

Streisand eyeing Barclays

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Barbra Streisand could play the Barclays Center during the arena's opening weeks celebration.

Ticket reps for Brooklyn's answer to Madison Square Garden told Brooklyn Weekly that the eight-time Grammy winning superstar and Erasmus HS graduate will play a homecoming concert at the arena this fall shortly after Jay-Z opens the place with several shows beginning on Sept. 28.

Handlers for the showbiz goddess wouldn't confirm she's on her way, and Barclays officials won't say if the show has been booked, but Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) claims the star is coming.

"Barbra Streisand has a couple of days [at the arena]," the politician said at a recent meeting, according to the blog Atlantic Yards Report.

Brooklyn's Babs boosters were happy to hear the Streisand-related news just weeks after her half-sister Roslyn Kind — an accomplished singer and Brooklyn native in her own right — played in Flatbush.



BABS IS COMIN': Ticket reps say Barbra Streisand will play Barclays Center. AP / Eddy Risch

LOUD AND LATE

Neighbors: B'Bridge work too noisy

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

One of the most famous landmarks in the city that never sleeps is making sure its neighbors take that phrase literally, according to groggy Brooklynites angry about late-night construction on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Noisy drilling at the base of the historic span begins at midnight and usually lasts until around 4 am, keeping residents on Cadman Plaza

West awake until the sun rises, according to sleep-deprived neighbor Dan Lee.

"It's been hell," said Lee. "We're completely at their mercy."

He and other residents want the city to start any noisy construction work earlier and end it by midnight — but the city says it must burn the midnight oil to avoid impeding the flow of traffic

Continued on Page 5

Street meat standoff

BY DANIEL BUSH AND WILL BREDDERMAN

The simmering cold war between Bay Ridge's food vendors and Fifth Avenue's brick-and-mortar businesses boiled over on Monday morning when merchants occupied a prime piece of sidewalk used by a popular gyro seller — sparking a bizarre protest that ended after a two-day standoff.

Local merchants calling themselves Save Our Streets, led by Lone Star bar owner Tony Gentile, set up folding tables on both Fifth Avenue and 86th Street at 7 am — taking over a spot use by Middle Eastern Halal Cart — and sold newspapers and cookbooks. They also handed out T-shirts and literature about how food

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Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Masked snack attackers

NATALIE O'NEILL

Careless custodians at a Windsor Terrace school have turned the surrounding block into a cafeteria for hungry raccoons — and rotten milk is always on the menu, according to angry neighbors.

Residents say the clean-up crew at PS 154 reg-

ularly tosses dozens of trash bags containing half-empty cartons of milk on the sidewalk in front of the school, attracting families of chubby critters that tear into the plastic bags and spread rotting trash on Windsor Place near 11th Avenue.



"It's disgusting — it's like the school serves them dinner every night," said neighbor Pat Maliha.

She said school officials are ignoring the problem by failing to drain milk cartons before chucking

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‘The Hipster Hilton’

Posh Wythe Hotel opens in Williamsburg

BY DERRICK LYTLE

Now tourists won't just visit Williamsburg—they'll stay there.

The Wythe Hotel opened for business on Tuesday, offering 72 rooms boasting original details, modern street art, a restaurant serving seasonal fare, posh bars, a theater for film screenings, and skyline views of Manhattan from the roof of the neighborhood's newest luxury hotel.

The hotel is built around the skeleton of a barrel and cask factory, constructed in 1901, and the building still has some of its industrial charm. The development company Two Trees Management, which played a huge role converting DUMBO from a neighborhood of factories into a booming residential and tech community with the borough's highest rents, preserved some of the old while adding up-to-date amenities and features.

A Williamsburg carpenter assembled the beds and desks using wood salvaged from the building, while designers left the ceilings adorned with some of the factory's original southern yellow hard pine beams.

But it's not all antique — the rooms feature audio inputs so guests can blast their favorite tracks from their iPods via in-the-wall speakers.



STAYING INSIDE: The long-stalled hotel Wythe Hotel opened to guests on Tuesday, offering visitors to Williamsburg an upscale place to spend the night.

Photos by Derrick Lytle

The Wythe Hotel isn't Williamsburg's first luxury lodging.

A stylish hotel set up shop on N. 12th Street adjacent to McCarren Park

last fall under the name Hotel Williamsburg, before it owners sold the building and the hotel reopened as King and Grove Williamsburg.

Ex-state senator's highs and lows

State Sen. Carl Kruger's fall from grace had many twists and turns. Here's a rundown:

February, 1994

Carl Kruger is elected to the state Senate in a special election.

For the next 14 years, he maintains an office on Avenue U and puts forth a litany of bills, such as one forcing pedestrians to shut off their iPods when preparing to cross the street.

Kruger is a Democrat, yet manages to fit in well with the GOP leadership in the state Senate, and becomes the first Democrat to be given a committee chairmanship in a Republican-run house.

November, 2008

Kruger forms a "Gang of Three" with a handful of other legislators and threatens to abandon the thin Democratic majority, which had just taken control of the chamber, handing power back to the GOP.

The Democratic leadership buckles under his threats and makes Kruger the powerful chair of the Finance Committee.

July 12, 2010

A Sheepshead Bay businessman tells an FBI informant that Kruger would fix his problems with the state if he threw a fund raiser for the pol.

After a week of tight-lipped silence, Kruger finally speaks out about the FBI's probe into his campaign practices, claiming that he's an innocent patsy.

"All I know is that I'm a victim in this whole thing," Kruger said.

The business owner is charged with lying to investigators after he claims that he had lied to the informant about Kruger's alleged "pay to play" tactics.

April 19, 2011

Kruger is arraigned for pocketing nearly \$1 million in bribes from well-heeled lobbyists and developers including Richard Lipsky,

Aaron Malinsky, and hospital CEO David Rosen. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Harrington told U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff that he has 100,000 documents and 30,000 recorded phone conversations to establish his case.

Prosecutors say that Kruger used the bribe money to pay for a multi-million dollar home in Mill Island that he shares with longtime companion Dorothy Turano, the District Manager of Community Board 18, and son Michael Turano, who the FBI outed as Kruger's lover.

Dec. 21, 2011

Kruger resigns from the state Senate so he can keep his pension. He then tearfully pleads guilty to federal corruption charges in Manhattan federal court, ending months of speculation over whether he had accepted the bribes.

The normally brash Brighton Beach Democrat, who professed his innocence for nearly a year, agrees to pay back \$450,000 of his ill-gotten gains as part of the plea deal hammered out with federal prosecutors.

Jan. 11, 2012

Gov. Cuomo announced that the disgraced ex-pol's vacant seat will be filled in a March 20 special election, setting the stage for a showdown between Councilman Lew Fidler (D-Marine Park) and Brighton Beach attorney David Storobin.

Jan. 27, 2012

State GOP leaders unveil their proposal to redraw the borough's nine state senate districts, but their new map doesn't include Kruger's old stomping grounds — a swath of real estate between Brighton Beach and Mill Basin.

— *Colin Mixson*

KRUGER GETS SEVEN YEARS

Disgraced pol sentenced for taking \$1 million in bribes

BY DANIEL BUSH
AND COLIN MIXSON

A federal judge sentenced disgraced state Sen. Carl Kruger to seven years in prison on April 26, claiming that the pol's scheme to accept close to \$1 million in bribes was a "dagger into the heart of good government."

Kruger accomplice Michael Turano — the former lawmaker's alleged lover and son of Community Board 18 District Manager Dorothy Turano, Kruger's longtime companion — received two years in prison for his role in the political corruption scandal.

A choked-up Kruger, who pleaded guilty to accepting payoffs from deep-pocketed lobbyists, told Manhattan federal court Judge Jed Rakoff that he'd learned his lesson.

"My actions will forever overshadow whatever legacy I intended to achieve," he said. "My sentencing hasn't begun, but my punishment is well underway."

Yet Kruger, who once led the state senate's powerful Finance Committee, wasn't as contrite in an interview with this paper moments before he stepped into court.

"If there's anything I can say about this it's don't stay at the table too long," Kruger said. "If you stay at the table too long, you lose."

Dorothy Turano, who prosecutors say benefitted from Kruger's bribe-taking, didn't show any remorse over what Kruger and her son had allegedly done as she watched the proceedings from behind a pair of dark sunglasses.

"The streets of Brooklyn are safe now," Turano said sarcastically to a friend as she left the courtroom. "Really good."

Both Kruger and Michael Turano were able to leave court free men: their prison sentences are scheduled to begin on June 26.

Federal prosecutors said Kruger used his bribes to finance a lavish lifestyle that included a super luxury English-made Bentley automobile and the garish seaside mansion on Mill Island he shares with the Turano family.

"Year after year Kruger accepted bribes to help the Turano family," said U.S. Attorney Michael Bosworth.



WALK OF SHAME: (Above) Ex-state Sen. Carl Kruger leaves Manhattan federal court after being sentenced to seven years in prison for bribe receiving. (Right) Michael Turano, Kruger's accomplice and alleged lover, walks his mother, Community Board 18 District Manager Dorothy Turano, out of court.

Photos by Tom Callan

"For what? They weren't impoverished. They lived in a million-dollar mansion with a movie theater."

The case against Kruger unfolded a web of deceit and lies last March, when federal prosecutors charged him with offering his political clout to the highest bidder.

Prosecutors claim lobbyists funneled thousands of dollars in payoffs to a dummy corporation that Michael Turano founded so Kruger could help them on a litany of legislative matters, including:

- Delaying the expansion of a bill that included a five-cent deposit on



bottled water.

- Altering the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law so grocery stores could sell wine.

- Going to war with American Indian reservations to demand they pay state sales taxes on cigarette and tobacco sales.

GARDEN GROANS

Greenwoodsmen worried about outdoor beer bar

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Neighbors of a soon-to-open Greenwood Heights beer garden have long-brewing fears about the outdoor drinking destination — because getting in touch with the venue's owners is harder than getting the attention of a busy bartender during happy hour, critics say.

Greenwood Park will soon begin serving brews under the stars on 19th Street and Seventh Avenue — but its operators have not scheduled any meetings with the civic group that can play an advisory role in liquor license applications.

Community Board 7 district manager Jeremy Laufer says the owners of Greenwood Park haven't contacted his group to discuss permits for drinking, live music, and dancing, and when the board tried to contact them, it got no response.

The group's stance on the bar won't make or break Greenwood Park's chances at a liquor license — the State Liquor Authority makes the final ruling, and prospective bar owners are not required to gain community board



Photo by Elisabeth Graham

BAR FIGHTERS: Casey Petrillo and Jerry Simon want the owners of Greenwood Park to be good neighbors.

approval or even appear before a neighborhood committee.

But the perceived lack of responsiveness has raised warning flags for some who worry the bar owners will lure a rowdy crowd, then not deal with the aftermath.

"There's going to be a whole bunch of drunk guys walking down the street — we're worried about noise and safety," said

neighbor Jerry Simon. "Why not make yourself available and have a discussion about it?"

Some bar critics are hoping to force that discussion by storming an upcoming civic meeting to protest the 700-seat beer garden and outdoor concert hall, which is slated to feature a bandshell for music, a bonfire, and 40 beers on draft.

Greenwood Park co-owner Ted Mann — who happens to be the son of gun-slinging power-rocker Ted Nugent — didn't respond to calls and e-mails seeking comment.

Partner Michael Esposito said the venue will open in a month.

"We're just taking care of a couple more things," Esposito said.

Mann is no newcomer to dining and nightlife — he owns the popular neighborhood spots Cubana Social in Williamsburg, No Name Bar in Greenpoint, and Gold Coast deli in Bay Ridge.

Considering his track record, neighbors are hoping for the best.

"I've heard some concerns — but I've also heard some positive things, too," Laufer said.



Wheely good time

Nolan Lubomski, 13 months, of Park Slope, checks out the driver's seat of a garbage truck at PS 295's Touch-a-Truck fundraiser in Greenwood Heights on April 28. Children had the chance to scope out nearly 20 heavy duty vehicles including a police car, two fire trucks, a cement mixer, a garbage truck, and even a trolley from Green-Wood Cemetery.

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Cops: 93 Lounge a 'problem spot'

Bar owner says he's doing nothing wrong

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

The NYPD and the state are at loggerheads over the fate of 93 Lounge, a controversial Bay Ridge nightspot residents claim is a haven for crime and violence.

Police from the 68th Precinct claim they are routinely called to the lounge to break up fights, but State Liquor Authority officials say they have no record of any violations or complaints that would make them pull the bar's liquor license.

"We have no record of violations at 93 Lounge," Authority spokesman Mike Smith said, noting that the last tenant of the space, the Roxbury Lounge, had a lengthy rap sheet.

The lounge's liquor license is up for renewal, and Community Board 10 voted last month to urge the state to reject the bar's application.

Cops agree, claiming that the bar, located in a storefront space inside the Prince Hotel on 93rd Street, is on its list of trouble spots.

"We know about that place. It's not good. We've had to stop by there plenty of times to break up fights," one cop from the 68th Precinct said.

Another cop backed up



BAR FIGHT: Community Board 10 says 93 Lounge on 93rd Street between Third and Fourth avenues – which cops are calling a problem location – shouldn't hold its liquor. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

his brother-in-blue's story.

"We've responded to complaints about drugs, noise, disorderly premise, and we've issued summonses there," the other officer said.

"They're a place that's decided to make trouble. It's a problem location," he added.

The policeman's remarks echo accusations from members of CB10.

"There's a memory of how this place has been run," former Police and Public Safety Committee

chairwoman Susan Pulaski said at the board's April 16 meeting.

"They're known for bringing in third-party promoters and illegal activity. We all know about the drug situation in there," she said.

But 93 Lounge owner Ronald Coury insists that he's just an honest businessman.

"Everything I do is by the book," Coury said, adding that he felt CB10 was visiting Roxbury Lounge's sins on his bar.

some of them to leave town, and even sleep in the bathroom, some said.

And the noisy phase of the project is expected to last through the summer.

Late-night construction is allowed in the event that daytime work "would result in unreasonable delay or increased expenditure for a necessary public improvement," according to city noise code.

In this case, the city has obtained permits to drill between 11 pm and 6 am.

"We aren't allowed to

start any earlier than that," Sabrina Lau, the project's liaison, wrote in an e-mail to a neighbor.

She later told this newspaper she's aware that noise is impacting residents — but declined to comment further.

The Department of Transportation, which is heading the project, said closing the bridge during the day would displace tens of thousands of motorists into DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights — slowing traffic to a crawl.

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Noisy

Continued from cover

on the Brooklyn Bridge as it undergoes a major renovation.

The drilling comes after engineering inspectors ranked the bridge as "poor" in a condition report, prompting a fix-up that will give the legendary viaduct new ramps, approaches, and decking.

But it comes at a cost: it's been driving neighbors nuts for weeks, causing



BLUE HORIZON: Seafarers have doubts about a plan to attach a dock, pictured in this rendering, to the side of the 69th Street Pier, so it can host rowboats, historical ships, and educational programs.

CRITICS BLAST 69TH STREET PIER DOCK

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Water lovers panned the city's plans to build an extension to the 69th Street Pier that will bring visitors closer to the water last week, claiming that New York Bay's current may be too strong for novice boaters and kayakers who will want to cast off from the new dock — and may destroy the floating platform within a year.

"It's an expensive piece of equipment to just leave floating out there 12 months of the year," charter boat Captain Jim Chambers said as he and several other seafarers filled the Bay Ridge Library on April 26 to chime in on

the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance's plans to connect a \$750,000 Community Eco Dock to the 69th Street Pier.

Tony Pignatello, commodore of the Sebago Canoe Club in Canarsie, also questioned putting the new dock in New York Bay.

"The current in the river is a lot faster than what you'd find in Jamaica Bay," he said. "You just can't have anyone going out there."

Yet Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance members say that the 69th Street Pier will be the perfect spot for the dock, which is slated to be built this summer.

"This will be New York City's key to unlocking the waterfront," Alliance President Roland Lewis said. "People have not been able to get from Bay Ridge to the bay or from the bay to Bay Ridge."

Lewis said the Community Eco Dock will be a two-tiered floating platform that the city's Parks Department will hitch to the end of the 69th Street Pier to host both recreational and educational programs.

Yet some wondered if the dock — which will have a 60-foot gangway linking it to the pier and a ramp connecting its two levels — would accommodate residents

with disabilities.

"A lot of boats are equipped with what we call 'suicide ramps,' meaning it would be suicide for us to use them," said disabilities rights activist Jean Ryan, who told Lewis that the Parks Department should make sure that the inclines on the Eco Dock weren't too steep or too narrow.

Lewis said that once the dock was in place, the city's fleet of retired-ships and floating museums could tie up to the upper level of the platform and offer tours and bring Bay Ridgites to Manhattan. Residents could also put their own row boats and kayaks in the water

from the lower deck.

Lewis said that the South Street Seaport Museum and the New York Aquarium, among other groups, are already planning to hold educational programs on the new platform, news that had some community leaders praising the proposal funded by the state, Borough President Markowitz, and Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge).

"This is a great opportunity to have someplace where the kids can come down to the water and touch the water and learn from it," community activist Chip Cafiero said.

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Restaurants find allies in War on Brunch

Borough President, diners back eateries in fight for Sunday hours

BY AARON SHORT

It was all quiet on the Western omelet front on Sunday after North Brooklyn's rebel restaurants retreated, hunkering down and calling in reinforcements including Borough President Markowitz in the ongoing War on Brunch.

Restaurant owners kept their outdoor tables safe behind the ramparts of their dining rooms until noon rather than risk tickets from city forces in the escalating conflict over a little-known regulation that bans eateries from serving food to sidewalk patrons on Sunday mornings.

Brunch mainstays Enid's and Lokal — which suffered the war's first casualty when city inspectors accused the bistro of serving outdoor diners at 9:35 am last month — kept morning customers indoors, but even though the eateries stepped



File photo by Julie Rosenberg

BEEP SPEAKS: Borough President Markowitz thinks banning brunch before noon is like telling Brooklynites they can't sit on their stoops.

back from the trenches they found a powerful ally in the brunch-loving Beep.

"Having brunch on the sidewalks of Brooklyn is, in many ways, an extension of sitting on our stoops — a community experience that allows us to people-watch, get to know our neighbors, and enjoy the weather and fresh air — especially during the summer," said Markowitz. "It's hard to imagine New York City without it."

Markowitz said he hopes to bring peace to the Sunday morning dining scene, and urged legislators to rethink the largely ignored rule that has banned outdoor Sunday morning brunch for decades.

"Although the law is the law, perhaps the City Council could take a second look at this one," he said. "I am hopeful everyone can find common ground on this issue, and figure out a way for Brooklyn brunchers and pedestrians heading to and from Sunday services to

share the same sidewalk."

And Markowitz isn't the only Brooklynite questioning the Sunday brunch ban.

Enid's co-owner Ashley James has already collected 300 signatures over the past two weeks from diners who can't stand the city crackdown and a law she considers outdated.

"People want to enjoy the weather and have a bite to eat and I don't see that our particular sidewalk is causing any kind of traffic jam," she said. "I don't see a problem with other sidewalks in the neighborhood either. The only thing I see is our customers enjoying themselves."

But Community Board 1 public safety committee chairman Tom Burrows — who lead the charge against brunch rule-breakers — said illegal sidewalk noshing degrades quality of life



Photo by Stefano Giromanni

LET THEM EAT BRUNCH: Enid's hostess Alex Phillips holds a petition with the signatures of 300 diners who oppose the city's crackdown on serving brunch outdoors on Sunday mornings.

in Williamsburg and Greenpoint, equating eateries that violate the regulation with the kinds of petty crime policed under the NYPD's "broken windows" strategy.

"Often the acts of one have a deleterious effect on others who have not been

an issue," said Burrows, who has become the General Patton in the War on Brunch. "As long as certain operators act with impunity to operate outside the law, strict enforcement may be necessary to prevent further violations."

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Your vote can make history

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

A giant corporation will donate millions of dollars to revitalize several cherished Brooklyn landmarks — if enough history buffs vote for them, that is.

Nine iconic Brooklyn places including the Brooklyn Public Library's main branch and Park Slope's Congregation Beth Elohim synagogue are facing off against 31 other historic New York City structures in an "American Idol"-style contest to determine how the bank and financier American Express will spend \$3 million slated for renovation work.

Brooklynites can vote for their favorite preservation projects — such as returning the B&B Carousell to Coney Island, rebuilding the bulkhead at the Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center, fixing the synagogue's roof, or replacing the library's doors — and the four most popular projects will divvy up the cash.

"It's a fascinating thing

to do," said Brooklyn historian Francis Morrone. "Buildings in desperate conditions — like the synagogue — should be taken care of first."

Contest promoters say voters should log on and vote — and do it for the children.

"It preserves history so our kids know what it looks like," said Katie Jackson, a spokeswoman for Partners in Preservation, the organization in charge.

Anyone over age 13 can vote once daily before May 21 PartnersInPreservation.com.



PICK YOUR FAVORITE: Should money go to fixing the Brooklyn Public Library's doors (above), or bringing the B&B Carousell (below) back to Coney Island?



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Carlo Scissura ends boro president run

BY AARON SHORT

Carlo Scissura will not be Brooklyn's next borough president — the fundraising frontrunner has dropped his campaign to assume the presidency of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, instead.

Borough President Markowitz's right-hand man said abandoning his quest to succeed his term-limited boss in

2013 was "a tough decision."

"My primary focus was doing good, positive things to grow Brooklyn, and being the president of the chamber allows me to do that," said Scissura. "In the end, that's why the chamber won out."

"I do things based on what contributions I can make, and were it not for this incredible opportunity I would be running," he said.

The Dyker Heights attorney has been actively campaigning for the top job in the county since last fall.

Scissura raised \$127,000 since the beginning of this year — cash he says will be returned in full to his contributors.

He faced considerable obstacles to the throne, as rivals Assemblyman Nick Perry (D-Flatbush), State

Sen. Dan Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights) and State Sen. Eric Adams (D-Prospect Heights) have all contemplated a run for the seat.

But when the chamber parted ways with former CEO Carl Hum earlier this year, Scissura showed interest and emerged as a favorite candidate to run the borough's business association.

Mayor Bloomberg said

there is "no one better to take the helm."

Scissura credits his experience in Borough Hall for helping him understand the needs of small business owners, entrepreneurs, and shopkeepers — and says he learned a lot from Markowitz, his mentor and friend.

The Beep expressed regret that his top aide would be leaving his office.

But Scissura's time at Borough Hall wasn't without its pratfalls — the city fined Markowitz \$2,000 last year because Scissura represented his boss as a personal lawyer when the Borough President bought a house.

Scissura is one of several former Markowitz staffers who have recently left Borough Hall for prominent positions.

Former deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham took an associate commissioner job in the State Department of Health under the Cuomo administration.

Scissura starts his new job in September.

Our breakdown of the front runners for borough president

Carlo Scissura's decision to bow out of the borough president race has opened the door for a number of people eyeing Brooklyn's top job. So far there's only one declared candidate, State Sen. Eric Adams (D-Pro-

spect Heights), but several lawmakers and at least one showman are reportedly considering a run. Here's the rundown and their chances at winning (in basketball terms — after all, politics is a game):

Eric Adams

Qualifications: State legislator, former police captain who served for 22 years, and a fashionista who urged teens to pull up their pants in his "Stop the Sag" video.

Setbacks: Partially responsible for botching the state's selection of a racino in Queens.

Shot at winning: Slam dunk. Adams has the cash and the support from county leadership to become borough president.

Letitia James

Qualifications: As councilwoman she conducted oversight of wasteful city contracts including City Time and is known for criticizing Mayor Bloomberg's handling of the 2010 blizzard, the NYPD's treatment of minorities, and Atlantic Yards, earning kudos in progressive circles.

Setbacks: Took heat for launching a lawsuit after tripping over a truck hitch on a parked car.

Shot at winning: Lay-up in traffic. James is focused on the Public Advocate's race, but that's getting crowded in a hurry and the Borough President's office could line up nicely for her.

George Shea

Qualifications: Turned a once-obscure sport — professional eating — into Major League Eating, which hosts of the Fourth of July Nathan's Hot Dog

eating contest. Also, has Romney-esque head of hair, and an ability to give quotes that parallels Markowitz's.

Setbacks: Shea refuses to rescind his duties officiating the Coney Island hot dog eating contest, creating a potential conflict of interest — or an amazing marketing opportunity.

Shot at winning: Underhand from outside the stadium. Hey, people like hot dogs, right?

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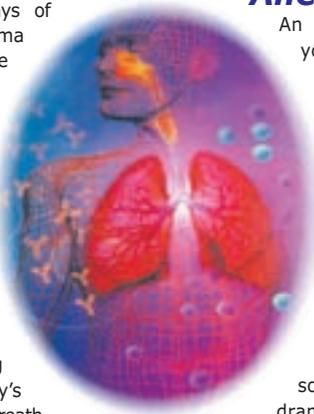
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FREE WIFI

Bensonhurst's newest immigrants

Italian students visit 21st Avenue school

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Italians in Bensonhurst — whoever heard of such a thing?

Brooklyn Studio Secondary School on 21st Avenue in Bensonhurst — once considered the Little Italy of Brooklyn — welcomed 11 newcomers from the toe of the boot on April 24: exchange students attending the Liceo Classico Campanella di Reggio Calabria.

The European teens shadowed Studio students around the school between 83rd and 84th streets for one week, explained Italian language teacher Adriana Caruso, who organized the exchange.

Caruso said she first formed a relationship with Liceo when she was a student at Edward R. Murrow High School on Avenue L.

"They used to send exchange students to Murrow and New Utrecht, and I became close with them," the Italian instructor said.

"When I started teaching, I said to a teacher there, 'Send them here, I work here,'" she said.

Caruso said she wanted students at Brooklyn Studio Secondary School to have the opportunity of interacting with foreign-born students.



NUOVI AMICI: Francesca Chila of Italy and Matteo Sgroi of America buddied up for the week at the Brooklyn Studio Secondary School.

"Teaching Italian in the classroom, teaching the culture, is one thing," she said. "Actually learning about Italy from someone who lives there, getting to hear about the differences in music and schooling and lifestyle from someone their own age, is a completely different experience."

The exchange program also gave Studio students the chance to reconnect with their roots.

"A lot of my students are

Italian-American, and it's interesting to have them tell the exchange students where their parents and grandparents are from, and have the exchange students say, 'Oh, I know where that is,'" said Caruso, who is herself the daughter of a Sicilian immigrant.

The Studio kids and their new friends will cap off the week with a visit to Ellis Island, the historic gateway for Italians coming to America from 1892 to 1954.

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On his way to Barclays

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Next stop: Barclays Center.

A Bensonhurst-born boxer snatched a World Boxing Association title belt from the Ukraine Master last Sunday, paving the way for a defending bout at the Barclays Center this fall — the first fight to be held at the Brooklyn Nets' new home.

In a near-repeat of the end of "Rocky IV," Paulie "Magic Man" Malignaggi pounded undefeated Welterweight Champion Vyacheslav "Ukraine Master" Senchenko for nine rounds in Senchenko's hometown of Donetsk.

He pulped the Ukrainian's face so badly that the referee finally stopped the carnage and declared Malignaggi the winner by technical knock-out.

The referee said Senchenko couldn't see out his left eye.

Sunday's victory marked the fifth title win for the Southern Brooklyn scrapper, as well as his 31st win in a 35-fight career.

But it also means that one of Malignaggi's dreams will now come true: he will get his first match in Brooklyn since he made his professional debut in an undercard fight at the former Keyspan Park in 2001.

"I've always wanted to have a big fight in Brooklyn," Malignaggi told this paper



PUT UP YOUR DUKES: Bensonhurst-born Paulie Malignaggi will defend his World Boxing Association title at the Barclays Center this fall.

before the fight. "I had my first fight 11 years ago in Coney Island, and I've always had a sour taste in my mouth because I never had another fight here. The Barclays Center promised me that if I win against Senchenko, the first fight there will be my defense of the title."

Malignaggi, whose face appears in banner ads for the new arena, said his next battle will be his shot at the history books.

"I want to be the answer to the trivia question, 'Who had the first fight at the Barclays Center after it opened?'" he said. "Paulie Malignaggi."



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Seniors decry loss of St. John's nutrition center

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

The city is pulling the plug on a 35-year-old center that offered hot meals and activities to Bay Ridge's oldest — and neighborhood seniors say they're the ones paying the price.

"I don't know what I'll do. I'm just going to cry all day," said Teresa Mignone, a 20-year member of the St. John's Senior Nutrition Center at 99th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway, which held a farewell party to the city funding that kept it afloat on April 26. "It's a shame it's going to close. It's like a family."

Center staffers told that funding for the daily gathering place where seniors ate, played bingo, performed music, took yoga lessons, and went on trips, would end in early April, activities director Rosemarie Stern said.

"This was a warm, welcoming place for them to go everyday," she said. "Many of them will be isolated, many will miss a meal be-

cause of this. It's the only center like this in the neighborhood."

But Bay Ridge isn't bereft of senior centers: St. John's attendees can go to the Bay Ridge Center on Fourth Avenue between 69th Street and Ovington Avenue — which Stern claimed is a trek for elderly people living in southern Bay Ridge. The Fort Hamilton Senior Center on Fort Hamilton Parkway is closer, but doesn't have meals or trips and charges a \$25 annual fee, Stern said.

The St. John's Center was free, with a \$2 suggested donation for seniors who wanted to eat.

St. John's director Mike Coluccio said the nutrition program — overseen by St. John's Episcopal Church — lost its grant from the city Department for the Aging because of a new city mandate that senior centers must have at least 50 visitors a day.

St. John's has roughly 200 members, but only 40



LEFT HUNGRY: (From left) Rachel Greco, 67, Joan Adinolfi, 69, Virginia Greco, 67, and Ernestine Sinclair, 80, won't get their daily meals at St. John's anymore. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

show up on a daily basis, Coluccio said.

Coluccio said he was heartbroken over the center shutting down.

"To say the numbers are down so the program should be defunded is sad, because it's saying that the 40 people who use the service don't matter," said Coluccio.

St. John's attendees said they probably won't switch to a new gathering place.

"I'll be just staying home and staring at the four walls," said Diana Goodman, a St. John's member for the past year and a half.

Raccoons

Continued from cover

them in the garbage and not placing the trash in dumpsters.

And a farmers market scheduled to open in the schoolyard could make the fat furballs even more aggressive — and even better fed, Windsor Terrace residents fear.

The raccoons are already testy

enough, according to Maliha, who claims a pushy fella' banged so hard on a neighbor's window that one Windsor Terrace resident had to call pest control.

A huge one spooked another neighbor, who then took a photo of the masked bandit.

Maliha snapped some evidence herself.

Her photographs show roughly 20 large white trash bags on the street

in front of the school — many dotted with bite marks.

District 15 superintendent Anita Scop said the district is working with the school to remedy the trash trouble.

"The school is dealing with the problem," she said.

But Maliha said school officials have given her that answer for months — without taking action.

"They're being bad neighbors," she said.

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CHEERS!: Brooklyn Heights rare-book seller Douglas Flamm won the borough's biggest home-brewing contest with his oyster-infused stout. Photo by Stefano Giovanni

Meet Brooklyn's best brewer

BY ELI ROSENBERG

The war of the worts has been won by a rare-book seller from Brooklyn Heights who brews his beer with oysters.

Douglas Flamm, who was highlighted as a favorite by this newspaper in the days before the Brooklyn Wort home-brewing competition, took first place in the April 28 contest with his "Moyster"

stout — brewed with half a dozen oysters, shells and all.

Winning top prize at the twice-yearly event is a major accomplishment, as the contest has become a proving ground for amateur brewers across the city.

Previous Brooklyn Wort winners have established larger-scale breweries after winning the coveted crown, but Flamm, who snagged

third place in last summer's competition, would not say if he plans to quit peddling old copies of "Tropic of Cancer" for a chance at foamy greatness.

"It was a lot of fun," said a still breathless Flamm.

"You always go into something like this hoping for the best, but it was a great surprise and nice to be so well received!" he said.

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Dewey, Sheepshead Bay High to close

Schools will change names, lose half of their staff, and be infused with federal dollars

BY DANIEL BUSH

Two storied but struggling Southern Brooklyn high schools will be closing come June, the city Panel for Education Policy decided on April 26.

The panel agreed to overhaul both Sheepshead Bay High School and John Dewey High School by enrolling them into a turnaround program that will flood each institution with more than \$1.5 million in federal funds — as long as they fire their principals and half of their teachers and administrators by July 1.

The school buildings will reopen in September under new names in exchange for federal aid, Department of Education officials said.

Supporters urged the panel to reconsider closing Dewey, which received a C grade on its city-issued report card last year, and save Sheepshead Bay High —

which got a D grade in 2011, but has improved its graduation rate by 17 percent since 2003 — in the weeks leading up to the vote.

“We’ve been improving every year,” said Sheepshead Bay High School’s Parent Coordinator Salvatrice Shipone. “We’ve come a long way.”

But the education panel voted 8-4 to close the schools after a five-hour hearing at Brooklyn Tech’s Prospect Heights Campus — despite opposition from some panel members who said there was no proof that the turnaround program could actually work.

“Money is driving this decision,” said panel member Dmytro Fedkowskyj, who voted against the plan. “I’m extremely disappointed.”

The Department of Education has long argued that new teachers and staff will help put failing schools on



CLOSING TIME: John Dewey High School will be shut down at the end of June.

the road to recovery.

Sheepshead Bay High was founded in 1959. Dewey was formed 10 years later on Avenue X near Stillwell

Avenue in Gravesend.

In January, prominent Dewey alum Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Coney Island) waded into the fight

to keep Dewey open by demanding that the city spare his alma mater, but fire its principal.

A new principal was

picked to lead Dewey last month.

A Department of Education spokesman said the new principal will be allowed to say on, but up to half of the school’s teachers will still have to be laid off.

It remained unclear if Sheepshead Bay High School’s current principal will be let go at the end of June.

The city will overhaul 24 schools, in addition to Dewey and Sheepshead Bay High schools, which found themselves on a state list of persistently low-achieving schools this year.

Seven schools on the list with A or B grades, including William E. Grady Career and Technical High School in Brighton Beach and Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Borough Park, were spared from enrolling in the Department of Education program.

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BATTER UP: Taylor Clemente, 15, couldn't wait to get her first plate appearance of the season on opening day.



LET'S PLAY: (Above) Softball players took to the field. (Right) Vito Dimola, 11, works on his batting stance. Photos by Steve Solomonson



Baseball season kicks off with a bang

BY DANIEL BUSH
Play ball!
Gravesend's Our Lady of Grace Athletic Association kicked off its baseball and softball seasons with an opening day parade on April 28 that drew more than 500 players, parents, and fans to Monsignor Sclafani Field on Gravesend Neck Road.

The association's vice president, Steve Peskin, said the festivities — which included four games to get the season started — are a rite of pas-

sage for neighborhood players who harbor dreams of someday turning pro.

"The kids were really excited," Peskin said. "For some, it's the first time they've put on a uniform, so it's a big deal."

But Peskin said the games teach youngsters life skills that extend beyond the baseball diamond.

"Baseball is really secondary," he said. "Players learn the value of teamwork, camaraderie, and work ethic."

Roughly 340 baseball and softball players aged 4 to 16 compete each year in the 20-team league, which also boasts six travel teams that take on squads from other neighborhoods across the borough.

Our Lady of Grace founded the athletic association in 1956. In 1992, the group took over the Gil Hodges Little League, which started as a sandlot organization in the 1950s but was later renamed after the Brooklyn Dodgers icon.



READY FOR ACTION: Brian Diaz, 11, gets into position.



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Subway sentinel freed

'Coffee' released after stint behind bars

BY ELI ROSENBERG

Ditmas Park's beloved subway sentry Coffee the Train Man was released from jail last week after a month-long stint in the slammer — but it is unclear if commuters at the Cortelyou Road station will hear his booming voice once again.

Coffee, whose given name is Charles Jones, was taken from the Cortelyou Road station, where he alerted commuters about oncoming trains, on March 22 for violating an order of protection filed by a woman he allegedly punched during a confrontation at the station last December.

He spent the last month at the Brooklyn House of Detention because he couldn't pay the \$1,500 bail, but was ultimately sentenced to time served, Daniel Ades, his court-appointed attorney, said.

"I wish that Coffee didn't have to make the choice



TRAIN TRACKER: Coffee the Train Man is no longer in police custody. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

between getting out of jail right away or fighting the charges," said Ades, who persuaded a criminal court judge to lower the bail from \$1,500 to \$1,000, a fee that was still beyond Coffee's means.

"The purpose of bail is to guarantee that someone returns to court, but when someone can't afford bail it means that they are held in jail unless they plead guilty. We would have loved to have made the prosecutors prove this case to a jury, but

to do that Coffee would have had to remain in jail until the end of the week and potentially beyond because he couldn't afford bail."

A lengthy prison stay would have certainly affected Ditmas Park strap-hangers, who rely on Coffee's early-warning system.

Coffee spent most mornings at the Cortelyou Road stop earning a living as the human version of Penn Station's big board, notifying hustling commuters when the next train is departing.

Yet Ades is unsure if Coffee will be going back to Cortelyou Road.

As a result of the plea deal, Coffee agreed to stay away from his accuser — who uses the Cortelyou Road stop. Coffee isn't forbidden from returning to Cortelyou Road, but any interaction with the woman could put his liberty in jeopardy again, Ades explained.

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A passion for toys

Canarsie collector shares his antique trinkets online

BY COLIN MIXSON

Brooklyn's biggest toy museum is offering free tours — just don't expect to get your foot in the door.

Canarsie native Alan Brody has amassed more than 1,000 vintage toys, some more than a century old, but he's spent so much money on the antique playthings, he can only show them off online.

"I don't have the finance or the backing to have a physical toy museum," said Brody. "Maybe one day. But everybody has computers today. It gives me a chance to give it away for free. I want people to go there and enjoy it, and that gives me enjoyment."

The mostly WWII-era toy collection — altogether worth more than \$100,000 — took Brody nearly seven years to accumulate and features some rare finds, including the original Monopoly Board and the first ever Mickey Mouse clock, which could easily fetch \$1,000 each on the antique toy market.

One benefit of the online-only museum — aside from the low up-



TOY MAN: Canarsie native Alan Brody, owner of the Brooklyn Toy Museum, with his 1966 Remco "Lost in Space" Robot — batteries not included. Photo by Steve Solomonson

keep — is that it allows Brody to dedicate space on his website to the prized antique toys of other collectors, many of which have an inter-

esting story of their own.

"There's a woman in Brooklyn with a toy horse, a little ride-on horse she'd owned as a child, and

her family had given it away," the collector explained.

"But, she found the very-same one on Coney Island Ave. and repurchased it for \$60. So I dedicated that photograph with her story on the website. How many other museums will do that for you?"

But antique toys aren't Brody's only passion — he's been collecting everything from comics to coins since he was a 12-year-old kid in Canarsie.

"When I was 12, I collected comic books. Then, from comic books, I went to baseball cards, then I went to American coins. Then, from American coins, I went back to baseball cards. Eventually I started collecting horror dolls. I have about 600 action figures and dolls that I never opened.

"After that, I bought one toy off of eBay, I believe it was a Barclay lead tank, and that's where I started for some reason. I bought another item, and another item — I don't know how I've ended up where I am now."

Where Brody's fancies will turn next, not even he could say.

One thing is certain, however — his collection isn't growing any smaller.

"I'm always getting new toys," he said. "It never ends."

Brooklyn Toy Museum, www.brooklyntoyuseum1.com

Vendor

19
MAY 6, 2012, BROOKLYN WEEKLY

Continued from cover
carts destroy neighborhood businesses.

But Middle Eastern Halal Cart manager Sammy Kasen vowed to reclaim his turf — escalating the war for control on the busy intersection.

"I'm going to wait and go back as soon as they leave," said Kasen, who was forced to move further down the avenue in March when a pair of benches were illegally placed on his usual spot.

Gentile promised to meet Kasen's waiting game head on, and said the tables would stay until the vendors leave Bay Ridge.

"I'll be out here every night as long as I need to be until they're gone," said Gentile. "I pay \$10,000 a month in rent — these guys don't pay anything."

Food vendors only have to pay the city \$200 for a two-year permit, while traditional businesses pay thousands in monthly rent, Gentile claimed.

The cops allowed Gentile to continue with his impromptu protest, claiming that it's perfectly legal to hand out literature on the street.

But Gentile's campaign ultimately failed: Kasen put his wagon further down Fifth Avenue at 2 pm on Tuesday, rolling past the Save Our Streets table.

Kasen stayed with the cart until 11 pm, when his team was given permission to open up.

Once the Save Our Streets tables were down, Kasen moved back to his favorite spot.

The benches that began the food cart war, however, remain.

Brody's playthings of yesteryear

With more than a thousand toys, Alan Brody's collection is so massive that we thought we would point out five trinkets, gadgets, knick knacks, or gizmos that the depression-era kid in all of us can appreciate:

The original Mickey Mouse clock: Made by Ingersoll in 1933, Brody nabbed this antique timepiece at a Detroit auctionhouse for just \$300. The reason it was so cheap? The Motor City was hit by two feet of snow that day and Brody ended up the only bidder. Today, the original Mickey Mouse clock could be worth \$1,000.

The Lifesavers truck: Made by the Hubley Toy Company in 1930, this toy is actually a pint-sized replica of an actual Lifesavers-shaped truck, once used to sell the mint-flavored candy. Because of a marketing error, the toy was never featured in store catalogues, making it a particularly rare piece — by Brody's estimates, the mini-model could sell anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

The King Kong knockoff: This wind-up simian gizmo is NOT King Kong, thanks to copyright laws, but you wouldn't know that by looking at it. This 1950s "King Kong," made in Japan by the Marx Toy Company, may be a knockoff, but it walks, beats its chest, and roars just like the genu-

ine article. In its original box, this piece could fetch \$800.

Mr. Peanut: This wooden-jointed rendition of the Planters Peanut Corporation's timeless mascot, Mr. Peanut, hit store shelves in 1930. With all of its original strings, this piece could sell for around \$300.

Proto Micky: With an Aug. 13, 1926 patent, this woden spool toy, named Micky Mouse, was made by the Performo Toy Company in Middleton, Mass., and predates Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse by about two years. To this day, historians still argue about who came first, Micky or Mickey. Whatever the case may be, Mickey lives on and Micky can only be found in a few unique locations, like Brody's



PROTO MICKY: This woden spool toy predates Disney's Mickey Mouse by about two years.

Brooklyn Toy Musuem. This wooden spool mouse could go for up to \$1,000 in mint condition.

— Colin Mixson



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<p>BERGEN BEACH • 2369 EAST 70TH ST. SUNDAY, MAY 6 • 1-3p</p> <p>YOUNG & BEAUTIFUL 1 fam semi offering stucco exterior, custom Euro style kit w/ Peninsula s/s appli., granite counters & flrs, hdwd flrs, new windows, new bath on every flr, prvt drive. Property priced to sell! Asking \$699,000 • BB1696</p>	<p>MILL BASIN • 2692 EAST 66TH ST. SUNDAY, MAY 6 • 1-3pm</p> <p>DET BRICK 1 FAM HIGH RANCH 4 spacious brs & 2.5 baths, hdwd & ceramic flrs, c/s & heat, built in garage. Easy access to transport. & close to all Houses of Worship. Asking \$725,000 • BB1645</p>
<p>MARINE PARK • 1743 KIMBALL ST. SUNDAY, MAY 6 • 1-3pm</p> <p>SUNNY, AIRY AND DETACHED 3 br, parquet flrs, oversized FLR & LR, custom EIK w/ granite, fin bsmt, pool & deck. Must see! BB1558</p>	<p>OLD MILL BASIN • 5312 AVE. O SAT. MAY 5 • SUN. MAY 6 • 1-3pm</p> <p>SPECTACULAR NEW CONDOMINIUM BRICK BEAUTY, all units offer 2 large bd, granite kit, SS steel appliances, Cherry wd flrs & European tiled bthrm. FHA APPROVED! Starting @ \$279,000 • BB1637</p>
<p>MARINE PARK • 1712 EAST 35TH ST. SUN, MAY 6 • 3:30-5:30pm</p> <p>SUPER CLEAN 1 fam 3 br duplex, 1.75 updated baths, hdwd & pergo flrs, fini bsmt w/ recessed lighting. Located near all shopping, Houses of Worship & transport. Also features a nice size yard with pool and parking for 4 cars! Asking \$439,000 • BB1687</p>	<p>OLD MILL BASIN • 1772 EAST 53RD ST. SUNDAY, MAY 6 • 1-3pm</p> <p>LIVE & EARN in this all brick 2 Fam, 2 Br over 1 Br + bonus rm, 1 car gar & prvt drive. Special features include handsome hdwd flrs, new drs & more! Desirable location! Asking \$449,000 • BB1710</p>
<p>PRIME MILL BASIN • 6208 MILL LANE SUNDAY, MAY 6 • 1-3pm</p> <p>Home, professional office or both? Reno. 2 Fam det corner oversized lot. 1 over 3 reverse duplex, granite, recessed lighting, prvt park 5 cars+, 3 zone C/A, fully alarmed BB1542</p>	

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS

Index No.: 18472/09
SUMMONS
Plaintiff Designates Kings County as the Venue
The Basis for Venue: Plaintiff Resides in Kings County
Plaintiff Resides at 36 Beacon Court Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229
Thomas M. Dewitt, Plaintiffs, -against- Francis McCaffery, Thomas McCaffery, by John Ray, Esq., his conservator, and Kathleen Daly, aka Kathlen Daly Bennett Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of Appearance, on the Plaintiffs' attorney within Twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the date of service (or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint, plus interest and costs from date of the occurrence.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York July 22, 2009

STEVEN SMITH, ESQ.
Attorney for the Plaintiff
2402 Gerritsen Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11229
(718) 743-5800

Defendants Address:
FRANCIS McCAFFERY
2 Durst Drive
Selden, New York 11784
THOMAS McCAFFERY
C/O JOHN RAY
122 North Country Road
Miller Place, New York 11764-1430

KATHLEEN DAY
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