



WATCH OUT! A Flatbush Avenue cyclist rushes to cross a Belt Parkway ramp as a car bears down upon him. Department of Transportation

SPOKE JAM

Locals: Bike path to Flatbush Ave. a wheely bad idea

BY COLIN MIXSON

Critics say people will die if the Department of Transportation moves on a plan to build bike paths connecting Marine Park and Flatbush Avenue before fixing the avenue itself.

Transportation honchos are gearing up to create lanes linking the green space to a stretch of Flatbush Avenue between Hendrickson Place and the avenue's knotted nexus with the Belt Parkway. But authorities made a wrong turn sending neighborhood two-wheelers toward the six-lane speedway, one local leader said.

"We are preparing a path into a pit of danger,"

said Marine Park Civic Association president Bob Tracy. "They're going to come around that bend, and

they're going to die." Officials plan to create bike lanes on E. 38th Street, Avenue V, Hendrickson

Street, and Hendrickson Place leading to Flatbush Avenue.

Continued on page 10



Snow day!

Well, it was fun while it lasted. The snow from last week's historic blizzard seems to have melted away as quickly as it blew in. Here, Norman the dog, 11-year-old Jessie Principe, and 12-year-olds Piper McGraw and Mira Principe hit the slopes in Prospect Park. From more photos, **see page 2.**

Photo by Paul Martinka

Bus-ted! Critics blast MTA's 'one-sided' bus pitch

BY COLIN MIXSON

Brooklynites blasted the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for trying to pull a fast one on them on Jan. 20.

The agency showed Community Board 18 plans for a B82 Select Bus Service along Flatlands Avenue and Kings

Highway, but the slideshow steered around any mention of the proposed route's dreaded bus-only lanes or what ceding half the four-lane streets would do to traffic, one vocal critic said.

"Those pictures that you showed, they're irrelevant,

because they don't show what's going to happen once you eliminate that [public] lane," Councilman Alan Maisel (D-Canarsie) told transit officials.

Authority reps were quick to point out bonuses that come with select service —

more attractive bus stops, informational boards, wait-time displays, and improvements to intersections along the route — but the pitch was phony, because they didn't so much as hint at the prospective dedicated bus lanes that locals fear will clog traf-

fic along the already backed-up thoroughfares, another critic said.

"It was a one-sided presentation saying 'This is what we're going to do for you,' but at no point did they say 'This is what it's going

Continued on page 10

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FLURRY OF ACTIVITY

Brooklyn has blast when weekend blizzard blows into town



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Photo by Jordan Rathkopf



Photo by Paul Martinka



Photo by Paul Martinka

BY THE COURIER LIFE SNOW DAY BUREAU

Talk about playing the angles! Brooklynites skied, sledged, and snowboarded through the borough on Saturday, after Winter Storm Jonas dumped 27 inches of snow on the borough.

Officials ordered drivers to stay off the roads and halted buses and above-ground trains during the day-long blizzard, but that didn't stop Kings County adventurers from hitting the streets via alternate modes of transportation in order to enjoy the fresh coating of powder.

Dozens of families flocked to time-honored sledding spots in Prospect

Park, while some creative kids in Bay Ridge turned their steep driveway into a makeshift skateboard ramp. Others strapped on cross-country skis to traverse Brooklyn's empty thoroughfares.

The squall was New York's second-largest snowstorm on record, according to the National Weather Service — just falling short of an epic white-out in February 2006.

Williamsburg logged the highest recorded snow haul in the borough, with the Service's spotters reporting 29 inches of snow on the ground there at 9:30 pm. Down in Bergen Beach, the meteorological service logged 20 inches.

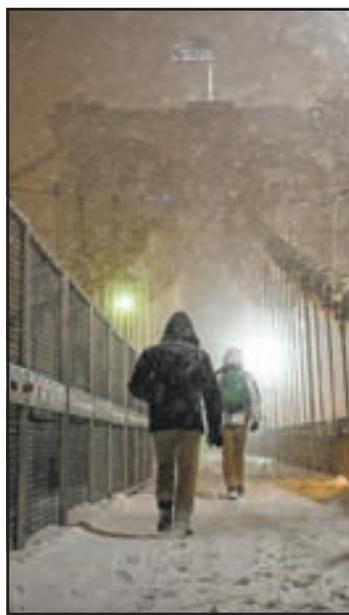


Photo by Paul Martinka

SNOW DRIFTERS: A little snow and a ban on driving didn't keep Brooklynites from getting around during weekend's blizzard. (Left) An ingenuitive Bay Ridgite and some neighborhood buddies use a snow-covered driveway as their own personal bunny hill. (Top) Bella the Husky gives Park Sloper Dave Horton a lift through Prospect Park. (Above) Gema Marx and her mom Elisabeth Russell take to Ft. Hamilton Parkway in Windsor Terrace on her cross-country skis. (Right) Brave — and probably ill-advised — pedestrians attempt to cross the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday evening.



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WHEN'S SHOW TIME?: New owners will gussy up the Shore Theater, shown here before Hurricane Sandy ripped apart the iconic (and landmarked) sign. File photo by Gregory P. Mango

SHORE THING!

Developer buys Coney's landmarked Shore Theater, will reopen as entertainment venue

BY COLIN MIXSON

They're shoring it up!

A developer bought Coney Island's long-neglected Shore Theater and plans to restore the 90-year-old landmark to its former glory, the buyer's legal counsel confirmed.

"The people of Coney Island can start looking forward to an amazing theater," said lawyer Igor Oberman. "They don't want this to be just a seasonal venue — it will be for all seasons benefiting not only tourists, but the people here year-round."

Jasmine Bullard, daughter of People's Playground land baron Horace Bullard, sold the icon to Pye Properties for \$20 million last week, the Coney Island Blog first reported.

The rebirth bodes well for the People's Playground, which area businesses and political leaders have been pushing to become a destination in the winter as well as summer, according to one neighborhood booster.

"This is wonderful news,"

said Boardwalk impresario and Coney Island U.S.A. founder Dick Zigun, who has long advocated for the ailing theater. "If Coney Island is on a trajectory to go year-round and build hotels, you have to have nighttime entertainment and that's the place to do it, at a landmarked Broadway-equivalent theater."

The building has been vacant for decades and fell into serious disrepair, and Pye is still determining what it will take to make the theater show-worthy again, Oberman said.

"They're still in the assessment phase," he said. "The property has been derelict for many years, so right now they're doing structural studies, and trying to understand the physical condition of the building."

The theater was built in 1925 as the Loew's Coney Island, according to historian Charles Denson. It housed vaudeville acts in its heyday, he said. The Brandt Company took it over in 1964, and the the-

ater started showing X-rated movies in 1972 in a last-ditch attempt to lure audiences. Kansas Fried Chicken mogul Horace Bullard purchased the property in 1978 hoping to convert it into a hotel and casino, but the state decided against allowing gambling in the People's Playground. The land baron put the building up for sale and let it sit derelict for the next several decades, drawing criticism from Coney Island advocates as the structure deteriorated and became an encampment of homeless people. Bullard died in 2013, and a 2015 announcement that the city would scoop up other derelict Coney Island properties that passed to his family reignited calls to seize the property through eminent domain.

It's not the first historic Loew's theater to be pulled off the historical scrap heap — the Kings Theatre in Flatbush reopened last year after the city hired a theater group to restore the iconic venue.

Space out

Pol mulls parking ban as swipe at controversial bus depot

BY COLIN MIXSON

A local pol wants to ban parking on a Bergen Beach street in the latest effort to fight a controversial bus depot there.

Residents have complained for years that employees from First Dawn Transit on E. 69th Street have been harassing neighbors and leaving loud, smoky buses idling on local streets. Lately, Bergen Beachers have a new gripe — the depot's drivers are parking their personal cars a block from the depot and trashing the street, one neighbor said.

"They just throw the garbage out of the car door, so it's disgusting over here," said E. 69th Street resident Rose Troman. "They leave their breakfast on the side of their cars when they park."

So state Sen. Roxanne Persaud (D-Canarsie) is lobbying the Department of Transportation to ban parking on E. 69th Street between Avenues X and Y — but she's still working out the legality, she said.

"I'm asking whether it can be done," Persaud said. "I'm not asking them to do

anything illegal just because we want to block the bus company from the street."

Even if Persaud is successful in outlawing parking on that stretch of E. 69th Street, finding somewhere else for the bus drivers to park may not be easy. The senator wants drivers to leave personal vehicles inside the depot, but it can't hold buses and cars at once, necessitating a daily shuffle where workers would first park outside the depot, empty the depot of buses, and then move their cars inside the lot before driving their bus routes, she said, admitting a less convoluted scheme would be better.

"It will become a cumbersome process," she said.

Persaud has explored other solutions in the past, including inviting officers from the local police precinct to come down and hand out tickets. But that didn't exactly pan out as planned — more residents than bus drivers ended up in the precinct's cross hairs.

"It's not an easy fix," Persaud said.

Police: Man shot neighbor while showing off his gun

BY DENNIS LYNCH

A Sunset Parker allegedly killed his neighbor while showing him a handgun in their 45th Street apartment building on Jan. 23.

Police responded to the apartment near Eighth Avenue just before 8 pm last Saturday night, law enforcement sources said. Officers found Zdzislaw Golabek, 37, with a gunshot wound to the head in an apartment belonging to the 32-year-old man they later arrested, police said. Paramedics pronounced the victim dead on the scene, officials said.

The two lived in separate apartments in the same building, police said.

Initial media reports claimed the victim shot himself during a drunken game of Russian roulette. But the suspect later told officials



AT THE SCENE: Police investigate the slaying. Photo by Paul Martinka

that he thought the gun was unloaded and pointed it at his neighbor's head and pulled the trigger as a joke, according to a police spokeswoman.

Police are charging the man with manslaughter, but the investigation remains open, she said.



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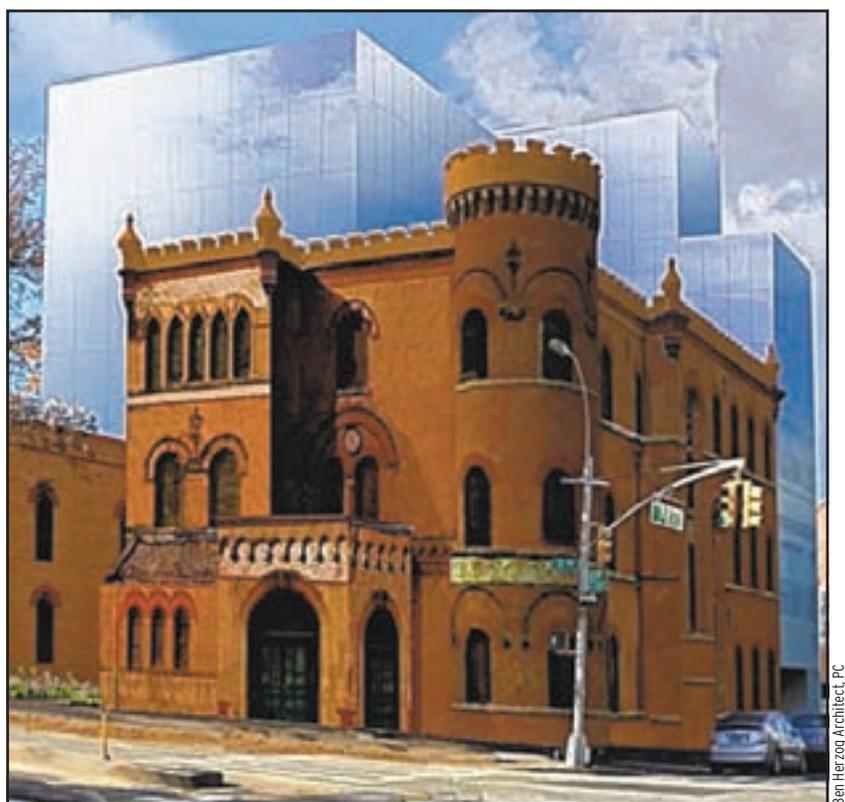
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BIG THINGS COMING: The new owner of the 68th Precinct station house on Fourth Avenue in Sunset Park will build condos on an adjacent lot and is considering building a day care center and cafe in the landmarked headquarters and an adjoining stable.

Kindergarten cops?

Landmarked Sunset Park precinct house may become day-care center

BY DENNIS LYNCH

They aren't kidding around.

The owner of Sunset Park's landmarked 68th Precinct "castle" wants to open a day-care center in a long-disused horse stable next to the burned-out station house, a representative of owner Yosef Streicher said this week.

"He felt that it would be useful to have a day-care center in the community and thought it was appropriate for the space, but it is all preliminary right now — nothing is set in stone," Barry Shisgal said.

Streicher plans to build luxury condos on a lot behind the landmark on the corner of Fourth Avenue and 43rd Street, and a plan for a cafe in the actual station house is percolating, Shisgal said.

The owner was sketching ideas for a museum to showcase local artists or Brooklyn architecture, but he may scrap the idea, because it would not attract regular foot traffic, and Streicher wants the ground floor to draw community members to enjoy the 19th-century building's unique architecture, Shisgal said.

"People only visit a museum once or twice a year, so we really wanted to keep the bottom floor open for the public to come in often," he said. "We want to make it a place where community members can be comfortable walking in every day."

The developer is considering using

the station house's top floor for condo amenities such as a laundromat or a gym, Shisgal said.

Sunset Parkers have suggested a public school annex to ease overcrowding in the district or below-market-rate housing, and others have panned the condo plan, charging the redevelopment would lack a community benefit because units wouldn't be affordable for the neighborhood's mostly working-class residents.

But Streicher needs the pricey digs to finance restoring the crumbling station house, which must be fixed using more costly, city-approved materials because it is a landmark, Shisgal said.

"Who has the budget to spend \$10-15 million to fix it up before you even start putting in whatever community facility you want to?" he said. "If someone does, that's great, but so far no one has — that's why it fell apart for so long."

The commission regulates exterior work that requires a Department of Buildings permit, but does not regulate a building interior's use, according to a commission spokeswoman.

It will likely take a year minimum to nail down a plan and to get stamps of approval from the landmarks commission and buildings department, Shisgal said.

Streicher is open to suggestions for what should go in the precinct building, Shisgal said.



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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	Block/Lots
169 New Lots Avenue	3850/1
170 New Lots Avenue	3865/24
172 New Lots Avenue	3865/25
174 New Lots Avenue	3865/26
178 New Lots Avenue	3865/27
180 New Lots Avenue	3865/128
182 New Lots Avenue	3865/129

Under HPD's Extremely Low and Low Income Affordability Program (ELLA), sponsors purchase City- or privately owned land or vacant buildings and construct multifamily buildings in order to create affordable rental housing. Construction and permanent financing is provided through loans from private institutional lenders and from public sources including HPD, the New York City Housing Development Corporation, the State of New York, and the federal government. Additional funding may also be provided from the syndication of low-income housing tax credits. The newly constructed buildings provide rental housing to low-income families with incomes up to 60% of the Area Median Income ("AMI"). Projects may include a tier of units with rents affordable to households earning up to 80% of AMI. Subject to project underwriting, up to 30% of the units may be rented to formerly homeless families and individuals.

Under the proposed project, which consists of the Disposition Area and the two privately-owned lots located at Block 3850, Lots 5 and 10 (collectively, "Project Area"), the City will sell the Disposition Area to Van Sinderen Plaza LLC ("Sponsor") for the nominal price of one dollar per tax lot. The Sponsor will also deliver an enforcement note and mortgage for the remainder of the appraised value. The Sponsor will then construct two mixed-use residential buildings containing 129 rental dwelling units, plus one unit for a superintendent, and approximately 19,908 square feet of commercial space on the Project Area. Sponsor will also develop approximately 3,910 square feet of passive recreational open space on the Project Area that will be located on the sixth floor roof of one building and on the fourth floor roof and at the rear of the other building.

The Land Debt will be repayable out of resale or refinancing profits for a period of at least thirty (30) years following completion of construction. The remaining balance, if any, may be forgiven at the end of the term.

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-A4, New York, New York on business days during business hours.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on February 10, 2016 at 20th Floor North Elevator Conference Room D, 1 Centre 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.



Bill de Blasio, Mayor
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Man admits he murdered Brooklyn woman, tossed body off Canarsie Pier

BY COLIN MIXSON

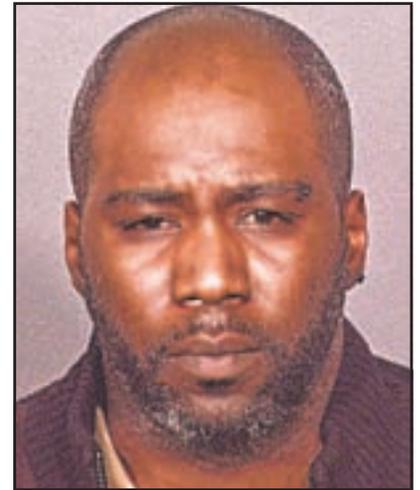
A Bronx man admitted on Jan. 25 to strangling and dismembering an East New York woman before hurling her body off the Canarsie Pier in 2014, law enforcement sources said. Now prosecutors hope a sentencing judge is as brutal to the murderer as the killer was to his victim, Brooklyn's top legal eagle said.

"By sadistically killing, cutting up, and dumping the victim's body in the water, this defendant showed absolutely no mercy towards the victim," said District Attorney Ken Thompson, whose office prosecuted the case. "With his guilty plea, we will now show no mercy towards him and seek a long prison sentence for this ruthless and cold-blooded killer."

Charles Wright pleaded guilty to second-degree murder before Supreme Court Justice Michael Gary, who said in court he plans on tossing the Bronx killer into a cage for 18 years to life, according to Thompson.

Wright was arguing with his victim, 32-year-old Shaniqua Davis, inside her Blake Avenue apartment in East New York on July 25 when the dispute turned ugly and he choked the life out of her, according to the district attorney.

The killer quickly busied himself covering up the grim deed, hacking Davis's fingers from her hands, before binding the body, stuffing it into a laundry bag, and tossing it into the seas off of Canarsie Pier, Thompson said.



GUILTY: Former Bronx resident Charles Wright plead guilty to murdering and dismembering East New York resident Shaniqua Davis, before hurling her body into the waters off the Canarsie Pier.

District Attorney's Office

Wright used Davis's bank card to withdraw \$141 from a grocery store cash machine and also spent her dough at fast-food restaurants, prosecutors said.

The killer's girlfriend Tamanika Evens pleaded guilty to first-degree hindering prosecution last month for her part in helping Davis dump the body, and Thompson's office expects the willing accomplice to serve two-six years behind bars, he said.

Wright's sentencing is set for Feb. 10, officials said.

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WORK SITE: The Squibb Park Bridge runs through the still-under-construction Pierhouse development in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Photo by Louise Wateridge

Bridge Park fires, sues Squibb Bridge designer, builder

BY LAUREN GILL

Brooklyn Bridge Park has fired the engineering company behind the long-shuttered Squibb Park Bridge — Brooklyn's own "Gallop'n' Gertie" — and is suing the firm to cover the costs of re-designing and repairing the bouncy span.

Park operators filed a \$3-million suit against design and engineering firm HNTB last Friday morning, claiming the company created an "inherently flawed" design that became "unstable" and "deformed," then failed to fix it for more than 17 months.

"As a result of HNTB's contractual and professional failures, the bridge had to be closed and repaired, at great cost to BBP and the public," the suit reads.

The park opened the taxpayer-funded pathway — which connects Brooklyn's Front Yard and the Brooklyn Heights Promenade — in March 2013, but fenced it off in August 2014 after it allegedly became unstable.

Officials initially said the span — designed by famed engineer Ted Zoli — would be back in action in spring 2015, but repeatedly pushed back the opening date while neighbors became frustrated by the delays and the park's refusal to explain what was wrong and when it would return.

Park honchos finally shed some light on the situation when announcing the suit at a board meet-

ing on Friday morning.

The corporation has now promoted Arup Group — the engineering firm that was initially hired to review the bridge — to take over the repairs in conjunction with the city's transportation department, said park bigwig Regina Myer.

It will take another six months for Arup to draw up its proposal to resuscitate the footbridge, and the board will then have to vote on the new plans before work can begin, Myer said. The new repairs are expected to cost \$516,000.

But one local pol demanded more answers about what went wrong and when the bridge will return, slamming the corporation for its lack of transparency over the past year and a half.

"This community amenity is still closed and there is not a clear path to reopening it," said state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights), who has been pushing the park to offer answers for months. "The lack of transparency over the time that this is outlined is also disturbing. It is critical we get assurance that this will change."

Myer claimed the semi-private park body cannot release more details due to the lawsuit, but said it will issue a report on the steps taken to ensure the bridge is safe upon its reopening.

HNTB is one of the engineers behind the new Kosciuszko, Tappan Zee, and Goethals bridges.



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68TH PRECINCT

BAY RIDGE-DYKER HEIGHTS

Delivery danger

A masked marauder robbed a delivery man at knifepoint in the hallway of a 64th Street apartment building on Jan. 18, cops said.

The delivery man told cops he turned up at the place between 10th and 11th avenues just before 9 pm and called his customer, who told him to meet him on the second floor of the building.

When he reached the floor, he found a masked man standing in the hallway with a knife, who told him in Spanish to "turn around and give me all your money," police reported. The robber grabbed his cellphone and \$100 in cash and dashed, according to police.

Slapped

A bruiser beat and robbed a man on Fifth Avenue on Jan. 12, according to a police report.

The man was reportedly minding his own business near 82nd Street when the rogue walked up to him and slapped him in the face, knocking him down. The thief searched the victim's pockets, found \$900 in cash, and fled while his victim lay stunned, police said.

Jewel thievery

A cat burglar ransacked a home on Bay Ridge Parkway on Jan. 21, according to police.

The homeowners were out of their home between Narrows Avenue and Colonial Road from around 11 am to 6 pm. One returned to find the rear kitchen window was damaged and a rear door unlocked, police said.

She went upstairs and found someone had turned three bedrooms upside-down looking for loot. And whoever did found them — the crook took \$200 in cash and a collection of jewelry, police said.

Prying hands

A bandit hit a woman's Ridge Boulevard apartment on Jan. 18, according to police.

The woman told police she left her apartment near 78th Street around 11 am and returned around 5 pm to find her apartment door pried open. The thief busted her bedroom door and took her jewelry, police said.

— Dennis Lynch

62ND PRECINCT

BENSONHURST-BATH BEACH

Bad fare

Four crooks robbed a taxi driver at knifepoint on 65th Street on Jan. 25, taking \$400.

The victim told police that he picked up the four goons on Kings



POLICE BLOTTER

Highway at 1:30 pm, before taking the group to its destination near W. Fourth Street. That's when the knave sitting behind him put a knife to his throat, and growled "give us everything," according to police.

The knife man's pals busied themselves ransacking the victim's car, shouting threats the whole time, before they spotted his cash and fled, cops said.

Driveway duel

Some whacko beat a 71-year-old man after the old fella confronted the assailant for parking his car in front of his 81st Street driveway on Jan. 21.

The victim told police he walked outside his home between 19th and 20th avenues at 1 am to give the bruiser a hard time for parking in front of his driveway.

But the fiend wasn't one for words, and instead of arguing, just started swinging, and clocked the old man in the face a few times, cops said.

Mole man

A brazen thief looted a W. Sixth Street bodega on Jan. 22 — after cutting his way through the wall.

The crook utilized some kind of power tool to shear his way into the deli between Highlawn Avenue and Avenue S at 12:15 am, cops said. He positioned himself for the job after sneaking into an abandoned building adjacent to the bodega, and started cutting, according to police. It's unclear what property was taken.

Designer deviant

A burglar ransacked a woman's 83rd Street home for jewelry and designer handbags on Jan. 22.

The victim told police that someone entered her home between Bay Parkway and 23rd Avenue at 11 am, through a window left unlocked in the rear of the house.

Once inside, the thief nabbed a watch, some cash, a silver bracelet, and a Louis Vuitton handbag and wallet, cops said.

The junker job

A thief drove off with a woman's 1997 Nissan Altima she'd left parked on 64th Street on Jan. 19.

The victim told police that she left her old junker between 19th and 20th avenues at 7 pm, and returned the next day to find an empty spot.

60TH PRECINCT

CONEY ISLAND-BRIGHTON BEACH-SEAGATE

Stairhell

Two gun-wielding men raped a woman inside the stairwell of a W. 31st Street apartment building on Dec. 27, police reported.

The victim told police that she was heading out for a smoke from her apartment between Mermaid and Surf avenues at 8:30 pm when the men ambushed her in the stairwell. One of the vile reprobates held a gun to the victim's head, while his sick accomplice ripped the clothes from her body, cops said.

The degenerates then took turns raping the woman, before leaving together down the stairwell, according to police.

Brotherly love

Cops busted a 35-year-old man who they say groped and attempted to rape his brother's 20-year-old girlfriend as she slept inside their Haryway Avenue apartment on Jan. 23.

The victim told police that she was asleep with her boyfriend inside the apartment between Bay 44th Street and 27th Avenue at 7:10 am when the guy's brother snuck into their bedroom and started undressing her.

The suspect had taken off her pants and pulled her panties down when the woman awoke to him trying to force himself on her, police said. That's when she screamed, at which point her boyfriend woke up, and the brother "retreated to the living room," according to police.

Geriatric attack

A purse-snatcher robbed an 81-year-old woman inside Asser Levy park on Jan. 18, taking \$60 and her Medicaid card.

The victim told police that she was inside the park near Sea Breeze Court at 6 pm when the thief grabbed her handbag, which was hanging from her right arm, and dragged her across the ground as she clung to it.

Eventually, the poor lady was overcome by her younger attacker, and she let go of her purse, along with the valuables it contained, cops said.

Baby teeth

A two merciless punks brutally beat and robbed a 12-year-old girl on

Mermaid Avenue on Jan. 18.

The tween girl told police that she was near W. 22nd Street at 7 pm when she started arguing with one of her attackers. The next thing she knew, one of the brutes punched her in the mouth, knocking loose one of her teeth, and sending the poor girl plummeting to the pavement.

That's when the other delinquent took his turn, and kicked her in the face, before grabbing her phone and fleeing, cops said.

Snatcher

A thieving scoundrel ripped a bag from a lady's arm on Brighton Fourth Street on Jan. 20.

The victim told police that she was between Neptune and Ocean View avenues at 12:12 pm when the crook hurled her to the floor and snagged her purse, which contained \$45 and credit cards.

Gunpoint goons

Two teenage good-for-nothings robbed a 15-year-old boy at gunpoint in broad daylight on Surf Avenue on Jan. 21, taking his cellphone.

The victim told police that he was near W. Eighth Street at 2:10 pm when the crooks waltzed up and demanded his phone. The victim bluffed, and said he didn't have one, but the miscreants weren't buying it, and decided to turn out the kid's pockets, finding his phone and his wallet, cops said.

The billfold was blissfully empty of cash, and the heels kindly returned it, but not before asking the boy for his phone's password. When the young man hesitated, one of the brutes drew a pistol and shouted, "Unlock it, or I will shoot your brains out," according to police. After the boy relented and mumbled the code to unlock his phone, the crooks fled, cops said.

— Colin Mixson

61ST PRECINCT

SHEEPSHEAD BAY-HOMECREST-MANHATTAN BEACH-GRAVESEND

A buck a piece

A trio of goons beat and robbed a man on Avenue W on Jan. 23, police said.

The victim told cops he was near Nostrand Avenue at 7 pm, on his way home, when the miscreants stopped him. They punched him the face, pushed him to the ground, and kicked him in the face, leaving him with cuts and bruises, a police report stated.

After the beating, one ruffian reached into the victim's pocket and took a measly \$3, said cops.

— Dennis Lynch



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Photo by Jason Speakman

Daniel Santiago, East New York

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Cool cats

Wildcat workers, from left, Michael Smith and Sharrieff Hoe shovel out folks on 77th Street on Jan. 24. The work group sent out half a dozen shovelers to dig out seniors in Bay Ridge after Saturday's storm.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

BIKE PATH

Continued from cover

Transportation department-issued maps state that the destination section of Flatbush Avenue is a bike path — though there aren't any actual lanes or markings. The department plans to create some in the future, but it hasn't released specific designs, and officials first want to build the Marine Park connector, a representative told Community Board 18 on Jan. 20.

Board members fear the agency will put bike lanes directly on Flatbush Avenue, and they tabled a vote whether to support the Marine Park connector until they see a plan for the avenue that doesn't include bikes on the street, a board employee said.

"We will never, in any way, endorse bike lanes on Flatbush Avenue," said district manager Dorothy Turano. "They figured they could have gotten phase one voted through, so they could start it, and then they'll come back to



PHASE ONE: The new bike path project's first phase will link Marine Park to Flatbush Avenue.
 Department of Transportation

us with phase two in the fall — we're concerned they're not going to live up to their word, and [they'll] put the lanes on Flatbush Avenue."

The new bike paths are part of a project linking Marine Park to the greater Jamaica Bay Greenway.

SELECT BUS

Continued from page 1

to cost you' in ease of use, mobility, increased congestion, and things of that nature," said board chairman Saul Needle.

The city's nine select bus service routes all use dedicated bus lanes, but an authority spokesman said officials are still deciding whether they'll create one for the B82.

The service would connect East New York and Coney Island, officials said.

Aviator Sports and Event Center celebrates 10 years

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Brooklyn has produced athletes such as Joe Torre, Michael Jordan, and Sandy Koufax — all before Aviator Sports and Event Center existed.

But now that Aviator Sports has been part of the borough for a decade, who knows who the next legend may be! For sure, lots of Brooklynites have taken their first steps into sports at the 175,000 square-foot space. In fact, more than one million people come here each year, says Katrina Doell, Director of Marketing.

Perhaps Brooklyn's next superstar will come from the ice, because the youth hockey program at Aviator Sports and Events Center recently advanced to Tier 1, the highest level recognized by USA Hockey. Aviator's hockey program has expanded from 25 participants to 13 travel teams, becoming New York City's destination for Tier 1 hockey.

The team's manager, Chris Kienzle, helped make it happen — and he started playing hockey at Aviator in 2006.

"Watching players improve and learn about the greatest game on earth is unparalleled," he says. "I experienced it as a player when Aviator first opened, and now I get to be a part of it as an employee."

Canadians, make room; Brooklyn is in the house.

Aviator Sports and Events Center is the place to learn how to skate, too. The rink is open 365 days a year, and it is always very busy. Many come to participate; others come to watch the figure-skating.

"It's a very rewarding experience to see how families enjoy their time here," says Doell.

Cheri Peters, director of human resources, has also part of the Aviator Sports family since 2006 and participated in the grand opening of the Ice Rinks and Gymnastics Center.

"From the Learn to Skate programs, to competitions, it has been exciting, energetic, and so much fun," she says.



(Clockwise) There's so much to do at Aviator Sports and Events Center, from a 35-foot-high rock-climbing wall, to playing soccer on an indoor field, tumbling in a gymnastics center, or lacing up your skates in the rink.

Photos by Jordan Rathkopf

Jennifer Dooley, Director of Gymnastics, says the competitive gymnastic team programs are, "a force to be reckoned with!" In addition, "So many children at all ages and levels receive a positive experience through the wonderful world of gymnastics."

There will be a year-long celebration to mark the anniversary of May 16, 2006 — the day Aviator Sports and Events Center opened its doors, creating a premier multi-sports and recreational complex located at Floyd Bennett Field, refurbished from four historic aircraft hangars and the surrounding grounds, in a partnership with the National Park Service.

There's no better place for family fun than here.

Every month Aviator Sports will run a special promotion to celebrate. In January, each department

offered a discount for a period of 10 days. Check Aviator's website and social media sites for the latest promotions to take advantage of them. In February any team that brings in another team would receive \$200 off of their team fee.

Other ways the anniversary is being marked includes the launch of a new logo, with wings and a propeller, and the 10-year anniversary noted.

The camp program will be overhauled, too. Campers will be grouped, age-appropriately, to participate in activities, and go on trips. A new director, Jason Vasquez, has also been named to spearhead the overhaul.

For sure, the kids won't be bored this summer when they are enrolled here. They'll be socializing, participating in sports, and learning lead-

ership skills that develop self-confidence. A dedicated and highly trained staff ensures each camper a safe and fulfilling summer experience.

The outdoor space at Aviator Sports and Event Center is so huge, festivals, fairs, concerts, and community events, like the Kings Country Fair — now in its seventh year at Aviator — have been held here. It also hosts the UniverSoul Circus — which draws fans from all over New York City. As the weather gets nicer, national runs and races also look to Aviator as a destination to host their events. St. Jude's Children's hospital has hosted an event at Aviator for the last three years, each time raising more than \$1 million. Check the website, www.AviatorSports.com, for a list of scheduled events for the upcoming season.

Dean Rivera, Chief Operating Officer, is yet another employee who has been part of the team for a decade.

"Through the thousands upon thousands of families who've been through our doors, we've seen this facility grow to into what we envisioned it would be," he says. "Now we are looking forward to even more success."

Aviator Camps at the Aviator Sports and Event Center [3159 Flatbush Ave. at Floyd Bennett Field in Marine Park, (718) 758-7500, www.AviatorCamps.com, www.AviatorSports.com]. For information about the camps, call Mondays through Fridays, 11 am-6 pm.

The Sports and Event Center: Mondays through Fridays, 5:30 am-midnight; and Saturdays and Sundays, 6 am-midnight.

There's an app for that!

Sunset Park biz group's all-in-one program lets users shop local, order food from phone

BY DENNIS LYNCH

They "swiped right" on Sunset Park.

The Sunset Park Business Improvement District created a smartphone app, providing local business contact info, notifying users of community events, and even letting them order food from area restaurants. Nationally popular apps such as crowd-sourced business reviewer Yelp, coupon-hunting aid RetailMeNot, and food-delivery giant Seamless offer similar services, but the Sunset Park app puts the disparate services in the same place with a hyper focus on Fifth Avenue, the business improvement district's leader said.

"Ours is a community app more than just a way of ordering from a restaurant or business," said executive director Renee Giordano. "You can get everything through it, like coupons and events notifications. With the other ones, you'll find things not just in your local neighborhood. This way people can find info about a business while they're walking around Fifth Avenue."

Staffer Eduardo Artica designed the free app — available for Apple and Android devices — to include a growing list of more than 500 shops between



38th and 64th streets. The business group has been building a free wifi network in the neighborhood over the last three years — mainly as a public service — but the business group realized it could use the increased connectivity to boost area businesses, Giordano said.

"We thought that once we had it, we



APPY DAYS ARE HERE!: (Left) The app has a simple interface allowing users to search a directory or browse business categories. (Above) The Sunset Park Business Improvement District's executive director Renee Giordano shows off the group's new technology, which a staffer developed.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

needed to use it," she said.

About 120 people have downloaded the app since the association launched it in November, Giordano said. The business group may offer Mandarin and Spanish versions if the English one does well.

Yelp sells personal data to third parties and food-delivery app Grub-

Hub uses aggregate data for its own marketing endeavors, but the Sunset Park app doesn't sell users' personal information — or even ask for it, Giordano said.

"Sometimes the others have to sell their info — that's how they make their money — whereas we don't need to do that," she said.



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But more than this, now is a wondrous time to discover or re-discover this exceptional catering hall. After a stunning re-modeling of their the grand ballroom, management recently spared no expense when they completely re-did the facility's grand lobby as well as the luxuriously appointed bridal suite, now done up with marble and granite accents for a look of timeless elegance.

They match the walls of marble and granite in the ballroom — which itself sports one of the largest chandeliers in all of Brooklyn — giving you just a brief inkling into what they have in store for you and your guests. Come and see the grandeur for yourself.

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THE HYPE MEN!

Meet Brooklyn's upstart wrestling promoters

New York City's greatest grapplers will descend on St. Finbar Church in Bath Beach for a battle of epic proportions during Five Borough Wrestling's Feb. 5 showcase (see page 44 for more). The lycra-clad bruisers come from all over the city, but their commissioner found his passion for pugilism while coming up in Marine Park.

BY COLIN MIXSON

Meet Brooklyn's Vince McMahon!

A born-and-bred native has transformed his love of pile drivers and elbow drops into a burgeoning wrestling enterprise that has grown to become one of the city's biggest independent purveyors of over-the-top, muscle-bound antics. The 5-foot-8, 180-pound, 23-year-old couldn't see himself stepping in the ring, so he did the next best thing, he said.

"I was a fan my whole life, but I never saw myself as being a wrestler. I'm a small guy," said Five Borough Wrestling

chairman Troy Thompson. "But I always had passion for it, and if you can't do it, you might as well tell other people how to do it."

Thompson grew up on E. 31st Street between Avenue P and Quentin Road, where he would occasionally sally out to the city with his old man and friends Mike Verna and PJ Stackpole to catch a World Wrestling Federation match whenever the show came to Madison Square Garden.

But a young Thompson always dreamed of bringing wrestling to his neck of the woods, and being able to walk

around the corner and see his larger-than-life heroes, typically relegated to the silver screen, alive and battling in Marine Park.

"As a kid, I always wished that we could go 10 blocks away and have this thing that was just only on TV," said Thompson. "I got to go to shows, but not often and never in that area."

Two years ago, the young Marine Park man was sitting around with his friends at the Bull's Eye Sports Pub on Quentin Road, sipping cocktails and talking about how awesome it would be to own a wrestling business, when he decided to go for it.

"I was sitting at the bar with three of my friends, wrestling was on TV, and we were talking about how we could do the same thing but better, and one of my friends said, 'Let's do it,'" Thompson explained.

So he wrote a script — yes it is scripted — booked a venue,



TAG TEAM: Five Borough Wrestling owner Troy Thompson, left, and long-time friend PJ Stackpole grew up together in Marine Park and conceived of their wrestling empire in a Quentin Road bar. Photo by Jason Speakman

and hired his friends to help out, he said.

Building a reputation, however, proved more difficult.

"That first show was hectic," said Thompson. "When you're new, nobody knows about you, so you don't know who's going to show up."

But now, Thompson's wrestling business has taken off, and Five Borough Wrestling is now the only act producing shows every month in Brook-

lyn, including routine shows at the American Legion Hall on E. 56th Street near Avenue N, he said.

Thompson still has his day jobs tending bar at Bull's Eye and at the Nostrand Avenue Knights of Columbus, but he's going to keep at his passion until he makes it big, he said.

"I think it's so cool for people to see the 20-year-old kid who's busting his a-- to, hopefully, make it on TV," he said.

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Snow can-do

W'front family plows streets for free

BY MAX JAEGER

The “mayor” of this Columbia Waterfront District block may not be able to keep the buses running during a blizzard, but he can keep the streets clear for them.

Woodhull Street resident Louie Formisano and his family plowed waterfront district streets from Rape-lye to Sackett in a tricked-out Jeep and a squad of plow-clad four-wheelers for free during the massive blizzard bearing down on the borough. Most Brooklynites were huddled up inside as three inches of snow per hour blanketed Kings County on Saturday morning, but Formisano couldn't wait to get to work.

“These are my toys,” he said, sitting in a Jeep Wrangler outfitted with a 6-foot plow, flood lights, and storage racks that he bought expressly for plowing just weeks before the storm.

The born-and-raised local has been battling snowy streets for decades, he said. Neighborhood kids un-

wrapped the latest high-tech gadgets this past holiday season, but Formisano was hooking a new salt-spreader onto a gas-powered four-wheeler that his kids use to help him plow, he said.

“My daughters got it for me for Christmas,” he said. “They grew up on those things.”

Formisano has fun, but the self-described “trouble-maker of the block” plows pro bono as a way to give back, he said.

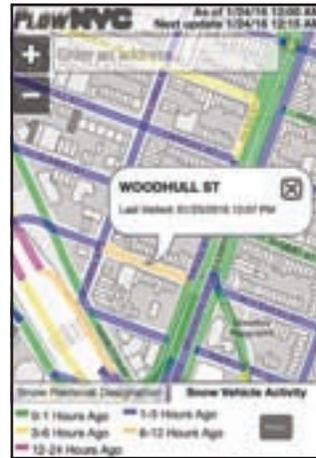
“I did well in this neighborhood,” the 61-year-old retired security professional said. “You give back. It ain't a lot. Plus, do you want me to crack up doin' nuthin'? Ya keep busy, ya stay in shape — I got an injured leg here. And it makes me happy.”

His cousin plows sidewalks between Hicks and Columbia streets with a snowblower, and his wife shovels neighbors' steps. Formisano even crosses into Carroll Gardens to clear streets in front of the 76th Precinct, he said.



MR. PLOW: (Above) Louie Formisano bought a plow-fitted Jeep Wrangler purely for pushing snow. He also has three four-wheelers (left) with plows, canopies, and even a salt-spreader. (Right) His block went unplowed for a stretch at the storm's peak at midnight, Jan. 24, but that was a fluke, officials said.

Community News Group / Max Jaeger



Formisano does such a bang-up job that the sanitation department doesn't need to plow his block, his wife said. And indeed, by the stroke of midnight on Jan. 24, every block around Formisano's was freshly plowed, but New York's Strongest hadn't hit his street in as many as 12 hours, the city's plow-tracking app Plow NYC showed.

But that was a fluke, a sanitation official said.

“We don't skip any streets — even if anyone goes out and does it,” said spokesman Chief Keith Mellis. “Any street that's been mapped out by the city — we still plow.”

Neighbors, who described Formisano as the block's unofficial “mayor,” understandably appreciate his efforts.

“It's great, Lou's always helping everybody — it's a great sense of community on this block,” said Michael Gidaly, who lives across the street.

But the extra care Formisano takes on his own street makes it a hotbed for post-storm drivers, his wife said.

“We'll be the cleanest block when the snow stops,” said wife Regina. “And then everybody in the neighborhood wants to park on our block.”



Raisa Chernina
HONORED
2011



Rene McClure
HONORED
2013



Nicole Robinson-Etienne
HONORED
2013



Nina Rodriguez
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FB

Controversial school being investigated by state government

BY LAUREN GILL

The State University of New York has launched an investigation into the discipline policies at controversial charter school network Success Academy, following reports and a lawsuit alleging faculty at its Fort Greene location have used heavy-handed punishment to push difficult and disabled students out.

News of the inquiry also comes a month after the school district's parental advisory board demanded the university's Charter School Institute — which licenses the Success schools — probe the outpost, claiming it too had heard troubling reports. The institute's director says the numerous allegations were too serious to ignore.

"The investigation is taking place because SUNY Charter Schools Institute has received a lot of community input from multiple sources," said Mahati Tonk. "Given the nature of concerns raised, it is our responsibility as a charter school authorizer to investigate these concerns."

The charter network — which prides itself on high test scores and standards of student conduct — has been under heavy public scrutiny since a New York Times report in October revealed the principal of the Fort Greene branch once kept a "got-to-go" list singling out high-maintenance tykes, and claimed the school used frequent suspensions and repeated phone calls home to push parents to take such kids elsewhere.

Success honchos have consistently denied those claims, and say they put a stop to the list just days after it was created, then reprimanded the principal responsible — which is exactly what they believe the state probe will find.

"We are confident SUNY will find that Success Academy acted quickly and decisively to the list at Fort Greene and that our discipline policy provides for safe learning environments similar to what parents in Park Slope or the Upper East Side expect from their schools," said Success founder and former Manhattan Councilwoman Eva Moskowitz.

But the school won't just come under the microscope from regulators — four parents whose offspring were on the list also filed a suit against the charter school network, state, and now-former principal for \$2 million last month, with several claiming their kids have special needs, but the taxpayer-funded institution didn't make enough effort to accommodate



CHECKING THEIR WORK: The state is investigating charter school network Success Academy after complaints administrators at this Fort Greene campus push out difficult and disabled students.

Photo by Louise Wateridge

them, as is required by law.

One of the parents suing — who was also profiled in the Times piece — says she is happy to see the university is responding to their gripes, but doesn't think the inquiry will yield damning results because charter schools are such big business.

"I think it's a great effort, but I'm a realist," said Folake Ogundiran, who withdrew her then 6-year-old daughter from the school in 2014 after she claims faculty asked her to pick her up early multiple times a week when her daughter misbehaved. "I believe that SUNY will do what it needs to do so they were able to say that they did launch an investigation and they found 'x,y,z,' but I think they will probably side with Success."

The Fort Greene school isn't the only Success school in the borough under fire — a separate group of parents and Public Advocate Letitia James filed a federal civil complaint on Jan. 20, also alleging the network's schools failed to accommodate their special-needs kids, and also dealt with them via frequent suspensions and calls home.

Two of the 13 students in the complaint attend or attended Brooklyn schools — one in Crown Heights and one in Cobble Hill.

The charters of three Success schools across the city are up for renewal this year, including one in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Mahati said the investigation will wrap up before the university must make a decision.

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Go to www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org to find a School today!



BOROUGH WIDE

Shining diamond

Hats off to **Sister Helen Graham**, who will celebrate her 60th Jubilee as a **Maryknoll Sister** later this year. The borough daughter served for nearly 50 years in the Philippines, using her knowledge of scripture to shape the leaders of tomorrow at formation institutes, universities, and seminaries in the Philippines, as well as around the world.

Following her formation as a Maryknoll sister, Sister Helen served as secretary for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers from 1959 to 1963, and enrolled in Mary Rogers College in Maryknoll, N.Y., where she earned her bachelor's degree in education in 1967. Four years later she earned her master's degree in theology from Loyola School of Theology at Ate-Neo de Manila University. In 1983 she graduated from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, C.A., with an advanced master's degree in sacred theology, and in 1995 she completed her doctorate in biblical theology at the Loyola School of Theology.

Sister Helen co-founded Task Force Detainees, a mission partner of the Association of Major Superiors of the Philippines, when the nation was ruled by martial law, from 1972 to 1986. She visited political detainees, helped their families, and recorded accounts of torture and disappearances.

Sister Helen continues to teach sacred scriptures in the Philippines, at the Institute for Formation and Religious Studies, the Loyola School of Theology, and the Maryhill School of Theology.

Standing O wishes Sister Helen warm congratulations, and many more years of teaching and service.

25-year tradition that started with my mom, and I will be sure to continue the custom."

Standing O congratulates Monika and her bundle of joy, and gives their famous onesie a well-earned shout-out.

NYU Lutheran Family Health Services [150 55th St. at First Avenue in Sunset Park, (718) 630-7155].

New and improved rehab therapy

SUNSET PARK

Stroke patients suffering from loss of memory, speech, and motor functions can make a speedier recovery, thanks to innovative new technology at NYU Lutheran funded by a generous donation from the Northfield Bank Foundation.

The bank's \$23,990 grant bought the Bioness Integrated Therapy System — an engaging, electronic, rehabilita-



tive therapy tool combining the latest in touchscreen technology with programming that can improve a range of cognitive and motor functions

"We have various patient populations that can benefit from this technology, and it can be used by different therapists for a variety of different diagnoses," said Vincent Cavallaro, vice president of neurology and rehabilitation services at NYU Lutheran. "The Bioness system helps with gross motor improvement, eye movement, memory, coordination, and balance."

Physicians can now closely monitor activity and adjust the program based on the patient's progress, making it a win-win for borough patients.

"We realize how important this technology is for the people of Brooklyn," said Diane Senerchia, executive director of the Northfield Bank Foundation. "The need is here and we are invested in the community."

The best news?

Physical therapists, speech therapists, and occupational therapists will soon be able to use the Bioness Integrated Therapy System to help patients recover faster.

Standing O salutes Northfield Bank Foundation and says, "Thanks a bunch for the gift".

NYU Lutheran Family Health Services [150 55th St. at First Avenue in Sunset Park, (718) 630-7155].

SUNSET PARK

Cycle of Life

This onesie has been going strong for a quarter of a century! New mom Monika Rojas completed the cycle of life — at least for infant-wear! — when she passed down the special pink shirt she wore as a baby to her bundle of joy, Jaela, who



MOVE OVER THE TASSELS: The 2016 graduating class of St. Francis College celebrated with a Mass and commencement service held at St. Charles Borromeo Church on Jan. 14.

Gerald Galgan

Toss those mortar boards high

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Cheers and kudos to the 2016 graduating class at **St. Francis College**. The mass and commencement services were held at **St. Charles Borromeo Church** on Jan. 14.

Valedictorian **Chantell Chimbo** moved over her tassels and addressed the hundreds of family members, fellow students, and faculty members in her opening speech.

"We are part of a very small percentage of college graduates who have been exposed to more than just our textbooks," she said. "Molded into well-rounded and confident individuals, we are ready to start the next page of the new chapter of our story."

Chantell is also a member of the

St. Francis College Duns Scotus Honor Society, and was selected for two additional education honor societies: Sigma Beta Delta (International Business Management) and Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Economics).

Dr. Gerald Galgan, of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, offered this bit of wisdom to the graduates.

"You might wind up someplace different than you intended, but the wisdom gained at St. Francis will help you prosper no matter what path you follow," he said.

Standing O seconds that, and wishes all the students a bright and prosperous future.

St. Francis College [180 Remsen St. at Court Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 522-2300].

popped into the world on Dec. 8, 2015 at Lutheran Medical Center.

Jaela, weighing in at 7 pounds 8 ounces, was a perfect fit for the outfit that read, "Life Begins at Lutheran Medical Center," and which had been presented to Monika's mom when she was born back in 1991 as a souvenir from devoted staffers.

"It was a priceless keepsake for moms, letting them know that Lutheran is there for them every step of the way," said registered nurse Diane Koneschusky, president of women's and children's services.

Monika's onesie

has been handed down to multiple female newborns in the family, before returning full circle to her own baby girl.

"After me, it was first passed down to my mom's niece, who lives in the Dominican Republic," she said. "She was expecting a baby and my mom wanted to give her something special, so she decided to give away the shirt I wore when I was born at Lutheran, believing it would bring good luck."

Monika was surprised to learn of the jumper's genealogical journey while visiting her cousin in the Dominican Republic.

"I was surprised to learn that the very shirt my mom gave away to her niece was passed around for so many years in the family," she said. "It's a



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Windsor Terrace
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Two-family semi-detached marvel

Your chance to finally own your home — and collect rent

KINGS VIEW REALTY

New York magazine once quoted a source as stating, "Owning a house in Mill Basin is a mark of distinction, like saying 'I have a house in Beverly Hills.'"

By that standard, our featured dwelling is real estate bullion, enjoying an enviable spot in the heart of the tranquil, waterfront neighborhood hugged on all sides by water and jutting from the lip of Jamaica Bay in southeastern Brooklyn like an urban cliff.

Our semi-detached, two-family House of the Week — built in 1965 — is ideal for a smart buyer or investor looking for a remarkable holding in an exclusive neighborhood connected to the Belt Parkway by a drawbridge. A conversation starter, for sure!

This premium property is priced to sell and appointed with some fantastic features:



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Savvy buyers or investors will love this semi-detached, two-family home in rustic Mill Basin in southeastern Brooklyn.

- Six bedrooms (three over three).
- Four bathrooms.
- Full finished basement with separate entrance; can be used together with the first floor.

- Private yard.
- Shared driveway.
- Private parking for two cars.

The local history is equally charming: Canarsie Indians called the crescent-shaped re-

gion "equandito" or "broken lands" for its jumble of islands and wetlands.

In the mid-1600s, European settlers opened water mills and other industries on the marshlands their successors used for crabbing, fishing, and hauling lobsters. Mill Basin remained an industrial everglade until the 1960s when prescient developers tapped its real estate potential, mindful of preserving its rustic, seafaring vibe.

These days multi-million-dollar homes with Bentleys and Excaliburs parked in driveways, and pleasure boats docked in landscaped backyards, speak to the area's affluence, while a panorama of pretty properties — among them, our House of the Week — articulate its allure as an all-time American favorite.

For more information call Kings View Realty at (718) 692-4020.

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Men and women who learn about heart disease and how to reduce their risk stand a far greater chance of fighting the disease later in life.

Keep your heart strong into your golden years

Hear health should be a concern for people of all ages, but especially so for men and women over 50. That's because, according to the American Heart Association, even men and women who are free of cardiovascular disease at age 50 are at a significant lifetime risk of developing the disease.

But heart disease does not have to be an accepted byproduct of aging. For example, a 2014 study published in the American Heart Association journal *Circulation* found that maintaining or increasing physical activity after age 65 can improve the heart's well-being and lower risk of heart attack.

In addition to increasing physical activity as they age, older men and women who understand heart disease and learn to recognize its symptoms have a greater chance of minimizing its affects and lowering their risk of having a heart attack.

What are the symptoms of heart disease?

Heart disease is a blanket term used to describe a host of conditions, so symptoms vary depending on each individ-

ual condition. The following are some of the more widely known conditions and their symptoms:

Hypertension: Also known as high blood pressure, hypertension is a largely symptomless form of heart disease. The American Heart Association notes that the idea that hypertension produces symptoms such as difficulty sleeping, facial flushing, nervousness, and sweating is a misconception. Symptoms typically do not alert men and women to the presence of hypertension, highlighting the emphasis men and women should place on routine visits to the doctor's office, where their blood pressure can be taken.

Heart attack: The symptoms of a heart attack are different than the symptoms of heart disease that may lead to heart attack. The former can be found by visiting www.heart.org. Signs that you may be heading toward a heart attack include undue fatigue, palpitations (the sensation that your heart is skipping a beat or beating too rapidly), dyspnea (difficulty or labored breathing), chest pain or discomfort from increased activity.

Arrhythmia: Arrhythmia

means your heartbeat is irregular, and men and women often mistakenly believe arrhythmia only afflicts those who already have been diagnosed with heart disease or have had a heart attack. But arrhythmia can affect even those men and women who have healthy hearts and no history of cardiovascular disease. Symptoms of arrhythmia can vary greatly, from a single premature beat to a series of premature beats that occur in rapid succession. Arrhythmia that lasts long enough to affect heart function may include symptoms such as rapid heartbeat, fatigue, dizziness, lightheadedness, shortness of breath, and chest pain.

How can I protect my heart?

Heart healthy habits take some effort, but men and women can protect their hearts regardless of their ages:

Get sufficient exercise. At least 30 minutes of exercise per day can protect against disease.

Quit smoking. Smoking increases your risk for a host of ailments, including heart disease. Quitting is a great

Continued on page 27

Amazing facts about the heart

Every Valentine's Day homes and businesses dress up their decor with cupids and hearts to celebrate a day all about love and affection. The heart shape has been used to symbolically represent the human heart as the center of emotion and romantic love. Hearts symbolizing love can be traced back to the Middle Ages.



The heart works harder than any other muscle in the body.

Those familiar with human anatomy realize that an actual heart bares very little resemblance to the ideographic heart shape used in art and imagery. Similarly, the human heart really has nothing to do with human emotions. Despite this, there are many interesting components of the heart, and a man or woman truly cannot love or live without one.

The heart as an organ is relatively small in size. It is roughly the size of a fist and weighs only 11 ounces on average. Although diminutive, the heart is responsible for pumping 2,000 gallons of blood through 60,000 miles of blood vessels each day. It accomplishes this by beating 72 times a minute in a healthy adult. All of the cells in the body receive blood except for the corneas in the eye.

The heart works harder than any other muscle in the body. In a fetus, it begins beating at four weeks after conception and will not stop until a person's time of death. Even then, sometimes the heart can be revived. A heart can also continue to beat outside of the body provided it has an adequate oxygen supply.

Although many people refer to all of the blood vessels in their body as "veins," they're actually a combination of veins and arteries. Veins carry fresh, oxygenated blood to the body through arteries. The main artery leaving the left heart ventricle is called the aorta, while the main artery leaving the right ventricle is known as the pulmonary artery. Blood traveling back to the heart flows through veins after it has passed the lungs to pick up oxygen. The thumping noise that is heard while

the heart is beating is actually the chambers of the heart closing and opening as blood flows through.

While the heart may not be the cornerstone of emotions, it can be affected by feelings. Studies have shown that a "broken heart" is a real occurrence, according to Live Science. Bad news or a breakup with a loved one can put a person at increased risk for heart attack. This type of trauma releases stress hormones into the body that can stun the heart. Chest pain and shortness of breath ensue but can be remedied after some rest.

Conversely, laughter and positive feelings can be beneficial for the heart. Research has shown that a good laughing fit can cause the lining of the blood vessel walls — called the endothelium — to relax. This helps increase blood flow for up to 45 minutes afterward.

Although having a big heart colloquially means that a person is loving and goes out of his way for others, physically speaking, a big heart is unhealthy. An enlarged heart can be a sign of heart disease and compromise the heart's ability to pump blood effectively. Left untreated, it can lead to heart failure.

There is good reason to get amorous with a loved one on Valentine's Day or other times during the month. Being intimate can provide a physical workout, in some instances doubling a person's heart rate and burning up to 200 calories. That's the equivalent of a brisk 15-minute run.

Women experience symptoms of heart attack different from men's

Symptoms of a heart attack can include radiating pain down the arm and tightness in the chest. While these may be universally recognized symptoms of heart attacks for men, new studies have shown such symptoms are not necessarily what women can expect if they're having a heart attack.

Research indicates women may experience symptoms quite different from men when it comes to heart attacks. Dismissing the symptoms of a heart attack can delay life-saving actions. It is critical for women to recognize warning signs. Even when signs are subtle, the results can be deadly.

The American Heart Association notes that a heart attack occurs when blood flow that brings oxygen-rich blood to the heart is slowed down or cut off. Arteries that supply blood flow to the heart may

gradually become blocked by cholesterol, fat and plaque. The National Institutes of Health indicate women often experience new or unusual physical symptoms as early as a month before experiencing a heart attack.

Women's symptoms may not be as predictable as men's, but there are still some signs to consider:

- Sweating
- Pressure in the chest and back that may feel like a rope being tightened around the body
- Nausea
- Pain in the back, neck, jaw, or stomach
- Shortness of breath without having exerted yourself
- Lightheadedness
- Chest pain may be present, but fewer than 30 percent of women actually experience any pain in their chest
- Unusual fatigue
- Indigestion

• Sleep disturbances
If a woman experiences any of the above symptoms and suspects a heart attack, it is better to be safe than sorry. First, call 9-1-1 and make sure to follow the operator's instructions. Chew and swallow an aspirin (325 mg) if you have one available. Aspirin will prevent platelets in the blood from clotting and further blocking up an affected artery. This prevents any other heart muscle cells from dying from a clot obstruction.

If you suspect you are having a heart attack, do not drive yourself to the hospital. Wait for paramedics or have someone else drive if you have no other choice. Lie down and try to remain as calm as possible until emergency responders arrive. Be somewhere safe in case you lose consciousness and have the door unlocked so that EMTs can get inside your



Pain in the neck or jaw could be a sign of heart attack in women.

home should you lose consciousness.

One of the best ways to remain healthy with regard to heart attack is to take certain preventative measures to re-

duce your risk of heart attack. Quitting smoking, walking 30 minutes per day, and choosing foods that are lower in fat and dietary cholesterol can help prevent heart attacks.



Lung Cancer Screening at BRMI



BY DR. JOSEPH ABRAMS

Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer death in the United States. The National Lung Cancer Screening Trial (NLST) has established the ability of low-dose CT scans to decrease lung-specific mortality by 20% in a screened, high-risk population. Early detection is a proven, successful strategy.

Too many people wait until they experience symptoms, like a chronic cough, before they get a lung screening. By then, the cancer may be more difficult to treat and cure. That's why it is so important to schedule a lung screening.

Medical experts estimate that early screenings save thousands of lives each

year. It could save yours. If you're at risk, get a CT lung screening. Talk to your doctor about risk factors which determine how often you should be examined. Early screenings save lives. It absolutely matters.

A low-dose CT exam has a radiation dose of less than 3 mSv (millisieverts), which is less than the naturally occurring background radiation that a person receives for one year at sea level. The low-dose CT exam does not require intravenous contrast.

Who is an appropriate candidate for low-dose lung CT screening for lung cancer?

- Are you between the ages of 55 and 77?
- Did you smoke, on average, at least one pack

per day for 30 years (or 2 packs per day for 15 years)?

• Are you a current smoker, or has it been less than 15 years since you stopped smoking?

If you answered "Yes" to all of the above, you are encouraged to schedule a low-dose screening for lung cancer. Talk to your doctor, then call Bay Ridge Medical Imaging (BRMI) to schedule your screening.

Bay Ridge Medical Imaging (BRMI) performs low-dose lung CT to screen patients who are at high risk for lung cancer. BRMI was one of the first institutions in Brooklyn to be designated a lung cancer screening site. Patients benefit from going to a designated site, which meets the most stringent criteria for equipment

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Foods for a healthy ticker



Regularly consuming raisins may help lower your blood pressure.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, heart disease is the leading causing of death in both men and women. Certain factors beyond an individual's control, such as family history and age, affect his or her risk of developing heart disease, but men and women are not helpless against heart disease.

Diet can be a friend or foe with regard to heart disease. A bad diet may elevate a person's risk for high blood pressure, heart attack or stroke, while a diet rich in heart-healthy foods can lower that risk. The following are a handful of heart-healthy foods for men and women.

Raisins: Researchers from the Louisville Metabolic and Atherosclerosis Research Center found that consuming raisins three times a day may significantly lower blood pressure among individuals with mild increases in blood pressure. Raisins can help combat the growth of a type of bacteria that causes gum disease, which few people may know is linked to heart disease. In lieu of reaching for cookies or potato chips come snack time, opt for heart-healthy raisins instead.

Salmon: Though

its label as a fatty fish may lead some to question its nutritional properties, salmon is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which can decrease a person's risk of developing an abnormal heartbeat (arrhythmia), slightly lower blood pressure and slow the growth of atherosclerotic plaque, the buildup of which can contribute to heart attack, stroke or even death. Albacore tuna, herring and lake trout are additional examples of heart-healthy fatty fish.

Whole grains: Whole grains help men and women maintain healthy weights while lowering their risk for heart disease, making them perfect dietary additions for anyone who resolves to lose weight and protect their heart in the year ahead. According to the American Heart Association, whole grains — such as whole wheat, oats and oatmeal, rye, barley, and brown rice — are great sources of dietary fiber, while refined grains like white rice and enriched bread contain little fiber. That's an important distinction, as dietary fiber can improve blood cholesterol levels and lower risk of heart disease and stroke.

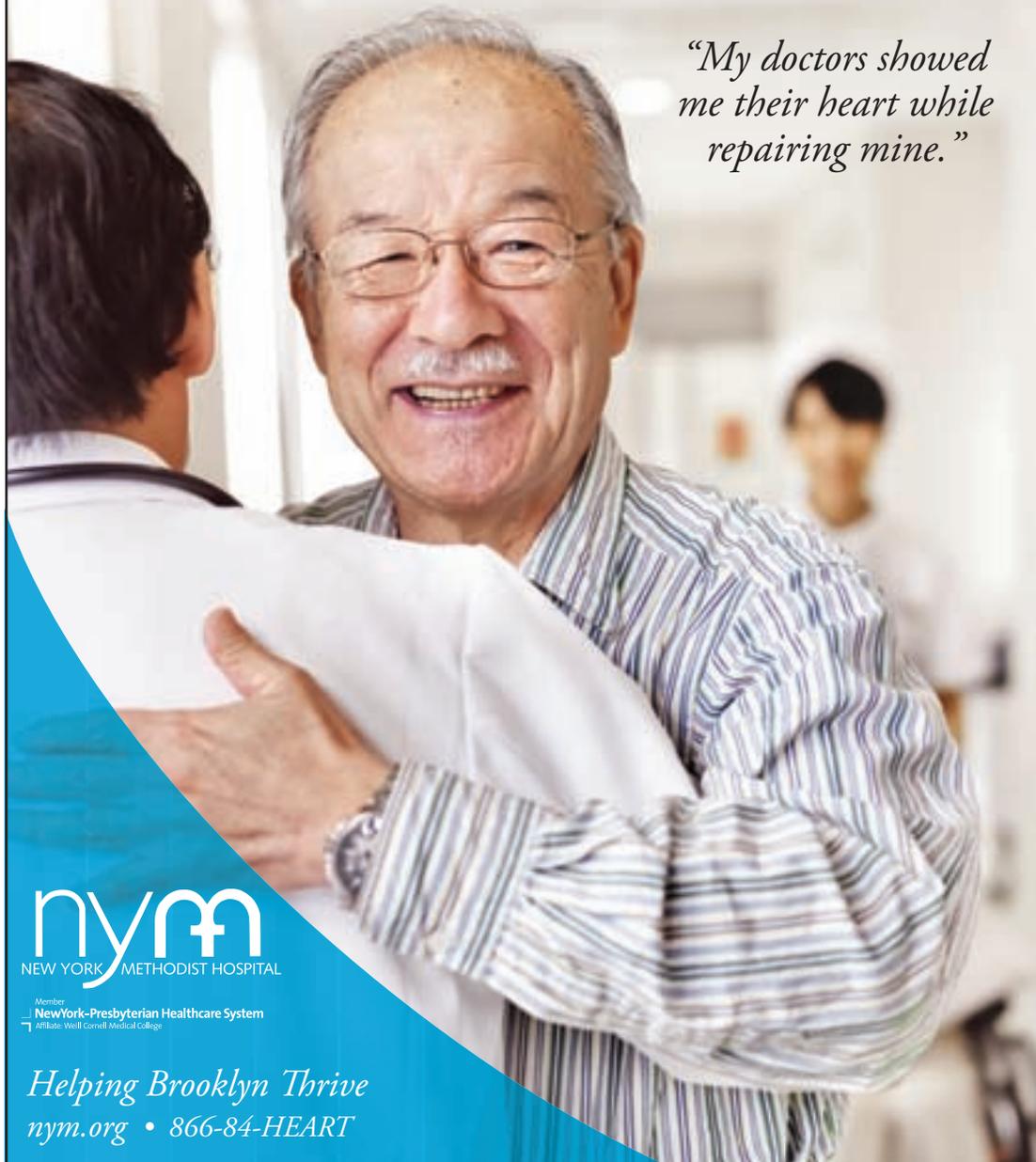
Tomatoes: Research-

ers at Boston's Tufts University analyzed more than a decade's worth of data in an effort to discover the effects of lycopene, which is the antioxidant responsible for giving tomatoes their familiar red color, on the cardiovascular system. They

ultimately discovered that people who regularly consumed foods with lycopene over an 11-year period reduced their risk of coronary heart disease by 26 percent. The lycopene found in tomatoes may be even more accessible when they are cooked.

EXCEPTIONAL HEART

The specialists at the New York Methodist-Cornell Heart Center offer a full range of heart care services in the most modern cardiac center in Brooklyn. They provide the newest procedures and technology for diagnosis and treatment, including medical management, balloon angioplasty stent placement, minimally invasive and cardiac surgery and transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) — all performed by exceptional specialists and surgeons.



“My doctors showed me their heart while repairing mine.”

STRONG

Continued from page 25

way to start getting your heart and other parts of your body back on track.

Include heart-healthy foods in your diet. A diet that is rich in fruits and vegetables and low in cholesterol, salt, and saturated fat promotes heart health.

Don't drink alcohol to excess. Like smoking, drinking alcohol to excess can lead to a host of problems, such as high blood pressure, arrhythmia, and high cholesterol, each of which increases your risk of

heart disease.

Lose weight. Being overweight or obese is a major risk factor for heart disease. If you have already started to exercise daily and eat a more heart-healthy diet, then you're on your way to losing weight. Consult your physician if diet and exercise don't seem to be helping you to shed pounds.

Heart disease kills millions of people across the globe each year, many of whom are over 50. But men and women who learn about heart disease and how to reduce their risk stand a far greater chance of fighting the disease.

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Heart disease No. 1 killer of women

American Heart Association campaign educating ladies about risks of condition

In 2004, the American Heart Association faced a challenge. Cardiovascular disease claimed the lives of nearly 500,000 American women each year, yet women were not paying attention. In fact, many even dismissed it as an older man's disease. To dispel the myths and raise awareness of heart disease and stroke as the number-one killer of women, the American Heart Association created Go Red For Women, a passionate, emotional, social initiative designed to empower women to take charge of their heart health.

This February, the Association will once again highlight women with its Go Red For Women campaign. What is Go Red For Women? Go Red For Women is the American Heart Association's national campaign

to increase awareness of heart disease — the leading cause of death for women — and to inspire women to take charge of their heart health. The grassroots campaign has since grown into a vibrant national movement as more women, men, celebrities, healthcare professionals, and politicians embrace and elevate the cause of women and heart disease. The yearlong campaign provides women of all generations with tips and information on healthy eating, exercise, and risk factor reduction, such as smoking cessation, weight maintenance, blood pressure control, and blood cholesterol management.

"Our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends are at risk. Heart disease and stroke cause one in three deaths among women each

year — more than all cancers combined. Fortunately, we can change that because 80 percent of cardiac and stroke events may be prevented with education and action" stated Dr. Suzanne Steinbaum, spokesperson for the American Heart Association and cardiologist and director of Women's Heart Health at the Heart and Vascular Institute, Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.

Go Red For Women inspires women to make lifestyle changes, mobilize communities, and shape policies to save lives. United, we are working to improve the health of all women. During Heart Month, schedule your well woman visit, a scheduled prevention check up to review your overall health where your doctor can measure blood pres-

sure, check cholesterol, and look for signs of heart disease, stroke, and other illnesses. Get informed about the risks of heart disease and stroke. Know the red flags. Know your heart health story.

Facts about cardiovascular diseases

- Cardiovascular diseases and stroke cause one in three women's deaths each year, killing approximately one woman every 80 seconds.

- Eighty percent of heart disease and stroke events may be prevented by lifestyle changes and education.

- Heart disease and stroke affect women of all ethnicities.

- Women who are involved with the Go Red

For Women movement live healthier lives.

- When you get involved in supporting Go Red For Women by advocating, fund-raising, and sharing your story, more lives are saved.

Go Red For Women encourages awareness of the issue of women and heart disease, and also action to save more lives. The movement harnesses the energy, passion, and power women have to band together and collectively wipe out heart disease.

It challenges them to know their risk for heart disease and take action to reduce their personal risk. It also gives them the tools they need to lead a heart healthy life.

For more information, visit GoRedForWomen.org or call (888) 694-3278.

NYM's Diabetes Experts Help Seniors Take a Close Look at Diet

More than ten million Americans over the age of 65 live with diabetes. Twenty million more have prediabetes, which, without the proper steps, can lead to development of the disease. Whether one is managing diabetes, or trying to stave it off, maintaining a healthy diet is crucial, but identifying foods that are healthy is not always easy.

"Patients with prediabetes or diabetes may pay a high price due to misleading nutrition information," says Mark Doublet, R.D., diabetes educator at New York Methodist Hospital (NYM). "For example, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) permits manufacturers to advertise that a product has 'zero grams of trans fat' if the amount of trans fat per serving is 0.5 grams or less. As a result, a conscientious patient with diabetes or prediabetes may be eating an unhealthy amount of trans fat while thinking that he or she is eating none at all!"



Mark Doublet, R.D., New York Methodist Hospital diabetes educator and dietitian, meets with a patient.

"Most of the time, when foods are labeled as 'no sugar,' people think that means there are no carbohydrates, but these are two very different things," adds NYM endocrinologist Farida Khan, M.D. "Patients with prediabetes or diabetes

need to restrict carbohydrates in general. Bread, potato chips, and other 'low-sugar' or 'sugar-free' foods may not taste sweet, but the starchy carbohydrates in them turn into sugar in the bloodstream."

A close evaluation and ad-

justment of a patient's diet and nutrition plan is often part of the treatment at NYM's Diabetes Education and Resource Centeran American Diabetes Association-recognized self-management program. The Center's staff includes endocri-

nologists, diabetes educators and nutritionists, who collaborate to develop diabetes self-management plans for each individual patient based on his or her needs

"The stakes in the fight against diabetes are high," says Edmund Giegerich, M.D., chief of endocrinology at NYM and medical director of the Center. "Long term complications can include kidney failure, heart disease, vision loss, osteoporosis, and nerve damage. Prevention depends on patients' ability to manage their condition independently, prudently, and precisely. Developing a nutrition plan is a priority in this process."

To make an appointment at the Diabetes Education and Resource Center at NYM, call 718.246.8603. To find a physician affiliated with the Hospital's Institute for Diabetes and Other Endocrine Disorders, call 866.4GLAND2 (866.445.2632). — New York Methodist Hospital



A doctor may prescribe niacin to treat high cholesterol for patients at risk of heart disease.

The role of niacin in healthy living

Many components of healthy living can reduce a person's risk of heart disease. For people who have high cholesterol levels, prescription medication has long been relied on to keep those levels in check. However, there may be other options at a person's disposal, including a common B vitamin.

While it isn't as well known as many of the statin drugs used to treat high cholesterol, niacin is a cholesterol-busting vitamin that has been recommended for its ability to lower cholesterol levels for years. Also known as nicotinic acid, niacin is a member of the complex B-vitamin family. Many people get the recommended daily allowance of niacin from their diets, especially those who routinely eat fortified cereals, lean meats and green leafy vegetables. Higher levels of niacin that can be prescribed by a doctor can be effective in reducing cholesterol levels by slowing the breakdown

of triglycerides, a type of fat found in the blood. According to doctors at Harvard Medical School, niacin decreases triglycerides by 30 to 60 percent. It also decreases LDL, often referred to as "bad cholesterol," by 15 to 20 percent, while raising HDL, or "good cholesterol," by 15 to 35 percent. The body requires as much as 1,000 to 2,000 mg of niacin for the vitamin to be effective, which means it can only be used under a doctor's supervision.

It is important to note that high levels of niacin can cause some side effects, including headaches and flushing, a red, hot rash that forms on the face for up to 30 minutes after dosing. Those with gout, diabetes or peptic ulcers may find symptoms worsen, and those with chronic liver disease or certain other conditions should avoid niacin. For the average patient, after about two weeks of therapy, flushing and the headaches may be reduced as the body learns to tolerate niacin.

Cardiac arrest vs. heart attack

Cardiac arrest is the abrupt loss of heart function in a person who may or may not have diagnosed heart disease.

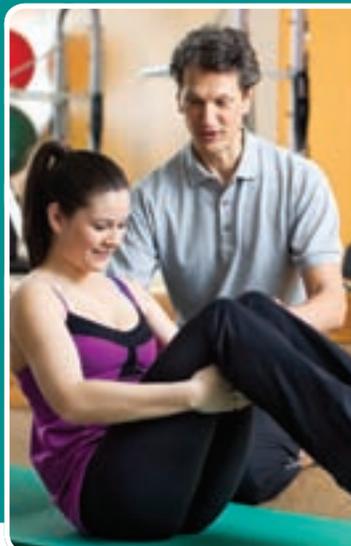
Heart attacks can cause cardiac arrest and even lead to death, but the cause of heart attack and cardiac arrest are different. According to the American Heart Association, heart attacks are caused by a blockage that stops blood from flowing to the heart. Heart muscle tissue dies because of this lack of blood supply, but heart attacks do not always re-

sult in death.

Cardiac arrest is caused by an electrical malfunction of the heart, which suddenly stops working properly. This can be arrhythmia, a condition that occurs when the heart beats irregularly or abnormally. Once the heart has stopped during cardiac arrest, death can occur within minutes. However, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, can reverse cardiac arrest. A defibrillator will be used to shock the heart, which can restore the it to a normal rhythm.

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Daily exercise is one way men and women can prevent the onset of heart disease.

'Heart disease' describes numerous conditions

Few people are unaware of heart disease and its potentially devastating effects. But many people may not know that the term "heart disease" is a blanket term used to describe several health problems related to the heart.

According to the World Health Organization, ischaemic heart disease, which is characterized by a reduced blood supply to the heart, is the leading cause of death across the globe. Though many conditions are characterized as ischaemic heart disease, many others are not, and the World Health Organization notes that other heart conditions, including stroke, are also among the top 10 most deadly diseases in the world. The following is a rundown of some of the more common heart conditions:

Angina

Angina occurs when a person has chest pain or discomfort around his heart because the muscle is not getting enough oxygen-rich blood. Angina can be a byproduct of elevated levels of stress or overexertion and may even be caused by clogged arteries. All cases of angina are not the same.

Stable angina is the most common form, and usually follows a pattern that is common among patients. Unstable angina is less predictable, while variant angina, the rarest form of the condition, occurs while a person is at rest. Rest and medicine are at the root of treating angina, which is more easily treated once its cause has been determined.

Atherosclerosis

Atherosclerosis is characterized by the buildup of fatty materials in the arterial walls. This fatty material can harden over time, restricting blood flow and resulting in calcium deposits.

Daily exercise and a healthy diet void of high-fat, high-cholesterol foods are two ways to prevent or

treat atherosclerosis.

Cardiac arrest

Cardiac arrest is a culmination of several heart conditions, including angina and atherosclerosis.

Cardiac arrest occurs when blood and oxygen are unable to reach the heart. Chest discomfort; discomfort in other areas of the upper body, including the arms, back, neck or jaw; shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort; and nausea or lightheadedness may all be indicators that a person is going into cardiac arrest.

Hypertension

Also known as high blood pressure, hypertension is a relatively common heart condition. Nearly every adult has likely received a blood pressure reading at one point in his life. That reading measures the systolic pressure, which is the pressure created when the heart beats, and the diastolic pressure, which is the pressure in the heart when it is at rest.

A blood pressure above 120 over 80 is considered high, and that high figure might be caused by salt and water levels in the body and the condition of the body's kidneys, nervous system, and blood vessels, as well as the body's hormone levels. Treating hypertension is relatively simple, as a doctor will typically recommend some dietary changes and may even prescribe medication for those patients with especially high blood pressure.

Stroke

Stroke occurs when the blood supply to any part of the brain is interrupted. Potentially deadly, stroke can cause paralysis as well.

Trouble speaking, loss of coordination, and trouble moving limbs may be indicative of stroke, which is considered a medical emergency that requires immediate medical help.



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Ciao to Fiorentino's! Thanks for the dolce vita!

To the editor,

Fiorentino's Italian restaurant had delicious food, the price was right and it was nearby. What more could you want ("Pasta la vista! Gravesend eatery Fiorentino's closes after 32 years," Jan. 13)?

My husband and I often dined there, and it is only one of many fine local establishments that have closed. Waldbaum's on Ocean Avenue recently closed its doors. We preferred it over Stop and Shop. It was smaller and had a great parking lot. It was never crowded, and we were in and out in no time.

Remember Richard Yee's Chinese restaurant on Avenue U? That's another neighborhood gem that closed its doors few years ago. I think it is still vacant. Its northern Chinese food was no comparison to the typical Brooklyn Chinese fare at other establishments. Don't get me started on the closing of some stores in the Trump Village shopping center where a condo is proposed.

We will miss Fiorentino's warm atmosphere, hot and crispy bread, and fabulous red sauce that only an Italian grandma could make! Next stop, Gargiulos! **Sherry Berkley Coney Island**

...

To the editor,

What's happening to Brighton Beach Avenue? About four years ago, there used to be a Met supermarket by Ocean Parkway and Brighton First Street that is no longer there. Two fruit stores — one on Brighton Seventh Street and the other between Brighton Sixth and Seventh streets — have also gone out of business. At one time there used to be an American restaurant called the Sea Gull — now also gone.

I have to take a bus to Coney Island or Sheepshead Bay to get to a supermarket. It looks like the average shopper will soon have no choice but to shop on the internet.

Elliott Abosh Brighton Beach

'Negative' Stan

To the editor,

How can Stanley Gershbein think Donald Trump would make a good president because he would choose

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 so we can confirm you sent the letter. We reserve the right to edit all correspondence, which becomes the property of Courier Life Publications.

SOUND OFF TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

wise advisors ("Critics of The Donald are all Trumped up," It's Only My Opinion, Jan. 8)? Trump doesn't listen to anyone who disagrees with him. He would choose Republican wannabees who are ignorant about science, poor people, and basic human rights. All Republicans suffer from T.N.T. — toxic, negative thinking. **Judith Braff Sheepshead Bay**

Shav's no 'insult'

To the editor,

Reader M. Muthana says columnist Shavana Abruzzo is an insult to her column, "A Britisher's View" ("Abruzzo's assault," Sound Off to the Editor, Jan. 15). The writer proceeds to indict Abruzzo for a continuous assault against Islam and Muslims, and goes on to draw a distinction between religions and their followers with, "I believe all religions are good ... it is their followers who make them look bad."

Is Muthana's selective blindness so great that he or she cannot see that the historical continued Muslim justification for anti-West sentiment is the behavior of the 11th century Crusaders? Who's waiting for an apology from King Richard the Lionheart? Please raise your hand from that 1,000-year-old grave. Must we, again and again, revisit the African slave trade to indict the U.K. and U.S.A. for its Judeo-Christian foundation, and sins long-buried in the oft-raided mausoleum of gross injustice and inhumanity? Muthama needs to be reminded that Islam means "submission to the will of Allah" and guess who's holding the sword of Islam to ensure that! You've got it!

I say that Abruzzo's mis-perceived "continuous assault" is an irritating reminder to Muslims everywhere that their "religion of peace" is like a matador concealing that sword under his cape, as he courageously approaches a weakened, delirious, bloodied bull. Instead of restraining the matador, all one hears from the stands is "kill the bull!" Translation: "Death To America!" Where is the uprising of the peaceful Muslim majority that will stand against the power-minority that intimidates them? **J. J. Lauria Sheepshead Bay**

...

To the editor,

I am enjoying the series of letters bantering back and forth about the so-called crimes of Christianity. True, over the past few hundred years certain Christian groups went

out, much like the Muslims today, to force religion on people. The unfortunate results of past inquisitions are well chronicled, and have made us a more understanding and compassionate people, today.

Everyone, no matter what religion or belief, must realize that in this century we are living in dangerous times, fraught with the peril of jihad, Muslim terrorist groups trying to build improvised dirty bombs, and an Islamic nation busy making nuclear materials under the guise of producing atomic power. All of this is being done to further their agenda of turning "infidels" to Islam. "Convert or die" is the rallying cry, as now thousands of Christians and Jews have been murdered. This torrent of death has even encompassed sects of Islam that do not belong to the Islamic State's intolerant philosophy. A few days ago to show their power over other religions, the Islamic State destroyed the oldest monastery in Iraq that had served for more than 1,500 years. In Egypt and other areas, ancient artifacts and structures from the era of the pharos have been looted, then leveled. All this to show their "religion of peace" is supreme.

Take a good look at the world today and you will find that charities fostered by American and European Christian and Jewish values are bringing comfort and aid to people suffering under these insane fighters. We are not marching in with hate in our hearts, singing "onward Christian soldiers." We have learned from our history to be better people. We will not dwell on past mistakes, as we look forward to a brighter and safe future. No doubt someday the war on Christianity, Judaism, and Islam will long be over, yet discussed in the history books and probably in this column down the road.

Robert W. Lobenstein Marine Park

Bull-n-Chirlame

To the editor,

Sorry to read that the mayor and his wife are dismayed that no African-American was nominated for an Oscar. Now we have to nominate people by race proportions? Excuse me. This should be based on their performances — same as any job performance in any workplace.

They are doing a disservice to former black Oscar winners Hattie McDaniel, Halle Berry, Monique, Sidney Poitier, Jennifer Hudson, Lou Gossett, Denzel Washington, Lupita N'yongo, Whoopi Goldberg, Jamie

Foxx, Octavia Spencer, and the others who have won this prestigious award. They were nominated and subsequently won because they deserved to win, not because of their racial make-up. True, there was controversy in 1954 when the late Dorothy Dandridge was nominated for "Carmen Jones," but I don't recollect fellow nominees Rupert Crosse, Diana Ross, Cicely Tyson and Harold E. Rollins, Jr. complaining when they lost in their respective categories.

How come Asian Americans aren't complaining that only Dr. Hsing S. Ngor and Miyoshi Umeki have won Oscars? Anna Mae Wong and France Nuyen were never nominated. I don't hear an uproar from Spanish people that only Rita Moreno, Javier Bardem, Penelope Cruz and possibly others have only won, along with Rosie Perez's nomination. Incidentally, Moreno, who won for "West Side Story," didn't do her own singing, but copped the supporting Oscar nonetheless, beating out the fabulous Judy Garland in "Judgment at Nuremberg." Remember Judy as Irene Hoffman on the witness stand? How about gay people complaining that the fabulous Sal Mineo lost for "Exodus" in 1960.

The whole situation is ridiculous. We have many more pressing problems to resolve, Mr. Mayor.

Ed Greenspan Sheepshead Bay

Chuggin' MTA

To the editor,

Your article about the 100th anniversary of subway service coming to Bay Ridge reminded me of what could have been ("Chug along! Ridge bar toasts R train centennial," online Jan. 15). Virtually no one remembers the long-forgotten proposed tunnel between 69th Street in Bay Ridge and St. George on Staten Island. The concept was to extend subway service from the Brooklyn B.M.T. line to Staten Island. Ground was broken with entrances at both ends in the 1920s, but the project quickly ran out of money and was abandoned to history.

When I lived on Shore Road in Bay Ridge, my friends and I would look to no avail in attempting to find the abandoned site filled in decades earlier. At that time the estimated cost was \$60 million. Flash forward 90 years later and it would cost \$6 billion. On the bright side, at least we have the future resumption of ferry service from Bay Ridge to Lower Manhattan as an alternative to the R subway line.

Larry Penner Great Neck, N.Y.

Trust your legacy to New York Community Trust

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Many of us love New York and want to give back somehow. Have you ever thought about creating a charitable legacy?

Would you like to make sure the elderly receive daily meals? Maybe you want to make college possible for needy students who are motivated. Or you want to support the city's parks. Or nurture the arts in Brooklyn.

All of these are great causes, sure, but how do YOU fund them? And what happens if the nonprofit group you admire today changes its mission or loses its leadership a few years from now?

The New York Community Trust can help you support the causes you care about long after you're gone. It's run by experts on the five boroughs as well as Long Island and Westchester.

It's the largest charitable group that focuses on the city and its suburbs, plus it lets donors decide how much they want to be involved in choosing the causes they support. It's been a pioneer in funding AIDS research, starting job training programs, and supporting community gardens that feed residents of housing projects.



Nicole Francis is many years from retiring, but she set up a fund in The Trust so that, after her death, the remainder of her estate will be used to support Brooklyn's elderly. **Photo by Jason Speakman**

It was also one of the first groups to support a project that was greeted with a lot of skepticism at first — the High Line, now beloved by New Yorkers and visitors.

The Trust has been meeting the needs of generous New Yorkers of all backgrounds since 1924, when Rosebel Schiff gave \$1,000 to create a fund in memory of her principal at PS 9. Schiff wanted a prize to go to a girl from the school who had

“earned the highest respect of her teachers.” That fund continues today.

In 1928, John D. Rockefeller Jr. set up a fund in The Trust with \$2.5 million dedicated to the memory of his mother. Nearly 90 years later, that fund still supports nonprofits across New York.

A current donor is Nicole Francis, who lives in Brooklyn. Born in California, she spent her childhood traveling around

the country, performing in a touring company of “Annie.” She dropped out of high school and came to New York as a teenager, worked selling mutual funds, then took a job at a bank. Then, to help others manage their money sensibly, she became a Certified Financial Planner.

Although she's many years from retiring, she set up a fund in The Trust so that, after her death, the remainder of her estate will be used to support Brooklyn's elderly.

“I'm certain that my money, which I worked so hard to earn, will be invested wisely and given out expertly by The Trust,” Francis said.

She recommends The Trust to her clients, as well. One Manhattan woman, for example, was an opera singer years ago. She planned to leave her money to a small opera company in New York, but it went bankrupt. She chose another opera company, and then it, too, had financial difficulties.

“I told my client, ‘You need a financial steward who honors your wishes year after year.’” And so, the woman set up a fund in the New York Community

Trust to help fledgling singers and opera productions. They'll be selected by The Trust's program officers.

The Trust has an expert staff that can speak to prospective donors about the best type of fund to set up, as well as the tax advantages. Some funds are for specific causes, such as helping the homeless or supporting projects in certain areas of the city. Others are simply to make New York a better place to live.

“Setting up a legacy does not mean that a person's heirs won't be taken care of,” Nicole Francis said. “My clients are glad they can leave an amount or a percentage for this purpose, or give specifics in their wills.”

She added, “If you want to make a difference in the community, you should use an organization New Yorkers have trusted for nine decades.”

She's confident the elderly in Brooklyn will have better lives, thanks to her decision to trust The New York Community Trust with her legacy.

New York Community Trust is in midtown Manhattan, waiting to help you help New York. Email info@nyct-cfi.org or call (212) 686-0010.

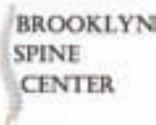
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Stan discovers Italy's other major religion

Lindsay Miller of Massachusetts showed up for her driver's license photo with a large spaghetti strainer on her head. She was ordered to remove it for the photo, but she refused. She argued before the authorities that it was her First Amendment right to wear it, because she is a member of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster.



IT'S ONLY MY OPINION

Stanley P. Gershbein

Huh? After a strenuous presentation, they permitted her to have her license photo taken wearing a colander.

I know that you think that I am kidding about this, but I assure you, I am not. Google it, and you will find that Ms. Miller, a member of this particular church, is also known as a Pastafarian. No! I did *not* say Rastafarian — I said *Pastafarian*, and you can Google it as soon as you stop giggling.

...

As of this writing, Donald Trump is still leading the national polls. My barber shop is one place where I have always heard some of the best political debates.

"Sure he's leading," my barber said. "American voters are the world's dumbest people."

"That is absolutely, positively, 100 percent correct," the guy in his chair said. "They elected Obama twice."

My thoughts on that: I would never disagree with the man holding sharp scissors and a straight razor while he is giving me a haircut.

...

I love saving money. Who doesn't? The people at American Airlines are repeating a special offer that they had for a limited time more than a year ago. If you take out a Citi Advantage Credit Card and spend \$3,000 in three months, the airline will award you 50,000 miles. I did just that, and between my insurance bill, groceries, theater tickets, and restaurants, I found it easy to spend the \$3,000.

A short time later, my roommate took one out. We used her card for our

expenses, and it didn't take long for us to spend another \$3,000. Now we had 100,000 miles — plus 6,000 miles awarded for the \$6,000 we spent between us. You may recall that I wrote about a two-week trip to Idaho and Montana last spring. The airline tickets would have been \$1,494.40, and we paid for those tickets with 66,000 frequent flier miles which we obtained via the Advantage credit cards. Starting with free airline tickets was a terrific way to go on vacation. Any questions?

...

British astronaut Tim Peaks was trying to telephone his family from space but accidentally dialed the wrong number. When grandmother Betty Barker answered, she heard Peaks say "Hello. Is this Planet Earth?"

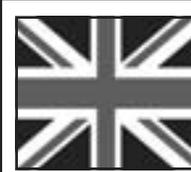
Thinking it was some drunk who was too plastered to dial the correct number, she said "No" and hung up on him. When she found out what happened, she was sorry. She said that it would have been nice to talk to a prestigious person like him. Realizing that we received a wrong number telephone call most of us just say "No!" and hang up. Not me. When a caller asks "Is this (718) 555-1234?" I am StanGershbein@Bell-south.net telling you that I politely respond with "No, but hello anyway."

Bay Ridge sob mob dishonors MLK

By now even quarks in black holes know Islamo-bedlam is the biggest threat to our civilization, but apologists in Bay Ridge sullied Martin Luther King Day with a neighborhood march against a perceived equal menace — Islamophobia.

Around 200 grassroots gladiators rallied against the atrocities allegedly being heaped on long-suffering American Muslims, although the latest FBI hate crime figures show that Muslims were targeted just 154 times in 2014 while Jews topped the list — as usual — with 609 incidents of anti-Semitism. But history's chronic scapegoats aren't sweating the small stuff.

Rallyers flipped their hijabs because a Muslim woman was allegedly kicked and spat on while waiting for a bus at 86th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway, Republican presidential candidates are pushing purported



A BRITISHER'S VIEW

Shavana Abruzzo

anti-Muslim agendas, and seven Muslim females were supposedly harassed after Islamo-extremists killed 14 and wounded 22 in the Dec. 2 terrorist attack in California. The cockeyed grievances are peanuts compared to the global cataclysm of Islamo-hate and violence that should rile civil rights warriors more than trumped-up charges of Islamophobia in a nation obsessed with the happiness of combustive communities.

Ridge crusaders should blow as much of a gasket about the Islamo-brutes responsible for the 153 attacks and 39 suicide blasts in 27 countries in the past month alone that killed 1,931 people and injured 1,714 more — reported by religionofpeace.

com — instead of ignoring the enormity of their barbarity:

•Let them growl at radical Islam for being an execrable blot on humanity.

•Let them yell at

the Muslim world for promoting anti-Semitism and Christian genocide in the Middle East.

•Let them snarl at Islamoscums for destroying heritage sites considered heretical.

•Let them roar at Islamopervs for sexually assaulting more than 520 women in Germany on New Year's Eve — and dress-down the imam who damned the victims.

Martin Luther King said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." To honor his memory the Ridge sob mob should have addressed the Islamo-facts instead of sounding off on the Islamo-fiction.

Follow me on Twitter @Brit-Shavana

New show 'Magicians' is abracadabra

What do you get when you throw in a bit of Hogwarts, a smattering of Narnia, a heavy dose of "Alphas," and just that slight touch of "Charmed?" The Syfy channel's latest offering — "The Magicians" — based on the book of the same name by Lev Grossman.

The premise is okay. A nerdy 20-something named Quentin Coldwater who doesn't seem to fit in with the real world lives in the fantasy book land of Fillaroy and must find his true nature and defeat the beast. Ho hum.

Quentin is on the way to a Princeton interview with BFF Julia when he stumbles upon a dead body and a manuscript — the sixth book in a series of books he is obsessed with. Oh my!

He has words with BFF Julia and they each go their separate ways. But lo and behold, both magically find their way to Brakebills College for Magical Pedagogy and are tested to find out their magic quotient. Sadly Julia washes out. What a surprise.

All in the background is the school's head master, who looks very much like Professor Dumbledore but without the long beard and robe (instead opting for a more conservative sport-



NOT FOR NUTHIN'

Joanna DelBuono

inferious curse anyone?) and a hop in a freezer, the mystery man introduces her to a higher-level magician, who I presume on the basis of the episode to be as evil as "He Who Must Not Be Named." And so it goes.

At Brakebills, Quentin meets a host of other chic, 20-something magicians who help or hinder his way. (I haven't fully sussed their ulterior motives yet). In either event, (spoiler alert here so look away if you must) the beast comes, the head master has his eyes gouged, (gory scene number two), Quentin faces expulsion, and the plot thickens.

Syfy was kind enough to put the first two episodes back to back to set the stage, and at this point, even though I have no overwhelming desire to view this wanna-be Harry Potter of a series, I am on the fence about setting the digital recorder to Monday night.

Not for Nuthin™, but I wish I had a little magic of my own — then I could let you know which are the best and worst ad spots for Superbowl 50 next week and where the Vince Lombardy trophy will reside.

Follow me on Twitter @JDelBuono.

coat-and-slacks look). He meets with a mysterious woman who looks very much like Professor McGonagall (also without a robe and hat) in a park in Manhattan, and they discuss the perils that face and how Quentin figures into the whole equation.

"But are they ready?" they ask.

Julia, on the other hand, is angry about washing out, but she finds someone who wants to tap into her magic. After some gory, magic juju with a dead body, (the

Fantastic Fruit's arrangements are beautiful and delicious gifts

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Now you can have your flowers, and eat them, too.

Floral Fantasy Florist and Decorators has introduced Fantastic Fruit, a new entity within its 30-year floral business. Patrons now have a choice — they can send traditional flowers, or they can send edible fruit floral arrangements. Some send both.

In fact, just in time for Valentine's Day, buy a dozen roses, and get a dozen chocolate-covered strawberries at half price.

The company's growth into the fruit business began with a phone call from 1-800-Flowers. Chris Longo, owner, said the company was asked if it would be interested in being trained to produce carved fruit arrangements that could be sent along with fresh floral bouquets. He agreed to do so. It was so successful, they built an entire stainless steel kitchen on the upper level of the store, and Fantastic Fruit was born.



Floral Fantasy Florist and Decorators has introduced Fantastic Fruit, a new entity within its 30-year floral business. Patrons can now send traditional flowers, edible fruit floral arrangements, or both.

Photo by Jordan Rathkopf

Here, pineapples are carved into hearts, and dipped in chocolate. There are star-shaped arrangements, and customized pieces. For example, a client recently celebrated a 33rd birthday, and pineapples were cut into the numerals 33. Many of the artistic arrangements are placed in re-

usable ceramic containers, mugs, vases, martini glasses, even colanders, so that these, too, are part of the gift. Others are covered with colorful sprinkles and swirls, making delightful presentations inside of square or heart-shaped boxes.

As the company is a one-stop shop where brides come

for flowers, fruit, and photographs, trays of chocolate-covered strawberries have been ordered for weddings, where they make scrumptious desserts. Others buy decorative fruit centerpieces for the holidays, perfect for gift-giving, and a great way to brighten a table in their own homes, too. As more people are looking to avoid heavy, calorie-laden desserts, fresh fruit is the perfect alternative.

Every fruit bouquet is sealed in a bag, encapsulating the freshness, and assuring it arrives intact. Pricing starts at \$39.99.

Customers can come in and select the arrangements they wish to purchase by looking at photographs at the shop. They can also get ideas from the website. If they have their own ideas, they can bring them in too, as Fantastic Fruit is happy to create customized pieces.

Fantastic Fruit is a family-run business. Longo is a

florist who learned the trade from his dad, James, who opened Floral Fantasy three decades ago. When he was growing up, Longo, dismissed from school, would head over to the shop to do "everything and anything." Eventually, he learned to literally push petals to the metal, creating colorful and intriguing arrangements. It was just a couple of years ago that he moved into the managerial position. His dad remains actively involved.

A loyalty program allows customers to "mix and match" floral and edible purchases, earning points for doing so. Make 10 purchases, and the 11th is free. Ask for details at the store.

Fantastic Fruit [3031 Quentin Rd. at E. 31st Street in Marine Park, (718) 998-7060, www.EatSomeFruit.com]. Open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 9 am-6:30 pm; Fridays, 9 am-7 pm; and Sundays, 9 am-3 pm.

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Swap one food for another – and lose weight!

It is a cruel joke that the Super Bowl comes just a little over a month after we have resolved to forsake all wings, chips, dip, pizza, soda, beer, cheese sticks, Cheez-Its, Cheetos, and anything else that is bright orange and vaguely food-like.

Ha.

That's why every year at about this time, the press turns its hungry eyes to Charles Platkin, a.k.a. The Diet Detective, a.k.a. Hunter College distinguished lecturer, to give us some of his trademark "equivalencies."

For instance: To work off the calories of a one-foot Italian sub sandwich would require you to walk the entire length of the Brooklyn Bridge — 14 times. That's a Dr. Platkin equivalency. So are these:

- Four swigs of Bud Light equals eight minutes of playing pro football.
- One handful of pita chips with artichoke dip equals running 141 football fields.
- Working off one measly Cheeto — one! — equals chanting and waving around a foam hand for two minutes.
- And God forbid you scarf



RHYMES WITH CRAZY

Lenore Skenazy

down four Domino's stuffed cheesy bacon jalapeno breadsticks — that requires 193 touchdown dances.

So how did Platkin, a lawyer, publisher, technologist, real estate guy, and bestselling author, become obsessed with translating calories into everyday (and sports-watching related) activities? It all started when he was young — and tubby.

"I remember my doctor say-

ing, 'You're not going to have a good social life, because you're fat,'" says Platkin. "And I was like, 'You don't know what you're talking about.' But the truth was, I was ostracized as a child."

He was still overweight in early adulthood when he decided to write a book on how to truly change your life. This was after he'd gotten the law degree, but still was floundering — and single.

"I was confused. I was thinking about changing behavior. I was overweight and had terrible relationships."

So, for three years, he researched how real behavior change happens.

He was finally ready to hand in his manuscript when he realized, "I hadn't changed one behavior of my own!" So he decided to actually follow his own advice and, at last, he started losing weight. He also realized that the fact he ended up "with difficult and strange kinds of women" had an underlying cause: Him.

"I'd always thought it was random."

Changing required that word we hear so often lately:

mindfulness. He had to pay attention to what he ate, and when. (And who he dated, and why.) He also had to stop feeling too embarrassed to ask for things like a plain grilled chicken breast when he went out to eat. In other words, he had to stop being ashamed to admit he knew he was fat and wanted to lose weight.

He folded his stories to the book and it became the best-seller, "Breaking the Pattern."

The great thing about mindfulness, Platkin says, is that you don't have to be mindful forever.

"If you had to Google Map every day to figure out what floor your office is on," that would be painful. (And you would need some other kind of help.) But after a short while, of course, you know the drill.

It's the same with figuring out what your food patterns are. And once you notice that every night, right before bed, you eat a bowl of Ben & Jerry's, well then, all you have to do is start figuring out a "food swap" — an alternative. For Platkin, he started making swaps just like the ones you can make on Super Bowl Sunday: Toasted

pita points instead of chips. Pizza without the mozzarella — add your own Parmesan. Slow-churned Breyers instead of Ben & Jerry's.

The idea is to concentrate not on what you can't have, but on what you can. And since we gobble down many foods without realizing just how fattening they are, he popularized the "equivalencies." FYI: One bowl of chili equals more than an hour of cheerleading.

These days Platkin is married and has a daughter. One day a couple years ago he was walking her to school and saw her holding her tummy in. He asked why. Well, of course she was practicing looking skinny.

"I just want you to know that you don't ever have to worry about dieting or any of these things," he told his daughter. Life is not about forsaking. It's about embracing who you are and what you love.

So long as it's not Domino's stuffed cheesy bacon jalapeno breadsticks.

Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker and author and founder of the book and blog Free-Range Kids.



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New York Harbor Watch



PRESENT ARMS: Spc. Kevin Palomera presents the Brigade Colors for Col. Jeffrey Holliday at the transfer of authority ceremony with the 185th Theater Aviation Brigade at Camp Buehring. 94th Airlift Wing

It's a change of command in Kuwait

HARBOR WATCH

The 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, or CAB, officially took charge of all aviation operations within U.S. Army Central's area of responsibility during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on Dec. 20.

More than 1,000 soldiers with the 40th CAB have replaced the 185th Theater Aviation Brigade, or TAB, in support of U.S. Army Central's mission of building partner capacity and promoting regional security.

The 40th CAB's command team, Col. Jeffrey Holliday and Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Eck, have officially taken the reigns from the 185th TAB's Col. Ronald Beckham and Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Ross.

"It's a great honor to take over this mission from the

185th TAB," Holliday said. "They did such an outstanding job of building relationships with our partners in the Middle East."

Shortly after the ceremony, the remaining soldiers of the 185th TAB left for home. The 185th TAB has been deployed to the Middle East since April.

The 40th CAB is headquartered in Fresno, Calif., but has been joined by men and women from all over the United States, including Arizona, Arkansas, Oregon, Montana, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia.

"The 40th CAB works diligently with our partner nations to stabilize the region, providing a unified front against any threat," said Capt. Robert Rodriguez, the 40th CAB partnership officer.

Deadline extended

Scholarship applications accepted until May 1



HATS OFF: 2013 Army Emergency Relief Scholarship recipients from the Fort Rucker area visited the Army Aviation Museum. Army Emergency Relief

HARBOR WATCH

Army Emergency Relief, or AER, has announced the opening of its scholarship application period. Applications will be accepted until May 1.

AER supports both the Spouse Scholarship Program, as well as the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children. Scholarship specifics and applications are available on AER's website.

The Spouse Scholarship can be used for full- or part-time students while the Ursano Scholarship is only for full-time students.

Last year AER awarded 4,245 scholarships, totaling more than \$9 million for spouses and children of soldiers.

"The entire scholarship process is online," said Tammy LaCroix, manager for AER's scholarship programs. "Applicants are able to create their own profile, submit their documentation online, and check their status, which is a huge time saver for both the applicants and the scholarship staff."

"This is a valuable opportunity for the children and spouses of soldiers," LaCroix said. "We saw an increase in the number of applications last

year and hope this trend continues this year."

The entire application package for the 2016-17 school year must be submitted online by May 1. This includes the application as well as the supporting documents.

Most applicants will need to provide transcripts (through the fall semester), according to LaCroix, along with a Student Aid Report, or SAR, from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as FAFSA. The sponsoring Soldier's Leave and Earnings Statement, or LES, should also be submitted for active-duty soldiers.



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- Kevin Steincross, FOX TV

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Army lab explores computer codes

HARBOR WATCH

Literature critics may know a writer by his style, in the same way a chunk of computer code is identified through a machine-learning algorithm according to its writer's nuances.

Writing style extends beyond prose, so that even in computer languages you could attribute work to its author in minutes with near perfect accuracy — in a lab.

That is what a team of university students tested during their time at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, or ARL, said Richard Harang, ARL network security researcher and technical lead.

"A tool kit that may one day help analysts to identify malware authors more quickly."

The code stylometry study that was presented by Aylin Caliskan-Islam at the 32nd Chaos Computer Conference looked at samples from 1,600 coders and, with 94 percent accuracy, could determine the author of a particular code excerpt. In a "top five suspects" match, the precision was near perfect.

The research also examined executable binary authorship attribution from the standpoint of machine learning, using a novel set of features that include ones obtained by decompiling the executable binary to source code, showing that many features in source code could be extracted from decompiled executable binary, according to their recent paper, "When coding style survives compilation: De-anonymizing programmers from executable binaries."

The team — including Caliskan-Islam, a Princeton



BREAKING CODES: US Army Research Laboratory network security and academic researchers are in search of a tool kit that may help analysts identify malware authors.

Army Research

University post-doctoral candidate who started working on the project as a graduate student; Fabian Yamaguchi, from the University of Göttingen; and Edwin Dauber from Drexel University — is trying to address the problem of identifying the author of malicious code and software.

The next step in this fundamental research will be to extend the current result to more flexible working conditions.

"Attribution is a real challenge [as opposed to detection], as it is done manually by experts who have to reconcile forensics following an attack," Harang said. "Currently, human analysis is the common tool. It works, but it can be slow and take a lot of resources. We are developing a toolkit to make it a lot faster and cheaper to support analysts in identifying bad actors."

A limitation is that success is dependent upon having existing samples from potential authors. Another challenge for the future is to consider the tricks used by malware authors

Continued on page 3



LEARNING THE PROGRAM: Debbi Nash-King, a family readiness support assistant, meets with Sgt. First Class Gregory Ramirez to discuss family readiness throughout the brigade. Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

Covering all bases

Readiness team prepares families for move

HARBOR WATCH

Family readiness leaders and volunteers with 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, or ABCT, 1st Cavalry Division, are ramping up to ensure soldiers and families are prepared and supported during the brigade's nine-month rotation to South Korea.

"In preparation for this deployment, we've conducted two deployment fairs for families with local agencies, such as Red Cross, Child and Youth Services, Tricare, legal assistance, and many others," said Debbi Nash-King, family readiness support assistant, 1st ABCT, 1st Cavalry Division. "Our family readiness groups, or FRGs, are ready to engage."

Families can face many challenges when soldiers are

deployed, such as navigating a seemingly complex military system for medical care, pay issues, replacing identification cards and paperwork, and many other hurdles, as well as external challenges such as vehicle and home maintenance, bills and childcare.

"Everything you need to survive a deployment begins with participating in your family readiness group," said Nash-King, a native of Pine Bluff, Ark. "The resources we have to offer can make life easier when a piece of the puzzle is missing."

Capt. Cathy Zimmerman, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st ABCT, has been on both sides of the fence. She's been the spouse of a deployed soldier and has deployed herself.

Her husband, Capt. Steve Thompson, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 8th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd ABCT, is deployed to South Korea.

"The FRGs are a foundation for our families to build on so we can support each other through a difficult time," said Zimmerman, who serves as an assistant FRG leader in her husband's company's FRG.

Besides participating in the FRG, Zimmerman had one other piece of advice for surviving a deployment.

"Just be involved," said Zimmerman, a native of Simi Valley, Calif. "Keep an open communication flow of daily business. Don't let your spouse be out of the loop."

Junior reserve team vies for first place

HARBOR WATCH

From crawling through sand to climbing ropes and pushing 7,000 pound trucks, cadets from local Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, or JROTC, units got a taste of Army training in a competition that pitted three local schools against each other.

The Fort Rucker Non-commissioned, or NCO, Academy, or NCOA, hosted its first JROTC competi-

tion on Jan. 8, where cadets from Daleville, Enterprise and Carroll High Schools took on the obstacle course and competed for top honors, said 1st Sgt. Carl Miller, NCOA deputy commandant.

"We wanted to do some sort of outreach to the local JROTC groups because we want to be a bigger part of the community, and what better way to do it than going to the local high schools, reaching out to those orga-

nizations and bringing them here for this competition," Miller said. "We want to invest into those people who have already shown the propensity to want to serve, and not only invest into those programs, but those programs can get to know each other a little bit better."

Cadets from each school had to take on the obstacle course, complete with sand crawl, reverse climb, tire run, wall climb and rope

climb. Following the course, cadets had to work as a team to perform tasks such as group pushups, Skedco pull, and finally a 7,000-pound truck push.

Of the three schools, Enterprise High School came out on top, but the school's cadets knew that it was no single effort to pull out a win.

"It's nice to come out on top — we really weren't expecting to win, but we

Continued on page 3



DROP AND GIVE ME 10!: Cadets from the Enterprise High School's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps work to perform group push-ups during the academy's first competition on Jan. 8. Nathan Pfau

Sharing a seat of prominence

Reservist invited to sit next to Mrs. Obama at State of the Union address

HARBOR WATCH

Maj. Lisa Jaster, an Army Reserve officer and the third woman to graduate the Army's elite Ranger School, was among 23 guests invited to sit with Michelle Obama during the State of the Union address on Jan. 12.

"Hopefully I can be cool," she said before the speech. "I think it's a huge honor. And I look forward to it."

Normally there would be 24 guests sitting with the first lady. However, during President Obama's last State of the Union, there were only 23. Like the Army often does during a formal banquet, where a seat at the table is left empty to represent soldiers who have been killed in action, the first lady left a seat to her left empty, to represent civilians who have been killed through gun violence.

In October 2015, Jaster, an engineering officer and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, became the third female soldier



HE AINT' HEAVY: Maj. Lisa Jaster, an Army reservist, performs a fireman's carry on a simulated casualty during the ranger course at Ft. Benning. Spc. Dacotah Lane

to graduate Ranger School. It's an accomplishment she said she'd been preparing for most of her life, even before she knew she wanted to go to the school.

"I've worked out. I took a weightlifting class in high school. I've always enjoyed

physical challenges," she said. "I've always been interested in tactics. One of the reasons I love being an engineer[ing] officer is because part of our job is to build the battlespace for the tip of the spear. So my preparation for Ranger School

started well before the concept of Ranger School came into my mind."

When she learned from a first sergeant that the course had opened up to women, she said, she knew she wanted to attend. Her husband, a Marine Corps officer, agreed.

"The very first response my husband had was 'you were made to do this, Lisa.'"

Last year, the defense secretary announced that all military jobs across all services would be opened to women. That's something Jaster said she hadn't believed would ever happen during her time in uniform. But had those options been open to her when she was enrolled at West Point, before she got her commission, she said she thinks not much would have changed for her. She'd still want to be the engineering officer she is today, she said.

"In all honesty, I love being an engineer[ing] officer," she said. "But I definitely would have gone to all the cool

schools. That was just my personality back then, and 16 years later, it hasn't changed. I definitely would have tried to go to all the schools. And while on active duty, I would have tried to get company command of a Sapper unit, which is now open to women, but wasn't back then. And I would have tried to be in more forward units than were allowed."

Sitting with Jaster in the first lady's box at the State of the Union were three other Army veterans: Naveed Shah, Earl Smith, and Oscar Vazquez.

Shah, born in Saudi Arabia, came to the United States as a boy. He was just 13 when the 9-11 terrorist attacks took place and said the experience drove him to serve his new country.

"Their fear stuck with me and made me feel like joining the Army was something that would allow me to give back to a country that has given me so many opportunities," Shah said.

TEAM

Continued from page 2

pulled together as a team and we pulled it off," said Tristan Skala, Enterprise JROTC.

For fellow cadet Lynn Donaldson, the competition wasn't just about cheering on your own team, but about helping everyone involved to stay motivated.

"I think we all worked well together and we just encouraged each other throughout the competition," she said. "We also

encouraged the other teams. When you encourage other teams, as well as yourselves, it gives you a lot of a confidence boost knowing that you're there for each other."

Also, going into the competition, Donaldson said it was less about brawn and more about brain.

"It's more than just about getting out here and knowing that you have the muscles and you can do this," she said. "It's a lot about mental preparedness. I came out here thinking I'm just

going to do what I have to do, and I came out and pushed what I needed to push, and it just showed me that I have to go in mentally prepared, not just for this competition, but for everything in life."

In the end, Miller said the competition was less about who was able to come out on top, and more about how well the cadets were able to work together and support one another, something he said he was proud to see occurring throughout the competition.

CODES

Continued from page 2

to heavily obfuscate, or mask, the software, as well as to extend the experiments to code written by multiple authors.

The goal for ARL is to develop basic and applied science and tools to defend Army networks, said Jerry Clarke, chief of ARL's Network Security Branch.

This is fast-moving research and the study is making strides, Harang said.

They have demonstrated that authorship attribution can be performed on real-world code found "in the wild" by performing attribution on single-author GitHub repositories, according to the findings.

"This basic research shows that identifying authors of computer

programs based on coding style is possible and worth pursuing," Harang said. "This is collaborative research that builds upon a lot of good work before us."

Professor Rachel Greenstadt at Drexel has been very active in this research, as well as contributions from Professor Arvind Narayanan at Princeton and Professor Konrad Rieck from the University of Gottingen.

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SEVEN

Wired

art

Exhibit portrays artists as cyborgs

By Phil Smrek

He can rebuild them! A Bushwick photographer depicts Nairobi artists as super-human cyborgs in a new exhibit opening in Dumbo on Feb. 4. The Kenyan-born creator of the “Jua Kali” exhibit says that his fanciful images provide a view of his home country that stands in contrast to many media portrayals.

“I’ve always wanted to depict Nairobi as this fantastic place with characters that can achieve anything — and moreover, depict my country differently from what you see in the media,” said Tahir Karmali. “Nairobi is a growing metropolis that has created revolutionary technology and solutions for the African continent.”

The show takes its title and inspiration from the Kenyan capital’s informal economy of laborers who provide goods from reclaimed waste material — much of it electronic waste from the United States. The words “Jua Kali” — Swahili for “fierce sun” — refers to those workers because of the scorching daytime conditions under which they work.

The 29-year-old photographer scoured through Nairobi junk yards and trash heaps to select items that resonate with his theme, such as spark plugs, electrical wiring and hard drives. He immediately photographed each bit of refuse against a sheet of white paper.

He also photographed members of the African city’s creative class, including dancers, painters, entrepreneurs, and musicians, applying a tribal face paint to them before each shoot. He then combined the photos digitally, adorning his subjects with gears, wires, and circuit boards.

The resulting mix of human and machine results in “characters that are somewhat superhuman,” he said, reflecting the heroic challenges the artists face in Nairobi.

“Through their talents they overcome obstacles presented to them economically. For me it symbolizes perseverance and resilience that the Jua Kali workers embody,” he said.

The enormous final images, each three feet tall, have a rich color that looks almost painted.

Karmali, who is pursuing a Masters degree in photography at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, plans to return to Kenya after graduation.

“Jua Kali” at United Photo Industries Gallery [16 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 801-8099, www.unitedphotoindustries.com]. Opening reception Feb 4 at 6 pm. Exhibit runs until March 26.

Iron circle: The subjects of Tahir Karmali’s modified photos, on display in Dumbo starting on Feb. 4, are adorned with reclaimed materials taken from Nairobi trash heaps.

Tahir Carl Karmali

BATTLE STARS

Pro wrestlers ready to rumble in Bath Beach

By Colin Mixson

Call it Bash Beach! New York City's greatest grapplers will converge on St. Finbar Church in Bath Beach on Feb. 5 for a battle of epic proportions. The conflict between the Herculean bruisers of Five Borough Wrestling will determine which among them is the mightiest brawler in town.

"We're going to find out who's the best wrestler in New York," said Troy Thompson, 23, a Marine Park native who founded Five Borough Wrestling. "There will be a ton of action."

The local professional wrestling league, which has staged monthly bouts for the last two years, has all the features of televised national leagues, including over-the-top characters, finishing moves, and stories that pit heroic "faces" against villainous "heels."

Thompson records the drama that occurs outside of the ring for the Five Boroughs Wrestling Facebook page, so newcomers to the body-slam scene can catch up on the ongoing conflicts that give context to the mayhem.

"I'll put up a video so, even if you're new, you can get caught up on the storyline, and say, 'Oh I remember, they hate each other,'" said Thompson.

At the "Standing Tall" brawl on Feb. 5, the biggest beef will be between defending champion Brian Myers and Bay Ridge challenger Kevin Matthews. The two have an on-again, off-again friendship that has soured into pure hatred over their competition for the championship belt.

"We were friends once, then enemies, then friends, and now we're enemies again," said Matthews.



Friday night fight: The St. Finbar Church in Bath Beach will become a Five Borough Wrestling battle ground on Feb. 5. In this photo, wrestler Kevin Matthews (bottom) performs his signature move, the Ego Driver, on his hapless opponent.

Fans at these match ups are notoriously vocal about their love — and loathing — of the wrestlers, and fighters are forced to roll with the proverbial punches if they hope to survive the limelight, according to Matthews.

"With the crowd Troy gets, if you suck, you're going to get crucified," the wrestler said. "They'll chant 'Don't come back,' and shove a middle finger in your face."

For Matthews, a born-to-wrestle brawler who started training at age 16, his cockiness and devil-may-care attitude turned the crowd's antipathy into outrageous support, he said.

"I was a bad guy forever, and I kept giving all these gestures to the crowd. I would pretend to jerk off when they gave me the middle finger, and

shoot snot rockets, and they thought it was awesome," said Matthews. "So I became a good guy, but I never switched off my antics."

The Bath Beach rumble will feature six one-on-one and two-on-two match ups, plus an apocalyptic 30-man free-for-all, with a new wrestler entering the stage every 30 seconds in a bid to hurl the competition out of the ring, Thompson said.

"The free-for-all is the big selling point for the evening," said Thompson. "It's the first one we've ever done, and it should be pretty crazy."

"Standing Tall" at St. Finbar Church [138 Bay 20th St. between Benson and Bath avenues in Bath Beach, (718) 236-3312]. Feb. 5 at 8 pm. \$20 (\$30 front row).

The top rope line-up!

By Colin Mixson

More than 30 wrestlers will enter the squared circle at St. Finbar on Feb. 5. Here are a few notable grapplers to keep an eye on:

Brian Myers

An eight-year veteran of World Wrestling Entertainment, and Five Borough Wrestling's current reigning champ, Brian Myers is an unstoppable warrior of righteousness. His signature move is the Spear, a sprinting shoulder tackle capable of stunning his Standing Tall opponents, and destroying lesser men.

Kevin Matthews

Once loathed by wrestling fans, Kevin Matthews reveled in their disdain and flung it back in their face with a flurry of obscene gestures, which ironically won their applause and approval. Now this Bay Ridge bruiser is poised to unseat his one-time friend Brian Myers from his position as Five Borough Wrestling's World Title champ. Matthew's signature move is the Ego Driver, a modified pile-driver that drops his opponents brutally onto his knees.

Rude Boy Riley

A born crowd pleaser, Riley can be accurately described as a pretty-boy — just not to his face! The Staten Island stallion lives to hype up the crowd. Riley's go-to move is a body toss that sends his opponent flying into the air, only to land head-first on the pretty-boy's knee.

The Greek God Papa Don

Papa Don may not be a god, but he is Greek and he plays the ultimate bad guy. Reviled by wrestling fans for his ostentatious entrances, Papa Don commands his audiences to bow down before his magnificence — but he usually only gets booed. The Don's signature move is the Shining Wizard, which consists of kicking his opponents in the stomach, which drops them to their knees and sets them up for a running, off-the-rope kick to the face.



The champ: Brian Myers is Five Borough Wrestling's reigning champion. He will defend his title against Kevin Matthews at St. Finbar Church on Feb. 5.



Pig out: Nitehawk programmer John Woods holds a pork dish that will be served during a screening of "Groundhog Day." *Kris King*

Déjà chew

'Groundhog Day' film feast

By Allegra Hobbs

This is the one time it's okay to have a meal repeat on you.

A Williamsburg cinema that pairs food and film will dish out five courses of delicious déjà vu during a special screening of "Groundhog Day" taking place on Groundhog Day. Crafting a menu that mimics the film's redundant action while keeping the flavors fresh was a challenge, said Nitehawk Cinema's program director.

"We had to figure out a way to make the same thing happen over and over again, but do it in a different way," said John Woods.

Nitehawk will serve five courses of pork and beer in an edible tribute to the beloved 1993 film, in which Bill Murray's weatherman repeats the same day over and over. Each serving, similar to but different from the one before, will emerge at the moment in the film that inspired the dish.

The food and drink team cooked up a menu that mirrors the film's Pennsylvania setting, kicking off with a "Pittsburgh Chipped Ham Slider," followed by a "Punxsutawney Pulled Pork Sandwich" as the characters arrive at the annual Groundhog Day festival. A "Pennsylvania Pork" dish will feature local flavors of sauerkraut and beer mustard.

The fourth dish is a literal take on the film title — a "Ground Hog Wellington" with actual ground pork — and the viewing wraps up with "Day 12,394," a maple ice cream and bacon dessert named for the estimated number of days Murray's character spends in the cycle.

The duo behind the circular servings jumped at the chance to get creative with a single concept and add a new layer to the theater's bimonthly Film Feast event.

"This is our biggest opportunity to come up with something that we normally wouldn't be able to do at Nitehawk," said head chef Kurt Applegate, who cranked out the menu alongside beverage director Matthew Walker.

The movie is an unending hit — Nitehawk screens it every year on Feb. 2 — and the Film Feast treatment gives the film's faithful audience a way out of the cycle of sameness, said Woods.

"It almost becomes a fourth dimension for the film," he said.

"Groundhog Day" Film Feast at Nitehawk Cinema [136 Metropolitan Ave. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street, (718) 782-8370, www.nitehawkcinema.com]. Feb. 2 at 7:15 pm. \$65.

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WORKING BLUE

Police officers star in community improv show

By Dennis Lynch

These officers have put together a different kind of line-up.

A group of Brooklyn police will take the stage for two nights of frank and sometimes funny improv at Fort Greene's Irondale Ensemble on Feb. 5 and 6.

The show caps two months of weekly workshops titled "To Protect, Serve, and Understand," which brought seven cops and seven civilians together for silly and serious exercises designed to break down stereotypes and open up new conversations, said Irondale's executive director.

"We're using improv theater, theater games, and exercises as a way to bring people together in a room," Terry Greiss said. "When people play together — whether that's baseball, checkers, or improv — they develop an empathetic understanding for each other. You're falling down, taking risks together, you learn that you can expose more and share a bit more."

The show will include improvised scenes based on audience suggestions, musical numbers, and a silly exercises in which those onstage juggle multiple tasks at once.

"There's serious parts and some funny parts," said Greiss. "I'd say we've peppered it with funnier, lighter moments, but it's to be listened to."

The more serious exercises tackle the disconnect between community and police. In one such exercise, officers will portray civilians describing their interactions with police, based



Close encounters: Civilian Joshua Tucker and police officer John Valez take part in an improvisational exercise at Irondale Ensemble, closely watched by the group's executive director, Terry Greiss.

Amanda Hinkle

on interviews conducted during the workshop. The interview subjects were surprisingly open, Greiss said.

"A woman told one of the female officers in the program about how callously she was treated after she was raped, and it totally blew us away," he said. "It was powerful to see [the officer] act that out."

Police top brass say the workshop helps to build skills that officers use on the job.

"What does it take to do good improv? Be creative, think on your feet, and understand where the other person is coming from," said Susan Herman, Deputy Commission for Collaborative Policing Susan Herman

said. "Those are all skills police officers need and use every day. The more refined those skills are the better."

The department runs mock scenarios to train officers for situations they might encounter on the job, but this is the first program of its kind in the city, Herman said.

The police participants, none of whom had any theater experience, volunteered from precincts all around the borough.

"To Protect, Serve, And Understand" at Irondale Ensemble [85 S. Oxford St. between Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene, www.irondale.org, (718) 488-9233]. Feb. 5 and 6 at 7 pm. Free.



Free expression: Living Gallery owner Nyssa Frank will host a free art show on Feb. 1 in order to liberate artists from associating money with their work.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Free for all

This Bushwick gallery is giving away the art

By Lauren Gill

This art is priceless!

A Bushwick art space is breaking the chains of capitalism and giving its art away for free this weekend. But the gratis "Free the Art" show at the Living Gallery on Feb. 1 is more than a chance to snag a free painting to hang over the couch, says the gallery's owner — it is a blow against the idea that monetary value equals artistic value.

"The goal is to erase competitive elements regarding money being a deciding factor in art and liberating artists from equating money with their work," said Nyssa Frank, who owns the Broadway gallery.

The art may be free, but the event will not be a free-for-all. Each guest can take home a single piece of art, says Frank, and they must mark the item as "sold" by putting their name next to it.

Frank, who also draws, sculpts, and makes jewelry, conceived the event after hearing friends lament the hefty prices that kept eye-catching pieces out of their reach. The concept also frees artists from a price-driven creative process, which can dictate the type of work they make, she says.

"I know if people are buying things I'll start making things like that," she said.

Frank found 40 free spirits willing to contribute art to the show, and each of those emerging and established artists will be at the event.

"It's really cool because all of the artists will be there and then if you see a piece you really love you'll be able to talk to the artists," she said.

Frank says that she runs the Living Gallery by the philosophy "Giving away something for nothing and expecting nothing in return." The gallery regularly hosts talks and classes, many of them with free or "suggested donation" admission.

Frank has received an outpouring of support for her one-of-a-kind show, and she is optimistic that it will draw a crowd that appreciates the priceless works on display.

"Hopefully I get art-conscious art lovers who really want to celebrate young art," she said.

"Free the Art" at the Living Gallery [1094 Broadway at Dodworth Street in Bushwick, (631) 377-1998, www.the-living-gallery.com]. Feb. 1 at 6:30 pm. Free.

Bay Ridge shakes off the flakes

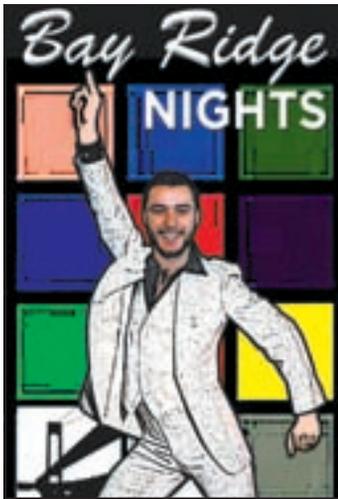
By Dennis Lynch

The Snowpocalypse is over!

Everyone likes a good excuse to stay in and watch Netflix all weekend, but now it is time to get back out there and light up the town. There is plenty going on this weekend, so lace up those boots and hit the streets!

Make the long, strange trip up to the **Leif Bar** (6725 Fifth Ave., between 67th and Senator streets) on Friday night for psychedelic tribute band Tiberius, playing two fully electric sets starting at 10 pm. They promise to play "the best of everything," including Grateful Dead, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, and the Rolling Stones.

After your psychedelic trip at Leif Bar, you may yearn for some soothing tunes to get you through Saturday afternoon. So take a bracing *volks-march* to the **Church of the Good Shepherd** (7420 Fourth Ave., between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway)



for a dose of some Johannes Brahms. The Park Slope Singers and two pianists will play the German composer's choral masterwork "A German Requiem" at 3 pm. Tickets are \$15.

Then get in on the rock 'n' roll social experiment that is the Social

Zoo, playing at **No Quarter Tavern** (8015 Fifth Ave., between 80th and 81st streets) at 10 pm on Saturday. The quintet has opened its set-list to the Internet masses, so if you have requests, log them in at the group's website: www.thesocialzoo.net.

And there is only one place for Bay Ridgites to be on Sunday — at the **Wicked Monk** (9510 Third Ave. between 95th and 96th streets) for a jam-packed benefit show for the family of in-house chef Russell Titland. The Monk's maestro spatula-slinger lost his battle with cancer earlier this month and the pub is raising money to help his family through donations, raffles, and an auction. The show starts at 3 pm, and four awesome acts — John Rafferty, the Canny Brothers Band, the Head and South Band, and Radio Daze — have lined up for the show. And while you empty your wallet for a good cause, you can also fill your belly — there is a free buffet for everyone who shows up.

WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO SEVEN 24 EVENTS

ART, "CONEY ISLAND — VISIONS OF AN AMERICAN DREAMLAND, 1861–2008": The exhibit explores the history of the People's Playground. \$16 museum admission. 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklyn-museum.org.

ART, "ISLANDS THAT APPROACH ALONE": A solo exhibit of drawings and sculptures of organic figures by Molly Valentine Dierks. Free. 11 am–5 pm. Guddahl Gallery [362 Columbia St. between Seabring and Commerce streets in Red Hook], www.guddahlgallery.com.

ART, TAT IT UP: An art show where tattoo and street artists create their interpretation of tattoo art on canvas and on Boundless Brooklyn's water tower kits. Free. Noon–6 pm. Grumpy Bert [82 Bond St. between Atlantic Avenue and State Street in Boerum Hill, (347) 855–4849], www.grumpybert.com.

ART, "ROIL" AND "WHITE SHOES": Two exhibits: "Roil" is a video projection that evokes the building's history as a steam plant. "White Shoes" is a photo exhibit of spaces in New York City that are associated with slavery. Free. Noon–6 pm. Smack Mellon [92 Plymouth St. at Washington Street in DUMBO, (718) 834–8761], www.smackmellon.org.

DANCE, LAVI MIYO AND AN N' PALE: This work-in-progress uses writing, choreography and music to explore emotional, physical, and spiritual stability of people affected by trauma. \$10 suggested donation. 6 pm. Haiti Cultural Exchange [558 St. John's Pl. between Classon and Franklin avenues in Crown Heights, (347) 565–4429], haiticulturalx.org/revolysyon.

DANCE, FLIC FEST: Each night of this dance festival features two full-length dance performances from different companies, followed by a short performance cabaret. \$25 (\$20 students). 7 pm. Iroindale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488–9233], www.irondale.org.

THEATER, "THE GLORY OF THE WORLD": This play by Charles Mee observes as 17 male friends gather to celebrate the birthday of Catholic monk Thomas Merton, author of "The Seven Storey Mountain." \$30. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636–4100], www.bam.org.

DANCE, "PROSCENIUM WORKS": The Tricia Brown Dance Company presents three of Brown's iconic, postmodern masterpieces. \$25. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene], www.bam.org.



Will do, Wilco: Jeff Tweedy and the rest of the indie-rock band Wilco will perform songs from their cheekily-titled "Star Wars" album at the Kings Theatre on Feb. 5 and 6.

Associated Press / Paulo Duarte

DANCE, "SEPARATI": Vim Vigor Dance Company presents a new work by Shannon Gillen, about five characters traveling along a highway and experiencing their past, present, and future. \$25. 7:30 pm. Gelsey Kirkland Arts Center [29 Jay St. between John and Plymouth streets in Dumbo], www.vimvigor-dance.com.

SPOKE THE HUB'S 15TH ANNUAL WINTER FOLLIES: More than 30 performing artists present five minutes of whatever they do best at this showcase. The audience vote for which artist or group should get a full production at a Gowanus space. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 7:30pm. Old First Reformed Church [729 Carroll St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 408–3234], www.spokethehub.org.

THEATER, "THE ASTRONAUT'S TALE": A multimedia chamber opera about a young man who dreams of becoming an astronaut and exploring the galaxy. A panel discussion will take place after each performance with performers and astronomers. \$20–\$49. 8 pm. BAM Fisher [321 Ashland Pl. between Hansen Place and Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene], www.bam.org/visit/buildings/bam-fisher.

COMEDY, "POINT BREAK LIVE!": FBI agent Johnny Utah, played by an audience member, is abused by the bureau, hazed by the LA surf community, and bromanced by one truly radical criminal. \$30 (\$26 in advance). 8:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouse.com.

MUSIC, AS LOLAS: Free. 9:30 pm. BAM Cafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between

Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

SAT, JAN. 30

THEATER, "ALICE IN WONDERLAND": Puppetworks presents a marionette adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic, featuring brand-new songs and scenery based on the original illustrations. \$10 (\$9 children). 12:30 and 2:30 pm. Puppetworks [338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965–3391], www.puppetworks.org.

THEATER, THE ASTRONAUT'S TALE: 3 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 29.

MUSIC, PARK SLOPE SINGERS WINTER CONCERT: The choral group presents Brahms' German Requiem, sung in German. \$15 \$10 (students and seniors). 3 PM. Church of the Good Shepherd [7420 Fourth Ave. at 75th Street in Bay Ridge, (440) 320–8669], parkslopesingers.org.

MUSIC, ANTIETAM, SPEED THE PLOUGH, HEROES OF TOOLIK: \$8. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

DANCE, "SEPARATI": 7:30 pm. See Friday, Jan. 29.

THEATER, SUSSICIAL: The Gallery Players present the family musical based on the fantastical books of Dr. Seuss. Before each matinee, children are welcome to a behind-the-scenes "Theatre Thinks" talk. \$18 (\$15 seniors and children). 8 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352–3101], www.galleryplayers.com.

MUSIC, TM STEVENS: Free. 9:30 pm. BAM Cafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between

Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

ART, SOULS OF LEFFERTS OPENING RECEPTION: An ongoing photography series that seeks to preserve the voice and identity of those in the community. Talkback with the artist at 7:30 pm. Free. 6–9 pm. Tugboat Tea Company [564 Flatbush Ave. between Beekman Place and Midwood Street in Prospect Lefferts Gardens], www.lunasolo.com.

SPOKE THE HUB'S 15TH ANNUAL WINTER FOLLIES: 7:30pm. See Friday, Jan. 29.

SUN, JAN. 31

TALK, "THIS IS BROOKLYN!": Learn the history of Brooklyn through the lens of the Brooklyn Historical Society building in this hour-long tour. Longtime Brooklyn residents and first-time visitors alike will learn details about the building and borough. Free. 1 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierreport St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], www.brooklyn-history.org.

MUSIC, MILL'S TRILLS WINTER BASH: The family-friendly band presents an explosion of music, art, and community. \$15 (\$10 in advance). 11:30 am. Shape-Shifter Lab [18 Whitwell Pl. between First Street and Garfield Place in Gowanus], www.shapeshifterlab.com.

THEATER, "ALICE IN WONDERLAND": 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 30.

MUSIC, "LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION, YEAR OF THE MONKEY": Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company commemorates the Year of the Monkey, a year characterized by cleverness, curiosity, and playful mischief with dance, traditional music, and acrobatics. \$25. 3 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. between Amersfort and Kenilworth places in Midwood, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyn-centeronline.org.

MUSIC, JEN LOWE: The singer-songwriter performs in a Boerum Hill living room. Part of Paul's Brooklyn House Concert series. \$15 suggested donation. 3 pm. Paul's House (RSVP for location in Boerum Hill), concerts.shrub.ca.

SPORTS, BROOKLYN BASEBALL ASSOCIATION'S SPRING AND SUMMER TRYOUTS: A year-round development program, for kids ages 8–16, the association stresses on- and off-field success. Free. Noon. South Shore High School [6565 Flatlands Ave between Glenwood Road and Flatlands Avenue in Canarsie], www.brooklyn-baseballassociation.com.

ACOMEDY, "STAND UP FOR 826NYC": Maeve Higgins hosts comedians Chris Gethard, Seaton Smith, Naomi Ekperigin, Giulia



Royal rumble: The Sacramento Kings will try to overthrow the champions of Kings County at Barclays Center on Feb. 5.

Associated Press / Rich Pedroncelli

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

MON, FEB 1

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. DETROIT PISTONS: \$45–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

treet, and more. \$65–\$145. 8 pm.

SUN, FEB 14

MUSIC, MAXWELL AND NAS: \$50–\$300. 8 pm.

TUE, FEB 2

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS. MINNESOTA WILD: \$55–\$1,500. 7 pm.

MON, FEB 15

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS. DETROIT RED WINGS: \$15–\$1,050. 1 pm.

WED, FEB 3

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. INDIANA PACERS: \$25–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

TUE, FEB 16

MUSIC, DEF LEPPARD: With Styx and Tesla. \$40–\$125. 7 pm.

FRI, FEB 5

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. SACRAMENTO KINGS: \$20–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

WED, FEB 17

MUSIC, IL VOLO: The Italian teenage opera trio performs. \$52.50–\$175. 8 pm.

SUN, FEB 7

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS. EDMONTON OILERS: \$15–\$1,050. 2:30 pm.

THU, FEB 18

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS. WASHINGTON CAPITALS: \$15–\$1,000. 7 pm.

MON, FEB 8

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. DENVER NUGGETS: \$20–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

FRI, FEB 19

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. NEW YORK KNICKS: \$69–\$4,000. 7:30 pm.

WED, FEB 10

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES: \$20–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

SUN, FEB 21

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. CHARLOTTE HORNETS: \$25–\$3,000. 6 pm.

THU, FEB 11

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS. LOS ANGELES KINGS: \$20–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

THU, FEB 25

RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY PRESENTS LEGENDS: \$15–\$75. 7 pm.

FRI, FEB 12

MUSIC, LADIES NIGHT R&B SUPER JAM: With Jodeci, Faith Evans, Jagged Edge, Black-

FRI, FEB 26

RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY PRESENTS LEGENDS: \$15–\$90. 7 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

Salvi Italian Restaurant the place for outstanding food

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Success is when you're in business for more than a quarter of a century, and values remain uncompromised.

It's why dining at Salvi is always a wonderful experience. The food and the atmosphere reflect classic Italian traditions. The emphasis is always placed on delivering outstanding food and refined service.

Lending to the ambiance, light music from Italian artists play in the background, and crisp white linens adorn the tables. Chandeliers and mirrored walls add sparkle and elegance.

Whether it's fish, meat, or pasta, the main selection is the star attraction — there is a light touch to the dressings that flavor them because when you start with the finest ingredients, you want them to be recognized. This is evident with the filetto di sogliola mugginaia — a delicate, tasty fillet of sole that's modestly sautéed with a bit of oil, lemon, and garlic, and then sprinkled with capers. The seasonings enhance the flavor of the fish without overwhelming it.

Likewise, the spaghetti alla Salvi is cooked in a white wine sauce, with just a hint of tomato sauce. Shrimp and a few strips of sundried tomatoes keep the dish light and satisfying.

At Salvi, the fish is always incredibly fresh. A delicious branzini is served, whole or filleted, cooked perfectly. Red snapper is sautéed with white wine, mussels, and clams; and lobster is simmered in a spicy marinara sauce.

A refreshing way to begin a meal is with a cold appetizer of avocado, shrimp, cherry tomatoes, and cannellini beans, served on endive leaves, all seasoned with a vinaigrette dressing.

For those who prefer to stick with the classics, hot appetizers such as baked clams, stuffed mushrooms, eggplant, fried calamari, and fried zucchini are all welcome choices that can be depended upon.

Not to be missed is an



(Clockwise from top left) Salvi Italian Restaurant owner Jerry Camarda makes sure the wine and good times are always flowing. Maitre d' Manny Caravajo displays the cavatelli. Left, the beans, avocado, and shrimp dish is mouthwatering and the, right, delicious branzini is served whole or filleted. Dining at Salvi is always a wonderful experience. **Photos by Jordan Rathkopf**

item that often makes an appearance on the menu as a "special" — and that happens to be a great way to describe it. It's burrata — a creamy mozzarella, so soft, the texture is almost buttery. It's no coincidence that the word "burrata" means butter. From the region of Puglia, this fresh mozzarella is made of cheese and cream, so it pretty much melts in your mouth.

Should the burrata not be available, the mozza-

rella caprese is delicious, too; a wonderful choice. It's homemade, cut into thick slices, and served with the ripest tomatoes, Gaeta olives, and fresh basil leaves. Somehow Salvi manages to present juicy, red tomatoes in the midst of winter, and this alone can make ordering it worthwhile.

When it comes to pasta, the homemade ravioli and fusilli are divine. Choose from a variety of sauces — marinara, garlic and oil, or perhaps a mushroom and

cream sauce.

Grilled filet mignon with roasted mushrooms, veal scallopine in white wine with artichokes, and chicken cacciatora are among the meat and poultry options.

Save room for dessert because the cannoli is bursting with fresh cream, the swirls spilling across the top. The shell is crisp, as it should be. The tasty tartufo is served in slices, perfect for sharing. A delightful fruit plate brings

back memories of summer with cantaloupe, watermelon, and grapes that are ripe and juicy.

Salvi accommodates up to 90 people for catered parties.

Salvi Italian Restaurant [4220 Quentin Rd. between Flatbush and Hendrickson streets in Marine Park, (718) 252-3030, www.SalviRestaurant.com] Open Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, noon-11 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, noon-midnight.

WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO SEVEN 24 EVENTS

Continued from page 47

Rozzi, Sean Donnelly, and Katina Corrao in support of 826NYC, a nonprofit organization that helps students explore creative writing. \$25. 7:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseeny.com.

MON, FEB. 1

TALK, "THE MOTH STORYSLAM": The Moth StorySlams are storytelling competitions where the stage is open to any and all with a story to tell on the evening's theme. Hosted by Peter Aguero. \$10. 7:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseeny.com.

COMEDY, "NIGHT TRAIN WITH WYATT CENAC": Hosted by Brooklyn-based comedian Wyatt Cenac, "Night Train" is a weekly show that features comedy from the best local and international stand up comedians. \$5. 8 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

TUES, FEB. 2

SENIOR SALSA: Free salsa classes for seniors. Free. 10:30 am. Park Slope Senior Center [463A Seventh St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 832-3726].

GROUNDHOG DAY: Make your own Punxsutawney Phil puppet and see if it sees its shadow. Free with admission. 10:30 am-3 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

WED, FEB. 3

POP-POP POPCORN: A fun-filled show for kids ages 3-8. \$10 (\$15 adults). 10 am and noon. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (212) 353-2332], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/kumbletheater.

WORKSHOP, JEWELRY MAKING: For those interested in creating wearable art. Free. 6:30 pm. Teal. (533 16th St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope), www.tealwalk.org.

MUSIC, MICHAEL PETROSINO'S PETRIO LIVE JAZZ TRIO: Free. 8 pm. The Room at Dizzy's (230 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope).

MUSIC, BROOKLYN RAGA MASSIVE LAUNCH PARTY: Brooklyn Raga Massive launches its Pioneer Works residency with three African and Indian artists: Awa Sangho, Orakel, and the band Afrika Meets India. \$15. 8:00PM.

Pioneer Works [159 Pioneer St. between Imlay and Conover streets in Red Hook, (718) 596-3001], pioneerworks.org.

THURS, FEB. 4

ART, THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM: Free admission to the museum's many exhibits and galleries every Thursday evening, sponsored by Squarespace. Free. 6-10 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

TALK, "WHY NEW YORK? SLAVERY ON LONG ISLAND": Long Island was once a place of widespread slavery. Historian Prithi Kanakamedala and other experts illuminate this history. \$5 (free for members). 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

THEATER, SUESSICAL: 8 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 30.

FRI, FEB. 5

ART, FREE FIRST FRIDAY: Enjoy music, refreshments, and more when the historical society keeps its galleries open late! \$5, free for BHS and G-W Members. 5-9 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

AUTISM NIGHT: The Museum will be open exclusively to families with children 10 and under on the autism spectrum. Have a chance to explore our hands-on exhibits in a less overwhelming atmosphere. This program is free but pre-registration is required. Call the Museum. Free with admission. 5:30 pm to 8 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (508) 230-3789], www.brooklynkids.org.

"THREADED ARCHETYPES" OPENING RECEPTION: An exhibit of 20 artists from southern Brooklyn who address different archetypes of community. Free. 6-8 pm. NARS Foundation Gallery [201 46th St., fourth floor, at Second Avenue in Sunset Park, (718) 768-2765], www.narsfoundation.org.

MUSIC, SVETLANA AND FRIENDS: The swing band plays at 8 pm. Dance lesson available at 7 pm. \$20 (\$17 students and seniors, kids free). 7 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture [53 Prospect Park West, between First and Second streets in Park Slope, (917) 292-1404], www.dancing-turo.com.

MUSIC, WILCO: The band performs as part of their 2016 Star Wars Tour. Starting at \$45. 8 pm. Kings Theatre (1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush), www.kingstheatre.com.

MUSIC, PETER EVANS QUINTET: The band plays with special guests Aaron Burnett and Ingrid Laubrock. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

MUSIC, MAPPA MUNDI: The chamber-pop band debuts songs off its upcoming album. Free. 9 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

MUSIC, WYLAND: \$8. 10 pm. Bar Matchless [557 Manhattan Ave. at Driggs Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5333], www.bar-matchless.com.

SAT, FEB. 6

MUSIC, "ME, MYSELF AND EYE": The solo concert series presents alto saxophonist Briggan Krauss. \$5 suggested donation. 4:40 pm. Gallery 440 (440 Sixth Ave at Tenth Street in Park Slope), www.connection-works.org.

MUSIC, "REIMAGINING BENNY GOODMAN": Israeli jazz musician Oran Etkin performs music from the king of swing. \$25 (\$20 seniors, kids free). 5:30 pm. East Midwood Jewish Center [1625 Ocean Ave. between Avenue K and Avenue L in Midwood, (718) 338-3800], www.emjc.org.

MUSIC, NOURA MINT SEYMALI: One of Mauritania's foremost musical emissaries, Seymali performs psychedelic rock with special guest 74 Dollar Bill. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 7 pm. Pioneer Works [159 Pioneer St. between Imlay and Conover streets in Red Hook, (718) 596-3001], pioneerworks.org.

MUSIC, WILCO: 8 pm. See Friday, Feb. 5.

"A SOCK'S FABLES": A fun-filled, 45-minute sock puppet show for kids, based on Aesop's fables. With a puppet-making workshop after the show. \$15. 10:30am. Triskelion Arts [106 Calyer St. between Banker Street and Clifford Place in Greenpoint, (718) 389-3473], www.triskelion-arts.org.

TARGET FIRST SATURDAY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Free entry to the museum, with special events including a screening of documentary "The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution," a book talk with Revolution Books, music from Dasan Ahanu, The Originals, and Charles Perry. Free. 5-11 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

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of limited liability company (LLC). Name: NEXT STEP PRODUCTION, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/05/2015. 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: NEXT STEP PRODUCTION, LLC 38 MESEROLE STREET APT 3 B BROOKLYN, NY 11206. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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of limited liability company (LLC). Name: MAYMON HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/03/2015. 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: BLUEBERRY CAFE 1618 AVENUE M BROOKLYN, NY 11230. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SAGE HEIGHTS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/05/2015. 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 220 PLYMOUTH ST. 2A BROOKLYN, NY 11201. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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Notice of Formation of RRG 42ND STREET MERGER CO., LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/13/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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97 BTM Realty LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/10/15. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 97 Brooklyn Terminal Market, Brooklyn, NY 11236. General purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION
of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SHING HING GROUP LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/11/2015. 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 ORGANIZATION 676 60TH ST, 1FL BROOKLYN, NY 11220. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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Notice of Qualification of TUNEE LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/11/16. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in New Jersey (NJ) on 07/29/03. Princ. office of LLC: 538 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11226. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. NJ addr. of LLC: c/o Frederick C. Biehl, III, Esq., Soriano Hankel Biehl & Matthews, P.C., 75 Eisenhower Pkwy., Roseland, NJ 07068. Cert. of Form. filed with NJ State Treasurer, 50 Barrack St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Purpose: Real estate investment.

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Notice of formation of 1283 BERGEN LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/1/2015. Office location, County of Kings. The street address is: 1283 Bergen St., Brooklyn. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Sung and Hum, 305 Broadway, Ste. 302, NY NY 10007. Purpose: any lawful act.

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of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SHINING GLOW LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/15/2015. 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,

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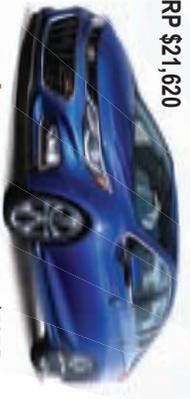


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● 'We all clicked ... When everybody gets going ... we're unstoppable.'

— Lincoln's Cahiem Brown on win against Westinghouse.

● 'In order to be the best, you have to beat the best.'

— Erasmus star Jahsen Wint.

Lions claw past St. Raymond

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Marquis Nowell's night mirrored his team's — a slow start, followed by an explosive finish.

The Bishop Loughlin point guard's performance helped erase an 11-point, fourth-quarter deficit and lead the Loughlin boys' basketball team to an emotional 89-84 win over St. Raymond in front of a raucous, standing-room only crowd in Fort Greene on Jan. 22. Nowell spent the second quarter on the bench after picking up two fouls, and he struggled in the third before flourishing in the fourth. The rocky start threw off Nowell's game, but he composed himself in the nick of time, a teammate said.

"Marquis, he [usually] starts off hot, but today he picked up the two fouls and it hurt him," Lions junior Keith Williams said. "He tried to force shot in the sec-



GETTING AIR: Keith Williams goes for a layup.

Photo by Jordan Rathkopf

ond half. All he had to do is just stay composed and the game would come."

Loughlin (12-3, 8-1) trailed 74-63 after three quarters before out-scoring the Ravens 26-10 in the fourth. Williams (27 points, 12 rebounds) started the rally with consecutive threes, and Nowell took it from there.

"I was just trying to make as many plays as possible for my team to win," Nowell said. "I made that happen today."

The sophomore guard, who recently picked up a scholarship offer from Virginia Commonwealth University, scored the next three points after consecutive steals to cut the lead to one. The Ravens's Sidney Wilson completed a three-point play, but Loughlin didn't blink.

Nowell tied the score on a jumper, then fed Jordan

Continued on page 55

St. Francis storms past rival Blackbirds

BY GREGORY ALCALA

They didn't weather the storm.

While Brooklynites shoveled their walks after Winter Storm Jonas on Jan. 24, Long Island University men's basketball team was trying to dig itself out of a different hole. The Blackbirds froze up amid a second-half, comeback flurry from St. Francis College and lost the 41st Annual Battle of Brooklyn 64-49 at the Wellness Center on Jan. 24.

The Terriers squad has won its last four match-ups against the Blackbirds, so

St. Francis has bigger fish to fry than its long-time foe, one player said.

"It's always great to beat a rival like LIU Brooklyn, but I just hope we can use this to put a winning streak together so that we can begin to build some momentum," said forward Amy Fall (11 points, 13 rebounds).

The Blackbirds (9-10, 3-5) led in the first half, but St. Francis (9-13, 4-4) out-scored its rival 39-19 after the break.

St. Francis College senior forward Chris Hooper led the Terriers' rebound, coming off the bench to score

a team-high 15 points and earn Most Valuable Player honors.

"We were very sluggish at the start, but Chris really kept us in the game until the rest of us were able to pick it up," Fall said. "He definitely deserved the MVP award."

The Blackbirds went into the half with a five-point lead behind Jerome Frink (16 points), Martin Hermannsson (11 points), and Joel Hernandez (11 points), but the lead didn't last long. Hooper converted two straight layups to cap a 10-0 run that tied the score at

Continued on page 55



AIMING FOR A DUNK: Long Island University's Joel Hernandez tries to reach the net.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Lincoln avenges loss to Westinghouse

Railsplitters' pride motivates team win

BY TROY MAURIELLO

Abraham Lincoln dominated George Westinghouse 67-49 in Brooklyn AA boys' basketball on Jan. 21, avenging a first-ever loss to Westinghouse back in December. The history-making upset late last year encouraged Lincoln to never repeat the mistake.

"Easy motivation, those guys got a lot of pride," said Railsplitters coach Dwayne "Tiny" Morton. "They were kind of embarrassed losing, and they've got pride."

Senior Cahiem Brown and junior Donald Cannon Flores led the Railsplitters with 18-point performances. Lincoln used a cohesive effort to jump on the Warriors early and never look back — and it led by double-digits for most of the second half.

"Just great teamwork," said Brown about his team's performance. "We all clicked with each other, and when everybody gets going ... we're unstoppable."

Lincoln (8-5) began the game on a 10-1 run. The

Continued on page 55



RUN AROUND: Lincoln's Rakym Felder makes his way past a George Westinghouse player during the Railsplitters' Jan. 21 win.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Loughlin's girls' program continues to rebound

An ugly win said volumes about Bishop Loughlin's girls' basketball team — the Lions are growing up.

Players spoke in the preseason about learning from mistakes they made in last year's disappointing finish. They can't get down on themselves and lose focus when things get tough and don't go their way.

But the team is showing a new level of maturity by not letting that happen this time around.

The group didn't crumble through missed layups, unconverted free throws, and poor rebounding in an eventual 53-45 victory over host Staten Island Academy on Jan 20. The Lions trailed 37-35 going into the fourth quarter and 40-39 with 6:21 remaining, but never let the game get away.

Loughlin is learning how to win.

"I think we are in a better frame of mind," Lions coach Chez Williams said. "I think we are in a better frame of playing basketball. We might not have won this type of game last year."

It was the second-straight contest in which Loughlin had to grit out a victory amid a recent five-game winning streak.

"They are finding ways to win even when we are not playing well," Williams said. "So for a coach, that is a good sign."

Loughlin got a big, 15-point night from Skydajah Patterson with star Milicia "Mimi" Reid (eight points) struggling to find her scoring touch. Patterson, who is playing out of position at center, has come into her own during the current winning streak. She is putting the ball on the floor, attacking the basket, and leading the team in rebounds.

"What coach wants coach gets," Patterson said. "He wants me to go



JOE KNOWS

by Joe Staszewski

in there and get a rebound, run through a wall, I'll do it."

The turnaround started with a win over Archbishop Molloy after a league loss to division leaders Mary Louis and Christ the King. The players took the defeats tough, but instead of breaking them apart, it drew them closer.

"In the morning we went to practice and we said 'We are not going to lose again,'" Patterson said.

Loughlin is confident its defensive execution will get it through any offensive struggles. The Lions limited Staten Island Academy's two stars to a combined 23 points — all while its budding freshman Laysha De La Santo dropped in 10 points. Turnovers keyed a 7-0 run that put the game away in the fourth quarter.

"We are emotionally strong, as opposed to last year," Reid said. "When things aren't going well, we are doing better with keeping our head."

Loughlin's last two wins are proof. They are ready for the second half of the season, where a league title is still within reach.

"We pulled out wins, but it hasn't been pretty," Reid said. "I think it's just us staying strong minded."

E-Hall gridiron star Wint picks Ohio State

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Jahsen Wint needed to make sure Ohio State coach Urban Myer was sure about him before he could be sure about the Buckeyes.

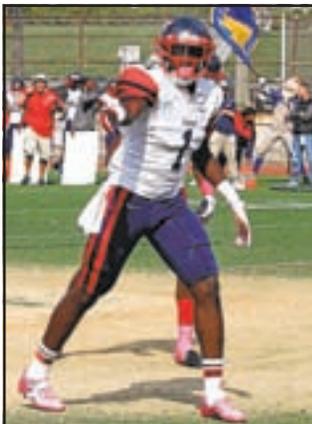
Myer came to visit the Erasmus Hall defensive back for pizza on Dec. 2 — four days before the city championship game — to get a feel for him as a person. Wint, who had verbally committed to Temple over the summer, used the chat to feel out his potential coach before eventually committing to Ohio State. Knowing how talented the Ohio State squad is, Wint simply asked

how bad Myer wanted him — and he got the answer he was looking for.

"It made me feel good that he said he wanted me badly," Wint said. "I just wanted to ask that to get it out of the way, because in my head, I'd probably be second-guessing it right now. I just wanted to see if he believed in and wanted me. I asked him straight, because he asked me if I had any questions. I didn't hesitate."

The candid exchange won over Wint, who Yahoo ranked as just a two-star recruit but who still held of

Continued on page 55



DIVISION-I DUTCHMAN: Erasmus star Jahsen Wint is headed to Ohio State to play football.

Photo by Steven Schnibbe

LINCOLN

Continued from page 54

Warriors (9-4) didn't make a basket from the field until under four minutes into the game, and Lincoln jumped out to a 21-12 lead after one frame.

Sophomore guard Tyler Bourne was hot early. The crafty guard was able to break out in transition and score with ease for much of the quarter. He added a pair of three-pointers to give him 11 points in the first quarter.

Things took a bizarre turn with 4:04 remaining in the half, as a piece of the court near the baseline came loose during play. Officials hammered it back into place, causing an eight-minute delay. Both teams closed the quarter on sloppy notes, but Lincoln led 30-23 at the break.

The lead grew to 41-29 midway through the third quarter. However a short, 8-2 Westinghouse run put it within six points with a little more than two minutes remaining.

Lincoln was not about to give up control. Flores took over by scoring 11 of his 18 points in the final frame. He was able to attack the basket with ease, helping the Railsplitters out-score the Warriors 19-10 in the fourth.

"Coach just told us to keep attacking ... and try to and get them in foul trouble," said Flores. "So that's what I did."

Brown, Bourne, and Flores combined for 51 of Lincoln's 67 points that night, with junior Rakym Felder adding seven points of his own.

Lincoln's stars excelled, but



JUMP UP: George Westinghouse top scorer Gerald Williams only earned eight points during the loss to Lincoln.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Westinghouse's top scorers struggled. Damarri Moore and Gerald Williams netted only eight points each, and Akeem Tate added 10. Arsheen Jones led the way for Westinghouse with 13 points on the night, but the Warriors never got into a rhythm on either end. The loss could cost the Warriors a second-place finish.

"They were beating us on energy early," said Westinghouse coach Everett Kelley. "When we get into these games, we start looking to get it all on offense, and not getting it on defense."

WINT

Continued from page 54

fers from Penn State, Rutgers, and Boston College. Ohio State showed interest after watching his highlight reel and seeing him make 12 tackles in a win over Midwood on Sept. 26.

He is one of New York City's top players and the Brooklyn Courier's All-Brooklyn First Team selection. Wint made 69 tackles during the regular season and had two fumble recoveries and an interception to help Erasmus reach its second-straight Public School Athletic League City conference title game. He runs a 4.6-second 40-yard dash.

Pundits think the 5-foot-11, 187-pound senior could play on Ohio State's special teams unit right away because of his hard-hitting and physical style. He believes that being coached at — and competing at — one of the best programs in the nation

will benefit his development as a safety.

"I want to see how I can compete with the best players," Wint said. "In order to be the best, you have to beat the best. I want to train with them and compete with them."

The commitment will also reunite him with former Dutchmen teammate Curtis Samuel, who just finished up his sophomore season with the Buckeyes. Seeing a familiar face there will help his transition.

"I played with him before," Wint said. "At least I will be out there with a dude from where I am from."

Samuel has told him how hard he needs to work — and how humble he needs to stay — to make it at Ohio State. Wint is just happy for the opportunity to do so.

"It feels good that they are actually taking a chance on me and that they saw something in me," Wint said. "I worked hard for that commitment."

ST. FRANCIS

Continued from page 53

35-35 early in the second half.

But the team's unsung hero was forward Antonio Jenifer — he had just three points in the first half, but he dropped in eight when it counted most. When Hermannsson pulled the Blackbirds to within one point on a floater in the lane, Jenifer (11 points, 11 rebounds) responded by driving to the cup for two and put the Terriers back up 50-47 with 4:24 left to play.

Tyreek Jewell (13 points) and Yunus Hopkinson (nine points) were both in foul trouble in the first half, but they combined to drain 10 free throws in the contest's final six minutes to seal the win for St. Francis.

The Terriers' dogged offense proves the team has more depth than people give it credit for, Hooper said.

"I was really proud of my teammates for doing a great job when I was on the bench," Hooper said. "It's nice when we can prove people wrong who think that I'm the only one who can score in the post."



HOOPER TO THE HOOP: St. Francis College senior forward Chris Hooper came off the bench and earned most valuable player honors by scoring a team-high 15 points to lead the Terriers in a win over Long Island University.

Photo by Jason Speakman

LIONS

Continued from page 53

Thomas (14 points) for a transition layup to put Loughlin ahead, and then made two free throws to push Loughlin's lead to 85-81 with 44.4 seconds left in the game.

St. Raymond's (10-7, 7-3) Isaiah Washington sunk a three — the team's only score in the last four minutes — but Nowell responded, finding Idan Tretout for a score, and the Lions never looked back. Williams made two free throws late to put the game away.

It was the squad's third comeback

victory over one of New York's top teams after rallying past Long Island Lutheran and Christ the King earlier this year.

The match-up was a potential play-off preview — both teams are leaders in their respective diocese. Loughlin needed to win to keep pace with Archbishop Molloy in the race for first place in Brooklyn-Queens.

Still, the game's ups and downs didn't faze Loughlin — they've always been comeback kids, Williams said.

"We are a second-half team," he said. "We can always be down by 10, by big numbers and we always just win."



BIG TURNAROUND: Bishop Loughlin point guard Marquis Nowell picked up two quick fouls in the second quarter, then struggled in the third before flourishing in the fourth. Nowell scored eight of his 13 points in the final frame and dished out seven assists on the night.

Photo by Jordan Rathkopf



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Letitia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads

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Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitating communication and advertising available services; however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. "Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consumers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an unknown party."

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Angela "Nan" Albano



Angela "Nan" Albano age 93 of Stow, MA formerly of Brooklyn, NY passed away on Wednesday, December 28, 2015 at Concord Health Care Center, Concord, MA. Born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on June 20, 1922 she was the daughter of the late Matthew and Marina Petruska. Nan married and soon moved to Brooklyn.

Nan was first and foremost a mother and homemaker. Family and friends recall her delicious home-cooked meals and festive atmosphere during the holidays. She supported her husband's clothing manufacturing business and volunteered at the local elementary school, where she helped children improve their reading skills.

Nan was an avid gardener, an accomplished seamstress, and a voracious reader. She enjoyed spending time with family, neighbors and friends of all ages. Later in life, she managed a delicatessen and catering business.

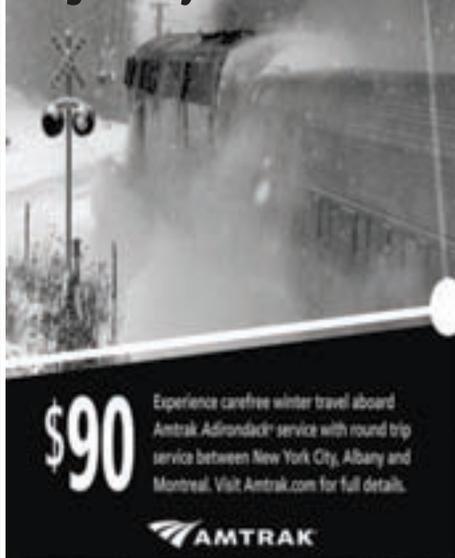
In 2010 she moved to Stow to be closer to her daughter. Her warmth, energy and outgoing character made friends out of strangers wherever she went. When she moved to assisted living, management praised her for her ability to draw quieter residents out of their shells by engaging them in poker games, conversation, and walks.

Nan is survived by her children Demi Albano of Brooklyn, Sondra Albano of Stow, MA and David Albano of Scotts Valley, CA. She is also survived by five grandchildren (Gina, Daniela, Angelica, Joshua and Kaitlyn) and three great-grandchildren. Family and friends gathered at the Concord Funeral Home, Concord, MA on Wednesday, Dec. 30 to honor and remember Nan. Interment was private.

Donations in her memory may be made to Covenant House, 460 West 41st St., New York, NY 10036 www.covenanthouse.org or the ASPCA, P.O. Box 96929, Washington, DC 20090 at www.aspc.org.

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