

# FOR COHEN



GETTY IMAGES / YANA PASKOVA

review of files taken from Cohen's office, citing lawyer-client privilege. ■ Video: [newsday.com/nation](https://www.newsday.com/nation)

officer Valerie Plame. President George W. Bush later commuted Libby's 30-month prison sentence but didn't issue a pardon despite intense pressure from Cheney. Trump pardoned Libby in a case that dealt with leaks to the press, despite the fact that he has raged against press leaks and excoriated "leakers" throughout his presidency. No one was ever charged for the leak in Plame's case. The White House said a witness against Libby later changed her version of events and noted that he had a decade of public service and an "unblemished" record since.

■ Andrew McCabe, the fired FBI deputy director, misled investiga-

tors multiple times about his role in a news media disclosure about Hillary Clinton just days before the 2016 presidential election and authorized the release of information to "advance his personal interests," according to a Justice Department watchdog report. The report alleges that McCabe authorized FBI officials to speak with a Wall Street Journal reporter for a story about an investigation into the Clinton Foundation, in violation of agency rules, and then misled FBI and Justice Department officials when later questioned about it. The report also reveals contradictory accounts between McCabe and his boss at the time, director James Comey,

over whether the conversation with the journalist had received proper approval. McCabe, who was fired just two days before his scheduled retirement, denied the report's allegations in a detailed rebuttal statement. McCabe says that when he believed his answers to the inspector general were misunderstood, he returned and tried to correct them. McCabe's statement notes that as deputy director he had full authority to authorize sharing information with the media and says he permitted subordinates to do so in this case to correct a false narrative that he had tried to stymie an FBI probe into the Clinton Foundation.

— COMBINED NEWS SERVICES

## Southern State bus crash lawsuit

BY ROBERT BRODSKY  
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The father of a Huntington teen who suffered a concussion and multiple facial fractures in Sunday night's coach bus crash on the Southern State Parkway has filed suit against the New Jersey-based bus operator and the driver.

The lawsuit, filed Friday in Nassau state Supreme Court, is the first known legal filing to come from the April 8 crash, which injured dozens of students who were returning from a spring break trip to Europe.

The suit, filed by Richard Bonitz of Huntington seeks unspecified damages from Journey Bus Line and bus driver Troy Gaston for pain and suffering endured by his daughter, Erin, 17, a Huntington High School senior.

Erin Bonitz suffered a fractured jaw and cheek, a deep laceration to her face and a traumatic brain injury, according to the family's attorney, Robert Sullivan of Garden City.

He said the trauma to her mental state may not be known

for several months.

"This is not just a mistake," Sullivan said Friday. "This is sheer laziness and negligence."

Efforts to reach Journey Bus Line, based in Irvington, New Jersey, and Gaston, who lives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, were not successful on Friday.

Gaston was using a noncommercial GPS system, which requires only a starting point and destination, when his bus hit an overpass on the Southern State at Eagle Avenue in Lakeview.

Commercial-grade GPS devices require drivers to type in the height, weight and length of their vehicle to avoid restricted roadways. Buses and tractor trailers are prohibited from entering the Southern State, which has several low bridge crossings.

A sign posted on the overpass indicates the clearance at Eagle Avenue at its lowest point is 7 feet, 7 inches. The height of the bus was about 12 feet.

The seven-page lawsuit says Journey was "negligent" in failing to equip its bus with a commercial GPS system.

With Bridget Murphy

## LI home prices surging

BY MAURA MCDERMOTT  
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Long Island home prices jumped last month as buyers encountered a shortage of homes for sale.

Homes in Nassau County sold for a median price of \$505,000 in March, up 8 percent from a year earlier, the Multiple Listing Service of Long Island reported Friday. Suffolk County homes fetched a median price of \$352,000, up 6.7 percent from the previous March.

Only 4,422 homes were for sale in Nassau, down 6 percent year over year, and 6,048 in Suffolk, a 15 percent annual decline.

"We have houses selling in three days, three weeks, and a lot of them still have multiple offers on them due to the shortage of inventory," said Al Pantino, general manager of Bon Anno Real Estate in Massapequa.

Sales activity fell in both counties, with closed deals falling by 10 percent in Nassau and 8.2 percent in Suffolk,

compared with the same period last year. Buyers signed fewer contracts last month as well, with an annual decline in pending sales of 2.9 percent in Nassau and 1.1 percent in Suffolk.

With interest rates rising, "the first-time buyer is really getting squeezed now," Pantino said.

The average mortgage interest rate was 4.42 percent this week, up 0.34 percentage points from a year earlier, mortgage giant Freddie Mac reported.

"If the rates hit 5 [percent], it's going to get certain first-time buyers to just take a pause. They're going to have a harder time qualifying for these mortgages," Pantino said. "Houses at that point might stay on the market a little bit longer."