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P.S. 31's Diaz cheated on extra salary

BY KIRSTEN SANCHEZ

Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City school district Richard J. Condon released a report on Wednesday, January 11, which detailed the findings of an investigation concluding that the principal of P.S. 31, Liza Cruz Diaz, left school at the end of her regular Department of Education work day, on a regular basis, but directed secretary Melissa Carey to punch out her per session activity time card several hours later.

Per session activities, as defined by the United Federation of Teachers web site, are activities such as sports or clubs that students can participate under the supervision of faculty members. The teachers are compensated at a rate of \$41.98 per hour in addition to their regular salary. Cruz Diaz's per session rate at the time was recorded as \$43.94.

As a result of the hours punched on Diaz's time card, the principal earned thousands of dollars in per session pay for hours she did not work, Condon said. Since 2008, when Carey began the time-keeping practice for the principal, Diaz claimed to have worked more than 900 per session activity hours and earned more than \$40,000 in gross per session pay.

Condon's investigation also revealed that Diaz used Department of Education funds to pay for items

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FRESH DIRECT IS RUDE TO BRONX



Photo courtesy of Ed Garcia

Residents rallied during a vote by the Industrial Development Agency on a proposed \$80 million New York City subsidy package to on-line grocer Fresh Direct to move to Mott Haven.

On-line grocer takes hit over borough diss

BY KIRSTEN SANCHEZ

After Fresh Direct announced plans to relocate its headquarters to an 18-acre parcel at the Harlem River Yards, critics of the deal are weighing in.

On Tuesday, February 14 at an 8:45 a.m. press conference local residents rallied at the Industrial Development Agency's vote on the proposed \$80 million New York City subsidy package to go to Fresh Direct to move their central headquarters to the Mott Haven neighborhood.

"Without public hearings or notification last Tuesday, city, state and Bronx officials announced a nearly \$130 million subsidy package for Fresh Direct to leave its Queens facility and expand its operations at the Harlem River Yards in The Bronx," said a press release sent by Bettina Demani, Project Manager for Good Jobs New York.

"The proposed project would bring more diesel truck traffic to

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City Island's old school house receives NYC landmark status

BY KIRSTEN SANCHEZ

Roberto Soto, a City Island resident for the past 17 years said tells people he is so old, he lives in a museum.

Well he does, the Nautical Museum Building on City Island which this year was designated a New York City Landmark.

"This is a wonderful place and it is wonderful living in a an old established building," Soto said. "Everyone on the island knows where the old school house is. The more I hear about this wonderful building, the more I feel lucky to live here."

"This building is not built like they are now, this is a very solid structure, with a very high ceiling and very thick walls. I am very happy to live here, not only because it is structurally sound, but also because of

its rich history."

The school, which first opened as P.S. 102 and later as P.S. 17, is located at 190 Fordham Street. The back portion of the building contains condos, where Soto currently resides. The building is also home to the Nautical Museum as well as a community center.

The New York City Landmark designation will be presented at a City Council hearing in March.

The building first opened in 1898 with about 400 students and eight classrooms. It was designed by then famed New York City architect Charles Snyder.

P.S. 102 was renumbered P.S. 17 in 1903 and was designated as The City Island School in 1916. From 1929 to 1930 the school was expanded to meet the needs of the growing island population, and was replaced in

1975 by P.S. 175. The original building was then used by the various groups it still houses there today.

During the 1980s City Island developer Haim Joseph purchased the property and converted the back of the building into condos, under the agreement that the nautical museum and community center could remain.

Long-time resident and City Island Civic association member Russell Schaller said having the building landmarked means a lot to him.

"I went to school there starting in the 1930s," Schaller said. "I always liked the school, I think it was a better school than P.S. 75. We had very excellent teachers, who were all locals and grew up on City Island. I am happy to see it has been landmarked."



Photo by Patrick Rocchio

The City Island Nautical Museum, located at 190 Fordham Street on City Island, which was recently designated a New York City Landmark.

Black history reflections at library

Celebrate your favorite African American author by reading their prose at the 23rd National African American Read-In on Tuesday, February 21. The event, which recognizes Black History Month, will start

at 6 p.m. at the Parkchester Library at 1985 Westchester Avenue.

Anyone can participate by choosing a piece of literature or excerpt from a longer text by an African American author. You get up to five

minutes to share your piece with the audience.

To attend or participate, contact Nicole at the PEP for Seniors office, (718) 409-1619 or ntambini@centerlight.org. Refreshments will be served.



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St. Theresa students urge merchants to go smoke-free

BY KIRSTEN SANCHEZ

Dante Natoli and Angelo Salvatico, two 8th grade students from St. Theresa School, who are not concerned with what the “cool thing to do” is, are hoping to lead the way to a smoke free Bronx.

On Thursday, February 9, the boys gave a presentation to a small audience that included students, faculty, Assemblyman Michael Bennedetto, and community board representative Patrick Caruso, about their findings while surveying several deli and store owners in their community.

The teens set up their presentation as a newscast, which they called ‘What’s happening in the Bronx’ and explained that within a five block radius of the school, there were multiple tobacco advertisements in store windows and gas stations.

“We discovered that tobacco advertising is rampant in our neighborhood and frankly it is a shame,” Natoli said.

Throggs Neck Community Action Partnership member Joanne Timmins said the two boys were

educated to all of the negative effects of smoking by the smoke-free after school program, the students also worked after school with their school prevention counselor Theresa Esposito.

The Throggs Neck Community Action Partnership, a local coalition of public, private, faith, civic and legislative organizations that, since 1998, works together to prevent alcohol and substance abuse among our youth.

The group works to implement prevention and intervention strategies through community collaboration and to advocate for healthy and productive life styles and respect for residents. They received a small grant that they have used in 8 different schools throughout the Bronx to educate students about the hazards of smoking, and also to bring the issue to the attention to political figures and community board members.

“Studies have shown that tobacco advertising has a negative affect on youth because the more advertising they see, the more likely they are to smoke,” Salavatico said.

Napoli agreed.

“This is true,” he said. “Not only are tobacco executives increasing sales by advertising in our neighborhood, but they also advertise in the way they display their cigarettes.”

The boys showed a power point slide of a picture of what they call “the power wall”. “The power wall” is the actual display of cigarettes most delis and pharmacies have behind the counter.

“With youth in our community being exposed to the power wall and tobacco ads it is no wonder why so many have been smoking cigarettes,” Napoli said.

On January 19, the boys along with a chaperone, conducted several interviews with local deli and pharmacy owners.

“This deli owner shared some interesting facts,” Napoli said, referring to a clip the boys played for their audience. “We learned that when delis display tobacco advertisements, they get a discount for every carton they sell. In addition to that, cigarette sales really increase their overall store sales.”

Although the boys found some owners were willing to talk to them, others refused to be interviewed.

“After several disappointing interviews, we have a new found respect for pharmacies in our area,” Salvatico said.

The students interviewed a pharmacist near school and were surprised by his answer.

“We interviewed a local pharmacist and learned that he values the health and well being of his customers,” Salvatico said. “He only sells products that promote good health.”

Salavatico said he wants to see more store owners supporting a smoke-free environment for kids.

“I want to see people supporting not selling cigarettes where kids are,” he said. “I want to see more of that not only in the Bronx but across the country.”



Photo by Kirsten Sanchez

Dante Natoli (l) and Angelo Salvatico (m), two eighth grade students from St. Theresa worked with their school prevention counselor Theresa Esposito (right) to prepare a presentation on Thursday, February 9 for parents, faculty and staff on the harmful effects on children of smoke-related advertising in neighborhoods in the Bronx.

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Grand marshals selected for 2012 Bronx St. Pat's Parade

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

When the 2012 Bronx St. Patrick's Day Parade steps off from the corner of E. Tremont and Randall avenues on Sunday, March 11, three outstanding Irish-American community leaders will be honored.

Selected by the committee as the grand marshals for the parade, which steps off at noon, are Justice Douglas McKeon and businesswoman Regina Gallagher-Marengo. The honored clergy member is Sister Bridget O'Sullivan, a teacher for 49 years at St. Helena Girls and Monsignor Scanlan high schools.

"They are individuals who are known to us, or brought to our attention, who represent community service, spiritual dedication, and Bronx Irish spirit," said Karin O'Conner of the parade committee.

Justice McKeon has been Administrative Judge for Civil Matters in the 12th Judicial District since January 2011. Previously, he served as presiding justice of the of the appellate first department, and as a New York State Supreme Court Justice has handled high profile cases including the Happy Land Fire case, and is currently presiding in the civil case brought by Nafisatou Diallo against Dominique Strauss-Khan.

His selection as one of the grand marshals serves as an expression of faith his Irish-American neighbors have placed in his work in the law and courts, and this work must have given them a sense of pride and a because they are publicly acknowledging them, McKeon said.

"It was totally unexpected, and I was really quite touched because I have been honored by law-related organizations, but in a way this is kind of a testament by my neighbors," McKeon stated. "I obviously felt flattered that they would select me for such an honor."

McKeon has lived his entire life in the Bronx, presently in the Pelham Parkway community. His



JUSTICE DOUGLAS MCKEON



SISTER BRIDGET O'SULLIVAN



REGINA GALLAGHER-MARENGO

his father Edwin McKeon was the Chief Clerk of the Bronx Civil Court.

Regina Gallagher-Marengo grew up in the Bronx and established Ensign Engineering, a multi-disciplinary engineering firm, in 1993. The firm is presently located off Bruckner Boulevard and has been working on the reconstruction of the World Trade Center since 2006, as well as on projects for the Department of Design and Construction and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

She is also a commissioned officer in the United States Navy, and since 2009, has been commanding officer of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 26.

Having spent St. Patrick's Day serving in Afghanistan in 2011 will make spending it as grand marshal of this parade even more sweet, Gallagher-Marengo stated.

"I am thrilled to be selected as a grand marshal in 2012 Throggs Neck St. Patrick's Day Parade," Gallagher-Marengo stated. "This parade is such a great celebration of our Irish-American heritage in

Throggs Neck. It exemplifies what is so wonderful in our area: the camaraderie of the community, the spirit of the neighborhood, and our wonderful merchants along E. Tremont Avenue."

A Sparkill Dominican sister, Sr. Bridget Teresa O'Sullivan was raised in Mott Haven and Castle Hill in an Irish immigrant family, with her mother from County Cork, and her father from County Kerry, she said.

Upon her graduation from Walton High School in 1946, she felt herself called to a religious vocation. She professed her vows on April 6, 1948.

She retired from teaching on Labor Day 2011 after being on the faculty of Monsignor Scanlan for 49 years, and spent a total of 65 years teaching in Catholic schools, she stated. Her selection as honored clergy is an honor that came as a surprise and she has only watched the Bronx St. Patrick's Day Parade as a spectator before, O'Sullivan stated.

"I was very surprised and it was one of those things that seemed to come out of the blue," O'Sullivan. "I feel so honored."

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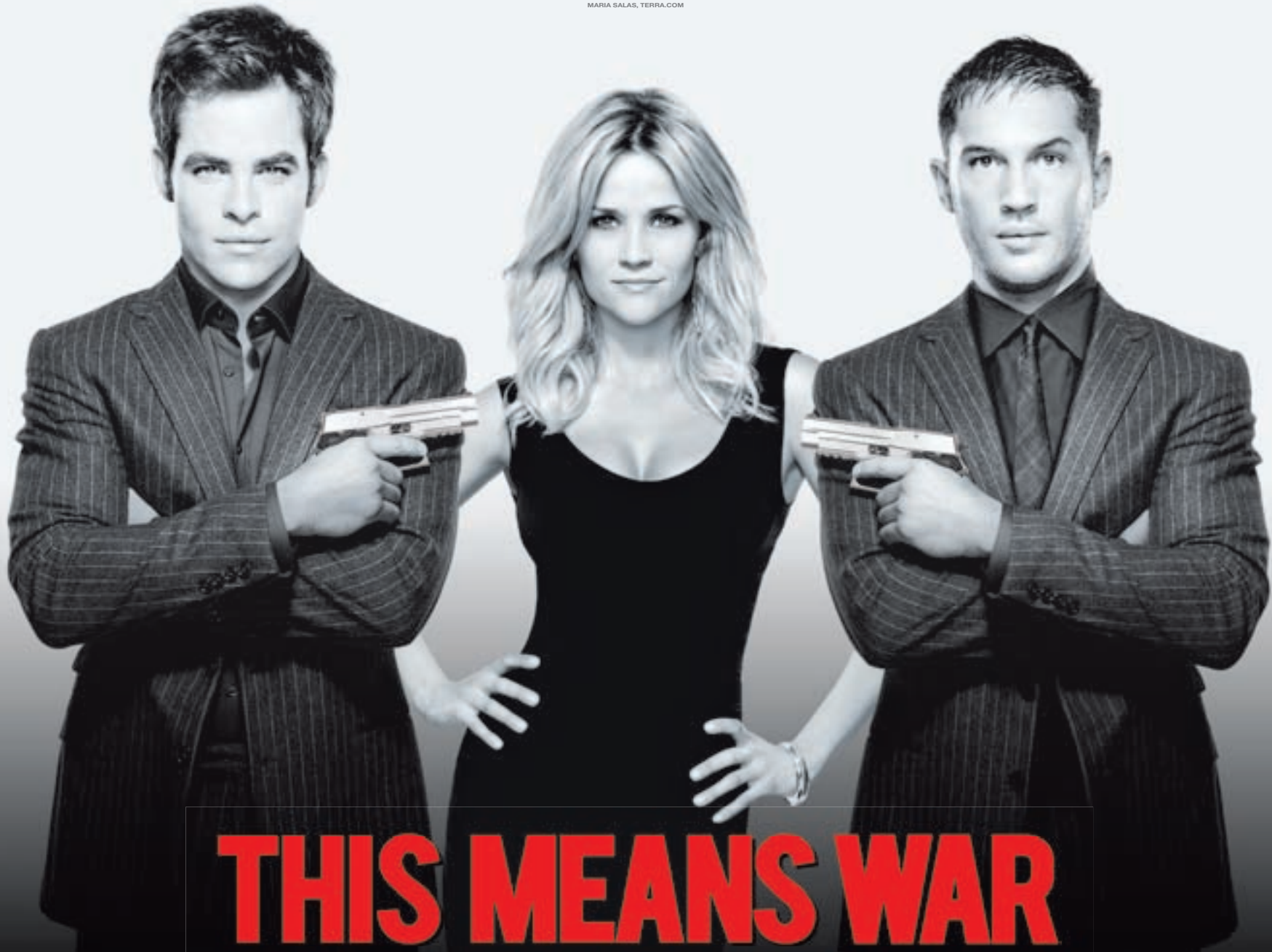
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Preston cheerleaders are off to the Nationals

BY KIRSTEN SANCHEZ

"In order to achieve your dreams, all you need is faith, trust and a little pixie dust," quoted Preston High School senior and cheerleading captain Brianna Finelli, during her speech at a showcase the team held for family and friends on Tuesday, February 7.

In true-fairy tale fashion, the Preston High School Panthers will head off to Disney World in Orlando, Florida to compete in the National high school cheerleading competition, a dream come true according to the girls.

For the team, along with their coaches Lori Finelli and John Braca, receiving an invitation to nationals was an unprecedented milestone as they are the first team in the school's history to qualify and attend.

The 'Cinderella team' received their qualifying spot by competing in the Universal Cheerleaders Association regional competition at Hofstra University in April of last year against teams from New York, New

Jersey, and Connecticut.

"For the last four years, I've had the honor of being on the most incredible cheerleading team in Preston's history, and this year, these 11 girls and I, along with our phenomenal coaches made our dream of getting a bid to nationals a reality and I can not express how proud I am," Brianna Finelli said. "Competing at nationals in Disney World is every cheerleader's dream and getting there is a lot easier for some than others; let's just say getting there was not easy for us."

The best feeling in the world, according to Brianna Finelli, was when she heard the announcer at the regional competition say her team would be heading to nationals.

"When Preston High School was announced, I felt accomplished," she said.

All of the funds needed for the team to travel to Orlando was raised by the girls who held various fund raisers throughout the year.

"We got sponsors, sold wreaths at Christmas time,

and we made just enough to pay for our trip to nationals," Coach Lori Finelli said. Head coach John Braca said it has been his dream as well as the girls' to get a chance to compete in the national competition.

"This is my fourth year coaching at Preston, and I have watched these girls grow into amazing and talented individuals," Braca said. "I'm their biggest supporter and have always believed in them. I am proud to say I coached them."

The girls expressed the same admiration Braca expressed for them during their speeches on Tuesday night.

"Johnny is such a great person and coach," Preston High School junior Francesca Primiani said. "When we hurt, he hurts, when we laugh, he laughs, when we cry, he cries, and when we sweat, he really sweats. He can understand us like no other because he knows how to bring out the inner person that we are. I couldn't ask for a better coach to bring us down to nationals."



Photo by Kirsten Sanchez

Preston High School cheerleaders pose for a team picture on the mat before performing a showcase they put together for family and friends.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Don Cornelius tribute

Dear editor,

"SOUL TRAIN-The hippest trip in America; 60 non-stop minutes going through the tracks of your mind in the exciting world of Soul! And now here's your host-Don Cornelius!"

How many of us remember those opening words that were part of a weekly Saturday mid-day ritual? Yes, many of us tuned in each week to watch and listen to "Soul Train" that featured great new hits in the R&B genre, original artists appearing to perform and promote those hits, and the highlight of the hour--the famed Soul Train Dance Line. Don Cornelius passed away February 1, 2012 after a reportedly self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was 75.

Surely, there will never be another like Don Cornelius, nor Soul Train-his masterpiece creation, for "you can bet your last money it's all going to be a stone gas honey!" Rest in peace Don Cornelius; "in parting we wish you love,..... peace,..... and soul!"

Michael S. Wilbekin

NYS Budget has a cost

Dear editor,

Did anyone really believe the new budget for New York would not come with a cost to its residents and businesses.

The \$69 million from new fees, hiking existing fees and a major crackdown on tax breaks, are just the beginning. New fees and hiking fees could apply to every city/public service, both business and recreational.

Even the old plan of "Pay for Services"

might just come up again, i.e., pay for garbage removal, or FDNY/NYPD services for car accidents and fires. This would surely raise your insurance premiums. Raising vehicle inspection and registration fees, and increasing city fees and the hidden costs at the gas pumps are also an option.

The financially burdened residents of New York will be forced to pay these increases and businesses affected by these increases will pass these costs to the consumers. I will leave it up to your imagination as to what some people may or may not do to avoid paying these fees, some could be life threatening.

Robert Neglia

Cut down the ginkos

Dear editor,

I have read more than one article in the Bronx Times Reporter about the problem posed by some of the ginko trees in our community and have experienced it first-hand. The odorous and hazardous conditions caused by the squashed fruit and seeds on the sidewalk are the result of a mistake made by the Parks Department some years ago when female ginkos were planted instead of their male counterparts.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but wasn't the Parks Department ready to remove healthy trees from Pelham Parkway if they were judged to be a hazard to motorists? If their policy is flexible under certain circumstances, why not consider the hazard presented to pedestrians every year by this slippery, foul-smelling mess? If the trees cannot be removed, why not at least clean up the areas affected? This is a burden that homeowners

should not have to bear alone. Besides, the trees are at the curb side, not on the residents' property, and should not be the responsibility of the parks Department. After all, it was their mistake and the courtesy would be appreciated by all.

Paulette Sorg

Cell phone entrapment

Dear editor,

This is in reference to the article on parking space locators on Arthur Avenue.

I believe it is a chargeable offense to use any mobile device while driving. Is this a way to encourage the public to use mobile devices in their cars and then have to explain to a judge that they were searching for a parking space?

Joseph Rizza

Why are telemarketers getting our cell numbers?

Dear editor,

Why are cell phone numbers being released to telemarketing companies - so they can make sales calls and we will be charged for those calls? Who gives them the right to do this?

I am totally against it. Why should it be the consumer's responsibility to register their phone numbers with the NYS Registry? The consumer should have the right to opt-in for sales calls and not the telemarketers.

Anna R.

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 18

OPED: by Lorraine Von Eeden When the school bell rings - access to healthcare

In my 20-plus years of working as a pediatric nurse practitioner, I have provided health care to many school-aged children and adolescents. One area in which I work is housed within a somewhat unorthodox location - within the walls of a high school in the Bronx. This site is known as a School Based Health Center.

School Based Health Centers are medical homes in the school - 226 homes that provide care to over 200,000 children and adolescents in rural, suburban, and urban areas of New York state. SBHCs are on the front lines promoting children's health in communities where there is limited access to medical, dental and mental health services. These clinics keep kids healthy and in school by providing them with primary preventative, mental health and often dental services on-site in the school; acute care, care for chronic conditions, and referral to specialists as needed. They play an important role in assuring that health care is available, appropriate and affordable for underserved school-aged youth. For some, these clinics are their only source for health screenings, comprehensive physical examinations, reproductive care, counseling and immunizations that they will access throughout their childhood.

Other benefits of SBHCs include: reduced inappropriate emergency room use, fewer un-

necessary hospitalizations, improved school attendance and progress, higher immunization rates, improved and increased access to mental health, improved reproductive health care for adolescents, and lower Medicaid expenditures.

The need for School-based health clinics has never been greater. The recession has resulted in job losses, and swelled the number of uninsured individuals. Many of the students live in communities with a high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections. Seventy five percent (75%) of the students are African American, Hispanic or Latino.

At the annual Advocacy Education Day in Albany, students and parents spoke to the legislators on behalf of their school clinics and shared their stories:

The mother whose family had no health insurance came into a school clinic in Sunset Park and asked if there was anything that could be done for her son who had a fever and a persistent cough. The child was examined by the Nurse Practitioner and found to have Asthma and Pneumonia. He was given inhalers and antibiotics from the clinic, and sent home. A week later, he was back in school and healthy.

Governor Cuomo's 2011-12 proposed State Budget included 21.7 million for SBHCs in New York state. At the Federal level, School-based health clinics were included in the Patient Pro-

tection and Affordability Act passed by Congress in 2010. It is time for us to take stock of publicly financed health insurance coverage for children and adolescents. We need to urge our policy makers to protect and promote this essential component of the children's safety net through the following recommendations aimed at Federal, state Medicaid, and SCHIP policies: a) Enable school-based health centers to be listed as primary care providers in managed care organization and provider networks b) All insurers reimburse the school-based health services at 100% of cost, c) Emphasize access to preventative care, routine assessment and screening, and effective management of chronic illnesses d) Remove co-pays or premiums for provision of primary care.

Send letters and e-mails to Governor Cuomo, and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, in support of keeping these school-based medical homes alive and vibrant, and of protecting available funding sources.

Lorraine Von Eeden, CPNP, is a pediatric nurse practitioner who has been providing health care to infants, children and adolescents at the Montefiore School Health Program in the Bronx for over 23 years. A graduate of Columbia School of Nursing, Von Eeden is currently pursuing doctoral studies at Pace University, NY.

Temple H. services set

Temple Hatikva invites the entire community to its Shabbat Services on Saturday, February 18 at 10 a.m. An Oneg Shabbat will be held directly after the services.

Spending Shabbat at Temple Hatikva is a very special experience, as you will not only experience the joy of this special day, but will also be a part of a vibrant, friendly and inviting synagogue community that will welcome you to the synagogue with open arms.

After the services, the congregation joins together for an Oneg Shabbat, where we enjoy each others camaraderie along with a light lunch. It's the perfect way to spend Shabbat morning, filling your soul and then your stomach!

Temple Hatikva is located at 2440 Esplanade. If you need more information, please call Temple Hatikva at (718) 792-1109 or e-mail TempleHatikva@aol.com.

MTA to sell off golf center parcel

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The MTA has decided to sell off the property that was once a driving range, adjacent to its Gun Hill Bus Depot.

A Request for Proposals will soon be released to sell the former Bronx Golf Center at 1825 E. Gun Hill Road. The 640,200 square foot parcel divestiture is part of ongoing efforts by the MTA to reduce costs and maximize its revenues from real estate holdings, Aaron Donovan, a MTA spokesman, confirmed.

According to a presentation released by the MTA about the properties it intends to dispose the expansion of the bus terminal is no longer being contemplated. The area is zoned M1-1 making it suitable for a big box retailer if a special permit is obtained, according to the offering. The property is situated at the end of E. Gun Hill Road at I-95.

The Chester Civic Im-

provement Organization has worked with Senator Jeff Klein's office to have the area around the property cleaned of debris, as litter and garbage have been allowed to encircle the property, said CCIO board member Donald Gilligan.

"It is right on the doorstep of our community, and a lot of people go by, and if it is dirty it reflects poorly on the community," Gilligan said. "So anything that would keep that property neat and clean, and remove those towering poles, would be acceptable, short of anything objectionable to the community as a whole."

As of press time, Klein's staff has confirmed that 25 bags of garbage had been removed by MTA work crews. The MTA has confirmed that the remainder will be cleaned within days, Klein said.

"I am glad that Pelham Gardens residents brought this site to my attention,"



Photo by Patrick Rocchio

The site formerly home to the Bronx Golf Center at 1825 E. Gun Hill Road, pictured, is being cleaned by the MTA at Senator Klein's and the Pelham Gardens community's request. The MTA plans to sell the property.

Klein stated. "While this site is currently listed as up for sale, it should be properly maintained. We received a commitment from the MTA that the site would be cleaned by next week. I look forward to this being done."

The netting that previously surrounded the driving range has been removed

by the MTA at the community's request after it began to collapse, Gilligan said.

The property also contains batting cages, a miniature golf course, and an area currently used for storage by a contractor, Gilligan stated.

The property is zoned M1-1, a designation for light manufacturing as well as

for auto storage, retail use, and community facilities like schools, houses of worship, and libraries, Gilligan stated.

"If it would be another business that would be a convenience for the neighborhood" said Gilligan about the future of the site, "I don't think that anyone would object."

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Shopping For a Contractor

Once you make a decision to do some work on your home, the next step is to call in some contractors for estimates and ideas. Most homeowners don't think they need to have their wits about them until the salesperson is sitting in front of them. That's a big mistake. So what is the right way to go about this often overwhelming process? How do you know if you've let the right contractor into your home? Here are a few tips to help make your home improvement projects as successful and worthwhile as possible.

Before you call anyone in for an estimate, there are some very important decisions to make. Are you the type of person who wants to deal with an established reputable company with a place of business (which will cost a little bit more money), or are you the type of person who wants to be your own general contractor and hire someone that works out of his truck or home (which should be less expensive)? There are numerous different types of contractors out there, but only one is right for you.

The truth is, you should only be comparing apples with apples. If you call in the largest construction company you can think of, a mid-sized local establishment, and your cousin's friend Johnny, you haven't accomplished anything. You're pricing three different quality products and three different levels of service. Remember, a guarantee is only as good as the company that issues it. Just because something is cheaper doesn't necessarily mean it's the better deal.

If you know your cousin's friend is not what you want because you don't want to deal with a pickup truck contractor, and the high prices of the national chains leave you questioning if the product is really worth the price, you should be calling in three local, established companies. Not only do you get an accredited company you can trust, but their prices will be much more reasonable. You can really compare prices and products on a level playing field. These midsized companies can be found in local papers, local television commercials, radio station ads, or by word of mouth. Just be sure to visit the company's showrooms. With a little bit of deception, many pickup truck contractors can seem like a midsized company.

Once you've found your local companies, make sure you get all the quotes in writing so that you can refer back to the estimate if you have any disagreements when the work is being done. It is also a good idea to check with your local Better Business Bureau and Consumer Affairs. They will not only tell you if the contractor has a lot of complaints, but will tell you how long they have been in business under that company name. Lastly, when dealing with salespeople, the best piece of advice is always "trust your instincts."

Written by: Steven J DiMare
Chief Executive Officer
Unified Window Systems, Inc.

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Bronx beat

Information session for Lehman Academy

An Information Session for the spring semester of the Lehman Academy: Programs for Children and Teens is being offered by the Lehman College School of Continuing and Professional Studies on Sat., Feb. 25, 10:30 am to noon.

Expert guidance will be provided on a wide range of academic, creative arts and recreational classes held on Saturdays and weekdays after school. Information on our popular summer camp for children in elementary through high school will also be given.

Different packages are available (July, August, half-day, full-day, early drop-off, late pick-up). A variety of activities gives children the opportunity for enrichment, creativity, physical fitness and socialization.

A new offering this summer is the Teen Technology program. The session will be held on the Lehman College campus in Carman Hall, Room B-08.

For more information or a catalog of all spring and summer classes for children and adults, call (718) 960-8512 or visit www.lehman.edu/scps.

NAI Friedland CEO Tony Lembeck announced that managing directors Carl Silbergleit and Ellen Benedek have concluded negotiations on three leases at Fordham Place, bringing the premier office space to 86 percent occupancy in less than nine months.

Developed, owned, and operated by Acadia Realty Trust, the \$120 million, 288,322 square-foot office and retail complex is located at 400 E. Fordham Road.

Considered an urban destination in the borough's business epicenter, Fordham Place features a 14-story office tower with 162,463 square feet of prime Class A office space a rarity in the Bronx.

Professional Healthcare Institute, Inc. leased 47,792 square feet spanning five floors in the office

tower. The Law Firm of Nonna Shikh now occupies 2,649 square feet, and the Children's Village leased 19,549 square feet. In addition to working on behalf of the landlord in all three cases, the Friedland brokers represented the tenant in the first two deals.

When Fordham Place was sold to Acadia Realty Trust a decade ago it was the largest transaction in recent Bronx history. NAI Friedland was the broker in that transaction. Also located within the office tower is Jonas Bronck Academy, a prestigious, progressive middle school. The 100,000-square-foot retail component of Fordham Place is anchored by Best Buy, Walgreens, Bank of America, Sears, Healthfirst, and 24 Hour Fitness.

NAI Friedland is receiving significant interest in the remaining 30,000 square feet of premium, yet affordable, Class A office space still available on three floors at Fordham Place. For more information, contact Carl Silbergleit at (718) 231-5700.

BCA to offer art handler training

Bronx Council on the Arts' Fine Arts & Technical Services is pleased to announce that online applications are now available for the 2012 Intensive Art Handler Training Program (AHTP). The AHTP application process is competitive and open to individuals looking to pursue a career in the art handling / fine arts industry. The deadline for online submissions and other required documentation is Friday, February 17, 11:59 p.m.

The 2012 Intensive Art Handler Training Program is an eight-week, certificate program designed as a forum which stresses the practical application of generally accepted principles of art handling. In addition, there are externship and internship or opportunities available to graduates upon completion of training. The program offers participants an opportunity to learn new skills or enhance existing skill sets, and to equip museum and gallery directors with the technical skills to design and develop innovative operational protocols for risk management, logistics and loss prevention.

Art Handlers are responsible for the maintenance and movement of fine artworks and artifacts. Responsibilities include safety, care, shipping and receiving, packing and unpacking, intake and preparation for display, exhibition installation and de-installation of art and artifacts, and certification upon completion. A yearly salary for a full-time, experienced art handler ranges from \$25,000 to \$70,000 or \$15 to \$40 per hour for seasonal or provisional free-lancers.

The next AHTP training cycle begins on Friday, March 9 and continues through Saturday, April 28. Those selected for this training cycle are required to complete 120 hours of training consisting of two full-day classroom sessions per week (Fridays and Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for eight consecutive weeks.

Criteria for program participants include: assessing basic, verbal, mathematical and measuring skills; establishing minimum requirements for physical strength and agility; examining familiarity with hand tools (hammers, saws, screw-

drivers, etc.) and elementary construction materials; demonstratively, a level of safety and care in a team environment.

Workshops are structured as one- or two-day sessions that cover topics such as re-framing, stretching and rolling of canvases, installation, mounting and hanging of artworks. Art handler Training certificate Program serves as an introduction to conservator practices (sculpture, woodwork, glass / ceramics, tapestry and canvas, paperwork mounting and matting, tools and hardware of the trade.

Program participants will receive formal training in art handling best practices, under the supervision of lead trainer Gary Nichols, assistant trainer Roxalana Jordon, and specialized field consultants. The professional curriculum will include certification standards in art handling, as well as life skills training and career counseling.

Additional information and an online application can be found on the Bronx Council on the Arts website at www.bronxarts.org.

YOUR STRONG KIDS CAMPAIGN

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Monday, April 23, 2012

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All proceeds to benefit the Bronx YMCA



Photos by Claude Roland



Photos by Sam Tuthill

DATING GAME RESURFACES AT WORKMEN'S CIRCLE

Senior at Workman's Circle Multicare enjoyed a fun rendition of "The Dating Game" on Monday, February 13. The festivities celebrated Valentine's Day, with food, music, and dancing. Men from the residence competed to win a romantic dinner, prepared by the staff, with a special lady.

(Above) Staff members (l-r) Grace Thompson, Edgar Planes, Stephanie Aponte, Sharon Normoyle, and Josette Barrow worked to make Valentine's Day festive for the residents.

(Below) Many of the residents enjoyed the festive celebration.



DOMINICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION 2012

On Thursday, February 9, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and La Gran Parada Dominicana de el Bronx, Inc celebrated Dominican Heritage month at Verterans Memorial Hall at 851 Grand Concourse.

(Above) Participating in the event were dancers Melissa Pichardo, Madelyn Batista, Elianny Santana Jhelsy, Paula Carolina Torres, Catheryn Torres, and Heidi Deleon.

(Below) Also in attendance was Assemblyman Crespo (fourth from right) who celebrated with honorees and guests.



CONG. SERRANO HOSTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On Friday, February 10, Congressman Jose Serrano, Congressman Jose M. Serrano hosted a celebration in honor of Black History Month. Among those honored were District Attorney Robert Johnson, Assemblyman Carl Heastie, Karen Washington, president of New York City Community Garden, and Dierdre Scott, and executive director of Bronx Council on the Arts.

(Right) Participating in the event were (l-r) Senator Jose M. Serrano, Assemblyman Carl Heastie (honoree), and Congressman Jose Serrano.



Photo by Dario Alequin

COMPTROLLER LIU VISITS ARTHUR AVENUE



Photo Courtesy of New York City Comptroller's office

NYC Comptroller John Liu, Assemblyman Jose Rivera, Belmont BID executive director Frank Franz and BID board members examine traffic patterns and parking at the intersection of East 187th Street and Arthur Avenue in Belmont. Comptroller Liu spent the afternoon in the area, meeting with local merchants and business owners.

Bronx scene

- Rock On The Bronx 19
- Empire City Casino Leaps Into Fun 20
- Do You Remember - Clason Point Roller Coaster 21

Puppet making

The Huntington Free Library and Reading Room, 9 Westchester Square, will offer the following free programs. All programs are free, open to all ages.

Saturday, February 18, 12:30 to 3 p.m., Puppet Making with puppet maker Lucrecia Novoa. Have a fulfilled afternoon with Lucrecia who will help you create a small puppet that you will be proud to display.

Saturday, March 17, 12:30 to 3 p.m., Recycle Art with Star Nigro. Join Star Nigro as she shows you cool and clever ways to make great eco art. Learn to construct a masterpiece by creatively recycling old and new elements. Free program, fun for children to adults.

For more information call (718) 829-7770.



MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Patients at Beth Abraham Health Service helped create new musical works and perform them as part of a collaboration with musicians at Carnegie Halls' Weill Music Institute. The musicians worked with the residents as part of a two-week creative residency at the Center Light Health Series on Allerton Avenue and then joined them on Thursday, February 2 for a concert for the facility.

(Left) Participating in a final rehearsal before the concert (l-r) resident Lillian Katz, musician Kris Saebo, resident Walter Smith, musician Alma Liebrecht, resident William Senkiwsky, musician Brad Balliet, and resident Concetta Previte.

Fornatale at coffeehouse

The **Uptown Coffeehouse**, City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, lower level, presents Pete Fornatale's Simon and Garfunkel: How Terribly Strange to Be 70 Multimedia Program on Sun., Mar. 4, at 6 pm.

If you grew up in New York as a fan of folk music, or acoustic rock for that matter, Pete Fornatale is probably a huge reason why. From his Campus Caravan on WFUV in 1964 to his debut on WNEW in 1970 to his "Mixed Bag", which began on WNEW in 1982 and continues today on WFUV, Pete has been "a staple of New York radio for over 40 years."

In his multimedia program on the music and life of Simon and Garfunkel the rock 'n roll historian tells the story of two friends who started their professional career over 50 years ago as Tom and Jerry. Fornatale covers both the tumultuous and the uplifting times of these two singers whose music still continues to delight audiences today.

For further information call (718) 885-2955. Admission is \$20, children under 12, \$5. Bronx Cultural Cards are accepted.

Cuba beckons! The **Pelham Art Center**, 155 Fifth Avenue, Pelham, NY, invites you to the sizzle and romance of Old Havana for an evening filled with live Cuban music and dancing, sumptuous dining and drinks and cigar rolling.

Salsa dancers will perform, and also teach you their hottest moves – and all this fun is supporting the arts through Pelham Art Center's major fundraiser. "Havana Nights" will fire up the spring season on Sat., Mar. 31 at the nearby historic Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Courses, which recently completed a \$10 million renovation.

Guests will be treated to Cuban-style appetizers, drinks and signature mojitos. Individual tickets are \$185 (El Vecino, individual Gala ticket price); \$350 (El Gobernador, one ticket and acknowledgement in journal), \$700 (El Presidente, twotickets and acknowledgement in journal) or \$2,000 (El Rey, Table for 10 and acknowledgement in journal) and can be purchased by phone, mail or online. RSVP deadline is Mar. 17, and seating is limited.

Reservations can be made online at www.pelhamartcenter.org/events or call (914) 738 2525, ext. 111.





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ITEM: Are you reading this in time? D.J. Bobby Flowers at Spoto's Friday, February 17!

ITEM: Acoustic duo "No Stringz Attached" at The Clubhouse in City Island on Saturday, February 18.

ITEM: The Bronx's very own DJ Ant G. has some news. Check out his new Ultimate DJ Entertainment Inc. Providing DJ's/karaoke/bands, game nights and trivia. Weekly shows at The Shamrock Inn on Crosby Avenue. Team Trivia at 8 p.m. Free to play with specials and prizes. Check it out: www.ultimatedjny.com

ITEM: Boomerang is a band that grows in popularity with each gig. Boomerang will be at Jimmy Ryan's

rock on the bronx

by Fish Altieri

on March 10.

ITEM: Singer/songwriter Drew Torres, along with other talented musicians, superbly rocked The Scott Place Café at the most recent "Coffee Shop Sound-track" show. Now the café presents Open Mic on Saturday, February 25. Come on down all poets, singer/songwriters and more.

ITEM: Catch me every Sunday at The Wicked Wolf on East Tremont Avenue from 4 to 8 p.m. playing acoustic guitar performing covers, upbeat bluesy origi-

nals, deep album cuts and more.

ITEM: After delivering a powerful show to a packed house on the toughest night of the year - Monday, January 2, the amazing band "Tricked Out Country" has been invited back to the Rodeo Bar in a primetime slot. Catch "Tricked Out Country" Live at The Rodeo Bar 27th and 3rd NYC on Saturday, February 25 at 10:30 p.m. www.trickedoutcountry.com where country meets jazz

ITEM: The Bronx Underground to host "Valentine's Dance Party" with Bands, DJ's plus "Teens for Jeans" drive to help homeless youth! Go now: www.bronxunderground.com Rock on. Rock out.

Pelham Bay Library sets March programs

The Pelham Bay Library, 3060 Middletown Road, offers the following activities.

Wednesdays, February 22, March 14 and March 28, 11 a.m., Preschool Story Time for Children Ages 3 to 5 with Caretaker.

Wednesdays, Febru-

ary 22, March 7, March 14, March 21 and March 28, at 4 p.m., Reading Aloud for Children Ages 6 to 11.

Thursday, February 23, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Free Computer Classes for Adults, Introduction to Microsoft Word. Pre-registration required by calling

(718) 792-6744.

Fridays, February 24, March 16, March 23 and March 30, Free Computer Question & Answer Sessions, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Register at (718) 792-6744.

Friday, February 24, 3:30 p.m., Griots in Con-

Continued on next page



Photo by Joshua Bright

CONFETTI NEST BUILDING AT WAVE HILL

At Wave Hill on Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26, enjoy the Family Art Project - Confetti Nests For Blue Birds as popular papermaker Randy Brozen returns to show how to sculpt little blue birds and vibrant nests from paper pulp and colorful stringy confetti. Use the nest to keep your little blue bird cozy or to welcome home returning migrators this spring. Free, and admission to the grounds is free until noon. Ecology Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wave Hill is located at 675 West 252nd Street. Call (718) 549-3200, ext. 232 for a complete list of activities.

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Empire City Casino leaps into fun; plans weekday, weekend promotions

It will be a month-long Mardi Gras when Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway hosts its "Mardi Gras Hat and Crown Giveaway."

The giveaway is for Empire Club members, and includes drink specials and a Dixie Land band performance from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Entertainment Lounge.

The Empire City laugh-fest is slated for February 22 in the third floor Good Time Room. The doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 for Empire Club members, and \$15 for non-members. All attendees receive one free drink ticket. Vinnie Brand headlines the show.

On Tuesdays in February, "Lucky Ladies" days are back, with every female Empire Club member eligible for \$7 in free play, and a 10% discount coupon for food and beverage purchases. The Ladies fun continues into the evening with two for one drink specials in the Entertainment Lounge from 5 to 9 p.m. and Karaoke beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Tuesday dates are February

7, 14, 21 and 28.

Wednesdays continue the long-running Young at Heart promotion where Empire Club members age 55 and over who visit a Promotions Booth or kiosk will receive the Young at Heart "Gift Pack," featuring \$5 in Free Play, 10% food discount coupons, half price Valet Parking and a different gift each week: Glass Trinket Boxes; Swan, Heart, Double Heart, butterfly and ring holder. One gift per person, per promotional day, while supplies last. The February Young at Heart Entertainment, with bands scheduled at both noon and 2 p.m., include: February 15, The Chickettes; February 22, the Golden Voice of Charles Russo; and a Leap Year special, February 29, the Peter Lawrence Orchestra.

Patrons will go continue to go crazy in the second month of the new "Crazy Wheel" promotion on Wednesday February 15, February 22, and February 29, from 9 p.m. to midnight at the Entertainment Lounge, introducing the new generation of interac-

tive entertainment blending the best of karaoke, trivia, name that tune, clips from favorite TV shows and movies, and prizes for audience participants.

Gifts galore are the watchwords for the "Mystery Prize" (kiosk promo) on Thursdays February 16, and February 23 when everyone wins a prize. Empire Club members can swipe their card at any Promotions Kiosk to play the Mystery Prize game, pick a box, and win a prize. The prizes include: Free Play, iPod Shuffle, MP3 Player, PlayStation® Portable, Sony Cybershot® Camera, Callaway® Golf Club Set, Waterford® Crystal wine glasses and more!

Whew! February is quite a month packed into 29 days! Not to mention the best live harness racing in the world over the Yonkers historic half mile oval on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays with first post at 7:10 pm.

For more information call (914) 968-4200 or log onto www.empirecitycasino.com.



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Extensive programs scheduled at Pelham Bay Library

From previous page

cert. A Griot is the person who guards the history and culture of a people. African Griots are traditionally drummers and storytellers. Through the Griots, the oral tradition is passed down throughout the generations by inspirational, educational and motivating performances with stories, music and songs from Africa, the Caribbean and America. Presented by Linda Humes, this program is tailored for audiences of all ages.

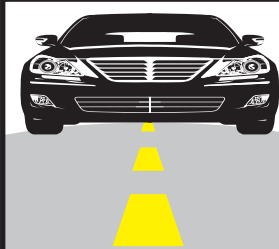
Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m., Stay Well Exercise Pro-

gram, all levels. Volunteers trained by the Health Promotion Services Unit of the NYC Department for the Aging will lead participants in a well-balanced series of exercises for all ability levels. No special clothing or equipment is necessary. Must sign an activity release form. Register at (718) 792-6744.

Stuff For Teens:
Mondays, 4:30 p.m. Game-On: Show off your gaming skills and challenge your friends to a game in the library. For 5th grade and up.
Tuesdays, 4 p.m. Teen

Tech Time: Come hang out with your friends in a cool, casual environment. Bring snacks to enjoy while you chat with your friends and use the library's laptops to do homework, watch videos, play games, and amore. For 5th grade and up.

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m. TAG: What's happening in your world? What's the hottest book, movie, or CD right now? What programs does the library need? Let the library know and you can earn community service credit for your school. For 6th grade and up.



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Clason Point roller coaster

I recently came across a schematic of the Clason Point Amusement Park along with a copy of a picture of a 1909 postcard showing the various amusements at the site. Artie Seifert (1926-2006), the Clason Point historian, had given them to me years ago and he was the leading expert on the area. The schematic was created in 1935 by Con Edison and clearly outlines the locations of the amusements in relation to the streets that later dissected the park area. Many readers of this column will recall the park after it was transformed into the Shorehaven Beach Club and busloads of revelers were transported to the site by special busses from Parkchester and other pick-up points. It became enormously popular with all age groups

The schematic shows the East River as the southern boundary with Soundview Avenue to the north veering southeast. The east borders the Michael Pfeiffer property (parts of blocks

do you remember

by Bill Twomey

3434 and 3435). The western border is much harder to define in words but it starts at Soundview Avenue just east of Newman Avenue and continues southwest to the East River never quite reaching as far west as White Plains Road. Clinton Stephens bought the odd shaped 25-acre tract of land and opened a hotel resort. He kept adding amenities until it mushroomed into a huge recreational resort.

His giant aeroplane ride and Ferris wheel could be seen for miles around. His \$26,000 merry-go round and huge roller coaster were also extremely popular. The roller coaster was located just to the right of the beautiful entry arch where Stephens Avenue was later cut through. The arch led to the Midway and followed it all the way to the giant pier

with the baths and pool. The latter was dubbed "the inkwell" and was thought to be the largest of its kind at the time.

There was a major accident on the roller coaster on July 31, 1910 that was detailed in the New York Times and elsewhere. Each of the twin cars on the coaster were run independently and the first car out, carrying six passengers, was hauled up to the crest of the first hill and then went down the incline by its own weight. It reached the top of the second, and highest, hill and stalled. In the interim, the second car had already begun its descent and the occupants of both cars knew a collision was inevitable. The operator of the ride was fully aware of what was happening and shut off the power but had no way of



Photo courtesy of Tom Casey

This postcard view of the Twin Racing Coaster at the Clason Point Amusement Park was taken the year after the accident of July 31, 1910 described in this column. The roller coaster is at the right and the archway at the center is the main entrance leading to the Midway.

stopping the collision.

Police Officer James Dorsett heard the commotion and rode his horse straight to the problem, obtained some rope, and climbed up to the apex of the ride to render assistance. Sergeant Walsh arrived next and sent for an ambulance from Lebanon Hospital which arrived in only 18 minutes bringing Dr. Grossman to the scene. In the interim, a 75 foot ladder was procured and set up.

Officer Dorsett had already assisted and calmed the stranded victims assisting those mobile enough down with the rope and ladder. A Doctor William Cornwall of 1702 Bathgate Avenue happened to be at the park and also rendered assistance. The most serious injury appeared to be a cracked rib while most of the others simply suffered from slight contusions and were soon on their way home. The quick and efficient response by

the mounted police calmed the situation and prevented panic from overtaking those involved.

The Ferris wheel was blown over in a windstorm in 1922 which resulted in death and destruction but I've dealt with that story years ago so won't repeat myself. There are a lot of stories emanating from that popular site and its successor the Shorehaven Beach Club which opened in 1949.

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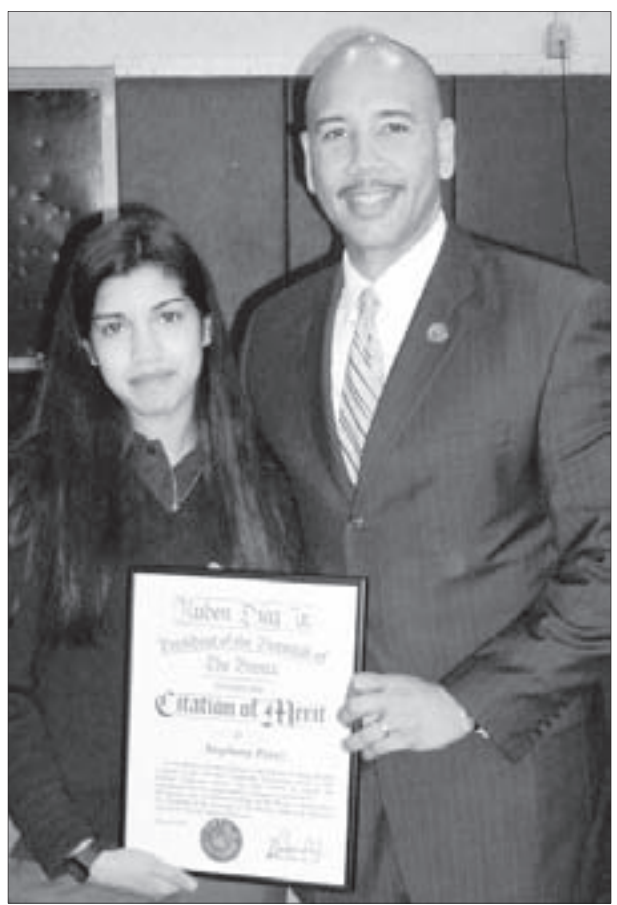
Bronx schools

BP Attends OSL scholarship event

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. was at Our Saviour Lutheran School in the Bronx on Monday, January 23 to award freshman Stephany Perez with Our Saviour's first ever Christian Leadership Scholarship. He also announced, on behalf of the school, that applications are now being accepted for the scholarship for incoming freshman beginning in the 2012-13 school year.

Initiated this year, the Christian Leadership Scholarship awards full tuition for all four years of high school at Our Saviour to an incoming ninth grade student who exhibits principles of Christian Leadership like compassion, servant leadership, care for others, courage, and honesty in all aspects of their life. Different from other academic-based scholarships, the Christian Leadership Scholarship seeks to discover and nurture leaders who will develop a lifelong commitment of Christian service to their families and communities.

Founded as a storefront church in 1928, Our Saviour has grown into a church and pre-kindergarten through high school that "educates and prepares God's children in a nurturing Christian environment to faithfully live out the Gospel as Christ-centered servant leaders." From its earliest days Our Saviour has remained com-



(L-r) Stephany Perez and Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

mitted to discovering and empowering young people who are often overlooked and underserved by traditional institutions. Our Saviour's commitment to small class sizes, individual attention and extra tutoring from teachers, as a part of a holistic Christian education, while upholding the standards of both the New York State Regents and Middle States Accredi-

tation, makes Our Saviour well equipped to serve its diverse student population. Christian Leadership Scholarship applications for the 2012-2013 school year are now being accepted. Interested students can request applications by calling the school at (718) 792-5665, or by visiting the school's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/our-saviourbronx.

Scanlan publishes creative writing magazine

Through the fundraising efforts of the Monsignor Scanlan High School Chapter of the National English Honor Society, Mrs. Wilbekin's 12th grade Creative Writing class was able to publish a fantastic literary magazine entitled "Simple Imperfections."

To celebrate this awesome publication, an Open

Mic gathering took place on Tuesday, January 17. Mrs. Wilbekin, her 23 students, members of the faculty and interested classmates gathered in Scanlan's Senior Lounge to listen to students share excerpts from their writings.

Here is a short sampling of Adam Villarrubia's work:

*I am from the love I truly have for my best friend,
I am from those feelings I'm not afraid to show.
To those end up heart breaks & waste of times
I am from God, chosen to fulfill my destiny.
A reception was held following this thought provoking and sentimental afternoon.*

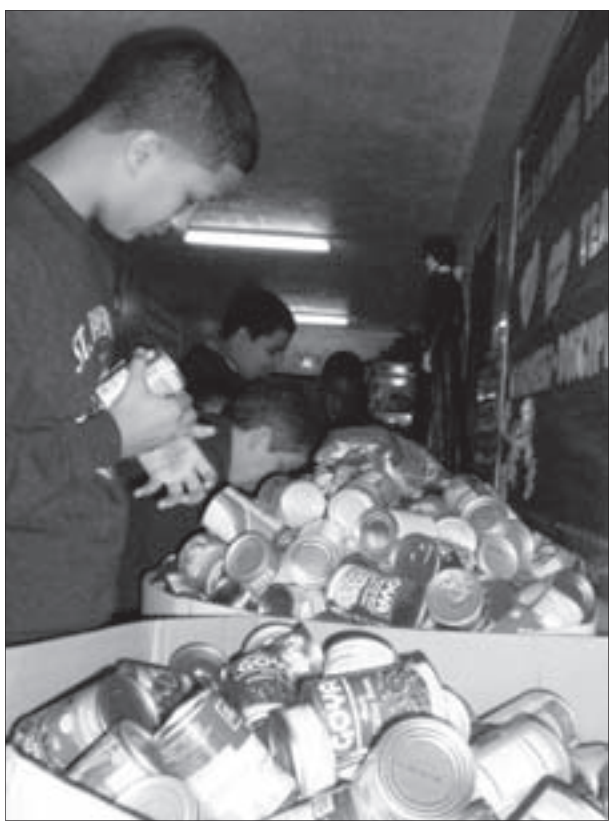
St. Ray's Elementary holds food drive

St. Raymond Elementary School went above and beyond their charitable call. Students from grades pre-k to 8th donated more than 2,000 canned food goods to feed the hungry throughout the Bronx.

The St. Raymond Elementary community including the principal, Sr. Patricia Brito, RJM and faculty are extremely pleased with the donations.

Sr. Patricia said, "I am extremely pleased and proud of the students and their families because they showed such generosity and kindness towards those in need. It is unfortunate that many people in New York City are hungry. We are happy to be of assistance and we hope to do more in the future."

The food drive was a part of Cardinal-Elect Timothy Dolan's first New York Archdiocese-wide campaign to combat hunger. Under the theme, Feeding Our Neighbors, each student was asked to donate at least two canned goods. Many brought in more than the minimum suggested



Students from St. Raymond's Elementary School participated in Feeding Our Neighbors program.

amount. This special program started on Sunday, January 22 and ended on Friday, January 27. It is in

partnership with Catholic Charities to help unite and alleviate the crisis of hunger in New York City.

Stepinac launches Souper Bowl collection

Students of Archbishop Stepinac High School are teaming up to fight hunger by challenging themselves to collect 50,000 cans of food for two Westchester food pantries by February 1.

The campaign, which is the largest community drive in Stepinac's 63-year history, is part of the Souper Bowl of Caring, an annual event held around the time of Super Bowl Sunday when youth across the nation join together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities.

If the Stepinac students reach their goal by February 1 they will be rewarded with a day off from school on Monday, February 6, the day following the Super Bowl game. The food collected by Stepinac students will be donated to Grace Church Community Center in White Plains and the Don Bosco Community Center in Port Chester. Both organizations have been assisting Westchester's needi-

est families for many years, providing meals, shelter and other services.

The idea for participating in Souper Bowl of Caring originated with Roxanne Calvello, moderator of the Stepinac Student Government Committee and a member of Stepinac's faculty and chair of the science department. "This is a very amazing, collaborative effort involving the entire Stepinac community which is going to result in the most successful food drive our school has ever undertaken," said Ms. Calvello.

Stepinac set a goal for each of its 625 students to donate 100 cans and boxes of food. Students, members of the faculty and administration, alumni and others are being asked to drop off the cans in receptacles that have been set up in the school lobby.

The campaign organizers are also making use of Dress Down Day, a chari-

table fund-raising policy in which students who contribute money to a cause do not have to wear the Stepinac uniform for a day. For Souper Bowl of Caring, they raised \$1,500 which will be used to purchase food items at a ShopRite Supermarket in Scarsdale. Note: On Saturday, January 28, the students plan to be at two supermarkets in White Plains, Stop & Shop and Shop Rite, to ask shoppers to purchase cans for the cause.

"We greatly appreciate Stepinac students supporting our organization in a significant way. This food drive will help Grace's mission in providing food, shelter and other essential services to the nearly 4,000 men, women and children we assist every year," Paul Anderson-Winchell, executive director of Grace Church Community Center, which has the largest soup kitchen in White Plains.

Providence Rest recognized by US News & World Report as Best Nursing Home

Providence Rest has received a high ranking of five stars overall in U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Nursing Homes, released today.

U.S. News's Best Nursing Homes recognizes top-rated homes in all 50 states and offers important guidance to families and healthcare providers caring for people in need of a nursing home.

"More than 3 million Americans will spend part of 2012 in a nursing home, and trying to decide under pressure which one is best isn't easy," says Avery Comarow, Health Rankings Editor.

"Top-rated nursing homes are worth considering and deserve special recognition."

U.S. News's evaluation of nursing homes is based on data from Nursing Home

Compare, a consumer website run by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The government agency sets and enforces standards for nursing homes (defined as facilities or portions of facilities enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid that provide 24-hour nursing care and other medical services).

Homes earn an overall rating of one to five stars, as well as up to five stars in each of three underlying categories: health inspections, nurse staffing, and quality of care. U.S. News updates each nursing home's ratings data quarterly.

Of more than 15,500 homes rated and profiled on the U.S. News website, Providence Rest was among the fewer than 1 in 8 that received a five-star overall

rating in all four quarters of 2011.

Using the search tools available at <http://health.usnews.com/senior-housing>, consumers can identify homes in their state, city or ZIP code, tailor their search to see only non-profit homes or those that accept Medicaid insurance, or in other ways find the best fit.

Today, Providence Rest is located on eight acres in the residential community of Country Club in the Bronx, overlooking Eastchester Bay.

Owned and operated by the Sisters of St. John the Baptist, this skilled nursing facility provides comprehensive health care and rehabilitation to both men and women in a variety of residential, outpatient, subacute and short term settings.

Montefiore Medical Center leads in Rett Syndrome treatment

Montefiore Medical Center will host a two-day Rett Syndrome workshop, on Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5, from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. for parents, therapists and caregivers to learn how to communicate with children who are unable to speak due to this disease.

Montefiore Medical Center is a leader in providing technologically-advanced treatment for people who suffer from rare neurological diseases. One such illness is Rett Syndrome, a disorder of the nervous system that leads to development reversals, especially in expressive language, hand use and in most cases walking. The disorder overwhelmingly affects young girls, oftentimes leaving them aware and alert without the ability to express themselves in any way.

At Montefiore, Dr. Aleksandra Djukic, Director of the Tri-State Rett Syndrome Center, and her team of 18 physicians specializing

in Rett Syndrome, provide state-of-the-art services for patients through intervention, education, and research aimed at effective treatments and cures.

One service that Dr. Djukic offers is a two day workshop which provides training to parents and therapists on how to communicate with their children/student, who are mostly unable to speak. Tools, such as communication books, in which symbols that represent words are selected and organized so that people with complex communication needs and their communication partners can communicate more easily, are demonstrated at the workshop. Participants are also shown how computer programs that convert text and symbols into clear speech, can be programmed and incorporated into the girls' lives.

The first workshop was held in May 2011 and proved

to be very successful for parents and patients alike.

On February 4 and 5, Dr. Djukic will host a second two day workshop where 60 families from across America and the world will come together at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore, 3415 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx.

Dr. Djukic, associate professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, uses eye-gaze technology whereby the patient sits at an eye-gaze monitor, which tracks eye movements using cameras and reflected infrared light and answers questions by fixing their gaze on the answer, represented by an image. The eye-gaze technology has shown that while Rett Syndrome patients cannot verbally communicate, they're able to point to something, to understand a question and communicate through their eyes.

Montefiore

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Upcoming Blood Pressure Screenings

8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Tuesday, February 14

BronxWorks Senior Center
8:30 am – 1:30 pm
200 West Tremont Avenue
Bronx, NY 10453

Thursday, February 16

North Campus (Carpenter Rd. Auditorium)
8:30 am – 2:00 pm
600 East 233rd Street
Bronx, NY 10466

Upcoming Health Seminars

Monday, February 13

Nursing Implications for Heart Failure
Weiler Campus - 8th Floor, 7:30 am
1825 Eastchester Road
Bronx, NY 10461

Heart Month Lecture Series
Pennington Elementary School
20 Fairway Street
Mount Vernon, NY 10552

Tuesday, February 14

Cardiology Grand Rounds
Moses Campus - Cherkasky Auditorium
7:30 – 8:30 am
111 East 210th Street
Bronx, NY 10467

Heart Month Lecture Series

Grant Elementary School, 9:00 am
250 East 164th Street (Morris Avenue)
Bronx, NY 10456

Exercise and Heart Failure

BronxWorks Senior Center, 1:30 pm
200 West Tremont Avenue
Bronx, NY 10453

Thursday, February 16

Nutrients for Heart Health
North Campus, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Heart Health Lecture

North Campus
Noon and 1:30 pm



For more information about heart month events, please call 1-800-MD-MONTE or visit www.montefiore.org/heartmonth

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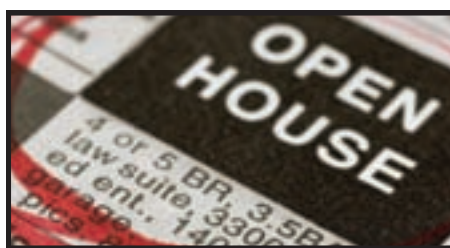
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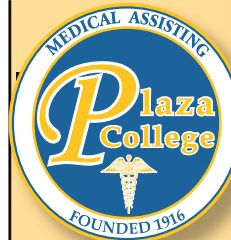
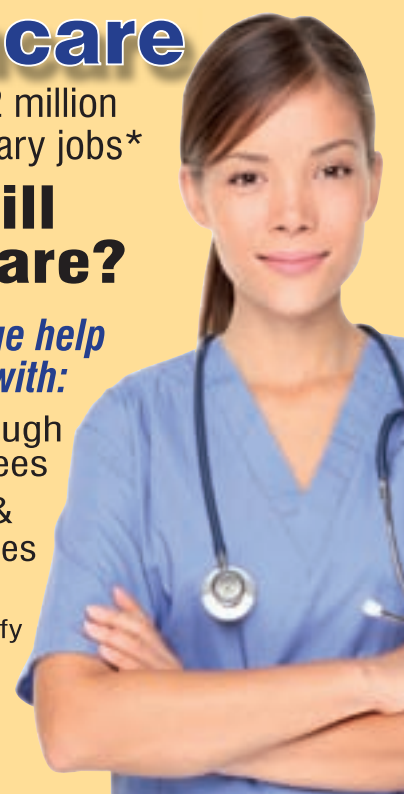
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"I expect they're [Mark Kramarchuk and Dylan Cope] gonna do really well. I think they're ready and they'll be a big factor in college. Their talent level is very high and I think their potential is high."

PETE MCNAMARA.....PAGE 33



PIPE DREAMS

By Bob Connolly

Death of the interview

General Comments

Here are a couple of thoughts from the Sports Curmudgeon that were made before the Super Bowl:

"The people who show up at "Media Day" for the Super Bowl must spend several weeks trying to come up with the dumbest questions possible just so they -- as the askers -- can get a measure of reflected fame from the player to whom they put the question. Otherwise, why would anyone think it worth asking Vince Wilfork what he likes to grill? Take a look at the man; what is it that might be cooked on a grill that he would not like? Filet of wombat? "By the way, there are only two QBs who have won the Super Bowl twice who are not in the Hall of Fame. One is Ben Roethlisberger; he is still playing and so is not eligible. However, the other two-time winner not in the Hall is Jim Plunkett. If Bob Greise, Bart Starr and Roger Staubach are in, why is Plunkett not in?"

My SB Thoughts

I think that Coach Bill calls certain plays to break an opponent will to win when they succeed. For example- allowing Bradshaw to score so the Pats would have more time to march down the field for a score and a win (how'd that work out?). He also saw NY win a game with a called play endzone pass resembling a hail-Mary. He seemed to think, "Oh yeah? We

Continued on page 32

Kennedy wins Bronx crown

Script flipped on Wings on Ahmed's late basket

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Muhammed Ahmed was having flashbacks, reliving a painful memory he wanted to forget. Wings Academy guard Justin Jenkins had just sank a 3-pointer to take the lead away from John F. Kennedy -- much the same way he did in the two rivals' previous meeting, when he beat the Knights and buzzer -- except this time there was time (47.9 seconds) left on the clock.

Ahmed took advantage of those precious seconds. He scored on a go-ahead bank shot in the lane with 1.4 seconds left to send second-seeded Kennedy to a 59-54 upset of No. 1 Wings for its first Bronx borough title in three years.

"It's sweet revenge," Kennedy coach Johnny Mathis said. "It shows we're capable of winning big games. If we keep playing like a team, anything can happen."

Kennedy (18-9) made four free throws after Wings was whistled for a technical foul for calling a timeout when it didn't have any remaining, costing it one last shot attempt.

After managing just two points over the first three quarters because of foul trouble, Ahmed scored six points in the final stanza, all in the paint. His younger brother, Bashir, scored a team-high 13 points, Alfonso Davis added nine points and Terry Larrier had eight. Jenkins led

Wings (24-3) with 19 points and Jaequan Brown had 11.

It was a stunning loss for Wings, which entered play with 18 wins in as many contests against Bronx foes. Aside from a narrow victory over Eagle Academy, Kennedy was the only team to push Wings in PSAL action, and this time, unlike the first two meetings, it led much of the second half.

"Kennedy's been a good team all year," Wings coach Billy Turnage said. "Anyone who thinks Kennedy is not good is out of their mind."

The Knights went ahead, 43-38, after three quarters on the strength of a 13-5 run. Wings wouldn't die as Jenkins sank a top-of-the-arc 3-pointer and was fouled with under a minute left. After he missed the free throw, David Hardy hit two for Kennedy and Marvilio Berroa sank his own trey with 12.8 left.

It was more than enough time for Kennedy and Muhammed Ahmed to operate inside. He spun on Wings forward Steven Gomez, who was left alone on an island, and scored.

"Once I got the ball, I knew I was gonna score," Muhammed Ahmed said. "He couldn't guard me one-on-one."

Moments later, the Knights were celebrating the shocking title after losses to Wings in the

Continued on page 32



Photo by Denis Gostev

John F. Kennedy's Muhammed Ahmed scored the go-ahead basket with 1.4 seconds remaining in the Knights' 59-54 victory over Wings Academy in the Bronx borough championship game.

Yacoubou, Hayes rout rival St. Raymond on Senior Night

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Joe Lods ripped into his team for not being tough enough last week after a loss to Christ the King. He was upset the players did nothing when CK star Omar Calhoun layed the ball in at the buzzer despite his team's large lead.

For the Cardinals, there's

one easy formula to improve that trend: more Fadil Yacoubou.

"I'm like the bruiser of the team," he said with a smile. "I'm the team's muscle. I bring the toughness."

Starting on Senior Night, the brolic 6-foot-3 swingman had one of his best games of the season.

Yacoubou had 12 points, half

of which came in a huge first quarter, to lead Hayes to a comfortable, 84-58 win over visiting St. Raymond in CHSAA Class AA boys basketball Friday afternoon in The Bronx. Not only did he provide a spark on offense, he was also strong on defense and on the boards against future Division I players Daniel Dingle (Temple)

and Kerwin Okoro (Iowa State).

"If there's one kid walking me to the car, Fadil is walking me to the car," Hayes coach Joe Lods said. "Fadil is the kid. If it doesn't work out for him in basketball, I told him, two options: boxing or scary movies. That's it."

It's been a trying season for

Continued on page 32

Rector's recruiting rises at St. Raymond

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Shane Rector is back to his old self.

The St. Raymond point guard, slowed by an ankle injury, early in the season had 20 points in a 69-62 win against All Hallows in CHSAA Class AA boys basketball Tuesday in The Bronx and is averaging 20 points per game over the last few weeks for the Ravens.

"He's healthy now," St. Ray's coach Oliver Antigua said. "He's got his confidence back. He's got his explosiveness. He's really scoring the ball."

Antigua isn't the only one noticing, either. Last week, coaches from Notre Dame and Pittsburgh came to see Rector play against Mount St. Michael. Stanford has also been in contact to go along with heavy interest from Cincinnati, Fairfield and Columbia. Fordham, Dayton, UMass, Marist and Manhattan are also in the mix.

"The ankle was really messing me up," Rector said. "Now I'm almost 100 percent and it's showing."

The electric 6-foot-1 junior was a shell of his normal self when his ankle was hurting. Now, he's run-

ning the team with aplomb and has also become a third scoring option behind Temple-bound swingman Daniel Dingle and Iowa State-bound wing Kerwin Okoro.

"He's attacking the basket," Antigua said of Rector. "Before he wasn't a threat to blow by guys. He can get by you now. It's allowed for him to pull up and get off his jump shots. He's just more versatile."

That also extends to the classroom. Rector is a 90 student and has a partial academic scholarship at St. Ray's. There's no wonder why elite academic schools such as Columbia, Stanford and Notre Dame have inquired.

Rector said he has no timetable for a college decision, but academics will definitely play a factor. He has not yet decided where he'll play AAU in the spring and summer, because his Gauchos program lost its Nike sponsorship.

Rector is taking a wait-and-see approach to his recruiting and lauded Antigua for putting together a national-level schedule for St. Ray's, which featured trips to the City of Palms Classic in Fort Myers, Fla., and the HighSchoolOT.



Photo by Denis Gostev

St. Raymond's Shane Rector has picked up interest from Pittsburgh, Notre Dame and Stanford recently.

com Holiday Invitational in Raleigh, N.C., where the Ravens played in front of a plethora of college coaches.

"It's not possible without him," Rector said of his coach. "He's put us in a great position."

Antigua said college coaches have fallen in love with Rector's calm demeanor under pressure while running the team. He has the demeanor of a high-major point guard,

the coach said. And he's a vital piece to St. Ray's trying to get over the CHSAA Class AA semifinals hump and winning a city championship.

"He has the talent," Antigua said. "He can definitely score the ball. I think he was trying to find his way around the team with all these seniors."

Now that he has found his way, college coaches are starting to find him.

Rival down on Senior Night

Fernandez, Fieldston down foe

BY MIKE SMOLLINS

Annie Fernandez is only a junior, but she had something to prove on Senior Night.

Fernandez, who led Fieldston in scoring last season but has struggled so far this year, was ready to make an impact.

After not starting the third quarter and watching the game on the sidelines, Fernandez knew she and her team had to step up.

When she re-entered the game, she helped lead the Eagles to a 47-37 victory over Riverdale in Ivy League girls basketball action Friday.

"I got pretty hungry," Fernandez said. "I was watching the game and I knew I had to do something to contribute. I got fed up and I did my best to step up."

Fernandez was crucial down the stretch in the second half for the Eagles. After trailing 31-29 with just 1:13 remaining in the third quarter, Fernandez hit a jump shot that sparked an eventual 12-0 run for Fieldston which would prove to seal the game.

Fernandez scored six of her 12 total points during that run. Riverdale won the first meeting 42-34, stopping the Eagles winning streak.

"Annie stepped up," Fieldston coach Rock Rosa said. "This is the best game she's played all year and a year ago she was our leading scorer. She's struggled throughout the year, but she really put it together in the third quarter today."

In the second half, things really began to click between Fernandez and Larissa McPhee as their ball movement was a contributing factor to the run.

"I think we really came together," Fernandez said. "We're really close as

a team and we really contributed individually and as a family. The seniors are really the heart of the team."

One of the senior leaders for Fieldston is Kalijah Terilli, who tied Fernandez for the team lead by also putting up 12 points. Terilli played for the Eagles two years ago, but skipped last year to concentrate on soccer.

She hasn't missed a step this year and was tenacious on the ball all night recording four steals and six rebounds in the game. Rachel Copulsky paced Riverdale with 12 points.

"It's a really great feeling on senior night," Terilli said. "I'm really proud of the team and our juniors for stepping up. It means a lot to all the seniors and we just want to finish the season strong."

It was a back and forth game throughout the first three quarters with both Fieldston and Riverdale exchanging leads before the Eagles took control of the ball and dominated play to close out the game.

"We knew we had to stop them," Rosa said. "And once we did that, Riverdale seemed a little bit passive and we took a lot of time off their clock and that's when we really opened the game up."

Riverdale wasn't able to stop Fieldston in the second half and struggled to cut into the lead by missing key shots and making bad passes.

Fieldston extended its lead to as much as 10 in the fourth quarter and Riverdale never could catch up as the Eagles came away with a big win on Senior Night.

"I'm happy for the girls," Rosa said about his seniors. "They've worked so hard over the last four years and to see them win on this day was special for them and their parents. "

Satellite beats Metro/BDA for transfer title

BY MIKE SMOLLINS

For Satellite Academy, it was all about remaining undefeated and gaining some revenge. For Donovan Jones, it was about proving himself to coach Darryl Jones.

Jones wasn't playing for Satellite Academy when it lost to Metro/BDA in the PSAL Transfer League Championship last season, but he was a key in making sure history didn't repeat itself Wednesday night.

Donovan Jones scored a team-high 15 points for the undefeated Lions in their 55-46 victory in the PSAL boys basketball Transfer League A Division Championship at Hostos Community College in The Bronx.

"I couldn't do this without Coach," Donovan Jones said. "I spoke to Coach Jones last night and told him I had something to prove and I came through. He always tells me I could be more active in the game and he told me I needed to step up today."

Satellite Academy (13-0) trailed Metro/BDA (10-3) by two late in the fourth quarter, but a strong finish kept them in the game en route to their championship victory. After trailing 46-44 with 4:00 minutes remaining, the Lions closed on a 9-0 run ensure they'd raise the banner.

The run reached its peak when the Jets' Kevin Gonzalez (15 points) was

called for a charge. After the call, Donovan Jones hit a jump shot to give the Lions a 50-46 lead before his team tacked on four more points.

The win was a large measure of revenge for the Lions, who hadn't forgotten last year's loss.

"It's a great feeling to bring it back to our place after they got us last year," Darryl Jones said. "[Donovan Jones] showed up big for us today. We had a conversation prior to the game with me talking to him and telling him I needed him to show up for this one. It's self explanatory, he showed up and played a great game today."

Donovan Jones showed

no ill effects of his taped up right thumb that he injured while working out two weeks ago.

"You have to play through," he said. "This is for the family, the whole team right here."

Metro/BDA was able to hold usual leading scorer Stan Cespedes to nine points, but couldn't contain Donovan Jones. It was a disappointing loss for the Jets, though they brought home the championship two out of their three years in the league.

"I think we had a chance to win," Metro/BDA coach Glenn Ford said. "The game was a lot closer than the score reflected. There

Continued on page 33

Taking the fifth

PSAL cleared us to use super senior: Eagle Academy

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Eagle Academy, which lost 11 league wins on Wednesday when the PSAL ruled it used an ineligible player, is saying that player, point guard Gerard Carty, was only used because the PSAL gave the team the go-ahead.

Coach Rodney Plummer said he wasn't expecting to have the services of Carty, who came to Eagle two years ago, this season because he heard whispers he was entering his fifth year of high school. But Eagle athletic director Steven Leonard was told by PSAL eligibility coordinator Alan Blanc he was clear to play in September, Plummer said.

"The only reason the kid was playing is because they said the kid could play," Plummer said. "It's a PSAL issue. Not only did we violate the rules unknowingly, but it was sanctioned by the PSAL."

Eagle, which fell to John F. Kennedy, 67-45, in the Bronx borough semifinals on Thursday, saw its league record go from 14-2 to 3-13 with the forfeits.

Carty, a source said, spent half of the 2007-08 school year at All Hallows, before spending the next two years at Mount St. Michael and then transferring to Eagle. The source said this is only his fourth year of high school basketball, that he didn't play his first year at Mount. The 5-foot-10 point guard was averaging seven points and five assists per game in nine league contests before he was put on the inactive list Jan. 18, as per PSAL orders.

Carty declined to comment when reached by phone. Eagle athletic director Steven Leonard didn't return messages seeking comment.

The PSAL, through Department of Education spokesperson Margie Feinberg, refuted Eagle's claim that Carty was ever cleared, saying in a statement Carty "was never deemed eligible by the PSAL."

A source with knowledge of the situation said the PSAL only received part of his transcript, which included his two years at Mount St. Michael and last year at Eagle. Once the league got wind of his first year at All Hallows, the source said, the

the kid lied to me and got us thrown under the bus for wins, he wouldn't be around me at all."

Plummer, who guided Eagle to a PSAL Class B crown in 2007, said he wasn't looking to get a leg up on the competition, just following orders. Eagle, after all, isn't an established hoops hotbed, he said, but a program that just moved up to 'AA' four years ago. It's an eight-year-old all-boys school with an 84 percent graduation rate that was founded by One Hundred Black Men, an

The only reason the kid was playing is because they said the kid could play. It's a PSAL issue. Not only did we violate the rules unknowingly, but it was sanctioned by the PSAL.

Rodney Plummer
Eagle Academy Coach

league instructed Eagle to put Carty on the inactive list and began investigating the matter.

Wadleigh coach Mike Crump finds the whole case bewildering. After his Tigers fell to Eagle, 66-57, Jan. 13, he received multiple calls from irate PSAL and Catholic coaches regarding Carty. He sent an email to several Eagle officials, but never received a response. Only then, he placed a call to the PSAL. At that point, he said, the league was already investigating the case.

"Eagle Academy knew he was in his fifth year," Crump said. "You can't blame the kid; all he wants to do is participate. They're saying the kid deceived them; then why was he still on the bench when he became ineligible? If

organization that tries to provide leadership in the African American community.

While the forfeits ruin Eagle's successful regular season, the squad still qualifies for the PSAL Class AA playoffs, though its seeding will likely suffer.

"They're upset, but they realize they have to do one thing: they just have to keep winning," Plummer said of his players. "I've explained to them at this point of the season, it doesn't matter because everybody's record is 0-0."

"I told them [the PSAL] can wipe the wins off the website, but one team beat you all year long, they can't take that away. The website says one thing, but you played 25 games and lost two of them."



Photo by William Thomas

The PSAL ruled Eagle Academy's Gerard Carty ineligible and took away 11 league wins from the Eagles on Wednesday.

Hayes routs St. Raymond

From page 29

Yacoubou, whose brother Achraf plays at Villanova. Lods says he was a victim of “the numbers game,” losing his starting spot when the four transfers from closed Rice came into the building. Yacoubou said through conversations with his brother and the coaching staff, he’s kept positive and bought into what Hayes (20-3, 12-1 ‘AA’) was doing.

“I got the utmost respect for Fadil,” said senior guard Naasir Williams, one of those Rice transfers. “He never pouted, he never complained. He came in and worked hard every day at practice. This is just the result. He never put his head down. He never cried. Good things happen to people that come in and play hard.”

Hayes played extremely hard from the opening tip against St. Ray’s (13-9, 9-5) and that was evident in the final score. Williams made two huge 3-pointers in the third quarter, the second to put the Cardinals up 43-31 with 4:19 left, and they never looked back. He had eight of his 14 points in the frame.

It was hard to pinpoint a particular hero for Hayes, though. Jalen Jenkins also had 14 points and added 20 rebounds. Fairfield-bound post Amadou Sidibe had 12 points and Tyler Wilson had nine.

“When we’re at home, when our kids get into it, we’re pretty tough to beat at home,” Lods said. “We did have a little killer instinct tonight.”

This is Hayes’ second win over St. Ray’s this season in just its first season up at the ‘AA level since the early 1990s. Lods said he asked Ravens coach Oliver Antigua the last time he was in the Cardinals’ gym and Antigua said in 1990 as a player.

“I told my kids before the game, look how far you brought us,” Lods said. “Last year on Friday afternoons, we played Regis. Now it’s Friday afternoon and we got St. Ray’s in the gym and I’d say we handled them.”

Yacoubou didn’t have a



Photo by Denis Gostev

Cardinal Hayes’ Fadil Yacoubou had 12 points in a rout of St. Ray’s.

Williams said the game was a statement, but his team won’t forget the Christ the King loss anytime soon. Lods regrets not having Yacoubou guard Calhoun more in that matchup. The UConn-bound guard dropped 29 points on Hayes.

word of complaint, though. That’s how it has been all year.

“I lost my starting spot, but I didn’t let it frustrate me,” Yacoubou said. “When I get in the game, I’m just gonna try to stay in the game and do whatever I can to help the team win.”

Pipe Dreams: Kodak moment; Ugh!

From page 29

can do that and do it in a big stage.”

I thought that NBC’s TV cameras did well by showing Coughlin’s rage when the zebras missed an interference call. They also caught Ballard collapsing on the sideline testing his injured knee.

If Brady is such a super-star, how come he’s never led his team down the field for a TD in one of these big games.

Dan Shaughnessy (Boston Globe) wrote this, “Madonna’s halftime show was all smoke and mirrors, but effective; a perfect metaphor for the Patriots’ first half. What are the most disappointing losses in New England sports history? Where do we put Sunday night’s disaster at Lucas Oil (Can Boyd) Stadium? Is it the worst loss ever, the worst loss in Patriots history, or just a crushing night that won’t hurt so much after we let a few weeks pass? A team that overachieved is suddenly under the gun. The Patriots have the longest championship drought among the four New England sports franchises. But it is folly to suggest this is the worst loss ever. It’s not as bad as the Buckner Game, not as bad as the Dent Game, and certainly not as bad as Super Bowl X LII.”

Billy Crystal said that Ahmad Bradshaw’s score was, “The first tushdown I had ever seen.”

Doritos won my prize for best commercial with the sling-shot and the dog bribing his master.

Death Of The Interview
Tim Keown (ESPN.com) looked at one aspect of the immediate, all-access,

all the time world of social networking and how it impacts the sports reporting world. It tries to get athletes to say something- anything and it is devoid of texture and perspective. These reports further separate the athletes from the people who watch games and read newspapers. They aim to please the watchers of screen bottom scrawls. The reports also seem to take unsubstantiated stands where a player who says something positive about a teammate might see that he issued an uncomplimentary statement about another player.

In today’s 140 character twitter news release, we could never have appreciated the description of Notre Dame’s four horsemen.,

No Point
When the “Klucks” lost to the Bulls earlier in February their need for an experienced point guard was pretty evident. Chicago scored 44pts. along with 13 assists (all from Rose) while NY’s second unit was outscored 25-6. Tony Douglas shot 2-7 and had 3 turnovers; Shumpert was OK scoring 10 with 8 assists but turned it over 4 times. What did D’Antoni think? “We’ve got to do a better job of getting the ball down and not turning it over.” Gee, do you think? I guess the Chauncey Billups amnesty cut isn’t working out. We’re still waiting for Baron Davis to pull some irons out of the fire.

Exactly why is D’Antoni coaching NY and Thibodeau coaching in Chicago? Why, NY had first choice of course.

Ring Tone
Dwight Perry (Seattle Times) wrote that, “Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Terry and

the rest of the Dallas Mavericks are sporting gaudy new NBA championship rings worth a reported \$50,000 each.

Or roughly what the average WNBA player gets paid.”

A Kodak Moment
After Kodak declared bankruptcy I remembered the story about the sports photographer who was saddled with a tight deadline. He stopped at the photo that was notoriously slow completing their work to see how his work was doing. When he found out it was going to be late he sang, “Someday my prints will come.”

Greg Drinnin (Kamloops Daily News) passed along this note: “Some recent birthday wishes from Steve Rushin of SI.com: ‘Happy 110th birthday to Frank Zamboni, who left us in 1988 but still resurfaces periodically.’”

UGH!
It sounds like a fingernail being scratched across a blackboard every time I hear someone say, on TV: “It was a really fun(?) thing to do.”

Another Dwight Perry find, “Headline in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, on New Zealand sheep-shearers pushing to make it an Olympic sport: “Baa, humbug!”

Sheep Shearing
Greg Drinnin (Kamloops Daily News) sent us this item With the news that some New Zealanders are pushing for sheep-shearing to be named an Olympic sport, Ian Hamilton of the Regina Leader-Post notes: “Actually, sheep-shearing seems a natural for the Olympics. Crooked members of the IOC have been pulling the wool over people’s eyes for years.”

The loss, he said, came

down to overly depending on Jenkins and failing to follow orders. Jose Ayala was supposed to double down on Muhammad Ahmed the moment he got possession.

“If we want to win the whole thing, we got to pay attention to details,” Turnage said.

Garden, the site of the PSAL Class AA final, despite the loss. Turnage doesn’t expect the setback to affect his team’s seed – he still expects one of the top three spots – as one loss doesn’t nullify a season’s full of borough dominance.

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borough final each of the last two years.

“The last time we won the boroughs we got to the Garden,” Muhammed Ahmed said, referring to a runner-up finish in 2009.

Wings itself has plans to get to Madison Square

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Kennedy flips script on Wings

From page 29

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Wings itself has plans to get to Madison Square

Poll winner Webb shows versatility despite pain

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Onia Webb isn't letting a few nagging injuries deter her during her senior season.

"She's never been completely healthy," Cardinal Spellman coach Jane Morris said. "She's been 90 percent most of the year."

The Northeastern-bound senior was slowed in the preseason with an ankle injury and has also banged up her knees, where she most recently suffered a bone bruise. Still the 6-foot-2 Webb is competing at a high level, just not as high as she is capable of. She is still a double-double

waiting to happen and is a threat from behind the arc.

"It's been frustrating, but now I got to focus on healing and getting stronger this season and the college season next year," Webb said.

It's one of the biggest reasons Webb was voted NYC's best girls hoops frontcourt player in a poll on NYPost.com last week. She garnered 13,973 votes, good enough for 43.6 percent of the 32,008 votes cast. Nazareth sophomore Yazmine Belk was second with 7,489 and Jacquie Kennedy of Poly Prep with 6,454. Webb thanked her

family and friends for voting and said even her family members in Canada were clicking away.

"A lot of people texted my mom saying, 'I'm voting for her,'" Webb said.

She grew up in seventh and eighth grade learning the game as a center, until Baseline travel ball coach Tomas Baez saw something in her. He forced her to work on her guard skills and even asked her to play a little bit of a point guard role. Webb was apprehensive at first.

For Spellman, Webb is a versatile small forward and part of a dominant frontcourt with Maria Backman. At Northeastern, she is expected to play center, but not lose her versatility. She will look to take people off the dribble and shoot 3-pointers. Webb is showing off all those skills this season even with the body taking it lumps.

"When she goes down you here the clunk," Morris said. "You know the kid is hurt. The next day she is not saying anything about it."



Photo by Denis Gostev

Cardinal Spellman's Onia Webb was voted the best front court player in NYC on NYPost.com.

Satellite takes transfer

From page 30

was a tough charge call on our best player and they beat us down the stretch and finished the game like a champion and we didn't. I think we're just as good as them and we have a lot of respect for them."

It was a night to remember for Darryl Jones

as he saw his team's perfect season culminate in championship glory.

"This is a great feeling," the coach said. "We didn't lose a game and we had a good group of kids that worked hard and bought into what we're teaching them. They played hard. They earned this one."

Fordham Prep soccer stars sign with future colleges

BY MARC RAIMONDI

It was already an historic few weeks for Fordham Prep boys soccer.

On Jan. 17, alums Ryan Meara and Mike Mazzullo were drafted in the MLS SuperDraft. Meara signed a contract with the Red Bulls on Monday and could see time as a rookie. To cap it all off, current Rams seniors Mark Kramarchuk and Dylan Cope signed with their respective future colleges Friday at the Bronx school.

Cope, The Post's All-Bronx Player of the Year, is headed to Iona and Kramarchuk will play at Bucknell.

"We're following in the footsteps of these guys," Kramarchuk said of Meara and Mazzullo. "They're really an inspiration to us. We want to do what they did."

They already accomplished something the two pros never did at Fordham

Prep. Cope and Kramarchuk led the Rams to their first-ever CHSAA Class AA state championship, defeating St. John the Baptist. They avenged a city championship loss to St. Francis Prep in the state semis and made school history.

"I expect they're gonna do really well," Fordham coach Pete McNamara said. "I think they're ready and they'll be a big factor in college. ... Their talent level is very high and I think their potential is high."

Kramarchuk, who boasts excellent size and strength, played sweeper in high school and McNamara suspects he'll be a "great defender in college." The athletic, skilled Cope played forward late in the season and was very effective for the Rams. But he'll go back to his natural position of midfield - right wing or cen-

ter - at Iona.

"I'll play wherever they want me to play," Cope said.

Added McNamara: "He's the kind of kid you need in college, I think. He's a dangerous player with skill."

Both said signing with Division I schools was a near-lifelong dream. The two are aware of the learning curve. Cope said he's in the gym constantly trying to get bigger and stronger. Though they played high-level academy ball with the Cosmos, "nothing can compare you for the Division I level, because it's so different from anything else."

Cope will major in business at Iona and Kramarchuk will have a focus in biology, which could potentially lead to a career in medicine if soccer doesn't work out as a profession.



Photo by Marc Raimondi

Fordham Prep's Mark Kramarchuk (l.) and Dylan Cope sign with Bucknell and Iona, respectively.

If it does, though, they have a pair of role models to look to in Mazzullo and Meara.

"These guys are similar," McNamara said of Cope and Kramarchuk. "They had a tremendous high school

career and they're ready for that next jump. Very productive month for Fordham Prep soccer."

CASE 38476 - Petition of the City of New York, pursuant to Section 91 of the Railroad Law, for an order of the Commissioner requesting certain alterations be made to the meat market at-grade crossing located on Food Center Drive, in the City of New York, County of Bronx, over the Hunts Point Terminal spur tracks which are operated by CSX Transportation, Inc.

CASE 38483 - Petition of the City of New York, pursuant to Section 91 of the Railroad Law, for an order of the Commissioner requesting certain alterations be made to the produce market at-grade crossing located on Food Center Drive, in the City of New York, County of Bronx, over the Hunts Point Terminal spur tracks which are operated by CSX Transportation, Inc.

PETITIONER'S REPRESENTATIVE AND ADDRESS: Joshua Nelson, New York City Economic Development Corporation, 110 William Street, New York, New York 10038.

* * *

NOTICE is hereby given that a consolidated public hearing will be held in the above-entitled matters before the Honorable Robert A. Rybak, Acting Chief Administrative Law Judge, New York State Department of Transportation, at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), 110 William Street, Conference Room 5B New York, New York 10038 on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 beginning at 9:00 AM. Individuals attending this hearing are to report to the NYCEDC reception area on the 6th floor.

By a letter dated November 17, 2011 requesting this hearing, the City of New York (City) stated that they were making changes to improve the circulation within the Hunts Point Distribution Center. The City is proposing that Food Center Drive be converted from two-way traffic to one-way traffic, that a Class I, separated bicycle lane be added to the entire length of Food Center Drive, that the inactive meat market rail crossing remains as it currently exists and be preserved for future rail use and that the active produce market rail crossing be updated with an active warning system with flashing warning lights and bells that will be connected with a new traffic signal.

This hearing will establish a record and enable a determination as to whether such safety improvements are in the public interest. Parties are requested to advise the Office of Proceedings (518-457-1182) if a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening system or any other accommodations will be required to facilitate participation in this hearing.

Parties who are planning to attend this hearing should confirm the day before the hearing that the hearing has not been adjourned, especially in case of inclement weather, by calling the Office of Proceedings (518-457-1182) or going to the Department's website which is located at: <https://www.nysdot.gov/divisions/legal-services-division/hearing-notice>.

Parties who wish to receive a copy of the final report that is issued in this case should send a written request to the Office of Proceedings, NYSDOT, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12232.

P.S. 31 principal cheated on salary

From page 1

for her daughter's sweet 16 party and asked budget manager John Blackman to falsify Department of Education records to show that she had reimbursed the school for expenditures.

As stated in the report, in January 2011, a source told investigators that Diaz made personal purchases for her daughter's party using a Department of Education purchase order.

Deputy director of Accounts Payable Kim Lowry provided investigators with a printout of a P.S. 31 purchase order for the purchase of metallic sunglasses and bead necklaces from the Oriental Trading Company, Inc. The purchase order was entered by Blackman and authorized by Diaz on December 1, 2010.

Lowry also provided a copy of the Oriental Trading Company, Inc. invoice for the purchase of eight dozen metallic sunglasses at \$7.99 per dozen, totaling \$63.92, and one "mega metallic bead necklace assortment" for \$19.99.

The total amount of the transaction was \$91.70, which included shipping.

According to the report, the assigned investigator vis-

ited the web site for Oriental Trading Company, Inc. and reviewed explanations and pictures of the purchased items. The posting suggested that the sunglasses could be added "to goody bags at your next beach party!" The metallic bead assortment included 144 necklaces described as "the perfect favor for a birthday bash or other colorful celebration. Fun for Mardi Gras, too!"

During the investigation, surveillance was conducted at Diaz' home, as well as P.S. 31, which determined that at the times she punched out her time card, she had already been home for one to two hours, making it impossible for her to have been at the per session activities.

It was also revealed in the report that Diaz removed official Department of Education records from the school in an attempt to conceal evidence of her misconduct, when she was seen by a source on June 16, 2011 gathering per session activity time cards and time sheets and carrying the documents out of the school in a bag.

In an interview with her union representative and the office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation, Diaz

admitted to knowing her payroll secretary was punching out her time card at the same time she was punching out her own. Diaz said she did not direct the secretary to do so, but she did not directly ask her not to either.

Condon recommended that Diaz' employment be terminated and that she be made ineligible for future work with the Department of Education.

"We are referring our findings to Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson for whatever action he deems appropriate," the report stated. "We are forwarding a copy of this letter and of our report concerning this investigation to the office of legal services. We are also sending our findings to the New York State Education Department for whatever action it deems appropriate."

Marge Feinberg, a representative for the Department of Education, said Diaz remains reassigned.

"We are seeking her termination," she said. "And we are seeking to recoup her per session pay."

Condon is also recommending disciplinary action be taken concerning Carey.

Fresh Direct is rude to the Bronx

From page 1

our already high asthma-inflicted communities and, despite misrepresentations made to the media, fails to guarantee any new jobs, much less living wage jobs, for south Bronx residents. South Bronx residents demand equitable and environmentally sustainable economic development proposals that are developed democratically and that create jobs at a living wage," she added.

In advance of the vote, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation and Fresh Direct reached an agreement on best practices to address a number of the concerns that have been raised since the relocation was made public.

The "memorandum of understanding" between the three groups includes agreements on local hiring,

vendor referrals, expanding Fresh Direct's services to new Bronx neighborhoods, accepting EBT benefits, and decreasing the company's reliance on fossil fuels through the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles.

"I am very excited that Fresh Direct will make the Bronx its new home, and that we have come to an agreement with the company that will ensure their commitment to the Bronx for decades to come. Fresh Direct's decision to stay in New York City, right here in the Bronx, is a win-win for everyone. Fresh Direct is a real home-grown success that will now continue to grow, creating almost a thousand new jobs in our borough, which is not only a victory for the Bronx but also the entire city," said Diaz.

Although some local residents are opposed, others, including the Bronx

Chamber of Commerce, support the relocation of Fresh Direct.

In addition to the "memorandum of understanding", Borough President Diaz's office has also created a new Facebook group, "Bronxites for Fresh Direct," designed to illustrate to the company just how many Bronx residents are willing to not only use their service, but have the technical capabilities to do so.

"Fresh Direct's move will also provide additional opportunities for the members of my Chamber to interface with another growing Bronx entity that is in need of their products and services", said Lenny Caro, president of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce. "We encourage the City of New York to move forward with their support and welcome Fresh Direct to the Bronx."



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BY DR. WILLIAM WOLFSON

As much as you wouldn't like to believe it, appearance counts in the workplace. And it's not just your clothes that make an impression - your coworkers and clients observe many aspects of your appearance, including how you smile. That's why more and more working adults are turning to Invisalign

The Association for Psychological Science has found that it takes just a tenth of a second to form an impression of a stranger from their face.

And according to an Invisalign survey, 74% of Americans believe that an attractive smile is important for getting their dream job.

Scientists and economists even back this up: one study has shown that less attractive workers earn 10-15% less per year than their more attractive counterparts.

If you are hoping to advance your career, it seems that it's vitally important to make the best professional impression you can from the minute you enter any room.

That's why many adults choose to help improve their overall appearance with orthodontic intervention in the form of Invisalign braces.

Invisalign Trumps Traditional

It's true that occluded or mis-aligned teeth can be a detriment to your professional appearance and your communications in the workplace, but traditional braces do not do much to improve the situation.

Metal braces may draw the wrong kind of attention to you as an employee, since they often appear unnatural and obvious. If braces on teenagers seem "dorky," adult braces are even more so.

That's why more than 1.5 million patients worldwide have chosen Invisalign, and patients are especially appreciative of these clear corrective aligners that have minimal impact on their careers.

With Invisalign, patients with busy, high-octane careers can maintain

Dental Diary

their normal lifestyles while subtly, steadily aligning their teeth into a perfect smile that will dazzle clients and coworkers alike.

But Wait, There's More:

Straighter teeth will not only help your career, they could help your health as well! It's just one more benefit to getting Invisalign.

When your teeth are aligned correctly, there are many fewer hiding places for food and bacteria. Teeth straightened with Invisalign make it easier to brush more thoroughly, which helps prevent gum disease, periodontal disease, and cavities.

Avoiding cavities and gum disease is just the beginning, too - research has shown that gum disease can be associated with heart disease, which is America's biggest health problem and its leading cause of death.

Consider these statistics from New York Presbyterian Hospital and the Journal of Periodontology:

People with periodontal disease are almost twice as likely to suffer from coronary artery disease as those without periodontal disease.

Diseased gums release significantly higher levels of inflammatory bacteria into the bloodstream in patients with severe periodontal disease, compared to healthy patients.

One person in three suffers from some form of cardiovascular disease, including high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, stroke, congenital cardiovascular defects, and congestive heart failure.

Almost one out of every three deaths is a result of cardiovascular disease.

Interested in learning more about Invisalign? Look forward to next week's column wherein we will discuss more of the benefits of a straight smile!

Come in and get to know us! In an effort to prevent Dental problems, and to get to know us and our caring staff, our office is offering new patients a consultation, x-rays, an oral examination and oral cancer screening for \$49.00. 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.

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