

FLUSHING Times

Dec. 27, 2013-Jan. 2, 2014

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Bronx engaged in talks to woo soccer stadium

Page 6



Music school makes debut in Bayside

BY SARINA TRANGLE

A new Bayside business hopes to have Bell Boulevard ringing with the sound of woodwinds, strings and singing.

Vienna Music, a classical instrument and voice school, opened at 41-08 Bell Blvd. Nov. 30. The second-floor business boasts an airy foyer that doubles as a concert hall complete with a grand piano, nine individual practice rooms and a larger space for group classes.

Continued on Page 36

RKO Keith's gets new owner

Developer pays \$30M for Flushing landmark, which could have condos instead of rentals

COOL PUPS



Queens College student Gabriel Cabrera holds up one of eight puppies brought to the college for finals week to help students relax. **See coverage on Pages 2, 16.**Photo by Christina Santucci

BY ALEX ROBINSON

The new developers of Flushing's RKO Keith's Theatre will not deviate from old plans to develop the site into a 17-story mixed use complex, but might consider building condos rather than rental units, the developer's representative said.

"The real important thing for the community to know is they bought the plans and they are adhering to existing approvals by the community and city," Michael Nussbaum said. "They aren't asking for any additional changes and are committed to restoring the landmarked lobby."

The landmarked theater, which has sat vacant, at 135-35 Northern Blvd., for 25 years, was sold to developer JK Equities, headed by Jerry Karlik, for \$30 million last week.

The site's previous owner, Patrick Thompson, bought the property for \$20 million in 2010 and planned to build 357 rental units, 17,000 square feet of retail space and a seniors community facility

Nussbaum said Karlik might consider constructing condos as he believes the market in Flushing has turned to make them more viable than they were five years ago.

"Things have changed in terms of the economy as well Continued on Page 52

ADDRESS GOES HERE

Pups soothe exam takers Queens College students reduce stress by playing with canine friends

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Queens College students found the perfect relief for exam period stress this year: puppies.

The school's student association organized a puppy room in the Rosenthal Library, where students busy at work could take a break to play with some furry friends.

"We did some research and found that animal therapy is a proven way to reduce stress. We heard about a school in Dallas that did this last year. So we said, 'Why not bring it to Queens College?" said Matthew Louie, president of the school's student association.

Louie contracted Puppy Parties, a Brooklynbased pet store, to bring six puppies and two fully grown dogs to the school. It cost the student association \$800 for nine hours with the puppies split across three days. This included food for the dogs as well as two people to staff the event.

Dozens of students lined up at a time to get their puppy fix.

"These puppies do not live off food. They live off petting and love. They won't live till the end of the day if you don't pet them," the store's owner David Dietz told students, who needed little encouragement.

"This is the best idea. It takes your mind off everything else but puppies," said Maggie Murphy, a



Seth Glanzman (I.) and Lauren Calamia take part in an activity where puppies are let loose on top of them for more than 30 seconds. See more photos on Page 16. Photo by Christina Santucci

grad student at Queens College. "It's the most brilliant therapy method I've ever heard of."

More than 40 students filed through the room in each 15-minute session. Students were allowed to return as long as they waited in line again.

"How could you not love this?" said Kamran Keypour, a freshman who had returned for a second dose of puppies. "I want to take the pomeranian home. It's adorable."

Dietz has owned his pet store for 40 years and started Puppy Parties seven years ago.

"They're better than clowns, magicians or face

It's the most brilliant therapy method I've ever heard of.

Maggie Murphy Queens College Student

painting. All the kids want puppy parties. It's also great for the puppies because they find homes faster," he said.

The puppies' ages ranged from nine weeks to four months. Among them were terriers and a Pomeranian as well as a 14-yearold golden retriever named Jimmy.

The event was not limited to students as faculty members and campus police showed up to take in the puppies.

Even Queens College President James Muyskens, who said he was not a dog person, came by to see what the puppy room was all about.

"It's so important for students to have ways to relieve stress during the exam period, and this is such a creative way to do that," Muyskens said.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Flushing senior dies in blaze at residence

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A 73-year-old woman who lived in the Flushing House Retirement Home died last week in a fire she accidentally started by smoking in bed, the home said.

"The resident had been smoking in bed and apparently fell asleep, and the lit cigarette ignited her bed on fire," the retirement home said in a statement.

More than 100 firefighters and 25 fire trucks responded to the two-alarm fire, at 38-20 Bowne St., shortly after midnight Dec.

Michael Rosen, a resident of Flushing House Retirement Home who said he was the woman's neighbor, identified her as Natalie Blatt, but the retirement residence and Fire Department refused to confirm the woman's identity.

"She asked me to buy her cigarettes last week. but I said no," Rosen said.

Firefighters found the woman inside her apartment, which was engulfed in flames, with more than 90 percent of her body burned. She was taken to Flushing Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival, the Fire Department said.

"It's very sad," Rosen said. "She was a very sweet lady and a widow who would come over to have coffee with me."

The FDNY refused to confirm the cause of the blaze and said the investigation was ongoing.

The fire did not spread to any other units in the building and no one else was injured, the Fire Department said.

It was not known whether the home had a no smoking policy.

"The staff and residents mourn the loss of one of our own," the Flushing House Retirement Home said in a statement. "We remain committed to the health and safety of the residents who call this community their home. Our entire community is mourning the tragic loss of a family member, and we give thanks for your thoughts and prayers."

Police said the incident was not considered suspicious.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.



The window is missing from an apartment damaged in a fire that killed a senior at Flushing House Retirement Residence.

Photo by Alex Robinson

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NYHQ installs new robot to sort pharmacy's drugs

\$1.5 million machine will dispense 2,600 different types of medication to the hospital's patients

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Flushing's New York Hospital Queens has become the city's second hospital to install a cutting-edge, drug-dispensing robot in its pharmacy.

The robot, which can be operated remotely by a pharmacist, is an automated system that stores and distributes doses of medication, making the whole process of getting drugs to a patient more efficient.

"Years ago, I used to sort medication with a spatula. Technology is amazing," said Alex Melchert, director of the hospital's pharmacy.

The robot was designed to check the medication and dosage twice before sending it out to patients. This will greatly reduce the risks of potential medication errors, as it eradicates any human error that may have occurred in the past, Melchert said. It will also barcode every drug that comes into the robot, reduc-



A robot that dispenses medication to patients sits in New York Hospital Queens' new state-of-the-art pharmacy. Photo by Alex Robinson

ing the possibility of a patient getting somebody else's medication.

"We really don't know how many errors are happening in the United States, as nobody has really calculated them because it's impossible," Melchert said. "With something like this, you will be able to document how many times vou've had a near miss, how many times you've had medications that look very much alike, or that have similar names that could confuse somebody. We'll actually get some real documentation to see exactly where our opportunities are to improve things."

The robot, which cost the hospital \$1.5 million, will also check the expiration date of medication as it goes.

The new machine only needs one technician to operate it at a time, which Melchert said will free up the hospital's staff to make timely deliveries.

"That's all very time-consuming stuff we do with technicians and we can better utilize that staff to work in the delivery process and to help out with the nurses," he said. "The robot can do all this and doesn't get bored."

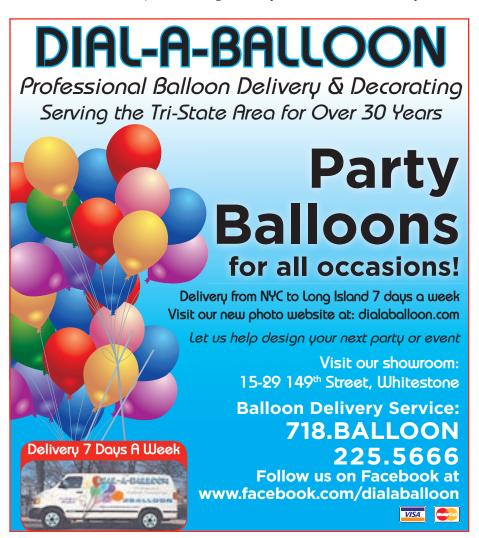
Pharmacists will not need to be on site with the new system, but will remotely check every canister that is placed into the robot, which contains five days' worth of medication.

"We're at the point now where the pharmacist doesn't need to be here. He could be at home verifying orders and the robot can process them," said Kevin Wilkin, the pharmacy's assistant director.

The robot, which sits in the hospital's new, state-of-the-art pharmacy, is expected to be operational Jan. 1. New York University's hospital installed the first such robot in the city.

The hospital's staff has held a naming competition for the mechanical addition to their staff, but has not yet determined a win-

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal. com or by phone at 718-260-4566.





¹ Truck mows down school boy in Woodside

Young immigrant's death sparks anger as Gianaris sponsors bill to stiffen penalties for unlicensed drivers

BY BILL PARRY

A still shaken friend and neighbor witnessed the tragic death of 8-yearold Noshat Nahin. who was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer in Woodside as he walked to school last

"It was horrible. I haven't been able to sleep," said Dr. Shaila Suopana in an emotional voice Monday evening.

The third-grader was trying to cross Northern Boulevard with his 11-yearold sister to get to PS 152 at 62nd Street for the last day of school before the Christmas break.

"The boy was crossing the road and this big truck made a left-hand turn, never seeing him," Suopana recalled. "The huge truck hit the boy, knocking him down. His sister was immediately in shock, and I think I was, too."

The boy had moved

to Queens with his family from Bangladesh only a few months ago.

Suopana said the facts she learned about the accident later made her angry.

The driver of the truck. Mauricio Osorio-Palomino. 51. of Newark, N.J., was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license, which is misdemeanor usually punishable with a fine or up to a year in jail.

"It was clearly the driver's fault and then I found out he was unlicensed. I can't believe it," Suopana

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) introduced legislation that would make it a felony for motorists who drive with suspended licenses and kill or seriously injure someone in the process.

Speaking Monday at the corner of 61st Street and Northern Boulevard in Woodside, where Noshat died last Friday, Gianaris



Noshat Nahian's uncle, Azizul Chowdhwry (I.), and father, Mohammad Osma Miah grieve for the boy who died. Photo by Ellis Kaplan

said, "A little boy is dead because this driver was still on the road despite repeated unsafe driving violations."

The senator also proposed the immediate impoundment of the license plate of a vehicle being operated by someone with a suspended license.

"I am hopeful that

these bills will become law and help prevent tragedies like this one," Gianaris

Noshat was on his way to class at PS 152, which stands at the other side of six lanes of traffic. There was no crossing guard at the corner.

"How on earth can you have a school zone with no crossing guard on such a busy street?" asked Suo-

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said "the school has requested a crossing guard for months and the administration let city them down."

He added, "That's an outrage that should have been prevented."

Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) called for a comprehensive street safety plan for the city.

"Speed cameras and other technologies as well as crossing guards need to be included," he said.

Several safety activists joined the elected officials at the news conference. Paul Steely White, executive director of Transportation Alternatives, said, "It's unconscionable that kids are dying in these streets. That truck didn't even have crossover mirrors to see short pedestrians. More than one thing went wrong

He produced statistics that showed drivers who had their licenses suspended or revoked for safety reasons are among the most dangerous and twice as likely to cause a fatal accident. From 2007-11, drivers with suspended licenses killed 181 city residents.

CB 7 chair blasts parking plan for Flushing Commons project

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Community leaders blasted new details about parking at the proposed Flushing Commons project that the developers unveiled at a Community Board 7 District Service Cabinet meeting last Thursday.

CB 7 Chairman Gene Kelty criticized the parking plan, which would charge \$4 to parkers for four hours, \$8 for up to 12 hours and \$16 for 24 hours, saying it would encourage Manhattan commuters and do little to help Flushing residents and businesses.

"What's going to stop a guy from bringing his car there at 8 a.m., going into

Manhattan and then coming back at 7 p.m.?" asked

"Absolutely nothing," said Brian Collins, of Standard Parking, which will be running the parking lot. "The difference is \$8 vs. \$16."

Collins contended the parking situation at the complex would be dynamic and that rates could be raised if it was found that people were abusing the

Kelty fired back that raising rates would hurt local parkers as well.

"Well, that's a problem," Kelty said. "Now you've created a monster

"That was not how it was presented to us at the community board," Kelty added.

The mixed-use project, which would be built on Municipal Lot 1 at the corner of 39th Avenue and Union Street, was first proposed eight years ago and faced years of delays. It was approved by the City Council in 2010, before it ran into financial trouble. The developers, Rockefeller and TDC Development, which are part of a firm called F&T Group, now face a deadline to close on the property with the city by the end of December.

Michael Meyer, head Continued on Page 36

Mayor makes final speech in Queens on school gains

BY BILL PARRY

Mayor Bloomberg made what will likely be his final speech in Queens before leaving office Dec. 31.

He told a library full of students at Bard High Early Queens that they are some of the luckiest kids in the world. The central theme during the 20-minute address was that the public school system improved steadily during the 12-year Bloomberg administration.

"People lie and say they're from New York City just to go to our public schools. It used to be the op-



Mayor Michael Bloomberg and School's Chancelor Dennis Walcott pay a visit to Bard Early College HS in Long Island City.

Photo by Bill Parry

posite was true," he said.

The mayor added that Queens led all boroughs with 63 new school buildings out of the 81 new

schools that opened during his three terms in office. Bard opened in 2008at La-Guardia Community Col-

Continued on Page 52

Tech U. campus lease will be boon for boro

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and university officials inked a deal last week to formally hand over 12 acres on Roosevelt Island to CornellNYCTech, the engineering school expected to provide a boon to western Queens' burgeoning tech scene.

Bloomberg met at City Hall with Cornell University President David Skorton and Peretz Lavie, president of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology to sign a 99-year lease between the city and Cornell Tech, which is expected to put shovels in the ground in January.

"Somebody asked me what happened after 99 years, and I didn't want to be blasé or wise-ass about it, but I did think to myself. 'I don't care," Bloomberg joked at the news conference. "Hopefully, whoever's around then will figure it out."

A number of sites across the city - including, briefly, Willets Point — were being talked about as possible homes for the campus when the New York City Economic Development Corp. issued a request for proposals in 2011 for an applied sciences school in the five boroughs.

But when nellTech's plan to build on Roosevelt Island was selected, it was not a total loss for Queens.

Long Island City has

an up-and-coming tech scene, and the borough's high-tech businesses are looking to leverage their proximity to the island to their advantage.

Bloomberg said that by the time Phase 1 is completed in 2017, the project will add thousands of jobs in the city - not only in tech and academia, but in the wide variety of support sectors that go along with the campus such as construction and building services.

The campus is also expected to be one of the greenest ever. Bloomberg said its academic center will be a net-zero energy building, creating all the energy it will need on its

Cornell's Skorton, president, said the campus will reflect the partners' bold vision.

"Today's lease-signing paves the way for construction to begin in just a few weeks. A school focused on innovation should, of course, reflect our ambition and commitment to excellence, so we've brought together award-winning architects and given them a mandate to create ... the most sustainable, innovative and ground-breaking campus in the United States," he said. "When it opens in 2017, the Roosevelt Island campus will be like no other."

CornellTech students began taking classes earlier this year in space do-

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Construction on the first phase of the CornellTech campus on Roosevelt Island is expected to begin next month.

Rendering courtesy Kilograph

Fallen sgt.'s gun fights on

NYPD recruit receives weapon used by MidVil officer killed in Iraq

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Although James Mc-Naughton was the first NYPD officer killed in the Iraq war, the Middle Village resident's gun continues to fight city crime.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly entrusted the late U.S. Army Reserve staff sergeant's weapon to one of his family friends, Frank Dello Iacono, while distributing shields and guns to NYPD recruits Dec.

Dello Iacono said he hopes the weapon will help him bring pride to the Mc-Naughton family after he graduates from the Police Academy Dec. 27.

"I was honored to be even thought of to receive that," Dello Iacono, 25, said. "It was a very momentous occasion for me."

Christopher Naughton, James "Jimmy" McNaughton's father, said he has been passing the firearm around as a way to commemorate his son, who was killed by a sniper while training an Iraqi officer in



Police Commissioner Ray Kelly (third from I.) gives a gun used by the first NYPD member killed in the Iraq war to Probationary Officer Frank Dello lacono (fourth from I.) as his parents and the fallen officer's parents look on. Photo courtesy NYPD

a tower Aug. 2, 2005.

The elder McNaughton, a retired police officer, initially gave the gun to a man his son befriended while in the 306th Military Police Battalion. He said his son's comrade returned the gun when he was deployed to Iraq again.

McNaughton asked a fellow NYPD retiree, former Sgt. Robert Dello Iacono, whether his son, Frank Dello Iacono, would be interested in using the gun once he joined the NYPD.

The Dello Iaconos eagerly accepted the offer.

McNaughton said the weapon was symbolic of his son, who began carrying a gun at 18, when he enlisted in the military straight out of high school.

"How I feel is that Jimmy is out there on patrol," McNaughton said. "My son is in the weapon."

The military honorably discharged the younger McNaughton after five years of service in 2001. He promptly signed up for the reserves.

"He got out July 1 and July 2 he was at a 9/11 class at Police Academy," Mc-Naughton said.

> The NYPD stationed Continued on Page 52

Group names Q58 slowest bus in county

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

If your trip aboard the Q58 seems overly long, you are not imagining: It is one of the slowest trips in New York City.

It was slow enough to get prominent mention in the Straphangers Campaign's annual slow bus awards, with the Q58 averaging only 7 miles an hour in its run through Queens between Ridgewood and Flushing-Main Street.

The transit advocacy agency also cited the Q85, which runs between Jamaica and Valley Stream in Nassau County. Straphangers said 21 percent of Q85 service was unreliable



A Q58 bus makes it way along Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood to

because of buses bunched together or leaving big gaps in bus arrival times.

The citywide winner — if it can be called that of the Pokey designation was a tie between the M42 and M50, both Manhattan crosstown buses, which were clocked at an average speed of 3.4 mph.

The winner of the Schleppie is a three-way tie among the M101, M102 and M103, with more than 30 percent of the three lines arriving with big gaps in service or bunched together.

The three lines share what is called the "trunk routes" of Third and Lexington avenues in Manhattan.

Straphangers noted that an average wooden row boat can travel at 3.5 mph or more in still water without wind, compared to the average 3.4 mph speed for this year's winners of the Pokey Award.

"Our advice to the M42 and M50: Don't challenge a rowboat to race around the Central Park reservoir," said Gene Russianoff, attorney for the

Continued on Page 52

MILS club eyes Bronx after clashes in Queens BY SARINA TRANGLE Maior League Services City Football Club — for months.

Major League Soccer seems to have dropped its bid to build a stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park and has set its sights on the Bronx.

Earlier this year, the community gave a cold reception to MLS's plans for a 25.000-seat stadium on 13 acres of parkland. Now that the New York Yankees and an Abu Dhabi Sheik have purchased a soccer team franchise and begun negotiations for a stadium just south of the Yankees' Bronx facility, the Flushing Meadows proposal seems to have stalled into a moot endeavor.

Megan Montalvo, communications director for City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst), said her office has not heard from MLS officials or the owners of the new team — the New York

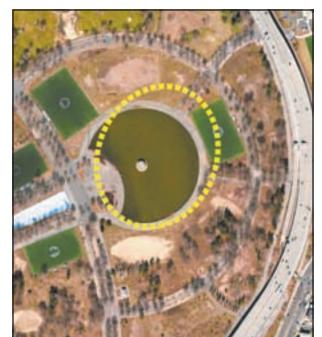
"They have not been communicating with us. It's pretty much they know they're going to the Bronx," Montalvo said.

MLS, the city Parks Department and Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office did not respond to requests for comment.

But John DeSio, communications director for Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., described plans across the Harlem River as "very serious."

"There was a proposal put forward," DeSio said, noting that Diaz does not have an opinion on the matter yet. "The borough president, right now, is having meetings with different groups of people to see what they think."

The migration of the proposed stadium has pleased park advocates, who were outraged that



Major League Soccer no longer seems to be pursuing plans for a stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

Rendering courtesy MLS

a private sports venture could cut into greenspace. Geoffrey Croft, presi-

dent of New York City Park Advocates, said the organization's sources in City

"We're confident and it's obviously the sensible thing to do," Croft said.

He noted that Flushing Meadows Corona Park has been shrinking at the expense of commercial venture such as Shea Stadium and the United States Tennis Association.

"It's like the Parks Department is free land for everybody. It's absurd," Croft said. "It wasn't wanted. It wasn't needed."

"It was an irresponsible project to begin with That park has very slowly but surely been eaten away by purely commercial businesses, including Shea Stadium, and the USTA's now expanding and they want to build the largest mall in the city in part of the parking lot. So this would be yet another one."

Will Sweeney said

the Fairness Coalition of Queens, which monitors proposed design changes in and near Flushing Meadows Corona Park, said the prior location was ill-conceived.

"We're hopeful that they're not going to use parkland and that they've turned their attention away from Flushing Meadows,"

It is unclear whether New York City Football Club will encounter green pastures in the Bronx.

Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio has said he has concerns about tax breaks and other incentives included in the deal Bloomberg's administration has been hashing out with New York City Football Club officials.

Reach reporter Sarina Trangle at 718-260-4546 or by e-mail at strangle@cnglocal.com.

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A federal judge is allowing a housing discrimination lawsuit against the LeFrak Organization to move

Lawsuit against LeFrak to move forward: Judge

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A woman living with HIV/AIDS will be allowed to proceed with her discrimination lawsuit against the LeFrak Organization after a federal judge last week denied the landlord's motion to dismiss the case.

Earlier this year Lorelei Chacon, 37, who receives city housing subsidies for those living with HIV/ AIDS, and the Fair Housing Justice Center filed a claim under the federal Fair Housing Act alleging LeFrak discriminated against her when she sought an apartment at LeFrak City in Corona in 2011.

Chacon is a client of the HIV/AIDS Services Administration, a subdivision of the city Human Resources Administration, which pays brokers' fees, security deposits and rent to landlords in the five boroughs on behalf of its clients.

As a policy, though, HASA does not provide landlords with documentation confirming it will pay rent for apartment seekers.

The lawsuit alleges that in 2011 Chacon called LeFrak looking to rent an apartment for about \$1,100 a month, the cost of which HASA would cover.

But when she told the rental office HASA would be paying her rent directly. she was allegedly directed to go to a 12th-floor office at LeFrak's headquarters, at 97-77 Queens Blvd., where she spoke with a representative through a glass window and was required to show documentation as to how she would pay for the apartment.

Chacon spoke with her case manager at HASA, who told LeFrak it did not provide such documentation, and the landlord canceled her application.

The lawsuit alleges that LeFrak treats HASA applicants differently than apartment seekers who pay their own rent, but the landlord countered that it asks all applicants for proof of income, and argued that Chacon should have sued HASA for refusing to provide documentation.

"HASA inexplicably refuses to provide its clients with documentation confirming their housing subsidies," LeFrak's lawyers wrote in an August motion to dismiss. "If plaintiffs have been aggrieved by the existence of that agency's policy — which is entirely

outside of LeFrak's control — then HASA is the proper target."

U.S. District Judge Denise Cote in Manhattan. however, disagreed with LeFrak on a technical issue, finding the landlord had not adequately argued that HASA should be a party to the lawsuit.

"Defendants' remaining argument, and one on which they frame their entire motion to dismiss, is that LeFrak's policy is not the cause of any disparate impact because HASA's refusal to provide sum certain letters is the true cause of the problem. Defendants contend that the plaintiffs sued the wrong party," she wrote in a Dec. 13 order. "LeFrak does not assert that HASA is a necessary party, and thus LeFrak's argument does not entitle it to dismissal of the action."

Chacon and the Fair Housing Justice Center are suing for injunctive relief and compensatory dam-

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4574.



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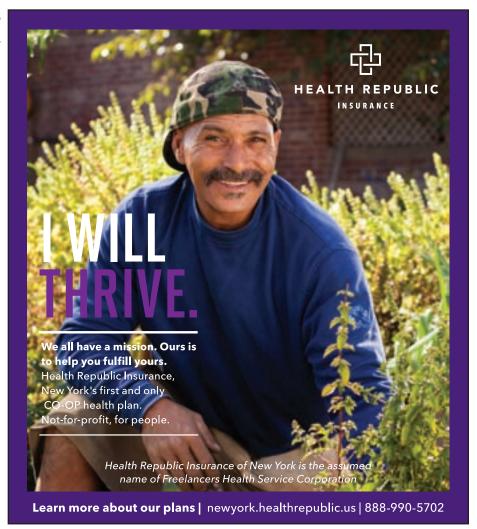
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Christ the King Donates in the Season of Giving Hosts Toy Drive & Semi Annual Blood Drive

Christ the King hosted its Annual Toy Drive and Semi Annual Blood Drive to benefit those who are in need.

The Campus's Toy Drive will provide a Merry Christmas for the children at Cohen's Hospital, (formerly Schneider's Children's Hospital) at LIJ. Children with cancer will receive toys donated by the CK Campus.

The collection was organized by Carly Nieves, a Junior at Christ the King High School, who created a foundation in her name to help children with cancer. Carly is a two time cancer survivor.

It was with much excitement and tears in her eyes that Carly thanked everyone involved. No one knows the feeling better than her, to spend Christmas in a hospital.

"I am so grateful to everyone who donated toys. Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy and merriment for everyone. For children at Cohen's Hospital, it is not always the case. To be able to bring some happiness and a sparkle to a child's eyes that is in the hospital during the holidays, is the best present we can give," said Carly Nieves.





Toy Drive and Blood Drive

Christ the King Community also hosted its Semi-Annual Blood Drive in conjunction with the New York Blood Center at Christ the King High School. Eligible Seniors took time from their schedules to give the gift of life by donating their blood, as the New York Blood Center is always in need of blood. Almost 150 pints of blood were donated.

Everyone on the CK Campus was happy to help with the Blood Drive and the toy donation for the Carly Rose Foundation.

Both events were a huge success and brought much joy to not only the CK Community, but to the many lives that will be saved through blood donations, as well as the smiles and joy of children with cancer.

"We at Christ the King High school are proud of the students that came out to donate blood and donate toys to children with cancer," said Principal Mannarino. "Christ the King has always strived to instill a strong sense of moral values and civic mindedness in our students and we are pleased that they are setting an example for others."

POLICE Blotter

Cops hunt for suspect in Queensbridge murder

QUEENSBRIDGE — Authorities identified a 28-year-old man Saturday as a suspect in the Queensbridge murder of an Upper West Side resident earlier this year.

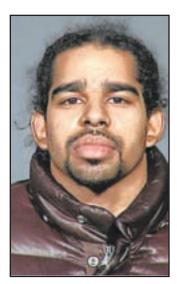
Police said Lawrence Scott, who is 5-foot-6 and weighs 210 pounds, is suspected in the fatal shooting of 27-year-old Francisco Leal in February.

The NYPD had released surveillance video of the gun-toting suspect several days after Leal was found with a gunshot wound in his chest on the corner of 21st Street and 41st Avenue. The video depicts the alleged gunman raising his hand in a firing motion, then turning and fleeing with an accomplice, according to cops.

Leal, who had been on parole since the November before he was killed, had previously been arrested for burglary, possession of a controlled substance, grand larceny and witness intimidation, police said in February.

Leal's mother was pleading for anyone with information to contact the police.

"The Queensbridge houses are plagued with so much gun violence, so many murders, so many people killed," Milagros Ortega said. "Let's take [my son's alleged killer] off the street before he harms someone else."



LAWRENCE SCOTT

NYPD searches for Queens Village man

QUEENS VILLAGE — Police were looking for a 21-yearold man who was reported missing from his home on 216th Street last week.

Devin Garcia was last seen at his home near 90th Avenue around 12:30 a.m. Dec. 21, police said.

He is described as a Hispanic male standing 5-feet, 3-inches tall and weighing 110 pounds. He was last seen wearing a blue and red "Domino's Pizza" coat, blue pants and blue and grey sneakers, police said.



DEVIN GARCIA

Off-duty traffic agent arrested in Jax Hgts.

JACKSON HEIGHTS — An off-duty NYPD traffic agent was arrested last week and charged with assault, police said.

around 8:30 a.m. Dec. 21 within the 115th Precinct on charges of assault, criminal mischief and harassment, the NYPD said.

Wendy Margarin, 40, was arrested

Police looking for missing Hollis girl

HOLLIS — Police were asking for the public's help in finding a missing 14-year-old girl.

Ivory Christian was last seen at her home, at 196-15 Hillside Ave., shortly after 7 a.m. Dec. 20, said police.

She was wearing a purple coat, beige pants and multicolored sneakers when she disappeared. Police described her as black, 5-foot-3 and weighing 95 pounds.



IVORY CHRISTIAN

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

Santa visits the Rockaways

BY BILL PARRY

In Long Island City, it is called the Battle of the Boathouses, a two-year-old court skirmish between the founder of the LIC Boathouse and the group that wrested control of it.

Erik Baard stepped down as chairman of the boathouse in 2008 and has since been sued by members of a smaller, affiliated boating group called the Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club, which later assumed control of the boathouse. The affiliation with the nonprofit Dredgers began in 2004, allowing the LIC Boathouse to accept donations and purchase insurance. Baard said the two groups were always separate and distinct.

The Dredgers sued Baard for trademark infringement, claiming Baard does not have the right to use the LIC Boathouse logo. He had used the logo on a Facebook page that disparaged the Dredgers and the way they ran the boathouse at a former meat packing plant, at 46-01 5th St.

Brooklyn Federal Judge Pamela K. Chen denied the Dredgers' motion for summary judgment Dec.18. Baard, who is representing himself in the case, said, "The judge found that the Dredgers can't prove ownership of the LIC Boathouse, so they can't keep me from using the logo. The judge also said she couldn't find any trademark infringement."

Baard believes it helped that he was better

prepared than the Dredgers, who are represented by a lawyer.

Boater Baard wins round

in LIC rival club dispute

"I presented 87 exhibits of evidence, even a video of Pete Seeger asking for donations for the boathouse. They presented only four pieces of evidence and that seemed to annoy Judge Chen." said Baard.

Representatives of the Gowanus Dredgers could not be reached for comment.

The case now moves to pretrial hearings in March, but Baard believes the hard part is over.

"If they can't prove ownership to keep me from using the logo, I think it's all but over," he said.

Baard has since created another boating club called HarborLab. The club offers programs in environmental education, stewardship and restoration. It operates at a launch site on Newtown Creek and many former LIC Boathouse members joined his club, dissatisfied with the way the Dredgers run the current club.

Meanwhile, Baard has decided against countersuing.

"To use our resources in this stupid battle is pointless," he said, "I've chosen not to sue for defamation because I don't want to spend the rest of my life in court. I want to be back on the water."

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@ cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4538



HarborLab founder Erik Bard wins the latest decision in a lawsuit brought by a rival boathouse.

Photo courtesy Erik Baard

Children take delight in sleigh ride, first held to cheer up Sandy victims



Lakia Echols leads fellow elves on Beach Channel Drive in front of a float carrying Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Photo by Christina Santucci

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

Santa Claus came early to the Rockaway Peninsula, delighting unsuspecting children as he waved from aboard a float flanked by dancing elves Saturday afternoon.

Jolly St. Nick, joined by Mrs. Claus and a troop of costumed characters, gave out candy and toys to youngsters on a ride from Far Rockaway to Neponsit as part of the Make My Mother Proud's second-annual Santa Sleigh Run.

The organization's founder, Lakia Echols, said this year's ride was even bigger than the previous year after she was able to secure a float with help from Earnest Flowers from state Assemblyman William Scarborough's (D-Jamaica) office.

"The best reaction is people saying, 'Thank you. This lifted my spirits,'" she said. "We didn't have to have any toys. We didn't have to have any candy. All we have to have is a smile and the music."

At Beach 58th Street in front of the Ocean Bay Apartments, Mr. and Mrs. Claus were met with hugs and high-fives as parents eagerly snapped photos on their cellphones.

Jody and Suzanne Windland, of Holliswood, played the part of the Christmas couple for both this year and last year's festivities after seeing a notice on Facebook last winter about the event and offering their services. This year, they were not sure if the ride would happen until less than a week beforehand

"[Echols] called me three days ago and said, 'You're not going to believe this, but we have a float. Can you do it?"" Suzanne Windland said, adding that her three daughters dressed as elves for this year's event.

Last year, Echols started the event to bring holiday cheer to her Hurricane Sandy-rayaged community.

"We had received a lot of toys and donations and I wasn't able to find space to distribute the toys," Echols said. "Since I was already working in blocks where people couldn't come out, I asked my good friend Nigel [Huggins] can we borrow your 5-ton truck and turn it into a sleigh."

Superstorm Sandy devastated much of the Rockaways Oct. 29, 2012.

"A lot of families couldn't afford the \$5 or \$10 to bring their child a little toy," Huggins said of last year's ride.

Even a year later, many peninsula residents are still dealing with the effects of the storm, the ride's organizers said.

"It took a long time for [residents] to get back on their feet to get back in their homes," Echols said, explaining that leftover gifts would be dropped of to needy families.

A Far Rockaway native who works in administration at St. John's University, Echols founded the organization after she completed a two-year deployment to Kuwait with the U.S. Army. She also works as a mentor with Liberty Partnership, and asked some youth whom she works with to help hand out more than five bags of toys and hundreds of candy packets Saturday.

"There are better things out there than Far Rockaway," she said. "I know that at the end of the day every kid wants to make their mother proud, whether she is here or not."

Reach managing editor Christina Santucci by e-mail at timesledgerphotos@gmail.com by phone at 718-260-4589.

Glendale Shopping Center planned beside Atlas Park

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Plans for 350,000-square-foot shopping center next to The Shops at Atlas Park has Glendale abuzz.

The community has been inquiring about the Glendale Shopping Center since a brochure outlining the mall's debut, at 82-00 Cooper Ave., began circulating a few weeks ago.

But the developer, Schuckman Realty Inc., refused to discuss its plans and Community Board 5 said it has not yet formally received information from the company.

CB 5 District Manager Gary Giordano said it would be wise for the developers to come before the board and explain their project, even though he did not anticipate the mall requiring zoning changes or variances.

"If they have community spirit, they might want to come before the board sometime in the near future, since it's already out there," Giordano said. "The community often has some good ideas of what might work there, too."

Thebrochuredescribes Glendale Shopping Center as a "suburban-style" mall that would be anchored by a grocery shop and two other stores. The shopping complex would include several smaller stores, restaurants with outdoor seating and 500 free parking spaces.

Renderings of the Glendale Shopping Center claim a million people reside within 3 miles of the site and nearby families with an average income of \$85,000 will lead to a thriv-

The shopping center is slated to be constructed in two phases, with 137,000 square feet of retail and 133,650 square feet of storage completed in fall 2015 and the remainder of the project unveiled in spring

The proposal would not threaten The Shops at Atlas Park, according to property manager Liza Diaz.

"We believe the surrounding market is strong and there is plenty of room in the marketplace for additional retail projects," Diaz wrote in an e-mail. "The Shops at Atlas Park has experienced vast improvements since Macerich took over in 2011. The transformation continues as we recently opened national retailers such as Forever 21

Continued on Page 52

Bloomberg takes inaugural ride on 7 train extension to West Side

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The No. 7 subway extension will not be ready for the straphanging multitudes until June, but the MTA made an exception Friday for the man who championed the whole idea and shepherded it to fruition.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, along with Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials and other dignitaries, took an exclusive ride to a new destination in New York City's transit history - 34th Street and 11th Avenue — in an early celebration of the No. 7 extension, which still ends its trips at Times Square.

The far West Side, some of the last undeveloped area in Manhattan, has been tagged by devel-



Mayor Michael Bloomberg. (c.) is joined by MTA officials and other leaders in taking the first ride on the extension of the No. 7 subway line, terminating at the new subway station at 34th Street and Eleventh Avenue. Photo courtesy Bloomberg's office

opers for big things.

"Today's historic ride is yet another symbol of how New York is a become a place where big projects can get done," said Bloomberg. "This project is the linchpin of an ambitious, transit-oriented, mixed use development that is already transforming Manhattan's far West Side, and it demonstrates our administration's commitment over the past 12 years to invest in infrastructure that will allow our city to grow."

The \$2.4 billion project Continued on Page 52

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EDITORIALS

Dangerous Roads

Less than a week after transportation activists marched along Queens Boulevard to call for more safety features on the treacherous thoroughfare, a motorcyclist hit a pedestrian in Woodside and both died.

A few blocks away, an 8-year-old boy was run over by a tractor trailer as he walked to school last Friday on North-

In the city and the borough, we follow crime statistics for our neighborhoods and breathe easy as we watch the number of murders decline. But what about the deaths that have become routine on the two main boulevards that cut across Queens? The public is outraged when our youngest residents are moved down, which grabs headlines, but the reaction is still one of horror when an adult is killed crossing the congested roadways.

At least one pedestrian has died every month since August on the two boulevards. In August, a motorcyclist and a pedestrian died after a crash in Sunnyside on Queens Boulevard, in September an Elmhurst woman was killed in a hit-and-run on Queens Boulevard, in October a 4-year-old boy died when he was struck crossing Northern Boulevard with his pregnant mother, in November two men were killed in Elmhurst when a driver lost control of his car on Queens Boulevard, on Dec. 20 the 8-year-old was hit by a trucker who has been charged with driving without a license on Northern and on Saturday a motorist and Elmhurst woman died after an accident in Woodside on Queens Boulevard.

Nine deaths on two roadways since August numbs the mind.

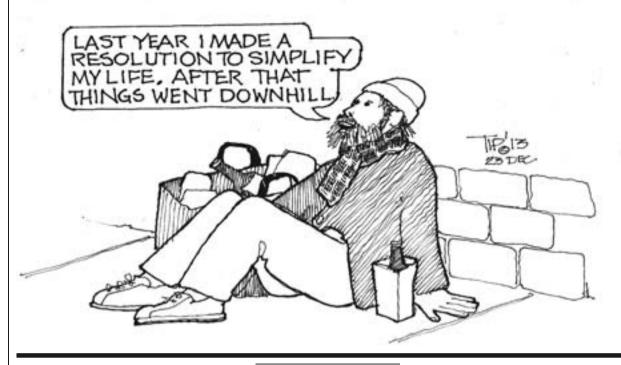
Transportation Alternatives, a nonprofit dedicated to eliminating pedestrian deaths, staged a march from Elmhurst to Forest Hills on Queens Boulevard Dec. 14. The Queens organizer said the goal is a complete redesign for the thoroughfare.

In the past decade, the city Department of Transportation has introduced many safety devices on Queens Boulevard, which seemed to be paying off after pedestrian fatalities dropped to zero in 2011.

But something went terribly wrong this year.

Elmhurst Hospital, which treated 296 injury cases involving pedestrians and bicyclists in nearby communities in 2012, convened a daylong summit last week on pedestrian safety. During the conference, two pedestrians entered the hospital's trauma unit.

We hope Bill Bratton, a supporter of a Swedish plan called "Vision Zero" to eradicate traffic fatalities, will prevail when he becomes police commissioner next year. Queens' main arteries have become a combat zone.



OTHER VOICES

DOE inflates the city's graduation rate

Michael Bloomberg claims that our educational system has made "incredible progress" under his reforms. His evidence is the increase in the graduation rate.

Many people blast this graduation rate as due to "diploma inflation," but they continue to be hawks on these phony "reforms." After all these years, can't they admit there is another side to the story?

This inflation effect. code-named the "Michelin Factor," after the car tire mascot, may be an example of the "defensive education" that principals and teachers are forced to practice to protect their careers and save their schools. They are under pressure from the city Department of Education to look good, and that is defined almost entirely by the smudged face of marketable statistics.

The DOE is more con-

cerned about a school's Progress Report than it is about legitimate achievement, no matter how miraculous. It would prefer a higher graduation rate with lower actual achievement to a slightly lower graduation rate with vastly superior academic results.

Educators may subconsciously inflate grades to be left in peace by their supervisors. It is only natural and not a failure of integrity. It is called the survival instinct. They would rather their futures travel on smooth pavement than a bumpy road.

The DOE craves illusions that give it credibility and it has served notice on the education community that it had better give it what it wants or else.

When the propaganda sunsets, the whole truth will see the light of day.

> Ron Isaac **Bayside**

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RALPH D'ONOFRIO

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Less gov't means more problems for people

nother week, another dose of libertarian nonsense from frequent letter writer Ed Konecnik, who seems to think that freedoms are taken away by fair tax laws, welfare, food stamps and anything the government does to assist the folks who need a helping hand.

Recently, Konecnik longed for the days of our founding fathers and the "freedoms" we had then. Government meddling is the problem, he said. He wants to go back to when slavery was legal; child labor was the norm; women had virtually no rights, could not own property or vote and were now and then burned at the stake as

witches because of superstition.

He complains about 10 million people being out of work today and of how many people are on food stamps. His reasoning is little or no government operating in a free market and getting rid of regulation is the answer to save our republic. "Atlas Shrugged" is a novel, Konecnik. It was fiction. It is not a real-life handbook for society.

We saw how well deregulation of Wall Street worked. Free to gamble, Wall Streeters played craps with our money and wrecked the economy. They even hedged their bets on our economic failure and made billions. For a while there, you could buy a house with no investment, job or assets. Meanwhile, bankers, corporations and the wealthy have more than \$4 trillion stashed in offshore accounts to avoid paying taxes. Trickle-down economics is a miserable failure.

So many people are on food stamps, Konecnik, because their jobs pay poverty wages. One in six working people have two or more jobs to provide for their families. More than 50.000 manufacturing companies have closed in the United States, most relocating overseas, because of unfettered free trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement and trade agreements with China.

Republican unionbusting and right-to-work laws have added icing to the cake. In short, these agreements have decimated our economy and caused the collapse of the middle class that relied on good-paying jobs. The wealthy have flourished at the expense of the middle class. Charts confirming these facts are all over the Internet.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau report of 2012, Social Security kept 26 million seniors out of poverty. Food stamps kept another 5 million above the poverty level. The main cause of 10 million people falling into poverty was

out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

The Affordable Care Act is designed to give these folks healthcare coverage that will protect them from that fate and save us who pay for it billions. Fifty-two percent of the fast food workers rely on some form of subsidy to survive. A starting worker at Walmart cannot live on their own paycheck, even if they shop at Walmart.

Food stamps only amount to about \$3 a day, but many low-wagers have to rely on them to buy a discounted package of spaghetti and some cheap tomato sauce to live. These folks do not want to live like that, but that is where circumstances find them.

Meanwhile, forces in Congress are working to dismantle the programs that keep so many people out of poverty. You want little or no government? Look at Somalia, where warlords ride around in armored vehicles and shoot and threaten people for power. Pirates roam the shipping lanes looking for cargo ships to seize for ransom money.

That is libertarian paradise, and most of us want no part of it.

> Tyler Cassell Flushing

U.S. must keep its guard up

he end of 2013 does not promise national security for the United States or the world. It comes at a time that for once in recent memory the two national parties have reached an agreement that may avoid fiscal warfare for the next two years.

China is flexing its growing economic and military prowess while continuing to poison the air its citizens breathe. China has unilaterally expanded its air defense zone over disputed islands in the East China Sea, Japan has responded by sending its coast guard to protect Japanese fishermen. The United States has flown through the newly claimed air space as have other nations.

One misstep by a jingo-

istic officer with a hand on a button would ignite a conflict that would engulf most of the Pacific Rim nations.

The Ukraine is in turmoil with Russia fueling the fires. Russian President Vladimir Putin is seeking to re-establish a Soviet-era zone of influence. He is determined to deny democratic reforms not only to Russians but former Eastern Bloc citizens. It appears he has purchased Ukrainian loyalty for \$15 billion.

Any belief that Putin's granting early release to dissents and political adversaries is hype, as those set free were scheduled to complete their prison terms within months.

North Korea has declared that it may attack South Korea "without notice" in response to anti-North Korean rallies in Seoul. Having Kim Jongun's hand on the nuclear button with an army of 1 million men is horrifying. Even if the North does nothing, it seems apparent Kim will begin to export nuclear weapons to those who dream of destroying

Facing the realities that place the United States in harm's way, we can only hope the political wars in Washington come to an end. If Americans continue to view their fellow citizens as adversaries, our enemies have already gained an advantage over us.

> Edward Horn Baldwin, L.I.

Inform people of school hearing

t was disconcerting to read that Mandingo Tshaka still believes I supported construction of a new school at the Keil Brother's site ("Community deserved say in planned school," Dec. 6-12).

I have said all along that our community and I are opposed to this site. Any other statement is at the hands of those who seek headlines, not results.

Aside from that, Tshaka brings up a critical issue in his piece. Our residents need to have a greater say in construction planned for their communities, but more importantly they need to be included and informed during the earliest stages of planning.

It is unacceptable to hold a hearing about an issue that will directly affect residents without informing those residents of the hearing in advance. The communication between residents and city agencies needs to be addressed to prevent situations like this from happening.

> Paul Vallone City Councilman-elect Whitestone

LETTERS POLICY

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Conservative Party hopeful in next year's elections



William Lewis Political Action

n a recent interview, Thomas Long, chairman of the Queens Conservative Party, gave his views of various current political topics.

As for Joseph Lhota getting only 24 percent of the vote in the general mayoral election when he had the Republican and Conservative parties' endorsements, Long indicated that the low voter turnout contributed to Lhota's poor showing, in addition to opponent Democrat Bill de Blasio's having strong financial backing Lhota did not have.

Long looks forward to next year's elections. He thinks the Republican Party, with support from the Conservative Party, may pick up two or three U.S. congressional seats upstate.

Long also mentioned that health insurance will be a major issue next year, especially in U.S. Senate and congressional races. With the problems in implementing Obamacare, this matter will cause a lot of interest. Long further indicated that those voters who are losing their medical insurance policies and having to pay higher for the federal plan will raise many questions.

As Long discussed the present political situation in Queens, he said his party would be giving priority to trying to win back state

Senate seats lost in recent past elections, including seats held by former Sens. Frank Padavan and Serf Maltese.

He discussed the possibility that attorney Wendy Long, who won the Republican U.S. Senate primary race last year, may be interested in running for public office again next year. Wendy Long lost to incumbent U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) after winning decisively in the Republican primary.

In the future, Long sees a bigger role for the Conservative Party statewide. He believes the Conservative Party represents the working middle class. He also indicated that the state Conservative Party represents change.

In the early days of the city Conservative Party

Thomas Long, chairman of the Queens Conservative Party, sees a bigger role for his group statewide and believes it represents the working middle class.

during the 1960s, the party played a major role in political struggles. For instance, in 1965 William Buckley, running on the Conservative line against liberal Republican John Lindsay and Democrat Abe Beame, was able to get more than 13 percent of the vote citywide.

During Lindsay's eight years as mayor when he had Liberal Party endorsement, the Conservative Party opposed him.

In 1970, James Buckley

was elected to the U.S. Senate on the Conservative line alone, without Republican endorsement. He also had an independent line.

The state Conservative Party was first formed in 1962 and has usually supported most Republican candidates in addition to at times running its own candidates, and its has also endorsed some Democratic candidates.

Today, the state Liberal Party has been replaced

on the city ballot by the Working Families Party, which seems to have strong union support.

In 1989, '93 and '97, Rudy Giuliani ran for mayor without Conservative Party endorsement, although he had Liberal Party endorsement in all three races. He would lose to David Dinkins in '89 but beat him in '93, when Dinkins ran for re-election.

In all, third parties have been important in New York state. They have many times provided the margin of victory for major party candidates.

In the years ahead, we will see increased political activities by the Conservative and Working Families parties. Major party candidates, as in the past, will seek third party support.

Jackson Heights native Rettig starred in TV's 'Lassie'



The Greater Astoria Historical Society

est known as Jeff Miller, the star of the TV series "Lassie," Queens native Tommy Rettig was a child actor who appeared in numerous films and television shows in the 1950s and '60s. He performed alongside Hollywood stars, including Marilyn Monroe, Robert Mitchum and Ronald Reagan

Rettig struggled finding more mature roles in the 1960s, and he fell into legal troubles associated with drug use. The former star became a successful computer programmer and IT consultant in the '80s before his death in 1996. He left behind three sons:

Tom, Deane and Mason Storm, singer in the funk/ rap band "The Jigawatts."

Thomas Noel Rettig was born Dec. 10, 1941, and grew up in Jackson Heights. His father. Elias, was an aircraft parts inspector for Lockheed and his mother. Rosemary, a housewife. He began his acting career at 5 when he was discovered by an acting coach who lived in the same apartment building. Before beating out nearly 500 other boys for the leading role in "Lassie" in 1954, Rettig already had a lengthy acting résumé.

After touring with Rogers and Hammerstein in "Annie Get Your Gun," Rettig also appeared in the films "The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T," a fantasy film written by Dr. Seuss, and "The Western River of No Return," where he acted alongside Monroe and Mitchum.

Rettig endured stiff competition in the casting of wholesome Midwestern farm boy Jeff Miller in "Lassie." Appearing in the leading role for the first four seasons of the program, the child actor bonded so closely off screen with his canine co-star that the dog began to disobey his trainer so the two could then only interact on screen.

He soon discovered, however, that dreams of stardom were replaced by grueling, long hours on the set and a rapidly disappearing childhood. The star complained bitterly of his treatment in the industry, and it is reported that he did not receive any residual

Rettig beat out nearly 500 other boys in the casting of Jeff Miller, a Midwestern farm boy on 'Lassie.'

payments for his performance in the series. After four seasons as everyone's boy next door, the boy from Queens wanted to come home and was released from his contract.

Acting work, however, soon began to dry up as Rettig struggled to transition from "Lassie" to the increasingly in demand "Rebel without a Cause" roles for young men in the late 1950s. He landed occasional acting work, including an appearance in the Western series "The Man from Blackhawk" and the soap opera "Never Too Young" in 1964. Finding it difficult to support his wife and two young sons, he left Hollywood for a farm in rural California. Here his litany of scrapes with the law began, chalking up arrests for growing marijuana and cocaine possession.

Only after hitting rock bottom did the former child celebrity begin to turn his life around. Going on the road as a motivational speaker, Rettig built a new career based upon newly discovered computer skills he developed building databases for his mailing lists.

Starting in the early 1980s, the star of "Lassie" shone once again as a computer programmer and author. He was one of the earliest employees of software company Ashton-Tate, and

later founded software consulting firm Tom Rettig Associates.

In 1991, Rettig revisited his roots with a guest appearance in the series "The New Lassie" along with former co-star Jon Provost. Rettig's new beginning was sadly cut short when he died of a heart attack in 1996 at age 54.

His ashes were scattered in the Pacific Ocean near his home in Marina Del Rey, with Lassie, a descendant of his TV sidekick, there to say goodbye.

In his later years, looking back on the elusive, fleeting nature of his childhood dreams, Rettig confided, "I wanted to be a real kid and see what the real world was like. I wanted to be one of those people I portrayed."

For more information, call 718-278-0700 or visit astorialic.org.

Queens Museum exhibit showcases provocative artwork



Prem Calvin Prashad New Voices

or the next month, the Queens Museum will host the South Asian Women's Creative Collective's yearly visual arts exhibition, titled "A Bomb, with a Ribbon Around It." The name refers to a critique of the works of Frida Kahlo, whose artistic style and complex identity flew in the face of her contemporaries.

Much in the same way Kahlo defied convention and gender norms, the artists featured in this exhibit bare all aspects of their cultural, sexual, religious or political identities to produce works that are unique and provoking.

While this exhibit is not a repudiation of South Asian culture and aesthetics, the artists also do not completely embrace and emulate it, as each artist has carefully crafted their contribution to express their sense of belonging or un-belonging with traditional culture and reconciling that notion with their world. Indeed, though some of the artists featured have roots in India, Pakistan and Iran, most have lived itinerant lives across Europe, Africa, the United States and Canada.

Collective board member Marcy Chevali said SWACC helps build a "community [that] is very important to artists, especially those who may have left their homes and the culture they grew up in and also those who are looking to connect more deeply with their roots."

The exhibit opened to a modest reception Dec. 14. Several of the artists featured had the opportunity to discuss their works and experiences in an intimate talk with the audience. The talk was introduced by the exhibit's esteemed curator, Raul Zamudio.

SAWCC board member Josheen Oberoi said SAWCC invites different, non-South Asian curators every year. This serves two purposes, introducing the featured artists with New York's artistic community, as well as to "negate the 'exoticization' of the work being done by these artists," Oberoi noted.

SAWCC enhances the profile and broadens the dialogue on art created by South Asian women, which tends to occupy a minuscule niche of the mainstream art scene. In having Zamudio as the curator for

Among the opening reception's live performances, Nazneen Ayyub-Wood clung to the wall in Velcro and plywood.

"A Bomb, with a Ribbon Around It," SAWCC connects artists with a larger community while ensuring their work remains unique expressions of themselves, rather than compartmentalized as merely "South Asian art."

Among the live performances at the reception, Nazneen Ayyub-Wood performed "An Unwanted Pest," where she clung to the wall in Velcro and plywood rigging with wings on her back. Here, Ayyub-Wood, a British artist of Pakistani origin, demonstrates feelings of being an uninvited guest and a nuisance in an adopted land. She further juxtaposes her posture, imitating an Islamic prayer position with her own experience growing up with religious ideol-

Angeles-based artist Vidisha Saini, also known as Vidisha-Fadescha, lauded the exhibit's curator and the Queens Museum, noting that her work has been censored in places such as Dubai and India for political and other controversial content.

Vidisha-Fadescha's contribution to the exhibit were photographs from her project "Loud and Dirty," which explores motifs such as sexuality, notions of privacy and the binary nature of gender. In one of her photos, Vidisha stands and urinates through a prosthetic penis, providing commentary on the taboo of public urination between the gen-

Worthy of mention is Priyanka Dasgupta's "Dreams of Inconvenience," an acrylic and metal sculpture of shadow puppets that nearly covers the wall and serves as a focal point for the exhibit. The puppets, depicting Hindu sadhus holy men — hold the artist's heart, the price for recognition and acceptance.

The written alone cannot describe the uniqueness of these works and the artists who created them. I encourage everyone to attend the exhibit, which ends Jan. 18, and experience these incredible works presents by the SAWCC artists for themselves.







Puppy Love

Oueens College students picked up a few relaxation techniques from tiny furry friends during finals week. (Clockwise from top I.) Bernadette Gruol gets a kiss from her little dog; students (I.-r.) Natalie Bernabe, Nicole Tom and Maggie Murphy fawn over a Pomeranian pup; one of the eight canines peers out from a pen; Chris Chin poses for a photo; Rachel Altman gets some love from an adult therapy dog; and Matt Silverman (I.) and Shana Otzkowitz endure the love and affection of several puppies at once.

Photos by Christina Santucci







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New bar caters to Astoria's growing gay community

Brendan Fay, founder of St. Pat's for All, and 'Queer Eye's' Carson Kressley turn out for Static Lounge opening

BY BILL PARRY

Astoria's newest gay bar opened last weekend, drawing large crowds and at least one celebrity.

Emmy Award-winning TV star Carson Kressley, of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" fame, was on hand for the debut of Static Lounge, at 28-43 Steinway St. The large nightclub replaces a straight sports bar called The Zone.

"There are several gay bars in Astoria, but this one is different," said managing partner Andrew Tsaousis. "All the others are one-third the size, so there's plenty of room for the ever-growing gay community to get together."

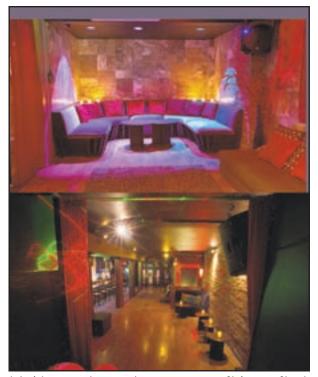
The LGBT community in Astoria has exploded in recent years, according to gay rights activist Brendan Fay. "Everyone got priced out of Manhattan, especially the West Village," Fay said. "Word got out in the LGBT community that Astoria has a great reputation."

An Astorian since 1999, Fay points to a single event that put the neighborhood on the map.

"There was a marriage equality rally in Socrates Park in July of 2009," he said, and "2,500 people made it the largest rally in the city, and everyone saw the parks and the East River but mainly they felt the neighborhood's friendly, old-world vibe, the relaxed, accepting spirit."

Robert Rygor, a spokesman for the AIDS coalition Act Up, grew up in Astoria, so the neighborhood was well-known to activists.

"Now the community is so large you see rainbow



Astoria's newest gay bar opens on Steinway Street. The big venue caters to the booming LGBT community.

Photo courtesy Andrew Tsaousis

flags flying from so many apartments," Fay said. "There were many gay people already here, but they were invisible, preferring to keep their relationships private. Now they're out because they're more comfortable with the strength in numbers."

Tsaousis is hoping those numbers turn up at Static Lounge.

"Not just the LGBT community, mind you," he said. "I'm not crazy about labels. This place is inclusive, open to everyone."

The venue is fully renovated with different rooms available for private parties. There is a huge dance floor and stage for local music acts.

"We'll showcase local musicians," Tsaousis said. "We benefit and they will benefit from the exposure."

The nightclub will

have programming as well, performing arts night, Gay Greek Night, business networking night and dance party night.

There is also a kitchen serving healthy finger foods with a Greek, Latin and Persian influence as well as burgers and wings.

Tsauousis spent most of his life in the bar and restaurant industry, starting as a bus boy. Static Lounge is his first time running a nightclub as an entrepreneur

"I'm very excited about this place," he said. "My motto is we're all humans, and if everyone comes here with the right intentions, it can be a truly great place."

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@ cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4538.

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 Divorce-fast.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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CENTRO HISPANO CUZCATLAN AND CULTURAL COLLABORATIVE OF JAMAICA HOLD TREE LIGHTING Photos by Walter Karling



Andrew Manshel, the vice president of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, stopped by to say hello to all along with Tyra Emerson of the Cultural Collaborative of Jamaica.



2 Santa is surrounded by children at the Centro Hispano Cuzcatlan and the Cultural Collaborative of Jamaica's event.



Attendees brave the snow for the annual tree lighting at King Manor Park in Jamaica.



Diamond Castellano (I.) enjoys a steaming cup of hot coco along with her sister Aisys, 2, and grandmother Marta Castellano inside the Grace Episcopal Church.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NILY ROZIC CELEBRATES HOLIDAYS WITH FRESH MEADOWS FUND-RAISER Photo by Steven Malecki



4 Assemblywoman NIIy Rozic chats with some of her supporters during her holiday fund-raiser in Fresh Meadows.



Assemblymen David Weprin, (I.-r.) Craig Johnson, Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Democratic District Leader Martha Taylor and John "Sean" Crowley, Joseph Crowley's brother, gather together for a photo



Democratic District leader Martha Taylor, (l.-r.) joins Assemblywoman Nily Rozic and fellow Democratic District Leader Yolanda Delacruz Gallagher at the event in the Sly Fox Inn.

U.S. REP. CAROLYN MALONEY BRINGS GIFTS TO HOUR CHILDREN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM Photos courtesy Carolyn Maloney



7 U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney presents a gift to a child at Hour Children's afterschool program during a visit to the Long Island City site.



U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney joins the Hour Children staff and children for a little holiday fun.



9 U.S. Rep. Maloney talking about a gift with the youngsters.

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St. John's professor releases new book on Kazakhstan

Jay Nathan examines shortcomings and potential of central Asian country's petroleum industry

BY ALEX ROBINSON

For most American tourists, Kazakhstan is probably not high on their list of places to see, but for St. John's University professor Jay Nathan, the central Asian country provides endless fascination.

The tenured professor has just released his second book on the country's economic climate and its main industries. In the book, "Kazakhstan's New Economy," Nathan takes a look back at the country's history in order to explain the circumstances he claims have stalled its economic progress.

Kazakhstan, roughly twice the size of Texas, was largely populated by nomadic people before it was conquered by Russia in the 19th century. The country remained part of Russia and the Soviet Union until it declared independence in 1991. The country has an abundant supply of oil, gas and minerals, which are its main industries.

In his new book, Nathan analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of these industries and offers solutions that he thinks will propel the country's economy forward.

When Nathan first traveled to Kazakhstan in 2002, he was struck by the nation's lack of adaptation. He was awarded a Fulbright scholarship in that year to travel to the country and deliver lectures to a number of its universities. His book attributes the country's economic inertia to the isolation it experienced when it was part of the Soviet Union.

"When societies interact, they learn," he said.



St. John's University professor Jay Nathan has released his second book on Kazakhstan's economic challenges.

Photo courtesy Shades of Grey Photography

"When a society is far removed from other countries, it lacks knowledge of what logical development is and it lacks a business education that comes from frequent contact with other societies."

Nathan claims many older Kazakhs still suffer from an isolationist mindset they have from the time their country was part of the Soviet Union. Nathan said he has hope for the younger generations, but stresses the country must diversify its resource dependent economy if it is to flourish.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} "Eighty & percent & of \\ their & GDP & comes & from & oil, \\ \end{tabular}$

gas and minerals. What happens when they run out?" he said. "They have been making efforts in the last two or three years to diversify their industries, but have a lack of management skills."

He returned to Kazakhstan again in 2005 to discuss business curriculum with the country's minister of education and science. St. John's then hosted more than 15 Kazakhstan business professionals in an eight-day training program in 2006.

Born in Chennai, India, Nathan traveled to the United States as a student. He received his master's from the University of Florida and later received his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati.

The professor, who lives in Flushing, has received two Fulbright schol-

arships and taught business management at a number of universities across the country. Most recently, he was a tenured professor at the University of Scranton for 10 years before making the jump to SJU, where he has taught at the Peter J. Tobin College of Business for 21 years.

"The motivation for my book is to bring to the surface how over the years the Soviet Union colonies have been held back. They have to meet the modern management skills and technology. It's coming slowly, but I wish it could move more rapidly. It will take time," he said.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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Councilman Eric Gioia celebrates with Borough President Helen Marshall at the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce's Night at the Castle. Gioia, King of the Castle, and Marshall, Queen of the Castle,



Queens Borough President Helen Marshall and her husband Donald get a ride in a classic car on the Ed Koch-Queensboro Bridge in October 2008, following a centennial celebration for the bridge that connects Manhattan with Long Island City.



Helen Marshall (I.) swears in fifth-grader Lamadina Magnifique as student body president for the Merrick Academy in Queens Village during a ceremony at Borough Hall in January 2009.



Councilmen Daniel Dromm and Jimmy Van Bramer, Helen Marshall, Assemblyman Francisco Moya and Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik toast the same-sex marriage law during a Pride event at Borough Hall in June 2011.



Farewell to Borough President Helen Marshall

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney and Helen Marshall try out the volleyball field in Queensbridge Park in Long Island City in October 2006. The park was reopened to the public after \$1.4 million in improvements.

Marshall's tenure captured in photos



Helen Marshall and Queens Library President and CEO Tom Galante examine a bronze plaque made in memory of civic leader Patricia Dolan in February 2012. Dolan died in 2011 after she was hit by a



Assemblyman Mark Weprin (l. to r.), Helen Marshall, Councilman David Weprin, benefactor Harriet Kupferberg, state Sen. Frank Padavan and Queensborough CC President Eduardo Marti break ground for the new Holocaust Resource Center in June 2007.



Helen Marshall (I.) stands with Queens Botanical Garden's Executive Director Susan Lacerte after a ceremony renaming the garden's auditorium in Flushing for the borough president in October 2008.



District Attorney Richard Brown (I.) performs the ceremonial swearing in of Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, as Marshall's husband Donald holds a Bible in January 2010.



Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, (I.-r.) APAC Executive Director Taryn Sacramone, Helen Marshall, singer Tony Bennett, President of the Frank Sinatra School of Arts Donna Finn and Bennett's wife, Susan Benedetto, celebrate the Astoria Performing Arts Center at its annual gala in March 2013.

A look back at 12 years in office

Marshall embraced Queens' immigrant communities while actively supporting libraries and schools

BY RICH BOCKMANN

When Borough President Helen Marshall steps down at the end of the month, she will cap off a career in public service spanning decades.

"I've held office before, but not this big," said Marshall, 84, who was first elected to the state Assembly in 1983 and spent a decade on the City Council before her 12-year run as the chief executive of the nation's most diverse county.

Marshall, Queens' first black borough president, will be term-limited out of office Dec. 31.

"I never thought I'd end up being here, being the borough president, " she said recently during an interview at her offices in Borough Hall.

During her years as lawmaker, Marshall said she enjoyed getting her hands into the work of crafting legislation, but under the limited powers of the borough president's office she took a more aggressive approach to getting things done.

"When Helen was coming into office, she had a list of priorities, and we lovingly dubbed it the Marshall Plan for Queens," Chief of Staff Alexandra Rosa said.

Her top staffers spoke about Marshall's legacy at a roundtable discussion organized for TimesLedger Newspapers in November.

Rosa said Marshall set up the War Room, a holdover from the administration of previous Borough President Claire Shulman, where she and her staff developed strategy on how to address overcrowded schools, and the Green Room for working on issues involving parks and open

There were also the Queens General Assem-



Mayor Michael Bloomberg (c.) is joined by Helen Marshall, fellow politicians and Queens Museum board members to cut the ribbon on the museum's new expansion in October 2013.



Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott (l.)ioins Queens Borough President Helen Marshall in 2003.

Photo courtesy Dominick Totino Photography

bly and Borough Hall's Immigration Task Force, two bodies Marshall established so that representatives from Queens' immigrant communities would have outlets where they could hash out their issues.

"I made a list of what I thought I ought to do when I first came here," Marshall said. "And first thing, this is the most ethnic county in the whole United States of America, and so I said we got to bring these people together."

Those in Marshall's inner circle said her office faced challenges right away with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. On top of coping with the loss of lives, the borough entered an era when the city was slashing

"Many of the investments that were on the table and included in the budget from the previous administration both in the mayor's office and allocations from Claire Shulman—the capital budget was decimated. Those projects disappeared," said Carol Ricci, director of administration and expense budget.

Projects such as the reclamation of downtown Jamaica's First Reformed Church Dutch ing as the new home of the Jamaica Center for the Performing Arts and the construction of an 110,000-square-foot indoor pool at Flushing Meadows Corona Park came to a halt when the funding dried up.

"So what happened is we had to wind up filling a number of the voids that weren't anticipated," she added.

Marshall's team said that beyond funding projects the borough president did a lot behind the scenes to shape how they came

The Willets Point project was the first to include a participation program for minority- and womenowned businesses in its request for proposal, and she worked to get the affordable housing that is nearly complete at the Macedonia Church while developers are still waiting to break

TIMESLEDGER.COM

Farewell to Borough President Helen Marshall



Queens Borough President Helen Marshall is surrounded by her immediate family, including her husband Donald (c.) and daughter Aggie (fourth I.) in 2006. Photo courtesy Dominick Totino Photography



Helen Marshall smiles alongside her predecessor, Claire Shulman in 2006. Photo courtesy Dominick Totino Photography

ground on the Flushing Commons project at Municipal Lot 1.

"What's interesting, it's one of the few developments you'll see where the benefits for the community came before the actual development itself," Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik observed.

Before her life in public office, Marshall was a school teacher, and the woman who heads her education and library initiatives said the borough president took advantage of growth at the city School Construction Authority.

"We found schools. We built ... a lot of schools," RoseAnne Darsche said. "It was really amazing. So that was a challenge that Helen - her reference was as a teacher and as a librarian — and those became her passions."

A report earlier this year by the Center for an Urban Future lauded Marshall for her commitment to the borough's libraries, pointing out that during her term she has allocated more money for libraries than the city's other four borough presidents combined.

It is often noted that Marshall's term was bookended by the tragedies of 9/11 and Superstorm San-

"When Sandy hit, the borough president was very concerned about the capacity to help those in need and bringing together human service organizations," her chief of staff said.

Dan Andrews, Mar-Continued on Page 6



Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty (I.-r.), Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, city Comptroller John Liu, Helen Marshall, Queens College President James Muyskens, Councilman Peter Vallone Jr., Queens District Attorney Richard Brown, Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Haeda Mihaltses from mayor's office for Intergovernmental Affairs attend Marshall's State of the Borough Address in January 2013.



Queens Borough President Helen Marshall (I.) speaks at the Election Night party for Melinda Katz, who won Marshall's seat in the election. Photo by Rich Bockmann



Mayor Michael Bloomberg joins Queens Borough President Helen Marshall at a press event in July Photo courtesy Dominick Totino Photography

QUEENS THEATRE thanks Helen Marshall for 12 wonderful years of friendship and support.



Farewell to Helen Marshall



Queens Borough President Helen Marshall watches a performance during the opening ceremony for Maspeth High School in February 2013.

Helen

Continued from Page 5

shall's press secretary, said the office of the borough president is sometimes criticized, repeating the refrain that all borough presidents do is cut ribbons.

"My answer on behalf of the borough president is she has every right to cut that ribbon," he said of the recent opening at the Queens Museum to mark a \$69 million renovation. "She put multimillions of dollars into that project."

Former Councilwom-

an Melinda Katz Jan. 1 will become borough president Jan. 1, when Marshall will be free to do some travel-

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.comor by phone at 718-260-4574.

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BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The MTA approved a \$13.5 billion budget for fiscal year 2014 week in its monthly meeting, which included a long discussion of whether to set aside \$25 million to increase transit service and loud appeals for raises from restive transit workers nearing two years without a union contract.

Before the vote on the budget, two members of the board, Mitchell Pally, of Suffolk County, and Allen Cappelli, of Staten Island. broached the subject of whether a fund of \$25 million ought to be reserved for restoration of bus and subway service.

"There are significant places where this fund can be used," Pally told the board. "We have people who wait 60 and 90 minutes and if you miss the train, vou wait 90 minutes more. That's unacceptable in today's world."

In the end, the board voted to table the matter for additional consideration until April.

Nearly 20 public speakers took the rostrum before the board's business meeting began starting with



Employees from MTA New York City Transit load subway cars onto flatbed trucks for transportation to the Rockaway Peninsula following Hurricane Sandy. Photo courtesy MTA/Patrick Cashin

John Samuelsen, president of Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union.

Transit union workers want

new contract and pay raise

Samuelsen told the Metropolitan Transportation Authority that the transit workers had worked tirelessly day and night to bring back the city's transportation system from disaster resulting when rivers of water poured into subway tunnels from Hurricane Sandy.

"We are certainly not asking for the stars," Samuelsen said of the workers' demand for a labor contract. "We're looking for raises that keep up with the cost of living.'

His appeal was followed by a long line of representations, many vituperative, from members of Local 100.

The 35,000 employees have had no union contract since Jan. 15, 2012.

The MTA has said it must have three years of no pay raises if its financial plan for financial recovery is to succeed.

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

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New shop hawks foodstuffs made in Empire State at LGA

A new store opened at LaGuardia Airport last week.

Lt. Gov. Robert J. Duffy helped cut the ribbon at Taste NY in Delta Airlines Terminal C that sells products made in New York

From wine, spirits, beer and cider to chutney, jam, sauces and pickles, all the products are grown or made in-state.

"More than 25 million people passed through LaGuardia in 2012," Duffy said. "That's a massive audience for the great products of Taste New York."

The store is part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's initiative to promote state food and beverages around

the world. Other Taste NY stores will open in airports, train stations and transit hubs throughout the state

The store is jointly operated by Delta Airlines, Brooklyn Oenology Winery and OTG, the airport's concessionaire.

-Bill Parry

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2013 safest year in boro under Bloomy

Queens on track to have record-low number of murders during mayor's 12 years in office

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Queens was on pace to see a significant drop in murders this year, preliminary data showed, making 2013 by far the safest year in the borough during the Bloomberg administration.

The borough had recorded just 56 murders by the middle of December, down 32 percent from last year's total of 83, according to NYPD crime statistics. The figures are preliminary and subject to change if certain cases are reclassified.

If the trend holds up, 2013 would be the leastdeadliest year in outgoing MayorMichaelBloomberg's 12 years in City Hall.

The previous record was set in 2007 when Queens recorded 72 murders, according to the Police Department's histori-

cal data. It should be noted that the historical data combines both murders and manslaughters in the same category, whereas the weekly crime reports show only murders.

Historically, Queens' most dangerous police precincts have been in southeast Queens, with the 103rd, 105th and 113th accounting for 41 percent of the killings across the borough's 16 precincts from 2002 through 2012

South Jamaica's 113th Precinct was the deadliest last year with 16 murders. That number is down 56 percent this year to seven.

City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica), whose district includes part of the 113th, said he attributes the decline to the work a handful of anti-violence advocacy groups are doing on the ground and the



Murders, like that of Erick Anderson's son D'Anthony McDonald, are down drastically in Queens this year.

leadership of the precinct's commanding officer.

"Collectively, with the work we've done, people are being more responsive," he said. "They trust us to turn in guns and offer tips."

The 105th, which stretches along the Queens/ Nassau County border from Rosedale to Queens Village, improved from eight murders in 2012 to three this year, a 62 percent drop. The 103rd, based in downtown Jamaica, showed an improvement of 20 percent, down two murders from last year's 10.

In the Rockaways, the 100th Precinct on the western end of the peninsula had registered three murders by the middle of December, up two from last year, and the 101st covering Far Rockaway had just two murders, down from a total of seven last year.

Northeast Queens' three precincts have recorded just two murders so far in 2013, down from last year's total of seven.

There have been no murders in Bayside's 111th Precinct so far this year, compared to one at the end of 2012, and Flushing's 109th and Fresh Meadows' 107th precincts recorded one murder each through mid-December, down from a combined six last year.

Astoria's 114th Precinct is on track for a 50 percent decline and to the south Long Island City's 108th will have the same number of murders it did last year — four — if the trend holds up.

To the west, the two precincts straddling Roosevelt Boulevard in Jackson Heights and Corona are both down.

The 114th Precinct — covering Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst and North Corona — is down two murders from last year's six, and Corona's 110th Precinct, which had eight last year, is down to five.

In Maspeth, Middle Village and Ridgewood, the 104th Precinct has seen a rise in murders, up to three from one last year. The 112th Precinct covering Forest Hills and Rego Park is the only one in the borough to be murder-free both years.

Richmond Hill's 107th Precinct has thus far had seven murders, the same as last year, and to its south the 106th — covering Ozone Park, South Ozone Park and Howard Beach — has had three murders so far, up from two last year.

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Borough Beat

COMPILED BY JOSEPH GARGIULO



Brownies

In December, state Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas joined the Brownies of Girl Scout Troop 4293 for a ceremony where the scouts were awarded badges for community service and volunteerism. The troop is led by Maria Hatzoglu-Tsiros, Dora Issakidis and Maria Kalgiannis.



FALL FEST

In October, the Samuel Field Y hosted its 2013 fall festival. It brings together family, friends and concerned community members who want to support local community development. In attendance was state Assemblyman David Weprin (c.), alongside Samuel Y volunteers, UJA Federation workers, and other supporters of the food drive and event.



FIGHT THE HATE

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (c.), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, held a forum in December on combating hate crimes in the South Asian community. The event featured presentations by prominent speakers about resources that are available to stop the discrimination and bias that exists against Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims.



GIVING THANKS

State Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (c.) joined the Parsons Beacon Program in November in giving thanks at their annual traditional Pot Luck Feast. Rozic thanked the Parsons Beacon for providing valuable programming for youth in the community.



IMPROVED PARK

In December, City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (c.) announced the upcoming improvements to Triborough Bridge Playground A in Astoria. The Council member allocated \$275,000 for renovations, which include two all-weather permanent ping-pong tables and exercise equipment, as well as new drains and fences.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

City Councilman Ruben Wills (I.-r.), along with state Assemblymen Mike Miller, Borough President-elect Melinda Katz and city Comptroller John Liu, attended the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of Richi Rich Palace in Richmond Hill.



TOYLAND

City Councilman Daniel Dromm (c.) distributed 250 toys donated by the Queens Center Mall represented by the mall's senior property manager, Jeff Owen. Gifts will go to the 110th Precinct, represented by Community Council President Evelyn DeCoursey (second from r.) and Community Affairs Officer Janine Rivera (l.).



iVIVA BOLIVIA!

City Councilman Daniel Dromm (r.), state Assemblyman Francisco Moya (second from r.) and parade organizers march in the annual Bolivian Parade of New York on 37th Avenue in Jackson Heights in October.



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The Christ the King Math Team, which placed first in the state out of more than 200 high schools competing in the New York State Mathematics League last year, once again placed first in the state after three monthly contests out of six scheduled.

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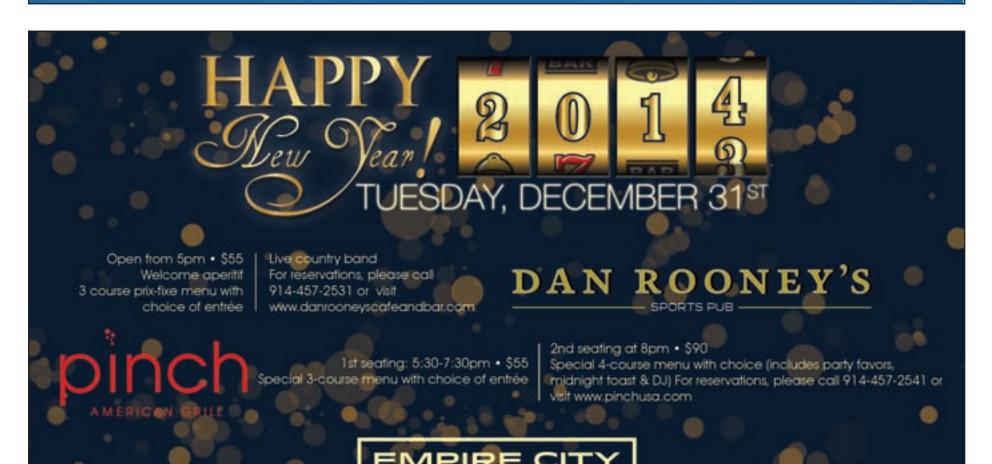
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Music

Continued from Page 1

Vienna Music offers one-on-one piano, violin, viola, flute, saxophone, clarinet, guitar, ukulele and voice lessons for students of all ages as well as group classes designed to give children between 3 and 5 an introduction to rhythm and several instruments.

Vienna Music Director Ivy Chen said she encourages students to be open to new instruments.

"People's first impression is, 'Oh, I want to take piano,' but we have some very good violin teachers," she said. "You never know what instrument is for you.'

Chen said Vienna Music uses the New York State School Music Association and The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams as barometers of student progress.

"Parents, they want to see that it's not just for fun and that they keep improving," Chen said.

Though Chen knew



Ivy Chen, music director at Vienna Music, plays piano at the new music school in Bayside.

Photo by Sarina Trangle

she wanted to learn piano the first time she saw a concerto as a young girl, the Flushing resident said it took her another decade to realize she wanted to

After being admitted to a competitive music training program in her native Taiwan at 6, Chen moved to New York during high school. She spent her weekends in pre-college courses at The Julliard School and helping the children of family friends find their way around the keyboard.

She continued teach-

ing after earning a degree from the Mannes College of Music, inspired by the challenge of helping beginners.

"It's tricky," she said. "Sometimes you can see it takes a while to get from the brain to the hands."

sessions Individual can be purchased in packages of four, 12 and 20 classes, with four 30-minute lessons costing \$140 and 20 hour-long lessons costing \$1,100.

Vienna Music charges \$120 for the group program. which includes four 40-minute sessions.

Chen and Joseph Char, director of operations, hope to turn the concert hall into a venue to showcase student and faculty talent and a community gathering place for music lovers.

"We want to plan events like movie night for movies related to music and invite talented musicians in to perform for the community," said Char, a Fresh Meadows resident. "Not a lot of music schools have a beautiful recital hall like us."

Continued from Page 4

of F&T Group, said they hope to close on the deal by Dec. 30, but if a deal is not reached, the developers will have to negotiate with the new mayoral administration.

Meyer also unveiled a scheme to cover phases of construction for the development at the meeting that would keep the parking lot's 1,144 spaces in tact while the work goes on.

"It's sort of a Rubik's Cube," Meyer said. "The principal advantage is it reduces the amount of construction at one time, thereby allowing us to maintain all the parking that was going to be displaced."

The first thing to be



Developers hope work on the Flushing Commons development will begin in March 2014. Photo courtesy TDC Development

built will be a four-level underground parking garage. Meyer said the lot's surface will still be able to accommodate the existing 1,144 spaces, until the parking garage is finished. It will have 1,600 spaces.

If all goes according to plan, Meyer said preparation work to ready the site will begin in January and construction will begin in March.

Campus

Continued from Page 5

nated by Google at its headquarters in Chelsea.

By the time the entire 2-million-square-foot campus is completed in 2043, it will house about 2,000 students and nearly 280 faculty members.

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4574.



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Artist Matthew McDonnell in his Kew Gardens studio. Photo courtesy Matthew McDonnell

TimesLedger, Dec. 27, 2013 - Jan. 2, 2014

Kew Gardens artist Matthew McDonnell uses Japanese ink for pieces based on other forms of art

BY ALLISON PLITT

While many artists are inspired by the images they see, Kew Gardens resident Matthew McDonnell has created five works heard and researched.

The culmination of his lengthy efforts is currently on display in an exhibit at the Serendipity Micro Gallery, 1585 First

of art based upon what he has Ave., in Manhattan until Dec. 29. Titled "Sebastian — Five

Works Inspired by 'Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien," all the works narrate sequentially a play first performed in Paris in 1911, thanks to the collaboration of three unique artists — Italian poet Gabriele D'Annunzio, Russian ballet dancer Ida Rubinstein and French composer Claude De-

The play itself was not successful, but the music continues to be played by professional orchestras worldwide due to Debussy's talent and fame.

Described as a musical mystery play, "Le Maytre de Saint Sébastien" was divided into five acts in which McDonnell has configured a highly detailed drawing of each — "The Court of Lilies," "The Magic Chamber," "The Council of the False Gods," "The Wounded Laurel" and "The Paradise."

The plot involves Sebastian, chief archer in the Roman Army and a favorite of Emperor Diocletian, who converts to Christianity. Sebastian's devotion to Jesus Christ drives him to reject the emperor's love, causing the emperor to angrily order Sebastian to be shot with arrows by his fellow archers. After he is executed,

IF YOU GO

Sebastian - Five Works Inspired by "Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien"

Serendipity Micro Gallery 1585 First Ave., Manhattan Through Sunday, Dec. 29

he is assumed into heaven as an angel.

McDonnell himself has created his five works on giclée with sumi ink.

"Giclée is a form of print," McDonnell said. "This is a limited edition of prints that are produced in a batch never to exceed 25 prints. They are all black and white pen and inks. The sumi ink is a very black Japanese type of ink which is often used for Japanese and Chinese calligraphy. When I get the prints back from the printer, I sometimes go back into the black areas and reinforce it to make it the color a little stronger for better contrast. Sometimes I also give the paper a

Continued on Page 41

TI

Queens saxophonist makes splash in the City

After a decade of building a fan base, Cambria Heights' Carl Bartlett Jr. takes leap across the river

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

For the past decade, Cambria Heights saxophonist Carl Bartlett Jr. has been playing his way to the top of the city's jazz scene.

On Jan. 2, he and his band, The Carl Bartlett, Jr. Quartet, officially arrive with a gig at Jazz at Kitano one of the top-five jazz venues in New York.

"It is completely amazing," Bartlett said. "We're starting off 2014 by having our name really out there."

Although new to the Manhattan scene, Bartlett has been a fixture in venues throughout southeast Queens since before he could drink alcohol legally at them.

As a teenager growing up first in St. Albans and then Cambria Heights, Bartlett enjoyed an eclectic mix of musical interests in-

IF YOU GO

The Carl Bartlett, Jr. Quartet

The Kitano: Jazz at KITANO Where: 66 Park Ave., Manhattan When: Thursday, Jan. 2, 8 pm and 10 pm Cost: \$15/cover and \$15/ food and drink minimum Contact: (212) 885-7119

cluding pop, R & B and even a little jazz, he said. But after his uncle made him listen to a Brecker Brothers' album one Christmas, a little jazz turned into a whole lot.

"It wasn't until that day that I heard what jazz is," Bartlett said about Michael and Randy Brecker's jazz fusion album. "It was an oxymoron. It was beautiful and nasty at the same time."

Easy #71



Cambria Heights musician Carl Bartlett Jr. brings his quartet to Kitano in Manhattan in early January.

Photo courtesy Carl Bartlett Jr.

Bartlett, who inherited some of his musical chops from his saxophone-playing father, has mastered both the alto and tenor sax. In high school he was named to the All-City Jazz Band during his junior and senior years, where he earned both the first and second chair spots.

He then won a scholarship in 2000 to attend the Manhattan School of Music, located in the shadow of Columbia University. But even during his years of study, he always found time to form jazz quartets and secure paying jobs, like the one at Brandy's Jazz Lounge in St. Albans.

"That was one of my first gigs," Bartlett said. "We had a regular spot once a week or once every two weeks for a few years. I was on cloud nine."

But even in today's world of downloadable

tunes, musicians still need to record and release CDs to tout their work.

"You have to do a record," Bartlett said. "Nobody knows you till you put out a record."

For Bartlett, that happened in 2011 with his debut album, "Hopeful," which quickly turned into a jazz media favorite.

Glowing poured in from such industry giants as Jazziz magazine, All About Jazz and Jazz Inside magazine, which included this rave of the musician "showcasing the saxophonist's deft and soulful-and sentimental-touch with the ballad form, with his band delivering just the right light and delicate accompaniment. Barlett draws long, sweet lines, as the tune winds down, tearyeved."

Continued on Page 41

Answers in Sports

sudoku

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6

			Н	ard #7	4			
6								3
	1						9	
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	9						3	
7								9

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

Productions

"Exit Stage Left" - Parallel Exit's ensemble of five performers present a rollicking, old-fashioned show of slapstick comedy, tap dancing and songs.

When: Friday, Dec. 27 to Sunday. Dec. 29, 2 pm and 7 pm daily Where: Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Cost: \$25/general, \$80/family four-pack

Contact: (718) 760-0064 Website: queenstheatre.org

"The Little Mermaid Jr." - Join Ariel and her friends under the

sea in this adaptation of the Broadway musical.

When: Friday, Jan. 24 to Sunday, Feb. 2; Friday at 7pm, Saturday at 2 pm and 7 pm, and Sunday at

Where: Rockaway Theatre Co., The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden

Cost: \$10/adults, seniors and children

Contact: (718) 374-6400 Website: www.

rockawaytheatrecompany.org

'Kiss or Make Up" - The First String Players presents Jack Sharkey's comedy of mistaken identity, federal foolishness and desperate romance.

When: Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 pm; Sunday, Jan. 26, 2 pm; Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 pm; and Sunday, Feb. 2.2 pm

Where: Our Lady of Mercy, 70-01 Kessel St., Forest Hills Cost: \$10/general seating Contact: (718) 268-6143 Website: sites.google.com/site/

firststringplayers/

"Twelfth Night" - The Aquila Theatre presents Shakespeare's comedy of romance, mystery and mistaken identity.

When: Friday, Feb. 14, 2 pm; Saturday, Feb. 15, 2 pm and 8 pm; and Sunday, Feb. 16, 3 pm Where: Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing

Meadows Corona Park Cost: \$25 - \$49 Contact: (718) 760-0064 Website: queenstheatre.org

"The Uninvited" - This supernatural thriller, presented by the Parkside Players, centers on a charming house in England with a dark secret. When: Saturday, Feb. 15 to Saturday, March 1; Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Where: Grace Lutheran Church, 103-15 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills

Cost: \$17/adults, \$15/seniors, \$10/children

Contact: (718) 353-7388 Website: www.parksideplayers.

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

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Borough actors consider themselves at home on stage

Nearly a dozen young performers from Queens played part in recent production of 'Oliver!' in LIC

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

When Lenny Banovez was asked to direct the Secret Theatre's recent production of "Oliver!" he said no thanks.

But once the theater dangled the concept of a steampunk version in front of Banovez, he iumped at the gig.

"I thought, let's make it darker," Banovez said. "It's not a kids' musical. It's a musical with kids."

And for the most part, those kids in Banovez's version are from Queens.

The musical, which just wrapped up its run at the Long Island City venue, included three sets of five young actors, who took turns in the spotlight as members of Fagin's gang and orphans in the boys' workhouse.

"I thought it would be fun and a good learning experience," Jadie Tome, 9, said. "It was. It made me want to learn more about the show."

Paideia School third-grader



Members of the children's chorus watch the action during a production of "Oliver!" at the Secret Theatre in Long Island City. Julia Mechner also thought per-

forming in "Oliver!" would provide some fun.

"My mom got the e-mail (about the show) and I thought it would be cool to be in the show," Julia said.

Like a lot of the young performers in the show, Julia studies voice with Oliver Sohngen at

Photo courtesy Adam Jason Photography the Long Island City Academy of Music, located next to the theater. Sohngen noticed the posters for the show's auditions and pushed for his students to try out.

"They all ended up auditioning," Sohngen said. "I only needed two rehearsals to get them vocally ready."

And during the four scenes

in which the younger set appears, there is plenty of singing.

The show, which is a musical version of Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist," opens in the boys' workhouse where the orphans belt out "Food, Glorious Food" to counteract the reality of their meal of gruel.

For Queens resident Elizabeth Hellman, 13, it's her favorite song in the show.

"It's when all their wishes come together for one big musical number," Elizabeth said.

It also provided some unintentional humor from 9-year-old Nora Yoo. As part of the choreography, Nora repeatedly grabbed a bowl and banged it on the table. But during one performance she had not realized her own strength.

"I accidently knocked a bowl over," Nora, a fourth-grader at PS 122, said. "I almost hit Oliver (actress Amanda Dupuy) in the head."

Even though there were plenty of non-scripted funny moments,

the young actors remained professional throughout the show.

Manhattan resident Layla Blatt said it was tough to keep a straight face listening to the other actors.

"It was hard not to laugh when everybody was talking with an accent," Layla said.

Other funny moments occurred when props failed to operate properly. During the "I'd Do Anything" number when one of Fagin's gang members was supposed to twirl an umbrella to represent a carriage wheel, she couldn't get the thing to open.

There were also plenty of missed cues.

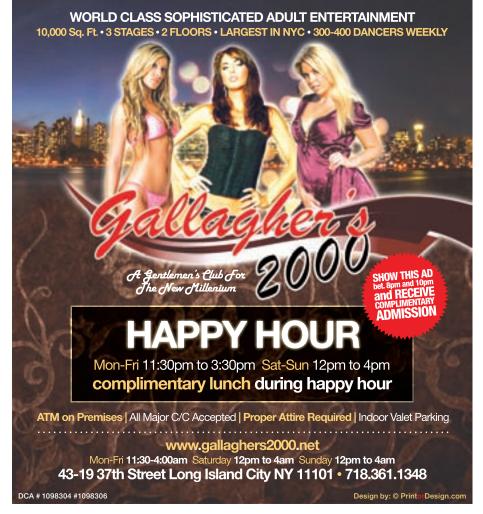
At one point Queens resident Noah Ballinger almost performed a solo as part of the group

"I started to sing the wrong verse," Noah said.

But for Banovez, none of that really seemed to matter.

"To be honest, the kids were quite good," Banovez said.







PASTA (choice of one)

» Lobster Ravioli w/Shrimp, Scallop, Crabmeat

> All of the above served with mixed vegetables & potatoes. Free glass of champagne. House menu also available.

with scampi sauce

» Salmone Alla Italiana

DESSERT, COFFEE, TEA &

GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE

Create

Continued from Page 37

bit of tint to enhance the appearance of the type."

The real star of the show is McDonnell and his five compositions that could easily be confused with canvases from a cubist painter in Europe during the early 1900s. McDonnell considers himself a figurative painter, meaning his artwork represents real objects.

On his website, a description of his artwork aptly describes his style: "Matthew's work is always of the figure. He multiplies figurations using hint and enigma, interlacing the imagery like a puzzle. He suggests the possible without delineating the actual. Hidden and veiled, joined or dispersed, the human figure is always still there."

Besides the intense detail within each work, Mc-Donnell says he has also inserted pagan and Christian mysticisms into his compositions like D'Annunzio did with his poem.

"In reading the play, I was trying to see if I could do the same type of homage to the mysteries that people often link to their relations to the heavens," McDonnell said. "For example, I actually have St. Sebastian being pulled into a fiery sun that is divided into three lobes to symbolize the Christian trinity. Also, along the bottom of each of the five compositions, I painted objects to look like shells. Those are the footlights on the edge of a stage that happen to look like a shell. A shell is often a symbol of Christian pil-



"The Court of Lilies" by Matthew McDonnell.

Photo courtesy Matthew McDonnell

grims."

Usually creating individual paintings inspired by his own ideas, McDonnell admits the "Sebastian" series is a new concept of creation for him. McDonnell, however, has been interested in art, painting and art history all of his life

Born in Brooklyn and raised in a home across the street from the Brooklyn Museum, McDonnell would take art classes as well as roam the galleries there, "loving it all." Spending most of his childhood going to the museum on the weekends, he later decided to enroll in Brooklyn College to study art but then changed his major to architecture and attended the New York Institute of Technology.

In the forthcoming year, McDonnell will display his art in a group show at a new art space in Brooklyn. Since receiving such positive feedback on his "Sebastian" series, he plans to create another series of works based on James Joyce's "Ulysses," which he is reading right now. If he follows his own advice, the admiration and respect of his artwork will continue.

"Try to stay true to your own interests and creative abilities," he said. "Like what you like and create what you like."

For more information about Matthew McDonnell, you can visit his website www.matthewmcdonnell. com.

Jazz

Continued from Page 38

The CD, which includes six original songs and two new arrangements of classic pieces "It Could Happen to You," and the theme from the "I Love Lucy" show.

Bartlett describes his band, which includes Yolchi Uzeki on piano, Dylan Shamat on bass and Dwayne Broadnax on drums, as utilizing a modern and progressive use of time in its creations.

"Not everything is 4/4 (four beats per measure)," Bartlett said. "We have some 2/5 chord changes like you would hear in swing."

As he prepares to swing into the new year, he believes the rough patch he experienced this year — including the death of

both his grandmother and grandfather — is behind him. He has big hopes for '14, which just happens to be his age when he first started playing the sax.

"We have a bunch of live bookings, and I'm working on another album that should be out by the tail end of 2014," he said. "I'm super happy. Jazz is what I always wanted to do."



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Email: events@zhotelny.com WWW.ZHOTELNY.COM For the most up-to-date listing of events happening in Queens, check TimesLedger's website at www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar

EVENTS

Holiday Open House - Tour the decorated farmhouse, join craft activities for children and sip mulled cider.

When: Friday, Dec. 27 and Saturday, Dec. 28, from Noon to 4 pm

Where: Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park

Cost: Free Contact: (718) 347-3276, ext. 304

Gingerbread Lane - The Guinness Book of World Records recently certified Jon Lovitch's creation the world's largest gingerbread village. When: Through Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014

Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., Corona Cost: \$11/adults, \$8/seniors, students and children 2 to 17 Contact: (718) 699-0005 Website: www.nysci.org

GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

Gifted 2013 - The Rockaway Artists Alliance's final show of the year is a juried exhibition encompassing drawing, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and video.

When: Through Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014, Saturdays and Sundays, Noon to 4 pm

Where: Rockaway Center for the Arts, Fort Tilden, Rockaway

Cost: Free Contact: (718) 474-0861

Website: rockawayartistsalliance.org

The Shatterer - Peter Schumann, founder of the Bread and Puppet Theater, has been chosen for the Queens Museum first solo exhibition. The show consists of two largescale immersive installations. When: Through March 30, 2014 Where: Queens Museum,

Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Cost: Suggested \$8/adults, \$4/ students and seniors, Free/ children 12 and under Contact: (718) 592-9700 Website: queensmuseum.org

Longitude, Latitude, Attitude

- A photography exhibit by Maureen McTigue and John Rennhack exploring sites from around the world.

When: Through December; Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 am - 4 pm;

Where: The Poppenhusen Institute, 114-04 14th Road, College Point

Contact: (718) 358-6322 Website: www.

poppenhuseninstitute.org

Flushing Creek into Bowery Bay, Selections from the Islands of New York - This exhibit features photographs by Fulbright Fellow Accra Shepp exploring the waterways of the City.

When: Through Jan. 12, 2014, Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: \$5/suggested admission, Free/members

Contact: (718) 463-7700 Website: www.flushingtownhall.

Isamu Noguchi/Qi Baishi/ Beijing 1930 - This exhibition

marks the first time Noguchi's figurative ink scrolls have been displayed alongside works by the master ink painter, Qi Baishi, whom Noguchi studied with in 1930 Beijing.

When: Through Jan. 26, 2014 Where: Noguchi Museum, 9-01 33rd Road, Long Island City Cost: \$10/adults, \$5/students and seniors. Free/children and museum members

Contact: (718) 204-7088 Website: www.noguchi.org

Mike Kelley - MoMA PS1 turns its entire building into an exhibition of Kelley's innovative work that incorporates American popular culture in pieces using both modernist and alternative traditions. When: Through Feb. 2, 2014

Where: MoMA PS1, 22-25

Jackson Ave., Long Island City Cost: \$10/adults, \$5/students and seniors, Free/children under 16 Contact: (718) 784-2084 Website: www.momaps1.org

2013 Emerging Artist Fellowship Exhibition -

Socrates Sculpture Park presents 15 new commissions that respond to the park's unique waterfront, urban environment with conceptual and formal artworks that are visually compelling, mysterious and provocative. When: Through March 31, 2014

Where: Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 956-1819 Website: www.

socratessculpturepark.org

KIDS & FAMILY

Noguchi Open Studio: Drop-In Program for Families - On the first Sunday of every month, families can explore the galleries and then spend time in the education room making art. Educators will be on hand to discuss gallery connections,

introduce materials and assist

in art making. No registration is

When: First Sunday of each month, 11 am to 1 pm

required.

Where: Noguchi Museum, 9-01 33rd Road, Long Island City Cost: \$10 per family/includes museum admission and materials

Contact: (718) 204-7088 Website: www.noguchi.org

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers December 27, 2013-January 2, 2014

By Ed Canty

Intelligence First

LAST WEEK'S **ANSWERS**

Across

- 1. Hoarse talk
- 5. Like the Capitol
- 10. Icelandic epic
- 14. High point
- **15.** Overhead 16. Gehrig and Brock
- 17. Golf hazard
- 18. Sarcastic comments 20. Treacherous types
- **22.** Ease
- 23. Perfect score. often
- 24. Abbr. on a lease
- 25. Latte relative
- 30. Belt targets
- **34.** Flu-like
- 35. Rover's brand
- **37.** Apple messaging program
 - Paolo, Brazil
- 39. Not one or the other
- 41. Exist
- 42. Bert's companion
- 44. Long (for)
- 45. Sweat spot
- 46. Like a tomato
- 48. Turns bad
- 50. Wedding words
- **51.** Popular fruit drink
- **52.** Holiday songs 55. Unquestionable
- **60.** Divergence less than 90 degrees
- 62. Cereal "for kids"
- 63. Hindu princess
- 64. Leave the house
- 65. Iris holder
- 66. Computer insert
- **67.** Barely beats
- 68. Salon offering

Down

- 1. "Phooey!"
- 2. Farm unit
- 3. Modern communication device

- 4. Spicy, in a way
- **5.** First light
- 6. Passing remarks?
- **7.** Trunk growth 8. Cain raiser?
- **9.** Make less threatening, as a cat
- **10.** Stretchy
- 11. Holliday and Gooden, informally
- **12.** Perennial hoops powerhouse
- 13. PGA part
- **19.** Fix
- 21. Memphis-to- Nashville dir.
- **25.** Lets up
- 26. Close call
- 27. Ed.'s request
- **28.** Err
- **29.** Vision-related 31. Hairpin turn, e.g.

- 32. Fortuneteller's card 33. Worries
- **36.** Olympian Apolo Anton
- **39.** Quilter's need 40. Always, poetically
- **43.** Inane
- 45. Developed, as a neighborhood
- **47.** Medicinal amount
- 49. Frat letter
- 52. Joker or ace
- 53. Antioxidant berry
- **54.** Enters a political contest
- **55.** In awe
- **56**. Sad
- **57.** Tennis units
- **58.** Echelon
- 59. Midterm, for one
- 61. Wink's companion
- By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com





Appetizers

Lobster Bisque-\$5.95 Garden or Caesar Salad-\$7.95 Fresh Mozzarella and Tomato-\$8.95 Dozen Baked Clams-\$12.50 Mussels-White or Red-\$11.95 Stuffed Portobella

Mushrooms-\$8.95 Assorted Antipasto-\$9.95

Pasta

Baked Ziti, Lasagna, Ravioli, Stuffed Shells or Manicotti-\$10.95 Penne Vodka or Meatballs-\$12.95 Combo-Baked ziti, ravioli, lasagna and chicken parmigiana-\$17.95

Entrees

Chicken-Parmigiana, Pizzaiola,

Marsala, Francese, Rollatini-\$15.95 Chicken Anthony-Sauteed chicken breast, spinach, roasted peppper and fresh mozzarella in a sherry sauce-\$16.95 Veal-Parmigiana, Marsala, Picatta-\$16.95 Veal Mellisa-Breaded veal cutlet topped with ricotta and eggplant parmigiana-\$16.95 Eggplant-Parmigiana, or Rollatini-\$13.95 Seafood-Shrimp Scampi, Parmigiana, Bella, Marinara or Fra Diavolo-\$16.95 Shrimp Elegante-Shrimp francese and spinach in a butter, lemon and white wine sauce over

Shrimp DeNiro-Sauteed shrimp with mushrooms and fresh mozzarella in a marsala wine sauce over linguini-\$18.95 Sea Bass DiMare-Chilean Sea Bass, Shrimp, Clams, Calamari, mussels marachiarra-\$21.95

pasta-\$18.95

Dessert

Cheese Cake-\$6.25 Tartufo-\$6.25 Truffles-**\$6.25** Truffles-\$5.50 (2)

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Business

Eatery brings Afghan taste to Fresh Mdws.

Ali Baba restaurant serves kebabs of chicken, lamb and beef along with vegetarian appetizers

BY RICH BOCKMANN

If the word "kebab" conjures up images of bite-sized bits of meat served from a street vendor, the Ali Baba restaurant in Fresh Meadows will make you think again.

The Afghan restaurant serves up generous portions of chicken, beef and lamb skewered and grilled over charcoal with a fresh garlic-and-herb marinade.

Served with fluffy basmati rice, grilled tomatoes and a variety of traditional toppings, the dishes are representative of the cuisine John Hazin and his sister, Hazya Azizi, who grew up with near the Afghan capital.

"Kabul is the main source of modernization," said Hazin, who manages the restaurant his sister bought a year ago on the Horace Harding Expressway. "There are good restaurants these days, lots of people going out. But women still can't own restaurants."

Azizi always wanted to be a chef, her brother said, and it was when she was working as a translator with the U.S. Army that she decided to realize her dream.

"The soldiers all said her food was so good that she should open a restaurant, so she did," Hazin explained.

The two grew up on a farm making yogurt from goat's milk, and many of the dishes at Ali Baba feature the cow-milk vari-





with explained.

ogurt For dessert, the baklava is

meh barg, grape leaves th rice and vegetables.
es include mahicha low, a slowly cooked filled with walnuts and pistachios, and while it is not made inhouse, you will not complain.

The restaurant's dining area

is spacious with room for parties, and the middle of the day is usually quiet for those looking to pop in for an easy lunch.

Ali Baba is at 183-10 Horace Harding Expressway in Fresh Meadows and open seven days a week from 11:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. For more information, call 718-463-7362.

Photos by Rich Bockmann

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4574.

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/timesledger

ety they make daily in-house.

"It's a little sour and a little sweet," Hazin said. "All natural."

Most kebab dishes will set you back about \$15, such as the beef tikka served over rice or the chaplee kabob, which resembles a spicy meatball with ground beef, onions, peppers, an egg yolk and

Vegetarian options abound with appetizers like borani

badenjan — cooked eggplant with onion, tomato sauce and yogurt — and dolmeh barg, grape leaves stuffed with rice and vegetables.

Entrees include mahicha qabuli palow, a slowly cooked lamb shank in caramelized onions, topped with shredded carrots and raisins.

"The rice is nice and salty, and the raisins and carrots are sweet, but not too sweet," Hazin

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: powerfulyou.com **Power Networking Group –** Led by Harvey G. Beringer

dried hot peppers.

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,

BNI Peak Professionals Chapter – BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person

Fxt 15

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

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

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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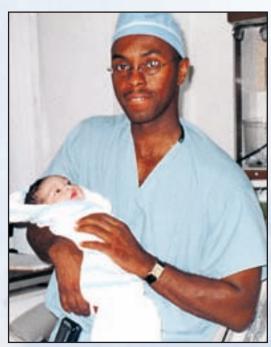
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Sports

Francis Lewis loses to Murry Bergtraum

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Francis Lewis will have to live with proving they can play with Murry Bergtraum for now.

The Patriots pushed the 15-time defending PSAL champions to the break in a heartbreaking 76-74 defeat in Class AA girls' basketball Dec. 18 in Lower Manhattan. It was a battle of the league's remaining unbeaten teams that Lewis led 74-71 with 2:15 remaining in the game only to see the Lady Blazers score the contest's final five points.

"We realized that we are right there." Patriots guard Chila Bady said.

Her team had a chance to win in the closing seconds, but Bergtraum star Ashanae McLaughlin twice kept them from getting a shot off. She jumped out and stole a pass to Sierra Green at the top of the key and raced down the floor for a layup to put Bergtraum up 76-74 with 4.2 seconds left. She then caught Taliyah Brisco from behind and stripped the ball away with a tick left on the clock to end things.

"Very disappointing, all that hard work that we put in," Bady said of the closing seconds. "It's sad that we lost by two. I really thought we were going to

She and her teammates played with no fear and took it to Bergtraum throughout the game. Lewis lost last season's final meeting by just 51-47. Bady, who scored a game-high 19 points, led a 19-5 run over the third and fourth quarters. She hit a late threepointer to close the third and her two free throws to start the fourth gave Lewis a 62-55 lead. Bergtraum had led by as many as 10 in the second quarter.

"I wanted to be really aggressive today," Bady said.

The team went on the spurt with Green, who was in foul trouble, and Dominique Williams on the bench. For Patriots Coach Steve Tsai, that showed his team is deep enough to win even when Green doesn't have a big day. Legendary Murry Bergtraum Coach Ed Grezinsky's team guarded her

Continued on Page 51



Francis Lewis' Chila Bady takes the ball down the court. Photo by Ken Maldonado



St. Francis Prep's Michael Fields takes the ball to the basket during the Terriers' game against Bishop Loughlin.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Prep hoops off to fast start

SFP team ready to compete with elite CHSAA schools this season

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Francis Prep proved something to itself as it has gone about proving everyone else wrong.

The Terriers had struggled mightily in the CHSAA's Class AA division in recent years and again weren't considered among the city's elite teams when this season began.

That has quickly

St. Francis Prep got off to a 6-0 start, including five league wins after collecting just two CHSAA victories last season. It then stood toe-to-toe with last season's city runner-up, Bishop Loughlin in Brooklyn, before falling 79-65 Dec. 17. SFP led 40-37 early in the

third quarter and trailed just 69-63 with 3:43 remaining in the game.

The performance illustrated that the Terriers can play with the league's elite teams for the first time since 2007 when Division I recruit Mike Cavataio was suiting up in Fresh Mead-

"It's there," legendary St. Francis Prep Coach Tim Leary said. "As long as we don't get injuries, we are going to compete."

His team already owns wins over defending archdiocesan champion St. Raymond and a good Iona Prep squad. Leary said this group spent more time than usual playing in preseason leagues and working out together this summer. They have done whatever has been asked of them since the second half of last season. Now it's starting to pay

"They like basketball and they have bought in pretty much with what we are trying to do," Leary said.

What that means is playing hard and unselfishly and using their quickness to their advantage. The Terriers were able to press a Lions team that thrives in transition and still use it to their advantage.

Guard Michael Fields can be a blur, Shane Herrity is as tough as they come and Connor Bacci can provide outside shooting. Forwards Jordan Santiago, a junior varsity call-up, and

Brian Haggerty are long, athletic and a tough cover for bigger players. Herrity and Haggerty had 19 points apiece against Loughlin and Fields added 17.

"Our team isn't the biggest in the league," Herrity said. "We are dependent on guard play. Our guards are quick and our forwards are quick. We just try to use that to help us."

Haggerty has been a pleasant surprise after dedicating himself to the sport more. He provides the Terriers with a presence inside they lacked a year ago.

"He's developed unbelievably from last year," Leary said.

So has this veteran group that now finds itself Continued on Page 51

Terriers top TimesLedger's best in boro list

CK's Severe picked as Queens' Athlete of the Year as Construction's Migliaccio named in coach category



Joseph Staszewski Block Shots

The dawn of the new vear provided us with a moment to look back on the events of the last 365 days, so I took the time to recognizes the top players, coaches and performances during the year in Queens high school sports. Here is a look at who and what made the cut.

Program of the Year: St. Francis Prep

No school has won more across the board than the Terriers. The Fresh Meadows school is home to the CHSAA girls' volleyball and tennis state champions. Its boys' soccer team won the CHSAA city title and reached the state final. The Terriers football team returned to the CHS-FL's 'AAA' playoffs and the softball fell in the diocesan championship series. Add to that its boys' handball team's 11th straight un-

beaten city title and you have success across multiple sports.

Athlete of the Year: Jon Severe, Christ the King boys' basketball

Severe, now at Fordham University, ended his career in stellar fashion. The Royals' shooting guard became the school's first New York State Mr. Basketball. He led CK to their second Federation Class AA title in the last four years and did so by setting a tournament single game and overall scoring mark with help from a 40-point performance in the semifinals.

Coach of Year: Marco Migliaccio, Construction softball

Migliaccio and the Red Hawks reached the mountaintop this season. Four years after wining the PSAL Class B title, they knocked off league power Tottenville in dramatic fashion to win the school's first Class AA softball title. Construction beat the Pirates twice this season. It was the culmination of years of work for Migliaccio and his staff.



St. Francis Prep players hoist their championship trophy in the air after winning the CHSAA city soccer championship. Photo by Yinghao Luo

Comeback Athlete of the Year: Cesar Oviedo. Christ the King boys' soccer

The Royals senior missed time early in the season after getting banged up against Archbishop Molloy and his team struggled without him. Oviedo didn't miss a beat when he returned and remained one of the league's top strikers. He helped lead CK back to the CHSAA Class AA semifinals.

Best Newcomer: Anja Malesevic. Benjamin Cardozo girls' volleyball

Malesevic isn't an underclassman or new to the sport, but she is new to the country and the Judges. The senior emigrated from

Serbia to become one of the city's most dominant outside hitters. She helped lead Cardozo to the school's third PSAL Class A city title in the last four years.

Best Halftime Meal: Christ the King

Nothing beats the spread outside the Father John Savage gymnasium. You can quickly pick up a warm pretzel or a delicious pizza bagel and wash it down with numerous drink

Game of the Year: Holy Cross vs. St. Francis Prep football, CHSFL 'AAA' quarterfinal

No game between Queens rivals garnered as much hype and lived up to it. It was the first playoff meeting in the Battle of the Boulevard since 1997 and SFP's first 'AAA' postseason game since 2008. Holy Cross held on for a 20-13 win, thanks to a 65-yard punt return from Terriers killer Brandon Jackson.

Story of the Year: Archbishop Molloy Coach **Jack Curran dies**

After 55 years of coach-Continued on Page 51

Lifeless Christ the King manhandled by Cardinal Hayes

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Poor execution without the starting point guard in the lineup was understandable and somewhat expected by Christ the King Coach Joe Arbitello. Seeing his team play without energy, aggressiveness or urgency against Cardinal Haves was what came as a

"When you take out one part, you stop being a well-oiled machine and guys don't know how to react to that," Arbitello said. "If we would have given an effort, they might have beat us, but the game would have come down to the final minutes."

Instead, the Royals'

eventual 69-48 home loss was over in the third quarter of CHSAA Class AA boys' basketball action Friday night. The Cardinals (7-0) took a 10-point lead into the half after a last-second dunk in transition by Mustafa Jones and closed the third quarter on an 11-0 run to grab a 56-31 advantage.

"Second half we needed to come out with more energy and we came out with the opposite," said CK star Rawle Alkins, who scored 18 points and saw time at the point. "We had a bad game."

Much of Christ the King's druthers stemmed from the absence of point guard Andre Walker. The



Christ the King's Rawle Alkins (I.) dribbles the ball.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

senior was not in the gym but at home and is still part of the program, according to Arbitello. The coach would not comment on the reason for Walker being out of the lineup.

"I'm only going to talk about the guys who are on the court for me," Arbitello

Those guys were outworked and out-played by a Hayes team it eliminated from last year's CHSAA intersectional quarterfinals. The Royals (3-1), the defending state Federation champions, struggled to start their offense, didn't handle

ball pressure well and were beat on the boards. Alkins picked up his fourth foul midway through the second quarter.

CK did get a good contribution from guard Kamron Johnson off the bench during a strong second quarter. Travis Atson scored 14 points and Bryler Paige added 10. Center Adonis Delarosa tallied just 3 points and Arbitello was left searching for an-

"I saw Jordan Fuchs over there with Sean Johnson and I was ready to throw them a jersey," he said of the former CK standouts in attendance.

The Cardinals, who excelled in transition, produced balanced scoring as Jones, Shavar Newkirk and Nathan Ekwu all scored 14 points. Chris Robinson added 11. The Cardinals knew they were making CK's life

"They didn't have anyone who could get them in their offense," Newkirk said. "When we pressured them, we played the passing lane and got easy fast break points."

Arbitello and Alkins see the game as a learning experience for a team that is still young, especially without Walker in the line-

"It's just something you have to go through," Arbitello said. "It's the growing process.'

sized and let Bergtraum forwards Smith, Ardella Brown and Daisya Drayton 51 dominate the glass. The Lady Blazers got too many second-chance points.

Lewis, which already beat last-season runner-up South Shore, will get a second chance of its own when it takes on Bergtraum at home Jan. 22. Bady thinks that outcome will be different. The goal was thought to be playing the likes of the Lady Blazers and Vikings in March as well. The Patriots have proven they can make that happen.

"This is who we want to be with at the end," Tsai said.



Christ the King's Sierra Calhoun runs past Moore Catholic's Krista Coughlin.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

Queens native Holley to play for Penn State

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

ThomasHolleythought he made two good moves in the same week.

The Queens native and Abraham Lincoln football star now has two new places to call home after the defensive tackle verbally committed to suit up for Penn State and head Coach Bill O'Brien while he and his family moved from Fresh Meadows to Jamaica.

"It was hectic and it wasn't even about the football." the 6-foot-4. 305-pound Holley said. "I'm sitting here moving, packing bags and trying to talk to my aunt and uncle."

His choice between Penn State and Florida came down to a chance to stay closer to home and the strong bond he forged with Penn State defensive line Coach Larry Johnson, who spoke with him as much about life as he did foot-

"When I talked to Coach Johnson, the relationship I had with him was a little bit different," Holley said. "It was unique. It was something special.

The Nittany Lions' most valuable player this season was defensive tackle DaQuan Jones, Jones, a potential first round selection in this year's NFL Draft, told Holley on his official visit in October that Johnson fulfilled all the promises he made to him about improving his game.

The ability to develop talent is important for Holley, who just started playing football last season. He had been a highly thought of basketball player at Christ the King before transferring to Lincoln. Holley has played in just 21 football games in his career and

has tremendous upside. Holley became the first city product to commit to Penn State since the revela-

tion of the Jerry Sandusky

molestation scandal in 2011. He wants to be a part of bringing the program back to prominence and be the face of the Big Ten.

"I think I cannot only be a part of it, knowing me I have the drive and will to be on top," Holley said.

He is the No. 3-ranked player at his position and 63rd in the nation by rivals.com. Holley helped lead Lincoln to the Public School Athletic League city conference football city title. Just two years ago, no one knew if any of this would be possible.

"It's been a little different seeing a kid who can go play for Penn State learning the rules and how to put equipment on," Railsplitters Coach Shawn O'Connor said.

Holley felt relieved at having the recruiting process and the move over

"It's been a great, great week," Holley said.

Awards

Lewis

tight every time she was on

eryone involved and that

makes us hard to guard,"

each had 13 points for

Lewis (6-1). Robyn Francis

scored 11 points and Green

added eight. McLaughlin

paced Bergtraum (8-0) with

17 points, Joella Gibson had

16 and Alexandra Smith

than the final play for the

Tsai pointed to more

"We want to get ev-

Brisco and Williams

Continued from Page 49

the floor.

Tsai said.

chipped in 13.

Continued from Page 50

ing. Curran's death was not just a Queens story, but a national one. Kind words and well-wishes poured in from around the country after he died in his sleep at the age of 82. The legendary Curran, the nation's winningest basketball and baseball coach, will be remembered more for the number of lives he touched than the victories and titles he earned.

Quote of the Year

"Since most of us were relocated, our school was relocated, it was hard to practice together and have a stable environment. It feels great and it's really awesome to win for Rockaway." — Jessica Glaz, after scoring 19 points to lead Scholars Academy to its third-straight PSAL Class B girls' basketball title



Christ the King's Jon Severe heads to the hoops at the NYS Federation Tournament of Champions. Photo by Ken Maldonado

SFP

Continued from Page 49

in position to be among the CHSAA's best teams. The early success has caused the Terriers to be viewed much differently even in the school itself than in years past.

"Our confidence is

way up right now, especially around the school," Herrity said. "Basketball at the Prep the last few years hasn't been that good. It's a good feeling to win."

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RKO

Continued from Page 1

as in potential for plans in Flushing," Nussbaum said. "When Patrick first brought his project, the economy was still down in the dumps. There was little capital around for capital construction. People had to sit around and wait until now."

Karlik has been in the real estate industry since 1982 and over the last 12 vears his companies have been involved in restoring obsolete buildings in Chicago into retail and residential space. In September, JK Equities bought a 120-year-old building in downtown Baltimore with the intention of developing it into 180 rental units and 26,000 square feet of retail space.

Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) heralded the announcement of the theater's sale as a positive

"I am happy that new developers are in place and we appear to be moving forward. This plan will make downtown Flushing more attractive and transform this eyesore into something the community needs," Koo



The inside of the once-grand RKO Keith's Theatre in Flushing sits vacant. Photo courtesy Building Conversation Associates

said. "We have been promised action at this site before and have been let down in the past, but I am cautiously optimistic that progress can finally be made. I will work with the developers and my community to make sure the needs of all are properly balanced."

The historic movie theater, which opened in 1928, was closed and sold to notorious developer Thomas Huang in 1986. Huang was convicted of damaging the property and spilling thousands of gallons in the theater's basement in 1999. He was sentenced to five years' probation and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine.

The theater has since has passed through various developers' hands.

Jerry Rotondi, president of the Committee to Save the RKO Keith's Theatre of Flushing, met the announcement of the theater's sale with cautious optimism..

"We'll see what transpires. I'll believe good when I see it. At this point the community deserves something," said Rotondi, who has been fighting to restore the theater since the 1980s. "Ideally it would have been nice to have a working performing arts center, but a glass half-full is better than nothing.'

Gun

Continued from Page 5

McNaughton in a transit bureau charged with policing downtown Manhattan subways. The young officer got engaged to a woman in the NYPD and moved from Long Island to Queens in 2004, his father said.

Later that year, Mc-Naughton accepted an offer to serve in Iraq. While there, he volunteered to train Iraqi officers in an elevated tower because he did not want to endanger fellow soldiers who had children. according to a biography posted on a commemorative website.

That's when a sniper fatally struck him. He was 27.

The elder McNaughton said his son's friends established The James Mc-Naughton Foundation in his honor. The nonprofit collects donations and organizes benefits for various projects, including The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and The Wounded Warrior Project, which assist injured military members, veterans and their families, and a scholarship fund at the younger McNaughton's high school in Long Island.

"That's the thing that makes it a little easier for us, to know that Jimmy is still paying it forward," Mc-Naughton said.

Pokey Continued from Page 5

Straphangers Campaign.

"These crosstown buses are losers."

On a more positive note, six faster bus routes, known as Select

Bus Service, were opened during Mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration with a seventh due next spring. It will be the run from 125th Street in Manhattan to LaGuardia Airport.

"Thankfully, help is on its way," said Paul Steely White, executive

director of Transportation Alternatives, a transit advocacy group. "Mayorelect Bill de Blasio has pledged to build a rapid network of buses with the goal of greatly improving transit in the boroughs outside Manhattan's central business district."

Board

Continued from Page 4

lege, at 30-20 Thomson St. in Long Island City.

The public high school has a unique program offering two years of college prep and 11th- and 12thgraders take early college courses and graduate with 60 credits from Bard College. The school has a graduation rate of 96.7 percent and graduates finish with a high school Regents diploma and an associate degree in arts from Bard at no cost to eligible students.

Nearly all transfer to a four-year college to complete a bachelor's degree, according to Principal Valeri J. Thompson.

"The opportunities vou have I never had," Bloomberg said as many of the students nodded in agreement.

Omar Ferriera, 17, of Woodhaven, originally planned on studying liberal arts in college, but credits the school's wide range of courses with opening his mind to other options.

"Now I love math and science," said Ferriera, who will study physics at the University of Chicago in the fall.

Another student. Mamfatou Baldeh, of the Bronx, said, "When I started here, I just wanted to graduate college early. Now I'm thinking why rush. I'd rather be in school longer, there's so much more to

And it is in Queens, the most diverse borough in the most diverse city, according to the mayor.

"Forty-eight percent of Queens residents are born outside the country," Bloomberg said. "This is the melting pot of the world. If you want to succeed in the global economy, the place to learn about the world is right here in Queens."

The picture brighter, the mayor said, when you consider the borough's improved economy.

"The subways are better, new businesses take root in Queens with nearly 50,000 since '02," Bloomberg said. "And we've built housing. Right here in Long Island City there will be 5,000 new homes in Hunters Points South and more in Hallets Cove and Willets Point."

summing In Bloomberg said, "The numbers say you're going to have a bright future."

The standing ovation sounded more like a pep rally as Bloomberg headed for the exit.

"It was awesome, true and down-to-earth. He made it clear that education has come a long way during his administration," Baldeh said.

Ferriera agreed, saying, "I thought the speech was great, I learned a lot about Queens. I used to live in Brooklyn for a while it's nothing like Queens."

No. 7

Continued from Page 10

was paid for by New York City. The last previous extension of the subway that was financed by the city opened in December 1950, when the Queens Boulevard line was extended to Jamaica-179th Street.

Construction of the No. 7 extension began in December 2007.

For the No. 7 extension, tunnel boring machines burrowed 9,285 feet from 11th Avenue and 26th Street to Times Square. Tunneling between 34th Street and Times Square presented unique challenges, as the subway will run under the Eighth Avenue subway, Amtrak and New Jersey Transit tunnels as well as tunnels to the former New York Central Railroad, the Lincoln Tunnel and the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

In January 2005, the City Council overwhelmingly approved the Bloomberg administration's plan for rezoning the far West Side. The rezoning allows for more than 40 million square feet of mixed-use development, including 24 million square feet of Class A office development and 13,500 new apartments.

Glendale

Continued from Page 10 and Charlotte Russe."

Giordano said thought stores for younger adults may serve the community well along with entertainment and recreational businesses to fill the void left by the now-defunct Woodhaven Lanes.

Several residents ex-

pressed concerns about the mall choking traffic near Cooper Avenue and 83rd Street on the Glendale Civic Association's Facebook page.



Schuckman Realty Inc. has published a brochure outlining plans for a 350,000-square-foot shopping center near The Shops at Atlas Park in Glendale. Photo courtesy Schuckman Realty

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a direct line to trouble. Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitat-ing communication and advertising available ser vices: however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. 'Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consu-mers must also question the legitimacy of vague mers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information.

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tion & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an

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> LEGAL NOTICES

County of York, Queens Index

TAKE NOTICE that the Trustees of CONGREGA-TION EITZ CHAIM, a New Religious Corporation, whose principal address is 147-63 71st Avenue, Kew Garden Hills, NY will petition the Ex Parte part of the Supreme Court of New York part of the Supreme Court of New York, County of Queens, at the Courthouse located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica, NY on the 25th day of February, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. for an Order granting the approval of a plan to allow the Corporaleave to undergo dissolution, liquidation and transfer of its assets to Zichron Boruch, a religious corporation and the sale of premises located at 147-63 71st Avenue, Kew Garden Hills, NY to Benzakunim Badálov.

Joseph A. Schubin & Associates. PLLC Attorneys for Petitioners, The Trustees of Congregation Eitz Chaim 1262 Fast 38th Street Brooklyn, NY 11210 (718) 377-4938

TAKE NOTICE that the Trustees of JUN DUNG SA INC., a New York Religious Corporation, will move the Supreme Court of New York, County of Queens, at the Courthouse located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica, NY in the CMP, Court Room 25 on the 6th day of January, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. for an Order granting the Corporation eave undergo dissolution and liquidation.

Trop Spindler LLP Attorneys for Petitioners The Trustees of Jun Dung 19-02 Whitestone Expressway Suite 202 Whitestone, NY 11357 Phone: (718) 357-4333 Fax: (718) 357-3696 File No. R213004

D'alleva CPA'S, LLP Reg-Istration filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 10/9/13. Office:Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLP upon whom process may served and shall mail copy to 157-14 12TH Ave. Whitestone NY 11357. Purpose: any lawful activity.

D O U G L A S T O N CREATIVE PROPERTIES LLC, a domestic LLC, filed

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with the SSNY on 9/24/13. Office location: SSNY Queens County designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 42-54 235th St., Douglaston, NY 11363. General Purpose.

DP COMMONS NY, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/11/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process The LLC 136-20 38th Ave FI 3 Flushing, NY 11354. Pur-pose: Any lawful activity.

EAST 76 NY. L.L.C. Articles of Organization filed NY Sec of State (SSNY) on 11/07/2013. 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: EAST 76 NY, L.L.C., 33-70 PRINCE STREET, STE FLUSHING,

GDR Rx Card LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/23/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Pavankumar V V Darisi, 149 Ventworth Ave, Albertson, NY 11507-1739. Purpose: General.

GG Stein, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/13. Office in Queens Co SSNY desig agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 30-30 89th St, Jackson Heights, NY 11369. 11369. Heights, Purpose: General.

Notice of Formation of 2269 Strauss Street LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 9/24/13. Office location: Queens Sec. of State des-County. ignated agent of LLC upon whom process against may be served and shall mail process 253-02 148th Dr., to: Rosedale, NY 11422, principal business address. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation FILM INDUSTRIES L.L.C. Art. Of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/30/2013. Office in Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent | Queens County SSNY has |

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of the LLC upon whom against it may be SSNY shall mail served process to the LLC, 33-27 to u. ST, Ziv 2ND FIR ASTORIA, NY 111 Purpose: Film Production 11106.

Notice of Formation of

Group Venture LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/17/13. Office Queens County. location: SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 85-93 66th Avenue, Rego Park, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF K & K WONG'S, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/13. Office location: Kings County SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to principal address: 2015 Stillwell Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11223. Purpose: any lawful

Notice of Formation of KPRH IV OPERATIONS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/04/13. Office location: Queens County.
Princ. office of LLC: 20
Franklin Pl., Woodmere, NY 11598. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Abrams Fensterman, Attn: Greg Stoller, Esg., 1111 Marcus Stoller, Esq., 1111 Marcus Ave., Ste. 107, Lake Success, NY 11042 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: BEAM CITY RIDE SOLUTIONS LLC. Organization Articles filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/28/2013. Office location: Queens County SSNY designated as agent of Queens LLC upon whom process against it may be served. against it may be solved. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Beam City Ride Solutions LLC, 41-72 Jean LLC, at, Suite 4∟, 11373. lawfu Judge Street, Elmhurst. NY Purpose: purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY NAME: ENOMENA LLC. Articles of filed Organization were with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/13/04. Office

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been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, c/o The LLC, 863 Woodword Avenue, Ridgewood, New York 11385. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

of limited liability company (LLC). Name: EMBER-WISE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/18/2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon against it whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Nicky Chu, 67-26 Ingram Street. Forest Hills 11375. Purpose: any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: QUEENS INSTITUTE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/01/2013. Office Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of upon whom against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, 202. Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: RAGS TO RICHES **THRIFT** SHOP LLC. Articles Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York 07/19/2013. Office County. designated LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy process to: C/O States Corporation, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite NY 11228. States Corporation Agents, Purpose: any purpose.

Notice of Formation of PVT Blackbird LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 10/2/13. Office Queens location: Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall process to: 150-45 20th Whitestone, Rd., Whitestone, NY 11357, principal business lawful activity.

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Notice of Formation OLOUGHLIN FLORI OLOUGHLIN FLORIST, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/13/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, regd. agent upon whom and at which may be Any served. lawful process Purpose:

Notice of Formation of Vesta International Group LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/18/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agen of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 42-31 Colden Street, #R7A, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: any lawful

Notice of Qualification of Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on Office location:

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Queens County. formed in Delaware (DE) on 09/11/13. Princ. office of LLC: c/o A & E Real Estate Holdings, LLC, 1065 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10018. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Douglas F. Eisenberg at the princ. office of the LLC. DE addr. of LLC: Corporation Service Co., 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful 4, Dov Purpose: Any lawful

Sapphire Rental Holdings, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/7/13. Of-fice in Queens Co. SSNY desig agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail 13th process to 160-15 Ave, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: General.

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Notice of Qualification of ELMHURST LLC Authority AVENUE. AVENUE, LLC Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/13/13. Office location: Queens County. Delaware LLC formed County, LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 09/11/13. Princ. office of LLC: c/o A & E Real Estate Holdings, LLC, 1065 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10018. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whem process against if whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Douglas F. Eisenberg at the princ. office of the LLC. DE addr. of LLC: Corporation
Service Co., 2711
Centerville Rd., Ste. 400,
Wilmington, DE 19808.
Cert. of Form. filed with of State, Div. of John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, Purpose: 19901 DE Any lawful

SI ZHE XIN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC Arti-cles of Org. filed NY Sec. cles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/8/13. of State Office in SSNY de Queens Co. design.

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LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process C/O Jia Hong 22 Shadetree Ln Roslyn Heights, NY 11577. Purpose: Any lawful ac-

VIMSHOES2, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/5/13. Office Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process The LLC 164-01Jamaica Ave Jamaica, NY Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/20/13. Office location: QUEENS County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to: The P.O. Box 936, COM-K, NY 11725. Purshall LLC. MACK, NY pose: to practice the pro-fession of medicine and any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of IS-LAND MEDICAL CARE,

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Notice is hereby given that a license, 1275290, for beer and/or wine has beer applied for by Liberty Pool and Sports Hall, Inc. to sel beer and/or wine at retail in a tavern, pool hall under Alcoholic Beverage the Control Law at, 109-07 Liberty Avenue South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Queens County, for premises consumption.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on Aug 22 2013, bearing Index Number bearing Index Number NC-000714-13/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me the right to:

Assume the name of (First) Ryan (Middle) William Hyan (Middle) William (Last) Jiang. My present name is (First) Ryan (Last) Jiang (infant). My present address is 215-06 36th

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Ave., Bayside, NY 11361 My place of birth is North Hempstead. NY. My date of birth is June 28, 2006.

CITATION QUEENS COUNTY

THE PEOPLE OF STATE OF NEW YORK, OF THE By the Grace of God Free and Independent File No. 2013-4966

TO: Nicholas Lettire, Gerald Lettire, Michelle Littire, Renee Carfizzi, Laurie Digesu, Maryann Murello Guerrera, Carmela Murello Laakso, Dawn Zioba, Deana Mangan, Carol Ann Famularo, Donato Dellarosa, Joseph Dellarosa, Antoinette Dellarosa, Mary Dellarosa Guadagno, Cono Murell , Dommick Murell and Michael Murello and John Murello if living and if dead to his heirs at law, next of kin and dis-tributees whose names and places of residence are unknown, and if he subsequent to decedent herein, to his executors, administralegatees, devisees.

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assigness and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of CARMINE CONO MURELLO a/k/a CARMINE MURELLO the decedent herein, whose name and place of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained"

A petition_having been duly filed by Debra Calcaterra who is/are domiciled at 15 Walter Court, Commack, New York 11725. YOU ARE HERE BY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County at 8811 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica, New York, on February 6, 2014, at 09:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Carmile Carmile Cono Murello, aka Car-mile Murello lately domiat 9740 259th St, Flora Park, New York United States ad-11001, mitting dated to probate a Will August 14, 2008 (and Codicil(s), if any, dat-

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ed a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Car-mine Cono Murello), deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: Letters Testamentary issue to Calcatérra. Dated,

Attested Sealed December 2013

HON. Peter J. Kelly, Surrogate Margaret Gribbon. Chief Clerk Stephen B. Nathan, Attor-

Stephen B. Nathan, Attor-

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