



Today's News Thursday, June 19, 2008

## Morano's Bid

Staten Island resident Carmine Morano, who left his job at HIP last month, is holding a press conference today to publicize his endorsement by WABC Radio personality Curtis Sliwa. Mr. Morano is running on the Independence Party ticket to fill the seat being vacated by Rep. Vito Fossella, a Republican. Mr. Morano's son Frank, also a member of the Independence Party, is a producer for Mr. Sliwa's show. Mr. Morano sold his company Perfect Health to HIP several years ago. He also is a former president of Anthem Health. For more information on his campaign, see [www.morano4congress.org](http://www.morano4congress.org).

## Help Wanted: MSW

Social workers are a hot commodity. Jobfox rankings listed social worker as seventh on its list of 25 job titles most in demand nationally. The company based the finding on a sample of more than 4,000 job listings in its database. In New York state, according to the SUNY-Albany Center for Health Workforce Studies, demand has risen steadily, to 42,470 social worker jobs in 2006 from 34,020 jobs in 2001. Jobfox, a commercial site that tracks employment opportunities, says the national listings are for positions in education, mental health outreach and family services. But demand doesn't appear to have helped salaries much. The U.S. median for social work as of May 30 was \$35,000 to \$40,000, making it the lowest-paid among the 10 most sought-after job titles.

## Nurse Overtime Bill

Albany leaders reached agreement yesterday on a bill to prohibit mandatory overtime for direct-care registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, except in the case of a genuine emergency. The bill was heavily supported by nurse unions, but opposed by hospitals.

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## Power to the practices

Seizing an opportunity created by new state regulations, a Manhattan alternative-energy company is marketing its backup power source to office-based surgery practices. The practices face new rules for meeting accreditation standards, and that means they must have emergency power.

Gaia Power Technologies manufactures a line of PowerTower products that give businesses reliable backup in the event of an outage. "One of our market segments is backup power for businesses, and [office-based surgery] fits into the commercial backup market," says Bige Donuk, Gaia's chief executive.

Doctors who run office-based surgery practices are just beginning to get a handle on the code standards that govern an accredited facility. By July 14, 2009, all office-based surgery practices are required to obtain and maintain full accredited status with a nationally recognized accrediting agency.

The Gaia product isn't a generator that runs on diesel or natural gas; it is a battery-run system suited to an office setting. The compact system can sustain a practice for several hours; a typical unit costs \$20,000 but can run to \$50,000. Unlike a standard uninterruptible source, the PowerTower can be configured for medical applications by the buyer, who can decide which equipment will run and for how long.

## At A Glance

**WHO'S NEWS:** Dr. Barrett Katz joined Danube Pharmaceuticals as chief executive. Danube is a privately held Manhattan biopharmaceutical company specializing in drug research and development for ophthalmology. Dr. Katz was previously chief medical officer of Fovea Pharmaceuticals SA in Paris. He is a clinical professor of ophthalmology at the NYU School of Medicine and Weill Medical College.

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