

QUEENS Today



— JANUARY 3, 2019 —

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FAR ROCKAWAY MAN STABBED TO DEATH IN LAST REPORTED MURDER OF 2018

A 21-year-old man was stabbed to death outside a Far Rockaway McDonald's on New Year's Eve. It was the last reported murder in 2018. Devonte Brandon, of Falcon Avenue, was found with multiple stab wounds to the chest around 9:30 p.m. on Monday, police said. Brandon, 21, was taken to St. John's Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Read more about the murder on page 2.

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EAGLE POLL REVEALS HOW READERS PRONOUNCE LIRR

Is it "El Eye, Double Are," "El Eye Are Are" or "Lerrrrrr?" That's what the *Queens Daily Eagle* sought to find out last week when we asked our readers on Twitter how they pronounced the abbreviation for the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR). After more than 100 votes, the results are in: 43 percent of voters say El Eye Are Are, while 39 percent reported saying "El Eye, Double Are." In last place, with just 18 percent of the vote, was "Lerrrrrr." Follow the *Eagle* on Twitter at @QueensEagle for more polls and Queens community news.

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FIREFIGHTER CUFFED FOR FATAL HIT-AND-RUN

A veteran firefighter was arrested on Sunday for leaving the scene of an accident that caused the death of man in Westchester County, police said. Eric A. Werner was arraigned in Buchanan Village Court for mowing down Joseph Orichello in a 2014 Jeep Cherokee on Dec. 29 on Albany Post Road. Orichello, 63, was found on the side of the road and died of his injuries, police said. Read more about the hit-and-run on page 20.

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QUEENS TOILET THIEF BUSTED FOR 'FLUSHING' CRIME SPREE

A toilet thief's alleged schemes went down the drain when he was indicted in Queens Criminal Court on Monday. Richard Mirabile, of Congers, New York, was charged with third-degree burglary and other crimes for eight incidents where he allegedly rushed into fast-food restaurants and made a beeline for the bathroom to take care of business — the business of stealing toilet-flushing fixtures. Read more about the bathroom bandit on page 20.

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FIVE ECO-FRIENDLY DRY CLEANERS AND LAUNDROMATS IN QUEENS

You don't have to put your eco-consciousness on hold while doing laundry

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Eastern District for New York Judge Joseph Bianco presides over a lawsuit alleging that Long Island rehab facility Seafeld violated the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Eagle file photo by Rob Abruzzese

Ex-Counselor Sues Employer For Discrimination In Federal Court

By David Brand
Queens Daily Eagle

An ex-employee of a Long Island substance abuse rehab facility is suing his former employer for disability discrimination — a year after the facility settled an age discrimination suit with another ex-employee.

Nicholas Elgar, a Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor-trainee (CASAC-T), filed a lawsuit against Seafeld Center Inc. in Brooklyn Federal Court in January 2018 accusing Seafeld of violating the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Elgar, who is diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, was allegedly demoted, denied overtime pay and confronted with "unequal terms and conditions" of employment, according to court documents. He was ultimately fired.

Elgar named Seafeld Outpatient Executive Director Lynn Doris as a defendant in the suit.

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Tragic Traffic Deaths Mar New Year's In Jackson Heights and Elsewhere



Safety advocates continue to call on the city to establish parking protected bike lanes to separate cyclists from cars and to prevent cyclist deaths.

Photo by Cybele Grandjean

By David Brand
Queens Daily Eagle

Despite a record-low number of traffic deaths in 2018, New York City streets remain a dangerous place for pedestrians and cyclists — a bleak reality highlighted by the reported deaths of two pedestrians and a cyclist on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Though vehicle occupant and cyclist deaths reached record lows in 2018, pedestrian deaths did not decrease at the same rate, which safety advocates attribute to infrastructure flaws and persistent problems with the city's driving culture.

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