Hughes Sworn-In for 5th Term

State Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Phila.) was sworn-in Tuesday to his fifth consecutive state Senate term serving the citizens of Philadelphia and Montgomery counties.

Hughes vowed to continue fighting for the issues of “everyday Pennsylvanians” such as home foreclosure reform, improving health care access and a statewide economic stimulus plan that gets Pennsylvanians back to work.

“I am excited and determined to get to work on the business of the people,” Hughes said. “We need to create good jobs, improve our education system, provide health care coverage to the uninsured, and make our communities better and safer.

“These are the issues that are most important to the people of the Seventh Senatorial District.”

At his inaugural celebration, Sen. Hughes saluted some 75 citizens and organizations in his 7th District. They were honored for their exemplary work in the community.

In November, Hughes was elected by his Democratic colleagues to serve as Senate Democratic Caucus Chair, a key leadership position.

Firebug Torches 55 Cars

Debris left from a burned out auto marks the spot where an arsonist torched the car in the Unit Block of North Conestoga Street. The car was totaled and towed away from the scene.

Mortgage Foreclosures, Tax Filings: Digital TV

These are some of the subjects being addressed at a meeting on Wednesday, Janu-
ary 14, at 6:30 at the 52nd Street Philadelphia Beauty Showcase, 510-12 South 52nd Street.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

• Shawn McGeth Housing Counselor at The Partner-
    nership CDC will explain energy and housing services like
    LIHEAP and foreclosure prevention (H.E.M.A.P.)

• David Dombierski from the Federal Communications
    Commission will demonstrate what Digital Televi-
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Disaster Preparedness Training

Help make your family and your community safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to the threats of disasters of all kinds.

This will be presented at a public forum at Taylor Tabernacle Church, 6050 Osage Avenue on Saturday, January 17 from 2 to 5 PM.

Topics include: What is SEPA VOAD 75, introduction to disasters, fire flood and fire safety, building an emergency kit and mass care and shelter operations.

There will be free training in CPR, First Aid and other practices that you would need in an emergency -- large or small. You will also be creden-
dialed to help during a large-scale disaster if needed on a voluntary basis.

Please RSVP by January 12 to the church at 215-748-4578.


Hughes Sworn-In for 5th Term

Senator Hughes and wife, actress Sheryl Lee Ralph, pose for picture after his swearing-in. Photo by Sandra Ali

What's in the Stars?

Only Ms. Lillian Cosby knows what's to come in 2009. See Page xx

Community Meetings Youth Study Center To Be Built Here

A Community meeting on the re-location of the Youth Study Center to be held on Tuesday, January 13. The meeting is at 6PM at Sulzberger Middle School, 4725 Fairmount Ave. The meeting is at 6PM at Sulzberger Middle School, 4725 Fairmount Ave. The meeting is at 6PM at Sulzberger Middle School, 4725 Fairmount Ave. The meeting is at 6PM at Sulzberger Middle School, 4725 Fairmount Ave.
Her Predictions Will Shake Up Lots Of People
Psychic Lillian Cosby Gets Stronger and More Powerful With her Predictions in 2009

By Napoleon Kingcade

At one point in her life, it looked like Mrs. Lillian Cosby was about to end her psychic career. At one point, her health started to go from bad to worse and her physical condition started to deteriorate.

Folks, this woman appeared to be on the verge of a major retirement. Life didn’t look too good for Mrs. Cosby at that point.

But then with more hospital therapy and more hospital treatment, Mrs. Cosby was able to make an incredible comeback.

Today, Psychic Lillian Cosby is back on top of her game. Now she is more vibrant and sharper.

Since 1999, Mrs. Cosby has been a valuable source of information when it comes to making yearly predictions about our local and national celebrities.

When people read our Westside Weekly newspaper every year around New Years Days, it’s a guarantee you will find this Overbrook neighbor’s prediction highlighted on the front page.

Most of the people who read her yearly predictions in the Westside Weekly find her to be a very mysterious person. She always knew she had psychic powers since she was a little girl. From that point on, Mrs. Cosby has grown up to become a national celebrity and she ranks up there with nationally known psychic Sylvia Brown.

But despite her extraordinary profession, Mrs. Cosby has been on target with her yearly predictions in our paper over 90 percent of the time.

As we turn our yearly calendar to 2009, Mrs. Cosby has made some incredible predictions that will amaze you and have you scratching your head.

Here are the Top 10 predictions by Mrs. Cosby for this Year 2009.

1. Our president-elect Barack Obama is going to do some serious changes to start off his presidency. First of all, he’s going to work with the Republicans and Democrats to create a bailout for the auto companies.

2. In the Midwest section of our country, there’s going to be another major flood to hit the states. There are going to be a lot more home damage.

3. During Obama’s swearing-in ceremony on January 20, his wife, Michelle, will be wearing an aqua color or a very fashionable blue dress. She will be very striking that day in her dress.
4. Entertainment singer Beyonce will become pregnant and have twins by husband Jay Z. She’s going to be a fantastic mother.
5. This Philadelphia Eagles. Expect them to make the Eastern Conference Championship.
6. The recession is going to last a long time. The Republicans really messed up this situation. The housing market situation will be the key to getting us out of this mess.
7. Mayor Michael Nutter has turned off a lot of people so far during his term. I predict he will not make it to another term as mayor. Closing down Public Libraries has been a big, big mistake for his career. A lot of people have been turned off by most of his decisions.
8. A worldwide national R&B singer will experience major damage to their throat and won’t be able to sing ever again in their life.
9. The 76ers will make more changes and improve their skills.
10. Mayor Nutter will make some big surprises in the Philadelphia Public School system. He always been real big on the school Schoolystem and he will make some big, big changes during his four-year term as Mayor of Philadelphia.

Ms. Cosby can be reached at 215-878-2787.
Scenes From The Christmas Season
At left, employees from Mercy Hospital of Philadelphia deliver gifts to needy neighborhood families, while at right, youngsters from various schools are treated to lunch, a magician and a visit from a gift-bearing Santa at the 18th Police District, 55th and Pine Streets.

There were plenty of smiling faces on youngsters like the ones on these children's faces as they met Santa. In fact, more than 250 kids were treated to some goodies, gifts and a chance to tell Santa what they wanted at a party sponsored by the Cobbs Creek TownWatch Community Organization. The event was held at the Cobbs Creek
Recreation Center and was the 29th annual event sponsored by the townwatch group. Ms. Julia Chinn, president.
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More Swear-ins on page 10
Teachers Study 'CSI' Bartram/Sayre

Princeton University is running a satellite program at Springside School geared for Philadelphia public school teachers.

The instructors are Springside alumna Virginia Pearson (currently a guest researcher at Princeton) and Springside's Science Chair Scott Stein.

The goal is to give area teachers hands-on molecular biology lessons to take back to their classrooms, along with the state-of-the-art equipment that travels from Princeton, made available by a major grant at Princeton from Howard Hughes. Public school teachers from eight different Philadelphia schools are participating in the first class.

“Science literacy is more important than ever in today's world. Just reading the newspaper or watching 'CSI' on TV requires some knowledge of science and DNA. More importantly, every student should understand the basics of molecular biology as every student will be making decisions on topics such as stem cell research and genetically modified foods,” said Dr. Ann Sliski, Educational Outreach Director at Princeton.

Pictured from left are Amanda Bridgeford, who teaches at William L. Sayre High School, and Amy Foster from Bartram High School.
Waters Sworn in For 6th Term

State Rep. Ronald G. Waters, D-Phila./Delaware, was joined by family and friends this week as he took the oath of office for his sixth term as state representative of the 191st Legislative District.

“It was such a wonderful day for me,” Waters said. “It is with great pride and humility that I pledge to continue to serve my constituents through my work in the district and in Harrisburg.”

Waters is involved with many issues in the legislature. In the previous session, he was a member of the House Professional Licensure, Labor Relations, Liquor Control, Health & Human Services and majority Policy committees. He is also vice chairman of the Gaming Oversight Committee and a member of the Philadelphia and Southeast Pennsylvania delegations.

For the 2009-10 session, Waters has been elected by his peers to serve a two-year term as chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus. In that capacity, Waters will lead the efforts of black legislators to better promote issues affecting their home districts.

“Our major concern is passing legislation that will decrease health disparities, lower the crime rate, create more economic opportunities, promote increased funding for education and help senior citizens and children,” Waters said.

“Plus, we must continue to fight for and pass legislation that would establish tighter controls on the illegal possession, sale and trade of firearms, and increase support for violence prevention programs and youth initiatives,” Waters said.

Members of the PLBC are also involved in promoting programs to help the poor, such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, adultBasic health insurance, the Children’s Health Insurance Program and the new Cover All Kids initiative.

Waters serves the 191st Legislative District, which includes the borough of Yeadon in Delaware County and portions Philadelphia.
Rep Thaddeus Kirkland (159th) passing the Gavel & Baton to the new PLBC Chairman. Rep Ronald Waters(191st) at the swearing in ceremony in Harrisburg
West Speedgirls Are Off and Running — Again

In the picture are: Shanae Davis, #15, Ikeya Foster #23, Nicole Boyd #11, Taft Minnick $45, Tiffany Dickerson #42, Kadidra Johnson #35, Nyeema Sims #31, Deborah Johnson #34, Tiffany Sydner (Manager) and at far left, Coach Kim Johnson-Felder. (Not in picture: Nidirah Williams #10, Nekeyia Colllins #13 and Tina Wade #14)
Since becoming the new girls' basketball coach at West Philadelphia High School two years ago, Kim Johnson-Felder has done a magnificent job of running the team and making the girls' team into winners.

Her former assistant coach Flo Hagins was instrumental in helping Coach Johnson-Felder to win games. However, things has changed and Hagins has moved on to New Jersey where she is now coaching a girls team at Winslow Township High. Right now, Coach Johnson-Felder has her son, Brandon Johnson helping her with the team duties.

For the last two seasons, Johnson-Felder's team has produced a 9-3 record and each season the Speedgirls have finished in third place in their division.

It has been a wonderful two years for Coach Johnson-Felder, but there is one major problem that seems to haunt her team and that is winning games in the playoffs. The Speedgirls have no problems winning games during the regular season, but when it comes to the playoffs, the team finds ways to lose.

“We hope not to lose in the playoffs,” says the coach. “We always had the talent to beat any team in the Public League, but when it comes to playing teams like Central, Prep Charter and Engineering & Science, we always have problems winning playoff games. There is always a roadblock when we play these teams.

This season, the Speedgirls should have a much easier time in the playoffs because Engineering & Science was moved to another division. So if everything falls into place the Speedgirls should be able to finish as the second best team in their division.

“If the girls do what they suppose to do, then there will be nobody to beat us,” said Coach Johnson-Felder.

This season the West coach is depending on point guard Nicole Boyd and center Kadidra Johnson to supply the team's power punch on offense. Each player scored 14 points in last week’s game against Nueva Esperanza Academy. The Speedgirls blew out Nueva Esperanza Academy 48-8.

So far this season, the Speedgirls seem to play much better defense under the basket and they are scoring better shots on offense under the basket.

Coach Johnson-Felder feels the team must work harder in practice in order to compete in the playoffs.

“A lot of the better teams practice hard on the weekends and that has been the big difference,” she explained. “We have to start doing the same thing if we want to play better in the playoffs.”

Coach Johnson said she expects a good season performance from Taft Minnick and Shanae Davis.
Neighborhood Crime Report

The following incidents were reported by police in the 18th (55th and Pine Sts) District. A report from the 19th (61st and Haverford Ave.) was not received by press time.

18th DISTRICT
INCIDENTS
RAPE
01/01 - Girl, 13, in the 5600 Blk. Chestnut St.
AGGRAVATED
ASSAULTS
01/01 - Woman, 18, assaulted in 200 Blk. S. Cecil St. ARREST MADE.
01/01 - Man, 19, in the 6100 Blk. Irving
01/01 - Man, 26, in 5600 Blk. Osage Ave.; ARREST MADE.
01/02 - Girl, 16, in 5600 Blk. Addison
01/02 - Man, 39, in 5500 Blk. Locust.
1/02 - Man, 42, in 5600 Blk. Market St. ARREST MADE
ROBBERIES
12/22 - Man, 40, robbed of $100 in the 500 Blk. S. Redfield St.
12/23 - Man, 27, wallet taken in 5400 Blk. Irving St.
12/23 - Man, 21, wallet taken in 700 Blk. Cobbs Creek Pkwy.
12/24 - Girl, 14, robbed of $20 in 500 Blk. S. 56th St.
12/25 - Man, 51, robbed in 5800 Blk. Pemberton
12/25 - Boy, 16, robbed of 9 mm Taurus gun.
12/28 - Man, 21, black leather coat in 400 Blk. S. 54th
12/28 - Man, 17, cell phone in 700 Blk. S. 52nd. ARREST MADE.
12/31 - Man, 66, cell phone taken in 5400 Blk Spruce St.
12/31 - Woman, 32, nothing taken in 5800 Blk. Delancey St.
1/03 - Man, 18, wallet and cell phone in 5800 Blk. Spruce St.
1/04 - Man, 55, cell phone, wallet & ID in 5700 Blk. Christian St.
BURGLARIES
12/22 - 5200 Blk. Irving St.; Two 13-inch TVs
12/25 - Unit Blk. S. 60th St.; sofa bed.
12/27 - 800 Blk. S. 55th St.; attempted burglary
1/01 - 5500 Blk. Walton Ave.; copper pipes
1/03 - 5800 Blk. Chestnut St; 22" & 35" Flat Screen TVs
STOLEN AUTOS
12/23 - Ford from 5800 blk. Spruce St.
12/26 - Toyota from 6000 Blk. Delancey St.
12/27 - Lincoln from 5600 Blk. Chestnut St.
1/02 - Toyota from 5200 Blk. Spruce St.
1/03 - Oldsmobile from 5400 Blk. Locust St.
18th DISTRICT
ARRESTS
12/24 - Spencer Sterlin, 19, of 5100 Blk. Spruce. ROBBERY
12/22 - Sang Im, 66, of 3900 Blk Market. BURGLARY
12/26 - Walter Langston, 34, of Dermond Rd.; AUTO THEFT
12/26 - Girl, 16, THEFT
12/27 - Vernon Bowers, 46, of 4700 Blk. Sansom; BURGLARY
12/27 - Vance Turner, 19, of 5800 Blk. Catharine; ROBBERY
12/27 - Aniesha Herder, 21, of Jane St.; ROBBERY
12/28 - Mujahid Mack, 21, of 500 Blk. Tasker; ROBBERY
12/29 - William Jenkins, 50, of 5400 Blk Christian. BURGLARY
12/30 - Tyessa Soto, 27, of 4900 Blk. Walnut, AGG. ASSAULT
12/31 - Shaun Stafford, 22, of 1400 Blk. S. 50th St.; ROBBERY
12/31 - Boy, 14, BURGLARY
1/01 - Rudolph Knight, 52, of 4700 Blk. Chestnut; ROBBERY
1/01 - Norman Legg, 24, of 5600 Blk. Osage; AGG. ASSAULT
1/02 - Justin Swain, 18, of 5500 Blk. Locust. AGG. ASSAULT
1/03 - Derrell Gaines, 20, of 5900 Blk. Christian. WEAPONS
1/03 - Jerrell Haywood, 20, of 1700 Blk. Thompson. WEAPONS
1/03 - Melvin Strom, 21, of 5100 Blk. Webster; WEAPONS

18th DISTRICT NARC ARRESTS
12/22 - Ronald Woodson, 40, of 5200 Blk. Walton Ave.; arrested in 5500 Blk. Pemberton
12/23 - Maurice Collins, 18, of 5400 Blk. Addison; in 5300 Blk. Osage.
12/24 - Daniel Watson, 38, of 4000 Blk. N. 12th St.; in police station.
12/26 - Eric Simmons, 39, of 5300 Blk. Ogden; in 5500 Blk. Pemberton.
12/27 - Danielle Rosengarten, of Myrtle St.; in 100 Blk. S. 52nd St.
12/30 - Eli Jefferson, 29, of 4900 Blk.Walnut; in 4900 Blk. Baltimore
12/31 - Jaron Brown, 20, of 6100 Blk. Pine St.; in same block.
12/31 - Darrel Anderson, 18, of 1300 Blk. S. 60th St.; in 5100 Blk. Ludlow.
1/01 - Reginald Scott, 40, of 4200 Blk. Pennsgrove; in Unit Blk. S. 54th St.
1/02 - James Allen, 50, of Bartram Ave.; in 5600 blk. Chestnut St.
1/03 - Christian Robinson, 22, of Wyneva Ave.; in 6200 Blk. Spruce St.
1/04 - Boy, 15, arrested in the 5700 Blk. Sansom St.