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What's happening: New plaza at 30th Street

October 31, 2011

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HERE'S WHAT will make news in Philadelphia this week:

DEVELOPMENT 30th Street plaza

Right now, Philadelphia's "great new public space" outside 30th Street Station has a chain-link fence around it.

But at noon Wednesday, the plaza will be officially dedicated with a grand-opening ceremony. There will be music, food, fitness demonstrations and street performers.

The new plaza is a project of the University City District, which joined forces with City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, the City Planning Commission and the state Department of Transportation.

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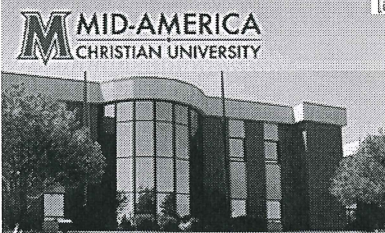
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The groups worked to create a plaza from what had been an outer parking lane adjacent to Market Street in front of the old Post Office, which now houses the Internal Revenue Service.

University City District's executive director Matt Bergheiser said the area will be "an inviting, social civic space for Philadelphia, creating a welcoming first impression for first-time visitors and a lively space for daily commuters and those who work in close proximity to the station."

CITY HALL * Tipping treachery

Let's say you go to a nice restaurant downtown one night, enjoy a meal, pay with your credit card and leave a tip for the waiter.

All of the tip money is going to the waiter, right? Wrong.

City Councilman at Large Jim Kenney said he recently learned that some local restaurant owners take 1 to 3 percent out of tips that are paid with credit cards to defray the cost of "handling fees" that restaurants are charged by credit card companies.

Kenney said he plans to introduce legislation Wednesday that would prevent restaurants from continuing the practice.

"We're talking about \$300 to \$400 a year" per waiter, Kenney added. "In this economy, that can be the difference between a person paying their bills."

COURTS

Today

Margarita Garabito, 44, the woman who told police she regularly hit stepdaughter Charleni Ferreira, was scheduled to go on trial in Common Pleas Court for the child's murder.

The 10-year-old Feltonville girl died Oct. 21, 2009, from multiple blunt-impact injuries, a collapsed lung and infection, the result of years of abuse, authorities said.

Domingo Ferreira, 53, the girl's father, committed suicide four days after being arrested and charged with Garabito.

Tomorrow

Matthew Devlin, the first mate who was talking on his cellphone when his tugboat pushed a barge into a duck boat on the Delaware River in July 2010, killing two Hungarian tourists, is sentenced in federal court.

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