

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition

New York: Today: Mostly sunny, breezy, mild. High 79. Tonight: clear and calm. Low 62. Tomorrow: sunny, light winds. High 77. Yesterday: high 82, low 67. Weather map on Page 18.

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\$4.50 beyond the greater New York metropolitan area

\$3.50

IN BRIEF

ISLIP

Drawn-Out Battle Over Islip Ballot

Christopher Bodkin and Steven Flotteron, candidates for the Islip Town Board, have twice been added to and removed from the Sept. 13 primary ballot since they were denied the Republican nomination by party leaders last spring. Their lawsuit over the mess is now headed into a second month, having been mediated by seven judges in three courthouses so far.

Mr. Bodkin, an incumbent, said he was denied his party's nomination because he opposed overturning the 12-year term limit, twice approved by voters, that precludes the town supervisor, Peter McGowan, from seeking a fourth term.

The candidates collected some 4,400 signatures on their petition — well over the minimum of 2,000 needed to force a primary — but other Republicans challenged a majority of the signatures, and the Suffolk County Board of Elections declared the petition invalid.

Mr. Bodkin and Mr. Flotteron filed suit in State Supreme Court, and later won a change of venue shifting the case to Mineola from Riverhead.

On Aug. 19, Justice Joseph A. DeMarco ruled in favor of Mr. Bodkin and Mr. Flotteron. Their opponents turned to the Appellate Division in Brooklyn, where a panel of four judges ruled five days later that the signatures should be more closely scrutinized.

When the case returned to Mineola last Tuesday, Justice DeMarco recused himself, handing the matter

over to Justice Burton Joseph, who began a hearing that was expected to last several days. *Julia C. Mead*

SOUTHAMPTON

Debit Cards Available For Local Businesses

In a bid to keep business on Main Street instead of in the outlet malls, the Southampton Chamber of Commerce has introduced a local debit card to be used only at participating merchants in the town.

The card, which works like any other prepaid debit card, is adorned with a photograph of a trademark South Fork scene: a sandy path traversing the ocean dunes.

So far 14 businesses are accepting the cards as payment, with two more set to join soon, said Millie Fellingham, the chamber's executive director. Since July 15, patrons have bought 25 of the cards totaling \$830 in credit, she said. The cards can be purchased in any amount.

"If you don't know what to get anybody, like teenage kids, then they can go spend it anywhere they want," Ms. Fellingham said, adding that instead of seeing people go to places like the Tanger outlet mall in Riverhead, "we want the dollars to stay here."

The card is the first issued by a chamber of commerce in the country, Ms. Fellingham said.

County grants totaling \$6,500 and \$5,400 from the chamber's budget were used to start the program. The chamber keeps 1 to 3 percent of the money spent and charges businesses a small fee to join.

The cards are on sale at the cham-

ber's office at 78 Main Street but will eventually be available at several stores and on the Internet, Ms. Fellingham said. *Peter C. Beller*

HAUPPAUGE

Iraqi Telecom Extends Globecom Contract

Globecom Systems Inc. of Hauppauge, a satellite communications company, announced Tuesday that it had signed a one-year extension of its contract with the Iraqi Telecom and Post Company to provide worldwide telephone service into and out of Iraq.

David Hershberg, the company's chairman and chief executive, said Globecom had signed its first contract with Iraqi Telecom 18 months ago.

Under the contract, international calls from land lines in Iraq are routed by Iraqi Telecom to Globecom's satellite earth station in Baghdad. The signal is then sent through a satellite owned by the Loral Corporation — from which Globecom leases space — to Globecom's satellite earth station in Hauppauge. Then calls are sent to their destination using the equipment of companies like AT&T, Sprint and Primus, Mr. Hershberg said.

In the first months after Globecom signed a contract with Iraqi Telecom, Mr. Hershberg said, the volume of calls generated \$4,000 to \$5,000 in income. But the number of calls has dropped, he said, and income from calls has fallen to about \$1,000 a month because of an increasing number of black-market phone companies. *Stewart Aiz*