

QUEENS Today

— DECEMBER 11, 2018 —

★★★

STRAPHANGER'S SPINE FRACTURED DURING SUBWAY HATE CRIME ATTACK

A man is wanted by the police for a hate crime attack onboard a Manhattan-bound E train that left a straphanger hospitalized with a fractured spine. During rush hour Friday, the unidentified suspect got into a verbal argument with a 20-year-old woman and used a homophobic slur against her, police said. The man assumed the woman was a lesbian. The victim attempted to walk away from the hate-spewing man, but the suspect allegedly punched her in the back of the head and pushed her to the ground, where she hit her head. Read more on page 13.

★★★

CONSTANTINIDES UNVEILS NEW HYDROPONIC LAB AT ASTORIA SCHOOL

Council Member and Chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection Costa Constantinides joined with educators and innovative science professionals on Monday to open a new hydroponic laboratory at I.S. 126 in Astoria, as part of his Science 2050 budget initiative. The new lab allows students to grow plant life with a relatively low amount of water and mineral solutions instead of soil while also teaching students about agriculture, technology and nutrition. "Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are the careers of the future, which is why it's important we give tomorrow's leaders hands-on opportunities today," Constantinides said in a statement.

★★★

FIVE PEOPLE SHOT AND WOUNDED OUTSIDE RICHMOND HILL NIGHTCLUB

Police say five people have been shot and wounded outside a Queens nightclub with a troubled history. The victims were shot shortly before 4 a.m. Saturday following a dispute at the Rose Lounge, located at 89-25 130th St. in Richmond Hill. The NYPD told the Eagle that four women and one man were shot in the legs and feet. Read more about the shooting and the nightclub's history on page 2.

★★★

ALL THREE QUEENS DA CANDIDATES CALL FOR IMMIGRATION HARDSHIP PLEA POLICY

All three Queens district attorney candidates have taken a stand in support of an immigration hardship plea policy that would direct prosecutors to consider how various charges could impact an individual defendant's immigration status. Borough President Melinda Katz, Councilmember Rory Lancman and retired Judge Gregory Lasak each told the Eagle that, if elected, they would direct

Continued on page 2



Judge Karina Alomar (fourth from left) with her sister Melissa Alomar (left), brother-in-law Derrick Willis (second from left), mother Esperanza Cruz Alomar (third from left), daughter Emilia Catalano, husband Antonio Catalano (second from right) and cousin Rosa Samaniego (right). Eagle photo by David Brand

Judge Alomar Becomes First Puerto Rican Woman to Serve On Queens Bench

By David Brand
Queens Daily Eagle

Dozens of family, friends, colleagues and community members gathered at Queens County Civil Court for the induction of Judge Karina Alomar on Monday.

Alomar, a veteran attorney and former president of the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens, was elected to the bench in November.

"This is an historic day for Queens County," said Justice Carmen Velasquez, who presided at the induction ceremony. "Today is the first time in Queens County that a Puerto Rican woman is elected to the bench."

Alomar was born in New Jersey to a Puerto Rican father and an Ecuadorian mother. She became just the fourth Ecuadorian judge in the United States, Velasquez said.

Continued on page 16

AC Installer Keeps His Cool as Judge Acquits in Mercury Poisoning Case



Yuriy Kruk (center) walks through the courthouse with defense attorneys Marvyn Kornberg (right) and Dmitriy Shakhnevich (left) after Justice Richard Buchter acquitted him at a bench trial. Eagle photo by David Brand

By David Brand
Queens Daily Eagle

A Rego Park HVAC owner charged with attempted assault after Jamaica Estates homeowners found toxic mercury in a cooling system he installed was acquitted after a two-week bench trial Monday.

Yuriy Kruk, who owns the business A+ HVAC and Kitchen Corporation, stayed cool as Justice Richard Buchter delivered his brief "not guilty" verdict.

"The evidence showed that mercury was found in a unit in the second floor and the attic," Buchter said. "However, other workmen had access to the second floor unit for hours and the first floor vent was vulnerable to tampering

Continued on page 12

Straphanger's Spine Fractured During Violent Subway Attack

SEE PAGE 13

INSIDE:

DA Candidates Call For Immigration Plea Policy

SEE PAGE 7

Spirit of Hip-Hop Lives on in LIC Park

SEE PAGE 12