

Flushing man fights city sidewalk work

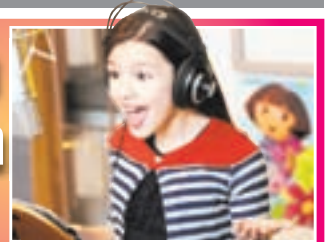
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QGuide Page 27



RKO developer denies any plan to sell theater

BY JOE ANUTA

The developer for the RKO Keith's Theatre in Flushing maintains he has enough cash to put a shovel in the ground and is not selling the property, but Patrick Thompson also owes the city nearly \$400,000 in unpaid taxes and faces a possible tax lien from the city.

Speculation that Thompson wants to sell the property has increased after a real estate firm circulated an investment packet

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FEATHERED FAN

Nikolas Burzynski wears a special costume to support Townsend Harris' robotics team, the Steel Hawks, during the FIRST Robotics Rebound Rumble Competition, held at the Javits Convention Center. **See coverage on Pages 3, 38.**

Photo by Christina Santucci

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Ackerman seat sets off race by three Dems

GOP announces shortlist of candidates

BY JOE ANUTA

Democrats across the borough were left scratching their heads over the whirlwind of political activity centered around U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman's (D-Bayside) retirement announcement last week and the ensuing political clamor that ended in the announcement of at least three campaigns.

Ackerman shocked the entire political establishment at 7:30 p.m. last Thursday when he sent out a news release that he would not seek re-election after 34 years in office.

On Tuesday afternoon, Ackerman said he had gone back and forth before making the final decision, but that he held out to make sure exited on his own terms.

Ackerman's retirement left

the Queens Democrats stunned, according to insiders, who said that even the party's leader, Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), was not aware of the veteran politician's plans.

Crowley had planned to endorse Ackerman Friday morning.

The announcement also set Republicans searching for a

candidate of their own. According to a source in the party, the shortlist includes City Councilman Dan

Halloran (R-Whitestone); Juan Reyes, president of Forest Hills Republican club; and J.D. Kim, a lawyer with a practice in Long Island.

On the Democrat side, several names were bandied about over the weekend as to who Crowley

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**Congressman explains
decision**

PAGE 4

Sidewalk saga near an end

City offers to settle repair debacle with Flushing homeowner

BY JOE ANUTA

The city offered a \$1,500 olive branch to John Biagi to compensate him for a surprise sidewalk makeover he received in 2009, but the Flushing homeowner turned it down.

"Now, this is about principle," he said. "I don't want to be a victim. They expect me to say, 'Thanks for robbing me, now let's split the money.'"

Biagi is referring to a \$2,240 bill he received in 2009 after the city replaced the entire sidewalk that runs around his corner house on Utopia Parkway without notifying him in advance.

After a protracted fight with several city agencies and letters written by elected officials, the city comptroller's office offered Biagi \$1,442 to make up for the sidewalk repair this month.

But after new evidence surfaced in response to a Freedom of Information Law request, Biagi said he will only pay for the sidewalk slabs that were actually broken.

Biagi's saga began in 2004, when city inspectors found that 68 square feet of sidewalk needed to be replaced.

An inspector sent Biagi a notice of the offending slabs of concrete and a map indicating where they were, according to city documents.

If Biagi did not take



John Biagi stands outside his home, which is now adorned with a new sign.

Photo by Joe Anuta

any action to repair the slabs himself, the city would make repairs and send him a bill, the document said.

Biagi did not take any action. Neither did the city.

Then without informing Biagi, the city had revised its sidewalk assessment from 68 square feet to 1,000 square feet.

On Nov. 10, 2008, Biagi found the city had dug up about 790 square feet of concrete and slapped him with the higher price tag.

"I came home at about 3 p.m., and I couldn't even get into my driveway," Biagi said.

The city Department of Transportation, which handles assessments of sidewalks, said Biagi was

only on the hook for one-third of the bill, since the city paid for the majority of the repairs itself.

DOT also said that Biagi never repaired the first defects identified in 2004, and that the property was still eligible for the city to make repairs in 2008.

Since more sidewalk defects had developed, DOT said, the contractor addressed the original defects as well as the new ones.

In addition, the DOT has a process for contesting sidewalk complaints that Biagi did not follow.

But through a TimesLedger Newspapers FOIL request filed in February, the city provided photos of Biagi's sidewalk taken by the contractor

just before the 2008 repairs were made.

Many of the slabs of concrete that were torn up appeared to have no defects whatsoever in the photos.

The city Department of Design and Construction, which also works with contractors to fix sidewalks, said many of the sidewalk slabs were repaired to make the grade of the sidewalk even, a claim Biagi hotly disputed.

"What grade? We're not on a hill," he said. "How come in 2004 they didn't mark the grade?"

Using the photos as ammunition, Biagi called the comptroller's office saying he only wanted to pay for the original 68 square

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109th cops honored for halting burglary

BY JOE ANUTA

precinct.

Officers from the 109th Precinct are assigned to a specific unit, but the March Cops of the Month proved that the city's Finest put their titles aside when confronted with a crime.

Police Officers Troy Burchard and Carl Caputo work as part of the precinct's School Unit, but they helped bust two burglars Feb. 1 after they were approached by a terrified woman.

"These officers are some of the 109th's finest," said Deputy Inspector Brian Maguire, speaking at the 109th Precinct Community Council's monthly meeting, where he gave out the two awards.

On Feb. 1, the partners were in their cruiser on 41st Avenue when a woman approached them and said her house had been broken into, said Maguire, the commanding officer of the

Burchard and Caputo did not know if the perps were still in the basement of the residence, but after they approached they arrested two men age 23 and 38, who were in possession of electronics and jewelry, according to Maguire.

The awards were presented by the Greater Whitestone Taxpayer's Civic Association. President Kim Cody also presented the precinct council with a \$250 check.

After Maguire gave out the awards, he later reviewed the crime statistics through March 11 compared to last year.

Overall crime went up from 350 major crimes last year to 370 this year, a 5.7 percent increase.

Maguire said the precinct is fighting the success of last year, and several small increases reflect that. In addition, the warmer

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Deputy Inspector Brian Maguire, the commanding officer of the 109th Precinct, holds up a photo of a suspect wanted in connection with a knife-point robbery.

Photo by Joe Anuta

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Nuts, bolts and hoops align for Fresh Meadows teens

High school robotics club builds basketball machine for competition at Javits Center in Manhattan

BY RICH BOCKMANN

For a team of competitors from Francis Lewis High School, developing the perfect basketball shot is all about mastering the mechanics.

Students from the Fresh Meadows school's robotics club built a towering, basketball-tossing, bridge-balancing machine in preparation for this past weekend, when they faced off against teams from across the world in the "Rebound Rumble" at the 2012 First Robotics Competition at the Jacob Javits center in Manhattan.

The students had just six weeks to build their machines after the competition told them what the robots would be required to do.

"We decided to go with a simple but efficient de-

sign," said Douglas "Chu-Chu Train" Chu, who operated his machine's shooting mechanism as teammate Patryk Pietraszko navigated with a remote control.

"Simple" may have been a relative term for Chu. His team's machine used a spinning wheel of rubber surgical tubes to scoop up loose basketballs, which are fed up to a shooter that can launch the ball at different preset speeds Chu controlled with a remote. It even had a sonar sensor to tell the team how far away from the basket they were.

During each match, six teams placed their robots inside an arena separated in the middle by three see-saw-like bridges and a three-tiered ball of hoops on either side.

The students controlled their machines from



Francis Lewis High School students Douglas Chu (l.) and Patryk Pietraszko operate their basketball-shooting machine during the Rebound Rumble competition.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

behind glass walls on either side, and scored points for making a basket, defending one or by balancing their robot on a bridge, which is no easy task. The teams do not know the weight of the bridge beforehand, so unlike shooting baskets, it is not something they can

practice.

Chu said his team calculated their best chance at sinking a basket was from a distance of 12.6 feet.

After dropping about six baskets, they were able to balance on a bridge for 10 points.

"It started tipping and

I let go of the pressure," said Pietraszko, who explained he got help from another team that received points for cooperation. "I'm really happy it worked."

Teams from about a dozen Queens high schools participated in the robot rumble.

Long Island City High School junior Zoe Rosenbaum and her team, the LIC Robodogs, built a device that feeds the balls up to a ramp and then drops them in the basket. This was the biggest event of the year for the school's robotics club, and she said she enjoys the time spent raising funds and building the machine as much as she does competing.

"You get to hang out with everyone and create something cool that works," she said. "You get to do what you want to. It's

just a really good feeling."

The team earned additional points for their safety captains, students donning pink bubble wrap reminding teammates to wear their safety goggles.

"They take on the persona of 'safety first,'" said junior Rohit Sharma.

The team from John Adams High School in Ozone Park developed a robot that scooped a basketball up from the ground, and like a pitching machine threw it out the top with a high arc that would draw praise from any high school coach.

Sophomore Esteban Rosario said he has been into robotics ever since he was a kid, when he and his father, who studied to be an electrical engineer, would play with radio-controlled cars.

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Queens delegation split over redistricting

Only two Assembly members vote against plan, but all boro's senators oppose new election lines

BY JOE ANUTA

The contentious redistricting process that changed political representation in Queens came to a close Monday when a federal judge signed off on the new congressional lines, days after Gov. Andrew Cuomo did the same at the state level.

Queens lawmakers from the state Assembly largely voted to approve the state lines, while those from the state Senate unanimously opposed it.

A panel of judges overseeing the congressional lines approved the plan drawn up by the magistrate judge, Roanne Mann, with little changes.

Reaction to the state and congressional maps was drastically different, with independent groups and elected officials blasting the state lines as gerrymandered to keep Sen-

ate Republicans in power, while praising the congressional lines drawn by a court-appointed judge as fairly drawn.

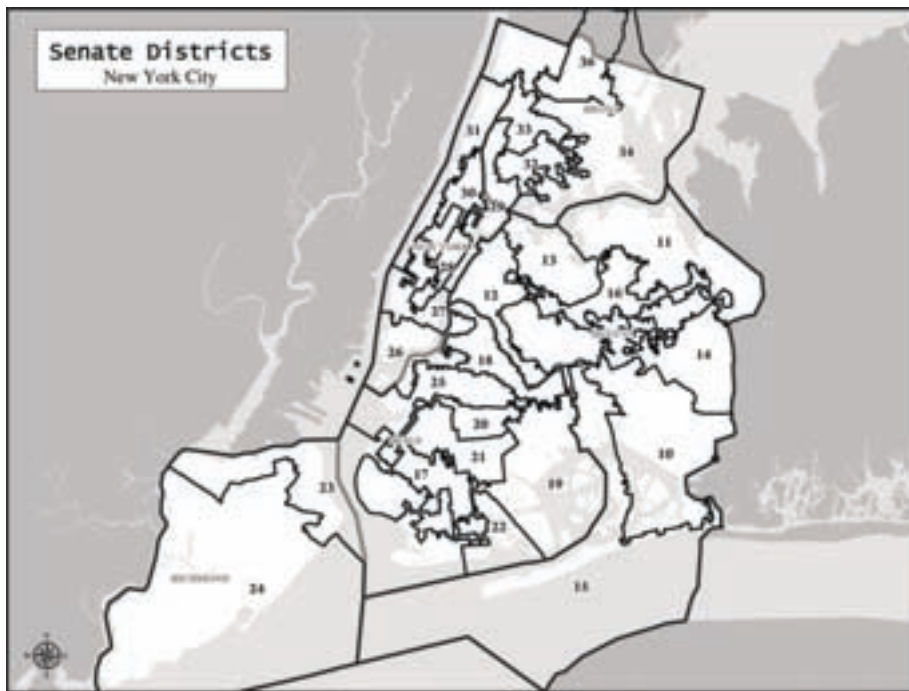
"The bad guys won," said Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria), who led a call for the process to be taken care of by an independent commission.

Gianaris was part of the group of Queens lawmakers in the Senate who opposed the legislation and even walked out of a late-night discussion of the bill along with Democrats from around the state before it was eventually passed without their support.

Senate Democrats are also suing over a 63rd seat that was created upstate.

Gianaris voted against the state lines, as did all the Queens lawmakers in the Senate, according to records from the state Legislature.

But in the Assembly, it



A map of the controversial state Senate lines approved by both branches of the state Legislature last week. Image courtesy LATFOR

was just the opposite: Nearly every Queens lawmaker voted in favor of the lines,

according to the bill.

Some said they voted for the new lines because

they were fair, or because of another bill that provided a constitutional amendment

to reform the redistricting process next time around in 2022.

Cuomo also signed that bill after it passed, which stipulates that an independent commission will be created after the next census in order to take power of redistricting out of the hands of the Legislature in an effort to circumvent gerrymandering.

Cuomo also passed a law that will ensure that the amendment sticks.

But Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) said the constitutional amendment is not enough.

Simotas, along with Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Little Neck), were the only two members of the Queens delegation in the Assembly to vote against the lines.

"If the Senate lines weren't so hyper-political, perhaps I would have re-
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After scandal grips Wyckoff former CFO sues for payback

BY REBECCA HENELY

A former Wyckoff Heights Medical Center chief financial officer is suing the medical center to obtain severance pay, saying he had nothing to do with an account set up to bribe late state Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio, according to court documents.

Judge Elaine Slobod, of Orange County Supreme Court in upstate New York, granted partial summary judgment March 12 for Wah-chung Hsu, who once lived in the hamlet of Highland Mills, saying in court documents that Wyckoff was in breach of contract when it did not pay him sev-

erance after firing him.

Hsu, who now works for Seton Medical Center in Daly City, Calif., was once the chief financial officer for Wyckoff and was fired in the wake of a corruption scandal surrounding Seminerio that landed the Richmond Hill Democrat in prison.

Seminerio had pleaded guilty in June 2009 to taking more than \$300,000 from Jamaica Hospital administrators to work on behalf of its interests in Albany, and died in January 2011 in the first year of serving a six-year prison sentence in North Carolina.

David Rosen, former chief executive officer of Medisys and Jamaica Hos-

pital, was found guilty in September of ordering the company to pay off Seminerio and is awaiting sentencing in May.

Federal prosecutors had contended Seminerio took bribes from numerous city and state agencies through his phony consulting agency, Marc Consultants. Some October 2009 court documents said Marc Consultants received payments in 2000 and 2001 from an account named 397 Himrod, which was actually owned by Wyckoff, which is located in Bushwick and serves many Queens residents.

Dominick Gio, then chief executive officer of
Continued on Page 46

Ackerman hoped to keep district safe before exiting

BY JOE ANUTA

U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-Bayside) wove stories from his youth and more than 30 years as a New York lawmaker into an explanation as to why he abruptly decided to leave office at the end of his term last Thursday.

"I guess retiring catches everybody by surprise," Ackerman said during a conference call. "I've given it my best shot. I've enjoyed almost every moment of every day of it. At 69 years old, if I were going to have an Act 4, I can't think of a better time to do that."

As of Jan. 2, 2013, the last day of Ackerman's term, other House members



U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman stunned the political world with the announcement he will retire at the end of his term, which ends early next year.

will no longer see him pull up in his 1966 Plymouth Valiant nor see him walk the halls of Congress wearing his signature white carnation boutonniere.

During his stays in Washington, D.C., the congressman lived on a house-

boat called "Unsinkable II," after his first boat did not live up to its name.

Ackerman sat on a variety of foreign affairs committees and traveled the globe in his capacity as a congressman.

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GOP candidates vie for Gillibrand's seat

BY STEVE MOSCO

With opponents emerging and the statewide primary set for June, U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's (D-N.Y.) stand to defend her seat begins now.

U.S. Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village) decided to challenge Gillibrand for her Senate seat after it became apparent redistricting would eliminate the 9th Congressional District, which he won in a special election after Rep. Anthony Weiner stepped down amid a highly publicized sexting scandal.

When the district lines were redrawn, many believed that Turner would challenge Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) in a battle for southern Queens. Instead, Turner made a late entry into the race for Gillibrand's seat and picked up enough support at the state Republican convention to force a primary against two other opponents.

Jessica Proud, a spokeswoman for Turner's campaign, said he entered the race late because preliminary redistricting maps indicated his district would be preserved.

"We look forward to drawing the distinction between Turner and the other candidates," she said. "Bob sent shockwaves with his win last year and he feels strongly about continuing his mission on a statewide level."

Two other candidates from the Republican ranks — Manhattan lawyer Wendy Long and Nassau Coun-

ty Comptroller George Maragos — have stepped up to oppose Gillibrand after each one nabbed the necessary 25 percent at the GOP committee members' vote to qualify for the June 26 primary ballot.

Democrats nominated Gillibrand for re-election Monday and the senator will run for her first full, six-year term. The former upstate Congress member won a special election in 2010 to fill the remainder of Hillary Clinton's term, which ends this year, after being appointed to the seat by then-Gov. David Patterson.

Wendy Long won the Conservative Party nomination later Monday with 91 percent of the vote. Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long — no relation — said the Conservative nominee was chosen because of her stark contrast with Gillibrand on policies.

"She [Gillibrand] was very moderate in Congress. She went to the Senate and suddenly she became very liberal," said Mike Long, who believes the Conservative candidate can raise enough money for a serious run and make this a very close race. "[Wendy] Long is a conservative scholar, and she can relate to and articulate the issues important to the state and the U.S."

Wendy Long served as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York City, and then for Justice Clarence Thomas on the U.S.

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Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos, (l.-r.) U.S. Rep. Bob Turner and Manhattan lawyer Wendy Long are slated to run in the Republican primary in June for Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's seat.

AP Photos/David Duprey (l. and r.)

LIRR mulls Elmhurst stop

Agency has cash, but will study demand for extra stop at behest of pols

BY REBECCA HENELY

If you build it, will they come? That is the question Long Island Rail Road President Helena Williams is asking.

In response to two Queens legislators' campaign to reopen the Elmhurst train station that closed in 1985, Williams said it is economically feasible, but the LIRR needs to do a study to see if residents would be willing to pay the more expensive fares for a train while there are subway lines and buses in the area.

"Would it attract the ridership?" Williams asked at a news conference last Thursday with U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) and City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights).

Williams visited the intersection of Whitney and Cornish avenues, which was once the site of the train station along the Port Washington line. At the conference, which ended with a walking tour of



U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (l.-r.), City Councilman Daniel Dromm and Long Island Rail Road President Helena Williams go on a walking tour of the former Elmhurst Station. Photo by Christina Santucci

the station, Crowley pointed out that the overpass for the train still contains the buttresses where the station once sat.

He said if the station, which closed in 1985 due to a decline in ridership, were to be reopened, it would provide a faster, more comfortable ride into Manhattan.

"Elmhurst deserves this railroad station," Dromm said.

The station would provide a stop between the Woodside and Mets-Willets Point stations.

Williams said reopening the station would cost at least \$20 million, and that number could be bumped

up to \$30 million if the station became handicapped-accessible.

Nevertheless, she said that after looking at its 2010-14 capital program, the agency found it was feasible, especially in light of track extensions near Great Neck and Port Wash-

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U.S. visas available for trafficking victims

BY REBECCA HENELY

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Long Island City hosted a forum Tuesday to get the word out about legal options for immigrants who have been victims of human trafficking, abuse or domestic violence.

"We know there are victims out there and there is help available," said Andrea Quarantillo, district director of USCIS for New York City, at the office at 27-35 Jackson Ave.

Scott Whelan, of the USCIS's office of policy and strategy, said there are three ways that can help



Immigration law professor Julie Dinnerstein (l.-r.) and USCIS employees Lynn Boudreau, Scott Whelan and Andrea Quarantillo discuss at a forum avenues available to immigrants who are victims of sex trafficking and other crimes. Photo by Rebecca Henely

immigrants who have been victimized.

First, T visas allow victims of all types of trafficking — forced labor,

sexual or involuntary servitude — to stay and work in the United States on a temporary basis.

Whelan said many vic-

tims of this underground crime end up dead.

"Human trafficking is a brutal crime," he said.

A U visa is available for victims of abuse and other crimes, Whelan said. Immigrants who suffer from domestic violence, both female and male, also can apply for legal status without having to go through their abusive spouse under the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act.

"There are avenues for them to come forward," said Lynn Boudreau, USCIS's assistant center director for the Vermont Service Center.

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Judge: City must pay \$128M in minority FDNY suit

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Four federal court appointees have until April 12 to make their recommendations to a Brooklyn judge as to how to mete out approximately \$128 million the city was ordered to pay to a pool of more than 2,000 minority candidates who were discriminated against by the FDNY.

In his 64-page decision rendered earlier this month, U.S. Eastern District Judge Nicholas Garaufis named Steven Cohen, former counselor and chief of staff to then-U.S. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, and three federal prosecutors as special masters in the case, which found the city Fire Department's hiring practices to be discriminatory

toward black and Hispanic applicants.

In previous rulings on the lawsuit, Garaufis called the under-representation of black and other minorities among the FDNY's ranks as the "one persistent stain on the Fire Department's record."

According to the lawsuit, which was originally brought against the city

by the federal government, thousands of black and Hispanic candidates who took either one of two written, multiple-choice exams between 1999 and 2007 are eligible for a portion of the millions in monetary relief, which was calculated in terms of lost or delayed wages.

The federal government estimated that there

are 2,200 black and Hispanic applicants who are eligible to divide up the award.

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



A federal judge has ruled the city must compensate minority applicants who were discriminated against by the FDNY.

Photo by Christina Santucci

NYCLU blasts Brown over his interrogations

BY REBECCA HENELY AND PHILIP NEWMAN

The New York Civil Liberties Union has criticized Queens District Attorney Richard Brown for interrogating people accused of crimes before they are arraigned or have consulted a lawyer, saying it is unethical and unconstitutional.

A spokeswoman for the DA's office said the office declined to comment while the matter was being litigated.

The NYCLU took issue with Brown in a legal brief Tuesday that concerned three cases before the State of New York Appellate Division, Second Department, brought by people who were subjected to questioning before arraignment.

Besides the defendants in these three cases, thousands of people too poor to afford a lawyer have been interrogated by the Queens DA under this program, which has been in operation since 2007, the NYCLU said.

"The district attorney's program violates constitutional and ethical protections that are designed to ensure fundamental

fairness and balance in the criminal justice system," said Taylor Pendergras, senior staff attorney of the NYCLU. "Any program where legally trained prosecutors intercept unrepresented suspects on their way to court and direct them into an interrogation room is unconstitutional and unethical. The program should be ended immediately."

A source close to the DA's office said the program was instituted to ensure that the charges levied against the defendants were correct and that the innocent are never wrongfully accused.

In the interview process, the subject is informed of his or her Miranda rights, the interview does not occur until the subject waives them and no defendant who is represented by an attorney or invokes his or her right to counsel is interviewed, the source said. The interview is video recorded from beginning to end, the source said.

Many choose not to go through the interview process, but others wish to explain their side of the story, the source said. The process

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■ **Doctor said** to keep on drinking the tea. Prescribed prostate drugs did not help. *Leonard Pearcey, Wassis, NB* ■ **I cancelled my prostate surgery.** Get up once a night. I'm so happy not to have to face the torment of a prostate operation and incontinence or impotency. *Albert E. Blain, 74, Schumacher, ON* ■ **Even after TURP prostate surgery** and microwave therapy had to get up many times. Now down to 1-2 times. Tea is 100% better than drugs. *Robert G. Stocker, Eustasis, FL* ■ **After 1st year drinking tea** my PSA went down to 4.5; after 2nd year to 2.9; after 3rd year to 2.3. I highly recommend the tea. A real life saver. *Thomas M. Thurston, Forsyth, GA.* **People's phone numbers on our website.**

year to 2.9; after 3rd year to 2.3. I highly recommend the tea. A real life saver. *Thomas M. Thurston, Forsyth, GA.* **People's phone numbers on our website.**

High Blood Pressure?

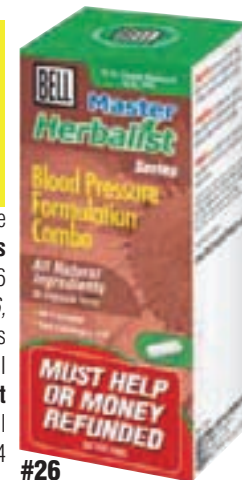
High blood pressure is called the silent killer. If your BP is higher than normal, try to get it down to about 120/80. For many people it is easy to control. If it does not work for you we refund your money. On our website you will find over 50 testimonials with full names and towns from all over USA and Canada. Most of them have listed phone numbers and are happy to talk about the relief they had. No money was paid for testimonials.

Dr. C. Hammoud M.H., Ph.D. recommends this effective fish peptide blood pressure natural product. So does **Dr. Julian Whitaker M.D.** ■ **I was on 3 blood pressure drugs** that did not work well. After starting Bell #26 my readings are generally well below 120/80. *Dona A. Anderson, 76, Sooke, BC* ■ **My blood pressure was 157/90** and I had side effects from prescription drugs. I bought a monitor. After 6 months on Bell #26 I was down to 120/80. *Toni L. McCuiston, 52, Elizabethtown, PA* ■ **At work my driver's medical** test was too high at 170/100. After taking Bell #26 for a few days I went down to 128/84 which allowed me to pass my work medical. *Kris Geier, 48, Windsor, ON.* **All products guaranteed to work.**



#14

Bell Prostate Ezee Flow Tea, HDL Cholesterol Management, Blood Pressure Combo and Stem Cell Activator. I love your products. They all work for me. Great results. That's all that matters. *Basil Richards, 49, S.W. Ranches, FL* ■ **20 years of high cholesterol alleviated!** I had high cholesterol for 20 years and drugs didn't agree with me. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 for 6 months I had a check-up and was surprised about the big improvement. I was delighted and extremely happy and so was my doctor. *Norma Hrysiou, 65, Lac Du Bonnet, MB.* **We supply TRUE EVIDENCE.**



#26

Cholesterol Control

■ **Cholesterol and triglycerides under control!** For the last 5-6 years I have been told that my cholesterol and triglycerides were out of line. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 my doctor said he was amazed about the change. This is a good product. *Jerome Nettles, 51, Monroeville, AL* ■ **All statin drugs gave me pain!** My doctor tried them all on me. So he said to try a natural product. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 I have no more pain. I'm so happy about this. *Deanna O'Neil, 63, Tecumseh, ON.* ■ **I had great success with all Bell health products!** In the last 2 years I had relief with

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POLICE Blotter

Cops need people's help searching for teen, 14

COLLEGE POINT — The NYPD was seeking the public's assistance in locating a teenage male who was last seen March 7 at his home in College Point.

Police said 14-year-old Wai Man Ng was last seen inside his home, at 25-09 College Point Blvd., around 8 a.m. March 7 wearing a blue jacket, blue jeans and white sneakers. He is described as 5 feet, 3 inches



WAI MAN NG

tall and weighing 120 pounds.

Anyone with information about Ng is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS. The public can also submit their tips by logging on to the Crime Stoppers website at nypdcrimestoppers.com or texting their tips to 274637(CRIMES) then enter TIP577.

Police seek missing boro female teen, 16



YU DAI

FLUSHING — The NYPD was seeking the public's assistance in locating a female teenager who was last seen March 15 at her home in Flushing.

Police said 16-year-old Yu Dai was last seen at her home, at 132-29 Blossom Ave., around 3 a.m. March 15 wearing a gray jacket and blue jeans. She is described as 5 feet, 5 inches tall and

weighing 105 pounds.

Anyone with information about Dai is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS. The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website at nypdcrimestoppers.com or texting their tips to 274637(CRIMES) then enter TIP577.

Husband charged with robbing wife

FLUSHING — A woman was slapped and had her handbag stolen while walking down the street earlier this month, but police did not have to look far for who they said is the culprit.

On March 1 at about 8 a.m., a woman was on 37th Avenue near Union Street when police said her husband slapped her across the face.

Cher Budhathoki, 34, then ripped a

handbag containing credit cards and a phone off the woman's arm and ran away, police said.

The woman returned home to find the ripped handbag on the couple's kitchen table, but the cellphone and credit cards were missing, according to the NYPD.

Budhathoki was later arrested and charged with robbery, police said.

Teen pack steals woman's iPhone: Police

FLUSHING — A woman lost one coveted piece of Apple technology but kept another after suffering a beating from three teens earlier this month, police said.

On March 2, a 30-year-old woman was on 45th Avenue at around 1:10 p.m. when she was approached by the pack of teens, which included Steven Arenas, 16, Shaquille Mckoy, 17 and Valerie Sanchez, 16, police said.

One of the youngsters snatched the woman's iPhone, and when she tried to get it back, the trio began to punch her in the face and then slammed her head into a car, police said.

The iCloud's silver lining was that the woman also dropped her iPod, which she recovered before she was treated for lacerations to the face.

The three teens were charged with

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Pothole paver machine makes Flushing debut

BY STEVE MOSCO

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the city Department of Transportation unveiled a new machine in Flushing intended to make the city's pesky pothole problem less prevalent this spring.

Joined by DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan on 34th Road between Union and Leavitt streets, Bloomberg launched the start of road-paving season with a demonstration of the Python — a new machine currently being tested — which is designed to fill potholes with fewer crew members and only block one lane of traffic when making road repairs.

Bloomberg said the new technology will help keep workers safe, while causing less congestion on city roads.

"Keeping our streets in good condition is essential to our economy and to our quality of life, and that's why we are always looking for ways to do the job more efficiently," Bloomberg said. "We're debuting new technology to repair city streets faster while closing less lanes to traffic."

Last year was especially hard on city roads, since extreme winter weather required DOT crews to fill a record 418,000 potholes citywide. The mild temperatures of the past

few months have enabled city crews to get a jump on street repairs, as the DOT has already filled 164,000 potholes and resurfaced 650 lane miles across the city so far this fiscal year.

According to Sadik-Khan, the early start on road paving season has given the DOT the opportunity to test new technologies aimed at streamlining road repairs and creating more environmentally friendly techniques.

"While the DOT crews work to repair streets across the city, we're testing new technology that can help achieve smoother streets in faster, more efficient ways," she said. "By applying innovative techniques to street repairs, we are stepping up our efforts to make sure our roadways continue to be in a state of good repair."

The city is currently renting the Python for up to three months at a cost of \$2,500 per month. After the initial testing phase, the city will assess the benefits of the machine and the DOT will decide whether or not to move forward with the technology.

The Python pothole filling machine uses a telescoping arm to place and compact the material used for pothole repairs. It is operated by a single crew member and allows for

Continued on Page 36



Mayor Michael Bloomberg And DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan watch a demonstration of the Python - the city's new pothole filling machine in Flushing. Photo Steve Mosco

It's a spring break bummer

Fire at Vaughn College might force flight students back to school



The city's Bravest respond to an electrical fire at Vaughn College that knocked out power to the building and left some students without a spring break. Photo by Joe Anuta

BY JOE ANUTA

The driver of a delivery truck who ran into some exposed electrical lines at Vaughn College last week did more than cause a small explosion and fire — that driver may have also destroyed spring break.

"Somebody ruined our vacation," said first-semester student Lucas Gomez. "No fair."

The bummer began just after 10 a.m. March 14, when a driver delivering materials to a construction site at the aeronautics and technical school did not see a set of cones blocking a hole in the ground, according to FDNY Battalion 49 Chief Jim Kane.

A portion of the truck landed on some exposed wires, which caused a small explosion and a fire to break out in the hole, Kane said.

In addition, a fire broke out inside the college's electrical room, he said, which caused the entire building to lose power.

The city's Bravest responded in minutes and extinguished the first set of flames while the sprinkler system took care of the fire inside, according to Kane.



Firefighters stand outside Vaughn College soon after the blaze was extinguished. Photo by Joe Anuta

But the sprinklers did not shut off, and the continued spray of water created thick black smoke that rose from the small school and wafted throughout a portion of the building where no one was attending class, Kane said.

There were no injuries reported, according to the FDNY — at least, no physical injuries.

Some students might have to make up classes during the school's spring break, which runs from March 19-25, according to a school spokesman.

In addition to aeronautics and engineering courses, the college also offers an airplane mechanic school, called the Aviation Training Institute, spokesman

choice words for the driver of the delivery truck.

"He should make up the classes for us," said first-semester student Kevin Holguin.

And to add insult to injury, the school was shut down for the rest of the week while Con Edison attempted to restore power to the building, meaning that for other students spring break started a half-week early.

Students said after alarms went off inside the school, professors and classmates dismissed the noise as a simple drill.

"Then the security guard came in and said, 'The building's on fire,'" Gomez said. "When we came out, the Fire Department was already here."

In addition to the FDNY, the city Office of Emergency Management was on the scene.

According to Kane, jet fuel stored on the property and the large number of people triggered the office's involvement.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

SKALA RIDES AGAIN

The criticism of St. Mary's Hospital for Children in Bayside has gotten to the point where it is ridiculous.

A handful of residents in East Bayside, led by Frank Skala, are complaining the new entrance to the hospital is dangerous. The entrance was moved over a few feet to make it easier for cars carrying seriously ill children to access the hospital driveway.

This should make it safer, right? The people who complained that expansion of this hospital, famous for delivering care to some of the area's sickest children, would create a traffic problem for the neighborhood should be happy, right?

But it seems the East Bayside Homeowners Association is never happy.

"The driveway itself should supposedly make it safer after it was straightened, but that might not be the case," said Skala, the group's president. "People might end up driving faster, which isn't safe in a residential area surrounded by family homes."

Leslie Johnson, director of St. Mary's communications and marketing, explained that since the minor change made entering the hospital easier, it follows that it will also be safer.

"Now we have a much cleaner means to drive in and out The old entrance wasn't the best for traffic flow," Johnson said.

Makes sense to us.

She added that the change was made because of community complaints.

We wish she had said, "St. Mary's delivers extraordinary care to the sickest children. The people of Bayside should be proud that St. Mary's calls Bayside home. If they care about children, they should do everything possible to support the work we do and stop the complaining."

Johnson said the hospital is working with Community Board 11 and Bayside neighbors to get a four-way stop at the new intersection.

Skala was not finished. He also complained the hospital removed a tree to improve the entrance. The hospital said it will plant shrubbery to keep up the appearance of the area.

Save a tree or save a child. You decide.

We think this might be a good time for the sake of Bayside and the association that he represents for Skala to take a vow of silence.



OTHER VOICES

Stop dumbing down students' education

An open letter to state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone):

Let me start by saying I was a high school mathematics teacher for 37 years, so I speak from experience.

In reference to the article "CUNY Law responds to low bar exam pass rate" (TimesLedger Newspapers, Feb. 16-22), you should be congratulated and should congratulate the faculty of the CUNY School of Law for raising academic standards instead of succumbing to

the easier path, which is to accommodate the lower-level students and lower the standards, thus lowering the passing grade of the bar exam.

The decision of the state Department of Education allowing calculators to be used in mathematics class from elementary school to high school is one example of the dumbing down of the American student population.

America has strived for stupid and has been proud of it. From the wait-

ress in the diner to the doctor in the operating room, we have an overabundance of incompetent people with poor work ethics in the workforce.

Probably more students than you think do not belong in college because of the education they had in high school. That is why there is an unusually low passing rate on the bar exam.

Just maybe if more people involved in education at the college level began to demand more it

will filter down to the high school, middle school and elementary school levels, and then standards throughout the system would be raised instead of lowered. In turn, this would affect the entire nation because I believe New York City education is the benchmark for education in the country.

You did a great deed, senator, by allowing the standards to be raised. I tip my hat to you.

*Martin Silver
Bayside*

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CB 7 board correct in denying variances to church

The Auburndale Improvement Association Inc., which represents more than 600 families in the Auburndale, Flushing and western Bayside communities, and five other civic associations testified at the January Community Board 7 public hearing against the request by Mormon church officials for three variances in order to construct a church at 145-15 33rd Ave.

CB 7 devoted the majority of the meeting's time to listening to and deliberating on the applicants' request for the three variances. The applicants gave a lengthy presentation

first, followed by testimony from the public. They heard church members' urgings to grant the variances, civic organizations in opposition to the variances and neighbors near the site who objected to the size of the proposed project.

Board members asked many questions during the hearing. These volunteers listened to all points of view carefully, patiently and fairly before voting unanimously to deny the three variances.

The Feb. 9-15 TimesLedger Newspapers editorial, "Fairness a Stranger at CB 7," missed the point. I did not hear

anyone who objected to a church being constructed. The sticking point was that the proposed church would be twice the size as allowed as of right on the site in an R2A residential zone. That means a 23,000-square-foot behemoth with a 93-foot spire in this case.

If you do not think that will change a neighborhood's character nor affect residents' quality of life, you are mistaken. If you believe these variances constitute a minor issue, you obviously are not in touch with zoning issues that are at the forefront of our communities' concerns. The granting of this request

would set a precedent that would encourage inappropriate development of community facilities in our neighborhoods.

A variance is a privilege granted by the city Board of Standards and Appeals. Five conditions must be met in order for a variance to be granted. Granted variances must meet the minimum needs of an applicant. Obviously, the CB 7 board members believed the three variances requested did not satisfy those conditions.

The Mormon church owns a church and property on Sanford Avenue in an R7-1 zone, where construc-

tion of the church it desires could be completed without the need for variances. We do not understand why it purchased the site on 33rd Avenue for almost \$3 million, according to our understanding, when it must have realized it would have to seek at least three variances to build the desired church.

We do not doubt the sincerity of this church nor its desire to do good deeds, but when anyone comes into an established community to develop a site, they must respect the character of that community and try to meet the zoning requirements of that area. They must think

of their neighbors as well as their own desires.

We hope this church reconsiders the size of the structure it wishes to build on the 33rd Avenue site. CB 7 was thinking of all the residents of the area by turning down the request for the three variances unanimously.

Henry Euler
First Vice President
Auburndale Improvement
Association
Flushing

Do not deport Sunnyside man

Mohammad A. Islam, of Sunnyside, was picked up by U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement Feb. 10, having lived in America for 21 years as an undocumented foreign resident.

His wife, Lipiara Begum, left with three small children, two of whom are 18-month-old twin girls while the other is 5 years old. Begum is due to be sworn in as an American citizen — an unfortunate timing, as she could have been the person to sponsor her husband for a valid visa.

After exhausting his legal options, Begum worked to locate organizations and individuals who could assist her and her family to make the arguments necessary to provide her husband a temporary reprieve of removal. As he is being held in detention in New Jersey, and of her own effort, she contacted Mohammad Rashid, a civic leader in Jackson Heights.

Rashid contacted elected officials, such as

U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside). Despite the tireless work being done by the offices of these officials, the due date of Islam's deportation back to Bangladesh is approaching.

Islam has previously filed for political asylum, due to the ongoing violence against opposition party members in his country — the cause, he says, for his departure from Bangladesh years prior.

As chairman of the Woodside Neighborhood Association, and having worked previously on advocacy in similar cases, I joined with Rashid to develop a final strategy in preventing the removal. I took the initiative and contacted ICE to beg it to use its enforcement authority to release Islam into the custody of his family while his new legal representatives review his case.

I wrote, "Mr. Rashid and I were both equally touched by this tragic set

of circumstances. Our goal is to preserve the family unit, reunite a husband and wife, father with his three dependent children. We are not asking the government to rewrite the laws of the land, we are simply stating that, other than Mr. Islam's illegal entry into the US, he has formed deep community-at-large ties, many close friends, and a family, all of whom are as American as apple pie.

"Ms. Begum is a strong, devoted mother and wife, and her focus and energy gives myself and Mr. Rashid hope that we can convince ICE that Mr. Islam's detention runs counter to the message we here in Northwest Queens want to send to our brothers and sisters.

"Without Mr. Islam, the family has no means of financial support, no promise of tomorrow, and without intervention, this family of Americans will be destroyed. We do not burn the town to save it."

David Rosasco
Jackson Heights

Do not close down Key Food

An open letter to City Councilman James Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows):

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the possibility that Key Food and the stationery store next to it, at 69th Avenue and 164th Street, are going to be forced out by their landlord. We do not need a

CVS store here. There are enough large drugstores within our neighborhood.

Also, where would we be able to shop? The nearest supermarket is the one in the Electchester Shopping Center. It would be hard for many residents who are elderly or disabled, like myself, to have to go

there to shop.

We need those two businesses to remain where they are. Can you do something to prevent this possible eviction from happening?

John Amato
Fresh Meadows

Pol praised for helping constituent

To anyone and everyone who is not aware, this letter is to let them know of the work City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) and his staff do.

I came to Halloran's office desperate for help in a medical problem that on my

own I was not able to make headway on. I was lost and frustrated.

The staff was professional, listened to all of my information, went over my documents and advised me on how to proceed.

Halloran followed this up with a letter each time

on how closer the problem was to being solved.

I am grateful to Halloran and his staff.

Kudos to all.

Renee Weinhouse
Bayside

CLARIFICATION

In the March 15-21 edition of TimesLedger Newspapers, a story on state Assemblymen Rory Lancman and Francisco Moya advocating for immigrant workers' rights mentioned the Wage Theft Prevention Act. The April 2011 act also implemented various protections for employees who make complaints about having their wages stolen. It created harsher punishments for employers who steal wages from their employees and intimidate employees who blow the whistle on their actions.

Ackerman and Turner surprise Queens political scene



Dee Richard
Dishing
with Dee

Can you believe all the dramatic political changes this week? The biggest surprise was **Gary Ackerman's** decision not to run for reelection. As my husband said, "I guess that means no Acker-Bus trip for you down to Washington this coming January 2013."

I am disappointed, as I am sure the rest of the regular attendees are as well. It has been a ritual for at least 10 years. How will the Senate gift shop show a profit without all the Acker-Bus people not being there to buy shopping bags full of stuff?

That was always a fun day and we will miss it. Unfortunately, not all changes are for the best or at least the most fun. Oh, well, whoever wins his seat may keep the tradition alive and charter a bus to treat the constituents to a trip to see whoever wins being sworn in as Gary did for so many memorable years. One can only hope!

The Queens Democratic Party designated a new congressional candidate for that seat Monday. Its choice was **Grace Meng**, who was one of the five mentioned as a potential candidate.

Rory Lancman and **Elizabeth Crowley** announced they will also run — and there's still time for more to jump in.

The second surprise was **Bob Turner's** announcement that he is running for **Kirsten Gillibrand's** U.S. Senate seat.

We thought he was going to run against **Greg Meeks** for his congressional seat. What a difference a day makes. A friend suggested that in order to keep up with the times I should consider doing a daily blog as well as a weekly column just to keep the record straight.

As I'm sure you know by now, at the Republican convention in Rochester, three candidates emerged for what will be a three-way primary June 26. In order to get on the ballot, you must secure at least 25 percent of the votes. The early report said that **Wendy Long** received 40 percent of the votes, with **George Maragos** and **Turner** each receiving a little more than 25 percent each. All three have declared they are in it to win it.

Even though this is not a gubernatorial race this year, all New Yorkers

are getting revved up for both the local and presidential races. This election cycle is heating up to be a fascinating group of races. The candidates as well as the constituents have gotten themselves all warmed up and raring to go to push their choice of candidates over the finish-line. It won't be a dull summer for sure.

Happy 50th birthday to **Darryl Strawberry!** Monday night he had a party at — where else? — Strawberry's in Douglaston. He graciously stopped by every table, signed autographs and posed for photos.

March 13 was girl's night out, which we celebrated at Bourbon Street on Bell Boulevard in Bayside. The Tuesday night special is a New Orleans-style clam bake, which consisted of a salad or soup, a lobster, muscles, clams, fresh corn on the cob, small red pota-

toes, a glass of house wine or a pint of Coors Lite Beer plus key lime pie for desert. All of the above cost \$23.95 — the best deal in town.

Last Thursday, the ladies who are members or on the board of the Go Red Organization had a strategy meeting pertaining to their plans for their annual gala. The organization exists to make women aware of how susceptible they are to heart disease and heart attacks, which take the lives of more women than breast cancer. They do an excellent job. Their meeting was also at Strawberry's.

Later last Thursday evening, I had planned to stop by the Douglaston Manor, where the Queens Chamber of Commerce was scheduled to have a St. Patrick's Day casino night. Sad to say it was canceled. This is the second consecutive St. Patrick's Day celebra-

tion the chamber planned that was canceled.

What's the problem? Doesn't anyone love the Irish anymore? For years they held a successful luncheon at Terrace on the Park. Let's hope the luck of the Irish is better next year for the chamber.

But the luck of the Irish held out for the parade Saturday. What a gorgeous day for a parade. The hosts of the largest St. Patrick's Day parades in the world are New York City, with the largest attendance followed by Savannah, Georgia and then Dublin, Ireland.

I look forward to your voice mails at 718-767-6484, faxes at 718-746-0066 and e-mails at deerrichard@aol.com.

Till next week, Dee.

Astronaut Glenn thrown parade through boro in 1962

QUEENS LINE

The Greater Astoria Historical Society

It was the dawn of the Space Age, and the man of the hour was Col. John Glenn. On Feb. 20, 1962, Glenn had piloted Friendship 7 on the first manned orbit around the Earth and landed safely despite worries that the capsule's heat shield might not hold.

Overnight, the astronaut became one of the most famous men in the world. The Star-Journal's reporters were among the crowd at LaGuardia Airport to welcome Glenn and his wife Anna when they

arrived in New York March 1 for the celebratory ticker-tape parade.

"Gotham Goes Wild for Glenn," the headline read. Another Page 1 story informed readers that "Astoria Girl First to Greet Astronaut."

Connie Valis, 14, rushed through the crowd of 2,000 at LaGuardia and presented a bouquet of carnations to Mrs. Glenn, who first exited from the aircraft. Col. Glenn, following his wife off the plane, was so impressed that he

stopped waving to the people, grabbed Connie's hand and warmly thanked her and her teacher, Anne M. O'Connor, assistant principal of JHS 10 in Astoria.

The colonel was described in the paper as smiling when a band on the tarmac struck up a march specially written for the occasion. It was called "A-OK, Go-Go," a reference to Glenn's words when told that Cape Canaveral was "Go" for his historic space flight. Just before liftoff, Glenn replied "Roger. Cape is "Go" and I am "Go."

As he reached zero gravity, more than 100 miles above the earth, Glenn said, "Capsule is turning around. Oh, that view is tremendous!"

It was estimated that

thousands of people lined the motorcade's route from the airport to Manhattan. Along the East River, the astronaut was greeted by the whistling of tugboats and ships.

And the parade in the financial district, according to the Star-Journal, was the most uproarious since the tradition began with Lafayette's return to the United States in 1824, outshining even the welcome home given to Charles Lindbergh, the first man to fly across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927.

"Bone-chilling gusts of wind that swirled around Wall Street's skyscraper canyons did nothing to hold down the crowds," the reporter noted. "It wasn't March that came in like a

lion but the Marine Lieutenant Colonel from New Concord, Ohio."

By March 6, the confetti was long gone. The Star-Journal, as an amusing coda, ran a follow-up interview with one Queens resident who had a close-up view of the festivities: "Glenn Day was just a day like any other to Harry Carter. Carter was the man behind the wheel of Glenn's limousine. He drove the much-feted space hero around town Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. But the 31-year-old Flushingite is a civil servant in a key position to whom parades are nothing special.

"As personal chauffeur to Commerce and Public Events Commissioner Richard C. Patterson, Jr., he

has driven such other notables as Winston Churchill, Belgian King Baudoin, and the two princesses from the Netherlands who visited the metropolis last year.

"Even though mobilizing celebrities is old hat to Carter, he admits that Glenn's parade was terrific. Carter said he rarely chats with celebrities from the front seat. But he did exchange greetings with Glenn, whom he credits with a 'friendly attitude' and a 'terrific personality.'"

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

Carrozza lends her real estate expertise to Huffington Post

BY PHIL CORSO

When the Huffington Post needed an expert attorney, it didn't need to look any further than Bayside.

Local estate planning and elder law attorney Ann-Margaret Carrozza announced this week she had joined with Huff Post Money as a contributing member of the publication's expert panel.

"I'm thrilled to have been asked to join the Huffington Post's expert panel," Carrozza said.

Carrozza will be writing about estate tax planning and elder law issues for Huff Post Money, a new section at the Huffington Post dedicated to financial stories launched this month.

Huffington Post President and Editor-in-Chief Arianna Huffington said the new blog would cover "the big financial stories of our time with an eye on answering the question: How do the day's headlines affect you and your finances?"

It's a position that Carrozza said was fitting and exciting for her law career.

"This is a great forum from which to educate families on how to protect assets from estate taxes and long-term care

claims," Carrozza said.

Her first blog entry, posted March 6 on Huff Post Money, included expert advice on the writing of wills. With law offices in Bayside and on Long Island in Glen Cove and Port Jefferson, Carrozza's practice deals with elder law, trusts and estates, asset protection, estate administration and long-term care planning.

"These laws change frequently, and I'll now have the ability to reach more people and give them the information they need to protect their nest eggs and homes," Carrozza said.

Carrozza served as a member of the state Assembly for 14 years and wrote several bills dealing with the estate planning process. She is also an executive member of the state Bar Association, Elder Law section; the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; the Queens County Bar Association; and the Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation's legal advisory board.

She serves as estate planning and elder law counsel to different organizations and is rated as preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, the directory of the nation's lawyers.

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Bloomberg's legacy concerning education looks bleak



Bob Harris
in
The Civic Scene

As Michael Bloomberg reaches his 10th year as mayor, he continues in his well-meaning but flawed policy of closing most of our high schools. It seems he wants to close most of the high schools in Queens in spite of their traditions and histories.

There is more that a high school can provide than just having students pass tests, but how would the people in the city Department of Education know or understand this, since none of them were teachers or supervisors in schools but business peo-

ple?

Queens high schools are the linchpin of neighborhoods. My wife attended Jamaica High School, as did my two daughters. I was active in the PTA and eventually was PTA president of the school. The city is closing the school and replacing it with four smaller schools.

Ironically, one of the small schools is the Gateway HS, which was patterned after the successful program in Jamaica HS. My wife Edna cannot forgive the mayor for closing her alma mater instead of providing the resources which could have corrected many problems.

In the past, this column has explained why many children with special needs cannot succeed in our schools. Some schools have 30 percent to 40 percent of such children, while

some have 75 percent children with problems or who come from neighborhoods where it is hard for children to learn. The DOE made life even harder for such children last fall when it fired about 800 aides, paraprofessionals and parent coordinators who worked with these children. This is Bloomberg's legacy.

The business community has discovered how much money we spend on education and is now striving to obtain a slice of the pie. People of all stripes — retired or current politicians, educators and speculators — open charter schools, which provide them with government education dollars and huge salaries or profits.

Charter schools make sure to reduce the number of needy children in them by not offering the expensive, special help these

children need so parents do not apply to these schools. Without the special needs and foreign-born, non-English speaking students, charter schools are able to score higher on high-stakes tests.

But the problems many students face are so great and some of the people operating them are so inexperienced that even charter schools are closing.

The mayor's puppet Panel for Educational Policy just voted to close more schools because of their low graduation rates, test scores and failing leadership. Nine of the high schools being proposed for closing were opened by the present regime.

Doesn't that tell us something? It is desirable to have high test scores, but due to the problems facing many students, they cannot do well in an academic

program. They just do not understand that all students cannot learn in lock step and that an academic diploma is not suitable for all students.

In our schools, most of the special education children cannot do high-level academic work and cannot pass tests. They now want to mainstream more special-needs children, but their parents let them be evaluated and certified as needing special help because they had learning problems.

I hear and read about supervisors pressuring special education teachers to make children score higher on standard tests. I do not think the leaders of our school system realize it just cannot be done with the average special education student.

The rules for grading schools and teachers are

changed almost every year. First there were city and state standard tests, but now only state tests will be used to rate students and teachers. The state tests were made harder because they were too easy, but many high school graduates cannot do college work.

The formula for rating teachers is so complicated that even if students do well on tests they can be rated poor. The recent ratings of teachers are so confusing that teachers who were on leave are rated and teachers are listed as having taught the wrong subjects.

When different articles state how teachers are rated, it makes one wonder what the DOE is doing. School after school claims it is making progress, but the DOE wants to close them. The complete legacy of the mayor.

Avella hopes to save Whitestone lot for potential park

BY JOE ANUTA

The courts have taken the next step in foreclosure proceedings against the owners of a vacant Whitestone property, but a lawmaker hopes to intervene before the lot hits the auction block.

Northeast Queens civic leaders would rather see the 6-acre cluster of undeveloped land, along 150th Street near 5th Avenue, turned into sports fields, which is why state Sen. Tony Avella is hoping to snag the property.

"If it's done properly, I absolutely think it is a good idea," said Al Centola, president of the Malba Gardens Civic Association.

Centola has had his eye on the property for several years after the company known as Whitestone Jewels LLC failed to pay its mortgage.

As a result, in 2007 La Jolla Bank began foreclo-



A 6-acre lot in Whitestone that members of the Malba Gardens Civic Association say has not been used since 1988 and would make a nice place for sports fields.

sure proceedings against the company. In 2010, the lender was bought by One West Bank, the institution currently foreclosing on the property.

Late last year Queens Supreme Court Judge Orin Kitzes ruled in One West Bank's favor.

A lawyer was recently assigned by the state courts

to find out exactly how much is owed on the lot.

It was not clear when he was assigned, but Friday afternoon when a call was placed to the lawyer

known as a referee, he had not even been informed of his assignment to the property.

After the referee determines how much money is owed, he will submit a report to Kitzes. The bank will ask for a ruling to move ahead with an auction and the referee will put a notice in the paper, according to a court clerk.

But this is where Centola hopes Avella will intervene.

The lawmaker is hoping to work with the bank to circumvent an auction.

"We are talking with the bank," Avella said. "I want the city to acquire that for a park."

It was not clear whether Avella's discussions have paid off, since the bank cannot ask for what is known as a judgment of foreclosure until after the referee's report.

But Avella said he wished the community had

been behind the plan when he first proposed it as a city councilman.

Before Whitestone Jewels, the property was owned by the Catholic Charities Diocese of Brooklyn, according to documents from the city Department of Finance.

The Catholic organization ran a youth camp on the property, but in 2006 decided to put the property up for sale.

In September 2006, the diocese sold the property to Whitestone Jewels for \$23.3 million, according to Finance Department documents, but Avella said that sale never had to happen.

"I could have negotiated with Catholic Charities and would have been in a much better position," Avella said.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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11 Unsung Heroines honored in SE Queens

BY RICH BOCKMANN

In recognition of Women's History Month, City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) honored 11 women as Unsung Heroines last weekend at York College.

"I believe that if we neglect to acknowledge the historical contributions of women, both past and present, then we have jeopardized the potential of all future generations of women," the councilman said. "Therefore, it is critical as a community that we acknowledge your contributions to our nation, city and great borough."

Over the courses of their lives, the honorees distinguished themselves in the realms of business, education, religion, government and the arts.

"I've had an opportunity to work with all the honorees in one shape or form," said Comrie, who added that in addition to his mother, he always admired his pre-kindergarten teacher, Dorothy Barnett.

Janice Taylor was the first black female State Supreme Court justice. She said that before receiving her law degree from SUNY Buffalo, she was educated in "the public schools of Queens" and that it is important for women today to face the challenges of the times head-on.

"Do not let anybody discourage you or make you feel as if you're not qualified," she said. "Persevere. Believe in yourself."

Among the educators honored were Jane Harris, a pioneer of early childhood education programs, and Lindamichelle Baron, chairwoman of the Department of Teachers Education at York College.

As a business professor at Monroe College, Linda Silva Thompson was recognized as both an educator



Councilman Leroy Comrie (l.) with honoree Tanya Whitmore, the community affairs site developer for Health First.

Photo by Christina Santucci

and a former partner of a large minority- and women-owned real estate sales and management firm.

Katie Ballentine, owner of the Roseland Florist shop in St. Albans, is an active member in the St. Albans Congregational Church and has been recognized for her service to southeast Queens.

Ballentine said she had a strong relationship with the councilman stretching back nearly 35 years.

"Whenever I run block associations, any problem I have I know who to turn to," she said.

The Rev. Ernestine Sanders, pastor of Jamaica's Evangelical Christian Church, and Janice Clark, a member of the St. Albans Congregational Church, were recognized for their dedication to their communities.

"A lot of times people don't recognize the people in the background doing the hard work," said Clark, who added the women who

inspire her include Madam C.J. Walker, America's first black female millionaire, and first lady Michelle Obama.

"Even though she's younger than me, she's a strong person," Clark explained. "She's so warm and she tries to help others."

Ebony Kirkland was recognized as the founder of the Ebony Marketing Research company and Tanya Whitmore was hailed as a community liaison at the nonprofit Healthfirst company.

Honoree Susan Agin is the executive and artistic director for the Queensborough Performing Arts Center at Queensborough Community College, and Lois Menyweather is the director of inter-governmental relations for state Sen. Shirley Huntley's (D-Jamaica) office and was the first female treasurer for the Jamaica Rotary Club.

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Continued from Page 1

would anoint as the party's candidate, and by Sunday night word had leaked out that state Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) would be chosen.

By Monday morning, Meng had snagged the endorsement of the party, along with that of state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) and City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens), two lawmakers who were on the shortlist of being endorsed themselves.

Meng has a substantial war chest and could court the vote of the Asian population in the district, which makes up 37 percent of the 6th Congressional seat, which might have factored into Crowley's decision, according to party insiders.

But Meng's nod from Queens Democrats does not mean she will run opposed.

Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) declared his candidacy hours after Meng's endorsement.

Or rather he re-declared his candidacy.

In February, Lancman said he would run for Congress against Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village), but Turner's district was one of two in New York state to be eliminated as part of the redistricting process, which adjusts political representation according to population shifts after every census.

Turner subsequently got on the ballot for a U.S. Senate race, which caused Lancman to rethink plans for a run. After visiting Ackerman's Roslyn Heights, L.I., home Thursday, he announced he would not run for Congress against him.

Hours later, a spokesman for Lancman was in disbelief when told by TimesLedger Newspapers that Ackerman announced his retirement via an e-mail blast after the end of the workday.

By Monday morning, Lancman had again announced his candidacy.

Councilwoman Eliza-

beth Crowley (D-Middle Village) also threw her hat into the ring Monday, making an announcement via a spokesman.

"Born and raised in Queens, Elizabeth Crowley is running for Congress as an independent advocate for our neighborhoods and our communities," said campaign spokesman Eric Yun. "While the county organization as a whole may not want to endorse a family member of its chairman, Elizabeth Crowley's campaign will demonstrate that she is the best candidate to represent all of the communities in the new congressional district."

The petitioning time for Democrats is shorter than ever after the primary was moved from September to June 26 to comply with federal voting laws.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Sidewalks

Continued from Page 2

feet of concrete.

But an employee told Biagi that since his driveway had a roughly 2-inch-long crack abutting the street and was slightly raised, he would have to pay for the work in addition to the original slabs.

This is where Biagi is holding out.

In a phone conversa-

tion last Thursday, a member of the city comptroller's office told Biagi to get a lawyer, and that is what the homeowner is going to do.

"My biggest gripe is why are they spending our money on stuff they don't need and then say, 'We're broke'?" said Biagi, who put up a sign in his front yard that says "Another homeowner screwed by NYC, thanks Mayor Bloomberg."

Biagi filed a claim with the comptroller in January and the office responded

with the \$1,442 offer because Biagi had already paid for the work.

According to the city Department of Finance, Biagi paid \$2,253, which was listed as a construction charge on his property tax assessment.

But the Flushing homeowner maintains he only wanted to pay his property taxes and was duped into footing the construction bill.

were down nearly 53 percent, according to NYPD statistics.

In the 28-day period before March 11, felony assaults were down to 15 from 18 over the same period last year, a decrease of 16.7 percent.

Robberies, which involve taking property by force, and grand larcenies, which involve theft of property of more than \$1,000 or

snatching someone's property, stayed even at 53.

Car thefts were down to 140 over the 28-day period this year, compared to 146 over the same period last year, a decrease of 4.6 percent.

Two more burglaries were committed during the time period this year compared to 34 in the same month last year, an increase of 5.9 percent.



A rendering of the proposed mixed-use building that would be built around the lobby of the RKO Keith's Theatre. Rendering courtesy Studio V

RKO

Continued from Page 1

soliciting companies to either buy the property outright or enter into a joint partnership.

"This is a confidential memorandum intended solely for your own limited use in considering whether to pursue negotiations to acquire 135-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing, Queens, NY," a page of the packet that was obtained by TimesLedger Newspapers read.

The packet also contained information about the project, but is undated and was likely circulated before the project received approvals from the city.

But the theater is also listed on several real estate websites. Although it is also not clear when the listings were posted, one reads: "this is a projected development site that has received approval."

It goes on to say, "As of July 20, 2011, this is available for sale or a joint venture equity partnership."

The listing directed interested parties to Ken Zakin, a broker from the Manhattan-based firm Newmark Knight Frank.

Zakin confirmed he is working with the developer of the site, but deferred all other questions to Thompson or his spokesman, Michael Nussbaum.

Nussbaum said Thompson is absolutely not selling the property and has had a financial backer since last year. He said nothing has changed recently except more people have been coming forward to invest in the project.

"There has been a relationship on the table going back to the late summer or fall of last year," Nussbaum said. "When was the last time Donald Trump did a development deal on his own?"

A source with knowledge of the project said that the packet was only distributed to test the waters for investors.

Nussbaum said Thompson is ready to start demolishing portions of the building, but there are still several obstacles that could

hamper the process.

According to the city Department of Finance, Thompson has not paid any of his property taxes since January 2011. The fees come to \$379,585 in property taxes, \$1,900 in water bills and \$180 in additional charges.

The outstanding total balance of \$381,698 means the property is in danger of being put on the list of tax liens for sale, according to the Finance Department.

If the lien were to be put up for sale, anyone would be able to purchase it, the department said. If Thompson did not pay off the balance of the lien, whoever held it could take over the property.

Thompson has until May 17 to enter into a payment plan with the city to prevent the property from being put on the tax lien sale list, according to the department.

Nussbaum said Thompson will address the problem soon.

"That will be taken care of very shortly," he said. "It will not go past May."

Continued from Page 2

winter meant more criminals were outside committing crimes than last year, when a blizzard and weeks of snow largely kept people inside their homes and offices, Maguire said.

Although compared to 11 years ago, overall crimes

109th



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Mets could now benefit from Madoff scheme trials

BY PHIL CORSO

They were on the brink of losing their team, but now they might come out richer.

A strange turn of events has left New York Mets owners Fred Wilpon and Saul Katz now allied with Irving Picard, the trustee representing the victims of Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme.

If Picard can retrieve the money from the beneficiaries of Madoff's scam, Wilpon and Katz can claim up to \$178 million in losses with help from the settlement reached last week and announced Monday.

The Mets owners now owe \$162 million to the trustee to compensate for profits they withdrew from their Madoff accounts between 2002 and 2008, when the Ponzi scheme was discovered. Before the accord was reached under the watchful eye of mediator Mario Cuomo, Wilpon and Katz were facing potential damages of as much as \$383 million, but the Mets owners might now be coming back ahead of the game.

Picard initially asked for \$1 billion in damages from Wilpon and Katz, which the Mets owners said could have forced them to



Mets owners Fred Wilpon (c.) and Saul Katz (l.) speak to the media outside Manhattan federal court.

AP Photo/Louis Lanzano

sell the team, according to news reports. The settlement is awaiting approval from Manhattan Federal Judge Jed Rakoff.

Picard had accused Wilpon and Katz of being "willfully blind" to Madoff's scheme, which made them \$162 million richer,

but the settlement allowed the Mets owners to claim they were victims of the fraud.

If successful in retrieving the \$178 million they are claiming as losses, they might make \$16 million in profit.

According to the settlement,

Wilpon and Katz have three years to pay the owed \$162 million or else they will have to make two annual payments on what is owed.

But the grass may not be greener for the Mets owners. Wilpon and Katz still possess a club

that's hurting — financially and physically. Serious injuries and pay cuts through last season left the Mets without a playoff run for the fifth straight season.

Within the last two years, the Mets lost as much as \$121 million, which included a payroll cut of nearly \$50 million and the release of valued shortstop Jose Reyes to save money.

The team recently sold all 12 of its minority stakes for \$20 million each and still has millions in debt to pay back between the building of the roughly \$600 million Citi Field and roughly \$400 million in loans.

In November, the Mets fired front office workers and reduced their payroll by nearly \$50 million, according to news reports.

So with or without the Madoff scandal, the Mets' bases are loaded with debt. What truly stands in the team's way is their ability to succeed on the field, which could translate directly to their owners' wallets.

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

Injuries near Rego Park mall prompt city traffic fixes

BY STEVE MOSCO

Drivers on the streets surrounding a bustling Queens shopping center in Rego Park need to slow down, based on records compiled by the city Department of Transportation.

In an effort to curb pedestrian accidents, the DOT unveiled traffic-calming measures to Community Board 6 at a March 14 meeting that would slow traffic on busy thoroughfares 62nd Drive and 63rd Avenue near the Rego Center Mall in Rego Park.

According to DOT records, 121 people, including 41 pedestrians, were injured along 62nd Drive from Queens Boulevard to 112th Street between 2005 and 2009. During the same period, 192 people were in-

jured along 63rd Road from Queens Boulevard to 112th Street.

The city agency plans to remove one travel lane and widen parking lanes on 63rd Road, and the CB 6 Transportation Committee agreed to allow back-in parking along Junction Boulevard between 62nd Drive and Queens Boulevard.

The angled parking on Junction Boulevard will add 10 new spaces to the congested block by the mall.

The plan also calls for narrower lanes on 62nd Drive to reduce speeding while splitting the road into three lanes for a left turn-only, through traffic and right turn-only as it approaches Queens Boulevard.



The city's Department of Transportation presented a series of proposals to slow traffic and cut pedestrian accidents on streets surrounding the Rego Center Mall.

Frank Gulluscio, district manager of CB 6, said a large senior citizen population also frequents the crowded streets surrounding the mall.

According to Gulluscio, this is the main reason

to ease drivers off the gas.

"There was some noticeable discussion in the community about slowing down traffic and adding parking spots," he said. "It's a dangerous area. The DOT and the community

Between 2005 and 2009, 121 people were injured along 62nd Drive.

did the right thing by opening the dialogue to improve the safety for everyone on those streets."

Rego Center opened in the spring of 2010 and boasts stores like Century 21, Costco and Kohl's. Since opening, CB 6 said the mall has significantly increased traffic in the neighborhood, while adding a dangerous obstacle course for seniors.

According to the DOT, senior citizens make up 12 percent of the city's population, but account for 36 percent of pedestrian fatalities.

"These measures could greatly increase safety for senior citizens," Gulluscio said. "This is something we have been studying since the mall was built. The increased volume and the high population of the area are a recipe for disaster."

The DOT said work will begin in June and is expected to be completed in July.

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

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Ethnicity fears prompt Qns Hospital baby nab: DA

BY REBECCA HENELY AND
CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

An Ozone Park woman allegedly told police she kidnapped her infant daughter from Queens Hospital Center because she did not want her baby to live with African-American foster parents, a Queens district attorney's office spokeswoman said.

Leila Rajnarie, of 101st Avenue and 77th Street, was arraigned Friday in Queens Criminal Court, the DA's spokeswoman said. Rajnarie, who is 40 years old and Guyanese, has been held at the Rose M. Singer Center at Rikers Island on a \$500 bail or \$1,000 bond since then, according to city Department of Correction records.

NYPD officers had been on the lookout for Rajnarie and her infant daughter, Nevita Jagedo, March 14 after the mother allegedly fled the Jamaica hospital with the baby, police said. Rajnarie had been at Queens Hospital Center with her 8-month-old daughter and her daughter's foster mother



Ozone Park woman Leila Rajnarie (l.) is accused of snatching her biological daughter, Nevita Jagedo, from her foster mother at Queens Hospital Center.

Photos courtesy NYPD

for a checkup and Rajnarie was doctor, police said.

suspected of snatching the infant at around 12:17 p.m. when the foster mother was speaking with the

Rajnarie had allegedly told police she did not want the baby to wake up and see African-American

parents, and this statement was repeated by Queens prosecutor Rachel Drucker in court, a DA spokeswoman said.

The Ozone Park woman was spotted the same day at 8:20 p.m. by officers from Patrol Borough Queens South in the back of a livery cab close to 101st Avenue and 133rd Street in South Richmond Hill, according to the criminal complaint.

During an extensive search for the pair, officers had noticed a woman matching the description of the suspect in the cab, police said.

After police pulled over the vehicle, Rajnarie was taken into custody, and the baby, who was found without food and wearing only a diaper, was brought to a local hospital in stable condition, according to the police.

Rajnarie was arrested on charges of kidnapping, custodial interference and endangering the welfare of a child, the NYPD said.

Her next court date is March 21, Correction records said.

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

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

According to Alan Alford,

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

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

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

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Schumer bill on discount bus safety passes Senate

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The U.S. Senate has passed legislation introduced by Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) requiring discount bus lines to inform passengers of their safety record.

The bill also institutes a variety of requirements to improve safety on board such buses.

The proposed legislation came after several fatal accidents involving the discount tour bus industry, including a March 12, 2011, smashup in the Bronx that killed 15 people and injured 18.

The driver, Ophadell Williams, 40, of Brooklyn, was indicted on a variety of charges. Federal investigators said it appeared he was driving 78 mph on I-95 in a 55 mph zone.

Schumer's proposed legislation would require the Federal Motor Carriage Safety Administration to establish clear and understandable safety ratings to be posted on buses and at terminals and require ticket sellers and bus companies to make their safety record and history easily acces-



Rescue workers examine a discount bus on Interstate 93 in New Hampshire after it crashed in March 2011.

AP Photo/Caledonian Record, Paul Hayes

sible at point of sale.

Schumer has urged the FMCSA to establish a safety rating plan and letter-grade system similar to that used to rate New York City restaurants.

"The Senate gets an A for passing this crucial bill that will finally alert passengers about bus company safety records be-

fore they buy a ticket, and I urge the House to make the grade and pass the legislation immediately," Schumer said.

In May 2011, a Flushing driver was at the wheel when a Sky Express Bus overturned on I-95 in Caroline County, Va., killing two passengers, including two from Queens. A year ago in March a

bus owned by Flushing-based Big Boy Coach crashed in New Hampshire, causing injuries.

The bill would require electronic, on-board recorders which would monitor drivers to make sure they are not violating the hours of service rule intended to keep fatigued drivers off the road.

The bill would also require better commercial driver training and establishment of a national commercial Motor Vehicle Medical Registry to ensure that only medically qualified drivers are operating buses.

The bill would require that motor coaches have safety belts; anti-ejection glazing on windows to prevent passengers from being easily thrown out of the bus; strong, crush-resistant roofs that can withstand roll-overs; improved protection against fires; and improved training for operators in case of fire.

The bill would allow federal regulators for the first time to stop buses en route for inspection and gives inspectors more au-

thority to crack down on unsafe carriers, sometimes known as "reincarnated carriers" — meaning buses which are ordered out of service one day and returned under a new name the next.

"Late last year an Albany bus company called Double Happiness was still serving passengers who were unaware of the company's dismal safety record and flagrant violations," Schumer said.

"Despite the poor safety records of some bad actors in the discount tour bus industry, it is very difficult for passengers to get an accurate picture of the safety records of these companies. Though the FMCSA currently has a ranking system on its website, the database is difficult to navigate and their rating system is not easy to understand," Schumer said.

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



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Arson suspect indicted in Jan. 1 hate crimes



Ray Lazier Lengend (r.) is led out of Jamaica's 103rd Precinct after being arrested Jan. 3. He was indicted earlier this week by a Queens grand jury on hate crime charges.

Photo courtesy AP Photo/John Minchillo

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A Queens Village man was indicted Monday on hate crime charges in the New Year's Day firebombing of four buildings, including the borough's largest mosque in Jamaica, the Queens district attorney's office announced.

The charges claim 40-year-old Ray Lazier Lengend, of 89-04 215th St., went on an arson spree fueled by his hatred for Muslims, Arabs and Hindus, DA Richard Brown said.

"According to the charges, the defendant endangered scores of people when he allegedly tossed crude firebombs at five buildings during a hate-filled rampage on New Year's Day," Brown said. "His alleged targets ranged from private dwellings to houses of worship — endangering those within the buildings as well as the firefighters called to respond to the scene."

Lengend was charged in a 36-count indictment with arson as a hate crime on the top of a host of charges, according to the DA. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to as much as 25 years in prison.

"Particularly troubling is the fact that the defendant is alleged to have been motivated by hate in at least two of the instances where he is alleged to have struck at a Muslim house of worship and attempted to strike at a second location, which is a Hindu house of worship," Brown said.

"Hate crimes — whether they be motivated by religion, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender — will not be tolerated here in Queens, the country's most diverse county. When they do, regrettably, occur, they will be condemned swiftly and those responsible will be brought to justice," he added.

According to the indictment, in the early evening hours of Jan. 1., Lengend drove a stolen rental car from John F. Kennedy International Airport to a gas station

near the Van Wyck Expressway service road and Atlantic Avenue, where he filled up five glass coffee bottles with gasoline, the DA said.

Lengend then drove to a deli on the corner of 179th Street and Hillside Avenue, walked inside and allegedly threw one of the flaming glass bottles on the floor, Brown said. Before Lengend ran out of the store and back into the stolen Buick Regal, an employee identified him as the same man he saw the previous week trying to steal a bottle of Starbucks Frappacino and some milk, the DA said.

The employee was able to extinguish the fire, which caused damage to the store's interior.

Lengend allegedly struck again when he threw another incendiary device through the front bedroom window of a home a few minute's drive from the deli on 107th Avenue, according to Brown, who said police responded to the scene where they found some of the windows completely missing and fire damage to the building.

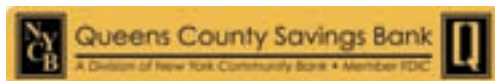
He acted a third time when he allegedly threw a Molotov cocktail at the exterior wall of the Al-Khoei Benevolent Association near the Van Wyck Expressway and Hillside Avenue, where witnesses observed two broken glass bottles, two bottle caps and rolled-up tissue paper, the district attorney said.

Lengend was also charged with firebombing two more residences. One, on 170th Street, was also used as a Hindu place of worship, and the other was a private dwelling on 43rd Avenue that was occupied at the time, Brown said.

Lengend allegedly expressed his dislike of Muslims, Arabs and Hindus and admitted to police that he planned to inflict as much damage as possible by throwing all five bottles into the crowd from the Al-Khoei mosque's balcony, Brown said.

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Aysha Rana, a resident of Queens Village, is this year's ARISTA President at Martin Van Buren High School. Her duties consist of presiding over ARISTA Board meetings, planning events, and arranging for tutoring for Scholar members whose grades fall below the required minimum. She is also a member of the Scholar's Institute, which cultivates the creative abilities of worthy students so they can perform higher academically.

Among the many extra-curriculum activities Aysha is involved in are the Scholar's Book Club, Tennis Team, and Yearbook Committee. Additionally, she has participated in the Breast Cancer Walk on Queens Boulevard for the past two years and has helped collect food for the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park.

Aysha also participates in the High School Heroes program of Junior Achievement at PS 33, where she has taught kindergarten children about New York City. Since entering



Martin Van Buren High School, she has consistently performed service for teachers during her lunch period or after class and has helped during open school nights.

During the summer, Aysha has several commitments. For example, over the past three summers, Aysha has volunteered at the Queens Village Library. As part of her volunteer commitment, Aysha read with youngsters in the summer reading program and taught them arts and crafts. She assisted the staff by shelving books when needed.

She has taken Advanced Placement US History and English; currently she is taking a College Now Business class at Queensborough Community College. She maintains a 95 average and plans to become a dentist. Toward that end, she is considering Adelphi and Stony Brook universities.

Her philosophy is, "Hard work always pays off." She commented that, "my parents are very supportive of me and are always encouraging me."

Mr. David A.G. Johnson Jr., a dynamic Social Studies teacher at MVB HS stated, "Aysha Rana was one of my shining students in Global Honors during her sophomore year. She distinguished herself by marching to the beat of a different drum."

In addition, Johnson recalls, "She is remembered as a leader by her cooperative learning groups and by sustaining creativity which accompanied the range of special assignments. Her leadership prowess is unsurpassed. She had a lot to teach in our community of learners. I consider Aysha among the best I have taught and her sardonic wit enlivened on more than one occasion."

- by Bob Harris

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Q GUIDE

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Fatima Ptacek, a native of Queens, is just 11 years old but has made a career as a child star, voicing Nickelodeon's popular cartoon character Dora the Explorer.

Photo courtesy Nickelodeon

THE HOMETGROWN VOICE OF DORA

Popular Nickelodeon cartoon features the voice of a Queens native and rising child star

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

A multitasking and gifted six-grader from Queens, Fatima Ptacek is an actress and top New York City model. She is also the new voice behind Nickelodeon's beloved preschool character "Dora the Explorer." And just like Dora, she speaks English and fluent Spanish.

Dubbed "the princess of New York" at age 9 two years ago, the rising star took time out from her super-busy schedule to say "hello" to TimesLedger's readers in an after-school interview.

"I think the most important thing is balance," said the 11-year-old. "My schedule is kind of busy, with acting assignments, but I do lots of different kinds of activities apart from my work, which keeps things interesting in my life."

Most adults would be totally burnt out, juggling the numerous pursuits and responsibilities on Fa-

tima's daily agenda. But somehow, the sophisticated little diva manages to do it all — with energy, enthusiasm and flair.

Having accomplished more during her short time on the planet than most people achieve in a lifetime, Fatima is also a United States of America Gymnastics Level 7 gymnast. "I train three to four hours a day, four days per week, and have also been studying Mandarin Chinese and taking part in English equestrian riding for years," she said.

And believe it or not, she actually loves school: "Education is really important to me, and my dream is to attend an Ivy League university, like Harvard or Yale, someday."

She attends an academy for intellectually gifted children in New York City's public school system. "Even though I miss school sometimes for work assignments, I receive tutoring on set."

It's obvious that Fatima enjoys her work, espe-

cially while she's animatedly performing her Dora voice-over at Nickelodeon Studios in Midtown Manhattan. "I usually go into the studio to record and sing songs for episodes and other 'Dora the Explorer' projects, once or twice a week," she said. "The crew at Nickelodeon is great, and they make my work [on the show] lots of fun. The other stuff I do, like the acting roles for movies and TV shows, modeling assignments, auditions and appearances, are really lots of fun too."

Wilhelmina — a famed modeling agency — discovered her at age 5, and her whirlwind career suddenly took off.

Fatima has made 50-plus TV commercials, including McDonald's, Disney, Chase and Bisquick, and even landed a spot on "Saturday Night Live." On the set of "Sesame Street," she played opposite Michelle Obama.

Continued on Page 29

Satisfy that Korean snack craving in Flushing

BY SUZANNE PARKER

One of our guilty pleasures is watching food-themed Korean melodramas. Their plots combine cheesy, but chaste romance with food porn.

Our all time fave is a TV series called "Gourmet," which can be found with English subtitles on Hulu.com. It chronicles the travails of the progeny of the heir to the title of Imperial Chef of Korea, lavishing detailed attention on all sorts of cooking and eating exploits. Recent indulgences in this pastime produced powerful cravings for Korean fare. We have previously reviewed some of what could be classified as Flushing's Korean fine dining establishments, so this time we set off in search of more casual fare — what Koreans might eat for a casual meal or grab on the run.

Wangmandoo was the reward we sought on the first stop of our pilgrimage. Although the name may sound like a made up bit of double entendre from a blues song, they are in fact a type of dumpling. They are one of the two specialties at **Da Myun**, the other being several varieties of noodles. It is a cute, attractively decorated place, inviting enough to linger.

The wangmandoo are overinflated crescents filled with pork, vegetable and kimchee. An order of six sizable dumplings is served on a Korean metal version of the bamboo steamer. Koreans also tend to eat with stainless steel chopsticks rather than bamboo. Either bamboo isn't plentiful in Korea, or recycling caught on centuries ago there. We don't know which.

The filling of the dumplings is unexpectedly

DINING OUT



A kimbab at Flushing's Rolly Kimbab, 163-16 Northern Blvd.

Photo by Suzanne Parker

smooth — more pâté than meat ball-like and mildly spicy. They are served with a seriously spicy dipping sauce and few miscellaneous ban chan (pickled side dishes).

Our next stop on the kimchee trail was for kimbab. Kimbab is the slightly homier version of

sushi rolls which occupies the same place in the Korean diet that the sandwich does for Westerners. By that we mean if you think of the rice and seaweed roll as the bread, you need only be limited by your imagination for what you can stuff it with.

Just check out the

menu at **Rolly Kimbab** on Northern Boulevard and you'll find such delicacies as hotdog, spam and even pastrami kimbab. We tried the "Rolly" which was filled with ham, pickled daikon, carrot, fried tofu, a few strands of cellophane noodles, and spinach. Dag-

Continued on Page 30

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sudoku

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

Hard #56								
				9			7	
7		4						
6			3				2	8
	6		9				5	
				1				
		9			5		2	
	2	6			4			5
							3	7
4				8				

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
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Continued from Page 27

Since then, the budding starlet has continued making the rounds — going on lots of auditions, and appearing in films and TV shows like “Body of Proof,” “A Gifted Man,” and “Royal Pains.”

“I meet great people and have wonderful experiences, for which I’m truly grateful. I consider myself very lucky.”

Her pretty face has graced ad campaigns, as well: For Gap, Ralph Lauren, Children’s Place, DKNY and Benetton..

The youngest of five, Fatima said her siblings are her best friends, and her brothers “can be a little over-protective, at times.” She’s the daughter of a retired NYPD detective of Norwegian descent, and a former accountant mom from Ecuador. “My mom really is amazing because she runs around every day, taking me everywhere I have to go: from school to recordings, auditions, gymnastics, and to friends’ houses for get-togethers.”

And she isn’t your typical stage mother either: “I have a manager, an agent, and lots of people at Nickelodeon taking care of my career, so my mom’s job is just being my mom — and she’s really great at that.

“She and my dad work closely with my management team, and give me lots of support and advice. But they’re really like typical parents, in the way they care much more about my grades in school, that I’m polite and respectful, and that I eat healthy food and remember to brush my teeth.”

Teri Weiss, senior vice president of Nickelodeon Preschool said, “In addition to being a terrific actress, Fatima captures



Nickelodeon launched a new show featuring Dora the Explorer on March 16.

Photo courtesy Nickelodeon

the confidence and warmth that we always look for to play Dora. She sounds like a true leader, but at the same time you know she is a true friend, who will always stop and help.”

Dora embarked on a new adventure in “Dora’s Rescue in Mermaid Kingdom.” The new show premiered March 16, on Nickelodeon.

“The thing I love most about Dora is knowing that she puts smiles on millions of kids’ faces every day,” said Fatima “The show teaches valuable lessons, like problem-solving skills, the importance of determination, being loyal to friends, Spanish language and Latino culture.”

“I’m so proud to be a part of “Dora the Explorer,” helping to share that with kids all around the country.”

So, how does she do it all? “I have really great friends, and they help keep me grounded.”

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERTS

Queens College Chamber Music concert series – Two operas will premiere this spring: “The Image Maker”(world premiere) and “My Kinsman, Major Molineux” (New York premiere). Other highlights include performances by Rebel: A Baroque Chamber Ensemble, Trio 101, Queens College Chamber Orchestra (with Charles Neidich), Phillips-O’Connor-Han Trio, Claremont Trio, and the Phillips-Frampton-Rosen Trio. Check full schedule online.

When: March 23, March 30, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 5, May 6, May 11

Where: LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Contact: (718) 793-8080; jane.cho@qc.cuny.edu;

Website: www.kupferbergcenterarts.org

Tuesday Morning Music Club

– Classical concert. Sandwich and salad lunch to follow.

When: March 27, 11 am

Where: Community Church of Douglaston, 39-50 Douglaston PKWY., Douglaston

Contact: (718) 229-2169

Website: communitychurchofdouglaston.org

Piano Concert – The concert, which is a project that brings together the College and the maker of the world’s finest pianos, will feature five vocal and piano compositions. The selections will be performed on a Steinway piano that the company has donated for the event.

When: March 28, 2:15 pm

Where: LaGuardia Community College, 30-20 Thomson Ave., Long Island City

Contact: 718-482-5985

Website: www.laguardia.edu

Folk Songs from Around the

World – In solo, duo and trio arrangements.

When: March 29, 2 pm

Where: Windsor Park Public Library, 79-50 Bell Blvd. at 73rd Avenue, Oakland Gardens

Contact: (718) 468-8300

Website: www.queenslibrary.org

Lhevinne Classical Concert Quintet

– A Supernova Production. Features the dynamic international ensemble of some of the finest musicians in New York, The Lautreamont String Quintet, formed in 2005 by violinist Steven Zynszajn. The musicians include some of his closest colleagues from The Julliard School. They have performed over 40 programs throughout the New York area, of the sort encountered in the golden age of classical music.

When: March 31, 7:30 pm

Where: Center at Maple Grove, 127-15 Kew Gardens Road, Kew Gardens

Continued on Page 32

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A Lost Treasure Now On Stage

China was once known as the Celestial Empire. For 5,000 years, the Middle Kingdom was home to an unparalleled legacy of heroes, legends, and virtues that still resonate in the present. But in recent decades, under campaigns like the Cultural Revolution, this rich heritage has been almost completely eradicated in China. Where can you find authentic Chinese arts and culture today?

The answer is New York, because the world's premier classical Chinese music and dance company, Shen Yun Performing Arts, is returning to Lincoln Center next month.

Shen Yun is the first company to present classical Chinese dance to the world on a large scale. It also features the only orchestra to combine both Western and Chinese instruments as its permanent members. Shen Yun has taken the globe by storm, performing in over 100 cities. Its January shows at Lincoln Center were sold out.

The show is a celebration of traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be experienced—a study in grace, wisdom, and virtues distilled from millennia of civilization. It is a glimpse into a long-lost world that exists nowhere else—even in China today.

With mesmerizing choreography, colorful costumes, stunning animated backdrops, and tremendous athleticism, Shen Yun takes the audience on a jour-



Shen Yun Performing Arts, Recalling the Great China, 2011.

ney through time and space to ancient lands, mountain peaks, and even heavenly paradises.

"If heaven is the way we saw it tonight, count me in," said Academy Award-nominated producer Nathaniel Kahn after seeing Shen Yun.

Ancient Chinese artists cultivated virtue, believing that to create true art worthy of the heavens, there must first be inner purity. Today, Shen Yun's artists follow this noble tradition. The result is a performance of consummate beauty and goodness. It is a show that nourishes the soul.

Shen Yun will perform at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater April 18-22. For more, visit: ShenYun2012.com/NYC or call 1-800-818-2393.

Photo Credit: © 2011 Shen Yun Performing Arts

Dining

Continued from Page 28

wood would be favorably impressed. We also tried the ssam roll which featured barbecued beef and greens, also with this and that.

Both rolls were tasty and satisfying while being admirably low in fat. They come with a selection of ban chan, without which no Korean meal is complete. The circumference of the roll is heftier than sushi. Kimbab also differs from sushi rolls in that the main flavoring in the rice is a hint of sesame oil instead of sushi vinegar.

In addition to Kimbab, Rolly also specializes in rice balls, which are exactly what they sound like. If you happen not to like seaweed, try your filling in a ball of rice. Rice balls come with an assortment of fillings from the tame (tuna) to the dangerous (the bomb — chili pepper).

Our final destination

was for KFC — Korean fried chicken. For that we ventured into **Mad For Chicken**, a Korean chain featuring — you guessed it — chicken. This place has a TGI Fridays feel to it. Flashily decorated. Slick menu with lots of pictures. Gimmicks like transparent light up kegs of beer you order for your table. Television monitors at every table tuned to the game of the moment.

This place is popular both with young singles and families with children. They tout the healthfulness of their chicken both by claiming that it is organic (although a Bell & Evans logo appears on their menu, which is not an organic chicken) and that they remove the skin before they fry it. They offer two kinds of sauce, which are incorporated into the coating — soy sauce and garlic or hot and spicy. We didn't detect a dramatic difference between the two sauces, but in both cases the chicken was lacquered crisp on the

outside, succulent within, and savory. They also make outstanding fries, seasoned with Parmesan and oregano.

Unfortunately, they brought our fries immediately, and our chicken about 25 minutes later. If you want both together, you need to tell them. We also tried Kim-Mary described as deep fried kimbab. We thought we were on a roll, but it arrived cold, soggy, greasy, and filled only with cellophane noodles.

The Bottom Line

Northeastern Flushing is so rich with Korean culture. At any of these places, you can add a little gastronomic excitement to your life on a very modest budget. Explore and indulge!

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

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THEATER CALENDAR

Oliver! – Oliver by Lionel Bart is opening at The Bay Terrace Jewish Center and you can now read all about it, meet the cast and crew and even purchase tickets on Theatre By The Bay's new website.

When: Through March 25
Where: Bay Terrace Jewish

Center, 13-00 209th St., Bayside
Contact: (718) 428-6363

Tom Wopat – The star of stage ("Catch Me If You Can," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Guys and Dolls") and television ("Dukes of Hazzard," "Cybill") performs a fun and swinging concert of

Broadway hits and standards of the 40s and 50s.

When: March 24, 2 pm and 8 pm
Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona
Contact: Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686
Website: www.queentheatre.org

Celebrating Women's

National History Month – The Sisterhood of Free Synagogue of Flushing presents the one woman show, "Mary Todd Lincoln" portrayed by Helena Gerber Eilenberg. The time is 1876 – when Mary is released from the insane asylum. Dress as Mrs. Lincoln, Ms. Eilenberg explores life with Abe Lincoln, a father, her husband and the president.

When: March 25, noon

Where: Free Synagogue of Flushing, 40-60 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: 718-961-0030; free-synagogue@free-synagogue.com
Website: www.freesynagogue.org

Guys and Dolls Jr – The cast from JHS 189 will perform this Broadway classic set in a New York mission populated

by do-gooders and gamblers competing for local hearts and souls.

When: March 29 and 30, 7 pm
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing
Contact: (718) 463-7700
Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

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- Chicken Francaise
- Chicken Marsala
- Chicken Pizzaiola
- Veal Cutlet Parmigiana
- Penne Vodka
- Tortellini Alfredo

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 - Small Meatballs
 - Linguini, w/Clam Sauce
 - Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

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\$25.95

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Continued from Page 29

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Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing

Contact: (718) 463-7700

EVENTS

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, 43-03 Broadway, Astoria

Contact: Ben Rosenfeld ben@bigbencomedy.com

Website: www.bigbencomedy.com/blog/archives/astoria_comedy_all_stars/

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
Mar. 22-28, 2012

By Pete Canty

Heard in Court

Across

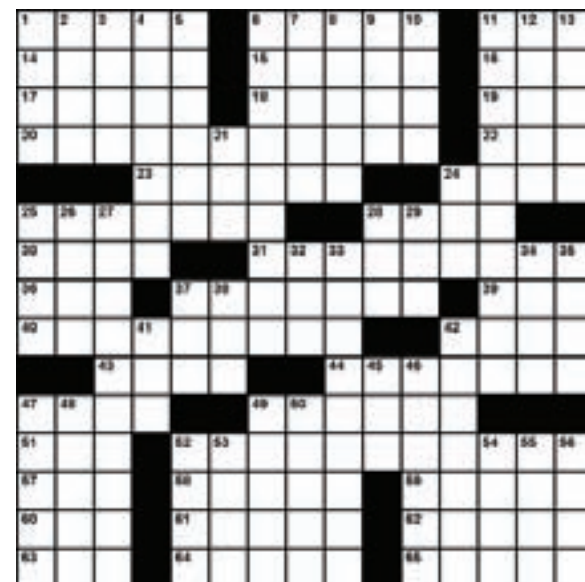
- Santa ____
- Ole Miss athlete
- Bake sale org.
- Dramatic salesman
- ____ Gay (W.W. II plane)
- Feel sick
- Scratching (out)
- Mystiques
- Pen follower
- Evidence helpful in a theft case
- Before, in verse
- Runs off to wed
- Cereal ingredient
- Hug
- “Think nothing ____!”
- Days in Mexico
- Orchard grower
- Sick
- “So soon?”
- Life imitator
- Broadcasts
- Border-crossing paper
- Bad day for Caesar
- Mexican dishes
- Average
- Orders takeout
- Inebriated
- Evidence helpful in all cases
- The Greatest
- Kofi of the U.N.
- Arm bones
- Min. component
- Children's doctor?
- Goo
- Many mins.
- Upper crust
- Consumed

Down

- Staff leader?
- Norse God
- Infamous Idi
- NYC team
- Actress Lansbury
- Comes back into view
- Become accustomed (to)
- Tennis great Becker
- Flair
- Survive
- Evidence helpful in a fraud case
- Pageant crown
- Woody or Ethan
- Mythical bird
- Drill part
- Correct
- Marathon unit
- Evidence helpful in a shooting case
- Dated
- Actress Tina
- Capital of Poland?
- What -ed often signifies
- Highlands tongue
- J.F.K. postings
- St. crosser
- French flower
- Tokyo, once
- Ice-cream flavor



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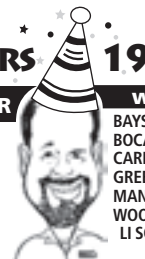


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Nadler slams federal bill as killer of city transit funds

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Legislation recently introduced by the U.S. House of Representatives is “a Draconian and unacceptable blow to transit funding in New York City and the nation,” Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-Brooklyn) told the City Council Transportation Committee last week.

Although the measure has since been withdrawn in the House and the U.S. Senate has passed its own version of the bill minus some of the most objectionable elements, the legislation still must go before the Republican-majority House.

Congressional sources said the House would probably put forth a temporary stop-gap bill to beat the March 31 deadline, after which all funding would stop with unwanted results. The Republican-majority House would then deliber-

ate on a full version of the transportation bill.

Nadler appeared last week before the Transportation Committee at the invitation of its chairman, Councilman James Vacca (D-Bronx).

“The MTA receives more than a billion dollars a year from the federal Highway Fund as a result of passage of legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1982. But the proposed new legislation would end the guaranteed infusion of \$1 billion for transportation in New York City,” Nadler said.

Congressional supporters of the previously annual infusion of money nationwide would be forced to compete in Congress each year for transit money with dozens of other agencies.

“If the last year has taught us anything, it is that the politics of annual



U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler appears before City Council Transportation Committee to discuss proposed Republican legislation that would end annual automatic funding of \$1 billion for mass transit in New York City.

Photo by Philip Newman

appropriations can lead to dysfunction and inaction,” Nadler said. “Such a reality would make it difficult, if not impossible, for transit agencies to develop reliable, long-term capital plans and it would leave the future of the program in doubt.”

Nadler said the Republican offering was unusual in a variety of ways.

“H.R. 7 was unlike any other reauthorization,” he said. “On a purely partisan basis, Democratic staff and members were told what was in the bill only 24 hours

before it was introduced. It was designed so that no Democrats could support the bill.

Ray LaHood, the U.S. Transportation Secretary and a former Republican congressman from Illinois, called it “the worst transportation bill I have ever seen.”

“There is no reason to make such a drastic change in how we finance public transportation and no reason for this change has been given,” Nadler said.

In answer to questions from Council members, Nadler said the federal Highway Fund has been diminishing due to the growing fuel efficiency of motor vehicles, which means less gasoline taxes generating money for transit.

With many of the most egregious aspects of the House bill removed in the Senate version of the bill, things look better but

many others remain, Nadler said.

“There are many Republicans who are clearly against transit and they may try this again,” Nadler warned.

He added, “I now call on the Republicans to reach across the aisle, as we have always done in the Transportation Committee and develop a bipartisan bill that we can all support to meet our nation’s infrastructure needs and create jobs.”

Vacca said “without those dollars our transit system — the lifeblood of our economy — would suffer as never before. Fares are already too high for working-class New Yorkers — imagine what would happen to the fare if the MTA had to cover more than a billion dollars in lost revenue every year. It’s inconceivable.”

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D) Categories are:

- 1) Middle School 2) High School 3) College

Please send nominations and information to:

**srossi@cnglocal.com, or mail to:
S. Rossi – 41-02 Bell Blvd. 2nd Floor,
Bayside NY 11361.**

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

Pothole

Continued from Page 9

work to be completed from inside the vehicle. The previous technique required at least five crew members all working outside their vehicles, usually blocking numerous lanes of traffic.

Additionally, the Py-

thon carries its own hot-asphalt repairs, eliminating the need for a trailer with materials and other construction equipment. Bloomberg said workers will be trained and that learning to work with the new machines will take time.

"Human hands and eyes can do some work a lot better than machines,"

said Bloomberg, referring to the automated Python. "But you have to decide if you want to shut roads down, get all the guys in the road with their shovels and block traffic."

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



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ACLU

Continued from Page 6

has allowed the DA's office to dismiss scores of cases before they come to court or before charges have been filed and has allowed many suspects to get a reduction in their charges and/or bail recommendation, the source said.

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



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Robotic Matchup

High School students compete in the FIRST Robotics Rebound Rumble Competition. (Clockwise from top l.) Mary Louis team members, including Madison Zic (front), cheer for their robot; Nikunj Agarwak (l.) and Ahsan Khan from Thomas Edison react to the score; fans cheer for the RoboTigers from Sunnyside; Monil Pandya from Newtown High School removes the battery from his team's machine; Martin Van Buren team members watch as their robot tries to balance on a board; and Melanie Wong from Townsend Harris High School wears a hat to support her team.

Photos by Christina Santucci





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People IN THE NEWS

COMPILED BY JOSEPH GARGIULO

Academics

Samia Alam of Woodside had been named to the Washington and Lee University fall 2011 dean's list.

Katherine Powers of Douglaston, **Caitlin Winkler** and **Laura Fazio** of Forest Hills, **Michael Foster** of Middle Village, **Kellie Alberici** of Glendale and **Anna Di Re** of Flushing have been named to the Loyola University fall 2011 dean's list.

Chester Ho of Flushing is slated to graduate in 2012 from Flushing High School.

Brittany Bishop of Little Neck has been named to the fall 2011 Babson College dean's list.

Zachary Bernard Gale and **Md. Ali** of Jamaica; **Anthony Lin**, **Muhammad Zulkifl Zargar** and **Hans Siyuan Zhou** of Forest Hills; **Raza Mohammad Wani** of Hollis; **Benjamin Adam Chu** of Queens Village; and **Wilson Lin** of Flushing were named to the fall 2011 Washington University dean's list.

Elias Derian of Forest Hills has been named to first honors

on the Clark University fall 2011 dean's list.

Laura J. Urciuoli of Sunnyside, **Alan D. Grunberg** of Woodside and **Tiffany Fu** of Rego Park have received second honors on the Clark University fall 2011 dean's list.

Annibel A. Tejada, **Brittany S. Ng** and **Esthefania Rodriguez** of Ozone Park; **Nadia D. Misir** of South Ozone Park; **Paola G. Heras** of Woodside; **Sara A. Finkle** of Forest Hills; **Tashi Namgyal** of East

Elmhurst; **Vanessa M. Reyes** of Jackson Heights; **Cindy Nervil** of Jamaica; **Stephanie Leung** of Maspeth; **Matthew W. Grajek** of Middle Village; **Lijun Yu**, **Zhen Chen**, **Zhe Cheng**, **Xuwen Deng**, **Michael T. Marcinowski** and **Ming Rao** of Flushing; and **Ekaterina Gounko** and **Paola Palacios** of College Point were named to the SUNY Oswego fall 2011 dean's list.

Hartadinata Harinato, a student at Bard High School Early College in Long Island City,

has been awarded the Ambassador Award for Excellence for outstanding scholastic achievement by the Indonesian embassy.

Kayla Gioia of Flushing was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, the national honor society for first-year students, at Dominican College.

Haniyyah Bashir of Rosedale and **Mayra Bermeo** of Jackson Heights, were named to the Well's College fall 2011 dean's list.

Military

Air Force Airman **Adrian A. Nunez**, a 2007 graduate of Aviation High School in Long Island City, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

U.S. Sen. **Kirsten Gillibrand** (D-N.Y.) has nominated **Gregory Watch** of Flushing to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, **Patricia Ni** of Forest Hills to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and **Richard Araya** of Ozone Park to the U.S. Naval Academy.

Airman 1st Class **Jose Clavijo** of East Elmhurst completed the U.S. Air Force basic military training course at Lackland Air Force Base Texas.

Staff Sgt. **Alex Chi** of Fresh Meadows completed the Regional Equipment Operators Training Course at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn.

Army Spec. **Qaasim I. Jenkins**, son of **Yvonne Marie Jenkins** of Hollis, has been decorated with the U.S. Army Achievement Medal.

Staff Sgt. **Juan Romanoplacencia** from Flushing re-enlisted to continue service with the 53rd

Headquarters Detachment Army Liaison.

Sgt. **Jason Castillo** of Flushing has re-enlisted to continue service with the Intelligence and Sustainment Co. 42nd infantry Division.

Staff Sgt. **Ryan Jalim** of Ozone Park has re-enlisted to continue service with the 107th Military Police Co.

Sgt. 1st Class **Eduardo Deoliveira** of Corona has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. C 101st Signal Battalion.

Sgt. **Alcides Zelayapereira** of Jamaica has re-enlisted to continue service with the 719th Transportation Co.

Staff Sgt. **Donny Mckay** of St. Albans has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. D 1-69th Infantry.

Sgt. **Sasha Morse** of Rosedale has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. A 101st Signal Battalion.

Sgt. **Junior Alexander** of Rosedale has re-enlisted to continue service with the Early Entry Element 369 Sustainment Brigade.

Sgt. 1st Class **Robert Rod-**

gers of Queens Village has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. B 1-69th Infantry.

Sgt. 1st Class **Kehinde Ayeni** of Queens Village has re-enlisted to continue service with

the Co. E (Forward Support Co. Infantry) 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

Spc. **Avery Torres** of Ridgewood has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. A Recruiting

and Retention.

Staff Sgt. **Richard Johnson** of Glendale has re-enlisted to continue service with the Headquarters and Headquarters Co. 1-69th Infantry.



LOCKS OF LOVE

The Rev. Joseph V. Daly (I.) administers the first cut to a St. John's University student at the annual St. Baldrick's Locks of Love event at the university's Queens campus in March. The event benefits children who suffer from cancer.

Miscellaneous

Queens residents **John Zoll**, **Gia Morris**, **Alan Beckoff**, **Anne-Marie Jolly**, **Marybeth Richroath** and **Douglas Wong** were sworn in to serve in the city's Family, Criminal and Civil courts.

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FOCUS ON QUEENS

Photos by Dee Richard

JEFFERSON DEMOCRATIC CLUB MARCH MEETING AT CLEARVIEW GOLF CLUBHOUSE



1 Tom DiNapoli swearing in the board members



2 The board is sworn in by DiNapoli



4 Ed Braunstein, Tom DiNapoli, Toby Stavisky, David Fischer, Carol Gresser and Matt Silverstein

DARRYL STRAWBERRY'S 50TH BIRTHDAY PARTY AT STRAWBERRY'S AT DOUGLASTON



1 Michael Strawberry and the birthday boy Darryl (rear), Nick Vaglica and Dee Richard (front)



2 The fabulous birthday cake

QUEENS COUNTY CONSERVATIVE PARTY MEETING



1 Vincent Accuri, Eric Ulrich, Tom Long and Tom Casey

WOMEN'S GO RED AT STRAWBERRY'S IN DOUGLASTON



1 Norine Avrams, Danielle Gulinello, Peggy Studevan, Lorraine Vargas, Carah Lucas-Hill, Victor Clavie, Jan DiGeronimo, Dr. Lisa Rutkovsky, Rosie Pagan and Barbara Sorge

SAMUEL FIELD Y AND CENTRAL QUEENS Y COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP BREAKFAST AT DOUGLASTON MANOR



1 Honorees Dave and Carrie Kerpen



2 Honoree Karen Koslowitz



3 Honoree Deniz Gurcan with Rick Lewis and Dr. Steven Goodman



4 Martha Wolf, Ronald Fatoullah, Ann-Margaret Carrozza and Victor Clavie

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Business

Try on baby fashions at bargain prices

New parents create Raising Astoria consignment shop to offer maternity and infant gear at low cost

BY REBECCA HENELEY

Astoria moms Kimberly Rossignol and Laurie Nicholson found that when parents have fast-growing new babies, many of the clothes and toys they buy end up never used or only used once.

Their new baby and maternity consignment shop, Raising Astoria, at 26-11 23rd Ave., hopes to keep prices for new parents affordable as well as help them earn some money themselves. Not only can parents buy clothes for a half to a third of the retail price, but they can also bring new or gently used baby and maternity clothes to the shop.

When they are sold, the customers will get 50 percent of the profits of the sale for store credit or, if they earn \$50 or more, cash. The credit is given to the parents at the point of sale.

"It's pretty ideal for new parents," Nicholson said.

Rossignol and Nicholson



Raising Astoria owners Laurie Nicholson (l.) and Kimberly Rossignol sit with their daughters Julia Montini (c.) and Coralie Podmore (r.) inside their 23rd Avenue shop.

Photo by Nykeema Williams

got to know each other through a meet-up group called Astoria New and Expecting Parents. Rossignol has a 16-month-old, Coralie Podmore, and Rossignol has a 14-month-old, Julia Montini.

They decided to team up and

create the store in summer 2011 when Nicholson saw that while where she worked in Park Slope, Brooklyn, had many consignment shops, there were almost none in Queens.

"Who doesn't want to buy

something that looks brand-new for a third of the cost?" Rossignol said.

In addition to consignment, Raising Astoria also sells new maternity clothes, parenting books, strollers and new baby toys, which are from the German company Hape toys and the French company Tolo.

"The kids go crazy over them," Rossignol said. "They're very bright and colorful."

Nicholson, who has a background in social work, said she wants Raising Astoria to become a community meeting place, so the store offers classes in music and art and has a pre-school alternative run by Nicholson.

The boutique also holds a monthly educational workshop. The first, which costs \$20 to attend, takes place March 31 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and centers on language development.

Raising Astoria has only been open for a few weeks, but many

customers have already earned more than \$50 in store credit through sending gently used items to the store, Rossignol said.

"People from the neighborhood have just been bringing them nonstop," Rossignol said.

The store also received a citation from state Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria), who is expecting a child, at its grand opening.

Nicholson said despite the praise and auspicious opening, she still has more planned.

"I'm still, like, we need to do more," Nicholson said. "We need to do better."

Raising Astoria is open from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. More information can be found at raisingastoria.com.

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

BUSINESS CALENDAR

The Business Technology

Forum – The Queens Chamber of Commerce and The Info-Tech Committee Invites you to The Business Technology Forum. Spend 90 minutes with us and we will provide the answers. Our discussion will address financials, sales and marketing, business development, training, customer service and information technology. Featured presenters include Eugene Erichsen, Evan Stein and Scott Seltzer.
When: March 22, 8:30 am
Where: Bulova Center, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., Ste. 140, Jackson Heights

Restaurant Boot Camp – The Queens Chamber of Commerce and the New York City Business Solutions, Queens Center presents Restaurant Boot Camp Seminar in Spanish. Meet speakers from New Business Acceleration Team (NBAT) to discuss the licensing/permits required for food businesses and

Micro lender to discuss special financing available for food businesses.
When: March 26, 5:30 pm
Where: Astoria Public Library, 14-01 Astoria Blvd. at 14th Street, Astoria
Contact: (718) 278-2220
Website: www.queenslibrary.org

Entrepreneur Workshops – The first class will focus on what lenders look for and preparing to make a loan request. Participants will get a one-on-one review of their credit reports, find out if they qualify, and/or learn how to improve their credit to qualify for a loan. In the second class, a loan officer will review participants' financial documents and loan purposes and determine how a loan will help them grow their business.
When: March 26, 6 pm and April 4, 6 pm
Where: Entrepreneur Space, 36-46 37th St., Long Island City

Women's History Month – To celebrate Women's History Month,

the Queens Economic Development Corp. and Flushing's Deluge Restaurant invite the public to a free networking event honoring women from the borough and their successes as entrepreneurs. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet start-up business owners and discuss partnership opportunities. Cash bar.
When: March 29, 6 pm
Where: Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Ave., Flushing

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

FUND-RAISERS

Pancake Breakfast – For the church youth group.
When: March 24, 8 am
Where: Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 69-26 Cooper Ave., Glendale
Contact: (718) 456-5292

Craft Fair/Flea Market – Vendors needed. Crafts, vendors, flea market, food, music and fun. Reserve your spot today.
When: March 24, 9 am
Where: U.U.C.Q., Corner of 149th Street and Ash Avenue, Flushing
Contact: (718) 380-5362

Grocery Bingo
When: March 25, 12:30 pm

Where: Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 69-26 Cooper Ave., Glendale
Contact: (718) 456-5292

Garden Gala 2012 – Garden School, an independent, coeducational institution in Jackson Heights, will honor William Vogel, lower division head who has been with the school since 1997, at this year's gala. Live and silent auctions with dinner and dancing.
When: March 30
Where: Terrace on the Park, 52-11 111th St., Corona
Contact: (718) 335-6363; gala@gardenschool.org; gardenschool.org

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Redistricting

Continued from Page 4

considered,” she said, referring particularly to the neighborhood of Astoria, which was split in half in the Senate. “I’m not going to do anything that would damage my community by splitting it in half.”

Even though the Assembly lines were less controversial, Simotas said the Senate lines factored into her decision.

In addition, Simotas said she signed a pledge pushed by former Mayor Ed Koch to support independent redistricting.

Koch blasted the lawmakers who went back on the pledge, saying in an op-ed earlier this month that “unfortunately (but not

surprisingly), many of the same legislators who pledged to support independent redistricting have reneged and are now trying to continue the same practice of gerrymandering — meaning business as usual.”

But several members of the Assembly did not sign the pledge, including Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows), Michael Simanowitz (D-Flushing) and William Scarborough (D-St. Albans).

Cuomo said the amendment would help make the process more transparent in the future.

“This agreement will permanently reform the redistricting process in New York to once and for all end self-interested and partisan gerrymandering,” Cuomo said.

Ackerman

Continued from Page 4

But Tuesday afternoon, Ackerman said leaving Congress was one of the hardest things he had ever done. After dispelling rumors about poor health or not wanting to move back to Queens, Ackerman said going out on his own terms was essential to his making the final call.

Ackerman’s district was redrawn as part of the once-a-decade redistricting process that adjusts political lines based on population changes.

But the congressman wanted to make it clear that the redrawn district did not frighten him into retirement. It, in fact, closely resembled his congressional district before 1992.

Instead, Ackerman said that once he knew his district was safe from being chopped up, it made it easier to consider retirement.

“You have to fight to keep the district as compact, as contiguous as together and sensible as this

process can make it, so they don’t decimate [it],” Ackerman said. “The court’s plan was the best one for me, and it gave me a chance to think.”

In addition, Ackerman said he did not want to back down from a fight. Up until he made the announcement shortly after 7 p.m. last Thursday, Ackerman was adamant publicly that he would run.

State Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) had pledged to run for Congress against U.S. Rep. Bob Turner (D-Middle Village), but when Turner’s district was eliminated through redistricting and the Republican decided to run for U.S. Senate, Lancman was faced with running against Ackerman.

Last Thursday, Lancman went to Ackerman’s house and told the longtime lawmaker he would not run against a fellow Democrat.

Ackerman said he dropped several hints to Lancman that a congressional run might not actually be in the cards, and told a story about how he was first elected after the incumbent suddenly died.

mittee members’ vote, said he has experience streamlining Nassau County’s financial operations, which he believes will serve him well.

“I reduced Nassau County’s amount of borrowing by 50 percent without any property tax increases in just over three years,” said Maragos. “And that is exactly what we need to do in Washington. We need

Hours after Lancman’s announcement, Ackerman sent out his retirement notice.

“It became easier when one of the Assembly persons decided he was not going to challenge me,” Ackerman said. “I was under no pressure. I could make it under the ideal circumstances — I didn’t lose an election, I didn’t go in a body bag and nobody was chasing me out. There are ugly ways to get out.”

Ackerman was born in Brooklyn in 1942 and grew up in Pomonok Houses before graduating from public schools. He started off as a schoolteacher, and first gained notoriety when he sued for a leave of absence to be with his newborn child.

He served as a state senator for four years before moving up to Congress.

But Ackerman’s career was not without blemishes. In the early 1990s, he was embroiled in a House banking controversy and, although never prosecuted, he resigned from the House Ethics Committee shortly afterward.

to straighten out finances, make the government more efficient and reduce the national debt.”

As for fund-raising, Maragos said he has already put more than \$1 million of his own money into his campaign account and he pledges to spend \$5 million more after he receives the nomination.

Wyckoff

Continued from Page 4

Wyckoff, had paid Seminerio out of the fund, the court documents said.

The 397 Himrod entity had originally been created by Wyckoff to buy real estate in Bushwick for a parking lot, although the corporation was later dissolved, the Orange County judge said in her decision.

Hsu had been fired after the scandal came to light, although Hsu said he had not been a signatory on the 397 Himrod account and did not know of it, Slobod said. Hsu’s contract for his \$350,000 annual salary, which was signed in 2006, assured him of compensation for the following 18 months after his employment ended unless he was terminated for “legal wrongdoing,” Slobod said.

Wyckoff argued in response that “legal wrongdoing” was ambiguous and that Hsu should have learned of the corruption, but Slobod said Hsu had no



The former CFO of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center is suing the hospital for severance pay after he was fired in the wake of the bribery scandal of late Richmond Hill state Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio.

way of knowing of the account and its use as a bribery tool.

Hsu had also pressed for reimbursement of his attorneys fees under the Labor Law, but Slobod said this only applies to non-executives. The judge said Hsu needs to prove the damages he is owed in future court appearances.

Seminerio was not the only elected official found to have been accepting bribes on behalf of a hospi-

tal executive.

Dr. Robert Aquino pleaded guilty in January of bribing former Brooklyn state Sen. Carl Kruger on behalf of Parkway Hospital in Forest Hills. Kruger also pleaded guilty to the charge and both are awaiting sentencing. Aquino had maintained that the state closed down Parkway Hospital in 2008 because he had refused to pay the bribes demanded by Seminerio.

LIRR

Continued from Page 5

ington that would allow for additional trains.

Williams said LIRR is in the drafting stages of its study, which will look at travel patterns in the area and what services residents are using.

“I think that there is

viability and that is what we need to test,” Williams said.

She said the cost for a Manhattan-bound ticket for the Elmhurst station would be \$7.25 at peak times, \$5 at off-peak and \$3.50 for disabled and senior riders.

A presentation put out by the LIRR said Elmhurst’s population grew by more than 45 percent from 1980-2010. It said possible destinations for train riders

could be the Queens Center Mall, which is about 10 blocks away from the station, and Elmhurst Hospital Center, which is two blocks away.

Crowley characterized the LIRR’s study as a good thing but not a “slam dunk” in getting an alternate route for Elmhurst riders.

“The city of New York must become a more livable place,” he said.

Trafficking

Continued from Page 5

Boudreau said the government issues 10,000 U visas each fiscal year and 5,000 T visas. The U visas are usually all issued, which means some cases are carried over to the next year, although the T visas are underused.

Julie Dinnerstein, a professor of immigration law, said it is hard to quantify how widespread the problem of human trafficking is in the city because

there are many obstacles to enforcement.

Victims are sometimes part of international trafficking rings and they often do not come forward for fear not only about their own safety, but the safety of their families at home. She said those who have been prostituted also fear stigma.

“There’s this myth of an army of voluntary prostitutes out there,” she said.

Finally, Dinnerstein also said trafficking victims can come to the United States through various avenues, including tourist

or student visas, through a marriage to a U.S. citizen, through a family who are permanent residents or through smuggling.

Even if requests for visas are eventually denied, Quarantillo said USCIS does not then begin deportation for the immigrant. USCIS also works closely with judges and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement if a crime victim is going through the process.

“We do not use these cases as a way to put people in removal proceedings,” Quarantillo said.

Gillibrand

Continued from Page 5

Supreme Court. In 2005, she joined the Judicial Confirmation Network as chief counsel. Since 2007, Long as been legal adviser to Republican Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign.

Maragos, who took 27 percent of the GOP com-



Scholars Academy celebrates its second-straight 'B' championship. Photo by An Rong Xu

Scholars take two against Bedford

BY MIKE SMOLLINS

The pursuit of a second-straight title was just one of many things that motivated Scholars Academy.

The second-seeded Seawolves had a lot to play for in their 51-43 victory over top-seed Bedford Academy in the PSAL Class B girls' basketball championship game Saturday at CCNY in Harlem. The victory notched Scholars its second title in its three-year history as a varsity program, its first coming in a blowout victory over Bedford Academy last season.

"I'm enormously proud of these girls," Coach Janet Kleiner said. "Different things have motivated them this season."

Scholars Academy, of Rockaway Park, was led by sophomore Jessica Glaz, who contributed a game-high 21 points and had 13 rebounds while playing with a broken knuckle on her shooting hand suffered in a second-round playoff game. Meanwhile, junior

Taylor Gallagher put up 14 points and freshman Emma Michaels added nine points before a third quarter injury kept her on the sidelines.

"Jessica and Taylor, that's the backbone," Kleiner said. "I've coached 33 years, thousands of kids in different sports and by far [Glaz] is the most competitive student athlete I've ever coached."

The Seawolves (17-2) marched out to an early 6-0 lead and took a commanding 32-11 lead into halftime, only allowing the Panthers to put up four points in the second quarter. Bedford (17-1) began to climb back into the game in the second half, having a fourth-quarter surge scoring 22 points before time ran out on them.

"We just came together as a group," Glaz said. "We talked about keeping up the pressure because they were motivated in the second half to come out and beat us so we came together as a group and stayed strong

Continued on Page 50

Washington leads title team

Junior leads Pathways to second consecutive championship

BY MIKE SMOLLINS

Jordan Washington has had his fair share of ups and downs, but on Sunday he reached an all-time high.

The 6-foot-7 junior was key in aiding top-seeded Pathways, of Hollis, to its second-straight title with a 67-50 victory over No. 3 Newcomers in the PSAL Class B boys' basketball championship game at CCNY in Harlem by putting up a game-high 28 points.

"It feels so good to win back-to-back championships," Washington said.

Washington's work ethic was never more prominent than in the second half of Sunday's game. With his team's lead trimmed down from an 11-point advantage to just two points in the second quarter, Washington knew it was time for him to step up in the second half. Washington answered the call, converting 18 of his points in the final two frames.

"We were a little nervous, but we got the win," Washington said. "My coach went in the locker room and said, 'Ya'll gotta get Jordan the ball.' So I took command of the ball and started scoring every bucket."

While Washington led the Trailblazers (23-4) in points and also contributed 12 rebounds, Sam Annorh Jr. and Izaha Jackson both put up 12 points for Pathways. After gaining a nine-point lead in the first quarter, Newcomers went on a 12-2 run late in the second quarter to put the score



Pathways star Jordan Washington went off for 28 points in the 'B' final.

Photo by An Rong Xu

at 28-26 at the half before Washington exploded the rest of the way at the urging of Coach Harold Peaks.

"We needed that from [Jordan] today," Peaks said. "We needed to exploit our biggest advantage and that was him."

Washington, who missed a significant amount of the season due to academic reasons, used his size to his advantage and

lifted the team to victory.

Newcomers (19-1) had a good showing in the program's first-ever trip to the finals and was led by junior Cristian Zapata, who put up a team-high 16 points. Senior point guard Larry Baez had 13 points and junior forward Jose Fernandez had 12.

"It was an excellent opportunity and brought a lot of school spirit to our

school," Lions Coach Joseph DePrimo said. "We just didn't have an answer for their big man, he was going through two or three guys at a time. This season was a huge success."

DePrimo has coached Newcomers for seven years and this was its finest season to date in the 15-year history of the basketball program. Newcomers went

Continued on Page 50

Bryant coach amped for another successful season

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Rocco Rotondi is not the nostalgic type.

The Bryant baseball coach looks forward, not back. He's proud of last year's accomplishments — the second-place finish in the prestigious Monroe Tournament, the Queens A West title it shared with rival John Adams and its run to the PSAL Class A quarterfinals — but he's made a point of moving past those feats.

"He always says what's in the past," senior Nick Alvarez said, "is in the past."

Rotondi doesn't want his players to forget about what they did last year, but to understand it has nothing to do with this spring. After arguably Rotondi's most successful season, hopes have increased — within the program and from the outside as well.

"Anytime you have expectations you have to back up those expectations," Ro-



Bryant's Adonis Lao, Chris Alvarez, Darlyn Valdez and Nick Alvarez are ready to build on last season's success.

Photo by Denis Gostev

tondi said. "It's always a little harder when you're not flying under the radar. We have to earn every win."

He added, "We don't want to overlook anybody. We want to take it one game at a time, try to improve each and every game out."

Aside from first baseman Joseph Cox and shortstop Kenny Linero, Bryant returns its entire team. It includes co-aces Alvarez, Darlyn Valdez and Adonis Lao. The trio combined to win 12 games last year. Valdez and Lao throw in the

mid-80s with solid off-speed stuff, while Alvarez has the most diverse assortment of pitches.

"They're all battling for that ace position," the ninth-year coach said. "They all have good qualities, bring something dif-

ferent to the table."

The lineup, which was one of the city's best, routinely scoring in double figures, could be improved with so much continuity and returning players who are now upperclassmen. Lao, second baseman Chris Alvarez (Nick's brother) and Nick Alvarez will make up the 3-4-5 spots.

The lone departures, Linero and Cox, will be replaced by Christian Aubry, last year's starting second baseman, and Sean O'Brien. Rotondi expects teams to pitch to Bryant differently and wants to bunt more, move runners over and hit the ball to the opposite field on a consistent basis.

"It's a balanced lineup," Rotondi said. "We're not going to just rely on the top four or five guys. We don't want to be top-heavy."

The Owls are hungry to test themselves against the area's best after coming five outs shy of upsetting

eventual city champion George Washington in the quarterfinals, a game they felt got away. It's a loss that has stayed with Bryant.

"We definitely learned from that game," said Nick Alvarez, who scored 17 runs and drove in 12 a year ago. "If we're in that situation again this year, we'll be better prepared."

Rotondi had built a top-notch program before last year; Bryant just tended to fade late. That was hardly the case last May as the Owls won four of their last six regular-season games to finish tied with John Adams atop Queens A West. Now instead of division titles and a playoff win or two, their hopes are far higher.

"We want to bring home a championship for our school," Chris Alvarez said. "We want to make a name for ourselves, to bust out."

Molloy softball ready to meet the high expectations

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Fresh off its first CHSAA state softball title, Archbishop Molloy has already heard the rumblings of what's expected this season.

"We feel like everyone thinks we're the team to beat," senior Dana Moss said. "We are confident, but we are not cocky."

There are plenty of reasons to believe that to be the case.

Molloy, which has won three-straight CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens crowns, returns its pair of dominant aces in C.W. Post-bound power thrower Maria Palmeri and Victoria Goldbach, known for her ability to change speeds. Both are completely healthy to start the season. Goldbach battled a shoulder injury the beginning of last year and

Palmeri, an All-City first team selection by the New York Post, hurt her knee over the summer.

"They are two of the best pitchers in the city without a doubt," Stanners Coach Maureen Rosenbaum said.

Palmeri, who will be at short with Goldbach in the circle, is part of a deadly middle of the order along with Moss, who is also headed to C.W. Post, and her sophomore sister Taylor. The three combined to go 12-for-20 with seven runs scored and 10 RBIs in two state playoff games and went 9-for-12 with five runs scored and five RBIs in a city title game win over Moore Catholic. Both Mosses and Goldbach earned All-City second team honors.

"It's special to our core," Dana Moss said. "It's



Archbishop Molloy's Maria Palmeri is one of the city's best all-around players.

Photo by Robert Cole

not just the middle of the lineup that can hit. It's the whole line up."

Dana Moss will split time at first and short and Taylor Moss, a sophomore,

will do the same at first and right field. The Stanners' best team has been with Goldbach in the circle and Palmeri gobbling balls up in the infield.

There are still holes to fill. Kristen Ponticelli will be back in one of the corner outfield spots and batting second, but will have a new partner atop the order and in center field. Junior Theresa Conway is expected to take over in center field and the leadoff spot for the graduated Jen DeMaria.

"Theresa's a speed demon," said Dana Moss. "We needed a table setter and she definitely filled that spot."

Julianne Tracy will add speed and play second base. All of the players raved about catcher Maddie Casello, who slides in for Gabby Basile and her strong arm. Catherine

Hickey will see time in left and Fallon McCarthy can add a power bat at third.

"I see a lot of potential in her," Palmeri said of Casello.

The Stanners see the same in themselves. Rosenbaum said she hasn't felt the difference of being the defending state champions, but believes that might change when games begin in a new five-team Brooklyn/Queens league that includes rivals St. Francis Prep and Mary Louis. Her players believe their experience in big games will help them deal with any pressure they feel.

It's not like they haven't done any of this before.

"Winning lets you know what it feels like to be at the top," Goldbach said. "So we definitely want to get back there again."

Molloy's Moss picks CW Post program

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Dana Moss knew for a long time where she wanted to go to college. For her, no other school seemed to compare. As a sophomore, the Archbishop Molloy star went to C.W. Post for a clinic and immediately fell in love.

"It was the first school I saw and every other school I saw after that didn't compare to it," she said.

Moss accepted a full scholarship to play softball at the Division II school in Brookdale, L.I., next season. She will join fellow Stanners and Sudden Impact travel ball teammate Maria Palmeri there. The two have known each other since they were 12.

"I think she pretty much played on every team that I have been on since I started," Palmeri said. "It feels really good to be able to share the next four years with her."

Moss, who plays first base and will try her hand at short this season, felt comfortable at C.W. Post, which features other members of the Sudden Impact program. She gets along well with head Coach Jamie Apicella and was impressed with the players' relationships.

"I just thought the campus was beautiful," she said. "It's not too far away from home, but it's not too

close, so I can commute whenever I want."

Moss, who is unsure what she will study in school, will join a program that went 41-16 overall last season and 20-8 in the ECC. The Pioneers, who are currently 8-8, made the Division II NCAA tournament for the 10th consecutive year last season and lost in the College World Series round after winning the East Super Regional.

"Dana is a very good player," Molloy Coach Maureen Rosenbaum said. "She is a modest player. She's just superb."

The three-year varsity player isn't boastful about her abilities or accomplishments on the field, even after helping the Stanners win their first-ever CHSAA state crown a year ago. Moss hit 8-of-11 with five runs scored and three RBIs in the Stanners' CHSAA city championship and state playoff games last season. She is a doubles machine at times and was impossible to get out late in the season.

"I have her in the fourth spot because she is the most reliable hitter," Rosenbaum said. "She always puts the bat on the ball. She very rarely strikes out. She will either hit line drives into the gap or hit for power."

Moss is experiment-
Continued on Page 50



Archbishop Molloy infielder Dana Moss will enroll in C.W. Post in the fall, joining a top-performing teammate. Photo by Denis Gostev

Terriers softball gears up

St. Francis Prep loses aces but gains youthful exuberance

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Ann Marie Rich is living a life of luxury she hasn't been used to in recent years.

The St. Francis Prep softball coach not only has reasons to feel excited for this season, but for beyond as well. Her Terriers lost plenty of talent from last year's squad, including ace Katie Derby. There is an influx of youth and pitching on its way.

"We lost a lot, but we feel like we've got good enough girls that know the game that want to be here to fill their spots," Nicole Lomangino said.

She is one of just two seniors and will take over as the No. 1 starter in the circle. Lomangino worked on refining her pitches after missing a bulk of last season with a severely sprained ankle. Unlike last year, where Derby, now at Post University, pitched the majority of the innings, she will have plenty of help. The Terriers staff will be deep with former JV ace sophomore Theresa Armano and junior backup Jackie Russo. Sophomore Maggie Aguirre has been a pleasant surprise. She throws hard and could be used late in games.

"It's been a while," Rich said. "It's been a long while since I had that."

The biggest holes SFP has to fill are in the batting order, with Derby and Kristen McGoldrick graduated and Victoria Slavik transferring to James Madison. The top will not be a problem with junior shortstop Danielle Cervasio. The slick fielder has established herself as one of city's top run creators with her legs and bat. She will be joined on the left side by Briana Emanuele.

"We are going to have hopefully a powerful lineup this year," Cervasio said. "We just have to put the ball in play."



Shortstop Danielle Cervasio will try to help a young SFP team unseat Molloy as CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens champs. Photo by Robert Cole

Russo will bat second and Emanuele third. Freshman Kelly Luchi, Jessica Menna and Lomangino will provide plenty of pop. Menna, who missed the bulk of last year with a leg injury, will split time at first base and catcher Luchi. Kayla Ward is back at second base along with Eishara Campbell in left and the speedy Tara O'Rourke in center. Aguirre could see time in right and Rich expects Alexa Calcagini to also bring

a consistent bat.

"We lost a lot of talent, but with the new girls coming in we also gained a lot," Campbell said.

The new faces are something SFP feels might help when it comes time to play league opponents early on. The Terriers will go back to playing CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens teams three times with Bishop Kearney and St. Edmund dropping to the 'A' league. St. Francis has been the bridesmaid to de-

fending CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens and CHSAA state champions Archbishop Molloy, which has won the last three diocesan crowns, but the girls believe they are closing in on changing that.

"I feel like every year we take another step toward them," Lomangino said. "I feel like this year we might be taking even more of a step because they don't know what we got."

Pathways

Continued from Page 47

undefeated in its division this season and lost for the first time all season Sunday. It is a school with an enrollment of just 900, where students learn English as a second language.

While Newcomers fell, Pathways now advances to the New York State Federation tournament in Albany

with a semifinals matchup set for Friday against Long Island Lutheran.

If the Trailblazers fall, it could be his last game at the Queens school. The 18-year-old Washington said he may play at South Kent prep school in Connecticut next year, though he'd still be eligible to play in the PSAL.

Washington is also

highly sought after as he's received college scholarship offers from schools such as Louisville, Miami and Villanova. While the future remains unclear for the star, he's content with just enjoying the championship win.

"It was so important [to win back-to-back championships]," Washington said. "I wanted it for my seniors, they're gonna go to states and do what they gotta do."

Scholars

Continued from Page 47

and stayed aggressive."

Bedford was paced by Eleasha Wiggins, who put up a team-high 11 points in the loss while Briana Perlmutter and Alexis Foster each added 10.

Glaz, Gallagher and Michaels led Scholars Academy for most of the game before Michaels hit her head on the floor while going after a loose ball and caught an elbow to the cheek sidelining her for the rest of the game. Glaz and Gallagher continued to dominate the scoreboard after the loss of Michaels.

Even though Scholars

Academy lost four of five starters from last season, it was able to put together a solid, hard-working team to bring the school its second title in three years, handing Bedford its first loss of the year.

"Four out of the five starters [from last season] are gone, so now it's a new group of girls winning the championship," Glaz said. "We all have skill, so we put those skills together to win a championship and that's what we did."

One of the greatest motivators behind the Seawolves' championship run came from former assistant Coach Claire Droesch, who is battling Stage 4 breast cancer and was in the stands for Scholars Acad-

emy, inspiring them to victory.

"She brings a lot of motivation to us," Glaz said. "She's great and very supportive and always there for us, especially with what she's going through it gave us the motivation to win for her."

Scholars Academy will now travel to Albany to play in the New York State Federation tournament semifinals Friday against Long Island Lutheran. Droesch will be in attendance for that game as she was Sunday.

"They've been supportive of me," Droesch said. "So I felt I had to be here to support them."

Queens College baseball splits doubleheader

Junior second baseman Rob Bernardo went 3-for-6 with a double, triple, three runs and three RBIs Sunday afternoon at Ray Metski Field, helping the Queens College baseball team to capture a doubleheader split against visiting Bloomfield College.

Sophomore pitcher Matthew Cascello got a 10-3 victory in the opening contest before the Deacons evened the score by a 4-3 margin in the nightcap.

Game 1: Queens 10, Bloomfield 3

Cascello moved to 3-0 on the season with a complete-game eight-hitter with two walks and as many strikeouts, and he got all the offensive support he would need in a five-run third frame by the hosts. Junior outfielder Warren Kelly capped the scoring in the inning when his sacrifice fly scored Bernardo to push the QC advantage to 5-0.

Junior Anthony Mazzella, of Wantagh, L.I., brought Kelly home on a RBI single in the fifth inning, and came home five

batters later on Varela's left-side base knock.

Game 2: Bloomfield 4, Queens 3

After taking a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Salanitri scored on a RBI single by freshman Nick LoBello, the Deacons (7-9) scored two unearned runs in the top of the second to take a 2-1 lead.

Queens (5-6) tied the game in the third and again in the fifth, but the Deacons later took the lead for good in the sixth inning.

Moss

Continued from Page 49

ing with a new position at shortstop this season with the graduations of Marissa Puzino and Alanna Gallagher. She will play there instead of first when

Palmeri, the regular shortstop, is pitching. While she is still learning the intricacies of the position, her smarts, speed and athletic ability make her the best candidate in Rosenbaum's mind.

"I think she will fill in fine," the coach said. "She

just has to get used to it."

There was no apprehension when it came to Moss' college decision. That was made up a long time ago.

"I knew from the first time I saw C.W. Post that was the school for me," Moss said.

St. John's star freshman leaving for NBA Draft

St. John's star Moe Harkless, the 2011-12 Big East Rookie of the Year and the only league freshman to be named an All-Big East honorable mention selection, announced Monday that he intends to forego the remainder of his collegiate career and enter the 2012 NBA Draft.

"Moe has chosen to take the next step in his career to pursue his dream of playing in the NBA. Moe

and his mother Rosa know that we are thankful for his contributions to the St. John's basketball program and respect his wishes to pursue a professional playing career," said St. John's head Coach Steve Lavin in a release.

Harkless, a guard/forward, is expected to become the first basketball player of the Lavin Era at St. John's to be selected in the NBA Draft. From 1997-

2006, a total of 13 players signed or coached by Lavin became NBA Draft choices.

"It has been my lifelong dream to play in the NBA, and I am excited to have that opportunity to make the jump," said Harkless. "I am grateful to my teammates and coaches at St. John's. I would like to thank Coach Lavin, our staff and my teammates for being there for me throughout the whole season."

Easy #56								
9	1	4	2	8	5	3	7	6
8	5	6	9	3	7	4	2	1
2	3	7	1	6	4	5	9	8
5	6	1	3	4	2	7	8	9
3	8	9	7	1	6	2	5	4
4	7	2	5	9	8	6	1	3
1	4	5	6	7	9	8	3	2
7	9	8	4	2	3	1	6	5
6	2	3	8	5	1	9	4	7

Week 12

Hard #56								
2	5	3	4	9	8	1	7	6
7	8	4	1	2	6	9	5	3
6	9	1	3	5	7	2	8	4
4	6	8	9	7	2	5	3	1
5	7	2	8	1	3	4	6	9
1	3	9	6	4	5	7	2	8
9	2	6	7	3	4	8	1	5
8	1	5	2	6	9	3	4	7
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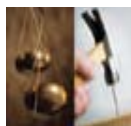
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ANTONIS LLC, a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/19/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Maria Spentouris, 34-20 31 Street, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

FAST BOX, LLC App. for Auth. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 2/24/2012. LLC was organized in CA on 4/12/2011. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to 2245 Colorado Blvd., #104, Pasadena, CA 91107, Which is also the required office in CA. Cert. of Org. filed with SSCA, 1500 11TH St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Name of LLC: Douglass St. Records LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 2/24/12. Office loc.: Queens Co. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o Myles Rodenhouse, 2557 14th St., 2nd Fl., Astoria, NY 11102, regd. agt. upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of formation of 7A PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/23/11. Office loc.: Queens County. The principal business loc. is 95-60 Queens Blvd., Ste. 300, Rego Park NY 11374. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Robert B. Levine, 1431 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. Mgmt. of the LLC shall be by one or more members. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of JOE'S COFFEE SHOP, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/20/2012. Office location, County of Queens. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 41-25 20th Avenue, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: any lawful act

Notice of Formation of LAST I HEARD HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/28/12. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: c/o Gerard Marrone, 66-85 73rd Pl., 2nd Fl., Middle Village, NY 11379. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served.

► LEGAL

SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: ARTISOUND, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/27/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 44-02 23rd ST, SUITE 414 LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11101. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: YONDAR 1, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/01/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 58-32 217th Street, Bay-side, New York 11364. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: WOODSHIDE MEHRA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/01/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC C/O PROFESSIONAL CONSORTIUM LTD., 13 EAST 16TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10003. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: LOTTERY TOOLBOX LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/26/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LEON BENJAMIN 8250 135TH STREET APT 2D BRIARWOOD, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: HDK REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/27/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 40-19 154th Street, Flushing, New York 11354. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SAU Ho, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/12/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC 8604 104 St. Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Nine Ten LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 12/29/11. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 231-09 87th Ave., Bellerose Manor, NY 11427. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of ROZABURANA TAXI LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/27/12. Off. loc.: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 101-03 80th St., 1st Fl., Ozone Park, NY 11416. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Qualification of SECAC Tunnel Co., LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 2/15/12. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in DE on 2/14/12. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business addr.: c/o Michael A. Capasso, 54-08 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101. DE addr. of LLC: c/o The Corporation Trust Co., 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

RBC CONTRACTING LLC a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/21/11. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 36-25 12th St., Long Island City, NY 11106. General Purposes.

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Note-taking is also necessary in the business world, but despite its importance in higher learning, not much study has gone into the correlation between note-taking and performance improvement. As a result, statistics supporting the importance of effective note-taking do not exist.

It stands to reason that the student who takes good notes, and studies well from them, has a sporting chance to improve his or her grades over others with poor notes. Learning Note-taking It may not seem as such, but note-taking can almost be a lesson all its own.

Some elementary and high-school teachers attempt to teach strategies for taking notes, including developing outlines, but many students still struggle to maintain the essentials as they move through school. It can be confusing knowing just how much to write down without creating a novel or having notes so scant that they provide little information when it comes time to study.

There are many systems of note-taking that a student can learn. These include using graphic representations to map out interconnected concepts. Outlines or charts can group terminology together with related ideas. There are other techniques that use cue words to trigger recollection of facts and dates.

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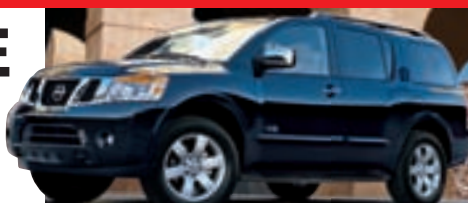
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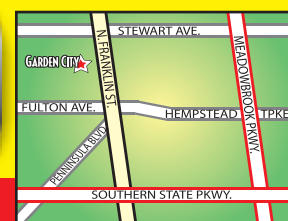


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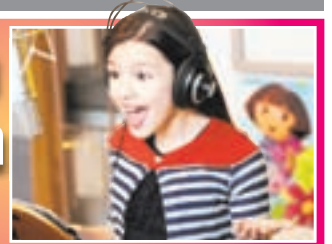
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QGuide Page 27



Sacred Heart alumni help out orphans

BY PHIL CORSO

These teens loved books so much that they decided to share over 1,500 of them with orphans in the Philippines. Chris Wren and Maggie Cash looked to their former Bayside school to help collect books for "Reading Rocks the World," a donation campaign they helped start.

"Our goals were really to just help the less fortunate and try to give them the opportunities that we so luckily have," 17-year-old Wren said. "Our generation really takes all of the privileges we have for granted and we wanted to give back to the community."

Wren and Cash joined with Liz Gold of Manhasset to form the organization last year, initially setting out to donate children's books to a poor village in the Philippines. With help from their former school, Bay side's Sacred Heart School, the students sent over 3,500 books to the village.

"We came up with this idea because it was something that was simple," Cash, 16, said. "Our families and friends were great contributors, but our old school and Principal Farrell were really key players in this project."

The students credited much of their success to Sacred Heart Principal Dennis Farrell, who said he was more of a middle-

Continued on Page 16



FLOWER POWER

Julia Merdjan works with dried flowers and glue to create art that is worthy of framing during a workshop at the Bayside Historical Society. See more photos at www.timesledger.com. Photo by Steven Malecki

Ackerman seat sets off race by three Dems

GOP announces shortlist of candidates

BY JOE ANUTA

Democrats across the borough were left scratching their heads over the whirlwind of political activity centered around U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman's (D-Bayside) retirement announcement last week and the ensuing political clamor that ended in the announcement of at least three campaigns.

Ackerman shocked the entire political establishment at 7:30 p.m. last Thursday when he sent out a news

release that he would not seek re-election after 34 years in office.

On Tuesday afternoon, Ackerman said he had gone back and forth before making the final decision, but that he held out to make sure exited on his own terms.

Ackerman's retirement left

the Queens Democrats stunned, according to insiders, who said that even the party's leader, Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), was not aware of the veteran politician's plans.

Crowley had planned to endorse Ackerman Friday morning.

The announcement also set Republicans searching for a candidate of their own. According

to a source in the party, the shortlist includes City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone); Juan Reyes,

president of Forest Hills Republican club; and J.D. Kim, a lawyer with a practice in Long Island.

On the Democrat side, several names were bandied about over the weekend as to who Crowley would anoint as the party's

Continued on Page 16

**Congressman explains
decision
PAGE 4**

New tools help students learn

Little Neck school expands bike shop where kids pick up trade skills

BY PHIL CORSO

A new \$2,000 grant has helped one Little Neck school get in gear as it continues to prepare special needs students for real-world job opportunities.

The grant comes courtesy of the Lowe's Toolbox for Education program, which awarded 25 schools in New York, including Little Neck's PS 811, at 61-25 Marathon Pkwy.

"By supporting schools in New York, we are rallying behind a cause that is important to both our customers and employees, and we're helping to build a stronger foundation for the children who will be tomorrow's employees, homeowners and community leaders," said Marshall Croom, chairman of Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, in a statement.

The school's in-house bicycle repair shop used the money for tools and storage to make its new program more dynamic for both its students and the community.

Principal Penny Ryan said it was a win-win situation because not only do the students benefit by learning a new trade, but local bikers also have a no-cost alternative for servicing their bikes.

"We try to design programs that fit the desires and needs of the students," Ryan said. "We're so excited and grateful to have Lowe's working with the



Occupational Therapist Ralph Avellino helps Juan Carlos Aldea service a bike inside PS 811's new shop. A \$2,000 grant will go towards new tools for the students. By Phil Corso

school."

Students work closely with occupational therapist Ralph Avellino, who guides different lessons in teamwork and independent problem-solving. Avellino said the initiative included much more than fixing bikes and filling tires with air.

"It's here to get the kids jobs and teach them skills," Avellino said. "Hopefully, we can get more kids involved as the program grows, with help from this grant."

Fewer than 10 students work regularly in the bike shop currently.

Assistant Principal Janet Healy applied for and received the grant from the Lowe's program and said the money was going to a worthy cause. She donated

her own Schwinn bicycle to the shop for servicing and said it came back in top-notch shape.

The shop was established last year and operated with only "nuts and bolts" in the beginning, recycling used parts taken from faculty and student bicycles and Avellino's personal tools. One year later, with help from the Lowe's grant, it has acquired several community bikes, new tools and more space to work.

"Now they can do a more complete job," Assistant Principal Diana Parisy said. "The goal is to allow them to use their time here to prepare for a field they enjoy."

Parisy said the program was working with local bike shops in the area

to explore internship possibilities so students can take their learned skills into the working world.

Avellino said it typically takes three to four hours for his students to progress from needing hands-on instructions to independent work on the bikes. With a background in construction, he said working hands-on with the students was like a second career for him.

And, according to Ryan, the results are there.

"To see the kids grow is extremely rewarding," Ryan said.

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

Douglaston cheers its new (old) streets

BY PHIL CORSO

The people of Douglaston know their history. Even more so, they embrace it.

A law passed last week officially restored six streets in Douglaston to their original names, axing the numbered grid system the area had used since the 1920s.

City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) introduced the bill with overwhelming support from Douglaston residents and leaders, which was passed unanimously by the Council.

"Douglaston is one of the most unique neighborhoods in our city," Halloran said in a statement. "Its history and heritage are well worth remembering. This bill pays homage to the neighborhood's history by restoring street names to the way they were hundreds of years ago."

Halloran said Mayor Michael Bloomberg should sign the legislation by the end of the month.

The restoration will cost the city \$3,400 in taxpayer dollars to change signs and addresses for the various GPS systems and governmental departments, and Halloran said it was a "reasonable price tag" for the outcome.

A press conference at the corner of 44th Avenue and 243rd Street last Thursday marked the official restoration of the Douglaston street names. Several supporting community leaders in Douglaston, including Community Board 11 Chairman Jerry Iannece, joined the councilman.

"This shows how great northeast Queens is," Iannece said. "It's been a long time coming. This is a wonderful day for Douglaston."

Elliot Socci, president of the Douglaston Civic As-

Continued on Page 16



Councilman Dan Halloran (r.) declares Douglaston's streets as officially restored to their historical names in the company of community leaders. By Phil Corso

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Nuts, bolts and hoops align for Fresh Meadows teens

High school robotics club builds basketball machine for competition at Javits Center in Manhattan

BY RICH BOCKMANN

For a team of competitors from Francis Lewis High School, developing the perfect basketball shot is all about mastering the mechanics.

Students from the Fresh Meadows school's robotics club built a towering, basketball-tossing, bridge-balancing machine in preparation for this past weekend, when they faced off against teams from across the world in the "Rebound Rumble" at the 2012 First Robotics Competition at the Jacob Javits center in Manhattan.

The students had just six weeks to build their machines after the competition told them what the robots would be required to do.

"We decided to go with a simple but efficient de-

sign," said Douglas "Chu-Chu Train" Chu, who operated his machine's shooting mechanism as teammate Patryk Pietraszko navigated with a remote control.

"Simple" may have been a relative term for Chu. His team's machine used a spinning wheel of rubber surgical tubes to scoop up loose basketballs, which are fed up to a shooter that can launch the ball at different preset speeds Chu controlled with a remote. It even had a sonar sensor to tell the team how far away from the basket they were.

During each match, six teams placed their robots inside an arena separated in the middle by three see-saw-like bridges and a three-tiered ball of hoops on either side.

The students controlled their machines from



Francis Lewis High School students Douglas Chu (l.) and Patryk Pietraszko operate their basketball-shooting machine during the Rebound Rumble competition.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

behind glass walls on either side, and scored points for making a basket, defending one or by balancing their robot on a bridge, which is no easy task. The teams do not know the weight of the bridge beforehand, so unlike shooting baskets, it is not something they can

practice.

Chu said his team calculated their best chance at sinking a basket was from a distance of 12.6 feet.

After dropping about six baskets, they were able to balance on a bridge for 10 points.

"It started tipping and

I let go of the pressure," said Pietraszko, who explained he got help from another team that received points for cooperation. "I'm really happy it worked."

Teams from about a dozen Queens high schools participated in the robot rumble.

Long Island City High School junior Zoe Rosenbaum and her team, the LIC Robodogs, built a device that feeds the balls up to a ramp and then drops them in the basket. This was the biggest event of the year for the school's robotics club, and she said she enjoys the time spent raising funds and building the machine as much as she does competing.

"You get to hang out with everyone and create something cool that works," she said. "You get to do what you want to. It's

just a really good feeling."

The team earned additional points for their safety captains, students donning pink bubble wrap reminding teammates to wear their safety goggles.

"They take on the persona of 'safety first,'" said junior Rohit Sharma.

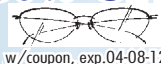
The team from John Adams High School in Ozone Park developed a robot that scooped a basketball up from the ground, and like a pitching machine threw it out the top with a high arc that would draw praise from any high school coach.

Sophomore Esteban Rosario said he has been into robotics ever since he was a kid, when he and his father, who studied to be an electrical engineer, would play with radio-controlled cars.

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Queens delegation split over redistricting

Only two Assembly members vote against plan, but all boro's senators oppose new election lines

BY JOE ANUTA

The contentious redistricting process that changed political representation in Queens came to a close Monday when a federal judge signed off on the new congressional lines, days after Gov. Andrew Cuomo did the same at the state level.

Queens lawmakers from the state Assembly largely voted to approve the state lines, while those from the state Senate unanimously opposed it.

A panel of judges overseeing the congressional lines approved the plan drawn up by the magistrate judge, Roanne Mann, with little changes.

Reaction to the state and congressional maps was drastically different, with independent groups and elected officials blasting the state lines as gerrymandered to keep Sen-

ate Republicans in power, while praising the congressional lines drawn by a court-appointed judge as fairly drawn.

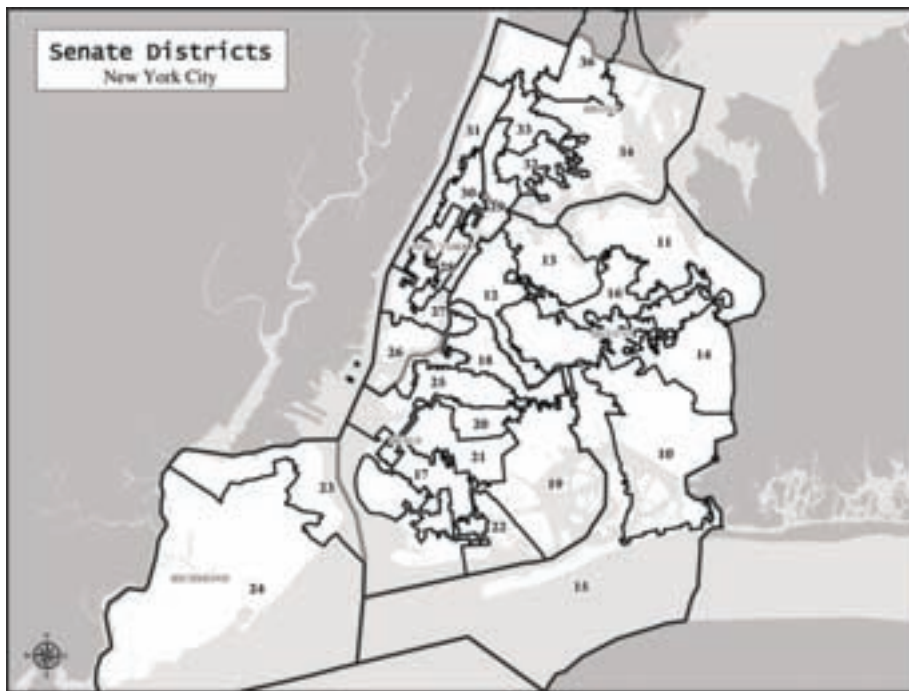
"The bad guys won," said Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria), who led a call for the process to be taken care of by an independent commission.

Gianaris was part of the group of Queens lawmakers in the Senate who opposed the legislation and even walked out of a late-night discussion of the bill along with Democrats from around the state before it was eventually passed without their support.

Senate Democrats are also suing over a 63rd seat that was created upstate.

Gianaris voted against the state lines, as did all the Queens lawmakers in the Senate, according to records from the state Legislature.

But in the Assembly, it



A map of the controversial state Senate lines approved by both branches of the state Legislature last week. Image courtesy LATFOR

was just the opposite: Nearly every Queens lawmaker voted in favor of the lines,

according to the bill.

Some said they voted for the new lines because

they were fair, or because of another bill that provided a constitutional amendment

to reform the redistricting process next time around in 2022.

Cuomo also signed that bill after it passed, which stipulates that an independent commission will be created after the next census in order to take power of redistricting out of the hands of the Legislature in an effort to circumvent gerrymandering.

Cuomo also passed a law that will ensure that the amendment sticks.

But Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) said the constitutional amendment is not enough.

Simotas, along with Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Little Neck), were the only two members of the Queens delegation in the Assembly to vote against the lines.

"If the Senate lines weren't so hyper-political, perhaps I would have re-
Continued on Page 46

After scandal grips Wyckoff former CFO sues for payback

BY REBECCA HENELY

A former Wyckoff Heights Medical Center chief financial officer is suing the medical center to obtain severance pay, saying he had nothing to do with an account set up to bribe late state Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio, according to court documents.

Judge Elaine Slobod, of Orange County Supreme Court in upstate New York, granted partial summary judgment March 12 for Wah-chung Hsu, who once lived in the hamlet of Highland Mills, saying in court documents that Wyckoff was in breach of contract when it did not pay him sev-

erance after firing him.

Hsu, who now works for Seton Medical Center in Daly City, Calif., was once the chief financial officer for Wyckoff and was fired in the wake of a corruption scandal surrounding Seminerio that landed the Richmond Hill Democrat in prison.

Seminerio had pleaded guilty in June 2009 to taking more than \$300,000 from Jamaica Hospital administrators to work on behalf of its interests in Albany, and died in January 2011 in the first year of serving a six-year prison sentence in North Carolina.

David Rosen, former chief executive officer of Medisys and Jamaica Hos-

pital, was found guilty in September of ordering the company to pay off Seminerio and is awaiting sentencing in May.

Federal prosecutors had contended Seminerio took bribes from numerous city and state agencies through his phony consulting agency, Marc Consultants. Some October 2009 court documents said Marc Consultants received payments in 2000 and 2001 from an account named 397 Himrod, which was actually owned by Wyckoff, which is located in Bushwick and serves many Queens residents.

Dominick Gio, then chief executive officer of
Continued on Page 46

Ackerman hoped to keep district safe before exiting

BY JOE ANUTA

U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-Bayside) wove stories from his youth and more than 30 years as a New York lawmaker into an explanation as to why he abruptly decided to leave office at the end of his term last Thursday.

"I guess retiring catches everybody by surprise," Ackerman said during a conference call. "I've given it my best shot. I've enjoyed almost every moment of every day of it. At 69 years old, if I were going to have an Act 4, I can't think of a better time to do that."

As of Jan. 2, 2013, the last day of Ackerman's term, other House members



U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman stunned the political world with the announcement he will retire at the end of his term, which ends early next year.

will no longer see him pull up in his 1966 Plymouth Valiant nor see him walk the halls of Congress wearing his signature white carnation boutonniere.

During his stays in Washington, D.C., the congressman lived on a house-

boat called "Unsinkable II," after his first boat did not live up to its name.

Ackerman sat on a variety of foreign affairs committees and traveled the globe in his capacity as a congressman.

Continued on Page 46

GOP candidates vie for Gillibrand's seat

BY STEVE MOSCO

With opponents emerging and the statewide primary set for June, U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's (D-N.Y.) stand to defend her seat begins now.

U.S. Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village) decided to challenge Gillibrand for her Senate seat after it became apparent redistricting would eliminate the 9th Congressional District, which he won in a special election after Rep. Anthony Weiner stepped down amid a highly publicized sexting scandal.

When the district lines were redrawn, many believed that Turner would challenge Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) in a battle for southern Queens. Instead, Turner made a late entry into the race for Gillibrand's seat and picked up enough support at the state Republican convention to force a primary against two other opponents.

Jessica Proud, a spokeswoman for Turner's campaign, said he entered the race late because preliminary redistricting maps indicated his district would be preserved.

"We look forward to drawing the distinction between Turner and the other candidates," she said. "Bob sent shockwaves with his win last year and he feels strongly about continuing his mission on a statewide level."

Two other candidates from the Republican ranks — Manhattan lawyer Wendy Long and Nassau Coun-

ty Comptroller George Maragos — have stepped up to oppose Gillibrand after each one nabbed the necessary 25 percent at the GOP committee members' vote to qualify for the June 26 primary ballot.

Democrats nominated Gillibrand for re-election Monday and the senator will run for her first full, six-year term. The former upstate Congress member won a special election in 2010 to fill the remainder of Hillary Clinton's term, which ends this year, after being appointed to the seat by then-Gov. David Patterson.

Wendy Long won the Conservative Party nomination later Monday with 91 percent of the vote. Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long — no relation — said the Conservative nominee was chosen because of her stark contrast with Gillibrand on policies.

"She [Gillibrand] was very moderate in Congress. She went to the Senate and suddenly she became very liberal," said Mike Long, who believes the Conservative candidate can raise enough money for a serious run and make this a very close race. "[Wendy] Long is a conservative scholar, and she can relate to and articulate the issues important to the state and the U.S."

Wendy Long served as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York City, and then for Justice Clarence Thomas on the U.S.

Continued on Page 46



Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos, (l.-r.) U.S. Rep. Bob Turner and Manhattan lawyer Wendy Long are slated to run in the Republican primary in June for Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's seat.

AP Photos/David Duprey (l. and r.)

LIRR mulls Elmhurst stop

Agency has cash, but will study demand for extra stop at behest of pols

BY REBECCA HENELY

If you build it, will they come? That is the question Long Island Rail Road President Helena Williams is asking.

In response to two Queens legislators' campaign to reopen the Elmhurst train station that closed in 1985, Williams said it is economically feasible, but the LIRR needs to do a study to see if residents would be willing to pay the more expensive fares for a train while there are subway lines and buses in the area.

"Would it attract the ridership?" Williams asked at a news conference last Thursday with U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) and City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights).

Williams visited the intersection of Whitney and Cornish avenues, which was once the site of the train station along the Port Washington line. At the conference, which ended with a walking tour of



U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (l.-r.), City Councilman Daniel Dromm and Long Island Rail Road President Helena Williams go on a walking tour of the former Elmhurst Station. Photo by Christina Santucci

the station, Crowley pointed out that the overpass for the train still contains the buttresses where the station once sat.

He said if the station, which closed in 1985 due to a decline in ridership, were to be reopened, it would provide a faster, more comfortable ride into Manhattan.

"Elmhurst deserves this railroad station," Dromm said.

The station would provide a stop between the Woodside and Mets-Willets Point stations.

Williams said reopening the station would cost at least \$20 million, and that number could be bumped

up to \$30 million if the station became handicapped-accessible.

Nevertheless, she said that after looking at its 2010-14 capital program, the agency found it was feasible, especially in light of track extensions near Great Neck and Port Washington. *Continued on Page 46*

U.S. visas available for trafficking victims

BY REBECCA HENELY

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Long Island City hosted a forum Tuesday to get the word out about legal options for immigrants who have been victims of human trafficking, abuse or domestic violence.

"We know there are victims out there and there is help available," said Andrea Quarantillo, district director of USCIS for New York City, at the office at 27-35 Jackson Ave.

Scott Whelan, of the USCIS's office of policy and strategy, said there are three ways that can help



Immigration law professor Julie Dinnerstein (l.-r.) and USCIS employees Lynn Boudreau, Scott Whelan and Andrea Quarantillo discuss at a forum avenues available to immigrants who are victims of sex trafficking and other crimes. Photo by Rebecca Henely

immigrants who have been victimized.

First, T visas allow victims of all types of trafficking — forced labor,

sexual or involuntary servitude — to stay and work in the United States on a temporary basis.

Whelan said many vic-

tims of this underground crime end up dead.

"Human trafficking is a brutal crime," he said.

A U visa is available for victims of abuse and other crimes, Whelan said. Immigrants who suffer from domestic violence, both female and male, also can apply for legal status without having to go through their abusive spouse under the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act.

"There are avenues for them to come forward," said Lynn Boudreau, USCIS's assistant center director for the Vermont Service Center.

Continued on Page 46

Judge: City must pay \$128M in minority FDNY suit

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Four federal court appointees have until April 12 to make their recommendations to a Brooklyn judge as to how to mete out approximately \$128 million the city was ordered to pay to a pool of more than 2,000 minority candidates who were discriminated against by the FDNY.

In his 64-page decision rendered earlier this month, U.S. Eastern District Judge Nicholas Garaufis named Steven Cohen, former counselor and chief of staff to then-U.S. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, and three federal prosecutors as special masters in the case, which found the city Fire Department's hiring practices to be discriminatory

toward black and Hispanic applicants.

In previous rulings on the lawsuit, Garaufis called the under-representation of black and other minorities among the FDNY's ranks as the "one persistent stain on the Fire Department's record."

According to the lawsuit, which was originally brought against the city

by the federal government, thousands of black and Hispanic candidates who took either one of two written, multiple-choice exams between 1999 and 2007 are eligible for a portion of the millions in monetary relief, which was calculated in terms of lost or delayed wages.

The federal government estimated that there

are 2,200 black and Hispanic applicants who are eligible to divide up the award.

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



A federal judge has ruled the city must compensate minority applicants who were discriminated against by the FDNY.

Photo by Christina Santucci

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NYCLU blasts Brown over his interrogations

BY REBECCA HENELY AND PHILIP NEWMAN

The New York Civil Liberties Union has criticized Queens District Attorney Richard Brown for interrogating people accused of crimes before they are arraigned or have consulted a lawyer, saying it is unethical and unconstitutional.

A spokeswoman for the DA's office said the office declined to comment while the matter was being litigated.

The NYCLU took issue with Brown in a legal brief Tuesday that concerned three cases before the State of New York Appellate Division, Second Department, brought by people who were subjected to questioning before arraignment.

Besides the defendants in these three cases, thousands of people too poor to afford a lawyer have been interrogated by the Queens DA under this program, which has been in operation since 2007, the NYCLU said.

"The district attorney's program violates constitutional and ethical protections that are designed to ensure fundamental

fairness and balance in the criminal justice system," said Taylor Pendergras, senior staff attorney of the NYCLU. "Any program where legally trained prosecutors intercept unrepresented suspects on their way to court and direct them into an interrogation room is unconstitutional and unethical. The program should be ended immediately."

A source close to the DA's office said the program was instituted to ensure that the charges levied against the defendants were correct and that the innocent are never wrongfully accused.

In the interview process, the subject is informed of his or her Miranda rights, the interview does not occur until the subject waives them and no defendant who is represented by an attorney or invokes his or her right to counsel is interviewed, the source said. The interview is video recorded from beginning to end, the source said.

Many choose not to go through the interview process, but others wish to explain their side of the story, the source said. The process

Continued on Page 36



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By Dr. C. Hammoud Ph.D.

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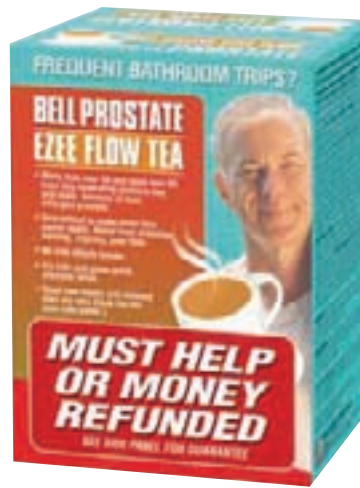
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year to 2.9; after 3rd year to 2.3. I highly recommend the tea. A real life saver. *Thomas M. Thurston, Forsyth, GA.* **People's phone numbers on our website.**

High Blood Pressure?

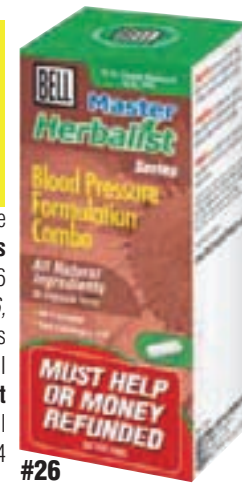
High blood pressure is called the silent killer. If your BP is higher than normal, try to get it down to about 120/80. For many people it is easy to control. If it does not work for you we refund your money. On our website you will find over 50 testimonials with full names and towns from all over USA and Canada. Most of them have listed phone numbers and are happy to talk about the relief they had. No money was paid for testimonials.

Dr. C. Hammoud M.H., Ph.D. recommends this effective fish peptide blood pressure natural product. So does **Dr. Julian Whitaker M.D.** ■ **I was on 3 blood pressure drugs** that did not work well. After starting Bell #26 my readings are generally well below 120/80. *Dona A. Anderson, 76, Sooke, BC* ■ **My blood pressure was 157/90** and I had side effects from prescription drugs. I bought a monitor. After 6 months on Bell #26 I was down to 120/80. *Toni L. McCuiston, 52, Elizabethtown, PA* ■ **At work my driver's medical** test was too high at 170/100. After taking Bell #26 for a few days I went down to 128/84 which allowed me to pass my work medical. *Kris Geier, 48, Windsor, ON.* **All products guaranteed to work.**



#14

Bell Prostate Ezee Flow Tea, HDL Cholesterol Management, Blood Pressure Combo and Stem Cell Activator. I love your products. They all work for me. Great results. That's all that matters. *Basil Richards, 49, S.W. Ranches, FL* ■ **20 years of high cholesterol alleviated!** I had high cholesterol for 20 years and drugs didn't agree with me. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 for 6 months I had a check-up and was surprised about the big improvement. I was delighted and extremely happy and so was my doctor. *Norma Hrysiou, 65, Lac Du Bonnet, MB.* **We supply TRUE EVIDENCE.**



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POLICE Blotter

Cops need people's help searching for teen, 14

COLLEGE POINT — The NYPD was seeking the public's assistance in locating a teenage male who was last seen March 7 at his home in College Point.

Police said 14-year-old Wai Man Ng was last seen inside his home, at 25-09 College Point Blvd., around 8 a.m. March 7 wearing a blue jacket, blue jeans and white sneakers. He is described as 5 feet, 3 inches



WAI MAN NG

tall and weighing 120 pounds.

Anyone with information about Ng is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS. The public can also submit their tips by logging on to the Crime Stoppers website at nypdcrimestoppers.com or texting their tips to 274637(CRIMES) then enter TIP577.

Police seek missing boro female teen, 16



YU DAI

FLUSHING — The NYPD was seeking the public's assistance in locating a female teenager who was last seen March 15 at her home in Flushing.

Police said 16-year-old Yu Dai was last seen at her home, at 132-29 Blossom Ave., around 3 a.m. March 15 wearing a gray jacket and blue jeans. She is described as 5 feet, 5 inches tall and

weighing 105 pounds.

Anyone with information about Dai is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS. The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website at nypdcrimestoppers.com or texting their tips to 274637(CRIMES) then enter TIP577.

Husband charged with robbing wife

FLUSHING — A woman was slapped and had her handbag stolen while walking down the street earlier this month, but police did not have to look far for who they said is the culprit.

On March 1 at about 8 a.m., a woman was on 37th Avenue near Union Street when police said her husband slapped her across the face.

Cher Budhathoki, 34, then ripped a

handbag containing credit cards and a phone off the woman's arm and ran away, police said.

The woman returned home to find the ripped handbag on the couple's kitchen table, but the cellphone and credit cards were missing, according to the NYPD.

Budhathoki was later arrested and charged with robbery, police said.

Teen pack steals woman's iPhone: Police

FLUSHING — A woman lost one coveted piece of Apple technology but kept another after suffering a beating from three teens earlier this month, police said.

On March 2, a 30-year-old woman was on 45th Avenue at around 1:10 p.m. when she was approached by the pack of teens, which included Steven Arenas, 16, Shaquille Mckoy, 17 and Valerie Sanchez, 16, police said.

One of the youngsters snatched the woman's iPhone, and when she tried to get it back, the trio began to punch her in the face and then slammed her head into a car, police said.

The iCloud's silver lining was that the woman also dropped her iPod, which she recovered before she was treated for lacerations to the face.

The three teens were charged with

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Pothole paver machine makes Flushing debut

BY STEVE MOSCO

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the city Department of Transportation unveiled a new machine in Flushing intended to make the city's pesky pothole problem less prevalent this spring.

Joined by DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan on 34th Road between Union and Leavitt streets, Bloomberg launched the start of road-paving season with a demonstration of the Python — a new machine currently being tested — which is designed to fill potholes with fewer crew members and only block one lane of traffic when making road repairs.

Bloomberg said the new technology will help keep workers safe, while causing less congestion on city roads.

"Keeping our streets in good condition is essential to our economy and to our quality of life, and that's why we are always looking for ways to do the job more efficiently," Bloomberg said. "We're debuting new technology to repair city streets faster while closing less lanes to traffic."

Last year was especially hard on city roads, since extreme winter weather required DOT crews to fill a record 418,000 potholes citywide. The mild temperatures of the past

few months have enabled city crews to get a jump on street repairs, as the DOT has already filled 164,000 potholes and resurfaced 650 lane miles across the city so far this fiscal year.

According to Sadik-Khan, the early start on road paving season has given the DOT the opportunity to test new technologies aimed at streamlining road repairs and creating more environmentally friendly techniques.

"While the DOT crews work to repair streets across the city, we're testing new technology that can help achieve smoother streets in faster, more efficient ways," she said. "By applying innovative techniques to street repairs, we are stepping up our efforts to make sure our roadways continue to be in a state of good repair."

The city is currently renting the Python for up to three months at a cost of \$2,500 per month. After the initial testing phase, the city will assess the benefits of the machine and the DOT will decide whether or not to move forward with the technology.

The Python pothole filling machine uses a telescoping arm to place and compact the material used for pothole repairs. It is operated by a single crew member and allows for

Continued on Page 36



Mayor Michael Bloomberg And DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan watch a demonstration of the Python - the city's new pothole filling machine in Flushing. Photo Steve Mosco

It's a spring break bummer

Fire at Vaughn College might force flight students back to school



The city's Bravest respond to an electrical fire at Vaughn College that knocked out power to the building and left some students without a spring break. Photo by Joe Anuta

BY JOE ANUTA

The driver of a delivery truck who ran into some exposed electrical lines at Vaughn College last week did more than cause a small explosion and fire — that driver may have also destroyed spring break.

"Somebody ruined our vacation," said first-semester student Lucas Gomez. "No fair."

The bummer began just after 10 a.m. March 14, when a driver delivering materials to a construction site at the aeronautics and technical school did not see a set of cones blocking a hole in the ground, according to FDNY Battalion 49 Chief Jim Kane.

A portion of the truck landed on some exposed wires, which caused a small explosion and a fire to break out in the hole, Kane said.

In addition, a fire broke out inside the college's electrical room, he said, which caused the entire building to lose power.

The city's Bravest responded in minutes and extinguished the first set of flames while the sprinkler system took care of the fire inside, according to Kane.



Firefighters stand outside Vaughn College soon after the blaze was extinguished. Photo by Joe Anuta

But the sprinklers did not shut off, and the continued spray of water created thick black smoke that rose from the small school and wafted throughout a portion of the building where no one was attending class, Kane said.

There were no injuries reported, according to the FDNY — at least, no physical injuries.

Some students might have to make up classes during the school's spring break, which runs from March 19-25, according to a school spokesman.

In addition to aeronautics and engineering courses, the college also offers an airplane mechanic school, called the Aviation Training Institute, spokesman

choice words for the driver of the delivery truck.

"He should make up the classes for us," said first-semester student Kevin Holguin.

And to add insult to injury, the school was shut down for the rest of the week while Con Edison attempted to restore power to the building, meaning that for other students spring break started a half-week early.

Students said after alarms went off inside the school, professors and classmates dismissed the noise as a simple drill.

"Then the security guard came in and said, 'The building's on fire,'" Gomez said. "When we came out, the Fire Department was already here."

In addition to the FDNY, the city Office of Emergency Management was on the scene.

According to Kane, jet fuel stored on the property and the large number of people triggered the office's involvement.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

SKALA RIDES AGAIN

The criticism of St. Mary's Hospital for Children in Bayside has gotten to the point where it is ridiculous.

A handful of residents in East Bayside, led by Frank Skala, are complaining the new entrance to the hospital is dangerous. The entrance was moved over a few feet to make it easier for cars carrying seriously ill children to access the hospital driveway.

This should make it safer, right? The people who complained that expansion of this hospital, famous for delivering care to some of the area's sickest children, would create a traffic problem for the neighborhood should be happy, right?

But it seems the East Bayside Homeowners Association is never happy.

"The driveway itself should supposedly make it safer after it was straightened, but that might not be the case," said Skala, the group's president. "People might end up driving faster, which isn't safe in a residential area surrounded by family homes."

Leslie Johnson, director of St. Mary's communications and marketing, explained that since the minor change made entering the hospital easier, it follows that it will also be safer.

"Now we have a much cleaner means to drive in and out The old entrance wasn't the best for traffic flow," Johnson said.

Makes sense to us.

She added that the change was made because of community complaints.

We wish she had said, "St. Mary's delivers extraordinary care to the sickest children. The people of Bayside should be proud that St. Mary's calls Bayside home. If they care about children, they should do everything possible to support the work we do and stop the complaining."

Johnson said the hospital is working with Community Board 11 and Bayside neighbors to get a four-way stop at the new intersection.

Skala was not finished. He also complained the hospital removed a tree to improve the entrance. The hospital said it will plant shrubbery to keep up the appearance of the area.

Save a tree or save a child. You decide.

We think this might be a good time for the sake of Bayside and the association that he represents for Skala to take a vow of silence.



OTHER VOICES

Stop dumbing down students' education

An open letter to state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone):

Let me start by saying I was a high school mathematics teacher for 37 years, so I speak from experience.

In reference to the article "CUNY Law responds to low bar exam pass rate" (TimesLedger Newspapers, Feb. 16-22), you should be congratulated and should congratulate the faculty of the CUNY School of Law for raising academic standards instead of succumbing to

the easier path, which is to accommodate the lower-level students and lower the standards, thus lowering the passing grade of the bar exam.

The decision of the state Department of Education allowing calculators to be used in mathematics class from elementary school to high school is one example of the dumbing down of the American student population.

America has strived for stupid and has been proud of it. From the wait-

ress in the diner to the doctor in the operating room, we have an overabundance of incompetent people with poor work ethics in the workforce.

Probably more students than you think do not belong in college because of the education they had in high school. That is why there is an unusually low passing rate on the bar exam.

Just maybe if more people involved in education at the college level began to demand more it

will filter down to the high school, middle school and elementary school levels, and then standards throughout the system would be raised instead of lowered. In turn, this would affect the entire nation because I believe New York City education is the benchmark for education in the country.

You did a great deed, senator, by allowing the standards to be raised. I tip my hat to you.

*Martin Silver
Bayside*

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CB 7 board correct in denying variances to church

The Auburndale Improvement Association Inc., which represents more than 600 families in the Auburndale, Flushing and western Bayside communities, and five other civic associations testified at the January Community Board 7 public hearing against the request by Mormon church officials for three variances in order to construct a church at 145-15 33rd Ave.

CB 7 devoted the majority of the meeting's time to listening to and deliberating on the applicants' request for the three variances. The applicants gave a lengthy presentation

first, followed by testimony from the public. They heard church members' urgings to grant the variances, civic organizations in opposition to the variances and neighbors near the site who objected to the size of the proposed project.

Board members asked many questions during the hearing. These volunteers listened to all points of view carefully, patiently and fairly before voting unanimously to deny the three variances.

The Feb. 9-15 TimesLedger Newspapers editorial, "Fairness a Stranger at CB 7," missed the point. I did not hear

anyone who objected to a church being constructed. The sticking point was that the proposed church would be twice the size as allowed as of right on the site in an R2A residential zone. That means a 23,000-square-foot behemoth with a 93-foot spire in this case.

If you do not think that will change a neighborhood's character nor affect residents' quality of life, you are mistaken. If you believe these variances constitute a minor issue, you obviously are not in touch with zoning issues that are at the forefront of our communities' concerns. The granting of this request

would set a precedent that would encourage inappropriate development of community facilities in our neighborhoods.

A variance is a privilege granted by the city Board of Standards and Appeals. Five conditions must be met in order for a variance to be granted. Granted variances must meet the minimum needs of an applicant. Obviously, the CB 7 board members believed the three variances requested did not satisfy those conditions.

The Mormon church owns a church and property on Sanford Avenue in an R7-1 zone, where construc-

tion of the church it desires could be completed without the need for variances. We do not understand why it purchased the site on 33rd Avenue for almost \$3 million, according to our understanding, when it must have realized it would have to seek at least three variances to build the desired church.

We do not doubt the sincerity of this church nor its desire to do good deeds, but when anyone comes into an established community to develop a site, they must respect the character of that community and try to meet the zoning requirements of that area. They must think

of their neighbors as well as their own desires.

We hope this church reconsiders the size of the structure it wishes to build on the 33rd Avenue site. CB 7 was thinking of all the residents of the area by turning down the request for the three variances unanimously.

Henry Euler
First Vice President
Auburndale Improvement Association
Flushing

Do not deport Sunnyside man

Mohammad A. Islam, of Sunnyside, was picked up by U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement Feb. 10, having lived in America for 21 years as an undocumented foreign resident.

His wife, Lipiara Begum, left with three small children, two of whom are 18-month-old twin girls while the other is 5 years old. Begum is due to be sworn in as an American citizen — an unfortunate timing, as she could have been the person to sponsor her husband for a valid visa.

After exhausting his legal options, Begum worked to locate organizations and individuals who could assist her and her family to make the arguments necessary to provide her husband a temporary reprieve of removal. As he is being held in detention in New Jersey, and of her own effort, she contacted Mohammad Rashid, a civic leader in Jackson Heights.

Rashid contacted elected officials, such as

U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside). Despite the tireless work being done by the offices of these officials, the due date of Islam's deportation back to Bangladesh is approaching.

Islam has previously filed for political asylum, due to the ongoing violence against opposition party members in his country — the cause, he says, for his departure from Bangladesh years prior.

As chairman of the Woodside Neighborhood Association, and having worked previously on advocacy in similar cases, I joined with Rashid to develop a final strategy in preventing the removal. I took the initiative and contacted ICE to beg it to use its enforcement authority to release Islam into the custody of his family while his new legal representatives review his case.

I wrote, "Mr. Rashid and I were both equally touched by this tragic set

of circumstances. Our goal is to preserve the family unit, reunite a husband and wife, father with his three dependent children. We are not asking the government to rewrite the laws of the land, we are simply stating that, other than Mr. Islam's illegal entry into the US, he has formed deep community-at-large ties, many close friends, and a family, all of whom are as American as apple pie.

"Ms. Begum is a strong, devoted mother and wife, and her focus and energy gives myself and Mr. Rashid hope that we can convince ICE that Mr. Islam's detention runs counter to the message we here in Northwest Queens want to send to our brothers and sisters.

"Without Mr. Islam, the family has no means of financial support, no promise of tomorrow, and without intervention, this family of Americans will be destroyed. We do not burn the town to save it."

David Rosasco
Jackson Heights

Do not close down Key Food

An open letter to City Councilman James Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows):

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the possibility that Key Food and the stationery store next to it, at 69th Avenue and 164th Street, are going to be forced out by their landlord. We do not need a

CVS store here. There are enough large drugstores within our neighborhood.

Also, where would we be able to shop? The nearest supermarket is the one in the Electchester Shopping Center. It would be hard for many residents who are elderly or disabled, like myself, to have to go

there to shop.

We need those two businesses to remain where they are. Can you do something to prevent this possible eviction from happening?

John Amato
Fresh Meadows

Pol praised for helping constituent

To anyone and everyone who is not aware, this letter is to let them know of the work City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) and his staff do.

I came to Halloran's office desperate for help in a medical problem that on my

own I was not able to make headway on. I was lost and frustrated.

The staff was professional, listened to all of my information, went over my documents and advised me on how to proceed.

Halloran followed this up with a letter each time

on how closer the problem was to being solved.

I am grateful to Halloran and his staff. Kudos to all.

Renee Weinhouse
Bayside

CLARIFICATION

In the March 15-21 edition of TimesLedger Newspapers, a story on state Assemblymen Rory Lancman and Francisco Moya advocating for immigrant workers' rights mentioned the Wage Theft Prevention Act. The April 2011 act also implemented various protections for employees who make complaints about having their wages stolen. It created harsher punishments for employers who steal wages from their employees and intimidate employees who blow the whistle on their actions.

Ackerman and Turner surprise Queens political scene



Dee Richard
Dishing with Dee

Can you believe all the dramatic political changes this week? The biggest surprise was **Gary Ackerman's** decision not to run for reelection. As my husband said, "I guess that means no Acker-Bus trip for you down to Washington this coming January 2013."

I am disappointed, as I am sure the rest of the regular attendees are as well. It has been a ritual for at least 10 years. How will the Senate gift shop show a profit without all the Acker-Bus people not being there to buy shopping bags full of stuff?

That was always a fun day and we will miss it. Unfortunately, not all changes are for the best or at least the most fun. Oh, well, whoever wins his seat may keep the tradition alive and charter a bus to treat the constituents to a trip to see whoever wins being sworn in as Gary did for so many memorable years. One can only hope!

The Queens Democratic Party designated a new congressional candidate for that seat Monday. Its choice was **Grace Meng**, who was one of the five mentioned as a potential candidate.

Rory Lancman and **Elizabeth Crowley** announced they will also run — and there's still time for more to jump in.

The second surprise was **Bob Turner's** announcement that he is running for **Kirsten Gillibrand's** U.S. Senate seat.

We thought he was going to run against **Greg Meeks** for his congressional seat. What a difference a day makes. A friend suggested that in order to keep up with the times I should consider doing a daily blog as well as a weekly column just to keep the record straight.

As I'm sure you know by now, at the Republican convention in Rochester, three candidates emerged for what will be a three-way primary June 26. In order to get on the ballot, you must secure at least 25 percent of the votes. The early report said that **Wendy Long** received 40 percent of the votes, with **George Maragos** and **Turner** each receiving a little more than 25 percent each. All three have declared they are in it to win it.

Even though this is not a gubernatorial race this year, all New Yorkers

are getting revved up for both the local and presidential races. This election cycle is heating up to be a fascinating group of races. The candidates as well as the constituents have gotten themselves all warmed up and raring to go to push their choice of candidates over the finish-line. It won't be a dull summer for sure.

Happy 50th birthday to **Darryl Strawberry!** Monday night he had a party at — where else? — Strawberry's in Douglaston. He graciously stopped by every table, signed autographs and posed for photos.

March 13 was girl's night out, which we celebrated at Bourbon Street on Bell Boulevard in Bayside. The Tuesday night special is a New Orleans-style clam bake, which consisted of a salad or soup, a lobster, muscles, clams, fresh corn on the cob, small red pota-

toes, a glass of house wine or a pint of Coors Lite Beer plus key lime pie for desert. All of the above cost \$23.95 — the best deal in town.

Last Thursday, the ladies who are members or on the board of the Go Red Organization had a strategy meeting pertaining to their plans for their annual gala. The organization exists to make women aware of how susceptible they are to heart disease and heart attacks, which take the lives of more women than breast cancer. They do an excellent job. Their meeting was also at Strawberry's.

Later last Thursday evening, I had planned to stop by the Douglaston Manor, where the Queens Chamber of Commerce was scheduled to have a St. Patrick's Day casino night. Sad to say it was canceled. This is the second consecutive St. Patrick's Day celebra-

tion the chamber planned that was canceled.

What's the problem? Doesn't anyone love the Irish anymore? For years they held a successful luncheon at Terrace on the Park. Let's hope the luck of the Irish is better next year for the chamber.

But the luck of the Irish held out for the parade Saturday. What a gorgeous day for a parade. The hosts of the largest St. Patrick's Day parades in the world are New York City, with the largest attendance followed by Savannah, Georgia and then Dublin, Ireland.

I look forward to your voice mails at 718-767-6484, faxes at 718-746-0066 and e-mails at deerrichard@aol.com.

Till next week, Dee.

Astronaut Glenn thrown parade through boro in 1962

QUEENS LINE

The Greater Astoria Historical Society

It was the dawn of the Space Age, and the man of the hour was Col. John Glenn. On Feb. 20, 1962, Glenn had piloted Friendship 7 on the first manned orbit around the Earth and landed safely despite worries that the capsule's heat shield might not hold.

Overnight, the astronaut became one of the most famous men in the world. The Star-Journal's reporters were among the crowd at LaGuardia Airport to welcome Glenn and his wife Anna when they

arrived in New York March 1 for the celebratory ticker-tape parade.

"Gotham Goes Wild for Glenn," the headline read. Another Page 1 story informed readers that "Astoria Girl First to Greet Astronaut."

Connie Valis, 14, rushed through the crowd of 2,000 at LaGuardia and presented a bouquet of carnations to Mrs. Glenn, who first exited from the aircraft. Col. Glenn, following his wife off the plane, was so impressed that he

stopped waving to the people, grabbed Connie's hand and warmly thanked her and her teacher, Anne M. O'Connor, assistant principal of JHS 10 in Astoria.

The colonel was described in the paper as smiling when a band on the tarmac struck up a march specially written for the occasion. It was called "A-OK, Go-Go," a reference to Glenn's words when told that Cape Canaveral was "Go" for his historic space flight. Just before liftoff, Glenn replied "Roger. Cape is "Go" and I am "Go."

As he reached zero gravity, more than 100 miles above the earth, Glenn said, "Capsule is turning around. Oh, that view is tremendous!"

It was estimated that

thousands of people lined the motorcade's route from the airport to Manhattan. Along the East River, the astronaut was greeted by the whistling of tugboats and ships.

And the parade in the financial district, according to the Star-Journal, was the most uproarious since the tradition began with Lafayette's return to the United States in 1824, outshining even the welcome home given to Charles Lindbergh, the first man to fly across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927.

"Bone-chilling gusts of wind that swirled around Wall Street's skyscraper canyons did nothing to hold down the crowds," the reporter noted. "It wasn't March that came in like a

lion but the Marine Lieutenant Colonel from New Concord, Ohio."

By March 6, the confetti was long gone. The Star-Journal, as an amusing coda, ran a follow-up interview with one Queens resident who had a close-up view of the festivities: "Glenn Day was just a day like any other to Harry Carter. Carter was the man behind the wheel of Glenn's limousine. He drove the much-feted space hero around town Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. But the 31-year-old Flushingite is a civil servant in a key position to whom parades are nothing special.

"As personal chauffeur to Commerce and Public Events Commissioner Richard C. Patterson, Jr., he

has driven such other notables as Winston Churchill, Belgian King Baudoin, and the two princesses from the Netherlands who visited the metropolis last year.

"Even though mobilizing celebrities is old hat to Carter, he admits that Glenn's parade was terrific. Carter said he rarely chats with celebrities from the front seat. But he did exchange greetings with Glenn, whom he credits with a 'friendly attitude' and a 'terrific personality.'"

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

Carrozza lends her real estate expertise to Huffington Post

BY PHIL CORSO

When the Huffington Post needed an expert attorney, it didn't need to look any further than Bayside.

Local estate planning and elder law attorney Ann-Margaret Carrozza announced this week she had joined with Huff Post Money as a contributing member of the publication's expert panel.

"I'm thrilled to have been asked to join the Huffington Post's expert panel," Carrozza said.

Carrozza will be writing about estate tax planning and elder law issues for Huff Post Money, a new section at the Huffington Post dedicated to financial stories launched this month.

Huffington Post President and Editor-in-Chief Arianna Huffington said the new blog would cover "the big financial stories of our time with an eye on answering the question: How do the day's headlines affect you and your finances?"

It's a position that Carrozza said was fitting and exciting for her law career.

"This is a great forum from which to educate families on how to protect assets from estate taxes and long-term care

claims," Carrozza said.

Her first blog entry, posted March 6 on Huff Post Money, included expert advice on the writing of wills. With law offices in Bayside and on Long Island in Glen Cove and Port Jefferson, Carrozza's practice deals with elder law, trusts and estates, asset protection, estate administration and long-term care planning.

"These laws change frequently, and I'll now have the ability to reach more people and give them the information they need to protect their nest eggs and homes," Carrozza said.

Carrozza served as a member of the state Assembly for 14 years and wrote several bills dealing with the estate planning process. She is also an executive member of the state Bar Association, Elder Law section; the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; the Queens County Bar Association; and the Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation's legal advisory board.

She serves as estate planning and elder law counsel to different organizations and is rated as preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, the directory of the nation's lawyers.

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Bayside school recognizes highly celebrated saint

BY PHIL CORSO

It was a parade where St. Robert Bellarmine elementary school, at 56-15 213th St., showed its faith in honoring Sts. Patrick and Joseph.

Students marched around the Bayside school Monday afternoon with posters and symbols to celebrate the holiday, St. Joseph's Day.

Principal Angela Fazio said it was an annual school tradition for the students, ranging from nursery school-age to eighth-grade.

"It's a chance to celebrate our faith, but with a little bit of fun," Fazio said.

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



(Clockwise from l.) St. Robert Bellarmine third graders march in their school's St. Patrick's parade; cheerleaders kick off the event; and tiny figures of St. Patrick and St. Joseph lead the way in St. Robert Bellarmine elementary school's St. Patrick's parade.

Photos by Phil Corso



RKO Keith developer owes \$380K in unpaid taxes: City

BY JOE ANUTA

The developer for the RKO Keith's Theatre in Flushing maintains he has enough cash to put a shovel in the ground and is not selling the property, but Patrick Thompson also owes the city nearly \$400,000 in unpaid taxes and faces a possible tax lien from the city.

Speculation that Thompson wants to sell the property has increased after a real estate firm circulated an investment packet soliciting companies to either buy the property outright or enter into a joint partnership.

"This is a confidential memorandum intended solely for your own limited use in considering whether to pursue negotiations to acquire 135-35 North-

ern Boulevard, Flushing, Queens, NY," a page of the packet that was obtained by TimesLedger Newspapers read.

The packet also contained information about the project, but is undated and was likely circulated before the project received approvals from the city.

But the theater is also listed on several real estate websites. Although it is also not clear when the listings were posted, one reads: "this is a projected development site that has received approval."

It goes on to say, "As of July 20, 2011, this is available for sale or a joint venture equity partnership."

The listing directed interested parties to Ken Zakin, a broker from the Manhattan-based firm Newmark Knight Frank.



A rendering of the proposed mixed-use building that would be built around the lobby of the RKO Keith's Theatre.

Rendering courtesy Studio V

Zakin confirmed he is working with the developer of the site, but deferred all other questions to Thompson or his spokesman, Michael Nussbaum.

Nussbaum said Thompson is absolutely not selling

the property and has had a financial backer since last year. He said nothing has changed recently except more people have been coming forward to invest in the project.

"There has been a rela-

tionship on the table going back to the late summer or fall of last year," Nussbaum said. "When was the last time Donald Trump did a development deal on his own?"

A source with knowledge of the project said that the packet was only distributed to test the waters for investors.

Nussbaum said Thompson is ready to start demolishing portions of the building, but there are still several obstacles that could hamper the process.

According to the city Department of Finance, Thompson has not paid any of his property taxes since January 2011. The fees come to \$379,585 in property taxes, \$1,900 in water bills and \$180 in additional charges.

The outstanding total

balance of \$381,698 means the property is in danger of being put on the list of tax liens for sale, according to the Finance Department.

If the lien were to be put up for sale, anyone would be able to purchase it, the department said. If Thompson did not pay off the balance of the lien, whoever held it could take over the property.

Thompson has until May 17 to enter into a payment plan with the city to prevent the property from being put on the tax lien sale list, according to the department.

Nussbaum said Thompson will address the problem soon.

"That will be taken care of very shortly," he said. "It will not go past May."

Girl Scouts welcome newest members at North Shore-LIJ

Troop from Nassau County inducts girls born March 12 for organization's 100th anniversary

BY PHIL CORSO

They're the newest members of the Girl Scouts and all they had to do was be born in the right place at the right time.

The Girl Scouts of Nassau County paid a visit to the North Shore-LIJ Medical Center's Katz Women's Hospital in New Hyde Park last week to grant memberships to all baby girls born on March 12, the Scouts' 100th anniversary.

Four mothers cradled their newborns at the March 14 news conference as members of the Nassau Girl Scouts presented their honorary first-year memberships.

"We are so excited to have them with us and to have all of you here to celebrate," said Donna Ceravolo, executive director and CEO of the Girl Scouts of Nassau County. "These babies are joining at such a beautiful time in Girl Scout history."



Four newborn baby girls receive honorary first-year memberships from the Girl Scouts of Nassau County at LIJ Medical Center's Katz Women's Hospital.

By Phil Corso

The four mothers also received complimentary gift baskets, courtesy of Ceravolo and the group of young scouts.

Sarit Barzilay, of Queens Village, held her newborn daughter, who was yet to be named, throughout the presentation.

As a former Girl Scout, she

said she was excited to pass on that experience to her daughter.

"I think she'll be a great Girl Scout," Barzilay said. "I remember doing so many fun activities and helping people when I used to be one. They're all positive things."

Stacey E. Rosen, vice presi-

dent of clinical services at the Katz Institute for Women's Health, said 39 girls were born in North Shore-LIJ system hospitals March 12 and, according to Ceravolo, they all were welcomed as members of the 100th anniversary troupe of 2012.

Ceravolo said the new members were important assets to their group.

"These babies will help us grow into girls, and then into young adults and young women," Ceravolo said. "We will be tracking these babies here today and the other babies born in the North Shore-LIJ system as well as any baby born on March 12."

In recognition of what Ceravolo said has been dubbed "the year of the girl" by the American Girl Scouts, the director said the focus was on breeding young women so they may grow into more leadership roles, a trend Ceravolo said was not as high as it could be in 2012.

"We at the Girl Scouts have been in the leadership business for 100 years," Ceravolo said. "We're going to focus on shifting that needle in the next generation to make sure that our girls and young women have the opportunities to take leadership positions."

The Girl Scouts started March 12, 1912, when founder Juliette Gordon Low registered the organization's first 18 members in Georgia, the group said. After 100 years, the Scouts have grown to more than 10 million scouts worldwide, 3.5 million members in the United States and 21,000 in Nassau County.

Ceravolo said the parents of any baby girls born on March 12 were welcome to contact their local Girl Scouts council to become members.

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

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Sacred Heart

Continued from Page 1

man to their project. Farrell said the students used his office as one of the depot centers. The school helped store and collect books until the students could ship them.

"It's absolutely wonderful," Farrell said. "As a book lover, there's nothing better than sending a book to someone who's going to love it as well."

One year later, the project is back with its newest initiative to benefit Santo Nino Home, a non-profit orphanage for abandoned infants and children in Negros, Philippines. Farrell said there's already a van full of books ready to be shipped, courtesy of the families of the Sacred Heart families.

Though they've already graduated from the Bayside school,

Wren and Cash said they were still happy to work with their neighbors for an equal cause.

"It's great to see a community come together to help others," Cash said. "We were happy to know that although we graduated from Sacred Heart three years ago, they were still willing to help us out."

Wren said he hoped to see "Reading Rocks the World" continue to help less fortunate communities and expand to other parts of the world.

"I would love to visit the communities we have helped over the years, too," Wren said.

Wren is a junior at Chained High School in Mineola and Cash now attends Sacred Heart Academy of Hempstead as a junior.

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



Students of San Andreas Elementary School in the Philippines celebrate a donation of 2,000 children's books, courtesy of former students of Bayside's Sacred Heart School. Photo courtesy Sarah Wren

Ackerman seat

Continued from Page 1

candidate, and by Sunday night word had leaked out that state Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) would be chosen.

By Monday morning, Meng had snagged the endorsement of the party, along with that of state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) and City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens), two lawmakers who were on the shortlist of be-

ing endorsed themselves.

Meng has a substantial war chest and could court the vote of the Asian population in the district, which makes up 37 percent of the 6th Congressional seat, which might have factored into Crowley's decision, according to party insiders.

But Meng's nod from Queens Democrats does not mean she will run opposed.

Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) declared his candi-

dacy hours after Meng's endorsement.

Or rather he re-declared his candidacy.

In February, Lancman said he would run for Congress against Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village), but Turner's district was one of two in New York state to be eliminated as part of the redistricting process, which adjusts political representation according to population shifts after every census.

Turner subsequently got on the ballot for a U.S. Senate race, which caused Lancman to rethink plans

for a run. After visiting Ackerman's Roslyn Heights, L.I., home Thursday, he announced he would not run for Congress against him.

Hours later, a spokesman for Lancman was in disbelief when told by TimesLedger Newspapers that Ackerman announced his retirement via an e-mail blast after the end of the workday.

By Monday morning, Lancman had again announced his candidacy.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) also threw her hat into the ring Monday, mak-

ing an announcement via a spokesman.

"Born and raised in Queens, Elizabeth Crowley is running for Congress as an independent advocate for our neighborhoods and our communities," said campaign spokesman Eric Yun. "While the county organization as a whole may not want to endorse a family member of its chairman, Elizabeth Crowley's campaign will demonstrate that she is the best candidate to represent all of the communities in the new congressional district."

The petitioning time

for Democrats is shorter than ever after the primary was moved from September to June 26 to comply with federal voting laws.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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Douglaston

Continued from Page 2

sociation, echoed Iannece's pride in the change.

"It's most appropriate," Soggi said. "This is a landmarked district, so these streets should be restored to their historic names."

Originally settled in 1656, Douglaston has since been recognized for its two landmarked districts, and residents in the area have pushed for the change since 1972. The work of late Councilman Matthew Troy had restored most street names in Douglaston originally named after landmarks and prominent area fami-

lies, leaving the six streets to the efforts of local residents ever since.

"To walk the streets of Douglaston is to step into our city's history," Halloran said. "Everything from the original cobblestone curbs to massive tree canopy reminds visitors of a much simpler time."

Halloran said the city would erect new street signs in about three months, but residents may start using their new, or old, street names now.

Bill Sievers, of the Douglaston-Little Neck Historical Society, said he tested his new address by

mailing a letter to himself, finding that the local post office did a "phenomenal job" transitioning.

The first three avenues to the east of Douglaston Parkway will be renamed Church, Pine and Poplar streets. The perpendicular 240th, 242nd and 243rd streets will be restored to Prospect, Hamilton and Orient avenues.

Halloran said the area post offices and emergency services were briefed on the changes and will recognize both the new and old names of the Douglaston streets.

"We're good to go," Halloran said. "Hard work does pay off — eventually."



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Mets could now benefit from Madoff scheme trials

BY PHIL CORSO

They were on the brink of losing their team, but now they might come out richer.

A strange turn of events has left New York Mets owners Fred Wilpon and Saul Katz now allied with Irving Picard, the trustee representing the victims of Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme.

If Picard can retrieve the money from the beneficiaries of Madoff's scam, Wilpon and Katz can claim up to \$178 million in losses with help from the settlement reached last week and announced Monday.

The Mets owners now owe \$162 million to the trustee to compensate for profits they withdrew from their Madoff accounts between 2002 and 2008, when the Ponzi scheme was discovered. Before the accord was reached under the watchful eye of mediator Mario Cuomo, Wilpon and Katz were facing potential damages of as much as \$383 million, but the Mets owners might now be coming back ahead of the game.

Picard initially asked for \$1 billion in damages from Wilpon and Katz, which the Mets owners said could have forced them to



Mets owners Fred Wilpon (c.) and Saul Katz (l.) speak to the media outside Manhattan federal court.

AP Photo/Louis Lanzano

sell the team, according to news reports. The settlement is awaiting approval from Manhattan Federal Judge Jed Rakoff.

Picard had accused Wilpon and Katz of being "willfully blind" to Madoff's scheme, which made them \$162 million richer,

but the settlement allowed the Mets owners to claim they were victims of the fraud.

If successful in retrieving the \$178 million they are claiming as losses, they might make \$16 million in profit.

According to the settlement,

Wilpon and Katz have three years to pay the owed \$162 million or else they will have to make two annual payments on what is owed.

But the grass may not be greener for the Mets owners. Wilpon and Katz still possess a club

that's hurting — financially and physically. Serious injuries and pay cuts through last season left the Mets without a playoff run for the fifth straight season.

Within the last two years, the Mets lost as much as \$121 million, which included a payroll cut of nearly \$50 million and the release of valued shortstop Jose Reyes to save money.

The team recently sold all 12 of its minority stakes for \$20 million each and still has millions in debt to pay back between the building of the roughly \$600 million Citi Field and roughly \$400 million in loans.

In November, the Mets fired front office workers and reduced their payroll by nearly \$50 million, according to news reports.

So with or without the Madoff scandal, the Mets' bases are loaded with debt. What truly stands in the team's way is their ability to succeed on the field, which could translate directly to their owners' wallets.

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

Injuries near Rego Park mall prompt city traffic fixes

BY STEVE MOSCO

Drivers on the streets surrounding a bustling Queens shopping center in Rego Park need to slow down, based on records compiled by the city Department of Transportation.

In an effort to curb pedestrian accidents, the DOT unveiled traffic-calming measures to Community Board 6 at a March 14 meeting that would slow traffic on busy thoroughfares 62nd Drive and 63rd Avenue near the Rego Center Mall in Rego Park.

According to DOT records, 121 people, including 41 pedestrians, were injured along 62nd Drive from Queens Boulevard to 112th Street between 2005 and 2009. During the same period, 192 people were in-

jured along 63rd Road from Queens Boulevard to 112th Street.

The city agency plans to remove one travel lane and widen parking lanes on 63rd Road, and the CB 6 Transportation Committee agreed to allow back-in parking along Junction Boulevard between 62nd Drive and Queens Boulevard.

The angled parking on Junction Boulevard will add 10 new spaces to the congested block by the mall.

The plan also calls for narrower lanes on 62nd Drive to reduce speeding while splitting the road into three lanes for a left turn-only, through traffic and right turn-only as it approaches Queens Boulevard.



The city's Department of Transportation presented a series of proposals to slow traffic and cut pedestrian accidents on streets surrounding the Rego Center Mall.

Frank Gulluscio, district manager of CB 6, said a large senior citizen population also frequents the crowded streets surrounding the mall.

According to Gulluscio, this is the main reason

to ease drivers off the gas.

"There was some noticeable discussion in the community about slowing down traffic and adding parking spots," he said. "It's a dangerous area. The DOT and the community

Between 2005 and 2009, 121 people were injured along 62nd Drive.

did the right thing by opening the dialogue to improve the safety for everyone on those streets."

Rego Center opened in the spring of 2010 and boasts stores like Century 21, Costco and Kohl's. Since opening, CB 6 said the mall has significantly increased traffic in the neighborhood, while adding a dangerous obstacle course for seniors.

According to the DOT, senior citizens make up 12 percent of the city's population, but account for 36 percent of pedestrian fatalities.

"These measures could greatly increase safety for senior citizens," Gulluscio said. "This is something we have been studying since the mall was built. The increased volume and the high population of the area are a recipe for disaster."

The DOT said work will begin in June and is expected to be completed in July.

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

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Ethnicity fears prompt Qns Hospital baby nab: DA

BY REBECCA HENELY AND
CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

An Ozone Park woman allegedly told police she kidnapped her infant daughter from Queens Hospital Center because she did not want her baby to live with African-American foster parents, a Queens district attorney's office spokeswoman said.

Leila Rajnarie, of 101st Avenue and 77th Street, was arraigned Friday in Queens Criminal Court, the DA's spokeswoman said. Rajnarie, who is 40 years old and Guyanese, has been held at the Rose M. Singer Center at Rikers Island on a \$500 bail or \$1,000 bond since then, according to city Department of Correction records.

NYPD officers had been on the lookout for Rajnarie and her infant daughter, Nevita Jagedo, March 14 after the mother allegedly fled the Jamaica hospital with the baby, police said. Rajnarie had been at Queens Hospital Center with her 8-month-old daughter and her daughter's foster mother



Ozone Park woman Leila Rajnarie (l.) is accused of snatching her biological daughter, Nevita Jagedo, from her foster mother at Queens Hospital Center.

Photos courtesy NYPD

for a checkup and Rajnarie was doctor, police said.

suspected of snatching the infant at around 12:17 p.m. when the foster mother was speaking with the

Rajnarie had allegedly told police she did not want the baby to wake up and see African-American

parents, and this statement was repeated by Queens prosecutor Rachel Drucker in court, a DA spokeswoman said.

The Ozone Park woman was spotted the same day at 8:20 p.m. by officers from Patrol Borough Queens South in the back of a livery cab close to 101st Avenue and 133rd Street in South Richmond Hill, according to the criminal complaint.

During an extensive search for the pair, officers had noticed a woman matching the description of the suspect in the cab, police said.

After police pulled over the vehicle, Rajnarie was taken into custody, and the baby, who was found without food and wearing only a diaper, was brought to a local hospital in stable condition, according to the police.

Rajnarie was arrested on charges of kidnapping, custodial interference and endangering the welfare of a child, the NYPD said.

Her next court date is March 21, Correction records said.

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

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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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Schumer bill on discount bus safety passes Senate

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The U.S. Senate has passed legislation introduced by Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) requiring discount bus lines to inform passengers of their safety record.

The bill also institutes a variety of requirements to improve safety on board such buses.

The proposed legislation came after several fatal accidents involving the discount tour bus industry, including a March 12, 2011, smashup in the Bronx that killed 15 people and injured 18.

The driver, Ophadell Williams, 40, of Brooklyn, was indicted on a variety of charges. Federal investigators said it appeared he was driving 78 mph on I-95 in a 55 mph zone.

Schumer's proposed legislation would require the Federal Motor Carriage Safety Administration to establish clear and understandable safety ratings to be posted on buses and at terminals and require ticket sellers and bus companies to make their safety record and history easily acces-



Rescue workers examine a discount bus on Interstate 93 in New Hampshire after it crashed in March 2011.

AP Photo/Caledonian Record, Paul Hayes

sible at point of sale.

Schumer has urged the FMCSA to establish a safety rating plan and letter-grade system similar to that used to rate New York City restaurants.

"The Senate gets an A for passing this crucial bill that will finally alert passengers about bus company safety records be-

fore they buy a ticket, and I urge the House to make the grade and pass the legislation immediately," Schumer said.

In May 2011, a Flushing driver was at the wheel when a Sky Express Bus overturned on I-95 in Caroline County, Va., killing two passengers, including two from Queens. A year ago in March a

bus owned by Flushing-based Big Boy Coach crashed in New Hampshire, causing injuries.

The bill would require electronic, on-board recorders which would monitor drivers to make sure they are not violating the hours of service rule intended to keep fatigued drivers off the road.

The bill would also require better commercial driver training and establishment of a national commercial Motor Vehicle Medical Registry to ensure that only medically qualified drivers are operating buses.

The bill would require that motor coaches have safety belts; anti-ejection glazing on windows to prevent passengers from being easily thrown out of the bus; strong, crush-resistant roofs that can withstand roll-overs; improved protection against fires; and improved training for operators in case of fire.

The bill would allow federal regulators for the first time to stop buses en route for inspection and gives inspectors more au-

thority to crack down on unsafe carriers, sometimes known as "reincarnated carriers" — meaning buses which are ordered out of service one day and returned under a new name the next.

"Late last year an Albany bus company called Double Happiness was still serving passengers who were unaware of the company's dismal safety record and flagrant violations," Schumer said.

"Despite the poor safety records of some bad actors in the discount tour bus industry, it is very difficult for passengers to get an accurate picture of the safety records of these companies. Though the FMCSA currently has a ranking system on its website, the database is difficult to navigate and their rating system is not easy to understand," Schumer said.

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



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Arson suspect indicted in Jan. 1 hate crimes



Ray Lazier Lengend (r.) is led out of Jamaica's 103rd Precinct after being arrested Jan. 3. He was indicted earlier this week by a Queens grand jury on hate crime charges.

Photo courtesy AP Photo/John Minchillo

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A Queens Village man was indicted Monday on hate crime charges in the New Year's Day firebombing of four buildings, including the borough's largest mosque in Jamaica, the Queens district attorney's office announced.

The charges claim 40-year-old Ray Lazier Lengend, of 89-04 215th St., went on an arson spree fueled by his hatred for Muslims, Arabs and Hindus, DA Richard Brown said.

"According to the charges, the defendant endangered scores of people when he allegedly tossed crude firebombs at five buildings during a hate-filled rampage on New Year's Day," Brown said. "His alleged targets ranged from private dwellings to houses of worship — endangering those within the buildings as well as the firefighters called to respond to the scene."

Lengend was charged in a 36-count indictment with arson as a hate crime on the top of a host of charges, according to the DA. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to as much as 25 years in prison.

"Particularly troubling is the fact that the defendant is alleged to have been motivated by hate in at least two of the instances where he is alleged to have struck at a Muslim house of worship and attempted to strike at a second location, which is a Hindu house of worship," Brown said.

"Hate crimes — whether they be motivated by religion, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender — will not be tolerated here in Queens, the country's most diverse county. When they do, regrettably, occur, they will be condemned swiftly and those responsible will be brought to justice," he added.

According to the indictment, in the early evening hours of Jan. 1., Lengend drove a stolen rental car from John F. Kennedy International Airport to a gas station

near the Van Wyck Expressway service road and Atlantic Avenue, where he filled up five glass coffee bottles with gasoline, the DA said.

Lengend then drove to a deli on the corner of 179th Street and Hillside Avenue, walked inside and allegedly threw one of the flaming glass bottles on the floor, Brown said. Before Lengend ran out of the store and back into the stolen Buick Regal, an employee identified him as the same man he saw the previous week trying to steal a bottle of Starbucks Frappacino and some milk, the DA said.

The employee was able to extinguish the fire, which caused damage to the store's interior.

Lengend allegedly struck again when he threw another incendiary device through the front bedroom window of a home a few minute's drive from the deli on 107th Avenue, according to Brown, who said police responded to the scene where they found some of the windows completely missing and fire damage to the building.

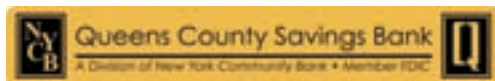
He acted a third time when he allegedly threw a Molotov cocktail at the exterior wall of the Al-Khoei Benevolent Association near the Van Wyck Expressway and Hillside Avenue, where witnesses observed two broken glass bottles, two bottle caps and rolled-up tissue paper, the district attorney said.

Lengend was also charged with firebombing two more residences. One, on 170th Street, was also used as a Hindu place of worship, and the other was a private dwelling on 43rd Avenue that was occupied at the time, Brown said.

Lengend allegedly expressed his dislike of Muslims, Arabs and Hindus and admitted to police that he planned to inflict as much damage as possible by throwing all five bottles into the crowd from the Al-Khoei mosque's balcony, Brown said.

Student of Distinction

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MARTIN VAN BUREN
HIGH SCHOOL
QUEENS VILLAGE, NY

Aysha Rana, a resident of Queens Village, is this year's ARISTA President at Martin Van Buren High School. Her duties consist of presiding over ARISTA Board meetings, planning events, and arranging for tutoring for Scholar members whose grades fall below the required minimum. She is also a member of the Scholar's Institute, which cultivates the creative abilities of worthy students so they can perform higher academically.

Among the many extra-curriculum activities Aysha is involved in are the Scholar's Book Club, Tennis Team, and Yearbook Committee. Additionally, she has participated in the Breast Cancer Walk on Queens Boulevard for the past two years and has helped collect food for the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park.

Aysha also participates in the High School Heroes program of Junior Achievement at PS 33, where she has taught kindergarten children about New York City. Since entering



Martin Van Buren High School, she has consistently performed service for teachers during her lunch period or after class and has helped during open school nights.

During the summer, Aysha has several commitments. For example, over the past three summers, Aysha has volunteered at the Queens Village Library. As part of her volunteer commitment, Aysha read with youngsters in the summer reading program and taught them arts and crafts. She assisted the staff by shelving books when needed.

She has taken Advanced Placement US History and English; currently she is taking a College Now Business class at Queensborough Community College. She maintains a 95 average and plans to become a dentist. Toward that end, she is considering Adelphi and Stony Brook universities.

Her philosophy is, "Hard work always pays off." She commented that, "my parents are very supportive of me and are always encouraging me."

Mr. David A.G. Johnson Jr., a dynamic Social Studies teacher at MVB HS stated, "Aysha Rana was one of my shining students in Global Honors during her sophomore year. She distinguished herself by marching to the beat of a different drum."

In addition, Johnson recalls, "She is remembered as a leader by her cooperative learning groups and by sustaining creativity which accompanied the range of special assignments. Her leadership prowess is unsurpassed. She had a lot to teach in our community of learners. I consider Aysha among the best I have taught and her sardonic wit enlivened on more than one occasion."

- by Bob Harris

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Q GUIDE

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Fatima Ptacek, a native of Queens, is just 11 years old but has made a career as a child star, voicing Nickelodeon's popular cartoon character Dora the Explorer.

Photo courtesy Nickelodeon

THE HOMETGROWN VOICE OF DORA

Popular Nickelodeon cartoon features the voice of a Queens native and rising child star

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

A multitasking and gifted six-grader from Queens, Fatima Ptacek is an actress and top New York City model. She is also the new voice behind Nickelodeon's beloved preschool character "Dora the Explorer." And just like Dora, she speaks English and fluent Spanish.

Dubbed "the princess of New York" at age 9 two years ago, the rising star took time out from her super-busy schedule to say "hello" to TimesLedger's readers in an after-school interview.

"I think the most important thing is balance," said the 11-year-old. "My schedule is kind of busy, with acting assignments, but I do lots of different kinds of activities apart from my work, which keeps things interesting in my life."

Most adults would be totally burnt out, juggling the numerous pursuits and responsibilities on Fa-

tima's daily agenda. But somehow, the sophisticated little diva manages to do it all — with energy, enthusiasm and flair.

Having accomplished more during her short time on the planet than most people achieve in a lifetime, Fatima is also a United States of America Gymnastics Level 7 gymnast. "I train three to four hours a day, four days per week, and have also been studying Mandarin Chinese and taking part in English equestrian riding for years," she said.

And believe it or not, she actually loves school: "Education is really important to me, and my dream is to attend an Ivy League university, like Harvard or Yale, someday."

She attends an academy for intellectually gifted children in New York City's public school system. "Even though I miss school sometimes for work assignments, I receive tutoring on set."

It's obvious that Fatima enjoys her work, espe-

cially while she's animatedly performing her Dora voice-over at Nickelodeon Studios in Midtown Manhattan. "I usually go into the studio to record and sing songs for episodes and other 'Dora the Explorer' projects, once or twice a week," she said. "The crew at Nickelodeon is great, and they make my work [on the show] lots of fun. The other stuff I do, like the acting roles for movies and TV shows, modeling assignments, auditions and appearances, are really lots of fun too."

Wilhelmina — a famed modeling agency — discovered her at age 5, and her whirlwind career suddenly took off.

Fatima has made 50-plus TV commercials, including McDonald's, Disney, Chase and Bisquick, and even landed a spot on "Saturday Night Live." On the set of "Sesame Street," she played opposite Michelle Obama.

Continued on Page 29

Satisfy that Korean snack craving in Flushing

BY SUZANNE PARKER

One of our guilty pleasures is watching food-themed Korean melodramas. Their plots combine cheesy, but chaste romance with food porn.

Our all time fave is a TV series called "Gourmet," which can be found with English subtitles on Hulu.com. It chronicles the travails of the progeny of the heir to the title of Imperial Chef of Korea, lavishing detailed attention on all sorts of cooking and eating exploits. Recent indulgences in this pastime produced powerful cravings for Korean fare. We have previously reviewed some of what could be classified as Flushing's Korean fine dining establishments, so this time we set off in search of more casual fare — what Koreans might eat for a casual meal or grab on the run.

Wangmandoo was the reward we sought on the first stop of our pilgrimage. Although the name may sound like a made up bit of double entendre from a blues song, they are in fact a type of dumpling. They are one of the two specialties at **Da Myun**, the other being several varieties of noodles. It is a cute, attractively decorated place, inviting enough to linger.

The wangmandoo are overinflated crescents filled with pork, vegetable and kimchee. An order of six sizable dumplings is served on a Korean metal version of the bamboo steamer. Koreans also tend to eat with stainless steel chopsticks rather than bamboo. Either bamboo isn't plentiful in Korea, or recycling caught on centuries ago there. We don't know which.

The filling of the dumplings is unexpectedly

DINING OUT



A kimbab at Flushing's Rolly Kimbab, 163-16 Northern Blvd.

Photo by Suzanne Parker

smooth — more pâté than meat ball-like and mildly spicy. They are served with a seriously spicy dipping sauce and few miscellaneous ban chan (pickled side dishes).

Our next stop on the kimchee trail was for kimbab. Kimbab is the slightly homier version of

sushi rolls which occupies the same place in the Korean diet that the sandwich does for Westerners. By that we mean if you think of the rice and seaweed roll as the bread, you need only be limited by your imagination for what you can stuff it with.

Just check out the

menu at **Rolly Kimbab** on Northern Boulevard and you'll find such delicacies as hotdog, spam and even pastrami kimbab. We tried the "Rolly" which was filled with ham, pickled daikon, carrot, fried tofu, a few strands of cellophane noodles, and spinach. Dag-

Continued on Page 30

Da Myun

41-10 162 Street
Flushing, NY 11358
347-368-6557
Open seven days
Wangmandoo \$8.95 per
order of six

Rolly Kimbab

163-16 Northern Blvd.
Flushing, NY 11358
718-661-1544
Open seven days
Kimbab \$3.00-6.00

Mad For Chicken

157-18 Northern Blvd.
Flushing, NY 11358
718-321-3818
madforchicken.com
Open seven days
Single order of chicken
\$7.95 (choices of
chicken parts, sides
extra)

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #56								
		4		8		3		
	5	6	9		7	4	2	
2				6				8
	6			4			8	
3								4
	7			9			1	
1				7				2
	9	8	4		3	1	6	
		3		5		9		

Hard #56								
				9			7	
7		4						
6			3				2	8
	6		9				5	
				1				
		9			5		2	
	2	6			4			5
							3	7
4				8				

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 27

Since then, the budding starlet has continued making the rounds — going on lots of auditions, and appearing in films and TV shows like “Body of Proof,” “A Gifted Man,” and “Royal Pains.”

“I meet great people and have wonderful experiences, for which I’m truly grateful. I consider myself very lucky.”

Her pretty face has graced ad campaigns, as well: For Gap, Ralph Lauren, Children’s Place, DKNY and Benetton..

The youngest of five, Fatima said her siblings are her best friends, and her brothers “can be a little over-protective, at times.” She’s the daughter of a retired NYPD detective of Norwegian descent, and a former accountant mom from Ecuador. “My mom really is amazing because she runs around every day, taking me everywhere I have to go: from school to recordings, auditions, gymnastics, and to friends’ houses for get-togethers.”

And she isn’t your typical stage mother either: “I have a manager, an agent, and lots of people at Nickelodeon taking care of my career, so my mom’s job is just being my mom — and she’s really great at that.

“She and my dad work closely with my management team, and give me lots of support and advice. But they’re really like typical parents, in the way they care much more about my grades in school, that I’m polite and respectful, and that I eat healthy food and remember to brush my teeth.”

Teri Weiss, senior vice president of Nickelodeon Preschool said, “In addition to being a terrific actress, Fatima captures



Nickelodeon launched a new show featuring Dora the Explorer on March 16.

Photo courtesy Nickelodeon

the confidence and warmth that we always look for to play Dora. She sounds like a true leader, but at the same time you know she is a true friend, who will always stop and help.”

Dora embarked on a new adventure in “Dora’s Rescue in Mermaid Kingdom.” The new show premiered March 16, on Nickelodeon.

“The thing I love most about Dora is knowing that she puts smiles on millions of kids’ faces every day,” said Fatima “The show teaches valuable lessons, like problem-solving skills, the importance of determination, being loyal to friends, Spanish language and Latino culture.”

“I’m so proud to be a part of “Dora the Explorer,” helping to share that with kids all around the country.”

So, how does she do it all? “I have really great friends, and they help keep me grounded.”

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERTS

Queens College Chamber Music concert series – Two operas will premiere this spring: “The Image Maker”(world premiere) and “My Kinsman, Major Molineux” (New York premiere). Other highlights include performances by Rebel: A Baroque Chamber Ensemble, Trio 101, Queens College Chamber Orchestra (with Charles Neidich), Phillips-O’Connor-Han Trio, Claremont Trio, and the Phillips-Frampton-Rosen Trio. Check full schedule online.

When: March 23, March 30, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 5, May 6, May 11

Where: LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Contact: (718) 793-8080; jane.cho@qc.cuny.edu;

Website: www.kupferbergcenterarts.org

Tuesday Morning Music Club

– Classical concert. Sandwich and salad lunch to follow.

When: March 27, 11 am

Where: Community Church of Douglaston, 39-50 Douglaston PKWY., Douglaston

Contact: (718) 229-2169

Website: communitychurchofdouglaston.org

Piano Concert – The concert, which is a project that brings together the College and the maker of the world’s finest pianos, will feature five vocal and piano compositions. The selections will be performed on a Steinway piano that the company has donated for the event.

When: March 28, 2:15 pm

Where: LaGuardia Community College, 30-20 Thomson Ave., Long Island City

Contact: 718-482-5985

Website: www.laguardia.edu

Folk Songs from Around the

World – In solo, duo and trio arrangements.

When: March 29, 2 pm

Where: Windsor Park Public Library, 79-50 Bell Blvd. at 73rd Avenue, Oakland Gardens

Contact: (718) 468-8300

Website: www.queenslibrary.org

Lhevinne Classical Concert Quintet

– A Supernova Production. Features the dynamic international ensemble of some of the finest musicians in New York, The Lautreamont String Quintet, formed in 2005 by violinist Steven Zynszajn. The musicians include some of his closest colleagues from The Julliard School. They have performed over 40 programs throughout the New York area, of the sort encountered in the golden age of classical music.

When: March 31, 7:30 pm

Where: Center at Maple Grove, 127-15 Kew Gardens Road, Kew Gardens

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PRESENTS



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A Lost Treasure Now On Stage

China was once known as the Celestial Empire. For 5,000 years, the Middle Kingdom was home to an unparalleled legacy of heroes, legends, and virtues that still resonate in the present. But in recent decades, under campaigns like the Cultural Revolution, this rich heritage has been almost completely eradicated in China. Where can you find authentic Chinese arts and culture today?

The answer is New York, because the world's premier classical Chinese music and dance company, Shen Yun Performing Arts, is returning to Lincoln Center next month.

Shen Yun is the first company to present classical Chinese dance to the world on a large scale. It also features the only orchestra to combine both Western and Chinese instruments as its permanent members. Shen Yun has taken the globe by storm, performing in over 100 cities. Its January shows at Lincoln Center were sold out.

The show is a celebration of traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be experienced—a study in grace, wisdom, and virtues distilled from millennia of civilization. It is a glimpse into a long-lost world that exists nowhere else—even in China today.

With mesmerizing choreography, colorful costumes, stunning animated backdrops, and tremendous athleticism, Shen Yun takes the audience on a jour-



Shen Yun Performing Arts, Recalling the Great China, 2011.

ney through time and space to ancient lands, mountain peaks, and even heavenly paradises.

"If heaven is the way we saw it tonight, count me in," said Academy Award-nominated producer Nathaniel Kahn after seeing Shen Yun.

Ancient Chinese artists cultivated virtue, believing that to create true art worthy of the heavens, there must first be inner purity. Today, Shen Yun's artists follow this noble tradition. The result is a performance of consummate beauty and goodness. It is a show that nourishes the soul.

Shen Yun will perform at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater April 18-22. For more, visit: ShenYun2012.com/NYC or call 1-800-818-2393.

Photo Credit: © 2011 Shen Yun Performing Arts

Dining

Continued from Page 28

wood would be favorably impressed. We also tried the ssam roll which featured barbecued beef and greens, also with this and that.

Both rolls were tasty and satisfying while being admirably low in fat. They come with a selection of ban chan, without which no Korean meal is complete. The circumference of the roll is heftier than sushi. Kimbab also differs from sushi rolls in that the main flavoring in the rice is a hint of sesame oil instead of sushi vinegar.

In addition to Kimbab, Rolly also specializes in rice balls, which are exactly what they sound like. If you happen not to like seaweed, try your filling in a ball of rice. Rice balls come with an assortment of fillings from the tame (tuna) to the dangerous (the bomb — chili pepper).

Our final destination

was for KFC — Korean fried chicken. For that we ventured into **Mad For Chicken**, a Korean chain featuring — you guessed it — chicken. This place has a TGI Fridays feel to it. Flashily decorated. Slick menu with lots of pictures. Gimmicks like transparent light up kegs of beer you order for your table. Television monitors at every table tuned to the game of the moment.

This place is popular both with young singles and families with children. They tout the healthfulness of their chicken both by claiming that it is organic (although a Bell & Evans logo appears on their menu, which is not an organic chicken) and that they remove the skin before they fry it. They offer two kinds of sauce, which are incorporated into the coating — soy sauce and garlic or hot and spicy. We didn't detect a dramatic difference between the two sauces, but in both cases the chicken was lacquered crisp on the

outside, succulent within, and savory. They also make outstanding fries, seasoned with Parmesan and oregano.

Unfortunately, they brought our fries immediately, and our chicken about 25 minutes later. If you want both together, you need to tell them. We also tried Kim-Mary described as deep fried kimbab. We thought we were on a roll, but it arrived cold, soggy, greasy, and filled only with cellophane noodles.

The Bottom Line

Northeastern Flushing is so rich with Korean culture. At any of these places, you can add a little gastronomic excitement to your life on a very modest budget. Explore and indulge!

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

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THEATER CALENDAR

Oliver! – Oliver by Lionel Bart is opening at The Bay Terrace Jewish Center and you can now read all about it, meet the cast and crew and even purchase tickets on Theatre By The Bay's new website.

When: Through March 25
Where: Bay Terrace Jewish

Center, 13-00 209th St., Bayside
Contact: (718) 428-6363

Tom Wopat – The star of stage ("Catch Me If You Can," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Guys and Dolls") and television ("Dukes of Hazzard," "Cybill") performs a fun and swinging concert of

Broadway hits and standards of the 40s and 50s.

When: March 24, 2 pm and 8 pm
Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona
Contact: Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686
Website: www.queentheatre.org

Celebrating Women's

National History Month – The Sisterhood of Free Synagogue of Flushing presents the one woman show, "Mary Todd Lincoln" portrayed by Helena Gerber Eilenberg. The time is 1876 – when Mary is released from the insane asylum. Dress as Mrs. Lincoln, Ms. Eilenberg explores life with Abe Lincoln, a father, her husband and the president.

When: March 25, noon

Where: Free Synagogue of Flushing, 40-60 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: 718-961-0030; free-synagogue@free-synagogue.com
Website: www.freesynagogue.org

Guys and Dolls Jr – The cast from JHS 189 will perform this Broadway classic set in a New York mission populated

by do-gooders and gamblers competing for local hearts and souls.

When: March 29 and 30, 7 pm
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing
Contact: (718) 463-7700
Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Guide to DINING



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- Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

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- Chicken Francaise
- Chicken Marsala
- Chicken Pizzaiola
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- Penne Vodka
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THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Continued from Page 29

Monthly Jazz

Jam – The Flushing Town Hall Jazz Jam Series is a unique free jam session right here in Queens. No need to travel into Manhattan, share the stage with our Jazz Jam house band at monthly jams curated by internationally acclaimed trumpeter and Queens College Professor, Michael Mossman. All levels are welcome; just drop by and sign in! (btw, we got the baby grand, drum kit and the house band.)

When: April 4, May 2 and June 6, 7 pm

Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing

Contact: (718) 463-7700

EVENTS

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, 43-03 Broadway, Astoria

Contact: Ben Rosenfeld ben@bigbencomedy.com

Website: www.bigbencomedy.com/blog/archives/astoria_comedy_all_stars/

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
Mar. 22-28, 2012

By Pete Canty

Heard in Court

Across

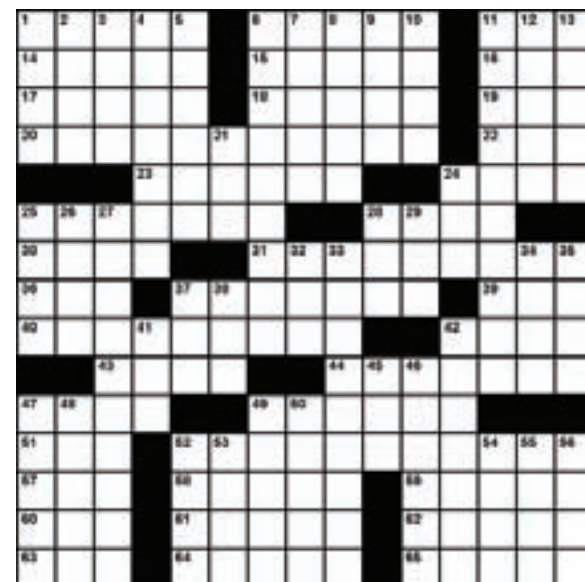
- Santa ____
- Ole Miss athlete
- Bake sale org.
- Dramatic salesman
- ____ Gay (W.W. II plane)
- Feel sick
- Scratching (out)
- Mystiques
- Pen follower
- Evidence helpful in a theft case
- Before, in verse
- Runs off to wed
- Cereal ingredient
- Hug
- “Think nothing ____!”
- Days in Mexico
- Orchard grower
- Sick
- “So soon?”
- Life imitator
- Broadcasts
- Border-crossing paper
- Bad day for Caesar
- Mexican dishes
- Average
- Orders takeout
- Inebriated
- Evidence helpful in all cases
- The Greatest
- Kofi of the U.N.
- Arm bones
- Min. component
- Children's doctor?
- Goo
- Many mins.
- Upper crust
- Consumed

Down

- Staff leader?
- Norse God
- Infamous Idi
- NYC team
- Actress Lansbury
- Comes back into view
- Become accustomed (to)
- Tennis great Becker
- Flair
- Survive
- Evidence helpful in a fraud case
- Pageant crown
- Woody or Ethan
- Mythical bird
- Drill part
- Correct
- Marathon unit
- Evidence helpful in a shooting case
- Dated
- Actress Tina
- Capital of Poland?
- What -ed often signifies
- Highlands tongue
- J.F.K. postings
- St. crosser
- French flower
- Tokyo, once
- Ice-cream flavor



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ANSWERS



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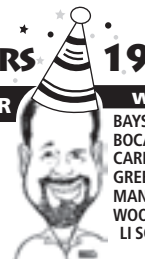
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Nadler slams federal bill as killer of city transit funds

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Legislation recently introduced by the U.S. House of Representatives is “a Draconian and unacceptable blow to transit funding in New York City and the nation,” Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-Brooklyn) told the City Council Transportation Committee last week.

Although the measure has since been withdrawn in the House and the U.S. Senate has passed its own version of the bill minus some of the most objectionable elements, the legislation still must go before the Republican-majority House.

Congressional sources said the House would probably put forth a temporary stop-gap bill to beat the March 31 deadline, after which all funding would stop with unwanted results. The Republican-majority House would then deliber-

ate on a full version of the transportation bill.

Nadler appeared last week before the Transportation Committee at the invitation of its chairman, Councilman James Vacca (D-Bronx).

“The MTA receives more than a billion dollars a year from the federal Highway Fund as a result of passage of legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1982. But the proposed new legislation would end the guaranteed infusion of \$1 million for transportation in New York City,” Nadler said.

Congressional supporters of the previously annual infusion of money nationwide would be forced to compete in Congress each year for transit money with dozens of other agencies.

“If the last year has taught us anything, it is that the politics of annual



U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler appears before City Council Transportation Committee to discuss proposed Republican legislation that would end annual automatic funding of \$1 billion for mass transit in New York City.

Photo by Philip Newman

appropriations can lead to dysfunction and inaction,” Nadler said. “Such a reality would make it difficult, if not impossible, for transit agencies to develop reliable, long-term capital plans and it would leave the future of the program in doubt.”

Nadler said the Republican offering was unusual in a variety of ways.

“H.R. 7 was unlike any other reauthorization,” he said. “On a purely partisan basis, Democratic staff and members were told what was in the bill only 24 hours

before it was introduced. It was designed so that no Democrats could support the bill.

Ray LaHood, the U.S. Transportation Secretary and a former Republican congressman from Illinois, called it “the worst transportation bill I have ever seen.”

“There is no reason to make such a drastic change in how we finance public transportation and no reason for this change has been given,” Nadler said.

In answer to questions from Council members, Nadler said the federal Highway Fund has been diminishing due to the growing fuel efficiency of motor vehicles, which means less gasoline taxes generating money for transit.

With many of the most egregious aspects of the House bill removed in the Senate version of the bill, things look better but

many others remain, Nadler said.

“There are many Republicans who are clearly against transit and they may try this again,” Nadler warned.

He added, “I now call on the Republicans to reach across the aisle, as we have always done in the Transportation Committee and develop a bipartisan bill that we can all support to meet our nation’s infrastructure needs and create jobs.”

Vacca said “without those dollars our transit system — the lifeblood of our economy — would suffer as never before. Fares are already too high for working-class New Yorkers — imagine what would happen to the fare if the MTA had to cover more than a billion dollars in lost revenue every year. It’s inconceivable.”

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*If you have any questions, you may contact me at:
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Pothole

Continued from Page 9

work to be completed from inside the vehicle. The previous technique required at least five crew members all working outside their vehicles, usually blocking numerous lanes of traffic.

Additionally, the Py-

thon carries its own hot-asphalt repairs, eliminating the need for a trailer with materials and other construction equipment. Bloomberg said workers will be trained and that learning to work with the new machines will take time.

"Human hands and eyes can do some work a lot better than machines,"

said Bloomberg, referring to the automated Python. "But you have to decide if you want to shut roads down, get all the guys in the road with their shovels and block traffic."

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



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ACLU

Continued from Page 6

has allowed the DA's office to dismiss scores of cases before they come to court or before charges have been filed and has allowed many suspects to get a reduction in their charges and/or bail recommendation, the source said.

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



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Robotic Matchup

High School students compete in the FIRST Robotics Rebound Rumble Competition. (Clockwise from top l.) Mary Louis team members, including Madison Zic (front), cheer for their robot; Nikunj Agarwak (l.) and Ahsan Khan from Thomas Edison react to the score; fans cheer for the RoboTigers from Sunnyside; Monil Pandya from Newtown High School removes the battery from his team's machine; Martin Van Buren team members watch as their robot tries to balance on a board; and Melanie Wong from Townsend Harris High School wears a hat to support her team.

Photos by Christina Santucci





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People IN THE NEWS

COMPILED BY JOSEPH GARGIULO

Academics

Samia Alam of Woodside had been named to the Washington and Lee University fall 2011 dean's list.

Katherine Powers of Douglaston, **Caitlin Winkler** and **Laura Fazio** of Forest Hills, **Michael Foster** of Middle Village, **Kellie Alberici** of Glendale and **Anna Di Re** of Flushing have been named to the Loyola University fall 2011 dean's list.

Chester Ho of Flushing is slated to graduate in 2012 from Flushing High School.

Brittany Bishop of Little Neck has been named to the fall 2011 Babson College dean's list.

Zachary Bernard Gale and **Md. Ali** of Jamaica; **Anthony Lin**, **Muhammad Zulkifl Zargar** and **Hans Siyuan Zhou** of Forest Hills; **Raza Mohammad Wani** of Hollis; **Benjamin Adam Chu** of Queens Village; and **Wilson Lin** of Flushing were named to the fall 2011 Washington University dean's list.

Elias Derian of Forest Hills has been named to first honors

on the Clark University fall 2011 dean's list.

Laura J. Urciuoli of Sunnyside, **Alan D. Grunberg** of Woodside and **Tiffany Fu** of Rego Park have received second honors on the Clark University fall 2011 dean's list.

Annibel A. Tejada, **Brittany S. Ng** and **Esthefania Rodriguez** of Ozone Park; **Nadia D. Misir** of South Ozone Park; **Paola G. Heras** of Woodside; **Sara A. Finkle** of Forest Hills; **Tashi Namgyal** of East

Elmhurst; **Vanessa M. Reyes** of Jackson Heights; **Cindy Nervil** of Jamaica; **Stephanie Leung** of Maspeth; **Matthew W. Grajek** of Middle Village; **Lijun Yu**, **Zhen Chen**, **Zhe Cheng**, **Xuwen Deng**, **Michael T. Marcinowski** and **Ming Rao** of Flushing; and **Ekaterina Gounko** and **Paola Palacios** of College Point were named to the SUNY Oswego fall 2011 dean's list.

Hartadinata Harinato, a student at Bard High School Early College in Long Island City,

has been awarded the Ambassador Award for Excellence for outstanding scholastic achievement by the Indonesian embassy.

Kayla Gioia of Flushing was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, the national honor society for first-year students, at Dominican College.

Haniyyah Bashir of Rosedale and **Mayra Bermeo** of Jackson Heights, were named to the Well's College fall 2011 dean's list.

Military

Air Force Airman **Adrian A. Nunez**, a 2007 graduate of Aviation High School in Long Island City, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

U.S. Sen. **Kirsten Gillibrand** (D-N.Y.) has nominated **Gregory Watch** of Flushing to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, **Patricia Ni** of Forest Hills to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and **Richard Araya** of Ozone Park to the U.S. Naval Academy.

Airman 1st Class **Jose Clavijo** of East Elmhurst completed the U.S. Air Force basic military training course at Lackland Air Force Base Texas.

Staff Sgt. **Alex Chi** of Fresh Meadows completed the Regional Equipment Operators Training Course at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn.

Army Spec. **Qaasim I. Jenkins**, son of **Yvonne Marie Jenkins** of Hollis, has been decorated with the U.S. Army Achievement Medal.

Staff Sgt. **Juan Romanoplacencia** from Flushing re-enlisted to continue service with the 53rd

Headquarters Detachment Army Liaison.

Sgt. **Jason Castillo** of Flushing has re-enlisted to continue service with the Intelligence and Sustainment Co. 42nd infantry Division.

Staff Sgt. **Ryan Jalim** of Ozone Park has re-enlisted to continue service with the 107th Military Police Co.

Sgt. 1st Class **Eduardo Deoliveira** of Corona has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. C 101st Signal Battalion.

Sgt. **Alcides Zelayapereira** of Jamaica has re-enlisted to continue service with the 719th Transportation Co.

Staff Sgt. **Donny Mckay** of St. Albans has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. D 1-69th Infantry.

Sgt. **Sasha Morse** of Rosedale has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. A 101st Signal Battalion.

Sgt. **Junior Alexander** of Rosedale has re-enlisted to continue service with the Early Entry Element 369 Sustainment Brigade.

Sgt. 1st Class **Robert Rod-**

gers of Queens Village has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. B 1-69th Infantry.

Sgt. 1st Class **Kehinde Ayeni** of Queens Village has re-enlisted to continue service with

the Co. E (Forward Support Co. Infantry) 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

Spc. **Avery Torres** of Ridgewood has re-enlisted to continue service with the Co. A Recruiting

and Retention.

Staff Sgt. **Richard Johnson** of Glendale has re-enlisted to continue service with the Headquarters and Headquarters Co. 1-69th Infantry.



LOCKS OF LOVE

The Rev. Joseph V. Daly (I.) administers the first cut to a St. John's University student at the annual St. Baldrick's Locks of Love event at the university's Queens campus in March. The event benefits children who suffer from cancer.

Miscellaneous

Queens residents **John Zoll**, **Gia Morris**, **Alan Beckoff**, **Anne-Marie Jolly**, **Marybeth Richroath** and **Douglas Wong** were sworn in to serve in the city's Family, Criminal and Civil courts.

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Photos by Dee Richard

JEFFERSON DEMOCRATIC CLUB MARCH MEETING AT CLEARVIEW GOLF CLUBHOUSE



1 Tom DiNapoli swearing in the board members



2 The board is sworn in by DiNapoli



4 Ed Braunstein, Tom DiNapoli, Toby Stavisky, David Fischer, Carol Gresser and Matt Silverstein

DARRYL STRAWBERRY'S 50TH BIRTHDAY PARTY AT STRAWBERRY'S AT DOUGLASTON



1 Michael Strawberry and the birthday boy Darryl (rear), Nick Vaglica and Dee Richard (front)



2 The fabulous birthday cake

QUEENS COUNTY CONSERVATIVE PARTY MEETING



1 Vincent Accuri, Eric Ulrich, Tom Long and Tom Casey

WOMEN'S GO RED AT STRAWBERRY'S IN DOUGLASTON



1 Norine Avrams, Danielle Gulinello, Peggy Studevan, Lorraine Vargas, Carah Lucas-Hill, Victor Clavie, Jan DiGeronimo, Dr. Lisa Rutkovsky, Rosie Pagan and Barbara Sorge

SAMUEL FIELD Y AND CENTRAL QUEENS Y COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP BREAKFAST AT DOUGLASTON MANOR



1 Honorees Dave and Carrie Kerpen



2 Honoree Karen Koslowitz



3 Honoree Deniz Gurcan with Rick Lewis and Dr. Steven Goodman



4 Martha Wolf, Ronald Fatoullah, Ann-Margaret Carrozza and Victor Clavie

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New parents create Raising Astoria consignment shop to offer maternity and infant gear at low cost

BY REBECCA HENELEY

Astoria moms Kimberly Rossignol and Laurie Nicholson found that when parents have fast-growing new babies, many of the clothes and toys they buy end up never used or only used once.

Their new baby and maternity consignment shop, Raising Astoria, at 26-11 23rd Ave., hopes to keep prices for new parents affordable as well as help them earn some money themselves. Not only can parents buy clothes for a half to a third of the retail price, but they can also bring new or gently used baby and maternity clothes to the shop.

When they are sold, the customers will get 50 percent of the profits of the sale for store credit or, if they earn \$50 or more, cash. The credit is given to the parents at the point of sale.

"It's pretty ideal for new parents," Nicholson said.

Rossignol and Nicholson



Raising Astoria owners Laurie Nicholson (l.) and Kimberly Rossignol sit with their daughters Julia Montini (c.) and Coralie Podmore (r.) inside their 23rd Avenue shop.

Photo by Nykeema Williams

got to know each other through a meet-up group called Astoria New and Expecting Parents. Rossignol has a 16-month-old, Coralie Podmore, and Rossignol has a 14-month-old, Julia Montini.

They decided to team up and

create the store in summer 2011 when Nicholson saw that while where she worked in Park Slope, Brooklyn, had many consignment shops, there were almost none in Queens.

"Who doesn't want to buy

something that looks brand-new for a third of the cost?" Rossignol said.

In addition to consignment, Raising Astoria also sells new maternity clothes, parenting books, strollers and new baby toys, which are from the German company Hape toys and the French company Tolo.

"The kids go crazy over them," Rossignol said. "They're very bright and colorful."

Nicholson, who has a background in social work, said she wants Raising Astoria to become a community meeting place, so the store offers classes in music and art and has a pre-school alternative run by Nicholson.

The boutique also holds a monthly educational workshop. The first, which costs \$20 to attend, takes place March 31 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and centers on language development.

Raising Astoria has only been open for a few weeks, but many

customers have already earned more than \$50 in store credit through sending gently used items to the store, Rossignol said.

"People from the neighborhood have just been bringing them nonstop," Rossignol said.

The store also received a citation from state Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria), who is expecting a child, at its grand opening.

Nicholson said despite the praise and auspicious opening, she still has more planned.

"I'm still, like, we need to do more," Nicholson said. "We need to do better."

Raising Astoria is open from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. More information can be found at raisingastoria.com.

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

BUSINESS CALENDAR

The Business Technology

Forum – The Queens Chamber of Commerce and The Info-Tech Committee Invites you to The Business Technology Forum. Spend 90 minutes with us and we will provide the answers. Our discussion will address financials, sales and marketing, business development, training, customer service and information technology. Featured presenters include Eugene Erichsen, Evan Stein and Scott Seltzer.
When: March 22, 8:30 am
Where: Bulova Center, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., Ste. 140, Jackson Heights

Restaurant Boot Camp – The Queens Chamber of Commerce and the New York City Business Solutions, Queens Center presents Restaurant Boot Camp Seminar in Spanish. Meet speakers from New Business Acceleration Team (NBAT) to discuss the licensing/permits required for food businesses and

Micro lender to discuss special financing available for food businesses.
When: March 26, 5:30 pm
Where: Astoria Public Library, 14-01 Astoria Blvd. at 14th Street, Astoria
Contact: (718) 278-2220
Website: www.queenslibrary.org

Entrepreneur Workshops – The first class will focus on what lenders look for and preparing to make a loan request. Participants will get a one-on-one review of their credit reports, find out if they qualify, and/or learn how to improve their credit to qualify for a loan. In the second class, a loan officer will review participants' financial documents and loan purposes and determine how a loan will help them grow their business.
When: March 26, 6 pm and April 4, 6 pm
Where: Entrepreneur Space, 36-46 37th St., Long Island City

Women's History Month – To celebrate Women's History Month,

the Queens Economic Development Corp. and Flushing's Deluge Restaurant invite the public to a free networking event honoring women from the borough and their successes as entrepreneurs. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet start-up business owners and discuss partnership opportunities. Cash bar.
When: March 29, 6 pm
Where: Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Ave., Flushing

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

FUND-RAISERS

Pancake Breakfast – For the church youth group.
When: March 24, 8 am
Where: Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 69-26 Cooper Ave., Glendale
Contact: (718) 456-5292

Craft Fair/Flea Market – Vendors needed. Crafts, vendors, flea market, food, music and fun. Reserve your spot today.
When: March 24, 9 am
Where: U.U.C.Q., Corner of 149th Street and Ash Avenue, Flushing
Contact: (718) 380-5362

Grocery Bingo
When: March 25, 12:30 pm

Where: Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 69-26 Cooper Ave., Glendale
Contact: (718) 456-5292

Garden Gala 2012 – Garden School, an independent, coeducational institution in Jackson Heights, will honor William Vogel, lower division head who has been with the school since 1997, at this year's gala. Live and silent auctions with dinner and dancing.
When: March 30
Where: Terrace on the Park, 52-11 111th St., Corona
Contact: (718) 335-6363; gala@gardenschool.org; gardenschool.org

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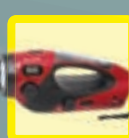
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Redistricting

Continued from Page 4

considered,” she said, referring particularly to the neighborhood of Astoria, which was split in half in the Senate. “I’m not going to do anything that would damage my community by splitting it in half.”

Even though the Assembly lines were less controversial, Simotas said the Senate lines factored into her decision.

In addition, Simotas said she signed a pledge pushed by former Mayor Ed Koch to support independent redistricting.

Koch blasted the lawmakers who went back on the pledge, saying in an op-ed earlier this month that “unfortunately (but not

surprisingly), many of the same legislators who pledged to support independent redistricting have reneged and are now trying to continue the same practice of gerrymandering — meaning business as usual.”

But several members of the Assembly did not sign the pledge, including Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows), Michael Simanowitz (D-Flushing) and William Scarborough (D-St. Albans).

Cuomo said the amendment would help make the process more transparent in the future.

“This agreement will permanently reform the redistricting process in New York to once and for all end self-interested and partisan gerrymandering,” Cuomo said.

Ackerman

Continued from Page 4

But Tuesday afternoon, Ackerman said leaving Congress was one of the hardest things he had ever done. After dispelling rumors about poor health or not wanting to move back to Queens, Ackerman said going out on his own terms was essential to his making the final call.

Ackerman’s district was redrawn as part of the once-a-decade redistricting process that adjusts political lines based on population changes.

But the congressman wanted to make it clear that the redrawn district did not frighten him into retirement. It, in fact, closely resembled his congressional district before 1992.

Instead, Ackerman said that once he knew his district was safe from being chopped up, it made it easier to consider retirement.

“You have to fight to keep the district as compact, as contiguous as together and sensible as this

process can make it, so they don’t decimate [it],” Ackerman said. “The court’s plan was the best one for me, and it gave me a chance to think.”

In addition, Ackerman said he did not want to back down from a fight. Up until he made the announcement shortly after 7 p.m. last Thursday, Ackerman was adamant publicly that he would run.

State Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) had pledged to run for Congress against U.S. Rep. Bob Turner (D-Middle Village), but when Turner’s district was eliminated through redistricting and the Republican decided to run for U.S. Senate, Lancman was faced with running against Ackerman.

Last Thursday, Lancman went to Ackerman’s house and told the longtime lawmaker he would not run against a fellow Democrat.

Ackerman said he dropped several hints to Lancman that a congressional run might not actually be in the cards, and told a story about how he was first elected after the incumbent suddenly died.

mittee members’ vote, said he has experience streamlining Nassau County’s financial operations, which he believes will serve him well.

“I reduced Nassau County’s amount of borrowing by 50 percent without any property tax increases in just over three years,” said Maragos. “And that is exactly what we need to do in Washington. We need

Hours after Lancman’s announcement, Ackerman sent out his retirement notice.

“It became easier when one of the Assembly persons decided he was not going to challenge me,” Ackerman said. “I was under no pressure. I could make it under the ideal circumstances — I didn’t lose an election, I didn’t go in a body bag and nobody was chasing me out. There are ugly ways to get out.”

Ackerman was born in Brooklyn in 1942 and grew up in Pomonok Houses before graduating from public schools. He started off as a schoolteacher, and first gained notoriety when he sued for a leave of absence to be with his newborn child.

He served as a state senator for four years before moving up to Congress.

But Ackerman’s career was not without blemishes. In the early 1990s, he was embroiled in a House banking controversy and, although never prosecuted, he resigned from the House Ethics Committee shortly afterward.

to straighten out finances, make the government more efficient and reduce the national debt.”

As for fund-raising, Maragos said he has already put more than \$1 million of his own money into his campaign account and he pledges to spend \$5 million more after he receives the nomination.

Wyckoff

Continued from Page 4

Wyckoff, had paid Seminerio out of the fund, the court documents said.

The 397 Himrod entity had originally been created by Wyckoff to buy real estate in Bushwick for a parking lot, although the corporation was later dissolved, the Orange County judge said in her decision.

Hsu had been fired after the scandal came to light, although Hsu said he had not been a signatory on the 397 Himrod account and did not know of it, Slobod said. Hsu’s contract for his \$350,000 annual salary, which was signed in 2006, assured him of compensation for the following 18 months after his employment ended unless he was terminated for “legal wrongdoing,” Slobod said.

Wyckoff argued in response that “legal wrongdoing” was ambiguous and that Hsu should have learned of the corruption, but Slobod said Hsu had no



The former CFO of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center is suing the hospital for severance pay after he was fired in the wake of the bribery scandal of late Richmond Hill state Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio.

way of knowing of the account and its use as a bribery tool.

Hsu had also pressed for reimbursement of his attorneys fees under the Labor Law, but Slobod said this only applies to non-executives. The judge said Hsu needs to prove the damages he is owed in future court appearances.

Seminerio was not the only elected official found to have been accepting bribes on behalf of a hospi-

tal executive.

Dr. Robert Aquino pleaded guilty in January of bribing former Brooklyn state Sen. Carl Kruger on behalf of Parkway Hospital in Forest Hills. Kruger also pleaded guilty to the charge and both are awaiting sentencing. Aquino had maintained that the state closed down Parkway Hospital in 2008 because he had refused to pay the bribes demanded by Seminerio.

LIRR

Continued from Page 5

ington that would allow for additional trains.

Williams said LIRR is in the drafting stages of its study, which will look at travel patterns in the area and what services residents are using.

“I think that there is

viability and that is what we need to test,” Williams said.

She said the cost for a Manhattan-bound ticket for the Elmhurst station would be \$7.25 at peak times, \$5 at off-peak and \$3.50 for disabled and senior riders.

A presentation put out by the LIRR said Elmhurst’s population grew by more than 45 percent from 1980-2010. It said possible destinations for train riders

could be the Queens Center Mall, which is about 10 blocks away from the station, and Elmhurst Hospital Center, which is two blocks away.

Crowley characterized the LIRR’s study as a good thing but not a “slam dunk” in getting an alternate route for Elmhurst riders.

“The city of New York must become a more livable place,” he said.

Trafficking

Continued from Page 5

Boudreau said the government issues 10,000 U visas each fiscal year and 5,000 T visas. The U visas are usually all issued, which means some cases are carried over to the next year, although the T visas are underused.

Julie Dinnerstein, a professor of immigration law, said it is hard to quantify how widespread the problem of human trafficking is in the city because

there are many obstacles to enforcement.

Victims are sometimes part of international trafficking rings and they often do not come forward for fear not only about their own safety, but the safety of their families at home. She said those who have been prostituted also fear stigma.

“There’s this myth of an army of voluntary prostitutes out there,” she said.

Finally, Dinnerstein also said trafficking victims can come to the United States through various avenues, including tourist

or student visas, through a marriage to a U.S. citizen, through a family who are permanent residents or through smuggling.

Even if requests for visas are eventually denied, Quarantillo said USCIS does not then begin deportation for the immigrant. USCIS also works closely with judges and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement if a crime victim is going through the process.

“We do not use these cases as a way to put people in removal proceedings,” Quarantillo said.

Gillibrand

Continued from Page 5

Supreme Court. In 2005, she joined the Judicial Confirmation Network as chief counsel. Since 2007, Long as been legal adviser to Republican Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign.

Maragos, who took 27 percent of the GOP com-



Scholars Academy celebrates its second-straight 'B' championship. Photo by An Rong Xu

Scholars take two against Bedford

BY MIKE SMOLLINS

The pursuit of a second-straight title was just one of many things that motivated Scholars Academy.

The second-seeded Seawolves had a lot to play for in their 51-43 victory over top-seed Bedford Academy in the PSAL Class B girls' basketball championship game Saturday at CCNY in Harlem. The victory notched Scholars its second title in its three-year history as a varsity program, its first coming in a blowout victory over Bedford Academy last season.

"I'm enormously proud of these girls," Coach Janet Kleiner said. "Different things have motivated them this season."

Scholars Academy, of Rockaway Park, was led by sophomore Jessica Glaz, who contributed a game-high 21 points and had 13 rebounds while playing with a broken knuckle on her shooting hand suffered in a second-round playoff game. Meanwhile, junior

Taylor Gallagher put up 14 points and freshman Emma Michaels added nine points before a third quarter injury kept her on the sidelines.

"Jessica and Taylor, that's the backbone," Kleiner said. "I've coached 33 years, thousands of kids in different sports and by far [Glaz] is the most competitive student athlete I've ever coached."

The Seawolves (17-2) marched out to an early 6-0 lead and took a commanding 32-11 lead into halftime, only allowing the Panthers to put up four points in the second quarter. Bedford (17-1) began to climb back into the game in the second half, having a fourth-quarter surge scoring 22 points before time ran out on them.

"We just came together as a group," Glaz said. "We talked about keeping up the pressure because they were motivated in the second half to come out and beat us so we came together as a group and stayed strong

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Washington leads title team

Junior leads Pathways to second consecutive championship

BY MIKE SMOLLINS

Jordan Washington has had his fair share of ups and downs, but on Sunday he reached an all-time high.

The 6-foot-7 junior was key in aiding top-seeded Pathways, of Hollis, to its second-straight title with a 67-50 victory over No. 3 Newcomers in the PSAL Class B boys' basketball championship game at CCNY in Harlem by putting up a game-high 28 points.

"It feels so good to win back-to-back championships," Washington said.

Washington's work ethic was never more prominent than in the second half of Sunday's game. With his team's lead trimmed down from an 11-point advantage to just two points in the second quarter, Washington knew it was time for him to step up in the second half. Washington answered the call, converting 18 of his points in the final two frames.

"We were a little nervous, but we got the win," Washington said. "My coach went in the locker room and said, 'Ya'll gotta get Jordan the ball.' So I took command of the ball and started scoring every bucket."

While Washington led the Trailblazers (23-4) in points and also contributed 12 rebounds, Sam Annorh Jr. and Izaha Jackson both put up 12 points for Pathways. After gaining a nine-point lead in the first quarter, Newcomers went on a 12-2 run late in the second quarter to put the score



Pathways star Jordan Washington went off for 28 points in the 'B' final.

Photo by An Rong Xu

at 28-26 at the half before Washington exploded the rest of the way at the urging of Coach Harold Peaks.

"We needed that from [Jordan] today," Peaks said. "We needed to exploit our biggest advantage and that was him."

Washington, who missed a significant amount of the season due to academic reasons, used his size to his advantage and

lifted the team to victory.

Newcomers (19-1) had a good showing in the program's first-ever trip to the finals and was led by junior Cristian Zapata, who put up a team-high 16 points. Senior point guard Larry Baez had 13 points and junior forward Jose Fernandez had 12.

"It was an excellent opportunity and brought a lot of school spirit to our

school," Lions Coach Joseph DePrimo said. "We just didn't have an answer for their big man, he was going through two or three guys at a time. This season was a huge success."

DePrimo has coached Newcomers for seven years and this was its finest season to date in the 15-year history of the basketball program. Newcomers went

Continued on Page 50

Bryant coach amped for another successful season

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Rocco Rotondi is not the nostalgic type.

The Bryant baseball coach looks forward, not back. He's proud of last year's accomplishments — the second-place finish in the prestigious Monroe Tournament, the Queens A West title it shared with rival John Adams and its run to the PSAL Class A quarterfinals — but he's made a point of moving past those feats.

"He always says what's in the past," senior Nick Alvarez said, "is in the past."

Rotondi doesn't want his players to forget about what they did last year, but to understand it has nothing to do with this spring. After arguably Rotondi's most successful season, hopes have increased — within the program and from the outside as well.

"Anytime you have expectations you have to back up those expectations," Ro-



Bryant's Adonis Lao, Chris Alvarez, Darlyn Valdez and Nick Alvarez are ready to build on last season's success.

Photo by Denis Gostev

tondi said. "It's always a little harder when you're not flying under the radar. We have to earn every win."

He added, "We don't want to overlook anybody. We want to take it one game at a time, try to improve each and every game out."

Aside from first baseman Joseph Cox and shortstop Kenny Linero, Bryant returns its entire team. It includes co-aces Alvarez, Darlyn Valdez and Adonis Lao. The trio combined to win 12 games last year. Valdez and Lao throw in the

mid-80s with solid off-speed stuff, while Alvarez has the most diverse assortment of pitches.

"They're all battling for that ace position," the ninth-year coach said. "They all have good qualities, bring something dif-

ferent to the table."

The lineup, which was one of the city's best, routinely scoring in double figures, could be improved with so much continuity and returning players who are now upperclassmen. Lao, second baseman Chris Alvarez (Nick's brother) and Nick Alvarez will make up the 3-4-5 spots.

The lone departures, Linero and Cox, will be replaced by Christian Aubry, last year's starting second baseman, and Sean O'Brien. Rotondi expects teams to pitch to Bryant differently and wants to bunt more, move runners over and hit the ball to the opposite field on a consistent basis.

"It's a balanced lineup," Rotondi said. "We're not going to just rely on the top four or five guys. We don't want to be top-heavy."

The Owls are hungry to test themselves against the area's best after coming five outs shy of upsetting

eventual city champion George Washington in the quarterfinals, a game they felt got away. It's a loss that has stayed with Bryant.

"We definitely learned from that game," said Nick Alvarez, who scored 17 runs and drove in 12 a year ago. "If we're in that situation again this year, we'll be better prepared."

Rotondi had built a top-notch program before last year; Bryant just tended to fade late. That was hardly the case last May as the Owls won four of their last six regular-season games to finish tied with John Adams atop Queens A West. Now instead of division titles and a playoff win or two, their hopes are far higher.

"We want to bring home a championship for our school," Chris Alvarez said. "We want to make a name for ourselves, to bust out."

Molloy softball ready to meet the high expectations

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Fresh off its first CHSAA state softball title, Archbishop Molloy has already heard the rumblings of what's expected this season.

"We feel like everyone thinks we're the team to beat," senior Dana Moss said. "We are confident, but we are not cocky."

There are plenty of reasons to believe that to be the case.

Molloy, which has won three-straight CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens crowns, returns its pair of dominant aces in C.W. Post-bound power thrower Maria Palmeri and Victoria Goldbach, known for her ability to change speeds. Both are completely healthy to start the season. Goldbach battled a shoulder injury the beginning of last year and

Palmeri, an All-City first team selection by the New York Post, hurt her knee over the summer.

"They are two of the best pitchers in the city without a doubt," Stanners Coach Maureen Rosenbaum said.

Palmeri, who will be at short with Goldbach in the circle, is part of a deadly middle of the order along with Moss, who is also headed to C.W. Post, and her sophomore sister Taylor. The three combined to go 12-for-20 with seven runs scored and 10 RBIs in two state playoff games and went 9-for-12 with five runs scored and five RBIs in a city title game win over Moore Catholic. Both Mosses and Goldbach earned All-City second team honors.

"It's special to our core," Dana Moss said. "It's



Archbishop Molloy's Maria Palmeri is one of the city's best all-around players.

Photo by Robert Cole

not just the middle of the lineup that can hit. It's the whole line up."

Dana Moss will split time at first and short and Taylor Moss, a sophomore,

will do the same at first and right field. The Stanners' best team has been with Goldbach in the circle and Palmeri gobbling balls up in the infield.

There are still holes to fill. Kristen Ponticelli will be back in one of the corner outfield spots and batting second, but will have a new partner atop the order and in center field. Junior Theresa Conway is expected to take over in center field and the leadoff spot for the graduated Jen DeMaria.

"Theresa's a speed demon," said Dana Moss. "We needed a table setter and she definitely filled that spot."

Julianne Tracy will add speed and play second base. All of the players raved about catcher Maddie Casello, who slides in for Gabby Basile and her strong arm. Catherine

Hickey will see time in left and Fallon McCarthy can add a power bat at third.

"I see a lot of potential in her," Palmeri said of Casello.

The Stanners see the same in themselves. Rosenbaum said she hasn't felt the difference of being the defending state champions, but believes that might change when games begin in a new five-team Brooklyn/Queens league that includes rivals St. Francis Prep and Mary Louis. Her players believe their experience in big games will help them deal with any pressure they feel.

It's not like they haven't done any of this before.

"Winning lets you know what it feels like to be at the top," Goldbach said. "So we definitely want to get back there again."

Molloy's Moss picks CW Post program

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Dana Moss knew for a long time where she wanted to go to college. For her, no other school seemed to compare. As a sophomore, the Archbishop Molloy star went to C.W. Post for a clinic and immediately fell in love.

"It was the first school I saw and every other school I saw after that didn't compare to it," she said.

Moss accepted a full scholarship to play softball at the Division II school in Brookdale, L.I., next season. She will join fellow Stanners and Sudden Impact travel ball teammate Maria Palmeri there. The two have known each other since they were 12.

"I think she pretty much played on every team that I have been on since I started," Palmeri said. "It feels really good to be able to share the next four years with her."

Moss, who plays first base and will try her hand at short this season, felt comfortable at C.W. Post, which features other members of the Sudden Impact program. She gets along well with head Coach Jamie Apicella and was impressed with the players' relationships.

"I just thought the campus was beautiful," she said. "It's not too far away from home, but it's not too

close, so I can commute whenever I want."

Moss, who is unsure what she will study in school, will join a program that went 41-16 overall last season and 20-8 in the ECC. The Pioneers, who are currently 8-8, made the Division II NCAA tournament for the 10th consecutive year last season and lost in the College World Series round after winning the East Super Regional.

"Dana is a very good player," Molloy Coach Maureen Rosenbaum said. "She is a modest player. She's just superb."

The three-year varsity player isn't boastful about her abilities or accomplishments on the field, even after helping the Stanners win their first-ever CHSAA state crown a year ago. Moss hit 8-of-11 with five runs scored and three RBIs in the Stanners' CHSAA city championship and state playoff games last season. She is a doubles machine at times and was impossible to get out late in the season.

"I have her in the fourth spot because she is the most reliable hitter," Rosenbaum said. "She always puts the bat on the ball. She very rarely strikes out. She will either hit line drives into the gap or hit for power."

Moss is experiment-
Continued on Page 50



Archbishop Molloy infielder Dana Moss will enroll in C.W. Post in the fall, joining a top-performing teammate. Photo by Denis Gostev

Terriers softball gears up

St. Francis Prep loses aces but gains youthful exuberance

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Ann Marie Rich is living a life of luxury she hasn't been used to in recent years.

The St. Francis Prep softball coach not only has reasons to feel excited for this season, but for beyond as well. Her Terriers lost plenty of talent from last year's squad, including ace Katie Derby. There is an influx of youth and pitching on its way.

"We lost a lot, but we feel like we've got good enough girls that know the game that want to be here to fill their spots," Nicole Lomangino said.

She is one of just two seniors and will take over as the No. 1 starter in the circle. Lomangino worked on refining her pitches after missing a bulk of last season with a severely sprained ankle. Unlike last year, where Derby, now at Post University, pitched the majority of the innings, she will have plenty of help. The Terriers staff will be deep with former JV ace sophomore Theresa Armano and junior backup Jackie Russo. Sophomore Maggie Aguirre has been a pleasant surprise. She throws hard and could be used late in games.

"It's been a while," Rich said. "It's been a long while since I had that."

The biggest holes SFP has to fill are in the batting order, with Derby and Kristen McGoldrick graduated and Victoria Slavik transferring to James Madison. The top will not be a problem with junior shortstop Danielle Cervasio. The slick fielder has established herself as one of city's top run creators with her legs and bat. She will be joined on the left side by Briana Emanuele.

"We are going to have hopefully a powerful lineup this year," Cervasio said. "We just have to put the ball in play."



Shortstop Danielle Cervasio will try to help a young SFP team unseat Molloy as CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens champs. Photo by Robert Cole

Russo will bat second and Emanuele third. Freshman Kelly Luchi, Jessica Menna and Lomangino will provide plenty of pop. Menna, who missed the bulk of last year with a leg injury, will split time at first base and catcher Luchi. Kayla Ward is back at second base along with Eishara Campbell in left and the speedy Tara O'Rourke in center. Aguirre could see time in right and Rich expects Alexa Calcagini to also bring

a consistent bat.

"We lost a lot of talent, but with the new girls coming in we also gained a lot," Campbell said.

The new faces are something SFP feels might help when it comes time to play league opponents early on. The Terriers will go back to playing CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens teams three times with Bishop Kearney and St. Edmund dropping to the 'A' league. St. Francis has been the bridesmaid to de-

fending CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens and CHSAA state champions Archbishop Molloy, which has won the last three diocesan crowns, but the girls believe they are closing in on changing that.

"I feel like every year we take another step toward them," Lomangino said. "I feel like this year we might be taking even more of a step because they don't know what we got."

Continued from Page 47

undefeated in its division this season and lost for the first time all season Sunday. It is a school with an enrollment of just 900, where students learn English as a second language.

While Newcomers fell, Pathways now advances to the New York State Federation tournament in Albany

with a semifinals matchup set for Friday against Long Island Lutheran.

If the Trailblazers fall, it could be his last game at the Queens school. The 18-year-old Washington said he may play at South Kent prep school in Connecticut next year, though he'd still be eligible to play in the PSAL.

Washington is also

highly sought after as he's received college scholarship offers from schools such as Louisville, Miami and Villanova. While the future remains unclear for the star, he's content with just enjoying the championship win.

"It was so important [to win back-to-back championships]," Washington said. "I wanted it for my seniors, they're gonna go to states and do what they gotta do."

Continued from Page 47

and stayed aggressive."

Bedford was paced by Eleasha Wiggins, who put up a team-high 11 points in the loss while Briana Perlmutter and Alexis Foster each added 10.

Glaz, Gallagher and Michaels led Scholars Academy for most of the game before Michaels hit her head on the floor while going after a loose ball and caught an elbow to the cheek sidelining her for the rest of the game. Glaz and Gallagher continued to dominate the scoreboard after the loss of Michaels.

Even though Scholars

Academy lost four of five starters from last season, it was able to put together a solid, hard-working team to bring the school its second title in three years, handing Bedford its first loss of the year.

"Four out of the five starters [from last season] are gone, so now it's a new group of girls winning the championship," Glaz said. "We all have skill, so we put those skills together to win a championship and that's what we did."

One of the greatest motivators behind the Seawolves' championship run came from former assistant Coach Claire Droesch, who is battling Stage 4 breast cancer and was in the stands for Scholars Acad-

emy, inspiring them to victory.

"She brings a lot of motivation to us," Glaz said. "She's great and very supportive and always there for us, especially with what she's going through it gave us the motivation to win for her."

Scholars Academy will now travel to Albany to play in the New York State Federation tournament semifinals Friday against Long Island Lutheran. Droesch will be in attendance for that game as she was Sunday.

"They've been supportive of me," Droesch said. "So I felt I had to be here to support them."

Queens College baseball splits doubleheader

Junior second baseman Rob Bernardo went 3-for-6 with a double, triple, three runs and three RBIs Sunday afternoon at Ray Metski Field, helping the Queens College baseball team to capture a doubleheader split against visiting Bloomfield College.

Sophomore pitcher Matthew Cascello got a 10-3 victory in the opening contest before the Deacons evened the score by a 4-3 margin in the nightcap.

Game 1: Queens 10, Bloomfield 3

Cascello moved to 3-0 on the season with a complete-game eight-hitter with two walks and as many strikeouts, and he got all the offensive support he would need in a five-run third frame by the hosts. Junior outfielder Warren Kelly capped the scoring in the inning when his sacrifice fly scored Bernardo to push the QC advantage to 5-0.

Junior Anthony Mazzella, of Wantagh, L.I., brought Kelly home on a RBI single in the fifth inning, and came home five

batters later on Varela's left-side base knock.

Game 2: Bloomfield 4, Queens 3

After taking a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Salanitri scored on a RBI single by freshman Nick LoBello, the Deacons (7-9) scored two unearned runs in the top of the second to take a 2-1 lead.

Queens (5-6) tied the game in the third and again in the fifth, but the Deacons later took the lead for good in the sixth inning.

Moss

Continued from Page 49

ing with a new position at shortstop this season with the graduations of Marrison Puzino and Alanna Gallagher. She will play there instead of first when

Palmeri, the regular shortstop, is pitching. While she is still learning the intricacies of the position, her smarts, speed and athletic ability make her the best candidate in Rosenbaum's mind.

"I think she will fill in fine," the coach said. "She

just has to get used to it."

There was no apprehension when it came to Moss' college decision. That was made up a long time ago.

"I knew from the first time I saw C.W. Post that was the school for me," Moss said.

St. John's star freshman leaving for NBA Draft

St. John's star Moe Harkless, the 2011-12 Big East Rookie of the Year and the only league freshman to be named an All-Big East honorable mention selection, announced Monday that he intends to forego the remainder of his collegiate career and enter the 2012 NBA Draft.

"Moe has chosen to take the next step in his career to pursue his dream of playing in the NBA. Moe

and his mother Rosa know that we are thankful for his contributions to the St. John's basketball program and respect his wishes to pursue a professional playing career," said St. John's head Coach Steve Lavin in a release.

Harkless, a guard/forward, is expected to become the first basketball player of the Lavin Era at St. John's to be selected in the NBA Draft. From 1997-

2006, a total of 13 players signed or coached by Lavin became NBA Draft choices.

"It has been my lifelong dream to play in the NBA, and I am excited to have that opportunity to make the jump," said Harkless. "I am grateful to my teammates and coaches at St. John's. I would like to thank Coach Lavin, our staff and my teammates for being there for me throughout the whole season."

Easy #56								
9	1	4	2	8	5	3	7	6
8	5	6	9	3	7	4	2	1
2	3	7	1	6	4	5	9	8
5	6	1	3	4	2	7	8	9
3	8	9	7	1	6	2	5	4
4	7	2	5	9	8	6	1	3
1	4	5	6	7	9	8	3	2
7	9	8	4	2	3	1	6	5
6	2	3	8	5	1	9	4	7

Week 12

Hard #56								
2	5	3	4	9	8	1	7	6
7	8	4	1	2	6	9	5	3
6	9	1	3	5	7	2	8	4
4	6	8	9	7	2	5	3	1
5	7	2	8	1	3	4	6	9
1	3	9	6	4	5	7	2	8
9	2	6	7	3	4	8	1	5
8	1	5	2	6	9	3	4	7
3	4	7	5	8	1	6	9	2

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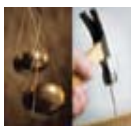
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► LEGAL

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FAST BOX, LLC App. for Auth. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 2/24/2012. LLC was organized in CA on 4/12/2011. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to 2245 Colorado Blvd., #104, Pasadena, CA 91107, Which is also the required office in CA. Cert. of Org. filed with SSCA, 1500 11TH St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Name of LLC: Douglass St. Records LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 2/24/12. Office loc.: Queens Co. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o Myles Rodenhouse, 2557 14th St., 2nd Fl., Astoria, NY 11102, regd. agt. upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of formation of 7A PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/23/11. Office loc.: Queens County. The principal business loc. is 95-60 Queens Blvd., Ste. 300, Rego Park NY 11374. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Robert B. Levine, 1431 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. Mgmt. of the LLC shall be by one or more members. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of JOE'S COFFEE SHOP, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/20/2012. Office location, County of Queens. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 41-25 20th Avenue, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: any lawful act

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► LEGAL

SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: ARTISOUND, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/27/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 44-02 23rd ST, SUITE 414 LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11101. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: YONDAR 1, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/01/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 58-32 217th Street, Bay-side, New York 11364. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: WOODSHIDE MEHRA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/01/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC C/O PROFESSIONAL CONSORTIUM LTD., 13 EAST 16TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10003. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: LOTTERY TOOLBOX LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/26/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LEON BENJAMIN 8250 135TH STREET APT 2D BRIARWOOD, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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Notice of Formation of Nine Ten LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 12/29/11. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 231-09 87th Ave., Bellerose Manor, NY 11427. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of ROZABURANA TAXI LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/27/12. Off. loc.: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 101-03 80th St., 1st Fl., Ozone Park, NY 11416. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Qualification of SECAC Tunnel Co., LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 2/15/12. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in DE on 2/14/12. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business addr.: c/o Michael A. Capasso, 54-08 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101. DE addr. of LLC: c/o The Corporation Trust Co., 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

RBC CONTRACTING LLC a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/21/11. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 36-25 12th St., Long Island City, NY 11106. General Purposes.

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Note-taking is also necessary in the business world, but despite its importance in higher learning, not much study has gone into the correlation between note-taking and performance improvement. As a result, statistics supporting the importance of effective note-taking do not exist.

It stands to reason that the student who takes good notes, and studies well from them, has a sporting chance to improve his or her grades over others with poor notes. Learning Note-taking It may not seem as such, but note-taking can almost be a lesson all its own.

Some elementary and high-school teachers attempt to teach strategies for taking notes, including developing outlines, but many students still struggle to maintain the essentials as they move through school. It can be confusing knowing just how much to write down without creating a novel or having notes so scant that they provide little information when it comes time to study.

There are many systems of note-taking that a student can learn. These include using graphic representations to map out interconnected concepts. Outlines or charts can group terminology together with related ideas. There are other techniques that use cue words to trigger recollection of facts and dates.

Students can experiment with different methods until they find a system that works well and offers measurable success. Continued next week.

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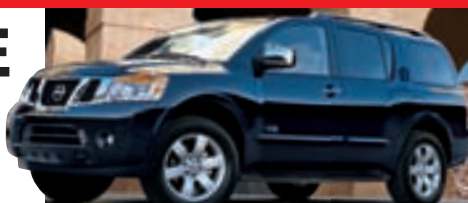
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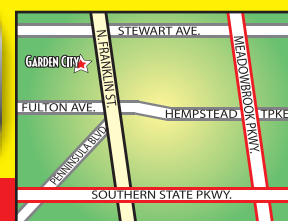
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