

## Metro Briefing

### NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN: 9/11 CAMPAIGN IS STARTED** A group of family members of World Trade Center victims announced yesterday the formation of the 9/11 Campaign, an effort to raise money for programs that will be associated with the memorial at ground zero. The immediate goal "is to raise \$9,110,000 by Sept. 11 of this year," said Monica Iken, founder of September's Mission, a victims' family advocacy group. The money will be used to create an endowment that can finance children's programs, conferences and other educational outreach efforts.

*Glenn Collins (NYT)*

**MANHATTAN: MAYOR QUESTIONS HARASSMENT INQUIRY** Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg questioned yesterday the City Council's expenditure of \$15,000 to investigate accusations of sexual harassment against Councilman Allan W. Jennings of Queens. "I don't know why they're spending money on an outside investigatory agency," the mayor said, noting that the city has its own Department of Investigation to look into suspected misconduct. The Council said it hired the firm ADR Associates/JAMS to provide an impartial investigation. Mr. Jennings has denied any wrongdoing.

*Michael Cooper (NYT)*

**ALBANY: LAWYER APPOINTED TO APPEALS COURT** The State Senate voted unanimously yesterday to confirm Robert S. Smith, a Republican trial lawyer from Manhattan and a financial donor to various Republican campaigns, to the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court. The Senate's action to confirm Mr. Smith, who was nominated by Gov. George E. Pataki, means that the court will retain a 4-to-3 Republican majority, said Gary Spencer, the spokesman for the Court of Appeals. Mr. Smith, 59, is a graduate of Stanford University and Columbia University Law School. He will take his seat on the bench today.

*Al Baker (NYT)*

**QUEENS: GARBAGE HAULER SENTENCED TO JAIL** A man described by the authorities as an organized-crime figure was sentenced to jail yesterday on charges including extortion and bribery in garbage hauling contracts. The district attorney's office said the man, Anthony Piccolo, 58, of Massapequa, N.Y., was given a jail sentence of two and three-quarter years to eight and one-quarter years. He was also directed to pay more than \$500,000 in cash and assets in forfeiture. The court sentenced Mr. Piccolo's daughter, Toni-Lynn Piccolo, 32, of Islip last week to six months in jail and five years' probation, but Mr. Pic-

colo had headed the multimillion-dollar waste fraud scheme, the district attorney's office said. The two pleaded guilty in September, the prosecutor's office said.

*Stacy Albin (NYT)*

### NEW JERSEY

**TRENTON: FORMER MAYOR PLEADS GUILTY** The former mayor of Hainesport has pleaded guilty to diverting more than \$300,000 in public funds for personal use, the Division of Criminal Justice said yesterday. Ronald Corn, who served as mayor from 1995 to 2001, has pleaded guilty to a charge of official misconduct. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, \$150,000 fine and restitution. Additionally, Mr. Corn will be barred from holding public office, the Division of Criminal Justice said.

*Stacy Albin (NYT)*

### CONNECTICUT

**STAMFORD: JANITORS' UNION RATIFIES CONTRACT** A union representing 2,000 janitors at Fairfield County commercial buildings said yesterday that the workers had overwhelmingly ratified a new one-year contract. The contract will raise hourly pay for full-time workers to \$10 an hour on Dec. 31, 2004, up from \$9 under the previous contract, which expired on Dec. 31, 2003. The contract was signed by several cleaning contractors and Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union. To increase its negotiating leverage, the union asked for a contract that lasted just one year, so it will expire on Dec. 31 of this year, the same date that the union's other agreements with commercial buildings in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are to expire. Under the agreement, employers will increase their contributions for health coverage by \$40 per month per employee.

*Steven Greenhouse (NYT)*

**HARTFORD: POLICE CATCH FUGITIVE AFTER TIP** A fugitive wanted in connection with the shooting deaths of his estranged wife and their two daughters was caught on Monday afternoon after the police received a tip on his whereabouts. Michael Kendall, 42, struggled briefly with two officers at a building on Asylum Avenue before being handcuffed and taken into custody, the Hartford police said. Officers said they seized a Colt Python handgun during the capture.

*(AP)*