



## Here And Now

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is in the New York City area again with no public schedule.

The Post's Fred Dicker landed a six-figure deal with HarperCollins (owned by the Post) to pen Cuomo's bio. The book is due out in mid-2013 – just as Cuomo is preparing to seek re-election. Unlike Vanity Fair writer Michael Shnayerson, who signed his own deal two months ago, Dicker will have the full cooperation of the governor and his staff.

Said Cuomo spokesman Josh Vlasto: "Mr. Dicker has been reporting on Albany politics and government for 30 years and is widely acknowledged to be an expert on the topics. The Governor and his staff plan on cooperating with Mr. Dicker's book." (Vlasto said a final decision hasn't been made on whether to assist with the Shnayerson tome).

It's unclear how – and if – this deal will impact Dicker's current job as the Post's State Editor or his daily show on Talk 1300. Odds are, he'll address the deal, and the questions that arise from it, on the radio this morning.

More headlines...

Former Gov. George Pataki is launching Tipping Point – a Super PAC believed to be the first state-level entity of its kind. The goal: To raise in the low eight figures to assist vulnerable House Republicans.

As promised, Cuomo used his executive order power to side-step opposition from the Senate GOP and create a health care exchange.

The state has already received almost \$40 million worth of federal planning and setup grants to start the exchange. It has until June to apply for an even more lucrative set of second-stage grants.

Cuomo's executive order was widely praised, but not by Sen. Greg Ball, who called it "imprudent." Michael F. Cannon, the director of health policy studies at the Cato Institute, said: "King Andrew shouldn't be out creating new bureaucracies on his own."

The usually praise-filled NY Post editorial page writes: "Gov. Cuomo and Mr. Hyde? Could very well be – because this week New York's chief executive showed that he definitely has two sides."

Helicopter enthusiast and billionaire Mayor Bloomberg tops the waiting list to purchase AgustaWestland AW609 Tiltrotor, a pricey and highly-coveted hybrid helicopter-plane.

A few words tucked into the state budget will mean at least \$5 million in tax savings for BlackRock, the world's largest investment manager, allowing it to be taxed as a regular corporation and not a bank.

Sen. Tony Avella on Cuomo's member items vetoes: "There's is a difference between governing and bullying, and I think we've crossed that line."

Social media savvy Newark Mayor Cory Booker helped save his neighbor from a burning building and then Tweeted about it.

Bloomberg's Commissioner for Information Technology and Telecommunications Carole Post is leaving her job to take a top position at the New York Law School.

In a new report released in time for Opening Day, the Center for Working Families says the Yankees contributed considerable campaign cash to city and state lawmakers key to development of the new stadium.

The founder and former chief executive of a troubled charter-school network in Brooklyn was indicted on charges that he repeatedly failed to pay income taxes, embezzled money from his schools and created phony records.

"While earning a six-figure salary funded largely by taxpayer dollars, the defendant (Eddie Calderon-Melendez) robbed the State of New York of much-needed revenue when he failed to pay his taxes for six years in a row," said AG Eric Schneiderman. "He then compounded his crime by creating false evidence to throw investigators off his trail."

Maid of the Mist officials intend to keep their American tour boat operation afloat by building a storage facility on the site of the former Schoellkopf Power Plant near the falls, but state parks officials aren't big on that idea.

The Bloomberg administration failed to warn homeowners about major changes in the way the city assessed the value of co-ops and condominiums, according to a new audit by NYC Comptroller John Liu.

Assemblyman Keith Wright has proposed a bill that would block the opening of new charter schools and limit educational options to parents and kids, critics charge.

The Mirram Group, a political-consulting firm headed by former Bronx Democratic Party boss Robert Ramirez, is backing Sen. Adriano Espaillat's bid to unseat Rep. Charles Rangel.

The Democratic Rural Conference will hold its 2012 convention April 27 and 28 at the Radisson Hotel in Corning.

Rep. Louise Slaughter says her broken leg is on the mend, and she's learning to move without standing on it.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver is taking his push to raise the state's minimum wage on the road.

The Town of Olive in the Catskill Mountains is the latest community to ban natural gas drilling using high-volume hydraulic fracturing. More than 50 local governments have enacted so-called fracking bans.

Environmentalists want the DEC to block a propane-based form of fracking, claiming that New York law mandates an extensive review of the technique.

President Obama still thinks Kanye West is a jackass.

NYC Public Advocate Bill de Blasio's communications director, Gabby Adler, left her post after just three months on the job. She'll be working with a Super PAC – something of which he former boss has been critical.

You've only got one day left to bid on a government car or truck.

"Without an Ann there would be no race," said GOP strategist Tom Rath, who advises Mitt Romney's campaign. "With her, he can be somebody who fixes big problems. Then she opens a window that allows people to say, 'Oh yeah, there's a real person in there.' "