

Staircases All Set for Intrepid Museum

By **TONY LINGEFORS**
Epoch Times New York Staff

NEW YORK—Renovations are charging ahead for Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in Manhattan. On Thursday morning a crane lifted three 40-foot staircases from a barge onto Pier 86. The new staircases will lead visitors to the hangar deck.

"There are four towers getting onto the ship. The design of the towers was meant to reflect the feel of the ship. It had to have a certain appropriate strength of character, while at the same time having an architectural elegance," said Stephen Dargo from Dattner Architects, one of the architects behind the staircases.

Dargo continued, "The steel on the towers is hot dipped galvanized, which is a more industrial finish than stainless steel. The elevator is a machine room-less elevator, which is the newest technology in elevators."

Dargo says the first tower will now take you onto the ship's hangar deck and flight deck. Previously the towers only took you to the hangar deck. "So it's a kind of new thing for the ship. The ship can move in any direction. It's really an interesting piece of architecture."

Matt Woods, Vice President of operations is excited about the project, and says so far it is going according to schedule.

"This is a milestone. This is only

one aspect of a \$65 million project. This is a four-million dollar part of it as the stair towers. We have to glass it, put the elevators in, get the ship back, do the work on the ship, and we have to connect the ship to it," said Woods.

"It's all a great project. We are on schedule and we are on budget now. This is one of the pieces that have to be done."

In October the World War II ship will return, and will be connected to all four stair towers. And on November 8 the Intrepid, who is undergoing a 19-month renovation in Staten Island, will officially open. When the museum reopens, it will have new exhibit construction as well as access to crew quarters.



BUILDING MAN: Matt Woods, Vice President for Operations of Dattner Architects, stands in front of Pier 86 where the new museum is being built. TONY LINGEFORS/THE EPOCH TIMES

Recess Success!

PLAYGROUND CONTINUED FROM A1

Andrea Wenner, founder and Executive Director of Out2Play, said, "We are thrilled that Out2Play's program truly enriches the lives of children in our communities. Though they may seem trivial to some, playgrounds are often the only form of exercise in which these children engage."

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer praised the organization's diligence in promoting outdoor recreation: "I am proud to be part of this movement that is providing our children with renovated areas where they can play safely," he proclaimed, beaming, standing on P.S. 142's new black-top.

NBA Hopefuls Help Special Olympic Athletes

By **SHAOSHAO CHEN**
Epoch Times New York Staff


Athletes at the Special Olympics received a special visit from NBA's 2008 Draft prospects at a clinic Wednesday.

The clinic drew over 60 Special

Olympic athletes to the basketball at John Jay College of Criminal Justice where they were coached by draft hopefuls in shooting, passing, dribbling and rebounding skills. NBA hopefuls including Derrick Rose, Michael Beasley and Kevin Love were joined by 10 others in the clinic.

"This is an incredible opportunity not only for our Special Olympics athletes, but for the players," said Neal Johnson, the CEO for Special Olympics New York.

After an introduction by NBA Legend and Hall of Famer Bob Lanier, the participants were split into groups of three where each group was taught a different skill by a draft prospect. NBA draft pick Eric Gordon of Indiana University and Kevin Love of UCLA coached ecstatic Special Olympic athletes in shooting hoops while Robin Lopez of Stanford University taught dribbling.



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Robin Lopez (right) greets Joe Alexander (center) and Danilo Gallinari (left) after an introduction by NBA hall of famer Bob Lanier at the NBA Care's Special Olympics Clinic on Wednesday. SHAOSHAO CHEN/THE EPOCH TIMES



SHOOTING HOOPS: NBA draft prospect Kevin Love of UCLA gives tips to a Special Olympics athlete on the proper way to shoot hoops. SHAOSHAO CHEN/THE EPOCH TIMES

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