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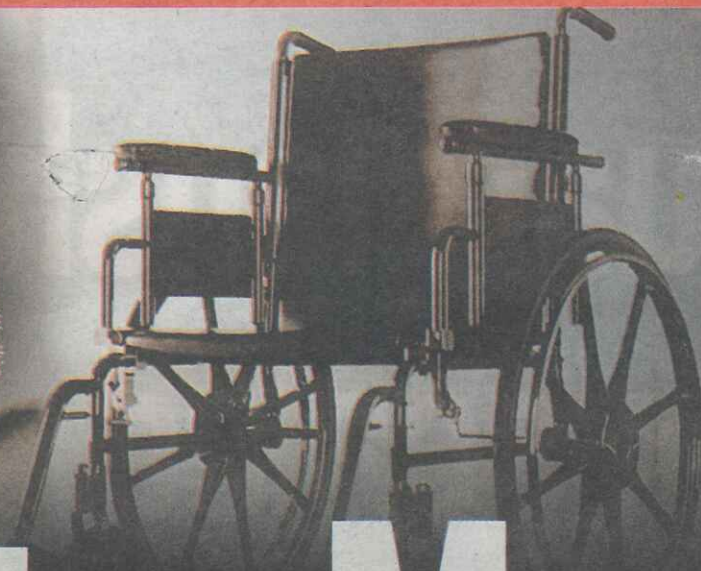
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An Ailing Mom, A Family Feud

How one guardianship case shines light on sealed cases that keep public in the dark

COVERAGE BEGINS ON A2-3 | DOCUMENTS AT [NEWSDAY.COM](http://newsday.com)

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Newsday

Reaching for the starch

LI Potato Festival a treat for artists and gastronomes

BY CHRISTINE CHUNG
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From a potato salad contest to a mashed-potato-eating competition, the Long Island Potato Festival in Calverton yesterday offered a variety of potato-related attractions for starch enthusiasts.

More than 30 contestants competed in the potato-sculpting contest, creating art from one pound of mashed potato. The roster of sculptures included miniature ducks, snowmen, Pokemon characters and more.

Kristen Ferguson, 25, said she drove from Manhattan to the festival on the former Calverton links golf course to check out the quirky festival with her friend Patrice Dowd, also 25.

Dowd had crafted a fall-themed potato sculpture featuring a pumpkin spice latte and, though she wasn't feeling confident of winning, she said it was an entertaining way to spend the day.

People also browsed the grounds featuring about 30 local vendors and exhibitors. One local farm was represented, Mattituck-based Mar-Gen Farm.

Gene Krupski, 51, the owner of the farm, grows potatoes and other organic vegetables on five acres of his family's



Emily Malone, left, Madeline Schiller, both 10, and Veronica Chichotky, 4, compete in the potato festival.

farm, which comprised about 200 acres about a century ago. Though both his grandfather and father were potato farmers, he said farming only potatoes today is no longer sustainable.

Long Island was once potato country. At the turn of the 20th century, potato farms covered more than 275,000 acres, according to state figures. Today, this number has diminished to about 2,500 acres.

Moriches resident Ivis Penalver, 45, said she was heartened to still see farm stands scattered around the island. Kristyn Dolan, one of the organizers of the festival, said cele-



Troy Chichotky, 9, of Calverton, left, and Benjamin Owens, 5, of Centereach, get their fill of the mashed-potato-eating contest.

brating Long Island's potato heritage was the purpose of the day.

"Why not celebrate where we

live, work and play?" Dolan said. "The goal is for people to learn more about where they live."

4 CHARGED IN NASSAU HEROIN SALES

Four men have been arrested after selling heroin in Merrick and Bellmore, Nassau police said yesterday.

Daniel Cymerys, 30, of East Meadow, and Raymond Budney, 33, of Merrick, agreed to sell heroin on several dates in September, police said.

Kyle Gleason, 32, and Colin Poore, 34, of Merrick, were also arrested. They agreed to sell heroin in Bellmore, police said. Defense attorneys for the four could not be reached.

On Sept. 27, officers arrested Cymerys and Budney in Merrick, police said. Cymerys had six bags of what investigators suspect was heroin, police said. Budney agreed to

a search of his bedroom, where cash and bags of a substance believed to be heroin were recovered, police said.

Both were charged with three counts of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and three counts of third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. Budney faces an additional charge of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, police said. Gleason and Poore were charged with third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance.

— NICOLE FULLER

The High Holy Days

Rosh Hashana began yesterday at sundown, marking the start of the year 5777 on the Hebrew calendar and the opening of the Jewish High Holy Days.

Services for the holiday will be held through tomorrow and commenced with the blowing of the shofar, a trumpet made from a ram's horn.

Rosh Hashana, translated as "head of the

year," is a time of intense self-reflection and prayer for practicing Jews.

Public schools in Nassau, Suffolk and New York City will be closed today and tomorrow in observance.

The High Holy Days will culminate with Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, which begins at sundown Oct. 11 and ends at sunset Oct. 12.

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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1863 President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day.
1941 "The Maltese Falcon" — the movie version starring Humphrey Bogart and directed by John Huston — opened in New York.
1951 The New York Giants captured the National League pennant by a score of 5-4 as Bobby Thomson hit a three-run homer off Ralph Branca of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

1990 West Germany and East Germany ended 45 years of postwar division, declaring a reunified country.

1995 The jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman.

2008 Simpson was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room.

2011 An Italian appeals court freed Amanda Knox of Seattle after four years in prison, tossing murder convictions against Knox and an ex-boyfriend in the stabbing of their British roommate.