Testimony Alleges
Kelly Kidnapped
Victims For Sex
Former Radio Intern Seeking
Interview, Imprisoned, Raped

UNCOUNTABLE VICTIMS'

By Tom Hays
Associated Press

She was an unsuspecting radio sta-
tion intern in 2003 when she pursued
what she thought would be a career-
making interview with a R&B superstar — R. Kelly.

Instead, she had a horrific experience
while locked in a darkened room for days, she’s now testified years later in lurid detail. She said she still lives
with a strong belief she was drugged
and violated by Kelly while she was un-
conscious.

“I was sexually assaulted,” the woman
told jurors on Thursday at Kelly’s sex-
trafficking trial in Brooklyn Federal Court. “It wasn’t something I invited.”

The witness, who testified without
using her real name, became the latest
in a string of accusers to take the witness
stand against Kelly since the trial began
in New York City on Aug. 18.

Kelly, 54, has repeatedly denied ac-
cusations that he led a criminal enter-
pise that sexually exploited women,
girls and even boys during a 30-year
career highlighted by his anthem “I
Believe I Can Fly.” His lawyers have
portrayed his accusers as groupies who
were seduced by his fame.

Kelly has pleaded not guilty to
three federal counts of sex trafficking
and one count of sex trafficking
involving a minor. He faces a possible
life sentence if convicted.

The trial, overseen by U.S. District
Judge Ann M. Donnelly, is expected to
last several weeks. Closing arguments
are scheduled for Friday.

In this courtroom sketch, singer R. Kelly, right, listens in federal court
with his attorney Doug Anton, left, during his arraignment, Aug. 2, 2019
in Brooklyn Federal Court.

These two people showed exactly what they think of the Gowanus re-
Velázquez, left, addresses a crowd of people who are critical of the
Gowanus rezoning plan’s environmental impact statement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF AVAILABLE: Emergency Flood Relief
assistance and resources for residents and businesses will be provided this
Sunday, September 12, at Flatbush Development Corporation, at 1616
Newkirk Ave. in Ditmas Park (just east of the Newkirk Plaza B & Q train sta-
tion). Guidance on-site, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., includes applying for FEMA
Disaster Assistance and learning how to file a claim with the Office of the
NYC Comptroller.

IDA DISASTER ASSISTANCE: Brooklyn Community Board 6, serving
Red Hook/Carroll Gardens and Gowanus, wants to make sure that local
residents have access to disaster assistance following last week’s onslaught of
Hurricane Ida. PS 13 at 71 Sullivan St. is serving as an Ida Recovery Service
Center for Brooklyn from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Affected residents can also dial 311 for assistance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Continued from page 1

However, last month, the federal Environmental Protection Agency sent a letter to Marisa Lagos, director of the NYC Department of City Planning, complaining about inconsistencies in stormwater calculations and asking that major sections of the EIS be redone according to EPA directives. The EPA has a say in the development process because the heavily polluted Gowanus Canal, at the center of the neighborhood, is a federal Superfund site.

Velázquez and Simon sent a letter on Sept. 8th to Mayor Bill de Blasio that cites the EPA’s letter and raises several concerns over the City’s DEIS for Gowanus rezoning.

Velázquez said in a statement, “As I have said in the past, New York City’s infrastructure is not where it needs to be to withstand climate change. Tragically, we saw this again last week with Ida. When we look to the future, the city’s environmental impact statement is wrought with inconsistencies and contradictions, as pointed out by EPA and many groups.

“That’s why Assemblymember Simon and I are asking the city to revisit their draft environmental impact statement when it comes to the rezoning of Gowanus,” she said.

Assemblymember Simon said, “I join Congressmember Nydia Velázquez and the community in urging the city to revise the Gowanus rezoning DEIS to address the significant inconsistencies and contradictions identified by the EPA. It is mind-boggling that the city thought it could ignore the EPA’s recommendations, and are apparently planning to issue a final EIS this week, without correcting the contradictions and using updated modeling, instead of data from 2008.”

Similarly, the Sept. 8 letter from the two officials, said in part, “Based on the current DEIS (draft environmental impact statement), it is abundantly clear that the city cannot assume that sewer overflows won’t be increased and therefore compre- mised the cleanup and health of the canal and local residents and workers. They need to take the right step before it proceeds and that means a full and responsible cleanup instead of non-compli-

Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, whose district stretches from DUMBO to Park Slope.

Photo by Susannah Paupiette

Hochul Names Brooklyn Church Historic Treasure

By Bobby Caina Calvan

Associated Press

The remains of two people who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center were positively identified this week, as officials continued the difficult and heart-wrenching task of returning victims to their families.

The announcement came days after a New York police officer was a victim of an attack that killed nearly 3,000 people when hijacked commercial jets flew into the twin towers, struck the Pentagon and crashed into a Pennsylvania mountainside.

No matter how much time passes since September 11, 2001, we will never forget, and we pledge to use all the tools at our disposal to make sure all those who were lost can be reunited with their families,” said Dr. Barbara A. Sampson, the chief medical examiner of the City of New York.

Technicians in the medical examiner’s office have been working for years to match thousands of bits of body debris recovered from the Trade Center rubble with known victims, but haven’t been able to extract usable DNA in many cases.

In this Friday Dec. 21, 2001, file photo, recovery and cleanup workers and their machinery continue to clear the site of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York’s World Trade Center.

20 years after 9/11, work of identifying remains continues

The witness claimed two days passed before she was finally given something to eat — Chinese takeout and a soda. After only a few bites and sips from her meal, she passed out on a couch, she said.

She awoke to find that someone had taken off all her clothes and felt “wet stuff” between her legs and on her thighs, she said. She also spotted Kelly in the corner pulling up his pants, she said, making clear to her he had assaulted her.

Kelly left the room, saying he would be back soon, she said, and he did. She witnessed him. What felt like another few days had passed before she was given a flight home, she said.

She said on the way out of the studio, an employee warned her to keep her mouth shut about what had happened. The way it was put: “Don’t tell — with Mr. Kelly.”

She took it as a potential threat against her child and family. As he has with other accusers, defense attorney Deveraux Cannick pressed the witness on why it took several years for her to come forward with her accusations. He noted her admission that she’d had a cell phone when she alleged she was locked in the room.

“Did you call 911? After a while in a capsule, according to you, you didn’t call 911?” Deveraux asked on cross-examination.

“That’s correct,” she responded.

Another woman who testified on Thursday was someone who appeared on a sealed to a widely watched documentary series — “Surviving R. Kelly” — that portrayed him as a sexual predator.

She has described having a mu- tual relationship with him but hasn’t accused him of any crimes.

The government instead was seeking to use her to corroborate testimony from other accusers that Kelly used spankings and other discipline to make women he was allegedly exploiting stay in line over months or years.

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Jen Hopewell,
Assistant to the Publisher
jdh@brooklyneagle.com
From 9/11 to COVID, conspiracy theories cast a long shadow

By David Klepper

Associated Press

Korey Rowe served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and returned home to the U.S. in 2004 traumatized and disillusioned. His experiences overseas and nagging questions about Sept. 11, 2001 convinced him America’s leaders were lying about what happened that day and the wars that followed.

The result was “Loose Change,” a 2005 documentary produced by Rowe and his childhood friend, Dylan Avery, that popularized the theory that the U.S. government was behind 9/11. One of the first viral hits of the still-young internet, it encouraged millions to question what they were told.

While the attacks united many Americans in grief and anger, “Loose Change” spoke to the disaffected.

“It was the lightning rod that caught the lightning,” Rowe recalls. He had hoped the film would prompt a sober reassessment of the attacks. Rowe doesn’t regret the film, and still questions the events of 9/11, but says he’s deeply troubled by what 9/11 conspiracy theories revealed about the corrosive nature of misinformation on the internet.

Twenty years on, the skepticism and suspicion first revealed by 9/11 conspiracy theories has metastasized, spread by the internet and nurtured by pundits and politicians like Donald Trump. One hour after another has emerged, each more bizarre than the last: birtherism, Pizzagate, QAnon.

“Look at where it’s gone: You have people storming the Capitol because they believe the election was a fraud. You have people who won’t get vaccinated and they’re dying in hospitals,” Rowe says. “We’ve gotten to the point where information is actually killing people.”

There were, of course, conspiracy theories before 9/11 happened – John F. Kennedy’s assassination, the moon landing, a supposed 1947 UFO crash in Roswell, New Mexico. And the country’s interest in fringe theories was on the rise before 9/11, exemplified by the 1990s show “The X-Files,” with its taglines of “The truth is out there” and “trust no one.” But it was 9/11 that heralded our current era of suspicion and disbelief and revealed the internet’s ability to catalyze conspiracy theories.

“Conspiracy theories have always been with us, and it’s just the means of sharing them that has changed,” says Karen Douglas, a psychology professor at the University of Kent in England who studies why people believe such stories. “The internet had made conspiracy theories more visible and easy to share than ever before. People can also very quickly find like-minded others, join groups, and share their opinions.”

Conspiracy theories about the attack and its aftermath also gave early exposure to some of the same people pushing hoaxes and unfounded claims about COVID-19, vaccines and the 2020 election, including Alex Jones, the Trump-supporting publisher of InfoWars, who has accused the United States of plotting the attacks and says the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting was a hoax. Jones was a co-producer of the third edition of “Loose Change.”

Polls show belief in 9/11 conspiracy theories peaked soon after the attack, then subsided. That’s not surprising, according to Mark Fenster, a University of Florida law school professor who studies the history of conspiracy theories.

“People look to conspiracy theories as people collectively grapple with under-standing, or lack thereof, something,” Fenster says. “It just didn’t seem like a real event, and it’s when you have a major anomalous event like this that conspiracy theories sometimes come around.”

Conspiracy theorists once relied on books, pamphlets and late night television shows to espouse their beliefs. Now, they use message boards like Reddit, post videos on YouTube and even convert on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

The first known 9/11 conspiracy theory originated only hours after the attack, when an American software engineer emailed a post to an internet forum questioning whether the destruction of the towers looked like a controlled demolition.

Twenty years on, a search on YouTube for content related to 9/11 turns up millions of hits.

“Thousands of videos focus on conspiracy theories. That is a lot, but the grandfather of modern conspiracy theories has been outpaced by the upstart. A Google search of “9/11 conspiracy theory” turns up more than 8 million results, while a search for “COVID conspiracy theory” turns up more than three times that.”

Tech companies say they do what they can to limit the spread of false information about 9/11. YouTube has added links to authoritative sources to some 9/11-related videos. Facebook says it has added fact checks to viral hoaxes about 9/11, including one that the Pentagon was struck by a missile and not a plane.

Bogus claims about the Sept. 11 attacks never posed the threat ascribed to misinformation about COVID-19 or the 2020 U.S. elections. But even proponents of 9/11 conspiracy theories say questions about what happened helped create today’s environment of distrust and anxiety.

“The danger is, once you have that distrust of authority and government, it’s a dangerous place to be,” says Matt Campbell, a British citizen whose brother died in the World Trade Center on 9/11. Campbell believes the towers came down as a controlled demolition, and is seeking a new inquest into his brother’s death in the UK.

On the grand scale, such the distrust the underlies beliefs can become dangerous when they begin to divide a society, or when they are exploit-ed by a political leader like Donald Trump, Fen

ster says.

“Usually it is the case that the people who feel they are being excluded from power who are committed to conspiracy theories,” Fenster says.

“What’s different this time is that it was the party that was in power — the party that had the White House — that was the main broadcaster of conspiracy theories.”
Guest Editorial Opinions

Why millions hike the Appalachian Trail every year

By Charles C. Chester
The Conversation

The Appalachian Trail, North America’s most famous hiking route, stretches over 2,199 mountainous miles (3,520 kilometers) from Georgia to Maine. In any given year, some 3 million people hike it, including more than 3,000 “thru-hikers” who go the entire distance, either in one stretch or in segments over multiple years.

The AT, as it’s widely known, is a national icon on a par with conservation touchstones like the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone’s Old Faithful geyser and the Florida Everglades. It symbolizes the idea on a peralt and a Florida Everglades. It symbolizes the idea as a space where visitors could escape the stress of modern industrial life. He also believed it could be a foundation for sound land-use patterns, with each section managed and cared for by local volunteers. MacKaye was a highly original thinker who called for protecting land on a continent-spanning scale and thought about how land use patterns could influence work and social relationships.

My research focuses on how people work together to promote large landscape conservation and to protect connectivity—physically linking patches of habitat, on land or at sea, so that animals and plants can move between them. MacKaye’s conception of the AT represents an early example of such comprehensive approaches to conservation.

An escape from industrial life

One hundred years ago, MacKaye laid out his vision for the AT in an article for the Journal of the American Institute of Architects. At that time, progressive thinkers were conceptualizing and promoting the idea of regional planning at many different scales.

Had MacKaye focused solely on a physical trail, the editors probably would have rejected his manuscript. But MacKaye envisioned the AT as a connecting cord that would run through and define a natural and rural region. In his view, maintaining the undeveloped character of the land would only become more essential in the face of an encroaching East Coast metropolis. And because it lies in the eastern U.S., the trail would “serve as the breath of a real life for the toilers in the bee-hive cities along the Atlantic seaboard and beyond,” he wrote. By 1925 MacKaye organized an Appalachian Trail Conference to build the footpath, which was completed in 1937. The first thru-hiker, a World War II veteran named Earl Shaffer, completed the full journey in 1948. Over the following decades, most of the practical work on the AT focused on tying together the thread of the trail itself—a challenging mission of acquiring access rights to myriad public.

Maintaining the landscape around the AT in perpetuity is a bigger challenge. And climate change is making that issue more urgent, for the AT isn’t just a footpath for humans. It also provides two ways for plants and animals to shift their ranges in a changing world.

First, the trail offers a chance for wildlife and plants to move northward to cooler habitats on a warming planet. Second, species can also move up mountains to avoid warmer temperatures—and any thru-hiker has the blisters to prove that the AT has plenty of mountains.

More than a footpath

Beginning with MacKaye, many people over the past century have aspired to frame the AT as a platform for conservation at a regional scale—that is, extending far beyond the narrow trail corridor, which averages about 1,000 feet (300 meters) wide, or less than a quarter of a mile. One impetus is to provide a natural experience for hikers. Who wants to go exploring through exurban sprawl? Protecting land around the trail also expands spaces for plants and animals.

One of the best-known examples of large landscape approaches is the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, often referred to as Y2Y (I am the current chair of the Y2Y Council). Since the mid-1990s, this venture has striven to conserve habitat and rural working lands across a region that stretches some 2,000 miles (3,220 kilometers) north from the Greater Yellowstone region in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho to Canada’s Yukon Territory.

As the Y2Y experience has shown, conserving large landscapes around the AT will not be easy or straightforward—but it is possible. MacKaye worried about urban and suburban encroachment—a threat that has only grown more severe over the past hundred years. “Pinch points” include the mid-Atlantic portion of the AT, but development threats are present all along the trail.

Conservation advocates have identified key spots along the AT where land around the trail could be protected from development to support wildlife by preserving it as open space. They include highlands in northern New Jersey and southern New York; forests and wetlands in Vermont and New Hampshire; and Maine’s North Woods. Land trusts and conservation organizations from Georgia to Maine are working to protect wild lands along the length of the AT and increasingly are coordinating their efforts through the Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership. This initiative includes more than 100 partners, led by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the U.S. National Park Service, which has managed the AT since the passage of the 1968 National Scenic Trails Act.

Footpath and barrier

Benton MacKaye hoped that the AT would be a symbolic and literal pathway toward solving social problems. His initial vision for the trail included community camps, covering up to 100 acres, that would grow out of trail shelters into small settlements where people could live year-round and pursue nonindustrial activities such as study and recuperation. Eventually, he envisioned more permanent camps that would offer the opportunity to move from cities back to the country and work cooperatively on the land, raising food and harvesting timber.

“The camp community … is in essence a retreat from profit. Cooperation replaces antagonism, trust replaces suspicion, emulation replaces competition,” MacKaye wrote. MacKaye’s grand hopes may have been idealistic, but fulfilling the AT’s potential for large landscape conservation in some of the most populated regions of North America is still a worthy goal. As MacKaye presciently concluded in his 1921 article, “The camp community … is in essence a retreat from profit. Cooperation replaces antagonism, trust replaces suspicion, emulation replaces competition,” MacKaye wrote. MacKaye’s grand hopes may have been idealistic, but fulfilling the AT’s potential for large landscape conservation in some of the most populated regions of North America is still a worthy goal.

Charles C. Chester is a lecturer in environmental studies at Brandeis University.
2ND DEPARTMENT/LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF CITY OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF KINGS.

SLEEPING BEE, LLC, et al., Plaintiffs,

v.

ALFRED RECTOR, ET AL., Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS - STATE OF NEW YORK

PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE ENTERED IN THE CIVIL ACTION INDEX NO. 517432/2018. HON. SUSAN ROCCO, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTOR, IS THE PLAINTIFF IN THE FORECLOSURE ACTION.

THE COURT WILL SELL AT PUBLIC SALE, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, ALL RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST, POSSESSION OF, OR LIEN UPON THE PREMISES DESCRIBED ABOVE, LYING AND BEING IN THE LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREOF, ERECTED, SITUITED, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, CITY OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF CITY OF NEW YORK, BLOCK 6241 AND LOT 56, AP-PROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT TO BE SOLD IS $1,488,000.00 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS.

THE COURT HAS DETERMINED THAT THE TENANTS, OCCUPANTS, PERSONS HAVING ANY CLAIM TO THE PROPERTY OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY, LIENORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF SUCH INTERESTS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE COURT’S DECISION AND NO OBJECTIONS TO THE COURT’S DECISION HAVE BEEN MADE.

IT IS ORDERED THAT YOU, THE PERSONS HAVING ANY CLAIM TO THE PROPERTY OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY, LIENORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF SUCH INTERESTS, SHALL MEDIATE THE DEBT SECURED BY THE MORTGAGE DESCRIBED ABOVE TO SATISFY THE COURT ORDERED TO SATISFY THE DEBT SECURED BY THE MORTGAGE DESCRIBED ABOVE. KINGS COUNTY IS DESIGNATED AS THE PLACE OF TRIAL BECAUSE THE REAL PROPERTY AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION IS LOCATED IN SAID COUNTY. YOU ARE IN DANGER OF HAVING YOUR PROPERTY FORFEITED TO PAY THE DEBT SECURED BY THE MORTGAGE DESCRIBED ABOVE. YOU MUST DEFEND THE COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER THE SERVICE OF THE SUMMONS.

THE PLACE OF TRIAL BECAUSE THE REAL PROPERTY AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION IS LOCATED IN SAID COUNTY. YOU MUST DEFEND THE COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER THE SERVICE OF THE SUMMONS.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUM-MONED TO APPLY FOR A HEARING IN THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMA-TION AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT SELF-DEFEND AND SHOW CAUSE WHY YOU SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SATISFY THE DEBT.

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Fireworks display will say farewell to summer

By Jaime DeJesus
jaimej@brooklynreporter.com

Coney Island will say goodbye to summer on Friday, Sept. 10.
The first annual “End of Summer” event will take place at 8 p.m. on the beach at West 12th Street and will be the last fireworks show of the year as local amusements transition to weekend-end operations.

“Fridays have been a major highlight of summer, with fireworks helping to stimulate our economy and support our businesses,” said Alexandra Silversmith, executive director of the Alliance for Coney Island. “A huge thank you to Garden State Fireworks for their work and partnership throughout the years to bring these shows to Coney Island.”

America’s Playground had a revival this year with the return of the Brooklyn Cyclones, Luna Park and Deno’s Wonder Wheel, which added a new roller coaster, the Phoenix.

Despite summer winding down, restaurants, shops and the New York Aquarium will still be open daily.

Palmer earns WWE belt for Cyclone win

By Jim Dolan
It was time to break out the hardware to celebrate the Cyclones’ win over the Wilmington Blue Rocks after the first game of a five-game home series. With the Cyclones’ present of a WWE heavyweight championship belt, it was time to share it with the team to honor the player of the game. The first to wear the belt for a postgame celebration was Brooklyn’s own Jaylen Palmer, who hit two home runs in the 5-0 win.

The customized victory belt with the Cyclones logo on the side panels was catched up by David Griffin, all up from Low-A St. Lucie. Griffin, who’s in his second game of the season, giving up four hits with two strikeouts in seven innings. He continued a two-game inning scoreless streak.

Brooklyn took three out of five games in the Wilmington series, finishing strong in the finale with a 6-1 win that featured Francisco Alvarez and Ronny Mauricio hitting their 18th home runs. As the season winds down, the last-place Cyclones (42-63) go on their last road trip to Hudson Valley to play the first place Renegades (64-43) before returning home to end the season against the Jersey Shore Blue Claws.

Palmer was the first to earn the WWE championship belt for his two home runs in Brooklyn’s 5-0 win over Wilmington.

Photo by George Napolitano.

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Photo by George Napolitano.

Polymer hosts events to fight ovarian cancer

By Jaime DeJesus
jaimej@brooklynreporter.com

Tell Every Amazing Lady will host several events to promote National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

The nonprofit group appeared at a Brooklyn Cyclones game at Maimonides Park Sept. 3. Former Councilmember Rafael Espinal, whose mother died of ovarian cancer, threw out the ceremonial first pitch. The Parachute Jump at Luna Park and Brooklyn Borough Hall were lit teal, the official color symbolizing the disease.

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A 19-year-old man died after a car crash on the Belt Parkway Sept. 7.

By Jaime DeJesus
jdejesus@brooklynreporter.com

A 19-year-old man was killed in a car crash on the Belt Parkway Sept. 7. Cops said the man was in the back of a 2018 Lexus RX350 traveling west near exit 2. At 1:17 a.m., the 18-year-old driver failed to make a curve, drove onto the grass shoulder and hit several trees. The car rolled over several times and came to a stop on its passenger side.

The 19-year-old suffered head and body trauma and was pronounced dead at NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn. The driver and another passenger were treated for minor injuries.

The crash is under investigation.

A body was removed from the Gowanus Canal Sept. 2.

By Jaime DeJesus
jdejesus@brooklynreporter.com

A man’s body was pulled from the Gowanus Canal Sept. 2. Cops said the man, in his 40s, was found in the water near Third Avenue and 25th Street. EMS pronounced him dead at the scene. His identity is being withheld pending family notification.

The medical examiner will determine the cause of death and an investigation is ongoing.

A 19-year-old man died after a car crash on the Belt Parkway Sept. 7.

Photo courtesy of Loudlabs NYC News

68th Precinct

The 68th Precinct serves Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and Fort Hamilton.

ROBBED AT GUNPOINT

A 26-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint in his home on 10th Avenue and 68th Street Aug. 31. Cops said the victim woke up on the couch at 5 p.m. and saw a man stealing his property. He confronted the thief, who pointed a gun at him and fled with credit cards and $450 in cash.

SOUND AND FURY

A 73-year-old man was attacked during an argument on Fourth Avenue and 68th Street Aug. 28. Cops said the man approached a black SUV at 6:50 p.m. and complained about loud music. The car’s occupant took out a knife, hit him in the head with an unknown object and fled west on 68th Street.

BUSTED FOR ASSAULT

A 34-year-old man was arrested for allegedly attacking a 66-year-old man on Fifth Avenue and 66th Street Sept. 5. Cops said the man followed the victim to a park restroom at 9:50 a.m., complained about his coughing and punched him in the face. The victim was treated at NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn.

QUICK GETAWAY

A crook stole a double-parked Hyundai Santa Fe on Third Avenue and 73rd Street Aug. 29. Cops said the driver, a 75-year-old man, left the car unlocked with the keys inside at 2 a.m.

62nd Precinct

The 62nd Precinct serves Bensonhurst, Bath Beach and Gravesend.

ROAD RAGE STABBING

A 28-year-old driver was stabbed on Quentin Road and West Sixth Street Sept. 2. Cops said the man honked his horn at another car that was going too slowly. When the cars stopped at a red light, the other driver got out and stabbed the man in the back.

NECKLACE STOLEN

A 79-year-old woman was robbed on Bay 23rd Street and 86th Street Sept. 3. Cops said a man and a woman called her over to a white SUV at 1:30 p.m., snatched her necklace and drove away.

TEEN ROBBED

A 15-year-old boy was attacked and robbed by two boys on 18th Avenue and 65th Street Aug. 24. Cops said the attackers approached the boy at 10 p.m., pushed him against a garage, kicked him and stole $50 and a pair of glasses. The victim told cops he knows the attackers.

TRAIN ROBBERY

A 25-year-old woman was robbed on a southbound N train Sept. 4. Cops said she fell asleep on the train, woke up at Kings Highway and West Seventh Street and saw that her wallet was gone. The crook used her credit cards at a nearby pharmacy.

Suspect nabbed for arson at 18th Avenue Feast

Adnan Ali Hussein

Fire marshals arrested a man who allegedly set fire to a ticket booth at the 18th Avenue Feast.

Adnan Ali Hussein, 28, was taken into custody Sept. 2. He is accused of setting fire to the booth on 68th Street shortly after 1 a.m. on Aug. 24.

The FDNY said surveillance video shows Hussein lighting the booth – and nearly himself – on fire. He was charged with arson in the third degree, reckless endangerment and criminal mischief in the fourth degree.

“Arson is not only a serious crime but also an extremely reckless act that can have devastating effects on the entire community,” said Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro. “Our fire marshals quickly apprehended this individual before he caused any further damage or harm to New Yorkers.”

A burned-out ticket booth on 18th Avenue and 68th Street.

Photos courtesy of FDNY

Body found in Gowanus Canal

By Jaime DeJesus
jdejesus@brooklynreporter.com

A man’s body was pulled from the Gowanus Canal Sept. 2. Cops said the man, in his 40s, was found in the water near Third Avenue and 25th Street. EMS pronounced him dead at the scene. His identity is being withheld pending family notification.

The medical examiner will determine the cause of death and an investigation is ongoing.

A body was removed from the Gowanus Canal Sept. 2.

Image via Google Maps

For all of the latest local news coverage, visit BrooklynReporter.com!
Could Ragamuffin directors aid BRCC in Dickensian Art Contest?

Parade Canceled, Why Not Ask Young Halloween ‘Artists’ to Depict ‘Urchins’ on Store Windows?

No one was more disappointed when it became clear that the 54th Bay Ridge Ragamuffin Parade would have to be put off until next year than Ragamuffin Parade Chair Rose Gangi and her trusted team of directors.

“This decision does not come lightly, however, we need to be vigilant in the protection of our community and especially our children” she added.

She then pointed out that “Our parade draws thousands of children, and most are under the age of 12, who are rapidly increasing in number of cases of this virus.” She ended on a promising note.

“The pandemic may have halted our parade for two years, however it will not keep us down. We promise our parade will be back and we will create so many more “Miles of Smiles” for many more years.”

‘Ragamuffin’ Halloween Theme Would Keep Hope Alive

Sooner than let a Ragamuffin Parade “vacuum” go on through its second year, one of our recovery leaders has come up with an imaginative and positive proposal namely: the Parade’s tough and experienced committee could join with our Bay Ridge Community Council whose leaders are hoping to continue the Halloween window-painting contest.

This BRCC window painting program, Bay Ridge’s longest tradition, was started all the way back in 1954 when BRCC leaders Walter Kassenbrock and his brother Vincent, both educators in our public schools, came up with the idea as a way to encourage young folk to express their art in a positive way instead of going around “decorating” houses and shops with raw eggs.

It was supported on Sixth St. with Louise Stembach, Paul Gold and the Birnbaum family stores, which occupied much of where Century 21 used to be. Then-Fifth Ave. stores such as Arnie Kruchkow’s and Maravel’s offered their windows to school kids to use as “canvasses” to express their “inner artist.”


The Halloween Art Contest offers an opportunity for the BRCC to join forces with the Ragamuffin Committee — one of the Council’s longest running members, in a solid community cause. An excellent example of that notable post-modern force: SYNERGY!!

Third Ave Festival Still a ‘Go’ on Oct. 3

Parades are ‘out’, but we’re hoping the Third Ave. Festival set for October 3, is still on’ and it would be a treat for the rest of us to see local store windows bedecked with youthful portrayals of the urchins and other characters representing Dickensian times when kids in England were indeed regarded by many as “urchins.”

Pres. Gangi has a strong team to work with if they do decide to “liaise” with BRCC Pres. Succar and his executive board. She’s aided by a board including Allison Greiker, Joanna Monaco, Ted General, Dave Annarummo, Ilene Sacco, Joann Loddo, Kelli Kilbride, Jen Reinhardt, Kelly Kilbride, Jeanine Condon and Arlene Keating.

Rocky & ‘All-Girl’ Team Show Verrazzano Car Service is Essential to Recovery Here

There’s no question that medical, rescue, police, fire and — in greater Bay Ridge, BRAVO and other essential teams, especially first responders, have demonstrated their value here and throughout the nation. One less heralded essential endeavor, often overlooked, involves our local car services, some of which, like Rocky Hod’s long-standing Verrazzano Car Service on Third Ave., have stuck it out all the way through this pandemic approaching its second full year.

Rocky, who came here a few decades ago from Montenegro, proudly admits Verrazzano has succeeded, in part, because it’s a family business in which his lovely wife Adelisa often comes in to handle phone calls and other office work. “When we came here (to the USA) I never thought I would end up pitching in to help Rocky make Verrazzano Service succeed,” she told us, “But here I am!” And here, in photo TOP LEFT is the Hod family with all four girls, born in the USA. Left-to-right: Rocky, Resmija, Adelisa, Aldijana, Leida and Almina. TOP RIGHT: Proprietor Rocky gets ready to personally transport a happy dad whose beaming son, clutching his trophy, has just won an important competition. Full disclosure: For many years, this writer has been calling on Rocky and his drivers for transportation to and from such faraway places such as Newark Airport and locally to Lou Colucci’s Italian Grocery, 87th and Third, on rainy days. They’ve been cooperative, prompt and kept their vehicles in strict accordance with Taxi & Limousine Commission rules.

Photos courtesy of Chuck Otey
REMEMBER THE HEROES!

We said we would never forget 9/11. Unfortunately, 20 years later I feel like many have forgotten. Sadly, I suspect this is the nature of people, including younger people who show minimal interest in learning from the past, especially when events begin to seem more and more historical than current due to the passing of time.

I for one will never forget and I hope you will also not. As I have done for every anniversary, I would like to once again publish a remembrance verse I wrote a few days after the attack and then Councilman Marty Golden published on a card entitled “Remember the Heroes, September 11, 2001.”

Our hearts are heavy with sorrow for the loss of so many innocent lives due to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We will never forget the supreme dedication of our Fire, Police and Emergency Services professionals. Their courageous efforts saved countless lives. Heroes all, many made the ultimate sacrifice.

We salute the efforts of our volunteers who selflessly gave their time and energy during the most harrowing hours our City has ever faced. Our spirit remains unbroken. Our strength renewed. United we will rebuild and move forward.

Today it would be appropriate to add another line or two paying tribute to the many first responders who have since lost their lives from 9/11 related illnesses. Remember the Heroes! Never Forget!

Mayor Bill de Blasio, as usual, showed himself to be separated from reality when last week he announced a task force called the Climate Driven Rain Response Plan.

The concept, of course, sounds fine. Our streets, highways, basements and all forms of transportation were inundated as a result of record rainfall from Hurricane Ida.

What concerns me is the city and state government’s failure to complete or, in many cases, even start the many resilience projects on the books from Superstorm Sandy, which was nine years ago. In addition, there are numerous methods of reducing flooding from heavy storms that are well known and utilized around the world. Some are as inexpensive and as simple as creating more green space or replacing old drain gratings with modern ones that reduce leaves and dirt clogging up the system, others as logical as replacing the drainage pipes under our streets with wider ones.

We do not need another 20-year plan. We need these common-sense changes to be given priority now. We also do not need to see our taxes increased again and again to pay for these necessary improvements.

Let’s move away from billions and even trillions being budgeted for so-called “human infrastructure” and actually spend some of the savings on a larger and expedited “infrastructure” spending that will address harsh climate events today, not 10 years from now.

LESSTONS FORGOTTEN

As we pause this weekend to remember the tragic events of 9/11 and honor the thousands of New Yorkers lost 20 years ago on that day, it seems that far too many people have lost sight of the most important lessons we learned as a community here in New York. We will all no doubt hear comments celebrating how we all pulled together during those dark days from people who cannot be bothered to do a damn thing to look out for the wellbeing of others during the pandemic we are still living through.

You cannot talk about how you are proud to be a New Yorker because of the way our community responded to the deadliest terrorist attack in our nation’s history while chastising those who are taking steps to keep a deadly virus from spreading throughout the community. You cannot brag on Sept. 11 about how living through that day makes you “New York Strong,” while belittling that it is too difficult to wear a piece of cloth over your nose and mouth when you are in public indoor areas.

Well, I guess you can actually say all of those things in reference to 9/11 while being completely selfish and lazy when it comes to preventing COVID-19 from spreading. As many will surely do this week, but if you are one such person who does, you are a hypocrite. Caring about your neighbors and making small sacrifices for the good of your community in trying times is not something you can go all out for when you feel like it and then just shrug off and endanger people when you find it inconvenient.

The events of Sept. 11, 2001 need to be remembered, especially as we mark the solemn 20th anniversary of that day. It is unfortunate that as we do so this year there is this stark contrast between how some fetishes 9/11, while ignoring what we need to do to keep everyone safe during a tragedy that has taken the lives of 18 times as many New York City residents as 9/11 did.

Nothing should take away from remembrance.

Nothing should take away from remembrance of the Sept. 11 attacks, but they should steel everyone’s resolve to pull together and protect our fellow New Yorkers during the pandemic.

MATTER OF FACT

BY JAY BROWN

It is going to do. I doubt we will see any more of your time.

As of the Sept. 11 attacks, but they should steel everyone’s resolve to pull together and protect our fellow New Yorkers during the pandemic.

For all of the latest local news coverage, see Brooklyn Reporter.com!

COMMON SENSE

BY JERRY KASSAR

Let’s move away from political controversial issues that many of us have left out during our national emergency.

Let’s move away from legislating and the process. The Legislature have been vaccinated, that many of us have left out during our national emergency.

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Liberty ‘praying’ to stay in playoff hunt
New York looks to end season-high six-game slide in Dallas

By John Torenli, Sports Editor
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Losers of a season-high six straight games and nine of their last 10 contests overall, the New York Liberty have somehow managed to remain in the eighth and final playoff spot in the ongoing WNBA postseason race.

But with only three games remaining on the regular-season slate and Washington (10-18) and Los Angeles (10-18) making a move on the Liberty (11-18), it may be time for divine intervention on New York’s behalf.

At least according to Liberty All-Star guard Betnijah Laney.

“We’re praying for the best, continuing to work, despite the obstacles,” said Laney after New York squandered a late lead in an 85-75 loss at defending WNBA champion Seattle on Sept. 2.

With eight long days between games leading up to Saturday’s critical contest at seventh-seeded Dallas (12-17), Laney and her teammates are trying to look at the positives as their season continues to plunge toward irrelevance.

“To have the glimpses of positivity, it’s really good for us, for our morale, going into the next games,” she added.

Liberty head coach Walt Hopkins, who has taken his team to task on several occasions for lack of energy and chemistry, has also seen marked improvement during this epic slide, which began with a 98-83 loss to the Storm at Downtown’s Barclays Center on Aug. 20.

New York suffered a heart-breaking two-point loss to Los Angeles here two days later, then dropped a pair of home games to fourth-place Phoenix before falling in Minnesota and Seattle.

“I think the progress the team is making is really exciting,” noted Hopkins after the Liberty took the champs deep into the fourth quarter last week before succumbing to the brilliance of Breaunna Stewart, who led all scorers with 33 points.

Honestly I think the best player in the world did what the best players in the world do,” Hopkins added.

Sabrina Ionescu had 20 points and seven assists vs. Seattle, Rebecca Allen added 17 points and Natasha Howard finished with 15 as the Liberty fell to a dismal 6-17 since their hope-inspiring 5-1 start.

But none of it was enough for a team that was outscored 22-11 in the fateful fourth quarter against the Storm (20-10) and turned over the ball more than 20 times to the team with the league’s third-best record.

While there has been a notable step up in performance for a team that finished with the worst record in the league in each of the previous two campaigns, the Liberty have three lives left to make the most of their positive vibes and maybe even a few prayers.

“They’ve been much more connected,” Hopkins said.

“I think that respect for one another, listening to one another, taking constructive criticism from your teammates, the team holding each other accountable in addition to the coaching staff, I really think they’re taking it to heart.”

Whether they can take all of that with them to the playoffs has yet to be decided.

GIVE ME LIBERTY: New York won’t catch any breaks the rest of the way as the last-place league-leading Connecticut next Wednesday before closing out the regular season at home vs. Washington in a contest that could decide the final playoff spot.

Three-time WNBA Rookie of the Month Michaela Oyenewer was limited to four points and two rebounds vs. Seattle, but New York’s top pick in this year’s draft is the clear front-runner for Rookie of the Year honors.

Ionescu has scored at least 10 points in eight straight games since the Olympic break. Rather than flying back to Brooklyn during the eight-day wait for their next game on this four-game road trip, the Liberty instead were treated to a Labor Day weekend stay in a Napa Valley, California resort by team owners Joe and Clara Tsai.

“Our ownership is freaking amazing. They treat us just like they treat the NBA team,” Liberty guard Jazmine Jones gushed. “It was a great experience and I’m super grateful and thankful for them.”

The Nets this week announced that Adam Caporn, the head coach of Basketball Australia’s Centre of Excellence, will lead their G-League franchise on Long Island for the 2021-22 season. “We targeted him and (Nets general manager) Sean Marks did a great job recruiting him as well,” said Long Island Nets general manager Matt Riccardi.

“We looked at him, said, ‘How can we get this guy in our system?’ If we can find a way to put him in charge of our development, especially on the Long Island end, let’s do it. Let’s make it happen.”

Despite the mounting losses, the Liberty are showing marked improvement in many phases, according to head coach Walt Hopkins.

AP Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Rookie of the Year front-runner Michaela Oyenwere (right) is one of the bright spots in an otherwise dismal stretch run for the Liberty.

AP Photo by Noah K. Murray

Liberty All-Star Betnijah Laney and her teammates will try to end a season-high six-game losing streak in Dallas on Sept. 11.

AP Photo by Noah K. Murray

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DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR HURRICANE IDA VICTIMS: The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering disaster loans for those suffering losses due to Hurricane Ida last month. The federal agency estimates that 1.8 million people in 16 states located in a declared disaster area, which includes Kings, Queens, Bronx and Richmond Counties (four of the five boroughs) may be eligible for financial assistance, through Home Disaster Loans, Business Disaster Loans, and/or Home Improvement Loans for homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and personal property, including automobiles. Business Physical Disaster Loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans are also available to nonprofit organizations, such as charities, private universities and houses of worship.

Online assistance is available via https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs

ACCELERATE DEADLINE FOR TRUCK SAFETY MEASURES: The New York City Council on Thursday approved Intro 789-A, which would accelerate the implementation in the city fleet and for trade waste hauling vehicles, moving the date one year sooner, from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2023. The bill would also require any large vehicle used to fulfill a contract with the city at a least $2 million, starting with contacts registered or on after January 1, 2023.

The bill, which has been sent to Mayor Bill de Blasio for signature, aims to eliminate truck related fatalities in New York City, after safety advocates pointed out that large trucks and vehicles pose a greater threat to pedestrians and cyclists across the city.

NY COURT REJECTS ATTEMPTS TO INTERVENE IN NBA SUIT: Justice Joel Cohen of the New York State Supreme Court rejected efforts by two members of the National Rifle Association (NRA) to intervene in the countersuit the NRA brought against New York State Attorney General Letitia James. The countersuits had been initiated following a lawsuit she filed against their leaders for mismanaging the NRA’s funds and filing bankruptcy to avoid penalties.

The past January, the NRA filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy even though the organization still claimed to have healthy financial reserves. The NRA then filed the countersuit which is the subject of today’s New York State Supreme Court rejection.

CENTENNIAL OF BROOKLYN’S FIRST AFRICAN AMERI- CAN CHURCH: On Thursday night, Sept. 9, the Most Reverend Nicholas DeMaria, Bishop of Brooklyn, was scheduled to lead a special Mass on the Feast Day of Saint Peter Claver, which is also the day the Brooklyn-based American Church in the Diocese of Brooklyn. The 7:30 p.m. Mass is scheduled to take place at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph, located at 856 Pacific St. in the Prospect Heights section of Brooklyn. The late Monsignor Bernard Quin, who founded the parish, is currently being considered for sainthood for his work for racial equality.

Throughout his life, St. Peter Claver cared for African Americans who would arrive on slave ships by providing them medical care and food. Over the course of a 40-year ministry, it is estimated that he baptized 300,000 slaves.

STREET CLOSURES NEAR BARCLAYS: Barclays Center will be bustling, for the 2021 MTV Video Music Awards for pre-production recordings through Sunday, Sept. 12, according to an announcement from NYPD Captain Frantz Souffrant, Jr., commanding officer of the 78th Precinct. Street closures will be in effect near Barclays Center tonight, Friday, Sept. 10, between 4 p.m. and midnight, for the live performances on Sunday, Sept. 12, between 8 and 11 p.m. These closures involve pedestrians and vehicles in an area encompassing Atlantic Avenue, both directions between 4th and Carlton avenues (vehicles); the south side of Atlantic Ave. as well as Dean St. from Flatbush to 6th Ave.; Pacific St. between Flatbush to 4th Ave., and 6th Ave. from Atlantic to Bergen St. from Flatbush Ave., all closed to pedestrians and cyclists.

Captain Souffrant wrote: “We will ensure that residents living on the affected streets can access their vehicles and residences during the event and work as quickly as possible to reopen street closures once the event is over.”

MONETARY PENALTY FOR MASK SCOFFLAWS: The Department of Homeland Security’s Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will increase the range of monetary penalties that may be imposed on individuals who violate the federal mask mandate at airports, on commercial aircraft, and in various modes of surface public transportation, including passenger railroads and intercity bus services. The new range of penalties will be increased from $100-$500 for first offenders and $500-$2,500 for second offenders, with the federal mask mandate on transportation remaining in effect until January 18, 2022.

Continued from page 1

AP Photo by Noah K. Murray
ON THIS DAY IN 1879, a Brooklyn Daily Eagle editorial said, “The British have a very serious task before them in Afghanistan. They are not in a position to deal promptly where promptitude is all important, and it is difficult to see how, after subduing the existing revolt, they are to avoid doing that which Gladstone and Disraeli have alike looked upon as variance with good policy. Unless the accounts given by all the correspondents of the present ineffective condition of the army on the frontier are overdrawn to an incredible degree, two months must elapse before any formidable force can be forwarded to Kabul, and by that time the mutineers will probably have established themselves firmly in other parts of the country.”

ON THIS DAY IN 1940, the Eagle reported, “LONDON (A.P.) — Wave after wave of German air invaders sent harried Londoners underground four times in daylight today, but up to early evening there had been no renewal of the devastating Nazi bombardments. The fourth alarm was called at 3:55 p.m. as the gathering dusk brought anew the threat of deadly nightlong raids which have kept this city’s millions huddled in shelters each night since Saturday. This alarm, like its predecessors of today, was brief, the all-clear signal coming 31 minutes later. The German planes over London today were believed to be scouts sent before plunging below ground again.”

ON THIS DAY IN 1945, the Eagle reported, “New York battened down the hatches today and braced itself in the path of Hurricane Edna, whipping up the Atlantic Coast with 115-mile winds. Storm alerts were flashed at 6 a.m. all the way up to Portland, Me., as Edna, fifth hurricane of the season, was placed at a point in the Atlantic 275 miles south of Cape Hatteras, N.C. If it hits New York, it will arrive late tonight or early tomorrow. ‘If it continues on its present course, it will hit New York,’ the local Weather Bureau reported. ‘We don’t know for sure until later today. The whole area is under alert. Barely emerged from the debris of Edna’s older sister, Carol, which hit the metropolitan area nine days ago, the Long Island sector — along with the weatherman — prepared for the worst. ‘It’s not like Carol,’ the forecaster said wryly. ‘We’re not going to be caught off guard on this one.’ Small craft were warned to remain in port all the way northward from the Carolinas as Edna moved up at a rate of about 10 miles per hour. The greatest fear of meteorologists was that the big blow would pick up speed as it passed Hatteras, a frequent occurrence with the late-summer blasts. Some of them have pushed northward from that point at speeds up to 100 miles an hour, carrying winds of even greater velocity.”

ON SEPT. 11, 1948, the Eagle reported, “A huge flight of migratory birds, flying over Manhattan, was filled mystically today and for hours the bodies of the dead and injured dropped down into the streets surrounding the Empire State Building. Police theorized they apparently crashed into the tower of the building, the world’s tallest skyscraper, in the darkness. Hundreds of birds were picked up, most of them on 5th Ave., by the Department of Sanitation workers and officials of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Hundreds more rain down onto the parapets of the building. But police said most of them were only stunned and revived a few minutes later. Police said the birds began falling about the city over the course of the day and by that time the mutineers will probably have established themselves firmly in other parts of the country.”

ON THIS DAY IN 1954, the Eagle reported, “New York bought down the hatches today and braced itself in the path of Hurricane Edna, whipping up the Atlantic Coast with 115-mile winds. Storm alerts were flashed at 6 a.m. all the way up to Portland, Me., as Edna, fifth hurricane of the season, was placed at a point in the Atlantic 275 miles south of Cape Hatteras, N.C. If it hits New York, it will arrive late tonight or early tomorrow. ‘If it continues on its present course, it will hit New York,’ the local Weather Bureau reported. ‘We don’t know for sure until later today. The whole area is under alert. Barely emerged from the debris of Edna’s older sister, Carol, which hit the metropolitan area nine days ago, the Long Island sector — along with the weatherman — prepared for the worst. ‘It’s not like Carol,’ the forecaster said wryly. ‘We’re not going to be caught off guard on this one.’ Small craft were warned to remain in port all the way northward from the Carolinas as Edna moved up at a rate of about 10 miles per hour. The greatest fear of meteorologists was that the big blow would pick up speed as it passed Hatteras, a frequent occurrence with the late-summer blasts. Some of them have pushed northward from that point at speeds up to 100 miles an hour, carrying winds of even greater velocity.”

ON THIS DAY IN 1974, the Eagle reported, “New York bought down the hatches today and braced itself in the path of Hurricane Edna, whipping up the Atlantic Coast with 115-mile winds. Storm alerts were flashed at 6 a.m. all the way up to Portland, Me., as Edna, fifth hurricane of the season, was placed at a point in the Atlantic 275 miles south of Cape Hatteras, N.C. If it hits New York, it will arrive late tonight or early tomorrow. ‘If it continues on its present course, it will hit New York,’ the local Weather Bureau reported. ‘We don’t know for sure until later today. The whole area is under alert. Barely emerged from the debris of Edna’s older sister, Carol, which hit the metropolitan area nine days ago, the Long Island sector — along with the weatherman — prepared for the worst. ‘It’s not like Carol,’ the forecaster said wryly. ‘We’re not going to be caught off guard on this one.’ Small craft were warned to remain in port all the way northward from the Carolinas as Edna moved up at a rate of about 10 miles per hour. The greatest fear of meteorologists was that the big blow would pick up speed as it passed Hatteras, a frequent occurrence with the late-summer blasts. Some of them have pushed northward from that point at speeds up to 100 miles an hour, carrying winds of even greater velocity.”

QUOTABLE

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— ballerina Misty Copeland, who was born on this day in 1982
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A 21-year-old man from Queens has been charged with assault and robbery for a vicious daytime attack of a 68-year-old man in East New York, Brooklyn. The brutal beating was caught on surveillance video, leading to the apprehension of the defendant.

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez identified the defendant as Zamori Simmons, 21, of Jamaica, Queens. He was arraigned Thursday before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Matthew Sciarra on an indictment in which he is charged with second- and third-degree assault, second- and third-degree robbery and other related charges.

He was ordered held on $200,000 bond or $10,000 cash bail and to return to court on Oct. 14, 2021. Simmons faces up to seven years in prison if convicted of the top count.

According to the investigation, on July 24, 2021 at about 9:05 a.m., near the corner of Pitkin Avenue and Barbey Street in East New York, the defendant was accosting a woman who asked a 68-year-old-man for help. The defendant then repeatedly punched that man until he fell to the ground, the evidence shows.

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Justice Dept.

As the victim laid defenseless on the ground, Simmons allegedly stomped on his head, ripped a necklace off his neck and stole his cell phone, according to the indictment. He then fled on a Citi Bike. The victim lost consciousness and was treated in Brookdale Hospital for a broken wrist, multiple orbital fractures and other injuries.

Video surveillance of the attack was disseminated to the media and an anonymous tipster identified Simmons, who surrendered on August 5, 2021 and was placed under arrest.

District Attorney Gonzalez said, “This defendant allegedly unleashed an unprovoked and violent assault on an elderly man and continued to beat and rob him as he laid unconscious. Such abhorrent and cruel behavior shocks the conscience, and we will now work to make sure that the defendant pays a steep price for his criminal actions.”

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Da Rin of the District Attorney’s Red Zone Trial Bureau under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Karla Watson, bureau chief.

Businessmen plead guilty to hoarding, price-gouging personal protective equipment

On Wednesday at the federal courthouse in Central Islip, Allen Goldmeir and his brother Steven Goldmeir, owners of a toy company called Millenium Products Group, pleaded guilty to hoarding personal protective equipment amid the COVID-19 pandemic and price-gouging customers that purchased three-ply surgical masks from them in violation of the Defense Production Act of 1950. The proceeding took place before United States Magistrate Judge James M. Wicks.

On March 18, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Defense Production Act was invoked making it illegal to acquire medical supplies and devices designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as scarce in order to hoard them or sell them for excessive prices.

According to statements in court Wednesday, in March and April 2020, the defendants used their toy company, MPG, to obtain millions of three-ply surgical masks from China for approximately $0.18 and $0.60 per mask. Almost immediately thereafter, the defendants sold 1,227,500 of these masks to the State of Oklahoma, among others, at a price of $1.65 per mask — a markup of over 900 percent in many cases.

Pursuant to their agreement with the government, the defendants will pay $1 million in restitution to the State of Oklahoma prior to sentencing in this matter. In addition, the defendants face up to one year in jail and a maximum fine of $100,000.


“The defendants selfishly sought to make millions of dollars in profits during an unprecedented public health crisis by hoarding and selling at exorbitant prices personal protective equipment that was desperately needed by the State of Oklahoma to protect the public health and safety, and save lives,” said Acting United States Attorney Kasulis. “This office will continue to do everything in its power to enforce the Defense Production Act and ensure that opportunists like the defendants are held accountable for their indiscriminate acts of greed.”

“During the height of the pandemic, cases in which people sought to capitalize on the situation at the expense of others were, unfortunately, an all-too-common occurrence. More than a year later, the FBI continues to work to identify and hold accountable any company, individual, or entity whose intention it was to do so. The Goldmeir brothers pleaded guilty today for their role in a price-gouging scheme, and they’ll now await sentencing for their crimes,” said FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Driscoll.

On May 17, 2021, the Attorney General established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud.

The government’s case is being handled by the office’s Long Island Criminal Division, with assistance from the Justice Department’s Covid-19 Hoarding and Price-Gouging Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Megan E. Farrell is in charge of the prosecution.
Prosecutor: Durst had ‘playbook’ on getting away with murder

By Brian Melley
Associated Press

Kathie Durst vanished without a trace nearly 40 years ago in New York. She’s been declared dead, but her body’s never been found and no one has been charged with a crime related to her disappearance.

A prosecutor argued in a Los Angeles murder trial Wednesday that her husband, Robert Durst, the estranged heir to a New York real estate fortune, killed her and her death became the basis for his “playbook” on getting away with two other killings.

“He tried to figure out, ‘How do I get away with murder?’” Deputy District Attorney Habib Balian said. “What’s my go-to move?”

Durst, 78, is charged with murder in the point-blank shooting of his best friend, Susan Berman, at her Los Angeles home in December 2000. Prosecutors said Durst killed her as she planned to speak to authorities about how she provided a phony alibi when he went missing in New York in 1982.

Balian used the imaginary playbook to show how Durst covered up Kathie Durst’s death and how this later evolved into knocking off witnesses, such as Berman and a neighbor in Texas.

The first step was to get rid of the body. Despite a lack of forensic evidence, Balian argued Durst killed his wife in their lakeside home in Westchester County on the night she was last seen and chopped it up and buried it in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey.

Durst has always maintained he dropped his wife off at a train station so she could head to the city to attend medical school the following day. He has admitted he lied when he said he spoke with her that night by phone after she reached their Manhattan apartment.

He then made it appear she was still alive.

He used Berman, the daughter of a mobster and fiercely loyal to him, to impersonate his wife the next day and phone the medical school dean to say she was sick and couldn’t report to her pediatric rotation.

“They embarked on a campaign to obscure the truth, to lead the investigation in a completely wrong direction,” Balian said.

The third move was to make it appear Kathie Durst, who was close to graduation and seeking a divorce, just walked away from her life.

Durst told a New York Post reporter he thought his wife had a breakdown and ran off, though he implied she may have had a run-in with criminals because of her cocaine use.

While he offered a reward for information leading to her and said he was hopeful she would return, his actions said otherwise, Balian said. Days after her disappearance, he tossed out her textbooks and clothing.

“How long are you going to hold out hope?” Balian said. “You’re going to hold out zero hope because you know she’s never coming home. Because you killed her.”

Durst, who is ailing and seated in a wheelchair throughout the trial, testified that he didn’t kill his wife and didn’t kill Berman. However, he also admitted he had lied on the witness stand and said if he had killed his wife and Berman, he would lie about it.

His lawyers are scheduled to present their final argument Thursday. Defense attorney Chip Lewis said the prosecution’s scripted narrative doesn’t hold up under scrutiny.

The prosecution’s case may be the closest thing to a criminal trial in Kathie Durst’s presumed death. Balian spent much of the day wearing her alleged death mask as the killing and Robert Durst’s fatal shooting of Morris Black in Galveston, Texas.

“Judge Judy” has been syndication’s most popular show with the tart-talking New Yorker arbitrating small claims cases. CBS promptly cut a deal to keep “Judge Judy” reruns on the air.

The show’s look and format evolved into knocking off witnesses that these are not new episodes, one new and one rerun. The show’s old episodes from the years that to many viewers it is timeless, Carroll said.

Sheindlin was widely believed to be fair, streaming audiences are smaller than most TV shows, they would say, ‘Oh, relocate to continue selling rights to air “Hot Bench,” another popular court show that Sheindlin created, according to The Wall Street Journal.

“We had a nice marriage,” Sheindlin told the Journal earlier this year. “It’s going to be a Bill and Melinda Gates divorce.”

Two of her longtime producers, Randy Douthit and Amy Freisleben, will join her to the country’s highest-paid market without having to pay money Habib Balian said.

Sheindlin told the Journal previously that she was the next day and phone the medical school the following day. He admitted he had lied on the witness stand and said if he had killed his wife and Berman, he would lie about it.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF REBECCA CHALMERS PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES, PLLC ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 8/1/21. OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: 2345 BRIGHTON 11TH ST., BROOKLYN, NY 11229. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

TGV BLACK HAWK LLC
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TGV BLACK HAWK LLC ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY ON 6/1/21. OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: C/O HILLARY C. CAMPBELL, 100 MERRICK RD., SOUTH OYSTER BAY, NY 11771. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.
Let Us Tell the World Your Food Story

We make memories over food. We tell stories over a good meal. But sometimes the meal is a story. And sometimes, it’s so much more. Restaurants are a family’s LEGACY, a chef’s PASSION, a business owner’s PRIDE.

Our flexible plan allows you to reach and engage our readers at just $20/cpm. You can choose how many people you’d like to reach and test your results without breaking the bank.

We use a combination of print, websites, social media and newsletters to reach the audience most responsive to you.

Reach out to me and simply describe how many you would like to reach in which zip code (or neighborhood). Remember, the cost will be $20 per thousand. You can test the results very inexpensively.

We look forward to telling your story in a concentrated direct marketing appeal.

If you own a restaurant in Brooklyn and would like to find out more, please contact:

Jen Hopewell:
jdh@eagleurbanmedia.com
Fresh from the fields of France, where he added new luster to the stars in his flag, Gen. John J. Pershing rode down Fifth Ave. to-day to receive the homage and acclaim of his countrymen. Behind him, lean, lithe, jubilant of foot, buoyant of spirit, swung the very flower of the Grand Army of Liberty — the pick of America's young manhood, 30,000 strong.

It was the parade superlative, the pageant magnificent. "America's Glory March," somebody called it, and the phrase is an apt one. Not in this age has this nation seen a spectacle which meant so much to its people, and for once the soul of New York was found and stood revealed, unashamed.

How shall this parade be described? It was the triumphal progress of a conqueror, and all the glory, minus the pomp, of the historic pageants of old was there. So might Trajan and Augustus Caesar have returned to Rome fresh from their triumphs, and yet not like the conquerors of old rode Gen. Pershing. It was as the instrument of a free people who had commanded an army fighting in the holiest of causes. Gen. Pershing was returning from the Ninth Crusade. And the people, alive to the significance of it all, gave him all they had to give of reverence and homage. Johnny "came marching home" straight into the hearts of old New York.
INDIA — Missing people: National Disaster Response Force personnel searched for missing people after two passenger ferries collided on Wednesday in the river Brahmaputra, near Nimati Ghat, in Jorhat, northeastern Assam state, on Thursday.

Photo: Anupam Nath/AP

PANAMA — World Cup qualifier: Panama’s goalkeeper Luis Mejia tried to catch a ball during a qualifying soccer match against Mexico for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in Panama City, on Wednesday.

Photo: Eduardo Verdugo/AP

CALIFORNIA — Recall: California Gov. Gavin Newsom watched a rally against California’s recall election before taking the stage on Wednesday, in San Leandro.

Photo: Noah Berger/AP

KYRGYZSTAN — Military exercise: A Kyrgyzstani’s soldier shot from a portable air-defense system during a joint military exercise at the Edelweiss training ground, about 180 kilometers (113 miles) southeast of Bishkek, on Thursday. Joint military exercises of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) countries, including Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and others, were held in the Edelweiss range in Kyrgyzstan amid the situation in Afghanistan.

Photo: Vladimir Voronin/AP