### JANACAIINES LAURELTON TIMES QUEENS VILLAGE TIMES Your Neighborhood - Your News® Apr. 5-11, 2012

THE NEWSPAPER OF HOLLIS, ST. ALBANS, CAMBRIA HEIGHTS, SPRINGFIELD GARDENS, ROSEDALE & RICHMOND HILL

### **Doctor may resuscitate Peninsula Hospital**







## Sutphin wash to clean up act

Page 6

#### BY RICH BOCKMANN

Advocates for workers' rights said they have some dirt on a Jamaica car wash and that management should come clean.

Community activists gathered last week outside the Sutphin Car Wash, at 97-31 Sutphin Blvd., where they said operator Fernando Magalhaes has been retaliating against workers who have been fighting for fair pay and safer working conditions.

Hillary Klein, a lead organizer with the advocacy group Make the Road New York, said there are about 17 employees at the car wash who are taken advantage of because they are not fully aware of their rights.

"In general, they're undocumented, marginalized and easily manipulated when they try to stand up for their rights," she said.

Continued on Page 14

## Workers asking Hundreds rally for Trayvon Martin



### blocks on Linden BY STEVE MOSCO

A community marched through a soggy chill in southeast Queens calling for justice in the Trayvon Martin case Saturday.

Hoodie-wearing

protesters fill four

Protesters numbered in the hundreds as elected officials and furious residents stood in solidarity with the black Florida teen who was killed by a man claiming self-defense.

The man, George Zimmerman, has not been charged.

"It's painful to see every attempt being made to deny justice," said City Councilman James Sanders Jr. (D-Laurelton). "You see this case and it seems that there are two systems of justice and that can't be. If there is going to be one America, there has to be one system of justice. And that

Continued on Page 14

52 total pages

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Photo by Ken Maldonado

## **New York City's Freshest Milk.** From New York City's Only Dairy.

charged with shooting Trayvon Martin.



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## <sup>2</sup> Stop-and-frisks high in 103rd

NYCLU says Jamaica precinct ranked eighth in city in 2011

#### BY RICH BOCKMANN

The 103rd Precinct had the distinction of being the only precinct in southeast Queens to record a slight drop in crime in 2011. the same year in which it ranked eighth among city precincts in another measure: the NYPD's controversial stop, question and frisk program.

The precinct, which covers the neighborhoods of downtown Jamaica. Hollis Park Gardens, Hollis, Lakewood and Jamaica. had a 1.3 percent decrease in overall crime with 1,697 reported incidents in 2011 compared to 1,719 in the prior year, according to the NYPD.

Murders in the precinct dropped 26.7 percent, from 15 reported incidents in 2010 to 11 last year, while auto thefts also went down by 6.1 percent from 426 incidents two years ago to 400 in 2011, the NYPD said.

But reported rapes in the precinct shot up 76.2 percent last year, with 37 cases compared to 21 in 2011.

Meanwhile, the 103rd accounted for more than 17,000 of the 685,000-plus individuals stopped last vear, according to numbers released by the New York Civil Liberties Union.

City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), whose district overlaps the 103rd in downtown Jamaica, said that while the high numbers were not unex-



Police respond to a man on Jamaica Avenue at 162nd Street who they said was acting erratically. The 103rd Precinct had some of the city's highest stop-and-frisk numbers last year.

pected, he believes the program is in need of reform.

"I understand that there's a preponderance of young people getting out from school, literally just loitering around Jamaica Avenue," he said. "It doesn't surprise me it has some of the highest numbers. I think there need to be alternatives so that people don't have their self-esteem ruined."

Last week, the city announced the agency in charge of investigating complaints of police misconduct will soon have the expanded power to prosecute those cases found to be substantiated. Currently. when the Civilian Complaint Review Board finds a complaint against an officer to be substantiated. it recommends charges to the NYPD, which handles either the officer's guilty plea or trial.

The police department will transfer this prosecutorial power to the CCRB, but will retain the sole legal authority to impose discipline.

The councilman welcomed the agreement as one that would provide transparency and give a stronger voice to civilian complainants.

"They're increasing [the CCRB's] authority, and I think it's a good thing, especially since civilian complaints have gone up over the last few years," he said. Since the NYPD started collecting data in 2002, stop-and-frisk incidences have risen more than 600 percent. The CCRB recommended an average of 200 substantiated misconduct cases per vear between 2007 and 2011, with an average of 140 claims a year resulting in recommended charges.

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) said the CCRB's new authority will provide a stronger check on police accountability.

"I am certain it will also increase public confidence in the system," she said. "The public needs to know that when they file a legitimate, serious complaint it will undergo an appropriate process of review and - if substantiated prosecution."

## Cambria academy stays put in Hollis

#### BY RICH BOCKMANN

The city has nixed a plan to move a successful new Hollis high school into a space community members said would have been a poor fit.

When the Cambria Heights Academy opened in Hollis in 2010, it was a popular choice for students in southeast Queens attracted to the school's focus on integrating technology — every student is given a laptop and small class sizes.

The city Department of Education placed the school in a building it leased from St. Gerard's Church, at 188-04 91st Ave.

The same year, the DOE placed the Eagle Academy for Young Men in a building shared with IS 59 in Springfield Gardens.

The department found the arrangement lacking for the growing Eagle Academy and made plans to move the school when Jamaica's Allen Christian School on Merrick Boulevard announced earlier

this year it would be closing due to financial difficulties.

That was when the DOE announced its intention to move the Cambria Heights Academy from its home in Hollis, which the department said from the beginning was a temporary site, in with IS 59, drawing the ire of the community.

City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) said he has been involved with the Cambria Heights PTA since the DOE first suggested the move and has discussed their concerns with city Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott.

"The parents expressed their reasons why they should not be located in [IS 59]: the uniqueness of the school, the camaraderie of the school and the focus on technology, and the fact that the school received technology grants to put infrastructure in the facility they're presently in," he said.

Comrie said the Cam-Continued on Page 14



The city Department of Education announces it will extend the lease for the Cambria Heights Academy at a building owned by St. Gerard Church in Hollis. Photo by Nykeema Williams

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## 105th Precinct's top cops honored for foiling break-in <sup>3</sup>

#### Officers cited for catching burglary suspects as they allegedly tried breaking into Rosedale home

#### BY RICH BOCKMANN

Police confiscated a mini arsenal from two suspected burglars who were thwarted in the backvards of Rosedale by the 105th Precinct's February Cops of the Month.

Officers Lisa Walters and Michael Drescher were honored last week at the 105th Precinct Community Council meeting, held for the first time at the precinct's satellite station in Rosedale.

A homeowner called 911 just after 1 a.m. in late February and said he believed two men with masks and firearms had followed him home and were attempting to break in through his back door.

When officers Walters and Drescher arrived, they heard noises coming from the rear of the house and

went back to investigate, Deputy Inspector Joseph Courtesis told a standingroom-only crowd.

When the officers poked their heads around back, they frightened the two suspects. One hid in a bush, while the other made his way toward a fence.

"Officer Walters caught the man in the bushes by surprise and wrestled him to the ground and placed him in cuffs," Courtesis said. "Officer Drescher pursued the other suspect over a fence into another vard. [He] was able to outrun the suspect and after an extensive struggle he was also placed under arrest."

The commanding officer said police confiscated two firearms, one silencer, one stun gun, duct tape and a knife from the suspects. "These guys meant



Officers Michael Drescher and Lisa Walters, of the 105th Precinct, are honored as February Cops of the Month.

Photo by Rich Bockmann business," he said. "Thanks glaries have been on the to these two officers, these rise in the neighborhoods guys are thinking about of Laurelton and Rosedale their actions in prison." and pointed out that the

105th leads the city in bur-

Courtesis said bur-

glary arrests.

Those who attended the meeting at the satellite station, which community members have said they would like to be made into a full-fledged precinct, told Courtesis they were concerned about police response times, and asked what his plans were for the summer when their neighborhoods become hot spots for large, raucous and sometimes violent house parties.

Courtesis said he often dispatches plainclothes officers to burglary calls.

"You may not see [them], but we are responding to that call," he said.

He also noted the precinct had a "terrible year" in 2010 with a "tremendous amount of shootings. A good portion were the result of these house parties getting out of control."

He said he would repeat his plan from last year that was effective in curtailing the parties when the precinct had a detail of about a dozen officers who worked weekends between May 1 and Oct. 1.

"There was a 50 percent decrease in shootings as a result," he said.

Some community members said that when they called either 911 or the precinct to complain about a loud party, they were told to call 311.

Courtesis said it is difficult to deal with a gathering "if you're telling me about a house party when there's already 400 people there."

"If you see them wheeling in 20-foot speakers. there's going to be a party," he said. "We need to know about them before the first guest arrives."





APR

5-11

, 2012

## **Queens water rates rising**

#### Homeowners hit with proposed 7% increase, which Liu calls too high

#### **BY PHIL CORSO**

SE

TIMESLEDGER.COM

TIMESLEDGER, APR. 5-11, 2012

It could have been worse, according to the city Department of Environmental Protection.

A proposed 7 percent increase in next fiscal year's water rates could hand homeowners an increase from \$877 per year to \$939 per year for water and sewer bills - or just over an additional \$5 per month, according to the DEP.

"Our proposed 7 percent rate increase is the lowest increase in seven years and shows that DEP is doing everything in our power to try and keep rates in check while still delivering a product that city residents can take pride in every time they turn on the tap," said DEP Commissioner Carter Strickland. "Though any rate increase is difficult in these economic conditions, we are clearly moving in the right direction."

The proposed increase is a 25 percent reduction from the last year's projected increase, which was



City residents may face another water rate hike, according to the city Department of Environmental Protection. Photo illustration

more than 9 percent, the DEP said. According to a release from the DEP, it is the lowest increase in seven years and the third year in a row in which the increase has come down from the previous year's projection. But the news did not

impress city Comptroller John Liu, who said at Monday night's Community Board 11 meeting that any increase was a bad one.

"It's somewhat absurd that it is almost good news this year that it isn't a double-digit rate increase," Liu said. "We had four years of double-digit increases on the water rates and it's shocking that they pitched

pay tolls on the Cross Bay

span completely within a

The bridge is the only

it as 'only 7 percent,' which is completely ludicrous."

Liu said he believed there should be a more independent agency managing the city's water rates, and his office was looking into the situation.

"Homeowners are feeling it all over the place,"

Continued on Page 40

borough that charges a toll

which, according to state

Assemblyman Phil Gold-

feder (D-Ozone Park) and

civic leaders in the Rock-

### State budget restores Cross Bay rebate

#### **BY JOE ANUTA**

Negotiations over the state budget seemed as mild as this year's winter with Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state Legislature approving a \$132.6 billion, on-time package that addressed a major issue in Queens.

"This is an honest, straightforward budget that puts New York state back on track by closing a multibillion-dollar deficit with no new taxes, fees or gimmicks," Cuomo said in a March 30 statement after the budget was signed two days before the deadline.

Queens leaders praised several aspects of the state



Gov. Andrew Cuomo (c.) has a laugh with state Assembly Majority Leader Sheldon Silver (I.-r.) and state Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos after signing a budget bill in Albany. AP Photo/Mike Groll

Bridge.

budget, including a rebate program designed to reimburse residents of the Rockaways who currently must aways, was stifling business growth and gouging residents who commute to work outside the neighborhood "The return of this important rebate program is a step in the right direction

towards the complete elimination of this inherently unfair tax," Goldfeder said. The budget itself was

heralded by Cuomo as proof that Albany was making a turnaround from its widely perceived dysfunction.

"Fifteen months ago *Continued on Page 40* 

### Census Bureau will not adjust Queens miscount

Bensonhurst. New York

state lost two congressional

seats and is due to get a re-

duction in federal dollars

Bloomberg, Arnold Jackson

of the bureau said its Count

Question Resolution pro-

gram can only correct the

count when jurisdictional

boundaries are incorrect,

when living quarters and

their populations are put

in the wrong governmental

unit — like the wrong coun-

ty or state — or when living

quarters are cut out of the

census due to a processing

errors found involved the

placement of some housing

units on one census block

somewhere in the city. This

correction did not affect the

City Planning commended

the bureau in a statement

for working with the city,

but was disappointed that

there were no real ways to

mographers and technical

specialists will continue to

engage with their counter-

parts at the Census Bureau

to examine what occurred

and to improve census pro-

cedures for the future to en-

sure that New York is more

accurately counted in the

2020 census," the depart-

(D-Astoria) was less chari-

Continued on Page 40

table about the results.

Sen. Michael Gianaris

"It's not surprising

ment said.

"City Planning's de-

The Department of

change in the count.

change the count.

Jackson said the only

problem.

In its response letter to

as a result of the count.

#### BY REBECCA HENELY

Despite the hopes of Queens and Brooklyn, the U.S. Census Bureau rejected a request from Mayor Michael Bloomberg to modifv the 2010 census counts for the city to reflect the undercounted population.

"It is very upsetting," said state Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria). "Anybody who has spent any time in western Queens and Queens, but western Queens in particular, for the last two years, let's say, knows that this is a community that has been growing."

The mayor had sent the challenge to Census Bureau Director Dr. Robert Groves Aug. 9, saving the office that counted Astoria and Jackson Heights had an unusually high number of housing vacancies given the growth in the area.

The 2010 census said Queens' population grew by 0.1 percent, with 2,228,379 residents in 2000 and 2,230,722 residents in 2010, while Astoria and Jackson Heights' population fell by 5 percent.

"I just don't believe that. I really don't believe that," said state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst), who cited the overpopulated schools in his district, which covers East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, Corona and Elmhurst.

Bloomberg also said there were discrepancies in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bay Ridge and



After a challenge to the U.S. Census Bureau's low count of Queens was rejected, elected officials said they hoped for the bureau to partner with more community organizations in 2020.

## **Doctors react to pilot's airborne antics**

#### Jamaica Hospital psychiatrists cite factors that could have caused JetBlue airman's outburst

#### BY RICH BOCKMANN

Psychiatric experts at Jamaica Hospital said anything from a brain tumor to weight-loss shakes to the stresses of navigating airport security could have led to the highly publicized breakdown of a JetBlue pilot on a flight that originated at Kennedy Airport last week

YouTube videos of Flight 191 passengers restraining pilot Clayton Osbon were broadcast over the Internet and TV newscasts after his flight left JFK bound for Las Vegas March 27.

The flight was diverted to Amarillo, Texas, where Osbon was medically evaluated and on the following day charged with interfering with flight crew members and attendants.

According to the criminal complaint, Osbon started ranting incoherent-

ly before asking the plane's first officer to take the controls, and then continued to scream about "Jesus, September 11th, Iraq, Iran and terrorists" as passengers subdued him.

Dr. Seeth Vivek, chairman of the department of psychiatry and addiction services at Jamaica Hospital, said that while he did not evaluate Osbon, researching him on Google may give an indication as to what caused the disturbing behavior.

"From everything I've read about him, it appears that he has had no prior history of any abnormal behavior. People describe him as being a very puttogether, affable, calm individual," he said, noting Osbon's father, also a pilot, died in a plane crash in 1995. "When something happens suddenly, it is one of two reasons."

Vivek said incidents



JetBlue pilot Clayton Frederick Osbon (r.) is escorted by FBI agents as he is released from a hospital in Texas. Experts at Jamaica Hospital say a number of factors could have led to his breakdown. AP Photo/Amarillo Globe-News, Michael Schumacher

ingested.

"I was reading that this guy on the side was

in the business of selling shakes — weight-reduction shakes, protein shakes.

If, for example, it was one of those weight reduction drinks that has a stimulant, those are known to cause paranoid psychosis," he said. "I'm not saying everv weight-reduction shake does that. It could be worth looking into as to what exactly is in those drinks and if he ingested them himself."

A tumor, he added, could lead to a blood clot, which could trigger survival instincts that could explain the paranoid rantings.

Dr. Anthony Maffia, vice president of the department, said Osbon's outburst seems all that more alarming due to the circumstances.

"I think our society by nature is somewhat not tolerant of these types of things and there is a certain amount of prejudice attached to it," he said. "In Continued on Page 40

## Bloomberg hears plea for help on Flushing senior center tour

#### **BY REBECCA HENELY**

An 89-year-old Queens woman begged Mayor Michael Bloomberg to help bring her son back from the Dominican Republic to the United States during a news conference Tuesday at the Selfhelp Ben Rosenthal Senior Center in Flushing.

Norma Alvarez, a Flushing resident, said she had no money to help her son, Gregory Roman Alvarez, who came to the United States when he was 10 but was deported in the 1990s. She said both she and her son were poor, but she wanted to see her son back in the States before she dies.

"He's a resident, le-



Mayor Michael Bloomberg (c.) spoke about the Innovative Senior Centers program at the Selfhelp Ben Rosenthal Senior Center with Selfhelp Community Services CEO Stuart Kaplan (I.) and city DFTA Commissioner Lillian Barrios-Paoli. Photo by Nykeema Williams

gal," she said, "but they deport him because he was in a group — not selling — of people taking drugs."

Bloomberg said it was a federal issue, but directed her to a staff member for help.

such as this can have or-

ganic causes, such as a tu-

mor or something someone

The mayor had come to the senior center, at 45-25 Kissena Blvd., to announce Continued on Page 40

## Ozone Park man guilty of killing pizza boss' son

#### BY RICH BOCKMANN

A 29-year-old Ozone Park man may spend the rest of his life in prison after a Queens jury found him guilty of slaying a neighborhood pizza owner's son in 2009.

Francis LaCorte was found guilty in Queens Criminal Court Monday of the murder of Gerardo Antoniello, who came to the aid of his 61-year-old father during an attempted robbery, District Attorney Richard Brown said.

After plotting to pull off two previous robberies in Queens, LaCorte conspired in September 2009 with another man to rob Romeo Antoniello, whose name graces the pizzeria he owned, at 132-24 Cross Bay Blvd., according to Brown.

As Antoniello closed up the pizzeria late in the evening of Sept 19 and walked home, the robbers approached him and forced their way into his home, struggling with the elderly man as 29-year-old Gerardo Antoniello came to his father's aid,



Francis LaCorte listens as a guilty verdict is returned in the murder of Gerardo Antoniello. Photo by Ellis Kaplan

#### Brown said.

During the struggle, one of the robbers pulled out a weapon and fatally shot Gerardo Antoniello in the head before fleeing empty-handed, the DA said.

Gerardo, who was known as Jerry to his friends, was rushed to Jamaica hospital where he died shortly before 6 a.m., police said

Continued on Page 40

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IMESLEDGER, APR. 5-11, 2012

IMESLEDGER.COM

## <sup>s</sup> City Council to consider regulating food carts

#### **BY PHIL CORSO**

City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) has zoned in on what he called a recent phenomenon, urging the Council's Consumer Affairs Committee to see what's cooking on the streets of eastern Queens.

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TIMESLEDGER, APR.

The appearance of food carts along Bell Boulevard,

Hillside and Springfield avenues as well as Union Turnpike has left Weprin asking the city to investigate and potentially regulate concerns, including health and safety issues, unfair competition and unsightliness.

The councilman said the city would hold hearings later this spring to discuss these issues with local vendors and the community to resolve how to regulate food vendors.

"There are a lot of questions out there," Weprin said. "We should have a hearing because these things have become much more prevalent."

The plan to bring the discussion into the Council was surprising news to John Amanatidis, whose mobile grilled food cart has resided near the intersection of Northern and Bell boulevards for close to 15 years, the vendor said.

"We're not bothering anyone," Amanatidis said. "We're finished by 7 p.m., well before dinner, so we don't interfere."

A major concern in the debate, Weprin said, surrounded the topic of unfair



competition posed by vendors parking their carts in new spots. Weprin said local merchants have expressed concern that these mobile food units have left them at a disadvantage.

But according to Sean Basinski, a spokesman for the Urban Justice Center's Street Vendor Project, the accusation is not grounded in any facts or evidence.

Basinski said there was plenty of research to show that food vendors actually helped local brickand-mortars.

"It's perhaps an understandable concern, but a naive impression which simply is not born out by the research," Basinski said. "Whoever is complaining is simply wrong."

According to a report provided by the Street Vendor Project, goods sold on the sidewalk were typically different from the higherend items sold in stores, complementing the array of products. The report pointed to a "synergistic relationship" between the vendors and their local counterparts, adding that street vendors can draw the foot traffic necessary to boost sales in surrounding shops.

Possible solutions, Weprin said, included limiting where vendors can do business or imposing regulations on how far away from other food stores they might operate.

"There are places where they serve a great purpose, Weprin said. "There are school campuses and parts of the city where people live and die with those food carts. But parking in front of a store with the same product could be unfair."

A worker who only wished to be identified as John mans the halal food cart near the intersection of Northern and Bell boulevards and said he went where the business was.

"If people come here, then I'm here. I can go anywhere by law," he said. "I'm legal. What I'm doing is legal. Business is business. Welcome to America."

Other concerns that Weprin said residents have brought to the councilman's attention are the issues of unhealthy conditions and unsightliness, affecting the image of Bayside's community and quality of life.

It is something Basinski said might stem from an inherent fear of vendors. He said all food vendors were subject to inspection by the city Health Department and were no different than local shops in judging cleanliness on a case-bycase basis.

"I don't think it holds water to say on a generalized basis that residents are concerned about health issues," Basinski said. "To have these concerns in a vacuum sounds like simple anti-vendor warfare."

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



Food carts setting up shop throughout Bayside have City Councilman Mark Weprin considering new regulations. Photo by Phil Corso

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# POLICE Blotter

#### South Jamaica fire injures two firefighters

SOUTH JAMAICA — Two firefighters suffered minor injuries while battling a blaze in South Jamaica Sunday, a spokesman for the FDNY said.

Both were taken to Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn for their injuries, the FDNY said.

Emergency officials were called to an abandoned home on Rockaway Boulevard near 143rd Street just before 8 a.m., the FDNY said.



Firefighters work to control a fire in a South Jamaica home. Photo by Ellis Kaplan

43rd in the roof of the home and the fire was listed as out at 8:53 a.m., according to the postly FDNY. Fire officials said Tuesday that a cause had not yet been determined.

The blaze was mostly

#### Police catch suspect in five boro bank robberies

JAMAICA — A Brooklyn man was arrested and charged with five bank robberies throughout the borough, according to the NYPD.

Sidney Williams, 43, of 727 Knickerbocker Ave., faces five counts of robbery in the incidents that took place between Feb. 3 and March 15, police said.

Four of the five banks robbed were Chase Bank locations in Rego Park, Sunnyside, Forest Hills and Maspeth, and the other one was a Capital One Bank in Jamaica.

Police said each of the robberies followed a similar pattern. The suspect went into the bank, waited to speak with a teller and then handed over a note demanding money, according to the NYPD.

#### **City Correction officer resisted arrest: Police**

ASTORIA — An off-duty city Department of Correction officer was arrested Friday and charged with menacing, criminal possession of a weapon and resisting arrest, police said.

Cops say Ernesto Santos, 31, got into

#### Police seek missing Rockaways man, 33



Joey White has been missing since April 1.

Photo courtesy NYPD

ROCKAWAYS — The NYPD was asking for the public's assistance in locating a deaf man, Joey White, 33, of 641 Beach 67th St. in the Rockaways.

White, a black male, was last seen leaving his residence April 1, police said. He is described as 5-foot-10 and weighing 175 pounds with brown eyes and partially balding black hair, police said.

He was wearing a dark-

colored hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and sneakers, police said.

Anyone with information about to this missing person is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477). The public can also submit tips by logging on to www.nypdcrimestoppers.com or by texting CRIMES (274637) then enter TIP577. All calls are strictly confidential.

The NYPD released these images of a suspect in several bank robberies in Queens. Images courtesy NYPD

In three of the five robberies, the suspect made away with an undisclosed amount of money, police said.

In two of the robberies, the suspect did not receive any cash, according to the NYPD.

an argument with a bouncer outside Don

Coqui, a nightclub near 28th Road in Asto-

Santos pulled a gun and threatened

ria, shortly before 1:30 a.m., police said.

the bouncer, police said.

### Chicago group hopes to take over Peninsula

#### BY RICH BOCKMANN

As Peninsula Hospital made final arrangements to shutter its doors, a possible savior for the embattled Far Rockaway facility was touching down on the other end of Queens.

A representative at Peninsula said Tuesday the hospital's clinics would remain open and the emergency room would be accepting walk-in patients until Friday.

As the Rockaway's 100,000 residents braced for what many characterized as a health-care crisis, the president of a Chicagobased group with intentions of taking over and rehabilitating the hospital was landing at LaGuardia Airport.

Dr. Seth Guterman, of the People's Choice Hospital group, said if he could convince Peninsula's courtappointed bankruptcy trustee, Lori Lapin Jones, to re-evaluate her decision to close the facility, his organization could have it up and running within a matter of weeks.

"I'm confident that we could have it reopened in eight weeks, and assuming we get through all the due diligence of the bankruptcy court, from the moment we take over we could open the lab in six months with all the latest technology and be completely paperless," he said.

Peninsula filed for bankruptcy protection last

year after it had accumulated \$13 million in debt. In February, the state Department of Health shut down the hospital's lab after an inspection noted 66 "serious deficiencies."

In early March, a judge appointed Jones as the hospital's bankruptcy trustee, and last week she filed bankruptcy documents noting it would take months to get the lab back up to snuff.

Guterman said his group has 12 years of experience revamping troubled hospitals, and he has a three-pronged plan to get Peninsula back online.

The first, he said, is the People's Choice financing arm, which can offer reasonable interest rates to pump some much-needed cash into the hospital. The second arm is an experienced management team and the third is \$10 million worth of health care IT resources at the group's disposal, according to Guterman.

"I cannot overstress the importance of the technology component," he said. "The technology will dramatically improve efficiency. We can apply the appropriate software and with a reasonable operating budget, we can make Peninsula look like a 21stcentury hospital."

The challenge, Guterman said, would be convincing Jones to give Peninsula another chance.

"One person wields *Continued on Page 40* 

## TimesLedger wins awards

Southeast Queens crime series takes first place in state contest



TimesLedger staff (I.-r.) Christina Santucci, Colin DeVries, Joe Anuta, Rich Bockmann and Rebecca Henely received awards in this year's New York Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

#### BY PHIL CORSO

TimesLedger Newspapers took home honors from the New York Press Association last weekend with a total of 13 journalism awards, which recognized one reporter as the Rookie of the Year in the state and cited an ambitious yearlong project on unsolved murders in southeast Queens.

TimesLedger, which covers the diverse neighborhoods of Queens with seven weekly editions, won three first-place awards, five second-place awards, four third-place awards and one honorable mention for editorial excellence.

Newspapers from throughout the state gathered last weekend for NYPA's 2011 Better Newspaper Contest in upstate Saratoga Springs. The annual contest included 158 newspapers, which submitted 2.437 entries for awards in 60 categories, with 443 awards presented throughout the weekend. Entries were judged by members of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association at

the end of January.

Reporter Joe Anuta, who covers Flushing and Whitestone, won first place for Rookie Reporter of the Year. Anuta joined TimesLedger in November 2010 after spending two months as an intern for a weekly newspaper in Brooklyn.

"I was very pleased when I received the news," Anuta said. "It's a nice recognition of the many hours I logged covering Queens last year, a testament to the hard work of my editors and colleagues who helped me along the way and inspiration to keep scouring the borough for good stories."

Anuta was also part of another first-place honor for Best In-Depth Coverage, joining Photo Editor Christina Santucci and TimesLedger reporters Ivan Pereira and Howard Koplowitz for "Shots in the Dark," a series on the unseen victims of violence on the streets of Queens.

Santucci and former Managing Editor Ian Mac-Farland captured first place for Best Multimedia Coverage for "Shots in the Dark," which combined an interactive map of the crime scenes with audio slide shows, comments from readers, dramatic photographs and traditional newspaper reporting.

Santucci received third-place honors in the Photographer of the Year category, an award she received first place for in last year's contest.

The Jamaica Times won second place in the Best Editorial Page category. Second-place honors also went to the Astoria Times for Photographic Excellence, showcasing images from Tropical Storm Irene and the celebration of gay marriage.

Santucci's work was also noted in second-place awards given to the Astoria Times for the Best Art Photo and the Best Picture Story to the Flushing Times.

"These awards reflect the hard work and the talent of a dedicated staff," said Roz Liston, the chain's editor. "Every member of the newsroom contributed to these awards." The Jamaica Times received second place in the Best Education Coverage category for work by Pereira and Koplowitz. The two joined TimesLedger reporters Rebecca Henely and Rich Bockmann to win third place for the Best Crime Coverage Award for their work covering stories for the Forest Hills Ledger.

The newspaper received a third-place award for Best Special Section, produced by Managing Editor Colin DeVries, which recognized the fall 2011 Guide to Queens, a borough guide published twice a year. The Queens sales staff and production department were part of the project.

The company also received third-place kudos for having the Best Special Section — Advertising for its Queens 200 supplement.

Honorable mention was awarded to Anuta and his work in the Forest Hills Ledger for Best News Story on a series of failed attempts by a man to row across the Atlantic Ocean.

A representative from a Chicago-based hospital group is drumming up support to save Peninsula Hospital as the Far Rockaway facility plans to close its doors Friday.

#### EDITORIALS JUST ANOTHER DEATH

Theodore Thomas, 26, was shot multiple times in the chest outside the Unforgettable Lounge in South Jamaica at 3:45 on a Sunday morning.

There were no demonstrations outside the lounge. No member of the City Council came to work in a hoodie and declared, "I'm Theodore."

Although he once preached in Queens on a regular basis, the Rev. Al Sharpton hasn't made an appearance to protest this killing.

The sad reality is that because race was not involved — as far as we know — the tragic death of a young man with his whole life in front him was nearly ignored.

But Thomas' story is also tragic. He had some difficulties and left South Jamaica to begin a new life with his girlfriend in the mountains of Pennsylvania. He had returned to visit his family on the weekend he was killed.

Thomas' mother admits her son had his problems before he left home two years ago.

"He chose a better life. Before that he was selling drugs," she said.

Although he hung out with gang members, he wasn't part of any gang, she said.

What troubles us is the fact that killings in southeast Queens are no longer news. They have come to be expected.

That's frightening. We long for the day when a killing here is so rare that it makes the evening news.

### YELLING THE LOUDEST

At a protest outside the office of U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman, demonstrators said they were angry about the congressman's support for the federal mandate that all insurance plans cover the cost of birth control.

Engaging in the hyperbole that has clouded this debate since Day 1, Ray Mooney, of Flushing, said, "A line has been drawn in the sand. What we have seen is the U.S. government say to the Catholic Church, 'We don't care."

The protestors have done their best to portray the administration as an enemy of the First Amendment.

Not to be outdone, the other side has portrayed the protest as an assault on the rights of women.

Neither is true, nor is it true that the ban on contraception is a "deeply held Catholic belief." In fact, most Catholic women don't care what the priests and bishops say about contraception.

It is just as untrue to say that the handful of people standing outside Ackerman's office don't care about the health of women.



#### OTHER VOICES

## Make CUNY credit transfers easier

he issue of ease of transferring credits within the City University of New York has long been a vexing problem for faculty and students, especially for community colleges, such as LaGuardia or Queensborough, to senior colleges, such as York or Queens.

The CUNY central administration is taking the radical step of dealing with that problem by imposing a common general education set of courses for all the CUNY colleges. By eliminating the individuality of the college curriculum from place to place, the thinking goes that it should be easy to transfer.

But the Law of Unintended Consequences has appeared. To shoehorn all the different desired disciplines into the 30-credit Pathways Proposal, the specific requirement of a laboratory-based science course has disappeared.

Non-laboratoryscience courses fail to meet the na-

tionwide norm for general education science courses. Thus, by making it easier to transfer credits within CUNY, the Pathways Proposal makes it nearly impossible to transfer those credits anywhere else, such as State University of New York colleges.

CUNY is still a relative bargain for getting a quality education for a low price. If that quality disappears, it does not matter how little you pay.

If your readers are wor-

ried about the perception of dumbing down the CUNY curriculum, please contact CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein at chancellor@ mail.cuny.edu or Board of Trustees Chairman Benno Schmidt at bschmidt@cae. org to ask them to rethink where Pathways is to take CUNY and its students.

Dr. David H. Speidel Queens College Professor Emeritus Forest Hills

TimesLedger <i>Newspapers</i>	<b>ROZ LISTON</b> Editor	EDITORIAL STAFF Copy Editor: Joseph Gargiulo Photo Editor: Christina Santucci	Cartoonist: Tip Sempliner Contributing Writers/Columnists: Joan Brown Wettingfeld,	ADVERTISING Senior Account Executive: Kathy Wenk	CLASSIFIED Classified Director: Amanda Tarley
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TIMESLEDGER. APR. 5-11. 2012

## Boro Board must deny Willets Point to developers

An open letter to Queens Borough Board members:

he board is responsible for evaluating developer firms' responses to the city Economic Development Corp.'s request for proposals pertaining to Phase 1 of the proposed Willets Point development and for approving or disapproving a choice of developer, as well as the disposition of Willets Point property to a chosen developer.

Your role in this process is important, because during 2008 the City Council, which ordinarily would have vetted the qualifications of the proposed developer firm and its proposal, ceded its authority to do so with the understanding that the QBB would have the final say in this matter.

The deadline for developer firms to submit responses to the Phase 1 RFP was Sept. 9. Since that time, there has been no public information concerning the status of the evaluations of the RFP responses by any of the entities which the public was told during 2008 would be involved.

When deciding whether or not to approve any Willets Point Phase 1 developer, we submit that the board is obligated to consider the following:

1. The ability of any RFP respondent firm to finance and implement Phase 1 of the proposed Willets Point development. Recent financial difficulties surrounding developer firms, alleged to have submitted proposals pertaining to Phase 1 of the proposed Willets Point development, underscore the need for the QBB to vet the financial capabilities of any developer considered for the Phase 1 site. As part of this due diligence, the board should also subject the EDC to a rigorous review of the costs of remediating and developing this site.

2. RFP respondent firms' financing of apparently unlawful lobbying by former Borough President Claire Shulman's local development corporation to influence approval of the proposed Willets Point development. The issue of the alleged unlawful lobbying by Shulman's LDC is crucial because it is part of an ongoing investigation by the state attorney general's office. Developer firms that financed the LDC's alleged unlawful lobbying are also proposing to become the developer of the project that was the subject of that lobbying.

During 2008, then-Deputy Mayor Robert Lieber could not rule out the possibility that developer firms that financed the LDC's lobbying would be prohibited from participating in the Willets Point RFP. No firm that possibly could be implicated in an unlawful lobbying scheme should be considered an acceptable RFP respondent.

3. The city has quietly reneged on its commitment to include a living wage provision in the RFP. The mandatory inclusion of an agreed living wage provision within the RFP text was the linchpin of labor unions' support for the proposed Willets Point development and unions' encouragement of Council approval in 2008, but that living wage provision is not in the RFP. We urge the QBB to reject the EDC's attempt to circumvent the agreed living wage provision.

4. The proposed Phase 1 fails to accomplish the contiguous remediation of the entire 62-acre Willets Point site, which was said during 2008 to be essential, and involves no new access ramps to and from the Van Wyck Expressway. City officials repeatedly said during the public review that partial remediation and development of the Willets Point site could not occur and was impractical.

Indeed, remediation of the entire site was purportedly so essential that Marshall specified, as a condition of her approval, that "the entire development plan must proceed comprehensively and must not be phased." Similarly, the Community Board 7 Land Use Committee chairman testified to the City Planning Commission that "the site must be remediated as one complete site. It has to be completely assembled, completely taken over and completely remediated as one site."

But the proposed Phase 1 would remediate only 12.5 acres of the entire site, leaving nearly 50 unremediated acres purportedly with the potential to recontaminate the remediated property. Phase 1 also has no provision for new Van Wyck Expressway access ramps and the city admits that the adverse traffic impacts of Phase 1 without the ramps may be as severe as those of the entire development with ramps.

The proposed Phase 1 is not a "lesser included" project encompassed by the Council's 2008 approval. Rather, it is a new project which would deliver all the adverse effects but few of the purported benefits of the original proposed project. The liability/benefit ratio of Phase 1 is removed from that of the original proposed project. To the extent that the board's evaluation is intended to be a final safeguard against inappropriate development, it is incumbent upon the QBB to not grant any approval pertaining to Phase 1.

We also wish to ensure that you are aware that Barry Grodenchik, now employed at Queens Borough Hall as deputy borough president, is the former lobbyist employee of The Parkside Group, which lobbied in favor of the proposed Willets Point development on behalf of Shulman's LDC and its developer members.

To the best of our knowledge, Grodenchik has neither recused himself from involvement with the board's evaluation of prospective Phase 1 developers and Willets Point property disposition, nor sought any conflict-of-interest ruling — although we believe Grodenchik should have done so.

Finally, the city is attempting to exercise eminent domain to forcibly acquire privately owned property to facilitate the proposed Phase 1. Fortyfour states other than New York have enacted their own legislation to prohibit or curtail the use of eminent domain for such purposes.

Thus, the proposed Phase 1 project that requires the approval of the board not only fails to realize benefits that were intended by the Council, but relies upon eminent domain abuse that violates basic constitutional rights and is contrary to public sentiment throughout this country.

Nothing obligates you to go along with this, and we ask that you refrain from doing so.

> Gerald Antonacci Willets Point United Queens

United States has surplus of oil at disposal Country needs change

hose with the "drill, baby, drill" mentality are either ignorant to the fact that we do not need more oil or are being manipulated and used as shills by the big oil conglomerates in order to increase their unprecedented profits.

Our country has a surplus of oil. Oil demand in our country is the lowest it has been in the last 10 years. In fact, since 1908 the United States has been exporting oil to countries such as Brazil, Mexico and Chile. Prior to that, we had consumed all the gas we produced plus imported gas. We presently have more drill sites, are drilling more than ever and are producing greater quantities of oil than we have in the last 10 years.

Production is up, consumption is down and our oil surplus grows, as does our export of it. Despite these facts, drill-aholics claim we need to drill for more oil to make us less dependent on foreign oil." More than mere nonsense, it is a lie. Unfortunately, by repeating non-stop the misleading mantra "Obama is responsible for the high cost of gas," it has duped much of our population for votes.

All this begs the question: Why are we lamenting the need to import foreign oil upon which we are "dependent" when we have more than enough produced in our own country to satisfy our own needs? Add to this, the disgusting fraud perpetrated on our country by the profit-motivated Wall Street traders, and financial speculators. They purposely manipulate the price of oil to keep it high. Our enemy is not overseas, but within. The ultimate solution:

Think green.

Nicholas Zizelis Bayside

#### s 2012 moves along, there has been an improvement, ever so slight, in the unemployment figure.

It currently stands at 8.3 percent, which is a slight drop from last year, but there are still more than 3 million Americans still out of work, and that figure is actually larger because many unemployed people have simply stopped looking for work.

Our country needs to have significant improve-

ment in its economy, along with more jobs for the unemployed and a reduction in prices on everything from food to fuel and health care, credit card and mortgage rates.

The American people will have their voices heard at the voting booth this November. It is time for big changes and they must happen soon.

> John Amato Fresh Meadows

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#### COLUMNS

## Race for Ackerman seat brings out four contenders so far



his is the week that was and what a week it was indeed. On Monday, **Dan Halloran** announced his candidacy for **Gary Ackerman**'s congressional seat in Flushing's Bowne Park.

Considering the announcement was scheduled for 5 p.m. while most people were still working, he had an impressive turnout. Among his supporters were **Rick Lazio**, **Tom Long**, **Phil Ragusa**, **Frank Padavan** and **George Maragos**. The list would be too long to mention everyone. Good luck, Dan! The other candidates

in the race are Democrats Grace Meng, Rory Lancman, and Elizabeth Crowley. One of our sources swears he has heard that both Lancman and Crowley will be dropping out of the race in the next few weeks, making a tighter race of Meng vs. Halloran.

If that's true, now is the time to place your bets on who wins in that scenario. Lots of strange things are happening on our political horizons. Lots of luck to the candidates!

Last Thursday evening, there was a 50th birthday party for **Joe Crowley** at the Grand Hyatt Hotel at Grand Central Station. It was a highpowered affair. Some of the superstars were Mayor **Michael Bloomberg**; former Gov. Mario Cuomo; Peter Sr., Peter Jr. and Perry Vallone; Tom DiNapoli; Bill Thompson; Kathleen Rice; and Gary Ackerman, among others. It was a large turnout to show support and well wishes to Joe.

Here's one rumor you can put to rest. The rumor I am referring to is that Ackerman wasn't going to run again because he wasn't feeling well. Last Thursday night, he looked great and displayed his usual witty persona. At least that was his status at Crowley's party.

Everyone who is, who was and who wants to be were out in full regalia to wish the birthday boy a happy birthday — big time! Republicans and Conservatives, do not be offended, but in my humble opinion the Democrats sure do know how to throw a party.

After Joe's party, it was back home to Beechhurst to pack and drive the approximate 200 miles to Saratoga Springs to attend one of our annual rituals: the New York Press Association's 2012 Spring Convention. We arrived at the Gideon Putnam Hotel at 3:30 a.m. Breakfast was at 8 and the first session was at 9.

The Friday luncheon speaker was **Alex Jones**, a host and executive editor of PBS's "Media Matters." His subject was "Why Newspapers Matter." He proved to be a fascinating man with a great sense of humor, and it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to listen to him and learn from his great wealth of experiences.

At the seminar last year, the instructors said that due to state-of-the-art technology, we in our profession would find it easier if we acquired an iPad and an iPhone. It would make life so simple, it would be a breeze to get our jobs done.

Taking the instructors seriously, I bought myself an iPhone 4-S and an iPad 2 for Christmas. One of this year's courses was "Mobile 101: Let's Get Started." I thought, "That's great, I'll finally get the maximum benefit from my new acquisitions."

Wrong. They may have been instructing in Sanskrit. It was so over my head and out of my league it was much too techie for me. If I had had an electrical engineering degree, it would have helped. Obviously, my background knowledge was not at that level. I was much happier not knowing how much I didn't know. Apparently, there is so much to learn they even have a special vocabulary to go with that particular learning process. Maybe I should stick to pure, unadulterated gossip. Speaking of which, on Saturday afternoon, while driving down Saratoga Springs' Main Street, there was a black SUV in front of me. I took a photo of the sign in the SUV's rear window.

It said, "Do Big Corporations Own our Congressmen?" Looks like politics present the same problems all over.

I wrote this column April 1, my birthday, so happy birthday to me. I wonder who the April Fool's joke was really on?

## Long to face Gillibrand in race for U.S. Senate seat



William Lewis Political Action

e will be having an active U.S. Senate race this year in New York state. The seat in question is held by Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), who was appointed to that office by former Gov. David Patterson in 2009. She took the place of Hillary Clinton, who became U.S. secretary of state.

The state Republican and state Conservative parties recently held their conventions for the purpose of designating a candidate to run against Gillibrand. At both conventions, there were three candidates seeking endorsements.

They were George

Maragos, the Nassau County comptroller; U.S. Rep. Robert Turner (D-Middle Village), whose congressional district was eliminated in the redistricting process; and attorney Wendy Long, who has worked for conservative causes, including forming the Judicial Crisis Network to work on securing Senate confirmation of federal judges who observe judicial restraint.

The Republican convention gave their highest vote totals to Long, who achieved almost half of the votes cast. Both Maragos and Turner received barely more than 25 percent of the votes, which was enough for them to qualify to wage a Republican primary against Long.

At the Conservative Party convention, held a few days after the Republican convention, Long received 91 percent of the delegate votes. The other two candidates, Maragos and Turner, received 9 percent between them. The convention then voted to make Long's vote unanimous. Therefore, she received the designation of the state Conservative Party with support from 100 percent of the delegates.

It should be mentioned that back in 2007, Long became a member of then-Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's Advisory Committee on the Constitution and the Courts. She served in that capacity during Romney's first run for the presidency.

At the time, Romney said the following about Long: "Throughout her distinguished legal career, Wendy Long has been an important conservative voice on family and legal issues. With her experience, Long's counsel will be invaluable in my campaign for our nation's highest office. I am greatly honored to have her serve on my campaign."

In a brief interview with Long after the party conventions, she shared some of her views regarding the campaign. As for the support expressed for her at the conventions, she indicated she was pleased and overwhelmed. She also said she was determined to make herself worthy of the trust she had been shown.

She believes that two of the most important issues facing the electorate this year are the size and scope of the federal government and the economic issues of jobs and deficit spending.

When asked if elected what would be the first piece of legislation she would introduce, she answered, "Repeal Obamacare."

As for what would be the main differences in how she would conduct her duties in office, as compared to Gillibrand, she said she would be more responsible and accountable to the people.

Turning to the federal courts, she has worked to get federal judges appointed who interpret the U.S. Constitution, not inject their own political philosophy when giving their opinions.

Long believes she will be able to raise the necessary funds to be competitive during the campaign.

Queens Conservative Party Chairman Thomas Long, who is not related to Wendy Long, has indicated some of his views on her candidacy. He believes she has considerable experience in politics and government. He also pointed out that she is a grassroots candidate with a long history of political involvement.

If Wendy Long wins the Republican primary and faces Gillibrand in the fall election, it should be an interesting race and bring a lot of media attention.

Regarding congressional races, the recently redrawn 6th Congressional District seems to have taken center stage with a Democratic Party primary in the works to determine who will be the nominee. So far, three candidates have emerged to succeed Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-Bayside), who is retiring.

The three are City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley(D-Middle Village), state Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) and state Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows).

The winner of the Democratic primary will face Councilman Daniel Halloran (R-Whitestone) in the fall election. Up to this point, Halloran has no primary opponents.

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### Trayvon

Continued from Page 1

system has to be fair to evervone."

Sanders was one of many elected officials and community leaders to join the march, which stretched four blocks and gained supporters as it traversed Linden Boulevard in Cambria Heights on its way to St. Albans Park on Merrick Boulevard. On their way to the park, parents and children alike wore hoodies as Martin did the day he was killed.

Protesters chanted Martin's name as well as "no justice, no peace" and "an injury to one is an injury to all " as residents cheered from windows and

### Car wash

#### Continued from Page 1

Neither the car wash's owner nor the manager was available for comment.

The employees all make about \$5.50 an hour with the expectation that tips will bring that number up to the state's minimum wage, \$7.25 an hour, said Klein. Management is supposed to cover the difference, but refuses to do so, she added.

Klein also said the employees work with harsh chemicals and have been denied requests for protective gear.

Before the day's protest, which included signcarrying and drum-banging activists, Klein invited Magalhaes to accept a list of demands the advocates planned to deliver, but he declined to show, according storefronts.

Zimmerman, a 28-yearold neighborhood watchman, shot the 17-year-old Martin, who was wearing a hoodie and carrying a packet of Skittles.

City Councilman Lerov Comrie (D-St. Albans) said the shooter should not have taken the law into his own hands.

"What happened to Trayvon was that he was assaulted by someone that claimed to be an authority and was using a cloak of authority to murder someone," said Comrie. "We are here today because we want to make sure that we do everything we can to honor our young people, inform them and protect them."

The March for Justice, organized by the Commission on Social Justice and

to Klein. Wash New York, an umbrella organization composed of Make the Road New York, New York Communities for Change and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. said Magalhaes, along with owner John Lage, has recently been subpoenaed by state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman on charges of violating employees' rights. The attorney general's office said it could not comment on any potential ongoing matter.

City Councilman James Sanders (D-Laurelton). chairman of the Council Civil Service & Labor Committee, joined the protest and characterized management as profiteers making big bucks off the backs of their employees.

"We don't want a dirty conscience just to get a clean car," he said. "It Human Concerns, an African-American Christian organization, drew citizens from across the borough who vented their frustration with the way in which the Martin case has been handled by Florida authorities.

Arlene Phipps, of Far Rockaway, said she would not know what she would do if she lost her only son, Yaseen Madyun, to a violent act.

"I don't know how I would handle that," she said. "It was a senseless murder and nothing has been done about it. I believe in my heart that everyone out here today is tired and afraid — this is our chance to come together and show as a people that we want this to stop."

seems to me the wealthiest people with the largest waist lines are always telling the rest of us to tighten our belts."

Watching the protest from the side, employee Tiago Azevedo disagreed with the criticisms.

"They're a bunch of lies," said Azevedo, who has worked at the car wash for about four months.

He said the owner is an "excellent man" who pays the minimum wage plus overtime.

Speaking through an interpreter, employee David de la Cruz Perez said he hurt his hand on the job six months ago and was offered no financial assistance.

Sanders joined the Rev. Darrell Da Costa, of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Corona, in recognizing a moral obligation to care for the most vulnerable in the community.

Academy

Continued from Page 2

bria Heights Academy encourages an open-learning environment where students sit in the hallways and do their work -a culture parents thought would clash if the school were forced to share a space with IS 59.

A spokesman for the DOE said the department will be signing off on a long-term extension of the high school's lease at St. Gerard's Church, and funds will be allocated to upgrade the building.

Comrie said he would like to see the school continue to grow in its current location.

"To have a school on track to being a high-performing school in southeast Queens is something that many southeast Queens residents truly want," he said. "We barely have adequate performing schools in southeast Queens as it is."

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## Bangladeshi national freed following appeals

#### BY REBECCA HENELY

16 SE

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TIMESLEDGER, APR.

In need of new spring clothing for her 20-monthold twin daughters, Sunnyside resident Lipiara Begum bought them shirts March 23, saying "Daddy's Little Sunshine." For more than a month her husband had been held in an immigrant detention center and she wanted her girls to be with him again. Later that day, she got

her wish. After weeks of letter writing and appeals from family, civic leaders and elected officials, Bangladeshi national Mohammad Anwarul Islam was released and sent home. As he spoke about his experience, his twin daughters wearing their new shirts and sitting close by, tears came to his eyes.

"I can't explain it, how much I am happy now," he said.

Islam has lived in America since 1999. His wife is a permanent resident due to take her oath to become a citizen soon and they have three daughters: 5-year-old Afnan and twins Farah and Zarah. He previously worked as a food runner in a Manhattan restaurant for 16 years.

Since he had often worked to help others with immigration issues, he said he never expected to be threatened with deportation. He left his home country due to political reasons and applied for asylum in 2010, but his appeal was rejected and not followed up

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Islam said he had not had any warning, not even a letter, before U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers came to his apartment and took him away Feb. 10 on a final order of deportation.

"I said, my lawyer don't say nothing about this," he said.

After being made to surrender his driver's license and papers at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office Manhattan's Federal Plaza, Islam was taken to the Essex County Correctional Facility and then to Delaney Hall Detention Facility, both in Newark. For days, he was unable to contact home.

"I'm crying all the time for my family, for my three daughters," he said.

Begum, who is unemployed, enlisted as many people as she could to help her. Jackson Heights civic activist Mohammad Rashid was one of the first to assist Islam, promising to get him set free when he visited him in New Jersey.

"I told him, 'God will send you back," Rashid said.

Others who helped included U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.); U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights); City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside); David Rosasco, of the Woodside Neighborhood Association; Moin Choudhury; and attorney Thomas Massucci.

Islam said he was treated well at Delaney Hall by the employees but met others — Bangladeshi, Hispanic, Indian and African — who did not have the support he did. Many told him it would take 90 days until he was released, but it took just 42.

He said he was overwhelmed when he came home late March 23 to find many friends and family members waiting for him.

"I said, 'Thank you very much for everybody, you did a great job for me,'" Islam said.

But Islam is not out of the woods yet. He does not have his driver's license or papers and thus cannot work. His next date at the Federal Plaza office is April 23. Yet he says he wants to help Rashid and Rosasco assist others with their immigration issues.

Begum said she and her daughters have been much happier since Islam has returned to them. While she was devastated while her husband was gone, she said she really worried about her girls.

"I'm thinking, my child needs that love," she said. "For this, I am so, so happy."

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



Mohammad Anwarul Islam kisses his daughter Afrina Anwar Farah. Photo by Christina Santucci



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## Driver to plead in death of Maspeth bar owner

BY STEVE MOSCO

The wrong-way driver allegedly responsible for the death of a beloved Maspeth bar owner is expected to get 3 1/2 years in prison after pleading guilty in a deal worked out with prosecutors, according to a source familiar with the negotiations.

Peter Rodriguez, 36, will officially agree to the plea deal April 20 with sentencing expected May 4, said the source, who asked not to be identified. It has been almost six months since George Gibbons Jr. died after he was hit headon by Rodriguez, who was driving the wrong way on the Long Island Expressway near 58th Road, after Gibbons had closed his bar, Gibbons' Home, at 54-12 69th St.

Police said Rodriguez fled the scene after the crash, possibly to avoid having to take field sobriety tests. The Brooklyn man was arrested in Connecticut after a month in hiding with the help of an NYPD Crimestoppers hotline tip and was arraigned in November on charges of manslaughter, assault, leaving the scene of an accident without reporting and criminally negligent homicide.

Gibbons' brother, Brendan, said he will believe the plea deal is a reality when he hears it from the Queens district attorney. In the meantime, the heartbroken sibling said that no matter how much time Rodriguez gets behind bars, he will continue to miss his brother.

"All I can say is that I



PETER RODRIGUEZ

will never have my brother

back. It doesn't matter if he

[Rodriguez] gets four years,

seven years or 14 years,"

said Brendan Gibbons. "We

just want to thank the en-

tire community who has

come out and given us their

support. They have been

ly expects to release a state-

ment after the court date

April 20. The district at-

torney's office said it would

not comment because this

Elizabeth Crowley (D-Mid-

dle Village), who was at

the courthouse during the

initial hearing to show her

support for the family and

to urge the judge to impose

the maximum sentence,

said the community is saf-

er with Rodriguez behind

Councilwoman

is a pending case.

City

Gibbons said the fami-

fantastic."

Photo courtesy NYPD

bars.

But she will continue to push for the highest punishment.

"Our community came together to fight for justice for George and now that Peter Rodriguez is behind bars, we can finally say that our streets are safer," she said. "As hearings proceed, we will continue to fight to see that Rodriguez receives the maximum sentence for this heinous crime which took the life of such an admired and respected member of our neighborhood."

Gibbons' Home has since reopened with the help of George's five siblings.

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

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## Kew Gdns hotel owned by spa developer raided

#### BY JOE ANUTA

Civic leaders are watching a proposed spa for College Point after a notorious hot sheets motel in Kew Gardens Hills owned by the developer was shut down last week in relation to prostitution charges.

The Queens district attorney announced last Thursday that two alleged flop houses were padlocked and five motel employees were arrested following a police raid. One of the hotels caught in the sting was the Kew Motor Inn, which belongs to Kwang Nam Park.

Park also owns a property in College Point that he has been trying to turn into a spa with the endorsement of state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside).

"Obviously, this concerns me greatly," Avella said. "My support for the spa was on the condition that everything is done legally. If it is proved that this individual is connected to what goes on at the hotel, that raises serious questions."

Avella specifically noted only employees have been charged at this point, and Park himself has not been implicated. Avella said he would contact Brown's office to investigate.

The senator took Community Board 7 and Borough President Helen Marshall to task earlier this year after Park's proposal to build a two-story spa complete with a rooftop pool, at 131-23 31st Ave., was recommended for denial by both parties.

"I do not agree with the community board's report nor do I agree with the borough president's report."," he said in January at a meeting with Park and the architects on the project.

The two bodies opposed the plan for structur-



Kwang Nam Park (l.-r.), owner of the Kew Motor Inn and the site of a proposed College Point spa, speaks about the project with Korean-American PR man David Chulwoo Lee and state Sen. Tony Avella in January, months before his motel was raided in relation to charges of permitting prostitution. Photo by Joe Anuta

al and parking reasons.

The city Board of Standards and Appeals, which is supposed to take CB 7 and Marshall's recommendations into consideration for the final say, had not made a ruling by press time Tuesday.

Irwin Park, the son of the developer and member of Delta Kew Holding Corp. & Property Management, declined to comment.

Should the proposal pass, CB 7 Chairman Gene Kelty said the community will keep an eye out on the spa after learning of the prostitution sting at the Kew Motor Inn.

But the amount of money Park is sinking into the spa led Kelty to hope that everything would be above board.

"I would hope that he was going to put a state-ofthe-art facility, which is going to run for a reasonable profit and stay for awhile," Kelty said.

But Park will not be making any profit on the Kew Motor Inn, at 139-01 Grand Central Pkwy., in the near future.

The DA said the motel, along with the Par Central Motor Inn, located next door, allegedly served as havens for prostitutes and their pimps.

"These two motels have been deemed public nuisances that have generated numerous prostitution-related arrests — including those involving underage girls — during the past year," DA Richard Brown said in a statement.

Employees at the hotels allegedly accepted bribes, allowed the undercover cops to rent rooms without identification, knowingly allowed prostitution activity and in some cases assisted in the illegal activity by acting as the prostitutes' secretaries, the DA said.

The Kew Motor Inn website, which was taken down soon after the charges were announced, formerly referred to itself as: "since 1969 the most famous, and exotic couples-friendly motel/hotel in Queens!!"

Pictures that were formerly on the site featured mirrors on the ceilings and rooms decorated in different themes.

A call placed by TimesLedger Newspapers in January determined the minimum stay was two hours, which an employee answering the phones indicated would cost \$60.

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

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## <sup>22</sup> Maltese unveils marker for Triangle fire victims

#### BY STEVE MOSCO

TIMESLEDGER.COM

TIMESLEDGER, APR. 5-11, 2012

Serphin Maltese's roots run deep in New York City and immigration history.

The former Queens state senator lost three family members in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire — the 1911 tragedy that killed 146 workers in Manhattan underscored the lack of women's rights and changed labor laws forever.

To honor his family and others lost in the fire, Maltese erected a headstone at Calvary Cemetery listing the names of the people buried at the Maspeth graveyard — 36 names in all.

"We felt that after over 100 years, it was time for these 36 victims to have a monument," said Maltese, who lost his grandmother Caterina and two aunts, Rosaria and Lucia, in the blaze

The factory was in the Asch Building, at 23-29 Washington Place, now known as the Brown Building. In March 1911, a fire broke out on the ninth floor of the garment factory. Many women were trapped and died because the building's owners, fearing theft, had locked the doors, which would have led them to safety. A large number of the dead had jumped from the windows as a last resort to escape the flames.

The building has since been designated a National Historic Landmark and a city landmark.

The fire led to legislation requiring improved factory safety standards and helped spur the growth of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which fought for better working conditions for sweatshop workers.

The idea to honor the dead with a headstone



Serphin Maltese (r.) honored the memory of the victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire with a headstone at Calvary Cemetery. Maltese lost three relatives in the tragedy.

Maltese's aunt Maria, who

died at age 4 in 1906 after

the long voyage from Italy

father, Serafinio. had to

When Maltese's grand-

to America.

Photo by Steve Mosco

bury his wife and two other daughters, victims of the Triangle fire, he moved Maria to the family plot.

"Maria's death was the first tragedy to beset our grandfather," he said. "When he lost his other two daughters and his wife at the terrible tragedy of Triangle, he subsequently moved Maria into the family plot and in the course of the years, we simply forgot about the [empty] plot."

After conferring with his brothers and sister. they decided to donate the empty plot to the Triangle Memorial Association.

"This is a tragic immigrant story, but the memories of those lost cannot be forgotten," said Esposito. "We will continue to honor their names here and, hopefully, a hundred years from now people will come here, see the names and honor them as well."

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

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posito at Calvary Cemetery

informed Maltese that his

family had a reserved plot

sitting empty in the ceme-

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proprietor of Divorce.com, some of the divorces offered 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.

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Sudoku 26 Theater Calendar 28 Arts & Entertainment 26-29 Crossword Puzzle 28



Turkish nomads decorated their mobile lives with colorful rugs and tapestries and intricate homewares. Photo by Brita Helgesen

#### BY ALEX PALMER

Visitors to Flushing Town Hall will find they have stepped into a nomadic Turkish village. Simulated living spaces of nomadic tents complete with handwoven Turkish carpets and home furnishings are a highlight of the exhibit "Interwoven Worlds: Exploring Domestic and Nomadic Life in Turkey," running through April 29.

Curated by Alexander Bauer, assistant professor of anthropology at Queens College, and Amy H. Winter, director and curator of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, the exhibition showcases textiles from the museum's permanent collection as well as traditional objects found in Turkish living spaces.

Central to Turkish homes, whether nomadic or settled, are textiles and, in particular, carpets, as reflected in this exhibition. The pieces on view are tapestry-

#### A new Queens College exhibit displays the contrasts and similarities of domestic and nomadic life in Turkey

woven rugs called kilims, embroidered flat-weave rugs (cicims), a pair of antique prayer rugs and woven or embroidered items such as saddlebags and bedding. It also includes ancient ceramics, glass and metalwork.

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

"We tried to reconstruct something that would give visitors a sense of how these people lived and their aesthetic sense and traditions," said Winter.

The most eye-catching part of the show is the reconstructed dwellings where visitors can actually step inside and see the rugs and objects as they would be in a traditional home.

This includes a yurt, a wood-framed tent used by Turkish tribal cultures and nomadic tribes because of its light weight and easy portability. There is also an Ottoman-style interior that shows design elements like wood paneling and partitioned windows as well as wall hangings and carpets. The structures create a bold impression in the center of the exhibition, and are intended to both educate and entertain. As Winter emphasized, "kids will love it."

She added that the priority of the show was to represent the range of cultures and tribes, rather than trying to be archeologically authentic and pure. It reflects the range of pieces held in Godwin-Terbach's collection and also includes an area showing the cross-fertilization of other cultures and empires, including the Byzantine. "It's similar in a lot of tribal cultures the way they built and designed or decorated inside the tent," said Winter. "But the things that they use in each tribe has its own unique pattern and designs."

In addition to the pieces themselves, the exhibit includes a digital display that allows viewers to browse interior and exterior images of what an Ottoman house would have looked like. Sound recordings, photographs and texts have also been incorporated.

Winter explained that her expertise is in the history of art and archeological study, having done quite a bit of work in ancient art and tribal ethnographics. This includes two other recent shows she has curated specifically on textiles.

The exhibit is part of Queens College's project "Year of Turkey: Exploring Past, Present, Future" that began in September and runs through June. It *Continued on Page 27* 

#### OC student introduces German novel to English readers 26

Getting published is no easy

SE

lege. "I couldn't believe it," said 25-year-old Posten. Since first reading the novella in a German literature course as an undergraduate at Oberlin College, where she majored in German, she fell in love with it. "The style was unusual, unlike anything I read before," said Posten. "I wanted to share it with my friends and I couldn't because it was in German so I became motivated to translate it to English so that I could share it with them."

Posten began working on the translation for the book her senior year at Oberlin College in Ohio.



**ANNE POSTEN** 

After graduating from Oberlin, Posten enrolled in Queens College for its graduate program in translation. Posten said she sought out the program because it was one of only two or three in the country that taught translation as a writing program. The other programs focused on translation theory or comparative literature. She received encouragement from some of the program's faculty.

"It was (Queens College professor) Kimko Hahm's idea to collaborate with Hang Loose; she pushed for this to happen," said Posten, who cited three professors as being particularly helpful. "Susan Bernofsky and Roger Sedarat have been really important to me."

Posten's translation is the first translation of a novel published by Queens College, so it is a first not only for Posten but for the school as well. "I think its a wonderful thing the college is doing," she said.

Upon hearing that her translation of "Der Schöne Ort" was being published, Posten's former professor, Thomas Wild, who happened to be a friend of the book's author, Tankred Dorst, got Posten in touch with Dorst. Dorst ended up cutting a trip in Moscow short so that he could meet with Posten in Germany and the two discussed the short novel over coffee.

"Der Schöne Ort" is a collection of several intersecting short stories with three main story lines. One of the stories involves a young girl who travels to Spain because she believes her father is the king of Spain, another young woman tries to escape her controlling mother and an addled sculptor encounters ailments and many obstacles that hinder him from completing his sculpture, which everyone in his community is convinced he won't finish.

"It's (the novel) about persistence .... The characters encounter a lot of depressing situations,

com

When: April 14

Where: Poppenhusen Institute, 114-

but ultimately it's very hopeful," said Posten.

Posten is currently working on another translation for a book by Swiss author Peter Weber and she looks forward to translating other works as well. "I find it really inspiring to be part of the translator community," said Posten.



Website: www.jcal.org

Continued on Page 28

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Tips at www.sudoku.com © Puzzles by Pappocom

## Once-banned film on Chinese exploitation showcased <sup>5</sup>

#### **BY TATYANA SOUTHERLAND**

Michelangelo Antonioni was renowned internationally for his work in cinema, but many of his films have never been distributed in the United States.

The Museum of Moving Image is showing never-before-seen documentaries made by Antonioni early on in his career as part of a homage to the late filmmaker's 100th birthday. A series of events celebrating the Italian director and writer will begin at Queens College on Thursday, April 5, with a professorial symposium. Events will continue Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the museum.

The rare documentary screenings will be taking place from Saturday and Sunday at the museum. "These are films you can't find on DVD anywhere, so it's a great chance to see them," said David Schwartz, chief curator at the Museum of Moving Image in Astoria. "They're really interesting and beautiful films."

One of his more popular

works, "Red Dessert" (Il deserto rosso), will be screened at the museum on April 6 at 7 p.m. "Red Dessert" was Antonioni's first color film.

"Chung Kuo China," possibly the most politically controversial documentary made by the filmmaker, will be shown on both Saturday and Sunday at 5 p.m. The four-hour film documents the lives of Chinese workers and farmers in China's cities and villages.

In 1972, Antonioni was invited by the Chinese government to film the documentary, but the film ended up being labeled as anti-Chinese and anti-Communist by the Chinese government and was banned by China for 32 years until the government finally uncensored the documentary in 2008. Although the film is readily available, it is still rarely seen.

"Gente del Po" (People of the Po Valley), a look into the life of fishermen in Porto Tolle on the River Po, and "Seven Reeds, One Suit" (Sette canne, un vestito),



Michelangelo Antonioni on the set of "La Notta" circa 1961. Documentaries features and shorts will be screening at the Museum of the Moving Image on April 7 and 8. Photo courtesy Museum of the Moving Image

which documents the Rayon and textile-making process in Italy during the height of the Italian fashion industry, are among the short films being shown as part of the documentary short series Saturday, April 7 at 2 p.m. and Sunday April 8 at 2 p.m.

Antonioni was highly regarded in the film industry for his unique perspective. "He really emphasized landscape through the physical world. Other filmmakers were very influenced by that," said Schwartz. "He had a very modern sensibility." His work was deeply rooted in post-World War II neorealism, popularized by Italian filmmakers from his time. MESLEDGER,

Apr. 5-11,

, 2012

MESLEDGER.COM

Antonioni put emphasis on the use of space and locations in his films.

The museum was able to get hold of the undistributed films through a partnership with Cinecitta in Rome, the studio home of Italian cinema and the Italian Cultural Institute, Queens College's European Languages and Literature department and the college's film studies program will be hosting "The Gaze Elsewhere: A Michelangelo Antonioni Centenary," a symposium on his works featuring a panel of professors from universities around the Northeast on Thursday, April 5, at 12:30 p.m.

### Interwoven

#### Continued from Page 25

includes a series of lectures and seminars by scholars, as well as exhibitions, art installations, and music and dance performances, offering a wide range of events and exhibits that touch on the nation's history from antiquity to modern times.

In October, Nobel Prize winning novelist Orham Pamuk discussed his writing on life in Turkey as well as the challenges of translating from Turkish to English. On April 18, art historian Walter Denny will discuss the art of Ottoman Istanbul and "Creating a Brand in the Sixteenth Century." In mid-April, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center will present playwright Ozen Yula's "For Rent," a play about the criminal underworld of modern-day Istanbul.

A full calendar of "Year of Turkey" events can be found at www.qc.cuny.edu/ academics/globaled/yearofturkey.

The partnership with the Flushing Town Hall allows the Godwin-Ternbach to show off its extensive collection as it undergoes a renovation. The Queens College museum will reopen in the fall.

"We are trying to partner with more local art institutions and get more audiences involved," said Winter. "It's a wonderful venue and a way to reach out further to draw in more audiences to the benefit of both of us."



The Flushing Town Hall exhibit, "Interwoven Worlds," is part of Queens College's yearlong project "Year of Turkey," which has featured artwork, performance and design exhibitions since September. Photo by Brita Helgesen

#### IF YOU GO

Interwoven Worlds: Exploring Domestic and Nomadic Life in Turkey Through April 29 Flushing Town Hall 137-35 Northern Blvd., Flushing SHEN YUN 神韻晚會 2012

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#### In Laws from Tirana -

Directed by Ioanna Katsarou. Wealthy couple of central Greece look to find a good, wealthy husband for their daughter Liza, who is studying in London. When Liza brings her boyfriend Alfrent home to visit with his parents, a series of comical incidents begins to unfold as new surprises turn every corner. When: Through May 6; Fridays and Saturdays, 8 pm:

#### THEATER CALENDAR Sundays, 4 pm Where: Greek Cultural Center. 26-80 30th St., Astoria Contact: (718) 726-7329; reservations@ greekculturalcenter.org Website: greekculturalcenter.

Rapunzel in the Library -Contributors to "Rapunzel in the Library," a site-specific installation at the Queens College Art Center, will let their

org

hair down at a groundbreaking group show. Performance and reception. When: April 4.6 pm Where: Queens College Arts Center, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing **Contact:** 718-997-3770 Website: gc.cuny.edu/Art Library/artcenter.html

Drama Class - For ages 8-13. Recital in June. Pre-registration and payment required. Beginners and intermediate two separate classes. When: Saturdays, April 7 to Saturday, June 30, 10 am-11 am Where: Poppenhusen Institute.

114-04 14th Rd., College Point Contact: (718) 358-0067

For Rent - Written by Ozen Yula, directed by Handan Ozbilain. When: April 11-21, 7:30 pm Where: LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, 30-20 Thomson Ave., Long Island City **Contact:** (718) 482-5985 Website: www. laguardiaperformingarts.org

**Theater and Dance Children's** 

Workshop – Thalia Spanish Theatre is proud to announce its biligunal theatre movement and dance for children workshop taught by Yloy Ybarra, incorporating Flamenco and Mexican folkloric styles. It will accommodate both Spanish and English-speaking children.

The age group is from 5-12 years old. When: Saturdays, April 14 to June 23. 10 am Where: Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside Contact: (718) 729-3880 Website: www.thaliatheatre.org

Viver Brasil - This awardwinning dance company takes audiences on an inspiring cultural journey through Brazil, featuring a dazzling program of African Orixás (deities). samba celebrations, the Brazilian martial arts/dance form of Capoeira, and Carnaval. The performance showcases exhilarating Afro-Brazilian traditional and contemporary movement, stunning costumes, and pulsating, non-stop

percussion and voice. When: April 14, 2 pm and 8 pm; April 15, 3 pm Where: Queens Theatre. Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona Contact: Box Office 718-760-0064: Administration 718-760-0686 Website: www.queenstheatre. org

#### **100 YEARS OF BROADWAY -**

Neil Berg's widely acclaimed 100 Years of Broadway, a musical revue of Broadway's most celebrated shows features a dazzling cast of five Broadway stars accompanied by an allstar New York band is coming to the Colden Auditorium at Queens College's Kupferberg Center for the Arts. When: April 14, 8 pm

#### ENTERTAINMENT THE ARTS

Continued from Page 26

**Virtuoso Players of Chinese** Folk Music – The virtuoso players of Chinese Folk Music is established with master performers from the Department of Fine Arts of China Ocean University in Qingdao, China. When: April 14, 7 pm Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard. Flushina **Contact:** (718) 463-7700 Website: www.flushingtownhall. ora

Monthly Jazz Jam - The Flushing Town Hall Jazz Jam Series is a unique free jam session right here in Queens. No need to travel into Manhattan, share the stage with our Jazz Jam house band at monthly jams curated by internationally acclaimed trumpeter and Queens College Professor, Michael Mossman. All levels are welcome; just drop by and sign in! (btw, we got the baby grand, drum kit and the house band.) When: May 2 and June 6, 7 pm Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing **Contact:** (718) 463-7700 Website: www.flushingtownhall. org

#### **E**VENTS

Astoria Comedy All Stars - Ben Rosenfeld hosts five different comics each week. Comics range from underground NYC acts to nationally touring headliners.

The show is absolutely free. no cover charge and no drink minimum.

When: Tuesdays, 8 pm Where: On the Rox Lounge. 43-03 Broadway, Astoria Contact: Ben Rosenfeld ben@ bigbencomedy.com Website: www.bigbencomedy. com/blog/archives/astoria comedy\_all\_stars/

#### First Sundays for Families

- The Queens Museum of Art and MetLife Foundation invite families of all ages to an exciting array of interactive dance, art and music workshops. When: First Sunday of each month, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Cost: Free Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing

Meadows Corona Park Contact: (718) 592-9700

#### GALLERIES & **E**XHIBITS

**Open House and Painting Demo** – Painting instructor Shawn Sullivan will host. When: April 5, 7 pm Where: National Art League, 44-21 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston Contact: (718) 428-1859 Website: www. nationalartleague.org

Collage in Context - Edwin G. Cadiz, a native New Yorker with roots in Puerto Rico, presents colorful canvases and intricate collages. This exhibition shows the visual memory of multiple influences.

When: Through April 30

Where: Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center, 100-01 Northern Boulevard, Corona Contact: (718) 651-1100 Website: artist-unlimited.com

#### Ralph Weiss Photographs -

Working only in black and white, Weiss uses vintage camera and darkroom equipment that is painstakingly maintained. Weiss' images test the edges of light and most of his prints require hours in the darkroom. The exhibition of works produced since the 1990s, drawn from a private collection, focuses on images of ice, water and sea plants. Reception March 24 from 2-4 pm. When: Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays through April 22, 1 pm Where: Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing Contact: (718) 359-6227 Website: www.vomuseum.org

#### In Perpetuum/Forever II –

The second of a free two-part exhibition on the evolution of art will be on view. "In Perpetuum/Forever II" will show how one artist's work - that of Anne Sherwood Pundyk influences the creations of other artists, writers, musicians and dancers. This collaborative residency will culminate on April 4 with a performance and presentation of the artists' works.

When: Through April 24 Where: Queens College Arts Center, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Contact: (718) 997-3770 Website: gc.cuny.edu/art library/artcenter.html





Rapunzel in the Library -Exhibitions of Anne Sherwood Pundvk and others. When: Daily, until Wednesday, April 25 Where: Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing Contact: (718) 997-5000

**Vignettes from The Queens** Project - The photography of Audrey Gottlieb will be on exhibit in the Visitor & Administration Building Gallery of the Queens Botanical Garden. Artist's Talk May 19. When: Through May 19 Where: Queens Botanical

Garden, 43-50 Main Street, Flushing **Contact:** (718) 539-5296 Website: www. queensbotanical.org

#### Film

#### Antonioni Documentaries

- Rare screenings of Michelangelo Antonioni's fourhour film on China and early shorts. The museum series will feature a symposium on April 5 at Queens College and documentary screenings of restored prints from Friday through Sunday at the museum. When: April 5, 10 am-12:30 pm; April 6, 7 pm; April 7 and 8, 2 pm and 5 pm

Where: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria **Contact:** (718) 777-6888 Website: www.movingimage.us

A Night to Remember - The Titanic disaster is depicted in straightforward fashion without the addition of fictional subplots. When: April 14, 1 pm

Where: Greater Astoria Historical Society, 35-20 Broadway, 4th Floor, Astoria Contact: 718-278-0700 Website: www.astorialic.org

**Observance of Immigrant** Heritage in New York City - Directed by Amor Hakkar.

After escaping Iran, where their relationship would mean a death sentence, middle-aged lovers Hassan and Mohsen find themselves at a smalltown station in France waiting for a train to Paris. Sitting apart to avoid unwanted police attention, Mohsen, a linguist who speaks perfect French, soon strikes up a lively conversation with Yolande, an older well-groomed widow, traveling alone. Finding his companionship stimulating, Yolande decides, on the spur of the moment, to offer Mohsen the opportunity of some daylabor work in her apartment. In need of the extra income, Hassan and Mohsen break short their journey and hole up in a cheap hotel, around the corner

from Yolande. When: April 15

Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona **Contact:** 718.592.9700: Website: www.queensmuseum. ora

#### DANCE

Theater and Dance Children's Workshop – Thalia Spanish Theatre is proud to announce its biligunal theatre movement and dance for children workshop taught by Yloy Ybarra, incorporating Flamenco and Mexican folkloric styles. It will accommodate both Spanish and English-speaking children. The age group is from 5-12

vears old. When: Saturdays, April 14 to June 23, 10 am Where: Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside

Contact: (718) 729-3880 Website: www.thaliatheatre.org

#### Free Line Dance Lessons

- Free line dance lessons given by professional dance instructor, Bernardo, every Monday. When: Mondays, 1 pm Cost: Free Where: Pomonok Senior Center,

67-09 Kissena Boulevard, Flushina **Contact:** Jennifer Buljan (718) 591-3377

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TimesLedger, Apr. 5-11, 2012

TIMESLEDGER.COM

## Howard Beach man mourned by neighbors

#### BY STEVE MOSCO

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TIMESLEDGER, APR. 5-11, 2012

She's a mother surviving minute to minute.

Zena Basin laid her son Joshua to rest last Thursday, less than one week after he was struck and killed by a subway train following what police said was a platform tussle with a Westchester man.

Now the Howard Beach woman faces a future without her only son while family and friends give her the strength she needs to cope.

"I've gotten to the point where I just shut everything off," said Zena Basin. "The outpouring of support from the community has been incredible, but there are times when I can't even go outside and face the world."

Joshua Basin, 20, was killed following a fight with Ryan Beauchamp, 33, March 23 in the Bedford Avenue L train station, according to the criminal complaint filed by the Brooklyn district attorney's office. After Beauchamp initiated an altercation on the train, he and Basin fought onto the platform and the two fell onto the tracks. But Basin was not able to escape before being struck by the train, the complaint said.

Zena Basin struggled to hold back tears as she remembered her son's caring nature and penchant for writing poems, stories and lyrics. She said he was a talented and kind soul who never thought twice about going out of his way to help a friend or family member in need, recalling how his friends would call him "the kid with the golden heart."

"If a friend called him at 2 a.m. with a problem, Josh would be out the door," she said. "That's just the way he was."



Zena Basin, Joshua Basin's mother, is helped into a limo following her son's funeral. Photo by Christina Santucci

The friends and family he cared for gathered at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, 157-10 83rd St., in Howard Beach to say their final farewells to the La-Guardia Community College student. With many mourners clutching tissues, one friend read a letter he wrote to Joshua Basin and recalled his friend's dreams of hitting it big.

"The moments we

shared were priceless," the friend said. "When we spoke about getting famous, you made me realize that it was important to keep some of the same people around you if we made it, just so we could remain balanced and not lose touch with our roots. The biggest thing I learned from you was to be myself and live every day, every moment, like it was my last."

Even after Joshua's last moment has passed, his mother is still finding notes the young man scribbled on napkins and scrap pieces of paper. She said those fragments of his musings will continue to keep her son's memory alive and his presence in her house.

"I still see him sometimes. He used to come into the house and flip his hat down. I expect to see that and I expect to see him," she said. "He was a joker and always kidding around. If I had a problem, he would make fun of things just to make me laugh."

According to the Brooklyn district attorney's office, the suspect charged in the fight that led to Basin's death faces two counts of attempted assault, harassment and disorderly conduct — all misdemeanors.

Beauchamp was arrested on March 27 and his case is now being weighed by a Brooklyn grand jury.

In order to survive, Zena Basin said she will focus on caring for Joshua's grandmother, Mary, who recently suffered a stroke.

"Sometimes I can't even cry because I don't have any more tears," she said. "But I have to be strong. For my mother and for my son."



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## Archers flock to Alley Pond

The Parks Department held an archery workshop at Alley Pond Park. (Clockwise from top I.) Jermain Sylva aims his bow; an arrow lies in the grass; Racquel Chariah (front) uses all of her strength; a participant puts on an archery glove; Allison Foley-Graham tests her aim; Sandeep Junnarkar gets some help from his daughters Krithi Ram-Junnarkar (I.) and Sulekha Ram-Junnarkar in pulling out arrows that hit the target; Luke Chariah of Bellerose takes aim; Christian Chamberlain of College Point receives pointers from Ranger Marc Sanchez; and Stuart Chariah concentrates.

















#### FOCUS ON QUEENS Photos by Dee Richard

#### DAN HALLORAN'S CANDIDACY ANNOUNCEMENT IN FLUSHING'S BOWNE PARK

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2 Cuomo, Tom DiNapoli and Vallone Sr.



3 Leonard and Wendy D'Amico, Cuomo and Vallone Sr.



4 Gary Ackerman and Mario Cuomo



5 Bill Thompson, Mark Murray and Jessica Schoenholtz



6 Costa Constantinides, Karen Koslowitz and Edward Horn



7 Peter Vallone Sr., Kathleen Rice and Perry Vallone



8 Gary Ackerman, Mario Cuomo adn Anthony Lemma



9 Tom DiNapoli and Walter McCafferty



10 Moustafa El Sheik, guest and Mayor Michael Bloomberg



11 The Callahans: Elizabeth, Charles IV, Charles III and Charles II



12 Protesters David Perkins and Ruth Santana outside the Hyatt

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## FOCUS ON HEALTH EARLY SIGNS OF CANCER

Cancer is a disease so complex that even the most veteran of cancer researchers cannot fully explain the disease. Progress toward the diagnosis and treatment of cancer continues to be made, but there's still no telling if an individual will or won't get this potentially deadly disease.

One of the many things the medical community can say with certainty regarding cancer is that treatment is most effective when the cancer is found early. Melanoma skin cancer, for instance, can be easily removed if it's detected early and has not grown into the skin. In fact, the five-year survival rate, which indicates the percentage of people who live at least five years after diagnosis, for those whose melanoma skin cancer is detected early enough to remove the melanoma is nearly 100 percent. However, if that melanoma has already spread to other parts of the body by the time it's detected, the five-year survival rate is below 20 percent.

While the disparity between survival rates is not as severe for all cancers as it is for melanoma skin cancers, early detection is still imperative when it comes to beating cancer. Part of the reason cancer is not always detected early is that it doesn't always make its presence felt until it has already reached an advanced stage. Pancreatic cancer, for instance, does not usually cause any noticeable symptoms in its early stages. Instead, the first noticeable signs of pancreatic cancer can be back or belly pain. At this point, the cells in the pancreas have grown and begun to press on nearby nerves and organs. At this time the cancer is typically at an advanced stage.

Still, knowing the signs and symptoms of cancer is a great way for people to catch the disease early, when it's most treatable. Though the following signs and symptoms are not always indicative of cancer, their presence should be enough for adults to consult their physicians.

•Fatigue: Extreme tiredness that does not improve even with ample rest could be a sign that cancer is growing. In certain cancers, including leukemia, this happens in the early stages. In addition, some colon or stomach cancers cause blood loss, which can result in fatigue.

•**Pain:** Early on, bone cancers or testicular cancer often manifest themselves through pain. Back pain can be a symptom of ovarian cancer or cancer of the colon or rectum. Unfortunately, when pain is a result of cancer, the cancer has already begun to metastasize.

•Unexplained weight loss: One of the first signs of cancer might be the unexplained loss of 10 pounds or more. This is most common with cancers of the pancreas, stomach, esophagus, or lung.

•Skin changes: Cancers of the skin and other cancers can cause certain changes in the skin. Jaundice, when the skin and eyes turn a yellowish color, is one such change. The skin can also redden, itch or darken, a condition known as hyperpigmentation. Excessive hair growth on the skin is another skin change that might indicate the presence of cancer.

•Fever: A common side effect of cancer, fever most often happens after the cancer has metastasized. Cancers that effect the immune system often cause fever, as the body finds it more difficult to fight infection. In certain blood cancers, including leukemia or lymphoma, fever is an early sign of cancer.

Should any of the aforementioned signs or symptoms appear, you should consult their physicians immediately.

### Reduce cancer risk by living healthier, eating smarter

Millions of people have had their lives touched by cancer. Whether dealing with their own diagnosis or that of a loved one, people often wonder what, if anything, they can do or could have done to prevent cancer from becoming a part of their lives.

While cancer risk depends on a host of factors, some of which are beyond an individual's control, there are certain preventative measures people can take to reduce their risk of cancer.

•Stop smoking. In the United States, the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention notes that smoking causes 90 percent of lung cancer deaths in men and nearly 80 percent in women. However, within 10 years of quitting, an ex-smoker's risk of dying from lung cancer is cut in half, while the risk for other cancers, including cancers of the mouth, throat, larynx, and cervix, decreases as well.

•Reduce alcohol consumption. In a study examining the relationship between cancer and alcohol consumption, researchers working with the World Health Organization found that daily consumption of roughly less than two fluid ounces of alcohol doubles or triples the risk for mouth, voice box, and throat cancers compared with the risk in nondrinkers. Additional studies have shown a link between alcohol consumption and cancers of the liver and colon. What's more, no fewer than 100 studies have found an increased risk of breast cancer with increasing alcohol intake. Men and women should consult their physicians about what constitutes a healthy consumption of alcohol.

•Be safe in the sun. Though a deep tan might look good, individuals must emphasize protecting their skin from the sun. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the U.S., and exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays plays a significant role in the development of skin cancer. When going out in the sun, apply sunscreen with a minimum sun protection factor of 15; wear loose fitting clothing and a protective hat, as many skin cancers happen on the face and neck; and always wear sunglasses, preferably those

that provide UVA and UVB protection.

•Maintain a healthy weight. Being overweight or obese brings forth a host of potentially deadly side effects, not the least of which is increasing a person's risk for cancer. A report from the National Institutes of Health that examined being overweight and obesity in men and women found that carrying excessive weight substantially increases an adult's risk of getting breast, colorectal, endometrial (uterine), and prostate cancers.
# S ON HEALTH Wilms' tumor of the kidney a

The word "cancer" is used to refer to a group of more than 100 diseases. Because of that, it can be hard to keep track of all the different types of cancers, and some are inevitably bound to gain more attention or headlines than others.

One type of cancer that does not garner many headlines is Wilms' tumor, the most common form of kidney cancer in children. Roughly 500 new cases of Wilms' tumor are diagnosed in the U.S. each year. It is extremely rare among adults.

Despite its status as the most common form of kidney cancer in children. Wilms' tumor has no known cause. The Canadian Cancer Society notes that 90 percent of Wilms' tumor cases develop sporadically and have no identifiable risk factors. While researchers have yet to link a specific cause to Wilms' tumor, they have

extensively studied the formation of the kidneys in a baby and feel that, when something goes wrong during that formation — including cells not maturing during kidnev formation — Wilms' tumor can result. These cells instead stay like fetal cells,

and still be there after the baby is born. While these fetal cells often mature by the time a child becomes a toddler, sometimes they never mature and begin to grow out of control, resulting in a Wilms' tumor.

The symptoms of Wilms' tumor can mimic other conditions, meaning the presence of any of the following symptoms does not



which can cluster

necessarily mean a child has kidney cancer. Instead. should any of these symptoms appear, parents should take their child to a physician immediately. Painless lump in the abdomen • Fever •Blood in the urine •Diarrhea

- Swelling of the abdomen
- •Pain in the abdomen
- •High blood pressure

·Changes to digestion, including loss of appetite, upset stomach, nausea, and vomiting

•The appearance of large or distended veins across the abdomen

Because the cause of Wilms' tumor remains a mystery, the risk factors are difficult to pinpoint. But many of the known risk factors are hereditary. A child may inherit an abnormal gene from a parent, increasing the child's risk of Wilms' tumor, but not necessarily guaranteeing the tumor will develop. In fact, the American Cancer Society notes that only a small number of children with Wilms' tumor have a relative with the same cancer. The American Cancer Society also notes that Wilms' tumor is slightly more common among girls and African Americans, though the reasons for that are unknown.

Wilms' tumor has also been linked to children with certain birth defects. Roughly 10 percent of children with Wilms' tumor have a birth defect, most of which occur in syndromes, or groups of symptoms or problems that are commonly linked to certain changes in genes. In certain syndromes, part or even all of a gene might be missing, and these missing or abnormal genes can cause Wilms' tumor. Among the birth defects linked to Wilms' tumor are:

-Annual: 1 mis is a rare con-dition in which the iris of the eye, •Aniridia: This is a rare conwhich gives the eye its color and controls the amount of light entering the eye, does not form completely.

•Hemihypertrophy: An overgrowth syndrome, hemihypertrophy occurs when one side of the body grows larger than the other.

•Hypospadias: This occurs in males when the urinary opening is not at the tip of the penis but on the underside instead.

•Undescended testicles: A condition that occurs when one or both testicles do not descend into the scrotum.



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# Business

# Bayside nursing agency keeps city healthy

Specialty Professional Services helps recruit staff for hospitals throughout metropolitan area

#### BY PHIL CORSO

They've become known to their clients as "the Bayside company," and at the beginning of their 20th year, nursing agency Specialty Professional Services founder Marianne Hedberg Allyn said they're

still kicking.

One step into the group's office, at 218-14 Northern Blvd., is enough to understand how engaging Specialty is, both in and out of the office. Employees work in an open room instead of being separated from each other by offices or cubicles. The setup makes room for the familylike atmosphere that Hedberg Allyn said made their services unique.

"It's very mom-andpop-like," Hedberg Allyn said. "The culture is very good here, and it isn't a cor-

#### porate environment."

Specialty Professional Services is a Bayside-based nursing agency that works to staff hospitals in the metropolitan area with high-quality nurses. They recruit nurses through advertising and networking and provide them with work throughout the five boroughs and parts of Connecticut and New Jersey.

When hospitals in the area, particularly Queens, need nurses, Hedberg Allyn said she is the one they call. And her experience in the field means she can speak in a language that her clients understand, Hedberg Allyn said.

Before starting Specialty Professional Services, Hedberg Allyn worked as a staff nurse at Columbia Presbyterian and Bellevue hospitals in Manhattan and also worked for a cur-



Specialty Professional Services Founder Marianne Hedberg Allyn (c.) leads the Bayside nursing agency into its 20th year with much of the same longtime staffers she grew the company with.

rent competitor in staffing.

"I still try to fight for the nurse," Hedberg Allyn said. "I've seen the bad side of this business and I want-

ed to do it better." Hedberg Allyn said that aside from being a locally based group, her company's higher standards

**BUSINESS CALENDAR** 

Photo by Christina Santucci that set it apart from competitors, most of which operated out of Manhattan.

Vasken Aznavorian, director of business development, said Specialty provided local nurses with opportunities they would not get at other nursing agencies. "They work with us because we offer them flexibility," Aznavorian said.

Nurses looking for work apply to Specialty and are subject to a screening process that the company cites as evidence of its higher-standard approach.

Over time, Hedberg Allyn said Specialty's identity has grown into a Baysidedriven staffing agency. She said hospitals would often refer to them as "the Bayside company" while doing business with them.

"The Bayside identity had a life of its own," Hedberg Allyn said. "We're like a Queens employer and give local nurses more options when they're looking for work."

Aznavorian said the company's longtime staffers spoke of the friendly atmosphere that keeps nurses coming back. Senior Staffing Coordinator Peggy Iacovone lives in Bayside Hills and started with Specialty about 15 years ago. She said it is a job she has enjoyed waking up for each morning.

"They've always been flexible," Iacovone said. "It's a casual environment that helps us find the best quality nurses for hospitals throughout the city."

Hedberg Allyn said her staff worked as one family unit and fostered lengthy tenures with the company.

"I'm blessed to have people with tremendous longevity here," Hedberg Allyn said. "We have staffers with 15-plus years here."

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

#### Youth Tech Initiative Program -

Increase your employability. Free advanced training in Microsoft Word for anyone ages 16-24. Participants will have the opportunity to take the Microsoft Office Specialist exam at the end of training to become Microsoft Certified. **When:** Tuesdays, April 3 to Tuesday, May 22, 6 pm-8 pm **Where:** The Daughters of Isis Foundation Office, 148-14 Liberty Ave., Jamaica **Contact:** (917) 292-5176; Ioliver24@ verizon.net **Website:** luecorp.tripod.com

**IMTI Open House** – Learn about evening training certification classes in electrical technician, HVAC technician, plumbing technician and electronics systems technician careers, including solar. School tours, financial aid information will be available. When: April 10, 7 pm; April 17, 7 pm and April 24, 7 pm Where: Con Edison Learning Center, 43-82 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City

#### New Order of the Sons of Italy

Chapter – Opportunity for business people to network. When: April 11, 7:30 pm Where: Msgr. Mahoney Hall, 74th Avenue and Utopia Parkway, Fresh Meadows Contact: (347) 204-8006

#### **Powerful You! Women's Network**

 A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.
When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm
Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40;

includes lunch

Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@ accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009 Website: www.powerfulyou.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: www.bniouterboros.com

#### **FUND-RAISERS**

#### Queens County Conservative Party Annual Spring Cocktail Party – This

year's keynote speaker will be Wendy Long, Conservative Party candidate and leading Republican Party nominee for U.S. Senate. Our honoree will be Congressman Bob Turner in recognition of his service. When: April 12, 7:30 pm Where: Roma View, 160-05 Crossbay Blvd., Howard Beach Contact: (718) 474-3826

Annual Spring Brunch – SAGE honors John Nagel, its director. When: April 15, 1 pm Where: El Coyote Restaurant, 80-18 Northern Blvd., Jackson Heights

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#### 40 Water

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#### Continued from Page 4

Liu said. "The water rates are not only being used to support the water's infrastructure. They're going into the city's coffers."

Although Strickland

Budget

#### Continued from Page 4

we said to the people of New York state that we were going to bring competence, integrity and fiscal discipline back to Albany and make government perform," Cuomo said in a statement.

The budget will also help fund Metropolitan Transportation Authority capital improvements in the city, which includes the East Side Access project.

East Side Access entails a tunnel running from the Sunnyside Yards

vinced our regulators to defer or eliminate more than \$5 billion in unfunded in Sunnyside to Grand Central Terminal, which will serve as the terminus for some Long Island Rail Road trains, giving passengers access to the network

said the DEP still needed to

of subways stemming from that station. Currently, all LIRR trains run into Penn Station.

Borough lawmakers also applauded funds allocated for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage program, which subsidizes medication for Queens senior citizens.

"The budget provides \$30.6 million to support the restoration of co-payment assistance that was eliminated on Jan. 1, 2012," said

lation.

# \$110.

### Seniors

Continued from Page 5

that it had become one of the city's first eight Innovative Senior Centers. These centers have special programming and new technology geared toward better meeting the needs of the communities they serve.

"Seniors today are very different." Bloomberg said. "They are much more mobile. They are much more interested in the world."

In addition to the Flushing center, the other Innovative spot in Queens is SNAP of Eastern Queens. at 80-45 Winchester Blvd. in Bellerose.

As part of the initiative, Selfhelp will be open alternate Sundays, implement a program for managing arthritis, offer wellness

Peninsula

enormous power in bank-

ruptcy. Unfortunately, in

the legal system, the one re-

Continued from Page 9

#### tors. The court has zero responsibility to the patients, the citizens or the community," he said.

Jones did not return a request for comment.

"We will continue to advocate aggressively to further remove costly burdens that put enormous pressure on our 836,000 customers, specifically when such mandates do not achieve significant health benefits for the public."

mandates," Strickland said.

Assemblyman Edward (D-Bayside). Braunstein "This allows EPIC enrollees to pay no more than \$20 as a co-pay when filling a prescription."

Queens residents of any age will also save money after the budget eliminated the sales tax for any clothing purchases under

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) said the budget process was largely smooth, but he would have also liked to see money allocated from the DREAM Act and to investigate the effects hydrofracking could have upstate.

and cognitive wellness pro-

city needs to keep pace with

the evolving needs of the

senior population, which

now stands at 1.4 million

in the city and is expected

to increase by 46 percent

throughout the next 25

more interested in senior

programs," the 70-year-old

the Aging Commissioner

Lillian Barrios-Paoli said

she was grateful for the

ters to be more creative and

you give them a little more

funding, the sky is the lim-

meet with him were made

"As I become older I get

City Department for

"If you allow the cen-

Bloomberg said the

grams.

years.

mayor said.

new initiative.

it," she said.

coaching and have vegetaretarian meals, programs ian meals available in the designed for the South kitchen for the Hindu popu-Asian population, a guest chef program, a coffee club It is also boosting its and more mental health

technological capability not only in health management, but in programs and social activities that visitors to the center can use out of their own homes through Skype, a program that allows people to observe and communicate through live feeds over the Internet.

Stuart Kaplan, chief executive officer of Selfhelp Community Services, said this technology will allow seniors to take classes without coming to the center.

"We know that old adage that you can learn something new every day," he said. "Well, these seniors are doing it."

The Bellerose center's new features include veg-

sponsibility is to the credi-Guterman noted that as the trustee, Jones stands to receive 3 percent of every \$1 million she can recoup for creditors, and he questioned whether her plans to

### Census

Continued from Page 4

that the same group that badly miscounted the numbers in the first place can't find their way to correcting the numbers once it's pointed out to them," he said.

The legislators said now that the challenge has been rejected, the priority is on the federal representa-

### Jet Blue

#### Continued from Page 5

this situation it becomes a little more scary. This guy had this particular event in a place with over a hundred people on the plane."

Osbon's wife. Connve. released a statement thanking the crew and passengers of Flight 191 for their compassionate handling of the situation, adding the

#### Continued from Page 5

Angelo Antoniello said that while the conviction brings his family some sense of closure, the weight of his brother's death still hangs heavily.

"We're just glad this garbage is going away and that's what he is: garbage," he said. "My mom's cried every day for the last few years."

Antoniello said the investigation was still ongoing, and that there were still more suspects who needed to be brought to justice. "We still live in fear. You never know who's going to come knocking on vour door."

The elder Antoniello moved to Queens from Italy more than 40 years ago, and was active in the community as a beneficiary of local

in good faith. State Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Rockaway Beach) said he had not had any luck reaching out to Jones.

"She hasn't returned

tives to bring more money back to the city to make up for the federal aid the state will lose

"We need to provide services for more people with less money," Simotas said.

Looking forward to 2020, the legislators said the Census Bureau should do more outreach, working with neighborhood leaders and raising awareness in immigrant communities

family was focused on Osbon's recovery.

Clayton's family, that while he was clearly distressed, he was not intentionally violent toward anyone," she wrote.

"It is our belief, as

Vivek said he treats many airline industry patients at his Forest Hills office, and has learned that stresses from delays, rude passengers and low wages can add up.

"I was amazed to hear

charities, friends said. The community came out in support of the family with a candlelight vigil soon after the young man's untimely death.

LaCorte and the rest of his crew were eventually arrested, with three of his accomplices pleading guilty to robbery, burglary and conspiracy charges, Brown said.

LaCorte was one of more than 120 reputed Mafia members arrested in January 2011 in one of the largest organized crime busts in the country's history, according to the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan.

LaCorte was convicted of second-degree murder. attempted robberv, attempted burglary and conspiracy, the DA said. He faces 75 years to life when sentenced April 16, the DA said.

of the importance of being counted in the census.

"The only thing we can hope for now is hope that the process 10 years from now is not so badly mishandled as this one was." Gianaris said.

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

how low the salaries can be. I think it was near Rochester, the pilot was earning \$21,000 and he worked as a security guard to make ends meet," he said. "I think there are some pressures in the airline industry that people on the outside don't know about."

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

case has been found guilty following a jury trial of having orchestrated, planned and carried out three separate home robberies, one of which culminated in the untimely death of a young man who bravely went to the aid of his father during one of the robberies," Brown said. "Under the circumstances, the defendant has forfeited his future and can be expected to spend most, if not all, of the rest of his life behind bars."

Vincent Mineo, who conspired with LaCorte to rob Romeo Antoniello, pleaded guilty in February to attempted robbery, burglary and conspiracy and was sentenced to 20 years in prison, the DA said.

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

"The defendant in this

any of my phone calls. Hopefully, we can exert some pressure and someone can hold her feet to the fire," he said, adding Peninsula had submitted its closure plan to state officials. "Nothing

is final until its final."

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

Pizzeria

#### raise rates to cover expenses, particularly debt services. steps were being taken to curb the rising costs.

"In the past year, the DEP has successfully con-

# Sports



Team PSAL's Terrence Samuel drives past Brian Bernardi of the CHSAA. Photo by Denis Gostev

### Catholics skip game versus Public teams

#### **BY ZACH BRAZILLER**

The PSAL all-stars defeated their CHSAA counterparts — well, some of them — and a few other PSAL stars in the first Battle 4 the City.

The showcase, billed by event creator Rickey Rivers as the PSAL against the CHSAA, didn't quite come to fruition as Catholic league officials discouraged their players from competing, but the PSAL's best made the most out of it, cruising to a 110-91 victory at Baruch College in Manhattan.

PathwaysstandoutJordan Washington took home MVP honors after scoring 22 points and throwing down several impressive dunks, rivals-turned-teammates Thaddeus Hall of Thomas Jefferson and Leroy "Truck" Fludd of Boys & Girls combined for 34 points — 18 from Hall and Isaiah Whitehead chipped in 13.

"We would've liked to

play them at full strength," Whitehead said. "Now they can say we didn't really beat them."

The CHSAA did have five representatives in the game: Kerwin Okoro, Daniel Dingle and Myron Hickman from St. Raymond; Brian Bernardi of Xaverian; and Malik Gill of Mount St. Michael. South Shore's Wayne Martin and Boys & Girls' Rashad Andrews and Joel Angus also played for the CHSAA team.

Whitehead said it wouldn't have mattered who showed up. "We still would've

won," he said. "We know each other well, you can see it from the game — we have chemistry."

For Fludd and Hall, the showcase was their second time in as many days playing together. They teamed up in the Mayor's Cup Friday night, though on Saturday they were victorious. The two spent a lot of the season going head to

Continued on Page 43

# **Calhouns meet the mayor**

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Omar Calhoun lives for the big games. In his Christ the King career, Calhoun has won two CHSAA Class AA intersectional titles and a New York State Federation Class AA championship. Last weekend, he was in New Orleans for the All-American Championship Game. And next year, the 6-foot-4 guard will take his game to UConn, which won the national title last year.

Yet last week, Calhoun had butterflies in his stomach inside a basketball arena — and he wasn't even playing.

"I was definitely nervous," the Royals star said. "I didn't know what to expect."

Calhoun and his sister Sierra, Christ the King's girls' basketball star, had front row seats for the Knicks game at Madison Square Garden against the Milwaukee Bucks. Their companion? Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"He's cool," Calhoun said. "He's really down to earth. He's a great guy to be around."

Two weeks ago, CK Coach and athletic director Joe Arbitello got a call from the mayor's office. Bloomberg had seen a recent magazine article written about the Calhouns and was intrigued — not just by their basketball prowess, but their upbringing by parents Omar Sr. and Samara, who were basketball stars themselves.

Bloomberg invited the superstar siblings to the



Mayor Michael Bloomberg (I.) talks with Christ the King basketball star Omar Calhoun before the start of an NBA basketball game between the New York Knicks and the Milwaukee Bucks.

AP Photo/Seth Wenig

Garden to get to know them better. Calhoun called it a huge honor, overwhelmed that the mayor knew who he was and wanted to meet him.

"He just talked to me about basketball, what I wanted to study in college just basic conversation," Calhoun said. "We talked about basketball and life in general."

Calhoun said he's a fan of Amar'e Stoudemire and Carmelo Anthony and

couldn't believe the level of service those who sit in the front row receive. He was somewhat disappointed he didn't get to meet Spike Lee, who wasn't at the game. Bloomberg, Calhoun said, also had some inspirational words.

"Basically he was saving that I should always know what I want to do in life, always try to pursue my dream," Calhoun said.

There has been an incredible level of success in Calhoun's high school career, this season's quarterfinal exit notwithstanding. He's ranked nationally by scouting services and will compete in an All-American game this weekend.

So where does his meeting with Bloomberg rank among the multitude of accomplishments?

"That's definitely high up," Calhoun said. "That the mayor wants to go to a game with me, I didn't expect it at all."

# <sup>42</sup> Hun School's Jackie Mullen chooses Arcadia

#### BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

There was an immediate comfort level for Hun School basketball point guard Jackie Mullen on the Arcadia campus.

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TIMESLEDGER, APR. 5-11, 2012

"It reminded me of Hun," she said. "There were not too many people. There was a small class size. It wouldn't be that hard adjusting."

The Ozone Park native verbally committed to the Division III, Glenside, Pa., school in late March, choosing it over NYIT, Moravian and Juniata. Mullen first saw the school in December and went for an overnight visit over spring break. She was immediately impressed with the school's smaller size and its closeness to home — just two hours.

"I liked the coach," Mullen said. "She was a really cool person [along with] a couple of the girls on the team that I met and the style of play that Arcadia has is going to be a good fit for me."

Arcadia just hired former Centenary College Coach Lorie Khalil, who has a history of building programs, to turn around its team. The Knights went 3-21 and didn't win a Middle Atlantic Conference game. Mullen feels she can excel in Khalil's up-tempo approach and believes she can vie for a starting job.

"This coach is rebuilding the program from scratch," said Mullen, who wants to study business management. "She is trying to get players who are going to be able to fit into her system."

She was a member of Christ the King's 2010 state Federation Class AA title team, transferred to The Hun School as a junior and did a post-grad year at the Princeton, N.J., institution. She transformed her game there from just a pure shooter into a com-



Hun point guard Jackie Mullen will play at Arcadia University next season. Photo courtesy The Hun School

plete point guard with the ability to run a team under Coach Bill Holup. She helped lead Hun to a semifinal berth in the MAPL tournament and lost in the state Prep A final. Both defeats were to Blair Academy.

"It's basically like stepping into a college," Mullen said of her time at Hun. "Academically I am more prepared than I was and athletically I got the extra year."

Mullen has worked with famed basketball trainer Jerry Powell and speed and conditioning coach Britton Kelley twice a week. The 3-mile runs in most workouts have improved her overall conditioning and the quickness of her step.

She feels he is prepared to take her first step onto a college campus and contribute.

"[With] the group of people that were there," Mullen said, "I felt more at home."

# Molloy dethroned by Fontbonne in shocking defeat

#### BY CHRISTOPHER BARCA

Archbishop Molloy did not look like the defending CHSAA state champion when it was upset by Fontbonne last week. Returning to softball championship form was the goal coming into last Thursday's contest against Mary Louis, and that's exactly what the Stanners did.

"We were really psyched to come out and play today and we've been working really hard to get back to where we were last season," Molloy star shortstop Maria Palmeri said. "It seems like we're back and we are going to try our hardest to repeat — it's what we want, after all."

Molloy took its first step toward a second straight championship by dismantling Mary Louis 10-0 in five innings via the run rule, at Cunningham Park in Fresh Meadows. Palmeri led the hot-hitting Stanners with three runs batted in on three hits, falling a home run shy of the cycle, while Victoria Goldbach excelled on the mound, striking out seven and only surrendering three hits over five innings.

"I just really wanted to win today after losing the other day," Goldbach said. "I think we really got into a groove all around and it was contagious."

"Tori was really good today, she was on her game," Palmeri added. "I think we can expect games like this from her a lot going forward."

Goldbach dominated the Mary Louis lineup from top to bottom right from the first pitch. She didn't allow a base runner through the first three innings and only allowed two runners to reach second base the entire game. Using an effective mix of her fast ball and change-up, she had Mary Louis off balance all afternoon, something Molloy Coach Maureen Rosenbaum was elated to see.

"She came out really confident and strong, she used all of her pitches very well, too," Rosenbaum said. "It was a good challenge



Archbishop Molloy's Victoria Goldbach tossed a three-hitter against Mary Louis. Photo by Denis Gostev

for her, and going forward I would like to see doubledigit strikeout games from

her." By the end of the fourth inning, the Molloy offense had already wrapped up its first win of the season, as it plated seven runs, bringing up 11 hitters to the plate in total. Three walks issued by Mary Louis pitcher Nicole Hubert loaded the bases for leadoff hitter Theresa Conway, who smashed a single that got by right fielder Gabby Malave, leading to three runners crossing the plate.

A Palmeri RBI triple followed by a run-scoring sacrifice fly from Taylor Moss and an RBI double from Fallon McCarthy put the game well out of reach and showed that the surprising loss to Fontbonne was an aberration instead of a trend.

"We got everything together today, offensively and defensively," Rosenbaum said. "Winning big like this will hopefully get us in motion and gives us confidence moving forward."

Mary Louis, on the other hand, has suffered two tough losses to begin its season, with the first being a 4-2 loss to St. Francis Prep in nine innings March 27. Despite the less-than-ideal start to the 2012 campaign, Coach Ginny Peiser isn't worried going forward.

"Goldbach kept us off balance all day, and it's another tough loss mentally, but I definitely think we can bounce back," she said. "We're stuck in neutral right now, but we always believe we can end up on top at the end of the season."

Meanwhile, Molloy is looking to put its season into fifth gear, and Goldbach is hoping that the dominant victory is just the first of many.

"It's better to lose in March than in May, so hopefully we got our tough loss out of the way early already," she said. "If everyone does their job like they did today, I think we can repeat."

# Volleyball program big at small Astoria school

#### **BY MARC RAIMONDI**

The little-team-thatcould storyline is over.

Academy of American Studies might be a tiny school, but it has grown into a boys' volleyball powerhouse after a trip to the PSAL championship match and has some of the best players in the city, many of whom competed on the club level in the offseason.

"We know we're good," Coach Josh Yang said. "We have to grasp that hunger again. I think they feel like they're gonna go back to it. Last year we rode the underdog story and we really were. But now we have, like, superstars on the team. I don't want that to go to their head either."

As good of a season as the Eagles had in 2011, they fell short of their goal: the program's first city title. Yang has hammered that point home early and hopes it's getting through to his players.

"As good as last year was, it could be better," the coach said. "I hope they don't get complacent. I don't want it to be a what-couldhave-been season. All the skills are there."

Indeed, Academy of American Studies is arguably the favorite to win it all this year. The Eagles return the most dynamic outside hitter in New York City, junior Michal Kasza, and 6-foot-6 junior Conrad Zajkowski will move into the middle this year from the right side.

The talent doesn't end there, either. Kasza's sophomore brother Piotr is the team's second-year starting setter and has gained polish. Ricky Myint was an all-city caliber libero last year, but has moved over — for the time being - to the other outside hitter spot. Yang said he could return to libero if he isn't completely pleased with the team's defense.

All four of those players competed over the winter with the new AllStarr boys club team. None of them, though, have the experience of being a leader. That was the job of graduated senior Nino Hot in 2011. Michal Kasza and Myint are quiet by nature.

"We had so much to

prove last year," Yang said. "Nino was such a good leader. This year we're searching for leadership and just little things at the beginning of the season. Every vear is a new year. We have to go through the beginning. Last year was special for us just because of the team camaraderie."

Academy of American Studies will also be looking to junior Denis Begzic to take over the opposite role. As good as the Eagles were last year, and have a chance to be this season, Myint is still the only regular senior on the roster.

The future is bright at the small Long Island City school, but Yang is only worried about the present. Because of the size of Academv of American Studies and the team's new high profile, his players, he said, have taken on celebrity personas among classmates. He doesn't want that to affect the goal: a city title.

"It's at a different level," Yang said. "I think they kind of understand that. I hope they understand how good they are and not take it for granted."

## Colleges still sweet on Lewis following post-season benching

#### **BY ZACH BRAZILLER**

Isaiah Lewis' benching hasn't scared off college coaches

The talented junior basketball guard said he has heard from several schools since Christ the King's season ended prematurely with him on the bench in the CHSAA Class AA intersectional quarterfinals, and he cut his list down to five Monday. Lewis lists Georgia Tech, Louisville, Kansas, Memphis and Florida State, he said.

The 6-foot-3 junior won't set up visits until sometime in June or July, he said, and will "most likely" be playing AAU again

### Catholics

Continued from Page 41

head — Boys High and Jefferson met four times, including the PSAL Class AA finals — and talking trash through the media to one another.

"We laughed with each other about it," Hall said. "We did it to promote the games. He's fun to play with. All you have to do is lob the ball up and he'll go and get it."

Fludd wins dunk contest, Okoro 3-point shootout: Fludd's onehanded dunk over a rack of balls won him the slam



Christ the King's Isaiah Lewis has narrowed his college list down to Georgia Tech. Louisville. Kansas. Memphis and Florida State.

Photo by Denis Gostev with Albany City Rocks, he said

Lewis was benched for the city playoffs by Christ

dunk contest over South

Shore's Shamiek Sheppard

and Wayne Martin and

Stanley Cespedes of Satel-

the 3-point shootout with a

score of 10, besting Bernar-

di, Boys High's Courtney

Solomon and Thomas Jef-

ferson's Jaquan "Son Son"

stars in underclassmen

game: Boys & Girls fresh-

man Jamie Killings put

up game-highs of 30 points

and 10 rebounds to lead

the blue team to an 82-58

win in the underclassmen

**Boys High's Killings** 

Kerwin Okoro won

lite Academy.

Lynch.

game. Lincoln's Kwame Morton led the white team with 16 points and Thomas Jefferson's Patrick "Stink" Brown had 14.

the King Coach Joe Arbi-

ing well, saying it was a

"valuable lesson." At the

should.

time, Lewis said it had to do with him getting "over-emotional" on the floor and not playing as a point guard

As for college, Lewis

"I don't want to rush

was close to picking a

school back in late Decem-

ber, but opted to open up his

into a bad situation." he said

then. "I'm going to take my

time with it. If I'm commit-

ted to a school, I want to be

committed to that school."

recruiting and wait.

tello for what he termed "a Are coach's decision" that had on thing to do with grades. Lewis accepted the benching well, saying it was a

Along with fellow talented freshman Marvin Prochet, Killings spent most of his freshmen year on the bench watching his older teammates win a program-record third straight city title and first New York State Federation Class AA crown.

"We got a chance to practice and play with the varsity, so we know what to do next year," he said. "It helped get me stronger and learn how to play on the varsity level."

Academy of American Studies Coach Josh Yang is hoping last year's high-profile season doesn't get to his players' heads. Photo by Denis Gostev

#### Bayside Bulldogs open baseball season strong

The Bayside Bulldogs 13U team started their season Sunday in convincing fashion with a doubleheader sweep of the Long Island Rebels in National Junior Baseball League play.

Rocco Odell and Nick Watts led the way with three hits and three RBIs each on the day while Christian Cardenas reached base six times.

Jonathon Lowe was the winning pitcher in Game 1, allowing one unearned run in the 6-3 victory.

In Game 2, Chris Athens captured the win throwing five innings of shutout ball followed by strong relief efforts by both Vincent Montalbano and John Yianalis.

In their second year of existence, the Bulldogs, coached by John Smith and John Zucchi, look to follow their inaugural season championship in the Long Island Baseball Association with similar results in NJBL, solidifying their place as one of the city's elite travel baseball organizations.

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### C48 TL TIMESLEDGER.COM Improving TIMESLEDGER, APR. 5-11, 2012 listening skills METRO CREATIVE Continued from last week. •Sequencing material is important, so notes should be dated and numbered: If references are made to chapters that

correlate to the textbook, jot those down so they can strengthen the notes.

· Make sure you information has been made clear: Charles Kettering, an American engineer and inventor, said, "There is a great difference between knowing a thing and understanding it." When jotting down notes, a student who discovers that something seems unclear can ask for clarification or make a point to research that component further.

•Stay organized: Students should consider writing notes on one side of the page so that they can each be laid out side-by-side. Looseleaf paper works well. or notes can be typed and printed out.

 Abbreviate:Studentsshoulddevelop their own method of abbreviations and symbols to cut down on the amount of writing needed. Notes needn't be in full sentences; phrases are equally effective.

•Know what notes to take: If a professor writes something on a chalkboard, puts text up on a projector or repeats something several times, it should definitely be written down. There is a good chance that information will be on the test.

•Work with a team: Students may want to review note-taking strategies with one another. Maybe there is a successful method employed by one student that he or she can share with classmates.

•Wash, rinse, repeat: Rewriting or typing notes helps ingrain the information in the brain more than simply rereading it.

Note-taking is an important skill many students should make the effort to learn. Improved test scores can lead to a higher grade point average. This, in turn, can help with success in school and beyond.

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**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

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