

LIPA court date could bring a settlement

With a judge's decision to set a trial date to hear arguments on a tax certiorari case, Long Islanders may finally catch a break on what they now spend for energy ["LIPA tax challenges get a court date," News, May 24].

This case involves millions of dollars the Long Island Power Authority is forced to pay in property taxes on obsolete power plants.

The May 2, 2018, court date also forces both sides to realize they have one last chance to negotiate a settlement, because this action finally moves a long-running rhetorical debate over ratepayer fairness into the reality of the courtroom.

As some of the largest ratepayers on Long Island, members of the Association for a Better Long Island would welcome an agreement that economically protects the communities that have been home to these aging plants while ending the practice of virtually all ratepayers contributing millions because of overassessed tax bills.

Kyle Strober, Hauppauge

Editor's note: The writer is executive director of the Association for a Better Long Island, a developer lobbying organization.

Politics and realities of ride-hailing on LI

Regarding "Nassau's car wars: Ride apps vs. taxis" [News, May 28], political contributions by taxi firms to politicians have already tainted the debate.

The faith of Uber New York policy director Josh Gold in elected leaders to do what's in the best interests of their constituents is naive. Politicians normally do what's in their own best interests.

The Nassau County Taxi & Limousine Commission's eight-member advisory panel knows what side its bread is buttered on, so it's obvious what the members will decide. Half of them have ties to the taxi industry.

The primary reason the taxi industry is fighting the ride-hailing industry is it wants no more competition. The only real way for the public to exercise its rights and bypass its elected officials is to have a referendum on the matter.

Herbert Kraut, Woodmere

Now Nassau legislators must consider whether to ban Uber and Lyft, which have been operating here with virtually zero public over-



HOWARD SCHNAPP

Taxis wait for customers at the Hicksville train station in May.

sight?

Since February, I've made more than 800 pickups and drop-offs of food to individual UberEATS subscribers. Many found out about Uber's food delivery service because they are seasoned Uber taxi users. You'd have to live in a cave not to know that Lyft and Uber are becoming popular with Nassau and Suffolk county residents.

Driving thousands of miles on Nassau roads, I'd prefer the state require every licensed driver in the county to pass a 15-minute online road test every five years to renew the privilege.

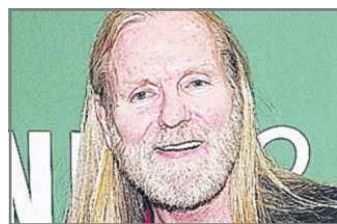
Distracted driving and driver arrogance and ignorance on the road have reached epidemic proportions.

Paul Eggers, Mineola

Ride-hailing services such as Uber and Lyft would free up parking spots in Long Island Rail Road commuter lots and surrounding communities.

Laura Schultz, Syosset

Editor's note: The writer is president of Residents for a More Beautiful Syosset, a civic group.



GETTY IMAGES / ROB KIM

Gregg Allman in 2014.

A fan of the music of rocker Gregg Allman

The purity and musical talent of the Allman Brothers was astonishing. Soaring sounds that found the stars then journeyed straight into your gut and then eased it's way to your soul. This was the experience of hearing this timeless band. Sadly, Gregg Allman, the "Midnight Rider," has passed ["Rock voice quieted," News, May 28].

Peace, and thank you for giving us your journey of musical wonder.

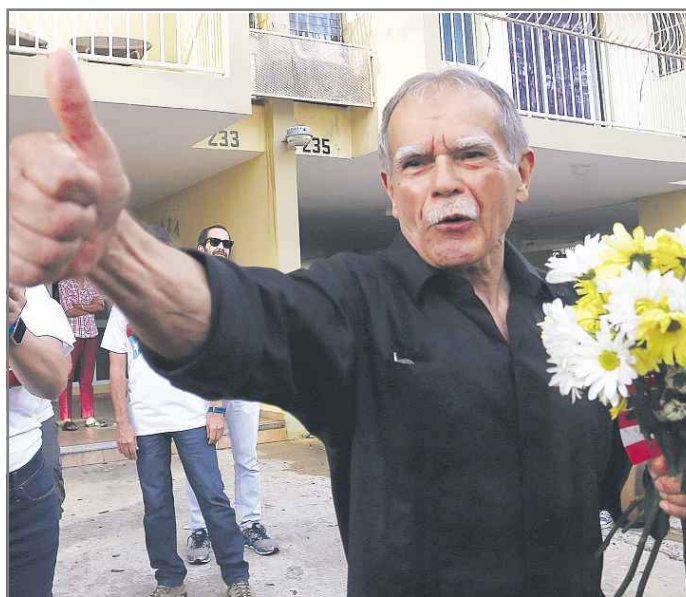
Steven Taub, Melville

How can NYC officials march with ex-head of FALN terror group?

It's amazing that during this worldwide war on terrorism, organizers of New York City's Puerto Rican Day Parade at first chose to honor Oscar López Rivera as their "national freedom hero" ["Cuomo opts out of parade," News, May 27]. On Thursday, organizers said López Rivera, at his request, will march "as a humble Puerto Rican and grandfather."

Rivera is an anti-American convict who headed FALN. This organization committed dozens of bombings, officials say, including some fatal attacks in New York and other cities.

It's amazing that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito apparently have no qualms about marching with him in the



EPA / THAS LJORCA

After 35 years in custody, Puerto Rican pro-independence activist Oscar Lopez Rivera is released in San Juan on May 17.

June 11 parade. And it's amazing that while marching, this terrorist will be protected by the NYPD — even from

terrorism. Amazing and truly outrageous!

Bill Viggiano, Williston Park

Don't neglect needs of our veterans

Memorial Day is a nonreligious holiday during which we honor American soldiers throughout history who sacrificed their lives to protect our way of life ["Scouts keep marching on," News, May 30].

It's appropriate to bow our heads in prayer to express our gratitude, but it's not enough. We should do more.

Why aren't veterans getting the best possible medical and social care after the trauma of warfare, regardless of financial cost? Death is not the only consequence of war. Lost limbs, eyesight and hearing are among the terrible costs, as is post-traumatic stress disorder.

What about the need for education and job training, housing and financial assistance? There always seems to be enough money to pay for ever-increasing military spending, but never enough for the common soldier's recuperation and re-involvement in society.

Robert N. Shorin, Syosset

Editor's note: The writer was a member of the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps.

Stop ticket scalping on Broadway

In "A ticket-sales record on Broadway" [News, May 24], it was reported that "overall admissions" to Broadway shows took a slight dip but average ticket prices rose.

The story said "secondhand sites have spiraled the real cost of seeing a Broadway show." Greed has spiraled the real cost!

Everyone loves Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Hamilton." The show is great, but when it opened on Broadway, premium seats were \$277. In just three months, those seats were going for more than \$1,000 each.

Many, including Sen. Chuck Schumer, would like us to believe that secondhand sites like StubHub are the cause of this insane rise in prices.

There are many ways to limit ticket purchases and stop the scalping.

George A. Szarmach, Dix Hills

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