



RULING ON EVIDENCE

A JUDGE RULED MONDAY THAT PROSECUTORS CAN USE A GUN AND NOTEBOOK AS EVIDENCE AT LUIGI MANGIONE'S MURDER TRIAL IN UNITEDHEALTHCARE KILLING. **A5**

STATEN ISLAND

Bakers brace for change as N.Y. flour ban threatens iconic bagels and pizza



Heartland Bagels is tinkering with long-standing recipes to adapt to bromate-free flour, getting ahead of a September deadline to eliminate the additive. Photos by Pamela Silvestri, Advance/SILive.com

As lawmakers move against bromated flour, those that use it weigh health concerns against texture, tradition and technique.

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If you've ever savored a Staten Island bagel with that distinctive chew or folded a slice of New York pizza with its sturdy, slightly crisp crust, there's a good chance you've tasted potassium bromate — whether you knew it or not.

That may soon change.

A bill recently passed by New York state legislators would ban bromated flour, a product with a long-used additive that strengthens dough, improves rise and helps create the textures New Yorkers have come to expect from breads, bagels and pizza. If signed by the governor, the measure could force bakers across the state — from legacy institutions to corner delis making bread from scratch — to rethink recipes that, in some cases, have remained unchanged for decades.

For places like Utopia Bagels in Queens and Heartland Bagels in New Springville, where consistency is part of the identity, the shift is not a small one. It raises a familiar question: what happens when tradition meets regulation?

From a policy perspective, the move is framed as safety.

Potassium bromate has been restricted or banned in Canada, parts of Europe and elsewhere over concerns about potential health risks in its unbaked form. While it breaks down during baking when used properly, the proposed law reflects a broader push to remove certain additives from the food supply.

For consumers, it fits into a wider trend toward ingredient transparency, whole foods and closer scrutiny of what goes into everyday fare. But for cooks, bread bak-



Is it water or flour that makes New York bread so distinctive? Some bakers say it's the water and overall chemistry.

ers and pizza makers, the implications are more complicated.

The law also targets FD&C Red Dye No. 3, a coloring agent long used to give foods bright red and pink hues. It has commonly appeared in candies, cake decorations, maraschino cherries, snack cakes and gelatin desserts, as well as some flavored dairy products and, historically, certain liquid medications. The dye has been linked to cancer in animal studies, leading to bans or restrictions in many countries and more recent action by federal regulators.

Another additive swept into the ban is propylparaben, a preservative designed to inhibit mold and extend shelf life. It has been used in a range of packaged foods, including baked goods, tortillas, processed snacks, condiments, sauces and some cheeses. Critics have raised concerns about its potential health effects, particularly when used routinely in everyday foods.

Taken together, the restrictions reflect a broader effort to move away from chemical additives that consumers may rarely notice but regularly consume — favoring shorter **SEE BILL, A2**

STATEN ISLAND

Woman convicted in slaying of teacher set for early release

Ayisha Egea accepted a plea offer in the 2019 case; the victim's ex-husband is serving 23 years to life in prison.

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Seven years after Staten Island elementary school teacher Jeanine Cammarata was murdered and her remains desecrated in a bombshell case that made national headlines, one of her killers is scheduled for early release.

In 2021, a jury found the victim's estranged husband, Michael Cammarata, 49, guilty of second-degree murder and other charges, including concealing a corpse. He is serving a sentence of 23 years to life in prison.

His then-girlfriend, Ayisha Egea, 48, accepted a plea offer by the district attorney's office that same year, in which she copped to first-degree manslaughter in exchange for a determinate sentence of nine years in prison and five years of post-release supervision.

State records show Egea is scheduled to be released on post-release supervision in June.

In granting an inmate's bid for early release, the New York Department of Corrections and Community Supervision calculates prison terms under Penal Law Section 70.30. Each decision is made individually, based on several factors that could include:

- › Aggregate consecutive or concurrent terms;
 - › Type of sentence;
- SEE EGEE, A2**

NEW YORK CITY

Riders navigate the first weekday of LIRR strike

Unions for employees of the largest U.S. commuter rail system say they just want cost of living adjustments.

Philip Marcelo and Kathy McCormack
Associated Press

Commuters in New York City's suburbs navigated a gauntlet of car, bus and subway routes to get to work Monday as a strike on the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) that shut down the nation's busiest commuter rail system entered its third day.

Unions representing rail workers and the Metropolitan Transportation Agency, which runs the railroad, negotiated for much of Sunday, wrapping their talks around 1 a.m. Monday.

But they failed to reach an agreement despite pressure from the National Mediation Board and Gov. Kathy Hochul. The two sides returned to the bargaining table Monday.

Katie Dolgow, who teaches first graders in Manhattan, said it had already taken her an hour just to travel from Long Island to Queens as more commuters turned to the region's already notoriously gridlocked **SEE COMMUTE, A3**

