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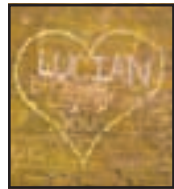
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section**



Murder rap for a driver

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

The Brooklyn district attorney is slapping the driver who killed a 9-year-old boy in Fort Greene in November with murder charges.



Prosecutor Ken Thompson's indictment of Anthony Byrd in the Nov. 2 killing of Lucian Merryweather (memorial pictured) is unusual because deadly drivers almost always skate with mere tickets unless they are drunk. The borough's top lawman said that the prosecution is his way of trying to make our streets less mean.

"The people of Brooklyn must be free to walk down the streets of our borough without fear that they may be run over or injured by a motorist driving danger-

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Snow, man

Richie Claudio, 6, poses with his snow creation – "Tie-Dye Man" – at the Snow Sculpture Contest at Brooklyn Bridge Park on Feb. 15. For more on the snowy fun, **see page 12.**

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

NO FED \$ FOR LICH

Cuomo: Cash will skip hospital

BY MEGAN RIESZ

Beleaguered Brooklyn hospitals could get skipped — and Long Island College Hospital will definitely get passed over — by the billions of dollars the feds gave

the state to boost its healthcare system last week.

The five-year Medicaid grant announced on Feb. 13 will allow New York to reinvest \$8 billion

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CHEAP DIGS IN DUMBO

How to apply for some low-rent apartments in the high-end area

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

Here is how to apply to live in some of the cheapest digs in Dumbo.

Developer Two Trees Management is now accepting applications to fill 58 units of below-market-rate housing in the massive development it is building called Dock Street.

The project is under construction at the corner of Dock and Water streets, nestled between the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges a block from the East River.

The nine-story building will include 290 residential units, street-level retail space, and a 300-seat public middle school. The 58 apart-



RISING RENT: The luxury development under construction (above) on Water Street between Dock and Main streets includes several dozen choice pads for working stiffs. A rendering is at left.

Photo by Jason Speakman and rendering courtesy of Beyer Blinder Belle

ments earmarked for lower-income families range in price from \$539 to \$893 per month and include studio and one- and two-bedroom units. The cheap digs are

available to families with incomes between \$19,024 and \$41,950.

The lion's share of so-called-affordable units, 30 of them, are one-bedrooms

that will rent for \$737.

Residents of Dumbo, Downtown Brooklyn, Boerum Hill, Brooklyn Heights, Fort Greene, and Clinton Hill will receive

preference. The units are slated to be completed in early 2015. Applications are online at www.phippsny.org/page/135. The due date is Apr. 7.

Official: Landlords don't ad up

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

Building owners are gaming the city's rules for so-called "affordable" housing by advertising cheap rentals on an obscure government website no cash-strapped Brooklyn renter would be likely to read, said a local official who wants to make such apartment deals impossible to miss.

Williamsburg community board member Rob Solano is imploring the city to change the rules, which he says now basically do nothing to ensure broke Brooklynites will hear about lotteries for below-market-rate apartments.

"Right now, it is like the Wild West and there are no monitors," said Solano.

Solano said he became alarmed when he learned that the developers of 59 Orient Ave. in Williamsburg,



NEWS DIGS ON THE BLOCK: The below-market-rate apartments in this new building at 59 Orient Ave. have not been advertised as widely as one local official would like.

Photo by Jason Speakman

which has four apartments available at below-market rates, quietly put the application online on the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's website in the first week

of February without alerting the community board or any local housing activist organizations, meaning that thousands of Williamsburg and Greenpoint residents never heard about the rental opportunity. That may not have violated the rules, but it ran contrary to common decency, he said.

"The developer is supposed to contact the community board and the area non-profits," said Solano. "If it's coming out, we should know about it."

In the newly-constructed Orient Avenue building, folks with annual incomes between \$31,749 and \$41,280 can apply for a one-bedroom apartment that rents for \$926 per month and applicants making between \$35,760 and \$51,540 can shoot for a two-bedroom that costs

Continued on Page 20



HAPPY NEW YEAR: Haim Nigri of Mill Basin shows off the lantern he made to mark Lunar New Year at the Prospect Park Zoo on Feb. 16. The zoo held two days of events that included a scavenger hunt and a puppet show. It also showed off some of the zoo's residents - including miniature horses - to celebrate the start of the Year of Horse.

Photo by Jason Speakman



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CAUGHT IN TRAFFIC: Cops needs to target motorists in Windsor Terrace and Sunset Park, according to a local panel.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Calling 911 on reckless drivers

BY MEGAN RIESZ
Call it cop envy.
A local panel in Sunset Park and Windsor Terrace wants the neighborhood fuzz to follow in the footsteps of Park Slope cops who conducted sting operations on reckless drivers.

“Everybody deserves to cross the street safely,” said Community Board 7 district manager Jeremy Laufer. “Perhaps it’s time to re-allocate resources to other issues.”
The board pointed to Fourth Avenue between 15th and 65th streets, as well as Third Avenue, as hot-spots for reckless

driving in a letter penned to the commanding officer of the 72nd Precinct in early February. The missive emphasized that drivers across the district — including in Windsor Terrace and Greenwood Heights — need to be slowed. The panel plans to request more crossing guards from the city, but says cops need to do their part to squeeze lead-foots who fail to yield and fly down thoroughfares near schools and senior centers, according to Laufer.

“Something like fail-
Continued on page 15



Calming vs. causing traffic

City’s Clinton-Hill-Bedford-Stuyvesant slow-zone polarizes

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN
Two local panels are at loggerheads over a plan to slow down cars on the streets of Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Community boards for the two neighborhoods took starkly different views of the city’s plan to make the area a so-called “slow zone,” with Bedford-Stuyvesant’s Community Board 3 voting against it on Feb. 10, just two days ahead of Clinton Hill’s Community Board 2 delivering a resounding “yea” vote. The arc of history is bending toward slowing auto traffic to save lives, according to the latter board.

“Slow Zones are very popular,” said Hemalee Patel, transportation commit-

tee chairwoman for Community Board 2. “They’re just meant to slow cars down.”

Her board overwhelmingly approved the plan, which affects an area bounded by Washington, Lafayette, and Bedford avenues, and Fulton Street.



HUMP DAYS: Bringing more car-slowing measures like this speed hump to Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant has the two community boards representing the area at odds. File photo

The program would reduce the speed limit to 20 miles per hour and introduce speed humps and special signage announcing the

designation.
On the other side of Clason Avenue, however, residents see the plan as misguided, saying that it will

only worsen already-awful car clogging on major thoroughfares.
“It’s an overreaction,”
Continued on page 15

Murder

Continued from cover

ously,” said Thompson in a statement announcing the indictment on Feb. 14.

Byrd, 59, lives two blocks from the site of the crash. He is charged with criminally negligent homicide, two counts of assault, and three traffic violations. This is no first-degree murder charge, which could carry life in prison, but it is certainly heavy-duty. The suspect faces up to four years in prison if convicted.

The moments leading up to Merryweather’s death began when Byrd allegedly drove his 2000 Ford Explorer onto the sidewalk of DeKalb Avenue at the corner of Clermont Avenue

and hit a building and a parked car, according to the indictment. He then allegedly pulled a U-turn and headed in the wrong direction down DeKalb. Prosecutors say Byrd hit a second car before careening onto the sidewalk of Clermont Avenue, where his gas guzzler smashed into three pedestrians, injuring two and ending Merryweather’s life. Merryweather was walking with his mother and brother when the allegedly out-of-control motorist killed him.

Byrd’s lawyer Danielle Eaddy declined to comment, saying she had not yet seen the indictment, but added her client is not to blame.

“It was definitely an accident,” Eaddy said.
Street safety activists

say the indictment is a step forward from the slap-on-the-wrist tickets that reckless drivers usually face, if they incur any consequences at all.

“It’s pretty groundbreaking here in New York City,” said Adam White, an attorney who specializes in cases involving motor vehicle accidents with pedestrians and cyclists. “That doesn’t happen typically.”

In most reckless driving cases, prosecutors look for an additional aggravating factor, like drinking, before bringing a criminal charge, White said.

“This an obvious indication that [Thompson is] taking reckless driving more seriously,” said White about the indictment.

Road-safety activist

groups are taking note, too.

“This is the sort of thing that should be happening all the time,” said Keegan Stephan, an organizer with the organization Right of Way, which advocates for lowering the speed limit to 20 miles per hour.

Road warriors have long pushed for better enforcement of what they call “sober reckless driving.” They say law enforcement does not do a good job holding dangerous auto-pilots accountable.

“These incidents are considered accidents and to some extent inevitable,” said Juan Martinez, a spokesperson for the car critic group Transportation Alternatives. “It’s important that district attorneys bring tough charges.”

DOT chief to C’Hill

BY MEGAN RIESZ
Hello, neighbor!

Polly Trottenberg, the newly minted commissioner of the city Department of Transportation, has made the move to Cobble Hill. Trottenberg arrived in the center of the universe from a sleepy backwater called Washington, D.C., but she used to live just up the road a piece and her latest move brings her back full circle, she said.



SHE MEANS BUSINESS: Polly Trottenberg, pictured here during a Hurricane Sandy event back when she was still a D.C. day-tripper, is now a Brooklynite. Associated Press

“It has been wonderful to come back to Brooklyn,” Trottenberg said. “I previously lived in Carroll Gardens and am now just a short walk away in beautiful Cobble Hill.”

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Plan to learn on the job at LICH

BY MEGAN RIESZ

Three words do not come to mind when imagining the job description for taking over as manager of Long Island College Hospital: no experience necessary.

And yet that is what one suitor in the state's controversy-dogged bidding process for the beleaguered Cobble Hill facility said when asked about his lack of hospital management credentials. Two doctors' professional organizations hope to overhaul the hospital with grocery tycoon and mayoral also-ran John Catsimatidis and former Giuliani understudy Rudy Washington. An executive for the two groups said that his skills at wrangling physicians are qualification enough.

"No experience is

needed," said Harry Chen, head of the Chinese Community Accountable Care Organization and vice president of the Eastern Chinese American Physician Independent Practice Association, "because we manage about 240 physicians in our accountable care organization and our partnership with the [independent practice association] totals about 400."

The Organization is a networking and training group for physicians and the Associations is a kind of doctors' cooperative. Both are specifically geared towards Chinese-American medical professionals and docs who work with Chinese patients.

For the sake of brevity and levity, we are calling the pairing of the Chinese-

oriented organizations and the former politicos the "Chinese democracy plan." The plan is the only of the five on the table that includes an actual hospital. The others call for housing and stores with a medical component. Chen said that, with all the sick people his groups encounter, there will be no danger of empty beds.

"We as an organization would encourage our providers to bring the patients back [to Long Island College Hospital] and add more high-quality service to the campus," he said.

Anti-hospital-closure activists have contested the notion that the Cobble Hill medical center has many empty beds, pointing out that the number of patients is roughly on par

The Chinese Democracy Plan



The LICH pitch

The plan

- A hospital with 100-125 beds.
- In-patient services such as pediatric, maternity and intensive care.
- Out-patient services including an emergency room and surgery.

The players

- The Chinese Community Accountable Care Organization and the Eastern Chinese American Physicians IPA (executive for both Henry Chen, pictured top).
- John Catsimatidis (pictured bottom).
- Rudy Washington.

The track record

- The Chinese doctors groups organize 400 physicians.
- Catsimatidis made billions.
- Washington parlayed deputy mayoralty into real estate consulting business.

with staffing levels.

The proposed redevelopment would slash the number of beds from 506 to between 100 and 125, with a stated goal of increasing the number to 250 within a few years of opening, but would retain current staffers.

It would also overhaul the hospital's many departments, turning some in-patient floors into a nursing home and rehab facility and possibly turning over medical units to retailers.

"We might have [stores] to improve traffic to the

area, but it's not necessary," said Chen.

The plan includes an emergency room. Four others include "emergency departments," but given that the Chinese democracy plan is the only one

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Smooth landing

Flatbush pol: Let musicians fly with gear

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

A Flatbush pol is demanding airlines take better care of Brooklyn musicians' precious cargo.

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-Flatbush) is pushing new rules that will ensure airlines treat Brooklyn melody-makers' gear with some tender-lovin' care.

"Our musicians will remain on location, touring 'round the nation," Clarke said, quoting the Beastie Boys classic "No Sleep Till Brooklyn," when touting the new rules, which would force airlines to better protect musical instruments on flights.

Clarke asked the Fed-



INSTRUMENTAL: Rep. Yvette Clarke wants to change federal regulations to make airlines let musicians carry their instruments in the cabin.

File photo by Tom Callan

eral Aviation Administration to see if it would be possible to allow musicians to carry on their guitars and horn instruments.

But the congresswoman's office was light on details about how to make the proposal workable, saying that it would be up to the regulators to implement the plan.

"It really relies on the agencies to fill in the interstices," said Clarke spokesman Patrick Rheume.

The idea came out of a Tennessee legislator's complaint about country strummers' achy-breaky instruments, Rheume said.

LICH

Continued from page 4

that features any kind of hospital, it is hard to comprehend how the others are anything more than urgent care centers, which take ambulances but do not admit patients overnight.

The pitch also proposes restructuring the cardiology, obstetrics, gastroenterology, hepatitis, interventional radiology, and oncology departments and possibly starting an Alzheimer's treatment center.

Under the plan, the healthcare facility would remain a teaching hospital run with the help of the

State University of New York, which has spent the last year trying to shutter the facility. The system would continue educating medical students teaching and training residents in departments including internal medicine, surgery, emergency medicine, obstetrics, and gynecology.

Catsimatidis made his billions with the supermarket chain Gristedes and subsequent real estate and energy investments as head of the Red Apple Group. He lost to Joe Lhota by a landslide in the 2013 Republican mayoral primary. He has put money up alongside Washington, the former deputy mayor to Rudy Giu-

liani who is reportedly now a development consultant. The "final details are being worked out," said a Chinese Community Accountable Care Organization spokeswoman last week.

Chen insists that, despite his team's acknowledged lack of hospital-running chops, its blueprint is the only one that is financially sustainable.

"This hospital has a long record of losing money, clearly," Chen said. "We can provide good quality and low-cost care."

This is the first in a series of articles profiling the five proposals for redeveloping Long Island College Hospital.

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Seven bucks is a whole latte money

Greenpoint cafe's licorice latte is the most expensive brew in the borough

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

The \$7 latte has arrived in Greenpoint — and we put it to the taste test.

A Scandinavian coffeehouse called Budin made a splash when it opened last Friday thanks to a \$7 licorice latte that apparently breaks through the brown ceiling and sets a borough record for most expensive coffee drink. But is it worth it?

The drink is scrumptious if you like the black chewy stuff. The espresso has a light taste that works well with the strong licorice syrup. And in case the candy flavor leaves you craving the real thing, the concoction comes with two pieces of licorice on a spoon.

We partook for journalism's sake. But what about everyday Brooklyn java hounds? Would they pay \$7 for the ballyhooed beverage?

"I might buy one occasionally as a treat," said Glenda Cortez, stopping into Budin on opening day.

Another customer was less eager.

"Honestly, probably not," said



BLACK GOLD: Budin's \$7 licorice latte is served with two pieces of licorice.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Joe Levinson, slurping a less expensive cup of joe.

The Nordic-themed cafe on Greenpoint Avenue, between Franklin Street and Manhattan Avenue, offers cups of regular old drip coffee for the utilitarian caffeine-seeker. But fancy northern European roasts from names renowned among the coffee cognoscenti — including Tim Wendelboe from Norway, Koppe from Sweden, and Drop Coffee, also from Sweden — range from

\$4.50 to \$5 per cup.

More money gets customers a more lavish presentation. The higher-priced varieties are made with a filter inside a porcelain cone that the barista pours hot water over. And, to complete the royal treatment, the finished product comes in a tiny carafe on a silver platter.

The coffee is supposedly better, too.

"Their roast is lighter and the flavor profile is different," said co-owner Crystal Pei, of the northern European roasts.

Norwegian java guru Wendelboe will make the trip to the shop from Oslo, Norway in April to greet and treat local bean buffs.

Seven bucks is the highest price we have ever seen for a Brooklyn latte (for comparison, a peppermint latte at Starbucks runs \$5.39), but the \$7 latte's appearance on the scene made us wonder if there are *any* coffee drinks more expensive out there. We asked Budin's competition around the borough for their costliest concoctions.

Here is what we found.



BREW-HAHA: Crystal Pei watches as Elliot Rayman prepares V60, a Kenyan blend, at Budin.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Cafe Grumpy in Greenpoint — Iced mocha, \$5.25

Little Skips in Buswick — Iced buckeye (coffee with a shot of espresso), \$4.50

Propeller Coffee in Greenpoint — Iced mocha, \$5

Toby's Estate Coffee in Williamsburg — Chai latte with a

shot of espresso, \$5.25

Kave in Bushwick — Mocha, \$4.50

Pudge Knuckles in Williamsburg — The appropriately named "F--- sleep," which consists of a large cup of cold-brewed coffee concentrate with two shots of espresso, \$5.25

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Ultimate toddler fighting in G'point

Mixed martial arts school preps tots for battle

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

These pint-sized pipsqueaks are a long way from the Ultimate Fighting Championship, but while their fellow toddlers are busy picking their noses and learning their ABCs, they are preparing for combat.

At Williamsburg Mixed Martial Arts school, which is actually on the edge of Greenpoint, kids as young as two years old train to perfect their roundhouse kicks, jabs, and foot sweeps. But how to annihilate adversaries is not the only thing these tots are learning, according to their muscly headmaster.

"We teach them better focus, concentration, and practical self-defense," said school director Roger Mamedov.

Mixed martial arts incorporates elements of a variety of fighting styles, including judo, Muay Thai, boxing, and jiu jitsu, and is the basis of the wildly popular pay-per-view sport in which two fighters beat the daylights out of each other for five rounds, stopping only if one is knocked or submits.

Mamedov says that, far from training youngsters for schoolyard battle, his classes give kids a safe place to unleash their inner tattooed gladiator.

"For preschoolers, the benefit is structure in a controlled way where the kids can still express themselves," said Mamedov.

The kids' classes have been small lately, but on Monday afternoon, best friends Phoenix Burciu-Ballen and Stella Chris, both five, thoroughly worked each other over. Instructor Diego Lopez led the pair through a number of rough exercises, including grappling moves, a judo-style sweep, and punches. He also had them scramble over and under an obstacle course.

At the end of each class, the instructors sit the students down and talk to them about respect, responsibility, and friendship. They then award one pupil a black belt for the day.



GET THEIR KICKS: Phoenix Burciu-Ballen kicks at Stella Cris while teacher teacher Diego Lopez assists and Kai Crowley takes it all in.

Williamsburg Mixed Martial Arts

For now, the kids remain blissfully ignorant of the brutal world of pro fighting and champs such as Georges "Rush" Saint-Pierre and Johnny "Bigg Rigg" Hendricks — and their parents intend to keep it that way.

"They are so not aware of all of that," said Phoenix's mother, Andreea Burciu-Ballen. "If anything, they are learning to protect themselves."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 695(2)(b) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter, notice is hereby given that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") of the City of New York ("City") has proposed the sale of the following City-owned property (collectively, "Disposition Area") in the Borough of Brooklyn:

<u>Address</u> 1242 37th Street	<u>Block/Lot</u> 5295/ p/o 4 (Tentative Lot 109)
------------------------------------	---

Under the proposed project, the City will sell the Disposition Area to Congregation & Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas Inc. ("Sponsor") for the negotiated price of Two Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000). The Sponsor will then develop approximately 15 accessory parking spaces on the Disposition Area.

The appraisal and the proposed Land Disposition Agreement and Project Summary are available for public examination at the office of HPD, 100 Gold Street, Room 5-A1, New York, New York on business days during business hours.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on March 12, 2014 at Second Floor Conference Room, 22 Reade Street, Manhattan at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached on the calendar, at which time and place those wishing to be heard will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed sale of the Disposition Area pursuant to Section 695(2)(b) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter.

Individuals requesting sign language interpreters should contact the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Public Hearings Unit, 253 Broadway, Room 915, New York, New York 10007, (212) 788-7490, no later than five (5) business days prior to the public hearing. TDD users should call Verizon relay services.



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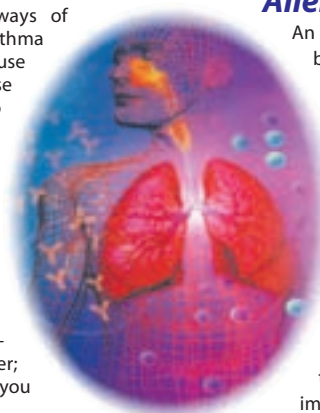


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76TH PRECINCT

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL-RED HOOK

Man in the ski mask

A masked villain stole a woman's cash and Social Security card in an apartment building on Hoyt Street on Feb. 13, cops said.

The 19-year-old woman was walking down the stairs of the building between Warren and Baltic streets at 10 am when a man wearing a ski mask, black jacket, and red sweatpants pushed her and grabbed her purse, taking \$300, her Social Security card, and a bank card, police reported.

Cops are looking for video footage in order to apprehend the suspect, they said.

Hack attack

Cops cuffed a lady on Feb. 14 who they say stole thousands from a Carroll Gardens woman's bank account last year.

The 19-year-old hacked into two bank accounts of the 44-year-old victim — who lives on Third Place between Court and Smith streets — last June and siphoned out \$1,800, cops said.

Detectives finally tracked the suspected cyber-criminal down on Valentine's Day and slapped her with grand larceny and identity theft charges.

Bling's the thing

A thief went on a jewelry-stealing rampage in a woman's apartment on Luquer Street between Feb. 11 and Feb. 13, police said.

The 42-year-old victim's left her abode near Clinton Streets on Feb. 11 and, when she returned on Feb. 13 around 11 am, the rear window was open, according to cops. The crook took an antique diamond ring, one pair of cuff links, a 14-karat gold chain, set of pearl gold earrings, and other jewelry, police reported.

Bike buccaneer

A bandit pilfered a bicycle parked in a basement on Sullivan Street from Feb. 2 to Feb. 4, cops said.

The 17-year-old victim left his dark green mountain bike between Richards and Van Brunt streets at 3:15 pm on Feb. 2 and, when he returned at 3:25 pm two days later, it was nowhere to be found, police said.

Cracked

A vandal shattered the window of a woman's car parked on Woodhull Street between Feb. 11 and Feb. 15, cops said.

The 40-year-old victim parked her grey Subaru between First and Second places at 5 pm on Feb. 11 and, when she came back at 10:15 am on Feb. 15, she noticed the back passenger-side window broken, according to authorities.

The woman did not find anything missing, cops said.

Point and steal

A band of burglars stole camera from

**POLICE
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a woman's apartment on Third Place on Feb. 10, according to police.

The 29-year-old woman left her apartment between Smith and Court Streets at 8:40 am and, when she returned at 5:30 pm, she noticed that her Nikon camera and camera lens were missing, cops said.

— *Megan Riesz*

94TH PRECINCT

GREENPOINT-NORTHSIDE

Bad reception

A goon grabbed a woman from behind and stole her cellphone on N. Seventh Street on Feb. 16, cops said.

The 25-year-old victim told police she was about to walk into her apartment building between Havemeyer and Roebling street at 5 am when the lout ran up behind her, bowled her over, held her down, fished her iPhone out of her pocket, and scrambled.

Camera bagged

A stealthy robber attacked a man and ran off with his camera bag on Nassau Avenue on Feb. 10, cops said.

The victim told police that he left a bar at 4 am and headed towards the subway. When he got to the corner of Greenpoint Avenue and Russell Street, the bandit ran up from behind him, threw him to the ground, and grabbed his camera bag, police said.

Aww, nuts

A drunken scoundrel was arrested for kicking a police officer where the sun does not shine after he was caught trying to break into apartments on Franklin Street on Feb. 11, cops said.

A resident of a building between Green and Freeman streets called police at 1:30 am after the soused lout somehow got into the building and started banging on all the apartment doors.

"Let me in," the man screamed, while banging on doors and turning doorknobs, according to cops. Police say that, when officers tried to arrest the wildman, he punched a cop and kicked him in the groin. The 29-year-old man was arrested and charged with assaulting a police officer.

Unfriendly

Cops cuffed a man who they say stabbed his friend in the leg during an argument on Graham Avenue on Feb. 12.

The 37-year-old victim reported he and

the assailant were drinking at his home between Skillman and Conselyea streets at 11:50 pm. The pair started to argue and the so-called friend suddenly picked up a knife and stabbed the victim three times in his left leg, police reported. The 42-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with assault.

Nab-top

A group of bad house-guests jacked a man's laptop after he invited them into his Graham Avenue apartment on Feb. 9, according to police.

The 26-year-old victim said he invited four friends to his pad between Skillman and Conselyea streets at midnight. The visitors were there for a little while and then left, at which time the victim went to sleep, cops said.

When he woke up at 10 am his computer was gone, police stated.

— *Danielle Furfaro*

68TH PRECINCT

BAY RIDGE-DYKER HEIGHTS

Bus-t up

Cops collared four people on 92nd Street for allegedly brawling aboard the S53 bus on Feb. 15.

An argument broke out between a lady in custody and three guys aboard the transport from Staten Island at 4:38 am, police said. The woman drew a blade and slashed the face of one of the guys and the trio began kicking and punching her in retaliation, authorities stated.

When the bus stopped between Fifth and Sixth avenues, the threesome reportedly dragged the gal out onto the street and continued beating her until the law pulled up and slapped the cuffs on all of them, cops said.

Who stole the console?

Police picked up a man who they say swiped the tech-laden center console of a Mercedes-Benz on 73rd Street on Feb. 15.

The vehicle's owner said she parked her car between Fort Hamilton Parkway and 10th Avenue at 9 am, and returned at 1:30 pm to discover the console — containing the stereo and navigation systems — gone, cops said.

Authorities arrested a suspect, who they say is a serial offender, two days later.

Jacked pot

A pickpocket pocketed a man's cell-

phone while the victim was scratching off a lotto ticket inside a Fourth Avenue bodega on Feb. 12, according to cops.

The victim said he was scraping away to discover if he had won a prize inside the store at the corner of 69th Street at 9:50 pm, when the crook sidled up. The sneak thief slid his hand into the victim's pocket and pulled out his phone, then scrambled out the door before the victim could stop him, police said.

Bar none

Crooks looted a 73rd Street apartment of \$2,500 after removing the burglar bars from its windows on Feb. 10, police reported.

The victim told cops he left his first floor home between Fort Hamilton Parkway and 10th Avenue at 9 am and returned at 8:45 pm to find the window guards gone and his cash stash missing.

— *Will Bredderman*

84TH PRECINCT

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DUMBO-BOERUM HILL-DOWNTOWN

Good guy knifed

Someone stabbed a man with a steak knife as he tried to break up a fight on Atlantic Avenue on Feb. 6, cops said.

The good Samaritan told police he tried to stop a dispute between several women near Nevins Street at 9 pm. His thanks was a knife to the left arm, according to the police report. He told cops he did not want to press charges.

Card swiped

A crook swiped a purse that was left unattended in a department store on Fulton Street on Feb. 9, police said.

The victim told cops she was in the store between Duffied Street and Albee Square and set her pocketbook down. When she returned to the bag at 5:25 pm, she found her credit card missing, and her bank said \$150 in transactions were made shortly after, a police report said.

Shoplifting crew

Five bold shoplifters ransacked a Smith Street clothing store on Feb. 7 — taking \$2,370 worth of merchandise in a flash, police said.

Police report the quintet entered the store between Dean and Bergen streets at 6:30 pm and started grabbing goods. They took off before anyone could stop them, cops said.

Can't call 911

A thief snatched a man's cellphone from his hand as he walked down Flatbush Avenue Extension on Feb. 6, police said.

The victim was using his mobile device near the corner of DeKalb Avenue at 1:40 pm when a lowlife ran up from behind and grabbed the phone with both hands, then scrambled up Flatbush Avenue according to cops.

— *Matthew Perlman*

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 695(2)(b) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter, notice is hereby given that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") of the City of New York ("City") has proposed the sale of the following City-owned property (collectively, "Disposition Area") in the Borough of Brooklyn:

Address 1350 37 th Street	Block/Lot 5300/ p/o Lot 9 (Tentative Lot 114)
--	---

Under the proposed project, the City will sell the Disposition Area to Congregation Beis Meir Inc. ("Sponsor") for the negotiated price of Three Hundred Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$345,000). The Sponsor will then develop approximately 17 accessory parking spaces on the Disposition Area.

The appraisal and the proposed Land Disposition Agreement and Project Summary are available for public examination at the office of HPD, 100 Gold Street, Room 5-A1, New York, New York on business days during business hours.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on March 12, 2014 at Second Floor Conference Room, 22 Reade Street, Manhattan at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached on the calendar, at which time and place those wishing to be heard will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed sale of the Disposition Area pursuant to Section 695(2)(b) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter.

Individuals requesting sign language interpreters should contact the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Public Hearings Unit, 253 Broadway, Room 915, New York, New York 10007, (212) 788-7490, no later than five (5) business days prior to the public hearing. TDD users should call Verizon relay services.

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Church seeks developer

Could this chapel become a house of Lord and Taylor?

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

An old Downtown church is offering developers the chance to tear it down or build a tower on top of it.

The Recovery House of Worship, a 120-year-old Baptist church on Schermerhorn Street at Third Avenue, sits on one of the last big lots in the rapidly rising neighborhood and is looking for a deep-pocketed buyer to redevelop it. Church officials would prefer to keep the building, but they also want to cash in on the prime real estate it occupies, said a broker.

"They like the existing building a lot," said Dan Marks, a vice president at the real estate firm Terra CRG, which is accepting development proposals on behalf of the church. "The question is, 'Can they achieve what they're looking for by keeping it or



AT A CROSSROADS: The church's tower proudly displays a famous symbol of Christianity.

Terra CRG

not?"

Damage caused by a 2010 fire at the building, commonly known as the Baptist Temple thanks to the big stone letters on the side, has yet to be fully repaired. The

church is hoping a redevelopment will leave it with a steady revenue stream and a bigger space in whatever ends up getting built.

"Being a church, they didn't have the means of fixing the property by themselves," said Marks.

The congregation wants a developer to bring in seven floors of residential, commercial, or hotel space while the church retains control of four lower floors, including retail space that the church could rent out. It is taking bids that would keep the existing two-story, red building standing, as well as ones that would tear it down.

The demolition option is a switch from the church's initial call for redevelopment in 2011, which only allowed for bids that keep the existing structure and build on top of it.

Current zoning allows

for up to 11 stories on the site, which is a stone's throw from the Barclays Center and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The church could make a hefty profit if it chooses to sell, but it would rather not move.

"It's important for them to stay in the community and service the community," said Marks. "And they can do this better in a better facility."

Under the desired arrangement, the buyer would own any new commercial or residential space built, but the church would remain owner of its portion of the building, which it hopes would roughly double the size of the current space.

The building is not landmarked, but does appear on the National Register of Historic Places. It was originally erected in 1894 by Brooklyn's first Baptist congregation. The



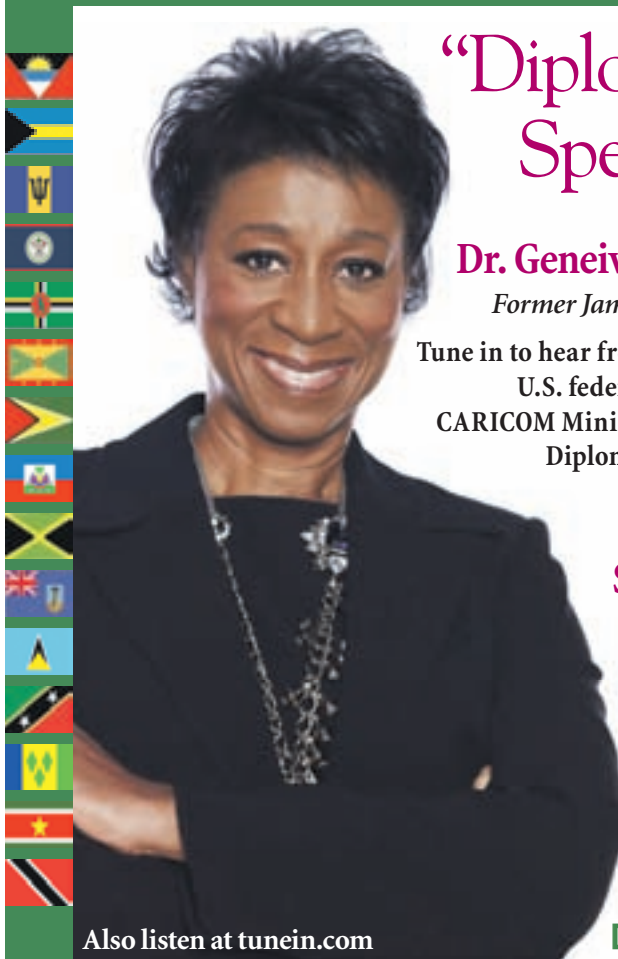
GOING UP OR COMING DOWN?: The congregation of the Baptist Temple is looking for a developer to overhaul the place. Terra CRG

Romanesque Revival-style building is made from brownstone and brick. It was badly damaged by a fire and rebuilt in 1918.

This is not the first time one of the Borough of Churches' namesake chapels have tried to cash in on ballooning real estate values. In 2012, leaders at the nearby Church of the Redeemer sought to have their

own house of worship condemned and redeveloped in an arrangement similar to the one the Recovery House of Worship seeks, with a church on the ground floor and residential or commercial space above. And shrinking flocks and rising land prices have led numerous other churches to sell off their biggest assets — their buildings — entirely.

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The Borough of what, exactly?

B'klyn 'churches' nickname threatened

Brooklyn has long been known as the Borough of Churches. But with so many chapels selling out to deep-pocketed developers or, as in the



"It's still the Borough of Churches to me. There's so many of them! They're all over the place." **Bertha Young, Brownsville**



"No one has said that to me in a while, but I think it's still the Borough of Churches. If I go up on my roof I can see a ton of them." **Herb Rosenbaum, Brooklyn Heights**

case of Downtown's Recovery House of Worship, seeking a massive overhaul from them, is it still true? We quizzed everyday Brooklynites, asking: "If Brooklyn is no longer the 'Borough of Churches,' then what is it the borough of?"

The verdict? Not everybody agrees with our premise.

— Photos and interviews by Matthew Perlman



"It's the County of Kings. It's the new Manhattan. It's in the middle of everything. It's beautiful." **D.L. Jennings, Williamsburg**



"I think it's the Borough of Neighborhoods. It's much more neighborhood-y than Manhattan. It has smaller, more unique neighborhoods that don't bleed into each other. They're distinct." **Bailey Griswold, Crown Heights**



"I say it still is the Borough of Churches. If anyone says anything different, they don't know what they're talking about. Churches are everywhere. All different faiths, cultures, and denominations." **Elisa Liggins, Coney Island**



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Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

Edward Rodriguez, Dyker Heights

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SNOW BUSINESS: (From left to right) Builders squeeze into the urban igloo they made for the Brooklyn Bridge Park shape-off. A non-winning but classic entry. Attendees huddle around grills for warmth. Photo by Stefano Giovannini



It's a snow-sculpture smackdown

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

Brooklynites of all ages turned out on Saturday for a very cold snow-sculpting contest at Brooklyn Bridge Park.

The shape-off, organized by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, brought folks down to the frigid waterfront for some heated competition and family bonding.

"We had an awesome time," said Alan Win-

chester, who brought his kids Katherine and Henry to the park from their Brooklyn Heights home. "It's great that the park was able to have an outdoor event this time of year."

The conservancy agrees. "Our thinking around the contest was to do something fun with all of the gloomy weather we've had this winter, show that the park is still active and en-

gaging in the cold months, and basically to say hi to all of our constituents in the warmer seasons," said spokeswoman Rachel Fletcher.

Competitors at the Picnic Peninsula on Pier 5 had two hours to craft their frozen masterpieces. Judges awarded prizes in two categories, one for adults and one for families.

The works were not your average snowmen.

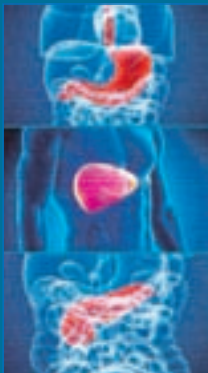
Brad Robinson, his girlfriend Maya Shulman, and his friend Kyle Radcliffe snagged top grown-up prize for their four-armed octopus. The piece is impressive, but they got a competitive edge from the fact that they were the only "serious competitors" in the adult category, according to Rob-

Continued on page 23



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Coney ride-maker is remembered

Albert Mangels, last owner of famed Mangels amusement factory, dies at age 84

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

It is the end of an era — and a long, great ride.

Albert G. Mangels — who helped create some of Coney's most beloved attractions — passed away earlier this month at the age of 84.

Born in 1929, Mangels grew up next door to his grandfather, the legendary amusement-maker William F. Mangels, near the corner of Neptune Avenue and Ocean Parkway.

The family patriarch, who designed many of the People's Playground's most iconic attractions — including the recently restored B&B Carousell and the Tickler — was a large figure in his grandson's life. The younger Mangels would recall years later doing odd jobs as a child at the W.F. Mangels ride-making plant on W. Eighth Street between Surf and Neptune

avenues, now home to the Department of Motor Vehicles office.

"He would always call Dad, 'the boy,'" said Lisa Schaefer-Mangels, Albert Mangels's daughter. "He'd say 'have the boy do this, have the boy do that.'"

Like his grandfather, father, and uncle, Albert Mangels knew both the labor and administrative side of the business, working with his hands alongside the factory's two dozen workers, as well as learning how to run the office. He studied engineering at City College and the Pratt Institute, and, after a stint in the Air Force, he took over the family business, eventually renaming it the A.G. Mangels Company.

He married his wife Eleanor in 1951, and had four children — Schaefer-Mangels, her brothers Albert, Jr. and Christopher, and



FAMILY TRADITION: The late Albert G. Mangels shows off the controls of one of his beloved rides, the Pony Cart, at Deno's Wonder Wheel Park in 2009.

Lisa Schaefer-Mangels

her sister Doreen Mangels-Pinzer. Mangels raised his family in East Islip, Long Island, but the children got the full People's Playground experience whenever they stayed with their

grandmother and they remember the family factory as a warehouse of wonders.

"There were always rides there, waiting to be shipped, waiting to be

shown, and we would ride them before they went out," Schaefer-Mangels recalled. "It was a good time to be a kid in Coney Island."

When the city decided to renovate Flushing Meadows Park in Queens after the 1964 World's Fair, it commissioned Mangels to rebuild the park's carousel — which was made from the parts of two famous Mangels-made Coney Island horse rides, the Stubbman and Feltman carousels.

When Sodom by the Sea's fortunes dipped in the early 1970s, Mangels moved his factory out to Long Island, and continued to design and build his popular shooting galleries and children's rides.

But the 85-year-old business only survived another decade after leaving its native Coney turf, and closed in 1983, amid an economic downturn and increasing

competition from Japanese manufacturers.

"I think it was just too much for him at that time. The business had changed," Schaefer-Mangels said.

But the fun did not end there. Coney Island USA honored the Mangels and other Coney Island dynasties — like the Nathan's-founding Handworkers and kiddie park-owners the McCulloughs — several years in a row at its annual First Families gala. Albert Mangels remained immensely proud of his family's work, and turned his home into a museum of amusement history.

Mangels got to see one of his grandfather's classic shooting galleries restored on Surf Avenue this past summer. But he fell ill last August and quickly declined, passing on Feb. 1. He is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 695(2)(b) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter, notice is hereby given that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") of the City of New York ("City") has proposed the sale of the following City-owned property (collectively, "Disposition Area") in the Borough of Brooklyn:

Address
331 Saratoga Avenue

Block/Lot
1447/1 (Lots 1, 3-9, 73-77,
were merged into Lot 1.)

Under the Supportive Housing Loan Program, HPD facilitates the rehabilitation or new construction of buildings which provide supportive housing for the homeless, people with special needs, and other persons of low income. HPD works with the Department of Homeless Services, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Human Resources Administration's HIV/AIDS Services Administration, and other public agencies to ensure that the completed projects receive appropriate building security and social services.

HPD has designated Bergen Saratoga, L.P. ("Sponsor") as qualified and eligible to purchase and redevelop the Disposition Area under the Supportive Housing Loan Program. HPD proposes to sell the Disposition Area to the Sponsor at the nominal price of One Dollar per tax lot pursuant to Article 16 of the General Municipal Law. The Sponsor will also deliver a note and mortgage for the appraised value of the Disposition Area, which will be payable only if the Sponsor violates the City's restrictions on the post-sale development, use, occupancy, and operation of the property. The Sponsor will construct a new building on the Disposition Area. The completed project will provide 79 units for occupancy by homeless and low-income tenants, plus one unit for a superintendent.

The appraisal and the proposed Land Disposition Agreement and Project Summary are available for public examination at the office of HPD, 100 Gold Street, Room 5-A1, New York, New York on business days during business hours.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on March 12, 2014 at Second Floor Conference Room, 22 Reade Street, Manhattan at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached on the calendar, at which time and place those wishing to be heard will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed sale of the Disposition Area pursuant to Section 695(2)(b) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter.

Individuals requesting sign language interpreters should contact the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Public Hearings Unit, 253 Broadway, Room 915, New York, New York 10007, (212) 788-7490, no later than seven (7) business days prior to the public hearing. TDD users should call Verizon relay services.

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Department of
Housing Preservation
& Development

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner, HPD

Slow zone

Continued from page 3

said Demetrice Mills, president of the Classon Fulgate Block Association. "We don't have a traffic safety issue in this neighborhood. We have a traffic issue."

Mills said he took his car out on Classon Avenue to see how it felt driving at 20 miles per hour.

"Bicycles were passing me," he said. "They were flying by me."

The test driver, along with members of Community Board 3, say that the

go-slow area would dump insult onto the injury already caused by the recent loss of a lane to the new B44 Select Bus Service route, on both Bedford and Nostrand avenues.

"Lots of people spoke out against [the slow zone] at the public hearing," said Tremaine Wright, chairwoman of Community Board 3. "People were asking how it interplays with all the other changes."

Board members also asked city bean-counters for data on how the safety measures actually affect injury rates. The city's presenta-

tion of the plan included statistics showing that reduced speeds made roads safer in other countries, but it did not show how it has worked in Boerum Hill, where the policy went into effect two years ago.

The transportation department designated 15 communities in the city for the increased traffic safety measures last year, including Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant as one. Neighborhoods were supposedly chosen based on high accident rates, a concentration of schools, and demonstrated support from

the community.

The Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant slow zone would contain four schools and eight pre-kindergarten and daycare centers and its roads see an average of 62.4 injuries per year, according to the roads agency.

The city will move ahead with the plan despite of the objections raised by Bedford-Stuyvesant residents, leaving some steaming.

"They're going to do it anyway," said Mills. "So why even bring it to the community board?"

Windsor

Continued from page 3

ure to yield to pedestrians is a district-wide issue," he said. "But there are other enforcement activities we feel should take place."

The area's 72nd Precinct issued only 178 failure-to-yield summonses to drivers throughout 2013, according to city data. Undercover cops hailing from Park Slope's 78th Precinct,

which gave out 96 of the tickets in 2013, handed out 16 over two days in January as part of Mayor DeBlasio's road safety agenda. The sting operation, in which covert cops posed as pedestrians while others laid in wait nearby, pouncing on drivers who could not be bothered to take their feet off the gas, was praised by Slope road safety activists — and apparently coveted by their neighbors.

"We are not going to tell

[the 72nd Precinct] how to go about it, but we would like to see an increased focus on those types of issues," Laufer said.

The 72nd Precinct has long been using unmarked cars to target reckless drivers, a spokesman said.

"We have been doing it for years even before this plan that the mayor came out with," community affairs officer Dean Hanan said.

"Thank god we're kind

of ahead of the game with that," he added.

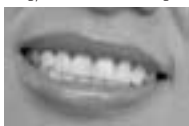
The majority of pedestrians struck by drivers within the 72nd Precinct are Asian American, according to Hanan.

"It is what it is and we want to focus on that population," he said.

The precinct hopes to roll out an education program in the coming months to increase awareness about the rules of the road, Hanan said.

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Methodist's injection of correction

To the editor,

Last month your reporter, inaccurately reported that Community Board 6's Landmarks-Land Use Committee had voted against recommending to the City's Board of Standards and Appeals that New York Methodist Hospital receive requested variances to build a new outpatient care center.

To your credit, you pulled the inaccurate article and replaced it with one that correctly stated that the Committee had, in fact, voted to recommend the variances, with conditions.

This month, the same reporter got the story wrong again. Her article about the hearing on the project at the Board of Standards and Appeals begins with these two paragraphs:

"New York Methodist Hospital must alter its controversial plans for an expansion that some Park Slope residents say would wreck their tree-lined streets with traffic, smog, and out-of-place architecture, the city demanded this week.

"The Board of Standards and Appeals told the hospital to tweak its proposal to be closer to the what current zoning allows after Slopers in attendance argued that the hospital's rationale for why it needs such a big facility has not passed muster."

In fact, the B.S.A. made no such "demands." Instead, they asked for further clarification and information about the plans, which they will review and which will be up for discussion at an April hearing. Whether the Board will then request any alterations in the plans has yet to be determined.

Furthermore, your reporter stated that hospital "reps are sure they can convince municipal bean-counters to okay the project."

Neither I nor anyone else affiliated with the hospital made any such arrogant statement. What I said was that we are confident that we will be able to provide the requested information and answer all questions to the Board's satisfaction at the continued hearing in April.

I would not presume to predict what

SOUND OFF TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

the B.S.A.'s decision will be.

While the opposition's arguments are covered in your article, there is absolutely no discussion of the many positive statements by Park Slope and other Brooklyn residents who support the proposal. I am disappointed that this story is not receiving balanced coverage. Regardless, I would hope that even a biased article could get the facts straight. **Lyn Hill**

The writer is vice-president for communication and external affairs at New York Methodist Hospital.

A trolley enthusiast's castle in the air of returning streetcars to Red Hook screeched to a halt, when three of his prized cabs were donated to a museum by the owner of a lot that was home to the rusty buggies for the past 10 years (Streetcar named expire! Trolleys trucked away from Red Hook are latest blow to rail dream," online Feb. 12).

Brooklyn Historic Railways Association president Bob Diamond said the deportation derailed his dream to restore trolley service to Brooklyn, but the lot's owner said dispatching the carriages off to a train archive made their renovation a reality.

Online readers railroaded our comments section.

Great article but some inaccuracy: There was no "trial run." The Brooklyn Historic Railway Association had a bona fide contract to build and operate a trolley line to the Atlantic Avenue Tunnel from the Red Hook Pier. It completed all planning requirements of the city, including the City Environmental Quality Review, and the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure. The reason why the project ended was not for lack of funding — there were many places B.H.R.A. could have received funding. The project ended because the city's Department of Transportation revoked the permits and permissions for the tracks in the streets. They revoked the permission out of the blue and without any notice, just like they did with the Atlantic Avenue Tunnel.

R_I_L from RED HOOK

It is a pity the city did not bring back trolleys to Brooklyn. The subways are too Manhattan-centric, which is problematic for Brooklyn, given the renaissance that's happening; we need more intra-borough transportation. Trolleys, beyond their practical benefit, bring a lot of cachet

to a place, too. San Francisco and New Orleans both get a lot of character from theirs.

Scott from Park Slope

I don't know if the trolleys are a good idea or not, but this guy does not seem to be the guy who could make it happen.

Jay from N.Y.C.

Noting wrong with streetcars in general. However, if this city were to eventually restore such service it should be with modern ones and not these museum pieces, which should be restricted to an occasional fan trip.

K.B. from Greenpoint

Is there a Kickstarter campaign or something going on to revive this project? Seriously the single bus line here is killing me. Want to roll on some smooth track to other parts of town! I hope they resume their project soon. Maybe with the new mayor in town...

Dick from Red Hook

Bob Diamond lost a bunch of them at the Navy Yard. Now this. What a shame. It was a great dream, as indicated on his website.

Jim Reilly from Brooklyn

Street cars happen to be under review again by the City of New York. There's a draft line from Queens right down to guess where, Red Hook! So hold you theories guys as Bob Diamond may just be a diamond in the ruff. Ding, ding, ding, comes the trolley (again!).

Resident from Brooklyn

I remember Bob Diamond from the early 1980s and I was actually a member of his train restoration club. To call him a train buff is not very accurate. Actually he and his fellow volunteers are historians. Ever since he discovered that tunnel underneath Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn, he worked and fought for a trolley line from Red Hook to Downtown. If anyone failed it was the City of New York by ignoring Bob Diamond's pleas to reintroduce a part of our history for everyone to see and enjoy.

Bob from Gerritsen Beach

I hate to break this to Bob Diamond, but if there was a way to save those trolleys, he would have found that long ago. The trolleys are gone and they are not coming back anytime soon. If there was a way a to keep them intact, a so-

lution would have been found decades ago, rather than remove or pour over the tracks entirely. Even if it could be brought back, where would the money for it come from, let alone who will be footing the bill for it? Unfortunately, Diamond has to understand why N.Y.C. no longer has grade level transit, and why it was taken down in the first place rather than sulk over that loss. Trolleys and streetcars were removed because their tracks represented a danger. I can still remember hearing about how 10th Avenue in Manhattan was such a danger with all the streetcars running it. Many of them were lost to buses, because they weren't limited to tracks or wires.

Perhaps the reason why other places in both the country and world can have these could be because they have the space and aren't so densely populated as N.Y.C. Again, if there was a way to save the trolleys, that would have been the case decades ago.

Tal Barzilai from Pleasantville, N.Y.

Next up, restoring the horse drawn carriage to the Hook. Helpful when we get the snow, we can convert them to sleighs!

Billy One Eye from ParkHook

Shame on the Brooklyn Paper for running these puff pieces on Bob Diamond. They're not real journalism. The Times figured out by 2004 that Bob's dream was a pipe dream, but Bob likes to sue, so I'm not putting my real name here.

The Real Trolley King News from Red Hook

The idea is a really good one. Criticizing Bob Diamond is way off the point. No one person can change the Department of Transportation, as Bob has known for years, since he used to be a D.O.T. employee. More to the point, trolleys make a lot of sense, just like they originally did. It was the "money power" and lobbies that went for buses and cars, instead. Nothing happens until someone figures out how to make money off it.

Thomas Lawrence from Brooklyn Heights

Bob Diamond's Brooklyn Historic Railway Association has been reporting questionable financials for years. Notice how it does not claim any trolley cars on their Form 990 as assets.

pirichardtracy from Brooklyn Heights

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Submit letters to: Vince DiMiceli, Editor, Community Newspaper Group, 1 MetroTech Center North, Brooklyn, NY 11201, or e-mail to editorial@cnglocal.com. Please include your address and telephone number for so we can confirm you sent the letter. We reserve the right to edit all correspondence, which becomes the property of Courier Life Publications. To read more comments, visit www.BrooklynDaily.com.

Eric Adams going by the numbers

Beep wants to use data to bring city services like snow removal out of the 'Ice Age'

Borough President Adams has been in office for less than two months, but he has wasted no time in putting his stamp on Borough Hall. The energetic new Beep has hit the ground running with initiatives aimed at making the city more efficient and responsive to citizens. We got him on the line to talk about how he wants to revolutionize city government and services.

Bill Egbert: You came into office with lots of new ideas. What are some of the changes you're making at Borough Hall?

Eric Adams: I've created a street team — staffers who had traditionally office-type jobs are moving out to the streets. It's a new department called External Affairs. The idea is to get out and meet people where they are and see what they need.

We need to do a better job at seeing what's out there. We have a lot of people in this borough, a lot of tools, and we need to learn how to make use of what we have more efficiently. Before we go asking for more, we need to take a proper look at what we have and

what we're doing with it.

BE: You're a former cop and you've talked about taking the NYPD's CompStat approach and applying it at Borough Hall. How would that work?

EA: We've already started using the CompStat model at Borough Hall — centralizing data and resources, and cross-referencing them to get people and services where they're needed. I'm meeting soon with some of Brooklyn's education and tech giants to work on designing a mapping system to track services and direct resources in a data-based way instead of this guessing game we've been playing.

BE: What sort of services would you monitor? Things like snow removal?

EA: I had a conversation with Mayor DeBlasio the other day and talked to him about using the CompStat model to improve the efficiency of city agencies, and he actually mentioned snow removal. I think he realizes that it's time to move out of the Ice Age and into the Tech age for snow removal. The technology is there. The problem is that in many city agencies the mindset isn't there — yet.

BE: You've also said you want to bring new people onto local community boards. What sort of people are you looking for?



Fireside Chat

A monthly conversation with
Borough President Eric Adams

EA: I think we need to get more people on the community boards who have worked for volunteer groups in their neighborhoods. We want people to have spent time in the minor leagues, so to speak, before we promote them to the major league of the community boards.

BE: Traffic safety has been a hot topic in the borough, and you've expressed support for Mayor DeBlasio's Vision zero. How do you think we can make Brooklyn's streets safer?

EA: There is no magic bullet for traffic safety. We need a combination of enforcement, educa-

tion and reexamining our speed limits. I think a 20-mile-per-hour limit is worth looking at. As we've been encouraging healthier lifestyles with biking and walking, street utilization has changed but the mindset hasn't.

BE: How should people reach out to you with suggestions?

EA: I'm working with the city's technology department to revamp our website Brooklyn-usa.org to make it more user friendly, but I invite everyone with questions or suggestions to use the AskEric e-mail address [AskEric@brooklynbp.nyc.gov] to contact me. I read every e-mail personally.

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WINTRY MIX: (From left to right) Windsor Terrace resident Jeff Pftzing leads his son Leo, 4, to the school bus. A snowplow struck and killed a woman in the parking lot of a Bay Ridge supermarket. Laura Kauffmann of Windsor Terrace broke out her cross-country skis to make the trip to yoga class. Photos by Paul Martinka



Snowstorm wreaks havoc on boro

BY MEGAN RIESZ

Another heavy dose of the white stuff proved deadly and dangerous for Brooklynites on Feb. 13.

A pregnant woman died after a Bobcat snowplow struck her in the back parking lot of a Bay Ridge supermarket on 63rd Street near Eighth Avenue around 10:42 am, police said.

The 36-year-old woman was taken to Maimonides Medical Center and pronounced dead at 11:39 am. Her baby boy was delivered at the hospital and

remains in critical condition, according to cops.

A ramp to the East River Ferry in Greenpoint also collapsed into the icy waters of the tidal strait on Thursday morning around 9 am, causing the ferry company to suspend service through the weekend.

"While I'm grateful that no one was hurt, this morning's ferry ramp collapse in Greenpoint raised a number of safety concerns that I hope [ferry company] NY Waterway and the [Eco-

nomie Development Corporation] will quickly investigate so this vital service can be restored," state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Greenpoint) said.

The deluge came amid a string of groan-inducing snowstorms, dumping 10.5 inches on the city by Friday morning, but Mayor DeBlasio held true to his promise to keep schools open on Thursday — infuriating even his top officials.

"It is clear that a re-evaluation of the criteria

for closing New York City schools is needed after today's storm," Public Advocate Letitia James said in a statement.

"We must adjust the standards so that students, teachers, administrators, and parents are not put in harm's way."

Gov. Cuomo declared a state of emergency for the city and the Council canceled all hearings for the day.

Further dustings in the subsequent week brought the February snowfall total

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LICH decision is pushed back again

Judge delays ruling on closure measures

BY MEGAN RIESZ

A Brooklyn Supreme Court judge on Tuesday once again pushed back a decision on whether state officials broke the law when they reduced service at Long Island College Hospital.

The State University of New York, along with the Service Employees International Union for healthcare workers, won a request for a two-day delay to continue “good faith” discussions despite pleas by anti-hospital-closure activists to finally kick off the hearing which was first scheduled in November 2013.

“The people in this room have been waiting around. What they want is justice,” said Jim Walden, a lawyer representing six community groups in a lawsuit against the state.

On Thursday, after press time, Judge Johnny Lee Baynes was yet again scheduled to decide whether state managers of the embattled Cobble Hill medical center are in contempt of court for reducing service levels in direct violation of court orders forbidding it. The orders mandate that the state, which has been trying to close the hospital for a year, keep service levels where they were on July 19, when management first started diverting ambulances to other hospitals. In the months that followed, the state placed 650 hospital staffers on paid administrative leave, stopped surgeries, and surrounded the hospital with security guards, moves hospital advocates say are clearly illegal.

If found guilty of contempt, state reps could face



INTENSE CARE: These protesters really want the Cobble Hill facility kept open. File photo

finer, or even jail time, but Baynes has for the last four months avoided a decision on the issue, saying that he would prefer the state, activists, and staffers unions reach an agreement on their own.

The state could not reach an accord with hospital defenders by 3:40 in the morning on Sunday, a State University of New York attorney said in court on Tuesday, but a deal could still be struck.

“We remain absolutely willing partners in a settlement process,” Walden told Judge Baynes.

Union bigs say the issue of keeping the hospital open is a big sticking point in reaching an agreement. The state has claimed it is losing \$13 million a month keeping the storied, 155-year-old healthcare facility open and is in the process of selling it off, which Gov. Cuomo says makes it ineligible to benefit from \$8 billion in federal Medicaid money that the state scored last week.

But staffer reps said that shuttering the hospital to wait around for someone to redevelop it is a non-starter.

“We are concerned about any settlement that would close LICH for any period of time,” New York State Nurses Association head Jill Furillo said in a statement.

The community groups are trying to subpoena the e-mails and text messages of John Williams, head of the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, and other state honchos, Walden said. Judge Baynes was set to decide by Thursday whether to demand the records, according to Walden.

One anti-closure neighbor said she is willing to wait for the delayed contempt hearing — as long as the state gets its comeuppance.

“This is a murder and conspiracy trial,” said Cobble Hill resident Judi Francis. “I am patient.”

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Mall brawl

Fray a repeat of December disturbance

BY MAX JAEGER

Witnesses said it was December déjà vu.

More than 100 rowdy teens descended upon Kings Plaza Shopping Center on Monday, mirroring an incident where scores of troublemakers flocked to the shopping center in December last year, yelling, fighting and frightening customers and store managers.

"Basically, it was a repeat of last year," said Syed Hassan, who works at John Gerald Jewelers.

Hassan didn't see any brawls erupt, but police got physical with some of the kids, he said.

"Some cops pushed kids away, but I didn't see any fighting," he said.

Hassan said the store — like many others — had to put down its security gates and wait out the fracas. The disturbance halted business for a few hours, mall workers said.

"I was on my break, and I couldn't eat at McDonalds, because their gate was down," said Gary Suriel, who works at Aldo.

Suriel said he watched kids trying to start fights, but never saw anyone actually throw down. Instead, he watched cops and security guards trying to corral the high-schoolers before sending them packing. But police officials painted a slightly rosier picture.

"There was not any indication of violence, but just a get-together," the 63rd Pre-

dict's Lt. Vito Ardito told the Marine Park Civic Association Tuesday night. "A great amount of these kids were very compliant."

Police arrested two teens for disorderly conduct, but there were no reports of looting, he said.

"In a crowd, there's always going to be someone acting disorderly," Ardito said. "Its the one or two that weren't compliant yesterday that we had to react to."

Forty-three police officers responded to break up the crowd, he said. The 63rd Precinct even had to pull officers from Manhattan for backup.

This time, police knew about the flash mob before it engulfed the mall. An NYPD unit that monitors social media gave the 63rd Precinct a heads-up days before kids converged on Kings Plaza, Ardito said.

The teens apparently organized around a Facebook event page titled "Kings Plaza Maddness Part 1," which has since been taken down. Another event page created for Wednesday was taken down that afternoon.

Fourteen police cruisers parked in front of the mall on Monday in anticipation of the mob, but did not dissuade the crowd, Ardito said.

"They weren't afraid — they came into the mall anyway," he said. "If there was an army of cops in there, I believe they would

have come anyway."

The lieutenant said police will monitor social media to preempt future incidents.

The brouhaha erupted as Kings Plaza works to mend its image after December's disturbance and an armed robbery of a jewelry store last week. Now mall management is beefing up security to prevent another incident, said Kings Plaza property manager Steve DeClara.

In a meeting with police, the mall's management said it planned to invest \$3 million in security cameras.

DeClara declined to give any details, citing security concerns, but said mall brass is open to hiring an off-duty, uniformed police officer to patrol the shopping center.

Any large gathering is a violation of the mall's code of conduct and warrants a police response, DeClara said.

Police will maintain a strong presence at the mall for the remainder of the week, according to Ardito, but for some, that is not enough.

"As usual, the 63rd Precinct hides from everything — they downplay everything," said Marco Panicali.

He said the mall has done little to repair its image in his eyes.

"I tell my wife not to shop there alone any more," he said.

Housing

Continued from page 2

\$1,043 per month.

Solano would like to make it is mandatory for developers to contact the local community board and all local housing organizations when such digs open up.

The current system also allows for online applications that are only in English. He wants to see rules requiring paper applica-

tions and translations in multiple languages.

"We have people here who do not have computers and who do not speak English," said Solano. "So right off the bat, [developers] are discriminating against them."

Solano said he fears that some developers are keeping the applications quiet so that they can offer the apartments to their friends and family if they do not get enough qualified takers.

This is not the first time the Orient address has been in the spotlight.

The last building on the spot made headlines back in the late 2000s when, after starring in director Michel Gondry's arthouse gem "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," it became an abandoned haven for drug users.

The Department of Housing Preservation and Development did not return requests for comment.

DOT

Continued from page 3

But do not think her first days here have been all contemplative strolls. Janette Sadik-Khan's replacement has been busy pressing the flesh.

"I have already gotten to know some of my new neighbors and local elected officials like Borough President Eric Adams, State Senator Dan Squadron and Council Member Brad Lander," she said.

The new roads czar has said she will champion Mayor DeBlasio's Vision Zero plan to bring city traffic deaths down to zero by 2024.

"I look forward to working with them and their colleagues on our shared vision of making Brooklyn streets — and all of New York — safe and accessible," she said.

Councilman Lander (D-Cobble Hill) first broke the news of her arrival.

"I am thrilled to have her in the district," he said. "She is no stranger to Brooklyn."

She comes to the job of ruler of New York's roads from a post as second-in-command at the federal transportation department under President Obama and, before that, transportation policy advisor to Sen. Charles Schumer (D-New York), whose wife famously wants to rip out the bike highway on Prospect Park West.

Road safety activists are wasting no time in pushing projects for their new neighbor to pursue.

Brooklyn Heights is set to get the "slow zone" treatment from the city within the next three years and Boerum Hill got its designation, the borough's first, less than two years ago, so a

go-slow plan for Cobble Hill is a logical next step and would make busy Atlantic Avenue safer, according to one road warrior.

"These three communities together could implement complete street redesigns on Atlantic Avenue itself, calming this deadly arterial [street] that pours speeding traffic into their residential roads," said Kee-gan Stephan of the car critic group Right of Way. "If they do, this stretch could become a beautiful example of what a future New York City could look like."

Trottenberg, for her part, thinks some belt-loosening measures are in order.

"One big challenge is the diversity of amazing food options in the neighborhood," she said.

"I pledge to try them all, but stay in fighting shape as we work to meet the city's transportation needs," she added.

Goons loot store

Pistol-whipping in phone-shop robbery

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Three bandits bound and pistol-whipped employees of a Flatbush Avenue Metro PCS store before ripping off more than 100 phones and \$2,000 in cash last Friday, according to authorities.

The workers said the treacherous trio — all in masks and black clothes, with one carrying a handgun — burst into the shop at the corner of E. 45th Street at 2:30 pm.

"Get the f--- on the ground!" one of the goons supposedly ordered the employee closest to the door.

The worker dropped to the floor, and the robber held him down with a knee on his back, cops said. A second ruffian raided the register and snatched up the cash, while the third went toward the back of the store with the gun in hand and cracked the other worker on the skull, according to police. The marauders tied up the two employees, then grabbed the mobile devices from the shelves and fled in a silver truck, according to witnesses.

A fire department ambulance transported the injured employee to the hospital, and cops from the 63rd Precinct brought in a chopper to scan the streets for the get-away vehicle.

No arrests have been made.



BAD CALL: Cops lead a store clerk out of the Flatbush Avenue Metro PCS after he was assaulted during an armed robbery on Feb. 14.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

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Recchia campaign is paying rent to his wife

Grimm rabbi's lawyer a Recchia donor, plus Levin, Mealy, and Cumbo seek to join delegation leadership

Talk about a sweetheart deal!

Former Coney Island Councilman and Democratic Congressional hopeful **Domenic Recchia** is paying his wife **Kimberly** rent out of his campaign funds for the use of his campaign headquarters, which the Recchias jointly own.

Filings from Recchia's campaign to unseat Rep. **Michael Grimm** (R-Bay Ridge) show that the Dem challenger paid his missus \$1,750 last year for the use of space in their building at the corner of Gravesend Neck Road and E. Second Street in Gravesend.

Not that this is surprising for Recchia, who state campaign finance records show has been forking over dough from his campaign coffers to his wife since at least 2009. What is strange is the way Mrs. Recchia's rates have fluctuated over the years.

Records from his 2009 reelection campaign show he paid \$1,000 for the month of August, \$1,250 for September and Octo-



ber, and \$1,500 for November, with the total bill for the year tallying \$8,000.

In 2010, the rent for the year dropped to \$6,000, then bounced back up to \$8,000 again for 2012.

For Jan. 2013, the month before he filed to run for Congress, the rent shot up to \$3,500 for the month. But for the rest of 2013, federal filings show that the payments dropped to \$250 per month, dropping the yearly total down to \$6,350.

A Recchia staffer said that the yo-yoing rates reflect changing usage of the building.

"The rent reflects market rate for the amount of space and utilities used during that time period. While at certain points in a campaign cycle, larger space and increased utilities were used on a daily basis, at other times, a smaller space was used only intermittently," said a campaign spokeswoman.

The attorney for Rabbi **Yoshiyahu Yosef Pinto** — the enigmatic religious leader at the center of allegations of illegal fund-raising for Grimm's 2010 campaign — turns out to be a donor and bundler for Recchia.

Bay Ridge attorney **Arthur Aidala**, who is representing Pinto in a federal probe, has given \$4,500 to Recchia's Congressional campaign. Aidala also collected \$6,475 on behalf of the Recchia for New York campaign committee in 2012.

A 2012 New York Times report claimed Grimm, with the

help of Pinto aide Ofer Biton, strong-armed Pinto's followers — many of them foreign nationals — into illegally donating to the Congressman's campaign. Biton was later arrested for visa fraud and pled guilty in 2013.

Pinto has since filed a blackmail complaint with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and testified against Grimm. He took off for Israel last month, where now faces an indictment for allegedly bribing police officials.

Both Recchia and Aidala said that they have known each other for more than 20 years, and that the donations have nothing to do with Pinto. Aidala additionally noted that Pinto is a complainant against Grimm, and said that the contributions therefore do not represent any conflict of interest.

The field is widening in the competition to become one of the tandem leaders of Brooklyn's Council delegation.

Councilman **Steve Levin** (D-Greenpoint), Councilwoman

Laurie Cumbo (D-Fort Greene), and Councilwoman **Darlene Mealy** (D-Brownsville) have joined Councilman **Carlos Menchaca** (D-Sunset Park) in the scrum for the two positions which jointly negotiate the city's budget on behalf of their borough.

The two-headed leadership structure is a bureaucratic perversity unique to Brooklyn, bequeathed by then-councilmen **Bill DeBlasio** and **Albert Vann**, who joined forces a 2004 coup to oust ex-Councilman **Lew Fidler**.

The joint leaders have since tended to be racially mixed. Mealy and Councilman **David Greenfield** (D-Borough Park) held the positions in 2012.

Levin and Menchaca are both members of the Council's dominant Progressive Caucus, while Cumbo and Mealy are closer to the official Kings County Democratic Party machine. Cumbo and Menchaca are both freshman legislators, while Levin and Mealy are in their final terms.



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Graffitists hit the road

Tags line Gowanus Expressway despite anti-paint pledge



WRITING ON THE WALL: A large, ornate graffiti tag appeared along the Gowanus Expressway, in the vicinity of 83rd Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway.

CNG / Will Bredderman

BY WILL BREDDERMAN
The canal isn't the only Gowanus that needs cleaning.

Vandals tagged the concrete face of a wall along the Gowanus Expressway close to the corner of 83rd Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway earlier this month.

The six elaborate, green,

purple, white, and black designs take up almost the entire surface of the wall, and are marked with the initials "FTR" and "DWC."

Community Board 10 reported that the spray-painted scrawls are unlike anything previously seen in the neighborhood. But the panel added that these

initials have popped up all over the place over the course of the past several months.

"We've seen them before," said CB10 District Manager Josephine Beckmann.

Bay Ridge officials have long tried to combat a rising tide of aerosol art through

police enforcement and coordinated clean-up efforts, and vowed to get the underpass wall scrubbed.

"Graffiti is undoubtedly one of the greatest eyesores in our community and is the start of the breakdown in our quality of life," said state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge).

Sculpture

Continued from page 12

inson.

"We weren't competing to win," Robinson said. "We just wanted to have some fun."

The contest was a good reason to get out of the house, he said.

"There's been too many days where it's cold and windy, and you don't want to go out," he said. "When you actually do go outside, it's a lot of fun to have an activity to do."

Winchester's clan won the family category with another epic creation, a castle with a dragon attacking it.

Grand prize included lift tickets for the ski slopes at Vermont's Stratton Mountain and a gift certificate to The Moxie Spot a kid-

friendly restaurant across Atlantic Avenue from Long Island College Hospital.

The kids were more than all right with that.

"They were through the moon when they found out they won," Winchester said.

Fancy local pizza chain Fornino served up hot chocolate and treats to the cool contestants and fires in small grills helped warm them up even more.

The light snowfall did not keep people away.

"It made it even more magical," said Winchester.

And the state of the snow on the ground was nearly perfect for frozen-figure carving, according to the chilly champ.

"The snow was so pliable it sort of stuck in whatever shape you put it in," Winchester said. "It was like working with clay."



FOUR ARMS: Kyle Radcliffe, Maya Shulman, and Brad Robinson won the adult category with this imaginatively endowed octopus.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini



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Medicaid

Continued from cover

in the state's healthcare network and preserve services, but the money could miss the struggling Brooklyn hospitals that Gov. Cuomo and Mayor DeBlasio say it will save because the disbursement process is governed by federal healthcare policy, not level of need. Gov. Cuomo specifically nixed the chances of the struggling Cobble Hill medical center getting the greenbacks, saying that the process of the state selling it off to developers with hospital partners makes it ineligible.

"[The Long Island College Hospital bidding process] is not directly connected to this Medicaid waiver situation," he told the radio station WNYC.

As for the critically ill Interfaith Medical Center in East Flatbush and struggling Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Bushwick and Brookdale University Hospital in Brownsville, the cash will prop them up as the state shaves their service levels, Cuomo said.

"This is about transforming hospitals that are financially un-sustainable because they have beds that are un-needed," he said. "Will it mean that some hospital beds are reduced? Yes, because that's the point of the exercise."

An Obama administration health honcho said that the money should not be seen as life support for ailing medical centers in a letter to Cuomo last month.

"[The waiver money] will not, nor should it, determine the future path for particular New York hos-

pitals," wrote Health and Human Services secretary Kathleen Sebelius in the letter.

Gov. Cuomo says that he will steer the cash to struggling hospitals, but the feds will negotiate the terms of the funding infusion with the state in coming weeks and the state is obligated to meet "ongoing milestones" in order to receive the funding, a government spokeswoman said.

New York's health commissioner warned that Long Island College Hospital would not be eligible for the waiver money, even if Cuomo was interested in providing it, because the money is supposed to be for new projects, Capital New York reported.

The feds were vague about what exactly the money should go towards.

"Over the last several months we have worked with dedicated leaders in New York on a waiver agreement that represents a significant commitment to improve care delivery in Medicaid that will result in better health outcomes for patients and lower healthcare costs for the program," said Emma Sandoe, spokeswoman for the federal Cen-

ters for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "We are encouraged that this agreement is entering the final stages of approval, and we look forward to continuing work with the state to achieve meaningful delivery system reform in New York."

Activists and elected officials nevertheless cheered the waiver, saying that the freed-up money could be a godsend for Brooklyn's hobbled hospitals.

"These federal funds will help to protect healthcare in under-served communities," New York State Nurses Association head Jill Furillo said. "Too many patients already lack access to quality care."

The facilities should get a piece of the pie because they serve low-income areas, one elected official argued at a community board meeting on Feb. 12.

"These are safety net hospitals and they have a heavy Medicaid population," Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D—Brooklyn Heights) said.

A spokesman for the state York said the waiver does not disrupt its plans to sell off its valuable Cobble Hill real estate.

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Under the proposed project, the City will sell the Disposition Area to Yeled V' Yalda Early Childhood Center Inc. ("Sponsor") for the negotiated price of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000). The Sponsor will then develop approximately 8 accessory parking spaces on the Disposition Area.

The appraisal and the proposed Land Disposition Agreement and Project Summary are available for public examination at the office of HPD, 100 Gold Street, Room 5-A1, New York, New York on business days during business hours.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on March 12, 2014 at Second Floor Conference Room, 22 Reade Street, Manhattan at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached on the calendar, at which time and place those wishing to be heard will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed sale of the Disposition Area pursuant to Section 695(2)(b) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter.

Individuals requesting sign language interpreters should contact the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Public Hearings Unit, 253 Broadway, Room 915, New York, New York 10007, (212) 788-7490, no later than five (5) business days prior to the public hearing. TDD users should call Verizon relay services.



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2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$7,995	2011	GMC Terrain, 51k	82272	\$13,995
2012	Hyundai Elantra, 15k	79461	\$8,995	2010	Infiniti G37, 28k	70898	\$18,995
2008	Jeep Liberty, 17k	54235	\$9,495	2007	Lexus ES350, 34k	2242	\$19,995
2010	Chrysler Sebring, 38k	61787	\$9,995	2009	Acura MDX, 31k	73459	\$22,888
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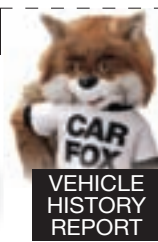
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Country crooner: Hill Country bartender Nicole Hamilton is ready to take the mic at the barbecue joint's new "Country Karaoke" nights.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

COWBOY KARAOKE

You are the country music star at new Downtown barbecue joint

By Danielle Furfaro

This karaoke night has both kinds of music — country and western.

Hill Country Barbecue Market, a newly-opened meat joint in Downtown, is now offering a weekly karaoke night that will allow Brooklynites to get their Hank Williams or Loretta Lynn on.

"It is karaoke that pays homage to all the great original American forms of music," said Jessie Scott, who is the director of Hill Country Live. "We've got Western swing, honky tonk, and Southern rock."

Every Wednesday night, the band Empire Beats will back

up wanna-be singers as they croon their way through decades of Americana. The organizers are hoping to bring something new to the borough's long roster of karaoke nights.

"This is a good place for singers to work on their chops, especially if they like twang, which is something Brooklyn doesn't have a lot of," said Mark Boquist, who is bandleader and drummer for Empire Beats.

Just like the Hill Country region of Texas, which these days is as rock and roll as it is country, Empire Beats throws a few well-known rock and soul songs into the mix as well, including songs such as the Beatles' "Come Together," Steely Dan's "Deacon Blues," and Van Morrison's "Brown-Eyed Girl."

The band currently boasts a repertoire of about 150–200 songs, and plans to add more each week. Boquist encourages singers to let the band know what tunes they want to see added to the song book — though some tunes might take longer to nail down than others.

"If it's reasonable, we'll learn it," said Boquist. "We probably won't learn 'Bohemian Rhapsody' in a week, but we might."

Country Karaoke at Hill Country Barbecue Market [345 Adams St. between Fulton and Willoughby streets in Downtown, www.hillcountrybk.com, (718) 885-4608]. Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free.

AROUND TOWN

CONEY'S LOCAL COLOR

People's Playground photographers put amusement district on display

By Will Bredderman

Call it a Coney photo album.

Coney Island USA's Arts Annex is exhibiting a montage of images captured in the People's Playground by the very people who give the famous destination its color.

"A Stroll Through Coney Island Among Friends" compiles the pictures of five photographers who live and work in and around the amusement district and have caught its freaky scenery on film.

One such photographer is Bruce Handy, a Queens native who 10 years ago moved into his wife's home in Brightwater Towers, across from the New York Aquarium.

"Coney Island is my backyard," said Handy.

Handy said it took him a while to realize just how special his new playground was. At first, he spent most of his time in neighboring Brighton Beach. But one June afternoon, he stepped out of his building into a cavalcade of Coney Island freaks.

"One day I just walked out and it was the Mermaid Parade. And I just thought, 'This is great.' It was my first real exposure to Coney Island," he said.

Handy, who began taking pictures as a teenager, was hooked. He joined the Coney Island Polar Bears and began snapping shots of the weird and wild action as it happened.

Handy describes himself as a "street photographer," meaning he takes pictures



Howler: Photographer Bruce Handy captured the quintessential magic moment of a Coney Island Polar Bear plunge — and is putting it on display at a new exhibition..

Photo by Bruce Handy

of people in their unposed, natural state — or in what passes for natural in Sodom by the Sea.

The central photo in Handy's part of the new exhibition is titled "Polar Bear Howl," and depicts what happens when warm human flesh hits the raw winter waters off Coney Island's shore.

"When you get in the water, it's really cold, and one of the ways to warm up is to howl, like a polar bear howls," explained Handy.

Also caught in Handy's lens is the

ever-evolving face of the amusement area, reshaping behind the people who move across it.

"I try to capture the people, the characters, but in the background of the people is Coney Island itself," Handy said.

"A Stroll Through Coney Island Among Friends" at the Coney Island USA Arts Annex [1214 Surf Ave. between W. 12th Street and Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159, www.coneyisland.com] Saturdays and Sundays, Feb. 22-April 6, noon-5 pm. Free.

Art of darkness: Uncover experimental art and performances with a flashlight at Bklyn Lyceum

By Sarah Iannone

Talk about the dark arts!

On March 1, Park Slope's Brooklyn Lyceum will be plunged into near-darkness as 50 Brooklyn-based artists exhibit and perform circus acts, music, visual arts and more throughout the quirky bathhouse-turned-event space. But don't expect any spotlights to illuminate the shows — instead, audience members will each be issued a flashlight to explore the experimental event on their own.

"The aesthetic of the night is quite dark and raw to reflect the cavernous space of Brooklyn Lyceum," said Isaac Bush, artistic director of the Circle Theater of New York, which is organizing the event.

The theater collective created the event — dubbed a



Entrancing: Isaac Bush, center with tie, and the other artists who will be performing live the "Live Art Market" at Park Slope's Brooklyn Lyceum.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

"Live Art Market," although nothing at the show will be for sale — to give alternative artists in the borough a new platform for their work.

"It is a showcase for alternative artist," said Bush, who hopes to make "Live Art Market" a quarterly event. "Art that is collaborative, out

of the box, and challenges the media which it belongs to."

In order to keep the attendees on their toes, specific details about exactly what will take place on the night are almost as shadowy as the event itself. But Bush promised that the format will ensure each patron experi-

ences a unique, interactive adventure in their torch-guided travels.

"The audience will definitely have a three-dimensional experience with this event," he said.

Even many of the other scheduled performers are in the dark about exactly what will happen once the lights go down.

"I guess we'll find out when we walk in," said a spokesperson for roots-rock band the Hollows, one of many acts audience members will be able to search for in the darkness. "It sounds really immersive, which is cool."

"Live Art Market" at Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. between Union and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816 www.circletheaterny.org]. March 1 at 7 pm. \$10 advance, \$15 at door, \$150 VIP.



Rugged: Artist Charles Heppner with one of his works from "Prayer Rugs" at gallery and gift store Grumpy Bert.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Rugging up

Boerum Hill artist weaves photos into prayer rugs

By Samantha Lim

This artist mixes the spiritual with the arboreal.

In his new show "Prayer Rugs," Charles Heppner photographs and weaves together images of trees to create beautiful graphics that resemble the intricate patterns of religious rugs.

Heppner's work is inspired by the prayer rugs Muslims sit or kneel on during religious ceremonies. He arranges his stark photos of shrubbery to look like the center part of these rugs, known as the "medallion." But, the photographer admitted, he takes some artistic liberties.

"Interestingly, prayer rugs are directional; they have a point on them to point towards Mecca," said Heppner, whose work currently on view at Boerum Hill gallery and gift store Grumpy Bert. "However, the trees in the photographs are pointing everywhere."

Heppner, who calls himself "a hippie Catholic," succeeds in casting a spiritual light upon outdoor scenery. His works send a deeper message that spirituality is embedded in the beauty of nature.

"The concept is thinking of the works as offerings of gratitude to the trees," said Heppner. "Prayer rugs put emphasis on the sanctity of the trees."

Even for the non-religious, Heppner's photography still encourages an appreciation for nature, with titles such as "Giving Thanks" and "Circle of Life."

The Boerum Hill resident, who will also give a talk on his work at Grumpy Bert on Feb. 27, said many of the trees in his pieces were photographed in Brooklyn. Brooklynites might recognize the pretty pink-petaled trees in "Weeping Cherry Blossom" from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's annual Sakura Matsuri festival.

"Most of the trees were shot on streets in my neighborhood or the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and a couple in California and Texas, but this project started when I moved to Brooklyn a year and a half ago," said Heppner.

As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined — the nature-loving artist was raised in the Beverly Hills neighborhood of Chicago, where topiary was aplenty.

"I grew up in a home where outdoor activity was encouraged," said the artist, who has been photographing trees for 20 years. "I was definitely outdoors a lot climbing trees as a kid."

"Prayer Rugs: Arboreal Photography" at Grumpy Bert [82 Bond St. between Atlantic Avenue and State Street in Boerum Hill, (347) 855-4849, www.grumpybert.com]. Through March 16. "A Conversation with Artist Charles Heppner" at Grumpy Bert, Feb. 27 at 7:30 pm. Free, but donations appreciated.

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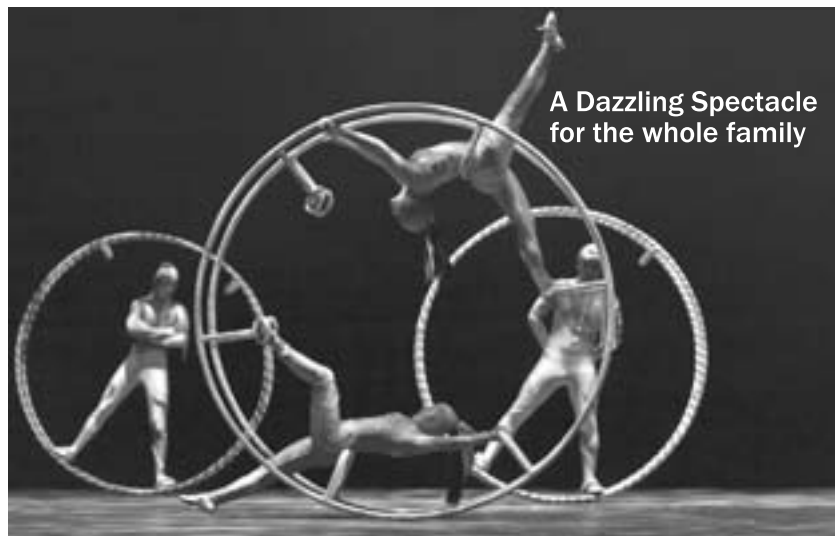
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■ AROUND TOWN

SHARKMUFFIN ATTACK!

Williamsburg trio is sinking its teeth into the music world

By Robert Ham

Just like its deliciously dangerous name, there is a touch of sweetness in the biting sound of Sharkmuffin.

On the band's latest album, "1097," the all-female Williamsburg garage rock trio matches the minimalist punch of the White Stripes with the fuzzier side of the Cramps, then tempers it with some sugar via the group's charismatic front-woman Tarra Thiessen. The raven-haired singer and guitarist cuts through the fray like a fin, with a powerful voice reminiscent of '60s icons such as Mary Wells and Ronnie Spector.

But as confident as she is on stage, Thiessen said it took her a long time to feel comfortable in the lead role. Initially, she wrote all the band's songs, then gave them to other members to sing. It wasn't until 2012, after the departure of one such proxy, that Thiessen decided it was time she took center stage.

"I just got tired of it," she said. "I figured I might as well do it by myself."

Since then, Sharkmuffin has remained in constant motion. The group — which also includes bassist Natalie Kirch, and drummer Janet LaBelle — has released three short albums, with plenty of other



Top muffin: Williamsburg garage rock trio Sharkmuffin plays the Rock Shop on Feb. 27.

Photo by Deanna Wallach

recorded material in the works, and has generated a significant amount of buzz at both South by Southwest Music Festival and the CMJ Music Marathon.

The band will play the Rock Shop in Park Slope on Feb. 27, off the back of a promising jaunt to Los Angeles. While there, they spent some time working at famed studio the Record Plant and played the Unraveled Music Festival, where Hole drummer Patty

Schemel sat in for an injured LaBelle. Not only did the veteran percussionist man their kit, Thiessen said, she was the one who first approached the young Brooklyn trio.

"She emailed me out of the blue," said Thiessen. "It was, like, 'What? How do you know who we are?'"

The flurry of activity mirrors the band's rapid-fire music — on "1097," Sharkmuffin dispenses with album's four songs

in all of seven-and-a-half minutes. This is no coincidence, said Thiessen.

"I'm incredibly impatient and have a really short attention span," she said. "I want everything to happen really fast."

Sharkmuffin plays the Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740, www.therockshopny.com]. Feb. 27 at 7:30 pm. \$8-\$10.

I do, differently: 'Anti-wedding bands' rock showcase

By Danielle Furfaro

Kool and the Gang's "Celebration" is strictly a no-no when celebrating with this bunch.

Events website Brooklyn Based is organizing a showcase of wedding bands for brides and grooms who are too cool for wedding bands.

"We are an alternative for people who want the non-cheesy approach," said Jamie Krents, founder of the Redhook Orchestra. "We won't play 'YMCA' or Miley Cyrus."

"Rock the Wedding Bells" at the Bell House on Feb. 26 will feature eight "anti-wedding bands" — musical groups that purposely eschew the trappings and cliches of typical wedding bands.

"We have avoided most of that mainstream, cheesy crap that goes along with the bridez-



As loyal as the newlyweds: The Loyales bill themselves as a classy band unwilling to play typical wedding schlock.

Lucy Music

illa," said Aaron Thurston, who is a member of the Engagements and also runs Lucy Music, a company that manages unusual wedding bands. "The stigma of wedding bands is that they are phoning it in and fake smiling and playing all the same

songs."

The groups have found that their innovate approach to matrimonial music puts them in some weird situations. For example, the band Mixtape: A Cover Band For Hipsters once found itself acting as a live

karaoke backup band for a bride who wanted to belt out Pearl Jam's "Evenflow" for her new husband.

"I was ready to step in and save her if she lost her place," said Mixtape singer Melanie Flannery. "But she nailed it."

Mixtape played another wedding for a music critic who insisted that the band only play songs by obscure indie rock groups, including the Dismemberment Plan, Pavement, and the Breeders.

"I gave him fair warning that it was not the most dance-bale playlist," said Flannery. "It ended up being one of the coolest weddings we have played."

"Rock the Wedding Bells" at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouse.ny.com]. Feb. 26 at 7 pm. \$10-\$15.



The best reads — handpicked by local bookstore employees

WORD's pick: "Dept. of Speculation" by Jenny Offill

This tiny jewel of a book is pensive, heartbreaking, glorious, and deftly, impeccably pieced together. Our narrator, known only as the wife, makes her way through endless everyday challenges — a crying baby, a shaky marriage, the never-ending task of reconciling the person you thought you would be with the person it seems you actually are. Ovid, Rilke, Kafka, astronauts, I Can Has Cheezburger — the things woven into her observations and consolations are familiar, but Offill's brief, poignant snippets of a life are anything but ordinary. This little book is hard to explain and impossible to put down. At about 175 pages, you can devour it in one cold night.

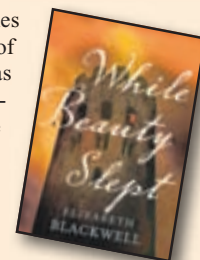
— Molly Templeton, *WORD* [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, www.wordbrooklyn.com].



The BookMark Shoppe's pick: "While Beauty Slept" by Elizabeth Blackwell

A Brothers Grimm classic comes alive in Blackwell's retelling of "Sleeping Beauty." Elise Dalriss has kept quiet for over 50 years, allowing rumors to swirl about Rose, the princess asleep in her castle and awoken by true love's kiss. But when her great-granddaughter finds a jewel-encrusted dagger in Elise's trunk, the actual tale is finally revealed. Elise was lady-in-waiting to first the Queen and then Princess Rose. She experienced first-hand the evil that Millicent, the King's sister, was capable of when she wanted her rightful place in court. A masterful twist at the end where the entire castle is asleep as a prince comes to save his princess brings our fairy tale to life. Truly magical and brilliant in its ordinary true-to-life retelling of a wonderful classic.

— Bina Valenzano, co-owner, *The BookMark Shoppe* [8415 Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-5115, www.bookmarkshoppe.com].



Greenlight Bookstore's pick: "Karate Chop" by Dorthe Nors

Danish writer Dorthe Nors' slim but stunning story collection, "Karate Chop," may be one of the best collections of 2014. Each piece, while deceptively short, contains enormous power and offers keen insight into the brief, sometimes overlooked, but often life-changing moments of our lives. I can't wait to see more from this writer.

— Emily Russo, *Greenlight Bookstore* [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com].



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ART, "ANATOMY OF A POW-ERHOUSE: Electrifying the El":

Archival photo exhibition showing construction and early operation of the 74th Street Powerhouse. \$7 (\$5 for children 2-17 and seniors, free for members and children under 2). 10 am-4 pm. New York Transit Museum [Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street in Downtown, (718) 694-1600], www.mta.info/mta/museum.

ART, "WITNESS - ART AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE SIXTIES":

Exhibition that explores how artists expressed the Civil Rights era. \$12 (suggested). 11 am-6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklyn-museum.org.

TRANSIT DISCOVERY ROOM:

Youngsters explore the favorite transportation puzzles, books, toys and building materials. Free with museum admission. 11 am-12:30 pm. New York Transit Museum [Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street in Downtown, (718) 694-1600], www.mta.info/mta/museum.

JAMMIN' OUT: Children jam to the beat of traditional African instruments from the Museum's collection, and then create a musical instrument to take home. Free with Museum admission. 11:30 am and 2:30

pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

THEATER, "CINDERELLA":

Children 3 years and older will enjoy this version of the classic fairy tale of a girl, a fairy godmother and a glass slipper. (President's week performances). \$9 (\$8 children, \$7 for groups of 20 or more). 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. Puppetworks [338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391], www.puppetworks.org.

MUSIC, SOUL CLAP: \$20. 2 pm. Output (74 Wythe Ave. at N. 12th Street in Williamsburg), outputclub.com.

SINGALONG: Children enjoy 40 minutes of song, stories and guitar music. **Free.** 2:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

ART, "PALAMPORE": Artist Anne-Marie McIntyre in a project-in-residence at Proteus Gowanus. **Free.** 3-6 pm. bkbk [543 Union St. at Nevins Street in Gowanus], bkbxgallery.com.

LEGENDS: It's "Legend"ary-Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey present awe-inspiring feats of daring, magical and mystical creatures, and spectacles of strength and thrills of wonder at this all new show. \$15-\$85. 3 pm and 7 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

USED BOOK SALE: Pick through thousands of used books, CDs, DVDs, and vinyl. **Free-**



Dinosaur seniors: Indie rock pioneers Sebadoh brings its lo-fi liks to Baby's All Right on Feb. 25.

Photo by Jens Nordstrom

\$20. 7-9:30 pm. Park Slope United Methodist Church [410 Sixth Ave. between Seventh and Eighth streets in Park Slope, (917) 328-7125], www.parkslopeumc.org.

THEATER, "HARRIET TUBMAN:

When I Crossed That Line to Freedom": Production celebrating the rich heritage of the Underground Railroad as part of Black History Month. \$25. 7:30 pm. Iroindale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233], www.irondale.org.

NERD NITE PLUS SPEED DATING! A night of presentations and trivia. \$25 (\$10 presentations only). 7:30 pm. Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 222-8500], www.galapagosartspace.com.

THEATER, "CAMINO REAL":

The theater department performs Tennessee Williams's play. \$15 (\$10 students, \$12 seniors). 7:30 pm. Whitman Theater at Brooklyn College [Campus Road between Hill Place and Avenue H in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500], depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater.

THEATER, "MAID'S DOOR":

Family drama written by Cheryl L. Davis. \$15-\$25 (children and seniors \$12-\$15). 8 pm. Billie Holiday Theatre [1368 Fulton St. between Marcy and Brooklyn avenues in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636-0918], www.thebillieholiday.org.

FUTUREMATE: Hosts Matt &

Pam match up audience members in this post-apocalyptic dating show, set in a future United States that has been devastated by the Cataclysm, where finding a fertile mate has become more challenging than ever. \$20. 8 pm. The Brick [575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189], www.bricktheater.com.

THEATER, "CANDIDE":

Theater 2020 celebrates its 40th anniversary production of the Hal Prince version of Leonard Bernstein's musical. \$18. 8 pm. Saint Charles Borromeo Church [19 Sidney Pl. between Joralemon Street and Aitken Place in Brooklyn Heights], www.brownpapertickets.com/event/543936.

THEATER, "THE LEGEND OF

YAUNA": This theatrical music and dance experience shares the wisdom of Yauna, an ancient narrative set 12,000 years ago that spotlights the indigenous Bana Kuma ceremonies of Zimbabwe. \$35. 8 pm. BAM Fisher [321 Ashland Pl. at Hanson Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

MUSIC, METRO CHAMBER

ORCHESTRA: Performing the music of Berg, R. Strauss, and Mussorgsky. \$30-\$40. 8 pm. Roulette (509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill), www.brownpapertickets.com/event/445917.

ART, "SHEATHINGS FROM A STEEP SLOPE"/"HERE I AM AGAIN ALONE AGAIN":

Nadia Tykulsker/Spark(edit) Arts is paired with Heather Bregman and Katie Dean for a program of collaborative and immersive performances incorporating sculpture, dance, and video. \$15. 8 pm. Triskelion Arts (118 N. 11th St. near Wythe Avenue, Third Floor in Williamsburg), www.triskelionarts.org.

MUSIC, MEET ME IN THE

BATHROOM AND TELL ME ALL YOUR SECRETS: A night of comedy and music with Dave Hill, Valley Lodge, Walter Schreifels, Jim Tews, Brad Steuernagel, and Joey Pfeifer. \$10. 8:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, THE ERIC WYATT

QUARTET: As part of BAM-cafe Life. **Free.** 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

SAT, FEB. 22

THEATER, "CINDERELLA":

Children 3 years and older will enjoy this version of the classic fairy tale of a girl, a fairy godmother and a glass slipper. \$9 (\$8 children, \$7 for groups of 20 or more). 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. Puppetworks [338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391], www.puppetworks.org.

THEATER, "COLOR BETWEEN

THE LINES": The Abolitionist Struggle in Brooklyn": Production celebrating the rich heritage of abolitionism as part of Black History Month. \$25. 7:30 pm. Iroindale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233], www.irondale.org.

DANCE, ROMANO DROM: Performing as part of the World to Brooklyn dance-party series. The night features an open bar, dance lesson, and DJ after-party. \$25 (\$20 WMI Friends). 8 pm. Roulette (509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill), roulette.org/.

MUSIC, THE DEAD TRICKS, LOST IN SOCIETY, UP FOR NOTHING, REDBUSH, DEAD LIZZARD, TAIL LIGHT REBELLION: \$10. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, AKIE BERMISS: As part of BAMcafe Life. **Free.** 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

FILM, BAMBIDS FILM FESTIVAL: Shorts and full-length films offering children a tour of the world. \$13 (\$9 children, \$7 members). 10 am-4:30 pm. BAM Kids [30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129], www.bam.org.

AFRICAN DANCE PERFORMANCE: MetLife and the Center for African and Diaspora Dance presents Four Corners of Africa with Iris Wilson and Dancers. Free with Museum admission. Noon and 1 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

TALK, BOOK GROUP: Discussing J.J. Abrams and Doug Dorst's book "S." **Free.** 1 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH TROLLEY TOUR: Honoring Green-Wood's permanent residents who had significant roles in the Civil War and the abolitionist movement and as pioneers in finance, medicine, and the arts. \$20 (\$15 for members of the Green-Wood Historic Fund and the Brooklyn Historical Society). 1 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery [Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-7300], www.green-wood.com.

"FELA! LET MUSIC BE THE WEAPON": Author, dancer and educator Iris Wilson and illustrator Nangwaya Gibson read and sign the book. Free with Museum admission. 2:30 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

STORYTIME: Children 3 to 8 years old listen to a story and look at picture books. **Free.** 2:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], www.greenlight-

Greet the heat this weekend in Bay Ridge

By Will Bredderman

The weather is finally thawing out, and the forecast is for good times in Bay Ridge this weekend.

If you have got a pounding headache from your stressful nine-to-five, we have got just the prescription for you — the soft, original acoustic sounds of Tony Travis & Friends. Travis will be bringing his soothing singer-songwriter stylings to **Circles Cafe** [310 69th St. at Third Ave.] at 8 pm. Or perhaps you are in the mood for a throwback to simpler times. You can relive the British Invasion at the **Greenhouse Cafe** [7717 Third Ave. between 77th and 78th streets] at 9 pm, with the London Foggy — bringing back



all the hits from the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Dusty Springfield, the Dave Clark Five, and many more.

But maybe you like your

oldies in a more compact and eclectic form. In that case, head on up to **Pipin's Pub** [9701 Third Ave. at 97th Street] at 9 pm to hear the Alive N' Kickin' Duo perform your favorite '50s, '60s, and '70s classics mixed up with a healthy dose of Latin and dance.

On Saturday, swing by the **Three Jolly Pigeons** [6802 Third Ave. at 68th Street] at 9 pm to spend a few hours with Six Thousand Days, a classic rock and soul cover outfit.

Or, if you really want to rock, hit up **No Quarter** [8015 Fifth Ave. between 80th and 81st streets] to hear the Social Zoo. The band will be blasting heavy classics from the late '60s through the grunge era

starting at 10 pm.

If you would prefer to loosen up and have some soulful fun, you are in luck, because **Maybe Monday** is back at **Kelly's Tavern** [9259 Fourth Ave. between 93rd and 94th streets], where the band will be playing its repertoire of Stevie Wonder, Jackson Five, and Aretha Franklin numbers, spiked with covers Top 40 hits by the likes of Adele and Kelly Clarkson. The show starts at 10 pm.

To cap off the weekend, hit the **Wicked Monk** [9510 Third Ave. between 95th and 96th streets] at 11 pm, when Hello Brooklyn will be blasting out the latest hip-hop, pop, and rock hits.

SUN, FEB. 23

FILM, "IL TROVATORE": A screening of Verdi's opera, filmed at Gran Teatre del Liceu in December 2009. \$15. 3 pm. Kingsborough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5000], www.OnStageAt-Kingsborough.org.

MUSIC, THE HARLEM CHAMBER PLAYERS: Performing compositions by African American composers Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson and James Lee III, as well as Ravel's String Quartet. Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/branch_detail.jsp?branchpageid=265.

MUSIC, ED ASKEW BAND, ABHAY SINGH AND FRIENDS, BODEGA BAY, BETA BOYS: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

ARTY FACTS: Children 4 to 7 years old explore the galleries, enjoy an activity and take an art class. \$10 materials fee plus museum admission. 11 am and 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklyn-museum.org.

STORYTIME: Babied and toddlers enjoy a story time with songs, and interactive play. Free. 11 am. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

PHANTAZIA STRING PLAYERS: Noel Pointer Foundation enriches the lives of children by developing string music education programs. Special guest Krystle Ford and Egil Rostrand share a performance for Black history month. Free with Museum Admission. 1 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

READING, FRANCIS K. DECKER JR.: Author of "Brooklyn's Plymouth Church

in the Civil War Era: A Ministry of Freedom." Free. 2 pm. Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum (5816 Clarendon Rd. near Ralph Avenue in East Flatbush), www.wyckoffassociation.org/.

FASTELAVN: Decorate branches, east Fastelan buns to increase good luck, play games, come in costume and listen to music by Ellen Lindstrom. \$30 (\$17 for children 7-17; \$12 for children 6 and younger). 2-6 pm. Danish Athletic Club [735 65th Street at Seventh Ave. in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-5950].

OUR PRINCESS IS IN ANOTHER CASTLE: Street Fighter vs. Mortal Kombat: The Skint presents a bracketed video game competition. Hosted by Bobby Phobia and Steve Heisler. Free. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MON, FEB. 24

FOOD DRIVE AND EXHIBIT:

The drive and exhibit teaches children about the many forms of charity and giving. The best part is donate a can or dry goods and get 10 percent off your visit. Free with museum admission. 10 am-4 pm. Jewish Children's Museum [792 Eastern Parkway and Kingston Ave. in Crown Heights, (718) 467-0600], http://www.jcm.museum.

AFTER SCHOOL SKATING: At the newly minted LeFrak rinks at Lakeside, students offered, skating, homework help, education activities and off-ice exercises. These are just a few of the programs in the winter program. Children also attend workshops on nutrition, college readiness and so much more. Students must commit to the twice per week sessions. There is a refundable registration fee and a skate deposit due at registration through 12/31/13. Free. 4-6:15 pm. Prospect Park Wollman Rink [Ocean Ave. at Parkside Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 594-7439], www.brooklynrc.org.

TALK, STARTALK LIVE! WITH NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON: Hosted by Eugene Mirman. With Mayim Bialik. \$35, \$50. 8 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene,

(718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

COMEDY, JOSH GONDELMAN AND PEOPLE HE ADMIRES: The comedian will be joined by Myq Kaplan, Christian Finnegan, Brooke Van Poppelen, Jean Grae, and Kevin Barnett. \$8. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

AMERICAN WHISKEY BOURBON & RYE TASTING: Book signing and tasting with author Clay Risen. Free. 8 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850], www.sycamorebrooklyn.com.

TUES, FEB. 25

READING, YOUNG READERS BOOK: Discussing "Liar & Spy." Free. 6:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

TALK, EDWIDGE DANTICAT: The author speaks as part of the lecture series "Starting from Paumanok." Free. 6:30 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/Kumble-Theater.

READING, KRISTOPHER JANSMA: Author of "The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards." Free. 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

READING, HAROLD SCHECTER: Author of "The Mad Sculptor." Free. 7-9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

TALK, MTA CAPITAL PROJECTS: New York Times reporter Michael Grynbaum speaks with MTA Capital Construction President Michael Horodnicanu about the 7 Line Extension to Manhattan's West Side and the new Fulton Center. Free. 7 pm. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489-5200], www.sfc.edu.

COMEDY, WRESTLING MANIA: The Best of the Worst of Pro

wrestling. Comedians and commentators lampoon the best of the worst of 1980s and '90s pro wrestling. With Bobby Phobia, Katie Notopoulos, Rude Boy Riley, and more. \$6. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

COMEDY, DUMBO COMEDY: Standup hosted by Aaron Kominos-Smith and Meghan Hanley. Free. 8 pm. Dish Dumbo [81 Washington St. between York and Front streets in Dumbo, (718) 625-3474], www.facebook.com/dumbocomedy.

MUSIC, ROCKVIEW ENTERTAINMENT: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, SEBADOH: With Octagrappe. \$18. 9 pm. Baby's All Right [146 Broadway near Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg], babysallright.com.

WED, FEB. 26

BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES: For beginners of all ages. Free. 6-9 pm. FIAO Beacon Community Center at IS 96 [99 Avenue P. between W. 11th and W.12th streets in Bensonhurst, (718) 232-2266].

READING, DEJI BRYCE OLUKOTUN: Author of "Nigerians in Space." With Joel Whitney. Free. 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

READING, JOLIE KERR: Author of "My Boyfriend Barfed In My Handbag...and Other Things You Can't Ask Martha." Free. 7-9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

READING, ROSIE PEREZ: Author of "Handbook for an Unpredictable Life." In conversation with Hilton Als. Free. 7:30 pm. St. Joseph's College [245 Clinton Ave. between Willoughby and Dekalb avenues in Clinton Hill, (718) 940-5300], www.sjcny.edu.

READING, BEN KEENE: Author of "The Great Northeast Brewery Tour." Free. 7:30 pm. Die Stammkneipe [710 Fulton St. at S. Oxford Street in Fort Greene], greenlightbookstore.com/.

TWIN PEAKS BINGO: Gather

with fellow Twin Peaks lovers, gorge on doughnuts and Agent Cooper cocktails, and play bingo! Free. 8:30 pm. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg], www.videology.info.

THURS, FEB. 27

"GLOBAL AWARENESS": An exhibition of SocialDocumentary.net's call for entries winners. Free. 10 am-8 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

ART, "A CIELO APERTO": Exhibition by Maria Rapicavoli. Free. 10 am-6 pm. International Studio and Curatorial Program [1040 Metropolitan Ave. near Morgan Avenue in East Williamsburg], www.iscp-nyc.org.

THE OMNI ENSEMBLE: Opening performance. Free. 2:30 pm. Center for the Performing Arts at College of Staten Island [2800 Victory Blvd. at Morani St. in Willowbrook], www.bqcm.org.

READING, JEFF VANDERMEER: Author of "Annihilation." Free. 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION: Annual meeting. 7 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.thebha.org.

MUSIC, THE GO-KARTEL, RAY & DAVID, HI HAT & LO REZ: Benefit for the children of Typhoon Haiyan. \$10. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, MARA ROSENBLUM: \$15 (suggested). 8:30 pm and 10 pm. Ibeam Music Studio [168 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus], ibeambrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, TRUCULENTLY AUDACIOUS: \$10. 9:30 pm. Shapeshifter Lab [18 Whitwell Pl. near Carroll Street in Park Slope, (646) 820-9452], www.shapeshifterlab.com.

FRI, FEB. 28

MUSIC, MATTY O'BRIEN GROUP, THE RUBBER BAND, PAPERSHIP, ROTTEN SONS,

AVO: \$8. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, BEATRHYME COMMUNICATIONS: As part of BAMcafe Life. Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

MUSIC, JOHNNY CASH 82ND BIRTHDAY BASH: Featuring Alex Battles & The Whisky Rebellion performing a full slate of Johnny Cash's hits and rarities, as well as film clips from archivist Clinton McClung and music by DJ General Buell. \$10 (\$15 in advance). 9 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

SAT, MARCH 1

ART, TARGET FIRST SATURDAY: Celebrating women's empowerment through an evening of spoken word, interactive art, music, film, and dance. Free. 5-11 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

MUSIC, "FATE IS KIND": Cabaret show featuring vocalist Julie Rayburn and pianist Mark Janas. \$15 (\$30 per family, \$5 students). 7:30 pm. Christ Church Bay Ridge [7301 Ridge Blvd. between 73rd and 74th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-3698].

MUSIC, THE OMNI ENSEMBLE: Opening performance. \$15 (\$10 students). 8 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music [58 Seventh Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park Slope, (718) 859-8649], www.bqcm.org.

SPORTS, GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY: Featuring clinics, fitness demos, prizes, guest speakers, and more. Free. 11 am-3 pm. St. Johns Recreation Center [1251 Prospect Pl. at Troy Avenue in Crown Heights], www.nycgov-parks.org.

SPORTS, DAILY NEWS GOLDEN GLOVES: Amateur boxing tournament. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 7:30 pm. Xavier High School [7100 Shore Rd. in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-7100], www.xaverian.org/goldengloves.



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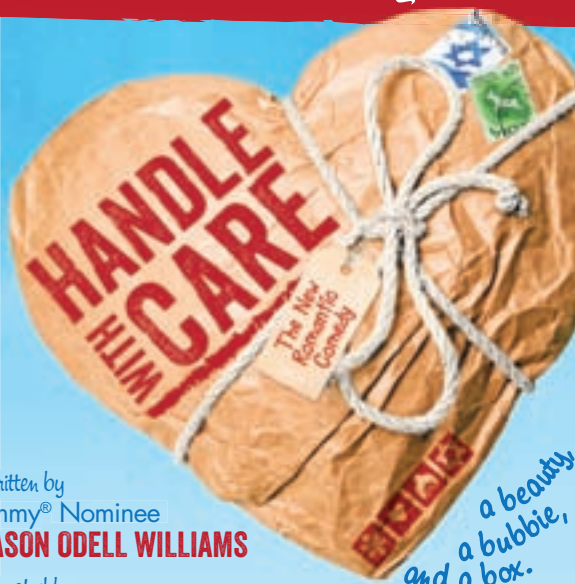
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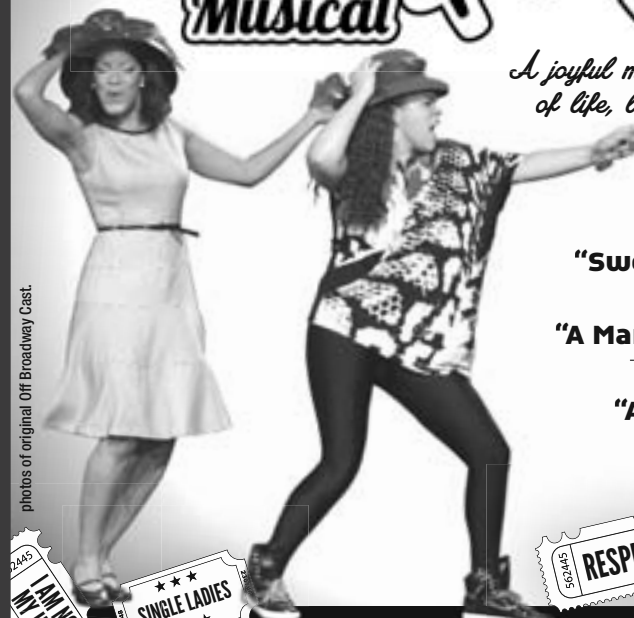
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Cheers to **Marci Resnicoff, RN**, for being elected boardmember of the **American Holistic Nurses Association**. She will be installed at its annual conference in June in Portland, Ore.

Our pal Marci is currently the charge nurse on the night staff at **Lutheran Medical Center**. Her hands-on holistic approach includes body, mind, and spirit self-care classes to staff as part of the center's approach to healing, along with weekly meditation classes for staff and visitors. She uses



all her skills to help the rehabilitation patients decrease anxiety, reduce pain, and improve sleep patterns.

Marci, who has a degree in psychology, is also a Reiki master practitioner and teacher. She will help to expand the holistic approach to nursing and integrative health care at Lutheran.

Lutheran Medical Center [150 55th St. at First Avenue in Sunset Park, (718) 630-7000].

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New and improved

Cheers to the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation** for awarding a \$348,000 grant to the **New York City Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association**. The association will open an office in Queens, and add services to the satellite office already in place at **SUNY Downstate Medical Center**. Patients will see improved social services, including information and referrals, as well as more caregiver and support counseling.

SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Alzheimer Center, [370 Lenox Rd. at Linden Boulevard in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, (718) 287-4806].

BOROUGH WIDE

Happy anniversary

Hats off to the Pythians, whose **Genesis Lodge No. 64** celebrated its 150th anniversary.

The non-sectarian fraternal order is based on "friendship, charity, and benevolence," and supports our troops, benefits various charities, and champions many community causes, among its manifold endeavors. The group especially aids the American Cancer Society with various drives and fund-raisers.



GO BIG RED: Staff at Brooklyn Hospital Center all dressed in red for Heart Health Month.

Roses and heart health at Center

FORT GREENE

Big red hearts to the staff at **The Brooklyn Hospital Center** for calling attention to women and heart disease.

The hospital was a sea of red, as members dressed in red and celebrated "Go Red Day" to call attention to women and heart disease.

Big-hearted staff offered free screenings, body-mass-index assess-

ments, and lectures on how women can reduce risk factors for cardiovascular disease and have their hearts stay in the pink.

Standing O joined in the red and offered its rosy appreciation! Thanks Brooklyn Hospital for watching out for all our hearts.

Brooklyn Hospital Center [121 DeKalb Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 250-8000].

Men interested in joining the fraternal order can contact Errol Lewis at (718) 375-9229 or e-mail genesis64.kop@aol.com.

Any friend of our troops is a pal of Standing O.

BAY RIDGE

Techies come in all ages

Thanks to the generosity of **Mazii Learning Center** and **Sister Fran Picone**, seniors at **Shore Hills** will be gathering for a weekly dose of Intechy, a digital intergenerational literacy program.

The computers donated several years ago by Standing O pal state Sen. **Marty Golden** (R-Bay Ridge) sat unused in the computer lab. Now thanks to Mazii, seniors will be able to turn on, tune in, and browse the web in techy nirvana, said **Andrea Lawrence** of Mazii.

"Our mission is to engage and facilitate the intergenerational community using

technology as a tool," she said.

It sure has put many a smile on the faces of seniors who can now connect with family and friends through the web, said Intechy teacher **Johnny Vazquez**, who has learned a thing or two himself.

"It was a great opportunity for me to learn how to make spaghetti pie, and learn more about the residents of the center," he said.

Seniors will enjoy another 20-week cycle of Intechy, and learn how to use photographs to tell their life story.

Shore Hill Senior Center [9000 Shore Rd. at 90th Street n Bay Ridge, (718) 630-8900].

MIDWOOD

Save the date

Standing O hears that there will be an inaugural, inter-sing competition called **Brooklyn Sings** between students at **James Madison High School** and **Edward R. Murrow High School** next month, benefitting the American Cancer Society.

MIDWOOD

Wedding bells are ringing

Put those hands together for **Ilan and Tiffany Stern**. The happy couple jumped the broom, tied the knot, and broke the glass on Jan. 19.

The groom, son of our very own display sales assistant **Jennifer Stern** and hubby **Effy Stern**, is director of operations at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

He said, "I do," to **Tiffany Stern, nee Scalici**, a graduate of Brooklyn College, and daughter of **Maria Criscuolo** and **Michael Scalici**, in front of family, friends, and relatives at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, Long Island.

After the reception, the lucky in love couple jetted off and honeymooned by the light of the silvery moon at St. James Secrets in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Mom Jen offered this wish for her son and new daughter-in-law: "May your love for each other grow and strengthen during good times and during times of sadness."

Standing O is offering this its own toast: "Masel tov, may your life be like a loaf of Italian bread — long and full of dough."

ward R. Murrow High School next month, benefitting the American Cancer Society.

Brooklyn Sings is the brain child of the **Relay for Life** team of Bergen Beach, Mill Basin, and Marine Park. The group contacted staff and students to take on the sing to help raise funds and awareness to help fight the dreaded disease.

Joe Gillette, a group organizer, hailed the teamwork.

"Our team is so thankful for each of these amazing schools and their students for taking on this challenge of Brooklyn Sings," he said.

Standing O is proud, too, and can't wait for March 8 at 6 pm to witness this epic Battle of the Sing competition.

Edward R. Murrow High School [1600 Avenue L at E. 16th Street in Midwood, (718) 258-9283].



● 'I never had with a point guard like him and I probably never will again.'

— Long Island University's Landon Atterberry on his teammate Jason Brickman

● 'All we kept saying was 'we have to keep it up.''

— Medgar Evers sprinter Ja'Nai Cameron on her school's track record

Abraham Lincoln claims another borough crown

Wins second-straight title with Stephenson in stands

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Abraham Lincoln made it clear that it has the best squad in the city last Sunday, with one of its most famous alums in attendance.

"We kind of figured that everybody heard of us, but they never experienced us," Seton Hall-bound guard Isaiah Whitehead said.

Former Railsplitters star and Indiana Pacers guard Lance Stephenson got to see the team grab an impressive 90-71 victory over Thomas Jefferson in the Public School Athletic League Brooklyn boys' basketball final at City College. Stephenson was also at the team's semifinal game and spent a few days watching practice.

"We huddled [Saturday] and he said, 'Great teams win big games.'" Whitehead said. "Today is a big game and we won."

Railsplitters coach Dwayne "Tiny" Morton feels it was important for his players to get to hear from Stephenson, a four-time city champion, with the playoffs on the horizon. He talked about the physicality of postseason games.

"Everybody needs that," Morton said. "Somebody from the outside, somebody who has been there that knows the program. They will definitely listen to a guy like him."

The visit from Stephenson was only a small piece of the Railsplitters' motivation coming into the game. Orange Wave coach



SOARING: Lincoln's Elisha Boone aims to score during the boys basketball final game against Jefferson on Sunday. Photo by Yinghao Luo

Lawrence "Bud" Pollard boasted of a guaranteed victory. That prompted Morton to show up in an Iron Mike Tyson sweatshirt to signify who the undisputed champ was.

"Everyone wants to beat us," said St. Peter's commit Elisha Boone. "Every time we play we have say that we

are the best in the city, the best in the state, and that we are one of the top teams in the country."

He and his teammates took out their frustrations by starting the game on an 18-0 run before Jefferson even got going. The Railsplitters (24-3) — ranked No. 20 in the country by

USA Today — were up 24-9 after the first quarter and 46-25 at the half.

Desi Rodriguez scored 24 points. Whitehead tallied 22 and Boone added 21. Daquise Andrews paced Jefferson (18-9) with 21 points and Shamorie Ponds had 16. Patrick Bryant chipped in 15.

Morton knew his team was ready to go.

"I didn't know we are going to start like that, but I knew we were going to be ready," he said.

Jefferson did get back into the game with Lincoln subbing and losing focus on defense. The Railsplitters lead went down to just nine several times in the third and fourth quarter, the last coming at 72-63 with 4:08 remaining in the game. Lincoln went on to blow the game open late.

The victory locks up the top seed for the defending city champions in the upcoming city playoffs. Lincoln enjoyed this win, but has its eyes on even bigger ones moving forward.

"We are very good," Whitehead said. "We still have a couple of games left to be the best in the city."



BONNE BONNIE: Fontbonne senior Christina Calascione makes a fast break and drives down the lane for two points. Photo by Steve Schnibbe

Fontbonne wins its division title

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Fontbonne Hall's season didn't start very promisingly, but it finished strong.

The Bonnies team dropped its first two Catholic High School Athletic Association Brooklyn Queens Division II games with star forward Kristen Sullivan out with an ankle injury. But then a Christmas-break trip to the Cactus Jam tournament in Arizona brought the inexperienced group together.

Senior guard Kate Oliver said she wasn't sure if her teammates had a big season in them when the year started, but 14-straight league wins later, Fontbonne is celebrating its fourth regular season crown in the last five years.

"We've gotten through it," Oliver said. "We finished in first."

The Bonnies will face further adversity heading into the postseason, which begins on Feb. 27 at Monsignor McClancy in the diocesan semifinals. Sullivan, the team's leading rebounder, may

be lost again for the post-season with a bone bruise on her leg, according to head coach Steve Oliver. But Sullivan's absence won't be as detrimental as it was when the season began — as the team's recent victories over McClancy and rival Bishop Kearney proved.

Senior Elizabeth Serone and junior Arienna Boumoussa have raised the level of their game. Freshmen call ups Meghan Glynn and Emily Lind have blossomed into scoring threats. Oliver has greatly picked up her scoring after the graduation of back backcourt mate Cindy Henderson. Christina Calascione has stepped up to help with the ball-handling duties. Coach Oliver is thrilled with the way the team has progressed.

"It gives you so much confidence moving forward," he said.

Beating McClancy and Kearney last week even with Sullivan on the bench to claim the division crown certainly gave the Bonnies a shot. *Continued on page 44*

Medgar Evers wins 4 in row

Young team continues relay heyday at Millrose Games

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Winning at the Millrose Games has become an annual even for the Medgar Evers girls' track team. This year's group wasn't about to let that end — despite not featuring the big names it did in the past.

"All we kept saying was 'we have to keep it up,'" junior sprinter Ja'Nai Cameron said. "It has to be a tradition."

She and her teammates kept it that way.

The team of Brenessa Thompson, Kenisha Pugh, Aleah Stewart and Cameron won the Public School Athletic League 4 x 400 relay with a city-leading time of 3:53.58 at the Armory last Saturday night. It is also the third-best mark in the state this season.

This is the Cougars' fourth-straight win at the meet after rival Benjamin Cardozo won five of the previous six.

"It's a big accomplishment," Cameron said. "We lost a strong team, but we just had to build up another team to make it just as strong and maintain what they have done."

Medgar Evers did so without having to race against Cardozo, which had the fastest qualifying time in the Millrose Trials (3:58.68).



FLEET FOOTED: Megar Evers' Brenessa Thompson leads off the Eastern High School Girls' 4x200 relay during the 2014 Millrose Games. Photo by Robert Cole

The Cardozo team was disqualified for a false start and did not get to compete. Thompson said that her

and her teammates' competitiveness wanted Cardozo on the track, but felt the race's outcome was never in doubt. The Cougars team wasn't the top-ranked team coming in last season either and still won.

"We knew we were going to win," said Thompson, who also placed second in the 55 dash with a time of 7.10.

Medgar Evers still needed a strong anchor leg from Cameron to make it happen. Paul Robeson star Amanda Crawford surged to the front during the third leg and opened up a small lead prior to the final baton pass, but Cameron quickly made up the difference.

Crawford, Latoya Stewart, Eketa Roberts and Leslieann of Robeson placed second with a time of 3:55.71.

"I had a lot of drive coming from behind," Cameron said. "It was more motivating. I had to be up in the front. It makes me push harder."

Getting the most out of what it has is what this team continues to do. There is no Kadecia Baird (Nebraska), Shakele Seaton (UPenn), Camile Edwards (UMass) or Nyanka Joseph (UConn) this time around. That didn't stop the Medgar Evers team from joining them as Millrose champions.

"We just wanted to do it this year again," Thompson said.

Boys & Girls reclaims Millrose crown

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Boys and Girls track star Richard Rose has experienced the highs and lows of the Millrose Games. Knowing how losing feels only made the elation of victory more thrilling.

"It means everything," The junior said of winning the track and field showcase. "Last year when we lost, I felt like crying. I know how it feels [to win] because my freshman year we won. It felt good."

Rose and teammates Michael Moore, Donald Merceus and Shavanes Robinson ran Boys & Girls to a victory in the Public School Athletic League 4 x 400 meter relay with a time of 3:19.66 during the Millrose Games at The Armory last Saturday. It is the Bedford-Stuyvesant school's third title in the last five years and avenges last year's loss to Tilden. The time is the best in New York State this season.

Rose, who has interest from Florida State, Louisiana University, Michigan and Penn State, had already closed the gap between first and second when the race-leading



FAST LANE: Boys and Girls' Shavanes Robinson anchors the Public School Athletic League Boys' 4x400 Relay. Photo by Robert Cole

Paul Robeson runner dropped the baton in the back turn of the second

leg. Rose saw a chance to kick it into another gear and open up a sizeable lead.

"Once I'm in the front, I just go out and I don't wait for no one to come and get me," Rose said.

Tilden's team of Kyle Baptist, Paul Clarke, Kwasi Applewhite and Adekunie Samuel placed second in 3:22.19. Samuel made a late push for first on the anchor leg. He pulled within 10 meters of Robinson around the final turn, but ran out of gas. Robinson expected the surge to come at some point, but had enough left to hold it off and secure Boys & Girls the title again.

"This is what we came here to do," Robinson said. "It is a great feeling for me and my teammates. Our hard work had paid off."

Tilden had to digest the feeling of a second-place finish twice last Saturday. The team of Applewhite, Baptist, Clarke and Solomon came second again in the boys' 4 x 200 meter relay with a time of 1:31.36.

Tilden was happy to place at the

Hardy's success a lesson that all is never lost

Heather Hardy's inspirational story grows with each victory.

The Gerritsen Beach boxer's tale is one of perseverance, discovery and will. She finally has a home — an apartment near Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn Heights — after a fire and Hurricane Sandy respectively destroyed her two previous residences. Hardy's true habitat remains the ring after taking up boxing three years ago.

"I was the most shy girl in the whole world and I still am, but for whatever reason, when I got in the ring and fought in front of over 2,000 people, it felt like home for the first time," she said.

The 32-year-old Hardy, nicknamed "The Heat," is now a perfect 8-0 in her professional career after a split-decision win over Cristina Fuentes (77-75, 77-75, 75-77) in a super bantamweight fight at Roseland Ballroom on Feb. 12. She is the Universal Boxing Federation International champion and is expected to headline an all female card put on by DiBella Entertainment and rapper 50 Cent's SMS Promotions.

Hardy still has a hard time believing it all.

"I can't believe I'm a pro boxer," Hardy said. "I can't believe this is my life."

Her story illustrates a lesson for all. Even in our darkest days, we can still find hope and a new beginning.

For Hardy, a divorced single mother, that new beginning was a kickboxing class in her local gym. For others, it could be going back to school, making a career change or no longer putting off something you always wanted



JOE KNOWS

by Joe Staszewski

to do. You just have to go out there and try.

"To know that I took that first step and did something with my life is the greatest feeling," Hardy said.

Her calm and toughness comes across in the ring. Hardy took a barrage of power punches from Fuentes in the opening round. Red marks, which later turned to black and blues, formed on her face. Hardy took plenty of punches, but was never knocked down and made sure to return the favor with vicious combinations. She relaxed and out-boxed her opponent.

"I don't really need to calm her down," said her trainer Devon Cormack. "I just need to explain what happened."

There is no need to explain what happened to Hardy's life. She discovered herself in boxing — found what she was good at and loved it.

If you haven't found what you love, Hardy's is one of those stories that shows it is never too late.

"All the moms were doing all this shopping stuff," she said. "I felt so out of place."

Now she is right where she belongs.

Continued on page 44

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REUNION: Nets guard Joe Johnson, center, drives past Bulls center and former Poly Prep star Joakim Noah, right, in their Feb. 13 game in Chicago. Both Brooklyn-rooted ballers played in last Sunday's NBA All Star Game. AP / Nam Y. Huh

Johnson, Plumlee shine with All-Stars

BY BRANDON ROBINSON

New Orleans, LA — The National Basketball Association's 63rd All Star Weekend featured the league's top talent, including Mason Plumlee and Joe Johnson of the Brooklyn Nets.

Plumlee competed in the Rising Stars game on Friday for Team Webber, finishing with 20 points, seven rebounds, four steals and a huge block on Pistons center Andre Drummond. Plumlee credited the advice he received from Nets teammates before he left for the New Orleans.

"They told me 'go do whatever you want because when you get back you're limited again,'" Plumlee said. "They said 'have fun with it, take your shots, and all that stupid stuff you try in practice — go ahead and do it in the game.'"

Johnson competed in the three-point shootout where he finished with a score of only 11, the lowest tally of the bunch. He also played in the All Star game on Sunday.

The East's 163-155 victory over the West was a record setter. Both teams combined for 318 points, shattering the previous record of 303 set in 1987. Johnson entered the game at the end of the first quarter and played significant minutes in the second and third. He finished with five points after hitting a trey in the third quarter.

This was his seventh All Star appearance, but it

stood out for Johnson, especially with how strong the Nets ended the first half of the season.

"This will probably be the most memorable one out of all of them," Johnson said. "Being able to have a great month of January is what got me here and what I've done personally and what we've done as a team."

At 24-27, the Nets start the second half of the season with five games on the West Coast. Plumlee believes the team can have a new beginning.

"It's a fresh start coming back after break," he said. "That West Coast road trip, we have to get some wins on the road. We haven't been on the road in a while for a long stretch."

Johnson said health and lack of nagging injuries will be key to their success going forward. The Nets, who have one of the league's oldest rosters, have struggled playing on consecutive nights.

"I think once we get healthy, we'll develop some consistency where we're a pretty good team on a day-to-day basis," Johnson said.

Johnson and Plumlee weren't the only all stars with Brooklyn ties. The Chicago Bulls' Joakim Noah, a former Poly Prep standout, finished the All-Star Game with six points, five assists and five rebounds for the East.

"The game got close," Noah said. "That's when the fun usually begins."

Blackbirds soar over St. Francis

LIU ends four-game skid with tight Battle of Brooklyn victory

BY MICHAEL RANDAZZO

What a difference a week made for the St. Francis College and Long Island University men's basketball teams.

Going into the Feb. 8 home matchup against conference leader Robert Morris, St. Francis was still the Northeast Conference upstart aiming to burnish its résumé. At that same time, the injury-riddled Blackbirds were in a tailspin, losers of four straight and outside the conference playoffs.

But then came the pre-tip suspensions of St. Francis stars Brent Jones, Wayne Martin, P.J. Santavenere and Anthony White, a lopsided loss to the Colonials, and White's arrest for allegedly beating his girlfriend.

The Blackbirds' luck turned around when a snowstorm cancelled a game against Sacred Heart and gave the squad time to heal.

Even with Jones, Martin, Santavenere back in the lineup last Sunday, St. Francis couldn't hold off a resurgent Long Island University squad that snapped its losing streak by pulling out a 69-68 win in the second installment of the Battle of Brooklyn at the Barclays Center on Feb. 16.

"We had that long layoff, but to be honest, that might have been the best thing for us," said Blackbird coach Jack Perri. "We got some really good practices in this week."

St. Francis did have a late chance for a win, down just 67-65 with the ball and 16 seconds to play. Martin looked to drive and split the Blackbird defense, but his shot hit off the rim.

"Wayne saw an opening and drove



ANYONE'S BALL: LIU's Landon Atterberry and St. Francis's Amdy Fall battle for the ball.

Photo by Steve Schnibbe

it, that's what good players do," said Terriers coach Glenn Braica. "He's won three games for us on the last possession. Tonight it didn't work out."

Perri's decision to switch from a zone defense to man-to-man was key, because St. Francis (15-11, 6-5) overwhelmed LIU (8-16, 3-8) on the boards

in the first matchup. The Blackbirds out-rebounded St. Francis 36-34 this time around.

"LIU's been primarily a zone team this year," Braica said. "Last game we had 20 offensive rebounds in the first half. Them playing man today was about trying to keep us off the glass."

The game was a seesaw affair as St. Francis twice rallied from nine points down, but couldn't overtake a Blackbird squad desperate for a win.

LIU senior Jason Brickman — who on Monday was named a finalist for the 2014 Bob Cousy Collegiate Point Guard of the Year Award — dished out 14 assists. With 961 career assists, the sterling playmaker is now eighth on the NCAA career assists list.

"A lot of players really stepped up and helped me out," Brickman said. "It's great to win the Battle of Brooklyn after they beat us pretty good the first game."

Junior Landon Atterberry scored a game-high 20 points, and junior Gilbert Parga returned from injury to tally 14 points. Atterberry has lit up St. Francis for 39 points in two meetings, with help from Brickman.

"I never had with a point guard like him and I probably never will again," Atterberry said. "It's just a blessing playing with Jason."

Ben Mockford led the way for St. Francis with 17 points — a far cry from the 30 he dropped in the previous meeting. Jalen Cannon tallied 15 points and six rebounds, and junior Jones scored 13 points, including big shots down the stretch that almost gave the Terriers a rare sweep of their rival.

Bonnies

Continued from page 41

in the arm heading into the postseason. Sullivan's teammates have stepped up in her absence.

Lind scored 21 points in the Bonnies' Feb. 9 matchup versus McClancy. And against Kearney on Feb. 10, Oliver scored nine of her team-high 19 points in the fourth quarter to help hold off a 30-point night from Tigers star Christina Heyer. Meghan Glynn scored 13 points in that game and Serone added 10 to beat the defending diocesan champions 58-51.

Kate Oliver raising her game at crucial moments has been key to the late-season run, according to her coach —

and father.

"She has been playing tremendous against the bigger teams," coach Oliver said.

Fontbonne's focus now shifts to the big prize as the Bonnies look to reclaim the diocesan crown after its title defense ended with a semifinal loss to St. John's Prep last year. Kate Oliver broke her hand in that game, and the Bonnies lost the lead and then the game. This group believes it is playing well enough to bring home its second title in three years.

"I want us to keep playing the way we have been, and try to get it through the semifinals and get to the championship," Kate Oliver said. "If we keep playing the way we have been playing, it's going to benefit us."

Millrose

Continued from page 42

prestigious meet behind Delaware Valley Charter (1:30.37), but did not best what it did year, when it also place number two, with a time below its best of the season.

"We would have won," the anchor leg Solomon said.

The sophomore, who is returning from a hamstring injury, was still able to keep the Blue Devils in second. He had to hold off a late burst from Medgar Evers' Rasheed Best around the final turn. The Cougars team of

Semasa Oni, Corey Butcher, Kyle Johnson and Best was third with a time of 1:31.42

"I saw him coming," Solomon said. "I just tried to finish strong and just try to hold him off."

Tidlen was in the position thanks to great second leg from the senior Baptist. He saw Anthony McFarland of DeMatha Catholic (Md.) drop the baton on the handoff. Baptist immediately pushed himself forward and erased a small gain to takeover second place for good.

"I had to switch it to next gear and just try to go for first," Baptist said.

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of limited liability company (LLC). Name: THE B SIDE NYC LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/03/2013. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 3601 Hempstead Turnpike, Levittown, NY 11756. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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of limited liability company (LLC). Name: ALL BRIGHT PRODUCTIONS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/20/2013. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

of limited liability company (LLC). Name: MEDTRIARCH HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/10/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Alex Tang, 728 Meeker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE**ZEVEN REALTY LLC,**

Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/14/2014. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Julio A. Ruiz C/O the Forgiore Law Firm PLLC, 395 Graham Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE**Name of PLLC: Spine and Orthopedic Medicine of NY, PLLC.**

Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 1/14/14. Office loc.: Kings Co. Sec. of State designated agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o Business Filings Inc., 187 Wolf Rd., Ste. 101, Albany, NY 12205, regd. agt. upon whom process may be served. Purpose: practice the profession of medicine.

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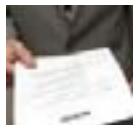
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Employment Pgs 46-47



- Sales Help Wanted
- Medical Help Wanted
- General Help Wanted
- And More

Business Opps Pg 47



- Financing / Loans
- Business For Sale
- Misc. Business Opps
- And More

Instruction Pgs 47-48



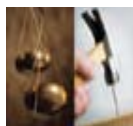
- **Career Training**
- Education Services
- Tutoring
- And More

Merchandise Pg 47



- Garage / Yard Sales
- Merchandise Wanted
- Merchandise For Sale
- And More

Here's My Card Pgs 49-50



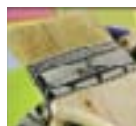
- Professional, Commercial
And Residential Services
- Attorneys
- Home Improvement
- Moving & Storage

Real Estate Pg 50



- Rentals
- Properties For Sale
- Open Houses
- Commercial RE
- And More

Services Pg 50



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Automotive Pg 50



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weekends and holidays, at the Revenue
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Department of Parks and Recreation,
which is located at 830 Fifth Avenue,
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The RFB is also available for
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ly advertise calls to a local
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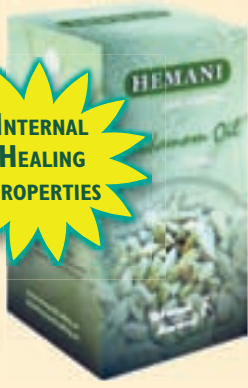
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