

Critics: Speeders run free

BY ELI ROSENBERG

Police in Brownstone Brooklyn are turning a blind eye to speeding motorists, according to street-safety advocates who are outraged over the fact that officers from three precincts covering a broad swath of the borough ticketed only two speeding drivers in the entire month of May.

Officers from Park Slope's 78th Precinct did not issue a single speeding ticket during the month, while cops from the 88th Precinct, which monitors Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, and the 77th Precinct, which covers Prospect Heights and Crown Heights, gave out just one each.

Neighborhood activists were shocked by the numbers, saying anti-speeding efforts should be paramount in an area so heavily used by pedestrians and bicyclists.

"It's fearful when you're thinking, 'These are the streets I live on and I just can't even cross them,'" said Fort Greene resident Hilda Cohen, who founded the traffic-calming group Make Lafayette Safer last fall in an attempt to slow

Continued on Page 14



Photo by Bess Adler

BIG LETDOWN: Bay Ridge disabled rights-activist Jean Ryan points out the drop-off that keep her from enjoying a day at McKinley Park with her grandson.

BUMPS IN THE ROAD

Parks not wheelchair friendly

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Brooklyn's parks and playgrounds are no fun for the handicapped, according to a disabled civic leader who wants the city to make the borough's recreation areas more wheelchair accessible.

Community Board 10 member and grandmother Jean Ryan — who has been confined to a wheelchair for the past 17 years — says she takes her grandson to Bay Ridge's McKinley Park near the corner of Seventh Avenue and Bay

Ridge Parkway often, but is unable to take her grandson on the swing set because a small step separates it from the rest of the playground.

"It's discrimination," she said.

Ryan claims that the rest of McKinley Park is a harrowing obstacle course for anyone who uses a cane, crutches, walker, or a wheelchair — violating standards for public parks outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Continued on Page 14

Old church to fall

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Religious leaders will bulldoze a crumbling-but-historic church steps from the Barclays Center to construct a new house of worship — and a shopping or living space above it, church officials say.

Congregation leaders at the Church of the Redeemer

— a 150-year-old brick building on Pacific Street and Fourth Avenue — say the aging edifice must be demolished because it's structurally unsafe.

"We want to take something condemned and turn it into something beautiful," said congregation

Continued on Page 14



AP / Zhang Wenkui

GOOD POSTURE: State Sen. Marty Golden's etiquette class was panned — and praised by some.

Ridge gal loves Golden rules

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

State Sen. Marty Golden's decision to cancel a panned 1950's finishing-school-style seminar where participants would learn to "walk up the stairs elegantly" and "sit, stand, and walk like a model" is getting an "F" from some Bay Ridge residents who claim

young women could benefit from being more ladylike.

The taxpayer-funded career-development event, where women would be able to "refresh their business etiquette and social protocol skills," and focus on "handshakes and introductions" as well as "posture, deportment, and the

feminine presence" would have taken place on July 24, but Golden (R-Bay Ridge) pulled the plug when news of the seminar hit the blog-sphere and everyone from the Village Voice to Comedy Central mocked the program.

Yet Arlene Keating, *Continued on Page 14*

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Photos by Paul Martinka

EAT FEAT: Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas broke the female world record and won her second women's belt at the 2012 Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Competition.

SPIDER GIRL A HOT DOG

Black Widow sets women's record at Nathan's

BY ALFRED NG

"The Black Widow" could not be squashed.

Legendary competitive eater Sonya Thomas smashed the female world record at the Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Competition with 45 HDBs (hot dogs and buns), giving the famed athlete her second-straight Coney Island women's victory.

"I'm going to be 45, and I wanted to eat my age," Thomas said.

The Virginia resident and Burger King manager bested the 40 HDBs she put away in the first-ever women's only Nathan's contest last year, and the previous women's world record of 41 HDBs she set competing against men in 2009.

Juliet Lee devoured 33 HDBs, enough processed meat to earn her a second-place finish, while Michelle Lesco snagged third with 25.5 HDBs.

On the men's side, Joey "Jaws" Chestnut won his sixth-straight Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Championship—and he left the contest hungry.



JAWS FAILS: Big eater Joey Chestnut couldn't best his record of 68 HDBs.

The 28-year-old mandible from California matched his Coney Island record of 68 HDBs in the July 4 exhibition of professional gluttony, but moments after the feeding frenzy ended, he said he wished he had put away 70 HDBs.

"It's a real bummer that I couldn't break my record, but it shows I can match my best," the eater said.

Chestnut, the overwhelming favorite, broke

away about three minutes into the 10-minute contest, building his lead and keeping up a steady pace until the last eight seconds, when he crammed four entire hot dogs into his mouth.

Popular contender Tim "Eater X" Janus earned his second-ever second place finish at Nathan's, putting away 52.25 HDBs. Pat "Deep Dish" Bertoletti guzzled down 51 HDBs for third, and first-timer Matt Stony, who, like Chestnut hails from San Jose, Calif., came in fourth with an impressive 46 HDBs.

Thousands of eating fans gathered on Surf Avenue to watch the display of manducation, but competitive eating experts are already looking forward to next year — because that's when Chestnut will truly have a chance to make hot dog history.

The eater's sixth straight Nathan's victory ties the streak set by his longtime rival Takeru Kobayashi — who in separate exhibition hours later put away 68.5 HDBs.

Continued on Page 6

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MTA rolls out B61 app

Now, smartphone will tell you how late your bus will be

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Tech-savvy riders of the B61 bus can track the whereabouts of the sometimes-flaky transit line as it runs its Downtown-to-Windsor Terrace route thanks to a satellite-guided system launched by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority last Sunday.

The program lets commuters check smartphones and computers to learn the exact location of the bus at any moment, helping them gauge if they need to hoof it to the nearest stop as fast as possible — or if there's enough time to grab a breakfast sandwich on the way.

Riders hailed the system as a useful and necessary improvement, especially after a report last year showed B61 busses often arrive too late or not at all.

"It's a great addition," said rider Brian McCormick. "As long as you know what to expect, then you can plan."

Fewer than half the buses on the line — which serves the transportation-starved communities of Red Hook and the Columbia Waterfront District — come on time during morning and evening rush hours and many are packed full, according to a survey put together by Councilman Brad Lander (D-Park Slope) and



WAIT AND SEE: Divine Jones and Marvin Woodruff use an iPad and iPhone to find out when the B61 bus will arrive — a service the MTA says will save time for passengers.

dozens of volunteers.

But unlike the B61 itself, the app worked perfectly when our crackerjack intern tested the technology on Monday.

Users can now download the app at bustime.mta.info and riders who don't own smartphones can receive text message updates.

That pleases Lander,

who said it's a good step to improve the bus line.

"The B61 has been erratic [so] it's all the more important for riders to know if it will be there when they need it," he said.

He said he's also pushing for more busses during peak hours and countdown clocks at stops.

A spokeswoman for the

MTA said the service costs about \$7,200 per bus — or roughly \$180,000 for the whole line, far less than the B63's \$500,000 bus-tracking program.

Riders are jumping on board.

"It's useful and a lot more convenient," said straphanger Fitzie Pierson.

— *with Alfred Ng*



BIG PICTURE: Desiree Akhavan (left) and Ingrid Jungermann will turn their web TV show about Park Slope into a film.

'Slope' to hit silver screen

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

The creators of a web series that spoofs queer life in Park Slope are hitting the big screen with an offbeat romantic comedy — and plenty of Brooklyn shout-outs.

"The Slope" — an online sketch comedy that follows two hilariously shallow lesbians — has earned thousands of donation dollars, a loyal fan base, and even international press attention since debuting last year.

That's why creators Ingrid Jungermann and Desiree Akhavan will use the series as a launching pad for an unconventional love story set exclusively in the borough.

"It's sort of a gay 'Annie Hall,'" said Akhavan, who stars in the show and wrote the screenplay.

The non-linear film tracks "the rise and fall

of a romantic relationship between two women — and explores the concept of "growing up" — but without poking some fun at the gay community and the writer's own neurosis.

Akhavan said she'll use hangouts such as Grand Army Plaza, Gorilla Coffee, and Mission Dolores Bar as settings for the film, which she plans to begin shooting for under \$20,000 in the spring.

That's not a second too soon, according to the *Guardian*, which last month named "The Slope" one of the "25 Web Shows You Need to See" alongside funnyman Zach Galifianakis's "Between Two Ferns."

Akhavan now says film — even more than the web series — is a tribute the borough.

"It's an ode to Brooklyn," she said.

Feds won't kill P'Park geese — this summer

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

The feds won't slaughter geese in Prospect Park this year — because there aren't any left to kill, wildlife advocates say.

Two years after the US Department of Agriculture exterminated more than 250 waterfowl in Brooklyn's backyard, city officials announced the feathered creatures are safe this summer because the goose count is too low.

So low, bird lovers say, the commitment is akin to promising not to murder any flamingos in Central Park.

"There are literally zero geese in Prospect Park," said David Karopkin, director of Goose-Watch NYC — an organization committed to keeping urban waterfowl alive. "It's depressing."

Park watchdog and goose advocate Anne-Katrin Titze gives a higher count, saying there are two goose nests in the park and 15 Canada geese molting in and around the park's water features.

Either way, federal officials won't collect geese in the park during this year's annual roundup period because fewer than 20



GOOSE EGG: There are so few geese left in Prospect Park that there's no need to round them up and kill them, authorities say.

of the birds were counted there this spring, the *New York Times* reported last week.

The goose population is significantly lower than last year due to a management program that involves oiling eggs to keep them from hatching and using dogs to chase away geese, city officials say.

Goose numbers never fully recovered after a massive late-night slaughter in July 2010 when United States Department of Agriculture officials gassed the beloved squawkers in the name of

airplane safety.

A Parks Department spokeswoman confirmed that, like last year, federal authorities won't visit Prospect Park this summer — but declined to say whether the agency will cull birds in Williamsburg's East River State Park.

That's part of why Karopkin said GooseWatchers plan to keep an eye on the dozen-or-so geese who call that park home.

"Until the round ups are over, we're gonna be camping out," he said.

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Photo by Bryan Bruchman

A NOVEL APPROACH: Author Jennifer Miller is trying to sell her well-reviewed book on Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights by setting up a stand and handing out candy.

IT'S STREET MARKETING

Heights author hawks novel on sidewalk

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Big-name authors have tried dozens of fancy gimmicks to sell books as the publishing industry shrinks, from virtual tours and eReaders to online book trailers and social media campaigns. But one Brooklyn Heights writer has a refreshingly old-fashioned approach: a table, a sign, and some sweets.

Jennifer Miller has the backing of a major publishing house and praise from Oprah Winfrey, but in hopes of drumming up interest in her book "The Year of the Gadfly," the debut novelist hit the street last weekend with a lemonade stand-style sidewalk table, dubbed the "novelade stand."

The back-to-basics approach to bookselling featured hand-written signs and a bowl of candy on Montague Street near the corner of Henry Street, where Miller managed to sell 22 copies of the \$20 hardcover

in a three-hour period — yielding more sales than many of the stops on her multi-state book tour.

It's no wonder she moved so many units — she handed out free cookies with each copy sold.

"There's something refreshing about marketing face to face," Miller said. "I really believe in this book — and I think that comes across in person."

Her book — a page-turning mystery about a young reporter who discovers a small-town secret — was published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and hit the stands in May.

Oprah's magazine called it "engrossing" and the Washington Post raved that the story was "darkly comic," but after snagging media attention and a brief surge in sales, Miller felt she need to do something more to promote her text.

"You have a small window to make a splash," she

said. "I spent seven years writing this book, so I'll be damned if I'm just going to let this moment slip away."

So Miller pulled out some art supplies and started making signs.

She said dozens of Brooklyn Heights residents stopped to ask questions about the book after she put up a sign reading "Why you'll love my novel..." — with several stopping to ask if it was self-published.

Miller said she also got some less-than-enthusiastic visitors, including some freeloading candy-snatchers and a tenacious homeless man who was more interested in her lunch than her prose.

But it's ultimately worth putting yourself out there, she said.

"I'm throwing everything at the wall to see what sticks," said Miller, who plans to keep operating her sidewalk shop on weekends.

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Joan Jett returns to Coney Island

BY COLIN MIXSON

Talk about a genre jumble!

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, the Village People, Squeeze, and Gladys Knight will be gracing the Seaside Summer Concert Series stage this season, Borough President Markowitz said as he announced a line up for his 34th annual music series that spans generations and musical styles.

But not everyone will be able to enjoy the concert series, which will again be held in a cramped W. 21st Street parking lot — irking longtime concert goers who remember the spacious green of Asser Levy Park, where the series was held for decades before being forced to relocate last summer.

“Asser Levy Park was a beautiful and classic loca-



File photo by Steve Solomonson

SHE LOVES ROCK 'N' ROLL: Still hot, still rockin', Joan Jett will return to Coney Island.

tion,” said Steven Centonzo. “I miss the grass and picnicking with a blanket.”

This year’s concert series will begin on July 12 with a tribute to Donna Summer, the five-time Grammy winner who wowed summer concert series crowds in 2009. Gloria Gaynor, the Vil-

lage People, the Tramps, and Rose Royce will be among the 1970s performers paying tribute to the disco diva who lost a battle to lung cancer this past May.

A similar Martin Luther King Jr. Concert Series at Wingate Field in East Flatbush will honor the late Whitney Houston.

Markowitz said audiences at both concert series can look forward to weekly Thursday performances through Aug. 20 — with the exception of a Friday concert featuring Squeeze and the Romantics.

Markowitz held his Seaside Summer Concert Series at Asser Levy Park every year since 1991, but was booted from the greenspace after he announced plans to build a \$64-million, 8,000-seat bandshell there.

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Fireworks freaks give up cache

BY COLIN MIXSON

The 62nd Precinct station house was packed last weekend — with explosives!

Two July 4 fanatics dropped off 1,735 sparklers, bottle rockets, firecrackers, and other small incendiaries at the Bath Avenue station house last Saturday during

the borough's first-ever Fireworks Amnesty Day — which Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes is calling an explosive success.

"We'll definitely do it again," a spokesman said.

Cops said the two residents came into the station house knowing they could drop off their cache of fire-



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

CASE CLOSED: Lieutenant Audubert Salas holds up two bags full of collected fireworks, no questions asked, at the 62nd Precinct on June 30.

works without facing any repercussions.

"One of them dropped off a substantial amount of fireworks," said Deputy Inspector James Rooney, the commanding officer of the 62nd Precinct, who said people can continue to drop off fireworks at the station house. "This was the first one, so it was pretty successful."

It may sound like a big haul, but the recovered fireworks only filled up two bags. Each and every low-grade fire cracker and sparkler — which come 76 to a box — was counted, prosecutors said.

Use of illegal fireworks

has dwindled in Brooklyn, but the US Consumer Product Safety Commission claims that thousands are injured or maimed by fireworks each year.

Three people were killed and more than 8,600 were injured by fireworks in 2010, according to the Commission's 2011 survey.

The explosives didn't stay at the 62nd Precinct long — cops handed them over their haul to the NYPD's bomb squad for disposal.

"They get rid of them right away," said a DA spokesman. "It's dangerous to keep them in the precinct."

Hot dogs

Continued from page 2

A seventh consecutive victory at Nathan's would be a first for the famed contest.

Kobayashi was considered by many to be unbeatable until Chestnut took the Mustard Belt in a surprise victory in 2007.

They ate at the same

table until 2010, when Kobayashi bailed out of the Nathan's contest citing a contract dispute and was arrested when he rushed the stage after the competition ended.

Last year, the eater from Japan scheduled a simultaneous hot dog-eating exhibition, where he established a contested world record of 69 HDBs at a Manhattan lounge. Hours after the Coney

Island contest ended, Kobayashi took the stage at the hip pizzeria Roberta's in Bushwick for a contest sponsored by the hot dog shop Crif Dogs.

Unlike last year, he ate alongside other competitors — but none were in his league.

When time ran out, officials from the world record website RecordSetter.com ruled that Kobayashi had consumed

68 HDBs. But after website founder Dan Rollman consulted with Kobayashi's representative Maggie James, officials revised their ruling — pointing out that the eater had actually managed to swallow an extra dog, but not its bun.

He later said he had just hoped to eat 55 HDBs, but then he got fired up.

"I just got excited," he said.



Photo by Paul Martinka

CHOWING DOWN: Competitive eaters test their mettle — and their mandibles — during Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition.

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BY THE POWSNER VESTED IN ME: Lou Powsner may not be a priest, but as Coney Island's elder statesman, he unofficially married Mr. and Mrs. LEGO on the Boardwalk on June 28.

LEGOS JOIN IN CONEY

Courier columnist officiates at wedding

BY COLIN MIXSON

LEGO characters joined together in holy matrimony on the Coney Island Boardwalk on June 28 — and Courier Life scribe Lou Powsner, the nation's oldest, continuously published columnist, was there to officiate.

The 92-year-old was happy to help the blockheads on their special day, even though he doesn't normally perform such nuptials.

"I'm not legally able to marry someone," said Powsner. "But a lot more illegal things have happened on the Boardwalk."

The wedding was a small part of a larger event where Brooklyn public school children celebrated the Cyclone roller coaster's 85th birthday by creating a massive, robotic replica of Luna Park that was built almost entirely out of LEGOs.

Tots from PS 188, ado-

lescents from IS 303, and young adults from John Dewey High School participated in the LEGO Education program — courtesy of a \$5,000 grant from the toy company.

Each school contributed to the moving replica that featured the Parachute Jump, Deno's Wonder Wheel, and the Cyclone, whose tracks were made out of authentic Boardwalk timber.

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BEER CAN PLAN

Kelso may go aluminum, bring beer to bodegas

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

These Brooklyn beermakers have a can-do attitude — and a can-do business plan.

The Clinton Hill microbrewery Kelso of Brooklyn needs help packaging its craft beer in aluminum cans — a venture that could bring its fancy suds straight to the borough's bodegas — so the brewers are seeking a \$250,000 small business grant.

Going from kegs to cans is a heady decision, according to Kelso co-founder Kelly Taylor.

"People identify with a nice six pack — and our beer is very personal, so it makes sense," said Taylor.

Winning the grant would allow the brewery to double its beer output and distribute roughly 1.5 million cans annually, according to Taylor.

The funds would also give beer hounds access to \$12-Kelso six packs at grocery stores and shops around the city — not just bars



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

CAN DO: Kelso co-founder Sonya Giacobbe is hoping to start canning her company's craft beers.

and the brewery itself, where folks would still be able to fill growlers and sample beers such as St. Gowanus Belgian pale ale and Newtown Kriek cherry ale.

Taylor isn't the only brewmaster to jump on the aluminum can wagon: Sixpoint Craft Ales, based in Red Hook, and Brooklyn Brewery, based in Williamsburg, already sell beer in the less expensive, eco-friendly packaging — which some brewers prefer over bottles for ease of shipping and fresher taste.

Taylor said the company is working on a "clean and uncluttered" design, which will likely feature blue lettering on a cream-colored can.

Winning the grant, dubbed the Mission: Small Business contest, would give the company the freedom to do some creative branding — and find new fans, Taylor said.

"It's a way for us to grow our product — and put ourselves out there," he said.



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

SWEET MEAT: Uncle Barry's Bar beer expert Matt Volner shows off the bar's specialty item: a Twix bar wrapped in prosciutto.

Dessert meets deli meat

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

A Park Slope bar is serving up an appetizer that combines the sweetness of dessert with the saltiness of Italian deli meat.

Uncle Barry's Bar on Fifth Avenue has forged new culinary ground by wrapping the chewy, crispy caramel-chocolate goodness of a Twix bar with a zesty slice of prosciutto — wowing hungry barflies and sparking dietary dialogue, according to beer curator Matt Volner.

"It's a conversation piece," he said. "The delicate textures of the caramel and chocolate and the prosciutto really come out."

To construct the not-so-elaborate snack, bar co-owner Jake Trebach retrieves an individually-wrapped chilled mini-Twix bar and strips away the plastic outer sheathing to reveal the delicate brown morsel within. He then takes a thin cut of salted and seasoned pork flesh,

Continued on Page 10

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Residents: Our street is under seige

Armed goons converge on Westminster Rd.

BY ELI ROSENBERG

Armed thugs have raided three Westminster Road homes in the last month — a string of crimes that have put residents of the bucolic Ditmas Park street on edge.

“Somebody is running around here with guns — that’s dangerous,” said Ashime Bux, who lives on the block. “I’ve been here 30 years and I’ve never seen so many robberies.”

The terrifying crimes occurred in broad daylight between Cortelyou and Beverly roads. In at least two of the robberies, the suspects were armed, residents say.

Residents told the Ditmas Park Corner blog that one of the burglaries took place on June 11. A thief broke into the back of a resident’s home and ransacked the place, leaving with computers and jewelry.

On June 27, a man with a gun reportedly broke into a home in the early afternoon. The intruder attacked a girl he found inside, breaking her arm, residents told police.

Some residents say their neighbors aren’t taking proper safety precautions, giving thieves an invitation to steal.

“People are leaving their windows open, making it easier for the robbers,” said Tracey Hohman, who claimed that burglars tried



Photo by Alfred Ng

LIVING IN FEAR: Ashime Bux says he is worried about the safety of his home.

to wedge her door open with a screwdriver once, but ran off empty-handed.

“The robbers realize that these are high-value homes,” she said.

Representatives from the 70th Precinct say they were still investigating the crimes. Officers are using every tactic available to crack down on the problem, 70th Precinct Community

Affairs Lieutenant Jacqueline Bourne said.

“Even though you might not see the officers out there, they’re out there,” she said.

Anyone with information regarding these thefts are urged to contact CrimeStoppers at (800) 577-8477. All calls will be kept confidential.

— with Alfred Ng

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FREE WIFI



The 'hair-oine' of Ditmas Park

Eight-year-old will give her locks to charity

BY ELI ROSENBERG

Instead of planning a birthday party for herself when she turns 9 on July 8, Ditmas Park resident Morgan Chan will be the one giving a gift.

The PS 139 third grader says she has been growing her hair out for two years so she could lop it off and give it to an organization that makes wigs for children losing their hair from burns, alopecia, and cancer.

"One time, I saw this girl on TV. She had a happy life, but she decided to donate her shoes to an orphanage," said Morgan. "I asked my mom if we could donate something somewhere."

Her parents also set up a page for donations — which was first reported on the Ditmas Park Corner blog — after their daughter embodied the spirit of giving and told them that she didn't want to receive any birthday presents this year.

The family has raised about half of their \$1,000 goal, which will go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Manhattan.

Morgan's mother Andie Miller-Chan said she was always impressed with her daughter's compassion for others.

"When she was 14 months



CLIPPED AND SAVED: Morgan Chan shows off her new 'do after cutting her locks for charity.

old, if we heard a little kid crying in the supermarket, I'd have to take her to the child so she could see that the kid was okay," Miller-Chan said. "But she's still a normal kid — she watches too much television."

That said, Morgan's only forgoing presents this

year — not a party.

"I'll have a little one," she said. "Just a sleeperover with a few friends."

To help Chan meet her fund-raising goal, please visit St. Jude's website or email Andie Miller-Chan at andiesilvertown@gmail.com.

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Twix

Continued from page 8

purchased from Blue Apron Foods on the corner of Seventh Avenue and Union Street, and carefully winds it tight around the chocolate. Finally, he impales the creation with a toothpick, and balances it on a rocks glass.

Volner recommends letting the concoction sit and warm up for a few moments before eating

in order to relish its full, rich flavor.

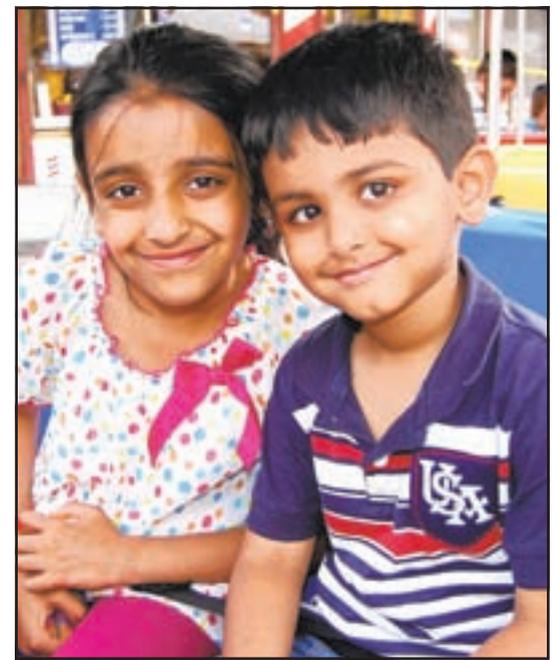
Since Uncle Barry's starting stocking the prosciutto-wrapped Twix bar in May, it has become popular among patrons — but Volner recommends enjoying the delicacy in moderation.

"Eating it every day, I don't recommend," he said. "But come in and try it. It's two things people love, together."

Prosciutto-wrapped Twix bars at Uncle Barry's Bar [58 Fifth Ave.



OPPOSITES ATTRACT: It sounds strange, but some Park Slope bargoers are big fans of prosciutto-wrapped Twix bars.



Midwood celebrates Mardi Gras

BY ALFRED NG

New Orleans has nothing on Midwood's Mardi Gras.

Families filled the streets of Avenue M on June 24 for live entertainment, shopping, and lightning-fast rides.

The fun-filled 35th annual neighborhood celebration also included free pony rides, a Mardi Gras locomotive, and chances to play chess with national chess master Eric Fleischman.

Hosted every year, the

festival celebrates several Midwood businesses in an effort to recharge the community's commercial district and raise funds for after-school programs.

"It was a beautiful day and people got to walk

around and enjoy it," said event organizer Linda Goodman.

"There was something for everybody," she said. "The kids who liked chess got to play and the kids who liked basketball got to shoot hoops."

FUN AND GAMES!: (Above) Zev Grossberg matches wits with Chess master Eric Fleischman. (Center) Azriel Friedman shoots off his bubble gun. (Right) Hapid and Hasaam Saqid hop on the Midwood Mardi Gras train.

Photos by Arthur De Gaeta



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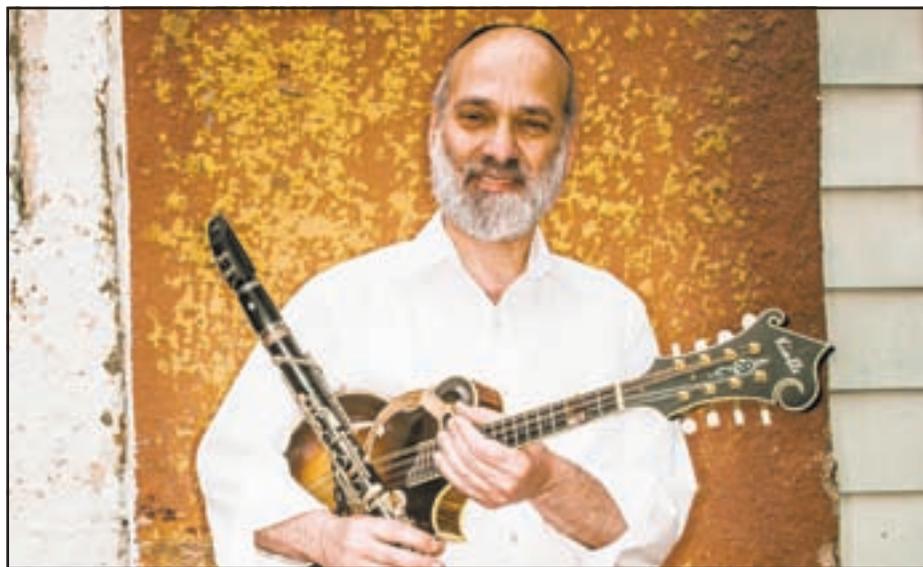


Photo by Stefano Giovannini

MUSIC MAN: Andy Statman, who's played with the Grateful Dead and Bob Dylan, says he tries to practice six hours a day on the mandolin and clarinet – except, of course, on the sabbath.

MIDWOOD'S OLD FOLKIE

BY ELI ROSENBERG

Andy Statman won one of the most prestigious folk music awards in the country, but he's still a good Midwood boy who plays clarinet at his local shul.

"I play private things for different occasions in the shul where I pray," said Statman, an Orthodox clarinetist and mandolin player who was awarded the National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts last month — the nation's highest award in the folk music arts. "With the Orthodox community here, this is

home for me."

Yet Statman wishes there was a concert hall in Midwood where he and musicians of his caliber can play.

Brooklyn College's Center for Performing Arts is less than a mile away, but Statman claims there are no concert venues in the heart of Midwood.

"I practice here and write music here, but the avenues for playing exist outside of the neighborhood," he said.

Statman may be playing outside the borough — at least when he's not in

shul — but he always keeps Brooklyn dear to his heart. His most recent album, "Old Brooklyn," includes such Midwood-centric names like "Ocean Parkway After Dark," and "On the King's Highway."

Honoring Midwood in song is how Statman, whose successful solo career has led to collaborations with a list of musical superstars that include the Grateful Dead and Bob Dylan, keeps in touch with his roots. His religion also keeps him grounded — and never gets in the way of his active touring life, he says.

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Torres a toothy tornado at cupcake-eating contest

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Talk about a major sweet tooth!

Competitive eater Stephanie “Xanadu” Torres, an out-of-towner from Las Cruces, N.M., crammed down 71 cupcakes on June 30 in eight minutes during the first contest of its kind to be held in Coney Island.

The cupcake-eating contest’s planners, sisters Katherine Kallinis and Sophie LaMontagne — owners of Georgetown Cupcakes and stars of the hit TV show “DC Cupcakes” — predicted unpredictability when talking to this paper in June.

“It’s going to be wild,” said LaMontagne.

She wasn’t wrong — the diminutive Torres topped the totals of several male competitors in front of Deno’s Won-



SWEET TEETH: Competitive eaters crammed down frosted cupcakes last Saturday.

der Wheel, including the 60 confections that Eric “Silo” Dahl of Minnesota consumed and the 42 “Gentleman” Joe Menchetti of Connecticut forced down his gullet.

She also defeated Brook-

lyn’s own Will “The Champ” Millender — the Bay Ridge-born five-year winner of the borough’s annual Stinky Cheese-Eating Contest.

Millender tried to grab another hometown victory,

but he couldn’t keep down the countless desserts of vanilla cake and vanilla buttercream icing he scarfed down, leading him to spew up everything.

Torres took home the trophy and an extra-large check for \$750 — easily surpassing LaMontagne’s prediction that the winner would eat around 60 treats.

But she fell short by one baked good of the record set by Pat “Deep Dish” Bertolotti, who ate a stunning 72 cupcakes in just six minutes at the Isle Waterloo World Cupcake-Eating Championship in April.

Bertolotti said cupcakes are a competitive eater’s dream.

“As long as they’re soft and fresh they’re really easy to get down,” said Bertolotti.



LEAGUE OF HER OWN: Stephanie Torres took home the first-place trophy and prize money after devouring 71 cupcakes in the first-ever Coney Island Cupcake-Eating Championship on June 30.

Photos by Steve Solomonson

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Sitting pretty

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The Pearl Street Triangle went from a painted patch of asphalt to DUMBO's hottest piece of public art thanks to "PST," a new mural by artist David Ellis that depicts a man being held aloft by two giant hands.

Neighbors, office workers, and tourists have been checking out the massive masterpiece from all angles — and some art fans have even taken a seat right in the middle.

— *Moses Jefferson*



Wheelchair

Continued from page 1

The bathrooms alone are nightmares for disabled Brooklynites, Ryan claims: the handrails on the ramps leading into the bathrooms are 41 inches high — three inches above the maximum height allowed under federal guidelines — making it near impossible for a person in a manual wheelchair to reach the facilities.

Inside the women's room, a heavy oil drum-shaped garbage can blocks the entryway, and the handicapped stall doesn't have the mandatory bars users need to get on or off the toilet, she said.

"If able-bodied people can use the bathrooms, why can't disabled people?" she said.

Ryan claims that the city should make all of these parks, as well as several others throughout the borough, more handicapped accessible, because disabled residents have the

same right to use the city's public spaces as everyone else.

"We count, we pay taxes, and we want to go to the park with our friends and loved ones too," Ryan said.

A city spokesman said the Parks Department is still trying to meet the standards outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law in 1990.

All of Ryan's complaints will be taken care of in time, the spokesman said.

Golden

Continued from page 1

executive secretary of the Bay Ridge Community Council, said women would have benefited from the class.

"Nine times out of 10 young women are going to be interviewing in front of a male, and they need to know how to sit," said Keating, 58. "What's the big brouhaha about?"

Community Board 10 member Susan Pulaski said good form is still an important part of the workplace, but was curious why Golden singled out one sex.

"I would want to know why he chose women, if he's going to do men later, and what age bracket he's talking about," said Pulaski.

Calls to Golden were not returned, but his spokesman echoed Keating's ar-

guments.

"Each year, Senator Golden holds several well-received events to provide options to his constituents for personal and business development," Golden spokesman John Quagliano said in a statement. "Our upcoming event, which we have chosen not to hold, is similar to ones being organized by other elected officials as well as classes conducted in local high schools."

Church

Continued from page 1

spokesman Shawn Duncan. The Episcopal church plans to partner with a private developer to construct a building with a church on the ground floor and either residential or commercial space above it.

Duncan said no details about the size or aesthetics of the building have been confirmed — but city zon-

ing permits a structure up to 120 feet tall, or roughly 10 stories, at the site.

Neighbors mourned the loss of the charming structure, which sits on a piece of real estate near the soon-to-open arena, saying several other old and beautiful houses of worship have been demolished in recent years in the so-called Borough of Churches.

"It's sad," said Howard Kollins, a Boerum Hill resident.

"These churches should be preserved — but they are difficult to maintain," Kollins said.

Kollins added that news tenants should be encouraged to use public transportation to ease traffic near the Barclays Center.

The congregation now "wants to work with neighbors" on a plan for the site, Duncan said.

"We want the building reborn in a positive way," he said.

Speeders

Continued from page 1

motorists on the thoroughfare. "I don't know why the things that are proven to be unsafe are not addressed."

The 77th, 78th, and 88th precincts, as well as the main NYPD press office, did not respond to requests for comment. But city officials acknowledge that speeding is a problem in Brooklyn: a recent Department of Transportation study found that 39 percent of Lafayette Avenue motorists exceed the speed limit of 30 miles per hour.

Councilman Steve Levin (D-Downtown) even brought a radar gun to Atlantic Avenue, where he found that a whopping 88 percent of drivers speed — many by more than 10 miles per hour.

"The police department has to do leaps and bounds better than what they're doing," Levin said.

The city is in the midst of an aggressive anti-speeding initiative launched in 2010 with the blessing of Police Commissioner Ray Kelly that features macabre billboards claiming pedestrians who are struck by cars driving at 40 miles per hour have a 70 percent chance of dying, while those struck by vehicles travelling at 30 miles per hour have an 80 percent chance of living.

The NYPD even received \$150,000 in federal funds for increased enforcement of

speeding motorists.

Road safety advocates say anti-speeding efforts obviously aren't a priority in Brownstone Brooklyn compared to other parts of the city like northern Queens, where cops issued 416 speeding tickets across eight police precincts in May.

Other Brooklyn precincts issued only a few more speeding tickets than their peers in Park Slope, Fort Greene, and Prospect Heights: the 84th Precinct, which includes DUMBO, Downtown, and Brooklyn Heights, gave out four, and the 76th Precinct, which oversees Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, and Red Hook, dished out eight.

Brownstone Brooklyn cops didn't stop many speeders, but they were harsh on other vehicular offenses, with the 77th Precinct flagging 44 drivers for improper headlights and the 88th Precinct ticketing 143 drivers for cellphone use in May.

But street safety advocates say speeding is the main cause for fatal crashes citywide — and something must be done to stop it.

"The NYPD is not living up to its mission: far too many drivers are getting away with speeding and putting all our lives at risk," said Transportation Alternatives spokesman Michael Murphy, whose group claims speeding drivers took 45 lives and injured another 2,300 people citywide in 2010.



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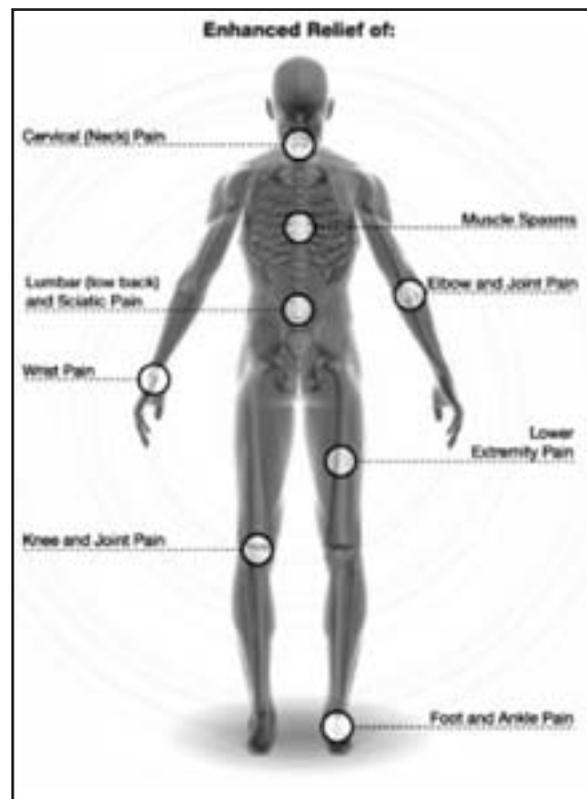
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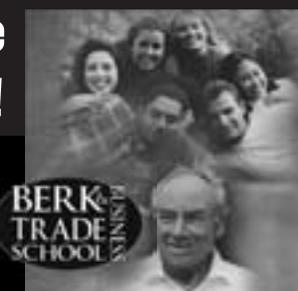
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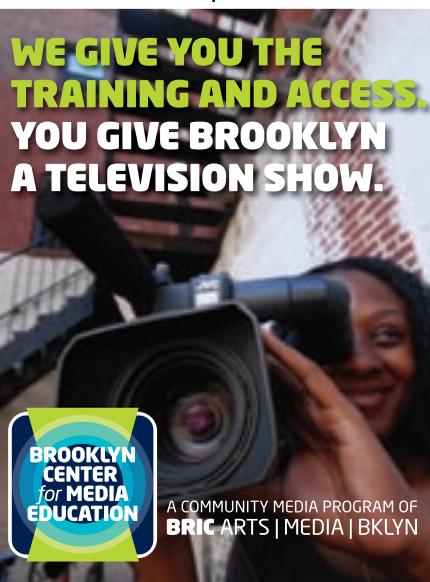
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