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General Hospital should treat 600 heroin addicts

Rick Kastner, Executive Director of the Lancaster County Drug & Alcohol Commission, estimates there are between five thousand and ten thousand Lancastrians addicted to heroin. 600 of them receive treatment at the methadone clinic or by physicians with Suboxone. This enables most to resume near normal life with family, friends and gainful employment. They may be your neighbor or co-worker. You wouldn't know.

Another six hundred could be treated if local physicians were willing to accept them as patients. But the doctors won't, largely because

fees are low and these patients are mistakenly deemed undesirable.

Public foundation Lancaster General earned \$113 million last year. For a subsidy of quarter of a million dollars a year, it could provide a full time clinic to treat 600 more with Suboxone.

The savings to society in health care, law enforcement, and welfare would be many times the investment. What possibly better use can they make of the public's money in promoting public health?

La Cocina offers vibrant, affordable Dominican fare

In Lancaster City, you don't need to break the bank to enjoy a meal of fresh and exotic flavors. Just east of the corner of King and Duke, La Cocina sits in a quaint storefront on 111 E King St, right across from Demuth's Tobacco Shop. The restaurant serves an extensive and inexpensive array of Dominican foods in a colorful and classy setting.

On a busy weekday lunch hour, the café is a relaxed escape from the loud bustle of Downtown. Even with music playing, the place seems quiet. All at once, the restaurant is warm, relaxed, clean, and organized. It works for a business meeting or a bite on the run.

At the front counter, patrons select from a lively spread of dishes, including empanadas,

plantains, stewed pork, fried fish, stewed goat, and more. These items are not only diverse, but they are also deliciously well-prepared.

For instance, the empanadas—fried pastries filled with cheese and meat—were stuffed with a savory shredded steak instead of the usual ground beef. Plates are generously piled with a thick stew of rice and beans along with any other chosen items.

And the price is certainly right. A heaping plate of rice and beans with plantains and stewed pork costs around \$6. Empanadas run for a dollar each. With food like this at such a lean price, what's the point of fast food?

PA Music Academy “consultant” denies plans to close

An article posted at LancasterOnline.com on June 2nd at 1:00 AM reports the following from Sylvia L. Strobel, Consultant to the Board of the Pennsylvania Academy of Music (PAM):

“... there is ‘no truth’ to talk that the Academy’s new \$25 million North Prince Street facility might have to close its doors because of its financial situation.”

She also said rumors that the school may enter into an agreement with Franklin & Marshall College in which F&M would annex the Academy building are unfounded.

This is wonderful news for the staff, patrons of PAM and all of Lancaster. Nonetheless, *NewsLanc* stands 100% behind our earlier report. In fact, we only scratched the surface!

What is important is that Paul Ware, major creditor and Chair may be coming to his senses along with the Board. They need to recognize that patrons and the public (including ten million dollars in state and county grants) have invested \$15 million in the Academy, placing their confidence in the Board and especially Paul Ware and Steinman family leadership.

The problem with the Academy Board is that it failed not only to consider where the money

was coming from to support the lavish construction but also how revenues would keep up with operating costs.

NewsLanc has written about the great potential of a link between PAM and the Brunswick in establishing an international campus for musically talented high school students from throughout the world. For example, both F&M and the private Linden Hall have been drawing a considerable number of students from Asia.

The contacts made throughout the world over the decades by the Academy’s artistic founders Fran Veri and Michael Jamanis and the Academy’s Newstead Trio make this a viable plan. PAM already has a ‘sister’ campus in Beijing

What seems to be lacking is vision and will. The Academy should be focusing on how to break even by 2012. With 200 foreign students paying \$45,000 to \$50,000 a year (consistent with costs elsewhere), PAM should garner a net \$2 million a year to cover operating costs. Also, the families and sponsors of the students would become a source of future donations.

LETTER: “People are dying because of prohibition”

“At what point do politicians finally accept the fact that people are dying and Mexican drug cartels gaining more money and power because of prohibition? It deeply confounds and frustrates me that any politician worth his salt doesn’t recognize and admit the utter failure of drug prohibition and stand up for the right thing—ending it.

“How come politicians see themselves as

‘heroes’ when they say they’re ‘tough on crime’ (on drug users, actually) while thousands of people die each year and the amount of drugs coming into this country just keeps increasing and the cartels keep growing?

“What is wrong with this country’s so-called leadership? Vote for politicians that support ending the failed policy of drug prohibition!”

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