

Hoarder fills property with junk on Main St.

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MTA mulls St. George's bus stop woes

BY ALEX ROBINSON

The MTA is set to unveil a plan to address heavy bus traffic that has plagued St. George's Episcopal Church in Flushing for years.

The historic church, built in 1854, sits at the corner of 38th Avenue and Main Street, where there are stops for the Q20 and Q44 buses and a layover for bus drivers who have just finished their routes.

"There's no parking for any

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Fireman stole from boro firehouses

Joseph Keene called 911 in Glen Oaks, Astoria before robbing companies: Brown

BY PHIL CORSO

The city firefighter from Long Island accused of making fake 911 calls before hitting five firehouses for cash — including two from Glen Oaks and Asto-

ria — has admitted to the crime, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said.

Joseph Keene, 34, pleaded guilty in Queens State Supreme Court to felony counts of second- and third-degree burglary and

must enter an in-patient drug treatment program and pay back \$1,500 restitution to the FDNY, Brown said. He also faces 3 1/2 years in prison if he fails treatment, documents said.

The Hicksville, L.I., native

snagged nearly \$2,000 in cash after breaking into two firehouses in Staten Island and two more in Glen Oaks and Astoria, a city Department of Investigation report said. He also stole money from a

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POLITICS ON STAGE



Elected officials (l.-r., front row) State Sen. Toby Stavisky, Assemblymen Jose Peralta and Phil Goldfeder and Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas take the stage during "Legislative Acts." **See more coverage on Pages 19, 32.**

Photo by Nat Valentine

MAILING ADDRESS GOES HERE

NYCHA installs cameras

Bland Houses receives 53 security systems after major delays

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Residents of Bland Houses in Flushing can finally sleep a little easier since 53 security cameras were installed in the development in mid-November.

The installation came after several years of residents' pleas amid a rash of crime and murders at the housing development.

"It's a definite relief. It has already taken its effect on the development. We don't have people staying in the lobbies and stuff like that. It has been a deterrent so far," said Craig Kinsey, Bland Houses tenant association president.

After a 21-year-old man was murdered at the development in 2011, the New York City Housing Authority said cameras would be installed by spring 2012. The cameras were not installed and by August of that year a 45-year-old man had been shot and killed in the development's courtyard.

At the time of the second man's death, NYCHA told TimesLedger Newspapers that while the necessary funds had been allocated for the cameras, the department lacked the money to install a comprehensive security system.

The project was further delayed in 2013, when NYCHA had a problem distributing payments to the project's vendor, Kinsey said. NYCHA then told Kinsey the cameras would be



After years of pleas from the development's residents, 53 cameras are installed and operational in Bland Houses in downtown Flushing. Photo by Alex Robinson



Two murders were committed at the Bland Houses in 2012. Photo by Alex Robinson

installed by August 2013, but installation was not completed until the fall because the vendor could not pay its employees during the payment disruption.

City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) first put money aside for the project in 2009. He continued to do so in subsequent years and amassed a total of \$600,000 in discretionary funds for the cameras.

"Public safety is a top priority for Council member Koo, so he is proud to have secured funding for new security cameras at the Bland Houses. They will play an important role in deterring criminal activity and apprehending future suspects should a crime occur," a Koo spokesman said. "The cameras will provide the NYPD with an extra set of eyes to keep the residents of Bland Houses safe and contribute positively to the ongoing security initiative in our community."

Residents have already noticed a difference as fewer people are loitering in public spaces monitored by the security cameras.

"It was scary," said Carmen Monttes, who has lived in Bland Houses for 25 years. "There are a lot of people who sell drugs here. With the cameras, I'll feel more safe."

Kinsey said there may still be some blind spots the cameras do not reach, but there is leftover funding which he is hoping will be used to get additional cameras.

"So far so good. It took a while, but I'm moving forward and saying it's effective right now. And that's just what we want in this development. I am very, very happy," Kinsey said.

Flushing man's junk angers his neighbors

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Clutter on the property of a Main Street resident has gotten so bad and so obtrusive his neighbors were compelled to make formal complaints to community leaders.

The man who has owned the attached house at the corner of Main and 61st streets since February 2000 has piled belongings in front of his property and in his backyard to the point that the home is almost completely engulfed by the amassed storage.

"It's so dirty. I don't know what he's trying to do. You can't walk inside his house and it is getting worse and worse," said neighbor Syed Qamarud Doja. "I asked him to clean it, but he said he could not help it. He's making a junkyard."

Community Board 7 forwarded the neighbors' concerns to city agencies.

The city Sanitation Department said it could not do anything about the situation since the storage in the man's front yard is kept under tarps. The city Department of Buildings, however, said it would send inspectors to the house to look for potential violations.

The owner of the house was issued three DOB violations in 2002 for failure to maintain his property. According to the DOB website, one of the violations was for an "excessive amount of debris and household items along with car tires, toilet tank and other items stored on porch and wood storage closet in the driveway."

Another was for having his front and back yard "filled up by various forms of auto parts cans, of gasoline bags, of debris, junk, cars and other stuff including combustible remedy." His third violation was for having three unlicensed

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A Main Street resident's belongings are piled high on the front yard of his home, much to the chagrin of his neighbors, who are appealing to community leaders. Photo by Alex Robinson

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Queens hipster neighborhoods lucrative for landlords

Trendy ZIP codes in Sunnyside and Astoria among top 25 in country for big returns on rentals

BY RICH BOCKMANN

While Brooklyn hipsters are increasingly paying Manhattan-like rents for their lofts, luxury apartments and elegant lofts, landlords looking to make a tidy profit on the skinny-jeans set need look no further than Queens.

A new study shows two trendy Queens ZIP codes, one in Sunnyside and another in Astoria, beat out just one in Brooklyn on a list of 25 cash cows across the country where investors can get the highest yields on rentals.

"While the precise definition of hipsters is elusive — which is likely just how they want it — there's no doubt the culture surrounding the hipster lifestyle has a major impact on local real estate markets, and mostly in a positive

way," according to the special report by the industry research firm RealtyTrac. "As a nascent hipster market emerges, it can be an extremely appealing target for real estate investors looking to make some quick fix-and-flip profits or to purchase rental properties that provide a steady cash flow and the promise of strong appreciation going forward."

The study defined a hipster neighborhood as one where at least 20 percent of the population is between the ages of 25 and 34 and at least 20 percent of residents either walked or took public transportation to work. RealtyTrac narrowed the list to ZIP codes where at least 50 percent of people rented and where vacancy rates were 5 percent or lower.

Sunnyside's 11104 ZIP



Right across the street from the Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden, where Maria Fiore shows off one of the vintage hats she has for sale, Astoria's 11102 ZIP code spells fat profit margins for landlords renting to hipsters.

code, stretching east from 39th Street to 42nd Street, Greenpoint Avenue and 49th Street, was the five boroughs' highest showing on the list, placing 12th.

Home to popular eatery Salt and Fat and the neighborhood favorite Molly Bloom bar, 11104 boasts average rents of \$1,870 a month for a three-bedroom apart-

ment and median property prices around \$380,050. Investors can look forward to a 5.9 percent gross yield on their rental properties, according to the report.

Not far behind at No. 14 on the list is Astoria's trendy 11102 ZIP code, which stretches roughly from 33rd Street to the East River between 31st and 24th avenues. Higher average rents of \$2,600 a month and median home prices of \$435,000 in the neighborhood across the street from the Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden offer a gross yield of 5.69 percent.

Brooklyn's 11232 came in just behind Astoria with a yield of 5.66 percent. It covers parts of Sunset Park and Sunset Park West.

Topping the list were ZIP codes in Saint Paul, Minn., and Pittsburgh, where yields reached higher than 10 percent.

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

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Dromm holds noise meeting

LaGuardia plane traffic draws hundreds as NE Queens activists speak

BY BILL PARRY

When City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) convened a town hall meeting to address the sudden increase in airplane noise from LaGuardia Airport, he was hoping to inform the community how best to complain to authorities.

He was pleased to see representatives of the Port Authority and the Federal Aviation Administration attend along with 100 Jackson Heights and East Elmhurst residents.

"They appeared willing to work with the community with a more transparent approach," Dromm said.

The meeting took place Monday night at PS 69, at 72-02 37th Ave. to discuss the dramatic increase in airplane traffic since October, when the FAA rerouted flights into and out of LaGuardia without any notice to the community.

"We saw low-flying planes every 30 seconds for 12 straight hours,"



Representative from Queens Quiet Skies, the Port Authority and the FAA answer questions about increased air traffic noise.

Photo by Bill Parry

Dromm said. "It became a quality-of-life problem and I wanted the community to know how they could self-advocate."

The changes in flight patterns were started with a new program the FAA is using called NextGen. The system employs global-positioning satellites that allow for more frequent takeoffs and landings. The FAA's website says the program

"enhances safety, reduces delays, saves fuel, and reduces aircraft exhaust emissions."

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) joined the meeting because his District 11 in northeast Queens shares the same concerns.

"The FAA said they were going to test the new routes for six months and monitor the response, but they never told anyone how

to respond," he said.

Leaders of Queens Quiet Skies, a community advocacy group formed in northeast Queens, showed how other cities enjoy better results from noise monitoring systems and community interaction through roundtable discussion groups.

Queens Quiet Skies President Janet McEaney

Continued on Page 52

Eatery offers walls to 5Pointz artists

BY BILL PARRY

One Long Island City restaurant will open its doors and walls to the artists from 5Pointz.

"They are welcome here anytime," said Josh Bowen, owner of John Brown's Smokehouse. "My walls are their walls."

Their work was white-washed in the early morning hours Nov. 19 on the orders of 5Pointz owner Jerry Wolkoff, but one mural remains nine blocks west at Bowen's restaurant.

In July, the artists painted a depiction of the abolitionist's walk to the gallows in 1859 on the back wall of the restaurant's patio. They came back later in the summer to put some graffiti around the bathrooms.

"Right now is probably not the right time to call them, but they'll know they're always welcome back here to paint their art," said Bowen.

Marie Cecile Flageul, a 5Pointz spokeswoman, agreed that it is not the right time, saying, "We're too busy keeping our people from getting arrested."

Six people, none associated with the artists, were arrested last week after they tagged the walls with anti-Wolkoff epithets using markers. They were given desk-appearance tickets for criminal mischief and

making graffiti.

Flageul appreciated the gesture by Bowen, saying, "Josh is awesome. We love hanging at his place. It's getting cold so we'll have to move on that soon. We'll be in touch."

She added that the building, at 22-44 Jackson Ave., is now completely covered in white paint.

"They even covered all the work we put up during the candlelight vigil on Tuesday night," she said.

Bowen was part of that vigil the night the 350 murals of street art were covered up by the workmen sent by Wolkoff.

"It was one of the most despicable things I've ever seen. I was aghast," he said. "They really cut LIC's heart out. It was the cool factor that led people to this neighborhood and now the cool is gone."

For nearly 20 years, Wolkoff allowed street artists to paint their graffiti that became known around the world. When he received the unanimous support of the City Council to tear down 5Pointz so that he could put up two residential towers, Wolkoff announced he was going ahead with the demolition. The artists countered by filing a lawsuit in Brooklyn federal court seeking protection of their work under the 1990 Visual Artists

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State gives \$4.6 million for SNAP gap

BY BIANCA FORTIS

New York state will provide \$4.6 million in grants to emergency food providers during the holiday season in a move that should help some families in Queens.

The goal of the grants is to help fill the need left by recent cuts in federal programs, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who made the announcement.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 had temporarily increased benefits provided through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, as a way to



The state will give \$4.2 million in grants to emergency food providers.

stimulate the economy. When that boost expired Nov. 1, the program was hit with \$5 billion in cuts

nationwide. New York state took a hit of about \$300 million.

Low-income commu-

nities, as well as the food banks that serve them, have been struggling to fill the gap.

Cuomo said the grants will help to restock food banks and soup kitchens in Queens and around the city that have been strained by rising demand since the SNAP cuts went into place.

The cuts result in a family of four losing about \$36 a month, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priority. The SNAP benefits now pay for less than \$1.40 per meal person, according to the center.

"With the holiday season upon us, New York state is stepping up to help

Continued on Page 58



An artist's signature "Bulb" tag is near the restrooms at John Brown's Smokehouse. More of the graffiti may appear there soon.

Photo courtesy Jeannine Chanés

Plaque to mark Washington's visit

Young historians to donate memorial to president's 1790 stay in Jamaica to Addabbo federal building

BY RICH BOCKMANN

On a victory lap across Long Island nearly 225 years ago, President George Washington spent a night at a "pretty good and decent house" in Jamaica, and now a group of prolific young historians want to mark the location.

Students from the Aquinas Honor Society at the Immaculate Conception School in Jamaica Estates plan to hold a ceremony at their school next month when they will dedicate a plaque to be hung outside the Joseph P. Addabbo federal building in downtown Jamaica honoring the president's stay in 1790.

"The students did a book on the history of Jamaica that made note of this historic building," said Carl Ballenas, a social studies teacher at Immaculate Conception and moderator of the Aquinas society.

"[Washington] actually wrote about it in his diary," he said. "The kids were very proud of that fact."

While traveling across Long Island to thank his spies for their efforts in the Revolutionary War, Washington stayed at a hotel on the corner of what is today Jamaica and Parsons avenues.

He wrote in his diary that the tavern kept by a Mr. Warne, which would later hold rallies at the beginning of the Civil War, was "a pretty good and decent house."

The bronze plaque marking the historical spot shows a small building, which was razed in 1906, with a wrap-around porch and details about the president's visit.

Students had planned to dedicate the plaque in October, but the government shutdown put the move on hold.



Students in the Aquinas Honor Society at the Immaculate Conception School in Jamaica Estates show off the plaque that will soon adorn the Joseph P. Addabbo federal building in Jamaica.

Photo courtesy Carl Ballenas

Ballenas said the students have already dedicated plaques adorning

the gate house at Jamaica Estates and one marking a 3-acre glacial lake that was

drained near Utopia Parkway to make way for the Grand Central Parkway.

As part of their extracurricular activities with the honor society, the students have previously authored a book on Fresh Meadows and plan to publish a third tome on the history of Kew Gardens.

Ballenas, who also heads the Richmond Hill Historical Society, said students make use of the archives at the Jamaica branch of the Queens Library and, to his chagrin at times, online resources.

"The Internet can be a curse. Understand, I've been a teacher for 30 years. Sometimes it's just kind of like cut and paste," he said. "But there are some great sites out there."

All told, Ballenas said his young pupils have accomplished a lot.

"I'm very proud of these kids," he said. "They did a remarkable job writing these three books."

109th Precinct warns residents of grand larceny over holidays

BY ALEX ROBINSON

The 109th Precinct has issued a warning to residents reminding them of the increase in grand larceny and street robberies that typically happens during the holiday season.

There have already been 801 reported grand larcenies in the precinct this year up through Nov. 17, which is a 19 percent jump from what it was at the same point last year.

One of the fliers the precinct has recently been circulating warns people to protect their pocketbooks and purses.

"There have been recent incidents in the downtown Flushing area where

Women should not hang their purses over a chair in a restaurant.

109th precinct flier

women are having their unattended pocketbooks taken while they are eating or shopping," it read.

The 109th warned Flushing residents against hanging their purses over a chair in a restaurant and said to never leave a purse or pocketbook unattended.

A second police flier informed residents of an increase in telephone scams. Police said to be wary of scammers who call claiming to be a relative asking to be wired money.

"Anyone calling and asking you for money must be considered suspicious," the flier said.

It informed possible victims of telephone scams to contact their loved ones before wiring money, never wire money in a panic and never give out personal financial information over the phone.

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

St. John's hospital waiting to kick off \$23M expansion

BY RICH BOCKMANN

More than a year after Peninsula Hospital closed its doors, the Rockaways' lone remaining acute-care facility is awaiting final approval for a handful of projects totaling more than \$23 million and may be eyeing an expansion into the shuttered institution's facilities.

St. John's Episcopal Hospital is awaiting the final green light from the state Department of Health on a number of projects, including constructing 18 new psychiatric beds at a cost of \$5.3 million and a \$14.9 million expansion to its emergency department, according to applications



St. John's Episcopal Hospital is awaiting final approval for expansion projects totalling more than \$23 million and may looking to expand Peninsula Hospital's shuttered facilities.

filed with the DOH.

The 257-bed hospital is also trying to get permanent certification for four intensive care units operating under emergency ap-

proval since 2011.

In the long-term, St. John's, at 327 Beach 19th St., is also considering taking over Peninsula's

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Turkeys given out in Flushing

Flushing community leaders joined with staff from City Councilman Peter Koo's (D-Flushing) office Tuesday morning to show off a haul of more than 350 turkeys slated to be given out for Thanksgiving dinners.

Western Beef supermarket chain donated 80 frozen birds, 200 came from an anonymous donor and the rest of the 360 were collected by 40 community organizations, including the Flushing Chinese Business Association.

After a quick visit to the College Point Boulevard grocer, Koo's staffers planned to make drops at six locations, including the Latimer Gardens houses, St. George's Church and the Selfhelp Benjamin Rosenthal Senior Center. Constituents were also able to pick up a turkey for their Thanksgiving meal at Koo's downtown Flushing office Tuesday afternoon, his chief of staff, Jonathan Chung, said.

"During this holiday season, as we have our meals with our families and so forth, we understand that there are those that are less fortunate and could use our help," Chung said, speaking in place of Koo, who was in China visiting relatives.

Maureen Regan, president of the Woodhaven-based Green Earth Urban Gardens, planned to use five turkeys from Koo's office, as well as those bought with donations, to hold a Thanksgiving dinner for more than 200 residents. Last year, the organization's feast fed about 400 Rockaway peninsula residents, who were affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Peter Tu, executive director of the FCBA, said despite an apparent economic upswing, community members should continue to help their neighbors.

"We should continue the charitable donations," he said.



Community organizers and Councilman Peter Koo's staffers (l.-r.) Maureen Regan, Steven Lii, Hong Dai, Benny Yang, Jonathan Chung, Peter Tu, Western Beef manager Kelvin Batista (r.) and Thomas Chen.

Photo by Christina Santucci



Hong Dai (second from r.), from the Flushing Chinese Business Association, praises the size of the turkey to Western Beef manager Kelvin Batista (r.).

Photo by Christina Santucci



Maureen Regan, president of Green Earth Urban Gardens, holds a turkey.

Photo by Christina Santucci



Steven Lii, (l.) from the Flushing Chinese Business Association, hands over a bird to Walter Chi, a staff member of Councilman Peter Koo's office.

Photo by Christina Santucci


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Christ the King High School Celebrates Thanksgiving Mass *Students in the Spirit of Giving*

Students at Christ the King High School celebrated their annual Thanksgiving Mass, which was officiated by CK Campus Chaplain and fellow Alumnus, Father Frank Spacak (Class of '88).

Sister Elizabeth Graham, CSJ, Christ the King Campus Minister, announced at mass that the student body had collected approximately \$600, which will be donated to three organizations: Immaculate Conception Parish in Cullion, Philippines, for those who were affected by the typhoon; St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital; and the St. Matthias Food Pantry, which also received cartons of canned food from Christ the King.

Principal Peter Mannarino stated, "We at Christ the King High School are very proud of our student body's effort to raise money for these three worthy causes. Christ the King students once again show how they are becoming the moral leaders of tomorrow."



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POLICE Blotter

Kew Gdns. man charged in attempted rape: NYPD

FLUSHING — Police charged a Kew Gardens Hills man with attempting to rape a woman near Queens College earlier this month, the NYPD said.

On Nov. 19, David Diaz, 24, was arrested and charged in the attempted sexual attack on a 23-year-old woman that occurred Nov. 1, according to cops.

Only three days earlier, authorities released surveillance images of a man they identified as the suspect, which detectives said showed him boarding a bus before the attempted rape.

The victim was approached from behind and punched in the back of her head as her attacker covered her mouth and threatened her, police said.

After she was pushed to the ground near the area of Melbourne Avenue and Kissena Boulevard close to Queens College, the suspect allegedly tried to remove her undergarments, the NYPD said.

But a passerby noticed what was happening and yelled at the suspect, who was



Police had released images of a suspect in the attempted rape of a woman boarding a bus.

Image courtesy NYPD

described as a white man between 20 and 30 years old, police said.

Police search for two Flushing robbers

FLUSHING — Police were asking for the public's help in finding two male suspects in two street robberies that occurred Sunday after midnight.

The suspects approached a 22-year-old man near the intersection of 58th Road and 138th Street before putting him in a choke hold, pulling a gun on him and demanding he hand over his smartphone and wallet, said police.

They then threatened a 38-year-old woman getting out of her car and took her iPhone, purse and wallet, said police.

Police described the suspects as approximately 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-9 and 18 to 20 years old with thin builds.



Two suspects approach a 22-year-old man before allegedly threatening him with a gun and stealing his smartphone and wallet.

Image courtesy NYPD

Property stolen from lockers at gyms: Cops

GLENDALE — There have been multiple grand larcenies at the Planet Fitness, at 329 Wyckoff Ave., and the New York Sports Club in the Shops at Atlas Park, according to the 104th Precinct.

Police said the perpetrators entered the locker rooms and stole property from

the lockers.

Officers will be conducting crime prevention initiatives to alert the public to the recent incidents. Citizens with questions should call the 104th Detective Squad at 718-386-3004.

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Tuskegee renaming approved by Council

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Students at York College's Aviation Institute are used to peering toward the sky and pretty soon they will have something new to look up to.

The City Council earlier this month approved a proposal to recognize the famed black Tuskegee Airman by renaming a part of South Road near the college in their honor.

Airmen Wilfred DeFour and Dabney Montgomery — accompanied by his wife, Amelia — received a standing ovation when the Council convened its Nov. 14 meeting and approved the renaming.

Unlike a ceremonial co-naming, the measure will change the official name — reflected on the city's street map — of a 1.2-mile stretch of South Road between Merrick Boulevard and Remington Street "Tuskegee Airmen Way."

Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica), who authored the bill to rename the stretch of road just south of York College, said the symbolism of the gesture will serve as a point of inspiration for the southeast Queens community.

"This street renaming is not just a name to tag some signs in our community, but is going to leave a legacy or allow us to look at a legacy and change the perspective of many young people who have thought that their expectations have been drowned," he said.



Tuskegee Airman Wilfred DeFour (c.) speaks about the City Council's decision to rename South Road after the famed World War II pilots. Photo courtesy Councilman Ruben Wills

The bill awaits Mayor Michael Bloomberg's signature.

A small handful of the black World War II pilots who persevered through both German gunfire and racial stereotypes in the U.S. Army Air Corps to serve their country with distinction have for some years now been partnering with York College, which serves a predominantly black student body.

York, situated between LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International airports, is home to CUNY's aviation program, and its students benefit through a close relationships with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Last month, the college's theater began its season with an original production entitled "The Tuskegee Airmen Project," a play conceived by theater arts professor Tom Marion that asks what students today can learn from the airmen's plight against intolerance.

The college has gathered a collection of Tuskegee Airmen artifacts it would like to some day exhibit in a gallery.

During a recent breakfast meeting at the college, York President Marcia Keiz said the designs for the gallery are all drawn up, and then told the elected officials and business leaders in attendance that all the college is waiting on is the funding.

Study will examine rail line

Queens College will evaluate abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch

BY BIANCA FORTIS

Rockaway transit activists may be on track to getting their train back.

State Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Rockaway Beach), announced that the Queens College Urban Studies Department will complete a comprehensive study of the old Rockaway Beach rail line.

He spoke about the project Monday morning at the college, alongside President James Muyskens and Leonard Rodberg, chairman of the department.

Goldfeder said the study will be objective and comprehensive and evaluate how to use the abandoned rail line, which has sat dormant for more than 50 years, to benefit the most Queens residents.

Those options include reactivating rail service on the line that was decommissioned in 1962 and turning the line into a linear park.

"It's not about anybody's agenda or anybody's needs," Goldfeder said. "It's about what's in the best interests of Queens. We want to look at all options to give Queens a chance."

Rodberg said it was too early to cite a cost of the study, but the study would be a "modest" one. While a complete and comprehensive study would be necessary before beginning any work on the line, the Queens College study could offer guidance to borough residents as well as the state Legislature.

Rodberg said the college would provide some grant funds, and Goldfeder said the state would also provide between \$50,000 and \$100,000 for the study.

He said undergraduate and graduate students will work on the project during the next two semesters.

"Who better to determine the best options for Queens than our own Queens College?" Goldfeder said. "And at the same



Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder announces Queens College will do a comprehensive study on the abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch of the LIRR. Photo by Bianca Fortis



The Rockaway Beach Branch of the LIRR has been out of use since 1962. Photo by Bianca Fortis

time we'll be educating our students."

Philip McManus, a Rockaway Park resident who has long been vocal about transit options on the peninsula, lauded the announcement of the study.

He said the interminable travel times with which peninsula residents must grapple are a roadblock to better education and work opportunities for them.

The linear park option, which has been dubbed the QueensWay, would be similar to Manhattan's High Line.

A group called Friends of the QueensWay has been pushing that option for the last few years.

QueensWay supporters recently secured a \$467,000 grant from the governor's office and are using it to fund a feasibility study for the project.

The study will be com-

pleted by the middle of 2014, according to Travis Terry, founder of the group.

Terry said the Friends of the Queensway would be happy to act as a resource for Queens College as it gathers its information.

"I think it's great," he said about the study. "I think it's good that we have a local institution interested in the future of the abandoned Rockaway Beach branch. The more information we have, the better."

A third faction, primarily comprised of Woodhaven residents, is against all development, citing concerns about safety, privacy and diminishing property values. Many of those residents live right along the railbed.

Neil Giannelli, the unofficial leader of the Woodhaven residents, also said he welcomed the study and whatever information is

garnered.

"Queens is being choked by automobiles," he said. "I've always said that it would be harder to argue against public transportation."

In 2001, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority released a feasibility study that determined reactivation of the line was impossible due to overwhelming costs, *The Wave*, a newspaper on the Rockaway Peninsula, reported.

But a request to the MTA for a copy of that study was unsuccessful. A spokesman for the agency said no study was completed.

But when it released its 20-year capital needs assessment report last month, the MTA said reactivating service on the rail line is a "possible option" to help ensure that the entire transit system continues to run safely and reliably until 2035.

The report said reactivation "could help reduce land acquisition and construction costs and facilitate construction time in densely developed areas."

Reach reporter Bianca Fortis by email at bfortis@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.

CB7 delays vote on Main Street development

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Community Board 7 members expressed reservations about a proposed mixed-use development in downtown Flushing before deciding to delay a vote to approve the proposal Monday night.

The proposed development is a 180,000-square-foot complex on Main Street, across the street from the RKO Theatre that would house a hotel, spa, parking structure and office space. The proposal includes a 12-story tower, where the hotel would be, and a 14-story tower for office space.

Attorney Richard Lobel presented the proposal to the board and asked it to approve a variance that would let developer CA Plaza build the parking structure and allow it to use one of the towers, which is zoned as a medical build-

ing, for office space.

"We like this proposal because the bulk of the application is reasonable and we think it's a reasonable size for the building," said Lobel, who compared the proposal to that of the landmarked RKO Theatre, which asked for 320,000 square feet.

CB 7 members voted to approve a permit for the spa by a vote of 22-9 and also voted to approve waiving height restrictions imposed by airports as the development would be within close proximity to LaGuardia Airport. The Port Authority and the Federal Aviation Administration had already given permission for the latter.

Board members, however, unanimously voted to delay a vote to allow the variance on parking and the changed use of the building until its next meeting.



Attorney Richard Lobel presents a proposal for a 180,000-square-foot Main Street development at a Community Board 7 meeting Monday night.
Photo by Alex Robinson

CB 7 members' main concern was that the location of the hotel's entrance could cause traffic problems on Prince Street. Although loading can be

done on site, board members were concerned vehicles turning into the hotel would block up a street in downtown Flushing which already sees heavy traffic.

"I know Prince Street is going to be backed up," said CB 7 Chairman Gene Kely. "Where that building is is going to be a problem."
CB 7 Vice Chairman

Chuck Apelian expressed disappointment with the developer's traffic presentation.

"I don't think this has been thought through," he said. "I'd like to support the project, but I'm not. It's not there yet."

"Some more thought needs to go into this before we say yes," he added.

Several other members added their voices to the growing calls of concern with the proposal before the board decided the vote should be delayed. The proposal will now be sent back to the community board's Land Use Committee for further consideration before a vote at the next board meeting.

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



City Council Member, Daniel Dromm & Marketing Manager, John J. Scaturro



You know Santa's here! And he's ready to visit with young and old alike... Have pictures taken with Santa now through December 24. But we recommend you do that early in the season when it will be quick and easy. For more information about Santa, an extended holiday hours calendar and other useful information go to ShopQueensCenter.com.



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DELAY IN SERVICE

Commuting on the Long Island Rail Road from Queens to Manhattan can be a maddening experience. All too frequently train service is disrupted because of problems in the four East River tunnels connecting the borough and parts beyond to Penn Station.

The tunnels are owned by Amtrak, which has come under growing pressure from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, transit advocates and passenger groups to upgrade the conditions in these vital tubes.

The LIRR is operated by the MTA, which has repeatedly expressed its frustration at not having control over the maintenance of the tunnels. The MTA has blamed Amtrak, which uses the tunnels to run trains to Boston, for taking too long to fix and update the infrastructure.

Following several recent service outages that turned rush hours into nightmarish travel episodes for LIRR riders, Amtrak has finally agreed to upgrade the tunnels. After prodding from U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, Amtrak has pledged to replace aging rails, conduct more frequent inspections of the tunnels and respond faster when maintenance problems are discovered.

More than 300,000 people use the LIRR every day and most of them travel through the East River tunnels. According to Schumer's office, the LIRR's daily passenger load exceeds the total number of riders traveling on the Northeast Corridor between Washington and Boston each day.

The LIRR is an essential public transportation link for many commuters in Queens, particularly in the eastern part of the borough, which is beyond the reach of the city subway system. The alternative may be an express bus or a dollar van to the nearest transit center.

The one subway to northeastern Queens ends in Flushing, leaving residents who work in Manhattan from surrounding neighborhoods with limited travel options. The LIRR's Port Washington branch makes stops between Flushing and Little Neck.

A ticket on the LIRR costs more than a ride on the subway, but when the railroad is operating on time, it delivers passengers to their destination — jobs, school, Mets games at Citi Field and the USTA — without a lot of fanfare.

Leaves on the tracks in the fall and signal problems also interfere with travel, but Amtrak is off the hook for those complaints.

The LIRR will provide a ride worth taking for thousands of commuters in Queens as long as Amtrak is prepared to live up to its promise to improve the East River tunnels over the next three to five years.



OTHER VOICES

All stores should be closed on Thanksgiving

It is outrageous that so many stores have decided to open their doors on Thanksgiving, a day that is supposed to be spent with family and friends.

All of those workers in those open stores will have their holiday ruined because they are going to have to work. What has

happened to family values and respect for holidays in this country? There is no reason for any store to open its doors on this national holiday.

Is the almighty dollar more important than sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends? P.C. Richard

& Sons is the one retail establishment that puts the values of Thanksgiving ahead of commercialism. Its stores are closed for the holiday so its employees can spend the holiday with their families and friends. They open up the day after Thanksgiving.

It is to be commended

for its decision not to open Thanksgiving each year. Macy's should hang its head in shame for joining other retailers in opening on Thanksgiving.

*John Amato
Fresh Meadows*

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QueensWay meet silences speech

In the United States of America, we are granted certain rights and freedoms by the U.S. Constitution. One of these rights, which I am no stranger to, is the freedom of speech.

What I witnessed Nov. 13 at the Friends of the QueensWay “workshop” was nothing short of the suppression of the community’s freedom of speech. It is a shame that in 2013 individuals’ voices are still being muffled by schemes and techniques similar to those used by the QueensWay group that night.

These are just a few of the suppression tactics I saw being used:

1. Upon entering the meeting to sign in, you were separated from the people you came in with and sent to designated tables where there were already two individuals waiting at your table who were in favor of the QueensWay project.

2. Meeting organizers planted many individuals from Forest Hills and Rego Park, who were in favor of the QueensWay, to drown out the voices of those who were opposed.

3. There was no open forum for residents to voice their opinions.

These schemes and techniques are being used to suppress the opinions of the residents, business owners and others who are opposed to the project. In attendance at the meeting were residents of 98th Street as well as business owners who did not have the opportunity to voice their opinions. They were understandably angry.

I constantly hear the Friends of the QueensWay say they are currently in their “feasibility” phase of the process, which is an unacceptable excuse for not having any answers to the simple questions we all

have about safety, maintenance, etc. Furthermore, I constantly hear the phrase “community outreach” being tossed around, but what I see is the suppression of the freedom of speech of local residents, which will not be tolerated.

I challenge the Friends of the QueensWay, XYZ Consultants and Hester Street Collaborative to engage in actual community outreach and have an honest, open forum where residents, business owners and those who will be affected will have a chance to voice their opinions and exercise their freedom of speech.

You can call my office anytime to set it up. I am here 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

*Mike Miller
State Assemblyman
(D-Woodhaven)*

New York’s energy future in wind

New York’s wind energy has given us a lot to be grateful for.

A new report by Environment New York, “Wind Power for a Cleaner America,” shows that wind energy in New York is already avoiding carbon pollution equivalent to taking 382,203 cars off the road. In addition to reducing global warming pollution, wind energy in the state is also avoiding 1,724 tons of smog-causing nitrogen oxides, which contribute to asthma, and 2,130 tons of sulfur dioxide, a major component

of acid rain.

If wind development continues at its current pace, we could reap the same benefits over the next five years.

These benefits have made wind power a key component of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan, which seeks to reduce global warming pollution 17 percent by 2020.

Federal incentives for wind — the investment tax credit and the production tax credit — are largely responsible for wind’s success, but are set to expire at the end of 2013. To curb

global warming pollution and prevent future extreme weather events like Hurricane Sandy, U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) should continue to be champions for clean energy.

I call on our U.S. House of Representatives delegation to do everything within its power to extend these critical clean energy incentives before the end of the year.

*Melanie Calero
Environment New York
Manhattan*

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be typed or neatly handwritten, and those longer than 300 words may be edited for brevity and clarity. All letters must include the writer’s name and phone number for verification. Names may be withheld from publication if requested, but anonymously sent letters will not be printed. Letters must be received by Thursday noon to appear in the next week’s paper. All letters become the property of Queens Publishing Corp. and may be republished in any format.

Do not swoon over de Blasio win

Sometimes a gift-wrapped package does not contain a gift. A case in point is Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio, who ran on a ticket espousing the needs of the little people, distinguishing himself from the Bloomberg administration.

But even before being sworn in as mayor, he indicated it would not be a bad idea to allow a Major League Soccer stadium in

Flushing Meadows Corona Park in return for contribution money to be used for the park. In short, it is OK to sell public parkland to a private, for-profit business interest.

He also seems to support decimating the beautiful area south of Grand Central Station with huge high-rise structures. It would appear the real estate moguls who have been running this city for decades,

often with their pockets lined with enormous city subsidies, will have nothing to fear from a de Blasio administration.

A politician’s best friend is an apathetic public.

*Benjamin Haber
Flushing*

DOE needs to gets its act together

Posting on their website the answers to an exam that students had not taken yet and being defensive about it while still demanding that the job security of teachers be linked to the worthless results of discredited tests, qualifies the city Department of Education for a Nobel Prize in Audacity.

By compounding folly with venom, it has injected

tragedy into comedy. From the ceiling to the basement of the DOE’s sound-proof chambers, echoes of the cries of shame will not be heard. It is immune to the healing property of shame but not immune to the disease of arrogance.

The latest DOE screw-up is another milestone in their massive legacy of incompetence. Its record under Mayor Mi-

chael Bloomberg is a thick catalog of blunders. As a know-it-all firm of know-nothing non-educators, it is the poster agency for “the gang that could not shoot straight.”

Bless its heart. It does not embarrass easily.

*Ron Isaac
Bayside*

Dems give GOP its just desserts

Finally, the Democrats smacked the Republican Party in the face by changing the rules and allowing presidential nominees to be approved by a simple majority — the way it should be.

The GOP can cry all it wants, but the fact is since President Dwight

Eisenhower, Republican presidents have been filibustered nine times, Democrats 65 times so far with 54 against President Barack Obama alone.

By the time Obama is out of office, it is projected to be at least 83. Could it be only because he is a Democrat, or does his race have

something to do with it?

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) threatened future retaliations of obstruction, or as the GOP calls it, business as usual.

*Robert La Rosa
Whitestone*

CORRECTION

In the Nov. 1-7 issue of TimesLedger Newspapers, there was an editing error in the story on the joint celebration of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah. The story should have said the Jews formed a group known as the Maccabees against the Assyrians, who were forcing them to worship the Greek gods or be killed in Jerusalem. The Maccabees had only enough oil to burn for one day and the miracle was that it burned for eight days, which is why there are eight candles on the menorah. We regret the error.

Contact the newsroom:

718-260-4545 • timesledgernews@cnglocal.com

November 1956 saw a rash of teens causing mischief

QUEENS LINE

The Greater Astoria Historical Society

November brings to mind crisp autumn breezes, weekend football games and Thanksgiving turkey. In 1956, the nation sent President Dwight Eisenhower back to the White House that month, with only seven mostly Southern states backing Democratic contender Adlai Stevenson.

Television, still a bit of a novelty, showed the Ku Klux Klan marching through the streets of Birmingham, Ala., in protest of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision banning bus segregation. On another channel, viewers could turn in to view light-hearted fare on Art Linkletter's "People Are Funny" as they witnessed the romantic esca-

pades of a young couple paired by Univac, one of the earliest computers.

From a gritty, shattered steel mill in occupied Budapest, a note hastily scrawled in pencil and passed to an American news reporter brought hope to a Jackson Heights family.

"To Louis Menyhert, 30-54 89th Street, Jackson Heights," the note read, "we are all living, Louis."

The Menyhert family declined to reveal their nephew's last name or exact whereabouts: "There is no telling what might happen to them if the Communists found out their names."

With fear of global conflict and nuclear holocaust

present, on Nov. 28 civil defense forces in Queens staged a mock atomic bomb attack on the borough. With a cloud of imaginary radioactive dust settling over the area, emergency responders clad in surgical masks and helmets deployed to the streets to treat large numbers of casualties. Washington estimated that World War III would cost the nation \$4 trillion.

While area residents looked to the skies for signs of impending doom, others were occupied with more local issues. On the evening of Nov. 1, thousands of apartments across the borough were plunged into darkness in protest against a proposed Consolidated Edison rate hike.

Responding to calls of "put out the lights," thousands of families fumbled about in near darkness and schoolchildren struggled to complete homework. A group of Queens women even gathered in a neigh-

bor's kitchen to play mah jong by the faint glow of candlelight.

Not all area youngsters spent their evenings immersed in the finer points of algebra and the French Revolution, though. Teenagers ran wild in the streets of Queens and left police with their hands full and area courts with a full docket.

One favorite pastime of young delinquents was joyriding in stolen cars. On Nov. 9, three Queens boys, aged 15 to 17, were tried in local courts for their roles in a nine-month joyriding spree in which they stole as many as six cars.

In Flushing, a 21-year-old described by the local press as a "slip of a girl with dynamite in each fist," expressed her displeasure at the service in a local bar by breaking the front window with her bare hands and flinging bottles of beer at the expensive liquor and whiskey behind the coun-

ter until "there was hardly a bottle standing intact on the back bar."

The young "spark-plug" was arrested on a felony malicious mischief charge, but there was no note of what she did to the unfortunate bartender.

Meanwhile, law-abiding locals escaped the pressures and anxieties of daily life by taking in a movie. Viewers could take in "Moby Dick" starring Gregory Peck at The Beacon in Long Island City, and Marilyn Monroe graced the screen in "Bus Stop" at the Plaza on Roosevelt Avenue.

Not to be outdone, the Skouras theater in Astoria lured moviegoers with James Cagney in "The Fighting 69th" and Gary Cooper in "Task Force." The Skouras chain advertised "election results at all theatres tonight" in the Nov. 6 edition of the Long Island Star Journal.

With the holiday sea-

son fast approaching, moms and dads across Queens got an early start on filling children's wish lists. With Christmas advertisements appearing in area newspapers early in the month, shoppers flocked to area retailers in search of a good bargain and to beat the crowds.

W.T. Grant on Main Street in Flushing offered the Mousegetar Jr., which played the official Mouseketeer song, for \$1.79, and stocked its shelves with the Western Holster Set for \$4.98.

Would-be Santas and Hanukkah Harrys flocked to Gertz department stores, where \$2.99 monoplane sleds, made from real ash wood, and remote control walking dogs brought smiles to many boys and girls.

For more information, call 718-278-0700 or visit astoriatribune.com.

City Opera had sets for '49 Puccini tribute built in Queens



Kenneth Kowald
I Sit And Look Out

some of us youngsters. We sat up high, but that made no difference.

My mother and father loved music and had good singing voices, but they were not classical music lovers. Like almost everyone of their generation, however, they had listened to and enjoyed Enrico Caruso, who made many records before he died in 1921. He was a star of the first magnitude and deserved his status.

From that Saturday so long ago until now, I have loved opera. For decades, Elaine and I had season tickets to the Met. We never subscribed to the City Opera, but we made contributions to the company and

saw many operas there and at Lincoln Center.

When the City Opera went out of business, the world lost a company which was musically excellent and dramatically innovative. Not to have two great opera companies in the city in the center of the universe says something about the world we live in.

One example of the audacity of City Opera took place in 1949, when the world was observing the 25th anniversary of the death of Giacomo Puccini. The Met put on a new production of Puccini's third opera and first great international success, "Manon Lescaut." If I remember correctly, the sets, designed by

H.M. Krehan-Crayon, were constructed in a building on Queens Boulevard in the Woodside-Elmhurst area.

When Puccini's final, unfinished opera "Turandot" was premiered in 1926, opera houses around the world, including the Met, played it, but by 1949 there were few people in New York City who had seen it. The City Opera put on a dazzling production, rotating two sopranos in the difficult role of Turandot.

The Met played it safe; City Opera never did.

Today, "Turandot" ranks 15th as the most popular opera in the world. Everyone, it seems, knows "Nessum Dorma." That was not the case in 1949.

Early in her career, Beverly Sills sang the role of Mimi in Puccini's "La Boheme," the most often-played opera in the world. In the beautiful third act, Mimi tries to bid farewell to her lover Rodolfo. Her last words in a lovely aria are, "Addio, senza rancor" — "Farewell, without rancor."

Sills was not only a great singing actor, but headed the City Opera for some years and turned it from financial problems into a thriving and thrilling era.

For years, Elaine and I had tickets for Saturday night music programs at Queens College. One night, Sills was the soloist. As al-

ways, "Bubbles" was marvelous. She sang two encores. I forget the first one, but the second was the final one, as always in her recitals. It was a Portuguese folk song she learned when she was 10, from her only teacher, Estelle Liebling. It begins, "Tell me, why did you leave me?"

Others will tell the story of the rise and fall of the City Opera. The words of that simple folk song are appropriate now.

And so is, from this great admirer of the New York City Opera, "Addio, senza rancor."

Read my blog "No Holds Barred" at timesledger.com.

The first opera I saw was "Faust" at a Saturday matinee of the New York City Opera in what had been the Masonic Temple on 55th Street. I was attending City College at night and working as a copy boy and then a clerk on the city desk of The New York Times.

In those days, we worked half a day Saturdays. The Times had complementary tickets for the opera and gave them to

South Asian charities help out Caribbean for the holidays

15

BT



Prem
Calvin
Prashad
■
New Voices

After several successful months of gathering books, toys and clothing from the community, local charity West Indians Serving Humanity gathered and shipped 13 cargo barrels with donated items for the needy in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago Nov. 7.

The donated goods were a grassroots effort, the bulk of which came from Queens residents. The distribution of the barrel contents will be supervised by the group's board members, as well as a team of local volunteers and charities in those countries.

Among locals who will be heading to the Caribbean to facilitate the distribution of donated goods, WISH

President Safraz Dean, as well as Marlon Seetharan and Praim Samsoondar, will supervise distribution in Guyana. They plan to work with three organizations, including the Railway View Project, which provides tutoring and remedial literacy programs for Guyanese children; the Prabhu Sharan Orphanage in Cornelia Ida; and the Ruimveldt Children's Home, a home for HIV-positive children in the capital, Georgetown.

WISH will be joined by Students Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination and the Demerara Foundation, which will be providing meals along with aiding the distribution of donated goods.

Ricardo Babulal will be joining WISH board member Khemraj Persaud in Trinidad, where they will be working with the Trinidad branch of Mothers2Mothers, a non-governmental organization that



People look through donations.

works with HIV-positive mothers and their children to make safe and healthy decisions as well as provide pre- and post-natal care. Donated toys will be included in Christmas care packages given to the mothers.

It was originally thought that much of the monetary donations collected by WISH would cover the cost to ship the barrels of donated goods to the Caribbean. Since that time, the freight and logistics company, Laparkan, stepped up to cover the cost of shipping barrels to the destination countries, a substantial savings for the WISH charity.

Many here in Queens will recognize Laparkan as a community institution

synonymous with shipping goods "back home," and indeed Wesley Kirton, corporate manager for marketing and external relations at Laparkan, said that "in New York we are quite active supporting charities in what we consider a partnership."

He continued to note that Laparkan had relied on these local partnerships to provide disaster relief following major floods and storms in Jamaica and Guyana, as well as the aftermath of Haiti's devastating earthquake.

Laparkan's charitable work includes a longstanding scholarship program for New York-area high school students as well as funding youth programs.

When asked about the motivation for helping WISH, Kirton noted, "This is in keeping with our tradition of giving back to the communities we serve, especially at the holiday season, when we know that children need to be shown all the love and compassion a society can give them."

WISH credits Mike Singh, chairman and CEO of Telekom Caribe, for connecting them with Laparkan. Singh, who was born in Georgetown and now lives in Florida, runs the Demerara Foundation and executive members of that group will be working in conjunction with WISH in their efforts next month.

Singh said, "I myself was not born with a gold spoon in my mouth. I know what it is [to be] socially marginalized."

Singh described his childhood in "the lost decade" of communist rule over Guyana, which banned most imports and the coun-

try suffered economic stagnation, which led to a mass diaspora to the United States and Canada.

This experience led Singh to launch his foundation to address the root causes of poverty, namely corruption and poor governance. The Demerara Foundation has launched efforts to facilitate the renewal of schools and community centers, promote values-based youth programs and cultivate entrepreneurship and leadership. The organization will also seek to facilitate micro-lending by working with local partners.

To arrange a pickup of charitable goods, contact WISH at 347-699-3510 or info@thewishgroup.org. For updates on the group's progress, visit facebook.com/thewishgroup. Donations of new and gently used items are accepted year-round, although toys must be in their original packaging.

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Aqueduct Racetrack transforms walls into art gallery

'Big A' invites 14 street artists from around the world to paint equine-themed murals

BY BIANCA FORTIS

The grandstand walls of the Big A are getting a face-lift.

The New York Racing Association is using the Aqueduct Racetrack in South Ozone Park as a venue for street artists to display their work.

Fourteen artists from around the world are using the racino's blank indoor walls as canvases for big murals.

The show is the brainchild of Paul Kelleher, who works in corporate development for NYRA.

"I thought, 'These white walls are just asking for it,'" he said. "They're sterile. There's nothing on them."

Kelleher said the show is a way to bring exposure to the Big A, which first opened in 1894 and was

once a household name.

"If people are willing to travel all the way to Rockaway Beach to have a good time in the summer, why shouldn't they come here?" he said. "A lot of them just don't know about it."

He said many patrons come and go, intent on only watching the races. After the artists started to paint, they began to look up, ask questions and share their opinions of the pieces, Kelleher said.

The artists were culled by Joe Iurato, a New Jersey-based artist who, Kelleher says, has a Rolodex of amazing artists, each with a unique style.

Iurato said he chose artists who he believes would represent the best of their styles in their genre.

"You don't usually see a collection of artists like this indoors," he said.



Shai Dahan, an artist from Sweden, works on his contribution to "Aqueduct Murals."

Photo by Bianca Fortis

"These types of works are housed in the street."

He said there is a certain harmony between the artists and the racetrack —

both are tied to their roots, he said.

The artists worked overnight Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to

create their murals, each with the theme of horse racing.

One artist is Chris Stain, a resident of Middle

Village. He said he grew up writing graffiti in Baltimore in the mid-1980s.

"That opened up the doors to a larger world of self-expression," he said. "I was able to learn about different art forms I didn't know existed."

For his contribution to "Aqueduct Murals," he is replicating a photograph that was captured at Aqueduct in 1941. It depicts an ornery-looking jockey covered in mud after just completing a race.

"He looks like he has an attitude," Stain said. "That's what I liked about it."

The show opened Saturday and currently has no closing date. More information about the show is available at aqueductmurals.com.

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Firefighters walk around the Whitestone home.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Whitestone home gutted in 3-alarm fire: FDNY

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Fire marshals are still looking for the cause of a fire that destroyed the inside of a Whitestone house, at 15th Drive and 163rd Street, just before noon Monday.

Neighbors who saw smoke coming out of the two-story house alerted the Fire Department, which promptly arrived to douse the flames.

The owners of the house, who were at work when the fire broke out, arrived to find the inside of their home gutted and their belongings ruined.

"Everything is destroyed," said owner Hellen Andreopoulos, who has



Debris litters the area by the front door. Photo by Christina Santucci

lived in the house for almost three years. "There's water in the basement. I don't think there's one window left in the place. It hits you in the gut right now — seeing it like this."

Neighbor Joe Upton said the house was one of the first houses built in the neighborhood and predates

his home, which was built in 1935.

"It's a shame," he said. "This was the nicest, well-manicured house of the whole area."

The FDNY said no one was at home during the time of the fire and no one was injured.

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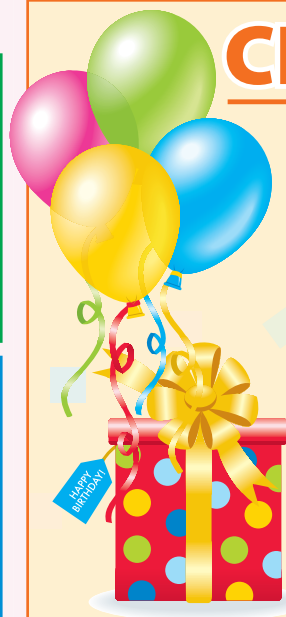
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Boro pols strut their stuff in 2013 'Legislative Acts'

BY MERLE EXIT

A night at the theater begins with a cocktail hour that includes an open bar, buffet of hors d'oeuvres and passed around canapés. The lobby is enveloped with local politicians and their friends and family as well as the attendees, who are anxiously awaiting for the production to start.

The show is "Legislative Acts," and the performers are Queens politicians.

For several years, Jeffrey Rosenstock produced these shows at Queens Theatre in the Park. Now that he has moved his talents over to the Kupferberg Center at Queens College, what better way to raise program funds than to pair with Kevin R. Free, director; Mark Wagner, music director; and Carrie Plew, choreographer, to produce a hit for everyone? This musical comedy, put on Saturday, was a parody of classical movies, well-known TV series, Broadway shows and a variety of other songs all done to beam the spotlight on Queens.

Much attention was paid to Melinda Katz not just for her singing talent, but also because she will be the next borough president.

She sang the opening number, "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning," contributed to "Brotherhood of Queens" and was featured in two other numbers that focused on her becoming president.

"Change in Queens" brought three women on stage with past Borough President Claire Shulman, current Borough President Helen Marshall and Katz along with state Assemblyman William Scarborough doing the singing. As Shulman and Marshall walked off stage, Katz was left to sing "On My Own."

You can always expect laughs when Shulman gets



Borough President-elect Melinda Katz (c.) receives advice from the women who will become her predecessors: Borough President Helen Marshall (l.) and former Borough President Claire Shulman.

Photo by Nat Valentine

on stage, especially when she plays opposite Peter Vallone Sr.

"Save the World!" was perhaps the one skit that got the biggest audience reaction. The senior Vallone was dressed in a Superman outfit with Shulman wearing a Wonder Woman costume. Not only did they make fun of one another, but remembering lines was a hard task for both and they knew it.

In the past, performers had cheat scripts in hand. This time, they placed teleprompters at the front of the stage, but it didn't help every performer, which earned laughs from the crowd and Shulman.

City Councilman Mark Weprin must have secretly wanted to be in show business as it was obvious that he can both sing and act. His take-off on "I Want to Be a Producer," from the Mel Brooks musical "The Producers," became "I Want to Be a Councilman" and was a hit. Also, a running gag that he was not his brother David popped up a few times during the show.

"Ticket to Ride" featured city Comptroller John Liu doing a stint on a skateboard, at least after a few tries. Assemblyman Phil

lip Goldfeder and county Clerk Audrey Pheffer were the stars of "Goldfeder," a parody of "Goldfinger," as he donned a gold jacket and Pheffer a sexy black dress and blonde wig.

Glen Riddell, Daniel Dromm, Ron Kim, Michael Simanowitz, Michael DenDekkar and an ensemble composed of Queens College theater majors, joined in the number.

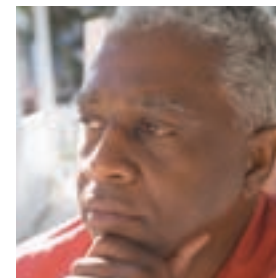
"Queens in Queens" was a laugh generated by openly gay Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer as he hosted "Jeopardy!" with contestants Rory Lancman, Gregory Meeks and Elizabeth Crowley.

The finale was a true focus on Queens' diverse population as the entire cast sang "We Are the World."

Fancy desserts were the final act in an air of "thank you" and feedback with the politicians.

The evening served as a fund-raiser for two of Queens College's community outreach programs, Big Buddy, which pairs college students with homeless children, and Women and Work, which helps victims of domestic violence train for the workforce.

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Cambria Heights man shot dead in Brooklyn

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

A southeast Queens family will be spending Thanksgiving without its patriarch after he was gunned down in Brooklyn while dropping off money to help a family friend buy a holiday meal.

"I know he is in heaven because it was a good deed. It was a good deed that he was trying to do," Clifford Hubbard Jr. said of his father. "He didn't have to do anything for everybody, but he did. That's just the kind of person he was."

Cambria Heights resident Clifford Hubbard Sr., 66, had just parked near the Whitman Houses in Fort Greene at about 3 a.m. Friday, cops and his family said.

"From what I understand from detectives, he walked a few feet and someone confronted him for his money," Hubbard Jr. said.

Hubbard Sr., a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Vietnam War, would have been reluctant to hand over his belongings, his son said.

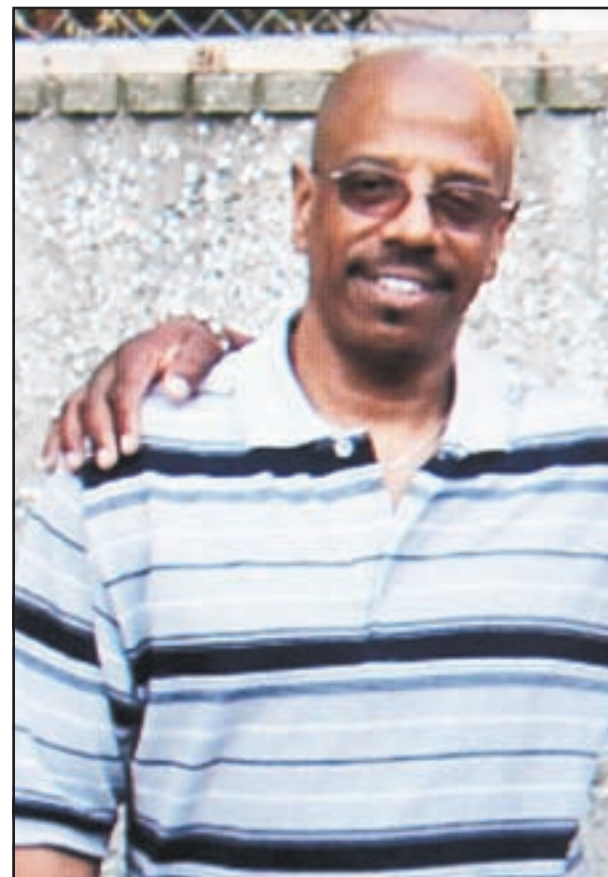
"A fight ensued and he just got shot," Hubbard Jr. said.

Police said Hubbard Sr. had three gunshot wounds to the torso when officers arrived at 56 N. Oxford Walk, and emergency responders brought him to Kings County Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Hubbard Jr. was working with the Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services when he got a call from his uncle telling him about the shooting and he rushed to the hospital.

Police said Wednesday that no arrests had been made.

Hubbard Jr. said he hoped authorities were looking at surveillance videos from the surrounding area and police would



CLIFFORD HUBBARD SR.

Photo courtesy the Hubbard family

be able to identify whoever killed his father.

"I want the person who is responsible to be held accountable," he said.

A native of Fort Greene, Hubbard Sr. moved to Crown Heights after his time in the military before settling in Queens nine or 10 years ago.

"He loved to drive," his son said. "He lived to drive trucks."

Hubbard Jr. said his father worked as a truck driver delivering goods for Duane Reade, was married and had three children — two daughters, one of whom died a few years ago.

"I just hope I can live up to his footsteps," his son said. "I'll try."

Hubbard Jr. described his father as outgoing and a jokester.

"He was more or less the life of the party," his son said.

Hubbard Sr. also was

an adoring grandfather to his seven grandkids, and the last conversation Hubbard Jr. had with his father was about his grandson Morris' eighth birthday Monday. Hubbard Sr. planned to bring balloons for the child, nicknamed "Cliffie."

On Sunday evening, relatives were still planning a Catholic funeral mass for Hubbard Sr. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Queens Village once the city's medical examiner's office released his body.

"No good deed goes unpunished," Hubbard Jr. said. "I would hate to think that he did something for others and somebody could get away with that."

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

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Rockrose cuts the ribbon on luxury high rise Linc LIC

Developer says 42-story residential tower the beginning of brand new day for Court Square area

BY BILL PARRY

Long Island City's newest luxury high-rise had its grand opening Monday.

Rockrose Development Corp. hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Linc LIC, at 43-10 Crescent St. The 42-story residential tower is one of the tallest in Queens.

The building's 709 rental units range from 450-square-foot studios with prices starting at \$2,215 a month to 1,400-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments with triple exposures and terraces that are high-end at \$4,755 a month. Each unit has floor-to-ceiling windows and granite-clad kitchens with brushed stainless steel appliances.

Linc LIC, fully staffed with doormen and a concierge desk, has amenities



The view of the Manhattan skyline is stunning from the outdoor deck on the 31st floor of Linc LIC.

Photo by Bill Parry

like a 5,650-square-foot, bi-level fitness center with squash and an indoor basketball court. There is a duplex lounge on the 31st floor with an outdoor deck that has a sweeping view of the Manhattan skyline.

The tower is the first of four projects that Rockrose has under way in LIC's Court Square section, an investment of more than a billion dollars, that will change the neighborhood from industrial to residen-

tial with nearly 3,000 apartments.

"To me it's about taking what's already here in Court Square and expanding on it," Rockrose President Justin Elghanayan said, "beginning with the

artists that make this a cultural capital in the city. It's less about transforming it. Keep it gritty with character."

In addition, M. Wells Steakhouse opened across the street in another Rockrose property and Food Cellar is opening a supermarket in the ground floor retail space. Rockrose is planning to turn the area into a retail and entertainment center to support the residential community and take advantage of the transportation hub. Seven different subway lines are within walking distance.

"We're going to see what retailers come to us," Elghanayan said. "We want that to be organic, people that want to be here. As the population grows, the retail will as well."

Joining Elghanayan for the ribbon-cutting were

state Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (D-Ridgewood), City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) and state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Ashtoria), who joked, "I think I can't afford to live here. This place is a testament to the desirability and growth of LIC; 15 years ago you couldn't get anyone to rent here."

Linc LIC has allowed residents to move in since the end of August and already it is 40 percent occupied. "Leasing activities are very brisk especially over the Labor Day weekend," said Rockrose spokesman Richard Edmonds, "The demand for this building is very strong."

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

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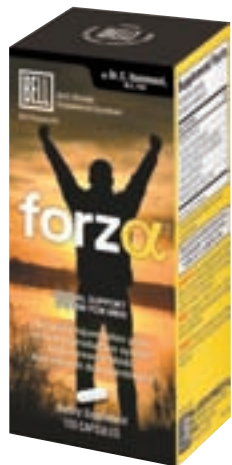
Hanukkah Celebration

The Central Queens YM & YMHA held an event to mark Hanukkah in Forest Hills. The event was organized by Dale Stark and Ribin Kaufman. (Clockwise from top l.) Acquatics instructor Lior Harpaz lights a menorah; elected officials (l.-r.) Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, state Sen. Toby Stavisky and Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz are introduced to the crowd; Ben Belotser, 8, keeps his eyes on the show; Maya Harpaz, 7, has her face painted with a symbol of the Festival of Lights; Jacob Ellman (r.) jumps as a balloon he was holding is popped by performer Michael Karas; and Allison Lesser watches as juggler Karas performs.

Photos by Christina Santucci



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- **Exercises didn't help!** After drinking the Bell Tea for Women #4b my life is far less stressful especially when I am at work. Thanks for such an amazing product! *Marilyn Sallows, 53, Fort McMurray, AB*
- **Tea represents truth in advertising!** Being a skeptic, I ordered this Bladder Control Tea for Women as a more or less last resort, after trying everything else in the last 5 years. It worked better than I hoped for. Thank you for this great product, and above all, for truth in advertising. *Marina Rosa, 57, Las Vegas, NV**



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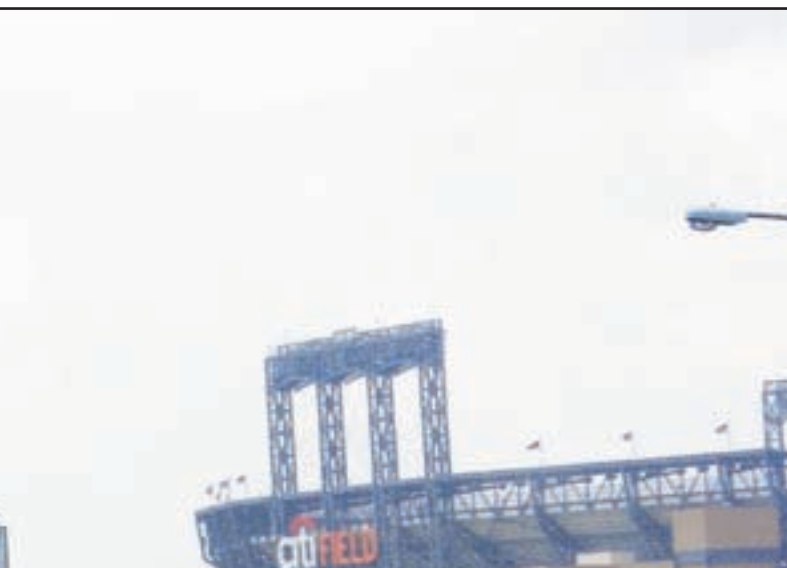
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Willets Point

The Queens Borough Board recently authorized the sale of 23 acres of Willets Point \$1 to Queens Development Group LLC, a joint venture between Sterling Equities and Related Cos. The site is slated to be redeveloped into a mixed-used commercial and residential project. (Clockwise from top l.) A worker waits for passing motorists to stop for repairs; potholes cover the streets of the Iron Triangle; a No. 7 train rides past Citi Field; a man looks out from one of dozens of the auto body shops; and graffiti decorates a plywood wall.

Photos by Caroll Alvarado





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Sean Bell community center in South Jamaica closes

Non-profit organization that operated out of storefront on Sutphin Boulevard struggled with finances

BY RICH BOCKMANN

On the seventh anniversary of Sean Bell's death at the hands of the NYPD, the community center that bears his name is shuttered, unable to raise the financial support needed to keep its youth programs afloat.

Bell's parents, William and Valerie, opened the Sean Elijah Bell Community Center in South Jamaica in 2011 to honor their son's memory, but it has struggled lately to pay the bills, and several community members in southeast Queens said the gates of the non-profit's storefront have been closed for several weeks.

The Rev. Phil Craig, pastor at the Greater Springfield Community Church and president of the Queens Chapter of the National Action Network, took the lead on organizing a benefit last December to help get the Bell center on its feet. But he said he was dismayed when the non-profit's director could not provide a satisfactory answer as to how he would

keep it running in the long term.

"I was quite disappointed," to hear of its closing, he said. "I didn't want to do the fund-raiser if they couldn't come up with a long-term plan to keep it open. I came to find out that they had a questionable 501(c)3 status."

In order to receive City Council member items, which many community-based organizations such as the Bell center depend on, a non-profit charity has to be an actively registered 501(c)3 with both the Internal Revenue Service and the state attorney general's charities bureau, but the Sean Elijah Bell Foundation is not registered with the AG.

While the Council has allocated \$58,500 to the non-profit started by Bell's fiancée, Nicole Paultre, there is only one item sponsored by City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) in 2012 earmarked for the community center. The status of the \$3,500 member item is listed on the Council's website as "pending."

The center could not be



Sean Bell's parents Valerie (sixth from r.) and William Bell (fifth from r.) lead a march from the site where Bell was killed to the community center in 2011.

reached for comment, but William Bell has said in the past that he struggled to find funding after the \$196,000 federal grant he used to start the center dried up.

A year after the center opened on May 18, 2011 — what would have been Bell's 28th birthday — enrollment in its day and

after school programs doubled to about 88 youngsters. The charity partnered with nearby PS 48 and held annual events such as coat drives, but by last winter it was barely getting by.

Craig said the community was able to raise somewhere between \$7,000 and \$10,000 for the

Bell center late last year, including a \$2,500 gift from the Rev. Al Sharpton, but ultimately it was not enough to keep the doors open.

"I'm really heartbroken about that, actually," he said. "We don't have that many community centers."

Monday marked seven years since Bell was killed on the eve of his wedding in 2006 when undercover police officers fired 50 bullets at the 23-year-old and his two friends as they celebrated at the Club Kalua strip club in Jamaica.

Officers claimed they heard one of the men say he was going to get a gun and that Bell tried to run the police over with his car, but no weapon was found at the scene and the shooting sparked outrage over excessive police force.

The four officers involved in the shooting were cleared of criminal charges but later forced out of the department following an NYPD internal trial.

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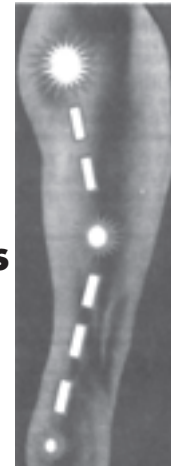
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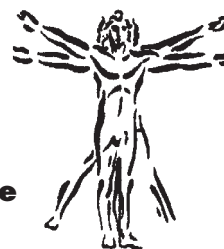
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MS-13 gangbanger gets life for Far Rock slay

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A ruthless leader of the MS-13 gang on Long Island will spend the rest of his life behind bars after being sentenced for the 2010 slaying of a fellow gang member in Far Rockaway who failed to draw blood for the violent crew, authorities said.

Carlos "Silencio" Ortega, 24, was sentenced to life in prison by U.S. District Judge Joseph Bianco in Nassau County Nov. 21 stemming from a number of charges, including the bloody murder of fellow gang member Mario Alberto Canton Quijada on the beach in Far Rockaway in March 2010.

Ortega was convicted of the murder in federal court in Central Islip, L.I., earlier this year along with fellow MS-13 member Heriberto Martinez, 26, who is awaiting sentencing.

The two thugs, mem-



CARLOS "SILENCIO" ORTEGA
Photo courtesy U.S. attorney's office

bers of the Sitios Locos Salvatruchas arm of the El Salvadorian gang on Long Island, were also convicted of a number of violent charges in crimes stretching across Long Island.

"Ortega committed heinous acts of violence in the name of MS-13, cutting a swath of murder from Brentwood to Far Rockaway, all within the span of a few weeks," U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch for the Eastern District said. "From a suspected rival



gang member to an MS-13 gang member who was not violent enough, there was no room for mercy in the gang's code of enforcing respect through murder."

"Today's life sentence is a fitting end to Ortega's reign of terror," she added.

gang member to an MS-13 gang member who was not violent enough, there was no room for mercy in the gang's code of enforcing respect through murder."

"He will now have the rest of his life to contemplate the just results of his allegiance to the killing machine known as MS-13."

Authorities said Ortega and Martinez used the guise of attacking a rival gang member when

they lured Quijada, known by the street name "Baby Blue," to the beach in Far Rockaway in 2010.

Upset with Quijada's reluctance to "put in work" or kill rival gang members, Ortega set upon his victim with a gun, but when it

jammed he and Martinez hacked their fellow member to death with knives and machetes, the federal prosecutor said.

The two were convicted of his murder in March.

MS-13, also known as La Mara Salvatrucha, is Long Island's largest street gang, and Quijada's murder is not the only time the two gang-bangers drew blood.

Prosecutors were also able to show Ortega killed a young man suspected to be a rival gang member when he lured David Sandler, 21, to Timberline Drive under the pretext of buying marijuana from him.

Authorities said Ortega shot Sandler in the face and fired at one of his friends, who was able to escape.

Martinez was also convicted of killing a 19-year-old mother and a Long Island bouncer, prosecutors said.



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QUEENS COLLEGE HOSTS LEGISLATIVE ACTS FEATURING BOROUGH OFFICIALS *Photos by Nat Valentine*



1 Former City Council Speaker Peter Vallone Sr. portrays Superman, as former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman poses as Wonder Woman.

2 Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (front) plays game show host to contestants (l.-r.) Councilman-Elect Rory Lancman and U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks.

3 Comptroller John Liu shows off his skateboarding skills at Queens College's LeFrak Concert Hall.

4 Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (l.) does his best James Bond impression with former Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer.

UNITED BLACK MEN OF QUEENS FOUNDATION HOLDS 38TH ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS *Photos by Nat Valentine*



5 United Black Men of Queens Foundation's Ronald Summers, (l.) second vice president; Donald Vernon, (second l.) first vice president; and Rodney Pride, (r.) executive director of the Board of Directors; congratulate honoree Tamar Ogburn.

6 Outgoing President Lawrence Cormier (r.) is roasted by speakers as Jim Heyliger, a member of the organization's board of directors, listens.

7 Judge Alton Waldon, (l.-r.) a member of the Board of Directors, is joined by Dr. Gerald Deas and Dr. Daniel Laroche, a member of the dinner dance committee, at the event in Terrace on the Park.

DEMI-TASSE & COMPANY COMES TO ITALIAN CHARITIES OF AMERICA IN ELMHURST *Photos by Walter Karling*



8 ICA President Rose Sproviero (l.) and performer Bon Bon LaRue discuss the festivities over a can of ginger ale.

9 The audience gets out on the dance floor following the Italian Charities of America's Female Impersonator Revue: "Demi-Tasse & Company," held in Elmhurst.

10 Diva delights the house as she takes the stage during the event.

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Schumer wants to strengthen fed robocall law

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) is preparing to introduce legislation to toughen penalties for violations of federal Do Not Call rules, including \$20,000 fines for each violation and jail time for the "most egregious" offenders.

"When it comes to the loopholes-exploiting robocall industry, we need to fight fire with fire — and that means higher penalties, jail time and better technology to fight the spammers who have ruined countless family dinners, sporting events and other family gatherings," Schumer said. "The Do Not Call list is a great idea that needs some updating to make it better suited to our modern world."

Schumer said the number of such illegal phone calls has been "exploding" due to automated dialing machines.

"This technology has evolved in recent years to allow even one person to make millions of pre-recorded calls with the click of a mouse," Schumer said.

Under Schumer's proposed legislation, use of automated dialing machines would go from being a misdemeanor punishable by a small fine and no jail time

The number of such illegal phone calls has been exploding due to automated dialing machines.

Charles Schumer

U.S. Senator

to a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and \$20,000 fines per call.

In addition to being illegal, many of these automated calls involve scam artists and callers are often masked behind "caller ID spoofing," the practice of displaying a different number on the recipient's caller ID system.

Published reports suggest



U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer hopes to toughen Do Not Call rules.

that the number of robocall complaints by U.S. consumers has increased from 65,000 in October 2010 to between 140,000 and 200,000 monthly as of this past August.

Telemarketers are supposed to check the Do Not Call registry every 31 days to ensure they do not call a newly updated phone number on the list.

If a person is listed on the Do Not Call registry, that person can file a complaint on the Do Not Call website.

Federal government agencies have tried to crack down on so-called scam artists and robocallers, but have been hamstrung by the minor penalties they are authorized to impose, Schumer said.

The national Do Not Call registry was implemented in 2003 and designed to give telephone users a choice on whether or not they would like to receive telemarketing calls at home.

Divorce Caribbean Style

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

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

According to Alan Alford,

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

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

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

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Vallone pushes for ice rink to be made in Astoria pool

BY BILL PARRY

Term limited City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) wants a skating rink in Astoria Park.

In a letter to city Parks Commissioner Veronica M. White, Vallone requested that the Astoria Park Pool area should be the site of an ice skating rink similar to the one opened at the McCarran Park Pool in Brooklyn.

"This area in the Astoria Park Pool would make the perfect space for an ice skating rink for the residents of Queens to enjoy during the winter months," Vallone wrote. "With the addition of an ice skating rink to the existing skate park and upcoming amphitheater, Astoria Park will be a destination for every season."

Zach Feder, spokes-



Peter Vallone Jr. calls for an ice skating rink in Astoria Park in an area adjacent to the pool.

man for the Parks Department, said, "We have received his proposal and we are reviewing it."

No time frame was provided.

A 60-foot-wide skating rink opened two weeks ago in the middle of the huge pool at Greenpoint's McCarran Park drawing thousands of skaters. The city

worked out a concession agreement with Open Space Alliance to maintain and operate the rink and Vallone believes the same can be done at Astoria Park.

Vallone's 12-year run as the District 22 councilman ends Dec. 31. He will be replaced on New Year's Day by Costa Constantinides.

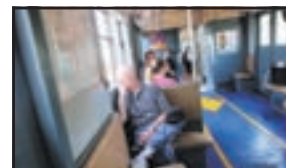
MTA will bring Nostalgia train to Queens Plaza in December

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

If it's a ride back into the 1930s you're looking for, why not take the Nostalgia Special from Long Island City to Manhattan during the first four Sundays next month?

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has prepared a holiday season that includes bringing back trains and buses of yesteryear, including the Nostalgia Special running on the M line between Long Island City and lower Manhattan.

"For the first four Sundays in December, subway riders will be able to catch a ride on this classic subway train at stations along the line between Queens Plaza and Second Avenue," said Joseph Leader, New York City Transit senior vice president of the Subways



Riders take a ride on a classic train when the A train was reinstated from the Rockaways to Howard Beach.

Department.

"They aren't the first subway cars, but these R-1/9 cars served for five decades and are historically significant as the rolling stock that originally served the IND."

The Nostalgia Special is made up of subway cars in service from the 1930s to the '70s running along the lettered lines from the Bronx's Grand Concourse to Coney Island. They were also the cars that originated along the A line. Their ceiling fans, padded seats

and incandescent light bulbs were state of the art when these cars were first put into service.

The last of the cars were removed from service more than 35 years ago and replaced by stainless steel, climate-controlled trains that customers have become accustomed to today.

The Nostalgia train will operate Sundays only between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22.

During the week, depending on the weather, bus passengers along 42nd Street in Manhattan will be able to ride examples of NYC Transit's vintage fleet. The buses will run from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday from Dec. 2 to 20.

These buses are not wheelchair accessible, and they will not operate in the event of rain or snow.

The Center for Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

GADI AVSHALOMOV, M.D.

Diplomate of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology

Do allergy symptoms keep you from doing what you want to do?

Do You Suffer From

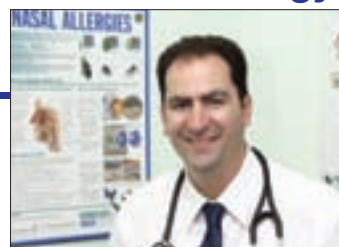
Asthma:

A disorder affecting the airways of the lungs. People with asthma have Allergic airways that cause Wheezing and cough in response to certain "triggers", leading to difficulty in breathing. The airway narrowing is caused by inflammation and swelling of the airway lining, the tightening of the airway muscles, and the production of excess mucus. This results in a reduced airflow in and out of the lungs. You may be waking up at night coughing or wheezing after exertion. Why suffer; today's treatments may permit you to breathe and live much better.



Allergies:

An allergy is an overreaction of your body's immune system to substances that usually cause no reaction in most individuals. Reactions can be hives, congestion, sneezing, coughing, sore throat, headache, and itchy runny eyes and nose. Allergy symptoms are triggered by pollen, molds, dust mites, cockroach and animal dander. For people allergic to these common substances, symptoms can be quite bothersome. And treatment can result in dramatic improvement.



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Christ the King Community is Getting into the Christmas Spirit Announces Christmas 2013 Celebrations

Christ the King Community invites you and your family to kick off the 2013 Christmas Season at our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 5th, from 6-8PM. Bring your cameras and have your children join Santa for pictures and wander through our indoor Winter Wonderland filled with bouncy houses, game, activities, hot chocolate and cookies. CK's Musical Theatre Group will also be on hand to give us a preview of their upcoming theatre production, "A Christmas Carol, the Musical".

The CK Musical Theatre Club, along with Middle Village Preparatory's Drama Club, will open their five show run of "A Christmas Carol, the Musical" on Friday, December 6th, to further put you in the Christmas spirit. The production will conclude its performances on Sunday, December 15th.

On Thursday, December 12th, the New York Blood Center will be at Christ the King conducting its Annual Blood Drive beginning at 8AM. Please consider giving the gift of life by donating a pint of blood.

Michael Michel, President of Christ the King Campus, stated, "We are proud to bring together a variety of fun filled activities to celebrate the Christmas Season. This year, for the first time, CTK Kids will host a Christmas Party for children on Saturday, December 7th, from 8:30 to 1:30 PM. Parents can get Christmas shopping and various other errands done while their children enjoy some holiday fun."

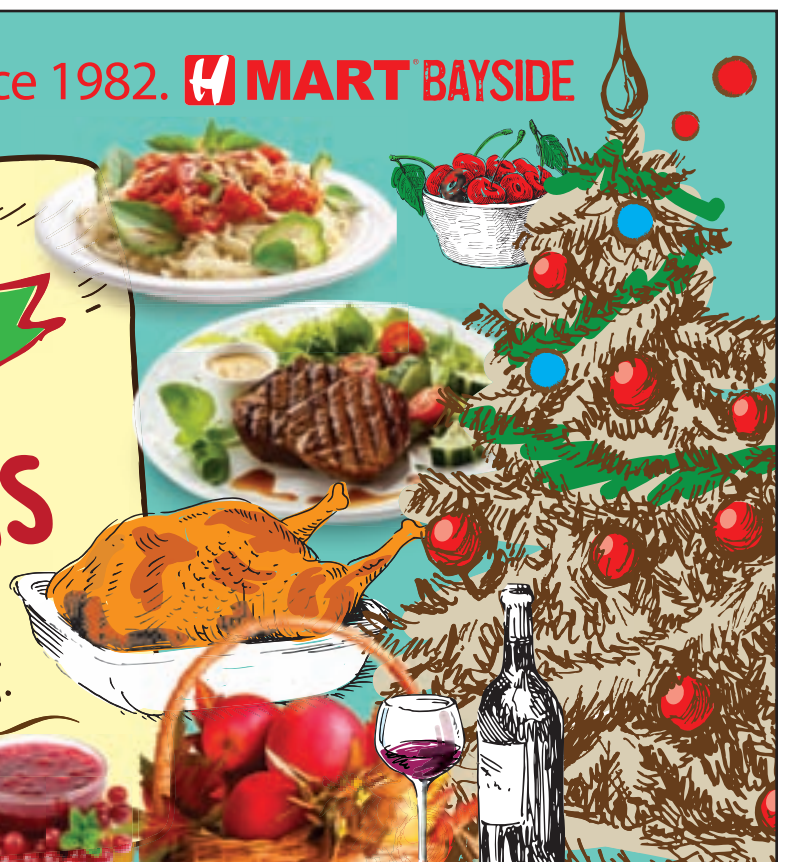
Serphin R. Maltese, Chairman of the Board of Trustees said, "The Christmas season is a time for sharing and celebration. We at Christ the King invite the members of our community to join us in kicking off the Christmas Season, which is sure to be filled with fun and merriment for all."

For more information on the these events, please visit our website at www.ctkny.org

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Exploring the link between tobacco and cancer

Tobacco and cancer have long been intertwined. A 1982 report from the United States Surgeon General listed tobacco as the major cause of cancer death in the United States, and the American Cancer Society notes that those findings hold up more than 30 years later.

According to the ACS, tobacco use is responsible for nearly 20 percent of all deaths in the United States.

Smoking cigarettes is prevalent throughout society, as ACS data indicates that no ethnic group or race has proven capable of avoiding cigarettes. In 2011, the most recent year for which data is available, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that roughly 44 million U.S. adults were smokers, and every race and ethnicity liv-

ing in the United States was represented among those 44 million smokers.

With so many people across the globe continuing to smoke, clearly such figures have yet to strike a chord among the millions of people who continue to light up. Perhaps a closer look at tobacco and its relation to cancer-related death is just what smokers need to put their cigarettes down once and for all.

According to the ACS, roughly half of all Americans who keep smoking will die because of their habit. And since smoking has proven so pervasive among the various races and ethnicities living in the United States, it's safe to assume smokers across the globe face similar fates if they continue to smoke.

Inside the United States,

roughly 443,000 people die each year from illnesses related to tobacco use. While many smokers are aware of the link between smoking and lung cancer, lung cancer is not the only cancer smokers are at a greater risk for than nonsmokers. In fact, smoking increases a person's risk of developing a slew of cancers, including cancers of the larynx, oral cavity (mouth, tongue and lips), stomach, pancreas, cervix, kidney, and bladder.

And cancer is not the only disease or ailment smokers are susceptible to as a result of their habit. Smoking is a major cause of many other potentially deadly health problems, including heart disease, aneurysms, emphysema and stroke.

Keeping asthma under control

A 2010 nationwide telephone survey of 1,001 asthma patients found that while most patients with asthma understood the risks associated with uncontrolled asthma, they didn't always act accordingly.

"This finding demonstrates a serious disconnect between the perceived consequences of uncontrolled asthma and the necessary steps people should take to achieve better control," explained Dr. Shailen Shah, an asthma expert with PA Allergy and Asthma Consultants.

"Some people believe that asthma goes away when their symptoms do, but asthma is a chronic disease. The good news is that with the appropriate treatment regimen, the inflammation that

causes the symptoms may be properly managed."

Additionally, there are simple steps patients can take to avoid unnecessary complications, beginning with an open discussion with a physician.

Understand asthma

People with asthma suffer from chronic lung inflammation, with symptoms ranging from coughing and wheezing to chest tightness and shortness of breath. Additionally, asthma triggers such as air pollution, smoke, pet dander, pollen, and mold can set off an asthma episode.

It's important for patients to understand that when their asthma is under control with the help of their physicians, through lifestyle modifications, and the

proper use of appropriate controller medication, they should exhibit few asthma symptoms.

Simple steps to asthma control

A physician can help create an asthma action plan and determine if a controller medication, in addition to a rescue medication, is appropriate.

"Using an asthma action plan...can help patients stay in the know and in control of their asthma," Shah stresses. "By understanding proper asthma management and appropriate use of medications, patients can help maintain control over their asthma symptoms and minimize the risks associated with uncontrolled asthma."



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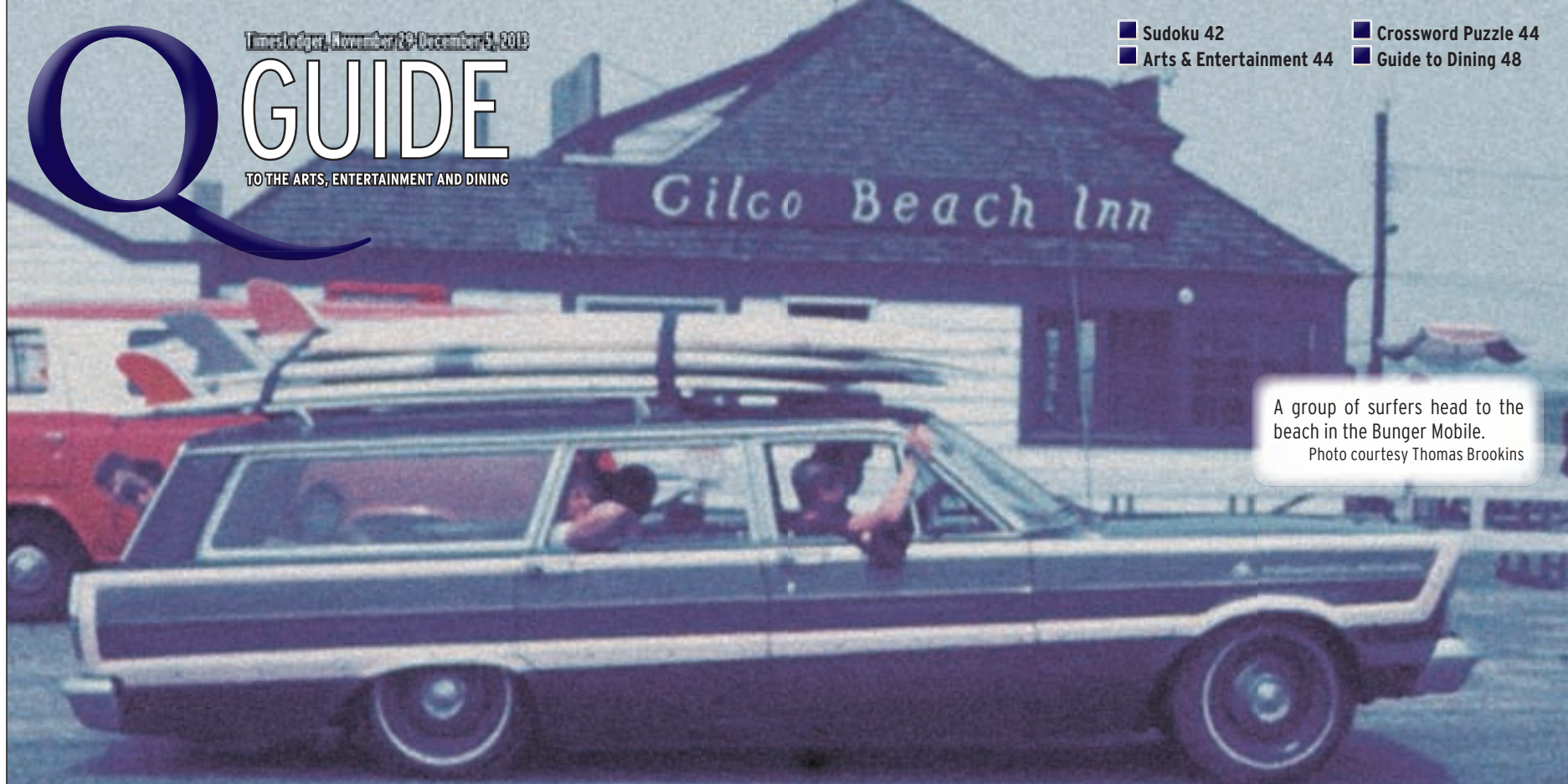
An alarming number of pre-teens are drinking alcohol – which makes it urgent to find every opportunity to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking. For tips on how – and when – to begin the conversation, visit:

www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov

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A group of surfers head to the beach in the Bunger Mobile.
Photo courtesy Thomas Brookins

ROCKAWAY FILMMAKER HANGS 10

Director focuses on connection between NY firefighters and the surf culture

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

You wouldn't think that New York has a rich surfing history, or that surfing and firefighting are related, but it does and they are. It turns out that generations of Rockaway, Queens and Long Beach, Long Island firefighters, who called these coastline communities home, were avid surfers who passed down their passion for saving lives and riding waves to their children, even while inspiring others to follow in their footsteps.

Rockaway Beach director and filmmaker Thomas Brookins' new historical documentary, "Fire and Water," pays homage to America's bravest and their brotherhood, with amazing surfing footage, along with interviews and cameos by local surfers and firefighters across America.

"Surfing has been my passion and savior; it truly can change a person. It was

on and off throughout my whole life until I moved to New York City," said Brookins, 42, who found himself spending more time at the beach than at home. "So, we packed up our apartment and moved to Rockaway permanently. I guess it reflects my life and friendships here and its tendrils run deep into our neighborhood's surfing history."

The movie explores surfing through wave titan and aspiring filmmaker Don Eichin's lens. Known for his radical wipe-outs, he made waves in Hawaii back in the late '60s, surfing with other legends of the sport.

"With never before seen vintage footage Don passed on to me for the film, we see what Hawaii was like in surfing's heyday," Brookins said.

When Eichin returned to New York City and traded in his swim trunks for firefighting gear, he passed his knowledge to his sons Randy and Eric, and "influenced

potentially a large generation of new surfers and, of course, firefighters," said the filmmaker.

"Fire and Water" is a work in progress and "just too good of a story to overlook," Brookins said.

"And that's when it hit me. Before I knew it there was an amazing connection to surfing and the career of a fireman. After meeting Don Eichin I realized the potential this very unique New York documentary had," Brookins said. "There are connections between all these men that lead back to New York's premier surfers of the '50s and '60s. In the sports industry today, we see big wave New York surfers like the Skudins of NYSea.com; their whole family is the past and present of New York surfing."

So, the director started putting the first shoot together in 2011, then talked to firefighters Eric and Randy Eichin about

it — both work in Rockaway firehouses. They, too, were excited about his idea.

But then a health scare nearly derailed the project. Brookins' doctors found a lump in his throat and while the director was in Hawaii capturing footage of pro surfers, performed a biopsy and discovered it was cancer.

"It was pretty hard to hear, having a new son and my amazing wife Jessica, whom I've been with over 18 years. The surgery and treatments were very difficult but when things got tough, I had the movie to focus on. I was texting and emailing from the hospital bed, trying to keep my mind focused," Brookins said.

After a couple of rough years, Brookins finally received some good news last fall when doctors told him he had beaten cancer. But the celebration was short-lived.

"Sandy crushed our home and neigh-

Continued on Page 44

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CHOICE A

\$13.95 per person
Choice of 5 items

- Stuffed Shells
- Tortellini Meat Sauce
- Ravioli - Baked Ziti
- Eggplant Parmigiana
- Sausage & Peppers
- Broiled Chicken
- Small Meatballs
- Linguini w/Red or White Cream
- Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil



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

CHOICE B

\$15.95 per person
Any 3 Choices from A
Any 2 Choices from B

Above served with either Antipasto, Garden Salad or Caesar Salad, Stands, Sterno, Napkins, Plates, Cups, Forks, Knives & Italian Bread. Delivered to your home or office. (Min. 15 people)

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Any 5 Items

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- Tortellini w/Meat Sauce
- Ravioli
- Baked Ziti
- Eggplant Parmigiana
- Sausage & Peppers
- Broiled Chicken
- Small Meatballs
- Linguini, w/Clam Sauce
- Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

CHOICE B

\$25.95

Any 3 Choices From A Any 2 Choices From B

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

CHOICE C

\$26.95

Sit Down Dinner 1 of 3 Choices

VEAL CUTLET

- Marsala
- Picatta Parmigiana
- CHICKEN
- Marsala
- Parmigiana Francaise

FISH

- Filet of Sole
- Broiled Parmigiana

TILAPIA OREGANATA

- PASTA COURSE
- Tomato • Marinara • Vodka



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Website:

rockawaytheatrecompany.org

PRODUCTIONS

"Raus! Get Outta Here!" – The U.S. premiere of the hit comedy from Greece about six diverse characters attempting to scam the European Union out of money for a fake cultural organization. Performed in Greek with English subtitles.

When: Through Nov. 30, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3:30 pm

Where: Stathakeion Cultural Center, 22-51 29th St., Astoria

Cost: \$20/adults, \$15/students

Contact: (718) 581-6285

Website: www.egtny.com

"Daughters" – John Morgan Evans' dramatic comedy focuses on four generations of a Brooklyn family.

When: Through Nov. 30, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm; and Sunday, Nov. 24 at 2 pm

Where: Zion Episcopal Church Parish, Church Street, Douglaston

Cost: \$17/adults, \$15/seniors and students

Contact: (718) 482-3332

"A Christmas Carol" – The Parkside Players present the definite Christmas play based on Charles Dickens' classic story.

When: Through Nov. 30, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm

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

Cost: \$17, \$15/seniors, \$10/children under 12

Contact: (718) 353-7388

Website: www.parksideplayers.com

"Inspecting Carol" – This holiday farce involves a struggling theater group's annual performance of "A Christmas Carol," but their funding is on hold pending an inspection.

When: Friday, Dec. 6 through Sunday, Dec. 15, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3 pm

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

Cost: \$15/adults, \$12/seniors and children

"Nowell: The Christmas Story in Song" – The Gingerbread Players present William Ryden's show based on the medieval mystery play "The Pageant of the Shearman and Taylors."

When: Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3 pm and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 pm

Where: St. Luke's Church, 85 Greenway South, Forest Hills

Cost: \$12/suggested donation, \$10/students, seniors and groups

Contact: (718) 268-7772

Website: www.gingerbreadplayers.org

"Holiday Memories" – Theatre Time Productions presents its annual Christmastime musical spectacular featuring a dozen singers performing holiday songs.

When: Dec. 6 to Dec. 14, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3 pm, Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 pm

Where: Colonial Church of Bayside, 54-02 217th St., Bayside

Cost: \$17/adults, \$15/seniors, \$10/children 12 and under

Contact: (347) 358-8102

Website: www.theatretime.org

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sudoku

Easy #67

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

Hard #67

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

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

Answers in Sports

LIC group provides offenders with a second act

The Fortune Society teams up with Public Theater to bring Shakespeare's plays to recent parolees

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

Dressed in modern clothes and armed with cell phones and iPods, a troupe of Shakespearean actors jumped onto their makeshift stage in a nondescript office building on Northern Boulevard a couple of weeks ago.

As the performers played out the comical banter and overblown misunderstandings of Beatrice and Benedick in "Much Ado About Nothing," their world-weary audience members in this facility for recently paroled men and women became part of the show.

"Once you go black, you never go back," one woman shouted to the white actress and African-American actor as the duo played out a flirtation scene.

While yelling to cast members may be frowned upon on Broadway, The Public Theater's Mobile Shakespeare Unit welcomed the involvement of its audience during the show.

"They are part of it," said

actor Ramsey Faragallah. "They should be part of it. When it's good, they get it and when it's not, they let you know."

This was the third time in two years that The Public's performers have made the trip out to Long Island City to present Shakespeare for clients of The Fortune Society.

Founded in 1967, The Fortune Society provides educational and job training opportunities each year for 3,000 men and women working their way through the criminal justice system. Programs like the Public's help expose these individuals to the arts, said Stanley Richards, senior vice president of programs. It also provides clients with a new way of thinking, Richards said.

"It allows people to see possibilities and not focus on their own devastation," Richards said. "We try to shift the lens away from crime and a sense of victimization. Here, people can create a vision for themselves of a healthier life."



Samantha Soule (l. to r.), Ramsey Faragallah, Kerry Warren, Rosal Colón and A.Z. Kelsey perform "Much Ado About Nothing" at The Fortune Society in Long Island City.

Photo by Kevin Zimmerman

Although some of the clients are at The Fortune Society as part of their parole agreements, others arrive through a court-mandated alternative to incarceration program.

The theater program provides a complement to the computer classes and job-interviewing skills sessions clients are required to attend, as well as a

little bit of fun, Richards said.

"The [court] mandate only lasts until the moment they come through the door," Richards said. "What keeps them here is the staff and what they see."

On this particular Thursday morning, the 80 or so participants were watching an updated version of Shakespeare's comedy.

Characters wore fatigues

and wool caps as hip-hop music poured from a portable CD player set up off to the side. During a scene set at a masquerade ball, actors held paper masks on sticks in front of their faces to look like Kim Kardashian, Kanye West and George Clooney among others. Actress Kerry Warren, who played the part of Hero, even

Continued on Page 44

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

HOLIDAY

"Hanukkah Oh Hanukkah!"

— Award-winning storyteller Robin Bady and alt-rock violinist Deni Bonet share stories and songs of miracles, menorahs and dreidels.

When: Sunday, Dec. 1, at 1 pm and 3 pm

Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: \$10/general, \$5/members and children

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Wreath Making Workshops

— Attend one of six workshops at the Queens County Farm and take home an evergreen wreath. All materials are provided, but bring a garden shear. Registration is required.

When: Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8, at 10 am, Noon and 2 pm

Where: Queens County Farm

Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park

Cost: \$20/per person, per wreath

Contact: (718) 347-3276, ext. 301

Winter Solstice Celebration and Tree Lighting

— Get into the holiday spirit with an afternoon of family fun including a winter garden tour, crafts, music and photos with Santa.

When: Sunday, Dec. 8, from 12:30 pm to 5 pm, Tree Lighting at 4:30 pm

Where: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing

Cost: Free (additional fees for crafts and Santa photos)

Contact: (718) 886-3800

Website: www.queensbotanical.org

Flushing Historic House Tour

— Seven historic sites in Flushing open their doors to celebrate the season with activities, refreshments and histories of the places.

When: Sunday, Dec. 8, from 1 pm to 5 pm

Where: Kingsland Homestead, Voelker Orth Museum, Lewis Latimer House, The Friends Meeting House, Flushing Town Hall, The Bowne House and the Louis Armstrong House

Cost: \$12/adults, \$10/advance, Free/children under 12

Contact: (718) 939-0647, ext. 17

Website: HolidayHouseTour2013.eventbrite.com

Holiday Pops with Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra

— Conductor Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in a concert of traditional holiday music. Santa will even drop in during the show's finale.

When: Sunday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 pm

Where: Kupferberg Performing Arts Center at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Cost: \$50 to \$120

Contact: (718) 793-8080

Website: www.kupferbergcenter.org

Amanda Monaco: Carols & Car Races

— Jazz guitarist and composer Monaco brings her quartet, Formula One, perform original songs about car racing mixed in with classic holiday

Continued on Page 47

SURF

Continued from Page 14

borhood. I felt like nothing could go right, but I hunkered down, did what I had to do, and now that we're finishing up the last of the fixing up in our home, I can jump back in and get my hands dirty," Brookins said. "We still have some things to shoot and hopefully, with some sponsorship, we can bring it all to fruition within the next year."

During Hurricane Sandy the film was put on hold while Brookins and his neighbors fixed their homes and tried their best to survive. He says if the film does reflect on Sandy it's because of his friends who worked that night at the local firehouses.

Fellow surfer Casey Skudin, a highly decorated firefighter who knows the water's dangers more than most, comes from a historic surfing family, here in New York. He was



Filmmaker and Rockaway resident Thomas Brookins prepares for a day of shooting.

Photo courtesy Thomas Brookins

awarded a medal for his bravery the night Sandy hit. "His firehouse was one of many working through the unthinkable to save

people. Another friend and FDNY Firefighter Pete Brady waded through deep water with good friends doing what they could to help anyone they came across," Brookins said. "Stephen Sullivan helped fix my boiler and hot water tank, with his friends from the FDNY."

"Fire and Water" has become more than just a project.

"It's become my life's work; it's one of a kind and connects New York to a global history most would never have imagined. We just need financial help to finish up the last portion of the film," Brookins said.

One thing he says he's learned since starting the film is that "New Yorkers were always part of something amazing, and this is one more aspect of New York's history that's never been discussed."

For more information on Thomas Brookins' film, check his website at www.fireandwaterthemovie.com.

Fortune

Continued from Page 43

thrust a couple of masks in audience members' hands.

All of these little touches hopefully make the play a little more relevant to the viewers.

But even before the first performance, actors spend time with Fortune Society clients in a series of workshops that

introduces them to Shakespeare, the play and what to expect.

"The audience absolutely gets it," said Stephanie Ybarra, line producer for the Public's Mobile Shakespeare Unit. "Shakespeare is a little like listening to music. You have to let it sit in your ear a little bit, then it makes sense."

Public Theater programs like this one and a large-scale version of "The Tempest" held last

September in Central Park with Fortune Society clients and staff members in the cast continue to make sense for Richards and his group's mission.

"At its core, we are not about what is," said Richards, "but about what could be."

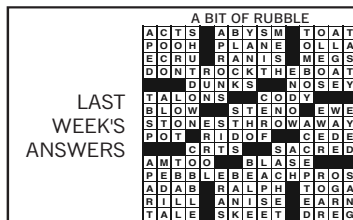
Reach news editor Kevin Zimmerman at kzimmerman@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4541.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
November 29- December 5, 2013

By Ed Canty

New England Menu



Across

- June birthstone
- Post-diet, ideally
- Dracula, at times
- Kukla's co-star
- "The Taming of the Shrew" city
- A pint, maybe
- Maine menu item
- Barbie's beau
- Atlas features
- Soft tissue
- "Cheep" accommodations?
- Sought damages
- Hack
- Kind of center
- London subway to Brits
- Frigid finish
- Sleuth Wolfe
- Coach's advice yo Base runner
- Hubbubs
- French monarch
- "I could ___ horse!"
- Tiny amphibians
- Photo blowups: Abbr.
- Genetic letters
- Dirk of yore
- Systems of waist removal?
- Main and Wall: Abbr.
- Give a little
- "Buenos ___"
- Lorax creator
- Cuisine style
- Drone, e.g.
- Cape Cod menu item
- ___ Today
- Apportion
- Munich denials
- Caesar, for one
- Line parts: Abbr.
- "Super!"

Down

- ___ sci (coll. major)
- Carolina college
- Priestly garb
- Ascended
- A, B or C
- Time of yr.
- Songbird
- Fan mail recipient
- Drug smugglers
- Menu item in colonial Boston, perhaps
- TV's Trebek
- Big ___ Conference
- Native Alaskans
- German coal city
- Spay
- In ___ (owing)
- Actor James
- Gofers
- Boston menu item
- Mac follower
- ___ lobster
- Patronize, as a restaurant
- Lauder and namesakes
- Highland miss
- ___ Falls, NY
- Knit or purl
- Polynesian wrap
- Takes the edge off
- Ratty place
- TV's Arnaz
- Ad headline
- E.P.A. concern
- "Garfield" dog
- Actress Olin
- At one time, at one time
- Greyhound, e.g.
- Pennies: Abbr.



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- SMOKED SALMON BENEDICT** \$16
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- CRAB CAKE BENEDICT** \$18
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Country Morning

- PANCAKES** \$12
FLUFFY BUTTERMILK PANCAKES, VERMONT MAPLE SYRUP & FRESH BERRIES.
- BRIOCHE FRENCH TOAST** \$15
CINNAMON AND VANILLA DUSTED BRIOCHE, BANANA CARAMEL, FRESHLY WHIPPED CREAM & FRESH BERRIES.
- BAGEL AND LOX** \$16
THINLY SLICED HOUSE CURED AND SMOKED ATLANTIC SALMON, SLICED BEEFSTEAK TOMATO, CAPERS, RED ONION, CREAM CHEESE, CHOICE OF PLAIN, POPPY, SESAME OR EVERYTHING BAGEL.
- ORGANIC STEEL CUT OATS** \$12
ORGANIC IRISH STEEL CUT OATS, BROWN SUGAR, TOASTED ALMONDS, GOLDEN RAISINS & BANANAS.

Kid's Menu

- SCRAMBLED EGGS** \$8
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- KIDS BURGER** \$8
PETITE PATTY W/LETTUCE, TOMATO, PICKLE & FRENCH FRIES.
- STACK OF SILVER DOLLAR PANCAKES** \$8
- BRIOCHE FRENCH TOAST** \$8

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- * KOBE BURGER** \$20
HANDCRAFTED KOBE BEEF CUTS, ORGANIC GREENS & FRENCH FRIES.
- * PRIME FILET MIGNON SANDWICH** \$19
ON GARLIC BREAD WITH SAUTEED ONIONS, ORGANIC GREENS & FRENCH FRIES.
- * LOBSTER BISQUE** \$18
HALF OF A 2 POUND FRESH REAL MAINE LOBSTER IN A RICH, SUCCULENT CREAMY LOBSTER STOCK.
- PRIME BURGER** \$14
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- FRESH BERRY MOJITO** \$8
BACARDI LIGHT RUM WITH MUDDLED STRAWBERRIES, BLUEBERRIES, BASIL AND MINT.
- BLOOD ORANGE MORNING MARGARITA** \$8
JOSE CUERVO TEQUILA, BLOOD ORANGE JUICE & COINTREAU.
- THE EMPIRE** \$8
JAMESON IRISH WHISKY, APPLEJACK LIQUOR & SWEET VERMOUTH.
- JACK'S PASSION MARTINI** \$8
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JACK DANIEL'S BOURBON, FRESH BREWED ICED TEA, FRESH LEMON JUICE, MINT & LIME GARNISH.
- N.Y SPECIAL** \$8
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Brew Menu

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- CORONA** \$8
- HEINEKEN** \$8
- BLUE MOON BELGIAN WHITE** \$8
- DOGFISH PUMPKIN ALE** \$8
- STELLA ARTOIS** \$8
- * INNIS & GUNN** \$10

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Catch a Metropolitan Opera show in Whitestone

BY MERLE EXIT

Picture yourself attending a performance at Lincoln Center's Metropolitan Opera House.

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Arrive to crowds of people going in different directions to the various venues, make your way to the Met and wait in line to be seated. The performance was fabulous but the price set you back a bit.

Now, fathom the idea that for \$25 you can obtain just as good of a seat, dressed "to the threes," get free parking and view the same live performance in a movie theater in Queens as it is streamed via satellite, thanks to a company called Fathom Events.

One-of-a-kind spe-

cial events are beamed in breathtaking beyond high definition quality that feature digital surround sound on a 50-foot screen with an unobstructed view. They also include added special features, like behind-the-scenes footage and backstage interviews.

On Dec. 14 audience members will have the opportunity to experience the opera "Falstaff" as well as be able to go behind the scenes with Met opera stars including interviews with cast, crew and production teams who give an unprecedented look at what goes into the staging of a production.

The College Point Multiplex is the only Queens venue that presents Fathom Events.

"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" was broadcast from the London stage as part of the Royal Opera House series and then Dec. 11 a one-night performance



The College Point Multiplex advertises some of its upcoming Fathom Events. Photo by Merle Exit

The College Point Multiplex is the only Queens venue that presents Fathom Events.

of Noël Coward's "Private Lives," taped during its recent West End run at the Gielgud Theatre, will be experienced from several points of view. These include seeing the packed theater attendees, a close-up of the orchestra during the opening of the show, and both a close-up and perhaps a 10th-row angle to cover a full stage perspective. Because these shows are not streaming live, the charge is approximately \$16.

In addition to events that do broadcast via satellite, Fathom Events gives you the opportunity of viewing an encore presentation on another date.

The events are not necessarily classical in nature as concerts such as Rush and Josh Groban have been broadcast. An upcoming

comedy event Dec. 5, Riff-Trax Live - "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians," is being offered at a ticket price of \$13.50.

Perhaps the sequel to "Phantom of the Opera," titled "Love Never Dies," will never be performed on Broadway. However, both the play and a backstage tour were broadcast at the movie theatre as it was performed in London.

Although tickets can be purchased at the movie theater, it is recommended that the purchasers go through the website of www.fathomevents.com as most of these events tend to sell out.

College Point Multiplex is located at 28-55 Ulmer St. just off the Whitestone Expressway.



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Arts

Continued from Page 47

songs.

When: Friday, Dec. 13, at 8 pm

Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: \$15/adults, \$10/members and students

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Holidays Around the World

— The Queens Symphony Orchestra will guide audience members on a musical tour of how the world celebrates the season.

When: Sunday, Dec. 15, at 3 pm

Where: LeFrak Concert Hall, Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Cost: \$20/adults, \$10/seniors and children 13 and under

Contact: (718) 793-8080

Website: www.kupferbergcenter.org

A Christmas Concert — The Sacred Music Society of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs presents Geraldine McMillian, soprano; John Easterlin, tenor; and Vaughn Fritts, bass-baritone in a concert of holiday music.

When: Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4 pm

Where: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church, 110-06 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills

Cost: \$25/general, \$10/children 12 and under

Contact: (718) 268-6251

Winter Holiday Jazz Concert

— The David Leonhardt Trio presents a concert of holiday classics with a jazz beat.

When: Friday, Dec. 20, at 8 pm

Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: \$15/adults, \$10/members and students

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Christmas Workshop: Season of Giving

— Create Christmas wreaths with fabrics, beads and ribbons, which will then be donated to senior centers in Queens.

When: Saturday, Dec. 21, at 1 pm

Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Kwanzaa Workshop: African Adornment

— Experts talk about the importance of dress and personal style as manifest in the Kwanzaa principle of Kujichagulia or Self-determination.

When: Saturday, Dec. 21, at 3 pm

Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Holiday Concert — Celebrate the holiday season with the Oratorio Society of Queens annual holiday concert featuring excerpts from Handel's "Messiah." Sing-along to Christmas carols and Chanukah favorites.

When: Sunday, Dec. 21, at 4 pm

Where: Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside

Cost: \$30/general, \$25/seniors and students, \$10/children 12 and under

Contact: (718) 279-3006

Website: www.QueensOratorio.org

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

When: Thursday, Dec. 26;

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

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

Cost: Free

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



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Forest Hills mailman competes for MMA title

BY SHAWN KING

The postman always delivers, but in borough postal worker Jerome Bourne's case, he is delivering knockouts as well as newspapers.

Bourne will be competing this Saturday for the Aggressive Combat Sports 170-pound Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Championship at Fitzgerald Gym at Queens College in Flushing, just a short distance from his daytime mail route for the U.S. Postal Service.

Juggling nighttime fight training at Tiger Schulmann's in New Jersey with his day job at the post office in Forest Hills is no simple task. Bourne, 31, knows his hectic schedule may put him at a disadvan-



Jerome Bourne, whose nickname is "The Android," is slated to fight at Queens College. Photo courtesy Jerome Bourne

tage when he steps into the cage, but he has never been afraid of putting in a little extra work.

In fact, he embraces

it. It is his incredible work ethic that earned him the nickname "The Android."

"Most fighters, that's
Continued on Page 58

Do you know a Student of Distinction?

TimesLedger Newspapers and Community Newspaper Group invite your school to participate in our feature highlighting young people who are excellent students as well as role models for their younger peers.

Nomination requirements are:

- A) That the student excel in academics in addition to participation in extra-curricular school activities.
- B) A nominating letter from your school's guidance counselor and instructors describing the student's abilities and why they would be worthy of this recognition.
- C) Please make sure that the student's bio and a recent photo are included with the nomination.

D) Categories are:

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

Please send nominations and information to:

srossi@cnglocal.com, or mail to:
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If you have any questions, you may contact me at:
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Business

Children's clothing store has growth spurt

Boutique owner Jill Callan opens second location of Tiny You on Jackson Avenue in Long Island City



BY BILL PARRY

Jill Callan had a business plan.

When she opened her first upscale children's boutique in her home neighborhood of Sunnyside three years ago, she had a goal of opening a second store in the Hunters Point Section of Long Island City.

She accomplished that in June when she opened up her second Tiny You, at 10-50 Jackson Ave., in a space double the size of her original location, at 46-21 Skillman Ave.

"So far, so good," said Callan. "The business plan is working out just fine."

At 800 square feet, the new store is double the size of the original, allowing for more community events like a photo workshop for parents held last week.

The other benefit is the current growth of the neighborhood. Hunters Points Civic Association founder Brent O'Leary describes the current boom as "a historic time in its unprecedented development."

Eric Benaim, founder of Modern Spaces real es-

tate, backed him up with some numbers.

"In the past year we've seen 2,000 residential units open in Hunters Point," Benaim said. "And for the next three years you'll see 2,000 more come on line each year."

People like to buy locally. Especially when it comes to babies clothes, they like to feel the fabrics.

Callan knew it was the perfect place to open the only store dedicated to children's clothing in the area.

"I definitely am seeing more repeat customers and the community events are really well-attended," she said.

Tiny You offers unique products that are made by nearly a dozen local designers, and she believes she has an edge on big-box stores and suburban malls.

"People like to buy locally. Especially when it comes to babies clothes, they like to feel the fabrics," Callan said.

The store also carries products for moms, including equipment like baby carriers and diaper bags as well as lotions and body wash.

She added that the excitement is building for her first holiday shopping season at the new Hunters Point venue. Santa Claus is visiting Tiny You for photos with kids Dec. 7 between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. and he will be at the original location in Sunnyside Dec. 14 between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

A working mom herself, Callan believes she connects well with her customers. The 41-year-old is raising two young children along with the two stores.

"I have to say, raising the stores is a lot easier," she said with a laugh, adding, "I have a good team behind me. It's a challenge, but it's also very rewarding."

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

Jill Callan opened a second location of her children's boutique Tiny You in Long Island City.

Photo by Bill Parry

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Powerful You! Women's Network

— A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.

When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm

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

Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston

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

Website: powerfullyou.com

Power Networking Group — Led by

Harvey G. Beringer

When: Every Wednesday, 7 am

Cost: \$10 for breakfast

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

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

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans)

Weekly Meeting — BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further

business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit.

When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

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

BNI Peak Professionals Chapter

— BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI Provides positive,

supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact Lydie Pellissier, chapter president, to arrange a visit.

When: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnpk., Fresh Meadows

Contact: Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986

Website: bniouterboros.com

The Eastern Queens and Long Island

Networking Group — This unique business networking group discusses

today's challenges and helps form alliances. Relationships are built. Facilitator is Gayle Naftaly, rainmaker, entrepreneur, coordinator, leader and organizer with contacts.

When: Second Wednesday of every month

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

Where: Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, 267-07 76th Ave., New Hyde Park

Contact: Gayle Naftaly, [gnaftaly@](mailto:gnaftaly@accessoffice.net)

accessoffice.net, (866) 391-2780

Website: accessoffice.net

Real Opportunities for Small

Businesses — A government and business matchmaker event in which up to 400 pre-screened small businesses will meet with federal, state and city agency representatives and prime contractors to explore immediate contracting opportunities.

When: Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 7 am

Cost: \$50

Where: LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thomson Ave., Long Island City,

Contact: (718) 482-5306



Buses line Main Street at the front entrance of St. George's Episcopal Church in Flushing, leaving churchgoers few options for parking.

Photo by Alex Robinson

MTA

Continued from Page 1

people except buses,” Pastor Kam Chan said. “When we have a service for a funeral or marriage, there’s nowhere to park cars.”

The bus stops and layover also prevent disabled and elderly people from having an easy access point where they can be dropped off, said Chan. The church said it is in dire need of more parking as it holds services five days a week, runs ESL classes and operates a thrift store. The church also sees a significant number of visitors interested in the historic building, said Chan..

“At least give us a gap — a way out. They totally block the whole church and isolate it from the public,”

Chan said.

On top of parking issues, Chan said bus drivers at the layover tend to urinate on the side of the church.

“We keep on washing the sidewalk every day. That’s a problem,” he said.

Church leaders are also concerned vibration from the idling buses could be causing structural damage to the church and its windows.

Chan said he has been appealing to elected officials for years to do something.

“If they have a funeral, where do they put the cars?” said Community Board 7 District Manager Marilyn Bitterman had brought the church’s concerns to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority two months ago. “It’s really not fair.”

A spokesman for Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) said the office has written several letters to the MTA going back to 2010 about the issue. He said Koo is even working on legislation in an attempt to deal with the church’s problems with bus traffic.

The MTA said this week at the CB 7 district service cabinet session it has a plan to address the bus traffic, which it will discuss with church leaders, elected officials and community board members at a meeting yet to be scheduled. This will include an on-site walkthrough that will explain the plan.

“We just want to have some kind of improvement. Give the church a way to get in and out and a way to keep the church clean,” Chan said.

Hoarder

Continued from Page 2

cars in his back yard and an unlicensed van in his front yard. The violation summaries said all three had been resolved.

The property owner did not respond to repeated attempts to contact him.

According to his neighbors, the inside of the man’s house is in a similar state, with belongings piled up to the ceiling. The owner, who works in the post of



A Main Street resident’s backyard is packed with piles of stuff and is inhabited by raccoons and rats, neighbors say.

Photo by Alex Robinson

office, takes things off the street and places them on his property, Doja said

Neighbors claimed that as well as being an eye-

sore, the man’s collection of junk poses a health hazard. Raccoons and rats inhabit the heap of stuff that is piled high in his backyard, the neighbor said..

“Many times I have asked him to do something. It’s very dangerous for children,” said Doja, who has three young grandchildren who come visit him and play on his property.

At press time, the man had not responded to repeated attempts to contact him.

St. John’s

Continued from Page 5

dormant campus about 2.5 miles away, at 51-15 Beach Channel Drive, according to a spokesman for 1199 SEIU, the union representing nurses and healthcare workers at the hospital.

“There’s talk about repurposing the Peninsula Hospital campus into a comprehensive facility with services for mental health, pediatric, substance abuse, urgent care and an ER,” said spokesman Robert Hadley, who noted that project is in the nascent stages. “The last we heard they were waiting for a flood review. They’re not anywhere near close to breaking ground.”

St. John’s has been the only acute care facility serving the Rockaways’ 130,000-year-round residents since Peninsula was closed in April 2012, and

earlier this year it moved a number of clinics to two Addabbo Health Care centers on the peninsula, one at 12-88 Central Ave. and another at 62-00 Beach Channel Drive, in an effort to streamline its services.

Health officials have been warning about the state of healthcare in the Rockaways since 2006, when a report from the Berger Commission concluded that neither St. John’s nor Peninsula was adequately equipped to handle the growing needs of the community and recommended the two hospitals downsize and merge to build a new, single facility with 400 inpatient beds.

By 2008, St. John’s had trimmed 81 beds and Peninsula cut back 99, but the latter was facing financial troubles and in 2011 it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection with \$34.6 million in assets and liabilities of \$70.8 million.

As part of a court-ordered agreement, Revival Home Health Care — a company run by the wife of blacklisted healthcare executive Steven Zakheim — pledged \$8 million to keep the hospital afloat.

The Health Department, however, sealed Peninsula’s fate when it closed the hospital’s lab in February 2012, preventing the facility from admitting patients.

Soon after Great Neck, L.I., bankruptcy lawyer Lori Lapin Jones was appointed as the trustee, and in April Peninsula shuttered its doors.

Earlier this year, Jones filed a lawsuit accusing Zakheim, who died in September, of mismanaging the hospital for his own personal gain.

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

Dromm

Continued from Page 4

said “other cities have roundtables, why don’t we? It’s about time that they understand that we live here. It’s a quality-of-life issue.”

Quiet Skies Vice President Robert Whitehair, a pilot himself, detailed the shortcomings.

“Chicago’s O’Hare [Airport] has 40 permanent noise monitors — we have two at LaGuardia. Most big cities have roundtables and they are effective. In Los Angeles they got the FAA to change flights 1,000 feet higher over the beaches,” he said.

Mark Guiod, manager of the FAA’s New York Terminal Radar Approach Control, cut short a family vacation in Connecticut to lead an FAA delegation to Dromm’s town hall meeting and he promised better community involvement through roundtables in the near future.



Councilman Daniel Dromm hosts a town hall meeting on airplane noise at PS 69.

Photo by Bill Parry

“This is the beginning of a dialogue,” Guiod said. “The roundtables will be a great help for both parties.”

There were additional promises from Ian Van Praagh, of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, which manages LaGuardia Airport.

“We’ve heard many calls from Jackson Heights,” said Van Praagh.

He said a new website would roll out in January,

a permanent noise monitoring system based on the Los Angeles model, and an automated telephone hotline — 1-800-225-1071 — is being set up to log noise complaints.

Jackson Heights is experiencing a real estate boom with the best third-quarter apartment sales in five years, a 43 percent improvement over last year, according to Beaudoin Realty Group.

While he did not think airplane noise would scare off new residents, Dromm said, “It’s too desirable a neighborhood so I don’t think it will effect real estate, we want to make sure people remain attracted to this neighborhood and I think this meeting helped nip it (airplane noise) in the bud.”

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

Contact the newsroom:

718-260-4545 • timesledgernews@cnglocal.com

Lincoln defeats Red Devils

Flushing season comes to end with semifinal loss to Railsplitters

BY JOHN TOLIS

Flushing's Cinderella season came to a crashing halt.

The fourth-seeded Red Devils exceeded preseason expectations by reaching their first PSAL City conference football semifinals since the early 1990s, only to see the run end 55-7 on the road to No. 1 Abraham Lincoln Saturday afternoon. Even though Flushing was the football under-

dog, again it expected to put up more of fight.

"I thought we would be a little more competitive," Flushing Coach Jim DeSantis said.

The Red Devils (9-3) had no idea how to control the undefeated Railsplitters, who controlled them from the first whistle. Flushing's star running back Deandre Ross-Lomax was kept in check the entire game. Lomax finally got free and ran the ball

into the end zone from 40 yards out, but due to a penalty the touchdown did not count with his team down 27-0 with 7:00 left in the first half.

The Lincoln defense even deflated Flushing's passing game and picked off quarterback Terrance Chavis three times. Antoine Holloman Jr. ran for three touchdowns for Abraham Lincoln (12-0), which takes on No. 3 Tottenville in the tile game Dec. 10 at

Yankee Stadium.

The Red Devils managed to get on the board early in the fourth quarter when Chavis snuck it in from the goal line, but by then the score was 55-7 leaving Flushing with no hope.

Despite the loss, the Red Devils don't plan on dropping their heads. DeSantis thought he had every reason to be proud of his squad and is satisfied where the program is now.

"Overall, it was good," he said of his team's performance. "As an 'A' team, they competed."

Lomax-Ross and his teammates understand that they've now been further than any other Flushing team in school history and were so close to reaching the championship game.

"I feel pretty good, but I still wanted to get a chance to take my team to Yankee Stadium," the senior running back said.

Despite the loss, his fellow Red Devils seniors have stepped up to the challenge all season long and left DeSantis unable to ask for more from this group.

"Collectively, they've been phenomenal," he said. "I've been doing this for 20 years, the best senior group I've ever been around."

DeSantis has high hopes for next year even with the graduation of such a strong class. He believes the juniors will make an immediate impact after playing with these seniors.

"I'm pleased with where we are right now," DeSantis said. "Now, hopefully, we take the next step."



St. John's University junior defender Georgia Kearney-Perry and her teammates saw their historic season end in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Photo by Vincent Dusovic/SJU

St. John's bows out of NCAA tourney

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

In Ian Stone's mind, his St. John's University's women's soccer team's season could have been over weeks ago.

Instead, the head coach, in his 20th season, saw his squad continue to find ways to keep itself alive down the stretch and thought that trend might continue with his club down a goal at the half to Arkansas in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We have been in this position before, where the season could have ended about three or four weeks ago and we just kept finding a way to win," Stone said.

This time the equalizer was not to be in a 1-0 loss to the Razorbacks Friday night at Duke University. The defeat put an end to the Red Storm's historic season. They made the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2009 and won the program's first tournament game by beating UCF 3-1 in the opening round.

"It's been a whirlwind, honestly, lots of highs, a few lows," junior defender Georgia Kearney-Perry said. "It's been amazing."

The Red Storm was unhappy with how it played in the first half against Arkansas. They thought the game was physical and played more to their opponents' liking. Still, St. John's got to halftime scoreless until the Razorbacks' Claire Kelley struck from 23 yards away in the 42nd minute for the game's only goal. The score didn't dishearten the Red Storm.

"To come off the field a goal down it's hard to come back out," goalkeeper Diana Poulin said. "I think we did well with that."

St. John's (12-6-3) picked up its play after the break. Senior Amy Marron led the Red Storm's attack with six shots. Arkansas keeper Cameron Carter saved two of her early attempts. Rachel Daly, the nation's leading goal scorer, missed a bicycle kick with four minutes left to play

Continued on Page 57



Flushing's Deandre Ross-Lomax carries the ball down the field.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

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2003	Toyota Camry, 108k	67147	\$2,995
2000	Honda Civic, 130k	544413	\$2,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2004	Nissan Sentra, 53k	UC16122	\$3,995
1999	Toyota Rav4, 160k	218724	\$3,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2005	VW Passat ndsmtr, 24k	69686	\$4,995
2005	Toyota Camry, 65k	62871	\$4,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2003	Honda Accord EX, 91k	72885	\$5,995
2005	Honda Civic, 142k	78453	\$5,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2008	Toyota Corolla, 7k	43265	\$6,995
2008	Volkswagen Jetta, 30k	52550	\$6,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2009	Toyota Camry, 87k	82713	\$7,995
2010	Honda Fit, 17k	73329	\$7,995
2007	Toyota Corolla, 92k	74352	\$7,995

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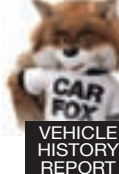

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE
2006	Nissan Altima, 6K TMU	65610	\$6,995
2009	Honda Accord EX, 40k	65124	\$7,995
2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995
2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$7,995
2012	Hyundai Elantra, 15k	79461	\$8,995
2008	Jeep Liberty, 17k	54235	\$9,495
2010	Chrysler Sebring, 38k	61787	\$9,995
2011	Ford Escape XLT, 25k	74493	\$9,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE
2009	Nissan Murano, 45k	73621	\$12,888
2011	Nissan Rogue, 50k	69968	\$13,995
2013	Nissan Altima, 16k	82570	\$13,995
2011	GMC Terrain, 51k	82272	\$13,995
2007	Lexus ES350, 53k	56974	\$14,888
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Veteran Royals eye basketball state title

Christ the King seniors aim for first trip upstate for Federation crown before heading off to college

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Sierra Calhoun, Kollyns Scarbrough and Kristen Drogler got a tangible reminder that time is limited for them and the teams' six other seniors to leave their mark on Christ the King history.

As the three signed their letter of intent to their respective colleges, it made even more real that the group of Royals has yet to win a CHSAA Class AA state title and earn a trip upstate to win a state Federation crown.

"Everybody wants to win," the Siena-bound Scarbrough said. "It's really a great energy that we have. The seniors want to win. We need a championship."

A deep and experienced roster has them be-

lieving it's finally their time after being upset by Moore Catholic in the Catholic state quarterfinals last season and failing to make the diocesan title game. CK Coach Bob Mackey believes his team is the favorite to make the trip to Albany. Now they have to prove it.

"It's a long, long road to March," he said. "We have to play it. Paper is great, but you got to step on the floor and bring it every night."

The Royals certainly have the pieces to do so, starting with the Duke-bound Calhoun. The 6-foot-1 wing is the No. 10-ranked player in her class, according to ESPN. She can score inside and out. Mackey said she is more relaxed this year and feeling more confident distributing to her teammates.



Christ the King's Kristen Drogler (l.-r.) Sierra Calhoun and Kollyns Scarbrough are joined by their parents after signing to play basketball at Caldwell, Duke and Siena.

Photo by Joseph Staszewski

"She is making everybody look good," he said.

The Royals have many options. Scarbrough is a force in the paint on both sides of the ball. She has made herself more of the threat in the open floor. CK is much deeper at the guard sport, but will need to find a replacement for forward

Taylor Butigian, now at Wagner College.

CK is excited about the return of Alyssa Gatti from her second ACL tear, which left the Royals without an experienced point guard. Mackey called her the team's engine. The team also added St. John the Baptist transfer Sydney

Zambratta. She and Gatti strengthen a backcourt that already includes Drogler — a deadeye shooter headed to Caldwell — Deja Johnson, Shannon Barrett, Dominique Toussaint and Destiny Marino. All of them saw important minutes last year.

"We are definitely re-

ally deep," Calhoun said. "Everyone on the court is a threat."

Mackey hopes to also see contributions from Lawrence transfer Kaela Kinder, Kamarie Maturine and junior varsity call-ups Ivy Coles and 6-foot-3 forward Ashlie Howell.

The pieces, desire and experience are in place for the Royals to reclaim their perch atop the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens ranks, with the likes of Nazareth, Molloy and others now standing in their way.

The seniors know this has to be their year.

"We have a core group of seniors that are back," Drogler said. "We really haven't really won a state. We just won a diocesan. We are ready to get this championship. We are hungry for it."

Terriers seek progress on court after assistant coach takes helm



Joseph Staszewski
Block Shots

St. Francis Prep Coach Kevin Wagner was given his chance to grow along with the roster of his girls' team, and the Terriers believe they are ready to reap the benefits of that.

Wagner spent the last two seasons as an assistant under his mother JoAnn. He officially takes over the head basketball job this season after she decided after nine years as varsity coach and 39 overall at SFP that it was time for her to take a step back.

JoAnn Wagner wanted the transition to be gradual by giving Kevin much of the game day and practice responsibilities a year ago.

It allowed him and a roster that sported four freshmen a chance to develop together.

"The transition kind of went hand in hand," Kevin Wagner said. "Now this year that level of com-

fort for me and for them is there."

His mom remains around the team as an assistant coach. She handles much of the administrative duties, but is still at practice

Continued on Page 57



St. Francis Prep Coach Kevin Wagner (r.) talks to the team during a game last season.

Photo by Yinghao Liu

Lackluster Red Storm team holds off Monmouth Hawks

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

St. John's University had little to be happy about, despite pulling out a win over Monmouth.

The Red Storm's star freshman, Rysheed Jordan, was suspended before the contest for a violation of team rules and afterward his teammates put out a less-than-stellar performance in a 64-54 win over the Hawks Nov. 19 at Carnesecca Arena. St. John's men's basketball Coach Steve Lavin was not pleased with his team's performance.

"The first half was a straight F," Lavin said. "There wasn't one positive thing I could find in the first half about our performance. I thought in the second half we had just enough."

He thought one of the



RYSHIED JORDAN

Photo by Vincent Dusovic/St. John's University

bright spots was the team making eight 3-pointers and the continued strong play of guard Phil Greene IV. The junior scored a game-high 22 points and grabbed a career-high eight rebounds with D'Angelo Harrison in foul trouble. Greene, who

shot 9 of 12 from the field, was again the catalyst and hit the game-sealing 3-pointer with just over a minute left in the game.

"I was wide open so I had enough confidence to shoot it," Greene said. "I was making them all game so I just took the big one."

Harrison scored eight of his 15 points late in the second half. JaKarr Sampson had 14 points and nine rebounds. Justin Robinson led Monmouth (1-3) with 15 points. The Red Storm (3-1) tied a team record with 15 blocks shots, including nine from Chris Obekpa.

St. John's, which led just 28-26 at halftime, took control of the game with a 10-1 run that gave it a 50-41 lead with 7:05 left to play. Harrison, who played 16 minutes, made it hold up. He scored eight straight points, including two

Continued on Page 57

Wrestling champs visit Queens

BY JOSEPH GARGIULO

pictures.

The Big Event V brought together professional wrestlers and pro wrestling fans for four hours at Terrace on the Park earlier this month.

On Nov. 9, stars of the past and present were on hand to sign autographs and take

Some of the talent in attendance included former WWE Champions Hulk Hogan, Bruno Sammartino and Chris Jericho, WWE Hall of Famers Mick Foley and Bobby "The Brain" Heenan and the New World Order — specifically, Scott Hall, Kevin Nash and Sean Waltman.



Greg "The Hammer" Valentine (sitting, l.) is a former World Wrestling Entertainment wrestler and Andrew Anderson (sitting, r.) is an independent wrestler.

Photo by Joseph Gargiulo



A fan (l.) poses for a picture with former WWE star Bushwacker Luke.

Photo by Joseph Gargiulo



Ex-WWE performer Michael Tarver was part of the heel stable The Nexus.

Photo by Joseph Gargiulo

SJU

Continued from Page 56

3-pointers in less than two minutes of game time to give the Johnnies a 59-52 lead with 2:28 remaining.

"I live for those kind of moments," Harrison said.

The win provided some joy on a night that didn't begin well. Lavin said Jordan's return to the team is predicated on his taking care of his team responsi-

bilities. Jordan, the pre-season Big East freshman of the year, did not practice with team the day before facing Monmouth. Lavin would not say if that was tied into the suspension. The 6-foot-4 guard was not on the bench with is teammates for the game. Lavin did not deem Jordan's violation severe.

"We are always going to hold them responsible for a certain standard," Lavin said. "If they toe that line,

they're fine. When they don't, then we hold them accountable and there are consequences."

That was the start to a disappointing day for the Johnnies and with a win that didn't leave any involved satisfied.

"Lav has so much confidence in us that when we don't play the way he expect us to, it hurts him," Harrison said. "It hurt us."

Wagner

Continued from Page 56

instructing from the sideline as Kevin and first-year assistant Kerri White work with the players on the court. The fact that both of them understand the blue-collar attitude the program has always preached makes it easier for her to take on a different role. This way, she's not in charge of all aspects of the team.

"Having come through the program there was no needed to understand how we do things and what we do," she said of her son.

The coaching change comes at a time when St.

Francis Prep appears ready to take a big step forward as a program. The four sophomores — Sofia Recuperero, Monica Zhivanaj, Elizabeth Zullo and Dana Villano — are paired with seniors like Kayla Hourany, Melissa Dericioglu, Chelsea Brandimarti and Liz Fernandez, who are in their third seasons on the varsity. The 6-foot-3 Recuperero, who is garnering Division-I interest, is one of the city's best young players and Hourany is an underrated force in the paint. They believe they will surprise people.

"Last year was like the starting point," Hourany said. "Everyone got a little taste of us last year, now

everyone is going to see we are good. We're a team."

The Terriers' goals are not grand to start. They want to win a league game in CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Division I for the first time in three seasons and have twice as many wins as they have losses overall. Kevin Wagner has seen a different confidence in his squad.

"I think now they are sure they are that good," he said.

Now it's about turning that confidence and potential into wins.

Reach sports editor Joseph Staszewski by e-mail at jstaszewski@cnglocal.com.

Soccer

Continued from Page 53

and Marron had a header go wide in the final minutes.

While this was the end of the road for this particular Red Storm team and strong group of seniors, the team's core returns for another go at it next year. Daly, Kearney-Perry, Poulin and midfielder Morgan Tinari all return with NCAA Tournament experience.

"I wish we could have taken it further," Kearney-Perry said. "It's been a great journey this season. Hopefully, we can do the same and more next season."

SJU men's soccer's season ends in NCAA second round: The Red Storm men's squad saw its Sweet 16 hopes dashed by No. 8-seeded Virginia 2-0 in the second round Sunday. The loss came after St. John's topped Delaware 2-1 on Jordan Rouse's overtime goal in the opening round Nov. 21.

"We knew this was going to be a challenging matchup because Virginia is a tactical and well-coached team that takes advantage of its quickness," said Red Storm Coach Dr. Dave Masur. "Obviously we are very disappointed to have our season end, but I'm proud of our guys and how hard they fought this year."

Virginia grabbed a 1-0

lead on a Ryan Zinkham header in the 35th minute and put in the insurance score when Eric Bird headed in a corner kick in the 64th minute. St. John's' best chance to score came on a 20-yard shot by Jeni Williams that was saved in the 77th minute.

The Red Storm (11-7-2) reached the NCAA tournament after not qualifying for the Big East postseason play. St. John's ended the regular season 3-0-1 to help keep its season alive.

"We had a tough stretch in the middle of the season, but they continued to fight and earned some great results down the stretch to help extend our season," Masur said.

Easy #67						Hard #67					
7	1	9	2	6	5	4	3	8	6	5	4
6	3	2	7	8	4	1	8	7	2	3	9
4	8	5	9	3	1	6	9	3	5	7	4
9	2	1	5	7	8	9	3	7	4	2	5
5	7	6	1	4	3	4	7	3	8	6	9
8	4	3	6	2	9	1	2	5	6	8	1
2	9	4	3	1	6	4	7	3	8	6	9
3	6	7	8	5	2	5	9	8	7	1	2
1	5	8	4	9	7	1	2	6	5	3	4
						2	8	5	3	7	1
						7	6	1	9	4	8
						3	4	9	2	5	6
						6	2	3	7	1	8

Week 23



Engine 251 in Glen Oaks is one of several firehouses Joseph Keene allegedly stole money from, investigators say.

Firehouses

Continued from Page 1

Fire Department facility on Randalls Island, the report said.

"It is surprising that a firefighter would both call in fake 911 calls and steal money from colleagues," said DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn. "To do so at this time, when there is a heightened need and demand for units to be responding to legitimate calls to people in need, is especially outrageous."

Keene was assigned to Engine Co. 75 in the Bronx at the time of his arrest in July after six years on the job, a spokesman said. He resigned from the Fire Department to avoid termination Nov. 7, a department spokesman said.

In his first incident, the DOI said Keene, who made \$76,488 in 2012, reported the smell of gasoline



JOSEPH KEENE

Photo courtesy Department of Investigation

near Forrest and Veltman avenues in Staten Island, springing Ladder 83 of Engine 163 into action and leaving the firehouse, at 875 Jewett Ave., vacant. He then admitted to making his way into the firehouse and stealing between \$150 and \$200 in cash, the DOI report said.

Nine days later, the records said Keene reported a sparking transformer near Victory Boulevard and Forrest Avenue in Staten Island, where Ladder 80 of Engine 157, at 1573 Castle-

ton Ave., responded. Soon after making the phony call, Keene made his way into the firehouse and stole between \$400 and \$500, the DOI said.

His third and most fruitful theft occurred June 11, when Keene reported a gas odor at Jamaica Avenue and Little Neck Parkway before making his way into Engine 251, at 254-20 Union Turnpike in Glen Oaks, the DOI said. There, he stole about \$1,200 and was caught in the act on surveillance footage, the report said.

Keene's last two acts occurred July 17, the report said, when he started his day stealing between \$40 and \$60 from the employee locker area at the FDNY facility on Randalls Island. That same day, he stole about \$100 from the 42-06 Astoria Blvd. firehouse belonging to Engine 263 while units were responding to a fire in the Bronx, the DOI said.

MMA

Continued from Page 49

their life. Fighting is their full-time job. Sometimes I wish I had it like that, but that's life," Bourne said.

Bourne is the first to admit he never would have guessed when he was young that he would grow up to be a fighter. Those he tells are equally surprised.

He credits his son Jahkiem, 12, with introducing him to the MMA industry four years ago. Since then, Bourne has amassed a 9-7 fight record, which includes an amateur championship title in combat jujitsu. He is looking forward to the added support he receives whenever he fights locally.

"I love fighting in New York," Bourne said. "I get up to 40, 50 people coming out to support. It's a good feeling."

Jahkiem will be among those 50 supporters cheering in the crowd. Bourne admits he initially had reservations about his son attending his fights.

"It crossed my mind — what if I get knocked out, or forced to submit?" Bourne said. "He's prepared, though. He's been to fights before and understands that it's [injuries] a part of the game."

Injuries are indeed a part of MMA, and regardless of what happens Saturday evening, The Android will be expected to show up bright and early Monday

morning for work to deliver the mail along his route.

"It's happened before. I hurt my shoulder in a fight and had to work two days later. I could barely lift the mail bag," said Bourne.

He is confident about his chances of winning. He has put in many hours on many nights preparing his body and mind for his fight. Saturday will be the culmination of all the hard work The Android has become known for. In keeping with his usual pre-fight routine, he will dress all in black, listen to Jay-Z and enjoy his chicken to mien as he visualizes victory.

Then it is time to deliver, like he always does.

5Pointz

Continued from Page 4

Rights Act.

When Judge Frederick Block issued two temporary restraining orders this fall, the owners were told to stop all preparation for demolition and the artists were told not to paint. After listening to testimony from both sides, the judge rendered his decision Nov. 15. He refused to issue a permanent injunction and allowed the demolition to proceed.

"I sit here in my office shocked that they would sue me after all I've done for them over the years," he said last Friday. "I didn't do it out of animosity. I just wanted to get it over with and begin putting up my buildings."

Before he starts construction on the two luxury residential towers, Wolkoff has to demolish the warehouse complex that covers an entire city block.

"We're in the process of getting our demo certificate now. We should have it in four weeks," Wolkoff said. "I should be able to start pouring the foundation in the spring."



The artists from 5Pointz have a mural along the back wall of the patio. Owner Josh Bowen plans on inviting them back for more.

Photo courtesy Jeannine Chanes



No longer allowed to paint their murals at 5Pointz, the artists may come back to do more street art at Josh Bowen's restaurant.

Photo courtesy of Jeannine Chanes

SNAP

Continued from Page 4

food banks and soup kitchens across the state stock their shelves and feed those in need," Cuomo said in a statement.

The grants will go to 46 organizations across the state, 25 of which are in New York City. The funds are expected to help 2,600 food providers, including food banks, soup kitchens and food pantries. The grants

can provide about 2.8 million meals, according to the governor's office.

The SNAP program is facing even further cuts. House Republicans are attempting to gut another \$40 billion from the program as a way to cut the federal deficit, a move many city lawmakers are against.

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) said the GOP's proposed cuts are an affront to millions of low-income families, many of them headed by single

women.

"House Republicans should not trim the deficit on the backs of the neediest Americans," she said.

Cuomo also encouraged New Yorkers to donate food or volunteer their time at local food banks and food kitchens in the spirit of giving.

"A little can go a long way, and I encourage all who can to help those less fortunate this year," he said.

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66 MELROSE AVENUE, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/3/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Virgilio Franco, 213-14 29th Ave., Bayside, NY 11360. General Purpose.

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

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Green Corner NY LLC Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 9 / 1 6 / 1 3 . O f f i c e : Queens.SSNY design. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 112-01 Queens Blvd. #14J Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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

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TORS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/29/2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 1A Blue Ridge Ave., Green Brook, NJ 08812. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: USHA REALTY, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/26/13. 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, 259-15 Hillside Avenue, Floral Park, New York 11004. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: JOE'S PLAZA JEWELRY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/15/2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Joe's Plaza Jewelry LLC, 7 E. Hoffman Ave., Lindenhurst, NY 11757. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of formation of TITANOS ASTORIA, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/9/2013. 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, 83-26 Lefferts Blvd., Apt 3-E, Kew Gardens, NY 11415. Purpose: any lawful act.

SAM REALTY NY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/04/2013. Office loc: Queens County.

► LEGAL

SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 132-56 Sanford Ave. 3FL, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

SI ZHE XIN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/8/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process C/O Jia Hong 22 Shadtree Ln Roslyn Heights, NY 11577. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Twin City Management LLC Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 7 / 5 / 1 3 . O f f i c e : Queens.SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 35-15 203rd st. Flushing, NY 11361. Purpose: any lawful activity.

VIMSHOES2, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/5/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process The LLC 164-01Jamaica Ave Jamaica, NY 11432. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on November 12, 2013, bearing Index Number NC-001004-13/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) GENKIN (Middle) HECTOR (Last) MENDOZA. My present name is (First) GENKIN (Middle) HECTOR (Last) MENDOZA CHIANG AKA GENKIN H MENDOZA. My present address is 160-50 23rd Ave., Whitestone, NY 11357. My place of birth is China. My date of birth is May 22, 1956

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