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Green energy efficiency

By Desmond Brown

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, (IPS/GIN) - The tiny federation of St. Kitts-Nevis and its larger neighbor to the north, Jamaica, are leading the Caribbean's search for new ways to become more energy efficient by installing new solar streetlights, a green alternative to traditional ones.

In St. Kitts, the project is a collaborative effort between the government of Denzil Douglas and Taiwan, which have had diplomatic relations for the past 28

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Jamaica fiscal squeeze

By Nelson A. King

The government of Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller in Jamaica has urged nationals to accept the austere measures that will accompany a multi-million dollar stand-by agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that would include increases taxes and the launch of a national debt exchange offer.

In a joint nation-wide address on Monday, Simpson Miller and Finance Minister Dr. Peter Phillips defended the decision to enter

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HIGH STAKES BUDGET CLASH



President Barack Obama gestures as he gives his State of the Union address during a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday Feb. 12, 2013.

AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

Obama proposals face quick opposition in Congress

By Erica Werner

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama set up high-stakes clashes with Republicans over guns, immigration, taxes and climate change in a State of the Union address that showcased his determination to mark his legacy. Rep. Paul Ryan said Obama could better achieve his goals if he would get out of "campaign mode."

At the center of looming confrontations in Washington is a fight over the very role of government, with Obama pushing a raft of new initiatives to improve pre-school programs and voting, boost manufacturing and research and development, raise the minimum wage and lower energy use. "It is our unfinished task to make sure that this government works on behalf of the many and not just the few," he said.

Republicans who control the House and hold enough votes to stall legislation in the Senate were just as quick to declare that the government helps best by getting

out of the way.

Ryan, the GOP's vice presidential candidate last fall, said Wednesday morning that Obama's leadership style stands in the way of bipartisan efforts to resolve problems like the ballooning deficit. "He seems to always be in campaign mode, where he treats people in the other party as enemies rather than partners," the Wisconsin Republican said in an interview on "CBS This Morning."

Ryan was asked if he supported House Speaker John Boehner's remark Tuesday that he didn't believe Obama "has the guts" to stand up to liberals in his own party on spending cuts.

"That's why the congressman makes remarks like that," Ryan said of Boehner.

Ryan's comments came just hours before Obama was to set off on a three-state trip, starting in North Carolina, to sell to voters the programs he outlined in his address. Obama hit the road fre-

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Caribbean

The 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping and Chile have pledged to continue working together to further strengthen their relationship.

A communique issued at the end of talks between Chilean President Sebastián Piñera Echenique and CARICOM leaders noted “a commitment was also made to work together with the aim to achieve regional integration objectives set out by the new hemispheric architecture represented by CELAC, the Community of Latin America and Caribbean cooperation.”

Several CARICOM leaders attended the two-day summit in Chile that the Guyana-based Secretariat said were aimed at strengthening and consolidating Latin America and Caribbean cooperation



The meeting, which was also attended by regional foreign ministers and the CARICOM Secretary General Irwin La Rocque heard President Piñera expressed his appreciation and gratitude to CARICOM for its support for “the Chilean candidacy to the UN Human Rights Council and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights” in 2011.

The communique said he also thanked them for the endorsement of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) to the Chilean candidacy to the UN Security Council, for the period 2014-2015.

Antigua

Contrary to the belief emanating from some quarters, deportees do not head the list of crime perpetrators in Antigua & Barbuda.

National Security Minister Dr. Errol Cort said these individuals are not at the forefront of the criminal activities that “we are currently experiencing.”

He said based on reports from various law enforcement agencies “the suggestion is that perhaps they might be more behind the scenes organizing and arranging, but they are certainly not at the forefront.”

In 2012, 62 citizens of Antigua and Barbuda were deported back to the state.



King of the Bands

Trinidad and Tobago, “King of Carnival”, Moko of the Flames, Ted Eustace. See story on page 28.

Photo by Sterling Mottley

Of that number, 20 were from the USA, 20 from the United Kingdom and 20 from Canada, with the remainder from the Caribbean.

The category of offenses which caused their deportation includes, aggravated felony, child molestation, denied entry, narcotics, overstaying, rape, robbery, larceny and working illegal.

He said upon their return to the island “serious offenders are monitored by the respective agencies to ensure they don’t break the law.”

Dominica

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit says he intends to write to Britain later this month to get permission for Dominica to sever ties with the London-based Privy Council.

He said the country wants to join the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

The prime minister said the country will seek to make the CCJ its final court in 2013, as the island has been paying for the regional court established in 2001 to replace the Privy Council.

CARICOM countries have taken



a US\$100 million loan from the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank to meet the operation of the CCJ and ensure its financial independence.

Grenada

Grenada’s oldest political party has pulled out the race in the next general election carded for Feb. 19, effectively making it a two-way contest between the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the main opposition New National Party (NNP).

Interim leader of the 63-year-old United Labor Party (GULP), Wilfred Haynes said: “We decided at a meeting recently that we will not contest because we have some things to get done...we are just not ready to contest the elections.”

But former opposition leader Michael Baptiste, who had earlier indicated that he would have led the party’s candidates into the elections, appeared on an NDC platform with Prime Minister Tilman Thomas and vowed to campaign on behalf of the incumbent.



This is the first time the GULP, which once formed the government for 27 years under the late eccentric leader Sir Eric Gairy, will not be contesting an election since its formation in 1951. The last time the GULP won a seat was in 1995 when two of its candidates were successful.

Guyana

The search for victims in last month’s boat collision on the Mazaruni River, Guyana has been called off, according to Transport Minister Robeson Benn, who said maritime officials are now looking to reconstruct what happened in the deadliest river accident in decades.

Following the collision it was reported that nine persons were missing, however a tenth body was later found. Reports later surfaced that an eleventh person has been unaccounted for.

The accident between two boats that were reported to have been carrying at least 20 people occurred on the Mazaruni River. Shortly after rescue workers found



the bodies of six persons.

Several persons were taken to the Bartica Hospital with minor injuries.

The accident comes more than a month after six people died in another collision between two boats on the Pomeroon River.

Jamaica

Deputy President of the Senate, Angela Brown-Burke, says Jamaica should legalize the use of marijuana for medicinal reasons.

Brown-Burke, contributing to a debate on plant genetics in the Senate recently, said Cannabis sativa, or marijuana, represents a worthwhile economic opportunity that the country should seek to tap.



Brown-Burke expressed the hope that very soon the list of products covered by the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture treaty would be expanded by the research and work of Jamaicans and that cannabis should be added.

“These are discussions that we need to have. There are other states and other countries that are way advanced than we are because they have taken that bold step forward,” Brown-Burke said.

“I believe we need to put it in a framework that allows them to participate legally in the economy and I believe that is an opportunity that we should not miss,” she added.

The call for the legislation or marijuana in Jamaica has got stronger in light of several states in the USA moving to decriminalize its use.

St. Kitts

St. Kitts Deputy Prime Minister Sam Condor continued with a war of words with Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas by publicly opposing his decision to fire senior government minister Dr. Timothy Harris recently.

In a statement, Condor who has sided with Harris to oppose several government measures and policies in the past, said he found, “no justification in the reasons postulated by the Prime Minister for the dismissal of Dr. Timothy Harris.”

He said Harris, as an elected



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Antigua wins legal battle against agricultural firm

By Nelson A. King

A United States federal district court has dismissed as breach of contract lawsuit brought by an Antigua-based agriculture company against the government of Antigua and Barbuda to the tune of US\$750,000.

The case was filed on Jul. 19, 2010 by Dan Abraham Sarfati, the son of Maurice Sarfati, of Roydan Ltd., regarding the payment of three promissory notes issued to Roydan Ltd. and signed by Hilroy Humphreys as Minister of Agriculture in June 1990 and guaranteed by the Ministry of Finance.

According to an Antigua and Barbuda government statement, issued in New York on Feb. 11, Dan Sarfati, who was eight years old in 1990, alleged that the monies had never been repaid, and that because of "threats and coercion by persons associated with the Bird administration, made to his father who was fearful for his safety,

no legal action had previously been taken."

The statement said the current administration of Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer engaged the professional services of two Antigua lawyers, Monalie E. Bledsoe and Conrad Airall, practicing attorneys in the U.S. to act on its behalf.

Following the filing of a defense in the District of Columbia and the taking of depositions in Antigua and Barbuda, the lawyers filed a motion to dismiss the claim on two grounds, the statement said.

Firstly, it said the lawsuit was barred by the statute of limitations, "notwithstanding the alleged threats which were pleaded were baseless."

Secondly, the statement said the issue of the promissory notes "did not constitute a commercial activity by the government because Hilroy Humphreys had no legal authority to issue or sign the promissory notes."

Victory for Worldwide Web shop owners

By Azad Ali

Web shop owners in The Bahamas scored a major victory recently when a judge issued an injunction to prevent them from being shut down until the legality of the industry is determined by the courts.

Senior Justice Jon Isaacs granted the preliminary order, the day after Prime Minister Perry Christie ordered web shop operators to cease business or face prosecution.

The order prevents the attorney general, the commissioner of police, minister of national security and minister of tourism, who has the responsibility for gaming, from interfering with the operations of

gambling houses.

The jobs of thousands of web shop employees appeared in jeopardy when Christie ordered the shutdown of web shops after the majority of citizens voted in the Jan. 28 gaming referendum opposed regulating and taxing the industry.

Bahamians voted overwhelmingly in a national referendum last month to reject proposals legalizing web-shop gambling and a national lottery.

The referendum had been conducted in a campaign similar to a general election with the ruling Progressive Labor Party (PLP) urging supporters to give the thumbs up to the initiatives.



Towns third from right (rear) celebrates his retirement with his friends and family.

Well-wishers celebrate Towns' retirement

By Lem Peterkin

On Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013, approximately 350 well-wishers gathered at the El Caribe Country Club at 5945 Strickland Ave. in the Mill Basin section of Brooklyn, to celebrate the retirement of Congressman Edolphus "Ed" Towns after 15 terms and 30 years as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. With his wife, Gwen and family members at his side, the former congressman was extolled by friends and dignitaries from the business community, clergy, academia, and the political arena.

"This is a very special night for me," Mr. Towns stated. "I

have spent most of my adult life representing people in my district, the borough of Brooklyn and beyond, and it is heartwarming to be appreciated this way."

Mr. Towns' son, Darryl, the State of New York Commissioner of Housing, served as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Among the many elected officials who showed up to demonstrate their appreciation were: Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, who presented Mr. Towns with a proclamation from the people of Brooklyn; Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez; Kings County Democratic Leader Frank

Seddio; State Senators John Sampson and Kevin Parker; New York City Comptroller John Liu; State Assemblywomen Annette Robinson and Inez Baron; City Councilmembers Jumaane Williams, Charles Baron and Lew Fidler; and District Leader Melba Brown.

Longtime political ally and Chief of Staff Albert C. Wiltshire led the host of former staffers and political associates in attendance. Among the clergy in attendance were: Mr. Towns pastor, Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., pastor of Berean Baptist Church; Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church; Rev. Rich-

ard Lawson and wife, pastor of New Canaan Baptist Church; Rev. Clinton Miller, pastor of Brown Memorial Baptist Church; Rev. Conrad Tillard, senior minister of the Nazarene Congregational Church; Rev. M. Ziddie Hamatheite, pastor, Wayside Baptist Church; and Rev. Adolph Roberts, pastor, Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Manhattan. Other dignitaries attending included: George Hulse, vice president, Healthfirst; Janie Whitney, president, Trey Whitfield School; Angelo Mangelo and wife, president of the Brooklyn Letter Carriers Association; and Ernie Logan, president, CSA.

Delta coy on Georgetown cancellation

By Tangerine Clarke

Delta Airlines General Manager for corporate communications for Latin American and The Caribbean, Sara M. Lora, was a bit coy about reports that the airline giant is about to cancel its JFK -Georgetown route.

In a telephone conversation with Caribbean Life from her Atlanta, Georgia office, Lora argued that Delta has not made a statement of its intention to sever ties with the Guyana government.

"Delta continues to monitor the Georgetown route and has not made a decision as to its Georgetown schedule," said the Delta official, who was quoted as saying that the airline "had not made an official announcement" concerning the New York to Guyana route.

"We have not confirmed flights beyond the month of May, but we expect to have a decision and will communicate the flight's status as soon as possible, added Lora, who promised to contact Caribbean Life if a deci-

sion is made to confirm the airline's pull-out from Guyana.

The flurry of news reports by Guyanese online sites claiming that the carrier would end its service in May of this year sent Guyanese travelers into a mass of confusion, worried that their summer season travel with Delta would be interrupted.

The were reports that the airline, which added the South American destination to its roster five years ago, was pulling out of Guyana

in favor of a more lucrative route. Other reports stated that the airline giant could not compete with lower airfares offered by Caribbean Airlines, which enjoyed the advantage of a fuel concession offered by the Trinidad and Tobago government.

The *Σnews medium Website Demerarawaves.com* reported that despite Guyana Tourism Minister Irfan Ali's belief that Delta is ceasing operations, he was still in the process of arranging talks with top officials from the airline.

The Union is strong: President Obama

Continued from cover

quently in campaign-style trips in December to appeal directly to voters for the approach that he favored, including new taxes, to avoid the so-called “fiscal cliff.”

Republican critics have said the president should stay home and focus his attention on dealing directly with Congress on these issues.

In the formal Republican response to Obama’s address, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said, “More government isn’t going to help you get ahead. It’s going to hold you back. More government isn’t going to create more opportunities. It’s going to limit them.”

“And more government isn’t going to inspire new ideas, new businesses and new private sector jobs. It’s going to create uncertainty,” said Rubio, a rising star in the party.

Uncompromising and aggressive, Obama pressed

his agenda on social issues and economic ones, declaring himself determined to intervene to right income inequality and boost the middle class. He called on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants, far-reaching gun control measures and a climate bill to cut greenhouse gas emissions. He threatened to go around Congress with executive actions on climate change if it fails to act.

But Obama cannot count on willing partners on those issues, any one of which could tie Congress in knots for months with no guarantee of success. Gun control, which Obama made a focus of his speech, faces dim prospects on Capitol Hill. The prospect for immigration legislation is better, but no sure thing. Climate change legislation is given no chance of success.

And Obama addressed relatively briefly the looming



President Barack Obama, flanked by Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, gestures as he gives his State of the Union address during a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday Feb. 12, 2013.

AP Photo/Charles Dharapak, Pool

fiscal crises confronting the nation and inevitably sucking up oxygen on Capitol Hill — the deep automatic spending cuts or “sequester” to take effect March 1, followed by the government running out of money to

fund federal agencies March 27. He made clear he will continue to press for the rich to pay more in taxes, a position Republicans have rejected.

Republicans, meanwhile, made clear they’re in little

mood to cooperate.

“We are only weeks away from the devastating consequences of the president’s sequester, and he failed to offer the cuts needed to replace it,” Boehner said in a statement. “In the

last election, voters chose divided government which offers a mandate only to work together to find common ground. The president, instead, appears to have chosen a go-it-alone approach to pursue his liberal agenda.”

Earlier Tuesday, in a meeting with television correspondents and anchors, Boehner, R-Ohio, said immigration is about the only item on Obama’s list that has a chance of passing this year. He said the president is more interested in getting a Democratic majority in both chambers next year.

Obama did reiterate his willingness to tackle entitlement changes, particularly on Medicare, though he has ruled out increasing the eligibility age for the popular benefit program for seniors.

“Those of us who care deeply about programs like Medicare must embrace the need for modest reforms — otherwise, our retirement programs will crowd out the investments we need for our children and jeopardize the promise of a secure retirement for future generations,” he said.



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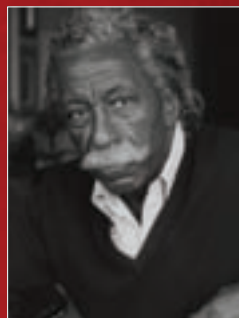
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Austere measures for Jamaicans

Continued from cover

into the agreement with the Washington-based financial institution, telling citi-

zens that the national debt now stands at 140 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"As long as our debt as

a percentage of our economy remains this high, our capacity for growth and development will be severely limited," said the prime minister, stating that the negotiations have underscored the point that sustained growth will not materialize with Jamaica's present level of debt.

She said, with such high debt, no administration will be able to provide and sustain the quality health care service; nor will it be able to modernize and maintain the country's infrastructure at the appropriate levels to facilitate increased economic activity.

"In short, if the debt is not reduced, Jamaica faces a dismal future," Simpson Miller warned. "My administration is determined to implement the sound management practices our economy requires, and we have already begun.

The prime minister said the centerpiece of the IMF agreement that she we will sign is a commitment to significantly reduce the debt from the current level



Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller.

AP Photo/Evan Agostini

been Jamaica's unsustainable debt burden, which has undermined confidence and elevated risks to economic stability," he said.

Additionally, Martijn said Jamaica's high debt service has limited the government's potential to provide the services needed to achieve sustained rates of growth and increased welfare for its citizens.

"The IMF mission continues to work assiduously with the Jamaican authorities on an economic program that can help address these challenges and can be supported under a Fund arrangement," he said.

"We have made significant progress in reaching key understandings on strengthening macroeconomic policies, including through achieving and sustaining higher primary fiscal surpluses, which can help underpin debt sustainability; on structural reforms that can pave the way for private-sector led growth; and on social protection for the most vulnerable," he added.

The mission head said the mission welcomes the debt exchange announced

by the Jamaican authorities for their domestic debt, stating that it is "an important element aimed at helping to put public debt firmly on a downward trajectory, reduce the stock of debt, and provide fiscal space for other needed government initiatives.

"In that regard, a successful debt exchange will require high participation from creditors to help secure financing assurances for a Fund-supported program," Martijn said.

Meantime, Jamaica's political and business communities have cautiously responded Simpson Miller's call for nationals to accept the stringent measures.

Financial analyst David Wan said, while the choice of a debt exchange meant that banks, bondholders and pensioners would do "the heavy lifting", it was a less unpalatable option "than a straight tax package".

He said overt tax package would have been "much more painful than this interest rate reduction on the bonds".

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Energy efficiency in St. Kitts

Continued from cover
years. The Federation of St. Kitts-Nevis is one of a handful of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries to have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, as most of the others have diplomatic relations with mainland China.

"During the past year, we have successfully placed solar panels on the roof of government headquarters and set smart LED lights on the Kim Collins Highway and Frigate Bay Road," the resident Taiwanese ambassador, Miguel Tsao, told IPS. "Both ventures are significant and important. Also these projects were initiated with our joint efforts to tap into the unlimited clean energy source."

Instead of relying on fossil fuel, Tsao wants to see citizens doing their part to harness renewable energy to help make the vision of a green island a reality. The diplomat added that there are other important initiatives planned for the island, including the establishment of the first-ever solar farm and the second phase of an Agro-Tourism Demonstration Farm early in 2013.

Benefits of solar lights

The solar streetlights were installed by the Taiwanese company Speed Tech Energy. "It's a unique Cobra design. The lamp pole is solid steel and type and it can resist wind speeds of up to 250 kilometers per hour," Lucas Chiu, the company's general manager, told IPS.

Solar panels convert the sunlight into electricity during the day, and the generated electricity is stored in a battery.

Chiu explained that in cloudy or rainy days the batteries will still charge at 15 to 30 percent. Streetlights will function for three nights (for 13 hours each night), even during periods of continuous rainy days.

Orville Liddie, a 29-year-old local resident, told IPS that there were no lights in those areas for several years and that the solar streetlights could not have come at a better time. "To

"During the past year, we have successfully placed solar panels on the roof of government headquarters and set smart LED lights on the Kim Collins Highway and Frigate Bay Road."

Miquel Tsao
Taiwanese ambassador

me it's a benefit to the communities where the lights have been installed because before the lights there were extremely dark spots," he said.

"I am a driver and I have always been concerned that when you are driving through those areas at night people could jump out into the road and put road blocks or there could be very serious accidents. I was particularly concerned for the bus drivers because criminals could hold them up at those dark spots at knife point or even at gunpoint," Liddie added.

Nevis, the smaller island in the twin-island federation, is also showing its neighbors in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) that it is a leader in the area of generating clean and efficient energy and reducing energy costs, in spite of its small geographic and population size.

In 2010, the 13-kilometre-long island with a mere 12,000 residents, launched the first wind farm ever to be commissioned in the OECS with a promise to provide jobs for islanders, a reliable supply of wind energy, cheaper electricity and reduction in surcharge and the use of imported oils.

The island has been lauded by officials of the Bill Clinton Climate Change Initiative for its efforts towards a "Green Nevis." During a recent visit, a delegation from the Clinton Climate Change Initiative led by Councilor Jan Hartke and Ambassador Paoli Zampolli held discussions with

island officials on work that has already been done to move from fossil to alternative energy on Nevis.

"We have been delighted to see how the government has taken the lead and has mobilized the endeavor to bring geothermal to Nevis, and we will help the government with consultation in an effort to make alternative energy a reality on the island," said Hartke.

He noted that the Bill Clinton Climate Change Initiative aims to bring down the enormous electricity rates in small island states through alternative resources, with the assistance of wind, solar or waste energy.

Jamaica is implementing its streetlight energy-saving initiative jointly with the United States-based technology and engineering solutions firm, Green Energy RG LLC.

A government statement said the aim is to significantly reduce the cost to the budget to maintain the country's approximately 93,000 streetlights, which totals upwards of 2 billion Jamaican dollars per year (more than 2 million U.S. dollars).

On Jan. 8, the first set of solar-powered light emitting diode (LED) fixtures were installed at Osbourne Store, a community in the central parish of Clarendon.

"We hope to be able to proceed to install lights all over Clarendon and then into other parts of Jamaica. We hope that we will be able to complete the program... by midyear, and then we can evaluate the results and determine where we go from there," the country's local government and community development minister, Noel Arscott said.

Arscott said the pilot phase will see some 5,000 LED panels being installed in Clarendon as well as sections of St. Catherine and Kingston and St. Andrew. Additionally, he said the ministry's offices at Hagley Park Road in the capital Kingston would also be retrofitted with energy saving solutions.

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Belizeans should vote 'no' in ICJ referendum

By Wellington C. Ramos

The more the country of Guatemala continues with its map, its rhetoric and its aggressive attitude towards Belize, the lesser the chances are that Belizeans will support the government with a "yes" vote to take the Belize-Guatemala dispute to the International Court of Justice for final resolution.

I agree with Maurice that our country has failed miserably in educating our people about this conflict. In the beginning, I was very supportive of the ICJ proposal to take this matter to the ICJ; but now I am giving it a second thought. I am not convinced that Belizeans can trust the UN, the OAS, Guatemala or any other organization to guarantee Belize's security and territorial integrity, because many court rulings have been made in the past and countries still act in their best interest and ignore them.

Plus there are many Belizeans who have mixed feelings about this dispute, because some of them have relatives in Guatemala and others are doubtful about Belizeans' legitimate claim to Belize. Due to the failure of our governments to educate our people about this dispute.

Many Belizeans have told me that their country does belong to Guatemala and it hurts to hear a Guatemalan saying, "Belice is Nuestrós."

I am Belizean 100 percent and I'm more than willing to do

anything to defend my country. This, despite the fact that my grandmother is Guatemalan by birth, from Livingston "Labuga." My reason for taking this position is because as a Garifuna person, my people have moved from Saint Vincent to Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and then Belize. where I have family up to this day. Out of all these countries, Belize provides the best hope for the future my children and grandchildren.

Even though I live in the United States, there is a certain feeling towards the place where a person was born and grew up as a child. It brings back memories that I cannot forget and will remain with me until I die. When Guatemala needs soldiers, they just go around and pick up anybody and forcefully take them to training camp. They do not care whether you are Garifuna, Creole, Mestizo or Maya. Who are the people that the Guatemalan army have a history of slaughtering over the years? The native indigenous Maya people, who they continue to abuse up to this day. The Garifuna people are not given their full autonomy in Guatemala and have had their own experiences with the military in Honduras and Nicaragua. The United States is the home for a significant number of Black Belizeans who would prefer to be in Belize if they could afford it.

What do you think they

Continued on Page 12

Minimum wage increase makes good business sense

By Darius Ross

When Governor Cuomo called for raising New York's minimum wage, he expressed not only his own view, but also the convictions of 80 percent of New Yorkers who agree that the state's lowest-paid workers are in urgent need of a raise. As a business owner, I support the effort to raise the minimum wage because it makes good business sense.

Raising New York's minimum wage is a critical priority for accelerating the state's economic recovery. When low-paid workers struggle to purchase necessities on inadequate wages as the cost of living rises, it undermines our economy. As said in a Business for a Fair Minimum Wage statement I signed along with business owners throughout our state, "With far less buying power than it had four decades ago, today's minimum wage means poverty for working families and weakens the consumer

Minimum wage workers and other support staff are long overdue for a raise that reflects current living standards.

demand at the heart of our economy."

Raising the minimum wage will put more money in the pockets of workers who most need to spend those dollars. It will boost consumer spending at local businesses across the state. And nothing drives business owners like me to hire additional workers more than increased consumer demand.

Higher wages also benefit businesses by boosting employee productivity, retention and customer satisfaction, and reducing the high costs of employee turnover. Moreover, increasing the minimum wage

will reduce the strain on our social safety net caused by inadequate wages.

The Governor proposes raising the state's minimum wage from its current rate of \$7.25 per hour, which is just \$15,080 a year for full-time work, to \$8.75 per hour. This minimum wage increase would benefit nearly 1.6 million low-paid workers across the state, according to the nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute. The increased wages received by these workers would generate more than \$840 million in new economic activity.

Minimum wage workers in retail, restaurants, hospitality, the service industries and other support staff are long overdue for a raise that reflects current living standards. Rent, food, transportation and other keys of life can't wait for more time to go by.

New York lags behind 19 states - including neighbor-

Continued on Page 12

UNHCR Refugee Appeal

To The Editor:

UNHCR reiterates concern about persons in need of international protection and fear of deportation in Caribbean waters. In the first two months of 2013, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of boats, particularly from Haiti, transporting individuals in Caribbean waters.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) reiterates its call for all countries in the Caribbean region, and the United States, to screen all individuals intercepted at sea to determine if they have a fear of persecution, or other protection concerns, before they are returned to their countries of origin.

Since the beginning of the year,

at least 217 Haitian and Cuban nationals have been intercepted in Caribbean waters. There have been interception reports off the coasts of Puerto Rico, Jamaica, The Bahamas, and the Cayman Islands. UNHCR is urging the governments of Jamaica and The Bahamas to refrain from returning any Cuban or Haitian nationals scheduled to be deported this week without individual screening.

"Elementary considerations of humanity and the fact that many countries in the region are granting asylum to Haitian and Cuban nationals when applying on land, demonstrates the absolute need for these basic procedural safeguards to be applied at sea," said Vincent

Cochetel, UNHCR's Regional Representative in Washington.

UNHCR has repeatedly urged all countries involved in interdiction, and rescue at sea, operations to put in place screening procedures to ensure protection for refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities caught in mixed migration flows.

The agency stands ready to provide support to the states confronted by these maritime movements to ensure that all individuals intercepted or rescued at sea are properly screened in accordance with international human rights principles.

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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@cnlo-cal.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.

In Act II, foreign policy could be more dicey

Perhaps the most improbable thing about Barack Obama's first term – excepting his occupying the White House to begin with – was his overseeing a foreign policy that many times gave rise to the charge among progressive types that the policy seemed to be channeling that of George W. Bush. All things considered, one would hardly have anticipated this of an Obama, given the label of communist, socialist, liberal, etc with which he was variously tarred, all of them polar opposites of what Bush was all about. Although it's all academic now, the president having handily won a second term, maintaining a hawkish demeanor is something that sells much better among Republicans, where the Obama support was guaranteed negligible, than among Democrats. Which is by way of saying political survivability calculations couldn't possibly have driven the hard-line look of much of the first-term foreign policy record.

But true to form, hawkish moves and notable successes notwithstanding, the president has been the target of some on the right for one thing or another of his foreign policy game plan. Frequently partnered with Senator John McCain in these

assaults on the administration's direction, Senator Lindsey Graham was recently seen in full anti-Obama stride, with the unfortunate Benghazi episode as his issue du jour for the umpteenth time. He would use procedural tactics, he said, to block Senate confirmation of the president's nominees for secretary of defense and head of the C.I.A, Chuck Hagel and John Brennan respectively, if he did not get information on what went down in Benghazi about which he thinks the administration has not been forthcoming.

It matters not whether there's really anything of significance still to be revealed about Benghazi, what matters is the opportunity the situation provides for theater, as we noted in connection with McCain's questioning of Hagel during the latter's confirmation hearings. Graham getting on a Sunday TV soapbox and saying his piece, more so when having dramatic headline-making stuff to "drop" -- like threatening to derail the president's nominations -- that's bonanza writ large for one constantly on a spotlight search. Carrying through the threat of that reckless action would be something else entirely, though. You hope that Graham, who has been known on

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

occasion to remind party colleagues that there are consequences in losing an election, gets right with himself and acknowledges that, barring the uncovering of some irredeemable malfeasance or some other stark disqualifier, this or any other president is entitled to the nominee of his choice. But there was so little on the foreign policy front that the president offered for Republicans to reasonably pick apart, that Benghazi, with its tragic cover story of American diplomats killed on the job, looked to be a veritable feast for bloodthirsty hounds.

It's fair to assume that once the situation in Syria continues its protracted, grinding course – an obstinate leader without the capability to swiftly annihilate the opposition and rebels determined not to quit – that Middle East powder keg figures to be one of the thorny issues with which the second-term Obama must contend. It recently came to light that the Syrian conflict had already been

the cause of dissension, even within the administration, before the first term ended, with most of the president's top advisers reportedly favoring supplying arms to the Syrian insurgency and Obama balking because of the fear of arms falling into the wrong hands. The president may well have had Libya in his thoughts when he put the brakes on any plan to arm Syrian rebels. But as a prelude to Obama Act II, such intra-Democratic tension practically guarantees that a still-simmering Syria will provide fodder for the second-term opposition.

There are those, of course, who believe there's hardly a situation involving political change, revolution or what-have-you in any country around the world in which the U.S. shouldn't become an active player. One guy whose track record and utterances would place him to be squarely of that ilk is Dick Cheney, who was just heard from, sounding off about the president's secretary of defense nominee. The acerbic former veep's deep analysis of Obama's selection of Hagel is that the president deviously wants a Republican to take the fall for the decimation of America's military capability that the commander in

chief has in mind. Cheney has long since qualified for what we choose to call the "isolate and ignore" group, sharing space there with the likes of buffoons named Trump and Limbaugh. Why are the trashy mutterings of these characters allowed entry into the realm of serious discourse?

But Cheney's wing-nut theories aside, it's a good bet that current administration thinking about the size of the military will generate some incoming heat. The president has made clear his view that the military's focus should be on fighting smarter, given a totally different primary threat to America's national security than a couple of decades ago. On the Republican side the unending fixation on deficit consciousness and the need for massive spending cuts always seems to bypass the military when the budget axe is being swung, favoring instead even greater spending in that area. Some slight pushback the president has gotten from the progressive side – some recent noises made about the use of drones, for example – pales by comparison to what's waiting in the wings to make the second go-round less foreign policy smooth than the first.

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Against closure of a key Hospital

To The Editor:

I am profoundly concerned about the devastating effects the closure of Long Island College Hospital (LICH)/University will have on the greater Brooklyn community, which is experiencing an ongoing health care crisis. The closure of this major hospital will exacerbate existing problems with access to health care services in Brooklyn, while damaging our already fragile economy. Furthermore, LICH's closure will eliminate all emergency services from that immediate area. Brooklyn simply cannot afford to lose this major health care institution. I am committed to the urgent efforts to keep LICH open and I urge the SUNY Board of Trustees to reconsider its decision and New York State Health Commissioner, Nirav Shah, to take a stand.

As an elected representative for the 42nd Assembly District, I am deeply worried about district residents who rely on LICH's primary care clinics, as well as the health care professionals in

our community who work at LICH. The situation is of even greater urgency, as numerous Brooklyn hospitals have closed their doors in the last decade, and six Brooklyn hospitals are facing major financial problems along with the threat of bankruptcy. There are vast areas of Kings County in which primary care is either not available or severely lacking in quality, causing residents to use local emergency rooms for those services.

Moreover, LICH's closure has the potential to bring a crippling blow to Brooklyn's economy, which is still struggling to recover from the recession. Over 2,000 health care jobs could be lost if LICH closes, and local businesses in proximity to the hospital are expected to lose a tremendous portion of their customer base in the event that LICH shuts its doors.

We are at a critical moment in the future of Brooklyn's

LETTER

health care – the SUNY Board of Trustees and Commissioner Shah have the opportunity to do the right thing for Brooklyn families who rely on LICH's services by reconsidering their decision to recommend the hospital's closure. Once again, given the grave ramifications of closing this vital health care institution, I urge the SUNY Board of Trustees to reassess its decision and to instead recommend that SUNY Downstate attempt the financial reorganization of LICH before taking this irreversible step.

As always, I remain dedicated to preserving jobs, keeping our hospitals open while fighting for improved access to quality, affordable medical services in Brooklyn, and shaping a comprehensive health care system in conjunction with fellow community leaders and health care providers.

Rhoda Jacobs
Assemblywoman, 42nd AD

Voting on the ICJ referendum

Continued from page 10
will do with the Blacks in Belize, Garifuna and Creoles? They would kill us without having a second thought. Guatemala's Human Rights record against the native Maya Indians is the issue that we must continue to

examine before we make any deals with them. Trust is the key issue in any agreement with another country and Guatemala cannot be trusted. As the month of October draws nearer, Belizeans will have to think about their vote on this I. C. J. referendum,

but the way it is going now, the Guatemalans have a hammer in their hand and they are driving many nails into this coffin.

The author is adjunct professor of history and politics at Boricua College.

Minimum wage increase

Continued from page 10

ing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont – that have raised their minimum wages above \$7.25. It's time to act. The minimum wage should be increased to \$8.75, and then indexed to inflation so its value does not shrink in the future as the cost of living rises.

As a business owner who was once a low-income wage earner myself, I sup-

port raising the minimum wage to give all New Yorkers a jump start to living a more hopeful, productive, prosperous life. Let's make New York a true shining beacon of opportunity for all workers and businesses.

Raising the minimum wage will be good for New York's workers, good for New York's businesses, and good for New York's economy. Legislative leaders such as Speaker Shel-

don Silver and Senator Jeffrey Klein have named it a top priority for the 2013 Session. The time for a minimum wage mandate is now.

Let's get it done.

Darius Ross is managing partner of D Alexander Ross Real Estate Capital Partners, in New York City. He is a member of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage. www.businessforafairminimumwage.org

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How To Avoid Risky Back Surgery With A Breakthrough Non Surgical Treatment And Get Out Of Pain Fast

Here's how the newest breakthrough non-surgical back pain and sciatica treatment may end your pain and solve your herniated, bulging or degenerated disc pain problems...

You may be thinking "What IS going to happen to me if I can't find a solution to my back pain or leg pain?" The answer to your question starts out hopeful. I'll just go to my doctor and he will take care of me. He will know what to do. But then something very odd happens to you. You discover your primary care physician is not really well equipped to handle that job. He or she is very busy treating infections, diabetes, heart conditions and the like, which they are very well equipped to handle. This is very apparent with your resulting drug prescription for Soma muscle relaxers and Norco, Neurontin or any other of the various prescribed pain medications. You then take the drugs soon to feel strangely like you're not altogether "there" or you immediately are sick, feel nausea and vomit the drugs as fast as you swallowed them. When you get sick of that (pardon the pun! I couldn't resist), you go back to your doctor looking for another more appealing treatment. This time it's physical therapy. The thing you already can't do!! You already can't bend over, twist, lift things, and now they want you to do more of it with a bunch of other back pain sufferers! Gimme a break. Now, you've really had it. You try the chiropractor and either you feel better for a little while only to have the pain return, or worse nothing happens at all. Or even worse than that, after your treatment you have **MORE** pain (not because chiropractic does not work...your condition is just too deteriorated or severe). Then you try acupuncture because you read in a magazine it could help pain. You then realize sticking a bunch of needles in you will not magically remove the bulging disc that is smashing your nerve and causing you pain. You try massage as you read on the internet massage may help alleviate back pain...only to be disappointed. You're now beginning to feel desperate. Back to your primary care doctor to tell him about your adventures hoping he will have a different answer this time. He does.



"We can inject pain drugs through a big needle into your spine." You cringe in fear and reluctantly agree at this point. "NOW I will be fixed." Or at least that's what you've been led to believe. You have either no pain relief, some pain relief, a whole lot of pain relief or it makes you have more pain. The second pain shot (oh, yes there will be a second and a third) is usually less effective or not at all and requires another one. You come to the realization that pain shots will not fix the disc bulge or herniation still smashing your delicate nerves causing you pain. Finally, your doctor recommends you see a "Specialist" (Back Surgeon) and he can do risky surgery. If you've read the latest article in the Journal Of American Medical Association*, you will see surgery patients and non surgery patients turned out the same! Why even do the surgery? Risk of paralysis, death, infections, more pain. No thanks. So. Back to the question. What are YOU going to do if you are stuck between serious back pain or leg pain or surgery? **Great News! A new extremely effective non surgical new back pain treatment is now available in Brooklyn.** If you are suffering from back pain or leg pain,

having pain at the belt line, fire down your legs, numb legs, feet or toes or feel like a knife is stuck in your back you owe to yourself to check out this new procedure.

Finally, Some Good News! If you've been suffering with back pain or arm/leg pain caused by a disc bulge, disc herniation or squashed or compressed discs.

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Yes! I am very confident, but I can't help EVERYBODY. You see, there's

a very small percentage of folks we can't help. Here's what a couple applicants said after I told them both I couldn't help them:

"I was treated very well by the staff. The doctors actually listened to me and I thought they would rush me out of the office but didn't, despite the fact I wasn't a candidate. The exam I had was very thorough, more so than any doctor I have seen yet. The doctor explained things to me that no one else ever has."
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**Lincoln Leung
Brooklyn, NY**

I felt like a truck ran over me. I was in such pain it was unbelievable. I gotta tell you, so far I've had 7 or 8 treatments, and I feel 100% better. I live away but worth every mile to come here."

**Fabienne Alexander - Retired
Brooklyn, NY**

I saw several different doctors, medical doctors, chiropractors and other various treatments with no results. I had a couple bad discs. I immediately started feeling much, much better and the back pain decreased. At the end of my treatments my pain is almost non-existent."

**Burt McIvain
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Queens couple tackles taxes and all that jazz

By Kamau Austin

Edward and Adriana Jackson are certainly a couple that reflects South Queens in an innovative way. The husband and wife team run the well-respected community-based tax service bearing their last name Jackson Tax Service, Inc. Ironically, they also have ventured into an undertaking uncharacteristic of what you might expect from a mom and pop type tax business.

The couple has also recently opened up a jazz reception hall called Jackson Room. Edward Jackson and his brother Dave Jackson are accomplished jazz musicians. They have built an attractive jazz hall for music gigs that is also available to the community to hold upscale events of modest scale. The Jackson Tax Service's newer St. Albans branch also houses the cozy Jackson Room, in its basement. It has a separate access to it slightly to the right of the front entrance. Both Jackson Tax Service and Jackson Room can be located at 192-07 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, N.Y. 11412.

Mrs. Adriana Jackson, the manager of the St. Albans branch, comments "that this has been a lifelong dream of my husband



Edward and Adriana Jackson.

to have a place like Jackson Room and I'm glad to see him accomplish it." While Jackson Room is a new endeavor for the Jackson family the tax business is not. Jackson Tax has its original location in Rochdale Village Mall 1.

Jackson Tax was started by Edward Jackson's father David W. Jackson, more than 35 years ago so it is

a family business passed down through the generations. "Will people one day be able to listen to live jazz while they have their taxes worked on?" I asked Mrs. Jackson. She smiled and responded "You never know. But for now we pipe jazz music through our office sound system while doing taxes."

South Queens has always



"This has been a lifelong dream of my husband to have a place like Jackson Room and I'm glad to see him accomplish it."

been known as a very special place both in terms of

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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

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

parliamentarian, "stood in duty and in conscience to articulate deep concerns regarding the impact that certain Bills before Parliament could have on our nation and nation's people.

"Dr. Harris stood in accordance with his oath, as he was obligated to do without fear or favor. Indeed, the law of the land protects him in that regard," Condor said.

Prime Minister Douglas fired Harris because of his opposition to two recent pieces of government-sponsored legislation, including one to increase the number of senators in the National Assembly.

Trinidad

A High Court judge has said Trinidad and Tobago "is producing cold-blooded killers" because of the proliferation of guns.

Saying that T&T is in crisis, Justice Anthony Carmona also said the cemeteries were filled to capacity, mostly with young men killed by guns.

He said the guns were responsible for the murders and the mayhem currently taking place. Recalling when he was attached to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) office, the judge said people used to

shoot other people in the chest, which opened up the possibility of some of them actually surviving those attacks. Today, however, he said, people are being shot in the head.

"Brains are splattering all over the place. It takes a cold-blooded person to do something like that," Carmona said at the San Fernando High Court recently.

He made the comments after a U.S. deportee pleaded guilty to possession of two guns and a large quantity of marijuana.

Jerome Kendell Barker, who was recently freed on a charge of murder will know his fate on Feb. 20.

The murder toll for the first month of the New Year stands at 35.

Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank Governor Jwala Rambarran says that declining aid resources to the Caribbean has prompted many of the region's governments to engage in more expensive commercial borrowing to fill funding gaps.

In making the observation, Rambarran said this state of affairs was neither socially or politically feasible and there was "no silver-bullet solution to the deep-rooted financing challenges facing small vulnerable economies," such as

those in the Caribbean.

He was at the time speaking at the recent opening of a joint Commonwealth Secretariat and United Nations Development Program Workshop at the Eric Williams Financial Complex, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

"It is no secret that small vulnerable economies in the Caribbean have grappled with external shocks of varying magnitudes and duration, over the past two decades.

"More recently the Caribbean has been gradually recovering from the shock of the global financial crisis, which originated in the United States and spread to Europe, the region's two closest trading and investment partners," he said.

Faced with declining aid resources, Rambarran said, "many Caribbean governments resorted to more expensive commercial borrowing to bridge financial gaps.

"This combined with the growing inability of regional governments to generate high enough primary fiscal surpluses for debt serving, contributed to a large public debt," he said

He said the gross public debt in the Caribbean climbed rapidly from 65 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1998 to a peak of almost 100 percent of GDP in 2002, before falling to a still elevated 80 percent of GDP in 2012.

Compiled by Azad Ali

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Three superfoods that can improve your health

(StatePoint) In a world where fatty, fried and frosted foods are often the cheapest, quickest and most readily available options, it can be easy to forget the true purpose of eating -- to healthfully fuel our bodies.

"The higher-quality fuel you put in your body, the better you will function. The right diet can potentially prevent you from developing certain diseases and conditions," says Gerry Cysewski, Ph.D., co-author of "Spirulina: Nature's SuperFood," and chief science officer of Nutrex Hawaii, a nutritional supplement manufacturer.

And despite what many people think, healthful eating doesn't have to come at the price of taste or time. Foods rich in nutrition can make quick snacks and be incorporated easily into your favorite dishes.

Here are ideas for how to fit three superfoods into your diet:

Blueberries

Skip the sodium overload of chomping on chips and lower your

HEALTH

risk for heart disease, diabetes and even the common cold with some blueberries. Blueberries are full of flavor as well as antioxidants, phytoflavonoids, Vitamin C and potassium.

While they make for a great snack on their own, blueberries are also delicious as a yogurt, oatmeal or cereal topper.

Spirulina

For a wealth of protein, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, take a cue from the ancient Mayans and Aztecs and incorporate spirulina in your daily diet.

Hawaiian spirulina, a microalgae-based superfood, contains more than 100 nutrients, and a three-gram serving contains higher levels of key antioxidants, enzymes, vitamins and minerals than five servings of fruits and vegetables.

"A single serving of spirulina is

like a rainbow of good nutrition, containing the orange of beta-carotene for immune system support, the yellow of zeaxanthin for eye and brain health, the green of chlorophyll for anti-toxin health benefits, and the blue of phycocyanin for inflammatory balance," says Cysewski.

What's the best way to get your daily dose? Consider taking pill supplements, or if you prefer, mix spirulina powder in dips like guacamole or hummus. Or for a tasty breakfast, lunch or snack, try this smoothie recipe:

Blend these ingredients together and serve immediately:

- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 1 cup of fruit juice (apple, orange or pineapple)
- 1 or more of the following: 1 papaya, 1 peach, 1 mango
- 1/2 cup of boysenberries or raspberries
- 1 teaspoon Hawaiian Spirulina powder

More information on the benefits



A customer studies the benefits of buying the superfood spirulina.

of spirulina can be found at www.Nutrex-Hawaii.com.

Spinach

Popeye was onto something when he downed those cans of spinach. The dark leafy greens contain min-

erals, vitamins, pigments and phytonutrients that benefit eyesight, blood pressure, muscles, bones, skin and a healthy nervous system.

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Good dental health matters for your pets too

(StatePoint) There's a good reason that one of the first things we teach children is proper tooth brushing technique. Dental health is crucial for overall health. And you may not think about it as often, but pets also require regular dental care.

February, which is Pet Dental Health Month, serves as an excellent reminder for pet owners that good dental health is vital. And experts say that the stakes are a lot higher than maintaining pretty teeth and avoiding dreaded doggy breath.

"Untreated plaque and tartar will eventually lead to gingivitis and periodontal disease in the mouth," warns Dr. Rod Van Horn, a veterinarian and member of the American Veterinary Dental Society. "And those same bacteria could enter the blood stream, leading to heart disease or filter through the kidneys and liver."

With good habits and veterinary-strength pet dental products, pet parents can help avoid these serious health problems. Here are some top dog dental care tips that will keep teeth their sparkly best:

- Veterinarians recommend

HEALTH

once-a-day brushing for optimum health. If you're time-strapped or your dog is resistant, remember, the more often you brush, the better.

- Starting early is always best, as puppies can get used to brushing more easily. But even old dogs can learn new dental tricks. Start by letting your pooch taste pet toothpaste from your finger on several occasions. Then put some on their pet toothbrush to get them used to the texture.

A paste with a food flavor should make the process easier. For example, SENTRY Petrodex Veterinary Strength Poultry Fresh Mint Twin Power Toothpaste has enough poultry flavor to encourage dogs to lick it up and a mint scent to freshen breath.

When your pet is ready, (some dogs take days, others take weeks) gently rub your fingers on their gums and lips to get them used to the sensation.

- When you're finally ready to start brushing, keep it safe, gentle and effective with a brush espe-



Pets also require regular dental care.

cially designed for dogs' needs. One example is the SENTRY Petrodex Dual Ended 360 Brush. It has a soft bristle 360-degree head on one end and a traditional head on the other, as well as a plaque scraper.

Opt for an ergonomic handle to make it easier to keep a firm grip while brushing. If your dog doesn't take to the regular pet toothbrush, consider a finger toothbrush, which is softer.

- Chewing is great for dogs, helping to improve dental health by scraping away existing plaque and tartar. Give pets a better alternative than your slippers, such as a dental chew that activates the body's natural defense system, killing plaque-forming bacteria.

- For dogs with bad breath, consider a breath spray that fights odors and controls tartar. Opt for something easy-to-use that has a veterinary-strength potency.

Use Pet Dental Health Month to brush up on more tips and tricks at www.SentryPetCare.com.

"Want your dog to live a longer happier life? The answer is simple. Keep pets' teeth and gums in tip top shape," stresses Dr. Van Horn.

A Healthy Heart Starts with You

In honor of American Heart Month, Montefiore Einstein Center for Heart & Vascular Care is offering free educational lectures and workshops, and free blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol screenings. Protect your heart from disease, and learn how to take better care of yourself.

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The Children's Hospital at Montefiore
3415 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, New York 10467
To register call 718-741-2357

Heart Health Educational Talk

Monday, February 18 | 2:00 pm
Montefiore Medical Group –
Comprehensive Health Care Center
305 East 161st Street, Bronx, New York 10451

Heart Health Education Workshops

Tuesday, February 19 | 10:30 am – Noon
Wednesday, February 20 | 10:30 am – Noon
Montefiore Medical Group –
Comprehensive Family Care Center
1621 Eastchester Road, Bronx, New York 10461

Healthy Eating for a Good Heart Lecture

Wednesday, February 20 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Fort Independence Senior Center
3350 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463
To register call 718-884-7050

Heart-Healthy Food Demonstration

Thursday, February 21 | 10:30 am – Noon
Montefiore Medical Group –
Comprehensive Family Care Center
1621 Eastchester Road, Bronx, New York 10461

Health Screenings

Thursday, February 21 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Montefiore Medical Center – Moses Campus
111 East 210th Street, Bronx, New York 10467

Heart Health Workshop

Thursday, February 21 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Montefiore Medical Group – Cross County
1010 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10704

If you are interested in attending a Heart Month event, simply show up on the day at the correct time. You do not need to register beforehand unless it is otherwise specified.

www.montefiore.org/heartmonth

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Resources for Nassau County Sandy Victims

By Kingsley Dougan

As Hurricane Sandy victims continue their struggle to rebuild, Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano announced a network of programs and financial assistance opportunities to assist residents while State and Federal programs are developed to help residents with Federal aid. These programs are in addition to the STEP program offered by Nassau County and services offered by the Business Recovery Center within the Nassau County Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

The Community Development Corporation of Long Island offers an emergency home repair loan fund to assist eligible homeowners, whose incomes are under 120 percent of area median income (AMI), with loans of up to \$5,000. Income eligibility would be at or

below \$129,000 annually for a family of four. Those interested should call 631-471-1215 ext. 125 or email homeloan@cdcli.org.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSEER-DA) has a free energy efficiency program for income eligible New Yorkers whose income is at or under 60 percent of the state median; which are guidelines under the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). EmPower NY has received funding to expand its work scope for eligible homeowners who experienced flooding during Sandy. It offers no-cost energy services on Long Island and in the Rockaways relating to oil, gas and propane. Those seeking assistance can call 1-800-263-0960.

Natural Grid offers customers on Long Island, who have been seriously impact-

ed by Hurricane Sandy but whose homes have not been declared uninhabitable by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), three levels of assistance:

A one-time bill credit which entitles eligible customers with \$150 to assist with repairs/and or replacement of damaged boilers, water heaters or furnaces. The customer's equipment must have been "tagged" indicating a relight was necessary.

Assistance for HEAP-eligible customers which entitles the customer to additional assistance as well as the \$150 bill credit. These customers, who have previously been approved for the 2011 and 2012 HEAP program, may receive help with gas equipment inspections, repair or replacement completed by a licensed plumber.

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5-Boro Black History Month Tour begins first season

Nine NYC cultural organizations across five boroughs welcome visitors to celebrate Black History Month through innovative and rich programming.

African Burial Ground National Monument, Langston Hughes Community Library & Cultural Center - Queens Library, Louis Armstrong House Museum, MoCADA, National Jazz Museum in Harlem, Sandy Ground Historical Society Museum, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture - New York Public Library, Weeksville Heritage Center and the Woodlawn Conservancy have organized this city-wide cultural program.

The 5-Boro Tour is self-guided. Guests can plan their visits to each of the nine sites throughout the month of February to participate. By checking-in at each site, visitors can pick up a Tour gift from Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar. Simply mention Promo Code: NYCbhm and receive 10 percent off your meal purchase at Applebee's. Collect all 9.

"Reflective of our ongoing participation in our neighborhoods, Applebee's is proud to partner with these fine cultural organizations in our local communities as we celebrate Black History Month," noted Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar N.Y. Area Franchisee CEO Zane Trankel.

"The idea for the 5-Boro Tour for Black History Month was inspired by the Partners in Preservation program sponsored by American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation," explained Michael Cogswell, executive director of the Louis Armstrong House Museum. "New York City is one of most culturally rich cities

on the planet, and we want people to explore all nine of the cultural organizations on the 5-Boro Tour -- each is wonderful and each is unique."

"The tour is a great opportunity for New Yorkers and tourists alike to deepen their appreciation and understanding of the powerful role African Americans have played in the cultural and economic development of our city," said Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "Three of the cultural institutions included on the tour - the Louis Armstrong House, the Weeksville Heritage Center and the African Burial Grounds - are New York City landmarks, making an even more compelling case for visiting them."

"The 5-Boro Tour is an outstanding way for visitors to experience some of the City's richest cultural offerings during Black History Month this February," said NYC & Company CEO George Fertitta.

Each site offers rich programming for the month of February. Details can be found at NYCbhm.org and on the links to each organization's site.

Here are the sites organized by borough:

Brooklyn

Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art (MoCADA), 80 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217, 718.230.0492, www.mocada.org

Weeksville Heritage Center, 1698 Bergen St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11213, Bergen Street between Buffalo and Rochester, 718.756.5250 www.weeksvillesociety.org

Bronx

Woodlawn Conservancy (Formerly Friends of Woodlawn), Webster Ave-

nue & East 233rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10470, 718.920.1563 x225

www.thewoodlawn cemetery.org

Manhattan

African Burial Ground National Monument, 290 Broadway, 1st Floor, New York, N.Y. 10007, www.nps.gov/afbg, Phone: 212.637.2019

National Jazz Museum in Harlem, 104 East 126th St., #2C, New York, N.Y. 10035212.348.8300, www.jmih.org

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, TD Bank is the lead sponsor of Black History Month at the Schomburg Center, 515 Malcolm X Blvd. at 135th Street, New York, N.Y. 10037, 212.491.2234, http://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg

Queens

Langston Hughes Community Library & Cultural Center, Queens Library, 100-01 Northern Blvd., Corona, N.Y. 11368 2Fl., 718.651.1100, www.libraryactioncommittee.org

Louis Armstrong House Museum, 34-56 107th St., Corona, Queens, New York, 718.478.8274, www.LouisArmstrongHouse.org

Staten Island

Sandy Ground Historical Society Museum, 1538 Woodrow Road, Staten Island, N.Y. 10309, 718.317.5796, NYCbhm.org

NYC Black History Month 5 Boro Tour sponsors include: Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and Queens Tourism Council.

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He Who Endures

Anti-slavery abolitionist drama at National Black Poetry Theatre

NEW YORK, NY – February 12, 2012 -- The National Black Touring Circuit's 2013 Black History Month Play Festival presents: He Who Endures, an anti-slavery abolitionist drama written by Bill Harris starring Ralph McCain as Frederick Douglass and Norman Marshall as John Brown from February 15 - 17 at the National Black Theatre, 2031 Fifth Avenue (at 125th Street).

Directed by Ajene Washington, He Who Endures is set in the years immediately preceding the Civil War with Douglass passionately questioning the direction the anti-slavery movement with John Brown, Rev. Henry Highland Garnet (Marcus Naylor) and slave-turned-rebel Shields Green (Leopold Lowe).

Presented by Woodie King Jr.'s National Black Touring Circuit, the drama



Bill Harris.

swirls around hotly contested ideas about the role of the abolitionist in ending the horrific institution of human slavery. Who would see his line of attack prevail? Who would be the last man standing? Who would endure?

The 2013 Black History Month Play Festival exam-

ines American history from anti-slavery Abolitionists to the emergence of the NAACP to the height of the civil rights movement through dramas on the lives of African American historic figures Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois and Adam Clayton Powell. The recent biographical production on Adam Clayton Powell, starred Timothy Simonson in Adam. The 2013 Black History Month Play Festival, which features three performances each week, is produced by Obie and American Theatre Hall of Fame winner Woodie King, Jr., founder/producer/director of the National Black Touring Circuit and Kim Weston Moran, associate producer.

From February 22 – 24, the drama Dr. DuBois and Miss Ovington will be held at the Castillo Theatre, **Continued on Page 42**

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Fantastic carnival in Trinidad

By Azad Ali

Austin "Super Blue" Lyons and Machel Montano are the joint winners of the International Power Soca Monarch, while Montano regained his Groovy Soca Monarch. The two competitions were held on Fantastic Friday at the Hasley Crawford Stadium.

In the other competitions held on Thursday and Saturday nights, veteran calypsonian Eric (Pink Panther) Taylor copped the Calypso Monarch title, while Petrotrin Phase 11 won the 2013 Panorama Finals at the Grand Stand Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain on Saturday night.

In the Kings and Queens of the Band competition, 'Trini Revellers', Ted Ustace



From Darkness to Light Kay Mason placed third in the Queen of the Band competition.

Photo by Sterling Mottley



At left: Rakuen No Yorokobi from the band, The Joy of Paradise won the Queen of Carnival title. At right: Danis Wantain - The Dance of Reconciliation- Charisse Bovell placed second.



Photos by Sterling Mottley

and Brian Mac Farlane's king, Gerald Weekes shared the title King of Carnival in the finals of the National Carnival Bands Association Kings and Queens Carnival competition at the Queens' Park, Savannah held on Carnival Friday night.

In the International Soca Monarch, Montano, performing in position number nine, delivered a well-choreographed presentation of "Float" in the Power category to retain his title.

And in the International Groovy Soca Monarch competition Montano also retained his title with an impressive performance of "Fog."

At the end of his performance, Montano put on a harness to which cables were attached that allowed him to not just be lifted up from the stage, but hover above the first several rows of the audience. This sent the 20,000-plus patrons wild with excitement.

Then as was expected, the crowd waited for the appearance of Super Blue, who after an absence of 13 from the competition showed that he had not lost his touch.

Both Montano and Super Blue each delivered the night's best performances as the majority of the other 12 competitors failed to keep the

audience attention throughout their performances.

First prize in the Power Soca Monarch is TT\$2 million.

Now a consecutive double Monarch, Montano is hoping to create history and win the Road March title once again with his song "Float."

In the Power Soca Monarch title, Rodney "Benjai" Le Blanc was third and Destra Garcia fourth.

Neil "Iwer" George, came in second in the Groovy Soca Monarch with Dexter "Blaxx" Stewart, third and Ravi B fourth.

Panther defeated 11 of his colleagues, including defend-

ing monarch Duane O'Connor at the competition held at the Queen's park Savannah.

Panther, who celebrated 39 years in the business, sang two competitions- Travel Woes and Crying in the Chapel—a song dedicated to two calypsonians, who died weeks before the Carnival season.

In second place was Kurt Allen, who sang "Political Sin-Phony" and Black Stalin Say," while Heather McIntosh came in third singing "the Old Man's Lament," and "invisible."

In the Panorama Finals, Phase 11 won the Large band category with a composition "More Love" arranged

by Len Boogie Sharpe with 238 points. In second place was Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars with BP Renegades in third. In the end, Phase 11 put an end to Neal & Massy quest for a hat-trick.

King of Carnival — "Moko of the Flames" Ted Eustace.

Queen of Carnival — 1st ---

Rakuen No Yorokobi- (The Joy of Paradise. 2nd---"Danis Wantain" The Dance of

Reconciliation- Charisse Bovell.

3—"From Darkness to Light" Kay Mason.

B84: Proposed New Service between Spring Creek and East New York

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) proposes a new bus service connecting Spring Creek, Brooklyn and the East New York/ New Lots Avenue 3 Station. The service would be named B84. The B84 would have a southern terminal at the Brooklyn Developmental Center across the street from the Gateway Center Mall, travel along Flatlands Avenue and Ashford Street to the New Lots Avenue 3 Station at Livonia Avenue and Warwick Street (see map). The new service would operate every 30 minutes between 5:30 am to 9:00 pm on weekdays and every 30 minutes between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on weekends. This route is planned to begin operating summer 2013.



Time and Place of the Hearing

Thursday, March 7, 2013

at the Spring Creek Educational Campus at 1065 Elton Street, Brooklyn, NY

The hearing will begin at 6:00 pm, with registration to speak remaining open until 8:00 pm. All registered speakers will be heard. Each speaker is permitted up to three minutes to testify. Written comments will be accepted until the close of the hearing. Email comments will be accepted, and information is provided, on the MTA website www.mta.info.

Directions:

By Bus: Take the B6 bus to Ashford Street and Cozine Avenue and walk east on Cozine Avenue and south on Elton Street to arrive at the Spring Creek Educational Campus at 1065 Elton Street at Flatlands Avenue.

For more information about the proposed service changes, or to pre-register to speak at the hearing, call or write to: MTA NYCT Government Affairs, 2 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10004, 646.252.2660

For hearing-impaired individuals wishing to arrange for a sign language interpreter, please call or fax Lois Tendler of New York City Transit Government Affairs at 646.252.2660 or fax 646.252.2661. The location is accessible to the mobility-impaired.



Public Hearing



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Marcus Garvey pardon still pending

A call to help exonerate Marcus Mosiah Garvey and pardon him for a 1923 mail fraud conviction is again being amplified.

According to advocates relentlessly pursuing attention from the President Barack Obama administration, a long overdue pardon and clemency from the fraudulent conviction should be erased from the legacy of Jamaica's first national hero. To that end they are aiming for 25,000 signatures to create "the buzz needed to get a positive response from the White House."

Petitioner Geoffrey Philp is calling for Rep. Frederica Wilson to reintroduce a revised resolution that could exonerate the Pan-African proponent, clear his name and affirm his innocence of crimes they say he was unjustly prosecuted and convicted.

The resolution, titled H. Con. Res. 24, was first introduced to the 110th Congress in 2007 by New York Congressman Charles Rangel.



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

"Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should grant a pardon to Marcus Mosiah Garvey to clear his name and affirm his innocence of crimes for which he was unjustly prosecuted and convicted."

Philp is calling for one revision to H. Con. Res. 24: "We, the undersigned, are requesting the assistance of our representatives in reintroducing the resolution with the following change in the wording: 'Expressing the sense of the Congress that the president should exonerate Marcus Mosiah Garvey to clear his name and affirm his innocence of crimes for which he was unjustly prosecuted and convicted,' he wrote at a web portal. At www.causes.com supporters are able to add a note of advocacy to

this lingering cause for a presidential pardon.

"Marcus Garvey stands as the catalyst of the century," a Jamaican living in the USA said.

"His contribution to the self awareness of a nation is not limited to the little island of Jamaica but the great country of the United States of America where we currently reside."

Allegedly, Garvey's teachings have been resurrected in Jamaican classrooms. School officials there have mandated a civics program for students from kindergarten through high school to study Garvey's values (e.g. self-esteem, respect for others, accountability).

The exoneration will further show respect to his contributions to the advancement of Black people.



In this August 1922 file photo, Marcus Garvey is shown in a military uniform as the "Provisional President of Africa" during a parade in the opening day of the annual Convention of the Negro Peoples of the World at Lenox Avenue in Harlem, New York City. AP Photo/File

islands' spokespersons and organizers are planning a welcome relief and plenty of fun to start the summer.

"Each year, the St. Kitts Music Festival combines music, Caribbean island culture and elements of carnival-type block parties with world class performances from a wide variety of internationally popular music genres," Senator Ricky Skerritt, minister of Tourism & International Transport said.

"What results is an authentic, festive atmosphere and sense of connection to the music and to our destination. Plus, this year's Festival will incorporate special elements in celebration of our twin-island Federation's 30th Anniversary of Independence in 2013, so the energy is bound to be particularly high."

The talent line-up has not yet been finalized however, Caribbean nationals and visitors have been guaranteed a fun-filled festival.

Catch You On The Inside!

Early Bird Alert To St. Kitts Musical Festival

Two seasons ahead of the 17th Annual St. Kitts Music Festival, organizers are issu-

ing a call to revelers to prepare to visit the twin islands from June 27 - 29.

Although winter is still in full blast and spring seems a distant climate change, the



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- NY Times

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ENTERTAINMENT

Noel's exquisite fashion designs

By Tangerine Clarke

Creations by Georgetown-based fashion designer, Sonia Noel may not be on the runway of New York Fashion Week, but her 15 years of exquisite design concepts, rivals those of top-notch designers such as Donna Karan and Tracy Reese.

The fashion maven and winner of the Caribbean Fashion Ambassador award has built up quite a reputation for presenting stunning looks on the fashion scene, with her signature Black and White collection of dresses with embellished hemlines, tops with intricate necklines and floor-length gowns that dazzle audiences.

Her elegant pocket-books, hats and intricately designed jewelry, make the world renown Guyana Fashion Week CEO, one of the most recognizable names in



A model sports a resort cover-up.

the Guyana garment industry.

Known for working with natural fabric, Noel's fanciful snowy white pieces showcase the colonial style latticework design found in the architecture of her homeland.

This season, Mariska
Continued on Page 32

'Get Happy'

By Vinette K. Pryce

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Jimmy Cliff kicked off celebrations of Bob Marley's 68th birthday on the eve of the anniversary by sitting in with the resident band throughout the one-hour television broadcast of "Late Night with David Letterman."

The 64-year-old reggae legend who also holds the distinction of being Jamaica's only living musician to hold the island's Order of Merit marked the Feb. 6 occasion by representing reggae to team with bandleader Paul Shaffer and musicians to provide musical interludes. Joining the very short list of Caribbean talents asked



Reggae legend from Jamaica, Jimmy Cliff sings at the Gurten Festival near Berne, Switzerland.
AP Photo/Keystone, Edi Engeler

to national, late night television exposure, Cliff's latest
Continued on Page 32



A local favorite BeLO, who plays internationally—often in New York—performed his first concert of the year at the downtown venue FOKAL to a standing-room crowd who knows his lyrics, frequently singing along.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Musicians and locals mixed it up

By Tequila Minsky

Haitian and Haitian-American jazz artists comprised a strong element in the International Jazz Festival of Port-au-Prince 7th Edition that heralded musicians from Brazil, Chile, Spain, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.

Organized as an eight-day fest accessible to everyone, the Festival featured six free open-air early-evening concerts, each with three groups performing.

More than 325 music enthusiasts including many students—a standing-room crowd—enjoyed these mostly at the "downtown" Port-au-Prince

FOKAL cultural center.

Additionally, there were four ticketed upscale shows attended by diplomats, sponsors and local Haitian residents.

Heading the festival, the Branford Marsalis Quartet played a free performance in Jacmel, a ticketed con-

Continued on Page 32

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Locked Out Of Heaven**
Bruno Mars
- 2 **I Knew You Were Trouble.**
Taylor Swift
- 3 **Ho Hey**
The Lumineers
- 4 **Don't You Worry Child**
Swedish House Mafia Feat. John Martin
- 5 **Beauty And A Beat**
Justin Bieber Feat. Nicki Minaj
- 6 **Try**
P!nk
- 7 **Thrift Shop**
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis...
- 8 **Scream & Shout**
will.i.am Feat. Britney Spears
- 9 **Diamonds**
Rihanna
- 10 **One More Night**
Maroon 5

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Believe: Acoustic**
Justin Bieber
- 2 **Heartthrob**
Tegan And Sara
- 3 **Pitch Perfect**
Soundtrack
- 4 **The Lumineers**
The Lumineers
- 5 **Babel**
Mumford & Sons
- 6 **Hummingbird**
Local Natives
- 7 **The Heist**
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
- 8 **Unorthodox Jukebox**
Bruno Mars
- 9 **A Messenger**
Colton Dixon
- 10 **Long.Live.A\$AP**
A\$AP Rocky

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Haiti Jazz Festival

Continued from page 31

cert in Port-au-Prince and a special invite show at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.

Petionville's Quartier Latin and Garden Studio music clubs were the site of many of the scheduled "Afterhours" performances.

Following those, musicians and locals mixed it up with jam sessions playing far into the night. And things got hot, fueled by the abundance of talent.

An enthusiastic audience of Haitians and foreigners, imbibing the local Barbancourt rum and Prestige beer, listened to grooving musician friends creating melodic and rhythmic explosions on the stage.

High-energy Mexican guitarist and Bushwick resident Ilan Bar-Lavi and his band Los Sonox (playing the musical genre Son Jarocho mixed with other styles) jammed with Cuban piano virtuoso, Washington Heights resident Axle Laugart, a member of singer Melanie Charles' band, "The Journey." Even downpours didn't halt the "Afterhours" shows.

Alternately, when the main concerts took place in Petionville, Yanvalou restaurant/gallery that had just opened weeks before in Pacot, Port-au-Prince, hosted more than

one night's rendezvous.

Eleven partnering foreign embassies underwrote the costs of their respective musicians, who also often gave special invite performances. The Ministries of Culture and Tourism trimmed some financial support due to the impact of recent Hurricane Sandy.

During jazz week, Festival musicians also gave morning music workshops—9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.—at FOKAL: performing, demonstrating techniques, and dialoguing with Haitian music students (ages, late teens to twenties). Many of the attending students came from church music traditions. After all, the churches in Haiti often nurture music performance—it's a part of the service. Those present at the workshops clearly were not solely embedded in this genre.

The teaching artists would usually start by playing a couple numbers. Local guitarist Claude Carre, who translated the words of English-speaking musicians into Kreyol, recognized how valuable it was for the students to listen close-up to many different types of music within the jazz genre. They were also given the opportunity to ask an unlimited number of questions.

At one workshop, the Chilean



Participating festival musicians also gave music workshops to an engrossed and packed auditorium at FOKAL cultural center. Axle Laugart, keyboard with Melanie Charles' The Journey, demonstrates his technique following the formal part of the Charles' voice workshop.
Photo by Tequila Minsky

string players Sagere Trio including a mandolin explained that their music came from a folk tradition in the north of Chile. They answered very specific questions related to technique: why do you use your nail and not a pick (a softer sound) followed by demonstrations of alternate and sweep picking. They fielded questions about harmony and arranging.

Louis Winsberg's workshop included a demonstration of Flamenco dance.

In a packed auditorium, Brooklyn's own Melanie Charles backed

by her musicians moved the handful of attending females to the front row when she gave a voice lesson to eager students.

Following the formal presentation, students gravitated to musicians playing their own instrument of study, flooding them with questions of technique. Drummer Gashford Guillaume and singer Charles loved the eager interaction with the students.

The Festival also screened three music related films including Spike Lee's Mo Better Blues at a nearby venue.

Fashion

Continued from page 31

Designs - Noel's brand, will unveil an alluring swimwear cover-up resort collection designed from floral print, and cut from sheer fabric.

In addition to a bridal line that will be launched for the upcoming bridal season and destination-wedding package, the small-town girl plans to sell her collections in boutiques in the Caribbean, and North America.

"I would like to see the industry market and showcase brands at Fashion Week events throughout the Caribbean, in addition to marketing designers at trade shows, said Noel.

As a featured designer in "Shabeau," "She Caribbean," "Caribbean Bell," and "Posh Caribbean" to name a few, the fashion-forward lady describes Mariska Designs, as a unique hybrid of Guyanese craftsmanship, Caribbean ingenuity and an all pervasive universal style.

"Designs can be worn from the beach to the ballroom and from housewives to first ladies," added Noel, who notes that she has proven her grit by participating in runway shows in St. Kitts, Trinidad and



Lattice-work creation by Mariska Designs.

Tobago, United Stes Virgin Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent, Suriname, Grenada and many other countries.

A talent to be reckoned with, Noel who recently returned from a sponsored trip to India, lends her celebrity status to several causes that especially impact the lives of youth. The Sonia Noel Foundation for the creative arts hosts the Guyana Model Search and Designers Portfolio.

Jimmy Cliff

Continued from page 31

invitation was also prompted by a controversial advertising campaign by the German manufacturers of Volkswagen amplifying his song "Get Happy." The commercial allegedly garnered five million viewers on the internet before debuting during the Superbowl football game. Its message voiced in Jamaican patois suggested that happiness should prevail against adversity.

That the individual making the claim does not fit the Jamaican stereotype appearance or race quickly created a controversy in the USA. Prior to the anticipated football show-down, prime-time, morning television shows spotlighted the ad perceived by many to be racist. The island's prime minister and government officials did not hesitate to defend the campaign.

"I urge persons all across the globe to do exactly what the commercial portrays, which is to tap into your inner Jamaican and get happy," Tourism Minister Wykham McNeill said.

According to McNeill, the ad

is very creative and truly taps into the mass appeal that brand Jamaica and its hospitable people seem to have cultivated globally.

"I believe the commercial is also a tribute to the popularity of reggae music worldwide and I salute Jimmy Cliff for being a true Jamaican ambassador through his outstanding music."

Two days after the New Orleans game, the guitar strumming, recording artist stopped into New York to reprise his rendition of the song first popularized by the theme song for "The Partridge Family" television show decades ago.

'hello world here's a song that we're singing

come on get happy
a whole lot of loving is what we'll be bringing
we'll make you happy"

The lyrics and music bolster the message of Jamaica being a happy place where a positive disposition could provide the formula and solution when one drives the German vehicle.

Since the ad aired, record sales of Cliff's music has benefited.

Bittersweet biopic of late New York City mayor

“Koch”
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated
Running time: 95 minutes
Distributor:
Zeitgeist Films

By Kam Williams

Ed Koch (1924-2013) was the mayor of New York from 1978 to 1989, a three-term tenure over the course of which the city was beset by everything from racial strife to urban decay to the AIDS epidemic. To some, a feisty leader like Koch was precisely the right remedy for that mix of urban maladies. To others, he was simply too divisive a figure to forge a diverse coalition representative of every ethnicity.

To his credit, Koch did clean up Times Square and bring the city back from the brink of bankruptcy, even if he did irreversibly alienate the black community ab-

initio by closing Sydenham Hospital in Harlem right after entering office. That controversial move motivated Calvin Butts, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, to say: “He’s worse than a racist. He’s an opportunist!”

Ever the optimist, Koch was nevertheless fond of always asking his constituents: “How’m I doing?” Although the feedback he received was generally positive, another African-American detractor, Reverend Tim Mitchell was prompted to respond, “You’re not doing well, you’re racist, and the people know it!”

So unfolds “Koch,” a warts-and-all documentary directed by Neil Barsky.

Overall, the movie might strike the viewer as a bit of a hatchet job, but that’s only because it opened in theaters on the very day he passed away. And when somebody dies, that’s a time for obituaries, which tend to focus on the positive, not on “the evil



Ed Koch.

<http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com>

that men do.”

Therefore, fans of the film’s recently-deceased subject might be distressed to see their beloved hero posthumously pilloried. For, the tough-talking politician frequently takes it on the chin here, from the gay slurs “Vote for

Cuomo, not the homo!,” which surfaced during the 1977 campaign to the allegations of corruption, which sank his futile attempt to win a fourth term in office.

At one juncture, when asked his sexual preference, Koch sort

of loses it, responding, “It’s none of your [bleeping] business!” To deflect rumors from spreading, especially after a longtime associate, Richard Nathan, claimed to be his spurned lover, he began making plenty of public appearances with Bess Myerson, the first Jewish Miss America on his arm.

Ultimately, the *coup de grace* was delivered to Koch’s career when many Democratic machine bosses holding powerful positions in his administration were exposed as crooks. This forced the voters to face the fact that the man who had originally run as a reformer on a platform promising to clean up City Hall had himself tragically morphed like the characters in Orwell’s “Animal Farm” into just another hack politician with his hands in the cookie jar.

The rise and fall from grace of a good Jewish boy gone bad who ostensibly sold out the Big Apple but never summoned up the courage to come out of the closet.

Independent & Foreign Films

The Berlin File (Unrated) Intricate espionage thriller about a double-crossed, North Korean spy (Jung-woo Ha) who ends up on the run with his wife (Gianna Jun) as the focus of an international manhunt after an illegal arms trade gone bad. With Seung-beom Ryu, Numan Acar and Werner Daehn. (In Korean and English with subtitles)

The Jeffrey Dahmer Files (Unrated) Docu-dramatic biopic revisiting the events surrounding the arrest of Jeffrey Dahmer (Andrew Swant) in the summer of 1991, ending the cannibalistic necrophiliac/rapist/serial killer’s reign of terror in Milwaukee which claimed the lives of 17 boys and young men.

Like Someone in Love (Unrated) Romance drama, set in Tokyo, about a prostitute with a heart of gold (Rin Takanashi) who develops a love connection with a widower (Tadashi Okuno) over the course of a couple of days. With Ryo Kase and Denden. (In Japanese with subtitles)

No (Unrated) Historical drama, nominated for



Kam’s Kapsules

By Kam Williams

an Academy Award in the Best Foreign Film category, recounting the recall referendum effort spearheaded in Chile in 1988 by an advertising executive (Gael Garcia Bernal) which led to the fall of President Pinochet from power. Co-stars Alfredo Castro, Antonia Zegers and Luis Gnecco. (In Spanish with subtitles)

Saving Lincoln (Unrated) Buddy biopic chronicling Abraham Lincoln’s (Tom Amandes) close relationship with Ward Hill Lamon (Lea Coco), the longtime bodyguard who was conspicuously absent from the President’s box the night Honest Abe was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth (Jonathan Roumie) at Ford’s theater. With Penelope Ann Miller as Mary Todd Lincoln, Peter O’Meara as General Ulysses S. Grant and Eamon Hunt as Stephen Douglas.

Shanghai Calling (PG-13 for profanity and sexual ref-

erences) Romantic dramedy about an ambitious American attorney (Daniel Henney) who falls in love with a relocation specialist (Eliza Coupe) after she finds him a luxury apartment upon his transfer to China. With Zhu Zhu, Geng Le, Alan Ruck & Bill Paxton. (In English and Mandarin with subtitles)

Big Budget Films

Beautiful Creatures (PG-13 for violence, sexuality and scary images) Supernatural fantasy, set in a sleepy South Carolina town, revolving around the budding romance between a high school sophomore (Alden Ehrenreich) and a mysterious new classmate (Lena Duchannes) who’s identical to the girl of his dreams. Stellar supporting cast includes Oscar-winners Jeremy Irons and Emma Thompson and nominee Viola Davis, along with Emmy Rossum.

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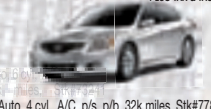


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2003	Toyota Camry, 108k	67147	\$2,995	2006	Chevy Cobalt, 100k	70263	\$3,995	2005	VW Passat ndsmtr, 24k	69686	\$4,995
2001	Honda Civic, 87k	73406	\$2,995	2004	Nissan Sentra, 53kUC	16122	\$3,995	2005	Toyota Camry, 65k	62871	SAVE
2003	Hyundai, 63k	H1088	\$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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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
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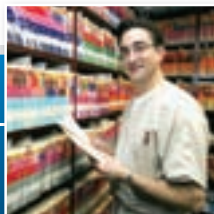
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'The Amistad Rebellion' - A horrifying, triumphant tale

"The Amistad Rebellion"
by Marcus Rediker
c.2012, Viking, \$27.95 / \$29.50 Canada, 288 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

History is filled with half-truths, especially about our heroes.

Lincoln, for instance, wasn't the stern, humorless man that old photos lead you to believe. Queen Victoria was very definitely "amused" quite often. Roosevelt made mistakes, Bou-dica had her fears, even Churchill undoubtedly had his doubts.

Or so we hope, because we want our heroes to be human, too. And for that, author Marcus Rediker dug deep to present a few surprises in his new book "The Amistad Rebellion."

It should've been a routine trip for Ramon Ferrer, captain of the Amistad. He was hired to accept cargo,

sail it from Havana to another port in Cuba and drop it off, where it would be sorted and sold. Routine, but it cost him his life because the cargo, 49 men and four children, had other ideas.

Up until then, the journey for these men and children had been like that of every other slave who came through the Middle Passage: most had been snatched by slavehunters (although some had been taken in exchange for a family member's debt), they were crammed beneath the deck of the ship, stacked on shelves with little-to-no room to move, often with less than three feet of headroom. Food was scarce, water was often denied, the stench of bondage choked them, and many died. Of those who did not, it was said that their bodies sometimes never recovered from the voyage.

But on the moonless

night of July 2, 1839, the Amistad Africans, as Rediker calls them, had had enough. One broke a padlock that held them below deck and, through the leadership of four men from various tribes who shared membership in a cultural society, they snatched cane knives, snuck up from below, and immediately killed the ship's slave-cook, who had been taunting them for days. They attacked other crew members, slashed at the captain, seized the ship, and forced their Spanish "owners" to sail back to Sierra Leone.

But the surviving Spaniards tricked the Africans and kept the Amistad near American shores, hoping that U.S. authorities would help. And they did - which ended in a major trial, political wrangling, and a 19th-century media circus that changed history.

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Thursday, February 28, 2013
US Customs House – 3rd Floor, Naval Officer’s Room
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6:00pm to 8:00pm

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is co-hosting a citywide workshop to present and review the modeling processes that will be used to test potential alternatives identified as part of the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Program with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

As part of the LTCP Program, DEP is developing comprehensive evaluations of long term solutions to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and improve water quality in New York City’s waterbodies and waterways. The goal of each LTCP is to identify appropriate CSO controls necessary to achieve waterbody-specific water quality standards, consistent with the Federal CSO Policy and the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act.

At the workshop, DEP and DEC staff will review the Watershed/Landside and Hydrodynamic/Water Quality models and the proposed baseline assumptions for evaluating the benefits of CSO control alternatives. Also, DEP and DEC staff will be available to answer any questions you may have.

To RSVP, please email ltcp@dep.nyc.gov or call DEP’s Community Partnerships Office at (718) 595-3496.

For more information on DEP’s CSO program, please visit our LTCP Program website at www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp or follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NYCWATER



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ART IN THE SPIRIT

In celebration of Black History Month, SUNY Empire State College presents "In the Spirit," a multimedia exhibit showcasing the work of current students and alumni. Part of the visual arts program of the college's Metropolitan New York Center, the exhibition opened Feb. 12 at the Livingston Gallery in the college's Brooklyn location at 177 Livingston St., and will be on display through March 28, Monday through Thursday, noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. The curator of the exhibition is Raúl Manzano, college faculty mentor and gallery coordinator; Vanessa Moore, a bachelor's-degree candidate, is assistant curator.

"Empire State College's visual arts program offers students the opportunity to showcase their work in a professional setting, while training students in the fields of museum and curatorial studies," said Manzano.

"Engaging in this study has given me a different perspective on the theoretical principles and practical aspects of designing an exhibition -- selecting the theme of the show, choosing the artworks, speaking with the artists, creating publicity material, exhibit installation and selecting the soul food for the reception," said Moore, who wore different hats to learn the various roles of putting together a cultural and public event.

This juried show includes artists in different stages of their artistic career.

In a sequence of photography images, award-winning artist and educator Leslie A. Boyce interprets a spiritual moment of memory and life, its past and present. In digital photographic composite, she plays with light and color to suggest a divine moment as it enters and leaves the body.

Karioki Crosby, founding arts educator at KIPP NYC College Prep, has been fascinated with kites since childhood when he was living in Jamaica, West Indies. That spirit of freedom of flying is reflected in his work today. Crosby states, "I see kites as a symbol of hope, of all that is possible even when flown from the most devastated and war-torn communities



Hugh Sullivan - Gilded Cages in Mount Morris Park.
Photo by Cary Whittier

around the world."

Nancy Griffin envisions hope in the hands of women, particularly in African countries where rape and genocide of its women and children are escalating at alarming rates. Her watercolor, ink and sepia depiction of a male infant in the hands of many women of color is a contrasting view of the life force women are capable of, as opposed to the tyrannical anti-female societies.

Noel Hall's paintings are a reflection of his spiritual beliefs, as well as his understanding of the many cultures that perpetuate the spirit of humanity.

Imani Monroe's collage is a personal tribute to the countless contributions by blacks that have impacted the world and the life she is able to live today.

Fusing symbolism and iconographic images, Erik Moore's paintings convey his feelings about transformation of and channeling cultural and historical constructs into contemporary concepts.

Making a political and social statement, Vanessa Moore showcases her personal views in two collages.

In one, she pays homage to President Obama as the 44th and 45th president of the United States. In the other, she depicts the anniversary of the emancipation proclamation.

Jacqueline Monica Seaton, also a senior student, explores her own identity as a woman of color influenced by her Caribbean background and her adopted home in New York City. Her colorful, mixed-media images of women are expressions of her tropical island of Jamaica.

Vietnam War veteran Hugh Sullivan's oil painting of Harlem buildings is not just an illustration of architecture, but a portrait capturing the soul and spirit of those brownstone houses and those who live there.

"In this second presentation celebrating Black History Month, this exhibition serves to emphasize the college's mission and commitments to diversity, fostering respectful, creative and vibrant learning environments for the Empire State College community and the public at large" added Manzano, who established this annual event at the Metropolitan Center last year.

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Erectile Dysfunction? You may be at risk of a stroke or heart attack!

Did you know that the same diseases that affect the blood vessels which lead to the heart and brain also affect the delicate vessels that supply blood to the genital organs. Careful evaluation of erectile dysfunction can uncover these problems years before critical damage occurs.

According to the Male Aging Study on sexual dysfunction, Erectile Dysfunction (ED) can first emerge in a man at age 40. In addition, an estimated 30 million men in the United States are affected by ED. What causes this dreadful condition and what must one do to prevent it?

In this article, we seek advice from two award winning urologic surgeons, Dr. Vitaly Raykhman and Dr. Yuly Chalik. These two recipients of the prestigious Patient's Choice Award were also named America's Top Urologists of 2009 and 2010.

What Is Erectile Dysfunction?

Erectile dysfunction (ED) is the constant or periodic, recurring inability of a male to get or maintain an erection. An erection occurs when blood fills the chambers of the penis, causing it to expand and stiffen. This is controlled by impulses from the brain and genital nerves. Despite the fact that 95% of ED cases can be easily treated, only 10% of men seek medical attention when ED first begins.

What causes erectile dysfunction?

The root causes of ED are either physical, psychological, or hormonal. Most men experience erectile dysfunction as a result of another chronic disease, such as diabetes, or as a result of poor lifestyle choices, such as smoking, drinking, and drug abuse. 10-20% of men suffer from ED as a result of psychological factors such as stress, depression, low self-esteem, and performance anxiety. ED can also occur as a result of damaged nerves from a

previous surgery or as a side-effect of your current medication.

Diagnosis

The main premise in diagnosing erectile dysfunction is determining what it is caused by, whether it is physical, psychological, or hormonal. Men who cannot get or maintain an erection at least 75% of the time are considered to have erectile dysfunction. Our advanced diagnostic capabilities include:

- **Comprehensive testing for hormonal complications**
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- **Testosterone exam**
- **Neurological exam**

All of these tests are conducted within the pristine New York Urologic Institute. This relieves patients of the need to go back and forth between medical offices to obtain final diagnosis.

Treatment

In the last few years, there have been significant advances in medicinal therapies. At NYUI, we take advantage of a full range of cutting-edge technologies that allow our patients to live healthier and happier lives.

Therefore, we utilize medications such as Viagra, Cialis, and Levitra, which are guaranteed by the FDA to increase potency. In order to minimize the risk of undesired side effects, we urge patients who suffer from erectile dysfunction to see an experienced urologist, who will determine which medication is right for them.

If medication therapy does not produce desired effects, there is sometimes no choice other than surgery. Some patients come to our clinic seeking penile surgery, and are very satisfied with the result.



A Serious Affliction

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While the onset of ED becomes more likely as you age, this does not mean getting older means the end of your sex life, since ED can be treated at any age. We advise men who have not been affected by ED to avoid smoking and drinking, and begin exercising regularly.

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Theatre

Continued from Page 26

543 West 42rd St. (between 10th Ave. and 11th Ave.). It co-stars Peter Jay Fernandez as W.E.B. DuBois and Kathleen Chalfant as Mary White Ovington. Written by Clare Coss and directed by Gabrielle Kurlander, Dr. DuBois and Miss Ovington, captures a moment of crisis between two esteemed founders of the NAACP in 1915 when DuBois submits his resignation. Du Bois is an educator, human rights activist, African-American visionary leader and Ovington is a white Unitarian, granddaughter of abolitionists, and outspoken justice advocate. Together, they spar, flirt, clash, reveal secrets, and compete to save their vital work.

The Black History Month Play Festival performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 3:00pm. Tickets are \$20. For more information call (212) 279-4200 or ticketcentral.com

The National Black Touring Circuit was founded in



Norman Marshall.

1974, by Woodie King, Jr. to make existing Black theatre productions available to a larger audience by presenting to the Black communities at large, to colleges, to Black art centers, and to

resident professional theatres. The program is funded by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts and individual contributions.

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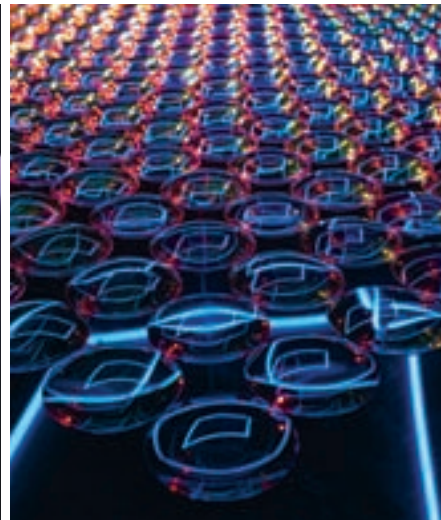
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Secretary of State John Kerry greets President Barack Obama before the president's State of the Union address during a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday Feb. 12, 2013. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. is at right, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is at center. AP Photo/Charles Dharapak, Pool

Highlights of Obama's State of the Union address

The Associated Press

Highlights of the economic and other proposals President Barack Obama called for in his State of the Union address:

JOB:

Partner with businesses and communities to invest in American-made technologies through a network of Manufacturing Innovation Institutes, three of which Obama said he would create by executive order while asking Congress to create 15 more. Eliminate tax breaks that encourage companies to move jobs outside the U.S., and rewrite the tax code.

HOUSING:

Spend \$15 billion to help communities awash in foreclosed and vacant properties rebuild while creating construction jobs.

MINIMUM WAGE:

Increase the federal minimum wage, currently \$7.25 an hour, to \$9 in stages by the end of 2015, and allow for automatic increases to

Increase the federal minimum wage, currently \$7.25 an hour, to \$9 in stages by the end of 2015.

keep pace with inflation. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney supported the idea of indexing the minimum wage to inflation.

GUN CONTROL:

Ban assault weapons and ammunition magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds, require background checks for all firearms purchases and increase access to mental health services.

AFGHANISTAN:

Withdraw 34,000 U.S. military forces, just over half the 66,000 troops still there, within a year.

IMMIGRATION:

Continue to tighten the border, crack down on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants,

establish a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million immigrants in the country, and streamline the immigration system for families, workers and businesses.

WOMEN:

Renew the Violence Against Women Act to help protect victims of domestic violence and help law enforcement investigate and prosecute sexual assaults. The Senate voted Tuesday to renew the law; Obama called on the House to quickly send him a bill.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

Work with states to provide access to a high-quality preschool for all 4-year-olds from families with low or moderate incomes.

TRADE:

Begin talks on a comprehensive trade agreement with the European Union to promote the exchange of goods across the Atlantic. Complete negotiations on a

Continued on Page 47

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State of the Union address

Continued from Page 45

Trans-Pacific Partnership.

FEDERAL BUDGET:

Continue to work toward the goal of \$4 trillion in deficit reduction and stabilizing the debt as a percentage of the economy, both over 10 years.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Spend \$50 billion on a "Fix It First" program for urgent repairs to roads, bridges and railways, and attract private capital to upgrade ports, pipelines and schools.

ENERGY-CLIMATE CHANGE:

Make permanent and refundable a tax credit for renewable energy to help double the production from wind, solar and geothermal sources by 2020. Help states cut energy waste and increase efficiency through a competitive grant program modeled after a similar program for education.



President Barack Obama

Direct Cabinet secretaries to identify additional executive steps to deal with climate change. Urges Congress to write legislation giving polluters market-based incentives to reduce the gas emissions blamed for global warming.

EDUCATION:

Launch a competition to help redesign and modernize high schools, and create a corps of 10,000 of the nation's brightest sci-

ence and math teachers to improve instruction in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Introduce a new "College Scorecard" to help parents and students compare schools based on where they can get "the most bang" for their "educational buck."

CYBERSECURITY:

Signed executive order Tuesday to increase information-sharing and develop standards to protect national security, jobs and privacy. Calls on Congress to pass legislation to help the government secure its computer networks and deter cyberattacks.

VOTING:

Create a commission to help improve the voting experience, a response to widespread complaints about lengthy waits, requirements to show photo ID before voting and shortened periods for early voting.

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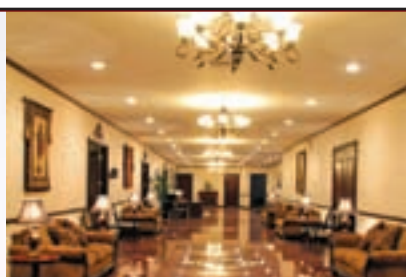
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Llamosa new Cosmos assistant coach

The New York Cosmos announced on Thursday, Feb. 7, that Carlos Llamosa has joined the club as an assistant coach.

"Adding Carlos as an assistant immediately strengthens our back-room staff," Cosmos head coach Giovanni Savarese said. "With his wealth of professional and international experience in both Major League Soccer and with the U.S. national team, he is the perfect complement to Alecko [Eskandarian], Memo [Valencia] and myself. He also brings that top-level coaching experience and defensive tactical awareness which will be key for our team."

Llamosa most recently served as an assistant coach for Chivas USA in MLS where he coached since the 2008/09 season.

"This is a great moment for my family and I," Llam-



SONY DSC

osa said. "Not many coaches get this chance, to work with such a great staff and for a legendary club in the city I grew up. This team has so much potential that I'm excited to help develop."

Prior to entering the coaching ranks, the native of Colombia enjoyed a decade-long playing career in MLS, suiting up for DC United, Miami Fusion, New England Revolution, and Chivas USA, before retiring

after the 2007 season. After DC United selected him in the 1997 MLS Supplemental Draft, he helped lead the team to championships in '97 and '99.

Llamosa began his professional career in New York, with the now-defunct A-League's New York Centaurs and New York Fever in 1996. In addition to his extensive pro experience, Llamosa appeared in 29 games for the U.S. men's national team from 1998-2002 including matches at the 1999 Confederations Cup and 2002 World Cup.

About the New York Cosmos

The Cosmos began play in 1971, spending 14 seasons in the earlier NASL, winning five Soccer Bowl trophies and bringing some of the biggest names in world soccer history to North America including Pelé and Franz Beckenbauer.

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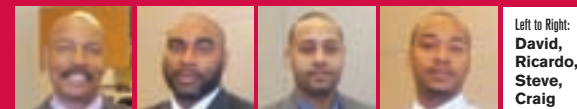
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SPO



Christ the King's Adonis De La Rosa # 12 in action against during a high school basketball game on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2013 in Brooklyn, N.Y. AP Photo/Gregory Payan

Fans treated to a thriller

By Robert Elkin

A rematch between two of the top teams in the Brooklyn Diocese of the Catholic High Schools Athletic Association could happen in the Diocese final with the eventual winner entering the Intersectional playoffs in March.

If the favorites with three players sure to make headlines in college don't get bumped along the way, a large crowd will turn out to cheer for their favorite teams and col-
Continued on Page 52

Chigumbura left out of Caribbean tour

By Azad Ali

One of Zimbabwe's most experienced players, Elton Chigumbura, has been left out of squads announced recently to play Tests and One-Day International matches against the West Indies in the Caribbean.

Zimbabwe Cricket announced that Chigumbura, a former captain, will not be touring the Caribbean due to his poor form.

Chigumbura, who has over 100 ODI caps, is the only notable absentee in the nation-starved Zimbabwe side.

Brandon Taylor will skipper the side, which
Continued on Page 52



Jamaica's Garath McCleary, left, fights for the ball against Mexico's Severo Meza during a World Cup 2014 qualifying match at the Aztec stadium in Mexico City, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013. AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills

Jamaica draws with Mexico in qualifier

By Patrick Horne

Jamaica faced the daunting task of getting even the minimum one point against host Mexico at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City on Wednesday night, Feb. 6, in its first game of the final round of CONCACAF qualifying for the 2014 FIFA

World Cup in Brazil. Mexico breezed through the semifinal round undefeated and had players who were part of its first Olympic Gold win in defeating Brazil last summer. Jamaica, on the other hand, was recently dethroned as Caribbean Champion, a title it held the past two years, after

a very dismal performance in the tournament. Compounding Jamaica's plight was its current seven-game losing streak in Mexico. But as the old adage goes, every game is different – and this one was.

The Reggae Boyz put on a gutsy and
Continued on Page 52



Jamaica's goalkeeper Donovan Ricketts, left, makes a save against Mexico's Javier Hernandez, second from left, during a 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Mexico City, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013.

AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo

Gutsy performance by Reggae Boyz

Continued from page 51
defensively disciplined display in Mexico get a most valuable point from a goal-less draw.

The result yielded what could turn out to be the most important point since Jamaica drew against the U. S. in Washington DC in 1997 to qualify for the country's first World Cup appearance in 1998.

Jamaica's poor showing

in the Caribbean Championship and missing out on the 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cup demanded changes, so head coach Theodore Whitmore plucked six new faces from among English teams, including Garath McCleary and Jobi McAnuff of Reading, Theo Robinson and Marvin Nosworthy, formerly of Sunderland.

The revamped Reggae Boyz not only held their

own in the awesome Azteca Stadium, but with better composure in front of the goal, McAnuff could have given Jamaica a 1-0 lead in the eighth minute. In the 30th minute, it took Mexican goalkeeper Jose de Jesus Corona's spectacular save off midfielder Rudolph Austin's close range shot to prevent Jamaica from scoring again.

Ryan Johnson (Port-

land Timbers, MLS), in the 67th minute, was in a one-versus-one situation with Corona and shot straight at the Mexican goalkeeper. In spite of Mexico's dominant ball possession, the Reggae Boyz created the better chances.

Jamaican goalkeeper Donovan Ricketts was at the heart of the visitors' gutsy performance and clearly was the man of the match.

Christ The King

Continued from page 51

lege coaches expect to be on hand.

In their last meeting on a recent busy Sunday afternoon with basketball being played all over New York City on different levels, Christ The King and Bishop Loughlin battled down to the wire in a game that featured tremendous offensive and defensive plays by both teams. Christ The King from Middle Village, Queens pulled it out with the deciding basket coming on a three-point shot by Andre Walker to put the Royals ahead 70-67 with 1:30 left in the fourth quarter on way to a 72-71 victory.

The game highlighted three all-city players in seniors Jon Severe and Jordan Fuchs both on Christ The King and junior Khadeem Carrington of Bishop Loughlin from Brooklyn.

Fuchs already signed a letter of intent to continue his education at UConn, but on a football scholarship starting this fall. The trio could do almost anything on the court, both defensively and offensively. They are tremendous players, excite the fans with their moves, and can certainly go far in the sport.

They tried to put on a tremendous show in the last game to the delight of the almost capacity crowd.

Every time the Royals broke the game open a bit, the Lions managed to rally and come back to make a game of 'it.'

The whole season has gone well for the Royals, who already clinched first place in their division of the CHSAA during the regular schedule.

However, the excitement didn't only come from those three players. Take for example, a junior waiting to step 'it' up next season for the Royals. His name is Andre Walker, a 6-0 guard, who has been playing very confident.



Christ The King's Jon Severe #10 in action against Bishop Loughlin during a high school basketball game on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2013 in Brooklynn, NY. The Christ the King Royals won the game. AP Photo/Gregory Payan

"He's a very good basketball player and needs to play every minute on the floor," said CK Head Coach Joe Arbitello. "He transferred from St. Anthony's and now he's the team leader. He is doing a great job. And next year when we need him to score more he'll do it."

The Royals list six seniors on their roster, led by Fuchs and Severe, who has not made up his mind about college as yet, as he is weighing offers, including those from local colleges, whose representatives came to the recent game at Christ The King.

Next year they will look to Walker to lead them. He expects to be one of nine players back. But first is the playoffs, and their goal is to go all the way and return to compete in the State Tournament.

In league competition this season, Christ The King has maintained a high level.

"We haven't done anything that cemented ourselves as the number one team in New York City," added Arbitello. "We are just having a very good season."

Caribbean Tour

Continued from page 51
will play two Test matches, three ODIs and two Twenty20 games against the World Twenty20 champions.

The tour runs from Feb. 20 to March 20 and will feature matches in Grenada, Antigua, Barbados and Dominica.

The month-long tour will be Zimbabwe's first competitive assignment since the World Twenty20 tournament in Sri Lanka and their first tour since New Zealand in January last year.

The tour will get underway with a three-match ODI series, which will see international cricket returns to the

Grenada National Stadium for the first time since 2009.

The three-match ODI series will take place from Feb. 22-26. Antigua will play host to the two Twenty20 matches on consecutive days, March 2-3. The reigning ICC World Twenty20 champions have only met Zimbabwe once before in Twenty20 matches.

Zimbabwe's Elton Chigumbura plays a shot against Pakistan during their Group D match of the Cricket World Cup at Sabina Park, in Kingston, Jamaica.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton



Go to www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com for the latest in Caribbean news, entertainment, sports, business, viewpoints and more.

Windies players unhappy with their captain



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

The West Indies team has a captain who cannot lead from the front and that is the result of failure on the field.

It is clear that the West Indies players are unhappy with the manner in which captain Darren Sammy has been performing. Moral is very low and the players have demonstrated from repeatedly that there is uneasiness in the dressing room with the leadership and decision making.

The West Indies team has a captain who cannot lead from the front and that is the result of failure on the field. Too many blunders by Captain Sammy because of his lack of knowledge in key areas of the game. The old fashion way of leading a team is something of the past. Because of technology and the changes that have taken place over the years with rules and regulations, whoever captains the team should be very assertive, strategic, quick thinking and must have the knowledge on when to make certain necessary changes whether it is on or off the field.

The West Indies captain lacks the ability to lead and he must do what is correct and resign after this tour of Australia. If not, the West Indies selectors must make the decision for him. Enough is enough.

Johnson Charles and Kieron Powell are Highly Talented

Among the quality players that exist around the West Indies team, two of them are outstanding in Kieron Powell and Johnson Charles. Powell has exhibited patience, discipline, natural talents and bravery

and in addition to those, he scores runs frequently for the team.

Johnson Charles has proved that he is not only a Twenty20 batsman but he can deliver in a One-Day International as well and maybe soon he will be able to earn a spot in the Test team. Charles is highly talented and he has a special quality of sharing the crease and building partnerships.

The West Indies has a very talented squad for Tests, One-Day International and Twenty20 games. Experience players

are around with talented young players in all capabilities. Leadership is what needed to bring that top level or respect back to West Indies cricket. Head coach Ottis Gibson has to do some explaining after this Australia series. Why the West Indies lost 5-0 in the ODI series and why the close games all went to the Aussies? West Indies selectors have to take action quickly.

West Indies' Johnson Charles celebrates after making a century during their One-Day International cricket match against Australia in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013.

AP Photo/Andrew Brownbill



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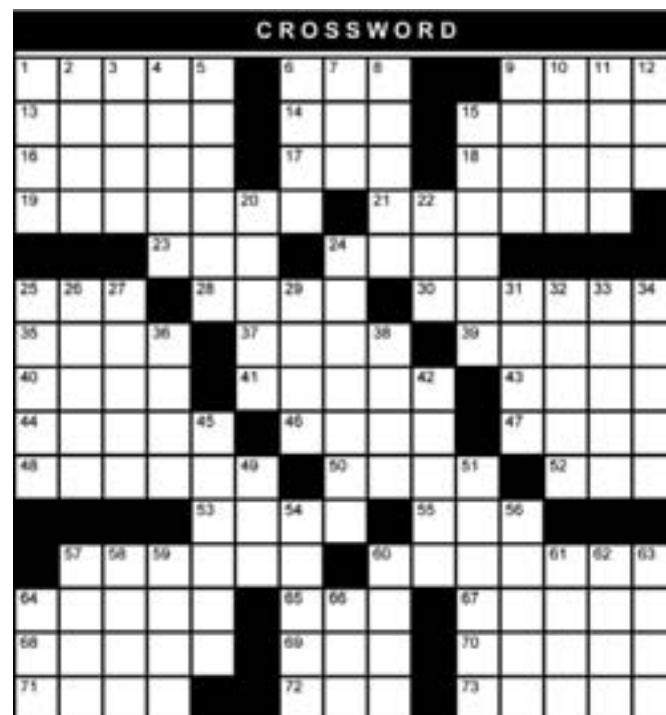
1. Ruler sides, e.g.
6. Toward the stern
9. Hit the bottle
13. "La traviata" composer
14. Tokyo, formerly
15. *First President to resign
16. One of three hipbones
17. Bruin legend Bobby
18. Some tournaments
19. *First to be assassinated
21. Protests
23. Corn spot
24. Mischievous Scandinavian god
25. Actress ____ Gasteyer
28. Famous Christmas guests
30. As much as necessary
35. Follows ding?
37. Sold in bars
39. "Tonight's ____ be a good night..."
40. Allege
41. *Andrew Johnson's tribulation, e.g.
43. Clever tactic
44. Bouncing off the walls
46. Sports award
47. Equal
48. Scraps
50. Brewer's kiln
52. Word for a nod

53. Second word of many fairytales
55. Poison ____
57. *First to have been divorced
60. *First Rhodes Scholar
64. Model-building wood
65. Boiling blood
67. Nobody
68. Open up
69. Belonging to us
70. Capital of Tunisia
71. Big first for a baby
72. Meaning literally "born"
73. Cancel, as in correction, pl.

DOWN

1. *Reagan's description of Soviet Union
2. Hero place
3. Smiley face
4. Something concluded
5. Arabian sand-laden wind
6. Quite a stretch
7. *First to appear on black-and-white TV
8. Body center
9. Cone-shaped quarters
10. Farm team
11. French-American soprano Lily
12. Ensign, for short
15. Paying close attention
20. Minimum
22. *First to appear on color TV

24. CIA connection, e.g.
25. *First to live in White House
26. Star bursts
27. Beside, archaic
29. *Clinton's number two
31. "My bad!"
32. Untwist a rope
33. Garden creature
34. *Rutherford ____
36. "True ____," starring John Wayne
38. Pop
42. Disinfectant brand
45. Courtney Cox's character
49. Hot springs resort
51. Contaminates or corrupts
54. Tear jerker
56. Type of whip
57. Deliver a tirade
58. Dresden's river
59. Hurry up!
60. Wrap in waxy cloth
61. Voice quality
62. "Get ____!"
63. "The Untouchables" leader
64. *Presidents Obama and Bush both campaigned from one
66. Street in Paris
75. *First to have been divorced



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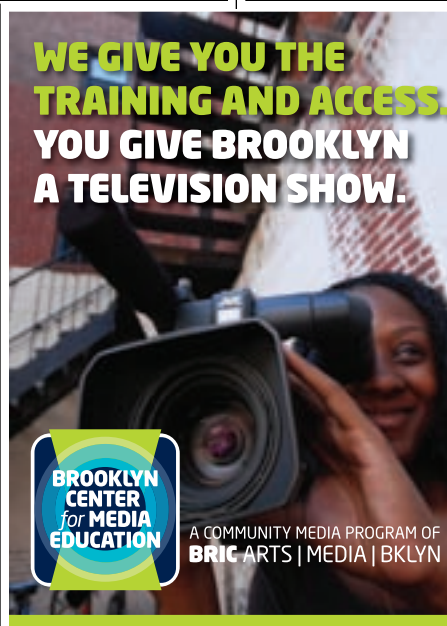
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► **LEGAL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 02/05/2013, bearing Index Number NC-000129-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Anthony (Last) Branch. My present name is (First) Male (Last) Branch

► **LEGAL**

AKA Anthony Branch. My present address is 593 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11213-. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is October 24, 1955.

► **LEGAL**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE - SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF KINGS, At IAS Part 72 of the Supreme Court of the State of New York held in and for the County of Kings, at the Courthouse thereof, located at 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on the 25th day of January, 2013 Present: Hon. Kathy J. King Justice of the Supreme Court, Index# 501464/12, foreclosure

► **LEGAL NOTICES**

► **LEGAL**

of 45 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, BBL#: 3-1871-105. NYCTL 2011-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN FOR THE NYCTL 2011-A TRUST, Plaintiffs, against ESTATE OF LILLIE M. ARTIS, et. al. Defendants, Upon the Summons and Complaint heretofore filed herein, the Notice of Pendency filed herein in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings on June 8, 2012, the annexed Affirmation of Josef F. Abt, Esq., dated January 7, 2013, and upon all the papers and proceedings heretofore had herein, LET, the defendants show cause at IAS Part COM 2, Room 541 of this court to be held at the Courthouse thereof, located at 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York, on the 20th day of March, 2013, at 9:30 o'clock in the AM of that day, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, why an order should not be entered granting the following relief: (i) pursuant to CPLR §1015 and CPLR §1021 (which is made applicable to a tax lien foreclosure action in accordance with § 11-335 of the Administrative Code and Charter of New York City), an order appointing a Temporary Administrator for the Estate of Lillie M. Artis and extending time to serve said Estate; and (ii) such further relief as this Court may deem just and proper in these circumstances. **SUFFICIENT REASON APPEARING THEREFORE.** Let, service of a copy of this Order to Show Cause via personal service, together with the papers upon which it was granted, upon the defendants and/or their attorneys who are entitled to receive notice thereof, on

► **LEGAL**

or before the 27th day of February, 2013 be deemed good and sufficient service; and it is further, Let service of the Order to Show Cause upon defendant Estate of Lillie M. Artis be made by publication of the Order to Show Cause once in two (2) newspaper(s), at least one in the English language, hereby designated as most likely to give notice to the defendants and any heirs of the estate, viz: in DBG Media (Our Time Press), published in the County of Kings State of New York, and in the Courier-Life, published in the County of Kings, State of New York, such service be deemed good and sufficient service. Enter: Hon. Kathy J. King, Justice of the Supreme Court, Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP, 156 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019, Attorneys for Plaintiff, BY: Josef F. Abt, Esq. (212) 237-1074 Our file no. 700777.669.

► **LEGAL**

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND AMENDED NOTICE - SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF KINGS- NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO THE NYCTL 2004-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, against THE ESTATE OF ALBAN A. NILES; ASHKE-NAZ CAIN; ASHLEY CAIN; VALERIE CAIN O/B/O AMELIA CAIN; ADRIAN EMIL MOORE, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devi-

► **LEGAL**

sees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the verified complaint herein; JANA ANIECE MOORE, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the verified complaint herein; THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; and "JOHN DOE # 1" through "JOHN DOE #100", inclusive the last 100 names being fictitious and unknown to the plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the lien premises and/or persons or parties, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the lien premises described in the amended complaint, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lien-

► **LEGAL**

ors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the amended complaint herein. Index #28279/11 Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the lien premise is situated. **TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the amended complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the amended complaint is not served with this supplemental summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the attorneys for Plaintiff within (20) days after the service of this supplemental summons, exclusive of the day of service or within (30) days after completion of service where is made in any other manner than personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the amended complaint. **NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT - THE OBJECT** of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Tax Lien pursuant to a Certificate recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings on September 30, 2004, in CRFN# 2004000613456 which was assigned on April 24, 2009 in CRFN: 2009000122765, covering premises known as

► **LEGAL**

Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York and designated as (Block 01442 and Lot 0047). The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt described above. **NOTICE-YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME - If you do not respond to this supplemental summons and amended complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the plaintiff, (tax lien holder), who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the supplemental summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the plaintiff, tax lien holder, will not stop the foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.** The foregoing supplemental summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Yvonne Lewis filed January 16, 2013 Shapiro, Dicaro & Barak, LLC, 105 Maxess Road, Suite N109, Melville, NY 11747, Attorneys for Plaintiff, BY: Shari S. Barak, Esq., NY 11747 (631)844-9611. Our file No. 11-011892.

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