



Trump practicing the art of no deals



Dan Janison

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President **Donald Trump**, who bills himself as a great negotiator, is making remarkably little visible progress toward big agreements he's talked about reaching.

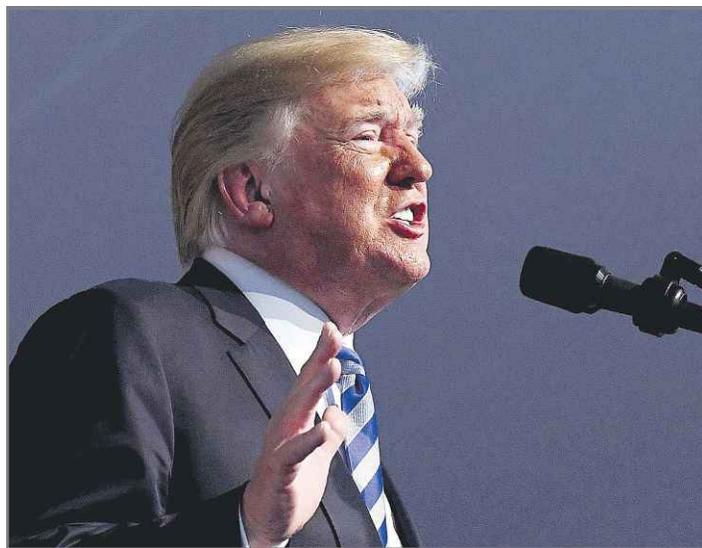
Trump and his aides have achieved no clear consensus with fellow Republicans in Congress on: health care legislation; rebuilding roads; new immigration laws; his desired border wall; gun laws, or school safety, or the public school curriculum.

Efforts to disarm nuclear North Korea, and to favorably resolve trade tensions with China, Mexico and the European Union, and to cool off the Mideast, remain hazy or stalled.

The military threat of **Kim Jong Un's** dictatorship in North Korea to the rest of Asia and the United States suddenly seemed to dissipate when a June 12 summit with Trump was announced. Trump canceled the meeting barely two weeks later. But on Friday, he proclaimed the meeting back on in Singapore.

Skepticism lingers. After all the Pyongyang ping-pong, the administration has yet to clarify basic positions — such as what “denuclearization” means and whether it includes banning civilian uses of atomic power.

That vagueness was on display last week when Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** testified before Congress. And Kim isn't considered reliable even if he says he'd give up his nukes.



EPA-EFE/REXUSHUTTERSTOCK / OLIVIER DOULIERY/POOL

Trump's North Korea summit is back on, but its goals are unclear.

Does the summit promise a serious negotiation or just a pomp-filled meet-and-greet?

In September, Trump canceled the executive DACA program that shielded from deportation young immigrants brought here illegally as children. But then he asked Congress to legalize it. After much political noise, he linked the bill to his “wall” funding. Nothing happened.

Trump last week returned to his old assertion that Mexico will finance the wall. Mexican President **Enrique Peña Nieto** promptly vowed this will never happen.

Rebuilding infrastructure was a 2016 selling point for Trump even in blue-state New York. Before taking office, he consulted builders **Steve Roth** and **Richard LeFrak** on public-private ventures. The whole issue has since fallen off the table.

Trump did get to sign a

sweeping tax bill late last year. He played an early and simple role, demanding big corporate cuts. But when the detailed wheeling and dealing began, he stayed away. House Speaker **Paul Ryan** (R-Wis.) praised Trump for “letting the tax writers get this deal done.”

The president has canceled agreements his predecessor negotiated, such as the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris climate agreement. But other international parties involved in those pacts have stuck to them. So the impact of U.S. withdrawal remains hazy.

On the Russia probe, ex-New York City mayor **Rudy Giuliani** was purportedly helping to negotiate terms by which special counsel **Robert Mueller's** staff would interview the president.

If such a deal was really the goal, Trump's most recent public attacks on the investigation suggest those talks, too, have either stalled or failed.

SPINCYCLE

[GUIDE TO POLITICS AND POLITICIANS]

7 judges cross-endorsed

Nassau Republicans and Democrats have made an agreement to cross-endorse seven local judges.

Democrat **Robin Kent** got GOP backing for re-election as Family Court judge while Republican **Catherine Rizzo**, a law secretary to Supreme Court Justice **Thomas Feinman**, is receiving Democratic backing for County Court judge. Democrat **William Miller** got GOP backing for Long Beach City Court judge while Republican **Richard McCord** got Democratic backing for re-election as Glen Cove

City Court judge.

Republicans also will back two Democrats for state Supreme Court in September: Hempstead District Court Judge **Helen Voutsinas** and County Court Judge **Norman St. George**.

Democrats also have agreed to back Republican Appellate Justice **Ruth Balkin** for re-election.

Those endorsements come after Democrats last year backed two incumbent GOP Supreme Court justices for re-election, **Arthur Diamond** and Feinman.

— Rick Brand

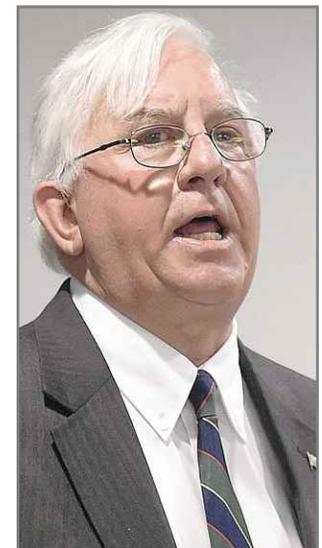
PBA chief backs Kennedy

In a surprise early endorsement, **Noel DiGerolamo**, president of the Suffolk Police Benevolent Association, said he is backing Republican Comptroller **John M. Kennedy Jr.** for re-election over Democratic challenger **Jay Schneiderman**, the Southampton town supervisor.

DiGerolamo said his backing for Kennedy came after he had a conversation with Schneiderman about his reasons for running. “Jay told me he was approached by **Steve [Bellone]**, the Suffolk County executive, who asked him to run,” DiGerolamo said. “I don't believe that's a valid reason to run. . . . There's a difference between someone who wants a title and position and someone who wants to do the job.”

DiGerolamo said Kennedy has done “a fantastic job” as comptroller, saving money through refinancings and bringing in funds by audits and increased enforcement of the motel/hotel tax.

Schneiderman said he is “disappointed the PBA is not even looking at me based on my 18-year record of cutting taxes” and past support he has received from the union. Schneiderman said the union leader made clear he was backing Kennedy before he ever en-



JAMES CARBONE

John M. Kennedy Jr.

tered the race.

Of Bellone's endorsement, Schneiderman said, “I appreciate the county executive's support, but he will receive equal scrutiny as any other person we review,” if elected.

DiGerolamo also said he is supporting Republican County Clerk **Judith Pascale**, whose fortunes briefly appeared in jeopardy during recent cross-endorsement talks between Conservatives and the major parties. Both Kennedy and Pascale got GOP backing last week.

— Rick Brand

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Group: Study race day traffic

Congestion feared in Belmont Park development plan

BY TED PHILLIPS
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Opponents of the proposed Belmont Park development on Sunday called for the environmental impact study to include measures of traffic during this Saturday's Belmont Stakes race.

"That would really give them a sense of what it would be like to have events 200 times a year," said community organizer Tammie Williams, 36, of Elmont. Williams said the study should look at the annual horse race as an example of how year-round events would affect traffic, parking and Long Island Rail Road ridership in the surrounding community.

"If we're expecting crowds and crowds of people on our local streets, the best time to study that is on Saturday," she said.

The plan includes an 18,000-seat sports arena that would be the new home for the New York Islanders hockey team and a concert venue. The \$1 billion proposal includes a hotel, retail space, restaurants, office space and community space. The Islanders, along with New York Arena Partners — a development group that in-



Community organizer Tammie Williams, center, and other demonstrators outside Belmont Park.

cludes Sterling Project Development, a real estate firm headed by the Mets' Wilpon family, and Oak View Group, an arena development company backed financially by Madison Square Garden — would build the project on state-owned land under a 49-year lease.

Williams said a group called the Belmont Park Community Coalition plans to send a letter Monday to the Empire State Development, a state economic development agency, and to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, asking them to conduct the study and include a wide area, not just the immediate

neighborhood, that would be affected by the development. The development group has said the environmental impact statement will be completed this year.

Speaking on Sunday across the street from the Belmont racetrack, and flanked by about eight opponents of the plan, Nassau County Legis. Carrié Solages (D-Elmont) said residents and local law enforcement should be extra vigilant during Saturday's race.

"We're calling on our county police and our Town of Hempstead to enforce the parking regulations," Solages said. "We're asking neighbors to take pictures of people blocking their

driveways, that have no respect, or complete disregard for these neighbors' quality of life that they enjoy in this suburban community."

Sheila Moriarty, 50, a postal worker from Bellerose Terrace, said her community is close enough to feel the impact of the Belmont Stakes and events that would take place at a new arena. Moriarty said they have had to deal with public drunkenness and noise caused by events at the racetrack from "people who lack respect."

"During the Stakes, we have to completely change our way of life," Moriarty said.

Marian Tinari cross-endorsed for surrogate judge

BY RICK BRAND
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Suffolk Conservatives, Democrats and the Independence Party will back District Court Judge Marian Rose Tinari, wife of Suffolk Conservative chairman Frank Tinari, for the **patronage-rich post** of surrogate judge in a cross-endorsement agreement that will involve nine judges.

The agreement gives Judge Tinari, 64, a significant edge for the powerful judgeship that has been in GOP hands for a century. It also builds on an alliance that led last year to the election of Democrats Timothy Sini as district attorney and Errol Toulon Jr. as Suffolk sheriff, the first African-American to win any countywide elected position.

In addition to surrogate, the

Democratic and Independence Parties will cross-endorse two other Conservatives: County Court Judge Joseph Farneti for a third term and former 12-year District Court Judge Paul Hensley, now a court attorney-referee. Hensley lost re-election three years ago.

The agreement also calls for Democrats and Conservatives to back Independence Party County Court Judge James Quinn for a second term.

Democrats, meanwhile, will get the minor parties' backing for Karen Kerr, supervising judge of the District Court to run for Family Court, a spot now held by Democrat Barbara Kahn, who is reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70. For Kerr's District Court seat, the minor parties will back Democrat Eric Sach, who works

part time in town Traffic Court.

Because of his wife's involvement, Frank Tinari referred all questions about the judicial pact to John E. Flynn, Suffolk Conservative executive vice chairman and Islip Town leader. Flynn cited Marian Rose Tinari's seven years as top aide to retiring Surrogate Judge John Czygier and her work as counsel for Suffolk Administrative Judge C. Randall Hinrichs before she became a judge herself in 2015.

As for other selections including Democrats, Flynn added, "We chose what we felt were the most qualified candidates for every position."

John Jay LaValle, Suffolk GOP chairman who had also been trying to work out a deal with Conservatives, did not return calls for comment.

Although nominations are not

formally made until September, Conservative and Independence Party officials are also expected to back Democrats for three state Supreme Court judgeships with incumbents Arthur Pitts and Peter Mayer retiring and Robert Quinlan reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70.

Richard Schaffer, Suffolk Democratic chairman, declined to identify the party's candidates for those positions. "I already have 96 names, and we as Democrats will have to make three people happy and 93 others upset," he said. Schaffer added there will be further talks on a fourth Supreme Court judgeship, once it's formally determined whether it will go to Suffolk. Frank Tinari would say only that there are ongoing discussions on Supreme Court nominations.

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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1812 The House of Representatives, 79-49, approved declaring war against Britain.
1919 Congress approved the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing citizens the right to vote regardless of gender.
1939 The German ocean liner MS St. Louis, carrying 900 Jewish refugees, was turned away from Florida.
1940 The evacuation of 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, ended.
Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets. . . we shall never surrender."
1942 The Battle of Midway began, ending in a decisive victory against Japan, a turning point of the Pacific war.
1986 Jonathan Jay Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, pleaded guilty to conspiring to deliver defense information to Israel. (Sentenced to life, he was paroled in 2015.)
2017 Alex Honnold became the first to climb alone to the top of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park without ropes or safety gear.