

**Meng reviews first year
as freshman in Congress**

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**East meets
West**

QGuide Page 35



Klein farm tenant admits tree cutting

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Tenants of the historic Klein farm in Fresh Meadows accepted responsibility for cutting down trees and altering the driveway of the property without permits at a hearing Tuesday.

A stop-work order and a violation had been issued to the property's owner, Audrey Realty, by the city Department of Buildings in December for "illegal tree removal, work without a permit" and "substantial modification of

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REPUBLIC DAY

Students from the Hindu Temple Society of North America perform a folk dance during the Indian National Flag Hoisting Ceremony. **See more photos on Page 18.**

Photo by Christina Santucci

Boro residents slam proposal to add runways

Alliance touts GPS system to cut jet noise

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Northeast Queens residents fighting for quieter skies around New York City's major airports are butting heads with the Global Gateway Alliance over suggestions that building more runways will help to improve and modernize the overcrowded facilities.

Advocates across the city fear that adding more runways will only lead to an increase in air traffic and worsen the noise issue that many community groups say

is causing the quality of life to deteriorate for those who live near LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International airports.

Jeffrey Starin, a former pilot and a member of Prospect Park Quiet Skies in Brooklyn, has seen the congestion first-hand, but he said there are other solutions to be found that would avoid extending runways or building additional ones. He said he does not believe it is realistic to try and bring more traffic into already

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Lunar baby born at NYHQ

Hospital delivers one of borough's first babies of New Year

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Two proud parents took home one of Queens' first babies born in the Lunar New Year from the hospital last week.

Yin Liu gave birth to a baby girl, Meiom, at New York Hospital Queens at 12:39 a.m. last Friday.

"It was a happy surprise to have Meiom on the Lunar New Year. She wasn't due until Feb. 6," Liu said as she lay in the hospital bed with her newborn baby, who weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces.

The new baby's father, Chris Gammon, said they named Meiom after a bottle of Napa Valley Pinot Noir.

"We also wanted it to sound Oriental," said Liu, an accountant who is originally from China but moved to New York City four years ago.

The couple live in Astoria and missed the family Lunar New Year celebrations they would have usually attended when their daughter decided it was time to enter the world.

"When I started having contractions, I just thought 'Oh, no. I'm going to ruin my doctor's New Year's Eve,'" Liu said.

Liu's mother made sure to bring traditional Chinese food to the hospital as well as a red envelope with money in it, as is traditional for Lunar New Year.

The Lunar New Year is considered the most impor-



Chris Gammon (l.) and Yin Liu celebrate the birth of their daughter, Meiom, at New York Hospital Queens.
Photo by Alex Robinson



Meiom was one of the first babies born in Queens in the Lunar New Year.
Photo by Alex Robinson

tant holiday in many Asian cultures and falls on a different day every year. This year it fell on Jan. 31. Meiom was born in the Year of the Horse in the

Flushing doc gets year in fraud case

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A Flushing doctor was sentenced to a year in prison last week after he pleaded guilty to participating in a scheme that prosecutors said fraudulently billed Medicare for more than \$15 million, the U.S. attorney in Brooklyn said.

Hoi Yat Kam, 59, was charged, along with five others, of bilking Medicare for services they were not providing and were not medically necessary, according to the indictment, filed by the office of Loretta Lynch, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District.

Kam, an experienced doctor with medical licenses in three states, used the people who benefit from Medicare, a federal program that covers the medical costs of the disabled and elderly, to take advantage of the system, Lynch's office said.

The defendants operated out of two Flushing clinics, URI Medical Service PC and Sarang Medical PC, at 35-05 Farrington St., where they would offer seniors free non-medical services so they could use their Medicare numbers to bill for treatment that was never provided, the indictment said.

"The scheme operated with the relentless efficiency of an assembly line," Lynch said in the sentencing memo.

Dozens of seniors would come through the clinics' doors every day,

lured by the promise of free massages, facials, meals, prizes and social events, Lynch said.

Patients were told they must see a doctor in order to receive the free services and were then escorted to see Kam and other doctors, who would prescribe unneeded physical therapy that was never administered, the U.S. attorney said. Seniors would then be given recreational massages and be treated to the promised perks of the clinics, while Kam filed bills to Medicare for treatment that was never provided, Lynch said in the memo.

Between March 2007 and October 2011, Kam and his co-defendants submitted approximately \$16.6 million in false and fraudulent claims to Medicare, according to the indictment.



The medical clinic where prosecutors said a Flushing doctor committed Medicare fraud is closed.
Photo by Alex Robinson

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Boro residents petition for extension of Motor Parkway

Campaign calls for paved sidewalk where Winchester meets Union Turnpike at Creedmoor

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Hundreds of petitioners have joined forces with a campaign calling for the Motor Parkway bike and pedestrian trail in Belle-rose to be upgraded.

The campaign was started by Joby Jacob and Jana Suchtova, two Queens residents who say they use the historic path regularly but are unhappy with its abrupt end once it reaches Belle-rose to be upgraded. The campaign was started by Joby Jacob and Jana Suchtova, two Queens residents who say they use the historic path regularly but are unhappy with its abrupt end once it reaches Belle-rose to be upgraded.

The original parkway, built in the early 1900s, was a private road that stretched from Fresh Meadows out to Suffolk County. The city Parks Department main-

tains the 2.5-mile portion of the parkway in Alley Pond and Cunningham parks.

For bicyclists who ride eastbound on the section between Horace Harding and Winchester boulevards, the lack of road beyond Union Turnpike creates a safety issue, Jacob said.

As of the beginning of the month, more than 250 have signed an online petition agreeing with him.

"If you live in Glen Oaks or Floral Park, then the only way to get out here is to drive, but not everyone drives," said Jacob, citing the lack of public transportation along the route. "It would be nice to take a leisurely walk without the possibility of being run over. It's just not safe."

The narrow grass section where the Motor Parkway now leads is sandwiched between Winchester Boulevard and the



A bicyclist rides along the Long Island Motor Parkway in Fresh Meadows.

back fence of the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center. The proposal created by Jacob and Suchtova calls for a sidewalk to be built along the grass that could continue along the Cross Island Parkway, which would require the fence to

be pushed back to create enough room.

Jacob said he is not necessarily asking for a pedestrian bridge to be built across Winchester Boulevard, but the idea could be revisited later if sufficient funds could be raised. For

now, he said the only costs he anticipates being involved with the project are to move the Creedmoor building's fence, put down the sidewalk and plant some shrubs.

"We don't need anything fancy," he said. "We just need access. What we're presenting are just options and I don't want to dictate it as long as it gets done."

Jacob said he has been in contact with City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) and state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), because all the roads and properties that would be involved in any changes are owned by either the city or the state. Though no suggestions are set in stone, Avella said he was in favor of the idea and would support Jacob and Suchtova along the way.

"The idea is great.

We just need to make sure there aren't any structures in line that could present a problem" said Avella. "I think it's doable and we'll see where it goes."

Jacob said he and Avella talked about setting up public hearings in the near future to give stakeholders a chance to voice their opinions before any decisions are made. He said he is also planning to do a group walk once the season changes to further show the public the beauty the Motor Parkway provides and how many people use it.

"I want to show people this great thing we have here in Queens," he said. "There's nothing else like it, I don't think, in the area."

Reach reporter Kelsey Durham at 718-260-4573 or by e-mail at kdurham@cn-glocal.com.

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Wilets Pt shops shuttered

Businesses scramble for new properties after leaving at second deadline

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Many Willets Point business owners have been left without a home after they surrendered their auto shops' properties to meet a deadline that passed last weekend.

Dozens of auto repair shops and junk yards that have occupied the blighted area for decades have been moved out in order to make room for the first phase of a \$3 billion redevelopment, which will transform Willets Point into a new neighborhood with a mega mall.

The city offered businesses a payment worth six months' rent if they agreed to sign a settlement that they would leave by Jan. 31. The city planned to take their keys Monday.

Martha Gualotuna has owned her store, Emanuel Corp., which fixes and paints cars, for more than 10 years. She was the last shop on her row to stay until the last day.

She signed a settlement agreeing to move her business in exchange for a



Martha Gualotuna packs up her belongings and prepares to leave her shop in Willets Point.

Photo by Alex Robinson

payment worth six months of her rent, but she said she felt pressured by the city's lawyer to sign. She said she was also worried she might later lose her business to the city in court and leave with nothing.

She packed up her belongings and shut the doors of her business for the last time last Friday, forced to move what she could into storage with no new location to relocate to.

"It's very hard. I didn't

want this day to come," she said.

She said she does not know what her next step will be as she has little money to start a new business and has little hope of

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City to drop appeal in stop/frisk lawsuit

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Borough President Melinda Katz said she supported Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan to drop the city's appeal to the federal stop-and-frisk case.

"It is critical that we restore trust and faith in every community in this city and begin to repair relationships," she said. "With effective community policing, New York can remain the safest big city in this country, while serving all of its residents with respect."

Calling it a "defining moment" for the five boroughs, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced last week his administration was dropping the appeal filed by his predecessor in the city's long-running stop-and-frisk case, laying the groundwork for a court-appointed monitor to oversee reforms to the NYPD for three years.

"This is a defining moment in our history. It's a defining moment for millions of our families, especially those with young men of color," de Blasio said at a news conference in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, which along with Queens neighborhoods such as Jackson Heights, Corona and Jamaica had experienced

historically high levels of stops under Mayor Michael Bloomberg's 12 years in office.

"And it will lay the foundation for not only keeping us the safest big city in America, but making us safer still," de Blasio added. "This will be one city, where everyone's rights are respected and where police and community stand together to confront violence."

The city's police unions still have a stake in the case, and they have until Feb. 7 to respond to the city's motion to drop the appeal.

Patrick Lynch, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, said the union still views the ruling with skepticism but did not say whether or not it would pursue further legal action.

"We continue to have serious concerns about how these remedies will impact our members and the ability to do their jobs," he said. "Our goal is to continue to be involved in the process in order to give voice to our members and to make every effort to ensure that their rights are protected."

In the city's agreement with the Center for Constitutional Rights, the civil rights group that filed the

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Ex sues Sliwa, Katz over support checks

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Curtis Sliwa's love-spurned ex-wife claimed in court papers last week that the Guardian Angel and Borough President Melinda Katz concocted an unbelievable story about the method by which the Queens politician conceived her children in order to pull a fast one on borough voters.

In a lengthy and colorfully worded lawsuit filed against the beret-wearing radio host and the Queens Democrat, Mary Sliwa asserted that a 2012 exclusive in the New York Post revealing Curtis Sliwa to be the father of Katz's two young boys was planted by the couple as a way to boost her political profile as she prepared to run for borough president.

Katz served in the state Assembly and the City Council, where she headed the powerful Land Use Com-



Details of the relationship between Curtis Sliwa and Borough President Melinda Katz are revealed in a lawsuit filed by Sliwa's ex-wife.

mittee. She also worked in Queens Borough Hall before taking some time out of the public eye to raise her young children.

"That awful story was designed to conceal the truth, to legitimize their affair and to dupe the Queens electorate so that Melinda Katz's

political career was not derailed by these deliberate out-of-wedlock births and the circumstances surrounding them," Mary Sliwa wrote in court filings, which seek to recoup some of the \$518,000 Curtis paid to Katz in child support since 2008.

A spokesman for Katz said Mary Sliwa's motivation for the suit was to gain leverage in a separate Family Court case against Curtis seeking payments from their divorce settlement.

"The only thing that should matter in this situation is protecting the children affected, something Curtis's ex-wife clearly cares nothing about," spokesman Nathan Smith said. "Mary is only driven by greed and when she can't extract more money from Curtis she lashes out about ancient history. She should be ashamed."

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Mayor Bill de Blasio, shown in a file photo with Police Commissioner Bill Bratton, announces the city will drop its challenge to a federal court's ruling on stop-and-frisk.

AP Photo/Seth Wenig

Meng looks back at first year in House

NE Queens congresswoman describes her bipartisan approach to governing since moving to Washington

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Having survived a government shutdown, a shooting outside the Capitol and a mugging, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng's (D-Flushing) first year in Congress was anything but uneventful.

The freshman congresswoman took office last year after defeating then-City Councilman Dan Halloran to become New York's first Asian-American member of Congress.

"It's been productive," she said in an interview at the TimesLedger Newspapers' offices. "I'm incredibly privileged to have this opportunity to represent a district which I love because it's all within Queens. It makes it a little easier to advocate a lot of issues and legislatively we've gotten some things passed."

She witnessed a city on edge as a number of events

shook Washington in her first year.

In October, she endured a 16-day government shutdown triggered by Congress' failure to pass legislation that would fund government agencies for the 2014 fiscal year.

Two weeks after a shooting at the Washington Navy Yard rattled the city, police shot a woman who was driving erratically outside the Capitol in October.

Meng then fell victim to a mugging when she was walking home from dinner one evening in mid-November.

Her move to Washington has posed a whole new set of challenges for Meng, a mother of two young boys whose family has stayed in New York.

One of the most challenging tasks, she said, has been getting to know her Republican counterparts in order to push bipartisan

CONVERSATIONS



U.S. Rep. Grace Meng talks about her time in Washington at the TimesLedger Newspapers' offices. Photo by Alex Robinson

approaches to governing.

"[I've] really been trying to overcome that stereotype where one party doesn't work with the other and trying to reach across the aisle," she said. "I think

that regardless of which constituent you're talking to, that's one of their No. 1 complaints — that it's so polarized."

She said building bridges with other mem-

bers of Congress has required an adjustment from what she was used to in the 150-member state Assembly. The House of Representatives has more than 400 members who are rarely all on the floor at the same time, except to vote.

"So you have to spend a lot more effort and take a lot more initiative to try to find ways to reach out to people," she said.

In one such initiative, Meng joined a bipartisan Christian prayer group, which is frequented by a number of Republicans.

The congresswoman also started a Kids Safety Caucus with members of both parties to work on legislation focused on the safety of children.

She said she was struck by how well she got along with certain congressional members who are ideological opposites.

Other than partisanship, Meng said she hears

a lot of concerns from constituents about veterans services and immigration.

Meng said she was confident some form of immigration reform would be passed in the House eventually.

The U.S. Senate passed an immigration reform bill in May 2013 that would give undocumented immigrants legal status and a path to citizenship. The bill, however, was never brought before the House of Representatives for a vote.

The congresswoman said she has heard rumors Republican leadership were thinking of passing legislation that would be in several bills on a piecemeal basis, unlike the comprehensive reform the Senate passed.

"I think that nationally the Republican leadership sees this as a must do because of the political climate. They don't want to

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Mayor snubs Manhattan parade but pledges to march in Queens

BY BILL PARRY

Mayor Bill de Blasio will march in the St. Pat's For All Parade in Sunnyside March 2, according to City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights). The news came a day after de Blasio said that he would not join the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Fifth Avenue because the events' sponsor, the Hibernian Order, does not allow gay groups to participate.

"I simply disagree with the organizers of that parade in their exclusion of some individuals in this city," de Blasio said during a press event Tuesday.

Dromm welcomed de Blasio to Sunnyside with

open arms.

"I am very proud to be marching with the mayor in the St. Pat's For All Parade here in Queens, an all-inclusive event I helped start 15 years ago," Dromm said. "St. Pat's For All embodies the true meaning of the day: that everyone can be Irish on St. Patrick's Day."

While the parade in Manhattan remains enormously popular drawing over a million spectators to Fifth Avenue every March, it has also been divisive. The Hibernian Order won a court battle in 1993 barring the LGBT community from marching with banners and signs. The mayor said he has never marched in the St. Patrick's Parade

as an elected official. David Dinkins boycotted the parade in '93 and '94 while Mayors Giuliani and Bloomberg marched every year they were in office.

"I am very proud of Mayor de Blasio's decision to not march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manhattan," Dromm said. "Unlike in Ireland, the organizers of the Fifth Avenue parade have discriminated against LGBT people year after year. That is simply unacceptable."

The 15th annual St. Pat's For All Parade route runs along Skillman Avenue starting in Sunnyside Gardens and finishing in Woodside, right through the neighborhood of Coun-

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Queens trio takes last place on environment report card

BY RICH BOCKMANN

While a number of their colleagues got glowing reviews, a trio of Queens City Council members showed a duller shade of green when their voting records put them on the bottom of the list of environmental causes.

Former Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) and ex-Councilman James Gennaro, the Fresh Meadows Democrat who chaired the Environmental Protection Committee, received high praise from the New York League of Conservation Voters advocacy group on its annual environmental scorecard for their across-



Former City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Councilman James Gennaro received special praise in a recent report for their support of environmental legislation.

the-board backing of more than a dozen green bills last year.

The report said the two "deserve enormous credit not only for the quality of their work but also for their

professionalism and remarkable work ethic, down to their last days in office."

But three borough lawmakers were not so kind to the Big Apple environment,

Continued on Page 54

Driver appears in court after fatal Flushing crash

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A 24-year-old Flushing man, accused of driving with a suspended license when he was in a New Year's Eve car crash that took the life of a pre-K teacher, made his first appearance in court Monday.

Anthony Zupnick was arrested and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle after he collided with Annamarie Tromp, 56, who was driving at the corner of 33rd Avenue and 172nd Street shortly after 2:30 p.m. New Year's Eve, the NYPD said.

Family members and friends of Tromp attended the Queens Criminal Court proceedings to get their first glimpse of the young man they hold responsible for their loved one's death.

"To see him there was tough," said Louisa Anastasi, Tromp's sister. "A 24-year-old can ruin a

family. I'm very saddened by that. He was there with his whole family and we're missing a piece of ours."

The court proceedings were adjourned until March 3 because the DA's office did not have a plea offer since the investigation is ongoing.

Zupnick had his license suspended nine times before the accident, the last time Nov. 26, 2013, the Queens district attorney's office said in court documents.

Theresa Marangiello, who lives at the corner where the accident occurred, said she was getting ready to go to a New Year's Eve party when she heard the crash and went outside to see what had happened.

"He was going so fast that when he hit her, she rolled over so many times in my neighbor's driveway," she said in a telephone interview.

Marangiello said Zup-



A memorial dedicated to the memory of Annamarie Tromp sits at the site of the crash.

Photo by Alex Robinson

nick ended up hitting her tenant's parked car farther down the street after he collided with Tromp.

When police arrived at the scene of the crash, Zupnick was unable to provide a driver's license and told officers he did not see Tromp coming until it was too late and that he was "not paying attention to the speed of his vehicle," according to the criminal complaint filed by the Queens DA.

Zupnick refused to comment after he left court and his lawyer, Steve Zissou, did not return a phone call requesting comment.

"I hope for justice," Anastasi said. "My whole family is hoping for justice and I have all the faith in our legal system."

Tromp's family and friends have struggled to deal with the death of the popular teacher, who taught at PS 79 in Whitestone.

"As the days go by it isn't getting any easier for

us. It's getting harder. The shock is wearing off and we're starting to realize that she's gone forever," Anastasi said.

The school's principal, Dr. Paula Marron, will be holding a memorial service for students, parents, friends and Tromp's family at PS 79, at 147-27 15th Drive, Feb. 14 at 3 p.m.

"We can't bring her back, but she's in all of our hearts and we're all thinking about her," said Lois Kaplan, a second-grade teacher at PS 79. "Dr. Marron has tried to make the school run as normally as possible. It's so hard. We have to pass her classroom every day."

Tromp's family also said they hope to commemorate Tromp's memory by planting a tree at the site of the crash.

"We're heartbroken," Anastasi said.



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POLICE Blotter

Queens man charged in Sunnyside bus stop crash

SUNNYSIDE — Jackson Heights resident Luis Andrade, 32, was arrested at the 115th Precinct Sunday and charged with fleeing from the scene of a hit-and-run in Sunnyside, police said.

Andrade allegedly lost control of a white Mazda sedan before slamming into a bus stop on Northern Boulevard at 48th Street at 7 p.m. Saturday evening, the Fire Department said. Five people were taken to Elmhurst Hospital Center, four with non-life threatening injuries, including a 7-year-old girl, according to the FDNY.

Police say Andrade was charged with leaving the scene of an accident with serious injury and failure to show his license, a misdemeanor.

The white Mazda was found abandoned at 61st Street near 38th Avenue in Woodside, authorities said. The vehicle was discovered with a shattered windshield and the front bumper nearly torn off, according to police sources.



The Mazda SUV that authorities believe was involved in the accident was found about a mile away in Woodside.

Photo by Roy Renna/BMR Breaking News

Police look for Woodside burglary suspect

WOODSIDE — Police were seeking the public's help in finding a man in connection with the burglary of two churches.

The suspect allegedly forced his way into a back door at the Seventh-day Adventist Community Church, on 58th Street, Jan. 16 just after midnight and stole two desktop computers, a laptop and two dozen Visa gift cards, police said.

The NYPD alleged the suspect also forced his way into Sure Foundation Lutheran Church, on Roosevelt Avenue, the same night and made off with an Apple iPad, an iPod, cash and checks.

Police described the suspect as Hispanic and in his 30s with a medium build. In the first incident, police said he was wearing a red baseball hat, a red waist-length jacket, blue jeans and sneakers.



Police believe this suspect allegedly burglarized 7th Day Adventist Community Church.

Images courtesy NYPD

NYPD asks for help finding missing teen

RIDGEWOOD — Police were seeking assistance in their search for a missing Ridgewood 15-year-old.

Officers said Carmen Del Valle was last seen Jan. 30 inside her home, near Myrtle Avenue and Hancock Street.

She is described as 4 feet 11 inches tall and 100 pounds with brown eyes and long brown hair.



CARMEN DEL VALLE

The Center for Allergy, Asthma & Immunology GADI AVSHALOMOV, M.D.

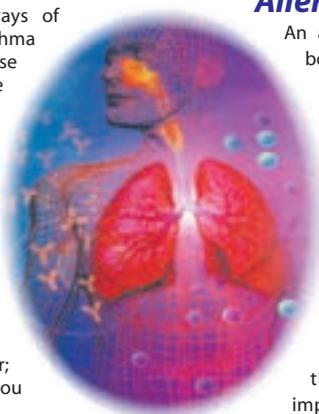
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Ulrich takes oath as Dems applaud

BY SARINA TRANGLE

City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) is a Democrat's Republican, if you let his colleagues tell it.

At Ulrich's second swearing-in ceremony Jan. 30, several Democratic politicians sang Ulrich's praises.

While pledging to work with elected officials on both sides of the aisle, the councilman outlined an agenda emphasizing recovery for those reeling from Superstorm Sandy and the recession.

But he said his bipartisan nature was partially born out of necessity.

"I would have invited some other Republican elected officials, except there aren't any left in Queens," Ulrich said. "You don't have to clap for that."

Prominent Republicans sitting in the audience were packed into the PS 63 auditorium, including Queens County Conservative Committee Chairman Tom Long, former U.S. Rep. Bob Turner and ex-Republican mayoral candidate Joe Lhota.

After speeches by Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan), city Comptroller Scott Stringer, city Public Advocate Letitia James and U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Ulrich shed his freshman title while repeating an oath administered by state Assemblyman Philip Goldfeder (D-Rockaway

Beach).

His wife Yadira Moran-Ulrich held the Bible for Ulrich, 28, while their young daughter waved enthusiastically from her mother's hip.

Ulrich reiterated his history in the district, noting that 23 years ago he graduated from kindergarten at PS 63. His kindergarten teacher Barbara Martuscello laughed alongside the politicians as Ulrich read her comments on his kindergarten report card.

"I was always amazed that a young, rambunctious person like me, just a kid from Ozone Park, could stand on the same stage tonight and taken an oath of office," he said. "Only in New York could something like this happen."

This term, Ulrich will chair the Veterans Committee and sit on the Housing and Buildings, Small Business, Environmental Protection and Recovery and Resiliency committees.

He plans to improve public transportation by forging a permanent arrangement for Rockaway ferry service, expanding and enhancing express bus service and alleviating congestion on Woodhaven and Cross Bay boulevards.

The councilman said he hoped to spur job growth by offering counseling and informational seminars on low interest loans and the city bidding process for businesses in his district.

He said he would in-
Continued on Page 54



City Councilman Eric Ulrich (r.) recites the oath of office with help from his family. **See more photos on Page 22.**

Photo by Carol Alvarado

Crowley urged to oppose TPP

Protesters say trade agreement would drive U.S. jobs overseas to Asia

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Dozens of protesters took to the sidewalk Friday outside the office of U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) in hopes of persuading him to vote against the fast-tracking of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement that opponents fear would send thousands of American jobs overseas.

The group swarmed Crowley's Jackson Heights office, at 82-11 37th Ave., wearing costumes and carrying picket signs showing their opposition to the TPP agreement, which many people in the crowd referred to as "NAFTA 2.0."

President Barack Obama has supported the agreement, arguing it would stabilize the American economy by increasing exports and creating more jobs, but those against the pact say it would do just the opposite and a significant number of American union employees would lose their jobs in favor of outsourcing work to the Far East.

The protesters said Crowley, who serves as vice chairman of the Democratic Caucus, is one of just a handful of congressional members who have not yet spoken out against fast-tracking the agreement through the House of Representatives, a process which they worry would take away the opportunity for debate or to express opposition.

Groups of rally members marched up and down the sidewalk singing



A masked protester (r.) is among dozens to rally outside U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley's office against the fast tracking of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. Photo by Kelsey Durham

songs, asking Crowley to adopt their stance on the issue and chanting several phrases, including "No fast-track, Crowley."

"We want to make sure he votes no," said Elliot Crown as he helped hand out signs. "We're all different people here, we're not all the same, but we do all agree about the TPP. It's got to stop."

Crowley has voted against trade agreements in the past, including the Central American Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement, but those opposed to the TPP are growing weary over his hesitation to announce a position.

Alex Florez, spokesman for Crowley, pointed out after the rally that although the measure has not yet come up for a vote this

year, he did vote against Obama's Trade Promotion Authority legislation when it last appeared before Congress.

"One of the most important parts of his job is hearing from constituents and Congressman Crowley appreciates those who visited his office to share their views," Florez said. "The congressman votes on trade agreements based on their individual merits and their impact on jobs, national security and families and communities."

Some participants in the rally carried signs and yelled chants contending that the process of fast-tracking legislation through Congress was unconstitutional.

Ian Gray, of the Bronx, said he came to the rally in hopes that lawmakers would see there are people

against this process.

"I feel extremely strongly opposed to the idea of fast-tracking because it gives the opposition no chance to be heard," said Gray. "If we can have a grassroots movement like this, hopefully it will catch fire. This is just one representative in one office in one neighborhood, but hopefully it gets some attention and it can be contagious."

Crowley did not appear at the rally, but protesters said they hoped their efforts have persuaded him to consider all points of view before casting his vote.

"We have to put pressure on him," said Walter Ditman, who has lived in Crowley's Jackson Heights district for more than 20 years. "He has to walk the walk, not just talk the talk."

Medicare

Continued from Page 2

ording to Lynch. His share of that total was about \$4.5 million, the U.S. attorney said.

Kam pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit healthcare fraud Jan. 9.

Lynch recommended Kam be sentenced to 46 to 57 months in prison, but he was only sentenced to 12 months and a day.

"Every dollar that the defendant wrongfully took from these programs could have, and indeed should have, been used to provide valuable services to Medi-

care beneficiaries," Lynch said in the memo. "The court's sentence should therefore reflect the seriousness of this offense, and the need to promote respect for the criminal fraud laws, particularly those dealing with healthcare fraud."

In addition to his prison sentence, Kam was or-

dered to pay \$2.2 million in restitution.

Kam's arrest was part of the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, a nationwide operation that has charged more than 1,700 defendants who have collectively bilked \$5.5 million from Medicare, according to the FBI.

Parkway Hospital auctioned for \$22M to LLC

BY SARINA TRANGLE

A limited liability company laid claim to the former Parkway Hospital property in Forest Hills with a \$22 million bid during a foreclosure auction last month.

Joseph Risi, the referee assigned to the foreclosure case, said five or six parties showed up at the Jan. 10 auction of the 56,400-square-foot lot, at 70-35 113th St.

After Auberge Grand Central LLC, which holds the mortgage on the property, opened with a \$1,000 bid, the price jumped to \$7 million and gradually climbed to \$22 million, Risi said.

An unidentified man affiliated with 70-35 113th Street Holdings LLC entered the winning \$22 million bid, Risi said. The referee said he was not aware of what the LLC planned to

do with the property, but that it had deposited a 10 percent down payment, as required, and appeared to be on track to close on the sale.

Ann Hsiung, an attorney representing the LLC in the foreclosure, said she was not authorized to speak with the media.

As of Wednesday, the state did not yet have records of the LLC's formation on hand and the name of the potential new owner was not known.

Risi said the difference between the \$22 million bid and the \$14,862,239.38 a previous referee determined the hospital owed Auberge would be handed over to the city Department of Finance.

Both Parkway Acquisition I LLC, which represents the original hospital, and Auberge, which holds the debt, could lay claim to the money and ask the



A limited liability corporation successfully bid \$22 million for the old Parkway Hospital property in an auction last month.

court to intervene, he said.

Since the state Commission on Healthcare Facilities shut the hospital in 2008, the Forest Hills building has racked up 14 open violations with the city Department of Buildings and seven with the city Environmental Control Board.

Typically fees from

building violations are paid for with the purchase money, Risi said.

Currently Parkway Acquisition I has a \$10,700 tab for infractions that range from failing to maintain the building exterior because of bulging bricks to not having its elevator annually inspected, accord-



ROBERT AQUINO

ing to the DOB website.

Since 2008, Parkway's owner and chief executive officer, Dr. Robert Aquino, lost the battle to reopen it as creditors began pursuing him for unpaid debts.

Aquino filed a lawsuit in 2009 against then-state Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio and former Jamaica Hospital CEO David

Rosen, accusing them of setting Parkway up to fail after Rosen bribed Seminerio to support Jamaica Hospital in the state Legislature. Seminerio died in prison and Rosen was sentenced to a three-year prison term for bribery.

Aquino later pleaded guilty to federal bribery charges stemming from his attempts to pay state Sen. Carl Kruger \$60,000 in exchange for Kruger lobbying to revive Parkway. He was sentenced to four months in prison.

Aquino and Parkway's attorney did not respond to requests for comment.

Following a foreclosure judgment issued May 6, Parkway Acquisition filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection from creditors June 17, 2013.

The bankruptcy case was dismissed, paving the way for the Jan. 10 auction.

"We always heard that Calvary Hospital was the best at treating pain. But we had no idea you would relieve our family's pain as well."



"Before my sister Cookie arrived at Calvary with terminal lung cancer, we suffered the excruciating pain with her each and every day. But once at Calvary, they did everything to relieve her pain. And because of that, they also relieved our anxieties and mental anguish. She was treated with care, sensitivity, devotion and many hugs. And so were we. In her final days, you gave her peace, comfort and dignity, and allowed me to be her sister again. We knew that you had the reputation of being the very best there is at treating the pain of a patient. But what we never knew was that you are also the best at relieving the pain that we, Cookie's family, had. You will always be more than just a hospital to us. You will always be a member of our family. Thank you, Calvary."

- Lonnie Weigel

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1pm The Poetry of Langston Hughes – David Mills

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LGA MAKEOVER

LaGuardia is taking a lot of heat for being the worst airport in America, and now the governor has joined the chorus of critics who trash the Queens gateway as dingy, obsolete and low tech.

We welcome Gov. Andrew Cuomo into the one-sided conversation about LGA, which opened in 1939 and ranks among the nation's oldest airports. Bounded by water on three sides and limited to only two runways, LaGuardia speaks to an earlier time when 12.5 million passengers a year were not trying to navigate its crowded terminals.

Not surprisingly, LaGuardia is near the top of industry lists for the most flight delays in the country.

In his State of the State address last month, Cuomo vowed to take control of the planned \$3.6 billion face-lift for the central terminal at LaGuardia. He was clearly indignant that Travel & Leisure had named LGA the nation's bottom feeder in a 2012 survey.

The Port Authority appears willing to work with the state on bringing part of LGA into the 21st century. But back in 2000, when then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani tried to get Kennedy out from under the authority, he failed despite widespread support.

One can't help but wonder if the Port Authority, now embroiled in the Bridgegate scandal, has been making mischief over the years that distracted it from focusing on the rehabilitation of the Queens airport.

In all fairness to LaGuardia, the new Delta terminal has up-to-date amenities, such as tablets spread out across the waiting area and some decent food alternatives in the dining section.

There is little disagreement over whether LGA should modernize and provide a fitting welcome to our fabled city, but a debate rages over how far the changes should go.

Global Gateway Alliance, an air travel advocacy group, contends LaGuardia should adopt the FAA's NextGen system, which uses state-of-the-art air control systems to reduce delays. But Quiet Skies, a Bayside-based group formed after the FAA changed its flight paths from LaGuardia, fears NextGen would lead to even greater aircraft noise.

Above the din one thing is certain: New Yorkers are a tough bunch who expect visitors to brave our older airports, lug carry-ons down narrow stairways and wait in long lines for taxis because that is what we have always done.

Of course, we want an updated LaGuardia but one that respects its roots and is not a clone of an international newcomer. This is best done under the watchful eye of Cuomo, a native son of Queens.



OTHER VOICES

Don't believe right-wing lies about the left

TimesLedger News-papers reader Ed Konecnik finds it perturbing that some folks do not believe in his philosophical world. Since he refers to the U.S. Constitution all the time, he is either a constitutional lawyer or one of those laughable right-wingers who carry around a pocket Constitution and flash it at every progressive they see as if it was a cross to vanquish a vampire.

I have a pocket Constitution, too. The constitutionality of something is determined by the courts, and

what the pocket-flashers or Konecnik think about its interpretation means naught. They only refer to it to be some kind of pseudo-authority on democracy and imagined freedoms.

His real beef with our system and progressive ideas is any "redistribution of wealth," the idea Karl Marx used when he wrote about socialism. Notice how the righties always call progressive ideas "socialism" so as to conjure up the image of Cold War Russia and how maybe one day soon, if we are not careful, we will all have to live in tiny,

cold, state-allocated apartments, drive soot-spewing cars, have our jobs and pay dictated by the state and, worse yet, have to wear big fur hats in winter. They think a progressive government will lead us down this path.

Konecnik is peeved that he has to pay taxes, and he does not like where the tax money is spent. He is against government benevolence and programs that give those in need a helping hand. In other words, let the needy eat cake. It is their fault they are needy.

It is right in charac-

ter with the right-wing platform of no help to punish those who do not have enough to get by in life and those who have not found a job in six months and need a few bucks to live.

The punishment is supposed to teach them a lesson and make them crawl out of their desperation or not. Kicking somebody when they are down does not help anybody.

*Tyler Cassell
Flushing*

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More action needed to stop Star Nissan violations

Again it has happened. I come down the sidewalk along the Clearview Expressway service road on my motorized scooter and vehicles from Star Nissan block my way because they are parked on the sidewalk. I, as a handicapped person in my 80s, have to risk my life and go out into the service road, where vehicles are speeding off the expressway trying to make the light at Northern Boulevard.

I demand the vehicles be moved so I can pass safely. I have complained constantly about this — even met with elected lead-

ers and spoken to the police many times — yet the problem persists.

It is not only me that this affects. Pedestrians from the elderly grandmother to the child on his or her way to and from school who do not complain as I do have to risk their lives and walk into the street around the vehicles because of this business operated by people who do not care.

Will it take a death or serious injury before a change is seen? Vehicles are also parked often on the sidewalk in front of auto businesses along Northern Boulevard, and the “No Standing” zone along

the service road next to the business is frequently blocked illegally with their vehicles restricting the flow of traffic.

Look at Nissan’s parking lot, in the rear of its property in the residential area. It is only supposed to park 22 cars there, according to its certificate of occupancy. Yet there are always more vehicles than that squeezed into that area, sometimes close to 70 vehicles. Local residents have to put up with that and it devalues our homes.

Violations mean nothing to Star Nissan, owned by Mr. Koufakis. This business owes \$16,000 in city En-

vironmental Control Board fines, according to the city Department of Buildings website. Yet nothing happens to it. I blame the DOB and city Board of Standards and Appeals for not enforcing the certificate of occupancy of this business.

These agencies need to be investigated. They are useless and incompetent. Mayor Bill de Blasio and city Public Advocate Letitia James should take the initiative to begin an investigation.

When I go by the Dodge-Jeep dealership, on Northern Boulevard and 212th Street, it is the same problem. Vehicles are usually

blocking the sidewalk on both sides of this business, on 212th and 213th streets. Why don’t the people ticketing the parked cars, whose time has expired on 213th Street, issue violations to the Dodge-Jeep people for blocking the sidewalk?

I have seen these meter people pass right by vehicles blocking the sidewalk by this business. More police action is needed on both car dealerships.

What disturbs me is the lack of respect these and some other local businesses have for the community where they operate and make their money. They flaunt the law continuously

and they have no regard for the safety or rights of their neighbors. I believe there is a racial component to these problems. Many people living in this area are people of color.

This behavior has to change and these businesses and the city agencies must be held accountable for these transgressions. If all else fails, the businesses should be padlocked and put out of business.

*Mandingo Osceola Tshaka
Bayside*

TIMESLEDGER, FEB. 7-13, 2014

Do not legalize illegal housing

Mayor Bill de Blasio and other city officials are floating the idea of legalizing illegal basement apartments and other units as a way of dealing with the need for more affordable housing in our city. The outgoing chairwoman of the City Planning Commission, Amanda Burden, has said we must accept an increase in density and height in our neighborhoods if we are to accommodate all those needing housing. She admitted this would be a hard sell in most areas of the city.

These proposals should send up red flags across the city. Many civic organizations have fought against illegal conversions and overdevelopment for many years. Civics have lobbied for rezoning of our neighborhoods that would maintain the character of those communities. Those rezonings have been accomplished with the help of elected officials and the

City Planning Commission.

We must not move backward and negate those rezonings by allowing legalization of units that will overburden the infrastructure of existing communities. In addition, many schools in our city are overcrowded, especially here in northeast Queens. Cramming additional people into already stressed areas will strain those educational resources.

We must also consider the plight of individual homeowners who invested money to afford a home in our city. If they chose to live in a single-family district, or any other area for that matter, and supported zoning that protected those areas from overdevelopment, why should the city be able to overrule those protections to remediate the need for more housing units? We must also consider the safety of the people who would live in these newly legalized units.

Yes, we need more units of affordable housing in our city, but there have to be other solutions that would not impinge on the rights of current homeowners. When you look at some of the huge projects already underway in certain parts of the city, perhaps more units should be set aside for affordable housing homes and less units for luxury and market priced units.

Two examples that come to mind are the Flushing Commons and the Willets Point projects. Those projects and others must also take into account their impact on existing neighborhoods, businesses, schools and traffic and adjust plans accordingly.

These are all complex issues requiring careful planning and thought to address everyone’s needs and desires.

*Henry Euler
Bayside*

City does not need horse carriages

I commend state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) for his continued common sense support for New York City to join other congested cities, such as London and Paris, in ending the antiquated horse-drawn carriage industry (“Borough carriage drivers fear for jobs,” Jan 31-Feb. 6).

As Avella reminds us, businesses close every day because they are no longer appropriate. Large animals, with a history of spooking, pulling old rickety carriages with no seatbelts in traffic with cars, pedestrians, buses and emergency vehicles is not appropriate or safe.

I am looking forward

to Mayor Bill de Blasio keeping his word and, along with the City Council, ending this industry sooner rather than later.

*Mickey Kramer
Upper East Side
Manhattan*

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 31-Feb. 5 issue of TimesLedger Newspapers, a caption should have identified Mary Louis basketball player Celeste Moran.

In the Jan. 31-Feb. 5 issue of the Bayside Times, a photo should have showed the location for New York Hospital Queens’ clinic as 44-02 Francis Lewis Blvd.

LETTERS POLICY

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Bridgegate raises questions over Christie as president



William Lewis
Political Action

The recent situation involving New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and the slowdown on the George Washington Bridge that lasted for several days raises a significant number of questions.

It is difficult to accept that Christie knew absolutely nothing about the scandal. If he did not know anything about what his senior staff members were planning in terms of slowing down the bridge traffic as a way of getting even with one or more public officials for not support-

ing Christie during the fall election for re-election, he should have known.

It certainly is a fair question as to how Christie runs the governor's office in terms of how he deals with his senior aides. The fact that they thought they could do something as bizarre as tying up the George Washington Bridge for several days and not inform the governor as to what they were doing and why raises the conclusion that Christie has little control over his staff.

If that is the case, we can only wonder how many other things his people did without his knowledge and approval.

What standards did Christie use when he hired his staff members, especially senior staff members?

One important aspect

to this case is what new procedures Christie has put in place to see to it that something like this will not happen again during the rest of his term.

It may be that Christie is spending too much time unofficially running for president, looking forward to the 2016 presidential race.

Regardless of the circumstances, Christie will probably agree that he should be spending more time in the governor's office than he has in the recent past.

Certainly the result of the Bridgegate scandal and other questions about things he has been involved in brings to the forefront how effective a president he would make.

When we look at the list of governors New York

This George Washington Bridge scandal certainly proves the need for a hands-on chief executive who is aware of what his staff is working on.

state has had during the last 50 years, with the exception of Eliot Spitzer, there have been no major scandals involving our state chief executives during that period of time. Let us hope it stays that way.

This George Washington Bridge scandal certainly proves the need for a hands-on chief executive who is aware of what projects his staff are working on over a period of time and who receives periodic reports as to their progress.

As for future U.S.

presidential races, most of our presidents during the last century came to the presidency from state governorships. It is difficult for a governor to campaign for president considering the administrative responsibilities one has. A governor running for president, however, does usually have more administrative experience in running a government than most other professions.

In New York City during the 1920s, we had one corrupt administration in

the mayor's office: the Jimmy Walker administration. Hopefully, safeguards have been put in place to prevent further scandals like the ones during the Walker administration.

Christie is correct when he said he takes responsibility for what happens on his watch.

At the Northeast Queens Republican Club's recent meeting, they elected a new club president. Kevin Ryan has a public relations background. He has worked on various political campaigns in the past. He hopes to recruit candidates to run for public office.

Ryan will also be working on community outreach, as he intends to get his club more involved in neighborhood civic matters.

Acting legend John Barrymore once called Bayside home



The Greater Astoria Historical Society

Known to the world as John Barrymore, stage and screen star John Sidney Blyth was born in Philadelphia Feb. 15, 1882. His English father, Herbert Arthur Chamberlayne Blyth, was a dashing leading man on the late 19th century stage, and his mother, Georgie Drew, was also an accomplished actress.

After making his stage debut in Chicago in 1903, the young Barrymore quickly became a stage presence on Broadway, peaking with his sinister portrayal of the protagonist in Shakespeare's "Rich-

ard III" in 1920. The acting great's film career spanned nearly 30 years and some 60 films, from early, now lost silent productions to powerful roles opposite leading ladies of the day in talkies.

By the late 1930s, Barrymore's talent and versatility began to wane. After decades of heavy drinking, his screen appearances were a mere shadow and caricature of his former self. He died at age 60 in Los Angeles, leaving behind a personal life as tempestuous, mercurial and controversial as his acting legacy. He is also the grandfather of actress Drew Barry-

more.

In his early years, the scion to the Barrymore legacy rebelled against the inevitable path that awaited. At 16, he was expelled from Georgetown Preparatory School for immoral behavior and later tried his hand at drawing cartoons and newspaper reporting. Soon, however, he found himself inevitably drawn into the family business.

After his 1903 debut, he was soon treading the boards on Broadway and in London two years later. Aside from his dark portrayal of Richard III, on stage he is also remembered for his rendition of the brooding, melancholy Danish king in Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

Since his youth, his powerful stage presence was matched only by his propensity for wild, alcohol-fueled carousing and social

scandal. Before his acting career, he briefly courted the infamous showgirl Evelyn Nesbit. Then in 1906, Barrymore found himself in a San Francisco hotel when the earth shook and fires engulfed the city by the bay. Choosing to exploit the tragedy to build his own fame, while on a drinking binge he wrote a series of later published letters to his actor sister Ethel fabricating scenes of suffering and destruction he claimed to have witnessed.

Barrymore first appeared on screen between stage appearances, but the former Bayside resident soon left the Great White Way to work full time in film. Barrymore debuted in silent films, including the 1920 production of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "Don Juan" six years later. With the arrival of talking pictures, his stage-trained

voice enthralled viewers of the new entertainment medium.

At the peak of his run on the silver screen, Barrymore starred opposite such leading ladies as Greta Garbo, Katharine Hepburn and Jean Harlow.

At the start of the 20th century, Bayside saw an influx of people associated with the theater and movie industries, and Barrymore was among them. Rumors ran wild through the acting community that Bayside would be the location of a new movie and production studio. When this studio never materialized, Barrymore and his colleagues left Queens to follow the industry out to Hollywood.

By the late 1930s, however, the stage lights were growing dim. Already on his fourth marriage, years of alcohol abuse and his self-destructive, unsettled

life began to take a toll. He frequently forgot his lines during filming and needed cue cards to keep going. His rousing soliloquy from Hamlet in the 1941 comedy "Playmates" is remembered by fans as Barrymore's swan song and a tragic reminder of the man's faded acting greatness and ability.

On May 29, 1942, he collapsed during an appearance on Rudy Vallee's radio show and died a short time later.

Some claim his last words were, "Die? I should say not, dear fellow. No Barrymore would allow such a conventional thing to happen to him."

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

The year's most romantic day had start in paganism



Laura
Rahill

Remember
the Date

clude the millions of hand-made cards schoolchildren will exchange.

Mass production of Valentine's Day cards began in the early 1900s with Hallmark catching on in 1913. It was then, to no surprise, that Valentine's Day cards were tailored to be sent beyond lovers to friends, siblings, parents and children.

Cards are not the only item that will be exchanged this coming Valentine's Day. Other popular gifts include flowers, lingerie, champagne, jewelry and, of course, candy. Some 75 percent of Valentine's Day candy is chocolate, but the symbolic candy hearts are always a favorite. In 2009 about 8 billion candy hearts were made — enough to stretch from Rome to Valentine, Ariz., and back again 20 times, the association said.

But well before Hall-

mark got into the Valentine's Day game, the celebration had its roots firmly planted in paganism and ancient Roman society.

This holiday can be traced back to an annual pagan festival called Lupercalia, held Feb. 15. This tradition involved sacrificing a dog for purity and a goat for fertility. Young women would then be spanked with tears of the goats' and dogs' hinds, which it was hoped would increase fertility.

As unattractive as that may sound, the women apparently welcomed this. This festival remained popular into the 5th Century, 150 years after Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman Empire.

But in time the observance was said to be un-Christian, and so the legend of Valentine was pegged to a Romantic story of a priest. St. Valentine, the priest, would marry

The holiday can be traced back to the ancient pagan festival of Lupercalia, where a dog and a goat would be sacrificed for purity and fertility.

lovers in secret after Roman Emperor Claudius II forbade his young soldiers to wed on the grounds that uncommitted men made better soldiers. For his crimes, Valentine was put to death Feb. 14, 270.

Of course, it is impossible to confirm this legend either way, but thousands of years later the holiday survives and is now stronger than ever.

Valentine's Day is celebrated in many parts of the world today in some way. Countries with a Christian denominations have been observing this festival for centuries. The holi-

day began in Europe and has spread across Western culture. In some Islamic countries, however, Valentine's Day sometimes poses a conflict for political parties, which may view the holiday as opposing Muslim values.

The ancient myths and folklore live on in modern Valentine's Day's rituals. Hearts of pinks and reds, flowers, chocolates and Cupid — son of Venus, Roman goddess of love and beauty — now flaunt this legendary celebration.

Aside from the legends, here are some facts to accompany the romance:

• 220,000 is the average number of wedding proposals on this day each year. Congratulations, guys!

• 73 percent of American men buy flowers on Valentine's Day, the same number not sleeping in the dog house.

• 15 percent of American women send flowers to themselves.

• every year on Valentine's Day, the Italian city of Verona, where William Shakespeare's characters Romeo and Juliet lived, receives thousands of letters to the fictional character Juliet.

• About 3 percent of people will give a gift to their true love: their pet.

• in the Middle Ages, it was said that the first unmarried person you met on the morning of Feb. 14 would be your spouse. Camping outside your love's house does not count.

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Aortic Aneurysms form when the aorta develops a bulge. The aorta is our body's largest artery; it carries blood from the heart throughout the body. Left untreated, this bulge in the aorta can grow and eventu-

ally rupture. Ruptures cause internal bleeding and death. Aortic aneurysms are known as "silent killers" because individuals may not show symptoms until the aneurysm has ruptured.

Some people are at a higher risk for aortic aneurysms. **Rajeev Dayal, M.D.**, chief, Section of Vascular Surgery, and his colleagues **Andy Lee, M.D.**, and **Ankur Chawla, M.D.**, recommend screenings for individuals who:

- Are age 60 or older
- Have a family history of aortic aneurysm
- Have smoked
- Have high blood pressure, atherosclerosis, or chronic lung disease

Aortic aneurysms larger than 5 centimeters usually require

repair. Most aortic aneurysms can be treated minimally invasively using stents. Stents are small devices placed within the aneurysm to support it and keep it from expanding. The procedure is performed via small incisions in the groin and frequently, the procedure does not require general anesthesia. Patients with aortic aneurysms close to the kidneys or other arteries may require a graft, which acts like a bridge for blood flow, instead of a stent.

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is a condition where plaque builds up in the arteries of the leg and slows blood flow. Plaque is a waxy substance made up of fat, cholesterol, calcium and other sub-

stances in the blood.

One common symptom that indicates the beginnings of peripheral arterial disease is when people get pain in their legs when they walk. When at rest, the pain lessens, but when walking continues, the pain starts again.

To diagnose PAD, doctors can measure blood pressure in the leg and compare it with blood pressure in the arm. Lower pressure in the leg may be a sign of PAD. An ultrasound, an MRI or a CT scan can show the degree of blockage from plaque.

Depending on the blockage, people with PAD may require a stent or bypass surgery to reroute blood past the blockage with a blood

vessel from another part of your body.

Varicose veins are dilated veins in the legs that you can see under the skin, and are more common in women (especially after pregnancy). Weakened or damaged valves that help keep blood flowing toward your heart can cause varicose veins. As blood backs up and begins to pool, the veins bulge and swell.

Many factors can increase an individual's risk for varicose veins, including family history, older age, gender, pregnancy, being overweight or obese, and lack of movement. People with varicose veins may not always have symptoms, aside from the bulging appearance, but the veins do need to

be checked by a physician. Some people with varicose veins may notice pain, weakness in the legs, and ankle swelling or itchiness.

Treatment for people with these symptoms is typically covered by insurance. The first-line treatment option uses lasers to remove "bad" veins. Other treatment options include removing the veins surgically or closing veins with injections in a procedure called sclerotherapy. Insurance does not typically cover the sclerotherapy procedure as it is considered cosmetic.

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PS/IS 49 principal resigns amid civil lawsuit

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The hard-driving principal of PS/IS 49 in Middle Village plans to retire before the end of the academic year after a teacher filed a suit accusing him of forcing her to resign.

Anthony Lombardi, 55, said he had an ally in former Mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration and began thinking about switching to the private sector as the end of Bloomberg's term approached. He said he has delayed retiring until March 3 to help the Middle Village school plan an expansion.

During his 17 years at PS/IS 49, Lombardi made headlines for aggressively weeding out teachers he deemed ineffective and acting as a prototype for Bloomberg's move to give principals more hiring power.

But the principal is now facing a civil lawsuit filed by a former PS/IS 49

teacher in December charging him with forcing her to give up her job after she ignored his advances and sexual harassment.

Lombardi, an Astoria native now living in Ridge-wood, said the federal suit had no bearing on his decision.

"I'm looking forward to getting all the facts out to the public," Lombardi said, noting that the city is not investigating the allegations. "This was my life. I enjoyed every day of work, even the tough ones."

He has no immediate job plans.

After starting as a public school teacher in 1984, Lombardi became assistant principal of PS 61 in Corona in 1990 and took the helm of PS/IS 49 in 1998. Because he believed the school was underperforming, Lombardi immediately began beefing up professional development and observing staff to ensure the training



PS/IS 49 Principal Anthony Lombardi is slated to retire March 3.

Photo by Sarina Trangle

was implemented.

At times he convened a hiring committee because it gave Lombardi some control over personnel decisions during a time when the city permitted teachers to transfer into schools with vacancies without interviewing for the jobs. He went on to help Bloomberg's team revise teachers' contracts to give principals autonomy in hiring.

Lombardi said these tactics led the school to be-

come one of the most 200 improved in the state and a state-designated reward school. He also shed staff from PS/IS 49.

"The UFT, they're probably happy he's leaving," PTA President Alicia Vaichunas said. "If a teacher makes a mistake, he's going to call you out on it ... He's demanding. He wants success."

Lombardi incorporated Friday assemblies into PS/IS 49, at 63-60 80th St.

During these 50-minute sessions, teachers have time to plan and collaborate while the principal discusses news and student behavior with their pupils.

"It's part of developing good citizenship," he said.

PS/IS 49's integration of art and music into other academic subjects has been a hit with parents. Lombardi praised a sixth-grade architecture program that has students study the industry's history, from ancient Roman developments to the modern era, while learning about corresponding eras in world history and practicing proportion, ratio and other math skills.

Lombardi extended the school day by an hour for middle-school students and implemented a Saturday academy for at-risk pupils and those who wish to learn instruments.

The campus expanded by 30,000 square feet and began adding middle-school

grades five years ago. But Lombardi said overcrowding still plagues PS/IS 49 and surrounding schools. Now a second expansion is planned to accommodate roughly 240 additional students in the next few years, Vaichunas said.

PTA members said they hoped the DOE would consider Assistant Principal Richard Hallenbeck for interim acting principal because his familiarity with PS/IS 49 would help him steer it through the transition.

"When Lombardi told the PTA, the executive board, there wasn't a dry eye," said Dorothy Russo, vice president of the PTA. "He's going to be a hard act to follow. Everyone loved him."

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

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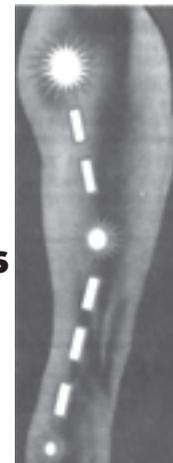
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The Hindu Temple Society of North America celebrated the signing of their home country's constitution during an event Saturday, which also honored Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela. (Clockwise from top l.) Vinay Parikh serenades the crowd gathered in the Flushing auditorium; Hema Muni (l.) and Anish Navada carry the American and Indian flags; Dr. Uma Mysorekar (l.) and Bharath Parikh salute; dancers prepare to take the stage; Preeti Ramesh Kumar (l.) and Anoushka Guha sing the Indian National Anthem; and members of the temple's dance school move in sync.

Photos by Christina Santucci



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Gallagher faces new legal round in rape case

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Former City Councilman Dennis Gallagher, who represented the Middle Village area for seven years, has at least one trial ahead of him.

After resigning his seat in 2008 and pleading guilty to sexually abusing a Middle Village grandmother in a criminal case, Gallagher, 48, became embroiled in a civil lawsuit filed by the victim, Jacqueline Morrow, 57, and her husband.

Gallagher, who was first elected to the Council in 2001, served as the sole Republican from Queens in the 51-member body.

Queens State Supreme Court Judge Sidney Strauss previously ruled that Morrow did not need to establish Gallagher's liability in the civil suit for claims stemming from rape, forcible touching, fondling, assault and battery.

But Gallagher appealed this decision and judges determined Jan. 29 that accountability had only been established for the misconduct the councilman pleaded guilty to or discussed under oath. This includes sexual abuse, forcible touching, assault and battery, according to the Morrows' attorney, Gerald Chiariello II.

To pursue money for damages from other crimes alleged in the civil complaint, including rape, false imprisonment and intentional infliction of emotional distress, Chiariello said the couple would need to take Gallagher to trial.

The lawyer said a jury would have to be convened to determine how much the councilman should compensate the Morrows, regardless of whether they move to go to trial for rape and other charges.

"We're not sure what path we're going to take,"



Former City Councilman Dennis Gallagher (c.) walks into court in 2007.

Chiariello said. "She's upset at the whole process. She really wants to have it over with."

Gallagher's attorney, Keith Sullivan, did not respond to requests for comment.

Prosecutors initially

alleged Gallagher met Morrow at a bar July 8, 2007, and brought her back to his Middle Village office, where he raped her.

The married councilman described the sex as consensual.

He later resigned as

part of a 2008 plea deal that kept him out of prison and off the sex offender's registry.

While the criminal case unfolded in Queens Criminal Court, Chiariello said the Morrows paid for surgery on both of the

grandmother's knees, which he said were injured during the attack.

The civil suit also claims Morrow suffered "extreme physical, emotional and mental distress, embarrassment and mental anguish," some of which may be permanent.

Chiariello said court documents suggest Gallagher is relying on his brother for financial support, which complicates his client's decision.

"Would you want to relieve that experience in front of six jurors if you're never going to get paid?" Chiariello said.

The attorney said juries do not take into account the wealth of defendants when awarding verdicts.

He noted that attorneys typically attempt to seize assets and otherwise collect money when such a situation arises.

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George Throop stops walking long enough to take in the sights of Manhattan's skyline from Gantry State Park. Photo by Bill Parry

Man walks across USA, brings journey to Queens

BY BILL PARRY

A man walked off the Queensboro Bridge and into Long Island City last Thursday as he began the final stretch of a four-year, cross-country odyssey.

George Throop, 38, is wrapping up his 5,000-mile Walk Across America tour that began in September 2009.

"I've taken millions of steps to inspire people to take steps forward towards having healthier lifestyles," he said.

Throop started his walk of inspiration in his hometown of Vancouver, Wash. In each town he stopped and met with children, church groups and seniors promoting a healthy lifestyle after his mother Barbara Ann died of bone cancer at the age of 33.

"I was 9 when cancer claimed my mother and I thought of the millions that have died needlessly since," Throop said. "The message is to get out and walk and make sure that you drink a lot of water. Everyone should try to live a healthier life."

The walk was supposed to end with a visit to the White House last year, but Throop decided to continue his walking to the Northeast to further spread his message.

"I'm single without the three-M's — marriage,



John Brown's Smokehouse owner Josh Bowen hosts Throop for the Super Bowl, his Seahawks win the championship. Photo by Bill Parry

mortgage and munchkins — and that gave me a flexibility to continue," he said.

Throop said he was happy to see the sights of Long Island City.

"The architecture is amazing, gorgeous glass and steel high-rises surrounded by warehouses and cobblestone streets. It's unlike anything I've seen and the view of Manhattan from Gantry [State Park] is really spectacular," he said.

Throop managed security for high-rise buildings before giving up his career. He said he has exhausted his life savings during the trek and depends on the kindness of strangers for food and lodging.

During the weekend he was given a room free of charge at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, on Vernon Boulevard, and fed meals at Rio Grande, at 39-05 29th St. in Long Island City, and Duzan, at 24-11 Steinway St. in Astoria.

Throop enjoyed a meal last week at John Brown's Smokehouse, at 10-43 44th Drive, so much that he accepted an invitation to return and watch his Seattle Seahawks win the Super Bowl Sunday.

"I guess if you walk here from Seattle, you can have a free meal or two, for sure," John Brown's owner Josh Bowen said.

When Throop ends his adventure at the east end of Long Island in two weeks, he said, "I will answer my girlfriend Rocio's call to move in with her and resume a normal life."

The couple met when Rocio, a professor at Georgia State University, hosted him for a night in Atlanta two years ago. Eventually, the couple plans to move to the Pacific Northwest, where Throop will write his memoir about the walk and his philosophy of life.

The book is tentatively titled "Die Smiling."



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COUNCILMAN ERIC ULRICH HOLDS CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN AT OZONE PARK SCHOOL *Photos by Carol Alvarado*



1 City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito congratulates Councilman Eric Ulrich during his inauguration ceremony at PS 63 in Ozone Park.



2 Councilman Eric Ulrich enjoys the ceremony while holding his daughter, Lily.



3 Yadira Moran, Councilman Eric Ulrich's wife, holds their daughter, Lily, as Ulrich (r.) is congratulated by Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder.

TERRACE ON THE PARK HOSTS QUEENS CENTER FOR PROGRESS' EVENING OF FINE FOOD *Photos courtesy Dominick Totino Photography and Lorraine Heaney*



5 Queens Borough President Melinda Katz addresses the crowd at the Queens Center for Progress' Evening of Fine Food Event at Terrace on the Park as honoree Joseph Sciame looks on.



6 Former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, (l.) president and CEO of the Flushing Willets Point Corona LDC, and Joseph Sciame, (third l.) vice president of Community Relations at St. John's University, hold proclamations alongside Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and Charles Houston at QCP's Evening of Fine Food Event.



7 Honorees Joseph Sciame (l.) and Claire Shulman (r.) are joined by (l.-r.) Josh Einiger from WABC News and Queens Center for Progress Director of Development Maryann McAleer and Executive Director Charles Houston.

GREATER JAMAICA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE MEETS *Photos by Walter Karling*



8 Dahlia Goldenberg (l.) informs attendees at the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation's meeting of its Downtown Committee about healthy eating practices and active living opportunities.



9 Greater Jamaica Development Corporation's Downtown Committee Chairman William Martin (l.) shares a moment with speakers (l.-r.) Dahlia Goldenberg, project coordinator for Partnership for a Healthier Queens; Hector Garcia, government relations specialist with the Long Island Rail Road; and Marc Alleyne, CEO of Spartan Demolition Company.



10 Hector Garcia gives overview of the LIRR's history and future development plans during the event.

Signal needed at deadly intersection: Pol

Apply by Feb. 7 to be on community board

BY BILL PARRY

City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) is renewing calls for the city Department of Transportation to make changes to traffic patterns around Broadway and 74th Street following the death of a pedestrian Monday evening.

Martha Tibillin-Guamug, 25, of the Bronx, was struck and killed by a Q53 bus as it made a right turn onto Broadway about 6 p.m. after the snowstorm had ended, according to the NYPD. The 39-year-old bus driver remained at the scene and was not charged as the investigation continued, police said.

"There has to be something done to force drivers to slow down," Dromm said. "We discussed a mid-block crosswalk, but the DOT turned us down."

Broadway and 74th Street is a transit hub where straphangers can catch the



A Q53 bus pulls fatally struck a Bronx woman, who was attempting to cross the street. Photo by Christina Santucci

No. 7, E, F, M and R subway lines. There is also a busy bus depot at the location.

"Traffic is a nightmare with all the buses coming and going," said a worker named Jose at Broadway Wine & Liquor, at 73-20 Broadway. "There's always people running in and out of traffic trying to make their bus or subway."

Cristina Furlong, co-

founder of Make Queens Safer, a pedestrian advocacy group, said the intersection remains a major concern.

"The [city] Department of Transportation had done a visioning study there and put up some barriers where you are not supposed to cross, but they didn't teach pedestrians how to navigate them," she said.

The DOT study was presented to Community Board 3 in September 2012, which resulted in the reversal of traffic on 37th Street and new street markings and turn restrictions along Broadway and Roosevelt Avenue.

"Clearly more needs to be done in that area to make it safer," Dromm said.

Monday night's collision and safety education will be discussed at Make Queens Safer's town hall meeting at the Renaissance School, at 35-59 81st St., Sunday between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Woodside) and state Assemblyman Francisco Moya (D-Jackson Heights) were expected to attend along with representatives from the 108th and 115th precincts.

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718.260.4538.

BY SHANICE PUNNETT

Borough President Melinda Katz announced Monday that she has extended the application deadline for Queens residents to join one of the borough's 14 community boards.

The application deadline to be a new or returning member is now Friday, Feb. 7. An application for community board membership can be found on Katz's website at queensbp.org.

"Community boards hold hearings on and issue recommendations regarding land use and zoning matters, the city budget, municipal service delivery and many other community-related issues," Katz said. "They play a significant role in helping city government address the needs of its residents, so I encourage all civic-minded



Those interested in applying for spots on community boards like Community Board 11 (pictured) has been extended.

Queens residents to consider applying for community board membership."

"Service on a community board is a great way to contribute to the well-being and quality of life of your neighborhood," she said.

Applicants approved as a member of a board will serve two-year terms that begin April 1. Each board is responsible for representing the interests of a particular geographic area of Queens.

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Queens College makes list of best value U.S. schools

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Queens College has been deemed one of the best value schools in the country by The Princeton Review.

The Flushing-based college made the education services company's Top 75 list again this year in "The Best Value Colleges 2014 Edition: The 150 Best-Buy Colleges and What It Takes to Get In."

"We're very pleased with the ranking we received from the Princeton Review, but I'm not surprised personally because I know the quality of education Queens College is offering at an affordable price," said the college's interim president Dr. Evangelos Gizis.

The Princeton Review profiles the 75 best public schools and the 75 best pri-

vate ones every year based on surveys of 2,000 students from every school in the country. The Review analyzes schools based on academics, cost and financial aid as well as data from The Princeton Review's surveys of students over the past three academic years.

Queens College has consistently appeared on the Princeton Review's lists of best undergraduate education, master's programs at an affordable price and diversity on campus.

Gizis attributed the success of the college to the dedication of the school's students, the support of its alumni and the quality of the school's faculty.

"We have a distinguished faculty of scholars who publish in their fields. Many of them are recognized internationally as experts in their fields," he

said. "They are not only dedicated researchers, scientists and artists. At the same time, they are teachers."

Founded in 1937, Queens College is CUNY's fifth oldest institution and had 18,974 students enrolled in fall 2013. The school was recently ranked second on Washington Monthly's list of "Best Bang for the Buck," which ranked schools nationwide on affordability and quality of education. It is known as the jewel in the CUNY crown of colleges.

Tuition at Queens College costs \$5,730 per year for undergraduate students who are New York state residents.

"It is always rewarding to receive external confirmation of what we in the Queens College community have long known:

Continued on Page 54

Whitestone man pleads guilty to tax theft from L.I. business

BY KELSEY DURHAM

A Whitestone man pleaded guilty this week to allegations that he failed to pay more than \$300,000 in taxes from sales at his two auto businesses in Great Neck, L.I., according to Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice.

Joseph Caraccia, 65, entered a guilty plea to a misdemeanor charge of petit larceny while his two corporations, Auto Body Works and Auto Body Works II, both on Shore Road, each pleaded guilty to a Class C felony charge of second-degree grand larceny.

The DA's office said Caraccia illegally pocketed \$335,000 that he failed to report to the state Department of Taxation and Finance as sales tax from his shops during a three-year



JOSEPH CARACCIA
Photo courtesy Nassau DA

period from 2009-12.

Caraccia was arrested in October 2012 after the DA's office said it received a tip that led to the discovery of discrepancies between taxes paid to the business owner's stores by insurance companies and the amount of taxes he reported to the state. A search warrant executed at his shop turned up business records that were audited and led to both corporations being formally charged Dec. 18,

2013, according to the DA's office.

Rice denounced the criminal activity and said she would continue to "aggressively prosecute" crimes of this nature in order to return the money to the state.

"When a company or an individual fails to remit taxes, it's a crime against all New Yorkers," Rice said. "By pocketing this money, Mr. Caraccia took funding away from services that any resident of Long Island or beyond could rely upon."

Caraccia agreed to pay restitution to the Department of Taxation and Finance for the full amount owed in two payments, with the final being paid on the date of his sentencing.

He is scheduled to be sentenced by Nassau County Criminal Court Judge Susan Kluewer May 22.

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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.

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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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Queens Library chief questioned at hearing

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Members of a special City Council oversight committee on the Queens Library grilled library President Tom Galante for more than two hours last Wednesday during a hearing on executive compensation and outsourced labor, with promises of more inquiries to come.

The hearing, co-chaired by Queens Council members Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) and Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), was convened in response to recent news articles about Galante's \$391,594 annual salary, his take-home car and renovations to the Central Library in Jamaica during a time when the nonprofit outsourced unionized custodial jobs lost through attrition.

"Do you believe that your compensation package is too high?" Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) asked the library's president and CEO.

"I believe it is fair," answered Galante, who said his salary was set by the library's board of directors when he was hired in 2005 based on a comparison to the earnings of the heads at 30 other educational, arts and cultural institutions in the city.

"I believe it's too high," Crowley responded, adding she thought Galante's salary should be more in line with that of a commissioner of a city agency.

But the Queens Library is not a city agency, and for about 2 1/2 hours Galante detailed how the independent nonprofit that receives the overwhelming majority of its funding through city government accounts for and spends that money.

Several of the committee members belong to the Council's Progressive



Members of a City Council oversight committee grilled Queens Library President Tom Galante (shown in a file photo) during a hearing Wednesday.

Caucus and were upset over comments Galante made — which he has since apologized for — about his janitorial staff.

One lawmaker asked if the library president felt he should make more than the mayor.

"I think the mayor has a bigger job than mine. I think whoever sets his salary might ... no, I'm not going to go there," Galante said. "I'll tell you what I would say, because I don't set my compensation. The board does. You need to make sure that for any business, any education institution, any government that you've got good leadership, strong management. Because you get what you pay for."

For the most part, Galante stuck to facts and praised the good works of the library and its staff, but one slip-up put him in hot water in the politically charged atmosphere.

While discussing his compensation Galante said, "I've got kids to put through college, and what have you, just like everybody else," a statement several members took umbrage with.

The most combative member was Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal (D-Manhattan), who badgered Galante as he responded to questions about his con-

tract and the number of janitorial positions that were outsourced.

"For a guy who makes over \$400,000 a year, I think you should know these numbers," she told him.

The nonprofit's CEO did get a bit of a breather from Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo (D-Brooklyn), who before her election to public office founded and directed an African art museum.

She said she felt a kinship with Galante, and pointed out compensation policies of the Queen Library are not unique to the nonprofit world.

"It seems to me that these are more systemic issues," she said. "It's part of a much larger issue than what's happening at this particular time. What you're describing here today are practices that are kept throughout the entire New York City area throughout many non-profits."

While city budget cuts over the past several years took their toll on the library's operating budget — which pays for things like books, electricity bills and salaries — the library's capital budget remained "robust," Galante said, and the nonprofit took the opportunity to renovate a

Continued on Page 50



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Brothers plead guilty in Ridgewood killings: FBI

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Three former New York residents pleaded guilty Monday to murdering two members of a rival street gang and dumping their bodies behind a Ridgewood warehouse in 2004, federal prosecutors said.

Alvaro “Boobi” Cabral, 28, and Jason “J-Live” Cabral, 36, brothers involved with the Ñetas street gang, pleaded guilty to luring Anthony Marciano, a Latin Kings member, to a Long Island house Aug. 10, 2004, where they bound Marciano and “pee wee” Latin Kings member Fabian Mestres with duct tape and stole their drugs, money and jewelry, according to the U.S. attorney’s office for the Eastern District.

The Ñetas stuffed the Latin Kings into the trunk of a car and drove to a Ridgewood parking lot, where they fatally shot the two 17-year-olds, the U.S. at-

torney’s office said.

Stephanie “Sicily” DiCarlo-Cabral, 29, an associate of the Ñetas gang, pleaded guilty to robbery and using a firearm in connection with it, prosecutors said.

Her attorney, Lee Ginsberg, said that under DiCarlo-Cabral’s plea agreement, authorities determined that she played a minor role.

“She wasn’t accused of doing anything directly to the victims. She wasn’t even accused of being present when the victims were shot. She was a co-conspirator,” Ginsberg said, noting that she pleaded guilty to possessing the gun and knowing of the others’ plans to use it in the robbery.

Ginsberg said DiCarlo-Cabral, her husband Jason Cabral and his brother moved from the metro area to Florida a while after the killings. Another Ñetas member, Luis “Lae” Ben-



Queens District Attorney Richard Brown discusses two bodies found bound with duct tape in a Ridgewood parking lot Aug. 11, 2004.

itez, previously pleaded guilty to murdering the rival gang members, prosecutors said.

Attorneys for the other defendants either declined to comment or could not be

reached for comment.

Jason Cabral, the Ñetas’ leader, devised a plan to rob and kill Marciano because of his affiliation with the Latin Kings, according to prosecutors.

After pilfering money, jewelry and drugs from Marciano and Mestres, the Ñetas brought the men to 18-19 Flushing Ave., where Marciano was shot in the head and back of the neck

and a bullet was fired into Mestres’ head.

The next day, the Queens district attorney said workers at the nearby Brooklyn Steel Warehouse Co. discovered the bodies with the victims’ hands bound behind their backs in a patch of tall weeds.

Loretta Lynch, the Brooklyn U.S. attorney, called the murders brutal and senseless.

“The defendants stuffed the victims into the trunk of a car in the dog days of August, and then drove them to their execution,” Lynch said in a statement. “We hope the victims’ families can take some measure of solace in knowing that the individuals who are responsible for their sons’ murders have been brought to justice.”

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



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EXERCISES FOR SENIORS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

Exercise is important for all people, including the elderly. Yet, seniors who have limited mobility or are confined to a wheelchair may think they couldn't possibly exercise. However, there are many things such individuals can do to stay in shape — all while sitting down.

Doctors recommend at least 30 minutes of daily exercise for most people. Exercise is beneficial for seniors because it keeps muscles from atrophying, improves mental alertness, strengthens bones, and leads to a healthier metabolism, among other things.

For seniors who think they won't be able to handle traditional exercise, chair exercises or modified Pilates can be effective, even for those with trouble walking or standing for extended periods of time.

To get started, all you need is

some loose-fitting clothing and a chair. Begin by doing some stretching movements of the neck, arms, and legs. Rotate the head left and right and in circles to stretch the neck and back muscles. Lift arms over the head and slowly drop down to the sides of the body to stretch arms and back muscles. Lift and lower the legs a few times to warm them up.

To begin exercises, start slowly, and gradually build up repetitions. Try exercises that include boxing or punching into the air, arm circles, and arm curls. For the legs, work the back and front of the legs. Kick the legs out in front of the body several times. Hold legs parallel to the floor (as much as possible) and do leg crosses. Put feet flat on the floor and lift up the heels. Keep feet on the floor and push down to work the buttocks and the top of the thighs.

Those who have mastered these exercises and have been told by a doctor that it is OK to do something a bit more strenuous may want to add very light weights to the equation for more resistance.

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What is Parkinson's disease?

Though millions of people across the globe are living with Parkinson's disease, many people have limited knowledge of this disorder. The extent of many people's experience with or knowledge of Parkinson's disease begins and ends with Muhammad Ali and Michael J. Fox, two high-profile personalities who have publicly acknowledged their fight against this potentially debilitating disorder.

As much as Ali and Fox have done to bring awareness to Parkinson's disease, the disorder largely remains a mystery, even to those medical researchers who have devoted their lives to finding both a cause and a cure for Parkinson's. But there are some things the medical community does know about Parkinson's, and a greater understanding of this disease might help find a cause

once and for all.

What is Parkinson's disease?

Parkinson's is a chronic and progressive movement disorder, which means the symptoms will continue and worsen over time. Parkinson's involves the malfunction and death of nerve cells in the brain, known as neurons. Some of these neurons are responsible for producing dopamine, a chemical that sends messages to the part of the brain that controls movement and coordination. As Parkinson's progresses, less dopamine is produced, making it more difficult for a person with Parkinson's to control his body's movements.

What are some symptoms?

Symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from individual to individual, but

the Parkinson's Disease Foundation notes that the primary motor signs of Parkinson's include:

- Tremor of the hands, arms, legs, jaw, and face
- Bradykinesia, or slowness of movement
- Rigidity or stiffness of the limbs and trunk
- Postural instability or impaired balance and coordination

Parkinson's progresses slowly, and a person might begin to feel somewhat weak and notice slight tremors. These tremors gradually progress to additional symptoms. For example, a person might notice his voluntary movements, such as walking or even rolling over in bed, have become slower. Other symptoms can include difficulty rising from a sitting position or, in the later stages, difficulty swallowing.

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Simotas heads women's task force in second Albany term

BY BILL PARRY

State Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) has been elevated to chairwoman of the Assembly's Task Force on Women's Issues in her fourth year in the statehouse.

"Yes, it was fast, but I've been very active on women's issues since I arrived in Albany. I'm honored and humbled," Simotas said.

The task force works closely with Assembly committees on a number of matters that directly affect the lives of New York's women.

"I've already begun to strategize this week on all the issues. We have to make sure women are doing well. Improving the lives of women improves the lives of all," she said.

Simotas' panel will tackle legislation to protect rape survivors, fight sex trafficking, extend family leave, protect survivors of abuse and seniors' issues, such as ensuring a woman's right to make her own end-of-life decisions.



State Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas is named chair of the Task Force for Women's Issues.
Photo courtesy Aravella Simotas

"I am acutely aware of the numerous critical issues facing New York's women," Simotas said.

Back home in Astoria, Simotas has teamed up with state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) and City Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria) to push for cleaner streets in Astoria. The three officials reiterated a call for improved trash collection of pub-

lic waste baskets.

"Residents continue to complain to my office regarding the deplorable levels of trash strewn about the streets," Simotas said. "We have asked the mayor for additional pick-up service for the trash cans along Astoria's busy commercial streets. Inaction is unacceptable."

Right now the commercial



Simotas is already strategizing with her new task force while keeping an eye on Astoria's trash problem.
Photo courtesy Aravella Simotas

district receives one overnight pickup, leaving contents of the waste baskets to spill out.

"Overflowing trash baskets end up littering our streets and impacting our quality of life, forcing residents to jump over garbage on their way to work. Additional pickups will make our streets substantially cleaner," Constantinides said.

The proposed initiative would add another pickup during the hours between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

"We have to do something because it's disheartening to see the state of our streets," Simotas said. "It's not rocket science. When you have a growing population, a huge boom, services have got to keep up."

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LIC nonprofit expands its free tax prep program

BY BILL PARRY

Urban Upbound, the nonprofit community development corporation based in Long Island City, has found a way to expand its influence throughout the borough.

By providing free tax preparation and saving people money, it is introducing a wider base to its financial services.

"We get people into our offices for the tax service and then we introduce them to all of our programs that are designed to break the cycle of poverty," founder Bishop Mitchell Taylor said.

Elected officials, community leaders and residents from housing projects in western Queens joined Taylor at an EITC Awareness Day last Friday to spread the word about the money-saving service.

"Free tax prep sites like ours enable qualified



Elected officials help Bishop Mitchell Taylor spread the word about Urban Upbound's free tax prep. Photo courtesy Urban Upbound

working families and individuals to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit benefit, an important lifeline for families in our public housing neighborhoods and beyond," Tay-

lor said.

Last year, Urban Upbound helped 2,825 people receive a total of \$3.4 million in refunds. This year it is hoping to assist 4,000 New Yorkers.

"We do it for free so the people don't have to give a third of their return for the instant gratification of the Rapid Return," Taylor said. "You go through us and you get your refund in five

days."

Once a person has a refund, Urban Upbound offers financial advice on how best to spend it.

"Anything that will help get people jobs, navigate their finances and even get their kids into college. It's working and we're growing leaps and bounds," Taylor said.

Bishop Taylor grew up in the Queensbridge Houses and started the East River Development Alliance to administer to residents there as well as the three other housing projects in western Queens: Ravenswood, Astoria and Woodside houses.

Ten years later the organization has a new name and a broader base that services neighborhoods in Flushing and Far Rockaway.

"We're bringing our model to other public housing around the borough, expanding our footprint out-

side of northwest Queens," Taylor said.

"Each year, Urban Upbound helps public housing residents and low-income New Yorkers get back millions of dollars on their tax returns," City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said. "By keeping the community at the heart of its services, Urban Upbound empowers those they assist through quality programming that improves the fabric of the neighborhood."

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) said, "Every year when tax season rolls around, Urban Upbound and Bishop Taylor are there to help those in need get the most out of their tax returns."

He added, "This helping hand is invaluable, and this year even more Queens neighborhoods will benefit as Urban Upbound expands its reach."

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Continued from Page 1

existing landscaping in a special district," according to the DOB.

Ziming Shen, who owns the Preschool of America that occupies the farm, at 194-15 73rd Ave., attended the Environmental Control Board hearing instead of the property's owner, Henry Huang, son of notorious Queens developer Thomas Huang.

Shen acknowledged that at least two trees had been cut down and the driveway had been altered, but insisted it was to ensure the safety of the children who attended the facility.

"We tried to do our best. We don't know exactly what kind of special zoning it is," he said. "We want to provide a safe environment for our children and parents."

It was not known how many trees were removed.

The Klein farm, Queens' last family-owned working farm, sits in the Fresh Meadows Special Planned Community Preservation District, meaning no substantial changes can be made to the property without the consent of the City Planning Commission.

Shen contended the trees were cut down because of damage Superstorm Sandy had caused and because one tree was hollow inside and infested with raccoons.

One of Shen's employees, Stephanie Zhu, gave testimony at the hearing and said she tried to get in touch with city agencies to get permission to cut down the trees at the direction of Shen's wife, Joanne Fan.

She claimed she spoke to someone at DOB on the phone as well as the city Parks Department, who told her she did not need their permission. She said she also sent letters to the two agencies requesting permission to cut down the trees. She said she did not follow up in person, but received an e-mail response from a Parks official.

But she did not attempt to contact the City Planning Commission, which would be the proper authority to contact, said Vivian Currie, the attorney representing DOB.

"The law is pretty straightforward," Currie said. "Before anything is cut, there has to be something from the City Planning Commission in terms of permits. None was gotten here and none was actually sought. The purported communication was wrongly directed because the entity that should be spoken to is the City Planning Commission."

Currie said Zhu's communications with city agencies and Shen's arguments were excuses but not legal defenses.

Shen is no stranger to these kinds of proceedings as in 2005 he was issued a DOB violation for failing

to comply with a "special purpose district" and removing trees at a property he owned in Staten Island, according to DOB records. He was forced to pay a \$350 penalty.

In April 2012, Shen and his wife were convicted of embezzling more than \$3 million in federal funds meant for children's lunches at the couple's Red Apple Child Development Center chain, which operates around the city, according to court documents filed by the U.S. attorney.

Judge Michelle Manzione, of the Environmental Control Board, will now make a decision as to whether the respondents will receive a fine for the violation and work without a permit.

The standard ECB fine for each violation at the Klein farm is \$800 and the default fine is \$4,000, according to the ECB website.

The felled trees fueled outrage among the farm's neighbors when they noticed the trees had been cut down in the fall.

"I hope the judge will appreciate our cause of preserving this jewel of our community," said Tammy Oshero, a Community Board 8 member who lives near the Klein farm and said she witnessed the trees being cut down.

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

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- C) Please make sure that the student's bio and a recent photo are included with the nomination.

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If you have any questions, you may contact me at:
718-260-4522

Katz

Continued from Page 4

Katz gave birth to her first son, Carter, in 2008 and two years later she had her second, Hunter, claiming after both deliveries that her sons were conceived using frozen sperm from a former, unnamed boyfriend.

The two told the Post they first met in 1993 when then 27-year-old Katz was making her first bid for state Assembly and later began dating casually.

It was in 1998, the pair claimed, that Katz asked

Sliwa to make a sperm donation after she had an ovary removed.

The couple told the newspaper they had drifted apart by 2000 when Sliwa married his third wife, Mary.

But Mary Sliwa contended that was a lie. She claimed in court documents that as head of operations at the Guardian Angels, she had access to her husband's voicemail, where she found numerous messages Katz left Sliwa documenting their ongoing love affair, including a pre-wedding tryst.

Mary Sliwa said it was

ridiculous to think Katz used frozen sperm when she and Curtis were physically involved.

"No sane person would believe that Katz used ancient sperm when she was frequently and repeatedly" sleeping with Curtis, Mary Sliwa wrote.

Katz's spokesman said Mary Sliwa's claim crossed the line.

"Mary's disgusting comment about the method of conception of Melinda's children is not only a bald-faced lie but is far over the line of any civil discourse," he said.

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TimesLedger, February 7-13, 2014

Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

EAST meets WEST



Artist Zhang Lanjun holds his first solo show in the United States through next week in Flushing.

Photo courtesy Zhang Lanjun

Chinese artist Zhang Lanjun's modern techniques on display in his first U.S. solo show in Flushing

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

Shanghai artist Zhang Lanjun fuses traditional Chinese art with modern abstract creations served up via a Western palate.

Lanjun, 51, whose first solo American show, Still Waters

Run Deep, is running through Feb. 11 in Flushing, is one of only a few Eastern artists who creates prints through the process of carving designs onto a copperplate using a knife or other sharp object.

"If you use a brush, the brush is too soft," Lanjun said.

"And I like the process. There's an enjoyment from the direct carving. It's a passionate expression of my inner feelings."

This method, called the dry-point technique, has been used for hundreds of years to create coins and to develop molds for printing paper money, said Q.

X. Wang, president of the Contemporary Artists and Critics Association and the New York Modern and Contemporary Art Research Institute, who served as Lanjun's interpreter during a recent dinner at Red House Restaurant in Fresh Meadows. But as a method of creating art, dry-point is a fairly new development.

As a student at Beijing's Central Academy of Chinese Art, Lanjun studied the works of the great Western masters

and was taught the thousand-year-old traditions of print making, using the usual wood block carvings on silk screens.

Not surprisingly Lanjun's early works adhered to the rules of realism, Wang said. He created sheets and sheets of paper depicting Chinese landscapes with craggy mountaintops covered in white snow.

Then, about 16 years ago, he happened to pick up a copper plate, which shook up his meth-

Continued on Page 41

Flushing Town Hall strikes up the jazz bands

Borough's cultural center plans a series of concerts to mark February's Black History Month

BY MERLE EXIT

Jazz might have been born in New Orleans, but it grew up in Queens.

From Count Basie, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald to Billie Holiday, Lena Horne and John Coltrane, the borough has served as home base for dozens of jazz legends over the years.

Today, Queens' jazz culture continues to thrive, thanks to places like Flushing Town Hall and to residents who serve on the Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts.

"Although we have a lot of jazz, we still have a little bit of something for everyone," Malika Granville, director of communications at Flushing Town

Hall, said. "One of our producers, Clyde Bullard, is committed to cultivating jazz talent."

Clarence "Clyde" Bullard is the son of Atlantic Records executive Clarence "CB" Bullard, who helped launch the careers of Paula Abdul, Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack and The Rolling Stones. The younger Bullard was introduced to the music business by his father and his uncle, Bill Withers, the Grammy-winning singer and songwriter who penned "Lean on Me."

With such a musical lineage, it's no wonder Bullard entered the family business. He is a professional bassist and has served as producer at Flushing Town Hall since 1998.



Musician Clarence "Clyde" Bullard programs jazz concerts for Flushing Town Hall.
Photo by Merle Exit

"It all began with the original live series by the founders of Flushing Town Hall that included my father," Bullard said. "After my father passed, I was asked to take over the position. Now we offer performances by the same jazz musicians that you would find at well-known jazz venues in Manhattan that include Lincoln Center."

One of the musicians Bullard has produced is Barbara Rosene, who has developed a loyal following for her takes on the classics from the 1920s and '30s.

She is a passionate vocalist whose interpretations uncover the richness of jazz classics through the subtle, skilled delivery of one truly in love with the genre she sings.

Rosene is personally committed to the significance of jazz music in American popular song and in America's roots and spirit. Finding the soul of a song and linking its heart and expression with her own story brings this seductive blonde singer the satisfaction of a career well-spent. Recently she has begun lecturing on the Tin Pan Alley composers and early women jazz singers.

Rosene will be performing on Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. with her show, "The Jazz Age & The Charleston — 1920s Speakwasy Music."

Then there is Alex Blake, who Bullard describes as being, "one of the most phenomenal bassists in the world. His resumé is
Continued on Page 42

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- Lobster Bisque—\$5.95
- Garden or Caesar Salad—\$7.95
- Fresh Mozzarella and Tomato—\$8.95
- Dozen Baked Clams—\$12.50
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- Assorted Antipasto—\$9.95

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- Penne Vodka or Meatballs—\$12.95
- Combo-Baked ziti, ravioli, lasagna and chicken parmigiana—\$17.95

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- 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 pasta—\$18.95
- 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 marachiara—\$21.95

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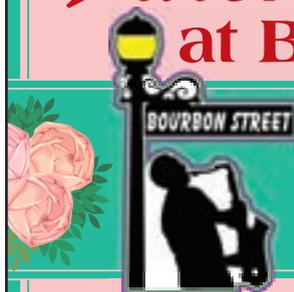


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THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

For the most up-to-date listing of events happening in Queens, check TimesLedger's website at www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar

LUNAR NEW YEAR EVENTS

Flushing Town Hall Events

Feb. 7: Gamin and Wind & Stone, traditional and contemporary sounds of Korean music, at 8 pm, \$15/general, \$10/members and students

Feb. 8 to March 30: Korean Folk Painting Exhibition includes 60 artworks from the Baraem Art Research Institute in Korea. Opening reception, Feb. 8 at 6 pm, \$5/general
Feb. 9: Make Your Wish on Hanji, Write New Year's wishes on traditional Korean mulberry paper to create a unique piece of art, at 1 pm, \$10/general, \$8/members and students, includes material

Feb. 10 to March 10: Lunar New Year Exhibition, On loan from the Taipei Cultural Center, these works includes a variety of printing techniques, including silk screen,

woodblocks, intaglio and others

Feb. 16: New Year Dance Sampler, demonstrations of dance from China, Korea, Taiwan and India, at 1 pm, free, but tickets are required

Feb. 16: Calligraphy on Silk, learn basic calligraphy and write New Year's wishes on silk fans, at 3 pm, \$10/general, \$8/members and students, includes material

Feb. 23: Live from the POEMobile, performances by Korean poets with traditional music and dance, at 6:30 pm, free

Where: 137-35 Northern Blvd.
Contact: (718) 463-7700, ext. 222

Flushing Lunar New Year Parade

The annual parade steps off near the intersection of 37th Avenue and Union Street, then heads down 39th Avenue to Sanford Avenue and then onto Main Street en route to Queens Crossing.

When: Saturday, Feb. 8, 11 am
Where: Flushing

Lunar New Year at Queens Botanical Garden – After watching the Flushing Lunar New Year Parade, head to the Garden for more festivities, craft activities and musical performances.

When: Saturday, Feb. 8, 1 pm - 4 pm

Where: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing
Cost: Free, additional fees for some craft activities
Contact: (718) 886-3800
Website: www.queensbotanical.org

FILM

See It Big! Musicals – The Museum of the Moving Image turns its attention to movie musicals on the big screen.

When: Through Feb. 28
Where: The Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria
Cost: Screenings free with museum admission – \$12/adults, \$9/seniors and students, \$6/children 3 to 12
Contact: (718) 777-6888
Website: www.movingimage.us

Continued from Page 38

UPCOMING EVENTS AT POPPENHUSEN INSTITUTE

114-04 14TH ROAD, COLLEGE POINT

Sunday, February 16, 1:30 p.m. - Lunar New Year – “The Year of the Horse” - includes - Fan Dance, Lion Dance, Chinese Ribbon Dancing (with audience participation), Sign Language Dance, Puppet Prince Dance, Chinese Folk Tales, and a Origami Workshop. Samples of various Asian food will be served. In partnership with the NY Hua Lain Tsu Hui Temple and the Up Center. Admission: Free



Sunday, February 16, Noon - “Forver Free - The American March to Emancipation” by James Coll
Location: First Reformed Church - 118-01 14th Avenue, enter on 119th St. This program is sponsored by Poppenhusen Institute and the New York Council on the Humanities - a Speakers in the Humanities program. Admission: Free

Saturday, February 22, 11:00 a.m. - “The Gettysberg Address” - 2013 marked the 150th Anniversary of this inspirational and historically significant speech given by President Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Presenter - David Carlyon. Admission: Free

Saturday, March 1, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Irish Candlelight Cafe Night with Mary Courtney & Morningstar

Tickets: \$25.00 - must be paid for in advance. Ticket price includes - corned beef sandwiches, desserts and beverages.

Contact us at poppenhusen@juno.com or (718) 358-0057 for more information. Programs are funded in part with public funds from the New York City Dept of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council, and the Speakers in the Humanities program of the New York Council for the Humanities.



Her vehicle has a first name — it's O-S-C-A-R 39

Woodhaven native spends year behind the wheel of the Wienermobile riding around the country

BY MERLE EXIT

Amanda Vazquez, born and raised in Woodhaven, graduated from Penn State last year never thinking that she would be driving an Oscar Mayer Wienermobile.

Kraft, the company which owns the brand, recruits a dozen college grads each year to drive six Wienermobiles across the country to serve as ambassadors for the product.

After a long journey in the Southwest, she and her mobile partner, Michael Tierney, recently arrived in New York.

Last week, the duo spent a few days touring Queens before heading across the East River to Super Bowl festivities in Times Square.

At a recent stop in her old neighborhood, Vazquez pulled up to the curb and switched on the retractable steps that serve as the entrance, sort of like what you'd expect to see on a UFO.



Amanda Vazquez shows off the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile at her parents' Woodhaven home last week. Photo by Merle Exit

Inside the vehicle were six captain chairs, along with decorations of ketchup and mustard.

What is this Wienermobile composed of? The meat of this converted Chevy is fiberglass re-

sembling a grilled hot dog resting on a lightly toasted bun.

Before getting behind the

wheel, Vazquez spent time training at Hot Dog High in Wisconsin, which was not just about the brand knowledge and public relations, but also taught her how to learn to drive the 27-foot vehicle.

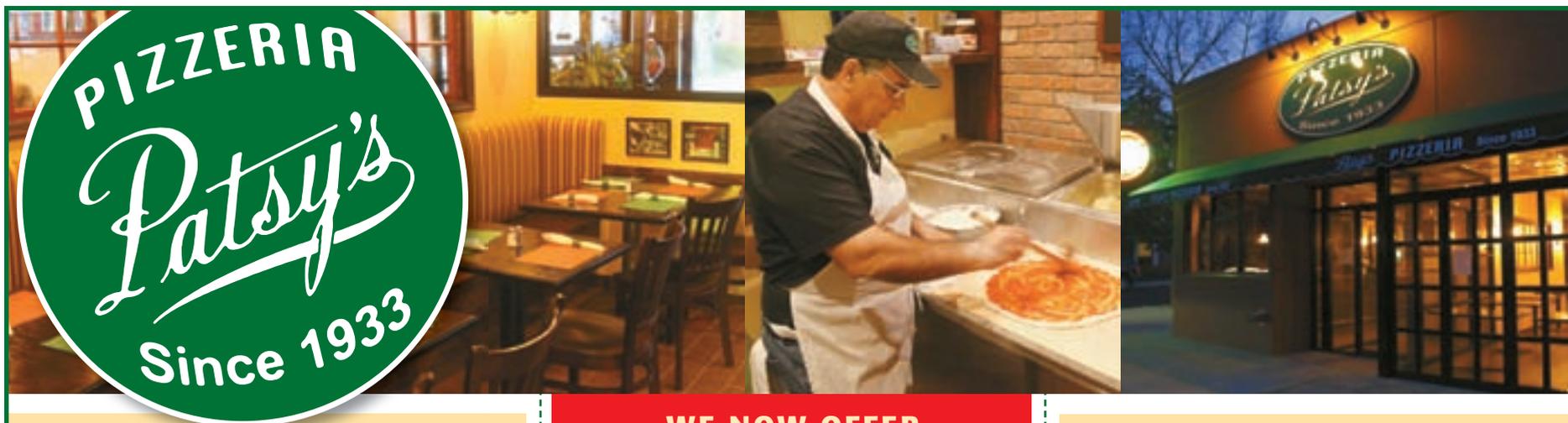
"The first Wienermobile was built in 1936, with changes in models over the years," Vazquez said. "They started as delivery trucks until 1988 when they became promotional vehicles. I am in my seventh month of my 48 weeks."

What did she love about the experience? "We get to meet so many people, visit various places and try new things," she said. "I have visited 20 states so far."

Along the way, she and Tierney hand out stuffed Wienermobile toys and wiener whistles. People are expected to blow the whistle whenever they see the vehicle drive by. Years ago they were placed into the packages of hot dogs. Horn honking was the current reaction as Vazquez ven-

Continued on Page 42

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sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #77

4	2			6				
7		6	3	5				
5							7	
	8			7	1		2	3
			6		2			
3	4		8	9			1	
	3							2
				2	3	1		7
				8			4	5

Hard #77

	2						9	
	8		6				1	
1			2				7	8
4			8		7			
				5				
			3		4			2
7	4				5			3
			5		8		1	
			8				6	

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

Continued from Page 35

ods and helped him to create pieces using a new form of artistic language.

"I enjoyed the feeling of carving on the metal plates," Lanjun said. "It was very close to drawing with a pencil onto paper."

It can take up to a week for Lanjun to complete a plate as he carves each single line of the design using a tool with a point no bigger than a needle, Wang said. And taking a cue from the pointillists, Lanjun even spent a year carving a design dot by dot onto one of his molds.

"He invented the technique," Wang said. "It was maybe more than 1 million dots carved."

Once finished with a carving, Lanjun then applies ink to the mold before pressing it onto a heavy stock paper that he buys from a French company.

He has even developed his own style of inking, Wang said.

Rather than creating two plates, one for black ink and the other for the colored liquid, Lanjun sparingly applies both types of ink to each plate, thereby creating a print with black and white portions accented by bursts of low-key colors.

The finished projects resemble traditional Chinese watercolors, including designs that mimic typical brush strokes, but any likeness to realistic landscapes is purely coincidental, Wang said.

"It is all abstract," Wang said. "He feels, compared with realism, abstraction is a more effective vehicle to express his internal feelings and emotions. Realism belongs more to the classics than the contemporary."

It's this adherence to tradition but broken down and recreated through an abstract eye that made Lanjun the obvious choice to star in the Contemporary Artists and Critics Association's first solo show.

Lanjun is showing 22 of his pieces of multiple sizes that were created using various techniques and methods, but each clearly



Zhang Lanjun carves lines into copper plates to create his prints (above). The artist (below l.) speaks with guests at the opening of his show "Still Waters Run Deep" in Flushing last week.

Photos courtesy Contemporary Artists and Critics Association and artist

IF YOU GO

Still Waters Run Deep

When: Through Tuesday, Feb. 11

Where: The Gallery of Amerasia Bank, 41-02 Main St. Second Floor, Flushing

falls within the current definitions of contemporary.

Of course, that doesn't mean Lanjun isn't interested in refining those definitions as he continues to create.

"In his mind," Wang said, "the supreme aim is to apply the simplest vocabulary to express the most profound emotions."

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Spinach Ravioli with tomato sauce

Pappardelle with Shrimp & broccoli

Salad

Mixed greens tossed with goat cheese, candied walnut in a raspberry vinaigrette

Entrées (choice of one)

Chicken Sorrentino

Branzino Almondina

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Oscar

Continued from Page 39

tured along Jamaica Avenue and stopping at Forest Parkway.

Everyone who passed by had some sort of cell-phone that was capable of taking photos. With the retractable steps open, peo-

ple of all ages climbed atop them and posed. There was actually one man who asked if he would be able to purchase a vehicle, which although it can be rented, can never be bought.

"No matter where you come from, the Wienermobile is a sight that makes people smile from ear to ear," Vazquez said. "I love

giving people 'that special moment' when they either see it for the first time or remember it from the age of 5."

Soon, the two Wienermobile drivers will be heading out of town, but expect to return while the 50th and 75th anniversaries of the World's Fair are being celebrated around the borough.

THEATER CALENDAR

PRODUCTIONS

"Not Your Mama's Fairy Tales or: In Real Life, Everything Sucks" – The TRUF Theater Co. presents an irreverent spin on three classic fairy tales.

When: Through Saturday, Feb. 8

Where: The Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City

Cost: \$18

Website: www.thetruf.org

"The Unlikely Ascent of Sybil Stevens" – New Voices Projects presents the world

premiere of this play about a flight attendant, who is the sole survivor of a plane crash.

When: Through Feb. 23

Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City

Cost: \$18

Contact: (718) 392-0722

Website: www.secrettheatre.com

"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

"Hurlyburly" – David Rabe's comedy focuses on four men caught up in the hedonistic lifestyle of mid-1980s Hollywood.

When: Feb. 14 to March 1, Tuesday to Saturday at 7 pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm

Where: The Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City

Cost: \$18

Contact: (646) 580-6003

Website: www.chain-theatre.org

Continued from Page 42

Jazz

Continued from Page 36

astonishing."

Blake, who was born in Panama, started playing professionally at the age of 12 with people like Dizzy Gillespie and Tito Puente.

"My music culture is a combination of Latin with

Afro-American," Blake said.

He is always happy to play for a place like Flushing Town Hall.

"It is a great venue for musicians," Blake said. "I like that they are open to the arts because the arts are being attacked in so many ways. Everyone has the opportunity to both

learn and get involved in the arts regardless of their age."

Flushing Town Hall is located at 137-35 Northern Blvd. at the corner of Linden Place. For more information on upcoming events, call (718) 463-7700 or go to www.flushingtownhall.org.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
February 7-13, 2014

By Pete Canty

E-xtra



Across

1. October birthstone
5. Floor model
9. Like a retro carpet
13. All-night party
14. Go off
16. Stow, as cargo
17. Far-reaching societal grouping?
19. Privy to
20. Summer footwear
21. Draw
22. Left at sea
23. Director Kazan
25. Tot's "bakery" products
27. Marathoner's mistake?
31. King Kong, e.g.
32. Desertlike
33. True partner?
37. Like some dorms
39. Located
42. Eastern discipline
43. ___ an era
45. Bad day for Caesar?
47. Triumphed
48. District Attorney's request to a jury?
52. Sicilian seaport
55. Potting need
56. China setting?
57. Play part
59. Play parts
63. Addict
64. Bar Harbor affair, perhaps?
66. Learned one
67. Herd member
68. Iroquoian Indian
69. Studied
70. Cupid's counterpart
71. Silent assents

Down

1. Planets and such
2. Graph or legal intro
3. Mary Kay rival
4. Hard to lift
5. Goes downhill?
6. Baseball stat
7. "Everything ___ go!"
8. Kia model
9. Like a banana peel, say
10. Vietnam's capital
11. Cherish
12. Rest room sign
15. Get ready to drive
18. Some surrealist works
24. Prefix with culture
26. August hrs.
27. Regatta, e.g.
28. Stratford-___-Avon
29. Requirement
30. "___ Be" (Beatles hit)
34. First caucus locale
35. Prima donna problems
36. Hamlet, e.g.
38. Like pages of an old book, perhaps
40. Breyers rival
41. Testifiers
44. Controversial coat material
46. Pizzeria order
49. Mosque officials
50. Find
51. Jets set?
52. Remote button
53. Examine
54. Feudal lord
58. Seating section
60. Claudius's successor
61. Oklahoma city
62. Fr. holy women
65. No Clue

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- » Penne alla Vodka

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Course 2 Crab Cakes

Course 3 Buffalini Mozzarella

Course 4 Surf and Turf

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Course 5 Sweet Chocolate Kiss Bread Pudding



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440 9th Ave, on 34th St.
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.244.0005

ALSO VISIT JACK'S SHACK



Theater

Continued from Page 42

“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

Art

Continued from Page 38

MUSIC

Queens Symphony Orchestra

– This family concert features performances of Victoria Bond’s “The Frog Prince” and Prokofiev’s “Peter and the Wolf.” Come an hour earlier to watch the musicians warm up in “Meet the Instruments!”

When: Sunday, Feb. 9, 3 pm
Where: LeFrak Concert Hall at Kupferberg Center for the Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Cost: Free, but call for ticket reservations
Contact: (718) 793-8080
Website: www.kupferbergcenter.org

La Voz de Tres – Chilean vocalist Natalia Bernal, keyboardist Mike Eckroth and seven-string guitarist Jason Ennis blend the rhythms of Latin music with the Great American Songbook.
When: Friday, Feb. 14, 8 pm
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.
Cost: \$15/general admission, \$10/members and students
Contact: (718) 463-7700, ext. 222
Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Gigi D’Alessio – The international Italian pop star appears with special guest Anna Tatangelo.
When: Friday, Feb. 14, 8 pm
Where: Colden Auditorium at Kupferberg Center for the Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Cost: \$99 - \$125
Contact: (718) 793-8080
Website: www.kupferbergcenter.org

Christine Andreas and Martin Silvestri – Join the masters of

Website: www.parksideplayers.com

“Richard III” – The Queens Players infuse a punk sensibility into Shakespeare’s drama, now set in 1980s punk clubs in England.

When: Feb. 27 to March 15
Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City
Cost: \$18
Contact: (718) 392-0722
Website: www.secrettheatre.com

“Anything Goes” – Theatre by the Bay presents Cole Porter’s musical-comedy set aboard a

the romantic ballad, as Andreas and **Silvestri perform.**

When: Feb. 14, 8 pm
Where: LeFrak Concert Hall at Kupferberg Center for the Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Cost: \$38 - \$59
Contact: (718) 793-8080
Website: www.kupferbergcenter.org

DANCE

Ballet Hispanico – This troupe explores the diversity of Latino culture through the fusion of classical, Latin and contemporary dance.

When: Saturday, Feb. 8, 8 pm; Sunday, Feb. 9, 3 pm
Where: Goldstein Theatre at Kupferberg Center for the Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Cost: \$49/premium, \$29/orchestra
Contact: (718) 793-8080
Website: www.kupferbergcenter.org

“The Best of Tango” – An evening dedicated to the sultry dance sets up shop for eight weeks in Sunnyside.

When: Through March 23, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 4 pm
Where: Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside
Cost: \$35/general admission, \$32/seniors and students, \$30/Fridays only
Contact: (718) 729-3880
Website: www.thaliatheatre.org

Japanese Classical Dance at Resobox – Workshops teach the 400-year-old nichibu dance popularized in kabuki. All experience levels are welcome and all materials are provided.
When: Mondays, 5:30 pm workshop for children 8 to 11; 6:30 pm workshop for all ages 12 and up
Where: Resobox, 41-26 27th St., Long Island City
Cost: \$25/adults, \$20/students

ocean liner from New York to London includes the classic songs “You’re the Top,” “I Get a Kick Out of You” and “Anything Goes.”
When: March 1 to March 16, Saturdays at 8 pm (no show March 15) and Sundays at 3 pm
Where: Bay Terrace Jewish Center, 13-00 209th St., Bayside
Cost: \$20/adults, \$18/seniors and children
Contact: (718) 428-6363
Website: www.theatrebythebayny.com

“Nonsense The Mega-Musical” – In this reboot of the original Off-Broadway smash, the Little

Contact: (718) 784-3680
Website: www.resobox.com

Free Line Dance Lessons

– Free line dance lessons given by professional dance instructor, Bernardo, every Monday.

When: Mondays, 1 pm
Where: Pomonok Senior Center, 67-09 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing
Contact: Jennifer Buljan (718) 591-3377

GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

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 large-scale immersive installations.
When: Through March 30
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

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
Where: Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 956-1819
Website: www.socratessculpturepark.org

Year of Brazil: Art of South America – The Godwin-Ternbach Museum highlights South American artworks from its permanent collection.
When: Through August

Sisters of Hoboken put on a variety show to raise money.
When: Saturday, March 8 to Sunday, March 16, Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm
Where: Maggie’s Little Theater at St. Margaret Parish, 66-05 79th Place, Middle Village
Cost: \$18/adults, \$15/seniors, \$12/children 11 and under
Contact: (917) 579-5389
Website: www.maggieslittletheater.org

AUDITIONS

Douglaston Community

Where: The Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College Klapper Hall, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 997-4747
Website: qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/godwin_ternbach

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

Playground – Children explore, discovery and have fun in this outdoor playground with slides, seesaws and pits as well as fog machines. Each session lasts 45 minutes; weather permitting.
When: Weekdays, 10 am-5 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am-6 pm
Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona
Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353
Website: www.nyscience.org

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

The Last Reef – Fly across tropical reefs, brush through a

Theatre – Auditions for the theater group’s next production, the psychological thriller “Night Must Fall,” will be held next week. The show will take place during the first three weeks of May.
When: Monday, Feb. 10; Tuesday, Feb. 11 and Thursday, Feb. 13, from 7:30 pm to 9 pm
Where: Zion Episcopal Church Hall on Church Street, one block north of Northern Boulevard
Contact: Madelon Avallone at (516) 623-3692 for more information.

cloud of a million jellyfish and visit an alien world where the tiniest creatures live in this 3D theater presentation. Recommended for children 6 years and older.
When: Tuesdays - Sundays, 11 am-2 pm
Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona
Contact: (718) 699-0005, Ext. 353
Website: www.nyscience.org

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

COMEDY

Open Mic at Rapture Lounge – All musicians, poets, writers, singers-songwriters, comedians and performance artists are welcome. Sign-up at 8 pm.
When: Mondays, 8:30 pm to 10 pm
Where: Rapture Lounge, 34-27 28th Ave., Astoria
Cost: No cover, \$10 minimum
Contact: (718) 626-8044
Website: www.rapturelounge.com

Astoria Comedy All Stars – Ben Rosenfeld hosts five different comics each week. Comics range from underground NYC acts to nationally touring headliners. The show is absolutely free, no cover charge and no drink minimum.
When: Tuesdays, 8 pm
Where: On the Rox Lounge,

MEETINGS

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

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

The Regulars Comedy Show – Every Wednesday night New York’s up-and-coming and already arrived comedians hang out and tell jokes at The Creek & The Cave.
When: Wednesdays, 10 pm
Where: The Creek & The Cave, 10-93 Jackson Ave., Long Island City
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 706-8783
Website: www.creeklic.com

Queen’s Secret Improv Club – On Friday nights, teams perform seven improvisation comedy sets on the half-hour. Tickets are good for all seven shows.
When: Fridays, 7:30 pm to 11 pm
Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City
Cost: \$5/good for all or any of the seven performances
Contact: (718) 392-0722
Website: www.secrettheatre.com

Face Off Unlimited presents Improvius Maximus – Long-form improv teams compete in Mighty Caesar’s arena for laughs and glory.
When: Fridays, 10:30 pm
Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City
Cost: \$10
Contact: (718) 392-0722
Website: www.secrettheatre.com

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NEED TO FEED

In January, U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (r.) joined An Angel in Queens Founder Jorge Muñoz (c.) and his sister Luz Muñoz to distribute meals on Roosevelt Avenue.



NEW BEEP

State Assemblywoman Marge Markey (r.) in January attended the installation of Melinda Katz (c.) as the new borough president at Queens College. Also pictured is Katz's partner, Curtis Siwa.



FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Six teachers from Sweden pose with students and teachers from Hillcrest High School in Jamaica. The Swedish teachers came to see how Hillcrest functions as nine small learning communities.

Photo by Amar Nepal



BUSINESS TRIP

The Virtual Enterprise class in the Biz/Tek Institute of Hillcrest High School in Jamaica is an innovative program where the class operates as if it was a real company. Kadeejah Francis (l.) and Pascale Civil Louis were chosen to go to Bakersfield, Calif., to attend the State Trade Fair and State Competition as representatives of their company.



DEDICATION

In her final public appearance as borough president, Helen Marshall attended the dedication of the Helen M. Marshall Learning Center at the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens in December. Joining Marshall for the unveiling of the learning center's ceremonial plaque was Joseph Ferraro, chairman emeritus of the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens.

Photo courtesy Dominick Totino Photography



GREEN AD

Rosemary Zins (r.), vice president for advancement at Queensborough Community College, presents state Sen. Toby Stavisky with a poster designed by Queensborough Community College student Monica Leon, winner of a school-wide poster contest to promote a greener campus.



SHARING THE DREAM

About 80 members of the Elmhurst Hospital Center staff attended the annual event honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. City Councilman Daniel Dromm (fourth from l.) spoke of King's dedication to healthcare and fair treatment for all during his keynote speech.



'TANKS' FOR EVERYTHING

In December, the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council and "The Shark" Daymond John, founder of FUBU and star of the ABC show "Shark Tank," joined the NYPD, Toys for Tots, the U.S. Marines, Stan Webb and North American Power to celebrate Christmas at MS/PS 42 in Far Rockaway. Students were treated to toys, food, fun, music and awards.



VALENTINE'S FOR VETS

In February, state Assemblyman Mike Miller (r.) visited the St. Mary Gate of Heaven Rosary Club in Ozone Park. The Rosary Club collected many supplies and donations for Miller's upcoming Valentine's for Veterans drive.

Business

New owner on tap for Douglaston Deli

After a career spent behind the counter, father plans to step aside to make room for his son

BY KELSEY DURHAM

After more than 40 years in the business, the owner of Douglaston Deli has decided to step down and pass the torch on to his oldest son.

Richard Walters, who has run the store at 44-23 Douglaston Parkway since 1977, will soon be retiring and his son Matt will take over as owner. Richard Walters began the long chapter in his life in 1972 when he took a job working at the deli. Five years later, he brought the store and officially became a business owner.

"I had worked in delis before and always want to own by own business," Richard Walters said. "So when the opportunity came, I took it."

In 1995, a teenaged Matt Walters started working at his father's business, helping out at the counter and with other customer service tasks. He left for a short period to attend college at SUNY Cortland, but today, 19 years later, Matt Walters is still happily employed at the deli where he grew up.

"I went to school because you never want to rule that out, but I love seeing my dad here and how much he loves coming to work every day," he said. "This is the only job I've ever had and I always knew I wanted to take over some day."



Matt Walters (r.) will soon take over the ownership of Douglaston Deli from his father, Richard Walters.

Photo by Kelsey Durham

During his time spent at the deli, Matt Walters has learned the ins and outs of the business from his father and his business partner, Robert Brancato, who became part owner in 1998. He learned his father's recipes when he started cooking about seven years ago and is now looking forward to taking over his leadership role.

The deli features salads, sandwiches, wraps, breakfast items and eight different variety of soups every day, all made from

completely from scratch. In the 37 years that Richard Walters has owned Douglaston Deli, he has closed his store just once a year, on Christmas Day. His commitment and dedication to remain open, even during the most difficult times, is something he said he takes great pride in.

Through every stretch of undesirable weather the area has received over the last four decades, Richard Walters has vowed to find a way to keep his store open for the customers who depend on

him, and he has not disappointed. Even during Superstorm Sandy that hit the city in 2012, he said he did everything he could to make sure he was able to open the deli.

"Sometimes it would take five or six hours to get there during blizzards, but I made it," he said. "A few times I even drove all the way to Brooklyn for milk and bread because the community was so snowed in. It didn't even go through my mind that I might not be opening and people loved that."

Matt Walters said he is excited to be able to finally take over the business, but he will miss working with his father like he has every day for the past 19 years.

"He taught me everything and I'll miss him being here," he said. "But I'm looking forward to building even more relationships with even more customers."

Owning a restaurant is not easy, and Richard Walters said he has gone many years without ever being able to take a vacation. Now that he has decided to retire, he said he will most look forward to spending more time with his family, including his three young grandchildren. There are many things about the business he said he will miss not being there every day, but none greater than his customers.

"Thank you to all of them for their friendship and patronage," he said. "Not one day did I ever say, 'I have to go to work now.' It's been a pleasure, and after 42 years, I think that's enough."

For more information about the store, follow Douglaston Deli on Twitter at @Douglaston_Deli.

Reach reporter Kelsey Durham at 718-260-4573 or by e-mail at kdurham@cnglocal.com.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Powerful You! Women's Network – A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.

When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm

Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch

Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston

Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009

Website: powerfullyou.com

Power Networking Group – Led by Harvey G. Beringer

When: Every Wednesday, 7 am

Cost: \$10 for breakfast

Where: Jackson Hole Diner, 35-01 Bell Blvd., Bayside

Contact: Harvey G. Beringer at HGBCPA@aol.com or (718) 423-0427

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

When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am
Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am
Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

Contact: Martin Koos (516) 488-8877, Ext. 15

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

When: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am
Where: Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnpk., Fresh Meadows

Contact: Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986
Website: bniotherboros.com

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

When: Second Wednesday of every month
Cost: \$20, includes food from Marcella's Pizzeria of Glen Oaks. Payment benefits the Ronald McDonald House of L.I.

Where: Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, 267-07 76th Ave., New Hyde Park
Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (866) 391-2780
Website: accessoffice.net

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Willets Pt.

Continued from Page 4

finding a new job as an undocumented immigrant from Ecuador.

Gualotuna is far from alone in her predicament since more than 40 business owners who make up part of the Sunrise Co-op, a group trying to move together, have had their relocation stalled as the group's organizers have scrambled to sign a lease on a large warehouse space in the Bronx.

Marco Neira, one of the group's organizers, said the landlord needs to clarify a few small issues before the co-op can sign the lease. The group plans to lease 82,000 square feet of a 142,000-square-foot warehouse in Hunts Point and will need to divide the space with a wall.

"Until we figure out those issues, we won't sign the lease," he said.

Neira said all of the co-op's members in the Phase 1 area surrendered their businesses' properties Jan. 31. He said preparing the new space, if and when the lease is signed, could take up to four months.

Arturo Olaya, president of the Willets Point Defense Committee, which represents tenant businesses, said the new space is too far for business owners to commute, the majority of whom live in Queens. He also doubted whether businesses will be able to draw enough customers to thrive in the new location.

"How will people survive over there? Our customers are here," Olaya said. "People here don't want to compete with the junkers in Hunts Point."

Olaya said he sent a letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio asking him to help negotiate a deal to relocate businesses en masse to a location in Queens.

As the Jan. 31 deadline approached, the city Economic Development Corp. said more than 50 businesses had been relocated from the Phase 1 area or were close to doing so.

The city offered businesses a supplemental payment worth 12 months' rent if they left by the end of November. Now that the supplemental payments have expired, the EDC said businesses can still qualify to have their relocation costs paid for by the city.

Stop and frisk

Continued from Page 4

lawsuit, the independent monitor appointed to oversee reforms to the NYPD's practices will watch over the department for three years, given the city substantially complies with the reforms.

The monitor and the police will reach out to communities in a series of forums to seek input on the process.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said he was confident he could keep the city safe without relying on unconstitutional stops.

"We will not break the law to enforce the law. That's my solemn promise to every New Yorker, regardless of where they were born, where they live or what they look like," he said. "Those values aren't at odds with keeping New Yorkers safe — they are essential to long-term public safety."

The battle over the Police Department's controversial stop-and-frisk policies — which supporters argue have been instrumental in bringing crime rates down to historic lows — stretches back to the waning days of the 1990s, when the Center for Con-

stitutional Rights filed a lawsuit challenging stop-and-frisk in the wake of the fatal shooting by police of Amadou Diallo in the Bronx.

In 2003, Manhattan District Judge Shira Scheindlin oversaw a settlement agreement in the case that required the NYPD to document individual stops, and in the following years the numbers skyrocketed.

The legal advocacy group in 2008 filed a federal class-action suit against the city, and last August, following a nine-week trial, Scheindlin found the NYPD's use of stop-and-frisk to be unconstitutional and racially discriminatory. She appointed an independent monitor to oversee reforming the department.

Soon after the Bloomberg administration, which ardently disagreed with the ruling and accused Scheindlin of bias, appealed the decision and late last year the Second Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the judge's orders and removed her from the case.

Should the appeals court grant the city's motion, it will be up to the newly appointed district court justice, Judge Analisa Torres, to decide whether or not to approve the settlement.

Galante

Continued from Page 25

number of its facilities across the borough.

When discussing an outdoor meeting space at the Central Library in Jamaica a news article described as a private smoking space, Galante said "an idea was raised" during planning that the area could be a cost-effective use of "otherwise dead space" that was completed with non-government funds.

Before leaving office last year, Mayor Michael Bloomberg baselined libraries into the city budget, a move Galante said will allow Queens to replace a portion of the contract workers with full-time staff — that is, as long as the library's budget holds steady.

Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) said Galante had a long way to go to restore the trust of both the public and the lawmakers whom he would be coming to for funding.

"I'm disappointed by some of your answers today, to be quite honest with you," he said. "This will not be the last hearing and this will not be the last you hear from us on this matter."



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Christ the King's Rawle Alkins drives against Bishop Loughlin's Tyreik Sanders. Photo by Steven Schnibbe

Royals team loses cool in defeat by Loughlin

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Christ the King lost its composure along with an important basketball game at Bishop Loughlin.

The Royals saw senior center Adonis Delarosa ejected for a flagrant foul in the third quarter of an eventual 76-74 loss to the rival Lions in Fort Greene last Friday.

The game, which was physical and choppy on both sides, was a battle for first place in the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Class AA division and a rematch of last year's city final won by CK.

The 6-foot-11 Delarosa was ejected after he clothes-lined Loughlin star guard Mike Williams, who was racing toward the hoop attempting to dunk the ball on him with one-hand.

Williams did not return and went to the hospital. He received two staples to close the cut in the back of his head. He does not

have a concussion and will be out three to five days, according to Loughlin Coach Ed Gonzalez.

Delarosa will be suspended for two games by league rules, but will be back for the meeting between the two teams meet in Middle Village Feb. 9. Royals Coach Joe Arbitello wasn't happy with how his team handled itself in the heated contest.

"It was out of control," Arbitello said. "We were at fault as much as they were at fault. I told my guys and we huddled up there, next guy to say a word will sit on the bench for the rest of the game, next guy to talk to somebody, push somebody, do anything like that is done. And the play with Adonis was just ridiculous."

The contest was marred by shenanigans that started when the teams traded barbs with each other while crossing

Continued on Page 53

Legendary coach to retire

Campus Magnet's Charles Granby leaving the bench after 45 years

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Once Charles Granby lost his day-to-day passion for coaching, he knew his time on the bench was coming to an end.

That's the way the legendary Campus Magnet boys' basketball coach felt at times last season before deciding this year will be the last of his 45-year career at the school. He started there as a physical education teacher when it was Andrew Jackson and has been there coaching ever since.

"I didn't feel like practicing anymore," the 79-year-old Granby said. "I didn't feel like doing certain things. If there were a game every day, it would be different."

Granby, who retired from teaching in 1996, never lost his love of basketball, but the time to be invested in CPR classes, first aid courses and concussion training that are required of a PSAL coach became too much. No successor has been named, but Granby is at peace with his decision.

"He feels like he's done what he's needed to do and he just says it's time for the next person to step in," his daughter Robyn Granby-Poole said.

Whoever takes over has big shoes to fill.

Granby played collegiately at nationally ranked Bradley University and won the National Invitational Tournament title in 1960 alongside Chet Walker, a member of the Naismith Hall of Fame.

The understated Gran-

by went on to become the winningest coach in PSAL history with 721 victories. He has the second most all-time wins in New York City and is its second-longest tenured coach behind Molloy's Jack Curran, who died last year after 55 seasons.

His teams won 24 division titles, seven Queens championships and a city crown in 1985 led by guard Boo Harvey, who played at St. John's. He is a member of the New York state and city basketball Hall of Fames.

"I think what he's meant to Queens basketball is immeasurable," Campus Magnet assistant Coach Ken Vickers said.

"He carried the torch for Queens basketball," Vickers added about the school's long-standing dominance in the borough's basketball community before Cardozo's recent success. "Andrew Jackson was what everybody knew."

Granby's legacy goes far beyond his on-court success. He never relished the spotlight or flaunted his accomplishments. His perspective on what it means to be a coach was formed early on in his career, when a former player told Granby how the coach's emphasis on a college education helped to shape that player's life.

"He thought he might

have wound up in jail or something like that, and the kid started crying," Granby said. "From that day on, I looked at it in a different perspective."

He became more concerned with making sure his players were set up for success after their high school careers were over. College became as much the goal as titles.

There have been numerous success stories. Newly elected Brooklyn City Councilman Robert Cornegy Jr. played for Granby and current Orlando Magic forward Kyle O'Quinn was pushed by Granby to get serious about basketball.

Continued on Page 53



Campus Magnet Coach Charles Granby is joined by his daughter, Robyn Granby-Poole, surrounded by trophies in his Jamaica apartment. Photo by Christina Santucci

CK's rivalry match marred by mayhem

Players should know better than to lose composure during matchup between Royals and Lions



Joseph Staszewski

Block Shots

My original plan was to write a column encouraging hoops fans to experience the boys' basketball rivalry between Christ the King and Bishop Loughlin in Fort Greene.

That feeling has changed after the display the two teams put on last Friday night. Now, you might want to proceed with caution.

What transpired was something I expect to see at a streetball game at Guchos Gym or a late night contest in Dyckman's pro and college summer league,

not in a Catholic high school contest.

Loughlin Athletic Director Angela Proce had to get on the microphone, much like announcer Joe Pope would do at Dyckman, to tell the players she would stop the game if they could not control their emotions and actions.

"The tradition of our league is good, hard-nosed play and very competitive," Lions Coach Ed Gonzalez said. "We don't need that stuff."

It took Loughlin star Mike Williams getting hurt for things to finally settle down. He was clotheslined going up for a dunk by Christ the King center Adonis Delarosa. The Rutgers-bound guard hit the back of his head hard. Luckily, he needed just two



Christ the King's Adonis Delarosa commits a hard foul against Bishop Loughlin's Michael Williams, causing Williams to leave the game with a head injury and Delarosa to be ejected.

Photo by Steven Schnibbe

staples to close a deep cut.

Delarosa was then pushed in the back of the head by a fan rushing on the court as another tried to land a punch, but was stopped by security. It was the only incident involving an otherwise well-behaving, standing-room only

crowd.

Christ the King Coach Joe Arbitello called his players' actions "ridiculous" and "childish." He was right on the money. There is no place for that on any basketball court.

Both teams lost their composure early during

a brief heated exchange coming off the layup lines. There were constant first quarter stoppages because of chippy play. Loughlin's Issak Bodon retaliated with a shove of CK's Travis Atson after he pushed Lions teammate Keith Williams, who had just blocked his shot. Delarosa was the first one over to play peacemaker.

"It was out of control," Arbitello said.

They finally got to just playing basketball after Williams' injury, but left CK fans with a disappointing 76-74 Loughlin victory that didn't include Williams or Delarosa over the final quarter and a half.

Rivalries can lead to high emotions and extracurricular actions. I get it. Nike was there giving away

T-shirts after adding some pizzazz to the Lions' courts. The game was streamed live over the Internet.

This wasn't the first time many of these kids played in a game like this. They need to know better and represent their school and league better than they did.

I commend the coaches and administrators for doing the best they could to get things under control, and they kept things from being much worse. The players, like kids constantly being told no, kept at it anyway.

A game that is supposed to promote the teams and the league for all the things good about them will be remembered only for the inexcusable ugliness that transpired instead.

Sierra Calhoun chosen to play as McDonald's All American

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Sierra Calhoun's dream of playing in the McDonald's All-American game formed from watching it on television at a young age. The Christ the King senior will now get a chance to be the player others aspire to be.

The Duke-bound guard remembers tuning in to see former UConn star Mya Moore playing in the contest that featured the 24 best players in the country in 2007.

This year when she was eligible to take part in the game, she nervously sat with her family at home in Brooklyn as the group was announced on the selection show Jan. 29. Plenty of hugs ensued when she learned she could put her name alongside Moore and eight other Christ the King greats.

"I just feel blessed to

be ... with all those other names that got chosen," Calhoun said.

Royals teammate Deja Johnson was one of a few people she texted to tell her the news. Johnson said Calhoun didn't talk much about wanting to play in the game, but you could tell it meant a lot to her.

"I was more happy than her," Johnson said. "I've seen her work hard since freshman year, so I was just happy that she got what she wanted."

Calhoun joins Royals alumni Sue Bird, Chamique Holdsclaw, Shay Doran, Carrem Gay, Tina Charles, Lorin Dixon and Bria Smith as McDonald's All-Americans Nazareth's Bianca Cuevas will join her in the contest that will be televised nationally on ESPN April 2 from the United Center in Chicago. It marks the first time two CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens

players were selected to play in the same year. Calhoun has been a stellar representative of the league and her school.

"Every positive quality you could want in a person, your own child, this young lady has," Christ the King Principal Peter Mannarino said.

Calhoun, the sister of former CK star Omar Calhoun, was much ballyhooed entering high school. She played varsity as a freshman and led the Royals to the diocesan title as sophomore. There as been a maturity to her and her game.

Calhoun is a stronger leader and more complete player now. She scores when needed, rebounds, defends and makes her teammates around her better. The Royals have just three losses and are in first place in their division.

"She's taken her game
Continued on Page 53

St. John's basketball surges to top of Big East standings

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The St. John's University women's basketball team hasn't forgotten October when the preseason Big East rankings were announced. The Red Storm was picked third and is now making it a point of trying to show the league's coaches they were a little bit off.

"We kind of have a chip on our shoulder about that," senior guard Eugeneia McPherson said. "We try not to worry about things like that, but our goal is to win the Big East tournament. When we were picked third, that kind of gave us an edge."

St. John's (16-1, 9-1) has used that edge as well as a deep and balanced roster to get off to a torrid start to conference play. The Red Storm won nine straight Big East games since losing its opener on the road

against Xavier. They are 11-1 in their last 12 games with help from the return of McPherson from a torn ACL and the addition of Clemson transfer guard Danaejah Grant.

"I think we always felt we had a pretty good group that would jell and come together when we had everyone available," St. John's Coach Joe Tartamella said.

It hasn't been easy. There were tight road wins over Marquette and Villanova before coming home and rallying to beat Georgetown and avenging the loss to Xavier with a lopsided 80-48 victory. St. John's followed that up by taking out Seton Hall 69-48 in South Orange Feb. 1.

"Whatever that adversity is for that game, we find a way to win," McPherson said.

She has been a big reason why.

McPherson, who recently scored her 1,000th career point, has excelled in the point guard role, a key position for a team capable of a balanced attack. She is averaging 8.8 points per game and is the team leader in assists, just ahead of freshman Aaliyah Lewis.

"I'm more confident in having that role," she said. "Initially I wasn't."

McPherson has provided a steady hand running the offense, but Grant, a sophomore, has emerged as the team's second lead scorer at 11.3 points per game. Her 5-foot-9 frame and strength are a handful for opposing defenders.

"She is much longer than people understand," Tartamella said. "She can guard multiple positions. She can score at will. She has a chance to be a special player."

Continued on Page 53

Rockaway native living up to expectations at Wagner

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Former Mary Louis star Jasmine Nwajei put on display the reason why there is so much buzz around the Wagner College freshman point guard.

She played just seven minutes in the first half because of foul trouble against St. Francis College, feeling angry she couldn't help her teammates. The Rockaway Park native was soothed by the fact that her team went into the half with a lead, but a victory couldn't be secured without her.

"When I got in, I knew it was time to just take over," Nwajei said.

She proceeded to score 25 of her 27 points in the second half of a 73-62 victory over the host Terriers Jan. 27. Nwajei connected on nine of 15 shots after the break, including two three-pointers and was seven-for-nine from the free throw line. One of those treys she banked in from the top of the key as the shot clock was winding down with 4:23 left to play in the game to give Wagner its largest lead at 57-48.

"That topped it off," Nwajei said. "I was like, 'That's going in? It's over. They are not coming back.'"

She has turned it on



Jasmine Nwajei dribbles up the court during the 2013 Mayor's Cup.

Photo by William Thomas

since Northeast Conference play has begun, earning three Rookie of the Week

Awards. Nwajei is averaging 15.7 points per game and 5.1 rebounds. She came into the Staten Island school as the face of second-year Coach Lisa Cermignano's prize recruiting class and has so far delivered.

"Getting into conference [games], she is starting to play like Jasmine with that confidence," the coach said.

There was a learning curve early. Nwajei, who helped Murry Bergtraum win its 15th straight PSAL city title last season, wasn't a point guard predominantly in high school. Cermignano loaded up the Seahawks' non-league schedule

with major programs like Kentucky, Seton Hall, VCU, Pittsburgh and Rutgers. It challenged Nwajei and her young team, which is 4-16 overall and 3-6 in conference play.

Nwajei leads the team in assists with 80, but had turnover problems early. That has improved as she's gained more experience and gotten to know her teammates better.

"It was an adjustment because now you have to know personnel more," Nwajei said. "The light is more on you to make the decision, not someone else."

The spotlight and responsibility of being a col-

lege team's go-to player is something she has grown comfortable with. She knows that in close games, like the one against St. Francis, the final minutes are her time to shine.

Cermignano thinks she needs to be even more aggressive than she is because of her ability to attack the basket. It will make Nwajei now and in the future a bigger weapon and advantage for Wagner than the one already living up to the expectations placed on her when she arrived.

"She's a superstar," St. Francis Coach John Thurston said. "She just took over the game."

Royals

Continued from Page 51

paths coming back from the layup lines. Midway through the second quarter Christ the King's Travis Atson pushed Loughlin's Keith Williams after getting his shot blocked. Lions teammate Issak Bodon then shoved Atson in retaliation, resulting in double technical fouls.

"Emotions were high," Loughlin's Javian Delacruz said.

Things escalated from there. The Rutgers-bound Williams got free along the left side with Loughlin up 48-44 with 4:31 left in the third quarter and Delarosa sent him spiraling to the floor hard. Delarosa was then pushed in the back of the head by a fan who rushed onto the court. Another attempted to land a punch, but was stopped and

escorted out by school officials.

Cooler heads eventually prevailed. CK hung in, but struggled without Delarosa.

Seton Hall-bound guard Khadeen Carrington attacked the basket for Loughlin and Delacruz buried a three-pointer to give Loughlin a 62-53 lead heading into the fourth quarter. The Lions (17-3) twice held a 10-point lead in the fourth, but Arbitello thought his team wasn't playing less aggressively after the ejection.

"We lost a 6-11 guy that makes us a little bit more physical," Arbitello said. "That's what we lost."

The Royals (16-4) pulled within 74-72 with 44.2 seconds left on a three-pointer by Rawle Alkins. A Loughlin turnover gave CK the ball back with 17 ticks left, but Darius James forced Andre Walker out of

bounds as he tried to control an inbound pass along the sideline.

"It's a tough loss for us," Alkins said. "We had the chance to win. We had the game in the bag. We had a beautiful play drawn and we couldn't get it in bounds."

Carrington, who scored the 2,000th point of his career, scored 24 points, Delacruz had 15 and Williams finished with 14. Bodon chipped in 10. Alkins led Christ the King with 23 points, Atson has 17 and Andre Walker added 15.

Alkins said Loughlin should enjoy this victory, its first over CK in its last seven tries. That's because he doesn't see the same result when the Lions come to Middle Village.

"They can cherish the moment right now," Alkins said. "But when we see them again, it's going to be a different story."

her teammates and they're doing so many good things to help her along."

Siena-bound forward Kollyns Scarbrough said she couldn't imagine playing with the pressure Calhoun has been under during her career. Calhoun talked about how her parents' support and watching her brother deal with the spotlight helped her. She also learned from be-

ing Smith and Nia Oden's teammate as a freshman. She saw what it took to lead not only in games, but also at practice.

"It's something to see how hard they worked," Calhoun said. "As a freshman it opened my eyes to how hard you have to work to get to where they were."

And to where she is now.

Granby

Continued from Page 51

"A guy like him always had his eyes focused on kids who needed help when we didn't know we needed it," said former player Eddie Harris, a 1979 graduate. "When you have someone like that, it's very special."

Added basketball talent evaluator Tom Konchaliski, "You have to admire anyone who has worked with kids for 45 years."

His message has stayed the same. Granby

still gives his players the "Ugly Life" speech about the disadvantages of not having a college degree. He has helped inner city kids work toward a better life his entire career.

"He meant so much to the community, not only basketball-wise," Campus Magnet senior captain Nohah Vickers, Ken's son, said. "He was a model to everybody."

The inexperienced Bulldogs have struggled this season with a 3-9 record in league play. Nohah Vickers and his teammates

wish they could send him out with a better year.

"There is definitely an urgency to win right away," he said.

Granby said leaving coaching will allow him to travel more. He can head to the Caribbean or visit family when it's cold and snowy in New York. His time to leave coaching has come.

"I didn't plan to stay for 45 years coaching the team, but it just evolved," Granby said. "I just felt like it was time for me to get out now. You just feel like it is time to go."

St. John

Continued from Page 52

Junior post Amber Thompson has also come on as conference play be-

gan, consistently recording double-doubles. That and the play off the bench of Keylantra Langley have taken some of the pressure off starting guards Briana Brown and Aliyyah Hand-

ford.

"When they are all hitting on all cylinders," Tartamella said, "it's fun to watch."

They are proving to be tough to beat as well.

Calhoun

Continued from Page 52

up a notch and really gotten very comfortable with her abilities," CK Coach Bob Mackey said. "I think last year she was pressing and pressing and trying to do so many things. This year I think she is relaxed. She's feeling confident in

Easy #77								
4	2	8	7	6	9	5	3	1
7	1	6	3	5	4	2	8	9
5	9	3	2	1	8	6	7	4
6	8	5	4	7	1	9	2	3
9	7	1	6	3	2	4	5	8
3	4	2	8	9	5	7	1	6
1	3	7	5	4	6	8	9	2
8	5	4	9	2	3	1	6	7
2	6	9	1	8	7	3	4	5

Week 33

Hard #77								
6	2	7	5	8	1	9	3	4
9	8	4	6	7	3	1	2	5
1	5	3	2	4	9	6	7	8
4	9	1	8	2	7	3	5	6
8	3	2	9	5	6	7	4	1
5	7	6	3	1	4	8	9	2
7	4	9	1	6	5	2	8	3
2	6	5	7	3	8	4	1	9
3	1	8	4	9	2	5	6	7

Noise

Continued from Page 1

crowded airports.

"You can only squeeze so many planes into a given area," he said. "I don't believe you can expand it in any way to accommodate more aircraft. If you're going to build another runway, you're going to have a major riot on your hands because people are fed up."

But Stephen Sigmund, executive director of the Global Gateway Alliance, an air travel advocacy group, said he is confident runway expansions will help to alleviate some of the problems, even if this approach does lead to additional traffic. He said the project, coupled with the NextGen plan to replace planes' GPS with satellite systems, will reduce delays on crowded runways and therefore decrease unnecessary noise from planes circling above them.

"The short version is yes, it means more planes,

but it's a little more complicated than that," Sigmund said.

He said the Federal Aviation Administration places a cap on the number of planes that can go in and out of New York's airports per hour, and in order for more flights to occur, that cap would have to be lifted. By creating additional runway space, Sigmund said it would reduce the congestion in New York's airports that he said currently causes more than half of the delays on flights across the country every day.

Starin said he and many other city residents doubt that there is much room for expansion, but Sigmund said he believes NextGen is a realistic solution that could take place in the near future.

With LaGuardia so close to capacity, the alliance has suggested extending its two runways, while JFK could build new airstrips by extending them into the water, though Sigmund said that project

would be a much bigger undertaking. Newark could be built out westward toward the Jersey Turnpike, he said.

Sigmund also said that updates such as extra runways would help improve the overall state of LaGuardia, which was recently named America's second worst airport by Travel & Leisure magazine after taking the No. 1 spot the year before.

The Port Authority could not be reached for comment about LaGuardia and the suggested runway expansion.

Susan Carroll, a Flushing resident pushing for quieter skies in her area, hears planes fly over her neighborhood at a constant pace, but she does not believe expansion is the solution.

"It's horrendous and disgusting that there's a group out there that thinks it's OK to add more runways," she said. "Where? I don't understand that. I understand the congestion

in New York, but the way to resolve it should not be on the backs of the hardworking, taxpaying residents."

Members of Quiet Skies have begun discussing strategies to counter the strong political influence they say the Global Gateway Alliance has, even suggesting holding a public rally to gain awareness for their side of the issue. Despite the disagreement, Sigmund said the alliance understands the concerns of people who live in the area but contends the suggested changes to New York's airports are much-needed.

"We recognize and certainly sympathize with the people who have to live day-to-day with the crowded airports, but we do think it's necessary to move forward with these initiatives in order to improve them," Sigmund said.

Reach reporter Kelsey Durham at 718-260-4573 or by e-mail at kdurham@cnglocal.com.

Meng

Continued from Page 5

lose the Latino vote again," she said.

Meng also joined the Asian-American caucus, which she said is so sparse it welcomes non-Asian members, such as U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights). The group works on nationwide diversity issues, Meng said, and tries to tackle problems the Asian-American community faces.

The congresswoman had three pieces of legislation pass the House in her first year.

The first of these bills allowed houses of worship that were damaged by Superstorm Sandy to apply for federal disaster funds.

The second bill was a response to the terrorist attack in Benghazi and gives the secretary of state more power to discipline U.S. State Department employees who put diplomats in

danger.

"It helps close the loophole to protect the safety of diplomats abroad," Meng said.

The third bill was an attempt to eradicate the massive backlog of disability claims which has caused extremely long wait times for veterans seeking assistance.

Meng said all of her bills have stemmed from complaints, concerns or ideas that came from constituents, who contacted her district office.

When she first took office, Meng said she quickly realized she would need more than just the one district office in Flushing her predecessor had, so she opened a second office in Forrest Hills, at 118-35 Queens Blvd., Suite 1610.

"People in Queens really identify with the local neighborhood they're from, so it was very important to have an office on Queens Boulevard closer to the southern and central parts of the district," she said.

Environment

Continued from Page 5

as far as their voting records — or lack thereof — were concerned.

Council members Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria), Dan Halloran (R-Bayside) and Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) each received a score of 76 on the league's report card — the lowest mark handed out in the entire City Council.

Each of the lawmakers voted against the contro-

versial bill to charge a fee for plastic bags and missed three other votes, though the poor marks may have had more to do with scheduling than environmental views.

The environmental group pointed out that Ferreras missed her three votes while away on maternity leave, and Vallone signed on as a sponsor to all three of the bills he missed.

On the other end of the spectrum, four borough lawmakers earned perfect scores of 100: Council

members Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village), Danny Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), Peter Koo (D-Flushing) and Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside).

Council members Gennaro, Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills), Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park), Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) and Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) each earned a 94 on their report cards.

Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton) received a grade of 91 and former Councilman Leroy

Comrie got a mark of 88.

Overall, the average score for an individual Council member was 91, and the league pointed out that the members of the new leadership team, including Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan), scored highly.

"This bodes well for the environmental movement in this new era of city leadership," New York League of Conservation Voters President Marcia Bystryn said.

dan Fay, the founder and co-chair of the St. Pat's For All Parade, was thrilled to hear that the mayor would march in Sunnyside.

"Well, that is groundbreaking news — wow!" Fay said. "This is exciting and heartening. We are delighted that the mayor of the city will march with us and as mayor he gets to lead us all in the only all-welcoming and inclusive St. Patrick's Day parade."

Dromm helped Fay start the alternative march after years of protests and

arrests at the Fifth Avenue parade.

"Unlike the parade on Fifth Avenue, the St. Pat's for All in Queens welcomes all groups to bring their banners. Hospitality is at the heart of our parade," Fay said.

Kathleen Walsh D'Arcy, the other co-chair of St. Pat's for All, said, "How can we work for peace and reconciliation in Ireland but be divided in New York?"

Meanwhile, police officers and firefighters

can still participate in the Fifth Avenue parade after a coalition of activists and city officials, including city Public Advocate Letitia James urged the mayor to restrict them from marching in uniform.

"I respect the right of our city workers to march in uniform, period," the mayor said.

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718.260.4538.

Ulrich

Continued from Page 9

stall more NYPD cameras in the district and help schools acquire new technology.

Ulrich also pledged to help those affected by Sandy get on their feet again.

"In the midst of all this turmoil and despair there is hope," Ulrich said.

Schumer heralded Ulrich's dogged efforts to support constituents after Sandy. He invited the community to call his office with recovery-related concerns while announcing that Congress passed a four-year moratorium on flood insurance hikes.

"Eric's a homegrown

fellow," Schumer said. "It's a great day for you because you got here the old-fashioned way — you earned it."

Mark-Viverito echoed several speakers in singling out Ulrich's practice of looking beyond party.

"He was elected by his community and that voice needs to be respected and needs to be at the table," Mark-Viverito said, before thanking Ulrich, the youngest member of the Council, for backing her in the speaker race. "He was also an early supporter of mine and that means a lot to me."

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

DeBlasio

Continued from Page 5

cilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside).

"He's been in our parade before as a Council member and as the public advocate," Van Bramer said. "I think it'll be a lot of fun to have him here as mayor. I think that's terrific."

Dromm and Van Bramer are the two openly gay member of the Council.

Astoria resident Bren-

QC

Continued from Page 24

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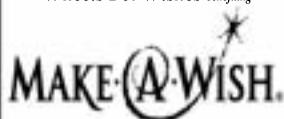
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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on October 22, 2013, bearing Index Number NC-000816-13/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) JACE (Middle) RAMON (Last) STATEN. My present name is (First) JACE (Middle) RAMON (Last) CORONA (infant). My present address is 169 04 88th Ave., Apt. 6D, Jamaica, NY 11432-. My place of birth is Queens, NY. My date of birth is December 13, 2011.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on November 26, 2013, bearing Index Number NC-001118-13/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) JHAYLAN (Middle) RICHARD (Last) GARCIA. My present name is (First) JHAYLAN (Middle) ABDIEL (Last) GONZALEZ. (infant). My present address is 7448 Cypress Hills Street, 2nd FL, Ridgewood, NY 11385-6946. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is May 14, 2013.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on December 12, 2013, bearing Index Number NC-001173-13/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) TACKOOR (Middle) RICKY PRAKASH (Last) MAHABIR. My present name is (First) TACKOOR (Last) MAHABIR AKA TACKOOR P. MAHABIR, AKA RICKY PRAKASH MAHABIR, AKA PRAKASH RICKY MAHABIR. My present address is 119-21 146th Street, Ja-

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maica, NY 11436-1527. My place of birth is Trinidad and Tobago. My date of birth is August 23, 1971.

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC AUCTION Supreme Court of NY, Queens County. KONDAUR CAPITAL CORPORATION v. JEANNETTE C ALVEAR; HAROLD L CEDENO, if living, or if either or all be dead, their wives, husbands, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributes, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said HAROLD L. CEDENO, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and the respective husbands,

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wives, widow or widowers or them, if any, all whose names are unknown to plaintiff; ADVANTAGE ASSETS II, INC.; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. as NOMINEE FOR WMC MORTGAGE CORP.; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; ARROW FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC. Index No. 27646/2010 Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 19, 2013. Referee Jason Vishnick will sell the premises known as 90-42 Pitkin Avenue, Ozone Park, NY at public

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auction at the Queens County Supreme Court-house in Room 25 at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11435, on February 28, 2014 at 10:00AM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York known as Block 11406 , Lot 18, will be sold subject to the provisions of filed Judgment Index #27646/2010. The approximate amount of judgment is \$531,700.52 plus interest and costs. PULVERS, PULVERS & THOMPSON, LLP 110 East 59th St, New York, NY 10022, Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF QUEENS NYCTL 2012-A TRUST

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AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs against EFSTATHIOS TSAFTARIDES, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on November 21, 2013, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Court-house, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., in Courtroom #25, Jamaica, NY on the 28th day of February, 2014 at 10:00 AM premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of Queens, County of Queens, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 9936 and Lot 32 on the Queens County Tax Assessment

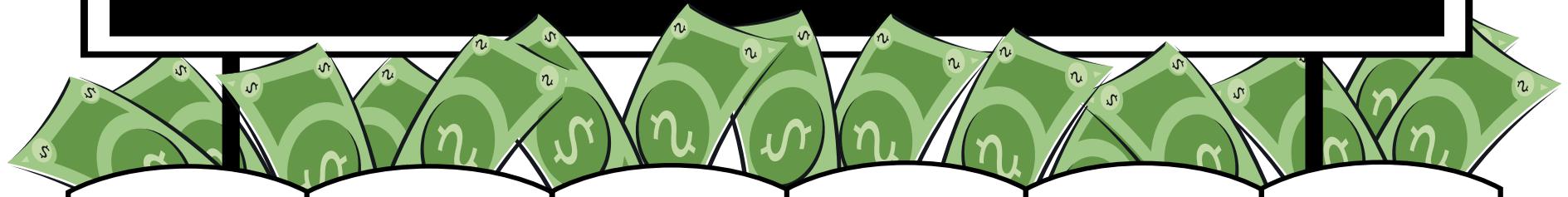
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Map. Said premises known as 88-02 188TH STREET, QUEENS, NY Approximate amount of lien \$ 22,549.23 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index Number 6603/13. JOSEPH MISK, ESQ., Referee. Phillips Lytle LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs 1400 First Federal Plaza, Rochester, NY 14614 (* QUEENS VIL - *)

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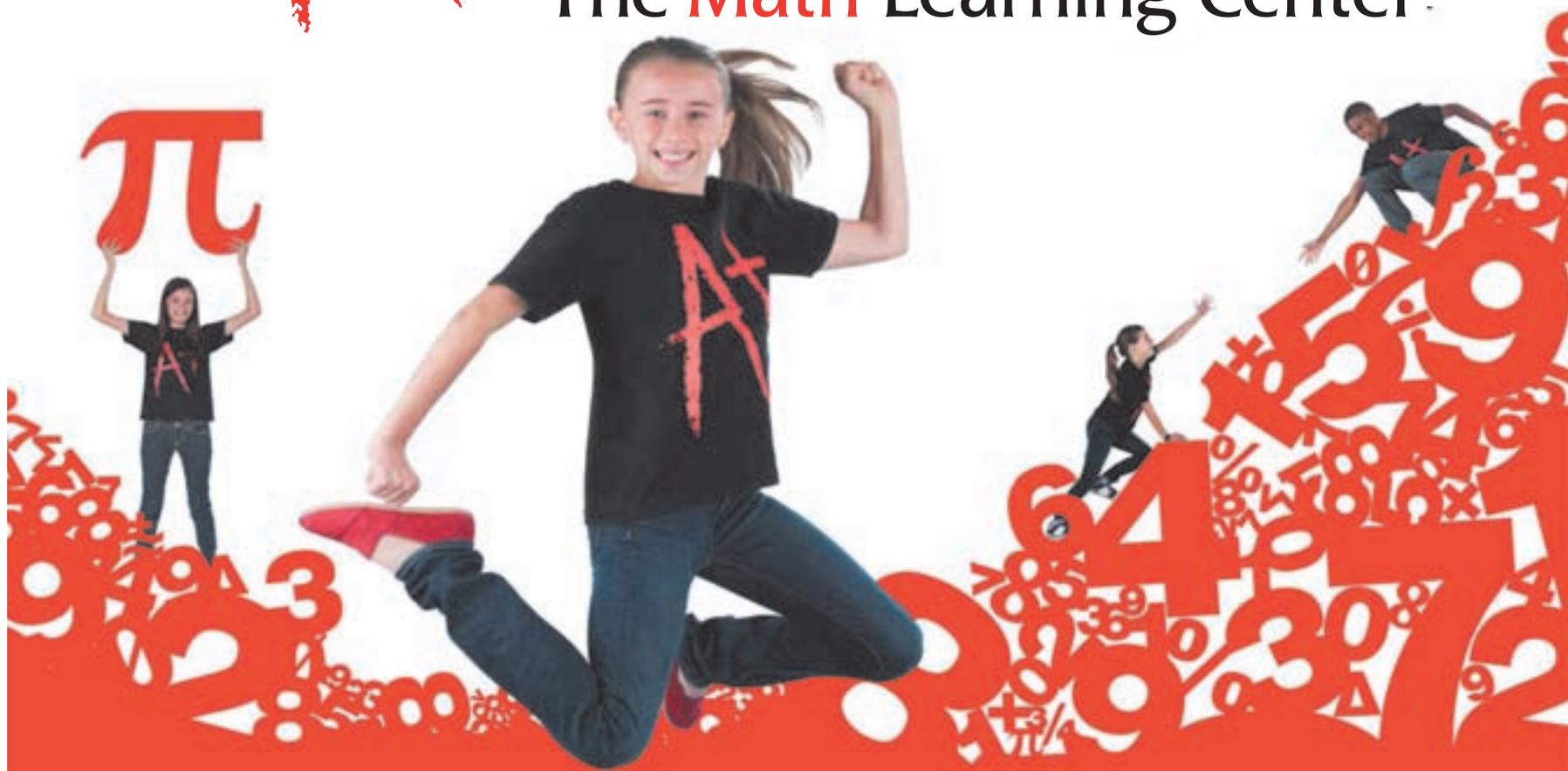
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