

UNIONDALE HERALD BEACON



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JULY 25 - 31, 2024

\$1.00



Kelsie Radziski/Herald

Opponents of the proposed Las Vegas Sands project in Uniondale at the Nassau County Planning Commission hearing on July 18.

Sands lease agreement advances

By **KELSIE RADZISKI**

kradzisk@herald.com

The Nassau County Planning Commission unanimously approved the lease agreement for Las Vegas Sands to take control of the Nassau Coliseum at a meeting on July 18. The agreement was put to a vote by the Rules Committee on Monday, whose members also approved the proposal.

A full vote in the County Legislature is scheduled for Aug. 5.

The decision to turn the Uniondale site over to the Sands has generated a great

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Brandee Younger: from Uniondale to jazz star

By **KELSIE RADZISKI**

kradzisk@herald.com

Brandee Younger is a jazz harpist and a Long Island native. She grew up in Hempstead and Uniondale, and her musical talent and passion has blossomed into a successful career that takes her to venues across the country.

Younger's most recent performance was at the Tilles Jazz Fest last Saturday. She played a duet with bassist Rashaan Carter.

It was at the Tilles Center, on the LIU Post campus in Brookville, where Younger, 41,

I've got a really cool connection to the Tilles Center.

BRANDEE YOUNGER
Jazz harpist

used to play the harp in the Center's summer chamber music program when she attended Walnut Street Elementary School and Uniondale High School.

"I've got a really cool connection to the Tilles Center," she said. "It's like home for me."

Her duet performance drew a crowd of jazz enthusiasts. Sheila Chectman, who attended the festival with her husband, said she enjoyed Younger's music, especially since it was her first time hearing a jazz harpist.

"I've never heard a harpist before," she said. "I didn't know what to expect."

Tyler Simpson is a longtime fan of Younger's, and of jazz in general, and he was happy to hear the performance.

"I love her — I've listened to her albums forever," Simpson said. "It's great to see some of my favorite artists live."

Younger grew up in Hemp-

stead, but her family moved to Uniondale when she was in fifth grade and became active members of the community. Her mom taught third grade at Grand Avenue Elementary School in Uniondale, and her family regularly attended Union Baptist Church in Hempstead.

She said that her experiences and opportunities growing up in

Uniondale helped shape her career.

"I think most of my formative years actually happened in Uniondale, and it's in Uniondale where I really started to play an instrument," Younger said.

She began with the flute, and then played trombone in the Uniondale High marching band.

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10 Teeing up success with ACDS golf fundraiser

July 25, 2024 — UNIONDALE HERALD BEACON

The Association for Children with Down Syndrome hosted its annual golf outing fundraiser on July 22.

The event, held at Hempstead Golf and Country Club, was a full day of festivities. Guests started with brunch, followed by a day of golf, and then an evening dinner.

Activities included on-the-course contests, with a \$10,000 hole-in-one prize and a signed New York Islanders hockey jersey.

David Foster, an individual who receives support from ACDS, presented inspirational remarks. He lives in a supported apartment and works as a paint mixer at Home Depot, according to ACDS officials, and his position came from the Ken's Krew initiative, founded by Ken Langone, to help people with neurodevelopmental disabilities maintain meaningful jobs.

The primary sponsor of the event is Empire Adventure Park, a new indoor recreational park located in the Samanea Mall in Westbury. Matt Mullen, CEO of Empire Adventure Park, is a longtime sponsor and supporter of the organization.

ACDS, founded in 1966, is "dedicated to providing lifetime resources to individuals with Down syndrome, autism, and other developmental disabilities," according to the news release. They offer programs from birth throughout adulthood, and fundraisers like the golf outing help them maintain their assistance. The organization serves Hempstead and Uniondale as well as communities across Long Island.

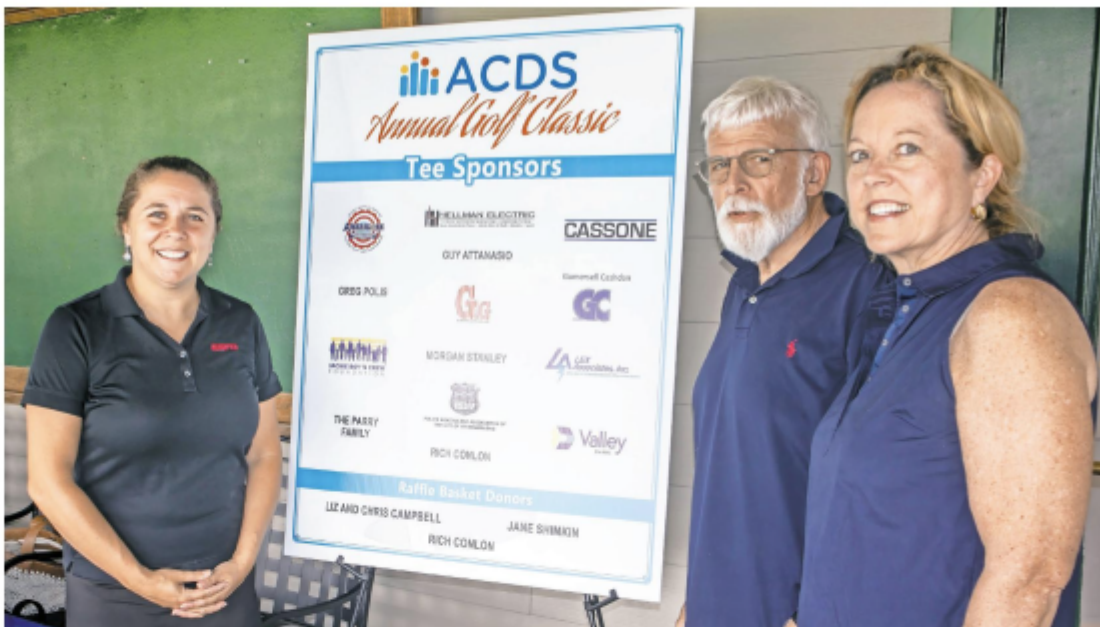
— Kelsie Radziski



John Minnigan, left, and Joe Festa show off their new ACDS T-shirts.



Golfers tee up on the green at the Hempstead Golf and Country Club.



Keith Rossein/Herald photos

ACDS Board President Tiana Jones, left, CEO Michael M. Smith, and principal Tricia Leahy smile at the Association for Children with Down Syndrome golf outing fundraiser on July 22.



CJ Peknic, left, and Dennis Toomey practice their putting before hitting the golf course..



Guests gather and enjoy the brunch before a big day of golf.