues Project's first album "The Blues Project Live at Café Au Go-Go," won them their first gold record and "Alberta" and "Down to Louisiana," became Danny's signature tunes establishing him as one of the pre-eminent blues players of his generation. Whether performing old standards or originals Danny is an authentic bluesman who makes each song his own.



Photo courtesy of Andover Communications

The first certified healthcare interpreters from St. Barnabas Hospital were among New York City's 50 new interpreters to graduate at a ceremony at Lincoln Hospital on Monday, December 12. The program was facilitated by Hostos Community College. Above, (l-r) Dr. Carlos Molina, Hostos Community College; Lynette Alvarado, St. Barnabas Hospital; Dr. Félix Matos-Rodríguez, president, Hostos Community College; Bernadette Martínez, St. Barnabas Hospital; and Milagros Severino, St. Barnabas Hospital.



Photo by Jose Polanco

EAST TREMONT MEDICAL CENTER HOLDS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

East Tremont Medical Center held its annual holiday party on Friday, December 16 at Grand Slam Banquet Hall. The center, which is celebrating is 16th anniversary, is located at 930 East Tremont Avenue. (Above) over 100 employees attended the celebration.





Photos by Samuel Tuthill

MORRISON HOLDS TREE LIGHTING

The Morrison Revitalization Corporation held their annual tree lighting ceremony, inviting all local residents and elected officials at McKinley Square at East 169th Street and Boston Road on Tuesday, December 13. Those who joined helped light the tree and sing holiday carols to bring everybody into the Christmas spirit.

(Above, l-r) Gloria Davis, Claudia Nisbett, Wilbert T. Lawton, Cynthia Cox, Mamie Tyrell, Cliff Frazier, Donna Greene, Carolina Martin, and Mario Bodden helped light the Christmas tree.

(Left) Five-year-old Diaria Williams counted down the tree lighting.

HOLIDAY PARTY AT SOTOMAYOR HOUSES



Photo by Dario Alequin

The Sotomayor Houses Community Center was the site for a Hispanic-themed holiday concert on Saturday, December 10. Hundreds of residents, along with local elected officials, gathered for tasty food and great music to celebrate the holiday season. The South Bronx Saints Football team was also honored for their excellent season by Assemblyman Marcos Crespo (l) and Senator Ruben Diaz Sr.

SCHNEIDERMAN, RIVERA DELIVER FOOD



Photo courtesy of Senator Rivera's office

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and Senator Gustavo Rivera visited BronxWorks' Morris Senior Center, located at 80 E. 181st Street, on Monday, December 19. The two elected officials handed out grocery bags filled with donated food to those in need this holiday season. Pictured are Schneiderman and Rivera during their visit to the senior center.



Photo by Claude Roland

DINOWITZ HONORED BY LIBERTY DEMOCRATS

The Liberty Democratic Association held their annual holiday festival on Sunday, December 11. Members were joined by local elected officials for delicious food and refreshments to help celebrate the holiday season and to honor Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz. Dinowitz (holding plaque) received his honor from (l-r) Diane Cerino, Joe McManus, Congressman Eliot Engle, Kenny Agosto, and Zena Twyman.



Photo courtesy of the Bronx Borough President's office



Photo by Samuel Tuthill

BP CELEBRATES HANUKKAH

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. celebrated Hanukkah with borough leaders on Thursday, December 22 at the Bronx County Building's Veterans Memorial Hall. Yankee broadcaster Suzyn Waldman and Rabbi Israel Greenberg were among the guests of honor for the annual ceremony.

(Above) Greenberg (l), Diaz (c) and Waldman (r) light the menorah.

(Left) Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene and Councilman Jeffrey Dinowitz attended the holiday celebration.



Photo by Patrick Rocchio

TOY DRIVE FOR CONCOURSE HOUSE

Participants in first annual Senior Court Officer Judy Moise Toy Drive held by court officers at the Bronx County Courthouse at 851 Grand Concourse collected more than 100 toys that were delivered on Thursday, December 22 to over 60 homeless children. The toys benefited children at Concourse House, which is located at 2751 Grand Concourse. The drive was held in memory of Moise, a court officer who died giving birth to her third child in 2010. Playing Santa Claus was Edwin Cruz.

Pictured are Santa and his helpers loading the van.

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TECHNOLOGY PACKAGE
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2005 KIA AMANTI
Stk#HU0944T, 6 CYL,AUTO, 51,253 MI
$9998



2009 TOYOTA YARIS
STK#HU01006T, 4 CYL, AUTO, 30,188 MI
$10998



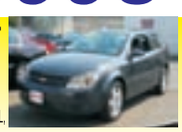
2008 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS
Stk#HU01034T, 4 CYL, AUTO, 36,005 MI
$10998



2009 TOYOTA CAMRY LE
Stk#HU0879, AUTO, 4 CYL, SILVER, 29,972 MI
$15498



2007 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
Stk#HU01004, 6 CYL, AUTO, FWD, BLACK, 73,264 MI
$12998



2009 CHEVROLET COBALT LT
STK#HU0845T, AUTO, 4 CYL, ALL POWER, 23,900 MI
$12998



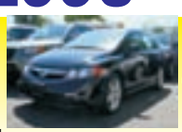
2009 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
STK#HU0983T, RED, AUTO, ALLOYS, 1 OWNER, 19,999 MI
$13498



2008 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5S
STK#HU0864, AUTO, 4 CYL, 56,075 MI
$13998



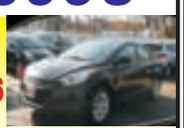
2010 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS
Stk#HU0855R, AUTO, 4 CYL, WHITE, 39,792 MI
$14498



2008 HONDA CIVIC EX
STK#HU0843T, 4 CYL, AUTO, ALLOYS, MOONROOF, 15,096 MI
$14998



2008 HYUNDAI TUCSON SE
Stk#HU01029, AWD, V6, AUTO, 26,114 MI
$15498



2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS
Stk#HU01007R, AUTO, 4 CYL, 16,455 MI
$16498



2008 TOYOTA SOLARA CONV
STK#HU0960T, CYL, AUTO, SILVER, 64,673 MI
$16998



2010 HYUNDAI GENESIS COUPE
Stk#HU01003, 2.0 AUTO, 4 CYL, BLUE, 22,105 MI
$17498



2011 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS
Stk#HU01033T, 4 CYL, AUTO, SUNROOF, 17,638 MI
$17998



2011 HYUNDAI SONATA HYBRID
Stk#HU01012T, 4 CYL, AUTO, SILVER,1020 MI
$21998



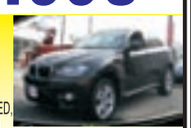
2008 LEXUS IS 250
Stk#HU0786, AUTO, LEATHER, SUNROOF, ALLOYS, 26,100 MI
$23998



2009 HYUNDAI GENESIS 3.8
STK#HU0952, V6, AUTOMATIC, 41,331 MI
$23998



2008 BMW 328 xi
STK#HU01011T, AWD, 6 CYL, MAN TRANS, 29,025, BLACK
$24998



2010 BMW X6
Stk#HU01013T, LOADED, V6, AWD, 24,591 MI
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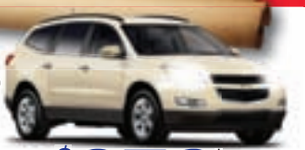
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EVENT

Acacia Network holds ceremony to honor all veterans

BY BILL WEISBROD

Acacia Network, a chain of Bronx-based health care providers, counts 34 veterans among is 8,000 clients and several more among its staff. And on Veterans Day, Acacia's management held a ceremony to honor every single one.

Acacia's commemoration was held on Friday, November 10 at its Casa Promesa, a long-term care facility for people with HIV/AIDS on Clay Avenue and East 175th Street. Active members of the armed services presented Acacia's veteran clients with medals, and First Sergeant Dennis Kea, a retired Army officer who runs Roosevelt High School's junior ROTC program delivered the keynote address. The program concluded with the hanging of a memorial wreath in Casa Promesa's lobby.

Client Robert Garcia spent three years in the Army and was one of the veterans honored at the ceremony.

"It was great," he said. "It was uplifting, and it really gives encouragement."

The ceremony was overseen by James Dike, a Vietnam veteran, licensed social worker and Acacia's director of outreach for the past 18 years.

"In terms of the response and patriotism (from clients and attendees), I see they've really embraced our veterans, both staff and clients."

The ceremony is an annual event, and Dike said an important one was well.

"As a veteran myself, and being in my field of social work, I felt there was a need to recognize the veterans we service."

Guillermo Noreaga, Acacia's director of social services said the annual recognition was useful for boosting clients' morale.

"This is always a good event," he said. "It's very important for ego development."



Acacia staff members and guests following the Veterans Day ceremony.

In his keynote speech, Kea talked about the history of the Veteran's Day holiday, traced its history back to Armistice Day, which celebrated the end of World War I.

He brought members of the Roosevelt Junior ROTC to help pay tribute to Acacia's veterans. Kea also had a message for the civilians who attended.

"My request to you," said Kea. "Is when you see a service man or woman, say 'thank you.'"



Photo by Vito Signorile

Congressman Crowley supports Co-op residents at a rally on Monday, November 14.

Co-op City's post offices get reprieve

From page 1

tions," Crowley said. "I understand the Postal Service has hit rock bottom, but balancing its books on the backs of Bronx families is not the answer."

If Co-op City were to lose both of their post offices, the nearest location, at 3300 Conner Street, is a mile away for a community with a large elderly population. Residents chanted as much as they could at the chilly November morning rally, and Crowley promised Co-op City everything would be done to keep their post offices intact.

Crowley, one of 226 co-sponsors of the H.R. 1351 bill, said the bill would allow the Postal Service to apply billions of dollars in pension overpayments to the congressional mandate that requires the USPS to pre-fund the healthcare benefits of its future retirees.

The bill, also known as the 'Save America's Postal Service' bill, is gaining strong attention throughout the country and would give the USPS enough funding to keep the facilities open and allow the thousands of jobs at risk to remain safe.

"I will continue to fight to keep these facilities open, keep jobs in the Bronx, and keep the critical services residents need in our community," Crowley said.

Should the USPS close the Co-op City post offices in May 2012, residents will have another 60 days to fight the closures.

Soundview's Medicaid can terminate

From page 1

Espada and his son face federal charges for allegedly embezzling money from Soundview, and are scheduled to go on trial in March.

Espada received more bad news on Tuesday, December 27, as a the state's Legislative Ethics Commission found "reasonable cause" that he broke the law by hiring an uncle as a Senate staffer in 2009. Espada could face additional charges as a result.

Representatives for Soundview, meanwhile, say the chain of clinics will remain open.

"We assert that our patients desperately need and deserve the services provided by Soundview," board chair Monica Harris-Coleman said in a statement.

Although without Medicaid funding, time is running out on the clinics.

Community Board 9 chair Francisco Gonzalez said that without the five clinics, which include a flagship location on White Plains Road, residents of the district will face a challenge in finding affordable health care.

"This is a devastating loss for the community," he said. "The Soundview center has been serving the community for more than 30 years. A lot of people depend on the services they provide, because there's no hospital in the immediate area. It's a real travesty."

Gonzalez said the fate of Soundview and the future of health care in the CB 9 area has been a hot topic of discussion in his office.

Soundview claims it serves 20,000 patients on a regular basis.

Espada called the state Ethics Committee's findings "false from beginning to end."



Associated Press

Espada speaking in 2010.

Bronx scene

• 2012 Swimming Program At Maritime 20

• Doggie Desk 20

• Do You Remember - Hunts Point author Herman Wauk 21

Wave Hill events set for new year

A whole new year lies ahead, promising health, we hope, prosperity and happiness. As a first step in the right direction, plan a day away at Wave Hill. The winter landscape stretches far, encouraging a fresh, open perspective, rewarded with splashes of color and shape from birds, berries, sky, river and clouds. Plan on a walk through the gardens, on your own or with one of our Garden Guides. And if you can be here on Saturday, pair it with a session at the Family Art Project and a stirring performance by Merián Soto's troupe. Happy new year, indeed!

Saturday, January 7; Sunday, January 8, Family Art Project - Sunrise, Sunset: Looking to the sky's palette of colors, infused with shades of dusk or dawn, blend and blur paint and tissue-paper dyes against a silhouette of forest, city skyline or river and bridge to create an inspirational scene. Free, and admission to the grounds is free until noon. Ecology Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, January 7, Performance: Branch Dances At Wave Hill: Wave Hill, a 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, has commissioned award-winning choreographer Merián Soto to return to the Bronx, her artistic home, to develop a site-specific project during a one-year residency. Soto's project is Wave Hill's 2011–2012 generated@wavehill commission, a program that provides artists the opportunity to create temporal work for the grounds. Over the next 12 months, Soto will develop and perform Branch Dances at Wave Hill. This year-long work consists of four outdoor performances, one each season. Branch Dances at Wave Hill performances are slow and meditative, yet powerfully communicative. Soto works with her team of five dancers Beau Hancock, Shavon Norris, Jumatatu Poe, Olive Prince and Marion Ramirez and percussionist Robert (Tigger) Benford, to connect body, mind, place and elements to stillness. She selects locations that respond to seasonal aspects of the landscape, taking advantage of Wave Hill's brilliant foliage, sweeping vistas and sculptural trees. Audiences are invited to slow down and enter a state of heightened receptivity to nature. Visitors who attend the whole series will gain an enhanced experience of seasonal change, as well as a deeper understanding of body and self as part of nature. On the grounds, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 8, Garden & Conservatory Walk: Join us for an hour-long tour of seasonal garden highlights. Free with admission to the grounds. Meet at Perkins Visitor Center, 2 p.m.

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

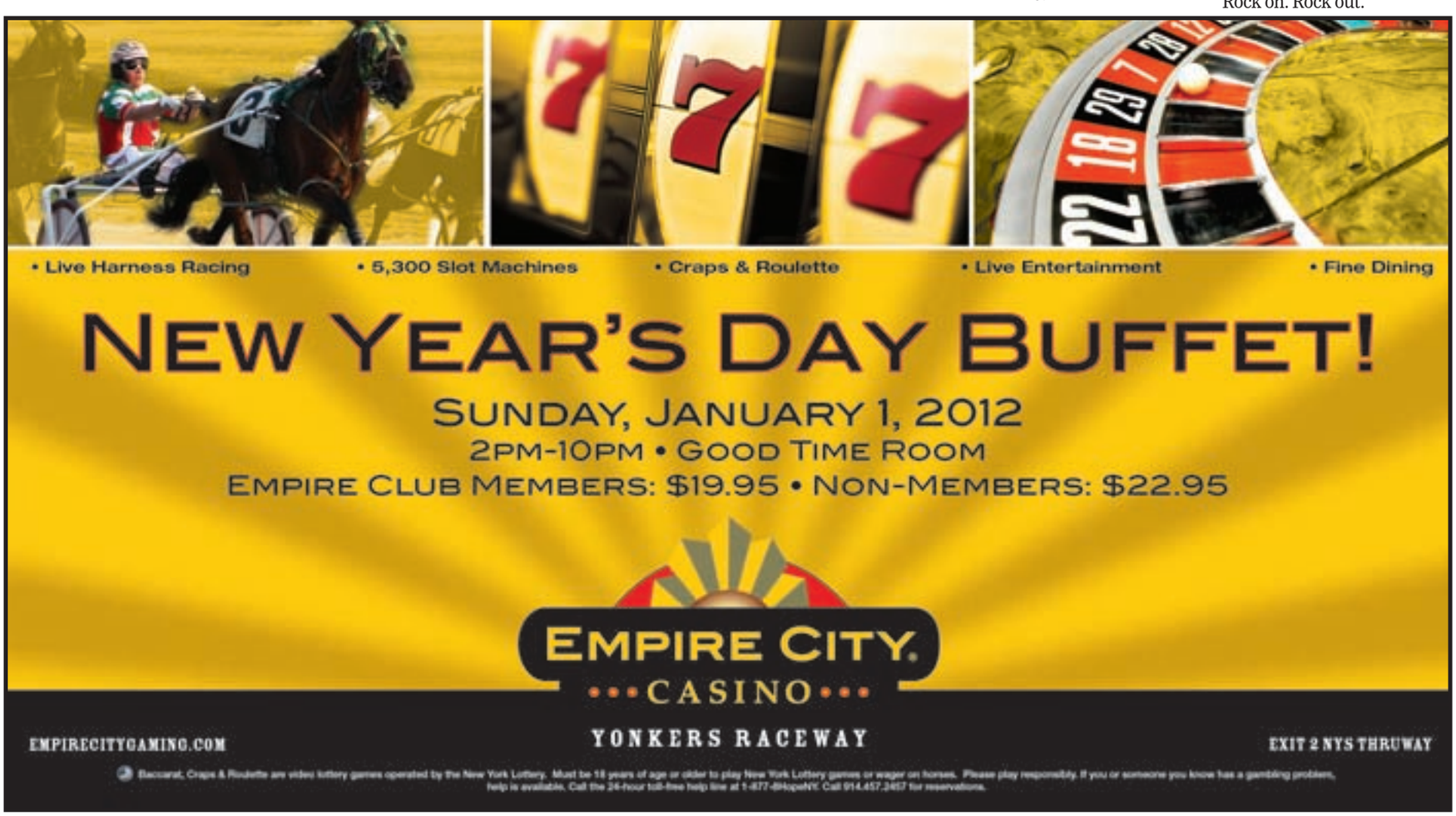
rock on the bronx

by Fish Altieri

In 2012 Rock on the Bronx column celebrates 15 years in the Bronx Times Reporter. That's a lot of rocking on and rocking out. Let us take a look back at the past year before we move forward into 2012.

Was your band, bar, restaurant, creative project or favorite news issue mentioned in this column? Presenting Part One of the 2011 look back: Jann Klose, Bronx Net's Bronx Talk show, Street NYC, Just Nuts, Just Nuts Music, Ann Leighton, Enchanted DJ Entertainment, No Stringz Attached, The Wicked Wolf, Bridges Bar, The Starving Artist Gallery in City Island, getting off foreign oil, smoking ban outdoors, tickets for using cell or IPod crossing street, Tim Curtin, Harry Boyle and "Harry Hour", Sugarush, 353 Restaurant and Lounge, Paddy Dougherty's, Tricked Out Country, helmet law for skiing, Remedies Bar, DJ Shane, Throggs Neck Clipper, Jameson's Revenge, Charlie Sheen mania, Dennis Nardone, WVOX-AM radio, Shamrock Inn, McGee's, The Icehouse, George Lock, Bronx Underground Dance Parties, energy independence, Expressions, artist Debbie Connor, Elegant Gift Gallery, Spotos, Mike CCC, The Shrimp Box, The Seashore, Patrick's Pub, Rebecca Black, McDermott's Pub, Legendary Bar, Elizabeth Glushko, Globe Bar and Grill, Anthony Farino in "Sinatra and Friends", Tony Aromondo, Tiernan's, domestic violence registry, Cousin Alex, PJ Brady's, Tosca's! Wow!

Part Two next week! Rock on. Rock out.





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Disclaimer: ONE general admission ticket to the Bronx Zoo will be provided for a donation of one new, unwrapped toy OR for every 10 food items at the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo or Queens Zoo. ONE general admission ticket to the New York Aquarium will be provided for a donation of one new, unwrapped toy OR for every 10 food items at the New York Aquarium. Limit of four tickets per family, valid 1/01/12-6/30/12. Food items must be canned, packaged and/or nonperishable foods - perishable items are not permitted. All WCS decisions final. For details on donation food items go to wcs.org/foodtoydrive. **Promotion available from 11/19/11-12/31/11.** May not be combined with any other offer.

2012 winter swimming program for kids, adults at Maritime

It may be cold outside, but winter can still be a time to enjoy a dip in the pool!

SUNY Maritime College's Community Programs Office offers a host of reasonably priced group and private swimming lessons for adults and children. All classes are held in Riesenberg Gymnasium's Olympic-sized pool on the College's Throggs Neck campus, and taught by Certified Water Safety Instructors.

Saturday Swim Classes for Children: Kids group Saturday swimming lessons will begin on Saturday, January 14th and will take place: January 14, 21, 28; February 11 and 25, as well as March 3, 10, and 17. Children's classes are based on age and ability and are progressive, beginning with a Guppy class where children 12 months to 3 years enjoy time in the water with the instructor and a parent. Other classes range from 3 years of age to 13. Children's group swimming lessons are $120 per child for an eight-week session. Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 4, 2012.

An eight-week, Swim Team Prep session for children ages 10-15, who are more advanced swimmers and who want to swim competitively will begin on January 14th, from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

To enroll, students must be able to swim 25 yards freestyle, 25 yards back stroke, and know how to breast stroke. The fee for the Swim Team Prep class is $145. Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 4.

Private and semi-private lessons for all ages are also available on the same Saturdays as the children's swimming lessons. The fee for the eight, one-half hour classes, with one-on-one instruction is $400.

Semi-private lessons are designed for two children of similar ages and skill level and are available for a total cost of $500 for eight, one-half hour classes. Call (718) 409-7212 for time and availability.

Adult Swim Classes: Maritime is offering an Open Lap Swim for adults of all levels on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. This is not an instructional class and is not recommended for individuals who do not know how to swim. Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 4, and the cost is $80 for eight meetings.

Water Aerobics: Water Aerobics is one of the healthiest ways to slim down and tone up! This course will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 8:15 to 9 p.m., beginning January 10 and will run for 10 consecutive weeks. The cost per class is $100 and the registration deadline is Wednesday, January 4.

Known as the "Zumba Pool Party," the Aqua Zumba program gives new meaning to the idea of an invigorating workout. Splashing, stretching, twisting, even shouting, laughing, hooting, and hollering are often heard during a class. Integrating the Zumba formula and philosophy with traditional aqua fitness disciplines, the Aqua Zumba class blends it all in a safe, challenging, water-based workout that's cardio-conditioning, body-toning, and most of all, exhilarating beyond belief! This class will meet on Monday and Thursday evenings, from 7 to 7:45 p.m. beginning January 9th. Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 4, and the cost is $100 per class.

To learn more about these and other SUNY Maritime College Winter Community Programs, please visit our website at www.sunymaritime.edu/communityprograms.

Doggie Desk

BY TONY DELUCA

It's that time of year again. It's the time for giving. Well, it's always the time for giving, however this is that special time of year.

This is the time to open your heart and give a puppy, or dog, a chance at having a long and happy life.

There are millions of homeless dogs that need the caring, love, and support that only you can give them. And the way to do that is by adopting ,whether it's a puppy or older dog.

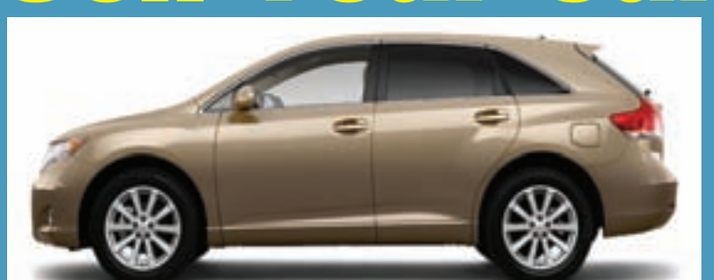
I know it's hard for some people who love dogs, but due to living conditions, allergies, etc. can't have one. But for those who can have a dog, please open your hearts. All these dogs need is patience, caring, love, and a chance to prove what a great companion and family member he or she can truly be. J

Just walk through a shelter. It may be sad at the beginning, looking at all those cute, loving but sad faces just waiting to go home with someone. But if you follow your heart you will eventually walk out with a smile.

And if you look close enough, you will see a smile from your newest family member. I mean, really, how can you resist some of those faces.

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Herman Wauk, author, born and raised in Hunts Point

do you remember
by Bill Twomey

BY BILL TWOMEY

Herman Wouk was born on May 27, 1915 in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx to Russian immigrant Jews from Minsk. It was his maternal grandfather, a Hasidic rabbi from Belarus, however, who had the greatest influence on his life.

It was from him that he developed a life-long love affair with Judaism and the Talmud, themes which would eventually work their way into some of his books. He also came to appreciate Yiddish as a thought process rather than just a language. His life found fulfillment in his religion.

Wouk attended Townsend Harris High School from 1927 to 1930 and then enrolled in Columbia College graduating in 1934 at 20 years of age. While at college he wrote for their school paper, the Spectator. He also edited and wrote for their humor magazine, the Jester. The experience served him well as he immediately found employment working as a radio script writer for David Freeman. Between 1936 and 1941 he did similar work for Fred Allen. Later in 1941 he wrote radio scripts promoting war bonds for the federal government.

After Pearl Harbor was attacked, he enlisted in the Navy and entered Officer's Training School. Upon graduation he was assigned to the destroyer minesweeper USS Zane before being transferred to the DMS USS Southard as Executive Officer. His war experiences aboard the ships also served as fodder for some of his most important novels.

He began writing his first novel "Aurora Dawn" during his off hours aboard ship. When the first few chapters were completed, he shipped them to a friend stateside who called an editor he knew reading him the work in progress. The response was almost immediate with Wouk receiving a publisher's contract by return mail while still aboard ship off the coast of Okinawa.

The book was an immediate success being chosen as a selection of the Book of the Month Club.

His next book, "City Boy," published in 1948, did not fare as well but his writing career would prove to be a rousing success as in 1951 he penned another blockbuster. "The Caine Mutiny" based on his experiences in the Navy aboard a ship was published in 1951.

It became a best seller and won a Pulitzer Prize. It was later made into a movie with the neurotic Captain Queeg being played by Humphrey Bogart. Most readers will recall the scene that had Bogart sitting at the witness stand rolling several ball bearings in his hand. The idea came from Wouk's recollection of a superior officer who was in the habit of rolling toothpicks around in his hand.

Fortunately Wouk kept meticulous diaries which served his writing career well. He referred to them often to check on details for his many books that might otherwise have been forgotten. His works now appear in about thirty languages. He's already told most of his war stories but certainly has a lot more to say, especially about Judaism. All ninety volumes of his diary are now in the Library of Congress and I'm sure that he'll have at least one more to add to that collection as he's still writing.

Among his best told war stories are "Winds of War" written in 1971 and "War and Remembrance" published in 1978. Both went on to become televised mini-series and Pulitzer Prize winners. Robert Mitchum's portrayal of "Pug" Henry is one we'll all remember. Herman Wouk is one author we'll never forget.



Herman Wouk came from Hunts Point

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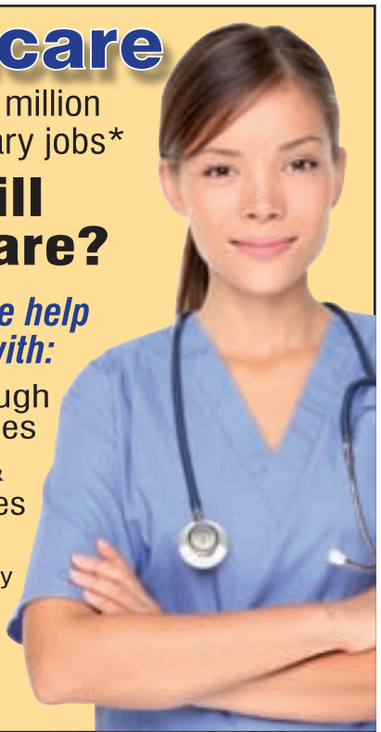
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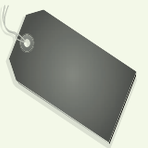
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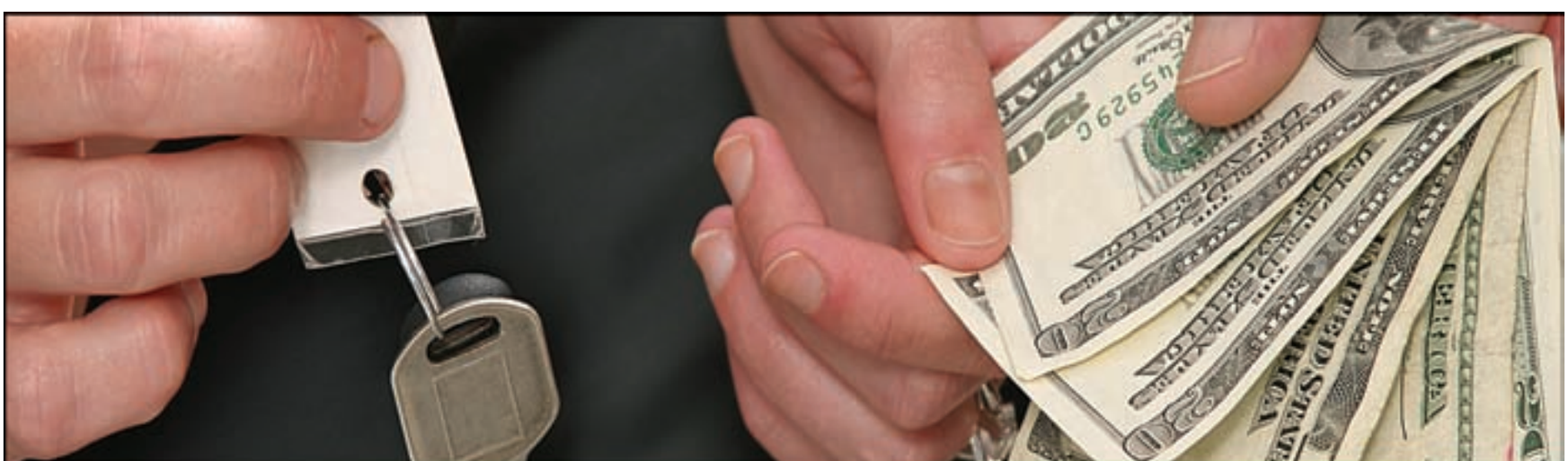
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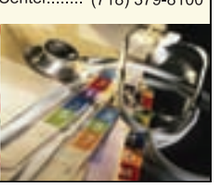
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KEVIN PIGOTT.....PAGE 29



PIPE DREAMS

By Bob Connolly

Positive reactions

BY BOB CONNOLLY

Jets-Giants Week 15

Both of our teams lost. The Giants (7-7) lost to the Redskins (5-9) 27-10. The Jets (8-6) were manhandled, AGAIN, by the Iggles 45-19.

Neither team choked but the Giants left their enthusiasm home and the Jets continued to think that the Eagles were QB'd by Joe Montana.

The G-men gave up 3 INTs, allowed 3 sacks, and had 2 drops by Nicks that looked like sure TDs. The Jets had 2 INTs, 4 sacks, lost 2 fumbles, gave up 420 yards, and didn't take advantage of Philly's 5 fumbles.

Positive Reactions

Gwen Knapp (SF Chronicle) pointed out some valid objections by the MLBPA to the test results for HGH use and high levels testosterone presence. She wrote, "The naiveté will not die. Nine of baseball's MVPs had been linked to performance-enhancing drugs, yet when reports surfaced this weekend about a drug case against the 2011 National League MVP, Ryan Braun, countless commentators and fans expressed shock.

His lawyers and other handlers will play off this naiveté. They've already started. Expect distortion of the fact that, according to ESPN, Braun is accused of

Continued on next page

Gill's clutch shot earns Mount a win

BY MARC RAIMONDI

There's a formula to playing at All Hallows, according to Mount St. Michael coach Tom Fraher.

"You come down there, you try to get a parking spot – a good parking spot –and win by one," he said. "And you're happy."

Fraher might have been shaking his head after the game Tuesday, but he did crack a slight smile. Senior point guard Malik Gill's late pullup jumper put Mount ahead for good in an entertaining, 48-47 win over All Hallows in CHSAA Class AA boys basketball. He got what he came for, including a solid spot for the team's bus on Walton Avenue near the small South Bronx school in the shadows of Yankee Stadium.

"The mindset is you come in here, you win by one and you get out," Fraher said.

Mount (6-1, 1-0 'AA') was unable to get out in transition because of the small court and had trouble using its size advantage – even though the Mountaineers aren't big, they're huge compared to tiny All Hallows (3-4, 3-3).

Ed Correa, one of the tallest players on the court at 6-foot-2, had a huge three-point play with 1:19 left that got Mount within 47-46.



Photo by An Rong Xu

Mount St.Michael's Malik Gill hit the go-ahead pullup jumper with 16 seconds left.

The two teams exchanged turnovers until Gill's clutch shot with 16 seconds remaining gave his team the lead for good.

"I've seen him make big shots," Fraher said. "Doesn't surprise me he made it, even though it was a tough shot."

Continued on next page

Jenkins, Wings fly past rival in a rout

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Wings Academy star Justin Jenkins felt he hasn't been doing enough, not playing to his full potential. It took big games from his teammates to allow him to do so.

"When those guys step up and we don't just rely on Justin and Steven [Gomez], we can be dangerous," Wings coach Bill Turnage said.

The silky, smooth senior guard poured in 36 points and collected five steals to help push Wings to a lopsided 98-66 win over borough rival Eagle Academy in a PSAL Bronx AA boys basketball game Tuesday at Mott Haven. He hit long jump shots, broke down Eagle's defense off the dribble and attacked the basket in transition.

The win gives the Wings (9-0, 7-0) sole possession of first place in the division and hands the Eagles (10-1, 5-1) their first loss of the season.

"I wasn't really scoring the ball like myself," Jenkins said. "Today I played the way I am able to. I just made shots."

So did his teammates, especially in the decisive third quarter. Marvilio Berroa scored 12 points, grabbed five rebounds and blocked six shots and Jaequan Brown had 10 points and 10 boards. Point guard Jose Ayala added 11 points, six steals and drove the lane fearlessly. All of this was with Gomez serving the second and final game of a suspension after being ejected from a game against Manhattan Center.

"If you would have told me we would have won by 30 points without Steven Gomez I would have lost two week's worth of pay," Turnage said.

Wings used its press to open up a 22-9 lead late in the first quarter. Foul trouble caused Turnage to pull back the pressure and Eagle roared back behind Gerard Carty (11 points) and Najee Senior's 16 points to cut the lead to as little as six. A Jenkins bucket pushed it to 41-33 at the half and it was all Wings from there.

"We had to bring it up," Berrora said. "We had to make a statement. They thought they were the best team in the Bronx, but Wings Academy is."

His squad again revved up the pressure and gang-rebounded in Gomez's absence to overwhelm Eagle. Wings ripped off a 15-2 run to start the third quarter to take a 56-35 lead with 5:47 remaining. Jenkins got it started with a pullup jumper and added a basket and the foul. Berrora capped it, by knocking down a trey from the right side. A Davonne Ragin bucket made it 71-45 heading into the fourth.

"We wanted to come out and play back to our normal game speed, set the tempo and put them away," Jenkins said.

Turnage said his players showed maturity with their performance, which he called their most complete of the season. The coach noted Wings has exhibited a greater focus in the big games, especially when bragging rights are on the line for the defending Bronx champions. They beat rival Kennedy 56-50 earlier this month. Jenkins felt he didn't play well in

Continued on next page

Pipe Dreams: Was Bonds' case worth the $$

From previous page

failing not solely one, but two completely different tests showing that he had introduced testosterone into his body. One detects elevated levels. The other determines whether the testosterone was produced naturally. Basketball and football have yet to see even one MVP formally linked to performance-enhancing drugs (although Dana Stubblefield, the 1997 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, was caught in the BALCO investigation).

That fact is far more shocking than the fact that Braun has been implicated, along with nine other baseball MVPs." Sally Jenkins (DC Post) added, "Do you swallow something when you don't know what's in it? Not if you have an IQ above room temperature. So why should NFL players, or any other athletes for that matter, be expected to swallow the World Anti Doping Agency's (WADA) method for HGH drug testing without independent scientific verification that it's reliable, or fair, or applicable to them?

The union has taken the brunt of public criticism for the delay in implementing an HGH test, but WADA is equally to blame for its lack of transparency and refusal to answer some basic questions the union is asking — questions that Congress and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell also should be asking. Questions such as: Is there enough independently published medical science that validates the test? How was it devised, and its parameters established? One of the primary things the NFLPA is asking for and hasn't gotten is the population study WADA used to develop the test.

WADA claims to detect HGH by measuring isoform ratios in human blood: If you show a ratio beyond what WADA scientists consider your natural limit, you are considered guilty of HGH use. But natural limits can vary significantly among people. If you're an NFL player, you don't necessarily want to be compared with a Romanian gymnast. The NFLPA quotes Martin Bidlingmaier, co-founder of the HGH test, who has said that gender, age, body composition, injury history, type of sport, diet and the effects of chronic exercise could all be relevant, and the ratios should be based on "a suitable reference population."

Is WADA's reference population suitable for 300-pound NFL players? Is it suitable for 6-foot-6 NBA players? Whom did WADA conduct its trials on? Downhill skiers? How big were they, where do they live, what were their diets, their living conditions, their habits? WADA has only provided the NFLPA with some summary info, and not the study itself."

Sentence

Gwen also reported that the sentence for Barry Bonds' conviction for felony obstruction of a Grand Jury's investigation was published. He didn't receive a life sentence in a "Super-Max." He was sentenced to 30 days of house arrest, two years probation, 250 hours of community service, and a $4,000 fine.

Compare that to the $50million+ of our money spent on the case and ask yourself- was it all worth it? I don't think so!

Apparently Bonds doesn't think it's over because he's appealing his conviction. He doesn't want to lug around the tag of a convicted felon.

That's the type of tag that survives even after death and might even extend into the MLB-HOF voting years. I feel that might be the real reason for the appeal.

No Positives

Michael Hunt (Milwaukee Sentinel Journal) gave us a view from a Brewers fan's slant on the Braun hoo-haa, "What if Braun is merely the victim of circumstance? What if, for example, in being treated for a medical condition instead of trying to give himself a competitive advantage at his job, Braun put something in his body that made the dope-testing machines flip like Ozzie Smith? Braun and baseball have been embarrassed by the way the news got out before either side was prepared to deal with the bombshell.

There is nothing to do now except wait on more definitive results. There is the practical, if not cynical, viewpoint posted in a blog by former MLB pitcher Dirk Heyhurst, who is no Ryan Braun. Yet Heyhurst might not be stretching it when he contends that crime still pays in baseball. "It sure does," he wrote. "If it didn't people would be less inclined to commit it." Other players might think that way, but I don't believe Braun is so self-absorbed that he would trade a couple of months back home in Malibu while his teammates sunk without their best player. Braun came up as a cocky kid, but since becoming the face of the franchise he has been careful to never publicly put himself above the team. He took a below-market contract to keep him in a Brewers' uniform essentially for life, but still it is more than $135 million guaranteed over the next decade we're talking here.

Nevertheless, it has not been in Braun's personality to coast. He works longer and harder at his craft than most players I've seen, in spite of his riches. He left money on the table. These are not characteristics of someone looking for a shortcut. That's why I'm still willing to give Braun the benefit of the doubt. This could all be one big mistake. Time will tell."

Gill gives Mount gutty win over All Hallows

From previous page

The Mountaineers played strong defense on the next possession, forcing Davon Robinson to step out of bounds on the ensuing drive. All Hallows got the ball back, but Brendan Clark's halfcourt heave at the buzzer bounded hard off the top of the backboard.

Correa, a Rice transfer used to playing at All Hallows, had 13 of his 17 points in the second half. Omari Manhertz, the 6-foot-3 manchild, had 13 points, but all but two free throws came in the first half. Anthony Maestre added 11 points.

"I don't think we used [our size advantage] enough," Correa said. "Omari, he was doing good and then we just faded away from him."

All Hallows did do a better job defending him in the second half and offensively the Gaels have weapoons. They spread the floor, they have guards who can penetrate and all five players on the court can shoot from the perimeter. They're executing pretty much what longtime coach John Carey said they have to in order to succeed. Robinson had 12 points, Raz Council had 10 points and Ethan Hamlet had nine points on three first-half 3-pointers.

"They're good with the ball, they're unselfish," Fraher said. "They run their stuff."

All Hallows, which beat Archbishop Stepinac and lost by two to Holy Cross, just has no size whatsoever. Carey plays five guards and the biggest player on the floor at times is barely over 6-foot. On offense, the Gaels can create unique mismatches and Carey is master at doing so. But defensively, it can be a struggle.

"It's hard for us to defend big guys," Carey said. "That's really our weakness."

Mount's biggest strength is jump-shooting, but the shots weren't falling against All Hallows. The Mountaineers couldn't get on the break and create offense. They had trouble at times defending All Hallows' small, disciplined lineup.

But they got out of the tiny gym with a victory and that's all that matters to them. The short walk to their nearby parking spot was a happy one.

"Today we came out with a good league win," Gill said, "and now we'll try to get a new win streak started."



Photo by William Thomas

Wings' Justin Jenkins poured in 36 points against Eagle.

Wings soar past rival

From previous page

that game, but this one was a different story.

"I don't know how he does it," Berrora said. "He can score. That's all I can say."

Jenkins' teammates proved they can do a little bit of that too.

Jenkins touches on mission to earn Wings

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Wings Academy star Justin Jenkins felt he hasn't been doing enough, not playing to his full potential. It took big games from his teammates to allow him to do so.

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Continued on next page

FANS CROWD INTO UPPER EAST SIDE GYM

Fordham Prep picks up quality win over Regis

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Hundreds crammed into an Upper East Side's school shiny, new gym. People spilled out into doorways and onto the baseline. Those in the first row could reach out and touch the players on the court or – and more likely – scream in their ear.

That's what Fordham Prep had to contend with on the road Wednesday at rival Regis.

"That was a first for me," junior Sean McNamara said. "I could not hear anything. It was pretty crazy. Every time they scored, it was like, 'wow.' It was loud. We couldn't hear each other speaking on the court."

They had no problem hearing coach Kevin Pigott in the locker room at halftime, though. The Rams were ahead by three, but Pigott didn't think they were playing hard enough and for the first time this season he ripped into them.

After that, the crowd didn't seem so bad.

Fordham Prep rolled to a 35-24 win over Regis in non-league boys basketball after leading by just 14-11 at halftime. The intensity picked up and the only thing Pigott was upset about afterward was when one of his players didn't have a permission slip from his parents to go home with another family.

"I'm actually ecstatic to come down here and beat these guys in their gym with a packed crowd," the 22nd-year coach said. "After a close game at halftime, I'm very happy."

He certainly can't complain about his team's defense. Fordham (3-3) held Regis (5-3) to no field goals over the last 8:59 of the game, including the entire fourth quarter. The Raiders led 18-17 on a basket by Marlon Brewer with 3:11 left in the third quarter. But the Rams used a 7-0 run – a huge one in a low-scoring game like this one – to put the game all but out of reach. Jack Becker capped it with a 3-pointer with 1:30 left in the third.

"We realized in order to beat a tough team like this, we have to step up and go harder," McNamara said of the second half.

He led the way with eight points, Connor Murphy had six points and Becker added five. This, Pigott says, is how Fordham has to play at this point – slow, methodical and defensive minded. Especially with speedy guards Killian Connelly and Patrick Quirke still injured.

"Once we get them back, I think we'll be a tough team to play," McNamara said.

Tim Petriccione had six points to lead Regis, which heads to a big holiday tournament at Georgetown Prep (D.C.) next week. The Raiders have stood out as a contender in CHSAA Class A so far this season (Fordham moved up to 'AA') and this loss didn't dispel that notion.

"Both halfs, we couldn't score," Regis coach Kevin Cullen said. … "We just didn't make shots."

Fordham Prep meets Iona Prep on Friday in a game between two teams many people should be flip-flopped in the league's pecking order. Iona already has a big win over 'AA' Archbishop Molloy and is more athletic and bigger than Fordham this season yet the Gaels were voted 'A' by the coaches in the spring.

Murphy thinks this group will be fine, though.

"I feel like we're just starting to get the new offense," he said. "We have a lot of juniors on this team. Once we get into our offense, get going, I think we can show some people that we deserve to be in this league."

With that in mind, winning in such a hostile environment Wednesday was a big step.

"I love playing with it," Murphy said of the atmosphere. "It gets me going. With the crowd going, you have to step your game up and play to the level that the crowd is in."



Photo by An Rong Xu

Fordham Prep's Connor Murphy had six points against Regis in a low-scoring affair.

Jenkins touches on his mission in Division I; Wings' high hopes

From from previous page

ble caused Turnage to pull back the pressure and Eagle roared back behind Gerard Carty (11 points) and Najee Senior's 16 points to cut the lead to as little as six. A Jenkins bucket pushed it to 41-33 at the half and it was all Wings from there.

"We had to bring it up," Berrora said. "We had to make a statement. They thought they were the best team in the Bronx, but Wings Academy is."

His squad again revved up the pressure and gang-rebounded in Gomez's absence to overwhelm Eagle. Wings ripped off a 15-2 run to start the third quarter to take a 56-35 lead with 5:47 remaining. Jenkins got it started with a pullup jumper and added a basket and the foul. Berrora capped it, by knocking down a trey from the right side. A Davonne Ragin bucket made it 71-45 heading into the fourth.

"We wanted to come out and play back to our normal game speed, set the tempo and put them away," Jenkins said.

Turnage said his players showed maturity with their performance, which he called their most complete of the season. The coach noted Wings has exhibited a greater focus in the big games, especially when bragging rights are on the line for the defending Bronx champions. They beat rival Kennedy 56-50 earlier this month. Jenkins felt he didn't play well in that game, but this one was a different story.

"I don't know how he does it," Berrora said. "He can score. That's all I can say."

Jenkins' teammates proved they can do a little bit of that too.

Monroe to host high-flying tripleheader to cure J'diabetes

BY GARY AXELBANK

Monroe College and Saunders High School are teaming up for a high-flying high school basketball tripleheader to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). On Saturday, January 7 beginning at 3 p.m., six of Westchester's best high school boys basketball teams will take to the court at the gorgeous new Monroe Athletic Complex (MAC) in New Rochelle, NY for "Hoops for a Cure" with all proceeds from admission, concessions, t-shirts, raffles, etc. going to the charity.

"This is what it's all about," said Saunders coach Anthony Nicodemo whose nine -year-old Godson is diabetic. "We've put this partnership together with Monroe to not only try to have an impact on a disease that affects millions, but also to give the youngsters who play great basketball in Westchester a chance to showcase their talents in front of a big crowd on a first-class college court."

"The Monroe Mustangs are proud to support this amazing event," said director of Sports Development and Information Gary Axelbank. "We want local school teams and community groups to feel at home at the MAC and we're especially pleased to be opening our doors for something that benefits us all."

In the first game, two top teams, Tuckahoe and Blind Brook will go at it. Then at 5 p.m. Scarsdale and New Rochelle will renew their natural rivalry. At 7 p.m. Eastchester will tip-off against the host team Saunders.

Admission is $3 with a school ID and $5 for all others. Proceeds will go to the JDRF. For more information call (914) 740-6758.

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Fordham Toyota names Bronx Council as recipient of Fordham Cares

On Saturday, December 10, Fordham Toyota, the Bronx' premier Toyota/Scion retailer 'Bronx-Driven' since 1989, announced the Bronx Council on the Arts as the Bronx charity that received the most online votes in their 'Fordham Cares' Giving Back promotion on Facebook. Fordham Toyota will make a presentation at BCA's Holly Jolly Trolley event at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street at 1:30 p.m.

"We are very excited to have such a deserving charity like Bronx Council on the Arts receive our third Fordham Cares donation at their Holly Jolly Trolley event. It's going to be a good time and we're looking forward to giving our contribution just in time for the holiday season," enthused Anthony Renda, GM of Fordham Toyota.

Every 90 days, Fordham Toyota will contribute a portion of sales to one of three pre-selected community non-profits. Bronx-area non-profit organizations interested in becoming a part of this program are invited to contact GivingBack@FordhamToyota.com for more information.

Fordham Toyota initiated these giveaways while re-launching their social media site. Their new Facebook page offers fans access to exclusive offers, including new car deals, parts and service offers and used car specials at bargain prices.

Visitors can watch video walkarounds to check out a new Toyota before they buy and discover what neighbors say about their Fordham experience. Users can read service reviews and get to know Fordham, including useful information about buying a car. Friends can learn what's going on in and around the neighborhood and even find the cheapest gas in town.

To become a fan and enter to vote for a charity or win our next giveaway, visit Fordham Toyota at facebook.com/FordhamToyota or www.FordhamToyota.com. Fordham Toyota is located at 236 West Fordham Road, Bronx, NY. Their sales showroom and parts|service department are open Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Crowley stands up for Bronx hospitals

On the heels of a recent report that examined the status of struggling health care facilities in Brooklyn by the Governor Cuomo-established Brooklyn Health Systems Redesign Work Group, Congressman Joseph Crowley urged the Governor to join him in working to ensure sufficient access to health care in Queens and the Bronx, which have also faced the closure of numerous hospitals.

> Its time to start the search for innovative ways to support struggling hospitals, or new types of care facilities, in areas that have seen hospital closures
>
> **Joseph Crowley**
> Congressman

"While theproposals from this working group may not be the answer for every situation, I would like us to begin a conversation on how best to address some of the similar issues we are facing in Queens and the Bronx. This is a high priority for residents in these areas, and I hope we can work together to address the concerns of these communities," writes Rep. Crowley in the letter.

A number of hospitals in Queens have closed over the past several years, including St. Joseph's Hospital, Parkway Hospital, St. John's Hospital Queens and Mary Immaculate Hospital. From the loss of economic engines in the community to hindering patients' access to care, these closings have had a severe and direct impact on Queens.

Similar issues are also arising in the Bronx, where even Westchester Square Medical Center, which was saved from closing by the New York State Department of Health, continues to face operating challenges.

"It is time to start the search for innovative ways to support struggling hospitals, or new types of care facilities, in areas that have seen hospital closures," continued. Crowley.

Crowley has been a strong advocate for urban hospitals and specialty care centers in Queens and the Bronx, fighting to ensure residents have access to quality care. He was a leader in the effort to keep Westchester Square Medical Center in the Bronx open, has worked to ensure fair Medicare payments and, in conjunction with his New York Congressional Delegation colleagues, has called for the protection of hospitals and health systems from the threat of spending cuts.

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