

Tax compensation pushed

LI's state Dems eye \$200M plan for Nassau hikes

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Democratic state senators from Long Island advocated Sunday for a \$200 million plan to compensate Nassau homeowners projected to see tax hikes under a countywide reassessment — days after Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's budget director said there "is no funding for" it.

Under the plan, Nassau homeowners would qualify for tax credits to partly offset spikes in tax bills spurred by the county's first reassessment in nearly a decade. Ultimately, homeowners would not have to pay the full increase for eight years. Homeowners making more than \$500,000 in annual income would not be eligible.

The plan was tucked into the Senate Democrats' budget proposal Tuesday, catching some in the party's Assembly off guard.

It is separate from legislation



State Sen. Anna Kaplan, shown last month, endorsed the new plan.

included in Cuomo's budget bill that would phase in Nassau assessment changes over a five-year period. That bill is backed by Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, a Democrat.

Robert Mujica, state budget director, said in a statement Thursday that the Senate Democrats' proposal would create a \$3.5 billion budget imbalance. He wrote that Democrats were "promising \$40 million to Nassau County

for tax reassessments. It is another obvious political charade. It is like the \$3 billion New York was supposedly giving to Amazon. It never existed. There is no funding for Nassau's tax assessment, there is no \$3.5 billion of extra spending as the Senate promises its supporters. [It] makes the reality of an on-time, responsible government budget virtually impossible."

Nassau County would have to

opt into the tax credit program and contribute close to \$70 million through sales tax revenue. The state would spend \$3 for every Nassau-contributed dollar. Senate officials have said the proposal could cost the state \$27 million for the first year and more than \$200 million overall.

State Sen. Anna Kaplan (D-North Hempstead) said the plan is to help those who would take a financial hit from the reassessment. "We have all heard from constituents who are concerned that a sudden jump in their property taxes would be a devastating . . . particularly those living on fixed incomes," she said.

About Mujica's criticism, Kaplan said: "This is our first one-house budget, we are within \$100 million of the budget that was given by the governor's office . . . It will take a lot more than this, there is another house, the Assembly and the executive office that have to meet and negotiate, and we're hoping that we will get as much as we can."

Kaplan was among four of LI's six Democratic state senators at the news conference, along with Hempstead Town Supervisor Laura Gillen, also a Democrat.

CRIME&courts

LAKE SUCCESS

Cops: Bicyclist dies after hit by minivan, driver flees

A Great Neck bicyclist died Sunday when he was struck by a vehicle in Lake Success, Nassau County police said.

David Schlichting, 66, had been traveling east just after 9 a.m. on a Long Island Expressway service road between Exits 33 and 34, police said. He was struck by a minivan whose driver did not stop.

Schlichting was thrown and suffered head trauma. First responders took him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Those with information are asked to call Nassau Crime Stoppers at 800-244-8477.

— DEON J. HAMPTON AND KRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

VALLEY STREAM

Four men arrested after altercation at restaurant

Four men were arrested on assault and weapons charges

Saturday night following a fight in a Valley Stream Applebee's, Nassau County police said Sunday.

Daryl Russell, 28, of Freeport, and Hugh Stewart, 27, of Jamaica, Queens, were in the Green Acres Mall restaurant when they got into a verbal altercation around midnight with Jonathan Garcia, 24, of Brooklyn, and Jesse Bulla, 24, of Ozone Park, Queens, police said.

Garcia and Bulla followed Russell into a restroom and punched him before returning to their dinner table, police said. A second physical encounter between the four occurred, police said, and Garcia was stabbed and had his lung punctured, and Russell was punched in the face. Garcia was taken to a hospital. Police also said Russell had a white powder, and two knives were found at the scene.

All four men face are scheduled for arraignment Monday in First District Court in Hempstead. — DEON J. HAMPTON

Police say son attacked parents

A Cedarhurst man stabbed his father, punched his mother and then hid in a nearby garage before setting it on fire early Saturday, Nassau County police said.

Brian Alejo, 21, of Oakland Avenue, was arrested and charged with second-degree attempted murder, fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon and several assault charges, police said.

At his arraignment Sunday in First District Court in Hempstead, Alejo's case was continued until Wednesday, according to court records. An order of protection was issued against Alejo, and he was remanded back to custody, records show.

Police said Alejo was at his home arguing with his parents around 1:10 a.m. Saturday when he attacked his father with a sharp object, stabbing him multiple times.

He then punched his mother and fled to a home on First Street, where he hid in the



Alejo, 21, also said to set a fire.

garage for several hours before starting a fire that engulfed the entire residence, police said.

Officers said Alejo later turned himself in to police and was placed under arrest. He then made an escape attempt, and several officers restrained him, Nassau police reported.

Alejo's parents were taken to a hospital and treated for their injuries. Police said no injuries were reported in the house fire.

— DEON J. HAMPTON

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CORRECTION

There is an \$8 admission fee for Monday's screening of "Weed the People" at the Long Island Museum. A calendar item Sunday was incorrect.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1766 Britain repealed the Stamp Act of 1765.
1925 700 people were killed as the Tri-State Tornado struck Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.
1937 Nearly 300 people, most of them children, were killed in a natural gas explosion at the New London Consolidated School in Rusk County, Texas.
1940 Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain.
1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order authorized the War Relocation Authority, for internment Japanese-Americans, with Milton S. Eisenhower as its director.
1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill.
1963 The Supreme Court, in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, ruled that state courts were required to provide legal counsel to criminal defendants who could not afford to hire an attorney.
1965 Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether, in the first spacewalk.
1980 Frank Gotti, 12, son of mobster John Gotti, was struck and killed by a car driven by John Favara, a Queens neighbor. Favara vanished next July, the apparent victim of a gang hit.