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Obama stands his ground

By Jim Kuhnenn

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama devoted one word — “deficit” — to the issue that brought Washington to the brink of fiscal crises time and again during his first term.

But it was the paragraph that followed in his inaugural address that foreshadowed what's to come — more hard bargaining and more last-minute deals driven by Obama's own conviction that he now wields an upper hand.

“We must make the hard choices to reduce the cost of health care and the size of our deficit. But we reject the belief that America must choose between caring for the generation that built this country and investing in the generation that will build its future,” he said. “The commitments we make to each other — through Medicare, and Medicaid, and Social Security — these things do not sap our initiative; they strengthen us. They do not make us a nation of takers; they free us to take the risks that make this country great.”

This was the language of his reelection campaign.

And while his speech contained

Continued on Page 4



President Barack Obama waves after his speech at the ceremonial swearing-in at the U.S. Capitol during the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, Monday, Jan. 21, 2013.

AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

KAMLA'S TOBAGO REBUFF

Opposition sweeps Tobago poll

By Bert Wilkinson

Perhaps for people outside of Trinidad and Tobago, the assembly elections held in Tobago on Monday was purely an internal affair but for the near three-year administration of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, it was a referendum of massive proportions on her leadership of the Caribbean trade bloc's largest economy, just as political parties and analysts are beginning to focus on the 2015 general election and

what Tobago portends for that.

Seeking to totally dominate the political landscape, having won a two-thirds majority in the May 2010 general elections and local government polls a year after, Persad-Bissessar's multiparty People's Partnership (PP) administration invested millions in cash giveaways, promotional campaigns and promised more autonomy for Trinidad's sister isle, in a bid to woo Tobagonians from the main opposition People's

Continued on Page 4

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Antigua

National Security Minister Dr. Errol Cort met recently with senior police officials of the Antigua and Barbuda Police Force to deal with an upsurge in criminal activities especially gun-related crimes on the island.

Cort, who said he has ordered a full investigation into two incidents in which murder suspects were able to escape from police custody last month, has termed the situation "wholly unacceptable."

A government statement quoted Cort as saying that "the Crime Fighting Strategic Plan will be critically reviewed".

Ten people were murdered in Antigua and Barbuda for 2012.



Two men wanted in connection with a double murder in October were able to escape after being arrested in the neighboring island of Montserrat.

"Minister Cort said that everything is being done to recapture the two men," the statement said.

Barbados

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) will lead a mission this year to meet with top ministerial officials and technical personnel in its member countries to seek their assistance in the advancement of better intra-regional air links to help boost tourism in the region.

This was one of the several recommendations coming out of the inaugural meeting of the CTO Aviation Task Force which took place at the regional tourism development agency's headquarters in Barbados recently.

The recently appointed CTO Chairman, the U.S. Virgin Island Tourism Commissioner Beverly Nicholson-Doty, reported a successful inaugural meeting which discussed the cost of intra-regional travel, the economic impact of the decline in travel, improving the ease of passenger movement, and launching actions to improve the efficiency of Caribbean aviation.



Among the other recommendations, the Committee proposed a meeting between airline and airport operators within the first few weeks of the New Year and a



Amputee returns to dancing

In this Aug. 3, 2012 photo, professional dancer Georges Exantus, left, teaches a member of a professional dance group as they prepare for a concert in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Exantus thought he, never dance again. See story on page 30.

AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery

region-wide meeting of transportation ministers and commissioners in the first quarter of 2013.

Grenada

Grenadian authorities say they have launched an investigation into a bogus marriage scheme involving men from the Middle Eastern countries and local women.

"We are conducting an investigation and these notices are part of the process," an official of the Ministry of National Security said.



The notices, placed in a weekly newspaper, and naming at least six people, indicate they should "contact the Ministry of National Security for further information in order to show cause on or before March 31, 2013 why the Minister of National Security should not exercise his right to do so."

Recently the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) also issued a notice calling on 12 Grenadian women to contact the office

immediately.

FIU head Senneth Joseph said the "notices are interlinked and its part of an investigation."

Officials say the marriage of convenience scheme involved foreign men paying a significant amount of money to women in order to acquire Grenadian citizenship. Last October eight members of the Syrian community in Grenada were accused of falsifying documents in which they claimed they were married to Grenadians in an effort to obtain Grenadian citizenship. The suspects, including a businessman, were arrested following a year-long investigation by the FIU.

Guyana

The Guyana government has criticized the decision by the opposition to introduce legislation aimed at repealing the benefits afforded to former heads of state.



A bill to repeal the Former President's (Benefits and other Facilities) Act had its first reading recently in the National Assembly

and follows a promise by the opposition grouping, A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) during the election campaign last year that it would seek to repeal the legislation.

Government's Chief Whip, Gail Teixeira described the move as vindictive, and exposes an unacceptable of small-mindedness.

APNU legislator Carl Greenidge had tabled the motion in April last year with legislators agreeing to the establishment of a special select committee that would examine the benefit packages of constitution office holders including the president. She said since the setting up of the Committee in October last year, no meeting has been held.

The APNU and the AFC control 33 of the 65 seats in the National Assembly. The Guyana Constitution guarantees a past president a pension, which is equivalent to seven-eighths of the current president's salary.

The Former President's (Benefits and Other Facilities) Act of 2009 also makes provisions for benefits including medical staff, security guards, gardeners, driv-

ers, motor vehicles and duty-free concessions.

Haiti

Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe has disputed claims by the United States and Canada that the French-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) country is not a safe place to visit.



"We would like to reassure the tourists, the Diaspora, people who want to visit, Haiti is one of the safest destinations that they could visit," Lamothe told reporters, noting that the latest figures from UN Office on Drugs and Crime show that in 2010 Haiti had a recorded murder rate of 6.9 for every 100,000 people.

The rate is close to one-quarter of Jamaica and less than half of the neighboring Dominican Republic.

UN officials, however, said that statistics are always subject to "under-reporting and under-recording."

The travel advisory warned travelers arriving from the U.S. "were attacked and robbed shortly after departing the airport" and at least two U.S. citizens were shot and killed in robbery and kidnapping incidents in 2012."

In updating its travel advisory on Jan. 2, Canada told its citizens to "exercise a high degree of caution due to high crime rates" especially in certain slum neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince.

Jamaica

Jamaica police said that they had no proof linking the relatives of eight-year-old British visitor, Imani Green, who was shot and killed by a lone gunman recently, to illegal activities on the island.



"We are not ruling out the influence of lottery scamming playing a role in the shooting, but we have not said the family is scammers, neither the ministry," said Assistant Commissioner of Police, Devon Watkis.

National Security Minister Peter Bunting has blamed the pervasive lottery scam for the murder of the girl, who was shot at a bar in the northern parish of Trelawny. Three other people were also injured.

Continued on Page 15

Bumpy road ahead for Carib economies

By Nelson A. King

The World Bank has urged Caribbean and other developing countries to safeguard their economic growth, warning that the “road ahead remains bumpy.”

In the Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report, released on Jan. 16, the Washington-based financial institution says four years after the onset of the global financial crisis, the world economy “remains fragile and growth in high-income countries is weak.”

“Developing countries need to focus on raising the growth potential of their economies, while strengthening buffers to deal with risks from the Euro Area and fiscal policy in the United States,” the report says.

World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim confirmed that the economic

recovery remains “fragile and uncertain, clouding the prospect for rapid improvement and a return to more robust economic growth.”

“Developing countries have remained remarkably resilient thus far,” he added. “But we can’t wait for a return to growth in the high-income countries, so we have to continue to support developing countries in making investments in infrastructure, in health, in education.”

“This will set the stage for the stronger growth that we know that they can achieve in the future,” Kim continued.

The World Bank said last year, developing countries recorded among their slowest economic growth rates of the past decade, partly because of the heightened Euro Area uncertainty in May and June of 2012.

Global diseases get UN attention

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations health agency says that a new global strategy targets a “raft of neglected tropical diseases” in the Caribbean and elsewhere.

The Geneva, Switzerland-based World Health Organization (WHO) said on Jan. 16 that dengue, leprosy, river blindness and guinea-worm disease are among 17 “neglected tropical diseases” now targeted by a new global strategy, supported by worldwide partners, “that provides a steady supply of quality medications.”

“With this new phase in the control of these diseases, we are moving ahead towards achieving universal health coverage with essential interventions,” says Margaret Chan, WHO’s director-general, introducing a new report, entitled “Sustaining the Drive to Overcome the Global

Impact of Neglected Tropical Diseases.”

The report shows new momentum in controlling, eliminating and eradicating some of the longest-term scourges faced by humankind that take their greatest toll among the poor, moving the world closer to the elimination of many of them.

“The challenge now is to strengthen capacity of national disease programs in endemic countries and streamline supply chains to get the drugs to the people who need them, when they need them,” Dr. Chan said.

According to the report, two diseases are targeted for global eradication, including dracunculiasis, or guinea-worm disease – which can produce a parasite as long as two or three feet – by 2015, and yaws, which attacks skin, bone and cartilage, by 2020.

Historic double header

New York City hails King & Obama

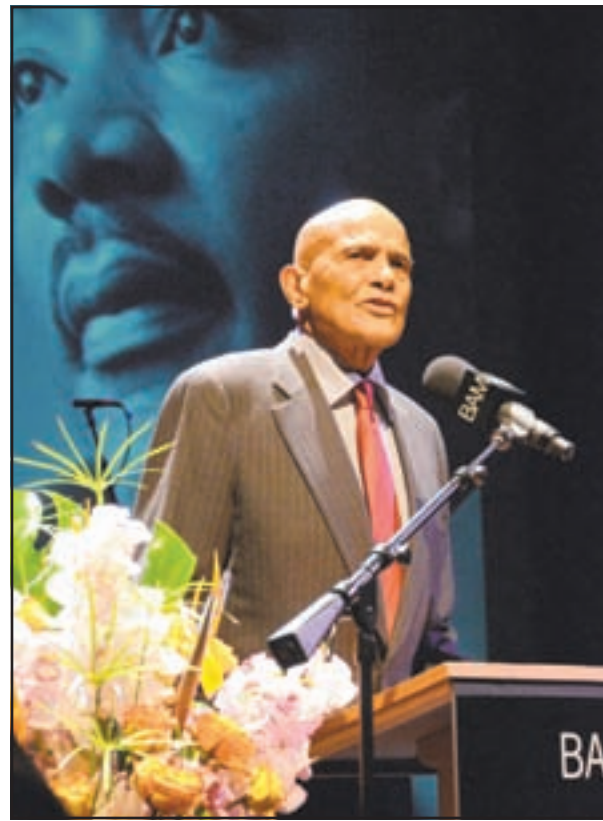
By Vinette K. Pryce

At Brooklyn Academy of Music where New York City’s 27th annual citywide tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. invited visitors to celebrate the legacy of the civil rights martyr, a historic double-header also hailed another prominent African-American who changed the course of America by becoming the first Black president of the United States.

The oldest performing arts center in America -- which is acclaimed for hosting the largest, annual celebration of the national holiday -- filled to capacity for a program which included speakers and a concert tribute to the slain Nobel laureate and also provided simulcast viewing of the inauguration of President Barack H. Obama, the 44th U.S. president.

It could have easily been tagged the best vantage point to cheer Kings County and also herald the day’s historic significance due to the alluring program marked by a keynote address from activist/actor Harry Belafonte, one of Dr. King’s colleagues, Dr. William L. Pollard, president, Medgar Evers College and Marty Markowitz, the borough’s president.

Emceed by Brooklyn’s



Harry Belafonte delivers the keynote address during the 27th annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Brooklyn Academy of Music. Photo by Christopher Griffith

Deputy Borough President, Sandra Chapman, a program incorporated the legacies of the two iconic Americans with remarks from Ron Shuler, Karen Brooks Hopkins, (BAM) and entertainment which featured

Kindred, The Family Soul and the Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir.

Belafonte received celebrated greeting.

The much-admired, tall, bald-headed New Yorker might have inspired a

patron to break protocol to shout platitudes and also endear calypso with lyrical embellishments to his hit song “Day-O.”

Belafonte returned greetings saying he was “particularly honored to talk to citizens of Brooklyn.”

“I felt compelled to be here at BAM with those who live here and those from the country in the Caribbean I grew up.”

Born in Harlem, Belafonte grew up in Jamaica where his mother was born.

He wasted little time but promptly explained his relationship with the celebrated Civil Rights honoree.

“Martin was my friend, my closest. The latest time I saw him was a few days before he went to Memphis – he came to my home in New York City,” Belafonte said.

The hush throughout the audience provided acoustically-perfect enhancement to the landmark.

According to Belafonte, the preacher made a trip north to dissuade disgruntled residents of Newark, New Jersey from “burning the city.”

He said many living there had become weary from “unjust treatment.”

Dr. King’s visit, he said

Continued on Page 12

Move to expand college aid for immigrant youth

By Chudi Chukwudi

NY State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver joined with Assemb. Francisco Moya and Higher Education Committee Chair Deborah J. Glick Friday, Jan. 18 to announce the introduction of a comprehensive state Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act to continue New York’s legacy of educational support for immigrant youth. The legislation, for the first time would also allow immigrant students to apply for state financial aid as well as create a DREAM Fund that would provide private scholarships.

“Our immigrant families, like many struggling in these trying economic times, need financial help to achieve their educational goals,” said Silver. “As a child of immigrants, I know that investing in these inspiring students represents an investment in our future.”

The bill (A.2597) would make New York one of just four states – the others are Texas, New Mexico, and California – to offer state financial aid to the children of immigrants. In-state tuition has been available to New York’s immigrant youth since 2002, an option available in just 11

other states. The criteria for access to state financial aid would match the strict criteria for students seeking in-state tuition.

This legislation would also give young immigrants access to a broad range of state educational opportunity programs such as: Tuition Assistance Program (TAP); Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP); Educational Opportunity Program (EOP); Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP); and Opportunity programs available at community colleges.

“I believe in a New York

where immigration status should never be a barrier for young college-bound students from attaining a good quality education. To deny these students access to educational opportunities is unacceptable,” said Moya.

“Today, the Assembly continues our fight to ensure equal educational opportunities for all of New York’s children,” said Glick. “The DREAM Act is an important step towards breaking down barriers and ensuring that every student in this state has a chance to make their dreams come true.”

Continued on Page 8

Tobago opposes Kamla

Continued from cover National Movement (PNM). That strategy has failed miserably.

But once the results began to trickle in after 9:00 p.m. on Monday night, it was clear that the PP's favored political force, the Tobago Organization of the People (TOP) was headed for a humiliating defeat, even though the prime minister and other senior cabinet ministers had virtually moved the seat of government to Tobago for most of January, as evidence of their desperation to win and dominate T&T politics.

The final count showed that the PNM had won all 12 of the Tobago Assembly seats that were on offer and their main man, TOP Leader Ashworth Jack, had even lost the safest non-PNM seat on the tourist paradise.

No other party had ever won all the seats on offer in any previous Tobago elections, forcing analysts to warn the PP to take note that the electorate is paying attention to the plethora of missteps, widespread cor-

ruption chief among them, of the PP administration since the PNM's Patrick Manning had gifted them the government by unnecessarily calling elections half way through a five year-term.

"They made this election a referendum of Persad-Bissessar's leadership," political scientist Ramsamooj said. "Jack was rejected as a leader because he was a troubled candidate. Jack did not stamp the election with a capacity to lead Tobago. They really did not focus effectively enough in positioning Mr. Jack as that intellectual that Tobagonians would have been comfortable with," Ramsamooj said as results tricked in.

In the runup to Monday's runoff, the issue of race had as expected raised its ugly head, with one opposition candidate telling the mostly Afro Tobago population that a boat from Calcutta would descend on the island if the PP were ever to win, meaning that Indo Trinidadians would flock to Tobago in



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

AP Photo/Frank Franklin II

numbers.

The remark was widely condemned by all concerned but it appeared to have had the effect of consolidating the PNM vote and banishing the PP into political oblivion, at least for now.

Several analysts who were on live television and radio as results flowed in also blamed the prime minister for the rejection of the PP, as islanders saw her as an outsider trying to impose an unpopular candidate on them, and one who would allow PP-favored people to come in and benefit from all the contracts and goodies associated with victorious political parties in the Caribbean.

Fiscal debates in Congress

Continued from cover

no reference to either political party, his pointed rejection of "a nation of takers" was an implicit reminder of Mitt Romney's infelicitous declaration that Obama's support came from the 47 percent of American voters "who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it."

In keeping with the objective of inaugural addresses, Obama chose to draw attention to the aspirations he hopes will define him rather than the conflicts that have characterized his relations with a divided Congress. He conceded that "outworn programs are inadequate to the needs of our time," but forged ahead with a call for training more math and science teachers, for building roads and even for funding more research labs.

If there was a way to reconcile such spending with demands to stabilize the nation's debt, he didn't mention it.

"Inaugural addresses are intended for the ages, not for a particular moment," said Matt Bennett, a former aide to Al Gore and a vice president of the Democratic-leaning group Third Way. "We will have to wait for the State of the Union, which is addressed directly to Congress, for a clearer sense of what he wants to do in the near-term and how he wants to get it done."

Obama's State of the Union address is scheduled for Feb. 12.

Obama and his aides approached the inaugural speech with a belief that the president had replenished his political strength with his re-election and with his end-of-year deal with Republicans that raised upper-income tax rates on some of the wealthiest Americans.

What's more, Obama delivered the speech as

House Republicans were backing off earlier threats to withhold an extension of the nation's borrowing limit if not accompanied by sharp reductions in government spending. Instead, House leaders plan a vote Wednesday to raise the government debt ceiling for three months to avert a first-ever default on U.S. obligations.

The White House welcomed the move, even though Obama as recently as last week had rejected the idea of a short term increase. "We shouldn't be doing this on a one- to three-month time frame," he said in a White House news conference. Yet, on Tuesday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said that while the bill still faces concerns in Congress, if it reaches Obama's desk the president "would not stand in the way of the bill becoming law."

The GOP bill would take the biggest potential crisis off the immediate horizon.

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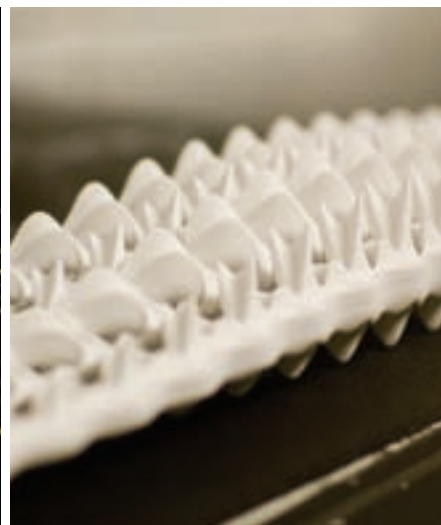
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IMF's positive economic review for Suriname

By Nelson A. King

Two International Monetary Fund (IMF) economists say despite the ongoing global slowdown, Suriname has put in place a strong, home-grown adjustment program that is helping to turn around its economy.

Gamal El-Masry and Mario Mansilla, of the Washington-based financial institution's Western Hemisphere Department, noted on Jan. 11 that a recent IMF conference paper reviews the measures taken by the Suriname authorities and highlights the country's key achievements – a unified foreign exchange market, price stability, and significant fiscal gains.

The economists said the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country's recent experience with macroeconomic stabilization also presents a "positive example for the Caribbean region of how meaningful and comprehensive

adjustment is possible, provided that it is well designed, properly sequenced, and implemented by the government with commitment and resolve."

The three-day conference, hosted by the Central Bank of Suriname, focused on the Caribbean's challenges and policy options.

According to the IMF's most recent assessment of Suriname's economy, economic activity remains strong, and inflation pressures have abated considerably.

Suriname is estimated to have grown by 4 percent in 2012, buoyed by the oil and gold sectors, as well as public investment, the IMF said.

El-Masry and Mansilla said Suriname was not completely immune from the global financial crisis.

Following a period of fast growth and favorable commodity prices, they said the

recent crisis impacted Suriname primarily through the trade channel.

The economists said Suriname is highly dependent on three commodities: gold, oil, and alumina. Together, they account for about 95 percent of total exports.

During 2008–09, El-Masry and Mansilla said Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth slowed due to weaker external demand and international price declines.

At the same time, they said the fiscal position deteriorated markedly—tax collections fell and spending surged, mainly on wages.

"In effect, fiscal policy played a countercyclical role," the economists said. "Loose monetary policies accommodated the resulting deficit."

In early 2010, pressures from higher international food and fuel prices pushed up headline inflation to double digits.

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Higher education assistance expanded for immigrants

Continued from Page 3

The measure would also create a DREAM Fund committed to advancing the educational goals of the children of immigrants through privately-funded scholarships and broadened access to the New York State College Tuition Savings (529) Program through family tuition accounts.

The DREAM Fund would raise private funds in order to provide scholarships to college-bound children with at least one immigrant parent. The DREAM Fund commission would be comprised of 12 members that reflect the racial, ethnic, gender, language and geographic diversity of NYS; and include college and university administrators and faculty and other individuals committed to advancing the educational opportunities of the children of immigrants. Four

members will be appointed by the governor, three by the Assembly speaker, three by the temporary Senate president, one by the Senate minority leader, and one by the Assembly minority leader.

The family tuition accounts would be available to anyone who provides a valid taxpayer identification number. These tuition accounts have been federally approved since 2002 and are similar to state-run programs in California and Illinois. They allow for systematic savings, making it easier for New York's hardworking immigrant families to save for their children's futures.

"We applaud Speaker Sheldon Silver and Assemblyman Francisco Moya for introducing the most comprehensive DREAM legislation in our state," said Yenny Quispe, a DREAMer from Make the Road New

York and a junior at City College. "The new bill will allow me to access financial aid and accomplish my goal of obtaining a college education. I look forward to working hard with my friends to pass the NYS DREAM Act this year."

"Hispanic Federation greatly appreciates the leadership of Speaker Silver and Assemblyman Moya in moving aggressively to pass DREAM legislation that opens up access to higher education and extends the state's Tuition Assistance Program to all New York's immigrants," said Jose Calderon, president of the Hispanic Federation. "The Latino community is ready to work with the Assembly to pass this bill in 2013 and we call on the senate and the governor to support it."

"Assemblyman Moya's bill is a great step toward ensuring that all New York



Speaker Sheldon Silver (at podium) and Assemblyman Francisco Moya (Silver's left), the lead sponsor of legislation to establish the DREAM Fund Commission.

students, regardless of immigration status, have the opportunity for higher education, and that our state has the highly skilled and educated work force we need for a prosperous future," said Héctor Figueroa, President of 32BJ.

"The New York Immigration Coalition applauds Speaker Silver and Assembly Member Moya for introducing the comprehensive DREAM Act legislation that will provide undocumented students with equal access to financial assistance so they can pursue their dreams of higher educa-

tion," said Chung-Wha Hong, the NYC executive director. "Recent elections have demonstrated the power of Latino, Asian and immigrant voters and have highlighted the need for changes in our immigration system at the local, state and federal levels. We can no longer exclude New York's DREAM youth from the promise of higher education afforded their classmates. We look forward to collaborating with the legislature and Gov. Cuomo to finally make the DREAMS of New York's youth a reality."

Four men rescued after being lost at sea for six days

MIAMI (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard says four men were rescued after being lost at sea for six days in the Caribbean.

A press release from the Coast Guard district in Miami says the men were rescued Sunday west of Guadeloupe Island.

The men were on a fishing vessel headed from the South Leeward Coast of St. Vincent to Antigua when a crewmember reported that the boat was disabled and floating at sea. The Coast Guard Air Station out of Clearwater, Fla., found the boat and a nearby vessel helped rescue the men.

The group was taken to the Virgin Islands.

Coast Guard officials say it is important to always have safety equipment onboard, including an emergency position indicating radio beacon that helps them respond quickly to mariners in distress.

A Healthy Heart Starts with You

Throughout the month of February, Montefiore Einstein Center for Heart & Vascular Care will offer free educational lectures and screenings to check your blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels. Protect your heart from disease, and learn how to take better care of yourself.

Heart Month Kickoff Event

Friday, February 1 | 10:00 am

Wakefield Hospital

600 East 233rd Street, Bronx, New York 10466

Heart Healthy Food Demonstration

Friday, February 1 | 10:00 am

Wakefield Hospital

If you are interested in attending a heart month event, simply show up to the event site on the date and time of the event.

www.montefiore.org/heartmonth



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Vascular Care

Expect Success!

Preparing students for college and careers

To be prepared for college and careers, students need advanced skills. They must be able to read challenging books, think critically, and solve difficult math problems. Tough new course work, tied to what's called the Common Core Learning Standards, will help your child develop the higher-level skills he or she needs to succeed. For more information, search NYC.gov for Common Core Library.

How the Common Core Standards Improve Learning

This year, New York City students are doing more course work aligned to the new Common Core standards. The standards describe what students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade need to know and be able to do at each grade level to graduate from high school ready for college and careers. The sample lessons below show different ways teachers are using the Common Core standards to get students to think more critically and use evidence to explain their thinking.

■ Is your voice heard? To answer this question, fifth graders at P.S. 204 in the Bronx are studying the formation of the U.S. government and reading the Bill of Rights and other historical documents. To support their opinions, the students are using evidence from their readings in classroom debates and letters they are writing to their members of Congress.

■ Middle school students at the School for Global Leaders in Manhattan are learning how writers shape their arguments by reading opinion pieces and books about the food industry. For example, they are reading the New York Times bestseller, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. Students will use their new understanding of argument and the food industry to write their own articles on topics such as fast food and factory farms.

To view Chancellor Walcott's webinar on the Common Core, visit learndoe.org/chancellor.

Three Ways to Become College and Career Ready

It's never too early to explore your child's academic interests and reinforce his or her strengths. Here are three ways to get your child started on the path to college or a career:

1 Stay informed. Log in to arisparentlink.org to find out how your child is doing in school and make sure his or her grades are recorded accurately.

2 Make some dates. Place important dates, such as application deadlines, parent-teacher conferences, grade 3-8 tests and Regents exams, on your calendar. For more dates, search NYC.gov for Calendar.

3 Encourage your child to sign up for extracurricular activities.

This reflects well on college applications and helps reinforce healthy relationships with classmates and adults at the school. If your child is already signed up, brainstorm ways he or she can take on more responsibilities and leadership roles.

NYC Parent Academy Workshops



The NYC Parent Academy helps parents become more engaged in their child's education.

This program is dedicated to strengthening parent involvement to support student achievement in the City's 1,700 schools.

Attend the NYC Parent Academy's upcoming borough-wide workshops:

SAT., JAN. 26

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Breakfast is served at 8:30 a.m.
P.S. 24, 427 38 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232

SAT., FEB. 2

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Breakfast is served at 8:30 a.m.
Staten Island Technical High School

485 Clawson Street, Staten Island, NY 10306

SAT., FEB. 9

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Breakfast is served at 8:30 a.m.
P.S. 160, 4140 Hutchinson River Parkway East
Bronx, NY 10475

Apply to Serve on an Education Council

Are you a parent who would like to become more involved in issues surrounding public education in your community? Beginning on February 13, you can apply to serve on a Community or Citywide Education Council. Councils play a crucial role in shaping policy for New York City's public schools. They also provide valuable advice to officials on educational procedures and strategy. The chance to run for a seat on a district or citywide education council comes once every two years.

Parents serve a two-year term on 36 Councils throughout the city. These include the Community Education Councils, Citywide Council on High Schools, Citywide Council on English Language Learners, Citywide Council on Special Education, and the District 75 Citywide Council. The deadline for submitting your application is March 13.

For more information on the roles and responsibilities of the different councils and to learn how to nominate yourself for a Council seat, visit NYCParentLeaders.org.

Parents interested in serving on an Education Council are invited to attend the following information sessions:

THURS., JAN. 24

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street

THURS., JAN. 31

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Bayard Rustin High School, 351 W. 18 Street

NYC Public Schools
Calendar:
January-February

MON., JAN. 22

Kindergarten
Enrollment begins.

MON., JAN. 28

Fall term ends for
high school students.

No classes for
high school students
(Does not apply
to District 75
high schools)

TUES., JAN. 29

Spring term begins for
high school students

WED., FEB. 6

No classes for
pre-kindergarten
students

MON., FEB. 18-

TUES., FEB. 19

Midwinter Recess
Schools Closed

WED., FEB. 27-

THURS., FEB. 28

Intermediate and
junior high schools'
parent-teacher
conferences

For the latest information on yellow bus service disruption due to the strike, search nyc.gov for School Bus Strike or call 311.

Stay Connected

New York City public school families can now stay informed by receiving text messages in English or Spanish throughout the school year. Text "nycschools" or "escuela" to 877-877 to receive school-related information, including calendar updates, reminders and tips on how to access school resources.

Hagel's biggest task

By James Holmes

NEWPORT, R.I. - Chuck Hagel may be a former grunt, but his most important task as America's next secretary of defense - should his nomination pass the Senate - could be a trying job for a landlubber: executing the military component of the Obama administration's pivot to Asia. It's a mission that will require an appreciation for the finer points of maritime strategy, a deft diplomatic touch, and an expansive worldview.

But first, Hagel must understand what the pivot is, while viewing it against the grand sweep of U.S. diplomatic history. A historically and geostrategically minded secretary will stand a good chance of configuring the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard prudently - and of arranging sea-service forces on the map to accomplish America's goals.

What is a foreign-policy pivot? Metaphors have their uses, but they can distort meaning if deployed cavalierly. A pivot is a central shaft, axle or pin around which machinery rotates. The engineering metaphor encourages practitioners and commentators to interpret the administration's initiative in physical, geospatial terms. In these literal terms, Washington, D.C., is presumably the axle around which U.S. foreign policy revolves. Hence many observers' lament that the United States is turning its back on perennial theaters like the Atlantic community to oversee events in East and South Asia. There's a degree of truth to this, but applying the pivot

metaphor implies an about-face. Seldom are things that pat.

I define a pivot as a foreign-policy enterprise that combines elements of geography, strategy and diplomacy to mount a sustained presence in some distant and potentially contested overseas theater. In military terms, pivoting means building up preponderant armed might in East and South Asia in concert with friends and allies to accomplish strategic and political goals. Pivoting is a matter of strategic mass, strategic maneuver and alliance relations. It also means setting priorities. American leaders must be prepared to relegate secondary theaters to secondary status, lest they scatter finite resources hither and yon. Dispersal thins out military power at any spot on the map, perhaps leaving U.S. commanders at a local disadvantage against weaker foes. Armed forces that try to do everything, everywhere, at the same time end up doing little anywhere.

While the term "pivot" may be novel, its substance is anything but. Indeed, U.S. diplomatic history can be interpreted as a series of pivots. Writing in the 1940s, Yale professor Nicholas Spykman - arguably the foremost geopolitical thinker of his day - recalled that the New World had been an object of struggle for the Old World since Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue. In those early centuries, influence radiated across the Atlantic and Pacific toward American shores. Eurasian empires fought for supremacy and prosperity in

Continued on Page 24

Future for Haiti's disabled

By Geraldine Carroll

Global NGO Project HOPE says addressing the long-term medical needs of thousands of Haitians disabled by the 2010 earthquake and other tragedies is crucial to the future stability of many communities in Haiti.

"Disabled Haitians are eager for greater independence. They want to contribute fully to their communities; they not only want to be physically able to lead full lives, they want to work, to strive for a better life like any other Haitian," said Lucien Armand, M.D., MPH, program director for Project HOPE in Haiti.

In September, Project HOPE, a global health education and humanitarian assistance organization launched a new program in collaboration with local Haitian and United States-based health organizations to improve medical services for people living with disabilities caused by the earthquake and other tragedies. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded program will provide a full range of medical services for disabled persons from in-home care and therapy to advanced surgical

Comprehensive rehab and prosthetic facility in post-earthquake Haiti.

interventions.

Together with Société Haitienne d'Aide aux Aveugles (SHAA), Federation Haitienne des Associations et Institutions des Personnes Handicapées D'Haiti (FHAIPH) and Surgical Implant Generation Network (SIGN) from Richland, Washington, Project HOPE is implementing the three-year, \$3 million USD program. Newly renovated medical centers are being equipped to provide safe and effective surgical interventions, physical therapy, counseling and sufficient quantities of prosthetic and orthotic devices and mobility aids. Specialized training for health professionals at the medical centers will improve the level of patient care.

"Patients are receiving medical assistance such as corrective surgery, physical therapy, prosthetics and other psychosocial support," said Dr. Armand.

"We are also very focused on community efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination against the disabled. We are taking our message to the streets of Haiti to show people in the community that the disabled have goals like everyone else - whether it be finding a job or just playing sports," said Dr. Armand.

Project HOPE created the first free, comprehensive rehab and prosthetic facility in post-earthquake Haiti in 2010. The rehabilitation facility at Adventist Hospital in Diquini, near Port-au-Prince, is known as "Chanje Lavi," which means "Changing Lives" in Creole. Chanje Lavi has helped thousands of patients to adapt to life with a disability and overcome the hardship that can arise for disabled people in Haitian society.

HOPE's long-term strategy is to build health care capacity in Haiti, by strengthening hospitals that will be capable of surgical interventions focused on upper and lower extremities and the trunk/spinal column, as well as increase the number of facilities that will focus on rehabilitation.

Continued on Page 24

In solidarity with Hugo Chavez

To The Editor

From January 22 to January 31, activists in 10 cities across the U.S. will hold various events in solidarity with Venezuela. The week of solidarity was initiated by the International Action Center in response to the health crisis of Venezuela's President, Hugo Rafael Chavez Frías, to send messages of good wishes to the president as well as to express solidarity with the people of Venezuela and its Bolivarian Revolution. In addition, the Week of solidarity will send a message to President Barack Obama that the progressive movement is on the alert to oppose any possible intervention or destabilization efforts.

The IAC, founded by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, along with many progressive organizations, including: the Alliance for Global Justice, Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle, Cuba Solidarity New York, HondurasUSAresistencia, and many others are sponsoring the week of actions.

As co-coordinator of UNAC (United National Anti-War Coalition), Joe Lombardo stated: "We sincerely hope for the swift recovery of the president and pledge UNAC's opposition to any attempt to use President Chavez's illness as an excuse to overturn the will of the Venezuelan people. We will oppose all attempts on the part of

the U.S. government to overturn the gains of Venezuelan society under President Chavez and all economic, military or other intervention in Venezuela."

"This is a main message from all the sponsoring organizations," states IAC Co-Director Teresa Gutierrez. "The media in the U.S. attempts to delegitimize the election and the administration of President Chavez during this crisis, but there is no question that President Chavez was not only legally elected but is massively popular," said Gutierrez, an organizer of the National Days.

Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans came out on Jan. 10 to show support for Chavez. The Ven-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome from all readers. They should be addressed care of this newspaper to Kenton Kirby, Editor, Caribbean-Life Publications, 1 MetroTech Center North, Brooklyn, New York 11201, or sent via e-mail to caribbeanlife@cnglobal.com All letters, including those submitted via e-mail, MUST be signed and the individual's verifiable address and telephone number included. Note that the address and telephone number will NOT be published and the name will be published or withheld on request. No unsigned letters can be accepted for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Hints of a no-nonsense style for Part II

Heading toward the end of his first term and right from the very start of his second, President Obama has been signaling that he intends to be more hard-nosed about navigating Washington's obstacle course to achieve agenda objectives, than back when it was all virgin territory. When he was newly arrived and for much of his tenure in the first go-round, the president was all about doing the reach out drill. Even before he got to be president, in fact, when he intoned, "We're not blue states and red states, we're the United States..."

With his election would come hard indicators of the desire for collegiality, not least the decision to give Republicans much more than a token presence among the administration's top echelon: secretary of defense, secretary of transportation and secretary of the army; along with one of the major diplomatic postings, ambassador to China. For all of these and other outreach gestures, the vibe from the other side was hardly indicative of any appetite for reciprocation. Instead, quickly was it being telegraphed, often not at all subtly, that the GOP's top priority was

to make sure the president would be a one-termer. We saw the prescribed business of Capitol Hill subsumed by a riveting focus on crafting the apparatus and appearance of administration failure. The Obama healthcare reform package became a handy scapegoat for the philistines unleashing a summer of ugly in '09, mere months into the presidential term.

The untrammelled anti-Obama rage would manifest itself even more fiercely thereafter, with a Tea Party movement having been spawned and the opposition's orchestrated demonizing of the president leading to that Republican windfall of House seats in the 2010 mid-term elections. The president, to his credit, continued to talk compromise and olive branch. One saw a graphic representation of how much tolerance resided on Obama's side of the fence in his "no big deal" type of reaction to the despicable outburst of a Republican schmuck daring to call the president a liar during the State of the Union address. Experiencing a hard time from the get-go, no way was there the slimmest hope of the president bridging gaps with the collection of obstruction-minded

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

extremists who formed the new House GOP majority. The response of these renegades to just about anything coming from the administration was predictable. Moreover, it was clear that the leadership, in particular Speaker John Boehner, had no control over the wild bunch.

If nothing else before had jolted the president into taking the full measure of how futile it was to hope to reach common ground with the stonewall oriented Republican element, perhaps Boehner's having ultimately to depend on Democrats to get fiscal cliff legislation passed may have been the tipping point. In truth, it should have been obvious much earlier in the post-2010 narrative that the Republican rump was not about to be reasoned with. In the outlier legislator model to which these Republican/Tea Party hardliners subscribed, room for accommodation simply did not exist. And

worse, public disfavor over such reckless conduct of state affairs was of little or no consequence.

Then again, the president may have long decided that getting voted in a second time would bring with it a change in style, reflective of the exasperation following an unrewarded search for comity, as well as determination to respond forthrightly to the mockery made of governing by the other side. The president's very firm declaration that he would not bargain with Republicans over the debt ceiling issue fixed some early parameters of the new presidential mojo. This, after the Republicans had laid down their own marker, that legislation to raise the debt limit must include provisions for spending cuts. The president's insistence that the two issues didn't belong in the same conversation eventually saw the GOP come around to a new position absent the spending cuts demand.

And right out of the blocks for the new term, the president's Inaugural address has provided evidence aplenty of his moving away from the measured gait of the first stanza. An address so boldly assertive in its progressive ideals that prompted

observers to routinely characterize it as embodying the hallmarks of a liberal agenda is indeed a far cry from the typical Obama first-term strut. Here was the historic first mention in an Inaugural speech of the word "gay," as the president seemed to permanently discard the "evolving" position on the subject he was indicating not too very long ago, and advocating now full acceptance. Also in the pomp of an Inaugural, barbs tossed, albeit to a degree veiled or coded. Reminiscent of Romney and Ryan from their very forgettable campaign of 2012 came this: "The commitments we make to each other through Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security don't sap our initiative, they strengthen us; they don't make us a nation of takers, they free us to take the risks that make this country great."

Like clockwork came the kind of response from the usual GOP suspects. Shameless as always, they would prattle on about having expected to hear more along the lines of unity, would you believe! But the president could rest assured that he warned the cockles of many a progressive heart in this most powerful demonstration yet of standing, unapologetically, where the spirit leads him.

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NEW YORK LOTTERY

Rare earth find in Jamaica's red mud

By David McFadden,
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) - Jamaica may be able to benefit from newly found deposits of rare-earth elements that are key ingredients for smartphones, computers and numerous other high-tech goods, the Caribbean island's top mining official said Tuesday.

Science, Technology, Energy & Mining Minister Philip Paulwell said Japanese researchers believe they have found "high concentrations of rare-earth elements" in the country's red mud, or bauxite residue.

China is now the world's main supplier of rare-earth elements, which are minerals that play a critical role in making products from basic communication devices to high-tech military weaponry. Worried by that dominance, manufacturers around the globe have been spurring searches for other sources that could be profitably mined.

In a statement to Jamaica's Parliament, Paulwell said researchers from Japan's Nippon Light Metal Co. Ltd. believe rare-earth elements can be efficiently extracted in Jamaica, where a once-flourishing bauxite industry has fallen on hard times.

Paulwell touted the discovery as a potentially significant boon for the

Caribbean island's chronically sputtering economy.

"We are at the starting line of an opportunity that has the potential to redefine Jamaica's economic prospects in a positive way," he told lawmakers. "... The government of Jamaica perceives the extraction of the rare-earth elements that are present in Jamaica to be an exciting new opportunity to earn much needed foreign exchange and create jobs."

A pilot program will establish the scope of any potential commercial project on Jamaica, which is about the size of the U.S. state of Connecticut. The environmental and planning agency has already authorized the pilot program but other government agencies still need to examine it.

Nippon Light Metal has agreed to invest \$3 million in buildings and equipment for the pilot project while also being responsible for operating costs. Any rare-earth elements produced during this phase will be jointly owned by Jamaica and the Japanese company. Negotiations for commercialization are expected to occur at a later date.

China has built a virtual monopoly on supplying rare-earth elements to the world's manufacturers, thanks

to cheap labor and low environmental standards. It alarmed companies around the world in recent years by reducing exports and at the same time building up its own industries, saying the curbing of rare earth exports was needed for environmental protection.

Last year, the World Trade Organization created a panel to evaluate China's rare earth exports after the U.S., the European Union and Japan complained about the curtailment of Chinese sales of rare earth minerals.

Rare earths aren't scarce, but few places exist with enough concentrations to mine profitably, and they are difficult to isolate in a purified form and require advanced technology to extract.

Jamaica had previously tried to get rare earth minerals from the country's red mud around bauxite mining grounds, but Paulwell said it faced major challenges in attempting to extract minerals from the bauxite tailings.

Last January, Nippon Light Metal approached Jamaica saying it had the capacity to extract rare-earth elements and wanted to evaluate the local red mud. Since then, it has done chemical research and successfully extracted some rare-earth elements, Paulwell said.

King and Obama tribute

Continued from Page 3

was a calculated choice because after demonstrating solidarity with the sanitation workers in Memphis, he planned to launch a poor people's campaign.

In order to dramatize the economic disparity that existed throughout the country: "we strategized to go to Washington... park ourselves on the steps of the Capitol...and demand" equity.

"He knew it would be the most difficult of all the hurdles" he maneuvered, Belafonte continued.

The actor's tone and resonance connected with the crowd as he reflected on the task he and his colleagues intended with a challenge to the government during the late 1960s.

He said among the issues to tackle were dismantling banks, disturbing the casual and corrupt system which he said enriched the rich and offered no hope to the poor.

During Dr. King's visit to Belafonte he said the leader described his mission akin to "integrating into a burning house."

The activist/actor said he had no response to Dr. King's description but asked what could be

done.

"We have to become firemen," Dr. King allegedly responded.

The profound allegory seemed "a metaphor for how he (King) saw America was going."

"America lost its moral compass and was drifting beyond relieve."

In his address, Belafonte also commended Pres. Obama on his second inauguration.

He said he hopes the president will look at the Memphis agenda and say 'I am a fireman.'

"The moral rudder on our ship is still broken," Belafonte added. "I hope you will hold the president to his promises."

He referenced New York City's stop and frisk law; the war in Afghanistan, the plight of peoples of color, and admonished the rising prison population.

"We build more prison cells than schools," Belafonte said.

"Black people are not at the forefront of the fight against guns - our leaders are silent."

They should be writing the laws. Martin Luther King had America at its back, right on his side - the church, the campuses, victims, Black people, the poor - it was America in motion."

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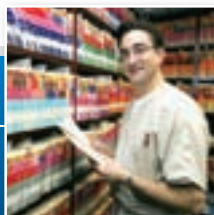
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Jokes and laughs with Chavez in Cuba, ally says

By **Fabiola Sanchez**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's top diplomat said Monday that he shared jokes and laughed together with President Hugo Chavez during a meeting in Cuba, where the socialist leader has been recovering after cancer surgery.

Foreign Minister Elias Jaua spoke about the meeting in messages on his Twitter account, providing an upbeat account nearly six weeks after an operation that pushed the president out of public view.

In an initial message, Jaua said: "Coming out of the meeting with our President Comandante Hugo Chavez. We shared jokes and laughed."

"He asked me to pass on, to the people and the Armed Force, his thanks for so much loyalty," Jaua said in another message, using the formal name for Venezuela's military.

Jaua also said that Chavez made decisions "about our participation" in an upcoming summit meeting in Chile, and was "very happy because the Bolivarian dream continues advancing" — a reference to 19th century independence hero Simon Bolivar, the namesake of Chavez's Bolivarian Revolution movement.

Jaua met earlier with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez. He didn't give details about Chavez's condition, but his description was the latest of multiple accounts by government officials that have pointed to an improvement after complications that included a severe respiratory infection.

Argenis Chavez, one of the president's five brothers and the president of the National Electric Corporation, said in a government statement on Monday night: "We're all eager for his return."

He earlier had told The Associated Press that he expected the president's return in the "coming days." But in the statement he said that was incorrect and that those in charge of providing official updates on Chavez's health are Vice President Nicolas Maduro and Information Minister Ernesto Villegas.

"The decision about the head of state's return to the country is in the hands of the medical team that is accompanying him," Argenis Chavez said in the statement.

The president hasn't been seen or spoken publicly since he left for Cuba on Dec. 10 for his fourth cancer-related operation.

The president's younger brother said he recently saw and talked with Chavez in Havana, though he didn't specify when or say how the president looked. He said that Chavez remained in Cuba



In this Jan. 10, 2013 file photo, supporters of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez wave a flag decorated with an image of him wearing military fatigues, and another flag of Venezuela's independence hero Simon Bolivar at Chavez's symbolic inauguration outside Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela.

AP Photo/Fernando Llano, File

accompanied by his children.

Jorge Arreaza, the president's son-in-law and science minister, returned to Venezuela after spending recent weeks in Cuba, where he had at times provided information on Twitter about the presi-

dent and those who came to visit him.

Arreaza appeared in a televised event in Chavez's home state of Barinas on Monday, though he didn't make any comments about the president's condition.

Maduro said in a televised interview on Sunday that Chavez is finishing with a "post-operative" phase of his treatment and next is to enter a "new phase of treatment," which he said would be announced.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

Bunting blamed the incident on “a dispute among persons in and around the community involved in the perennial lottery scam” and that the lottery scam is responsible for more than 100 deaths across the island. He, however, assured that young Imani’s death was being investigated at the highest level.

St. Lucia

The St. Lucia government says that while it is anxious to bring closure to the wage and salary negotiation involving public servants, it is not going to endorse salaries that would further affect the economic situation and force the island into the clutches of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



In a nationwide radio and television broadcast recently, Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony, who is also the finance minister, said the crux of the issue that faces the government is the ability to meet the demands of its 9,500 workers for increases in wages by 15 percent, spread over three years.

Public sector trade unions have rejected an offer of zero per cent increase and a one-time payment of EC\$1,000

Anthony said the current proposal by the trade unions would increase the government’s wage bill by an estimated EC\$55 million annually, while the back pay associated with this proposal would cost about EC\$40

million, “leading to a worsening of the current deficit of close to EC\$100 million for this financial year.”

“It also means that for every ensuing year, government would have to borrow an extra EC\$55 million just to meet the increase. This is clearly a path that a responsible government should not take,

“We still have the chance to avoid going to the IMF, but this will involve some very tough decisions. It will involve rebalancing our expenditure and taking steps to ensure that we borrow only for high-return capital projects,” Dr. Antony said.

Suriname

A week after former president and presidential adviser Jules Wijdenbosch revealed while on a recent visit to Amsterdam that gold deals to be signed with the United States-based mining firm Newmont and Canadian mining firm IamGold could yield over US\$2.5 billion in investments, recent media reports indicate that the deals could be worth US\$1.2 billion and US\$1.5 billion.



According to the StarNews, parliamentary approval is being awaited on the deals that would see the American multinational investing US\$1.2 billion in the Merian area in eastern Suriname, while IamGold is expected to commit about US\$1.5 billion in Brokopondo.

Compiled by Azad Ali

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Brooklyn Spine Center keeps you healthy and free of back pain

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Brooklyn Spine Center, the facility that provides the latest and most innovative treatment for back pain, has expanded to a brand-new location.

The 4,000-square foot, ultra-modern center is not only gorgeous — it also contains the newest technology. It is four times the size of the former facility.

Dr. Melinda Keller, the center's director, says the state-of-the-art services offered are designed to support people for a "100-year lifestyle" — keeping them healthy, well, and flexible for a lifetime.

Dr. Keller has been a practicing chiropractor for more than 30 years. She is proud to now offer physical therapy services with physical therapist MaryAnne Coughlin.

"She is a compassionate, caring, and kind physical therapist, with 30 years of experience," says Dr. Keller.

The center also includes Dr. Marilyn Applebaum, another chiropractor with more than 30 years of experience in the profession. All share the same vision — to provide non-invasive care that keeps the musculoskeletal system healthy.

If you feel pain in the neck, arm, back, or leg, it may be due to a bulging or herniated disc.

"Sometimes, patients have no idea what started their conditions, as they cannot tie any specific event to the onset," says Dr. Keller. Nevertheless, these conditions exist, causing pain, limiting movement, and hindering lifestyles.

The Brooklyn Spine Center can help. It offers non-surgical spinal decompression. This cutting-edge technology is "the latest medical breakthrough" that alleviates neck and back pain caused by herniated discs and degenerated discs, as well as sciatica, says Dr. Keller.

The treatment, combined with Dr. Keller's expertise and compassion, offers top-notch care, which gets results.

In the past, patients suffering from disc problems were given pain medications, and instructed to refrain from physical activities, the doctor says. When treatment failed, many were then told to have back surgery. Such surgery can be risky.

"Know your options," says the doctor. "If you have been told this, come in for an examination so we can discuss possible alternatives."

Technology at the center includes the DRX 9000, state-of-the-art treatment that relieves nerve compression. Brooklyn Spine



(Clockwise from top) Brooklyn Spine Center's newest location on 16th Avenue is four times the size of its former facility. Dr. Marilyn Appelbaum, a chiropractor with 30 years of experience, does an adjustment with a patient. Dr. Melinda Keller is the center's director, and has been a practicing chiropractor for more than 30 years.

Photos by Elizabeth Graham

Center has six of these machines. Four are used to relieve back pain; two to treat neck pain.

"They significantly reduce pain, enabling the majority of patients to return to more active lifestyles," says the doctor.

"Decompression is achieved by using a specific combination of spinal positioning,

and varying the degree and intensity of force," she says. "The key to producing this decompression is the gentle pull that is created."

In fact, "Many patients have found success with the DRX 9000 after a failed back surgery," Dr. Keller says. "Our mission is to relieve the pain and suffering of people in our community. We help

people live happier, healthier lives, without drugs and surgery."

The highly-trained staff speaks English, Russian, and Polish. There are both male and female doctors at the facility, should patients have a preference. And the center treats people of all ages.

"We provide pediatric care and geriatric

care," says Dr. Keller. Sports injuries are also treated.

Brooklyn Spine Center [5911 16th Ave. between 59th and 60th streets in Borough Park, (718) 234-6200; www.BrooklynSpineCenter.com and www.BrooklynChiro.com]. Open Mondays through Fridays, 9 am-7 pm, by appointment.

Are You Suffering With Severe Constant Pain?

New Laser Light Breakthrough Treatment May Reduce Or Even Eliminate Pain Of The Worst Kind In Just Minutes

If you are suffering with severe pain despite all the treatments, that may have failed you in the past, you may now have some hope of reducing or even eliminating your pain with a new non-surgical, painless laser treatment now available in Brooklyn.

Deep Tissue Laser Treatment is an innovative, scientifically based, therapeutic modality. This new technology offers advanced pain relief and expedited healing times through a process known as photobiostimulation.

Deep Tissue Laser Treatment delivers, deep, penetrating, photonic (light) energy to bring about profound physiological changes. ATP (Adenosine-triphosphate) production is increased, inflammation and pain reduced and circulation increased at the site of pain. These changes in cellular chemistry are triggered by the deep tissue laser making it a true healing modality.

Deep Tissue Laser Therapy does not require the use of drugs or surgery, and there are no known side effects or risks that may occur with other forms of treatment. In addition, it can often achieve results faster than other treatment modalities. During the treatment the patient will feel a deep soothing warmth. This pleasant sensation reassures the patient that the laser is stimulating cellular activity.

Lasers have made a remarkable contribution toward healthcare, allowing practitioners to treat a variety of conditions with the speed of light. As a non-invasive tool, the laser is particularly effective for the efficient treatment of soft tissue injuries, sprains and strains, and a variety of other ailments and pain.

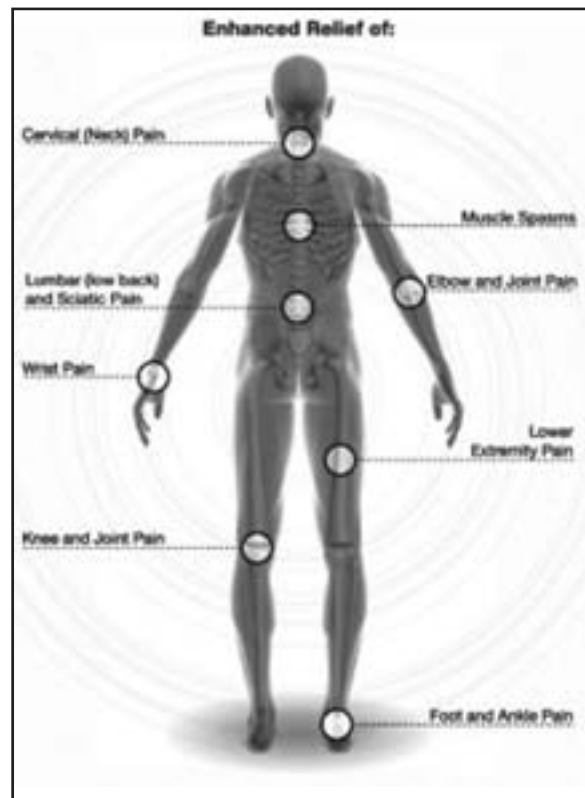
Low Level Laser enhances metabolic activity at the cellular level, without generating tissue-damaging heat.

Some of the benefits of laser treatment include:

- Fast reduction of pain
- Improvement of nerve function
- Reduction of muscle spasms.
- Speeding of tissue repair
- Development of muscle tissue and collagen
- Reduction of inflammation, swelling and scar tissue formation
- Pain reduction immediately

The Class IV laser, approved by the FDA in 2006, packs a punch while remaining non-invasive. The Class IV laser is capable of reaching depths of 6 to 9 inches, with a treatment beam of up to 3 inches.

Because the Class IV laser reaches deep into the tissues, it is ideal for treating sprains and strains, arthritis, calcified muscles and fibrotic adhesions, as well as intra-articular tissues inside of the joints. Its far-reaching capabilities also allow the Class IV to achieve results in less time than most cold lasers currently used today. With treatment times of as little as 5 to 15 minutes, the Class IV laser allows many conditions to vastly improve within a few visits. Oftentimes, patients find immediate, soothing relief that improves with each treatment.



A partial list of the kind of conditions that can be helped...

- Bulging, Slipped Discs
- Spinal Fusion
- Neck Pain
- Sciatica Pain
- Migraine Headaches
- Back Pain & Spinal Conditions
- Tennis Elbow
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Neuropathy Pain
- Bell's Palsy
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Sports Injuries
- Sprains & Strains
- Knee Pain
- Hamstring Tears
- Arthritic Pain

If you are tired of living with pain and would like to see if you qualify for deep tissue laser treatment call **718-559-6992** for a **FREE CONSULTATION** right now. Dr. Keller has seen such dramatic fast pain relief with Deep Tissue Laser Treatment, that she offers one **FREE** treatment to see if you respond and if you are a candidate for this revolutionary new non surgical pain relieving treatment. Due to the overwhelming response to this type of offer, this offer will be good for the first 25 callers. If the lines are busy, keep trying.

Listen to what patients are saying:

"I had been suffering from knee pain for many months before I tried laser treatments using Deep Tissue Laser. After just a couple treatments, my knee pain was reduced to the point where I can finally live a more normal life again. These treatments are simply remarkable!"

- Jennifer C.

"I started treatments with Deep Tissue Laser after I had injured my neck in a car accident. The treatments allowed me to return to work much more quickly than anyone had expected, considering the pain I was in. During the treatments, all I felt was a warming sensation as the laser was moved across the injured area where all my pain was. After just three short treatments, my pain was almost totally gone. Thanks, Doctor!"

- Jason B.

"The Deep Tissue Laser treatments I received dramatically helped my recovery from a broken leg. Not only did it help reduce the swelling, the pain relief I experienced was nothing short of miraculous. My orthopedic doctor was amazed with the results."

- John M.

Brooklyn Spine Center

Dr. Melinda Keller

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Rebounding from the loss of a national carrier

By Sharon Gordon

Guyanese businessman and pilot, Captain Paul Ronald Reece who serves as Chairman and CEO of the new upstart Fly Jamaica Airways was on hand at the Jamaica Consulate in New York City on Thursday, January 17th along with colleagues, Captain Lloyd Tai, who holds the distinction of being Air Jamaica's "first pilot" as well as former Air Jamaica executive, Will Rogers, who is a consultant to the project and Ann Marie Francis who will serve as Area Manager for the New York region. The team has just flown in from Kingston, Jamaica where they had the Jamaica launch the evening before. It is being reported that Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller was at the event and pledged her support for the venture which brings together the "Crème de la Crème" of the previous Air Jamaica staff and executives.

The New York launch was under the auspices of the Honorable Herman LaMont, Jamaica's Consul General to New York. It was a packed event with several industry insiders present like Pat Lawrence of Alken Tours, Barbara and Ken Whittaker of Kenbar Vacations and so many others. Questions abound.

In the spirit of promoting



Roberta Garzoli, travel consultant, Consul General Herman LaMont, Captian Paul Ronald Reece, CEO of Fly Jamaica Airways and George Patsalos, travel consultant.

Photo by Patrick Maitland

"national pride" and regionalism, the team has stated that they are awaiting final sign offs from the TSA and the Port Authority before they can announce the date of the first flight. According to Captain Tai, it could be as early as next week but until the necessary

paper work is approved they remain in a holding pattern. Irwin Clare, founder of Team Jamaica Bickle was delighted, "This is regionalism at its zenith," he said, "You know I am all about one Caribbean." This business model bodes well for all parties involved

and Clare concurs. "This is good for Jamaica and its good for Guyana...soon we will have flights going into and out of Guyana and then Sao Paulo in Brazil." According to Clare, "I'm thinking long term and big picture, this will open up a new frontier for

Jamaica in terms of potential tourists traveling from South America and not needing to get a VISA to pass through the US to get to Jamaica." Fly Jamaica Airways is tentatively set to launch four flights weekly from JFK (terminal one) and travelers will

get two checked bags free and yes, they have agreed to bring back food to the flights. "True Jamaican hospitality," is what they are promising those who will go to their website and book their flights. "This is 'YOUR' airline," said Captain Reece.

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smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

www.nyfirst.ny.gov/ResourceCenter/SmallBizMenu.html

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/resourceguide_3135.pdf

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/busref.htm
Selected business-related web sites compiled by staff at the New York State Library for use in response to reference questions.

Start a Business in New York - Resources for New York Small Businesses

manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm
Find resources and advice on starting a

business in New York City. Get information on New York business licenses and incorporation, free NYC resources for starting a business.

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

www.yourmoneynewyork.com/helpresource/smallbusiness/index.php
This section of Your Money New York is designed to help small business owners – and New Yorkers interested in starting a small business.

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcny.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm
Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues. Visit www.nyfirst.ny.gov to learn what New York State can do for businesses.

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

www.bfindapc.com/...business-resource.../resources-for-businesses-i
If you operate a business in New York City, you are especially fortunate. The city has pulled together a wealth of resources for small business owners.

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

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A SORE SUBJECT

New York Methodist Hospital doctor talks strep throat concerns and treatment

You've had a sore throat for a few days and it's only getting worse. You've tried lozenges, over-the-counter medications, and several gallons of your favorite herbal tea with honey. Now you're spiking a fever, you haven't been hungry for a while, and you're noticing pain in your lower abdomen as well. It's time to get to the doctor, because you may have a case of strep throat.

"Though causes of sore throats can also include the common cold, laryngitis, the flu, or other infections or injuries, the strep bacteria is responsible for almost 40 percent of sore throats in children, and 15 percent of sore throats in adults," said Joseph Bove, MD, chairman

of New York Methodist Hospital's Department of Emergency Medicine. "However, too often, patients believe that it's necessary to run to the ER if they suspect that they have a case of strep throat. While it's important to see your doctor promptly if you've developed the symptoms of strep, it usually does not merit a trip to the emergency room. New York Methodist Hospital has an outstanding staff of primary care providers who can help patients with strep throat, the flu, pertussis, and other illnesses that are common in the winter months."

To determine if a patient has strep, a doctor first performs a medical examina-

tion and looks for key symptoms, which can include enlarged lymph nodes, fever, redness, swelling, and white spots on the tonsils. The doctor may then administer a rapid strep test, which provides highly accurate results in minutes. A throat culture (a laboratory diagnostic test to find a bacteria or fungal infections in the throat) is another method to test for strep throat, and may also be necessary. Throat cultures are still considered to be the "gold standard" of strep diagnosis, but the results of a throat culture can take 24 to 48 hours, making a rapid strep test a more ideal option in many cases, especially if a patient's symp-



Aric Kupper, MD, attending physician in New York Methodist's Department of Emergency Medicine, evaluates a patient for strep throat.

toms are highly indicative of strep.

Ultimately, there's no reason to be sore about strep throat. While the disease is very contagious, and

can potentially cause complications, strep throat that has been diagnosed early is highly treatable with a course of penicillin, amoxicillin, or other antibiotics.

Visit New York Methodist Hospital's physician referral service at www.nym.org to find a primary care provider who can help you address your symptoms.



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Improved healthcare quality

The Brooklyn Hospital Center is working to improve healthcare quality, affordability, efficiency, and outcomes for Brooklynites.

The hospital is joining the Brooklyn Health Information Exchange, a Regional Health Information Organization that serves institutions that represent the continuum of care across Brooklyn. The affiliation facilitates the Brooklyn Hospital Center's participation in a statewide health information network in order to share health records and care management information with other Brooklyn healthcare providers, improving care for patients.

"This is a major step forward in our ongoing efforts to keep Brooklyn healthy," says the Brooklyn Hospital Center's President and CEO Richard B. Becker, MD. "Our patients will benefit from our ability to share and coordinate health care information with other phy-

sicians, hospitals, long-term and home care services, community-based organizations, government agencies and insurers."

The Brooklyn Health Information Exchange was the first regional organization in New York City to support the New York eHealth Collaborative in its efforts to integrate the downstate region and ultimately the entire state into a unified network for healthcare records, he added.

"We continue to work with the Brooklyn Health Information Exchange on our next planning phase, including features that will permit care givers to search for patient's health records, review medications, existing allergies and lab results, monitor real-time alerts, and securely communicate with other [exchange] users," said Joan Clark, SVP-Strategic Planning.

The exchange will also facilitate real-time event notifications, allowing

clinicians to create programs to monitor healthcare activities for chronically ill patients. This will allow the Brooklyn Hospital Center to realize a collaborative model of care across the community. It will also permit access to insurance information, immunizations, social and family history, discharge summaries, and advanced directives, pursuant to patient consent, all within a secure system environment.

The Brooklyn Health Information Exchange aggregates data from more than two million patient records, representing encounters at dozens of healthcare facilities and insurers, most of whom feed data on a real-time basis. Its participants include hospitals, health centers, nursing homes, home care agencies, payers, and a growing number of community-based and mental health organizations and provider practices.

Get rid of pain and get back to your favorite activities

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

When you suffer with back and neck pain, the simplest tasks often seem difficult.

You can't bend to pick up a piece of paper off of the floor without wincing. You can't lift your grandchild up in the air.

For years, many people suffered in silence, going through the motions, while grimacing in pain.

Today, there's an alternative, and you can find it at Pain and Rehabilitation Services Medical Group.

The Borough Park pain management facility treats patients with injections, medication, and physical therapy. They treat all kinds of patients, from the professional or weekend athlete to the grandmother who can't lift her grandchildren.

The success stories are plentiful, says Dr. Charles Suede, pain management specialist, and board-certified anesthesiologist. With the care and treatment you receive here, "Patients can return to normal life activities such as golfing, tennis, skiing, and other



(From left) Medical assistant Vincent Mezzatesta, Dr. Charles Suede, Dr. Isaac Kreizman, and RPA-C Michael Garbulsky will help with your back and neck pain at Pain and Rehabilitation Services.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

sports," says the doctor.

The cause of pain is often due to bulging or herniated disks, which put pressure on the nerves. By injecting medication near the nerve, "it provides great relief," says Dr. Suede. All procedures are done under fluroscopy or sonogram guidance. This allows the

medication to be delivered precisely into the source of the pain.

The knee is another area that is susceptible to injury.

"A lot of women come into the office, and their knees are killing them," says the doctor. "We give them an injection, and they go back to exercising on the treadmill."

Arthritis to the knee can also cause pain because it means there is little or no "padding" remaining in the knee area. Instead, bone rubs against bone, causing pain. But this can be treated as well.

"When the knee is injected with medication, it creates a gel-like cushion, which loosens and lubricates the area," says Dr. Suede. Activities can resume again.

If patients are in such pain that any type of injection seems overwhelming, Dr. Suede, as a practicing anesthesiologist, is on hand to provide sedation, easing the path to recovery.

The goal of the rehabilitation specialist is to provide non-surgical treatment of an injury or illness that affects the nerves, muscles, bones, and brain. You should make an appointment if you have suffered an accident, injury, or illness that has left you with limited movement or that causes you to be in constant pain. Your primary care doctor may also recommend one if you are recovering from surgery, were in an accident, or if you suffer from arthritis.

The director of the Pain and Rehabilitation Services Medical Group is board certified Dr. Isaac J. Kriezman, physician of rehabilitation medicine and pain management. He is a member of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the American Medical Association, and is a Diplomate in the American Academy of Pain Management, as well as a Fellow on the American Board of Disability Analysts. The doctor specializes in cardio-pulmonary and physical rehabilitation as well as interventional pain management.

Dr. Suede attended Mount Sinai School of Medicine and completed his internship in internal medicine at Long Island College Hospital. His Residency in Anesthesiology was at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Pain and Rehabilitation Services Medical Group [5223 Ninth Ave. on the corner of 53rd Street in Borough Park, (718) 431-2959]. Open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9 am-6 pm; and Wednesdays, 9 am-1 pm.

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Tips to help you get more sleep at night

(StatePoint) One of the simplest things you can do for your health is to get enough sleep, say experts. Unfortunately, many Americans have difficulty sleeping, making this seem like a simple task, but it can be anything but simple.

According to the National Sleep Foundation, the average American sleeps about six hours and 55 minutes per night during the week, and 15 percent of adults sleep less than six hours per night.

“Lack of sleep can take a significant toll on your overall health and interfere with some of your daily activities,” said Dr. Michael Thorpy, director of the Sleep-Wake Disorders Center at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

Almost everybody has trouble sleeping now and then, but many Americans experience significant problems getting to sleep or continually wake up in the middle of the night.

Such problems may be clinical symptoms of insomnia. According to the National Sleep Foundation, if you have trouble falling asleep at night or staying asleep, or you wake up in the morning feeling unrefreshed, you may be suffering from insomnia.

HEALTH

Insomnia can affect people in different ways. Some sufferers have trouble initially getting to sleep, while others wake up in the middle of the night and have difficulty falling back asleep.

To help you get better sleep, Dr. Thorpy suggests these simple tips:

- Set and stick to a sleep schedule. Establish a regular bedtime and wake time.

- Set aside time at night to “wind down.” Spend some quiet time before bedtime. Such activities as watching TV, using the computer or working right before bedtime, or in the bedroom, can make it harder to fall asleep.

- Avoid caffeine and alcohol before bed.

- Exercise regularly. Just don't exercise rigorously near bedtime and check with your doctor before starting an exercise regimen.

- Don't clock-watch. If you awaken in the middle of the night and stay in bed, don't lie there staring at the clock. And don't watch TV or use your laptop or cell



Getting a good night's sleep is important for your health.

phone, because these technologies stimulate the brain, making it tougher to fall back to sleep.

If these tips don't help, speak

with your healthcare professional to help determine if you are suffering from insomnia and require treatment.

More information regarding insomnia is available at the National Sleep Foundation website at www.sleepfoundation.org.



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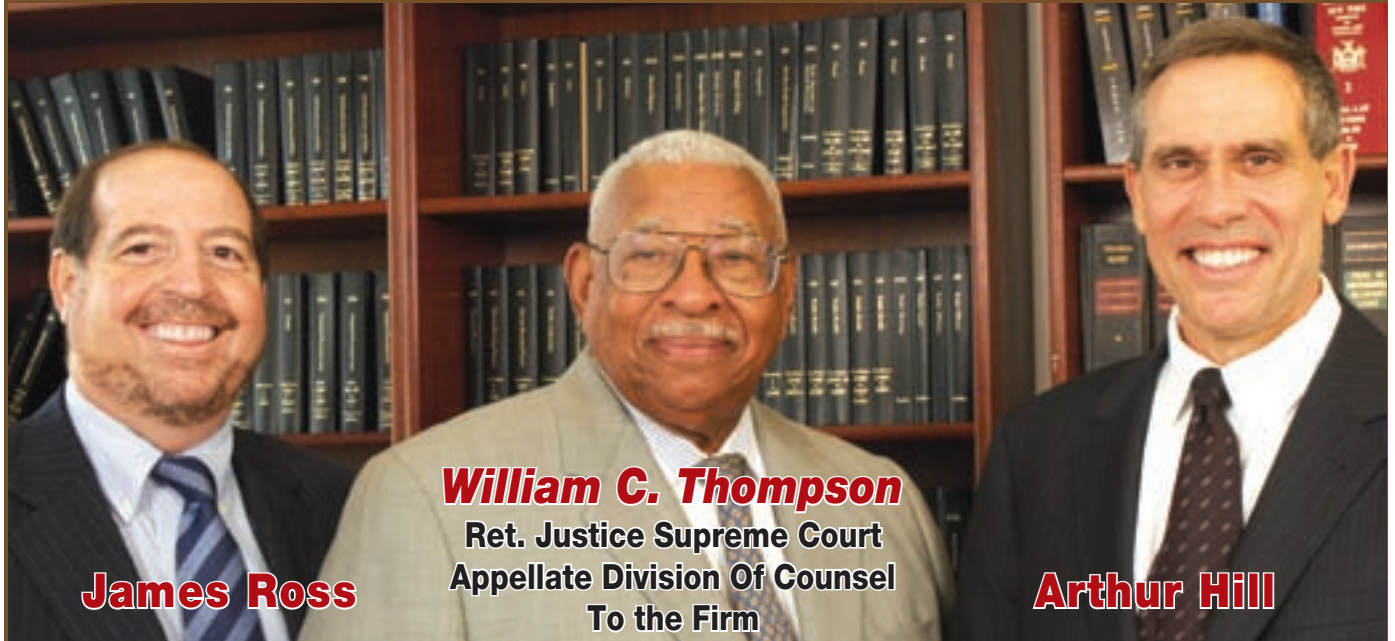
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Chuck Hagel

Continued from Page 10

the Americas. They sustained their efforts largely through overseas commerce, their newfound territorial holdings, and great merchant and naval fleets - the sinews of sea power according to U.S. Navy Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan, a fin-de-siècle pundit who knew a thing or two about the subject.

The United States first pivoted from North America to the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico, turning its eyes from the continental interior to the maritime near abroad. Let's call this turnabout Pivot 1.0. This was the age of the Monroe Doctrine (1823), when Washington appointed itself the protector of American republics' independence of European imperial rule. In principle, the republic forbade Europeans to expand their holdings anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. In practice, U.S. leaders confined their energies to the Caribbean basin. They were thinking geostrategically, and they set priorities. Once dug, a canal across the Isthmus of Panama would shorten sea voyages between Atlantic and Pacific by thousands of miles, sparing mariners the journey around Tierra del Fuego - the odyssey the Pacific-based battleship USS Oregon underwent to get into the fight off Cuba in 1898.

America executed its first seaward pivot on the cheap. Erstwhile foe Great Britain ruled the waves, and it had reasons of its own for wanting to keep rival empires out

of the Americas. Owing to this confluence of interests, Britain's Royal Navy was a silent partner in the Monroe Doctrine. British, not American seafarers enforced the hands-off policy for most of the 19th century. Washington achieved its geopolitical aims while freeriding on the preeminent fleet of the day. Why invest in an expensive U.S. Navy when powerful outsiders would do the navy's work for it? Except for a brief buildup for Civil War blockade duty, the U.S. Navy remained a backwater until the 1880s. Only then did the United States lay the keels for its first armored, steam-driven battle fleet - amassing the wherewithal to put steel behind its pivot to the sea. No longer would Washington entrust the doctrine to external guardians whose goodwill could prove fleeting.

In Spykman's words, U.S. leaders fixed their strategic gaze on "America's Mediterranean" to the south. They set ambitious goals, such as preserving Latin American republics' independence while keeping stronger imperial powers at bay. And expediency determined the implements they used to attain those goals. Having an external benefactor like the Royal Navy appeared providential during the founding decades, when the United States was subduing a continent and pursuing internal improvements. By the 1880s, however, the Industrial Revolution had delivered such material abundance that Washington could take charge of North

America's environs. The United States started accumulating strategic mass, manifest in a strong navy. Victory over Spain in 1898 furnished strategic mobility in the form of an island base network to support naval operations in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

Policy energy, strategic mass, strategic maneuver - these were the struts supporting America's first foreign-policy pivot. But if Pivot 1.0 swiveled U.S. attention to the Caribbean, it also ushered in Pivot 1.5. Adm. George Dewey's Asiatic Squadron crushed the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War, handing the United States an offshore outpost in the Far East. Washington scooped up islands such as Hawaii and Guam - islands suitable for naval stations - in the aftermath of war. America had established a bridgehead off the China coast, complete with island stepping-stones to reach it. It just needed a Central American canal to expedite access from the North American east coast to the Pacific Ocean, and thence to the riches of Asia.

America's Pacific strategy remained in limbo until the Panama Canal opened in late 1914, completing the arc of Pivot 2.0.

In an arresting turn of a phrase, Spykman vouchsafed that the transoceanic waterway in effect lifted the United States and turned it 90 degrees southward on its axis - rotating the republic's strategic gaze wholesale toward the isthmus and the broad Pacific. In reality the canal split U.S. foreign policy.

Project Hope

Continued from Page 10

tation services. Follow-on services such as psychosocial care and mobility aids, artificial limbs and other devices are also featured in the program.

"Community-based organizations (CBOs) are crucial in this process," said Dr. Armand. "The CBOs know their communities well and are working with us to locate the disabled and refer them to the appropriate facilities for medical assistance. Building relationships with

each patient is crucial for us to offer ongoing support to a patient, whether it be monitoring the patient's progress at home, giving the patient the vocational training he needs to succeed and ultimately helping the patient find work," said Dr. Armand.

Repeated cholera outbreaks present an on-going challenge in Haiti. HOPE has sent medical volunteers to train and assist local health care professionals in areas affected by cholera since 2010 and continues to

monitor the risk of cholera in the event a hurricane or tropical storms threatens Haiti.

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Makin' Style launch

By Tangerine Clarke

Sonia Noel is involved in many ventures - she is a fashion designer, Reality TV Show host, Guyana Fashion Weekend's CEO -but most of all, she is a visionary whose captivating personality and sense of style will be transformed onto the pages of a new magazine.

This February, Noel will take on her new role as publisher when the first issue of Makin' Style- a trendsetting and lifestyle quarterly that captures the vibes, entertainment and arts of Guyana and the Caribbean - is distributed free in the region.

The much anticipated, 120-page glossy has a planned circulation in the Diaspora with a moderate price tag, said Noel, who looks to celebrate the architecture and cultural diversity of Georgetown and its rich history of Victorian style and Dutch influences.

"There is no other place with a compelling admixture -a unique colonial presence and a modern urban backdrop- where South America meets the Caribbean - than Guyana, said the publisher.

Noel said the magazine will be edgy, bold, colorful, and bursting with stirring features of influential Caribbean personalities, refreshing topics, and epic layout.

"Makin' Style is about living the Caribbean life through the eyes of our trendsetters, our visionaries, movers and shaker,"



Cover of "Makin' Style."

added Noel, who is excited about showcasing the beauty of Guyana's flora and fauna and the country's cascading waterfalls, rolling mountains and bustling diversity.

The quarterly will give readers a striking look into Guyana's thriving tourism attractions, its folk culture, mouthwatering cuisine, its past, and inspiring future.

As a leading couturier, Noel is also focused on showcasing her exquisite creations, as well as those of other fashion designers in the region, with a planned fashion directory in the publication.



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Photo by Steve Solomonson

Elizabeth Stonehill, Flatbush

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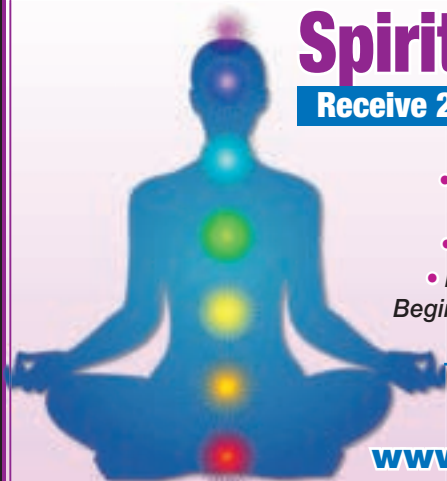
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The audience at the 27th annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Christopher Griffith

Photo by

Nostalgia on MLK Day in Kings County

By Vinette K. Pryce

Levity replaced nostalgia when Brooklyn Borough President Markowitz commanded attention at the citywide event to honor Dr. Martin Luther King at the Brooklyn Academy of Music Monday, Jan. 21.

"To those bigots who thought the president's victory was a fluke: Get over it!" the borough president declared.

His unyielding, Brooklyn accent punctuated advice to a Republican senator from Kentucky: "To Senator (Mitch) McConnell who said he would work to make Obama a one-term president - Call him Mr. President."

If the borough president had not already been crowned King of Kings (county) on King Day, he could have easily achieved monarchy.

The people seemed unanimous in appeal for the president of Brooklyn, who offered a wish-list to President Obama, urging him to "end America's love-affair with guns."

"No more Columboes, no more Auroras, no more ... there is no room for extremists of the NRA. Let us learn from Dr. King. Let

us rid our streets of guns once and for all."

In keeping with the theme of honoring Dr. King's legacy he lauded the achievement of Blacks during a segment that exposed his affinity to pop culture and reality television.

Oprah Winfrey won raves for her OWN Network; Jay-Z and Beyonce's baby Blue Ivy also received mention. Jennifer Hudson's weight loss did not miss his list. And Olympians Venus and Serena Williams and Gabby Douglas, the recovery of ABC-TV morning anchor Robin Roberts, athlete Michael Strayhorn who replaced Regis Philbin by teaming with Kelly Ripa to co-host the popular morning show all found favor from the BBP.

He garnered loud chuckles when he mentioned a TV rivalry between Nicky Minaj and Mariah Carey, reality TV show "Real Housewives of Atlanta," Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's pregnancy and loudest applause when he expressed green-eyed envy for hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons' ability to flaunt his association with a German model during a vacation on a beach.

The veteran politician

also managed to spread kudos to Keija Minor, the Editor-in-Chief of Brides Magazine who became the first Black editor-in-chief in the Conde Nast publishing house's 100 year history.

Markowitz delivered more good news when he informed the audience about Maurice Ashley, the Brooklyn resident who emerged the first Black chess master last year.

He also paid tribute to prominent individuals who departed.

"We have not reached the Promised Land," Markowitz said referencing Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech, "but it is right there before our eyes."

He added that in order to reach a closer proximity, kids should have more access to essential services. He implored young men who wear their pants low in the waist to "Dress with dignity."

A majority of the audience seemed to endorse this mention.

"Pull up your pants!" he shouted into the microphone.

He added that only after conquering AIDS and the aforementioned "...then we

Continued on Page 30

Edible Arrangements are the perfect gift for every occasion

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

It's a new year, and we've all made a resolution to eat healthier.

That includes eating more fruit.

Fortunately, there's Edible Arrangements, the store that sculpts the finest fresh fruit into works of art. When fruit looks and tastes this good, it's easy to eat healthy.

Treat yourself to a fresh fruit bouquet, and send one to a friend, as these make the perfect gifts. No worries about what size to buy, and no concerns about counting calories. Fresh fruit is a gift that's appreciated by just about everyone, and that may be one of the reasons why this chain is blooming in Brooklyn.

One of the newest stores just blossomed on Fulton Street, providing a healthy alternative to the heavy desserts in which we all indulged over the holidays. Shop here for arrangements brimming with pineapples



(From left clockwise) Edible Arrangements has just opened a new location on Fulton Street at New York Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Ketty Duval and Alondra Cabral show off a fruit design and teddy bear vase. Manager Ketty Duval holds chocolate-covered strawberries at the new Edible Arrangements on Fulton Street. Photos by Elizabeth Graham

carved into daisies or stars. Showcased, too, are fresh strawberries, apples, cantaloupe, and honeydew, all arranged into designs so appealing, these fresh fruit arrangements can be used as table centerpieces.

For birthdays, the fruit can be secured in a base resembling a cake — but without the calories. Or, fruit can be carved into floral designs and arranged in a vase. There are baskets and colorful boxes, too. It means you

can custom-design a fruit-filled package that is perfect for every occasion. Personalize it further by adding a festive balloon. An Edible Arrangement makes a great birthday gift, anniversary gift, or a get well gift. Visit-

ing someone's new home? What a wonderful way to say, "welcome."

Edible Arrangements are also ideal as wedding centerpieces. No worries about who will bring home the flowers — everyone can eat them at the reception. Each piece of fruit is arranged on its own individual stick, making it easy for every guest to share a colorful fruit bouquet.

For those who want pure indulgence, a box of huge chocolate-covered strawberries speaks for itself. Give them away as party favors, or keep them in mind for Valentine's Day, which is right around the corner.

Each fruit fantasy is delivered in a special refrigerated truck, assuring that it arrives fresh, beautiful, and ready to eat. Corporate accounts are welcome, as businesses send Edible Arrangements bouquets as thank you gifts.

So how is the fruit carved into such amazing designs?

How do you get a piece of honeydew to look like the leaf of a flower? The staff is trained for the task; but other than that, the company reveals no trade secrets. If you want to learn those, you'll have to open your own franchise. There are now more than 1,000 Edible Arrangements worldwide, evidence that people love receiving an arrangement that looks good enough to eat — and they will do just that.

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MLK Day

Continued from Page 28

can be free at last.”

None of the speakers disappointed the capacity crowds that meandered around the landmark structure from early in the morning.

And if ever, the affirmation that “Brooklyn is in the house” was evident, on inauguration day when Pres. Obama took his second oath of office as the 44th president of the United States, Brooklyn represented in Washington D.C. and in the most populous New York City borough.

Residents and visitors exuded pride on the national holiday when a screen revealed The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. Wearing scarlet red capes trimmed by black fur, their “Glory, Glory Aleluia” rendition switched the focus to Washington D.C. and the second inauguration ceremonies for Pres. Obama.

From the rafters at BAM to the VIP orchestra section, cheers and applause persisted throughout the performance.

And when inaugural chairman and NYS Senator Chuck Schumer officially opened the ceremony it seemed the Brooklyn audience comfortably resigned to a New York state of mind.

Myrlie Evers-Williams won cheers.

The widow who made history becoming the first of her gender to deliver a prayerful invocation at a presidential inauguration received a special Brooklyn reception.

Claimed a citizen of the county due to the naming of a CUNY institution in her late husband's honor – Medgar Evers College – she spoke at the historic capital setting.

With Dr. Pollard, the president of that institution of higher learning in the midst, the Brooklyn crowd felt included.

However, the decibel rose highest when Pres. Obama laid his hand on two bibles — one that belonged to Pres. Abraham Lincoln and one that was owned by Dr. King to accept the task he was re-elected last November when he gained a majority of votes and overwhelmingly endorsed to serve a second term in office.

Haitian amputee makes a comeback

By Trenton Daniel

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Georges Exantus thought he'd never dance again. He was lucky just to be alive.

The earthquake three years ago in Haiti's capital flattened the apartment where he was living and he spent three days trapped under jagged rubble. After friends dug him out, doctors amputated his right leg just below the knee.

Israeli doctors and physical therapists who came to Haiti after the quake sent him to Israel for surgery and rehabilitation.

Three years later, the 31-year-old professional dancer is back on the floor, spinning away as he does the salsa, cha-cha and samba. A prosthetic leg doesn't hold him back.

Exantus says he's the same person he was before the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake struck southern Haiti.

But it's clear the life of the young man nicknamed “The Gladiator” has been changed



In this Jan. 20, 2013 photo, professional dancer Georges Exantus, right, performs with Modeline Gene Arhan during a show in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery

by the disaster that killed tens of thousands of people and forced an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 survivors to undergo amputations because of gangrene-related infections.

Exantus walks with a slight limp. He can't dance as fast as he used to or balance as well or do some of his old moves, such as flipping his partner over his shoulder.

Exantus has also learned to ignore the long stares and quiet whispers, products of a longstanding stigma in Haiti for people with disabilities. Before the quake, few resources existed to accommodate Haiti's disabled, and many regard people with disabilities as misfits.

“I'm not focused on what people say about me or how society sees me,” says Exantus, who married his girlfriend in July on a dance floor.

If some see him as something of an outcast, his friends find inspiration: He's not one for self-pity; he was determined to dance again, and did. He's part of a Latin dance company and gives classes.

“Some victims of Jan. 12 stay in the same place and they can't do anything,” says dance partner and friend Modeline Gene Arhan, 26. “Georges has a goal. He's always thinking of where he's going.”

He's already made one dream come true.

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Harlem Black surgeons saved the Civil Rights

Harlem and its teeming professionals received huge kudos on the 84th birthday anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a tribute session that amplified how in 1958 the New York village furthered the cause to Civil Rights.

According to keynote speaker Herb Boyd who addressed a gathering at the African Burial Ground National Monument, had the medical team at Harlem Hospital failed to successfully treat a wound that punctured Dr. King's sternum the movement might have screeched to a halt.

Ironically except for a handful of students from the Thurgood Marshall Academy, there were no Harlem residents present to hear the plaudits. The few to attend listened keenly to Boyd who hailed the Black enclave attributed with helping to change the course of history.

Boyd was adamant about his position claiming that skilled surgeons triumphed in closing the stab wound



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

lodged inches away from Dr. King's aorta.

"And they did not have to remove three ribs as was previously reported," Boyd added.

The award winning author spoke largely on the topic "The Day Harlem saved Dr. King's life after a deranged woman plunged a letter opener in his chest."

He explained how the southern preacher arrived north on a book signing mission to promote "Stride Toward Freedom."

He explained why the Civil rights advocate chose the 125th St., white-owned Blumstein's Department Store to sell his book when a prominent Black-operated book store was located nearby.

He said during that period, Black-owned businesses

of that sort were generally regarded to be sympathetic to Communist causes and could have tainted his already-questionable character or political association.

A still-silent audience listened as Boyd all-but retraced the moments on Sept. 20, 1958 that led to a near-fatal stabbing of a 29-year-old prophet.

"Is your name Martin Luther King?" Boyd said she asked the celebrated author.

"I am," Boyd said he responded.

It was then that Izola Ware Curry, a 42-year-old mentally disturbed woman plunged a seven-inch steel letter opener into the upper left side of Dr. King's chest.

King was rushed to Harlem Hospital where he underwent two-and-a-quarter hours of surgery to repair the wound.



From left, Herb Boyd, with students from Thurgood Marshall Academy Fatau Thiam and Dalton Rodney at the African Burial Ground honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Photo by Christopher Griffith

"It was a momentous time for Harlem Hospital because it was a man of Dr. King's position who was known all over the world for what he was doing. For him to be brought to Harlem Hospital for a dangerous thing like that, where his life was at stake, it was a challenge. Could Harlem Hospital show

that it was up to this task? You see, it was a city hospital, and it was looked down upon. It was up to me to show the world that it could be done there," Dr. Aubrey Maynard reportedly stated in 1996.

Doctors operating on the 29-year-old leader reportedly said, "Had Dr. King sneezed or coughed the weapon would

have penetrated the aorta. He was just a sneeze away from death"

Boyd displayed video evidence of newspaper accounts, headlines and clippings reporting the incident.

He also clarified the roles executed by each member of the surgical team which comprised Dr. John Cordice. For many years, Maynard received credit for saving King's life. However, it was Dr. Cordice and Dr. Emil Naclerio who actually performed the surgery.

Reports are that Dr. Cordice reviewed King's X-rays with fellow surgeon Dr. Emil Naclerio and consulted with Maynard, their chief of surgery.

"He decided it would be better if he assumed a principal role here, in spite of the fact that he did not do the surgery," Cordice said in an interview last year.

"We were not going to challenge him because actually he was the boss."

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ENTERTAINMENT

‘Super Blue’ returns to competition

By Azad Ali

After an absence from competition for about 12 years, calypsonian Austin “Super Blue” Lyons will be back for the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival season, performing on “Fantastic Friday” night for Soca Monarch 2013.

The five-time International Soca Monarch will be competing against his daughter Fay Ann Lyons-Alvarez, his son-in-law, four-time Power Soca Monarch Bunji Garlin and another daughter Soca diva Terri Lyons.

Fay-Ann, a three-time Road March winner (2003, 2008 and 2009) also won the Soca Monarch title in 2009 taking home two titles that year—Power and Groovy—the first woman to do so.

Garlin and his wife Fay Ann sat out the competition last year.

Super Blue has an outstanding musical career that spanned over three decades.



Austin “Super Blue” Lyons.

Photo courtesy of www.thepresident.tt

He won the Road March title five times and he is the six-time Soca Monarch.

In fact Super Blue won the first ever Soca Monarch competition back in 1993. In 2000, he won with Pump Up.

Super Blue told the media that his return had nothing to do with winning the title and his returning is in response to his fans.

T&T Soca Monarch awaits his fate

By Azad Ali

Soca Monarch and Road March King Machel Montano will be able to perform for the Carnival season after a Port of Spain Magistrate has put off his sentencing on criminal charges until Feb. 25.

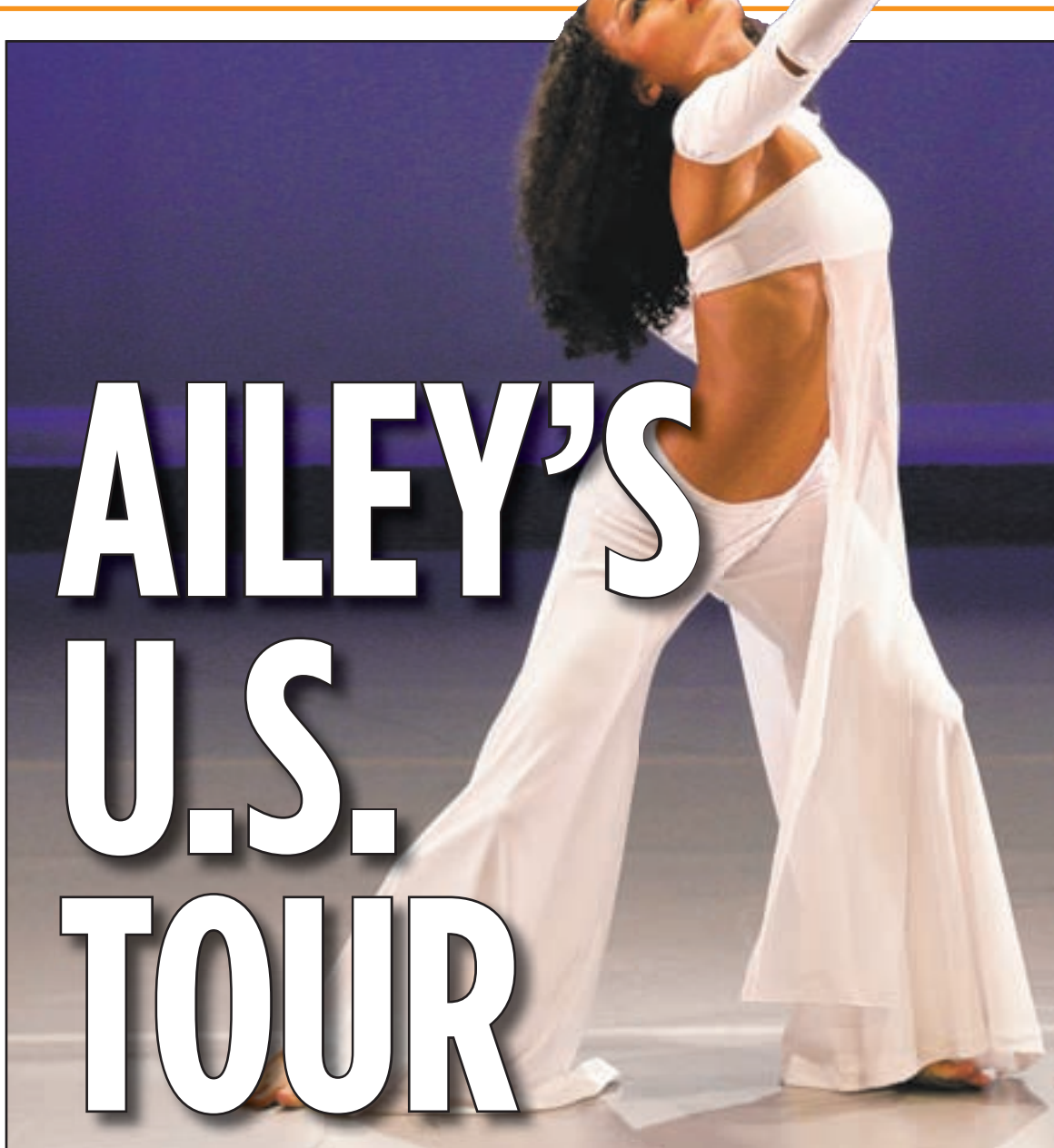
Magistrate Maureen Baboolal-Gafoor adjourned the matter as she was not presented with a court ordered probation officer’s report. After lengthy submissions from Montano’s attorney Dana Seetahal, the magistrate said she needed

time to deliberate on further submissions made by representatives of the State and defense.

Montano and music producer Kernal Roberts (son the late Grand Master Lord Kitchener) were found guilty of assault charges on Dec. 10, 2012.

Prosecutor George Busy told the magistrate that it was the State’s view that a sentence of community service to the two guilty men, as proposed by their defense counsels, is not

Continued on Page 36



Linda Celeste Sims of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Ronald K. Brown’s “Grace.”

Photo by Paul Kolnik

Artistic director’s new productions

By John Marrast

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, will embark on a 21-city US tour from Jan. 30 through May 19. Following record-breaking performances in New York City that brought full houses to their feet, Ailey’s second season led by Artistic Director Robert Battle will move audiences in major cities across the country, including: Washington, D.C.; Atlan-

ta, GA; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; Newark, NJ; Boston, MA and Robert Battle’s hometown Miami, FL, among many others.

Battle continues to surprise and delight audiences with premieres and new productions that expand his vision for the company, adding dynamic choreographic voices to the repertory that give Ailey’s extraordinary artists new ways to

inspire.

“Another Night,” by rising young choreographer Kyle Abraham, innovatively fuses the many dynamic facets of American dance and showcases the artistry and versatility of the Ailey dancers. Set to Art Blakey & The Jazz Messenger’s rendition of one of Dizzy Gillespie’s seminal compositions, “A Night in Tunisia,”

Continued on Page 36

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Locked Out Of Heaven**
Bruno Mars
- 2 **Diamonds**
Rihanna
- 3 **Ho Hey**
The Lumineers
- 4 **I Knew You Were Trouble.**
Taylor Swift
- 5 **One More Night**
Maroon 5
- 6 **I Cry**
Flo Rida
- 7 **Beauty And A Beat**
Justin Bieber Feat. Nicki Minaj
- 8 **Try**
P!nk
- 9 **Home**
Phillip Phillips
- 10 **Don't You Worry Child**
Swedish House Mafia Feat. John Martin

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Pitch Perfect**
Soundtrack
- 2 **Notes From The Underground**
Hollywood Undead
- 3 **The Lumineers**
The Lumineers
- 4 **Les Miserables: Highlights..**
Soundtrack
- 5 **Burning Lights**
Chris Tomlin
- 6 **Wretched And Divine:**
Black Veil Brides
- 7 **Red**
Taylor Swift
- 8 **Night Visions**
Imagine Dragons
- 9 **Unorthodox Jukebox**
Bruno Mars
- 10 **Babel**
Mumford & Sons

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Alvin Ailey's twenty-one city U.S. tour

Continued from page 35

the world premiere for 10 dancers was created with the support of commissioning funds from New York City Center and the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, in celebration of the Center's 50th Anniversary.

"Petite Mort," a ballet of breathtaking sensuality and visual surprises, marks the first time a work by renowned European choreographer Jif Kylián appears in the Ailey repertory. Set to two of Mozart's most popular piano concertos, the theatrical work blends a classical sensibility with a bold, modern wit with fencing foils and elaborate ball gowns in an unforgettable duel featuring six couples.

"From Before" beautifully blends the rhythms of African dance with Caribbean influences, with movements distilled to their purest form by Garth Fagan, the Tony Award-winning choreographer of "The Lion King." Featuring a jazzy percussive score by Grammy winner Ralph MacDonald, the Ailey premiere marks the first staging of this revered work for a company other than Garth Fagan Dance.

Battle's "Strange



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performing Ronald K. Brown's "Grace".

Photo by Paul Kolnik

Humors" is a thrillingly intense duet, set to John Mackey's propulsive score for strings and African drum that pits two men against each other. Surprising sequences ignite with aggression and discord, mischievousness and humor, as the relationship between the two dancers

builds to an exciting crescendo.

Ronald K. Brown's landmark work "Grace," created for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1999, has returned to the repertory in a rapturous, spiritually-charged new production. Infused with Brown's signature blend of modern

dance and West African idioms, this moving journey acknowledging the grace that surrounds us all is set to Duke Ellington's classic "Come Sunday," Roy Davis' hit "Gabriel," and the powerful rhythms of Fela Kuti's Afro-Pop.

A new production of Ailey Classics features a

vibrant anthology of highlights from founder Alvin Ailey's prolific 30-year career — including audience favorites and classics such as "Cry," "Love Songs" and "For 'Bird' With Love" — culminating with his signature masterpiece "Revelations," performed in its entirety.

Montano gets leave to defend his Soca Monarch title



Soca Monarch Machel Montano.

Photo by William Farrington

Continued from page 35

applicable in this situation.

He noted that Montano and

Roberts were found guilty of multiple counts of occasioning bodily harm contrary to Section 30 of the Offenses Against the

Person Act, Chapter 11:08.

Busby said the act makes provision for sentencing up to five years and in situations such as this case, where he emphasized there were several aggravating factors, it was the State's position that community service is not applicable.

Additionally, he said based on the aggravating factors in the matters, more severe sentences needed to be handed down.

Montano's attorney Dana Seetahal told the magistrate there were several other matters that had been heard in the High Court before a judge and jury with people who committed much more serious acts of assault on individuals having community service handed down as their sentence.

Roberts' attorney Keith Scotland told the magistrate he was adopting Seetahal's submissions as they related to community service application.

The charges are that both Montano and Roberts assaulted Brandis Browne and Russell Polonais occasioning actual bodily harm. The other two charges against Montano were that he committed the act of common assault against Gerard Bowrin and Janelle Lee Chee.

The offenses are alleged to have committed on the morning of April 26, 2007, outside Zen nightclub in Port of Spain during a fracas.

Montano said he will defend both is Power and Groovy Soca Monarch titles come Fantastic Friday.

Jackman, Crowe square-off in a tale of love

"Les Miserables"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated PG-13 for violence,
mature themes and
suggestive material
Running time:
158 minutes
Distributor: Universal
Pictures

awareness about the insensitivity of a callous legal system. I digress by way of introduction only to remind readers that Les Mis' source material was a relatively-profound examination of France's prevailing issues of the day.

Directed by Academy Award-winner Tom Hooper (for *The King's Speech*), the screen adaptation is based on the long-running Broadway production which won eight Tony Awards back in 1987. The film version has landed just as many Oscar nominations, including Best Picture, Best Actor (Hugh Jackman), Best Supporting Actress (Anne Hathaway) and Best Original Song ("Suddenly").

Understandably, the novel's labyrinthine plot has been simplified considerably into a tale of love and redemption. Unfolding in Paris in 1815, the movie basically revolves around Jean Valjean



A scene from "Les Miserables."

(Jackman), a recently-paroled ex-con intent on turning a new leaf after serving 19 years in prison for the theft of a loaf of bread.

On the road to redemption, he

promises a prostitute on her death bed (Hathaway) to raise her about to be orphaned young daughter (Amanda Seyfried). Meanwhile, he finds himself mercilessly haunted

by a ruthless policeman (Russell Crowe) intent on putting him back behind bars. Officer Javert believes once a crook, always a crook, and accordingly devotes his days to a dogged pursuit of Valjean.

"Les Miserables" is a cinematic rarity in that virtually every line of dialogue is sung. Furthermore, I suppose it might mean something to theater purists that the director eschewed dubbing in favor of having the cast sing live on set.

Entertaining enough to garner this critic's stamp of approval, "Les Miserables" nevertheless pales in comparison to so many of those enchanting classics from my childhood like "West Side Story," "My Fair Lady" and "Guys & Dolls." I guess they don't make musicals like they used to anymore.

Independent & Foreign Films

Happy People: A Year in the Life of the Taiga (Unrated) Aborigine documentary, narrated by co-director Werner Herzog, anthropological examination of the 300 remaining Bakhtia, a Siberian coastal people whose cultural traditions have remained preserved for centuries. (In English and Russian with subtitles)

John Dies at the End (R for gore, nudity, profanity, drug use and graphic violence) Horror comedy based on the David Wong novel of the same name about a couple of college dropouts (Rob Mayes and Chase Williamson) called upon to save the day when Earth is invaded by aliens. With Paul Giamatti, Glynn Turman and Daniel Roebuck.

Knife Fight (Unrated) Strange bedfellows drama about a political strategist (Rob Lowe) who comes to be haunted by the dark side of his profession while running interference for a trio of seedy political candidates (Eric McCormick, David Harbour and Carrie-Anne Moss). Support cast includes Shirley Manson, Jamie Chung and Richard Schiff.

Noobz (R for profanity and crude sexual references) Road comedy about four



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

friends (Jason Mewes, Matt Shively, Moises Arias and Blake Freeman) who travel to L.A. to compete in a video game championship. With Casper Van Dien, Jon Gries and Carly Craig.

The Pirogue (Unrated) Seafaring saga about some Senegalese peasants who set out for Spain in a flat-bottomed sailboat in search of a better life. Starring Laity Fall, Balla Diarra, Souleymane Seye Ndiaye and Salif Jean Diallo. (In French with subtitles)

Race 2 (Unrated) Bollywood sequel revolving around a mobster (Saif Ali Khan) who ventures from India to Turkey to avenge the murder of his moll (Bipasha Basu) with Anil Kapoor, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham. (In Hindi with subtitles)

Supporting Characters (Unrated) Meandering Mumblecore, set in NYC, about a couple of film editors' (Tarik Lowe and Alex Karpovsky) struggle to juggle their demanding jobs and romantic relationships with

impatient girlfriends (Melanie Diaz and Sophia Takal). Support cast includes Lena Dunham, Arielle Kebbel and Kevin Corrigan.

Yossi (Unrated) Bittersweet sequel to Yossi and Jagger, set a decade since the Yossi's (Ohad Knoller) life mate perished in a military ambush, finds him now a cardiologist but still in mourning until he's coaxed out of the closet by a handsome hitchhiker (Oz Zehavi). With Meir Golan, Amir Jerassi and Lior Ashkenazi. (In Hebrew with subtitles)

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (PG-13 for violence) Revenge-fueled sequel, set 15 years after the conclusion of the Grimm Brothers' classic fairytale, finds Hansel (Jeremy Renner) and Gretel (Gemma Arterton) perambulating the planet as bloodthirsty bounty hunters hell-bent on exterminating witches wherever they can be found. With Famke Janssen, Zoe Bell and Peter Stormare.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

HOME BUYER FAIR: Chhaya will be holding its 4th Annual Home Buyer Fair from 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Come meet with lenders and industry experts and learn more about the home buying process in a culturally accessible space! If you have any questions, please contact yangchen@chhayacdc.org or you can reach us at (718) 478-3848. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact info@chhayacdc.org. PS 69, 7702 37th Ave., Jackson Heights, Queens.

PASSPORT THROUGH HISTORY: Join us for our first ever family benefit party from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m! Kids will be inspired and challenged at activity booths ranging from early New Amsterdam to the World War II era. Add your signature to the Declaration of Independence, hand-crank some historical ice cream, take a photo of you at a Civil War encampment – and don't forget to collect passport stamps for each century! New York Historical Society 170 Central Park West between West 76th and West 77th Streets

SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS "FINALLY, I'M FREE": The Tamar Women's Ministry invites you to attend "Finding My Way" a four-part series on spiritual wholeness between noon - 2:00 p.m. at the Tried Stone Baptist Church, 1591 Boston Rd., Bronx, N.Y. 10460. For more information, contact Deacon Minerva Carmona (646) 247-2706.

BOOK WRAP: Meet the author of *Picture the Dead* by Adele Griffin and Lisa Brown. Join us at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the book; examine the Civil War era artifact; and have author Adele Griffin read aloud and answer questions, and sign book! Recommended ages 9 to 12.

CONCERT: Come out and see Meg Hutchinson performance songs from her new Billboard-charting album *The Living Side*. The performance starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are between \$15-\$18. Common Ground Coffeehouse, 25 Old Jackson Ave., Hastings on Hudson, N.Y. For more information, call (914)693-2065 or visit www.commongroundfusw.com

ART EXHIBITION: Timehri Transitions: Expanding Concepts in Guyana Art. The artist will include Damali Abrams, Carl Anderson, Dudley Charles, Victor Davson, Marlon Forrester, Gregory A. Henry, Saddiq Khan, Donald Locke, Andrew Lygt, Bernadette Persaud, Keisha Scarville, and Arlington Weithers. The curator will be Carl E. Hazelwood. The reception is from 3pm-6pm. Wilner Jennings Gallery at Kenkeleba 219 East Second Ave B New York, NY 10009 (212)674-3939 Admission is Free.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

BUSINESS BOOTCAMP: Small Business Bootcamp: Business Plan Basics & Buying and Selling a Business at 6pm. 26 Court Street, Suite 701, Brooklyn, NY 11242 Email: info@mynacc.org

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

CROSS-STITCH CIRCLE: Drop in to try your skills at one of the oldest forms of embroidery



FARMERS MARKET: Seeds in the Middle is sponsoring The Crown Heights Farmers Market offering fresh fruits and vegetables, including calaloo and Caribbean favorites and accepting EBT, WIC, Snap, FMNP, Health Bucks, and Fresh Connect. The market will be operating every Thursday from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton Metz Park at Albany and Leferts avenues, Brooklyn. For more information, visit www.seedsinthemiddle.org.



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in the world. Beginning cross stitchers will learn the basic stitch and create a bookmark with their new skill. More seasoned stitchers can continue working on their bookmark or branch into more complicated designs—make a handcrafted gift for someone! Recommended for ages 6 and up. No pre-registration required. Free with museum admission. New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West between West 76th and West 77th streets.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

CASH FOR GUNS: Turn in an operable handgun and receive cash. Sponsors: Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes, Council Member Letitia James and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly. Church of the Open Door, 201 Gold St. from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

TAX PREP: Ridgewood Savings Bank will be hosting ARVIA's free tax preparation days in the Bronx. Bronx residents are eligible for free tax filing if they are single with no dependents and earn less than \$25,000 or file with dependents and earn less than \$50,000. Since space is limited, qualifying taxpayers must call the branch that is hosting the session in advance to schedule an appointment. 9:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Held at the bank's Jerome Avenue branch - 3445 Jerome Avenue; (718) 881-3430

CULTURAL CELEBRATION: in celebration of Black History Month, The People of the



FORECLOSURE SERVICES: Are you behind in your mortgage or seeking a modification? The Flatbush Development Vcorp, NHS of East Flatbush and the Center for N.Y.C. Neighborhoods are offering free services and assistance. Referrals for free legal assistance are also available. To schedule an appointment, call (718) 469-4679.

Sun Middle Passage Collective, MEC Student Government Association, MEC Office of Student Life, and the Sons & Daughters of Jamaica will hold a cultural celebration that will include remembering Medgar Wiley Evers on the 50th anniversary year of his assassination. Topic: "How Relevant is Marcus Garvey's Philosophy Today?" Keynote Speaker: Jay W. Richards, activist, Garveyite, and motivational speaker. Come join us for a thought-provoking documentary, poetry reading, cultural presentations, fashion show with fashions by Osun and surprise artists. Free admission: This event will be held at the Medgar Evers College Auditorium at 1650 Bedford Street and will run from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Contact: Akeem @ 718-270-4902 or @akeem827@yahoo.com or Jose @718-712-5034 for further information.

ONGOING-CURRENTLY- JANUARY 27, 2013

EXHIBIT: Artist Noel Copeland and Michael Milton take recycled and reclaimed materials and transform them into works of art are featured in the latest exhibition staged at Clover's Fine Art Gallery in downtown Brooklyn. Clover's Fine Art Gallery, 388 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

JANUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 9

SELF-DEFENSE COURSES: Five-week course combines physical and verbal self-defense skills

with discussions on safety, prevention and violence de-escalation. FREE to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault, and is offered on a sliding scale based on income for everyone else. Free childcare is also available. This course runs Saturdays, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. Center for Anti-violence Education, 327 7th St., Park Slope, Brooklyn, N.Y. (corner of 5th Ave.) Call or email today to sign up (718) 788-1775 and or info@caeny.org.

DONATIONS: St. Robert Bellarmine Church is joining efforts with the Dioceses of Trenton to bring relief to victims in the hardest hit areas. The church has organized a sorting sub station in the parish and will be delivering donations to various locations shortly. The church is seeking donations of cardboard shipping boxes for packing or rubber bins for storage for victims. Donations are tax deductible and the church will provide you with a receipt upon request. Feel free to contact St. Robert Bellarmine Church at any time Attn: SRB Hurricane Relief Effort, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728 or srbelwelcome@gmail.com, Pam Stengel (732) 580-0075, Linda Altini (917) 578-4852. Phone: (732) 462-7429 or Fax: (732) 409-3496.

QUEENS SICKLE CELL: The Queens Sickle Cell Advocacy Network, 207-08 Hollis Ave., Queens Village, N.Y., presents a Parent to Parent Support Group meeting every first Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. For directions and registration, call (718) 712-0873 or email Qscanorg@verizon.net.

FAIRWAY MARKET SHUTTLE: Fairway Market is now offering a free group shuttle bus to its Red Hook, Brooklyn store at 480-500 Van Brunt St., Mondays thru Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. For pick-up reservations for groups of 10 or more, within a five-mile radius of the store, call Viola Williams or Marcy Rosenblum at (347) 750-1251. There will also be pickups on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at 589 Prospect Ave., between 11 and 10 avenues. All seniors get a five percent discount in the store. Each group will have an hour and a half to shop and/or enjoy a bite to eat in the picturesque cafe by the waterfront.

COMPUTER TRAINING: Mount Carmel Worship and Outreach Center is holding adult and children computer training programs, 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Call (917) 609-0909 for registration details.

REVERSE MORTGAGE COUNSELING: Are you a senior homeowner struggling to make ends meet? A reverse mortgage may be an answer. NHS can help determine if this is the best option for you. All programs discussed are backed by the federal government. For information, call (718) 469-4679.

HOME IMPROVEMENT: Did your roof collapse? Does your brolier need replacement? Do you need major repairs done but lack the finances? NHS of East Flatbush can assist you. For information on home improvement programs, call (718)469-4679.

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

SPORTS

New York Cosmos may be back

By Patrick Horne

The New York Cosmos, still hoping to be the first MLS franchise in New York, wants to set up shop at Belmont Park and build a 25,000-seat stadium as part of what is being referred to as an exciting complex on the Queens-Long Island border in Elmont. The \$400-million-dollar project to be built on 400 acres is being evaluated for feasibility by New York's Empire State Development Corporation.

The Cosmos proposal, along with the stadium, includes several restaurants, a major hotel and a public park. The area will be referred to as Elmont Crossings and officials believe that more than 500 construction jobs and over 3,000 full-time jobs will be created. The completed project, if approved on all fronts, could realize an opening day kick-off in the spring of 2016.

"This is an exciting prospect that will create jobs and complement Nassau's sports entertainment tourism plan," County Executive Ed Mangano said in a statement.

Seamus O'Brien, chairman and CEO of
Continued on Page 42

Ford adds Jones to staff

By Robert Elkin

Looking back a number of years ago, Charlie Jones was the college basketball talk, first for the Brooklyn-based Bishop Ford High School teams and then as a student athlete at Long Island University where he again put up numbers. His offense paved the way for successful teams on all the levels that he competed on.

Since his college days, he wanted to coach on some level, whether it be on a high school or college.

He recently achieved one of his goals when he went back to his high school and after a position opened he accepted it, and after the squad's early portion of the schedule, the Falcons went undefeated on the
Continued on Page 42



DOUBLE WINNER

Amber Williams, winner in the 200m (25.4 seconds) and 400m (59.7 seconds) races.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

East Coast track stars shine at Colgate

By David Forman

From an initial field of more than 11,000, some 430 top-point scorers will compete in a semi-finals on Saturday, Feb. 2 at Pratt to determine who will face each other at the New Balance Track and Field Center at the Armory in New

York City on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, where trophies and educational grants-in-aid from Colgate-Palmolive Company are awarded to top place finishers in each age/grade division.

In the High School division on Friday, Junior Olympic champion Lauren

Lyons of Cardinal Spellman High School finished the season undefeated with a fourth straight double victory, winning the 55 meters in 7.3 and the 200 meters in 25.8.

Sandreeka Bancroft of Cardozo High
Continued on Page 42

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2001	Toyota Corolla, 73k	17062	\$2,995	2003	Jaguar X-Type, 150k	70362	\$3,995	2003	Honda Civic Hybrid, 154k	001383	\$4,995
2003	Toyota Camry, 108k	67147	\$2,995	2006	Chevy Cobalt, 100k	70263	\$3,995	2005	VW Passat ndsmtr, 24k	69686	\$4,995
2001	Honda Civic, 87k	73406	\$2,995	2004	Nissan Sentra, 53k	UC16122	\$3,995	2005	Toyota Camry, 65k	62871	SAVE
2003	Hyundai, 63k	H1088	\$2,995	2002	Ford Escape, 97k	67450	SAVE	2003	Ford Mustang, 99k	63795	\$4,995
2003	Cadillac CTS, 145k	70281	\$5,995	2008	Toyota Corolla, 7k	43265	\$6,995	2007	Mazda 3, 5k	JU13340	\$7,995
2003	Jeep Cherokee, 136k	70605	\$5,995	2008	Chevy Trailblazer, 116k	62530	SAVE	2006	Cadillac CTS, 67k	JU12013	SAVE
2002	Mercedes C240, 112k	67680	\$5,995	2003	BMW x5, 110k	68755	SAVE	2007	Toyota Corolla, 92k	74352	\$7,995
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2006	Nissan Altima, 6K TMU	65610	\$6,995	2004	Toyota Highlander, 134k	69228	\$9,995
2007	Chevy Impala, 28k	42370	\$7,995	2011	Ford Escape XLT, 25k	74493	\$9,995
2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2008	Jeep Liberty, 17k	54235	\$11,795
2005	Nissan Quest, 60k	63458	\$8,995	2011	Nissan Rogue, 50k	69968	\$13,995
2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$9,495	2007	Lexus ES350, 53k	56974	\$14,888
2010	Chrysler Sebring, 38k	61787	\$9,995	2010	Infiniti G37, 30k	69927	\$19,995

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Elmont Crossings in the works

Continued from page 39

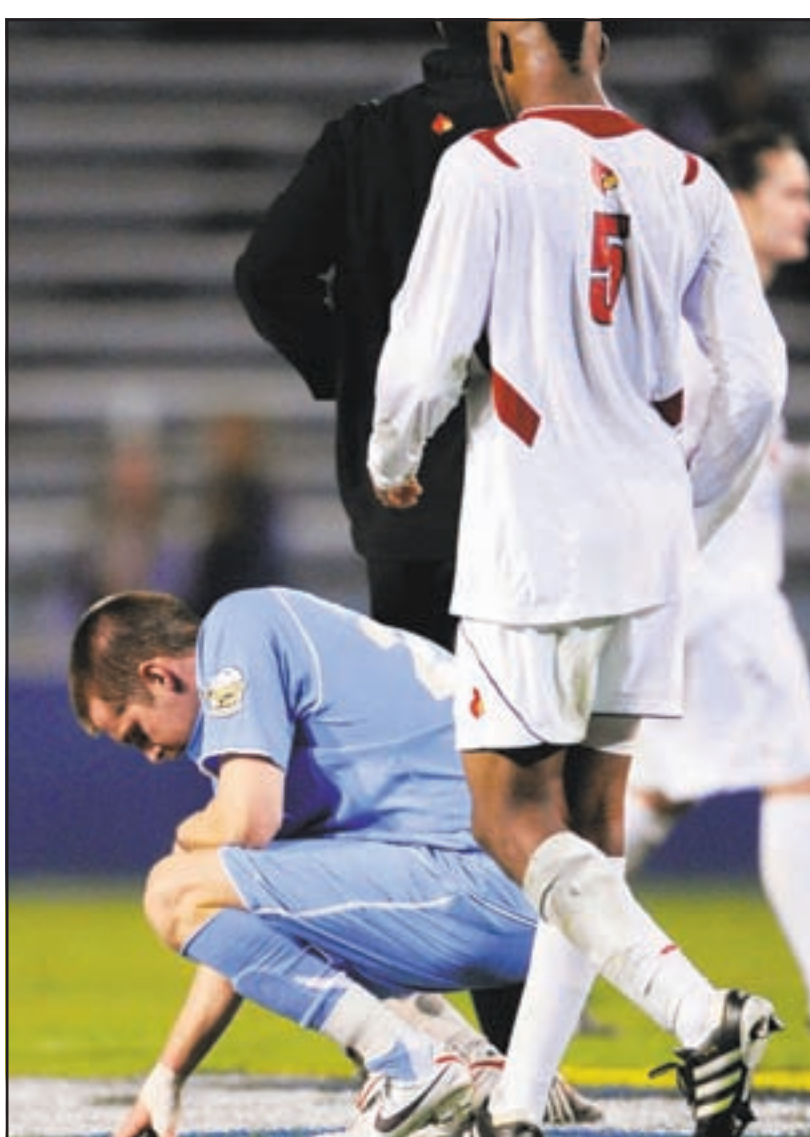
the Cosmos, called Belmont “an ideal location and a win-win for everyone involved. Nassau County and Elmont will realize much needed economic growth, and local residents will have a year-round premier destination they can call their own.”

The Cosmos, which played from 1975 through 1985, dominated the North American Soccer League in the 1970s and '80s with world stars such as the legendary Brazilian Pele and his 1970 World Cup captain Carlos Alberto, German legend Frantz Beckenbauer, Italy's Giorgio Chinaglia and Dutchman Johann Neeskens, among others.

As the Cosmos aspirations to be the first MLS team in New York picks up steam again, the MLS has ongoing negotiations with New York City and several groups to build a stadium in Flushing Meadow Park in Corona, Queens. For now, it's a waiting game.

Farrell is No. 1 MLS draft pick

Midfielder Andrew Farrell, tabbed to play as a central defender in MLS, was drafted as the No. 1 pick overall by the New England Revolution in the 2013 MLS SuperDraft on Thursday, Jan. 17 at the NSCAA Convention in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. New England traded with Toronto FC just before the draft for the pick to select African American Farrell, who became the first University of Louisville player to be selected first overall in MLS.



Louisville, Andrew Farrell, right, walks over to console North Carolina, Drew McKinney after Louisville defeated North Carolina in an NCAA college soccer match in Santa Barbara. Louisville won 2-1. AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

Chivas USA picked second and got Mexican-American midfielder Carlos Alvarez of the University of Connecticut; Toronto got the third overall pick and selected Boston College forward Kyle

Bekker; Toronto FC gave its No. 4 pick to Vancouver Whitecaps for the No. 10 selection. Vancouver, with the No. 4 pick grabbed 18-year-old high school forward Kekuta Manneh.

Charlie Jones

Continued from page 39

varsity level. Jones is assistant coach to head varsity coach Denis Nolan.

“We at Bishop Ford are glad to have one of our alumni join our staff as an assistant coach,” said Athletic Director Pete Goyco. “He’s a graduate of ours. He’s been a great addition to the program. There was an opening and he volunteered to help us out.”

“It’s been great to have Jones,” said Nolan, after the fifth game of the season. “I was his freshman’s coach in 1989-1990.

The players said that because he eventually played on the highest level they have to listen to him.

After Jones was introduced to the players at the start of the season, he told them

of his past experiences of playing at Ford, Long Island University and professionally overseas.

“I had a wonderful experience playing at LIU,” Jones added. “I did well in college. To be able to succeed at home in front of family and friends and to bring joy back to Brooklyn it’s exciting.”

In a recent Catholic High Schools Athletic Association game, St. Francis Prep’s Little Terriers from Queens battled back from a huge deficit to finally tie the game and

then Ford held them off in the four minute extra session to come out victorious, 52-50.

Joshua Blagrove, a senior forward, topped the Falcons by scoring 22 points. Teammate Dior Dixon, a sophomore guard, and Devon Dingle, also a sophomore backcourt man, each scored 10 points for the winners. Junior Michael Fields led St Francis Prep with 13 points.

Overall, the coaching staff at Ford has been very pleased with the progress of their team.

“We’ve won in a variety of ways,” continued Nolan, after the early part of the season. “We won a couple of games by a lot of points and we won close games when we were able to hold people (opponents) off. Tonight (against St. Francis Prep) we gave up the lead but we were able to come back in overtime. It’s a sign of a mature team.

“Blagrove has been playing really well. Dingle and Dixon were on the freshman team last year. Because I was very impressed with their ability to shoot and play defense we moved them up.”

“It’s been an on going process, and we’re growing day by day trying to get their basketball IQ up,” said assistant coach Jones.

Colgate games

Continued from page 39

School in Queens won the 55-meter hurdles in 8.1. The Colgate Women’s Games’ Mid School hurdles record-holder heads to the semi-finals tied with Staten Island’s Brigitte Pewu, who holds the Staten Island High School Indoor Championship record in the hurdles. Brooklyn’s Kezian Jones of Boys and Girls High School tossed 11.41M to win the Shot Put, and Shayla Broughton of Medgar Evers High School in Brooklyn, who has twice cleared 5’6” this season, finished undefeated after jumping 5’2” to win the High Jump.

In the Mid School division on Saturday, Sydney Townsend of Landsdowne, PA scored a double win crossing the tape in the 200 meters in 25.9 and the 400 meters in 58.9; and Gabrielle Wilkinson of Friend’s Central in Philadelphia, who holds the Colgate Women’s Games Elementary B 800 record, made it a perfect season after winning the 800 meters in 2:19.1 and the 1500 meters in 4:42.4.

In the College/Open Division, Brooklyn’s Shemayra Braithwaite took first place, and remained undefeated in the high jump after clearing 5’2”. A graduate student at

Hunter College, Shemayra has a first grade daughter also competing in the Colgate Games’ high jump. Solange Braithwaite is presently tied for 5th place advancing to the semi-finals in the Elementary A division.

Erica Nixon and Treasure Glymph both of the Bronx, have traded wins throughout the series, and tied the 55-meter-hurdles crossing the tape in 8.8.

Amber Williams of Parsippany, NJ scored double wins in the 200 and 400 meters each week, and heads to the semi-finals undefeated. The long-time Colgate Games champion has had several undefeated seasons since joining as an elementary school competitor.



Seven-year Avery Lewis of Philadelphia wins the 55m race in 8.5 seconds. Photo by Lem Peterkin

Philadelphia’s Avery Lewis may be the youngest competitor in the Colgate Games, and is likely the nation’s fast-

est seven-year-old. The first grader from Philadelphia just turned seven years old in December, and won the 55

meters four weeks straight. She heads to the semi-finals after her final preliminary victory in 8.4.

Meet Director Fred Thompson said, “We’re encouraged by so many talented younger girls this year. They are some of the fastest elementary school girls I’ve ever seen, and their excellent form suggests they have caring parents and coaches spending the time to teach them. Many of these girls don’t get to run in school, even at recess, so we’re happy to provide a fun and exciting world-famous venue.”

The Colgate Women’s Games are among the nation’s most competitive meets, but Thompson says the goals of the Games are not only about athletics.

Ramneresh Sarwan returns to Windies squad

West Indies selectors have recalled former Guyanese Captain Ramneresh Sarwan to the West Indies squad for the tour of Australia from Jan. 29 to Feb. 13.

It is nice to have the prolific batsman back in the batting line up for the West Indies because his experience will be greatly needed down under. Sarwan is a solid batsman and he has exhibited his runs free style on many occasions for the West Indies. The 15 players named for Australia are: Darren Sammy [captain], Dwayne Bravo [vice captain], Jason Holder, Ramneresh Sarwan, Johnson Charles, Devon Thomas, Kemar Roach, Darren Bravo, Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard, Kieran Powell, Sunil Narine, Samuel Badree, Narsingh Deonarine and Jino Best.

KRISHMAR SANTOKIE DESERVE A PLAY IN WINDIES TEAM

It is only fitting that



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

Krishmar Santokie gets to play on the West Indies senior team in the One-Day International and Twenty20 matches. His left-arm bowling has been useful for Jamaica and with Ravi Rampaul out sick, it would have been correct to add a left-hand bowler in the line-up for Australia. The exposure would have been good for Krishmar Santokie and the development of his game.

Looking at the 15-member squad I thought that the selectors would have gone with another bowler instead of a batsman. The squad has six specialist bowlers, which will have to do very well against the Aussies.

The batting seems to be very good on paper but Australia is a very tough

team to defeat under their conditions. This should be a thriller series with both teams having some young players to prove themselves. The West Indies team is the Twenty20 world champion and after losing the One-Day International series to Bangladesh, proves that the West Indies team is still weak in some areas.

TWENTY20 BATTING WAS NOT OF THE BEST

The Twenty20 batting for the regional competition has been very poor and most of the players from the various teams have been way below expectations. Darren Bravo has been the most consistent.

The bowlers who have been performing well are



West Indies' batsman Ramneresh Sarwan plays a shot as India's wicket keeper Parthiv Patel; left; looks on during their first one-day international cricket match in Port of Spain; Trinidad.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton

Samuel Badree, Shannon Gabriel, Sunil Narine, Jino Best and Steven Jacobs.

WEST INDIES PLAYERS OUGHT TO FOCUS MUCH MORE

Intelligent cricket and

proper focus on one's game must lead to success and young West Indies players must create a game plan for themselves. Success comes from planning and hard work.

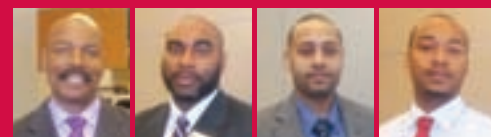
Some players are naturally talented and perform

adequately on most of the occasions when expected while others have to work harder on their game and set themselves heavy tasks for preparation.

The West Indies players have to put much more effort into their game.



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Left to Right: David, Ricardo, Steve, Craig

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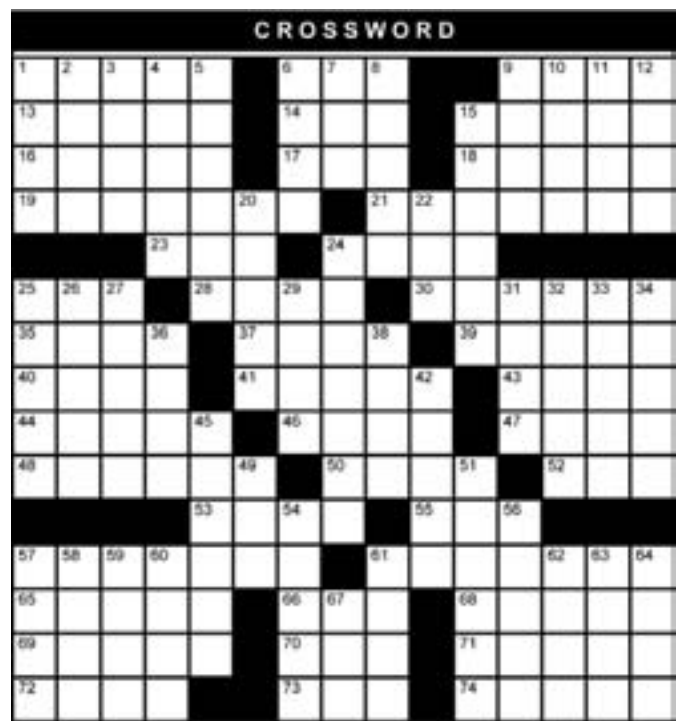
ACROSS

- 1. Idealized image
- 6. Snake in the grass
- 9. Attired
- 13. Bourne actor
- 14. U.N. labor agency
- 15. Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El _____
- 16. Like NCAA's eight
- 17. Microprocessor chip, for short
- 18. Number of planets
- 19. *Expensive Bowl purchase
- 21. *Tied with Steelers for most appearances
- 23. Big fuss
- 24. Hoodlum
- 25. Car wash option
- 28. Camera setting
- 30. *Found on many players
- 35. Corner pieces
- 37. Snoopy
- 39. As opposed to best
- 40. Etna output
- 41. Where one is treated for drug or alcohol dependence
- 43. Flood survivor
- 44. Time on the job
- 46. Foolhardy challenge
- 47. Tyrant's power
- 48. Listed on driver's license

- 50. Chapter 11 issue
- 52. "____ for the course"
- 53. Royal Indian
- 55. E in B.C.E.
- 57. *Cause of Superdome leak
- 61. One who inspires fear
- 65. Set of values
- 66. *Coach's ____ talk
- 68. Factual evidence
- 69. No person
- 70. Draft choice
- 71. Lacks
- 72. Very pleased with oneself
- 73. *It's won more than its counterpart
- 74. Affirmatives

DOWN

- 1. Brainchild
- 2. French Sudan, today
- 3. Gulf V.I.P.
- 4. "____ go!"
- 5. Iroquois tribe
- 6. *Record-holder for touchdowns and points scored
- 7. Mont Blanc, e.g.
- 8. _____ football
- 9. Stewie Griffin's bed
- 10. Construction set for kids
- 11. Common flu feeling
- 12. Some letter toppers
- 15. Cheap showy jewelry
- 20. Pitcher's domain
- 22. *Wide receiver, aka wide ____
- 24. Taqueria offering
- 25. Like one from Prince Charles' domain
- 26. Winged
- 27. *47
- 29. Three-____ sloth
- 31. * _____ Dorsett, won one Super Bowl ring
- 32. Girl Scout unit
- 33. Japanese port
- 34. Catchall category
- 36. Belted out
- 38. Bygone era
- 42. Type of sailing ship
- 45. *Joe Montana, only _____ winner of Super Bowl MVP
- 49. "The Joy Luck Club" author
- 51. *Named after Vince Lombardi
- 54. Birthplace of anime
- 56. Saints' lights
- 57. Barbie dolls' boyfriends
- 58. Nucleus plus electrons
- 59. Biblical pronoun
- 60. *Peyton is still seeking his second one of these
- 61. Work detail
- 62. Famous seamstress
- 63. "Going, going, _____!"
- 64. Salamander in terrestrial stage, pl.
- 67. Will Ferrell played one



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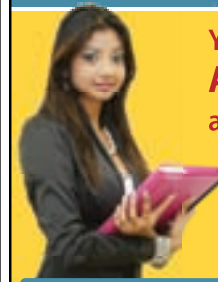
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