

Activist Helen Dunn fought for Flushing

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SPECIAL READER BONUS

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Boro acclaims co-op, condo tax abatement

BY PHIL CORSO

Elected officials from city and state government have been urging Gov. Andrew Cuomo to prevent a devastating increase in co-op and condominium owners' real property taxes for months.

Their calls were finally answered this week when the state Legislature raised tax abatements from 17.5 percent to 25 percent this year, 26.5 percent next year and 28 percent in 2015 for properties whose average assessed values were less than \$50,000.

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Queens studies Greek migration

College project follows second wave of newcomers to Bayside, Whitestone

BY REBECCA HENELY

As an institution with a large Greek-American student population in a borough with the largest Greek enclave in New York,

Queens College unveiled the first part of an ongoing research project last week that is aimed at filling a gap in the study of the Greek diaspora.

Sociology professor Nicholas

Alexiou said at a news conference at the college, at 65-30 Kissena Blvd. in Kew Gardens Hills, that while the largest influx of Greeks to America came during the Great Migration at the beginning

of the 20th century, there was a second, smaller wave of people who came between the 1960s and the '80s that has been largely un-researched.

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NEWEST FLUSHING REPRESENTATIVE



Assemblyman Ron Kim (l.) is joined (l.-r.) by his wife Alison Tan, mother Sun Hee Kim, father Seo Jun Kim as he is sworn in by city Comptroller John Liu during a ceremony at the Flushing branch of the Queens Library. **See coverage on Pages 9, 30.**

Photo by Christina Santucci

MAILING ADDRESS GOES HERE

PS 219 teacher found dead

Spanish instructor may have been strangled in hate crime: Dromm

BY REBECCA HENELY

City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) said Wednesday the murder of a 53-year-old teacher has the elements of an anti-gay attack.

"The horrific crime committed against David Rangel, an openly gay public school teacher who lived in one of the city's most tolerant communities, is deeply distressing," Dromm said in a statement.

Dromm, who is openly gay, once worked as a fourth-grade teacher in the city's public school system.

Rangel, of 91st Street and 32nd Avenue, was found to have died from compression in the neck and torso, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner said Tuesday.

No arrests have been made in his death. Police received the 911 call Sunday at 6:45 p.m., the NYPD said.

"Crimes like these underscore the importance of having hate crime laws in place that protect New Yorkers from any kind of prejudice and discrimination," Dromm said.

Rangel was originally born in Monterrey, Mexico, and worked at PS/MS 219, at 144-39 Gravett Road in Flushing, teaching Spanish to seventh- and eighth-graders, as well as English as a second language, DOE spokeswoman Marge Feinberg said. The biography on the school website said he



David Rangel, a teacher at PS 219, was strangled to death in his Jackson Heights apartment in what may be a hate crime.

Crimes like these underscore the importance of having hate crime laws in place that protect New Yorkers

Councilman Daniel Dromm

lived in Houston for many years, where he taught and received a master's degree in Spanish literature.

"I am very happy to be part of this wonderful professional community," Rangel wrote on his PS/MS 219 website. "The students at 219 are also very special to me."

PS/MS 219 has implemented a crisis team to help

counsel students, Feinberg said.

Rangel's body was found shortly after Michael Infante, 24, was found dead inside a home on 59th Place near the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway close to the Woodside/Maspeth border, the NYPD said. Police discovered his body after a 911 call came in at 10:15 Saturday and pronounced

Infante dead at the scene, the authorities said.

The medical examiner did not find any criminality in the case of Infante's death, police said.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rhensly@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.

Activist Helen Dunn dies at 88 years old

BY JOE ANUTA

A civic leader from Flushing's past died earlier this month and the community continues to fight for many of her ideals.

Helen Dunn, 88, died Jan. 14 in Las Vegas. Dunn was once vice president of the United Civic Council of Queens, the precursor to the umbrella group now known as the Queens Civic Congress. She was also vice president of the Coalition for a Planned Flushing, which sought to regulate the booming growth Flushing experienced in the late 1980s. She was the zoning and housing chairwoman of the Holly Civic Association and a member of the Committee to Save the Keith's Theatre.

"I remember her most clearly as a woman who was participating in a demonstration in front of the empty RKO Keith's Theatre shortly around the time after I became a councilwoman," said Julia Harrison, who represented the Flushing area from 1986-90. "It was a cold and windy day, and we had a meeting in the middle of Northern Boulevard."

Harrison described Dunn as a strong and magnanimous woman who put her community above herself. She had been called the "first lady of Flushing" in local news articles, and fought to prevent overdevelopment of the neighborhood and to save the RKO

Keith's Theatre from development.

In one such article, dated July 1, 1993, and posted on the funeral home's website, Dunn tells a reporter about the Civic Council.

"Most of what we do involves trying to preserve the identity of our neighborhoods. We're taxpayers, homeowners and citizens who are saying we have the right to question what we want and don't want," she said.

In another article from three years earlier, Dunn was asked about her accomplishments.

"I've made people aware that there's something really important in the Flushing community that we're trying to save for following generations," she said. "I got it that way and I'd like to see it left the

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Helen Dunn was a fierce advocate for preserving the quality of life for Flushing residents.

Photo courtesy Monica Caruso

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Interns learn of comfort women in Queensboro program

Students interviewed Korean Americans held captive during World War II by Japanese forces

BY PHIL CORSO

The crimes were committed decades ago, but elected officials and college students still grappled with the harsh realities faced by Korean comfort women as Queensborough Community College capped off its first East Asia history internships.

In the company of faculty, students and borough leaders, the college's first nine students to take part in its latest program told the horrific tales of Korean and Chinese women who were kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery for the Japanese army during World War II and have yet to feel relief from their trauma.

"This is an opportunity for our students to learn about history and the prejudice that can lead

to horrifying results," said Queensborough Community College President Diane Call.

The exact number of how many women were kept as sex slaves for the Japanese military has become a heated topic in Asian communities throughout the country, but Chejin Park, of the Korean American Voters' Council, said the count varies between 20,000 and 200,000 depending on the source.

The program was launched in partnership with the advocacy group Korean American Civic Empowerment through the college's Kupferberg Holocaust Center and Archives in the fall, where students have typically met face-to-face with Holocaust survivors to keep their stories alive. In a similar effort, students interviewed Ko-



Queensborough Community College student Alexander Crombez (c.) shares his story of speaking one-on-one with Korean World War II victims who were forced into sexual slavery.

Photo by Phil Corso

rean Americans, either in person or via the Internet, who were teenagers during World War II and held captive as a result of their country's occupation.

"As with perpetrators of the Holocaust, many deny that this tragedy ever happened," said Dr. Arthur Flug, executive director

of the center. "This was a historic hate crime and has significant meaning for our diverse student body and the greater community."

Garnering widespread recognition and support for the Korean comfort women has also remained an ongoing struggle in city and state government, elected

officials said at the college's internship completion ceremony last Thursday.

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) said his efforts to remember these unknown victims with a Senate resolution was held up in the state Legislature because of a dispute over its wording, but finally came to fruition Tuesday.

"We have situations across the world today where women's rights are being taken away," Avella said. "It is extremely important for New York state to recognize this. We owe it to them and Japan owes it to them to apologize."

City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) also renewed his intentions to name a street in Flushing in honor of the comfort women as soon as an appropriate location could be identified.

"We are very sorry these things happened in the past and hurt so many people," Koo said. "I hope all of us learn from this. That is why we have history in colleges."

Student Daniella Lampone said she was taken aback by the gravity of torture comfort women were forced to endure as young teenagers in the midst of war. Lampone spoke with one survivor who was forced into sexual servitude and kept it a secret for most of her life until her children inadvertently found out and saw it as a source of shame for their family.

"I could never imagine going through what they did at such a young age," Lampone said. "All they really want is an apology. That's how they can move past this."

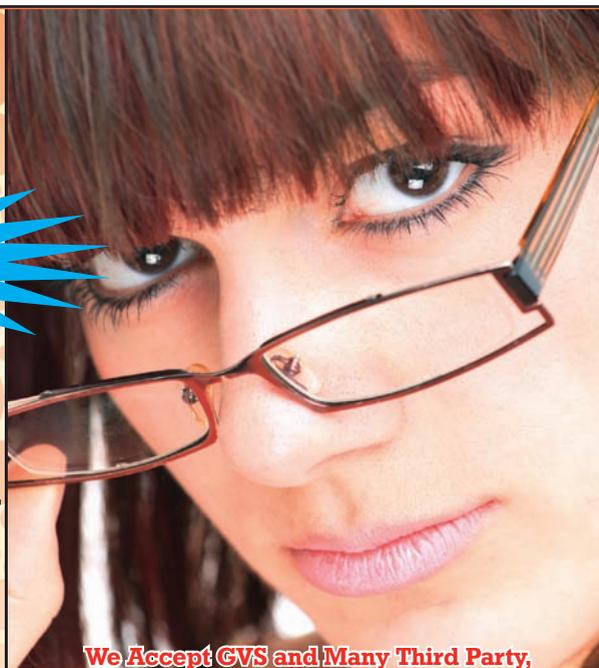
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Senate approves storm bill

\$50.5B relief measure passes as Breezy Pt. prepares to sue LIPA

BY STEVE MOSCO

The long road to recovery now begins in earnest in communities across Queens as the U.S. Senate finally saw fit to approve a \$50.5 billion Hurricane Sandy relief package this week 91 days after the superstorm hit.

And that road will include a stop in court for some residents as homeowners in Breezy Point are preparing to sue the Long Island Power Authority for not shutting off the power flow during the storm, leading to a fire that they contend destroyed 120 homes in the community.

The Manhattan law firm Sullivan Papain Block McGrath & Cannavo confirmed the lawsuit and that families were seeking \$1 million each from the much-maligned utility company.

But while that fight has just begun, three months after the Northeast bore the brunt of the superstorm's destructive force, elected officials said they are ea-



U.S. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (l.) and Charles Schumer react after the Senate passed a \$50.5 billion Superstorm Sandy relief bill.

AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

ger to move past the political bickering that slowed the legislative process and begin rebuilding the borough.

“Hurricane Sandy devastated southern Queens and the Rockaways, and while it is very troubling that we had to wait three months to get

this desperately needed funding, I am pleased to know that we will have the monies necessary to continue helping the home and small

business owners of our community rebuild,” said state Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park),

whose district was battered by the storm. “It has been a long road, but with President Obama’s signature we will finally have the tools needed to put the pieces of our lives back together and to finally take necessary actions to prepare for the future.”

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SUPERSTORM SANDY

Walcott vows to end teacher review impasse

BY PHIL CORSO

City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott has had his hands full since union bus drivers went on strike just days before Mayor Michael Bloomberg failed to reach a deal with the teachers’ union, leading to the loss of nearly \$450 million in state and federal assistance.

And while delivering a keynote address at a leadership conference over the weekend, the chancellor pledged he would keep up the fight on behalf of city parents.

“Thank you very much for your perseverance. Thank you very much for



Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott (c.) joins Queens High School of Teaching students and staff to assure them he would work to resolve some of the city’s educational concerns, including an ongoing bus strike and loss of state and federal assistance.

Photo by Phil Corso

your patience,” Walcott said as he opened his speech in the Saturday morning conference at the Queens High School of Teaching in Bellerose. “Whether you are un-

derstanding of us or not, I understand the challenges that you face.”

Students, teachers and parents filled the high school for what Principal

Jae Hyun Cho said was their first parent leadership conference with the goal of empowering and informing the district. After an opening ceremony filled with student performances and elected officials’ well-wishes, parents and students passed through various workshops on subjects such as bullying and college prep.

State Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) was one of many elected officials to speak at the event.

“You’re doing your job as parents,” he said. “In Albany, we are increasing funding for education and

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Bloomy blasts UFT in budget proposal

BY JOE ANUTA

programming.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg presented his preliminary budget plan Tuesday for the next fiscal year and spent much time discussing the loss of hundreds of millions in education funds due to the impasse between his administration and the teacher’s union.

Bloomberg’s roughly \$70 billion projected budget is balanced without any tax increases, according to the mayor, who touted a 6.9 percent increase in private sector employment since 2009, while the national rate of growth was 3.9 percent. Bloomberg also pointed to \$6.5 billion in savings from an ongoing belt-tightening that city agencies have been performing since 2007. The proposal included no funding for 20 firehouses. It banks \$600 million on a prediction the city will win a court battle to sell taxi medallions in the outer boroughs.

Bloomberg did not hold back against the United Federation of Teachers after the two sides failed to reach an agreement about teacher evaluations by Jan. 17, a deadline set by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The agreement was required for the city to receive \$250 million in education funding this fiscal year, and the loss of those millions will translate directly to 700 fewer teachers who will leave by attrition. It also means fewer extracurricular activities and after-school

“It will not be good for the kids,” Bloomberg said. “But I’m convinced the suffering we will go through will be more than worth it to finally get an evaluation deal.”

Bloomberg has said repeatedly that quality teachers are the most important factor in education and accused the UFT of promoting an evaluation contract that would have to be renewed each year — which other municipalities in the state have agreed to — though the actual evaluation period is two years.

“We are not going to do that,” he said. “If we have a deal, which I would love to have, it’s going to be a real deal that can stand the laugh test.”

Without an agreement by Sept. 1, Bloomberg said, the city could lose nearly \$2 billion for education funding next year.

The problems with education spending, the mayor said, are exacerbated by the growing disparity in how the city and the state share costs. In 2002, the city and the state roughly split the cost of the city’s public schools, but gradually the city has come to pay about 60 percent of the cost and the state 40 percent, and has added about \$8 billion per year to the education budget.

But not everybody was on board with the mayor’s defense.

“He should look to the DOE’s runaway consultant

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Mayor Michael Bloomberg, seen in the reflection of a monitor, discusses his proposed budget for next year. Photo courtesy Bloomberg

Liu hopes tax reform will shrink income disparity

BY JOE ANUTA

City Comptroller John Liu believes the city's cavernous income gap can be tackled through tax reform and a minimum wage increase, he told TimesLedger Newspapers in a recent interview at its offices.

Liu has not formally declared his intentions for Gracie Mansion, but has raised more than \$3 million for the widely expected run. City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) also remains undeclared, though city Public Advocate Bill de Blasio and former Comptroller Bill Thompson have officially announced their candidacies.

"I do believe that change is in order," said Liu, who served as a Flushing councilman before he was elected to citywide office in 2009. "We have a problem that is only getting

worse in terms of the economic divide."

And that economic divide can be bridged by making the city's income tax more progressive and by raising the minimum wage to \$11.50, he said.

City taxes, levied by the state Department of Taxation and Finance, are not exactly flat, but the biggest income bracket indicates that a single person making \$50,000 is taxed the same as a person making \$500,000. Liu proposes to raise income taxes by 1 percent for the top 1 percent of income earners in the city.

"That actually would afford the other 99 percent of taxpayers in New York City a tax reduction," he said.

And putting money into the pockets of the middle class means more money will be spent in the local economy, he said.

Liu also hopes to close



City Comptroller John Liu explains the ways he wants to narrow the gap between the city's rich and poor. Photo by Christina Santucci

some loopholes that allow big corporations to pay less in taxes and instead give tax breaks to small businesses.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg contends raising taxes would drive corporations and the wealthy out of the city, according to Liu, who rejected that premise.

"At the end of the day, New York City is not a commodity. It is special," he said.

He also supports an \$11.50 minimum wage, which he said translates to an annual salary of \$24,000 — the amount the city has said is necessary for a wage earner to support two children and stay out of poverty.

As to how the city's children have been educated under the current mayor, Liu gives the Bloomberg mixed marks, although he would not overhaul the system of mayoral control

enacted in 2002, which effectively dissolved the old school board.

Liu would peg fewer outcomes — funding, evaluations, school closings for example — to test scores, a practice the comptroller said has been a trend in the current administration and has created a "factory mentality" in the city's classrooms.

"The mayor and the [city Department of Education] need to trust teachers to do their jobs," he said.

One area where Liu and the mayor agree is on coastal development. Liu believes the city needs to reclaim its coastline, but in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, to do so more intelligently.

"I think we should stay the course," Liu said of the mayor's efforts to encourage building along the shore. "We've lost track of

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Real estate donors contribute 17% to Comrie's boro prez race

BY JOE ANUTA

City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), chairman of the Council's powerful Land Use Committee, has drawn some interest from real estate industry donors in his campaign for borough president.

Comrie's financial disclosure for the race was filed nine days late with the City Campaign Finance Board, due to what the councilman said was a technical difficulty. The results now show he received about 17 percent of his donations from the real estate sector, the second-highest percentage of candidates in the race. The borough president has an advisory role in zoning, variance and land use applications in the borough.

Comrie is facing off against a Democratic field that includes state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), Director of Community Boards Barry Grodenchik, former Councilwoman Melinda Katz, Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) and Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria), all who hope

to take the spot of Borough President Helen Marshall.

The borough president Comrie has raked in a total of \$103,846 since early 2010, although he raised more than \$30,000 since his official campaign announcement Jan. 6.

TimesLedger Newspapers recently published an analysis of the other candidates, which found

that real estate interests clearly favored Katz, who stepped down as a lobbyist for Greenberg Traurig in November and was formerly the chairwoman of the Council's Committee on Land Use. About 40 percent of her donations came from real estate firms, developers, architects and real estate lawyers.

Comrie received some donations from heads of citywide developers like the Durst Organization, where four people gave Comrie a total of \$2,000. The only other Queens borough president candidate members of the Durst Organization donated to was Katz.

Two developers looking to expand in Flushing Meadows Corona Park chipped into Comrie's war

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Queens hails fed roadmap for immigration reform

BY REBECCA HENELY

Queens elected officials and activists applauded the introduction of a new plan, proposed by U.S. senators from both parties and supported by President Barack Obama, for overhauling the country's immigration laws.

"The conversation our country is finally having about reforming our immigration system is encouraging, especially after many years of doing nothing," U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Bayside) said in a statement. "As the daughter of immigrants, I look forward to tackling this critical issue so that millions can continue to achieve the American Dream."

A group of eight senators, including Sen. Charles

Schumer (D-N.Y.), outlined a plan for immigration reform Monday with the broad principles of creating a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants while securing the border and implementing a verification system for employers to check before hiring. The outline highlights potential economic benefits of immigration reform and emphasizes attracting "the world's best and brightest" to the country.

"This is an important step, and while we need to see additional detail, I am heartened the proposal includes a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers," Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-Ridgewood) said in a statement.

Obama traveled to Las Vegas to give a speech in

support of the reform Tuesday.

"The system is holding us back instead of helping us grow," Obama said.

In the most ethnically diverse county in the United States, many Queens officials and activists have been advocating for immigration reform for years.

"We are a nation built by immigrants, and we are stronger because of it," Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) said in a statement. "But our current system is not meeting our country's needs, putting this proud tradition at risk."

Queens Congregations United for Action, an activist group made up of churches throughout the borough, praised the plan and announced it would

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Ex-Sen. Huntley pleads guilty to fraud charges

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Former state Sen. Shirley Huntley pleaded guilty in Brooklyn federal court Wednesday to committing mail fraud in order to cover up a scam that bilked taxpayers out of \$87,000.

The embattled southeast Queens Democrat smiled at family members waiting in the courtroom as she arrived, and with her husband sitting by her side she admitted to embezzling the money from a non-profit she controlled and pleaded guilty to sending phony documents through the mail in order to cover up the deception.

"I'm guilty," she told U.S. District Court Judge Jack Weinstein. "I plead guilty."

Huntley, who sat on southeast Queens' District 28 School Board before be-

ing elected to the Senate in 2007 and serving on the Education Committee, steered \$87,700 in legislative member items that were administered by the state Education Department to the Parents Information Network Inc., a non-profit she ran from 1994 through 2008.

Huntley admitted that she repeatedly filed false documents to make it appear as though the funds were legitimately used to help parents navigate the city's school system.

"This was not true," she said. "The funds were used for personal items for myself and others."

Federal prosecutors were able to nail her on the mail fraud charges because checks to the non-profit and the false paperwork vouching for them were sent through the mail.

Huntley said she was guilty of setting up straw donors who cashed checks she drew on the Network's bank account and split the takings with her. Vanessa Sparks, the non-profit's president, was named as a co-conspirator.

The disgraced ex-senator used the cash on shopping trips and to pay her credit card, she said.

By accepting the plea, Huntley dodged a maximum sentence of five years in jail, and prosecutors said federal guidelines called for a sentence of 18-24 months plus three years of supervised release. A sentencing date was not scheduled at the hearing.

Huntley will have to repay the \$87,700 plus an extra \$1,000 to the Port Authority resulting from a separate bribery scheme, Weinstein said.

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POLICE Blotter

Man tried to kidnap two teenagers: Police



Police described the suspect as a white or Hispanic man in his 30s. Sketch courtesy NYPD

FLUSHING — Police were urging the community to be vigilant after a man driving a late-model Cadillac Escalade allegedly attempted to abduct two teenage girls Friday.

Cops have released a sketch of the man, believed to be a white or white Hispanic man in his 30s weighing about 170 pounds, after he drove alongside a 13-year-old girl on Northern Boulevard near 102nd Street and engaged her in conversation about 7 a.m., according to police.

When the girl realized she did not know the man, she walked away from the vehicle, but the man then stopped his car, got out and followed her, according to the NYPD.

He grabbed the girl's arm, but the teenager pulled away from him and fled, police said.

Hours later at 8 p.m., the man allegedly tried again when he drove alongside a 14-year-old girl on Northern Boulevard near Parsons Boulevard, according to cops. The man motioned for the girl to approach the vehicle, police said. When she did not, he continued to follow her and the girl ran away, police said.

The man was last seen wearing a black jacket, dark pants and a blue collared shirt.

Man exposed himself to 2 girls in Flushing: Cops



FLUSHING — The Police Department was looking for help in finding a suspect wanted for public lewdness within the 109th Precinct, police said.

According to police, the suspect approached a 12-year-old and a 13-year-old girl Jan. 28 around 7:40 a.m. as they walked on Bowne Street in Flushing, where he tried speaking to them and then exposed himself to them. The victims then fled, police said.

Police described the suspect as a Hispanic male of an unknown age, between 5-foot-6 and 5-foot-8, 165 pounds, and last seen wearing a black-hooded jacket with white stripes on the sleeves, light blue jeans and light colored sneakers.

A police image shows the man wanted for allegedly exposing himself to two teenage girls in Flushing. Image courtesy NYPD

Elderly man struck and killed at Union Turnpike

GLEN OAKS — An 82-year-old man was struck and killed near Union Turnpike last week within the 105th Precinct, police said.

Police responded to calls of a pedestrian struck near 265-11 Union Turnpike Jan. 23 around 6 p.m., the NYPD said. When they arrived, officers found Louis Friend unconscious and unresponsive.

Emergency responders brought Friend to North Shore University-LIJ Hos-

pital, where he was pronounced dead, the NYPD said.

According to police, a 2003 Honda CRV was traveling westbound on Union Turnpike when it struck the pedestrian who was crossing from the south to the north side of the street. The driver remained at the scene.

No criminality was suspected and the investigation was ongoing, the NYPD said.

Got tips?

Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477), text 274637 (CRIMES) and enter TIP577 or log on to nypdcrimestoppers.com.

Kim, Rozic sworn in as Assembly members

BY PHIL CORSO

The borough's newest state Assembly members kicked off their historic journeys as Queens representatives this week with two star-studded swearing-in ceremonies.

Over the weekend, state Assembly members Ron Kim (D-Flushing) and Nily Rozic (D-Fresh Meadows) held separate celebrations in the company of family, friends, community leaders and elected officials from all levels of government.

In both ceremonies, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) made an appearance, as he did weeks earlier at the inauguration ceremony for President Barack Obama, to share his optimism for Queens and the rest of the country.

"This is what America is all about," Schumer said at Kim's swearing-in ceremony, remarking on his status as the first Korean-American lawmaker in the state of New York. "It means little Asian-American boys and girls will look at Ron and say, 'Maybe I can be president one day.' It is a great day for this great community."

Kim beat out Republican Phil Gim in November's general election with more than 65 percent of the vote for Flushing's 40th Assembly District, according to the city Board of Elections,

and secured his spot as successor to former Assemblywoman and now U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing).

"You are in very good hands," Meng said to her constituents. "I am so proud that my boys now have a wonderful role model in Ron Kim."

Kim was congratulated and praised Saturday in a crowded swearing-in ceremony at the Queens Library of Flushing.

"In a time when we have so many challenges, there is no better leader, representative or fighter than Ron Kim," said city Comptroller John Liu, who administered Kim's oath in the same spot where he was once sworn in to the City Council 11 years ago. "This is a very proud moment for all of us."

In the company of his family and colleagues, Kim recited the oath to office before a booming display of cheers.

"I am the living proof that this country is still great and the American Dream is still there," Kim said. "You just have to work hard at it. I am so grateful for this opportunity to represent you."

Rozic held her swearing-in celebration the following day on Sunday at Townsend Harris High School in Fresh Meadows, where she was once a student. Elected officials from

Continued on Page 47



Assemblywoman Nily Rozic was sworn in during a ceremony at Townsend Harris, and Assemblyman Ron Kim held his inauguration at the Flushing branch of Queens Library. Photos by Christina Santucci

Avella kicks off beep run

Senator wants to make sure Queens gets its fair share from mayor

BY PHIL CORSO

Superstorm Sandy got state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) thinking about what he could do to ensure that Queens sees better returns in the wake of disaster, he said.

And over the weekend, the senator took his first steps toward accomplishing that goal when he kicked off his campaign in the race to replace current Borough President Helen Marshall.

"I'm running to put Queens back on the map in terms of city services," Avella said, adding that his initial inspiration to run came in the wake of Hurricane Sandy's effect on the borough. "Queens has historically gotten the short end of the stick with city services and I'm looking to change that."

In the wake of the storm, Avella said he was tired of seeing his home borough passed over for recovery resources that typically had gone to neighboring Manhattan or Brooklyn first.

And in the company of community leaders and friends, Avella spoke with confidence in the basement of his family's Whitestone home as he outlined his plan to get the borough a better spot at the negotiation table.

"The New York City mayor is extremely pow-



State Sen. Tony Avella addresses supporters from inside his Whitestone home.

Photo by Christina Santucci

erful and you need a very strong borough president to stand up and make sure the 2 million people of Queens get their fair share," Avella said.

The current Democratic field also includes former Democratic City Councilwoman Melinda Katz, Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), Director of Community Boards Barry Grodenchik, Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) and Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria).

The senator said his campaign would take the grassroots approach by working from the standpoint of everyday residents to prove to the rest of the city that Queens was, and should remain, a residential borough. For the kickoff, Avella said he purpose-

ly did not invite any elected officials from the borough to underscore the priority he was placing on civic and community figures.

The ranks of those community leaders hailed from throughout the borough and represented various civic and community-based organizations.

"Tony has been one of the only guys who has been there for us, time and time again," said Whitestone native Steve Young, who came out Sunday to support Avella's campaign. "After Sandy, there was a lot of debris washing up onto the shore where I live and Tony came out with the feds to help make sure it was taken care of."

Avella came to the decision to throw his hat into the borough president race

in November on the heels of a successful re-election campaign to his northeast Queens seat, where he drew about 60,000 votes, according to the city Board of Elections.

In an interview with TimesLedger Newspapers, Avella said he believed that number of votes makes capturing the boroughwide role viable. The senator used strong language when he promised community leaders their efforts would not be wasted as they pushed for his election as borough president.

"This is going to be a winning campaign at the end of the day," Avella said. "Everyone in this borough is going to have a real voice in how this borough is run."

Dunn

Continued from Page 2

same way. One of my accomplishments was helping to save the home of Lewis Latimer."

For nearly a decade, Dunn had lived in Las Vegas to be near her daughter, Monica Caruso, who said Dunn died peacefully after

sleeping for 29 hours.

"She was a great mother and a great lady, and it has been a great loss," Caruso said.

Dunn was born in Flushing Oct. 27, 1924, and grew up in Corona before attending New York University and Hunter College for training in geriatric care.

She was married to the late George Dunn. They

had three children.

Dunn's husband was in the military, and Dunn operated a daycare center to help pay for a Catholic education for her children, summer camps and music lessons, Caruso said.

A visitation was held last Friday in Rego Park followed by a mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church in Corona.

She was buried alongside her husband at Calverton National Cemetery. She is survived by her daughter, Caruso, her sons Raymond and James Dunn, brother Neal O'Doherty, sister Amelia Margaret Cashdan and two grandchildren, Alexandra and Christopher Dunn.



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109th arrests seven people in Qnsboro Hill drug bust

BY JOE ANUTA

The 109th Precinct arrested seven people during a drug bust in Queensboro Hill last month.

On Jan. 25 at about 9:30 p.m., police responded to a report of suspicious activity near the corner of 150th Street and 50th Avenue, according to Capt. Tommy Ng, commanding officer at the Flushing precinct.

Responding officers saw alleged drug transactions and arrested three people on the spot, according to police. Jian Eng Yang, 33; Xia Ke Xia, 23; and Hong Rui Zheng, 37, were charged with criminal possession of narcotics, criminal possession of a weapon, possessing a loaded firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to police.

Cops went back to a nearby residence, where more narcotics were visible in plain sight, according to Ng.

The officers obtained a search warrant and entered the home, arresting four more people, cops said. Ling Ling Gao, 21; Meng Kai Qu, 23; Dao Hua Huang, 28; and Xiau Kai Qu, 38, were charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance, according to police.

As a result of the bust, officers recovered about 5 3/4 pounds of ketamine, a drug also used as an animal tranquilizer, a bag full of Ecstasy pills, two .22 caliber rifles, a sawed-off shotgun and a loaded .45 caliber pistol, according to police.

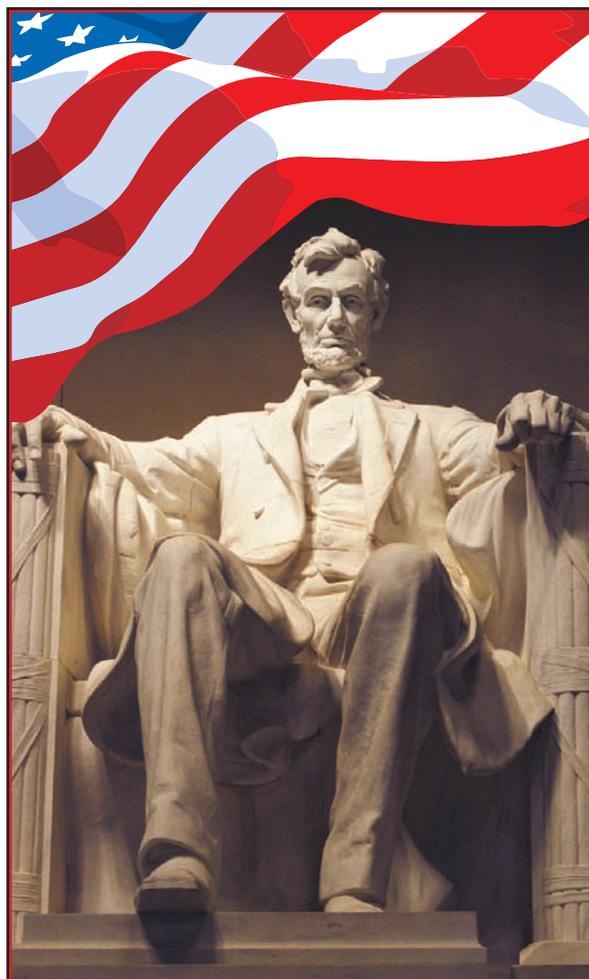
"Ketamine is a popular illegal narcotic," Ng said. "A lot of the users are predominately Asian."

A small amount of the drug equivalent to a grain of rice can sell on the street for \$25, according to police, meaning the nearly six-pound bundle would fetch a tidy sum.

Earlier that day, police made other unrelated arrests for allegedly possessing a gambling device and ketamine.

At about 3:45 p.m. near the corner of 132nd Street and Pople Avenue, police arrested Maggi Chen, 33, and Xue Qing Chen, 35, and charged them with possessing gambling devices and criminal possession of a controlled substance.

Cops busted another pair days later for possessing more than 30,000 untaxed cigarettes near the corner of 142nd Street and Booth Memorial Avenue, police said. Xu Bi Xia, 65, and Ming Guang, 62, were cuffed and charged, police said.



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HOPE FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

Reports that a bipartisan group of U.S. senators has made progress on a plan to overhaul the nation's immigration system should be welcome news not only to the thousands of illegal immigrants living in Queens, but to everyone who has a heart.

The sweeping overhaul would enable the millions of immigrants who entered this country illegally to gain legal status without the fear of deportation. Republicans reportedly agreed to the deal contingent upon stronger enforcement at the nation's borders.

This is not a done deal and we expect resistance from conservative Republicans and the Tea Party. But the GOP is beginning to realize its influence is dwindling and that its tough stand on immigration is a battle it cannot win.

Two Republican leaders have signed onto the plan. Arizona Sen. John McCain said on ABC's "This Week" that his party was losing "the Hispanic vote, which we think should be ours."

He added what should be obvious to everyone: "We can't go on forever with 11 million people living in this country in the shadows in an illegal status."

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a Cuban American, insists immigrants who gain legal status should "be required to go to the back of the line" behind other immigrants who applied to come through legal channels.

They can't even get in the line now.

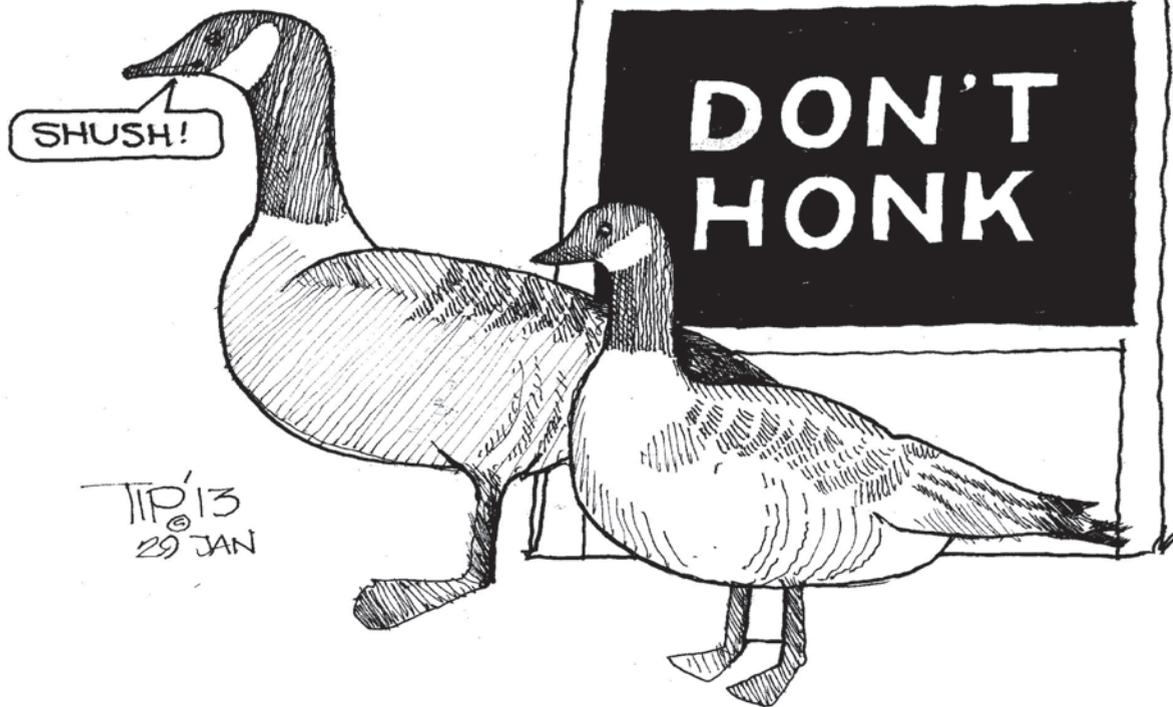
Hopefully, the nightmare for the borough's illegal immigrants will soon be over. They can be seen every morning standing at curbsides waiting to be picked up to do labor. If this agreement becomes law, they will be able to work on the books.

Hopefully, they will become eligible for medical coverage, taking a burden off Queens hospitals, which lose millions of dollars now by treating this population in emergency rooms without hope of reimbursement.

The federal government will no longer be in the awkward position of breaking up families by deporting parents whose children are American citizens because they were born here.

It remains unclear what will happen in cases where men crossed the border illegally to find work so they could send money back to their families. Other details need to be resolved.

But the bipartisan framework that has been agreed to is a good start.



OTHER VOICES

Centrist GOPers should take back party

Just when you thought you heard the most outrageous mouthings from our gunaholics, they one-up themselves. The following is the twisted logic presented by Larry Ward, chairman of Gun Appreciation Day, who said at a press conference celebrating the event:

"I believe that Gun Appreciation Day honors the legacy of Dr. King. First of all, we're looking for a peaceful protest, looking for people to come out and

to remind the members of Congress and the president how we feel about our Second Amendment, and the truth is, I think Martin Luther King would agree with me if he were alive today that if African Americans had been given the right to keep and bear arms from Day 1 of the country's founding, perhaps slavery might not have been a chapter in our history."

Did anyone tell this chairman that King is not alive today because he was

assassinated with a firearm? No, he is not around to be boggled by this chairman's asinine assertion: Arm the slaves who were kidnapped and taken by force from their homeland and erase the slavery chapter from our history.

No doubt those history books would be printed in Texas, with its traditionally unique distortion and rewriting of textbooks, and why not? It was seen fit to have U.S. Reps. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.)

on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Todd Akin in the House Science, Space & Technology Committee. What is a little enhancing of history?

Moderate Republicans, if there are any of you left, wake up and take it back. Take back your party, which has been kidnapped and degraded as were those slaves.

Nicholas Zizelis
Bayside

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Whitestone Knights of Columbus raise funds for needy

Charitable works are a constant in Whitestone. The local Knights of Columbus, the Monsignor Francis J. Dillon Council No. 5872, is constantly at work trying to help and assist those in need by sacrificing their own time to raise funds.

From April 14 through June 30 and from Sept. 8 to Oct. 27, several members dedicated a few hours each Saturday to stand in the middle of dangerous, busy intersections with buckets seeking donations from passing vehicles. Maybe you saw them? They were not hard to miss wearing their bright red vests that read, "Help us help others."

The Knights of Columbus council members alternated locations each Saturday, standing at the intersection of Bell Boulevard near Fort Totten and the Cross Island Expressway entrance ramp, the intersection of 20th Avenue and the Whitestone Expressway on the northbound side and Willets Point Boulevard and the Clearview Expressway outside Clearview Golf Course and the Clearview Expressway exit ramp.

During these times, which ranged from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m., members were outside in the brutal heat during the spring and summer months and the

wind and cold in the fall. Through their hard work, sacrifice and dedication, and through the generosity of several passersby, the Knights of Columbus were able to raise \$3,500, dividing it equally among four reputable charities by giving \$875 each to Wounded Warriors, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, the Marty Lyons Foundation and the Whitestone Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

The Knights of Columbus are grateful for all the money given to them in order to help them help others. There were those who gave all they had on them or in their money trays in their cars. There were

several people who had no money to donate at the time, but quickly went home and came back with money or received change from their weekend shopping.

In November, after Hurricane Sandy devastated so many New Yorkers, Monsignor Dillon Council members were at work with their families who helped them on a particular Saturday and Sunday morning, afternoon and evening to set up collection sites outside the Whitestone Key Food and Waldbaum's.

Once again, due to the generosity of the Whitestone people, they were able to collect several hundred pounds of new and used

clothing, blankets, food, water and baby items. These items were delivered, thanks to the generosity of Louis Zuccarello and the Queens Garden Nursery in Whitestone, to Long Beach, L.I.

Also, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society kindly picked up the remainder of the items, which were distributed to hurricane victims throughout several affected areas. In addition, they were able to raise \$2,500 in funds, of which the members donated part to Hurricane Sandy relief, and used the larger portion to buy more items on an "urgent needs" list and transported it all to the

hurricane relief center set up in St. Francis de Sales Parish in Rockaway.

Together, the Knights of Columbus and the Whitestone residents worked together to help those in need and less fortunate than themselves. They were able to show to those who were experiencing, possibly the worst time in their lives, hope when down and that they can count on their fellow New Yorkers in northern Queens.

*Edward Weisenburger
Grand Knight
Knights of Columbus
Monsignor Francis J.
Dillon Council No. 5872
Whitestone*

Stop No. 7 work for Lunar New Year

An open letter to New York City Transit President Thomas Prendergast:

We would like to thank you for your Jan. 22 letter expressing the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's commitment not to disrupt No. 7 train service Feb. 8, 2014, the date of the 2014 Lunar New Year Parade.

While we do appreciate the MTA's early commitment to not undertake work on the 7 line the day of the parade, after consultation with our business community and local leaders, it is clear that your offer falls short of the economic needs of our local small businesses and Flushing residents' expectations for the 2014 Lunar New Year.

As you are aware, thousands of people travel to Flushing from other parts of the city year after year to join in the festivities celebrating the Lunar New Year, but just like Christmas celebrations are not confined to one day, nor

are Lunar New Year celebrations. As families prepare to welcome the new year, they travel to Flushing to buy specialty items and delicacies. As the new year begins, families pack our local restaurants to eat and catch up with loved ones. This creates an economic boom for our local businesses spanning several weeks, which is hampered with disrupted train service.

Thus, in the interest of our constituents and local community, we must ask that in addition to Transit's commitment not to disrupt 7 train service Feb. 8, 2014, the MTA also commits to providing normal, uninterrupted 7 train service during the weekend immediately prior to the Lunar New Year and the weekend immediately after. This would be the weekends of Jan. 24-25, 2014, and Feb. 1-2, 2014.

As we mentioned in our previous letter, the safety of MTA passengers must be the agency's pri-

mary concern, and we would never ask you to put critical maintenance projects in jeopardy, but there is a palpable sense of frustration among our constituents who have to face this issue year after year.

Thank you again for working with us to come up with a reasonable resolution to our concerns about disruptions to the 7 line service during Flushing's Lunar New Year celebration. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Grace Meng
U.S. Representative
(D-Flushing)*

*Toby Stavisky
State Senator
(D-Whitestone)*

*Ron Kim
State Assemblyman
(D-Flushing)*

*Peter Koo
City Councilman
(D-Flushing)*

Learn to put up with plane noise

LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International airports contribute enormous amounts of money to the economy of New York City that benefit all residents who are expected to share equally in the good and the bad that flows therefrom.

It would appear Bayside residents and some pandering politicians have anointed themselves into claiming they are some-

how different and entitled to the good but exempt from LaGuardia Airport noise ("Baysiders vow FAA flight fight just beginning," TimesLedger Newspapers, Jan. 11-17).

My neighborhood has for years lived with LaGuardia aircraft noise and, as good citizens, we recognize it is part of living in this city. The time has come for Baysiders to stop whining, "Not in my back-

yard."

Grow up and accept what others New Yorkers have endured for years. One expects the FAA to recognize the above and not be influenced by politicians thinking their constituents are somehow more privileged than the rest of us.

*Benjamin Haber
Flushing*

Gun law should be model for U.S.

The new gun restriction law passed by New York state's Legislature is a good beginning down the path for making a dent in reducing weapons on our streets.

Hopefully, the rest of the states will follow suit and begin to pass tougher

gun laws. It is time for the citizens of our country who are fed up with all the killings to stand up and be heard loud and clear.

Nobody is looking to take away the rights of law-abiding citizens to own guns — only to restrict the types of guns people should

be allowed to own.

There should be no reason for citizens to possess assault weapons. Those should be restricted to the military and police.

*John Amato
Fresh Meadows*

Far Rockaway woman describes days of despair

BY STEVE MOSCO

As the superstorm surged and the boardwalk standing between the beach and her apartment splintered, Bri Jackson wrapped herself up, hoped for the best and waited for daylight.

And three months after Hurricane Sandy hit, she's still waiting.

Jackson is one of many Far Rockaway residents living day-to-day with Sandy's aftermath. The superstorm that swept through the Northeast in late October has become akin to a dead-beat neighbor who keeps her up at night wreaking general havoc with an array of annoying quirks.

"The problems won't go away," said Jackson, 42, who lives in an apartment complex on Beach 59th Street comprised of four buildings that were at one time all operating off one generator. "The power and the heat would go out con-

stantly. It's so uncomfortable I thought I was going crazy."

Jackson said the weeks and months of no power at all eventually gave way to days and nights of intermittent outages, when heat and electricity would be disrupted just as she was getting used to it.

Only in the last few weeks have things begun to improve for Jackson and her neighbors. The city recently gutted the most damaged apartments and connected the complex to a transformer, finally giving Jackson the sustained normalcy most other Queens residents have embraced for months.

Now with the warmth of a sitcom emanating from her functioning television, Jackson looks back on the chaos with a skeptical eye, wondering if it was even real at all.

"I have a hard time believing it really happened," she said.



The boardwalk in Far Rockaway still bears the scars of Superstorm Sandy.

Photo by Steve Mosco

SUPERSTORM SANDY

But more than the darkness, it was the unrelenting cold that drove Jackson to the brink. She admits going to extremes to stay warm at night, even using her gas oven to heat her apartment. She did that a couple times until one early morning she woke up and the oven was not letting off heat.

"I woke up out of a dead sleep and I knew something was wrong," she said. "It was freezing, so I knew the oven was broke. I flicked my lighter and the flame shot up like a blow torch."

Jackson had unknow-

ingly filled her entire apartment with gas. She opened her windows to clear out the flammable and poisonous air before alerting her building manager to what had happened.

"I know I shouldn't have heated the apartment like that, but it was so cold. I was desperate," she said.

Jackson has heard stories of neighbors suffering depression and injuries related to the post-hurricane living conditions. She, too, has suffered from pangs of hopelessness and despair, but with the help of neighbors she has turned to

charitable acts as a form of therapy.

She said two neighbors in particular, Marissa Bernowitz and Mama Rose, have taken the task of turning the neighborhood around. With them, she receives donations from organizations throughout the city and Long Island and delivers food, toiletries and toys to people who lost everything.

"Marissa and Mama Rose have been helping people since Day 1. Literally, the day after the storm they were outside giving people hot food," she said. "If not for them, up the beach and anywhere else would have been far worse. The community stepped up way before the city did anything."

And that lack of city response has haunted Far Rockaway since well before Sandy came to town, according to Jackson. She said the area has needed infrastructure improve-

ments and resources for young people for as long as she has lived there: 30-plus years.

"I love the beach, I love nature, but it can be miserable here," she said. "The politicians only came out here after the storm. We need help, especially the young people. We need community centers and after-school programs, places they can explore their talents before we lose them to the street."

She said the city's poor response was only highlighted by the storm's arrival.

Other residents have endured many of the same problems. Gwendolyn Murray, who lives near the intersection of Beach 54th Street and Beach Channel Drive, said her heat had been off entirely for some time and now, though it was fixed, it was spotty.

"I've got to get out of here," she said.

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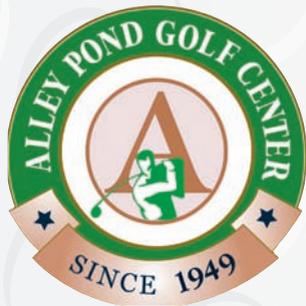
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Wilets developers tout affordable housing at forum

Borough residents wonder why gigantic mall will break ground as wallet-friendly homes are delayed

BY JOE ANUTA

Lawyers representing the developers of the \$3 billion Willets Point project answered questions about why a shopping mall and hotel are scheduled to be built in the Iron Triangle before affordable housing Tuesday night during a presentation to the Queens Housing Coalition.

Jesse Maysr and Ethan Goodman, of the law firm Wachtel Masyr & Missry, showed a presentation to a crowd of about 100 gathered at St. Sebastian Roman Catholic Church Parish Center, at 39-60 57th St. in Woodside, stressing that their project will eventually bring about 2,500 units of housing, some 875 of which will be affordable, to the area, along with a school and millions of square feet of retail and thousands of

jobs.

The Queens Development Group is made up of Sterling Equities, owned by the Wilpon family, which also owns the New York Mets, and Related Cos., run by development mogul Stephen Ross. The partnership won a bid to develop the first phase of the controversial Willets Point transformation, which eventually seeks to replace the entire area of about 60 acres, occupied by auto shops and junk yards, into a new neighborhood.

The first phase of the project includes a 200-room hotel and retail along 126th Street to the east of Citi Field, parking behind those buildings and a 1.4 million-square-foot mall called Willets West on a portion of the parking lot to the east of Citi Field. These projects are slated to be completed



Ivan Contreras, Queens Housing Coalition coordinator (l.), translates a question during a meeting about affordable housing at Willets Point.
Photo by Joe Anuta

in 2018, while the housing and additional retail components of the project are scheduled to be built between 2024 and 2028, according to a draft environmental impact statement for the project.

Many who attended the

meeting wanted to know why the affordable housing portion was being pushed back. One man from Flushing named Ky J. Kim said he would probably not live to see the affordable housing completed.

The partnership con-

tends that retail, restaurant and small business anchors are needed to make the area livable first.

"You can't just build the housing," Maysr said. "You have to build schools and you have to build services."

City-built ramps off the Van Wyck Expressway are needed to accommodate the predicted extra traffic associated with major housing construction, he said, but they are not scheduled to be built until 2024.

If the affordable housing was built today, the developers would be required to build 366 units that a family of four making at most \$33,200 could afford, 157 units for a family making \$49,800 and 348 units for a family making \$107,900, according to the project's request for proposals.

But those numbers are

based off the average median income of the city, which can change annually, and the percentages are set to be subdivided further.

Goodman stressed that the plan is exactly what was voted on by the City Council in 2008. Indeed, the total amount of affordable housing remained about the same, and even slightly increased.

But the time frame in which it will be built was not envisioned by the 2008 Council. A year after the plan passed, the project was split into two phases by the city. The second half of the project, which will be put out to bid in a separate request for proposals, contains the other half of the housing and is not slated for completion until 2032, and the Willets Point project has already seen lengthy delays.

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FEMA maps put Howard Beach in flood zone

BY KAREN FRANTZ

Many parts of Howard Beach and the Rockaways that were not previously listed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as being at a high risk for flooding are now grouped into the flood zones in new maps released by the agency Monday.

The maps are only ad-

SUPERSTORM SANDY

visory, with official flood maps expected to be released later this year. But FEMA says the official maps will closely resemble the advisory maps and it is encouraging homeowners to rebuild based on the advisory maps' projections.

The advisory maps thus strongly suggest that homes and businesses within the new flood zones

will face new building requirements and hikes in flood insurance premiums in the future.

FEMA's flood maps were last updated in the early 1980s and the agency was in the process of drafting new maps based on current scientific data when Hurricane Sandy hit. It released the advisory maps to offer guidance to hurricane victims in the rebuilding process.

"We know people have been impacted by the storm," said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Byrne on NY1. "We want to give them some information because they're not waiting to rebuild. People want to rebuild now."

The new maps would loop virtually all of new Howard Beach and all areas of old Howard Beach not already on existing flood maps into high-risk flood zones. In addition,



New Federal Emergency Management Agency advisory flood maps put much of Howard Beach and the Rockaways in flood zones.

Map courtesy FEMA

nearly all of the Rockaway peninsula would be considered high-risk under the new maps, instead of just Breezy Point and land along the coasts.

FEMA is encouraging people who are in the midst of rebuilding badly damaged homes and are within the new advisory flood zones to elevate their homes above the projected height water could reach during severe storms or floods. This is often done through stilts or posts and could help to lower flood insurance premiums. FEMA projected homeowners could save \$90,000 over 10 years in flood insurance premiums if they elevated homes 3 feet above the flood line.

But state Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) said he was concerned about what the new maps will mean for his district.

"We have the potential here of really changing the characteristic of Howard Beach," he said.

He said he worries some residents might not be able to conform to new

building requirements and that some may not be able to afford steeper flood insurance.

"I've got this feeling that there's going to be a large outcry about the requirements of raising their home a number of feet," he said.

He also is concerned some residents may pack up and move from Howard Beach rather than shoulder the cost of rebuilding to stricter standards.

But in the meantime, he said Gov. Andrew Cuomo has signified there may be some state help for people who are rebuilding.

"We do see the state has a vision for helping people that have been negatively affected by Hurricane Sandy, but there's so much more work to do, especially in light of these new maps," he said.



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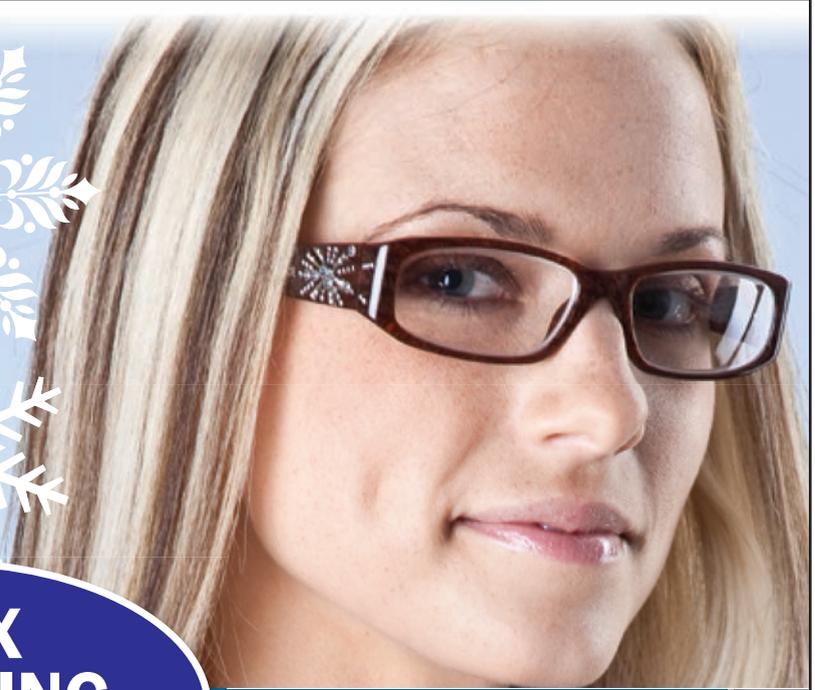
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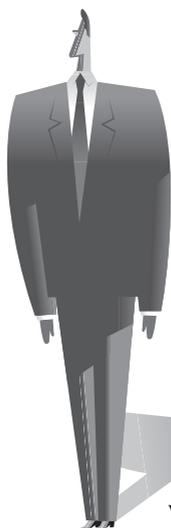
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City proposes two new schools located inside of Flushing HS

BY JOE ANUTA

The city Department of Education is proposing to slash enrollment at Flushing High School over the next four years and locate two additional high schools within its walls.

The DOE released a proposal Jan. 17 that detailed plans to place two new high schools housing about 450 students each within the building, at 35-01 Union St.

The population of the current high school, home to several academies and programs, is projected to dwindle from 3,032 students this year to just less than 2,200 students by the 2016-17 school year. The overall population at the school, now at about 150 percent capacity, is not expected to

seriously fluctuate as the new schools are added.

One of the new high schools will be specially geared to Chinese-speaking students, according to the DOE.

The declining enrollment at Flushing may affect students now taking some of the elective course offerings there and will cut funding to the school. The DOE contends that the reduction will make the school easier to manage and could serve as an opportunity to improve.

"Flushing has struggled with low performance despite the considerable support that the DOE has offered to the school," the proposal said. "As a result, there is a need to provide better options for families in the community."

The DOE tried to close

Flushing HS last year, but the action was stopped by a lawsuit. The city has not put Flushing back on any closure list so far this year.

But the idea is not winning over everyone outside the city administration, including Dmytro Fedkowskyj, a member of the DOE's Panel for Educational Policy, which is set to vote on this proposal March 11.

He is the only member representing Queens who was not appointed by the mayor and said the city should instead give the current Flushing HS more resources to bolster its performance level. The school received a C grade in the 2009-10 school year, and two D grades in subsequent years.



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Grand Central Terminal looks back on 100 years

Celebrities and special events usher in centennial of transit hub, spruced up with stores and dining

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Thousands of Queens residents routinely take the No. 7 train to Grand Central Terminal en route to their jobs, but now they can pause to help celebrate the 100th birthday of the venerable landmark, now a destination in itself with everything from luxury shopping to a dazzling array of gastronomic delights.

The birthday party for the Beaux Arts transportation palace starts this Friday with a concert by the West Point Brass and Percussion ensemble. It is to be followed by appearances by Melissa Manchester, Cynthia Nixon of "Sex And the City" and descendants of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, whose vision developed the empire that ushered in the railroads'

gilded age.

Others appearing are to include Caroline Kennedy, honorary chairman of the Grand Central Grand Central Committee, whose mother Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, is widely credited with saving the terminal from destruction. Concerts and entertainment will go on into the evening and centennial events will run into March.

The Municipal Art Society will conduct daily tours of the GCT in midtown Manhattan at 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday with individual self-conducted tours also available.

Grand Central Terminal rose from tragedy.

The state Legislature had forced the New York Central Railroad to abandon steam for electricity to power its locomotives after a public outcry followed



Grand Central Terminal's Main Concourse in late morning with the information booth in the center and the tracks on the left.

Photo by Philip Newman

the collision of trains in a steam and smoke-filled tunnel beneath Fourth Avenue — now Park Avenue — Jan. 8, 1902, killing 15 passengers and injuring scores of others.

The railroad quickly decided to demolish Grand Central Depot, which opened in 1871 and build

on the same site a more elegant, Beaux Arts terminal replete with marble staircases, regal chandeliers, sloping ramps and a system providing a more efficient flow of passengers to and from trains.

For years, thousands of workers toiled under the leadership of New York

Central civil engineer William Walrus, who managed to keep railroads running — both at the condemned depot and the new terminal — without interrupting the flow of passengers or train schedules of either.

The new facility would be officially known as Grand Central Terminal, although a large percentage of New York City natives would forever call it Grand Central Station.

The resplendent new transit hub opened at midnight on Feb. 2, 1913 with throngs surging into the new terminal, which was a decade in the making. Fellow architects said the terminal is a monument to its creator, Whitney Warren.

Besides using ramps to move people and their belongings rather than stairs or elevators, although the terminal has all three,

Grand Central features a ceiling filled dotted with 2,500 stars against a blue sky 120 feet above the Main Concourse.

It was built in an era when more and more travelers took the train and air travel was in its infancy.

Even before the terminal opened its doors, the New York Central Railroad had begun service back in 1902 its 20th Century Limited, a super express from Grand Central Depot to Chicago. The luxury train covered the 960 hours in 16 hours with bedrooms, sleeping berths, lounges and gourmet dining.

But after World War II, the public turned to the automobile as the federal interstate highway system expanded and air travel increased, leading to a de-

Continued on Page 29

Divorce Caribbean Style

For a growing number of New Yorkers, tired of the delays and expense of conventional local divorces, fast, inexpensive Caribbean and offshore US divorces have been the answer.

A leader in the fast divorce business has been Divorcefast.com of Massachusetts, a company that has been providing speedy, low-cost foreign divorces for 50 years. The company provides divorces that can be completed in as little as one day in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the US offshore island of Guam.

According to Alan Alford,

proprietor of Divorce.com, some of the divorces offered require travel to the court, while some can be done without any travel or court appearance. Some require both parties to sign the court petition for divorce, while others can be achieved with only one party signing. All of the divorces happen very quickly and with a minimum amount of paperwork.

The divorces are valid and recognized everywhere, and Alford reports that he processes several thousand of them every year, particularly for New Yorkers. The total cost for fast divorces starts

at \$895, with other options raising the price to as high as \$1,500. All of the divorces, Alford says, are completed within a few days and the clients are then free to remarry or otherwise continue with their lives as single persons. Anyone interested in more details about the Divorcefast offerings should access the company website: www.divorcefast.com The forms and instructions are printed out from there and submitted to the company. For those lacking Internet access Alford and his staff are prepared to discuss foreign divorces on the phone, or by mail.

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What's behind dental cavities?

Cavities are a problem for adults and children alike. Some people seem more susceptible to cavities than others, and the pH of the mouth and other factors may play a role in the formation of cavities.

The number of dental cavities increases with age. According to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, dental decay remains the most prevalent chronic disease in both children and adults, even though it is largely preventable. Although it may seem like children who love sugar would have the highest rate of cavities, data actually shows that 92 percent of adults in the U.S. age 20 to 64 have dental caries in their permanent teeth and an average of 3.28 missing teeth.

What causes a cavity?

Bacteria is the main culprit behind cavities. Bacteria migrate into the mouth



and are constantly present on the gums, teeth and tongue. While most oral bacteria are not harmful, certain types can prove troublesome. Bacteria attach to the enamel of the teeth and eventually start to form a colony. Proteins

present in saliva mix with the bacteria, which then forms a hard layer on the tooth known as plaque.

Sugar plays a role in the process because the bacteria use sugar as a food source. The sugar also helps them stick to the tooth surface,

making it more difficult for bacteria to be cleared away with saliva. As bacteria eat the sugar, they produce waste, which is acidic. Over time, this acid can wear away at the tough enamel on teeth, making it porous. These holes can become

bigger, eventually forming what is known as a cavity.

It may take a while before you realize you have a cavity because the enamel of the tooth doesn't have nerve fibers. But once the cavity becomes large enough to expose the sensitive dentin within, pain ensues.

Preventing cavities

Cavities can be largely prevented by brushing and flossing regularly to remove extra bacteria from the teeth, and preventing them from attaching and building up on the teeth.

Regular dental check-ups and cleanings also play a preventative role. Dentists have equipment that can effectively clean teeth in areas that can sometimes be difficult to keep clean with just manual brushing.

High susceptibility to cavities

Medications and biology can affect the pH of a person's mouth and contribute

to the formation of dental caries. When pH drops, demineralization of the tooth enamel occurs and cavities form. Some forms of bacteria contribute to tooth decay more than others.

As mentioned, sugar feeds bacteria growth. Research by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry has found that it's not often the amount of sugar eaten at a given time, but the frequency of sugar exposure that can lead to cavities. Sucrose, it seems, is bacteria's preferred energy source. Saliva production is important for keeping bacteria at bay. Individuals who produce less bacteria, due to medication or their physical history, may be more susceptible to caries (decay and crumbling of a tooth or bone).

Dental cavities are a common health problem. Knowing what causes them can help with prevention.

Ridding the mouth of wisdom teeth a good idea for many

Wisdom teeth are the final set of molars a person gets in his late teenage years. Many people go on to keep these teeth, but more often than not they are removed due to misalignment or impaction.

Poor alignment of wisdom teeth can crowd an ordinarily healthy mouth. The teeth may curve in or out, or fail to even erupt through the gumline. Because any of these situations can lead to pain or other dental decay, many individuals are advised to have wisdom teeth extracted.

The average adult has 32 teeth. Wisdom teeth are the last molars in the mouth. A dentist can determine whether wisdom teeth are properly aligned through visual examination and



X-ray. If it is determined that the wisdom teeth are a detriment, a patient will be referred to an oral surgeon for a second opinion and extraction. Removal of these teeth is generally easier

when a person is young, as the wisdom teeth roots are not fully developed and the bone is less dense. As individuals age, recovery time and discomfort increase.

The extraction process is based entirely on how bad the wisdom teeth are in the mouth. Teeth that are fully

erupted may come out quite easily. Those that are impacted or nestled in the bone may need to be surgically removed in pieces.

In many cases, wisdom teeth extraction is

done under mild anesthesia. The process can take 20 to 30 minutes in all. The surgeon will extract, cut and suture as needed to produce the best possible results for healing.

Afterward, bleeding and swelling may occur. It is essential that a clot form in the socket of the extracted tooth, otherwise bacteria and food particles can become lodged and cause infection. The condition called dry-socket occurs when the blood clot is dislodged, exposing bone and nerve. This can be quite painful and lengthen healing time. Therefore, individuals should avoid smoking, sucking through straws, spitting heavily, or doing any other activity that can disrupt the clot.

Soft foods or even a liquid diet is recommended for several days until the pain and soreness subside. Some surgeons advise rinsing with salt water or irrigating the surgical site with warm water to keep the mouth clean. Antibiotics are often prescribed to prevent infection.

Because wisdom tooth extraction can be painful, over-the-counter pain medications are recommended. The dentist may prescribe a more potent pain reliever for use when pain is greater.

It may take seven to 10 days for the incisions and sockets to heal, but it could be a few months before the underlying bone has recovered from the procedure.

WISDOM TEETH DO'S AND DON'TS

DO address wisdom teeth issues early on so that they can be extracted at the earliest possible time and potentially reduce healing time and pain.

DON'T stick your tongue or finger into the extraction site, as it may dislodge the forming clot.

DO alert your surgeon or dentist if you are not feeling better within five days, or if the pain is increasing.

DON'T stretch the gums or sides of your mouth to view the surgical site, otherwise sutures may be torn.

DO follow all of the instructions provided for post-extraction.

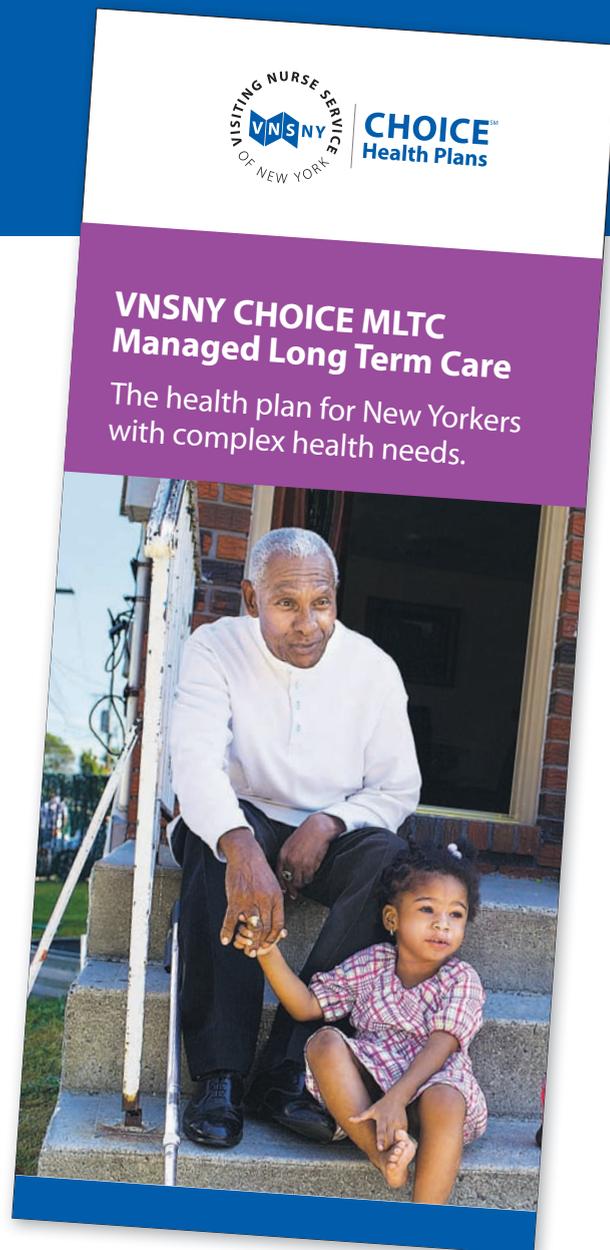
DON'T drink alcohol if you're taking pain medications.

DO use caution when brushing your teeth, especially around the extractions.

DON'T hesitate to call the dentist with questions.

DO follow up a week later to see if sutures need to be removed or if the healing process is going properly.

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WHERE YOU BELONG.SM

Laundry location offers free wash and dry for residents

Clean Rite Center opens Queens Village store for two days of no charge self-serve machine use

BY STEVE MOSCO

Queens residents are getting loads of love as a city-based laundry company announced it is providing two days of self-serve free wash and dry services in February.

In what began as a response to the difficulties Rockaway residents were having in doing their laundry in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the Queens Village-based Clean Rite Center is launching a free event Feb. 13 and 20, when residents from across the borough are invited to wash and dry their clothes for free.

“Sandy took place and really devastated parts of Queens,” said Julio Morales, marketing manager of Clean Rite. “We just felt like the borough has treated us so well that we wanted to give something back.”

So on those two days, Queens residents can go to Clean Rite Center, at 214-50 Jamaica Ave., from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. and wash



Clean Rite Center in Queens Village offers free wash and dry in Feb. 13 and Feb. 20.

Photo by Steve Mosco

as many loads as they need to for free. Soap will also be available free of charge, as will light snacks

and refreshments.

The Queens Village Laundromat usually has only two peo-

ple working in the store at a time, but Morales said no less than seven employees will be manning the location's more than 70 dryers and 65 washing machines.

When Superstorm Sandy blew through the city more than three months ago, many residents lost their laundry equipment, while some Laundromats were closed due to storm damage.

Soon after the storm, City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) had tried to bring a Tide Loads of Hope mobile laundry truck to the hurricane-affected areas, reaching out to Tide and the Red Cross, Loads of Hope's partner organization.

In December, a spokeswoman for Tide, Erin Serrano, said there were no plans to bring Loads of Hope to southern Queens and the decision where to mobilize the truck is based on need, the number of families displaced, access to water, whether there is an area

of central access and other factors.

She said mobilizing the truck is often a joint decision between the Red Cross and Tide, but a spokesman for the Red Cross, Michael de Vulpillieres, said the aid organization is not involved in the decision-making process and only provides information to Tide about conditions on the ground.

But Laundry Capital is not waiting for Tide or the Red Cross — the company wants to provide a sense of normalcy for residents still reeling from the storm surge.

“We want them to come here and take care of their clothes in a big, clean environment,” said Morales. “It is two days for everyone to feel normal again.”

Morales stressed that hurricane damage is not necessary to receive this free services, since it is open to all residents.

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Benches mark new beginning for Bell Boulevard streetscape

BY PHIL CORSO

After several years of planning, parts of a Bell Boulevard streetscape project came to fruition as benches were bolted into the sidewalks of Bayside.

According to Judy Limpert, of the Bayside Business Association, 14 benches were installed along Bell Boulevard between Northern Boulevard and 35th Avenue this week as part of the first phase of the project. Some new trees, upgraded sidewalks and antique lampposts will follow, she said.

"We're very happy to see this done," Limpert said. "It's been a long time coming."

The silver benches were installed through the city's CityBench program in collaboration with the

city Department of Transportation. The program was funded by a \$2.4 million Bus Livability Grant from the Federal Transit Administration.

Limpert said the project was awaiting final approval from the city Department of Design and Construction, which should come within the next month, before it is turned over to the Bayside Village Business Improvement District.

"It is the hope of the Bayside Business Association to bring more patrons to the businesses by making Bayside a beautiful place to shop as well as live," the BBA said in a statement.

The earliest records involving the streetscape project went as far back as 2003, according to Community Board 11 District Man-

ager Susan Seinfeld.

But over the years, the plan has been held up and stalled on several occasions due to funding issues and sewer-related concerns, CB 11 said.

The board has consistently supported the BBA-proposed Bell Boulevard upgrades and unanimously voted in favor of the project several times between 2003 and 2011.

"There has been a very positive reaction overall," Seinfeld said. "There has been a lot of excitement. It will bring a real attractiveness to the area."

Phase 1 of the project will take place on both sides of Bell Boulevard from 41st to 42nd avenue and was funded partly by a city Economic Development Corp. grant, according to CB 11.

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Little Neck family embodies Russian adoption struggle

International controversy over human rights violations prevents couple from bringing baby home

BY PHIL CORSO

An international dispute involving a Russian ban on U.S. adoptions has hit home for one couple in Little Neck, and U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Hauppauge) pledged to help ensure they bring their new son home.

"We will get them to listen," Israel promised Little Neck parents-to-be Nick and Dania Mavros Tuesday, when he called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to put an end to the ban on Russian adoptions on American citizens.

The Mavros family was in the process of adopting year-old blond-haired, blue-eyed Ari in December before being tossed into political limbo, courtesy of a disagreement between Russia and the United States.

"President Putin is jeopardizing the future for

thousands of Russian orphans and their adoptive parents here in the U.S. over a political disagreement with the administration," Israel said. "The adoption process is difficult enough for any family without adding international politics to the mix. Children should never be used as political pawns, but in this case, that is exactly what's happening."

Putin signed the ban into law Dec. 28, a move that was seen as a retaliatory action in response to a new American law known as the Magnitsky Act, which limits Russians accused of human rights violations from entering the United States.

So for the Mavros family, who could have been celebrating the successful adoption of their beloved Ari, they instead have been



U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (l.) holds one of the toys Little Neck couple Dania (c.) and Nick Mavros purchased for the 1-year-old Russian boy they hope to adopt.

Photo by Phil Corso

at the mercy of a political dispute and have no choice but to hold onto the already-purchased toys awaiting the boy.

"Waiting for news to see if we will be allowed to bring our baby home has been one of the most trying

times in our lives," Dania Mavros said, while fighting back tears. "Devastating does not capture the emotional roller coaster that we are enduring every day."

Israel said he would even go as far as proposing economic, military and

commercial cuts to Russian aid coming out of the United States if no progress is made.

There are currently more than 700,000 orphans in Russia, according to the Russian Children's Welfare Society. On average,

Israel said 10 percent of all international adoptions by American families have taken place in Russia over the last five years, undertaking a process that takes 12 to 18 months and could cost anywhere between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

The Russian Supreme Court agreed to allow all adoptions approved before Jan. 1 to proceed, but the move still kept the Mavros family in limbo because they were still waiting for a court date to finalize the process.

The congressman joined nearly 50 colleagues earlier this month to craft a letter to Putin urging him to allow all families already in the adoption process to move forward.

"Putin, tear down this law," Israel said.



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Grand Central

Continued from Page 22

cline in long distance railroads.

By the late 1960s, most railroads were in the process of abandoning passenger service and in 1967, the 20th Century, the train on which Carey Grant charmed Eva Marie Saint in the diner in the Alfred Hitchcock classic "North by Northwest," was no more.

Next to decline was Grand Central Terminal, in a big way.

"The New York Central merged with the Pennsylvania RR in 1968 and formed Penn Central," said MTA Archivist Carey Stumm. "The Metropolitan Transportation Authority took over the day-to-day management of Grand Central Terminal from Penn Central in 1978. In 1982, MTA established Metro-North Commuter Railroad to run railroad operations out of Grand Central with Peter Stangl at the helm

as the first president. The first capital program allocated \$12 million for repairs to the building. The first thing they did was fix the leaky roof."

Grand Central was in its 80s and its condition was critical.

Its once-starry sky was black with the soot of millions of smokers, the marble floors were filthy and waiting rooms and other spaces accommodated as many as 1,000 homeless some nights. The MTA shut down the terminal for the first time in its history between 1:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. for cleaning.

"Bathrooms were filthy and unsafe," wrote Ed Stanley in "Grand Central Terminal, Gateway to New York City. "The once serene space turned into a 24-hour scene, boisterous and dangerous. The carved benches were removed to discourage loitering. It became a scary place."

The terminal was

starved for revenue and transit officials came up with a plan to build a 55-story building atop Grand Central to relieve its cash shortage. It would not have destroyed Grand Central but would have meant large parts would have been torn down. The preservationists, including an inspiring Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, fought the plan, which was finally overturned in 1978 by the Supreme Court.

The renewal of Grand Central Terminal was under way and the stage was set for the glorious revival that is being celebrated on its centennial.

For a schedule of centennial events, check out grandcentralterminal.com/centennial/.

Reach contributing writer Philip Newman by e-mail at timesledgernews@cnglocal.com or phone at 718-260-4536.

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NORTHEAST QUEENS REPUBLICAN CLUB SWEARS IN 2013 OFFICERS *Photos by Ken Maldonado*



1 Councilman Dan Halloran (l.) is joined by (l.-r.) mayoral hopeful Joe Lhota, Northeast Queens Republican Club President John Watch and board member Sal Bacarella.



2 Dan Halloran (l.) swears in the 2013 board members of the Northeast Queens Republican Club at the Clearview Country Club in Bayside.



3 Former MTA Chairman Joe Lhota (l.) chats with Dan Halloran during a meeting of the Northeast Queens Republican Club.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NILY ROZIC HOLDS INAUGURATION AT TOWNSEND HARRIS *Photos by Christina Santucci*



4 Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (l.) is joined by Assemblyman Brian Kavanagh, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng and Sen. Chuck Schumer on stage.



5 Elected officials, including Assemblyman Michael Den Dekker (l.), Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (second l.), Assemblyman David Weprin (second r.) and state Sen. Toby Stavisky (r.), line the front row.



6 Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry watches the ceremony.



7 Nily Rozic is joined by her mother Hildal (Yael) and father Isaac as Queens Supreme Court Justice Bernice D. Siegal prepares to perform the ceremonial inauguration.

ASSEMBLYMAN RON KIM IS SWORN IN AT FLUSHING LIBRARY *Photos by Christina Santucci*



8 Assemblyman Ron Kim (second r.), his father Seo Jun Kim and his mother Sun Hee Kim are joined by City Comptroller John Liu (r.), who performed Kim's ceremonial inauguration.



9 Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, (l.-r.) Assemblyman Ed Braunstein and Councilman Mark Weprin listen to remarks.



10 Councilman Peter Koo, (l.-r.) Ron Kim, John Liu and Grace Meng laugh during a speech given by Sen. Chuck Schumer.



11 Assemblyman Francisco Moya (l.) and Councilman Leroy Comrie sit on stage.

STATE SEN. JAMES SANDERS JR. INAUGURATED AT YORK COLLEGE *Photos by Christina Santucci*



12 Rudrawatte Nan Ramloogam, consulate general of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in New York, speaks.



13 Former City Councilman Archie Spigner addresses the crowd.



14 State Sen. James Sanders Jr. (l.) is joined by Assemblywoman Vivian Cook, Assemblyman David Weprin (third l.), Joan Flowers and Neville Flowers.



15 Assemblywoman Michelle Titus gives her remarks.

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Boro colleges to mark Black History Month

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Queensborough Community College, the Queens Library and York College are among some of the borough's institutions that have scheduled events in celebration of Black History Month.

"This has been an historic time for people of color throughout the country," said City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), who plans to host a celebration at Queensborough Saturday. "With the annual celebration of Black History upon us, and having just witnessed President Barack Obama's second inauguration, we must take this time to reflect on where we came from, envision where we are headed and celebrate those who sacrificed so much to get us to where we are today."

The event will be held at the college's Performing Arts Center in Bayside from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature a keynote address from WBLS radio host Bob Slade.

The Queens Library will kick off four weeks' worth of events Saturday with a panel discussion and an exploration of the Museum of Modern Art's collection of African-American works at the Central Li-

brary on Merrick Boulevard at 2 p.m.

Other library events include an open mic night beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Flushing Library Feb. 7, a full day's worth of programming Feb. 9 at Corona's Langston Hughes Library and an African-American trivia game at the McGoldrick branch in Flushing Feb. 19 at 5 p.m.

York College in Jamaica will celebrate Sunday when author, poet and playwright Sonia Sanchez will join Medgar Evers College professor Brenda Greene and others to participate in the 43rd annual African American Read-in, an event during which hundreds of thousands of people across the country read the works of African-American writers.

From Feb. 7-10, the Black Spectrum Theatre will premier "Dumas," a depiction of the author Alexander Dumas, who wrote "The Three Musketeers" and "The Count of Monte Cristo." He will be portrayed by Marcus Chong, best known for his role as Tank the Operator in "The Matrix."

Comedian Phyllis Stickney is also scheduled to perform at the theater Feb. 23.

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WHEN YOU BECOME THE PARENT OF YOUR PARENT

Medical advancements have enabled people to live longer. Though everyone wants to live longer, some people outlive their ability to care for themselves. In such instances, family members must make a decision regarding how best to care for an elderly relative.

According to the study "Aging in Place in America," 63 percent of Baby Boomers are actively involved in providing some kind of help or assistance to their elderly parents. Whether this is due to the rising cost of elder care or simply a feeling of obligation on the part of the child, many middle-aged men and women are responsible for caring for aging parents and young children.

The emotions that might result from caring for an aging parent are often mixed. Some people are happy to do their part to help make life a little easier for a person who devoted so much of his energy to raising them. Others in the sandwich generation can feel like this is a burden or guilty that they're not doing enough for a parent.

SIGNS AN ELDER NEEDS HELP

When an older relative stops driving, this is often indicative that he needs assistance with daily living. There also may be signs that support and care is needed, such as if the house seems untidy, if he is having trouble maintaining personal hygiene, if the parent is getting hurt attempting to do things around the house, or if he seems malnourished due to the inability

to cook meals. Limited mobility or loss of mental faculties also may be indicative that it is time for a loved one to receive care.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Although taking on the care of an aging parent may seem like the best idea possible, particularly for a senior who is very afraid of losing his independence, it may not always be in either party's best interest. Before anyone determines what will be done to help a relative, it's best to answer a few questions as straightforwardly as possible.

- What type of care does my parent need?
- How soon into the future is that type of care bound to change?
- Can this care be handled by someone who comes into the house, such as a visiting nurse?
- Will my parent feel comfortable with an outside person helping with day-to-day care?
- What are my parent's limitations?
- Am I capable of handling this on my own?
- Can I afford an adequate-care facility?
- What are my local facility options?
- Will this type of care affect my own personal well-being?
- Can I handle this emotionally and physically?

Any person facing the prospect of caring for an aging parent can realize that there is help available, as well as many different people who

Continued on Page 36

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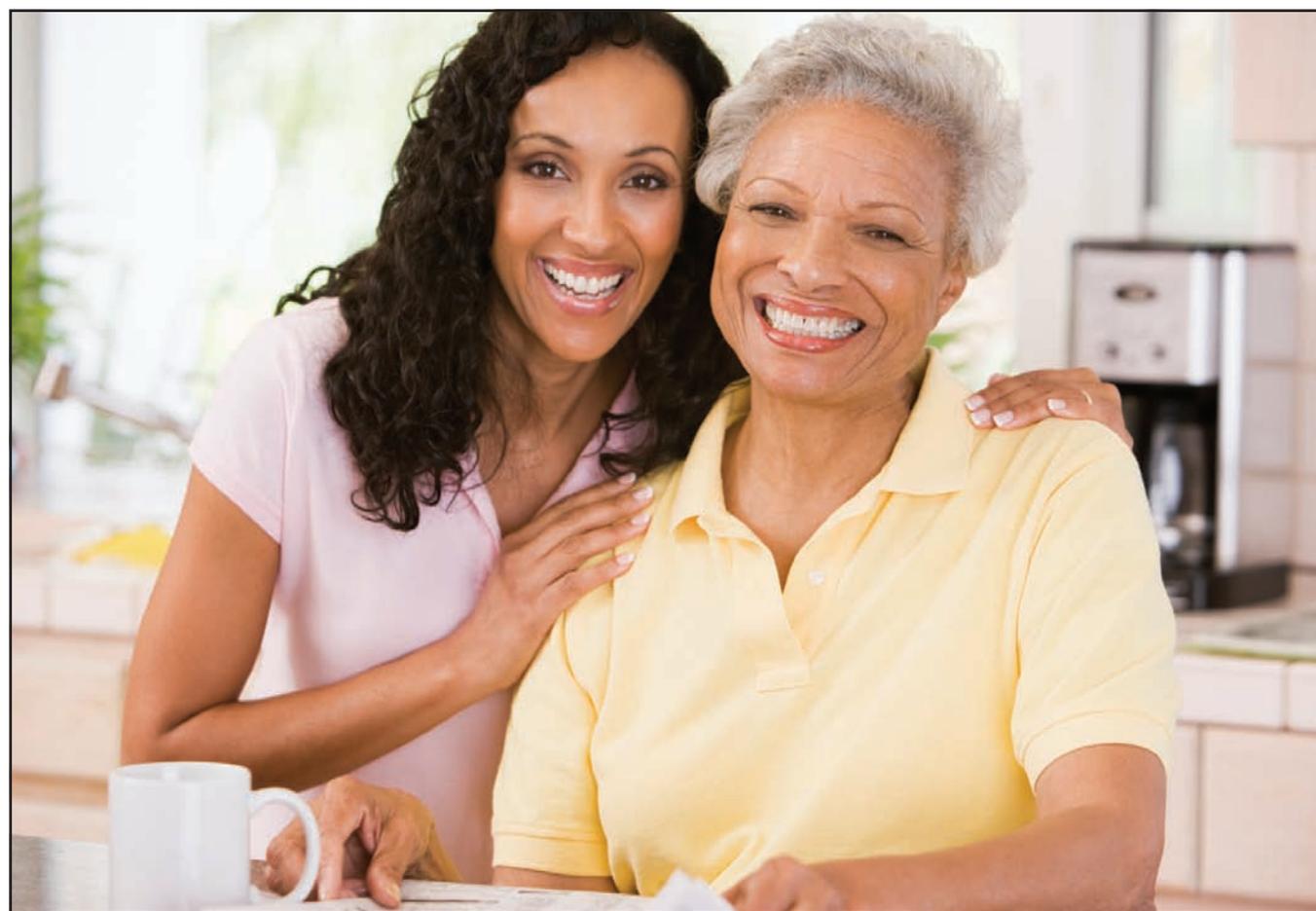
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Financial abuse: An epidemic among seniors

BY JOANNA R. LEEFER

The financial exploitation of seniors is one of the most heartbreaking and under-reported problems facing our country. Mental images evoke ruthless predators preying on the weaknesses of frail, elderly people who are languishing alone in their homes. The most insidious cases of abuse are much more personal. Many times the predator is not a heartless stranger, but a trusted family member.

Take the case of Mrs. Monroe (name changed), a widowed 86-year-old woman living alone in her home. During Hurricane Sandy, she allowed her granddaughter to move into a room in the house after her basement apartment was flooded. Now, the girl refuses to leave. She is allegedly pocketing her grandmother's monthly Social Security check and is helping herself to extra cash by using Monroe's ATM card.

Another example is the case of Mr. Rodriguez, (name changed) who lives in his Staten Island home. Rodriguez has crippling arthritis and needs an aide to look after him. His three children take all the income from his

property holdings and cash them for their own purposes, he says. What complicates the problem even more is the fact that one of his exploiters is an employee of the New York Police Department, so even when he filed a complaint, the case was overlooked, he says.

The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse describes financial abuse of the elderly as a broad spectrum of activities that include forging an older person's signature, using the person's property or possessions without his permission, or fraudulently offering to care for him in exchange for money or property.

Types of exploitations can vary, and can be emotional and physical. The abuser may cash the senior's monthly Social Security check and confiscate valuable jewelry or other possessions. Sometimes, the victim is physically threatened, abused, or has food withheld until she agrees to submit.

Who are these predators? The typical portrait is a dependent child who has financial problems of his own, such as a drug abuse, gambling debts, or no other means of support. Many times, the child harbors a sense of entitlement to the money. He

feels he has more right to the money or believes his needs have greater priority.

A New York State study on elder abuse sponsored by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services released a report in 2011 on elder abuse in the state. The report revealed that approximately 3.24 people per thousand (among the age 60-plus population) have suffered some form of abuse. Of those victims, the most common type of maltreatment is financial. The study also discloses that this number is underestimated and is probably much larger.

The reasons for under-reporting of financial abuse are numerous. Some examples include fear of family retaliation, desertion, or threats of nursing home placement. An older person who has difficulty with mobility can be held "prisoner" in her own home, feeling she has no choice but to tolerate the situation. Frequently, a decline in cognition or dementia gives the abuser "free rein" over finances because the victim doesn't even know what's happening.

Financial abuse can happen at any level of income and society. In the case of the philanthropist Brook

Astor, her son was convicted of stealing her millions and refusing to give her proper medical attention in 2009.

As this problem becomes more visible, professionals are looking for ways to combat it. One step was the formation of the New York City Elder Abuse Center in 2009. The center's programs are geared toward helping other professionals and agencies in New York City to collaborate and develop strategies to counter the problem.

The center's Brooklyn Multidisciplinary Team is one such program. The team consists of representatives from the Kings County District Attorney's office, Adult Protective Services, Weill Cornell Medical College physicians, and other social services agencies. They collaborate to come up with suggestions and strategies on how agencies can address particular cases. The team meets three Wednesdays a month in Downtown Brooklyn to discuss specific cases.

In October, The New York State Office for the Aging announced that it received a three-year, \$1 million Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living to initiate

and test a new program specifically geared to combat financial exploitation and elder abuse in New York. One pilot program will be based in Manhattan and should be open for operation later this year. The program will include a forensic accountant to investigate and intervene in cases of financial exploitation of older adults living in Manhattan.

Most of us envision our golden years after retirement to be full of relaxation and carefree enjoyment of life. Unfortunately, a little more than 3 percent of New York's elderly are living a life far from what they had imagined. If you know of, or suspect that, a senior is being abused or financially exploited, please contact any of these agencies.

Joanna Leefer is an Eldercare Advisor with 10 years experience working with aging issues. She was the primary caregiver for her parents for more than seven years and worked for Friends and Relatives of Institutionalized Aged, Inc. an advocacy organization for the elderly. For more information on her services, visit joannaleefer.com. Her book, "Eldercare Basics," will be available this spring.

Parents

Continued from Page 33

can help guide a decision. The first resource is to ask siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins to weigh in on the situation to help the family come to a consensus.

There are also social workers who specialize in this sort of thing, as well as financial consultants who can spell out the pros and cons of different types of care and help determine the most affordable option. This can also go a long way toward helping determine the course of action.

The burden of caring for a parent can take a physical and mental toll on a person. Knowing there is a support circle available can ease one's mind and enable caregivers to make rational decisions that are in everyone's best interest.

Caring for a loved one who can no longer care for himself is something that many Baby Boomers are facing on a daily basis. Although it may be a touchy subject, it is worth exploring what you will do before the situation becomes urgent.

Safeguarding a home for your elderly relatives

For adult children welcoming a parent or an in-law into their home, a common priority is to ensure the home is safe for an elderly resident.

According to the Pew Research Center, 20 percent of individuals age 65 and older lived in a multi-generational household in 2008. That marked a 3 percent increase from 1990. While there's no single reason why more and more elderly residents are moving in with their adult children, the still-struggling economy has likely played a significant role. Seniors who lost retirement savings as the market tumbled can no longer afford the costly expense of an assisted living facility, causing many of those people to move back in with their children.

Some safety measures might be easier to plan than others, but the following guidelines should help adults prepare their homes for the

arrival of an elderly housemate.

REDUCE RISK OF INJURY IN THE BATHROOM

Perhaps no room can be more difficult for seniors to navigate than the bathroom. Wet tiled floors can greatly increase the risk of falling, so homeowners should make sure to have bathroom rugs that are slip-resistant. Slip-resistant rugs typically have a rubber bottom and won't move, even if the floor is wet.

Another step to secure the bathroom is to install grab bars on the walls, including in the bathtub and next to the toilet. Also, make sure the towel bars are secure, as seniors might grab onto towel bars if they feel they are about to fall or need to regain their balance.

As for the bathtub, be sure to place a non-skid mat or strips on the

standing area. This can help secure arguably the riskiest part of a home not just for elderly residents but all inhabitants of a home. According to the National Safety Council, most falls in the home occur in the bathroom. Securing a slippery tub with non-skid mats or strips can greatly reduce the risk of a fall.

KEEP THE HOME ILLUMINATED

Understandably, many homeowners look to save money around the house, and turning off the lights at night is both common and financially savvy. However, when a home has an elderly resident, it's best to ensure the home is at least partially illuminated. Nightlights should be used in hallways and along the staircase as well as in the bathroom and the kitchen.

Elderly residents likely won't be familiar with where the light switches are, at least not immedi-

ately. So keep the house at least partially illuminated overnight in case a senior housemate must wake up to use the restroom or get a glass of water in the middle of the night.

CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER

A cluttered home is a fire hazard, regardless of who is living inside, but a cluttered home is also a considerable safety risk for seniors. When preparing a home for an elderly resident, be sure the bedroom is not overcrowded. Make certain there is a clear path in which elderly residents can walk around the bed.

Ideally, elderly residents should have a clear path on which to walk from room to room. Make sure cords from the TV are bundled and not lying open in the floor. In addition, magazine or newspaper baskets should be moved away from where residents will be walking.



Clutter can also collect outside the home, particularly in homes with young children. Explain to kids that their toys need to be put away and kept off of walkways to help Grandma or Grandpa avoid injury. Homeowners who love to work around the house should also clean their work areas thoroughly and put everything away before calling it a day.

Keeping PACE with the Changing Dynamics of Long-Term Care

The sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship: it's an ancient tenet of medicine, but also a fundamental issue in one of modern healthcare's hottest topics - coordination of care.

As the nation searches for the best way to create a more collaborative, financially sustainable system that works for patients, long term care is providing effective models and lessons. At the same time, we are working with the government to eliminate barriers to what we believe can lead to significant growth for those effective, collaborative solutions.

I'm talking specifically about PACE, a managed care program that has served long term care patients for 25 years. PACE, the Program for the All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, is a coordinated care model that improves both the patient's health and Medicaid's bottom line.

Focused on the most costly and complex individuals to care for - patients eligible for Medicare and Medicaid who are qualified to live in a nursing home - the PACE model brings together nurses, physicians, social workers, therapists and other caregivers to create a coordinated care plan for each patient. The goal is to keep the patient healthy and at home while assisting with the activities of daily life, such as washing, dressing, eating and socializing.

The model is catching on, and PACE, we believe, is poised for significant growth.

In the case of Center-



Coordinated care: Under a physician's orders, a rehab therapist works with a patient at a CenterLight PACE center in the Bronx."

Light Healthcare in New York, the nation's largest PACE program, a key reason for this projected growth is a waiver issued by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the federal agency that administers these programs. Most PACE programs require patients to see PACE-employed physicians, and discourage enrollment by seniors who want to stick with their doctors. The waiver eliminates that enrollment barrier by allowing patients to

see their own doctor as part of their PACE care plan. Waivers have also been issued to a small number of other PACE programs and discussions have taken place in Washington about revising the rules on physicians for PACE programs nationwide.

For the patient and for our state's Medicaid systems, the resulting growth in enrollment could have a huge impact. Figures from the New York State Department of Health show

that, for 75% of the cost of permanently residing in a nursing home, CenterLight PACE programs can provide substantially more services, while keeping patients safe at home.

The issue is particularly timely, as New York State also recently issued a new mandate that all long term care patients enroll in a managed care program.

So, what if a new opportunity allowed PACE patients to use their current doctor and still take

advantage of the coordinated care that serves them so well? Would we enter a realm where we can offer more patients the kind of care they need?

With managed care gaining prominence again as a solution to our nation's healthcare crisis, our industry's leaders have an opportunity to build PACE's demonstrated results by growing that program and applying its lessons about coordinated care to other programs as well.



Stephan Deutsch, M.D., is Chief Medical Officer, CenterLight Healthcare, which operates the largest PACE program in the country.

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The last Friday of every month services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

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Each Saturday at 10:30 a.m. with Rabbi Michael Weisser

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

Each Tuesday 7:30 p.m. with Rabbi Michael Weisser
Others to be announced.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FREE SYNAGOGUE OF FLUSHING

FEBRUARY 2013 CLASSES AND EVENTS

Sat., Feb. 2	Tot Shabbat 10:00 a.m.
Sun., Feb. 3, 10, 24	Children's Hebrew Class 9:30 a.m.
Sun., Feb. 3, 24	Family Education 10:30 a.m.
Thurs., Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Adult Hebrew II Class 7:30 p.m. with Cantor Steven Pearlston
Sun., Feb. 10	Torah Study 10:30 a.m.
Fri., Feb. 15	Lunch & Movie 12:00 noon
	Felix Mendelssohn's
	Birthday Party 8:00 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 18	President's Day Office Closed
Fri., Feb. 22	Purim Service 7:00 p.m. Reading of the Megillah. Come in costume.
Sun., Feb. 24	PURIM CARNIVAL 2:30 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 27	Lunch & Learn 12:00 noon with Rabbi Michael Weisser

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Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING



DIRECT from Queens

Borough-born director leads the way for "The Following"

BY ALAN KRAWITZ

Queens' native Marcos Siega is hoping that his latest TV directorial project, Fox Network's "The Following," develops just that: a loyal following.

"It will be the type of show where you have to stay tuned to see what happens next," said Siega, 43, a graduate of Holy Cross High School in Bayside who also attended St. John's University on a soccer scholarship.

Siega, born of Brazilian parents who settled in Jackson Heights, is the executive producer and director of the new psychological thriller which premiered on Jan. 21. It stars award-winning actor Kevin Bacon as an FBI agent tasked with catching a serial killer, played by James Purefoy, who has developed his own cult of serial killers.

The show has already been treated to generally positive reviews from critics and strong early ratings from its premiere.

Although Siega has directed music videos, commercials and three films, including one studio film for Miramax, he is much better known for his TV work on shows such as "Dexter" (Showtime), "True Blood" (HBO), "Vampire Diaries" (CW) and "Cold Case" (CBS).

"Working on the Dexter series has probably gotten me the most buzz as a director," Siega said, recalling how he first met the writer/creator of "The Following," Kevin Williamson.

Williamson, known for his "Scream" movies, was looking for a director for the "Vampire Diaries" project and became a fan of Siega's work on Dexter.

"Doing that show [Dexter] opened up lots of doors," Siega noted.

Continued on Page 42



Queens' own Marcos Siega (r.) directs on the set of a new TV show, "The Following."

Warner Bros. Television Entertainment/ Sarah Shatz

Lake Pavilion: Haute Cantonese cuisine in Flushing

BY SUZANNE PARKER

The only things that the much-mourned Palace Diner had in common with its replacement were an encyclopedic menu, lighting adequate to read the change of terms insert in your credit card statement, and plenty of glitz. It's Cantonese, but not your parents' Cantonese, unless, in fact, your parents happen to be Cantonese. Lake Pavilion emphasizes some of the haute cuisine of Cantonese dishes, catering to folks who know from Chinese food.

As if the old diner wasn't showy enough, the spacious quarters are be-decked with crystal chandeliers, festooned with lavender tulle, lined with glass fronted dioramas of exotic tropical plants, and decorated with colored glass sculptures of Asian produce. This is to say



Braised spare ribs with eggplant and scallions in a casserole is satisfying at Lake Pavilion in Flushing.

Photo by Suzanne Parker

nothing of the multicolor exterior lights that flash, change color, chase, and dazzle.

By day, carts of dim

sum weave in and out of large round communal tables, offering up some of the best of those Chinese small plates to be had in

Flushing. In the evening, the tables are reconfigured into smaller sizes, draped with striped satin clothes and linen napkins,

and turned into a banquet hall. The menu is in your face with flashy color pictures of its most high end banquet offerings, like fresh abalone, shark's fin, lobster and crab, but that doesn't mean you can't order a meal of their more affordable and equally delicious fare.

We passed on the Braised Superior Shark's Fin soup at \$110/per person for both financial and environmental reasons, opting instead for West Lake Meat soup. It is a flavorful and filling rendition of egg drop soup, liberally supplemented with ground meat. If you're a fan of hot and sour soup, that staple of every Chinese take out joint, the version here has an unusually vibrant flavor.

Don't pass up the Peking duck here, which

Continued on Page 43

Lake Pavilion

60-19 Main St
New York, NY 11367
(718) 886-6693

Price Range: Moderate to expensive depending on what you order

Cuisine: Authentic Cantonese

Setting: Large, glitzy banquet hall

Service: Friendly, accommodating, fluent in English

Hours: 9 a.m.-2 a.m. seven days

Reservations: Optional

Alcohol: Full bar

Parking: Own lot with valet service or street

Dress: Casual

Children: Welcome

Music: No

Takeout: Yes

Credit cards: Yes

Noise level: Acceptable

Handicap accessible: Yes

WIFI: No

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February 12th



Soup

She Crab Soup \$5.95/\$7.95

Appetizers & Salads

Corn & Crab Beignets \$9.95

Coconut Fried Shrimp \$12.95

Fried Green Tomatoes in a Shrimp, Caper,
Dill Remoulade Sauce \$12.95

Smoked Gouda Mac & Cheese w/ Bacon &
Peas \$12.95

Roasted Pecan & Pear Blue Cheese Salad
\$12.95

Entrees

Almond Coconut Catfish \$23.95

Braised Short Ribs & Grits \$25.95

Jack Daniels Sirloin Steak \$28.95

Pan Seared Snapper w/ Shrimp Etouffee
Sauce \$27.95

Crabmeat Stuffed Shrimp \$26.95

Eggplant Canoe w/ Seafood Achafalia
\$26.95

Chicken & Shrimp Jambalaya* \$24.95

Chicken Pontalba w/ Artichokes & Ham in
a Bernaise Sauce \$22.95

Desserts \$7.95

Bread Pudding

Coconut Crème Pie

Jack Daniel's Pecan Pie



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Fat Tuesday Specials!

February 12th at 4 PM

Soup of the Day

Cream of Crab, Crispy Crouton Garnish 6.95

Appetizers

Clams Casino "New Orleans Style" 12.95

Cajun Seafood Cakes, Cajun Aioli 12.95

Coconut Shrimp, Fresh Mango Salsa 12.95

Andouille Sausage Stuffed Mushrooms 9.95

"Fat Tuesday Mac & Cheese"

White Cheddar, Parmesan & Pepper Jack Cheeses,
Caramelized Onions & Crispy Bacon 12.95

Salad of the Day

Crisp Romaine, Creole Dressing, Parmesan,
House Croutons, Spicy Roasted Garlic 8.95

Entrees

(Served w/ a Choice of: Chipotle Sweet Potato Mash
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Desserts

Key Lime Pie

House Made Bread & Butter Pudding a La Mode

Chocolate Pecan Pie w/ a Bourbon Glaze

Death by Chocolate Cake



MARCOS SIEGA

Continued from Page 39

“Not only because the show was critically acclaimed, but it was a show where directors had an opportunity to really shine.”

But, for those who think that Siega might have been tapped by Williamson just because of his seeming affinity for plots revolving around serial killers, think again.

“Being selected to direct ‘The Following’ came about as a result of my relationship with Kevin Williamson,” explained Siega, who had directed the pilot for “Vampire Diaries” and was a producer on the show with Williamson for a season where he cultivated a “great working relationship.”

Siega added that Williamson had told him about a script he’d written as movie but was going to turn into a TV show.

“‘The Following’ actually has very little to do with serial killers,” he

said. “As people watch the series, they’ll get emotionally hooked.”

He added that the serial killer aspect to the show may be the hook, but there’s a lot more there.

“From a director’s standpoint,” he said, “I almost feel as if the serial killer action is the easy part but the challenging stuff is really getting people invested in the character and the drama of it all.”

The drama is not a “monster of the week” type show where everything is neatly wrapped by the episode’s conclusion, according to Siega.

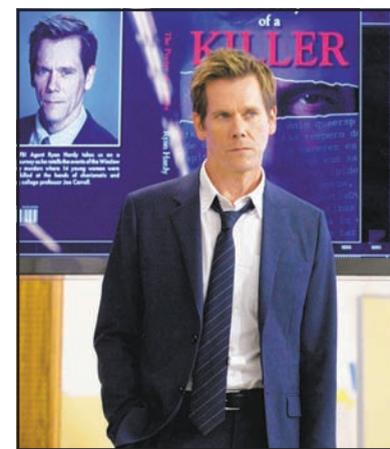
Reflecting on his early career, Siega recalls the early ‘90s, when he directed mostly music videos for a variety of bands, including Blink 182, System of a Down and later on some for Anthrax.

“I moved to Los Angeles in 1997, primarily as a music video director who also did some commer-



James Purefoy (l.) plays serial killer Joe Carroll, who manages to elude retired FBI agent Kevin Bacon in “The Following.”

Photo courtesy Warner Television Entertainment/Annette Brown (l.) and Blake Tylers



cials,” he said.

Since most of his work was out on the West Coast, Siega spent the last 15 years out in Los Angeles prior to moving back to New York and settling in Westchester earlier this year. He noted that staying in New York was always part of his end-game.

“I always wanted to get to the point where I could work from anywhere,” he said, explaining that for the last three years he was commuting from LA to Atlanta while directing “Vampire

Diaries” and then LA to Miami for “Charlie’s Angels.”

“I just thought that it’s just as easy to commute to anywhere from New York... so why not?” asked Siega, who is married with three small children. “My wife and I are officially outnumbered.”

Asked about working with actor Kevin Bacon, Siega called him a real “good New Yorker.”

“Kevin is not only a great actor, he’s an amazing guy...he’s down to earth, funny and he loves music.”

He said working with Bacon was like working with a good friend.

And, when Bacon recently made a guest appearance on the Howard Stern Show on SiriusXM radio, Siega, a fan himself, thought it was a great way to drum up support for “The Following.”

“I can remember growing-up and listening to Howard very often and I thought that Howard’s audience is also our audience.”

As for his aspirations for the show, Siega said he’s

excited.

“I’m hoping that people talk about it on Tuesday mornings... one of the fun things in this type of show is you find ways of getting people invested in possibilities of the way the story is going to go.”

“He added, “Hopefully, people will watch it and be scared and get a little thrill ride.”

“The Following” airs on Monday nights at 9 p.m. on Fox.

For more information on the show, visit fox.com.

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #57

		1					9	
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				7		4	2	
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	8					5		

Hard #57

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						9		8
		4			8		2	

Fill in the grids so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There should be no repeats; which means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

Tips at www.sudoku.com
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Lake Pavilion

Continued from Page 40

comes with spectacle. A server rolls it over on a cart along with a bamboo steamer filled with thick buns. She slices the crispy parts of the duck/skin duck and forms the little "sandwiches" of crispy skin and duck meat along with hoisin sauce and scallions. After the cart is removed, she returns with the rest of the meat from the carcass. The duck is crisp skinned and meaty, and the fat, while not exactly health food, contains less saturated fat than most other meats. Half a duck is more than ample for two diners, especially assuming you're ordering other dishes.

We weren't so impressed by the Crispy Home Made Spare Ribs. Despite being described as crispy, they were more like stewed or steamed, and very fatty with little meat. They did rise to the occasion in what seemed to be an unrelated

casserole dish, Braised Spare Ribs with Eggplant and Scallions. Served in a well-used pottery casserole over a flame, this combination gave the chunks of ribs the synergy they lacked in the appetizer. The sauce is rich and well balanced and very satisfying.

We unearthed a few gems in the Veggie/Bean Curd category. Sautéed String bean w/Minced Pork is a tasty way to de-emphasize meat without totally eliminating it. The beans are tender-crisp, and the sauce is garlicky. If you want to pass on the meat altogether, try Braised Fresh Mixed Mushrooms w/ Japanese Bean Curd. It brings together familiar and exotic mushrooms with some creamy tofu, snow peas, and a cucumber-like vegetable a thickened brown sauce.

There is also an impressive selection of noodle and rice dishes. Seafood Pan-fried noodles is a stir

fry of mixed seafood with greens that rests on a bed of crunchy noodles.

Forget about fortune cookies, but at the completion of the meal, if they're in the right mood, along with an orange, you may be presented with a complimentary bowl of red bean soup. It is thick, and slightly sweet, and not exactly a westerner's idea of dessert, but a nice gesture all the same.

The Bottom Line

With Chinese New Year on the way, it's a festive time to visit a Chinese banquet-style restaurant. If there are 10 of you, they have set New Year's banquets starting at \$500. If not, you can always create your own banquet with all that selection. Gung hey fat choy!

Suzanne Parker is the *TimesLedger's* restaurant critic and author of "Eating Like Queens: A Guide to Ethnic Dining in America's Melting Pot, Queens, N.Y." She can be reached by e-mail at qnsfoodie@aol.com.



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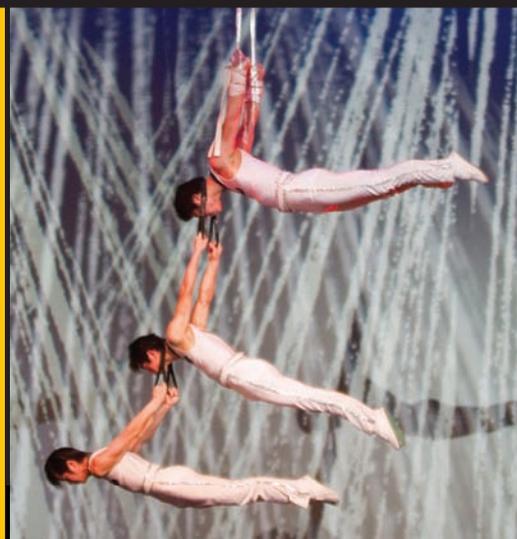
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THEATER CALENDAR

Much Ado About Nothing – The Queens Players founder, veteran director Richard Mazda whose Gangland Shakespeare trio of MacBeth, Othello and Julius Caesar thrilled with a fresh cohesive approach once again brings a unique style and concept to a beloved Shakespeare piece. Following the visceral approach to his Gangland series he keeps it down and dirty with a style we are calling Trash Period. Influenced by the hierarchies that one finds among the dispossessed, homeless and street dwellers, Mazda's Much Ado takes us to a street strewn with trash where the gentle Leonato's cardboard dwelling is the best on the street, where everyday objects casually thrown away. Echoes of the absurdist "Waiting for Godot" lead the audience to a pinpoint sharp and reverent language; the comedy, pathos and humor of the piece are ably assisted by 'clown techniques' which draw out Shakespeare's merry

war between Benedick and Beatrice
When: Feb 14 - 17, Feb. 20 - 23 & Feb. 27 - March 2, 8pm
Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City
Contact: (718) 392-0722
Website: Secrettheatre.com

AUDITIONS & REHEARSALS

Queens College Choral Society Auditions – On May 18, the group will perform J.S. Bach's B Minor Mass, one of the great masterworks of all time. Auditions consist of basic singing skills – no preparation is necessary.
When: Wednesday, Feb. 6
Where: Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: (718) 997-5000

"Fiddler on the Roof" Auditions – Maggie's Little Theater is holding open auditions for adults, teens and children for their July 2013

production of Fiddler On The Roof. An accompanist will be provided. Please bring sheet music in your key. Songs from Broadway shows preferred. You may use a song from the show to audition. You will also be asked to read and learn a short dance routine.
When: Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 pm, Sundays, 2 pm, from Friday, Feb. 8 to Sunday, Feb. 10
Where: St. Margaret's School, 66-10 80th St., between Juniper Valley Road and 79th Place, Middle Village
Contact: (718) 326-0922; www.stmargaretschoolmv.org

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting – Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.
When: Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Where: Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck
Contact: Muriel, (718) 225-7382

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

KIDS & FAMILY

Laptop time – Teens learn how to use a laptop.
When: Mondays through Thursdays, 3 pm
Where: Hollis Public Library, 202-05 Hillside Ave, Hollis
Contact: (718) 465-7355
Website: queenslibrary.org

Wii Fridays – Teens meets with friends and play electronic games.
When: Fridays, 3:30 pm, from Friday, Feb. 1 to Friday, Feb. 22
Where: Hollis Public Library, 202-05 Hillside Ave., Hollis
Contact: (718) 465-7355 www.queenslibrary.org

Batter up – Children 2 years and older explore the chemistry of kitchens. Registration required.
When: February 3, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona
Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353; www.nyscience.org

Elmer the Elephant – Storytime featuring Elmer, the colorful elephant who teaches

us that it's okay to be different.
When: February 6, 11 am
Where: Barnes & Noble, 176-60 Union TPKE., Fresh Meadows
Contact: (718) 380-7077

Taam Shabbat - Mommy & Me – Meet other moms and help your little ones socialize and play with other children. Chabad of Long Island City provides mommies and their babies, ages newborn to 4, with weekly activities meant to bring families closer to their community.
When: Thursdays, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Where: Chabad of LIC, 10-31 Jackson Ave., Long Island City
Cost: \$10 per class, \$60 per session, \$50 per session if paid in advance, \$45 per session for club members.
Contact: (718) 609-0066
Website: Chabadlic.com

Saturday Night Kids - Woodwork Session – What better way for children to spend Saturday nights than with hot cocoa and woodworking with friends? Bring out their creative side and have a great time. Build a gragger for Purim, a

matzah box for Pesach or a challah board for Shabbat. Ages 5-13.

When: Saturdays through February 16, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Where: Chabad of LIC, 10-31 Jackson Ave., Long Island City
Cost: \$80 for entire session or \$15 per week. Includes all materials, supplies, etc.
Contact: (718) 609-0066
Website: Chabadlic.com

CONCERTS

Classical Music – Momenta Quartet with Guest Min Xiao Fen - Praised by the NY Times for its "focused, fluid performance" and by Sequenza 21 for its "fire, fantasy, and absolute musical commitment," the Momenta Quartet's concert at Flushing Town Hall will feature an afternoon of Debussy, a quartet by Jason Hwang, and a Tan Dun pipa concerto by special guest, acclaimed pipa virtuoso Min Xiao Fen.

When: Sunday, Feb. 3, 3pm
Cost: \$15/\$10 members, seniors and students with ID
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.
Contact: (718) 463-7700
Website: Flushingtownhall.org

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— Ben Rosenfeld hosts five different comics each week. Comics range from underground NYC acts to nationally touring headliners. The show is absolutely free, no cover charge and no drink minimum.
When: Tuesdays, 8 pm

Where: On the Rox Lounge, 43-03 Broadway, Astoria
Contact: Ben Rosenfeld ben@bigbencomedy.com
Website: bigbencomedy.com/blog/archives/astoria_comedy_all_stars

First Sundays for Families

— The Queens Museum of Art and MetLife Foundation invite families of all ages to an

exciting array of interactive dance, art and music workshops.

When: First Sunday of each month, 1:30-4:30 pm

Cost: Free

Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Contact: (718) 592-9700

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

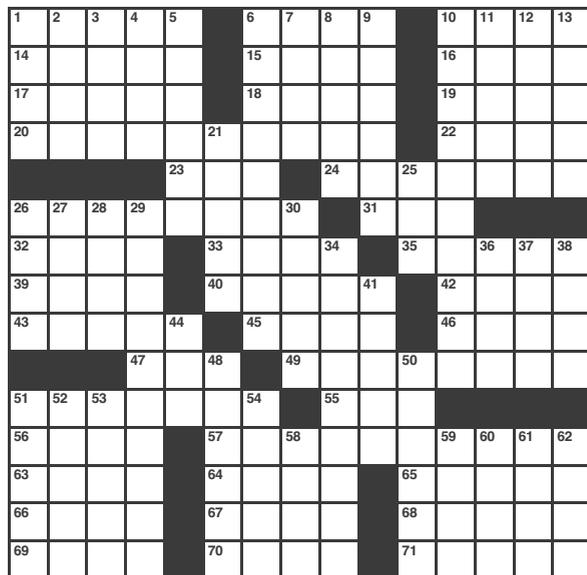
TimesLedger Newspapers
 Feb. 1-7, 2013

By **Pete Canty**
Elementary Symbolism

LAST
 WEEK'S
 ANSWERS

**Across**

1. Squeaky _____
6. Hera's mother
10. Price
14. Back in?
15. "___ Lang Syne"
16. Chip in?
17. From the top
18. Prefix with China
19. Half a train track
20. Au + digit
22. Congressional vote subject
23. Pop-ups, e.g.
24. Gives the news
26. Natural environments
31. ___ Diego
32. Banned apple spray
33. Wolf's sound
35. Snake skin unit
39. New Mexico athlete
40. Sandwich cookies
42. Elevator man
43. Minute
45. Tuna or turkey follower
46. Yeats or Keats
47. Deface
49. Egg-laying mammal
51. Nike, e.g.
55. Ill temper
56. Amos or Spelling
57. Cu + noggin
63. Course
64. French bread?
65. Mathematical comparison
66. To be, in ancient Rome
67. Subway station



68. Long-armed ape
69. Hammer part
70. Wraps (up)
71. Takes 5
- Down**
1. Mountain climber's challenge
2. Block maker
3. Footnote abbr.
4. Rainless
5. Like a dieter's yogurt
6. Frequent tropical event
7. Like some juries
8. Church officer
9. Idolizes
10. C + ape
11. Broadcasting
12. Circus prop
13. Rats
21. Montana neighbor
25. Mas' mates
26. Sentry's cry
27. Lotion additive
28. Slugger Ruth
29. Fe + inaugural
30. 2004 World Series, e.g.
34. Treats on sticks
36. Sitting on
37. In ___ of
38. Ballpark figs.
41. Look too long
44. Tibetan beast
48. Break
50. Intense fear
51. Throat problem
52. Rope loop
53. Take off the board, say
54. Course
58. Ship's front
59. Tortoise racer
60. J.F.K. postings
61. "If it ___ broke ..."
62. Hounds, e.g.

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Liu

Continued from Page 5

our waterways.”

In the wake of the storm, Liu said he was open to exploring unprecedented infrastructure improvements such as storm barriers in New York City’s harbor that would block rising water levels associated with weather events, though it has been estimated to come with a roughly \$10 billion price tag.

“The question be-

comes not so much can we afford such a storm barrier system,” he said, “but can we afford to not have such a system.”

Bloomberg is asking for nearly \$10 billion in aid for the city as a result of the storm’s damage.

Liu’s aspirations for citywide office have also been dogged by a federal court case. Two campaign workers are currently facing charges of wire fraud in Brooklyn federal court. The trial for Jia “Jenny” Hou and Xing Wu “Oliver” Pan, who are each accused

of wire fraud, is set to begin next week.

The comptroller has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

Liu said it does not keep him up at night. His campaign recently send out a birthday invitation reading “‘Embattled’ Comptroller John Liu would like to invite you as a guest to his birthday fund-raiser tonight.”

Liu criticized some of the media coverage and said he is proud of the way his campaign has been run thus far.

Assembly

Continued from Page 9

the city, state and federal government showered her in praise and high hopes as they celebrated the district’s first Argentinian-Israeli woman to hold office.

In November, Rozic won the 25th Assembly District seat with more than 67 percent of the vote, according to the BOE. The former chief of staff for Assemblyman Brian Kavanaugh (D-Manhattan) wasted no time raising the same issues

on which she campaigned when addressing her audience at the ceremony.

“It has been an extraordinary year, for our state and our country, and an incredible time for me to get to work to make our community a better place to live, work and raise a family,” Rozic said. “I look forward to serving my constituents to bring better, quality education to our schools, affordable health care for our seniors and accessible services for our growing immigrant communities.”

Throughout her cer-

emony, elected officials remarked on 26-year-old Rozic’s journey to state government at such a young age, crediting her success to hard work and old-fashioned campaigning.

“She got here the old-fashioned way. She earned it,” Schumer said. “I know she will do a great job in the Assembly because she is just the person we need.”

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at pcorso@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

Comrie

Continued from Page 5

chest. The owners of the New York Mets want to build a 1.4 million-square-foot mall near Citi Field, and the United States Tennis Association is hoping to expand its Flushing digs. David Howard, executive vice president of the Mets;

Jeff and Richard Wilpon, owners of the Mets and Sterling Equities; and Gordon Smith, executive director of USTA, gave Comrie a total of \$1,140, according to the board.

Higher-ups from other developers, including Muss Development and Vornado Realty Trust, also gave Comrie cash.

Comrie also received donations from Queens at-

torneys who handle land use cases that go through the borough president’s office, including Eric Palatnik and Sheldon Lobel.

One of Comrie’s competitors, Vallone, received about 14 percent of his donations from real estate interests, but his total of \$23,000 was more than Comrie’s roughly \$19,000.

Reform

Continued from Page 5

be holding voter registration drives and education forums as well as meeting with elected officials to help spur the final legislation.

“For decades, immigrant communities and families have suffered the

effects of deportations, separated families and living daily in fear,” Monsignor Fernando Ferrarese of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Astoria, said in a statement. “Citizenship for the 11 million aspiring Americans is the only moral solution and the only one that is consistent with our religious beliefs and American values.”

City Comptroller John

Liu, who immigrated from Taiwan to the United State at 5, said in a statement that immigration reform would be a boon for New York.

“Reform is not just long overdue — it makes clear economic sense,” he said. “After all, the strength, character and diversity of New York City have been fueled by generations of immigrants in pursuit of their American Dream.”

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Chili Cook-off

Ten teams prepared their most savory chili and battled for votes during a chili cook-off at Grace Episcopal Church in Whitestone Saturday. (Clockwise from top l.) chefs Claudia Holtz (l.) and Eric Rosen jokingly duke it out; Marisa and Faith Sheehan take time to play cards between customer visits; a version called, "Joanna's 5-Beach Chili Dream" was available as part of five samples for \$5 deal; Margaret Reis snacks on her competitor's offerings; Nicholas Irons, who organized the event, holds the first-place trophy for his five-meat chili; and Steve Adinolfi from Bagocue barbeque restaurant in Bellerose dishes out a container of chorizo chili.

Photos by Christina Santucci



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Business

Astoria restaurant caters to steak lovers

Queens-born chef at S Prime comes home from Manhattan to pair organic beef with local products

BY REBECCA HENELY

As the chef for S Prime, a new steakhouse in the Dutch Kills area of Astoria/Long Island City, Joel Reiss said he strives to maintain a restaurant that serves high-quality food while being intimate and customer-friendly.

"It's a steakhouse, but they feel they're home as well," Reiss said of the customers. "We try to give them the 'wow' factor without having to cross the bridge."

S Prime, at 35-16 36th St., opened in August. Owners Larry Cerullo and Steve Tallides are part of the S Hospitality Group, which owns the popular sports bar and event space Studio Square on the same block and the Greek restaurant Cavo in Astoria.

"The owners felt there was a need for a restaurant of this caliber," Reiss said.

The Whitestone-born Reiss started working in restaurants on Bayside's Bell Boulevard at the age of 14, and graduated from Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island's College of Culinary Arts. Since then, he has cooked in multiple restaurants on the East Coast but has worked in Manhattan for most of his



Joel Reiss is the chef at new Astoria/Long Island City steakhouse S Prime.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

life, including a long stint working for famous restaurateur and one-time "Iron Chef" contestant David Burke.

S Prime lured him back to his home borough, however.

"I met the owners here," Reiss said of his hiring at S Prime. "I walked in the restaurant and I fell in love with this place."

S Prime seats 93 downstairs at its restaurant and bar, but

also has private dining a la carte rooms upstairs. The menu focuses on steaks, which are organic and dry-aged on the premises, but also serves a wide selection of seafood. Appetizers cost about

\$13 to \$16 and entrees start at \$28 and can go up to \$60.

Reiss said he buys local whenever possible and plans to purchase vegetables from the Long Island City rooftop farm called Brooklyn Grange come the warmer months.

"I try to buy great ingredients and let them speak for themselves," Reiss said.

S Prime also serves craft beers, specialty cocktails and 220 different wine bottles. Drinks start at \$14. Bottles of wine can range in price from \$42 to \$3,000.

Reiss said he is also willing to acquire items for customers not on the menu.

"If I had a customer who wanted something and they gave me a day's notice, I'd get it for them," he said.

In addition to the regular offerings, S Prime offers a specialty dinner once a month. The restaurant will host a four-course Valentine's Day dinner in February prix fixe for \$125 per person.

"It's a fun, great spot," Reiss said. "It's new, intimate."

For more information visit sprimenyc.com.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rhenely@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Powerful You! Women's Network – A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.
When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm
Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch
Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston
Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009
Website: powerfullyou.com

Power Networking Group – Led by Harvey G. Beringer

When: Every Wednesday, 7 am
Cost: \$10 for breakfast
Where: Jackson Hole Diner, 35-01 Bell Blvd., Bayside
Contact: Harvey G. Beringer at HGBCPA@aol.com or (718) 423-0427

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans) Weekly Meeting – BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos

to arrange a visit.
When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am
Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside
Contact: Martin Koos (516) 488-8877, Ext. 15

BNI Peak Professionals Chapter – BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI Provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact Lydie Pellissier, chapter president, to arrange

a visit.
When: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am
Where: Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnpk., Fresh Meadows
Contact: Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986
Website: bniouterboros.com

The Eastern Queens and Long Island Networking Group – This unique business networking group discusses today's challenges and helps form alliances. Relationships are built. Facilitator is Gayle Naftaly, rainmaker, entrepreneur, coordinator, leader and organizer with contacts.
When: Second Wednesday of every month

Cost: \$20, includes food from Marcella's Pizzeria of Glen Oaks. Payment benefits the Ronald McDonald House of L.I.
Where: Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, 267-07 76th Ave., New Hyde Park
Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (866) 391-2780
Website: accessoffice.net

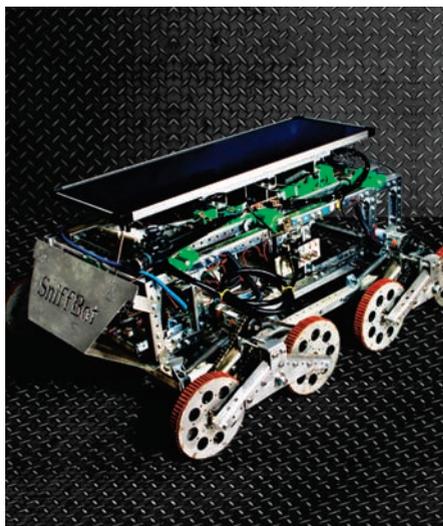
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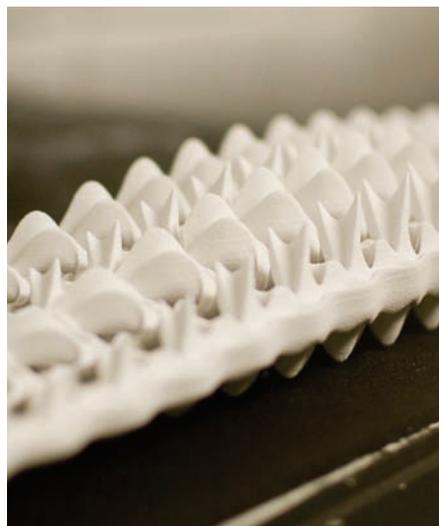
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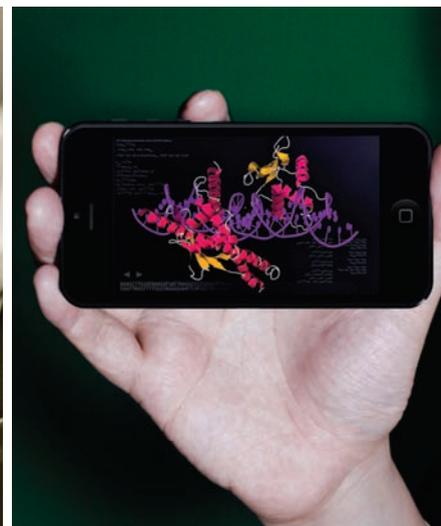
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Sandy aid

Continued from Page 4

With opposition from conservatives over adding billions of dollars to the nation's debt still looming over the process, the Senate passed the bill 62-36 Monday after more than a month of political squabbling.

President Barack Obama did not waste any time signing the bill Tuesday.

The hurricane ravaged the Northeast Oct. 29, causing billions of dollars in damage and more than 130 deaths. The storm's aftermath stirred a political tempest, which stalled relief aid after U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) canceled the initial House vote in early January.

But after the Senate bill passed Monday night, Govs. Andrew Cuomo of New York, Chris Christie of New Jersey and Dannel Malloy of Connecticut quickly expressed gratitude toward the Senate for the bill's passage.

"Despite the difficult path in getting to this moment, the Senate membership clearly recognized early on the urgency and necessity of approving the full aid package and its importance in rebuilding our battered infrastructure and getting our millions of affected residents back on their feet as quickly as possible," the three governors said in a joint statement.

The aid package includes funding to repair transit systems in New York and New Jersey and for housing and other needs in the affected area. Additional funds would go to the

Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster relief, while other funds are ticketed for restoration of highways damaged or destroyed in the storm.

House officials approved a \$9.7 million relief bill Jan. 3 to enable FEMA to pay out claims to those victims who have federal flood insurance.

State Sen. Joe Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) said the Senate's affirmative vote opened the door to allow resources to begin flowing into the region.

"We need to provide direct aid to those who lost their homes, find ways to rebuild our communities, assist our businesses, rebuild our religious sites, bolster our infrastructure to make it more resilient to future catastrophic storms and other natural disasters, and otherwise help our state and its families to

recover from the devastation we have suffered," he said.

But even after the bill's approval, one resident of Far Rockaway remained skeptical that help would reach some storm-ravaged areas.

"Here in Far Rockaway it feels like we've already been forgotten," said Lionel Grimes, who lives in an apartment complex near Beach 59th Street. "I look at the elected officials and I just see a bunch of comfortable people in suits. It's hard to get excited or hopeful."

Reach reporter Steve Mosco by e-mail at smosco@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.

Walcott

Continued from Page 4

will continue to do what we can to get you the money you need."

Walcott could not escape the controversies swirling through the city over recent weeks and jumped right to the recent bus strike and botched teacher evaluations deal.

In the middle of January, a labor dispute over job protections in new union contracts came to a head when city bus drivers from Amalgamated Transit Union 1181 went on strike,

leaving more than 150,000 students without rides to school.

By Tuesday, workers from Local 355, a non-striking union, took to the bus depots as temporary replacements, sparking an uproar throughout the picket lines.

In his keynote address, Walcott acknowledged the struggles parents might have been forced to face since the strike, which has not yet been resolved.

To remedy the strike, the chancellor said the city Department of Education had arranged different methods for parents to get their kids to school, includ-

ing complementary MetroCards and auto travel reimbursement.

Additionally, Walcott promised to continue fighting to assure the city does not balk on receiving more than \$450 million in state and federal aid after the United Federation of Teachers failed to come to an agreement with the mayor on a new evaluation system.

The impasse cost the city roughly \$250 million in education aid appropriated from Albany in June and an additional \$200 million in state and federal grants.

Since then, Gov. Andrew Cuomo put \$224 mil-

lion of the planned state aid back on the table with a renewed Sept. 1 deadline with hopes of coaxing both sides into cutting a deal.

"Our goal is to sit down with the union to resolve these issues," Walcott said. "We cannot leave \$250 million in Albany, and I pledge to sit down with the teachers' union, put our issues on the table and resolve them."

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at pcorso@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

Condos

Continued from Page 1

While elected officials throughout Queens applauded the abatement's passage, they also cautioned that more work was needed to ensure that tax relief goes to the homeowners who need it most.

"Passage of the legislation is the culmination of a long, hard fight for fairness and equity," said Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone). "While what is really need-

ed is wholesale revision and reform of the classification system, the abatement we passed in Albany remedies the inequities. In fact, the abatement will increase for most Queens cops because it is based on progressive property tax assessments."

Under the legislation, co-op and condo units with an average unit assessment value above \$55,000, but less than or equal to \$60,000, receive partial abatements of 20 percent, 21.2 percent and 22.5 percent over the next three years. Beyond that,

all units valued at more than \$60,000 receive abatements of 17.5 percent over the next three years.

The relief will go a long way for homeowners in northeast Queens, according to community leaders such as Warren Schreiber, president of the Bay Terrace Community Alliance and co-president of the Presidents Co-op & Condo Council, and Glen Oaks Village President Bob Friedrich.

"Renewal of the co-op and condo property tax and J-51 abatements will allow

hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers to continue to enjoy affordable housing," Schreiber said. "Without the abatements, financially struggling families may have been forced out of their homes. I want to thank the Albany lawmakers for their unwavering support of the co-op/condo community.

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at pcorso@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

Greek site

Continued from Page 1

"I saw the gap in Greek-American studies," Alexiou said.

The Hellenic-American Oral History Project, which can be viewed online at qc.cuny.edu/greekoral-history, features 23 filmed interviews with Greek immigrants and American-born Greeks, as well as another page of research with demographics, maps and census data that charts Greek immigration to America.

"I have realized that the informants, the interviewees, are telling a new story in a new way," Alexiou said.

Queens College has an extensive Greek studies program, with some classes taught in Greek, and the borough is the home to Astoria, one of the biggest Greek enclaves in America.

Panos Adamopoulos, president of the Athenian Society of Astoria and one of the interviewees, said in the period spanning the 1960s to the '80s, Greeks came to America not to flee hardship at home but because they were more cosmopolitan and immigration was easier.

But they also were less interested in joining local Greek organizations like earlier immigrants.

"I believe a lot of things have been gained, but a lot of things were lost as well," Adamopoulos said.

Alexiou also spoke about how the Greek-American community has achieved economic mobility. While many still move to Astoria, many are branching out into Whiteside, Bayside and the greater suburbs.

The project was conceived by Alexiou two years ago, with interviews being conducted in the last year, and made possible through a grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

"I think it's very, very important and a huge gift to the Greek-American community," Stelios Vasiliakis said about the foundation, which gives grants to a multitude of education, health, social welfare and arts projects in Greece and in the diaspora. "I think it's very important for the next generation to look back and see what are the experiences of the previous generation."

Alexiou said the publicly available website is the first step of the project, with the ultimate goal of interpreting the collected data from the interviews and turning the findings into a book.

"I'm really proud of this project," said Alexia Makrigiannis, a staffer of state Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) and a former Queens College student. "It really shows our students here at Queens College what we're all about."

Budget

Continued from Page 4

spending rather than make cuts to the classroom," City Comptroller John Liu said in a statement. "This budget illustrates the mayor's continuous refusal to negotiate contracts with our city's workforce, which he is leaving for the next administration."

The \$4.1 billion price tag from Hurricane Sandy will be picked up by the federal government, according to Bloomberg, and will not be pulled from the city's revenue.

Uncontrollable costs like pensions and fringe benefits are also sapping the city of its funds. These costs rose \$1.8 billion from last year, which represents a 6.8 percent increase.

Contact the newsroom:

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St. John's D'Angelo Harrison (r.), shown during a game against DePaul, (r.) scored 24 points in a win over Seton Hall last weekend.
AP Photo/Sun-Times Media, Andrew A. Nelles

Hard work pays off for Harrison at SJU

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

D'Angelo Harrison practices tough, well-guarded shots for just these situations. Unhappy with his shooting of late, he has worked a little extra in recent weeks, only to see it pay off.

The sophomore guard scored 24 points, including nine of St. John's' last 11 to close out its 71-67 Big East men's basketball win over Seton Hall at Madison Square Garden Sunday afternoon.

"We are blessed to have him in that situation," said freshman forward JaKarr Sampson, who scored 19 points. "That's what he does best. He scores the ball in tight situations."

Harrison hit two contested fall-away jumpers from right elbow to put the Red Storm up six with 1:30 remaining in the game. On the second shot, he had to fade back just a little extra to get the ball over the outstretched hand of Seton Hall's Kyle Smyth.

"After it left my hand I

knew it was good, because I practice it," he said.

The win is Red Storm's fourth straight and moves them into third place in the conference. That is all Harrison, who is approaching the 1,000 career point mark, cares about right now. He's seeing his team begin to improve on the way it handles adversity, following a blowout loss to Georgetown Jan. 12.

"I just want to win," Harrison said. "It's time to win here."

The Red Storm (13-7, 5-3), who also got 10 points from Phil Greene, did all the things needed to make that happen. They withstood torrid shooting early from Seton Hall (13-7, 2-5), only to rip off a 23-4 run over the first and second half to go up 51-35 with 15:30 left.

The Pirates rallied to within 60-59 on two free throws from center Eugene Teague (22 points) with 4:22 remaining. St. John's went 3:00 without scoring during that span despite

Continued on Page 55

Coach rebounds from illness

Piorkowski develops new-look Bayside into PSAL contender

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Steve Piorkowski has a smile on his face and a megaphone in hand, spouting play by play like a street ball announcer while watching his Bayside girls' basketball team practice. It is a scene hard to believe possible a year ago.

This time last season the longtime coach was bound to a neck brace and a wheelchair as he battled myeloma and a compression fracture and absorption of his C6 vertebra. He has since recovered quicker than anyone thought possible.

There is still some work to be done as he is nearly halfway through a six-month period of chemotherapy every Monday to lower his blood plasma levels. Still, Piorkowski is happy to be back with his team. Being in first place is only a bonus.

"I don't know how to accurately describe it," he said. "To get in the building in September was a big goal. To get back to coaching basketball in November is a big goal. To have us be 10-1 right now is beyond my wildest dreams."

Piorkowski was unsure how good his team was going to be. Bayside lost four starters from a squad that with him in mind made a Cinderella run to the PSAL Class A semifinals as a No. 38 seed. His outlook changed the minute he saw freshmen Jasmine Brunson and Theresa Leung. He knew he had something special.

"Right away," Pi-



Coach Stephen Piorkowski leads his team at Bayside High School during practice.

Photo by Jon Premosch

orkowski said.

The athletic Brunson, who plays her travel ball with Positive Direction, has been a revelation for the Commodores. She is averaging 22.3 points per game and 5.4 assists. Leung is averaging nine points and has taken over the point guard duties from senior Jada Munoz, who moved to power forward.

"It balances the team out," Munoz said.

They are winning even though neither freshman has been completely healthy all season. Brunson has had a nagging knee injury and Leung is recovering from a foot problem. So far they have fit in seamlessly with returning forward Lauren Stanton and role players



Jasmine Brunson (c.) scores a basket during Bayside High School's girls' basketball team's practice. Photo by Jon Premosch

Vanessa Jimenz and Brittany Naposki, allowing them to push the pace and press. It's a mix of players with great potential.

"I think we can go really far," Brunson said. "Everyone on this team has talent. There is nothing we can't do."

The Commodores will see just how far in the coming weeks when they have a chance to claim the division title. They can avenge their only loss to August Martin and try to beat Forest Hills for the second time. Both have just one loss as well.

The players not only want to do it for themselves but for Piorkowski, who they call inspirational. He wasn't around for their run to the semifinals last season. They want him to experience that this time around.

"We definitely want to take him on the ride," Munoz said.



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Johnnies grow under watch of 'Kindergarten Cop'

St. John's team is much improved from earlier in season as team learns to be poised under pressure



Joseph Staszewski
Block Shots

Steve Lavin likes to compare himself to Detective John Kimble, and he should.

Stay with me now. The St. John's men's basketball coach is in a similar situation to one of Arnold Schwarzenegger's most famous movie characters.

"It's a challenge to keep our kids focused on the task at hand," Lavin said. "Like I've said before, it's the Kindergarten Cop."

Lavin, like Kimble, is armed with a whistle, trying to teach a group of impressionable young minds how to be poised under pressure and disciplined while still having fun. So far, so good as St. John's rattled off four straight Big East wins, culminating in a victory over Seton

Hall Sunday at Madison Square Garden.

Things weren't always rolling this well. There is a reason Lavin calls this year his most challenging season ever — exhausting and exhilarating at the same time.

Kimble's task left him leaving the school yelling at the top of his lungs on the first day. Lavin is too cool and confident to throw up his hands like that.

Instead, Lavin has done a fine job massaging this team's psyche when it appears it might break. He refocused them when they blew a lead and Seton Hall pulled within one late in the second half.

Holding onto a lead is a far cry from the basketball the Red Storm played early in the season.

They would fall behind to inferior teams, but find ways to rally from large deficits. Lavin warned of the dangers. It caught up to them in loss-



St. John's Coach Steve Lavin gives his team instruction during a game against Notre Dame. AP Photo/Mary Altaffer

es to San Francisco, UNC Asheville and Villanova. Those defeats, along with a loss to Rutgers, were scrapes on the Red Storm's proverbial knees.

The Johnnies' 16-point home loss to Georgetown, on the other hand, was a schoolyard-type beating that's often the catalyst for growth. Lavin didn't dwell on it because the kids were hard enough on themselves.

"We are very embarrassed by this," guard Sir'Dominic Pointer said.

They took the blow, dusted themselves off and fought back.

There was blood on the court again in the next game against Notre Dame — real blood this time. Sophomore guard D'Angelo Harrison was cut open by an errant elbow from an opposing player. He and his teammates didn't flinch. Instead, he hit a key three-pointer to give the Red Storm a win over the then-No. 20 Irish.

The momentum hasn't stopped since and neither has the growth.

"This team because of our youth is learning at a more rapid rate than a veteran team," Lavin said. "A veteran team has already learned many of those lessons."

Beating Seton Hall shows what they have comprehended so far and the work that still needs to be done. They withstood hot Pirates shooting and losing a lead. Harrison ensured the win by scoring nine of his team's final 11 points.

The young Johnnies have come a long way, with plenty more to go.

"Coach Lavin always says we are just scratching the surface," Harrison said. "That's his motto for right now. We feel the same way."

Reach Sports Editor Joseph Staszewski by e-mail at jstaszewski@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4545.

CHSFL looks to make league more competitive

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The Catholic High School Football League is undergoing a makeover to its structure and schedule.

The league announced last week it combined its clubs into one 22-team division, adding Nazareth and Kennedy Catholic, of Somers. It is similar to a system used in 2005.

The CHSFL thought the move needed to be made because of increased competition between the top of what was the Class AA-A division and the bottom of the AAA league. Xavier and St. John the Baptist, two teams from the lower division, reached the Class AA final last season.

"The competition lev-

el forced us to do it," league President Chris Hardardt said. "There are a lot of teams in the middle of the league that have the ability to play at the highest level. This gives them an opportunity to do that."

The teams' schedules and playoff fates will be decided by a power-point system like it had been done in the 'AAA' division. The top nine teams will get bonus points for playing tougher schedules. The top eight teams make that 'AAA' playoffs, the next eight are in the 'AA' and the final four are in the 'A'.

"We were trying to help teams in the middle," said Holy Cross Coach Tom Pugh, who is on the league's executive committee.



Christ the King Coach Tyree Allison (r.) leads his team in a huddle at the conclusion of their season last year. Photo by Christina Santucci

Last season teams in the 8-12 spots in the AAA finished with two wins each during the regular season. The top clubs in the AA-A — St. Francis Prep and St. John the Bap-

tist — went 7-0 and 6-1. The hope is to have more competitive games.

"The league just got better by doing this," Christ the King Coach Tyree Allison said.

The bottom two clubs do not make the playoffs. Christ the King reached the Class A final after finishing second to last a year ago, but the programs were against a potential bye week. It makes every game even more meaningful.

"I think it's more competitive through all levels," Allison said. "You don't want to be those bottom two teams."

All the teams are able to move up into higher playoff brackets, but the top 12 teams cannot move down to the 'A' in order to preserve the level of competition.

"I think it's good for everybody," Pugh said. "If I was in the spot [in the middle], I'd be happy. You get a better feeling."

St. John's

Continued from Page 53

taking quality shots in Coach Steve Lavin's mind.

"We were getting such good looks there wasn't much I can say," he said.

Harrison did his talking with his actions. His jumpers and a tip by the fully outstretched arm of Chris Obekpa, put the game away. Harrison, who excels in crunch time, performing the way he did proved to be the difference maker St. John's needed in this game and for the future.

"He's been scoring his whole life," Sir'Dominic Pointer said. "We want him to keep doing that and help us get wins."

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2003	Hyundai, 63k	H1088	\$2,995	2002	Ford Escape, 97k	67450	SAVE	2003	Ford Mustang, 99k	63795	\$4,995
2003	Cadillac CTS, 145k	70281	\$5,995	2008	Toyota Corolla, 7k	43265	\$6,995	2007	Mazda 3, 5k	JU13340	\$7,995
2003	Jeep Cherokee, 136k	70605	\$5,995	2008	Chevy Trailblazer, 116k	62530	SAVE	2006	Cadillac CTS, 67k	JU12013	SAVE
2002	Mercedes C240, 112k	67680	\$5,995	2003	BMW x5, 110k	68755	SAVE	2007	Toyota Corolla, 92k	74352	\$7,995
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2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2008	Jeep Liberty, 17k	54235	\$11,795
2005	Nissan Quest, 60k	63458	\$8,995	2011	Nissan Rogue, 50k	69968	\$13,995
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CK's Fuchs commits to play football with UConn Huskies

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Jordan Fuchs still isn't exactly sure how he got to this point — accepting a full scholarship to play football at UConn.

It was a little more than two years ago that the Christ the King tight end had not played competitive football since his days with the Baldwin Bombers

youth team growing up. Then at the behest of his teammates and fueled by the excitement of watching NFL games, the Royals basketball star decided to return to the gridiron.

"If you would have asked me two, even three years ago, I would have never predicted this," Fuchs said. "This is where I want to be now."

He gave a host of reasons for choosing the Huskies and Coach Paul Pasqualoni over Rutgers and Buffalo and a host of basketball offers. There were the facilities and the closeness to home.

What it really came down to was he believed UConn was the best place for him to grow as player. The staff will be patient



Christ the King's Jordan Fuchs (c.) goes up for a dunk earlier in his high school career. Fuchs is now headed to the University of Connecticut.
Photo by Christina Santucci

with him. Pasqualoni was also a tight ends coach with the Dallas Cowboys.

"You have people who have been around people at my position that know what they are doing," Fuchs said.

The 6-foot-5, 210-pound Fuchs will put his basketball career on hold for at least one season after trying to lead the Royals to a

State Federation Class AA title. He said he won't play basketball his freshman year at UConn, but didn't rule it out in the future. His focus is on football and being a student athlete. Fuchs knows there will be a lot to learn joining a UConn team that went 5-7 and 2-5 in the Big East.

"I've only played football for two years," he said.

"At that level people have played their whole lives."

Fuchs, an all-Queens first team selection by TimesLedger Newspapers, has done plenty in a short period of time. He has a breakout junior year where he had 15 catches for 286 yards and league-leading five touchdowns. Fuchs followed that up by posting 27 catches for 374 yards and five touchdowns to help the Royals reach the CHSFL Class A title game last season.

Just two years ago he wouldn't have thought of any of that, let alone a football scholarship was possible.

"At first it was just to help me with basketball," Fuchs said. "It just turned into something I wouldn't have expected."

Easy #57					
6	3	1	4	5	7
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8	9	5	6	3	2
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Week 13

Hard #57					
2	1	5	4	8	6
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3	4	1	2	6	5
1	8	2	7	4	9
7	5	3	6	2	1
6	9	4	3	5	8

Harmon's heroics push Royals past Bishop Loughlin in BK

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The key to Malik Harmon's success has nothing to do with skill or smarts. Those are always there. For the Christ the King senior, it is about confidence and believing in his abilities the same way others do.

"We have more confidence in him that he has in himself," Royals Coach Joe Arbitello said.

That wasn't the case against Bishop Loughlin Friday night. Harmon's confidence grew with each made basket in the fourth quarter as he went on to dominate the frame. The usually pass-first point guard scored 12 of his 14 points in the final quarter to lead the Royals to a thrilling 73-72 win over the host Lions in the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Class AA boys' basketball.

"Malik will fill up the

stat sheet," he said. "He will beat you."

Harmon delivered the game's biggest baskets, finishing two layups in the final 33 seconds to put Christ the King (14-2, 8-0) up for good. On the final bucket, he drove left into a crowd of defenders near the block and slipped. Somehow Harmon was still able to maintain control and drop in a fall away shot to give CK a 73-72 lead with 10 seconds remaining.

"I still can't believe it," Harmon said. "It's still going through my head right now. I'm replaying it in the back of my mind. It's just crazy."

The Lions had a chance to steal the win on the ensuing possession. Mike Williams (18 points) missed an open layup down the middle of the lane and Javian Delacruz's put back popped

out as time expired. It left Loughlin frustrated following a classic back-and-forth battle.

"We're supposed to win that game," Williams said. "We're a better team than this."

No one had a better moment than Severe. He had a highlight reel dunk that sent the capacity crowd into a frenzy midway through the third quarter. The senior guard, in front of St. John's Coach Steve Lavin and Rutgers headman Mike Rice, took off from the middle of the lane and threw down a right-handed tomahawk on Delacruz.

"I jumped pretty far," said Severe, who scored 19 points. "It was a good highlight."

Jordan Fuchs scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for CK and Adonis Delarosa added 10 points and seven boards.

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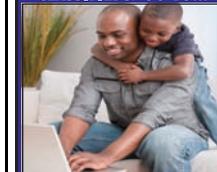
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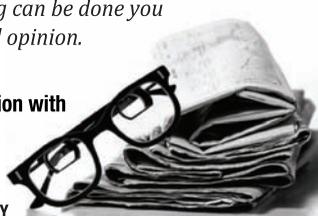
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172-49 HENLEY ROAD LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/10/12. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 443-14 162nd St. Flushing, NY 11358.

57-46 VAN DOREN LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/4/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 59-05 55th Dr., Maspeth, NY 11378. General Purposes.

57-50 74TH STREET LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/4/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 59-05 55th Dr., Maspeth, NY 11378. General Purposes.

77-47 79TH STREET ASSOCIATES LLC a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/7/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 77-47 79 St., Glendale, NY 11385. General Purposes.

ABIC PROPERTIES, LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 09/12/2012. Off. Loc.: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served.

► LEGAL

SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, Steven E. Bing, ESQ, 276 Fifth Ave., Suite 1008, New York, NY 10001. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

LCDM INVESTORS LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/7/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 269-24 W. Grand Central Pkwy., Floral Park, NY 11005. General Purposes.

Notice of Formation of Centerline Group LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 9/18/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 166-15 76th Ave., Fresh Meadows, NY 11366. Reg. Agt. at such addr. upon whom proc. may be served is Raymond Lu. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: IVALUE HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/06/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Christopher Gardner, 15-03 144th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: BEAUTY RAGE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/03/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: SKALLI 777 REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/19/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 155-20 107th Avenue, Jamaica, New York 11433. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: SITHONIA LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/13/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 33-21 21st Street, Astoria, New York 11106. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: SPRINGFIELD PARKING LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/17/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 139-21 Springfield Boulevard, Springfield Gardens, New York 11413. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: RJDIRECTORY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/21/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 7103 170th Street, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Mingle Fashion (USA) LLC. Arts. of Org. filed Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/31/12. Off. Loc.: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 133-14 39th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of The Kountry Style LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY

► LEGAL

Dept. of State on 10/10/12. Office location: Queens County. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 198-18 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, NY 11412, principal business address. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF The Neal Group, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to principal business address: 136-20 38th Ave., Suite 3G, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful act.

PSTR TRAINING RESOURCES LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/10/2012. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 25-61 49th Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

STEVEN & APRIL LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/03/13. Office Location: Queens County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 52-11 Vanloon St., Elmhurst, NY 11373. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act.

UTICA ALPHA REALTY LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY

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on 12/19/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 25-18 50th St., Woodside, NY 11377. General Purposes.

Notice of Formation of VERA GAMBINO FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP. Cert. of LP filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/17/12. Office location: Queens County. Latest date on which the LP may dissolve is 12/31/2050. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Arthur Langer, CPA, 18 Blanche St., Plainview, NY 11803. Name and addr. of each general partner are available from SSNY. Purpose: Manage & Invest in real property and other general matters.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: VITASTAT MEDICAL PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/06/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 2322 Broadway, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS IL HAN OH, Plaintiff, -against- MYEONG WEON OH, Defendant.

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Index No. 23216/2012 Date Summons Filed: November 15, 2012 Plaintiff designates Queens County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is Plaintiff's residence.

SUMMONS WITH NOTICE Plaintiff resides at 140-17 33rd Avenue, #3R, Flushing, NY 11354

ACTION FOR DIVORCE To the above named Defendant:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below.

Dated: November 15, 2012 (Claire) Yunjeong Choi, Esq. Law Offices of Choi & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 35-14 150th Place, Suite 302 Flushing, NY 11354 718-461-7100

Notice is hereby given that a license, #1268416 has been applied for by Renaser Corp. to sell beer and wine at retail in a restaurant. For on premises consumption under the ABC law at Renaser Restaurant Café, 102-10 37th Ave., Corona, NY 11368.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The NYC Board of Standards and Appeals has scheduled a public hearing on the following application: Variance (§72-21) to allow for the construction of a commercial building contrary to use regulations, ZR 22-00. R3-2 zoning district. Address: 177-60 South Conduit Avenue, south side of South Conduit Avenue, 229/83' west of corner of South Conduit Avenue and Farmers Boulevard, Block 13312, Lot 146, Borough of Queens. Applicant: Gerald J. Caliendo, R.A., AIA, for 177-90 Holding LLC/Donald McLoughlin, owner. Community Board No.: 13Q This application Cal. No.: 50-12-BZ, has been calendared for Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 5, 1:30 P.M., session in, Spector Hall, 22 Reade Street, Borough of Manhattan. Interested persons or associations may appear at the hearing to present testimony regarding this application. This application can be reviewed at the Board offices, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. This notice is published by the applicant in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Board of Standards and Appeals. Dated: January 17, 2013 Gerald J. Caliendo, Architect, RA, AIA, Applicant

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