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Making a living off munchies

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

What do mac and cheese, velvet Elvis paintings, and pots of chili have in common? They are all the building blocks of a career.

The Takedowns are a series of pub contests in which entrants take a ubiquitous food, like mac and cheese or meatballs, or a kitschy art form, like cat drawings or velvet Elvis paintings, and compete to come up with the tastiest or best-looking creation in a short time period. And the Bushwick resident behind the wacky events treats organizing them like it is his job — because it is.

“This is all I do now,” said Takedown organizer Matt Timms (pictured above). “I’m supposed to be an actor.”

The events started a decade ago as informal cook-offs in Timms’ Williamsburg pad (see page 2 for a history of the events through flyers). But soon he was hosting his unique brand of food face-offs in watering holes around the borough and, before long, they had grown too big for venues such as Matchless and Union Pool, forcing them into their current home in Gowanus’ Bell House.

Timms charges admission to

Continued on page 21



THE NEED FOR LESS SPEED



Photo by Jason Speakman

SAFE AND SIGNED: Fort Greene resident Taryn Crosby fastens one of many “20 is Plenty” signs crafted by the road safety group Right of Way.

Activists push 20 mph limit — by putting up their own signs

BY MEGAN RIESZ

Call them the Department of Transformation.

Activists with the road-safety group Right of Way strung up a bunch of fake 20-mile-per-hour speed limit signs over the weekend in Fort Greene, Park Slope, and Greenpoint, neighborhoods they say desperately need speed limit reductions to slow traffic fatalities. The guerilla signage is meant to build support for city road planners who want to

squeeze drivers, not to attack them for failing to lower the speed limit on city streets, the road warriors said.

“We’re not trying to turn anyone against the Department of Transportation — we’re trying to help them out,” said Right of Way organizer Keegan Stephan. “I hope that this event helps build momentum.”

Right of Way targeted neighborhoods that the city has passed over for so-called “Slow Zone” designa-

Continued on page 21

Anime-fan couple gets engaged at Japan fest

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

At least one anime enthusiast got more than she bargained for at a Downtown convention last weekend when her partner

in Japanimation proposed to her.

Ronald Gonzalez and Jecibel Rodriguez were volunteering at New York University–Polytechnic’s

annual anime festival SpringFestNY where they met three years ago and, from the moment they walked into the cafeteria on Saturday, Rodriguez

knew something was up.

“I thought something was wrong with him,” she said.

Gonzalez popped the



Photo by Jecibel Rodriguez

CONGRATS!: The happy couple, Ronald Gonzalez and Jecibel Rodriguez.

INSIDE

BATTLE OF THE FLYERS

Cook-off promotional materials square off in epic fight to the finish



Your entertainment guide **Page 27**

- Police Blotter8
- Letters.....22
- Borough President.....23
- Standing O35
- Sports.....37

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Matt Timms has hosted offbeat contests at bars around Brooklyn for more than a decade (see cover story). The Takedown events started as chili cook-offs advertised with black-and-white flyers and have evolved to incor-

porate bacon, Bob Ross paintings, and out-of-this world color posters. Look back at some of the most radical Takedowns Brooklyn has ever seen and the flyers that promoted them, as told by Timms. — Matthew Perlman



GRITS TAKEDOWN, 2010
Judges' winner: Gravlax and grits (kind of like lox)
People's winner: Brazilian grits
Flyer inspiration: "The warrior princess became an octopus. She eventually went on to satanic rituals."
Favorite memory: "All the Southern transplants came out and people just went to town. They get all serious on you when you start talking grits."
Fun fact: Grits were chosen because this Takedown was part of the Food Film Festival, which featured a documentary about grits.



BOB ROSS TAKEDOWN, 2013
People's winner: Alice Q. Hoang
Poster inspiration: "It's zombie Bob Ross. First of all, he's dead. But also, you have to spin Bob Ross on his head. That's the whole idea."
Favorite memory: "People are such artists. Someone painted a Bob Ross painting with a volcano. One was with Bushwick tenements."
Fun fact: Bob Ross was the first art Takedown. All the proceeds went to Citymeals-on-Wheels.



MEATBALL TAKEDOWN, 2013
Judges' winner: Great Wall of Meatball
People's winner: Frankie Meatballs
Poster inspiration: "There's spaghetti and meatballs. Why not snakes and meatballs?"
Favorite memory: "There was this deep-fried meatball with a ravioli in the middle of it. It was insane!"
Fun fact: Timms did not want to do a meatball competition, but a friend pressured him into it. Now the dish is his favorite.



PUBLISHER: Clifford Luster
V.P. OF ADVERTISING: Ralph D'Onofrio
CLASSIFIED DIRECTOR: Amanda Tarley

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Debate: Sauce vs. gravy



LIKELY STORY: Whole Foods neighbor Martin Bisi says the gourmet grocer has not lifted a finger to fix the old Coignet building.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Whole Foods again fined for building neglect

BY MEGAN RIESZ

The city is slapping the new Gowanus Whole Foods Market with a second fine for letting an historic building it owns fall apart, a Landmarks Preservation Commission spokesperson reported.

The commission hit the grocery giant with a \$3,000 fine in December for failing to maintain the exterior of the Coignet building at Third Avenue and Third Street, which Whole Foods promised to fix up as part of a deal to allow it to build on the lot around it, but that ticket was dismissed on a technicality — the city forgot to bring a piece of paperwork to court, according to a spokeswoman. Now, the fancy food-seller claims it started restoring the Coignet facade on March 10, but preservationists are not buying it and are getting ready to cite the upscale grocer again, according to a city spokeswoman.

"It's unfortunate," said Landmarks Preservation Commission rep Damaris Olivo about the ticket, adding that she did not know when the organic grocer could expect to receive it.

A Whole Foods spokesman said he could not comment on the impending fine until his office

sees it, but claimed work on the building, once the New York and Long Island Coignet Stone Company headquarters, started last Monday and is targeted for completion in autumn or winter of this year. He stressed that the timeline is not set in stone.

"Work officially started on March 10 and it's a little unclear how long it might take until we're actually in the midst of the project," spokesman Michael Sinatra said.

A neighbor who has accused the organic giant of destroying the building, which is an official city landmark, says he is skeptical that the company will follow through on its pledge to give the place a facelift, arguing that it did nothing to fix up the building even after the first fine came down last year.

"The day after they got issued the violation, scaffolding went up, but still nothing happened as a couple months went by," said Gowanus resident and musician Martin Bisi.

Whole Foods has repeatedly denied that it has anything to do with the structure falling apart.

The Coignet building was landmarked in 2006. It may have been the city's first concrete building when it was built in 1873.

BY MAX JAEGER

What's in a name? Would not a sauce by any other name taste as tangy?

That is the question among connoisseurs of Italian cuisine, when it comes to whether you should call your favorite pasta topping "sauce" or "gravy."

It's an age-old food fight that's still simmering today, and not even Italian-American chefs can agree on which to call what — or why. Some say it depends on what color it is. If it is red, it is sauce, according to Anthony Russo, one of the owners of Gargiulo's in Coney Island.

"I always know it as sauce," Russo said. "Gravy, I always thought of as brown sauce."

Others say it depends on what you put in the pot.

"Traditionally, gravy has meat in it," said Joe Cosenza, who manages the sauce-making operation at Michael's of Brooklyn in Sheepshead Bay.

But if you take the Italian language as a guide, a sauce with meat in it should be called a "ragu," not "gravy," according to one chef.

"Italian Americans connote 'gravy' to mean a sauce with meat in it, but that's a ragu," said Pasquino Vitiello, a co-owner of Queen Italian Restaurant in Downtown Brooklyn.

Vitiello said that linguistically, "sauce" is a more accurate term — coming from the Italian word "salsa" — meaning a topping.

So where did the term "gravy" come from and why did so many people jump on the gravy train?

Food writer Concetta DeLuco believes the confusion probably started when newly arrived Italian Americans anxious to assimilate started calling their ragu the same thing other Americans called meat sauces — "gravy."

The term stuck, and people have been using it ever since, though some will tell you they also call gravy "Sunday sauce" because it is what their grandmothers served at big family gatherings after Sunday Mass.

"I think if somebody said 'gravy,' we would say it's



WHERE'S THE BEEF?: This meatless tomato sauce is certainly not a "gravy," says a panel of Brooklyn's Italian restaurateurs.

"Sunday sauce," Russo said.

As the debate rages, some prefer not to stir the pot.

"People say 'Oh, it's sauce;' 'No, it's gravy' — call it whatever you want," said Fred Cacace, co-owner

of Michael's of Brooklyn. Cacace sells authentic Italian toppings under both names.

Stay saucy, Brooklyn!

BY MAX JAEGER

Some say that the borough's manufacturing base is withering, but one Brooklyn small business is looking to expand production.

Michael's of Brooklyn, the iconic Sheepshead Bay restaurant, sells its signature, home-style pasta sauces nationwide, giving people across the country a little taste of Old Brooklyn, while promoting the borough's brand with an authentically local product.

"There are sauces out there that have Brooklyn in the name, but they're made in Jersey," said co-owner Fred Cacace. "Brooklyn has a certain cachet to it."

The half-century-old, family-run restaurant first dove into the sauce-selling game four years ago and began by marketing locally.

For years, the Cacaces sent patrons home with take-out containers of their famous sauces, but as time passed, they saw an opportunity and began packaging the stuff in shelf-stable jars.

Now gourmards can get the restaurant's gravy (actual, brown gravy), marinara, puttanesca and arrabbiata from grocers such as Fairway, Eli's, and Whole Foods Market.



PUT A LID ON IT: Michael's of Brooklyn sauce-makers pass jars through a filling machine, top each one off, seal them, and slap on a label.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

Michael's products are available coast to coast — and they even have Texas saying "fugheddaboutit."

"Texas is one of our largest markets," Cacace said.

The restaurant's cooks make everything on-site at the Avenue R restaurant. The production is not complicated, but that is what makes the product so good, Cacace said.

"It's simple," he said. "It's the way you would make it at home."

Continued on page 21

Activists say Gowanus is historic

History buffs want to preserve toxic neighborhood's finer points

BY MEGAN RIESZ

Buildings on the banks of the filthy Gowanus Canal are pieces of history worth saving, neighborhood activists say.

A community group wants to create an official Gowanus historic district that would encompass a total of 422 properties, including the Batcave, a former subway powerhouse that a millionaire wants to transform into an arts complex, and myriad other warehouses and industrial lots. The activists behind the preservation bid say that, though few traces of the fight remain, the area saw the Revolutionary War's Battle of Brooklyn and that plenty of other history lurks in the canal's murky depths and the area's unassuming factory yards.

"People walk around in a dream half the time, I think — they don't really get it, they don't see what lies beneath," said Friends and Residents of Greater Gow-



anus member Linda Mariano, who has been interested in getting the preservation designation since the 1980s. "I'm a history buff and that's what it's all about."

The 53-block area is a prime example of urban industry dating back to the mid-19th century, according to the application, which the state will vote on

in two months.

If the canal-side neighborhood were recognized as historic, there would be no restrictions as to what locals could do with their properties unless they needed federal funding or a permit from a state agency, which would trigger a formal review, according to a state spokesman.

An area businessman penned a letter slamming the plan, arguing that neighbors were not properly informed about the application, that the tax credit qualification process would be too burdensome, and that Gowanus is just downright not historic enough.

"I don't feel that it's in the best interests of the commu-



PIECES OF THE PAST: The Carroll Street bridge (above) is one of the most important landmarks in Gowanus, activists say, and the former Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company powerhouse (left), now known as the Batcave, is also included in the preservation application.

Photos by Elizabeth Graham

nity to have designations in a diverse area that doesn't even have the characteristics to qualify," said Gowanus Alliance president Paul Basile, who owns several one-story warehouses on Seventh Street and one on Baltic Street. "It's not a progressive strategy for Gowanus moving forward."

The neighborhood's

Community Board 6 is planning to ask elected officials to push a bill that would require the state to notify community boards about developments such as considering historic designation bids and closure plans like the one recently approved for a Park Slope old folks home, both of which caught board members off guard.

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Housing court on trial

Tenants and pols are fighting for the right to parley

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

Brooklyn's housing court, where judges are supposed to settle landlord-tenant arguments with an even hand, is doing little more than helping building owners throw renters out on the street, according to activists and local pols.

A coalition of tenant organizations and elected officials descended on Borough Hall last Thursday evening to put housing court on trial with a mock hearing meant to send the message that the system needs reform now.

"I think the housing court forgot why it was set up in the first place," said Delcina Biggs, a Pratt Area Community Council tenant leader who spent four years fighting off a bogus eviction. "Now it's all about landlords getting their money."

Housing court handles complaints from landlords trying to toss their tenants and from renters who have trouble getting owners to fix up their buildings. Advocates contend that the system is slanted in favor of owners, which they say you can see clear as day if you consider the fact that 14 of 15 courtrooms in Brooklyn's housing court are dedicated to eviction proceedings, while just one handles tenant complaints.



ORDER IN THE COURT: Ron Simon played the judge in a mock trial at Borough Hall.
Photo by Stefano Giovanni

"Equality does not live in housing court right now," said Assemblyman Walter Mosely (D-Fort Greene), in his testimony at the elaborate fake hearing in Borough Hall's ceremonial courtroom, where, incidentally, court scenes on the TV show "Law and Order" were filmed.

Tenant leaders posed as witnesses and talked about the issues tenants encounter in the courts after remarks from Borough President Adams, Public Advocate Letitia James, and other officials.

Biggs' story has as many twists and turns as advocates say the court system does. She lived in the same rent-stabilized apartment on E. 17th Street in Flatbush for 30 years and her landlord never pursued a major rent increase. But when her build-

ing was bought in 2009, the new owner tried to get her to sign bogus leases dating back five years in order to justify a massive rent hike.

When she refused, he tried to evict her. The case dragged on for years.

"It had become so twisted because everything was based on fraudulent papers," said Michael Grinthal, a lawyer for Mobilization For Youth Legal Services, which provides legal representation to people who cannot afford attorneys.

The eviction bid was eventually thrown out, but without a connection to an advocacy group like the Pratt Area Community Council, who got Grinthal involved, Biggs might still be fighting it, said Jonathon Furlong, an organizer with the council.

Continued on Page 25

'Betty Ford' clinic for Hook

BY MEGAN RIESZ

Brooklyn's Betty Ford clinic got the thumbs up from a local panel last week.

Community Board 6 voted 24 to 9 to approve the Urban Recovery House, a high-end Red Hook drug treatment facility that will cost as much as \$50,000 for a 28-day stay, arguing that the rehab planners have bent over backwards to prove their facility will not alter the neighborhood for the worse.

"There is no other high-end rehab center on the East Coast," said Community Board 6 member Suzanne Turet. "I think it's the sort-

of mixed-use thing that we want."

Owners hope to open the drug treatment center in 2016 on Richards and Van Dyke streets, offering an abstinence-only program with such treatment options such as yoga, acupuncture, and music therapy.

The facility will not accept health insurance or government assistance money.

A stipulation of the board's approval was that the center create a community advisory group before opening.

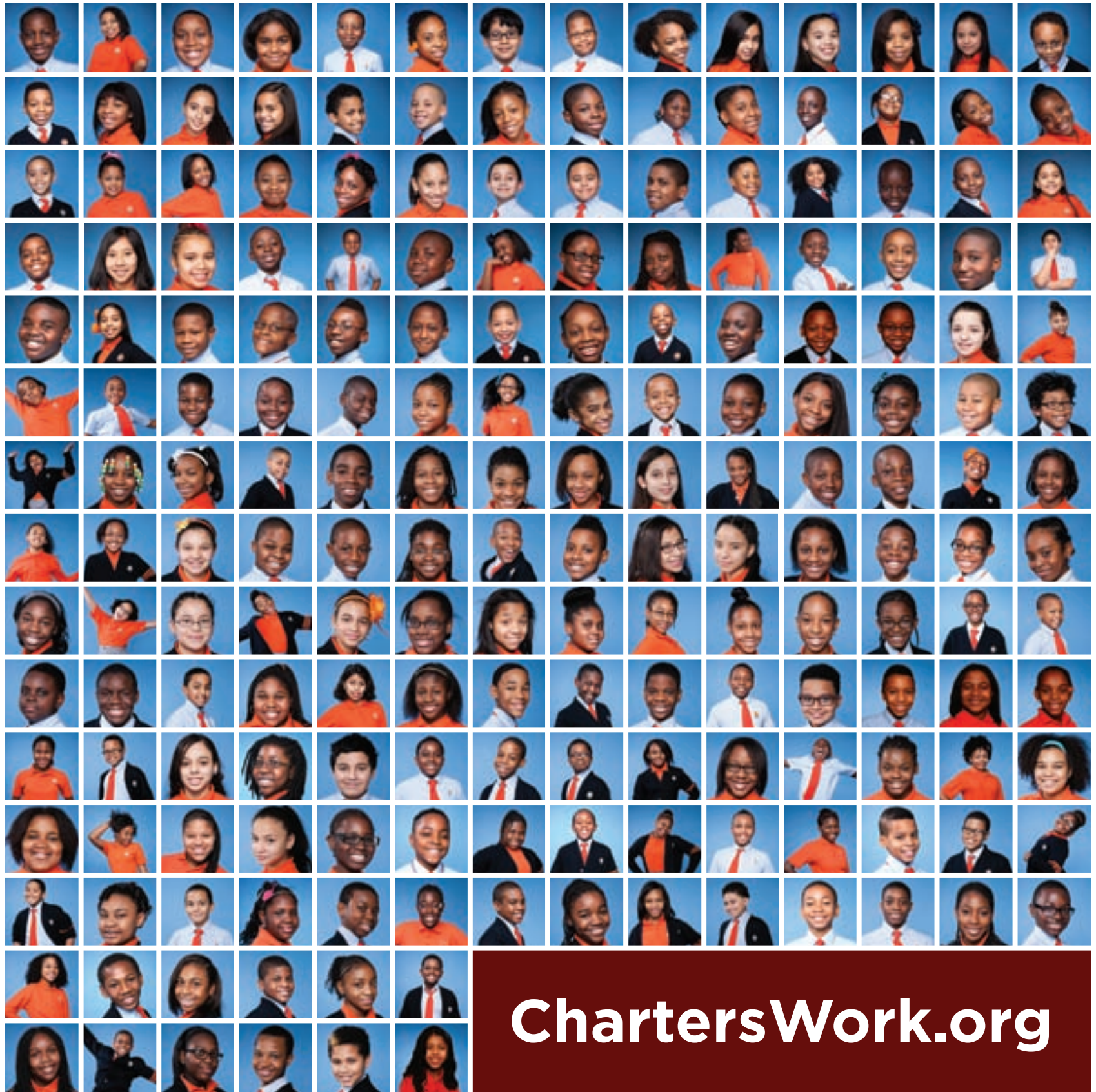
A few panel members held out against the get-lean center, saying that an

upswing in non-industrial development in the neighborhood is threatening local jobs.

"I'm solely against this because of some of the rumors I've been hearing about what's going on in the Red Hook area," said Roger Rigoli. "Jobs are being lost."

Project partners Johan Sorensen and Michael Mosberg, husband of "Girls" star Jemima Kirke, have said their facility will create about 50 clinical, support, and maintenance staff positions.

They have also promised to hire locally whenever possible.



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DOWNTOWN**Run and hit**

A ruffian punched a man mid-run and stole his phone on Bergen Street on March 5, cops said.

The 25-year-old victim said he was running between Smith and Hoyt streets at 5:25 pm when a punk popped out of nowhere, punched him in the face, and stole his phone.

Slap and dash

A lout pushed and slapped a lady on Garden Place before grabbing her phone on March 5, police stated.

The 42-year-old victim told cops she was walking between Joralemon and State streets at 5:30 pm when the brute approached and asked her for directions to Jay Street. The woman told the villain how to get there and kept walking, then the jerk ran up from behind and smacked her, pushed her, and snatched her phone before taking off on Joralemon Street heading towards the East River, cops said.

Two on one

Two galoots mugged a lady on Fourth Avenue on March 8, cops said.

The 51-year-old victim was walking to the subway near Pacific Street at 1 am when one of the lowlifes grabbed her arms, and the other punched her in the face, giving her a black eye, police stated. The no-goodniks grabbed her phone and \$60 in cash from her coat pocket, then scrambled, according to a report.

Pick of the lifters

Three wallets were swiped in three separate incidents within a few days of each other, cops said.

A thief snagged the billfold from a woman's purse on Feb. 28 on Fulton Street, police said.

The 43-year-old victim told cops her handbag was closed when she got off the B52 bus on between Hoyt Street and Gallatin Place. But she noticed while shopping in a department store near the bus stop sometime between 3 and 4 pm that her purse had been opened and her wallet removed, according to a police report.

The wallet contained \$120 in cash, debit, and credit cards and someone used the cards to buy \$62 in MetroCards immediately after the theft, cops said.

A bandit then stole a wallet from a fellow on his way to school on Jay Street on March 5, according to authorities.

The 22-year-old student realized his Harley Davidson wallet was missing when he got to his school between Tillary Street and Tech Place at 11:30 am, police said. The motorcycle billfold contained \$57 in cash, debit, and credit cards, a report says.

The next day, a thief pinched a guy's wallet at a restaurant on Adams Street, cops said.

**POLICE
BLOTTER**

The victim said he was at the Borough Hall subway station reaching for his MetroCard when he realized the wallet had vanished and, with it, \$30 in cash, debit, and credit cards. Crooks used the cards to buy stuff at a nearby pharmacy and pay for a cab ride, according to a police report.

That's messed up

A prowler ransacked a Henry Street apartment while the owner was out on March 7, police said.

The victim reported he left his apartment between Middagh and Poplar streets at 10:30 am and arrive home from work at 6 pm to discover the place trashed. The burglars got away with an electronic reader, a tablet, two pairs of heirloom earrings, and a necklace with a pendant, according to a report.

Inside job

Cops arrested one man in connection with an armed robbery that took place in a Farragut Houses apartment building on March 7.

The 31-year-old victim said she was sitting in the living room of her apartment on York Street between Gold and Bridge streets at 5:30 am with her daughter and her daughter's father. The father's brother knocked on the door and, after letting him in, the father took out a handgun and held it to his daughter's head, according to a police report.

The lowlife told the woman, "If you don't give me what I want, she's not gonna make it," cops said.

The scoundrel then grabbed the woman's phone and \$1,000 in cash from inside the pad before he and his brother va-moosed, the report said.

The report did not clarify which man was arrested. — *Matthew Perlman*

90TH PRECINCT

SOUTHSIDE-BUSHWICK

Shoot 'em up

A gunman blasted four teens on S. Second Street on March 14, cops said.

A group of between 10 and 15 teens were roaming the streets at 7:27 pm when they came across some youngsters at the corner of Havemeyer Street, the two groups got into an argument, and someone opened fire, police said. Four of the youths, including a 12-year-old, two 14-year-olds, and a 17-year-old were all shot in the leg, according to a report.

Into thin air

A quick-handed bandit snatched a man's iPad Air out of his hands while he was sitting on the G train on March 15, according to authorities.

The 53-year-old victim said he was riding the G train at 1:45 pm when it stopped at the Flushing station at the corner of Marcy Avenue and Wallabout Street and the thief grabbed his iPad and ran out just before the doors closed.

Rube robbed

Cops cuffed a lady who they say stole luggage from a naive teenager who left it sitting on the sidewalk on Ross Street on March 12.

The 17-year-old victim told police he left his luggage, clothes, and tefillin on the sidewalk while he went into a building between Williamsburg Street and Lee Avenue from 4:20 until 5:20 pm on March 12.

A witness told police who stole it and they arrested a 50-year-old woman and charged her with grand larceny.

Next-level shoe game

A trio of thieves used some inventive trickery to steal fancy handbags from a Grand Street store on March 12, police reported.

A clerk said three customers came into the store between Bedford and Driggs avenues at 1:05 pm and all of them immediately started asking to try on different sneaker sizes and styles, forcing her to go downstairs several times.

While she was downstairs, the cunning threesome stole two Alexander Wang Rocco duffel bags and a pair of MM6 leopard sneakers, according to a report.

Senior-on-senior crime

An elderly con artist talked another elderly woman into handing her thousands of dollars worth of cash with the promise of even more cash on Graham Avenue on March 11, authorities said.

The victim reported she was inside the apartment between Broadway and Debevoise Street at 12:38 pm when a woman told her that she would give her a purse filled with \$25,000 in exchange for a cash withdrawal of \$2,100. The victim agreed and went to a Chase bank with the schemer to withdraw the money, cops said.

The chiseler took the money and told the woman to walk to Woodhull Hospital where she was supposed to meet another lady who would give her the purse full of cash, but the second woman never showed, police stated.

More terrible teens

A crew of young hoodlums attacked a 16-year-old as he was walking home on McKibben Street on March 11, police said.

The victim said he was at the southeast corner of Bushwick Avenue at 4:20 pm when the teen lowlifes ran up and started punching him. One of the goons bashed him in the side of the head with a large rock, according to a report.

Seconds later, the group ran away and the victim caught a bus to Woodhull Hospital to get treatment for a big cut on his head, the report says.

94TH PRECINCT

GREENPOINT-NORTHSIDE

Steal this art

Cops arrested a guy who they say tried to cut down an Oak Street gym's sculpture on March 15.

The suspect was underneath a welded art piece between West and Franklin streets at around 10 pm with a hydraulic rebar bolt-cutter, a piece of metal art inside of his car, and graffiti gear on him, according to police.

Police charged the 44-year-old man with grand larceny.

Nightcap

A lowlife jumped a man as he came out of the Grand Avenue L station in the early morning of March 11, cops said.

The 24-year-old victim told police that he had been drinking at a bar in Manhattan and then got on the L train to come home. When he exited the station at the corner of Metropolitan Avenue at 2:30 am, the fiend grabbed him from behind and snatched his phone, wallet, cash, and credit cards out of his right hand, police reported.

Stay vigilant

A crook stole a woman's purse when she left it in her unlocked car for 10 minutes on West Street on March 16, police stated.

The 53-year-old victim reported she left her purse in her unlocked car when she went into a home at 2:45 pm and, when she came back 10 minutes later, she found the handbag — which contained her credit card, debit cards, iPhone, and ID — missing. — *Danielle Furfaro*

68TH PRECINCT

BAY RIDGE-DYKER HEIGHTS

Jacked jacket

A lowlife lifted a man's coat from a Fifth Avenue watering hole on March 11, police reported. The victim said he left his jacket containing his wallet on a hanger near the entrance of the establishment at the corner of 79th Street at 2:45 pm. When he came back, it was gone, cops said.

— *Will Bredderman*

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Pray during play

Barclays Center gets a meditation room

BY MEGAN RIESZ

The Barclays Center is now offering something rare in a sports arena — peace and quiet.

A lavender-colored meditation room opened up on the main level of the Prospect Heights entertainment complex last week as part of an agreement between developer Forest City Ratner and neighborhood groups that cleared the way for the Atlantic Yards mega-development. The room shows that the Barclays Center's owners have their priorities in order, according to the reverend who negotiated for it.

"There ought to be a place where people remember that we are more than physical, that the mind is spiritual, and you need a place to rest and reflect," said Rev. Herbert Daughtry, pastor of the nearby House of the Lord Pentecostal Church on Atlantic Avenue.

The Zen den — which boasts a shrine, rows of



Forest City Ratner

chairs, and walls imprinted with words such as "Love" and "Forgiveness" — is the first of its kind, the pastor

Daughtry initially lob-

DEEP SPACE: Rev. Herbert Daughtry (above) got a lavender spiritual room (left) installed inside the Barclays Center.

bied for a chapel in the arena paid for in part by taxpayer dollars, but was told that he could not use public funds for religious purposes. Despite the dilution, the meditation room is still a win for event-goers who need a break from the chaos of urban life, he said and, we would add, for Nets fans seeking the favor of a power higher than Kevin Garnett's massage tab.

"Hopefully it will send a message across the country that while we build, build, and build, and while we advance, we should remember that these things don't necessarily make for quality of life," the reverend said.

The room is open during all Barclays Center events and use of the quiet quarters can be arranged outside of normal hours.

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TO OLD HEIGHTS: (From left to right) This mural in the hotel's lobby shows a fanciful view of the New York Harbor from Manhattan. Ornate details and chandeliers gleam on the ceiling.

Photos by Stefano Giovannini



We get inside the Bossert Hotel

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

An historic Brooklyn Heights hotel is on its way to becoming Brooklyn's Waldorf Astoria all over again and, at a Purim party in the building this past weekend (see page 14), our photographer could not help but get shots of the impressive restoration in progress.

The storied Bossert

Hotel, which sits on the corner of Montague and Hicks streets and famously hosted the victory party for the World-Series-winning Brooklyn Dodgers in 1955, has sat fallow for decades, but is on its way to becoming a world-class tourist destination once more.

Lumber magnate Louis Bossert built the 14-story

hotel in 1909. Jehovah's Witnesses bought it in the 1980s and used it for visiting members of the church. It also housed a number of permanent residents.

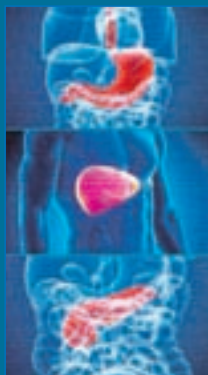
Real estate developers David Bistricher and Joseph Chetrit bought the property in 2012 with promises to return the Italian renaissance revival building

to its former glory and, if the gleaming details in the lobby are any indication, they meant it.

Tarps and partitions still line the grand main floor and most of the other levels are in the midst of gut renovations, with the exception of the 13th floor, where longtime tenants are still bunking down.



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Stars of David!

Heights Synagogue's red-carpet Purim bash

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

It was the poshest Purim party in town.

A Brooklyn Heights celebration of the Jewish holiday on Saturday was an Oscar-themed bash in the penthouse of the under-renovation Bossert Hotel, which is poised to reclaim its mantle as Brooklyn's Waldorf Astoria, complete with a red carpet. An organizer said that, lavish though the proceedings may have been, the event was all about old-fashioned religious bonding.

"Purim is about Jewish unity," said Rabbi Aaron Raskin, whose congregation B'nai Avraham hosted the event along with the Chabad of Brooklyn Heights. "It's about coming together to hear the word of god."

Before the gala, congregants heard readings of the Megillah, or the Book of Esther, at the Orthodox synagogue on Remsen Street between Henry and Clinton streets. Guests then traveled around the corner to the hotel at Montague and Hicks streets for a breathtaking roof-top banquet.

"This is a spectacular venue," said Sonia Beker, wearing a black gown and pearls and toting a fancy cigarette holder. "It's sophisticated and fun."

The crowd of about 250 costumed guests dined on sushi and sipped cocktails while taking in the views from 14 stories up. The space was donated to the congregation by the building's owners, who are in the midst of refurbishing the 100-year-old hotel.

Rabbi Raskin greeted guests between songs by a live jazz band, the Josh Levinson Sextet. He reminded attendees about the obligations of Purim, beyond partying, which include giving gifts to neighbors, performing charitable acts, and listening to readings of the Megillah, which tells the story of a fellow named Mordecai who foiled a plot to kill all the Jews in the Persian empire.

The sermon was followed with a performance



HEIGHTS AT NIGHT: (Above) Sonia Beker and Steven Zucker dressed to the nines for the fake-smoker-friendly Purim party on March 15. (Left) A member of the Josh Levinson Sextet treats the crowd to his sax stylings. (Below) From left, Shternie Raskin, Rabbi Aaron Raskin, his father Benzion Raskin, and former Democratic district leader Steve Cohn enjoy the party.

Photos by Stefano Giovannini



by guests that included jokes and a sketch loosely based on the Purim Torah reading. The show had some wanting it to go on forever.

"I wish the happiness of Purim could go all year round," said a smiling Benzion Raskin, the rabbi's father.

A final reading of the Megillah ended the evening.

"It was a beautiful night," said Rabbi Raskin. "People were very inspired.

It brought about great pride."

The congregation will host its 25th anniversary dinner at the Jewish Heritage Museum in Manhattan on March 26.

Congregation B'nai Avraham 25th anniversary dinner at the Museum of Jewish Heritage (36 Battery Pl. at First Place in Manhattan, www.bnai-avraham.com). March 26. \$275.

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Republicans rush to take on broke Krasny

Aide to disgraced Assemblywoman Diane Gordon to run against controversial ex-councilman

The race to take on penniless Assemblyman **Alec Brook-Krasny** (D-Seagate) is quickly becoming a Republican pile-on.

Two candidates from rival GOP camps have announced their intention to run for the Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights-Coney Island seat, while two more are waiting in the wings — and the incumbent is desperately short on funds.

Ridge fur-clothing retailer **Stamatis Lilikakis** and Bath Beach lawyer **Marcus Nussbaum** have announced their intentions to take on Brook-Krasny — while Brook-Krasny's 2012 opponent **Tom McCarthy** and **Timothy Cochrane**, who ran unsuccessfully for Brooklyn Republican Party chairman last year, are also considering jumping in.

Lilikakis is a political new-



comer, but sources said he is committed to spending more than \$50,000 of his own money to flip the seat — while Brook-Krasny's campaign is \$135 in the red. Nussbaum, on the other hand, became the area's GOP district leader last year — an unpaid position representing Assembly

districts in the county Republican Party machine — by defeating an incumbent heavily backed by state Sen. **Marty Golden** (R-Bay Ridge).

Golden attempted to replace Kings County Republican Party chairman **Craig Eaton** with Cochrane in September of last year. Eaton forged an alliance with longtime rival, former Assemblyman **Arnaldo Ferraro** — founder of the Fiorello LaGuardia Republican Club, to which Nussbaum belongs — to get enough votes to withstand the challenge. But Arnaldo and Eaton reportedly suffered another falling out shortly after the party's convention. Eaton is close to McCarthy, and is on record as likely to endorse him if he runs.

Golden's office said the powerful Bay Ridge pol is still undecided, but sources said he could back either Lilikakis or

Cochrane.

The district has been Democratic since 1948, thanks largely to the loyally Democratic black vote in Coney — though several sources pointed out that more people show up at the polls in predominantly white Bay Ridge and Dyker, which have historically leaned conservative.

Brook-Krasny's office said the empty-pocketed pol is planning a pair of high-powered fund-raisers to refill his depleted coffers.

...

A former aide to disgraced Assemblywoman **Diane Gordon** is climbing into the race for her boss's old seat, which represents East New York, Starrett City, and parts of Canarsie.

Community Board 5 member **James Tillmon** is seeking to replace Councilwoman **Inez Barron**, who replaced Gordon in 2009 and stepped down this year

to join the Council.

Gordon went to prison in 2008 on eight charges of official misconduct and taking bribes after an architect secretly taped her offering assistance in a bid for a \$2 million parcel of city land in exchange for designing her a new home.

Anti-poverty activist and fellow CB5 member **Chris Banks** — who challenged Barron unsuccessfully in 2011 and 2013 — announced his campaign earlier this year.

The person heavily favored to win the Assembly contest, Councilwoman Barron's husband **Charles Barron** — ex-Councilman, former Black Panther, and a longtime political pariah — has yet to file to run. But Barron assured us he still intends to seek the seat.

Tillmon declined to comment for this column.

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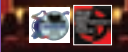
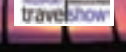
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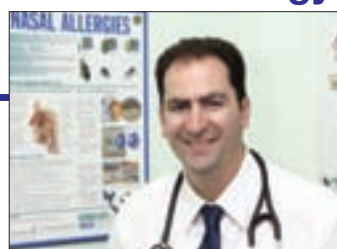
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Pols, tenants: Stop landlord sabotage

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

A Bushwick landlord punched massive holes in his rent-stabilized tenants' floor to drive them out and jack up the rent, claim residents and politicians who are calling on the city to beef up laws to stop what they say is an epidemic of building owner sabotage.

The building at 98 Linden St. is owned by Joel Israel, who renters say pledged to paint and put in new floor tiles in June but instead ripped two 10-foot-wide craters in the floor in different rooms on the ground level and left it that way in a bid to make the apartment legally unlivable and, ultimately, make the building market-rate. A local official says that such tactics are not punished harshly enough by the government.

"He has decided to take advantage of the weak policies of the city," Councilman Antonio Reynoso (D-Bushwick) during a press conference at the building. The current fines for vi-



WHOSE HOUSE?: Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez and Councilman Antonio Reynoso rally in front of 98 Linden St. with a group of tenants and supporters. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

olating housing codes are low enough that landlords do whatever they want and accept the penalties as a cost of doing business, activists say. Noelia Calero, who lives on the ground floor at 98 Linden, has a hole in her living room that she can see the basement through, which she says has forced her, her husband, and her parents to use the kitchen and bathroom of an upstairs neighbor for the past 10 months.

To add insult to extreme inconvenience, Israel hired a building resident to walk around the building playing loud music, accompanied by a mean dog, Calero said.

"He wants to evict everyone from the building," she said. "I will not move out. I have lived here 23 years. This is my home."

Israel owns 19 buildings throughout New York, 10 of which are in Brooklyn, including 300 Nassau Ave.

in Greenpoint, where tenants were forced out after they say he took an ax to the boilers, thermostat, and circuit breakers. All of Israel's buildings have been cited for code violations and many have apartments that are officially uninhabitable, but the costs he has incurred are small. Israel is currently facing less than \$2,500 in fines for the dire condition of the Linden Street apartment building.

Reynoso, Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez (D-Bushwick), and a coalition of community groups are imploring the city to hit landlord saboteurs with more citations and to create laws that would allow the city to seize property from them if they fail to clean up their acts.

"It is unconscionable in the city of New York, which is the financial capital of the world, that we would allow what this landlord is doing to these tenants," said Velasquez.

Israel did not respond to a request for comment.

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HOT TO TROT: Matt Timms, founder of Brooklyn's pub cook-off series the Takedowns, is taking his show on the road these days. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Takedown

Continued from cover

the Takedowns, but it is free to compete. All gastronomical gladiators have to come up with their own supplies. Prizes are often furnished by corporate sponsors — usually they consist of a food processor, a set of knives, or some cookware. The master master of ceremonies would not divulge how much he makes per event, but said that it covers his rent. His only concern now is that the Takedown brand could one day get too big.

“I just want to make sure they stay like a Takedown, like I used to have in my living room,” he said, explaining that amateurism is key to the events, as opposed to the polished approach of professional cooks.

“This thing about emerging home cooks is really important,” he said.

“Chefs suck.”

Timms takes exception to formally trained chefs because they have to make the same dish over and over again, whereas home cooks get to improvise and do what they feel like.

“[Cooking is] not an art, no matter what a chef says,” he said. “Anyone who says it is is full of s---.”

The frank impresario donates a small portion of what he makes at the cooking contests to the Women's Education Project, an organization that helps young women pursue higher education in India, and the art battles are entirely for charity, he said. He auctions off the art pieces afterwards and donates the proceeds to a different cause each time, he said.

Timms has an arts background thanks to his father, a museum director, and his mother, a painter, but he is quick to point out he is no

Van Gogh.

“I'm a s---- artist, myself,” he said.

Timms' first non-food match was a Bob Ross Takedown, where he projected an episode of the smooth-talking painter's how-to show and contestants tried to paint along.

“I thought it would be more of a competition,” he said. “But artists are such hippies.”

These days, Timms often takes his show on the road, sharing the joy of competitive home cooking with cities all over the country. He books about 15 events a year and the job has brought him to San Francisco, Portland, and Boston, to name a few, he said.

A Mac and Cheese Takedown is coming up on March 23 at the Bell House. Thirty competitors are signed up and the 250 spectator tickets have already sold out for \$15 a pop.

Speed

Continued from cover

tions that would have brought a 20-mile-per-hour limit along with traffic-slowing features such as speed humps. Neighborhoods including Prospect Heights, Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant were picked for the designation last year, with the city citing high rates of crashes and injuries, but the activists say the recent deaths of 9-year-old Lucian Merryweather, who was fatally hit by the driver of a Ford Explorer in Fort Greene in November, as well as Samuel Cohen Eckstein, who was killed by a motorist in October on Prospect Park West, should be enough to motivate the city to make those areas Slow Zones.

Cohen Eckstein's mom said that lowering the limit is a matter of life and death.

“If the speed limit had been 20 miles an hour, Sammy would probably still be alive,” Amy Cohen said after protesters installed a sign on a Park Slope street.

The group posted the simulation go-slow signs along Prospect Park West in November and the city caved and lowered the speed limit to 25 miles per hour for the length of that road in January.

DeKalb Avenue, which runs from Queens to Fulton Street in Downtown, is an extremely dangerous corridor for pedestrians, as is the intersection of Kent Street and McGuinness



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: Nathan Brauer and his daughter, Esme Brauer, flaunt a makeshift 20-mile-per-hour sign in Fort Greene. Photo by Jason Speakman

Boulevard in Greenpoint, according to Stephan. Ramped-up traffic enforcement is also vital to making the borough's mean streets safer, he said.

“We're pushing for Slow Zones, and then after they're installed, we absolutely have to have enforcement,” he said.

A spokesman for the Department of Transportation pointed to Mayor DeBlasio's Vision Zero report, which calls for eight

new Slow Zones per year, as evidence that safety is the agency's number-one concern.

“We continue to work with all our Vision Zero partner agencies as well as stakeholders in communities across the city to target speeding and dangerous driving,” said spokesman Nicholas Mosquera, adding that it has been a longstanding city practice to remove unauthorized placards.

Michael's

Continued from page 3

Workers cook hundreds of pounds of imported Italian tomatoes in three 80-gallon kettles, adding olive oil, garlic, herbs, and other ingredients, depending on the sauce. When the mixture is done, it is piped into jars via a filling machine. The cooks then pop on a lid, label the jars, and let them cool.

The production team can turn out 280 cases of sauce in one day — that is 3,400 32-oz. jars — said manager Joe Cosenza.

Soon that output may quadruple. The company is

investing in machinery to automate the process, allowing the restaurant to make around 1,000 cases a day, or roughly 3,000 gallons of the red stuff, Cacace said.

Automating production will not burn the 12 sauce-makers Michael's employs, though. The company will actually take on more workers to keep up with production, Cacace said.

“The object is to make more sauce, not get rid of people,” he said.

Anticipating an even heftier output, Michael's is joining the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, and the organization's president said he could not be happier

to have the team aboard.

“They are a true Brooklyn success story,” said

Brooklyn Chamber president Carlo Scissura. “They are Brooklyn.”



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Neighbors: Put the brakes on speedy Kent Avenue

Williamsburg's Kent Avenue is a tragedy waiting to happen, say residents who want the city to place stoplights along the heavily trafficked road near popular East River State Par. Neighbors claim the stew of tourist pedestrians, bicycle commuters, and children at play alongside gas-guzzling vehicles could boil over at any time ("Stop. Go. Kent Avenue," online March 17). But the state claims the street does not meet federal benchmarks for installing traffic signals.

The commentariat accelerated the discussion online.

This article seems loosely based on the community board meeting last week, but only very loosely. The Department of Transportation commissioner said it was a law and the city's hands are tied. You learn a lot at community board meetings.

The demand for stoplights was mostly along Humboldt Avenue. I think there was a call for a stoplight around S. Fourth and the Williamsburg Bridge. No one was asking for stoplights on Kent. Kent Avenue-equals-speed-trap was addressed at the January meeting when Community Board 1 voted to redesign lower Kent Avenue to add a bike lane and cut lanes of traffic to stop the speeding. The complaints about Kent were about bikes.

A quite literally insane woman, who sat in her chair muttering to herself, to the dismay of those near her, stood up to yell about people riding bikes and hurting children near soccer fields. She was the one who mentioned bean counters. She yelled during other people's comments, too, because she is just a rude and awful person. She wanted rumble strips for bikes.

The friend of East River Park also lied and said there are no rumble strips for bikes along Kent. The DOT commissioner said he thought there were strips, but the park lady lied and said there weren't. I assume the DOT commissioner will look into it, find there are rumble strips, and then dismiss their complaints since they were based on lies or ignorance.

So thanks for cutting out all the anti-bike stuff, I guess. But maybe reporting

SOUND OFF TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

on how silly some of the people who go to community board meetings are would have been a better type of journalism.

Mike from Williamsburg

The transportation department's studies on the avenue are a waste. Tragedy waiting to happen? If bikers will show some respect and follow rules, and do a full stop for red flashers of school buses, that will prevent a lot of problems.

Ken from Greenpoint

Bike riders are saving the Earth.

They are exempt from all laws, except those of physics and gravity.

Or from Yellow Hook

Does anyone know if that is a law or if the city chooses to use these mandates?

Federal Mandate from Williamsburg

I grew up in Brooklyn on a street that had two corners with stop sign. I witnessed several crashes in front of my eyes until the DOT finally put in traffic lights at those corners. This was 15-20 years ago. The eerie truth is that nearly every traffic light is a monument to several people who have paid the ultimate price for our officials' reluctance to take action.

Tyson White from UWS

Placing stoplights will do absolutely nothing to help with safety as long as you have cyclists that are constantly disobeying them as well as pedestrians who don't even wait for the walk signal, let alone look both ways to cross. But they will always blame us motorists for all of their actions, no matter what.

Tal Barzilai from Pleasantville, N.Y.

A pedestrian elevated walkway at Domino would be great. Railroad crossing-style gates every five blocks would be great. Golf carts. Miniature steam locomotive please. Solar trolley. Thanks for your time.

Mack

I drive and bike to Williamsburg. As I see it, though some cyclists think they're not subject to obey traffic rules, that's not the problem. The problem is the traffic, and the cars that speed through a city street.

The best way to slow them down, besides speed humps, rumble strips, or any other roadway construction, is stop signs. Traffic lights often push drivers to actually speed up because they see that green or yellow at the next corner that they want to get through. Stop signs make

them slow down, and stop signs at every corner means they can't really ever get up too much speed.

Stacey from Prospect Heights

The other way to crack down on speeding on city streets is speed cameras. Transportation Alternatives is circulating a form to request one in your neighborhood. If drivers learn that speeding on Kent costs them hundreds of dollars per incident, they will soon learn to slow down.

Scott from Park Slope

Many of those cyclists will always believe that the rules don't apply to them. Unless there is better enforcement, they will always be able to ignore all traffic lights and signs without ever feeling hindered about it. Then again, those in places such as Streetsblog and Transportation Alternatives will always act like victims to the rules and say that they are being picked on, even though tickets on motorists flouting the laws or causing accidents have actually increased in most of the city, which debunks the lax attitude towards them.

Tal Barzilai from Pleasantville, NY

Show me evidence that tickets issued to motorists have increased. Show me a year-by-year comparison of various moving violations.

Ty from Prospect Park South

The cyclist agrees that cyclists break laws, "but are really not the problem." Wrong! Pedestrian here. Cyclists have zero respect for red lights. I have been hit by two cyclists running red lights. I have been hit by zero cars. Obey the law. You are the problem.

SwampYankee from ruined Brooklyn

I advocate for crosswalks and stop signs on Kent and Eighth Street for the entrance to the park and city-park soccer field. Stop signs are better than lights and promote a lower speed. There are rumble strips near the park on the bike lane, but we need signage too. Bikers do not slow down for park pedestrians.

I also suggest that past studies have been a waste of taxpayer dollars, as they are measuring the wrong elements that make the intersection dangerous.

Jackie

Swan man

To the editor,

Good for the swans, good for swan crusader Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz

(D-Sheepshead Bay), and good for us for having an assemblyman who cares.

The name "Department of Environmental Conservation" sounds so protective, but what a double-edged sword it becomes when it is training its gun-sights on these creator-beautified, aquatic birds with a so-called management plan calling for their extermination by 2025.

Sounds like a final solution, with shades of Nazi genocidal subterfuge. Sure, the agency justifies its plan by "expert" assessment of the damage to the habitat of native ducks and geese.

Come on! This is putting out a contract on the swans. I guess the pesky goose-creatures flanking the swans in the water risking an occasional peck to compete for crumb handouts off the docks is evidence of their inability to co-exist?

That's it. The ducks are flanking them in protest.

How about picking on a more formidable target, say, the fossil-fuel-exuding fishing and party boats that moor at the piers? Can't we make them electric or solar-powered at an affordable boarding cost?

And, what of the thriving invisible water rat population? Anyone measuring their environmental negatives? The more garbage they eat, the more disease spreads. Where's the pied piper to draw them from the waterfronts and dumpsters into the oncoming traffic or ASPCA death camp? No, this fishing hamlet ain't Hameelin. And leave our seagulls alone too.

J. J. Lauria
Sheepshead Bay

Pol payola

To the editor,

While Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito supports Mayor DeBlasio's tale of two cities and concerns about the middle class facing an affordability crisis attempting to make ends meet living in the Big Apple, her loyal council members have no problems making ends meet.

Never shy around a camera or microphone, Speaker Viverito recently quietly issued checks for 50 percent of each council member's awarded Lulus of between \$4,000 to \$28,000 per year. This supplements a \$112,000 base salary to her loyal members for chairing a committee or subcommittee. The base salary plus Lulu is three times what an average constituent earns for a job officially classified as part time.

Hard-working taxpayers would never see such treats from their respective employers.

Larry Penner

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Slow zones: yes, roller coasters: no

Adams: I'll enjoy T'Bolt 'from grouxnd'

Borough President Adams has been in office for nearly three months. We wanted to check in with him to get his thoughts on slow zones, the recent controversy about his One Brooklyn charity, and the new roller coaster coming to Coney Island.

Bill Egbert: What do you think of the push for slow zones in neighborhoods like Park Slope, Fort Greene, and Greenpoint?

Eric Adams: If you were to go back a few years, I pushed the 20-miles-per-hour idea for places like that. I'm glad to see that people now see that's possible. Our streets have changed. The ways we use them has changed.

BE: There was some confusion earlier this month at a Borough Hall about your One Brooklyn charity because it hadn't been registered yet. Have you finally gotten that paperwork in the mail?

EA: There was no confusion at that meeting. We had 100 business leaders there who responded to our call to form partnerships with existing organizations to create financial literacy programs throughout the borough. And we are moving straight ahead

Fireside Chat

A monthly conversation with
Borough President Eric Adams



with that initiative.

BE: But about the One Brooklyn charity you're organizing, is the paperwork for that moving forward now?

EA: My counsel handles all that, so you'll need to ask him.

BE: You've had a lot of events at Borough Hall since you took office. What kind of events are coming up?

EA: We have an event coming up at Borough Hall with Police Commissioner Bratton, but the point of these events isn't just to have events, but to bring people into Borough Hall so they can find out what sorts of services we can offer. We could be celebrating our heritage or honoring women for their contribu-

tions to their communities, but the point is to bring people in and then engage them.

I'm a firm believer in the "wax on, wax off" idea from the "Karate Kid" movie. You get people doing one thing, and it can lead to another, and you have people learning different skills.

BE: With the new Thunderbolt going up, Coney Island will have two roller coasters on your first opening day as Borough President. Are you going to ride the Cyclone or the Thunderbolt first?

EA: I look forward to being a cheerleader for all those who are riding both of those roller coasters, but I'll be doing it from the ground. I'm not a roller coaster person. I'm not a thrill-seeker. My job is exciting enough.

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LEGAL NOTICE

2441 BATH AVENUE, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/1/13. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Charles A. Dimino, 3 Nancy Ct., Jackson, NJ 08527. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

364 97TH STREET LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 1/6/14. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to George Soued, 364 97th St., Brooklyn, NY 11209. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

476 UNION AVENUE, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/3/13. 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, 57 Hudson Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11201. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

5112 AVE N LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/17/13. 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, 5112 Ave. N., Brooklyn, NY 11234. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

542 VARICK AVENUE REALTY, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 1/2/14. 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, 860 Varick Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11222. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

570 JEFFERSON AVENUE, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 3/3/14. Office location: Kings County. SSNY

LEGAL NOTICE

is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 599 Manhattan Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11222. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

App. for Auth. (LLC) BCVC Operating, LLC. App. for Auth. filed w/ the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/30/13. LLC formed in DE on 11/26/13. 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 CT Corp. System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: Engage in any lawful act/activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

BETA AND GAMA SERVICES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/21/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Denis Vere-tennikov, 170 72nd St., Apt 574, Broookly, NY 11209. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

BLUE ZEBRA TECHNOLOGIES, LLC Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 12/18/2013. Office: Kings Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to The LLC, 211 East 37th Avenue, #2, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Purpose: any lawful activity

LEGAL NOTICE

COLUMBIS, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/4/13. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Deborah Ehrenberg, 360 Furman St. Unit 828, Brooklyn, NY 11201. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

EESW REALTY LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/6/13. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Elke Weber, 438 76th St., Brooklyn, NY 11209. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Emir Palace, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/10/14. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 4210 18th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11204. General Purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

FDI SALES LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/13/2014. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Isaac Dweck, 2289 East 2nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11223. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

FLORA TASTE EXPERIENCE, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/19/13. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Rosa Marzano, Atty. at Law, 750 Third Ave., 9th Fl., NY, NY 10017. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

JOSEPH A. GRAFFAGNINO, LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/30/2014. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Joseph A. Graffagnino, 1150-77 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

J & T REYNOLDS LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/16/2013. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designat-

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ed as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Joseph E. Reynolds C/O the Forgiore Law Firm PLLC, 395 Graham Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF EXCITING BREAKING NEWS, LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/30/14. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: BOUND BY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/14/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O United States Corporation Agents, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: S O U L M A T E PRODUCTIONS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/06/2013. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: LINSON REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/22/2014. Office

LEGAL NOTICE

location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Jerry Lin, 128 Bayridge Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: APPLIED DESIGN WORKS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/03/2013. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Anthony J. Deen, 421 Degraw Street, 2K, Brooklyn, NY 11217-2948. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: HAREED LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/14/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 232 Third St., Brooklyn, NY. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: DROTT-NINGHOLM LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/10/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The Limited Liability Company, PO Box 250109, Brooklyn, NY 11225-0109. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: MADE TRUCKING, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of

LEGAL NOTICE

State of New York (SSNY) on 03/06/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Corporation Services Company, 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: CJ SURIEL LIGHTING & MAINTENANCE LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/14/14. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 10-36 60th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: BROO-CLEANERS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/23/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Broocleaners Garment Cleaning Company, 613-615 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11216. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: STANDARD CANDLE COMPANY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/28/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 57 Groove St., Apt 3D, Brooklyn, NY 11221. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: DONG FAMILY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/20/2013. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 772 44th St., 4th Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11220. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SEASONS BAKED GOODS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/24/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 410 Marcus Garvey Blvd., Apt #2, Brooklyn, NY 11216. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: KP SQUARED, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/21/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 561 11th Street, #3, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: MEDTRIARCH HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/10/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Alex

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Tang, 728 Meeker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: BABY CARAVAN, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/24/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 428 Park Place, Apt. 2B, Brooklyn, NY. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: KLEAN FREAKS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/21/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Legalinc Corporate Services Inc., 8857 Alexander Rd., Suite 100A, Batavia, NY 14020. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: DUGGINS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/23/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Veggies Natural Juice Bar, 785 Franklin Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11238. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

ZD MAX, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/26/13. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 4210 18th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11204. General Purposes.



JAPANIMANIACS: Anime fans do more than just dress like their favorite characters; they act the parts. Here is a gaggle of them at SpringFestNY on March 16.

Anime

Continued from cover

question in a crowded cafeteria, surrounded by costumed superheroes and villains, sitting at the very table where he and Rodriguez first laid eyes on each other.

"I wanted it to be at the exact location," Gonzalez said. "I thought it would be special."

It all clicked for Rodriguez when her beau dropped down to one knee.

"I was like, 'Oh! That's what's happening,'" she said.

A friend surreptitiously caught the whole thing on video.

"It was absolutely beau-

tiful," said Adam Edwards, who helped organize the anime festival and also distracted Rodriguez while her soon-to-be fiance got ready to pop the big question. "It was a magical experience."

Rodriguez thought that matrimony was somewhere on the horizon, but did not know how quickly it was approaching.

"I knew it was going to happen soon, but I didn't know when," she said.

Gonzalez, on the other hand, did not count his eggs before they hatched.

"I didn't expect her to say yes," he said.

When Rodriguez accepted the ring, the room erupted into cheers and chants of "Yes!"

The rest of Spring-

FestNY, which was held at MetroTech Center on March 16 and 17, went equally well, said Gregory Fisher, who helped organize the event.

"Most people are saying it's the best we've ever done," he said.

The festival was the school's 10th and included live music, vendors, and panel discussions all centered around Japanese animation and culture.

There was also a so-called "Cosplay Masquerade" where contestants were judged on the creativity of their costumes and how convincingly they played the part of characters from the world of comics, niche and mainstream, as well as a soda-drinking contest.

Housing

Continued from page 6

The problem of landlord supremacy extends to the courthouse at 141 Livingston St., said the pols, pointing out that the city rents the building from David Bistricher, a big-time landowner who made now-Mayor DeBlasio's list of worst landlords in the city back in 2010, when DeBlasio was public advocate. The space is run-down, too small to handle today's caseloads, and is difficult for disabled people to access, tenants said. They demanded more translators, better legal services, and easier access to information about how the byzantine



RENT REGULATORS: Beverly Rivers and Jean Wilinon take part in the protest organized by Brooklyn Tenants United.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

court proceedings work.

The protest was organized by Brooklyn Tenants United, a consortium of community organizations

from across the borough that includes Saint Nick's Alliance, the Flatbush Tenant Coalition, and the Fifth Avenue Committee.

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- **I'm truly amazed and relieved.** After just 2 weeks of drinking the Bell Ezee Flow Tea I no longer have to get up during the night. I'm enjoying a normal sex life. This product is so incredible. I enjoy drinking the tea. I hope that a lot of men with a pride issue give this a shot. It's difficult to express how delighted I am. *Clarence A. Rehrig, 58, Allentown, PA. **

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- **I wish I had found this tea sooner!** A family member told me that she used the Bell Tea for Women #4b with positive results. What a wonderful product. It also worked for me. *Australia P. Rodriguez, Rego Park, NY.*
- **Plan to keep taking it as long as I live!** One of the clerks in my local health food store recommended the Bladder Control Tea #4b. I was very skeptical. What a surprise it worked! 5 days after starting the tea I noticed a major improvement and it is continually getting better each day. I plan keep taking it for as long as I live. Thank you!* *Frances Baird, 87, Venice, FL.*
- **Exercises didn't help!** After drinking the Bell Tea for Women #4b my life is far less stressful especially when I am at work. Thanks for such an amazing product! *Marilyn Sallows, 53, Fort McMurray, AB*
- **Tea represents truth in advertising!** Being a skeptic, I ordered this Bladder Control Tea for Women as a more or less last resort, after trying everything else in the last 5 years. It worked better than I hoped for. Thank you for this great product, and above all, for truth in advertising. *Marina Rosa, 57, Las Vegas, NV**

* These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.



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24

ARTS ■ DINING ■ MOV

CHILI FACTOR

Aviator's chili fest has
ostrich on the menu

Some like it hot: Tyler shows off one of the chilis he'll be serving at Aviator Sports and Event Center's first-ever chili fest.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

By Max Jaeger

Something spicy is cooking at Floyd Bennett Field.

Marine Park's Aviator Sports and Events Center is stirring up a chili festival, where adventurous attendees can sample up to 15 variations on the famous stew, including an exotic ostrich chili. Aviator's staff will be cooking up the many offerings, which are inspired by flavors from around the world.

"As a chef, I worked a lot of different places — and also lot of different countries — so I'm familiar with different spices and

flavors," said Aviator's in-house chef Chris Tyler.

Tyler said he created the entire menu using recipes he has picked up in his travels — as well as a little ingenuity.

For instance, he is not just swapping out beef for poultry in his turkey chili. Instead, Tyler is making Jamaican-style jerk turkey chili.

Other offerings include a marinated pork shoulder chili, seafood chili, a bittersweet beer-and-chocolate chili, and even a vegetarian chili. For the iron-tongued, there will

also be a "dragon's breath" chili — which Tyler said is sure to melt your mouth.

Diners who can't handle the heat can still chow down, with a variety of fair-style foods available — including pulled pork, hotdogs, and hamburgers — plus cotton-candy and ice cream to soothe the burn.

Tyler said the event center was initially slated to host a firehouse chili cook-off. When that fell through, the idea kept simmering in his mind, so he devised his own homage to the southwestern staple.

Admission includes chili samples, car-

nival games, and snacks, he said, and 35 percent of the day's proceeds will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Tennessee.

"I figured what better way to promote a chili fest than to also donate to a worthy charity?" Tyler said.

"Aviator Chili Fest" at Aviator Sports and Events Center [3159 Flatbush Ave. off the Belt Parkway in Marine Park, (718) 758-7500, www.aviatorsports.com] March 29 from 1-6 pm. \$25 ages 14 and up, \$10 ages 10-13, free for kids under 10.

GET MOM AND POPPING

Hip-hop group of over-50s moms busts a move in Williamsburg

By Max Jaeger

Forget the Jitterbug and the Charleston — these golden gals are popping and locking like pros.

A hip-hop dance group composed entirely of women who are over 50 years old will perform at the street dance competition in Williamsburg on March 29, pulling the kind of moves that would land the average lady-of-a-certain-age in the hospital. But the members of Momz-N-Da Hood are not your average older ladies.

"There are other over-50 groups that dance these days — you know, tap, ballet — I haven't seen any that spin on their heads," said Jamee Schleifer, a Manhattan Beach resident who joined Momz two years ago.

The group formed at a YMCA on Long Island's North Shore 15 years ago, when founder Barbara Adler and a group of other women took a dance class together. Most found the instructor's routines too tough and dropped out, but a handful stuck with it. And what they lacked in skill, they more than made up for in attitude, explained the group's teacher.

"They weren't great dancers, but they had passion," said Lancelot Theobald, who taught the class and now choreographs the group's routines.

To meet their instructor's expectations, the ladies held furtive practice sessions.

"We secretly practiced at night after our kids went to bed," Adler said.

When Theobald found out, he knew he



Shop, lock, and drop it: When they aren't working and attending to motherly duties, Momz-N-Da Hood members work on their hip-hop dance moves.

Photo by Gisele Bartley

had something special.

"As a choreographer, I work with professional dancers who don't have that kind of commitment," he said.

So, Theobald, Adler, and the other ladies formed the motley group of suburban moms into a dance crew.

A spot on American Airlines' in-flight television launched the ladies into the spot-

light. Since then, they have performed on network TV, at Madison Square Garden, and at countless dance competitions.

Schleifer joined in 2012 after finding the group on Facebook, but her introduction to hip-hop dance followed different steps.

She taught dance in New York public schools during the 1980s and found the style was a way to connect with students.

"The children at the time did not want to learn ballet and tap — they'd boycott and not dance," she said.

When she noticed a student in her class doing the wave, Shleifer saw an opening. She immersed herself in hip-hop dance the only way she knew how — watching taped televised performances.

"Living in my neighborhood — a white Jewish girl in Brooklyn — there was nobody on the street dancing," Shleifer said.

Theobald said Momz' crowning achievement was when it got a standing ovation at the "Hip Hop International" — arguably the largest hip-hop dance exhibition in the world.

"I almost cried seeing the real hip-hop community embracing them like that," he said.

See Momz-N-Da Hood at "Battle For Your Life: Street Dance Competition" at Magnet School of Performing Arts (60 Cook St. between Graham Avenue and Humboldt Street in Williamsburg, battleforyourlife.eventbrite.com). March 29 at 1 pm. \$10 online, \$15 at the door.

Child's play: Fort Greene theater company's pro and teen troupes team up for 'Dead End'

By Sarah Iannone

These kids are all right.

A new production at Fort Greene's Irondale Ensemble Project is bridging the generation gap with a show that features both its professional adult company and its teen troupe — the first time in Irondale's 31-year history that the underage thespians have been teamed up with their fully-grown counterparts.

The group of young actors is primarily comprised of kids from Brooklyn, who receive 160 hours of free training a year and mentoring from the company's pros.

"This is a way that we have decided begin to pass on what we have learned about becoming a theater company," said Irondale's executive director Terry Greiss, who is also a performer in the show.

Together, the two groups are performing Sidney Kingsley's 1935 play "Dead End," which follows a group of kids growing up in slums on the east side of Manhattan, while the very first luxury apartments are starting to appear nearby. It is a theme that should resonate with modern-day New Yorkers, said Greiss.

"You see the city going through a



Teen spirit: From left, Osher Sa'ar Lavy, Danajah Davis, Andre Knight, and Michael Marti, in Irondale Ensemble Project's "Dead End."

Photo by Gerry Goodstein

great change and gentrification like today," he said. "This is why the piece is so strikingly relevant."

The play has even more significance for its teen stars — the young actors in Kingsley's original were thrust into stardom after appearing in the film adaptation of "Dead End" alongside Humphrey Bogart. The "Dead End Kids," as they were known, went on to star in dozens of films through the 1930s and '40s.

Greiss said the kids have had to work hard to live up to their forebears — especially to nail the strong 1930s New York dialect spoken by their characters. But the pint-sized players say the rigorous rehearsal process was worth the effort.

"It's allowed me to strengthen my prowess as a professional actor and it's shown me that there's a path to the arts should I want to put the effort in," said 16-year-old Andre Knight.

Already a few weeks into production, the ensemble said the kids have made enormous strides with every show.

"I think for all of them this has become a life changing experience," said Greiss.

The teens' acting abilities are now reaching the level of their adult co-stars', he said.

"I would measure this production with anything going on in New York today," said Greiss.

"Dead End" at Irondale (85 S. Oxford St. between Cumberland Street and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Green, www.irondale.org). Through March 29, Wednesday to Saturday 7:30 pm, Saturday 3 pm, \$25.



Kitchen confidential: Novelist Michael Gibney has drawn on his years working as a chef in high-end New York restaurants for his new book "Sous Chef: 24 Hours on the Line."

Cooking the book Chef-turned-author writes novel on life in the kitchen

By Michael Hays

The pen is mightier than the carving knife.

In 2010, Park Slope chef Michael Gibney traded in his kitchen whites for a seat in Columbia University's creative writing program. Now he is whisking his two careers together with his new novel "Sous Chef: 24 Hours on the Line," which offers an inside look at the soufflé-rising highs and finger-burning lows of working in a professional kitchen.

"I wanted to demonstrate the amount of work that goes into it. It's easy to not realize how much effort goes into every detail that goes on a plate," said Gibney, who will release his book at PowerHouse Arena in Dumbo on April 1. "The folks behind the kitchen really care a lot and they are doing it for you, the diner."



Gibney previously worked as the executive sous chef at Manhattan's Tavern on the Green — one of several restaurant jobs that served as inspiration for his book. The characters in "Sous Chef" are fictionalized, he said, but they are all based on his real-life experiences.

"Every moment, every sentence, every assertion was to maintain truth and to not betray the trust of the reader," Gibney said of the book, which has received praise from the likes of Anthony Bourdain and acclaimed Carroll Gardens writer Phillip Lopate. "There is no point where I'm fabricating things."

Working in restaurant kitchens is not all sugar and spice, as the Brooklyn-born author learned while working as a dishwasher in an Irish pub during his teenage years. Gibney often found himself in "elbow-deep brute work," he said — including at least one occasion when a child vomited in the pub. These messy chores provided motivation to swap the sink for the stove and climb the culinary ranks.

"I had to move up," said Gibney.

The transition from preparing food to writing about it was not as difficult as it might sound, Gibney said, given his life-long love of literature and the creativity required for both endeavors. But moving from long shifts on his feet in the kitchen to the cerebral labor of writing proved more challenging.

"You go from being active every day to a much more quiet lifestyle," he said. "It was kind of jarring."

Michael Gibney releases "Sous Chef: 24 Hours on the Line" at PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. between Front and Water streets, (718) 666-3049, powerhousearena.com]. April 1 at 7 pm. Free.

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They are cooking now: Kenyatta Beasley, left on trumpet, and Keith Loftis on saxophone, are members of the New Cookers, a hard bop jazz collective that will perform at the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

BIG BOPPERS

The New Cookers brings hard bop back to Brooklyn

By Danielle Furfaro

The New Cookers is steeped in the ghosts of jazz past.

The Brooklyn collective has spent the past several years reliving the late 1960s and early 1970s era of hard bop.

"We do a couple covers of newer tunes, but mostly, we stick to the old stuff," said trumpet player and band leader Kenyatta Beasley, who teaches music at Long Island University's Brooklyn campus and also plays with artists such as Jay-Z and Matchbox 20.

The guys met at the now-

defunct Up Over Cafe, where they spent many long nights jamming on old jazz heads written by legends such as Wayne Shorter, Art Blakely, and Lee Morgan.

Hard bop evolved from bebop in the 1960s as a form of faster, funkier jazz.

Beasley said the band is dedicated to making sure the genre of music is still played.

"It is important to keep hard bop alive because it is an extension of jazz and jazz is America's art form," said Beasley.

Brooklyn audiences will

have a chance to witness some hard bop live on stage on March 29, when the New Cookers plays a free show at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

The collective plans to play many old numbers, and will specifically focus on some songs from the Count Basie Orchestra, including "Shiny Stockings," "Manhattan Fever," and "Hip Shaking."

The concert is part of the 15th annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival, which will see some 50 jazz bands and musicians play in venues across

the borough from March 28 to April 30. The festival will also include jam sessions, panel discussions, and a one-night revival of Laurence Holder's play about the life of jazz giant Thelonious Monk, "Monk," starring Rome Neal and featuring music by Bill Lee — the father of Spike Lee.

The New Cookers at BAMcafe, BAM Peter Jay Sharp Building [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org]. March 29 at 9 pm. Free.

Celebrate one last weekend of Saint Patrick's Day fun in the Ridge

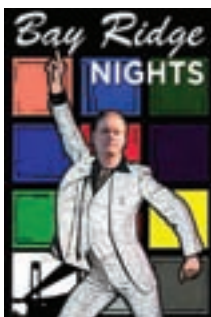
By Will Bredderman

Just when you thought it was over — Bay Ridge Nights is bringing more Saint Patrick's Day revelry your way.

In the Ridge, Saint Patrick's Day lasts all month — or at least until the neighborhood's two-decade-old parade on March 21.

If you are still detoxing from the previous week, we recommend resting up Friday night to prepare for the rest of the weekend.

Saturday, hit the **Greenhouse Cafe**



[7717 Third Ave. between 77th and 78th streets] to hear the classic '60s sounds of the Rockinghams. The band starts playing at 9:30 pm.

That should get you just pumped enough for parade day on Sunday. Start your Irish jig early at **Yellow Hooke Grill** [7003 Third Ave. at the corner of Ovington Avenue] at 3 pm, to hear the Emerald Isle stylings of the Canny Brothers Band. The Dyker-based group

plays a set of original tunes equal parts classic rock and traditional folk. After that is over, stumble on up to one of the neigh-

borhood's finest Irish pubs, the **Wicked Monk** [9510 Third Ave. between 95th and 96th streets]. The party there starts at 1 pm and lasts until midnight. Raise a glass first to Irish folk act Jameson's Revenge, then stick around to hear Shilelagh Law play a mixed set of old reels and originals.

Or, if you would rather observe Saint Patrick's Day's dry history, stay outside on Third Avenue and watch the fantastic marching bands and dancers on parade — or head over to **Saint Anselm's Church** [356 82nd St. at the corner of Third Avenue] to hear the Band of Rogues. The group is equal parts Irish and American, belting out traditional ditties, blues, and rock 'n' roll.



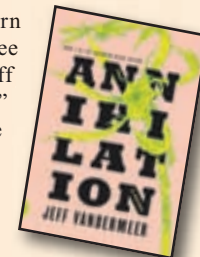
The best reads — handpicked by local bookstore employees

WORD's pick: "Annihilation"

by Jeff VanderMeer

Jeff VanderMeer's "Southern Reach" trilogy (parts two and three are due out later in 2014) is off to a brilliant start. "Annihilation" manages to capture the alien sense of awe that permeates Arthur C. Clarke's classic "Rendezvous with Rama" while entangling readers in a Lovecraftian tale of ever-increasing dread. Four scientists venture into "Area X" to attempt to make sense of this anomalous zone of nature. What follows is simply one of the most tautly written, deeply frightening, and ultimately satisfying science fiction novels in recent memory.

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

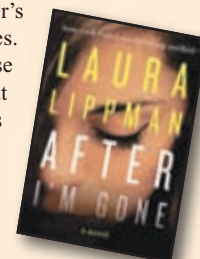


The BookMark Shoppe's pick:

"After I'm Gone" by Laura Lippman

"After I'm Gone" is loosely based on a true crime event in which a Baltimore gangster goes missing, leaving more than one woman behind. This story is told through the eyes of the women in the life of Felix Brewer, who simply vanishes one night instead of facing possible jail time. On the 10th anniversary of Brewer's disappearance, his mistress vanishes. When her body turns up, a cold-case detective begins to investigate that long-ago night when Brewer was thought to have run. Can there be redemption for a man who has cheated, lied, and stole his entire life? A look at two women who loved the same man who only thought of himself when he ran away from a life prison sentence. A fast action paced thriller with a great ending.

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



Greenlight Bookstore's pick: "My Life in Middlemarch" by Rebecca Mead

George Eliot's sweeping "Middlemarch" is considered by many to be a near-perfect novel. Rebecca Mead, a New Yorker staff writer, first fell in the love with the classic as a teenage bookworm in rural England, and as she grew older, her appreciation and understanding of the book only grew with her. Mead mixes memoir with biography and critical analysis and the result is this — a tremendous love affair with a true masterpiece. If you've already read "Middlemarch," you'll immediately feel connected to Mead's work, and if you haven't yet taken the plunge, Mead's passion will convince you that it is well worth the look.

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





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24 SEVEN EVENTS

FRI, MARCH 21

TALK, NELSON MANDELA TRIBUTE: "The Fight for Freedom" documentary showing, poetry, and discussion with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. **Free.** 5 pm. YWCA of Brooklyn [30 3rd Ave. between State Street and Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 875-1190], www.ywcabklyn.org.

THEATER, "KING LEAR": Theatre for a New Audience performs Shakespeare's play. \$60-\$75. 7:30 pm. Polonsky Shakespeare Center [262 Ashland Pl. between Fulton and Lafayette avenues in Fort Greene, (866) 811-4111], www.tfana.org.

THEATER, "DEAD END": Five teenagers struggle with extreme wealth and poverty in a divided New York City. \$15-25. 7:30 pm. Irondale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233], www.irondale.org.

THEATER, "TWELFTH NIGHT": A world of foolery, fantasy, and rowdy house guests, where identity is mistaken and imagination often proves true. \$15-\$18. 7:30 pm. South Oxford Space [138 South Oxford St. near Hanson Place in Fort Greene], www.OLDHATTHEATRECOMPANY.COM.

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

THEATER, "REPUBLIC": Hoi Polloi Theater Company performs a dream-like piece inspired by Plato's Republic. \$18. 8 pm. Jack [505 1/2 Waverly Ave. at Fulton Street in Fort Greene], www.jackny.org.

THEATER, "MEDEA": Classic Greek play of a woman avenging her husband's betrayal. 8 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101], galleryplayers.com.

THEATER, "I'M MISERABLE BUT CHANGE SCARES ME": An existential sitcom about co-dependency and stagnation. \$20. 8 pm. Brick Theater [579 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg].

MUSIC, "BOWLIVE V FEATURING SOULIVE": \$15-\$20. 8:30 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, "REGGAE NIGHT WITH SOUL IMPERIAL": **Free.** 10 pm. The Diamond [43 Franklin St. near Caylor Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5030], thediamondbrooklyn.com.

SAT, MARCH 22

PERFORMANCE

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

MUSIC, OPEN HOUSE: Performances, workshops, giveaways, food, jam sessions and more in honor of Brooklyn School of Rock's grand opening. **Free.** 1-4 pm. School of Rock Brooklyn [327 Douglass St. at Fourth Avenue in Park Slope, (347) 915-4419], brooklyn.schoolofrock.com.

DANCE, COVENANT BALLET THEATRE: "Ondine the Sea Sprite": Covenant Ballet Theatre performs ballet based on "The Little Mermaid" and an Irish folk tale. \$25 (\$20 seniors, children under 12). 2:00pm. Kingsborough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5000], www.onstageatkingsborough.org.

MUSIC, BENEFIT CONCERT: Vernon Reid, Groove Collective, Swiss Chris: Fundraiser for Music is My First Language (MiMFL). \$35-\$50. 6:30 pm. ShapeShifter Lab [18 Whitwell Pl. between Carroll and 1st streets in Gowanus, (646) 820-9452], musicismyfirstlanguage.com.

MUSIC, SO BROWN: So Brown celebrates the release of her new CD, "Point Legere." **Free.** 7 pm. Retrofret Vintage Guitars [233 Butler St. between Bond and Nevins streets in Gowanus, (718) 237-2532], www.retrofret.com.

MUSIC, BROOKLYN JAZZ WIDE OPEN: Concert, dialogue, and workshop series. \$10. 8 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music [58 Seventh Ave. between Lincoln Place and Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300], www.bqcm.org.

DANCE, "ON HER SHOULDERS: Celebrating the Legacy of Women Artists of the African Diaspora": Performance blending contemporary and traditional choreography. \$15. 8 pm. Cumbe [558 Fulton St., 2nd Floor, between Hudson Avenue and Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 935-9700].

MUSIC, KID CUDI: \$49.50-\$75.00. 8 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

THE BRIDAL EXPERIENCE: Meet Brooklyn-based wedding vendors to assist in wed-



Kid n play: Kid Cudi plays the Barclays Center on March 22.

Associated Press / Tony Dejak

ding planning. \$5. Noon-4 pm. PAC Plex [1500 Paerdegat Ave. North, at 1500 Paerdegat Seaview Avenue in Canarsie], www.theenvisionexperience.com.

SUN, MARCH 23

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, JAZZ CLASSES: WeBop teaches children 2 to 5 years old and their caregivers about the core concepts, instruments, and great performers of jazz in eight workshops. \$350 (whole series for one child and adult). BAM Kids [30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129], www.bam.org.

THEATER, THEATRESPORTS:

Competition improvisational show for children of all ages. \$10. Noon. The Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 595-0547].

DANCE, "THE SLEEPING BEAUTY": Russian National Ballet Theatre performs Tchaikovsky's classic fairy tale. \$36-\$45. 3 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd., between Amersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951-4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

MUSIC, "DUO ANOVA": Inaugural performance in the new PLGArts Chamber Music Series. \$5 (suggested). 3 pm. RSVP required for address [Midwood St. at Bedford Ave in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, (313) 407-3179], plgart.org.

OTHER

FILM, FILM FESTIVAL: "Israel Talking @ the Movies": Four films examine how Jewish ideas of identity and responsibility are portrayed in modern Israeli film. \$10. 11 am. Brooklyn Heights Synagogue [131 Remsen St. near Court Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 522-2070], www.bhs-brooklyn.org.

SPORTS, LIU WELLNESS AND FITNESS DAY: Community event focusing on health, fitness, and nutrition for families and children. **Free.** 12:00 PM. Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu.

ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP: Urban rangers help you to understand climate changes and

explore the water cycle. **Free.** 1 pm. Salt Marsh Nature Center [3302 Avenue U in Marine Park, (718) 421-2021].

BAY RIDGE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE: The marches way their way through the streets of Bay Ridge. **Free.** 1 pm. Parade Route (Third Avenue and Marine Avenue in Bay Ridge).

TALK, DR. SALLY ROESCH WAGNER: Talk and tea celebrating Women's History Month. **Free.** 2-4 pm. Wyck-off Farmhouse Museum [5816 Clarendon Rd. at Ditmas Avenue in East Flatbush, (718) 629-5400], wyckoffmuseum.org.

COMEDY, PRETTY GOOD FRIENDS: Hosted by Eugene Mirman, with Maeve Higgins, Jon Benjamin: \$18-\$20. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouse.com.

ART, DRINK & DRAW: Weekly figure drawing class; model, crayons, and paper provided, or bring your own materials. **Free** (2-drink minimum). 10:30 pm. Macri Park Bar [462 Union Ave. at Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-4999], www.macripark.com.

MON, MARCH 24

ICE SKATING PARTY: Skating party with exhibition performances by NYC's synchronized skating team. \$25. 6-9 pm. The Rinks at LeFrak Center [Enter at Parkside and Ocean Avenues in Prospect Park, (718) 462-0040], www.lakesideprospectpark.com.

READING, COLMAN ANDREWS: Author of "My Usual Table," in conversation with Ruth Reichl. **Free.** 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

SPORTS, WWE MONDAY NIGHT RAW: \$25-\$105. 7:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

TUES, MARCH 25

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE POP-UP SHOP: Credit cards accepted. \$4. 3:30-7:30 pm. St. George's Episcopal Church [800 Marcy Ave. at Gates Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant], www.girlscoutsnyc.org.

TALK, SPRING LECTURE SE-

RIES: "Can Men Be Civilized without Monogamy?" **Free.** 6-8 pm. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489-5200], www.sfc.edu.

FILM, CREATED EQUAL SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: "The Loving Story": Documentary about the Lovings, whose landmark 1967 Supreme Court case legalized interracial marriage. **Free.** 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

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

THEATER, "RED VELVET": In London in 1833, a black American breaks precedent and plays Othello. \$45-55. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse [29 Jay St. between John and Plymouth streets in Dumbo, (718) 254-8779], www.stannswarehouse.org.

MUSIC, NOPOP, COPAN, VALVED VOICE, KEITH VARICK: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

WED, MARCH 26

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

READING, SARA BARRON: Author of "The Harm in Asking." **Free.** 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

READING, DANICA NOVGORODOFF: Author of "The Undertaking of Lily Chen." In conversation with Whitney Matheson. **Free.** 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

THURS, MARCH 27

FILM, FILM FESTIVAL: "New Voices in Black Cinema": Narrative and documentary films showcasing the depth and diversity of the African-American experience. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

CAROUSEL OPENING DAY: Kick off spring with a ride on the carousel. \$2 (\$9 for a book of 5 tickets). Noon-5 pm. Prospect Park Picnic House (Prospect Park West and Fifth Street in Park Slope), www.prospectpark.org.

READING, "HOW TO BUILD A FIRE": Prominent community members share true tales in this monthly series curated by poet Terence Degnan. **Free.**

7:30-10 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in South Slope, (646) 279-3969], open-source-gallery.org.

FRI, MARCH 28

ART, DEVOTIONAL SERVICE: "Stations of the Cross": Installation by Audrey Frank Anastasi. **Free.** 6-7 pm. Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew [520 Clinton Ave. between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 638-0686], audreyanastasi.com.

THEATER, "THE EXONERATED": \$20 (suggested). 6:30 pm. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489-5200], www.sfc.edu.

THEATER, "THE TRESTLE AT POPE LICK CREEK": Two teenagers seek adventure and escape by racing trains in the 1930s. \$12 (\$10 students). 7:30 pm. The New Workshop Theater at Brooklyn College [2900 Bedford Ave. at Campus Road in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500].

THEATER, "YENTL": A play by Leah Napolin and Isaac Bashevis Singer, directed by Susan Montez. \$25 (\$23 seniors, children under 18). 8 pm. Heights Players [26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2752], www.heightsplayers.org.

MUSIC, "FESTIVE EVENING OF SONG": The Brooklyn Unitarian Quartet performs music composed in the 20th and 21st centuries. \$25 (\$15 students, seniors). 8 pm. First Unitarian Congregational Society [116 Pierrepont St. at Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 624-5466], fuub.org.

SAT, MARCH 29

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, CLASSICAL MUSIC: Performance of rarely-performed 17th century German music on Lenten themes. \$10. 2 pm. Zion German Lutheran Church [125 Henry St. between Clark and Pierrepont streets in Brooklyn Heights, (917) 723-4695], www.charitesmusic.com.

DANCE, CAPOEIRA: Omulu Capoeira Brooklyn hosts an evening of dance, wine, and martial arts. \$20. 7 pm. The Living Gallery [1094 Broadway, between Dekalb Avenue and Pulaski Street in Bushwick], www.omulubrooklynca-poeira.com.

MUSIC, MONTY ALEXANDER: \$30-\$40. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd., between Amersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951-4500], www.brooklyn-centeronline.org.

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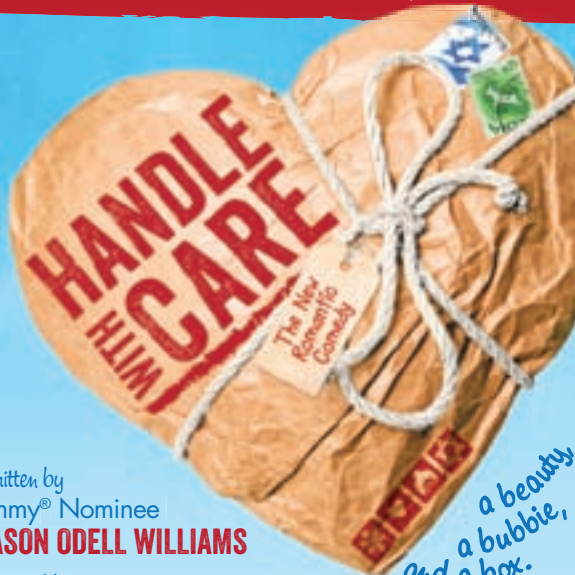
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Brooklyn Spine Center [5911 16th Ave. at 60th Street in Bensonhurst, (718) 234-6200].

PARK SLOPE

Thanks for the memory

Cheers and hooray to **Christopher Nadeau** and **Josephine Brown** of the **New York Memory Center**, formerly the Park Slope Geriatric Day Center, for their dedication and commitment to the care and treatment of patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Christopher is the executive director at the center and has been a staff member since 2003. He will receive the World Award from the **Senior Umbrella Network of Brooklyn** for his leadership and service to the older adult community at the Center.

Josephine is the program director and will be honored as a **Women of Distinction** at Courier Life's fourth annual tribute in May. She has been a member of the staff since 2000 and became program director in 2008. Brown has been instrumental in developing innovative programming for the seniors at the center.

"The New York Memory Center has been honored with the dedication, caring, and fun that Christopher and Josephine provide with their leadership," said **Allan Kramer**, board president. "These awards are well-deserved and bring them the wider attention they deserve."

New York Memory Center [199 14th St.



IN MEMORY: Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano and, right, Chief of Department Edward Kilduff, remember Tony Ficara with a plaque dedication ceremony at Coney Island Hospital on March 7.

Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

The fallen are never forgotten

CONEY ISLAND

Fire Commissioner **Salvator Cassano**, Chief of Department **Edward Kilduff**, staff and fellow EMS attendants honored fallen hero EMS **Anthony "Tony" Ficara** from Station 43, along with other selfless smokeeaters who rushed to the burning Twin Towers on 9-11 without a thought to their own lives.

The plaque, prominently displayed on the second floor of Coney Island Hospital, lists each of the members of Station 43, which was located at the hospital.

Ficara was a 23-year veteran who retired in 2010, and passed away in 2012.

Coney Island Hospital [2601 Ocean Pkwy. at Shore Road in Coney Island, (718) 616-3000].

at Fourth Avenue in Park Slope (718) 499-7701]

BROWNSVILLE

Crafty calendar

Budding artist **Alicja Sobieraj**, a sixth grader from the **PAL Brownsville Beacon Center**, won for her creative piece "A Career out of this world." The outta-this-world rendering is slated to be on the June cover in the PAL's 2014 calendar.

Alicja practices and hones her craft at the center, which provides recreational, educational, cultural, and social activities to boys and girls in the neighborhood.

Standing O can't wait to see Alicja's works at the Met. Brava!

PAL Brownsville Beacon Center [985 Rockaway Ave. at Hegeman St. in Brownsville, (718) 485-2719].



Hands across time

Standing O offers condolences to Standing O pal **Rev. Temah Garbaty** of the **Carmine Carro Community Center**. Her dad **Aaron Garbaty** passed away on March 2 at the age of 87.

Rev. Garbaty took a picture of her dad's hands when she first learned the art of black-and-white photography. And now she has this beautiful photo to remember his loving embrace.

GRAVESEND

The Easter Bunny is coming

Chocolate bunnies, lilies, and homemade goodies will be available at the annual **Lady of Grace Easter Fair** on April 5-6. The Boy Scouts will be selling zeppoles and fried Oreos — how can you resist that? — and local vendors will provide homemade cakes and desserts while the children play games and hunt for Easter eggs.

The Easter Bunny will also be on hand for those memorable photo ops. You can also bring a toy to donate to the Toys for Tots program at the Fort Hamilton Army Base.

So come on down and celebrate the sea-



BAY RIDGE

Order in the court

Let the record show that **Xaverian's Mock Trial** team slammed the competition and won its second mock-trial debate at Brooklyn Federal Court on March 5.

Moderator **Richard Montalbano** detailed before the court the case of **People of the State of New York vs. Penn HydrasGas, Inc. and Mitchell Tomely, CEO**.

The written memorandum of law was more than 20 pages of evidentiary rules and more than 50 pages of testimony, evidence, and related case law.

But that did not deter the team, comprised of **Kevin Savarese '14**, **Daniel Loud '14**, **Michael Calza '14**, **Marc Calza '17**, **Patrick Coen '14**, **Frank Coen '16**, **Matthew Lamattina '15**, **Christopher Cali '14**, **Christopher Russo '14**, **John Freeze '14**, **Matthew Maldonado '14**, and **Joshua Previl '14**.

The budding legal eagles put in countless hours of hard work and developed an exceptional case for both sides of the issue. Additional moderators included **William Neri '00**, **Joseph Mancino**, and **Christopher Freeze P'10, '14, G'13**.

Xaverian High School [7100 Shore Rd. at 71st Street in Bay Ridge (718) 836-7100].

son of spring and renewal at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Our Lady of Grace Church [E. Fourth St. and Avenue W in Gravesend, (718) 376-8294].

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

Welcome to the community

Standing O welcomes Councilman **Robert Cornegy** (D-Bedford-Stuyvesant) to the neighborhood. The representative opened the doors to his new service offices at the **Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza** on March 14.

"The opening of the new constituent services office is a moment of celebration and a demonstration of my pledge to provide an exceptional level of service to the residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights," said the councilman.

The new office comes with a lactation station for breast-feeding working moms.

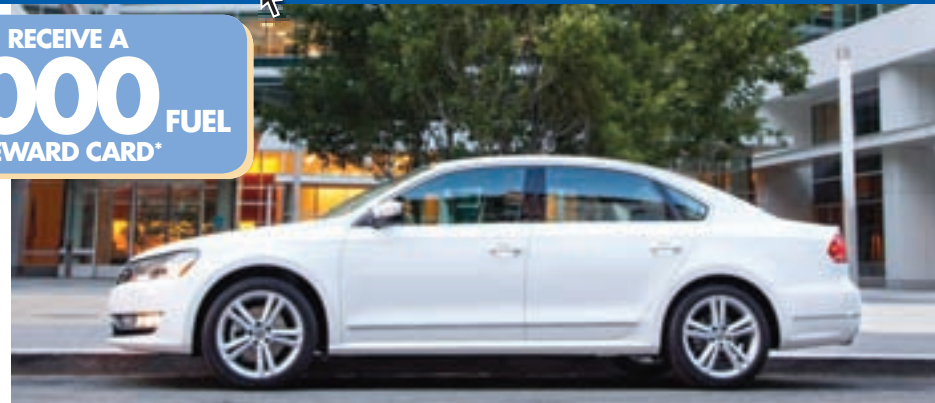
The office is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 6 pm, Thursday until 8 pm, and the first Saturday of the month from 10 am to 2 pm.

Councilman Robert Cornegy office [1360 Fulton St., suite 500, in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 919-0740].

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● 'Rhamel Brown might not be the best scorer, but he's by far our most valuable player.'

— Manhattan College head coach Steve Masiello on the former Transit Tech star

● 'I feel so grateful for this kid.'

—Brooklyn Community Arts and Media coach Lawanda Greene on star Christopher Benjamin

Trim Benjamin leads Lions to city crown

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Getting back on the court in his sophomore year turned out to be a win-lose proposition for Christopher Benjamin.

The Brooklyn Community Arts and Media senior center lost 100 pounds — and won a city championship.

"It was a terrific decision," he said.

Benjamin scored 14 points and earned most-valuable-player honors in a 47-44 victory for the top-seeded Lions over the defending champion, No. 6 Fannie Lou Hamer, in the Public School Athletic League Class B boys' basketball final at Long Island University last Saturday. He wept on the bench and was mobbed by his teammates when he was named the game's best player. His coach knew he earned it.

"I feel so grateful for this kid," sixth-year Lions coach Lawanda Greene said. "He worked hard and he's a big giant. He deserves it."

It was Greene who pulled the 6-foot-3 Benjamin out of the school cafeteria and back to the court. Benjamin — then more than 300 pounds — had been dismissed from Bishop Ford, where he played sparingly as a freshman. Schoolwork, not basketball, had been his priority then.

Greene, who played college ball at Ohio State and St. Peter's, told him to meet her at the gym later in the day for workout. Benjamin was ready with a T-shirt, shorts and sneakers, and Greene told him to start



FIGHTING TRIM: (Above) Christopher Benjamin lost 100 pounds his sophomore year at Brooklyn Community Arts and Media, and now in his senior year helped his team win a city championship on March 15. (Right) His teammates celebrate their title win.

Photos by Elizabeth Graham

working. He hasn't stopped since, and now he's slimmer, more skilled, and can run a six-minute mile. His teammates appreciate his work ethic, and his growth as a player.

"It's a big difference because he started working harder," said fellow senior



Jevonte Wilson. "He lost a lot of weight, became more of a guard."

The whole program has had to work hard to get to this point.

Brooklyn Community (30-0) lost to Teachers Prep in the quarterfinals two years ago. Then it fell to

Fannie Lou Hamer (24-6) in double overtime in last year's semifinals — a painful defeat that the players avenged in the March 15 title game.

"We wanted to beat them," Wilson said.

The Lions thrived at the end of quarters, before having to hold on at the end. Seven straight points, including a Patrick Cross layup, closed the Fannie Lou Hamer lead to just 22-20 at the half. A James Cooper three-pointer at the third buzzer gave Brooklyn Community a 37-31 lead going into the fourth — an advantage that increased to 46-34 with 2:55 to go in the game thanks to a 9-0 run.

Fannie Lou Hamer then began a frantic rally, outscoring the Lions 10-1 over the rest of the way. The Panthers cut the lead to 47-44 with 9.5 seconds left and had a chance to tie after Benjamin missed the front end of a one-and-one. Cross, Andrew Francisco and Wilson forced Saul Crespo into well-guarded three-point that did not drop.

"They kept the game close and we weren't sure, but we held them and finished it off," Wilson said.

Brooklyn Community wants to end its season on the right note as it heads to Albany to try for the state Federation crown. It takes on Catholic champions Regis at 1:30 pm on March 22 at the Times Union Center.

"I still feel like we haven't played our best basketball yet," Greene said. "Even with an undefeated season."



ARRIVED: Senior center, left, Rhamel Brown and head coach, right, Steve Masiello watch as Manhattan College is selected as a No. 13 seed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament. Manhattan College

Brown brings Jaspers to the NCAA tourney

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Former Transit Tech star Rhamel Brown had to be patient to get to this moment — and he savored it.

The Manhattan College Jaspers went 6-25 in Brown's freshmen season in the Bronx. They were one win away from making it a year ago, but fell in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference title game.

But this year, Brown got to sit front and center, next to this year's conference championship trophy — along with head coach Steve Masiello and fellow seniors George Beamon and Michael Alvarado — to watch his team called during the NCAA tournament selection show.

"It's special because these are the guys I have been through thick and thin with, ups and down, everything for four years with," said Brown, a Brownsville na-

tive. "There is no point of even being here if you aren't with the people who helped you get there."

Manhattan, which also features former Transit Tech standout Richard Williams, drew a No. 13-seed and faced the defending national champion, No. 4-ranked Louisville, in the opening round on March 20 at 9:50 pm in Orlando. Brown and his teammates were surprised the Cardinals were not seeded higher.

"They really dominated competition over the past couple of weeks," Brown said. "I think they deserved a lot better, but that's the reason I don't get paid to do this."

But Brown is not without his own special skills. He was named the conference's defensive player of the year for the third-straight season. He averaged 10.1 points and six rebounds this season. He

Continued on page 40

Bobcats fall in title game

Brooklyn College Academy's undefeated season ends with championship loss

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Brooklyn College Academy's fast-rising girls' basketball team will have to wait another year for a championship.

The Bobcats missed the playoffs in coach Kristin Conlon's first season three years ago. Last year, they lost in the quarterfinals to eventual champion Scholars Academy.

This season, second-seeded Brooklyn College Academy's rode an unbeaten record into the Public School Athletic League Class B final before falling 49-41 to No. 4 East Harlem Pride at Long Island University last Saturday afternoon.

Despite the loss, Conlon is proud of how far her team has come.

"In three years we went from not making the playoffs to the championship," she said. "It's a testament to all the girls' hard work and dedication."

Senior forward Shanice Cadogan felt the culture change when Conlon took the reigns. The Bobcats began holding weekend prac-



DRIVEN: Brooklyn College Academy's Beatrice Wallace has the ball during the school's 49-41 loss to East Harlem Pride on March 15 at Long Island University. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

tices and responded well to Conlon's motivational tools, which included impassioned speeches and sharing inspirational quotes at the practices before games. Cadogan wanted it all to continue a little longer.

"Seeing it end like this

was heartbreaking," she said. "I'm not ready to leave the girls. Seeing it end like that, I couldn't help but cry."

Her team has no answer for East Harlem Pride freshman forward Daisha Davis, who scored 12 of her 16 points in the first

half. She and junior post Brashawnda Burrus (13 points) dominated the glass on both ends. Shawde Jones closed things out with nine of her 15 points coming in the fourth quarter.

The Harlem team closed the third quarter with a layup by Burrus and a basket by a double teamed Davis to give it a 37-28 lead heading into the fourth.

"We wanted to trap, but then they had another big girl," Cadogan. "They had a big girl who could shoot from outside. The bigs were so athletic."

Sophomore guard Shajuana Henry did all she could for Brooklyn College Academy (24-1), which trailed just 24-21 at the half. She scored 15 points and connected on two three-pointers. Cadogan added 10 points and Beatrice Wallace chipped in nine.

Conlon took responsibility for not having them ready to handle East Harlem Pride (20-1) using a triangle-and-two defense. Henry felt her team was

Continued on page 40

Brooklyn stars snubbed for Miss Basketball

The process for picking Miss Basketball in New York needs to change because neither of the top two players in the state won this year. And one of them wasn't even put in the running.

Even worse, the Basketball Coaches Association of New York, which selects the winner, is okay with that.

"We are hoping that it would be both, a leader on the court and a leader off the court," said executive director Dave Archer.

Oneonta guard Mariah Ruff, who is headed to St. Bonaventure, is this year's winner. She averaged 17.6 points, 7.2 rebounds and 6.3 assists playing for a Class B school, yet she beat out Christ the King wing and Brooklyn native Sierra Calhoun, a McDonald's All-American.

I'm sure Ruff is a fine player and person, but I'm sorry, one of the best players in the country, who is headed to Duke, should be voted as tops in her own state. Calhoun, who said she was surprised by the snub, was named New York's Gatorade player of the year and is also a member of USA Basketball.

South-Carolina-bound Nazareth guard Bianca Cuevas, also a McDonald's All-American, wasn't even a finalist, because she wasn't nominated. That's a bad job by Nazareth coach Ron Kelley.

Archer didn't even know who Cuevas was. When I spoke to him, he asked what school she played for.

"Years ago we use to scour [newspaper] pages then we said the heck with it, if she is that good, we should have a nomination process," Archer said.



JOE KNOWS

by Joe Staszewski

The committee that selects the finalists has done a good job in the past getting the award right, and it did so this year on the boys' side, tapping Lincoln's Isaiah Whitehead. Still, the process is flawed. Online voting by members of the association ended on Feb. 1 — just two days after the McDonald's All-American selections were announced.

Of course, Miss Basketball isn't just a pure basketball award. The committee also asks about a player's community service, leadership and character. But that didn't stop Lincoln's Lance Stevenson from being a co-recipient of the boy's award back in 2009, even after run-ins with the law.

There needs to be better communication about the process between the association, the coaches and the media. Also, the selection committee needs to include more knowledgeable people, so players like Cuevas don't fall through the cracks. In the world of social media, it isn't hard to take the time to also inquire about potential award winners beyond those formally nominated.

Bedford's rally is undone by late tip

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

It was an astounding comeback, but it still wasn't enough to put Bedford Academy over the top when the buzzer sounded.

The second-seeded Panthers clawed back from a 15-point, second-quarter deficit to tie the score in the closings seconds of the game on a second-straight trey by senior Darren Thomas — the good feeling was short lived.

A tip in by Eulogio Medina with 14 seconds left gave No. 1 Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School a 56-54 victory in the Public School Athletic League Class A boys' basketball final Saturday at Long Island University.

"The tip in just went in and it was over," Thomas said.



HOT SHOT: Michael Hilton shoots a jump shot in the first half of Saturday's game against Wheels at Long Island University. Photo by Jason Speakman

The senior guard thought he had done enough to win the game, knocking down two top-of-the-key three-pointers in the final min-

ute to tie things up at 54-54 with 42 seconds remaining. The Panthers did a superb job guarding Wolves center Tyshawn Miles, but with three players blocking his path to the basket, that left Medina open to put back his miss on the weak side.

"Our rotation was a little late on that," said Bedford coach Robert Phelps. "We had to gamble a little bit and it did hurt us."

His team had one last chance to tie. Anthony Munson drove right along the right baseline with one second remaining, but the outstretched arms of Miles smothered his shot — and maybe more, in Munson's opinion.

"I thought I was fouled," he said. "They didn't call it."

Being in position to win

the game seemed hard to fathom early in the first quarter. Cold-shooting Bedford (21-2) fell behind 17-2 with 6:40 to go in the second quarter. But the Panthers kept fighting and believed the shots would fall. They ended the first half on a 9-1 run, capped by a three-pointer by Latye Workman at the buzzer that cut the lead down to just 24-20 at the break.

"We had to dig," Workman said. "We had to pull it from deep within. We had to leave everything on the floor."

Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (26-0) pushed its lead back to nine with 5:51 to go in the game. In one more furious rally, Bedford responded with an 11-4

Continued on page 40

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Sundown

Joe Johnson passes the ball over Phoenix Suns' Marcus Morris during the first half of their March 17 game at the Barclays Center. The Nets eclipsed the Suns 108-95 on St. Patrick's Day, extending the team's home-game winning streak to nine.

Associated Press / Seth Wenig

Bedford

Continued from page 38

run capped by another Thomas three-pointer.

Thomas scored eight of his 17 points in the fourth quarter and Munson added 12 for Bedford. Medina, who earned most-valuable-player honors,

led the Wolves with 23 points, and Eddie Polanco chipped in 11.

Bedford was left with an empty feeling when it was over, but Phelps was filled with admiration for his players.

"My guys showed a lot of fortitude and a lot of guts," Phelps said. "I'm proud of them."

Bobcats

Continued from page 38

aggressive enough, but baskets they made in the first half just didn't go down during the comeback attempt.

"Our goal was to attack and make sure we play defense," Henry said. "Just some shots weren't dropping. So we had a deficit throughout

the whole game."

A championship game defeat doesn't mean Brooklyn College Academy's rise is over. It loses just three seniors and returns a good portion of its core, including Henry and Wallace.

"We have nine girls returning," Conlon said. "We will go back to working hard and continue to improve, and go from there."

Laying down the Law

Brooklyn Law and Tech loses case in Class A semifinals

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Jump shots are always important in basketball, but they were paramount for Brooklyn Law and Tech last Wednesday.

The Jets' new offensive opportunities were limited with 6-foot-9, Drexel-bound center Tyshawn Miles patrolling the paint for top-seeded Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School.

"We are only getting one [shot]," said Brooklyn Law coach Kenny Pretlow. "There is a reason they are the No. 1 seed — and he is 6-foot-9."

His undersized club kept itself in the game but saw a late run fall short in 64-54 loss in the Public School Athletic League Class AA boys' basketball semifinals at Lehman College on March 12.

No. 5 Brooklyn Law and Tech pulled to as close as 51-45, thanks to a three-point play by Matthew Scott with 4:52 to go in the game. But the Jets could not trim the lead any further as quick shots — including a long trey from Juan Ramos — gave the Wolves a chance to regroup.

"We can't take the first available shot when you are out-manned on the boards the way we were going to be," Pretlow said.

The same thing happened in the second quarter. Brooklyn Law and Tech (16-4) used a quick 6-0 run



LAWMAN: Brooklyn Law and Tech's Brandon House shoots a jump ball over Wheels' Eddy Polanco during the Boy's Class A Semifinal game on March 12.

Photo by Robert Cole

to cut its deficit to 41-33 late in the frame. Ramos recorded a three-point play

and a driving layup during the spurt. Washington Heights Expeditionary

(24-0) scored the next four points and took a 45-33 advantage into the half.

"As we kept cutting the lead down, we started taking bad shots and letting them get layups," the Niagara-bound Scott said.

Scott scored a game-high 28 points and Ramos added 14 for Brooklyn Law and Tech.

Emile Lewis tallied 26 points and Eddy Polanco had 12 for the Wolves. Isaiah Resto chipped in 10 points.

The Jets tried to pack in its defense and was able to control Miles, but Washington Heights Expeditionary's perimeter players did more than enough damage and the Wolves scored off Brooklyn Law and Tech's misses in transition.

"I thought when we were able to get back and set our defense we did a great job," Pretlow said. "I thought the majority of their points were on run outs."

The coach was proud of his kids for advancing a round further into the playoffs than last year and playing right with the top seed. He felt they gave him everything they had, even if they felt they came up a little short.

"This is my first year getting to a final four, so it was an accomplishment, but we wanted to win a championship," Scott said. "We felt like we could win today."

Brown

Continued from page 37

is third in the nation in blocked shots per game with 3.66 and scored 15 points in the conference title game victory over Iona.

"Rhamel Brown might not be the best scorer, but he's by far our most valuable player because he changes the game," Masiello said earlier this season. "He's so underrated."

Brown understands a tough task lies ahead

against Louisville, a team that Masiello described as a bigger, better version of his. The Jaspers will give it their best shot, but just getting the opportunity was the fulfillment of a dream for Brown.

It's everything we worked for," Brown said. "Everybody sacrificed for this. This was really important to us."

Bishop Ford alum Williams, Minutemen earn tournament nod: Chaz Williams, who played his high school ball at Bishop

Ford, has the University of Massachusetts back in the big dance for the first time since in 1998. The Minutemen team, which earned an at-large bid, takes the court on March 21 in Raleigh, N.C. in the opening round against the winner of a play-in contest between Iowa and Tennessee. Williams averaged 15.8 points and 7.0 assists per game. The senior guard is a three-time Atlantic 10 first-team selection.

"I felt tremendously confident about it," Williams

said. "We played some tough teams this year. We beat some great teams."

Lincoln alum leads Oklahoma State to tourney date with Kentucky: Former Abraham Lincoln forward Kamari Murphy put his dancing shoes on as the Cowboys earned a No. 9 seed as an at-large team to face No. 8 Kentucky in the opening round on March 21 in San Diego. Murphy, a sophomore forward, is averaging 6.0 points and 6.2 rebounds a game off the bench.

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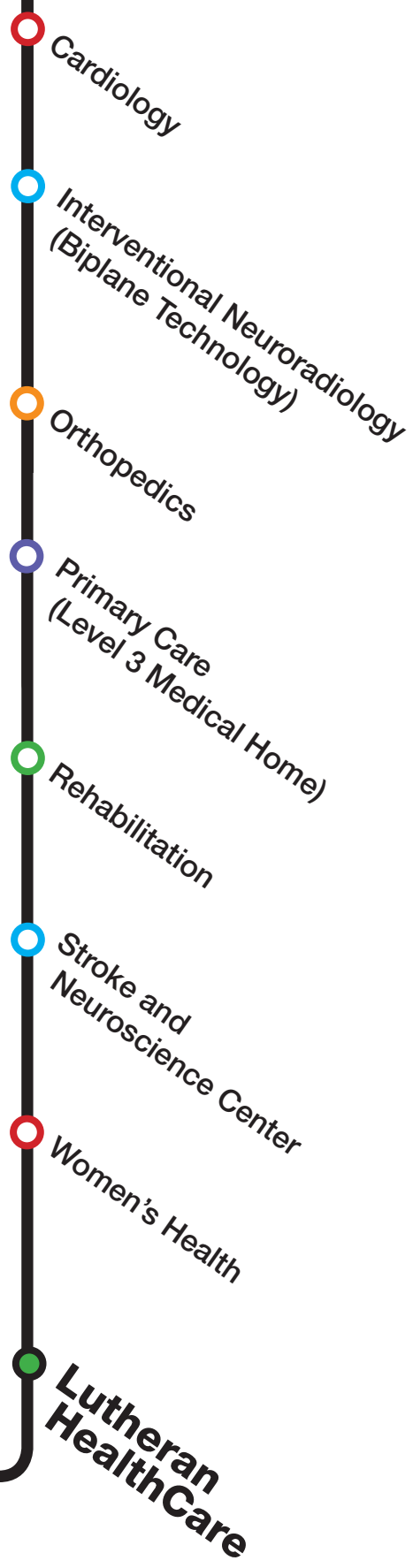
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