

Opinion

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Include name, hometown and phone number and keep letter to 250 words or fewer. Submissions can be edited and published in print, electronic or other forms. Send letters to letterstoeditor@poughkeepsiejournal.com. Mail typed or printed letters to Box 1231, Poughkeepsie, NY, 12602 or fax to 845-437-4921.

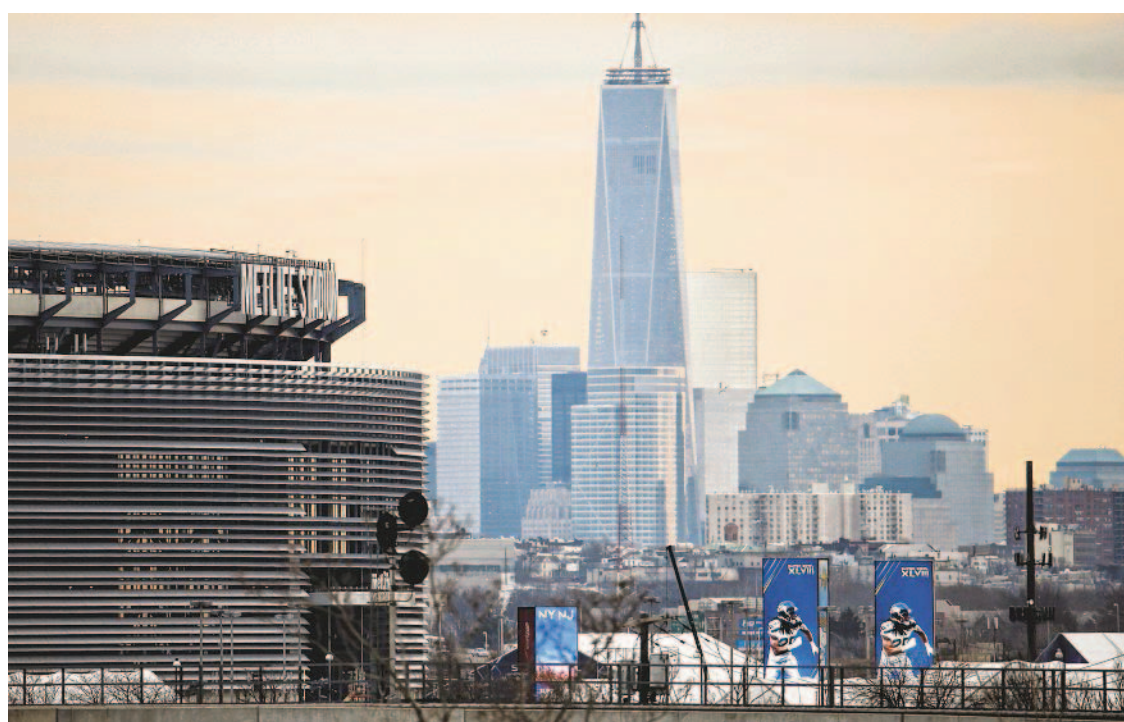
Editorial

Super Bowl is a spectacle, in snow or sun

For New York-area football fans, perhaps the most intriguing aspect of Sunday's Super Bowl is the "over/under" wagering about what the temperature will be at kickoff.

Indeed, regardless of the outcome of the game between the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks, this is bound to be a different Super Bowl — one with a frigid feel to it. It's a return to "old-school" football, before the professional national title game became the spectacle that "Super Sunday" has become.

Despite concerns of a polar vortex or blizzard ruining the blessed event, the New York area has been trying to make the most of having the game at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. And, thankfully, the forecast has gotten increasingly better in recent days, with temperatures expected to break into the high 40s on Sunday. Nevertheless, by game time around 6:30 p.m., they should dip at least into the 30s, and this year's Super Bowl most likely will break the record for the



MetLife Stadium is seen in the foreground with the New York City skyline Monday before Sunday's Super Bowl XLVIII football game in East Rutherford, N.J. CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

coldest outdoor game in its storied history.

The pregame hype and mayhem have created some other unique situations, casting a national spotlight on some regionalisms. The inevitable rivalry between the states of New York and New Jersey has flared up,

with Garden State folks rightly questioning why so many of the glitzy Super Bowl-related parties and events are being held in New York City. And the New York City area's public transportation system is getting intense focus, with concerns about terrorism

but also the need to move massive crowds to and from hotels and events and the stadium.

For all this, the Super Bowl is infusing the New York/New Jersey area with at least tens of millions of dollars during what's traditionally the slowest time of

the year for the tourist industry. The region, in short, will benefit. That's why so many other cold-weather cities with outdoor stadiums will be watching closely, hoping a good precedent can be set here.

The first Super Bowl didn't even sell out, but on Sunday not only will MetLife Stadium be at enthusiastic capacity but more than 100 million will tune in for at least for part of the game.

Let's hope it's a good one.

SEE VIDEO ONLINE, COVERAGE IN SPORTS

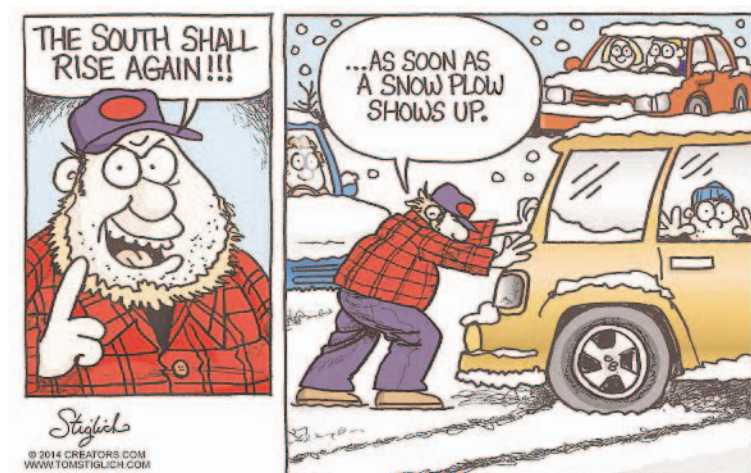
To see a video of how the New York City area has been preparing for the Super Bowl, go to this editorial online at www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/opinion. Five pages of coverage in the Sports section today include a graphic comparison of the top players and seasons for the Broncos and Seahawks. Visit www.poughkeepsiejournal.com on Sunday for complete Super Bowl preview coverage, updates during the contest and postgame stories and video. Use #PJSB on Twitter to join in a live conversation with Journal Local Editor/Sports Mike Benischek and the rest of the mid-Hudson Valley throughout the game.

Letters

Bergoglio defies true Rome on capitalism

Recently, Rush Limbaugh rightly described the so-called "Apostolic Exhortation" of Francis I as "warmed over Marxism." In this ill-conceived document, Jorge Bergoglio (Pope Francis) levels spurious criticisms at the free enterprise system. However, this same pronouncement contains nary a word regarding the horrors of communism (and its 120 million murdered victims), nor the errors of socialism. As such, Bergoglio's mindset represents a profound departure from traditional Catholic social teaching as authoritatively defined by the church's perennial pre-Vatican II magisterium.

Consider, if you will, the words of Pope Leo XIII, who labeled socialism as a "fatal plague." Likewise, Pope Pius XI states, "Whether socialism be considered as a doctrine, or as a historical fact, or as a movement, if it really remain socialism it cannot be brought into harmony with the dogmas of the Catholic church; the reason being that it conceives human society in a way utterly



alien to Christian truth ... 'Religious socialism' and 'Christian socialism' are expressions implying a contradiction in terms. No one can be at the same time a sincere Catholic and a true socialist ... Remember that the parent of socialism was liberalism and its offspring will be Bolshevism." Moreover, in 1949, the great Pope Pius XII excommunicated any alleged "Catholic" who joined, supported or voted for the Communist Party.

This true voice of eternal Rome stands in marked contrast to the left-wing drivel espoused by Bergoglio and other progressivist usurpers that have occupied the Vatican

since John XXIII.

Vincent Ferro
Milton

Beechwood Ave. section needs sidewalk

Beechwood Avenue is used extensively by pedestrians and bikers traveling to and from the malls on Route 9 (South Road). There are sidewalks along Beechwood Ave. in the City of Poughkeepsie to Santa Anna Drive where the sidewalk ends. There are no sidewalks from there to Route 9, a distance of approximately 1/2 mile. There are sidewalks

along Route 9.

This area on Beechwood Ave., where there is no sidewalk, is very dangerous to walk or bike. Beechwood Avenue is a heavily traveled road. A sidewalk in this area would be a real asset.

I am a senior citizen and would like to walk and/or bike safely to the malls. It would be good exercise. Please consider this request seriously.

William Meyer
Poughkeepsie

Dutchess has too many costly laws, taxes

Dutchess County is one of the most expensive counties in this area. An example is the gasoline prices here compared to Ulster County. I always gas up in Ulster County whenever I cross the bridge, all because of higher fuel taxes in Dutchess County — and now Dutchess is going to tax home-heating oil which is already outrageous!

Another example is food prices. I shop in Kingston and individual items are not marked to save labor costs; there's only a clear price on the shelf. But, for years, Dutchess County had had a unit price law where all items must be

marked, driving up labor costs. This is extremely unfair. Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro should look into this injustice.

Lastly, one part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's onerous Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act (safe only for criminals), which he rushed to passage last year in secret and without public debate, has been repealed: the dumb seven-round magazine provision. What criminal in his right mind would load his 30-round magazine with only seven bullets before he goes to do his evil deeds? It was — and is — a joke and I hope the whole law will eventually be repealed. Gov. Cuomo as presidential timber? Not likely!

Ken Krauer
Salt Point

MORE OPINION ON 10A

To see a column by Michelle Malkin on the controversial education initiative called "Common Core" and to see what our online readers have been discussing, go to 10A for more opinion content. Additional commentary also regularly can be found at www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/opinion.

Center aims to keep hospital focused on community

Westchester Medical Center's historical mission has always been to ensure that the residents of the Hudson Valley have access to the finest advanced medical care as close to home as possible, regardless of their ability to pay. Saint Francis Hospital is a critical link to quality care for those living and working in the community and we believe that, with the right partner, the organization's future as a full-service community hospital is very bright indeed.

We say this speaking from a great depth and breadth of experience. Nearly a decade ago, Westchester Medical Center was faced with a similar challenge. Our current management team came in and oversaw a very successful turnaround and the med-



MICHAEL ISRAEL
VALLEY VIEWS

ical center is now entering its ninth consecutive year with a positive bottom line. Today, Westchester Medical Center's three health care facilities (our 400-bed University Hospital, 137-bed Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and 101-bed Behavioral Health Center) are all operating near, at or above capacity. We continue to welcome national physician talent to our 900-strong medical staff and our more than 300 resident and fellow staff as part of our academic affiliation with New York Medical College. Our 150-member physician practice, which encompasses numerous ad-



MARK TULIS
VALLEY VIEWS

vanced-care subspecialties like transplant, endovascular, trauma, burn and reconstructive, gynecologic oncology and a comprehensive cardiovascular group, is thriving. Our partnership with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in our outpatient infusion center is setting new standards. And we have invested more than \$200 million into our infrastructure, technology and physical plant in just four short years.

We believe that our path for Saint Francis is no different. Yes, the only real way to save locally provided services and the core mission of

Saint Francis Hospital is to keep them managed in the community, but they need to continue and thrive on the existing Saint Francis campus, not elsewhere. And, together with the talented and dedicated Saint Francis staff, we plan to do just that. Our vision for Saint Francis Hospital is simple: from day one to work together to enhance and strengthen all of the fine services that exist including the level two trauma center, emergency department, intensive care units and critical psychiatric services, while introducing additional advanced-care offerings locally to more patients in areas such as orthopedics, cancer, neurosciences, trauma and critical care and cardiovascular.

Westchester Medical Center has a long history

of working collaboratively with the 30 or so community hospitals in our 5,000-square-mile region, enhancing their programs and services and "bridging" only the most critically ill and injured to our Valhalla campus. With Saint Francis, the goal remains the same.

We will continue to advance our cause and the unique opportunity that Westchester Medical Center provides to the patients, staff and families of Saint Francis. Westchester Medical Center is uniquely qualified clinically, operationally and financially to work with the existing Saint Francis family to change the face of advanced care offerings for the children and adults who live and work in this community by bringing cutting-edge care closer to home. Pending all

necessary approvals and an order of the Bankruptcy Court, our intention is to ensure that Saint Francis continues in its critical role as a full-service community hospital, providing valuable, high-quality health care with the same and even enhanced programs and services that the people of the area have come to rely on and expect.

Michael D. Israel is president and chief executive officer of Westchester Medical Center. Mark Tulis is chair of Westchester Medical Center's board of directors.

More commentary Sunday

The Journal Opinion Page will have more commentary on Sunday about Saint Francis Hospital filing for bankruptcy protection and what should happen next.