

AT A GLANCE

YANKEE VILLAGE — Join Bronx Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan tomorrow as he explores the vicinity of Yankee Stadium, where residential villages and civic centers with manifold historic events occurred.

The walking tour begins at 1 p.m. at Gate 6 entrance of Yankee Stadium (River Ave. in front of The Hard Rock Café and the entrance to the #4 train), going north to E. 165th St., coming back down the Grand Concourse, and going west on E. 161st St. to form, what Ultan calls, the "Yankee Square."

The tour is \$10 Members of the Bronx Historical Society/ \$15 for non-Members. Call BCHS to RSVP: (718) 881-8900.

FORDHAM — Catch Big Daddy Kane in concert at 8 p.m. tomorrow night at the Paradise Theater.

Kane will perform with special guests Christopher Williams, Monifah, Chubb Rock & Jeff Redd at the historic theater on the Grand Concourse at 149th St.

Ticket prices range from \$40 to \$52.50, tickets and more information can be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

RIVERDALE — Gideon Levy will present a talk at 10 a.m. today on "A History of Jewish Gangsters in America" at The Simon Senior Center at the Riverdale YM-YWHA, 5625 Arlington Ave.

The talk will examine some of the colorful Jewish gangsters including Bugsy Siegel, Meyer Lansky and Monk Eastman plus many others who lived from 1900 through the 20th century.

Go to www.riverdaley.org or call 718-548-8200.

VAN CORTLANDT — The Bronx Arts Ensemble Jazz and Dixieland Band opens its Summermusic series with a salute to George M. Cohan, Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, W. C. Handy and more at a free concert at 2 p.m. Sunday on the Fourth of July in Van Cortlandt Park at Rockwood Drive Circle, near Mosholu Ave. and Broadway.

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HOLEY NUKE LEAKS!

BY ABBY LUBY
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

ALMOST TWO million gallons of corrosive water has leaked into the Indian Point nuclear plant's containment building over the last 17 years, safety advocates said.

Indian Point has failed to fix the leak and the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has ignored the problem, according to David Lochbaum, a former NRC scientist who taught nuclear safety engineering.

Lochbaum is now director of Nuclear Safety with the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The NRC said they have known about the leak and acknowledged it last month in their latest safety assessment of the Westchester County plant.

"We believe this is of low safety

Fears of corrosive water at Indian Pt. plant

significance," said NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan.

Lochbaum cited the leak in a June 23 letter to the NRC saying it repeatedly flooded the bottom of the containment building that houses the nuclear reactor.

The leak started in 1993 and occurred every 18 months when Indian Point Unit 2 refuels.

Over a period of 17 years, with two to 10 gallons leaking every minute, a total of 362,880 to 1,814,400 gallons of corrosive water had leaked into containment building.

Sheehan said the plant was allowed to operate because the problem is listed in the "corrective action" program.

"We wouldn't cite them with a violation since they are already

actively engaged in trying to fix the problem," said Sheehan.

Lochbaum said the millions of gallons of evaporated water has left some four to 20 tons of the corrosive, boric acid powder, an amount equal in weight three to 15 Ford pickup trucks. The powder can damage equipment needed to prevent an accident.

In 1985, corrosion from boric acid ate a hole the size of a football in the reactor head at the Davis-Besse nuclear plant in Ohio, causing a near catastrophic accident and partial meltdown.

The NRC closed the Ohio plant for almost two years. Lochbaum claimed the NRC sidestepped the corrosion warnings.

But Sheehan said the issue is different at Indian Point.

"The water isn't as hot — it's only 95 degrees. At Davis-Besse it was 600 degrees."

Indian Point is owned by Entergy, which has applied to the NRC to keep the plant running for another 20 years.

Lochbaum said Entergy has repeatedly postponed fixing the leaks in a surface that is supposed to be "leak-proof."

"The NRC should require Entergy to fix the problem instead of saying 'We see it,' and checking off a box. The NRC thinks if no one dies this morning, it must be okay. That's tombstone regulation."

Sheehan said the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, an independent review group, has reviewed the leakage but has recommended that Indian Point be granted a license extension.

BEATING THE HEAT



Pair of children find sanctuary from the heat yesterday by playing in cooling water at Battery Park. Photo by Susan Watts/Daily News

Bust of \$2M a year betting ring rakes in 16 suspects

BY VISHAL PERSAUD
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

THEIR NUMBER was up.

Sixteen members of a tri-county private lottery and betting operation covering Yonkers, the Bronx and upper Manhattan were arrested yesterday in what authorities called a \$2 million a year criminal enterprise.

Investigators from Westchester District Attorney Janet DiFiore's office and State Police wiretapped and observed group members in action from March to June, and joined by New York City police, finally made arrests late Wednesday and Thursday morning, the DA's office said.

They seized cash, a number of computers, gambling receipts, and four stolen handguns

from the group's locations.

The operation copied the legitimate New York statewide midday and evening lottery drawings and horse races, authorities said, then used the outcomes of those drawings and races as their own to collect money from or pay off their bettors.

The operation reportedly pulled in close to \$40,000 a week.

Roberto Rodriguez, identified as the ringleader, and a web of clerks and street runners operated out a number of apartments in the Inwood section of Manhattan that served as their base of operations, DiFiore charged.

They also had dealings in a laundromat in Washington Heights, and several bodegas



Rodriguez

and delis in the Bronx, upper Manhattan and Yonkers.

The huge web of operators and clerks involved would take bets from the group's locations and then relay the information to the main base in Inwood.

From there, the clerks figured out how much they needed to pay out to winners and keep the funds from the losers.

"Illegal lotteries, gambling and policy operations like this one are not victimless crimes," DiFiore said in a statement. "Tremendous amounts of money are circulating in these shadow economies depriving local, state and federal governments from collecting revenue on legitimate games of chance."