

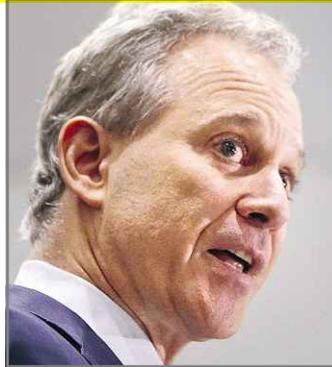
★ FORMER AG GETS PENSION

Payments began in June, despite assault allegations

BY MICHAEL GORMLEY
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ALBANY — Former New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, who resigned after women he dated accused him of assault, has begun to collect his \$63,948-a-year pension, state officials confirmed Friday.

Schneiderman, a Democrat, collected his first monthly check in June. He will collect \$5,329 per month, according to the state comptroller's office



Eric T. Schneiderman

that supervises pension checks. Schneiderman resigned after four women accused him in a New Yorker article of physically assaulting them. Schneiderman

has denied the allegations.

He resigned hours after the article was posted online and amid the growing #MeToo movement of women making sexual harassment allegations public.

Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas, whom Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo appointed as a special prosecutor in the case, is investigating the allegations.

The state pension system is now paying out more than \$800,000 a year in pensions to elected officials forced from office for corruption convictions and other charges. More than 30 state officials have been convicted in the last 10 years, mostly in federal prosecutions.

In a 2017 constitutional refer-

endum, voters approved stripping the pensions of any official convicted of corruption.

A 2011 law allowed judges to revoke or reduce pensions. But it doesn't apply to sitting lawmakers who passed the law and who argued it would be an unconstitutional change in working conditions.

Schneiderman was making \$151,084 a year in his second term as attorney general. He began his state political career in 1998 in the State Senate, representing a Manhattan district.

New York state pensions are taxed by the federal government but not by the state.

Schneiderman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment left with his attorney.

Coltrane home to get grant

NEW ORLEANS — Grants totaling \$1.1 million will help support important African-American heritage sites including the Huntington home of jazz musician John Coltrane, and the home of playwright August Wilson, a Virginia location central to the slave trade and civil rights locations in Birmingham, a preservation group announced Friday.

The money from the African-American Cultural Heritage Action Fund is part of an effort by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to preserve and promote African-American historic places.

Brent Leggs, who directs the fund, says African-American historic places have traditionally been undervalued and underfunded.

"Through the action fund we have the opportunity to raise the visibility and the full contributions of African-Americans to our nation. We have the opportunity to highlight stories and places of activism achievement and community, to rewrite history and tell a new story about a black America," he said.

He says the group and outside advisers narrowed down 830 applicants from 42 states to 16 awardees. The grants are given in four categories: capacity building; project planning; capital; and programming and interpretation.

The trust plans to raise a total of \$25 million over five years to preserve and highlight African-American historical contributions.

The recipients constitute a range of sites and needs across America. Some like Shockoe Bottom in Richmond, Virginia, are connected with the slave trade, while others, like the Coltrane Home, on Long Island, are connected with African-American artistic contributions.

Leggs said the fund was created in "the aftermath of Charlottesville last summer where heritage, culture and public spaces collided" as a way to "tell the whole history of our nation and to foster understanding, healing and reconciliation." — AP

Cops: LI man made threats at Zeldin HQ

A Nesconset man threatened to kill supporters of Rep. Lee Zeldin and President Donald Trump at the congressman's re-election headquarters Friday, then nearly hit a campaign worker as he drove off, Suffolk police said.

Martin Astrof, 75, went to the Republican's headquarters on Terry Road and got angry at a campaign worker there about 11:15 a.m., police said.

After threatening to kill the worker and other supporters, Astrof backed up his car in an "aggressive manner," nearly striking the worker, police said. Police did not release other details.

Astrof was arrested in front of his home a short time later and charged with making a terroristic threat, which is a felony, and second-degree reckless endangerment, police said.

Astrof was being held overnight at the Fourth Precinct. He is to be arraigned Saturday.

Zeldin was first elected to Congress in 2014 and is running for a third term. He could not be immediately reached for comment Friday night. — ELLEN YAN



Posthumous honor for Sean

On what would have been his 17th birthday, Sean and Kim Dixon on Friday thank supporters who gathered for the rededication of Peppermint Park in Medford in honor of their son, Sean Dixon, who died in October from osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer. The teen's family and friends were joined by Patchogue-Medford school officials and Suffolk County police officials, among others. Last summer, Sean, at right, was made an honorary Suffolk detective for a day.

