



Staten Island Advance

BREAKING NEWS ALL DAY ON SILIVE.COM

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A humpback whale, which became entangled in a lobster pot, is visible in the waters off Sandy Hook, N.J.

WHALE CAUGHT IN NETTING OFF SANDY HOOK

Coast Guard cutter remains with humpback until help arrives today

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANDY HOOK, N.J. — The Coast Guard is enforcing a 500-yard safety zone around a humpback whale entangled in a lobster pot and netting eight miles east of Sandy Hook.

Officials say the whale, which became entangled yesterday, is visible on the surface and breathing.

An entanglement team from the Massachusetts-based Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies is due to arrive today to cut the whale free.

The whale is caught near the approach to Ambrose Channel, the main shipping channel in and out of the

Port of New York and New Jersey.

On a clear day, Sandy Hook is visible from the South Beach Boardwalk.

The Coast Guard said the cutter Penobscot Bay would remain on station overnight to enforce the 500-yard safety zone so vessels operating in darkness are able to steer clear.

The entanglement was said to be potentially life-threatening, but authorities were optimistic the whale could be rescued.

It's unknown who owns the lobster gear that snared the whale at the base of its tale.

"We are ensuring the safety of both the animal and boaters," said Lt. j.g. Eric Hanson, Coast Guard Sector New York command duty officer, in a statement released yesterday afternoon.

Police shut down pill pipeline

22 young people nabbed in ring that started with stolen prescription pad

By JOHN ANNESE
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

A stolen prescription pad sparked a scheme that pumped nearly 21,000 pills into a young-adult culture on Staten Island that authorities say has been rife with drug abuse.

Twenty-one Staten Islanders and a former Islander, aged 19 to 30, have been arrested on felony charges for passing bogus scripts for oxycodone at pharmacies across the Island for the last year or so.

Whatever they didn't use for their own recreational purposes, they sold for as much as \$20 a pill. District Attorney Daniel Donovan said yesterday.

The scheme started in July 2007, when Gerard Lavelle, 21, of Martling Avenue in West Brighton, stole a prescription pad from his stepfather, who is a physician's assistant at Staten Island University Hospital's Prince's Bay campus, authorities said.

Over the next year, Lavelle and 21 others used that pad, and another from a doctor based in Manhattan, to fill 108 prescriptions at 14 pharmacies across the Island.

Investigators became aware of the plan after Lavelle's stepfather noticed the pad missing last May and contacted the state Department of Health and a pharmacy worker called the

REPORTED FIRST ON SILIVE.COM YESTERDAY, 10:30 A.M.



Gerard Lavelle, 21, the alleged ringleader of the operation, leaves Stapleton Criminal Court, where he was arraigned and released without bail.

agency after one of the teens tried to fill a suspicious-looking script, prosecutors said.

Oxycodone is the generic form of a synthetic narcotic used in prescription painkillers such as OxyCon-

tin and Percocet.

"This drug, which has a large black market among teenagers, has the potential for serious side effects and long-term health damage

SEE PILLS, PAGE A 11



On his MySpace Web page, Eric Ulmer uses a tobacco leaf to roll an unknown substance and in three places lists "drugs" among his interests.



BELMONTE



NOSTRO



CONNOLLY



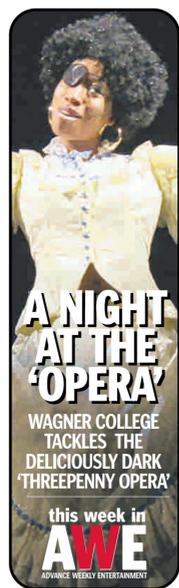
FORTUNATO



DEMARCO

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF THE DEFENDANTS

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WEATHER WATCHER

Haley Brady of New Springville



More clouds than sun with a high in the mid-40s

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Killer of cop gets life-plus-55

Judge throws away the key at sentencing of shooter of Police Officer Russel Timoshenko

By JEFF HARRELL
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Officer Russel Timoshenko's murderer will die behind bars.

A Brooklyn judge yesterday sentenced Dexter Bostic to life in prison without the possibility of parole, plus 55 years, for killing the Bay Terrace police officer and for the attempted murder of Timoshenko's NYPD partner, Officer Herman Yan, during a routine traffic stop in Brooklyn on July 9, 2007.

Justice Plummer Lott sentenced Bostic, 36, of Queens, to life on the charge of aggravated murder, 40 years to life for attempted aggravated murder, and 15 years for criminal possession of a weapon.

The sentences will run consecutively.

"Make no mistake," Lott told Bostic, "the evidence

SEE SENTENCE, PAGE A 11



Although he has declared victory, Ken Mitchell must wait for the recount as well as the tallying of absentee and affidavit ballots.



Despite trailing her opponent after the initial count, City Council candidate Debi Rose said, "It's clear to us we could win this."

Election outcome very much up in the air

Mitchell's slim edge on Debi Rose could be undone by recount, off-site ballots

By TOM WROBLESKI
ADVANCE POLITICAL EDITOR

With a razor-thin margin separating Kenneth Mitchell and Debi Rose, it will be a week or more before North

Shore voters know who will next represent them in the City Council.

The Board of Elections (BOE) next Wednesday will begin its standard recount of the votes cast in Tuesday's special election, and also will begin counting crucial absentee and affidavit ballots that were not part of the election-night tally.

All the ballots are under lock and key at Staten Island

BOE headquarters in Clifton, said BOE general counsel Steven Richman.

A preliminary BOE tally on Tuesday had Mitchell leading Ms. Rose by 34 votes in the election, which was conducted entirely with paper ballots.

The Associated Press that night had Mitchell up by 241 votes, but BOE sources said yesterday that Mitchell's margin appeared to be just

91 votes.

They attributed the fluctuating totals to errors made while votes were being tabulated by election workers.

The new Council member will not be sworn in until after the BOE certifies the results following Wednesday's recount.

With the margin so tight, the absentee and affidavit

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School makes case for extra space

Deputy mayor and councilman tour PS 48 in Concord and learn a new word: Cafegymatorium

By AMISHA PADNANI
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

At PS 48 in Concord, learning is happening in every corner.

A reading volunteer tutored a student under a staircase. Children plopped down on the floor in the hallway, leaning against the walls as they worked with their laptops for a computer class. And, in a space so small it could have been a storage closet, six non-

native English-speaking students listened attentively to their teacher.

For years, Principal Jacqueline Mammoito and several active parents have been asking city officials for funds to expand the building, which is at about 150 percent utilization and serves 460 students. There's neither a library nor a music room, and the science and computer labs have been dismantled to make more classroom space. But they said there is space on the side of the building that isn't being used, not to mention the vacant building across the street.

"The important message here is that we

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE A 11



Working on laptop computers in hallway at PS 48 in Concord are third-graders, from left, Jacqueline Wolske, Stephen Meyer, Kristen Colacino, Camryn Back, Jessica Maizer and Brianna Sisson.