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SECTION**



Uptown Meets Downtown

Francois Baltiste and Dominique Morriseau share an intimate moment in *Detroit '67*, following sold-out performances at The Public Theater. The much buzzed-about play opened at the National Black Theatre on Saturday, March 23. See Entertainment, Page 35.

Photo by Joan Marcus

Unwelcome polygraph testing

By Bert Wilkinson

Guyana's state-owned energy agency (GEA) could fire dozens of its field inspectors following a new round of mandatory but highly controversial polygraph testing of government employees in sensitive positions, officials said Wednesday.

Just this week, the agency fired two of its staffers for refusing to

take polygraph tests repeatedly since January, but more than 30 others who did submit to lie-detector tests are awaiting results and will likely know their fate by next month. Staffers say tension is high at the GEA as authorities usually use results staffers never see to fire employees and replace them with friends and family.

GEA Director Mahender Shar-

ma on Wednesday confirmed that tests were administered to staff who work in the field, trying to abate the smuggling of cheap fuel from neighboring Venezuela and their avoidance of local import taxes.

Sharma said the agency is trying 'to ensure the integrity of the system and by extension, the

Continued on Page 4

ENDING SLAVE LABOR

UN Recalls Evils of Human Bondage

By Nelson A. King

As the United Nations last week honored the memory of an estimated 15 million innocent victims who suffered over four centuries as a result of the transatlantic slave trade, it also underscored the plight of millions more who it said still endure the brutality of modern slavery.

Speaking at the commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, held in the General Assembly Hall on March 25, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon cited the words of renowned Martinique-born poet Aimé Césaire, who cautioned against the risks of complacency and "spectatorship"

when faced with the evils of human bondage.

"We must be more than spectators," he said. "While we recall slavery's horrors, we must also address the lingering consequences.

"While we remember the victims, we pledge to fight for equality, justice and peace," Ban urged, adding that this was "the most meaningful way" to honour the memory of those victimized by slavery.

Over the course of the past week, this year's commemoration – falling under the theme, "Forever Free: Celebrating Emancipation" – paid tribute to the emancipation of slaves across the world, through films,

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer is defending the record of the Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

Chavez died recently at the age of 58.

Spencer countered criticism that while Chavez was generous to Caribbean and Latin American countries, Venezuela's economy grew worst under his leadership.

Prime Minister Spencer said Chavez recognized injustice in the region and spent his life doing something about it.

One of the ways in which Antigua and Barbuda benefited during Chavez's 14-year presidency was through the PetroCaribe petroleum pact.



The pact allows Antigua and Barbuda to buy fuel on easy terms, investing the cash withheld and using the returns to help the poor.

The company which manages the PetroCaribe is PDV (Antigua and Barbuda).

Barbados

An English high-society interior designer James Archibald, who is a close friend of the Duke of Duchess of Cambridge and was a guest at their wedding, was recently arrested at Barbados' Grantley Adams International Airport for having a pistol barrel in his luggage and subsequently spent a week in the island's jail.

Archibald was held when his bag set off metal-detectors in Barbados, where he had touched down to change planes on his way back to Britain from Mustique where shortly before he had been among the villa owners who welcomed Prince Williams and his pregnant wife Kate on their winter break. The 50-year-old Englishman, a long-time friend of the Duchess' family, had disassembled the air pistol barrel before securing it in a locked case. He explained to authorities that it could not be fired and was remanded to the HMP Dodds Prison. Archibald, who was traveling with his wife, spent a week behind bars before appearing in court. He pleaded guilty in court to carrying a firearm in a public place "without lawful authority." He was fined US\$1,800. Archibald and his wife own an elegant five-



Haiti slum makeover

In this March 21, 2013 photo, workers paint red the exterior of a home in Jalousie, a cinder block shantytown in Petionville, Haiti. Jalousie is unique in that its mountainside presence makes it visible to people living in the wealthy district of Petionville. Critics have suggested that the choice of Jalousie for a makeover is as much about giving the posh hotels of Petionville a pretty view as helping the slum's residents. See story on page 8.

AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery

bedroom villa in Mustique.

Dominica

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court recently dismissed an election petition filed by the defeated candidates of the main opposition United Workers Party (UWP) challenging the nomination of Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit and his Education Minister Petter Saint Jean to contest the 2009 general election.



Former UWP leader Ron Green and his colleague, Maynard Joseph, had appealed the January 2012 ruling by High Court judge Gertel Thom that they failed to establish a case against the two government ministers.

"We are happy, we are delighted, this matter is now behind us," senior counsel Anthony Astaphan said.

"The prime minister was and at all material times, the lawful prime minister of this country," he said.

Jamaica

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) says the family of an elderly woman

has received a US\$45,000 check as part of the US\$200,000 stolen from her by Jamaican common operating an illegal lottery scheme.

ICE said the funds were recovered by its Homeland Security Investigations (HIS) and the Jamaican Constabulary Force (JFC). According to ICE, the unidentified woman, in her 90s, had received information in May 2012 that she had won a lottery prize and was later contacted by an unidentified man who told her she owed US\$9,000 in taxes and other expenses in order to receive the prize.



"The fraudsters cheated her out of US\$200,000 before she reported the matter to law enforcement," the immigration said adding that HIS special agents, along with other law enforcement agencies had been able to identify a bank account at the National Commercial Bank, where the illegally obtained funds had been deposited.

Agents from HIS Kingston worked with local authorities in returning US\$54,000 left in the

conman's account to the victim.

Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago has been named among the top 10 less tourist-friendly nations in the world, according to the World Economic Forum's "Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report," for 2013.

T&T was ranked the eighth least-tourist destination on the planet.

Under the theme, "Reducing Barriers to Economic Growth and Job Creation" The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report assessed 140 economies worldwide, based on the extent to which they are putting in place the factors and policies to make it attractive to develop the travel and tourism sector.

The countries were ranked according to 14 pillars, including safety and security, health and hygiene and natural resources.

Of the 140 countries, Trinidad and Tobago placed 133rd.

St. Lucia

St. Lucia Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony has appealed to public servants to accept his

government's four percent wage increase and prevent the island from, "any further hardship," as workers stayed away from their jobs for higher salaries.

"Our country does not need any mayhem, confusion and disagreement at this time. Our people need to get together. We have a crisis on our hands to deal with and it is critical and crucial that we come together and deal with it, but very clearly it has to be a shared responsibility across the board," Anthony said.

The St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (CCIA) recently called for an end to the industrial action by public servants urging both parties to return to the negotiating table.



The public workers recently began industrial action in support of the Trade Union Federation (TUF) over demands for increased wages that government says it cannot pay.

Their actions have crippled the public service and schools for more than two weeks and the regional airline had to recently briefly suspend flights in and out of the George F. Charles Airport on the outskirts of the capital because of the lack of fire services.

The TFU is sticking to its demands for a 9.5 percent increase or six percent with stipulated conditions.

Antigua

The battle between receivers in the United States and Antigua over the dispersal of Allen Stanford's frozen assets appears to have reached a truce.

Officials liquidating Stanford's offshore bank said they would return a substantial portion of the US\$300 million in frozen assets to the victims of Stanford's fraud, a court filing showed.

Stanford was sentenced in June last year to 110 years in prison for scheming investors with fraudulent certificates of deposit issued by Stanford International Bank in Antigua.



Ever since the Ponzi scheme was uncovered, U.S. and international authorities, including those in Antigua and the

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Immigration Attorney Rodney R. Austin in his NYC office.

Jamaican lawyer assists needy

By Tangerine Clarke

For the last six years, Rodney Austin has been giving back to his community by hosting annual children's event in his village of St. Ann, Jamaica. The immigration attorney felt a sense of pride and accomplishment, and as such felt the need to help, by stocking backpacks with school supplies to share among the less fortunate kids in his neighborhood.

This all began when Austin walked into a NYC post office one Christmas, and read some of the letters that kids had written to Santa asking for special gift to cheer them up. He continued the tradition for many years.

However, at the encouragement of his friends, and family, Austin began to share his joy with children in Jamaica, and has since, supplied more than 500 children with the necessary tools to educate themselves just like he did growing up in the island nation.

Now a partner in the law firm of Lewis Austin Partners - that deals in a broad litigation practice with experience in Immigration, Matrimonial Law, Commercial Litigation and General Litigation, Austin is committed to sharing his skill to help teens who want to enter the legal field. He credits his parents for instilling in him the importance of education.

"I was not happy when

my mother left me in Jamaica to finish high school, but now I understand why she made that sacrifice," said Austin.

During an interview at his 1001 Avenue of the Americas in NYC, 4th Floor office, the 13-year law veteran who has won numerous cases, spoke of the perilous times undocumented immigrants face in America and hopes that immigration reform passes with a path to citizenship.

Austin who came to United States when he was 18, and joined the military one-year after, but it was after he held the rank of supply specialist, did he experienced the unfairness prisoners faced at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba where there was influx of Haitians and Cubans.

This reminded him of the racism he had faced while stationed in Texas and Virginia, and gave him the courage to speak out - a valiant move that got him elected to represent single soldiers after he returned from Korea.

Austin who was inspired by famed lawyer, Johnny Cochran, had never entered a courthouse in Jamaica, but was motivated to become a lawyer to represent those who were helpless against the law.

He graduated from St. John's University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, before obtaining his Juris Doctor at Thomas M. Cooley law school.

Women's Power Summit

By Donnette D. Austin

This year's Black Enterprise Magazine's Women of Power Summit was a success. The nation's leading magazine that features successful African-American business leaders. That was the sentiment expressed by many of the attendees who spoke with Caribbean Life after attending the three-day event in Coral Gables resort in Miami, FL on March 7.

Under the theme, 'Claim It, Live It, Love It', the event was loaded with a full array of seminars for the mind, body and spirit and centered around women such as Xerox CEO Gayle King, Nationwide Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer Ursula Burns, and Smith and Company founder & president Judy Smith, whose story is featured on ABC's Scandal and being told through the life of Shanda Rhimes.

This year's event attracted primarily African American women, as well as women of all colors, who descended upon the Waldorf Astoria, Orlando from Feb. 28 to March 2, to network with business- and career-women like themselves, to hear the stories of successful women such as Burns.

While this new CEO grew up poor, her life today bears no resemblance to where she started. Growing up with a single mother who made on average \$4,400, per year cleaning homes and babysitting other peo-



Xerox CEO Gayle King.

AP Photo/Evan Agostini

ple's children, before she passed away many years ago, Burns' mother would prove to be her biggest inspiration.

Reciting some her mother's old sayings, Burns spoke proudly about those moments which she remembers so poignantly growing up with her single Panamanian mother. Burns said that her mother worked hard to ensure that all her children had a great education.

Despite her low salary and the poor community where she lived with her three children, Burn's

mother sent all three of them to Catholic schools. Burns attended all up to 12th grade, while her brother and sister opted out by the 8th grade, she noted, jokingly.

Burns background is one that may stir envy to many, but is admirable none the less. She joined Xerox in 1980 as a mechanical engineering intern.

Later, she assumed roles in product development and planning, led several business teams, and held senior positions within the company.

In 2007, she was named

president and also was elected a member of the company's board of directors. In 2009, Burns was named CEO and made the largest acquisition in Xerox history: The \$6.4 billion purchase of Affiliated Computer Services. In 2010, Burns became chairwoman, leading Xerox' 140,000 employees who serve clients in more than 160 countries.

"Every day I wake up I hustle," Burns said. "And so does my management team."

There's no substitute for hard work, she noted, and there's no short cut to a good life, a stern reminder of one her mother's famous sayings: "Where you are is not what you are."

Sitting on a panel of successful women much like her, Nadja Fidelia, managing director, of Eland Capitol, a newly formed division of The Williams Capitol Group L.P., which strives to introduce advisory, structuring and underwriting expertise in the area of structured finance to institutional issuers and investors, spoke about the importance of servant leadership.

To this end, she added: "Service leadership is the opportunity to be there for someone else. How about serving somebody else, and in serving them, I bump into my purpose?" she added.

Prior to founding Eland in 2011, Fidelia retired as managing director at Leh-

Continued on Page 18

Guyana signs open skies deal with U.S.

By Nelson A. King

The United States' Department of State says that U.S. Ambassador to Guyana Brent D. Hardt and Guyana's Minister of Public Works Robeson Benn have signed an Open Skies air services agreement, formalizing the "liberalization of the bilateral aviation relationship between both nations."

The State Department

said the Open Skies agreement entered into force upon signature on March 25.

"The Open Skies agreement creates opportunities for strengthening the economic partnership between the United States and Guyana through closer links in transport and trade," the statement said.

It said Open Skies agreements permit unrestricted

air service by the airlines of both countries between and beyond the other's territory, allowing airline managements to determine how often to fly, the kind of aircraft to use, and the prices to charge.

"This agreement will strengthen and expand our strong trade and tourism links with Guyana, benefiting U.S. and Guyanese businesses and travelers by

expanding opportunities for air services and encouraging vigorous price competition by airlines, while preserving our commitments to aviation safety and security," the State Department said.

It said the United States has Open Skies agreements with more than 100 partners around the world, including some in the Caribbean.

The unspeakable horror of slavery

Continued from cover music, dance, poetry, exhibitions and literature.

In addition, original copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the two documents credited with ending slavery in the U.S., were placed on public display at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Ban called Monday's event "the culmination of a series of powerful remembrances," highlighting the importance of memory in fighting future instances of slavery.

"We are here to recall the struggle of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade," he said. "We remember their degradation and deaths. And we teach future generations to remember as well."

In his address, Ghanaian Ambassador and General Assembly Vice President Ken Kanda warned that the "profound social and economic inequality, hatred, big-

otry, racism and prejudice," which many people of African descent around the world, including the Caribbean, continue to endure today was "a distressing and stubborn legacy of this heinous trade in human beings."

In particular, Kanda underscored that Monday's meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the past without losing sight of the present, in which "the unspeakable horror of slavery persists" in numerous forms around the world.

"Forced labor and child labor, the trafficking of persons, the recruitment of child soldiers, the sexual exploitation of women, have all been identified by the United Nations as contemporary forms of slavery," he said.

Kanda pointed out that although modern enslavement was neither as systematic nor institutionalized as its historic incarnation, it remained difficult to eradicate due to its clandestine nature.



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. AP Photo/Nasser Nasser

"The majority of those people who suffer belong to the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized social groups in society," he said.

"This meeting of nations of the General Assembly, this great pantheon of hope for humanity, must place an active role to ensure slavery is ultimately eradicated once and for all time," he added.

The Secretary-General, in a separate message for the Day, noted that this year not only marks 150 years since the freeing of slaves in the U.S. but also other milestones.

Guyana polygraph testing

Continued from cover officers employed under the fuel marking program. In addition to continuous monitoring of the officers' activities, work ethic, conduct, successes, failures and subsequent investigations of reports of corrupt practices; polygraph tests have been institutionalized as part of government's drive to tackle corruption."

Government has in the past three years taken to polygraph testing to weed out state employees suspected of corruption, but labor bodies like the Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) say it is used more for selective firing of unfavored employees with opposition links, that because employees are corrupt. The tests are administered by the office of President Donald Ramotar with assistance from inter-

national polygraph testing firms.

Two years ago, government fired the director and nearly a dozen other staffers of a special narcotics police unit (CANU), alleging that they were in

Government has in the past three years taken to polygraph testing to weed out state employees suspected of corruption.

the pay of drug barons and sabotaged criminal cases that actually made it to court, by giving false testimony or by conducting haphazard investigations.

Several senior officers and directors of the cus-

toms department, including a former comptroller, have in the past been transferred to desk duties after refusing polygraph testing but government has said it is necessary for state employees in a position of trust.

Those awaiting results at the GEA are inspectors who travel around the country inspecting fuel at petrol stations and the mining industry in particular, to determine whether it has been smuggled from private sellers in Venezuela and brought by small craft during the night along rivers in western Guyana.

Ironically, most of those involved in fuel smuggling along border rivers and towns are open supporters of the governing party and are often seen socializing with the political elite and are believed to be immune from prosecution.

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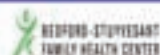
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Gonsalves moves to honor Chavez in St. Vincent

By Azad Ali

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves is proposing that a facility in St. Vincent and the Grenadines be named in honor of former Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez, who died of cancer recently.

"I believe it would be fitting for us, at some time, to have a facility, whether it be a school or some other public building or facility, named after President Chavez," Gonsalves told Parliament.

He described the late Venezuelan leader as a "giant of a political figure, a splendid human being" and an "integrationist for the region, one who possessed a profound dislike of injustice, a man for the poor and the working people in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Gonsalves said St. Vin-



In this photo released by Venezuela's Miraflores Press, former Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, center, greets the Prime Ministers of St. Vincent Ralph Gonsalves, right, and Dominica Roosevelt Skerit at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, June 19, 2006.

AP Photo/Miraflores Press

cent and the Grenadines had benefited immensely from the leadership of Chavez and that he is quite sure that

excellent relations will continue under the new government in Caracas.

He told legislators that it

pains him to say that some people here, across the Caribbean, as well as in Venezuela and other parts of the world rejoiced at Chavez's death.

We really have to get past these things," Gonsalves said.

Gonsalves detailed the assistance that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has received from Venezuela in the areas of healthcare, education, economic development, and infrastructural development.

"How could anybody be happy to see a man like that die? What has happened to some of us in this country and this world?" he said.

"Hugo Chavez was in quest of the uplifting of human beings to a much higher level," he told Parliament.

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Haiti splashes slum with psychedelic colors

By Trenton Daniel

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — One of Haiti's biggest shantytowns, a vast expanse of grim cinderblock homes on a mountain inside the nation's capital, is getting a psychedelic makeover that aims to be part art and part homage.

Workers this month began painting the concrete facades of buildings in Jalousie slum a rainbow of purple, peach, lime and cream, inspired by the dazzling "cities-in-the-skies" of well-known Haitian painter Prefete Duffaut, who died last year.

The \$1.4 million effort titled "Beauty versus Poverty: Jalousie in Colors" is part of a government project to relocate people from the displacement camps that sprouted up after Haiti's 2010 earthquake. The relocation has targeted a handful of high-profile camps in Port-au-Prince by paying a year's worth of rent subsidies for residents to move into neighborhoods like Jalousie. The government is now trying to spruce up these poor neighborhoods and intro-

duce city services.

"We're not trying to do Coconut Grove. We're not trying to do South Beach," said Clement Belizaire, director of the government's housing relocation program, referring to Miami neighborhoods. "The goal that we are shooting for is a neighborhood that is modest but decent, where residents are proud to be from that area."

While most residents welcome the attempt to beautify Jalousie, a slum of 45,000 inhabitants, critics say the project is the latest example of cosmetic changes carried out by a government that has done little to improve people's lives in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

"This is just to make it look like they're doing something for the people but in reality they are not," said Sen. Moise Jean-Charles, an outspoken critic of President Michel Martelly, arguing that the money could have been better spent.

Amid its narrow corridors and steep steps, Jalousie has no tradi-



A painting by Haitian artist Prefete Duffaut titled "Friends of Haiti" hangs on exhibit at the Galerie Monnin in Petionville, Haiti, Monday, March 25, 2013. Workers this month began painting the concrete facades of buildings in Jalousie slum, one of Haiti's biggest shantytowns, a rainbow of purple, peach, lime and cream, inspired by the dazzling "cities-in-the-skies" of well-known Haitian painter Prefete Duffaut, who died last year.

AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery

tional sewage system or electric grid. The slum is lit at night by candles and a web of wires that tap illegally into the public power system, dangling above the concrete homes. Water is provided by an outdoor spigot where people line up with buckets.

Some people wonder why Jalousie was chosen for the makeover, though officials say they plan to

expand the project to other Port-au-Prince shantytowns.

Jalousie is unique in that its mountainside presence makes it visible to people living in the wealthy district of Petionville. Critics have suggested that the choice of Jalousie is as much about giving the posh hotels of Petionville a pretty view as helping the

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Barbados stimulus

By Azad Ali

The government of Barbados says it intends to invest Bds \$600 million (US\$300million) as part of a new stimulus to improve the local economy and create at least 1,000 new jobs.

Finance and Economic Minister Chris Sinckler told Parliament recently "together when the BDS \$355 million taken from this new stimulus package and the Bds \$300 million from traditional estimates, we anticipate an injection of Bds \$600 million in capital works spending.

"This new stimulus to the Barbados economy will forge additional economic activity and contribute to the reinvigoration of the construction sector, creating new jobs and growing the Barbados economy."

Sinckler told Parliament that work is ready to begin on phase one of the cruise pier at the Bridgetown Port with full financing by July and providing for another \$70 million in civil works over the next 12 months.

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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.

My name is Dr. Melinda Keller and I've successfully treated hundreds of patients with spinal decompression so there's no reason your back problem should be any different.

In fact, I'm so confident we can help you, I'm willing to back it up...but not with empty promises.

I GUARANTEE you will only be accepted into our program IF YOU QUALIFY for the treatment AFTER having THE MOST THOROUGH AND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT YOU HAVE EVER HAD or I will buy you lunch! (I haven't bought one yet!)

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."
Non-Candidate
Brooklyn, NY

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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 from here 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."

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"After reading the full page article in the paper, I was skeptical of the positive results of a treatment for degenerative disc that might show pain relief. My wife and I decided to make an appointment for the no charge (nothing to lose) 17 point evaluation. Guess What! Following only my third treatment, I was virtually pain free. I cannot thank the doctor and her staff enough as I am pain free!"

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Perils of U.S. invasion and occupation

By Sheldon Richman

Americans have forgotten about the Iraq war, which began 10 years ago this week, and the Afghan war, the longest in American history, but the U.S. government is still throwing its weight around in both countries.

The Iraq war, the pretext for which was nonexistent weapons of mass destruction, officially ended in 2011 with the withdrawal of virtually all of America's combat troops. But the havoc wreaked by the U.S. invasion and regime change goes on. Over a hundred thousand Iraqis were killed in the war itself, but many more died in the aftermath from sectarian violence and the obliterated infrastructure. (Iraq had never recovered from the destruction inflicted by the U.S. government in the 1991 Gulf War and in the decade of sanctions related to it.) Millions fled their homes.

The U.S. occupation unleashed bitter sectarian violence, complete with U.S.-trained death squads, leading the numerically dominant Shiite Muslims (who are friendly to Iran) to cleanse the Sunnis from Baghdad. A Sunni insurgency against the occupation inflicted heavy casualties until American money managed to have the guns turned on the al-Qaeda affiliate, which was not in Iraq before the U.S. invasion.

On the American side, the deaths approached 4,500, with

tens of thousands shattered in body and spirit. For the U.S. taxpayer, the price is over a trillion dollars, with billions lost to sheer corruption in the so-called rebuilding.

The enormity of the crime committed by the Bush administration, with the complicity of cheerleading politicians (Republican and Democrat), journalists, and foreign-policy "experts" cannot be adequately calculated — and the consequences are not all in.

The country is now ruled by a corrupt, authoritarian, and brutal government. The infrastructure is a mess, with water, sanitation, and electricity unreliable. Most significant, the violence continues. Car bombings are common, and the al-Qaeda affiliate is active again — so active that the CIA is "ramping up support to elite Iraqi antiterrorism units," the Wall Street Journal reports. (And you thought the American war was over!) The irony is that these al-Qaeda fighters have been on the American side in the efforts to overthrow Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi and Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

If the Iraqi catastrophe isn't enough to destroy one's confidence in big government, what would it take?

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, 300 residents of Wardak province recently held a demonstration demanding that

Continued on Page 12

Immigration, be legal

By Glenn Mollette

I am happy for anyone to come to the United States. We are truly a great country. I've been further convinced of this by visiting other countries. There are some wonderful places but I always feel better when I am on American soil. Our country has issues but nothing like those faced by most other countries.

I can understand why people want to come here. Many of them are desperate to get into our country. All are hoping for a better life.

I haven't traveled out of the country very much but I have been to a few places. Whenever I travel abroad I make sure that I have my passport and any necessary visa that the country requires. I wouldn't dream of trying to go any other way.

I am amazed at the millions of people who risk it all to enter America illegally with little to no financial means to survive when they get here. I am in favor of helping people but they should come here legally. Entering the country without the proper documents is break-

I don't believe the process should take years. On the other hand we should not hand out citizenship like penny candy on Halloween.

ing the law. People who hire those who are here illegally are encouraging their illegal presence in our country.

I can appreciate immigration reform. I don't believe the process should take years. On the other hand we should not hand out citizenship like penny candy on Halloween. It's worth something to be an American. My wife's grandfather was once held as a prisoner of war during World War II in the Philippines. He paid a heavy price for America. My brother fought in Vietnam and a neighbor friend was killed in Vietnam. Another friend was left for dead after being thrust with a bayonet in Korea. He survived that experience to be shot on two different occasions in Vietnam.

Many Americans have sacrificed their lives for America. Families today live with the sacrifice of giving up their loved ones for America.

I think about how hard Americans have worked to make and keep this country free. Think of not only the wars but also the sacrifices of every generation that has battled to keep America free, strong, and the kind of place desired by nationalities around the world.

American freedom has not come easy and there will be nothing easy about preserving who we are and what we have.

To just pass out citizenship to anybody and everybody who crosses our border legally or illegally without going through a fair and just process is a slap in the face of every soldier who has died for this country. It's a slap in the face of every American who has spent his life filling out tax reforms, paying untold fortunes of taxes to the government and abiding by the law.

I am thrilled that people want to come to America. Just please abide by the law and make our

Continued on Page 12

Call for banks to end foreclosure crisis

To The Editor:

What costs New York City almost \$2 billion and is stifling our economy out of 15,000 new jobs? The big banks and their refusal to end the foreclosure crisis-- but our next mayor has the power to change it.

Today, NYCC released a new study that shows that by lowering property values and forcing the city to allocate additional resources in communities with a large number of foreclosed homes, the foreclosure crisis costs the city \$1.8 billion over a five-year period. That's money that could be used to fund our schools, fire stations and senior centers.

Principal reductions are proven

to prevent foreclosures and put money back into the pockets of homeowners. Modifications with principal reductions for New York's 80,000 underwater homeowners would create an economic stimulus and put 15,000 New Yorkers back to work.

This is a win/ win situation and the only thing standing in the way is the greed of the big banks.

New York City's \$70 billion budget can be used as leverage to pressure the big banks to do the right thing for struggling homeowners and all New Yorkers by writing down mortgages to their current values.

That's why we're demanding the 2013 Mayoral candidates pledge

to help struggling homeowners, grow our economy and put New Yorkers back to work by refusing to keep the city's to do business with banks that don't offer principal reductions.

If we want the next mayor to make principal reduction a priority, now is the time to start putting on the pressure.

Over and over again the big banks have proven that they don't care about doing the right thing. So we've got to hit them where it hurts- their bottom line. Local governments across New York like Buffalo and Hempstead have already closed accounts in protest of their foreclosure policies.

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Caribbean Life

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

Letting advocates of trigger-mania call the shots

The way it now looks, if Congress reaches agreement on gun violence legislation, the sane ones among us should all give thanks for small mercies. Small indeed, because it's already pretty much a fait accompli that an assault weapons ban will not be included in anything lawmakers pass...if "passing" is in the cards. Despite the valiant efforts of the president and lots of folks who were awakened from a convenient slumber on the gun violence issue by the Newtown, Conn. episode, here we go again, with those championing sensible gun laws back on their heels against a wave of trigger-mania.

March 14 marked three months since that horror in Connecticut. And we ought not be surprised if there had been an understanding among unrestricted firearms access advocates, of a running clock, post Newtown, that programmed the ramp-up progression to the full offensive by the gun lobby that we've been seeing. There's a lot to ponder about the state of America's soul when the senseless slaughter of innocents is an image strong enough to hold at bay the gun crazies' intemperance

bellowing for but so long. Heck, it was mere weeks after the ghastly happening that the father of one of the young victims was getting a disrespectful reception from some in the audience at a legislative hearing on new gun violence legislation for Connecticut.

Congress passed an assault weapons ban in 1994. In retrospect, one is constrained to ask whether the country has since slipped closer to an 1800s frontier sensibility. Also rating reflective inquiry, what facilitated passage of the measure in '94 in the first place? Was it the devoted campaigning of wheelchair-bound James Brady, and perhaps even more so his old boss, former President Reagan, giving full-throated support for it? Whatever, cold fact is that by the time we got to the law's designated sunset in 2004, its permanent demise was a forgone conclusion. Not even Newtown, we're now realizing, can bring us back to a common-sense place where there's civility sufficient for agreeing that assault weapons are battlefield items, that offering them as common or garden merchandise on the domestic front should only make sense to their manufacturers. What does

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

it say of this country that there are apparently a troubling enough number of its citizens who buy into the notion that the "right to bear arms" guarantees that proliferation of military-style rifles among the population is entirely in order. What's next on the list, howitzers and rocket-propelled grenades?

One of the blog posts in response to a news report on the disrespect shown to that Newtown victim's father speculated about how differently the "right to bear arms" language would have been framed if its authors had benefit of a crystal ball and thus hip to the bonanza industrial opportunists and loonies in the society would see in the Second Amendment's perceived "guns for all" invitation. What's deflating is how little appetite there is in the corridors of power to halt the madness. Long Island's intrepid crusader, Rep. Caroline McCarthy, could berate fellow members of Congress, call

them wimps for kowtowing to the NRA and all the rest, it moves the needle not one bit. Prior to Newtown, the gun violence issue might just as soon not have been one of great national concern. All too frequent reminders that the issue was still very much alive and not going anyplace mattered little. Not Virginia Tech, not Aurora, Colorado, not Congresswoman Gabby Giffords being maimed and others killed in Arizona. Incredulously, the powers that be turned a blind eye to all of that.

After Sandy Hook Elementary School leapt into the nation's consciousness as a place of unspeakable terror, the gun rights purveyors didn't want to be too politically incorrect and appear distant from the "We must do something" clarion call. But, true to how extremists tend to roll on these things, what the gun lobby had to offer was patronizing fluff that had nothing to do with keeping weapons out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them. Put cops in schools, they said. And arm teachers. In maniacal defiance of the reality that serious restrictions on firearms accessibility are a must in any society that has tilted as far

the other way as this one, they've come up with these band-aid so-called fixes of the problem. Please, it's bad enough that some schools have earned the type of reputation that has warranted a cop's presence and/or metal detectors and the like. We'll really be a society going bonkers if we get comfortable with the idea that placing cops in schools, particularly where younger kids are enrolled, makes for a cool learning environment. As for arming teachers, the less said about that lunacy, the better.

So we look to Washington for some leadership on this after it seemed enough of the town had sprung awake following Newtown. But sadly, it's a Washington in which the assault weapons ban is a lost cause. It's a Washington where the crazies are determined to go to the mat with a fight-to-the-death mindset over what one would have presumed to be no-brainer issues like background checks and magazine clip size. Lord only knows what manner of half-baked drivel might emerge from lawmakers, if it gets that far. Let's hope those kids' sacrifice isn't about continuing to defer to bozos calling the shots.

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American freedom

Continued from page 10

country better. America is here for you. Come one and come all. Salute our flag, carry your fair share of taxes, serve in our military and help us keep this country free and strong.

Glenn Mollette is the author of American Issues: Every American Has An Opinion and nine other books. Here him in June at the Newburgh Theological



Seminary, Newburgh, Indiana graduation ceremony.

You can hear him each Sunday night on XM Radio

on channel 131 8 EST.

Find him on Facebook.

or Email - gmollette@aol.com

Foreclosure crisis

Continued from page 10

It's time the city does the same.

The banking commission, the body that decides where our tax dollars and

other city money is kept, is primarily made up by people appointed by the mayor. That's why we need to start now, by demanding the candidates take a stand on cost of foreclosures in New York

and keep the pressure on until the big banks have provided relief for every underwater homeowner in NYC.

Best,
Olivia Leirer
Communications and
Social Media Director
New York Communities
for Change

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People resent foreign forces

Continued from page 10

the U.S. government remove its special-operations forces from the province because of the violence they are believed to be supporting.

Last month Afghanistan's president, Hamid Karzai, gave the Americans until March 10 to leave the province, but so far they have not left and Karzai is willing to compromise. The order came after complaints about raids by U.S.-trained Afghan squads that led to the disappearance of Wardak residents. Nine men disappeared after one such nighttime raid. Murder and torture have also been alleged.

The New York Times reports that "the influential Ulema Council ... issued a threatening statement," which said, "If the Americans once again do not honor their commitments and

keep on disobeying, then this will be considered as an occupation, and they may expect to see a reaction to their action." The Times added that the statement "referred to American forces in Afghanistan as 'infidels,' echoing language used by the Taliban."

The U.S. command denies the allegations, and an investigation is underway. It should be noted, however, that the U.S. military trained and supported similarly brutal militias ("death squads") in Iraq, just as it did in Latin America in the 1980s.

Whatever the investigation reveals, the controversy demonstrates the perils of invasion and occupation. People resent foreign forces on their soil, and the Afghans are no exception. They have driven out foreigners many times in the past, most

recently the powerful Soviet Union.

U.S. officials say the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan were key to national security after 9/11. Even Barack Obama, who built a presidential campaign on opposing the Iraq war, claims it did much good after all. Nonsense.

The 9/11 attacks were criminal acts intended as reprisals for American-sponsored oppression in the Middle East. The U.S. response has not made America safer — it has created new enemies. What did you expect of the corrupt, power-hungry incompetents who call themselves American "public servants"?

Next on the agenda: Iran.

Sheldon Richman is vice president and editor at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) in Fairfax, Va.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

United Kingdom, have been fighting for control of Stanford's assets outside of the United States.

The agreement between U.S. and Antiguan officials provides for the distribution of almost 90 percent of the frozen assets from the UK, Canada and Switzerland, and will become effective after it has been approved by the respective courts in those countries.

Barbados

Former Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur is now indicating that he intends writing his memoirs after having had a "wonderful life" in politics – weeks after he failed in his bid to regain the position of prime minister.

"I will be writing my memoirs in three phases. One is called a country boy giving a perspective of what it was like growing up as a country boy in Barbados - and the one I liked most is my Jamaican days."

Arthur, who served as prime minister for 13 years before he was defeated in 2008 and again in 2013, was among members of the opposition Barbados Labor Party (BLP) recently sworn in as a legislator following the Feb. 21 poll that was narrowly won by the ruling Democratic Labor Party (DLP) by a 16-14 margin.

"I have really had a wonderful life in

politics and I'm not bitter at all and all I want to do is to help these young people in the Barbados Labor Party to become good parliamentarians," he said.

Following the election, Arthur lost the position of Opposition Leader to attorney Mia Mottley, who once served as his attorney general.

Dominica

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit has hinted an early general election and has already told supporters he intends to follow the record set by the Grenada ruling party of a clean sweep of the seats in the upcoming polls.

Speaking at a recent public meeting to thank supporters for the three years of legal battles to determine whether or not he and his Education Minister Pette Saint Jean were legally nominated to contest the last general election, Skerit said that he wants the main opposition United Workers Party (UWP) to remain in opposition for the next five years.

"I want my revenge for three years of strain and stress to be a thorough and comprehensive whipping of the United Workers Party whenever the next election is called," he said, adding "I am serving notice that we are working to get back our three wasted years,"

Compiled by Azad Ali

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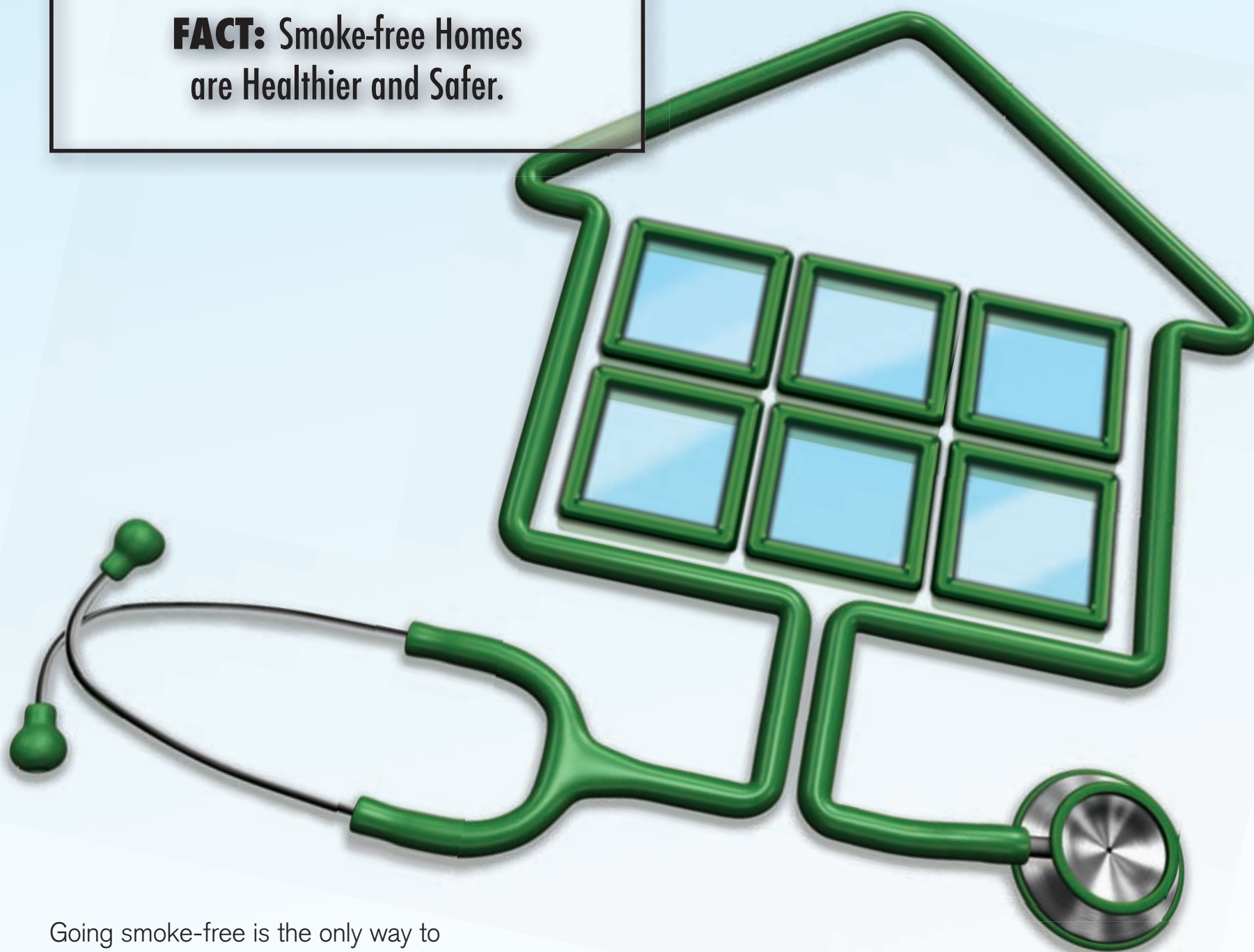


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This publication was supported by grant number X07HA00025 from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This grant is funded through Title II of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990, as amended by Part B of The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009. Its contents are solely the responsibility of Health Research, Inc. and do not necessarily represent the official view of the funders.

Brooklyn's Business Trade Show

Cardinal Trade Group, Inc. (CTG), the producer of the New York region's top business events, will host Trade Brooklyn (Brooklyn's Business Trade Show) Wednesday, April 10 at Stage 6 at the downtown Steiner Studios from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A special 1010 WINS TD Bank 5 Borough Business Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. will jumpstart the event.

Trade Brooklyn, which has steadily grown in popularity and brings together the region's best businesses, entrepreneurs and leaders who are committed to seeking business growth in Brooklyn and beyond. Leading small, medium and large businesses will participate and showcase new products, services and cost-saving solutions for business owners and professionals, event organizers say.

Sponsored by Time Warner Cable Business Class, Constant Contact and Presti & Naegele, The April event, CTG's 6th Trade Brooklyn, will attract over 1,200 attendees and feature over 100 businesses and organizations from Brooklyn and the greater metropolitan area. Leading small, medium and large businesses will participate and showcase new products, services and cost-saving solutions for business owners and professionals, event organizers say.

Attendees will connect with prospects, vendors and referral sources from every

business sector and a series of educational programs conducted by leading small business speakers will be held throughout the day. Discussions will focus on finding solutions and strategies for overcoming challenges that businesses face.

Trade Brooklyn seminars include:

* 1010 WINS TD Bank 5 Borough Business Breakfast

* Let's Bring Brooklyn to the World: How to Franchise your Business Panel Discussion

* Easy Ways to Grow Your Business Using Social, Local and Mobile marketing (SoLo-Mo) presented by Trevor Summer, President and Co-founder of Local Vox

* How the Federal Debt Crisis and Obama's Affordable Care Act affect your business in 2013, presented by Andrew Presti, Partner at Presti & Naegele

* The e New Essentials of Email Marketing, presented by Wendi Caplan-Carroll, Area Director of Constant Contact

* Selling to Why – Brain Based Selling, presented by Sandler Training

* "Cloud Computing" ... You've heard the term, but what does it really mean?" presented by Time Warner Cable Business Class

* How to Market Your business through Traditional and New Media, presented by CBS

"Trade Brooklyn has become the 'go to' business event of the spring," said Jonathan Levin, founder of Trade Brooklyn. "This year's spring show will attract a record number of attendees and a number of new exhibitors. It is our goal to connect like-minded businesspeople and broaden their opportunities for success in the marketplace. This is the ideal event for anyone or any company who wants to do more business in Brooklyn or the greater New York metropolitan region."

Exhibitors include local businesses and national corporations from several sectors including franchises, banking, financial services, insurance, law, accounting, marketing, social media, web design, office products and services, telecommunications, wireless services, nonprofits, government, business advocacy groups as well as local and national media companies.

Trade Brooklyn business-to-business trade show is free to attend with pre-registration or \$10 at the door. Tickets to the 1010 Wins 5 Borough Business Breakfast are \$25 per person with pre-registration. This breakfast will sell out. To register visit: www.tradebklyn.com.

For information about exhibit booths and sponsorships call (347) 464-0777 or e-mail info@cardinaltradegroup.com.

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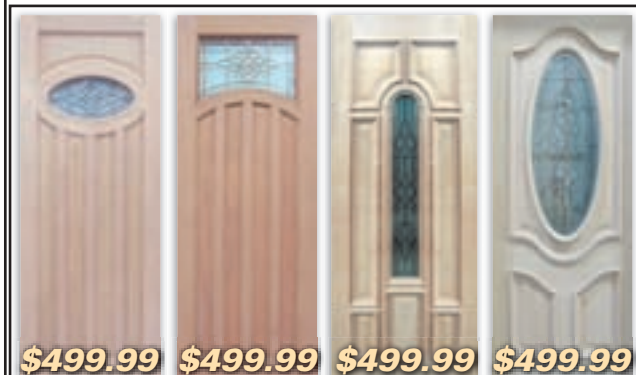
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Black Enterprise Magazine hosts Women's Summit

Continued from Page 3

man Brothers in July 2008, after 19 years of service.

To help the women get started for the day, B.E offered several early a.m. morning exercise program. The Nia workshop, ran by dance instructor Bernadette Pleasant attracted women from all walks of life, who got an opportunity to move their hips and celebrate their beauty. Pleasant regularly holds classes in both New York City and New Jersey. Founder of the Bridal Suite, Pleasant sold her business and joined Vera Wang in 2007, before becoming a dance instructor for Nia.

Professor of Gale V. King, executive vice president of Nationwide who is responsible for the company's human resources function, as well as corporate real estate, corporate security, and aviation for all Nationwide companies. For King, servant leadership is, "enabling the success that's bigger than you." King is active in the community and currently serves on the boards of the National Urban League and the Columbus



Nationwide Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Ursula Burns.

AP Photo/Lauren Victoria Burke

Museum of Art.

Founder and President Smith is the founder of Smith & Co., a leading strategic and crisis communications firm with offices in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. Over the last 25 years, she has brought her unique combination of communication skills media

savvy, and legal and political acumen to clients facing an array of challenges throughout the U.S. and abroad. Smith is the inspiration behind Shonda Rhimes' series "Scandal," and serves as co-executive producer.

The Women of Power Summit was first launched in 2006. It was created as an executive development conference for women of color at middle-management level and above in corporate America, as well as women CEOs of privately owned companies.

The goal is to provide an executive leadership and development experience for the attendees, with a powerful networking component, positioning them to be more effective leaders for their companies and better equipped and more empowered in their life and career choices.

For attendees, the rewards are top-notch executive seminars designed to make them stronger contributors to the competitiveness of their respective companies, as well as encouragement and inspiration to compete in tough, often male-dominated industries. Attendees are empow-

ered to set and achieve their career goals and make the most of their choices and opportunities. For corporations, the Women of Power Summit represents a unique opportunity to reward and develop their most promising women executives, ultimately boosting the human and leadership capital, profitability and ROI of their businesses.

Overall the event was a huge success for many of the women Caribbean life spoke with. B.E., said that probably the most common piece of feedback we have received over the years is how uniquely effective the conference has been at zeroing in on the issues and opportunities faced by talented and ambitious women executives of color, with bottom line benefits for both the women and their employers. Also, the support, contacts and encouragement the attendees receive from one another has been described as the "secret ingredient" and most valuable component of the conference. Indeed, the networking and dialogue that takes place at the Women of Power Summit continues year-round, including

via social media, long after the conference itself has ended.

Some celebrities were also in the house for this year's event. While singer and song writer Joe, entertained a packed room of stellar women, actress of The Cosby Show Tempest Bledsoe also dropped in to introduce the honorariums of the evening. This list of top women in women executives in advertising and marketing included, Maureen Carter Nickelodeon Viacom Inc., Kimberley Blackwell and Sharonda Britton of Walmart Corp.

Bledsoe took the time to speak with Caribbean Life, she spoke about being excited to be back on television after her long starring role on the Cosby show as a child star, and a short lived adult talk show. Her new show "Guys with Kids," airs on NBC. A graduate of NYU, Stern school of business in finance, she talks about family, marriage and career. She sees family as important, marriage as a tad bit over rated, and career as being never ending. She hopes to still be working on her new show in five years, as she is simply an actor at heart.

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Hope and hard choices for small business owners

By William Farrington

On Jan. 23 Mayor Bloomberg, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Brooklyn community leaders announced a \$93 million renovation project to restore the Loew's Kings Theater movie palace in the heart of Flatbush, which closed in 1977. Markowitz called it "The next Apollo" and it is due to open in 2014.

Many longtime businesses will not be around when it opens. A walk up Flatbush Avenue from Lincoln Place to Church Avenue provided a stark contrast to that optimism. Along those 14 blocks, 25 businesses were shuttered, many leases ending at the first of the year. Poppa and Sons deli, Glen Hardware, People's Choice Restaurant, and VIM sports wear were among those that seemed to disappear overnight.

A **Caribbean Life** survey of business owners sought to understand the dynamics of the changing facades. We found several contributing factors including rising rents, fierce competition and declining sales in businesses on Flatbush Avenue. The result being that many just getting by are being forced out and landlords are holding out for more lucrative tenants.



Carl Blake in the vestibule of his store Play Kids, at 676 Flatbush Ave. Not just a toy store, Play Kids provides music classes and learning work shops for kids of all ages daily.
Photo by William Farrington

This real estate market is considered a sellers market. Demand is high, prices are increasing and inventory is declining.

Edmund Sadio, as a member of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and a Century 21 realtor with an office on Flatbush Avenue puts things in perspective. Explaining why storefronts are empty, he says: "Businesses have failed ... food, clothing, hardware, 20 real estate businesses have failed.

Presently supply is low and demand is high. This is consistent throughout Brooklyn, because the market is strong, even though stores are closing. The owner is holding on. They have more confidence. The risks are lower."

Glen Hardware store, a fixture in the neighborhood at Parkside and Flatbush for 20 years closed at the end of December. Don Gray, owner of the business says the way the lease was structured with increases each year. Small,

but they added up over 20 years. Competition from large stores, combined with the nature of his business hardware, not a high volume business, are several reasons that contributed it closing. His partner retired and he opened a smaller business: DJ Locksmith on Nostrand and Snyder.

"You can not stay in business if you don't own the building," he concluded, adding that the changing character of the neighbor-

hood contributed to a small degree, as Caribbeans often purchase items to send back home.

Ezechiel Saint Fleur, a barber, was in a similar situation. He owned the Classique Barber shop which closed in 2011. It is still vacant. In nine years at the location, the rent went from \$1,650 to \$1,900 per month. When the new five-year lease offered to him jumped to \$2,250, St. Fleur decided to take his business elsewhere. He now works out of his home.

Also moving on were the three barbers who rented chairs there. While Mr. Saint Fleur says he misses meeting the different people who would pass by the store, he is not hurting financially. Business is down but his costs are minimal compared to keeping a store operating.

"It didn't make sense financially, competition is fierce," he says "The landlord is doing business too, you can't be mad at him."

"Since October, its been very slow," Alpha Bah, a tailor said. "We are living on hope, we hope tomorrow will be better than today." Mr. Bah does alterations and embroidery in a storefront location on a busy stretch, 846 Flatbush Ave. at Linden.

Mr. Bah and two colleagues moved their busi-

ness from a third-floor location on the same block so that more people would get to know them. Business has increased, but just barely enough to cover the higher expenses.

Looking out towards the street, Mr. Bah said quietly, "If it doesn't get better we may have to close."

Poppa and Sons grocery is missed by shoppers who loved its selection of meats. After over 20 years at the Lincoln and Flatbush location, the family-owned business closed in January. "The landlord tripled the rent from \$5000 to over \$14,000," says Francisco Crousset whose father owned the store. The family still operates a deli on the opposite corner.

Despite difficult times, new businesses are opening along the same stretch and bringing a new outlook.

Jus' Fishy, a bright little takeout restaurant, opened late last year. Corn soup, shrimp burger, steamed whole snapper seasoned with fresh cilantro and pimento are on the menu, along with burgers and fresh juices. Tyro Matthews says things are going pretty good for a new business. It's the former Junior's Restaurant cook's first restaurant, but he has been in business at the location for 11 years as a barber.

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

Small Business Energy | SmallBusinessEnergy.com

www.smallbusinessenergy.com/NewYork
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NYC Small Business Resource Center | The New York Public Library

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.yourmoneyny.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.bcnys.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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How to manage your seasonal allergies

(StatePoint) Unfortunately, beautiful flowers and warm weather can also mean itchy, watery eyes, sneezing fits and nasal congestion.

These days, pollen from plants and flowers typically are released earlier in the year than in the past, causing longer allergy seasons according to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, which noted that 2012 was one of the worst such seasons on record.

While there is no cure-all for seasonal allergies, popular over-the-counter (OTC) medications can provide relief for the most common symptoms. These guidelines can help you better manage your seasonal allergies:

Season for Sneezing

Popular OTC antihistamines can provide relief from sneezing, runny noses and irritated, watery eyes by blocking the action of histamine, a chemical in the body

HEALTH

that triggers congestion and upper respiratory discomfort.

All Stuffed Up?

Decongestants like pseudoephedrine (PSE) relieve a stuffy nose by actually narrowing the blood vessels in nasal passages so you can breathe more easily. PSEs are now located behind the pharmacy counter because they are an ingredient that can be used to make the illegal drug methamphetamine (meth). Rest assured though, PSE has been safely used for decades.

If you're congested, consider treating your symptoms and doing your part to keep your community safer at the same time. Ask your pharmacist about new Nexafed 30mg pseudoephedrine HCl tablets, the next-generation PSE that provides the same effective relief from nasal congestion as standard

PSEs, but with technology that disrupts the extraction and conversion of pseudoephedrine into meth.

Itchy, Watery Eyes

Over-the-counter eye drops that are specifically designed to treat allergy symptoms can be found in any drug store and can be very effective at relieving redness and washing away allergens.

Also consider using an air purifier or humidifier in your house to help clear the air of possible irritants.

Eat for Allergy Relief

According to experts, certain foods you may already be enjoying have allergy-fighting properties. For example, quercetin, found in oranges, broccoli and sweet potatoes, can help reduce your body's reaction to pollen. Or, try loading up on salmon and walnuts, as omega-3 fatty acids are thought to alleviate itchy eyes



Alleviate allergy symptoms with the right treatment this season.

(c) Frank - Fotolia.com

and a runny nose.

If you have questions or doubts about which medications may be best for you, talk with your pharmacist. And if symptoms worsen or last for more than two weeks, be sure to see your doctor.

Rest assured, relief for seasonal allergy symptoms does exist! Visit your local drugstore or the

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's website for more information on how to treat seasonal allergies. You can check the daily pollen level in your area at National Allergy Bureau online.

There's no reason to miss out on the warm weather and all fun outdoor activities this time of year has to offer.

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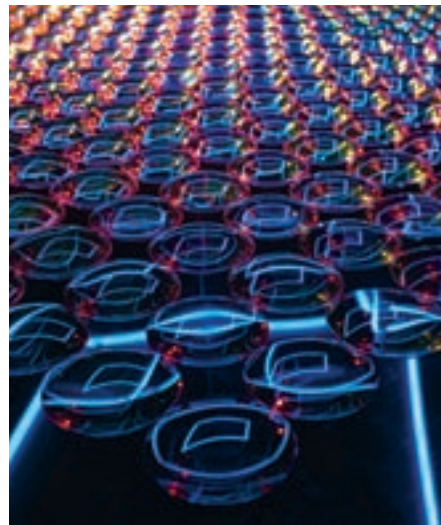
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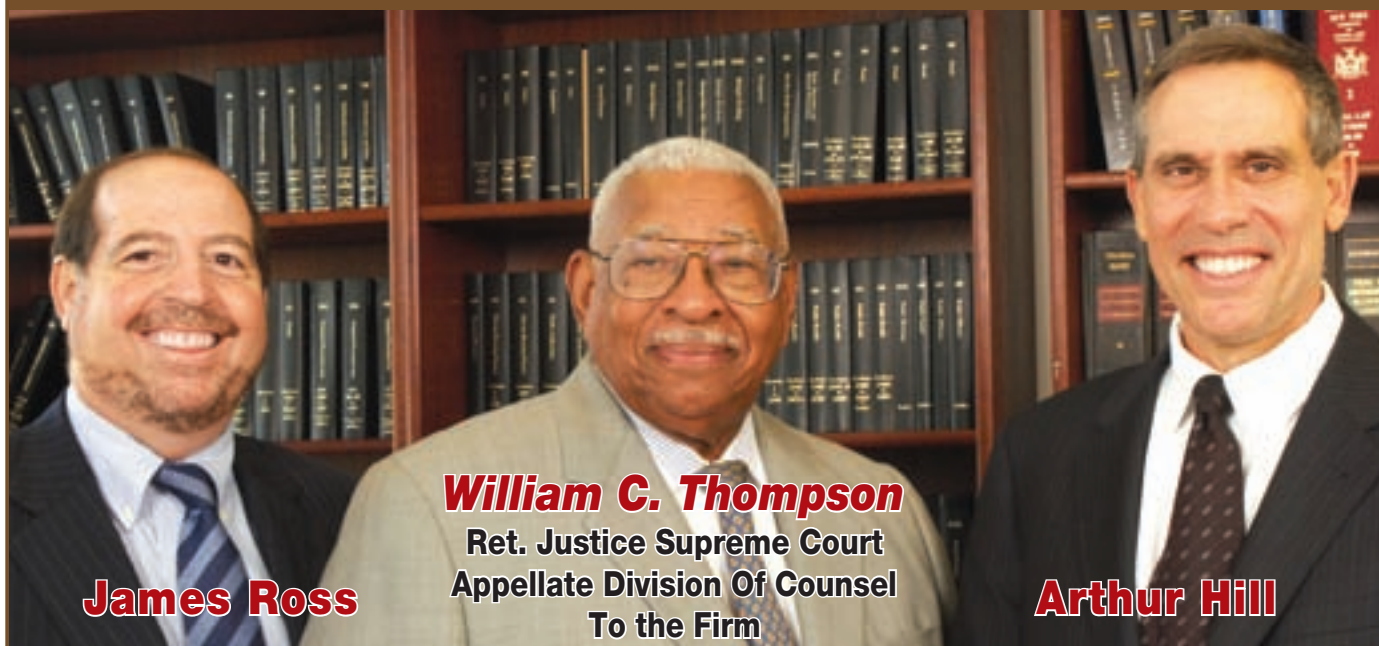
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Charitable Vincentian on mission to aid homeland

By Nelson A. King

A Bronx-based Vincentian man says he is on a mission to aid his homeland by giving back at all costs – medically, educationally and otherwise – for the rest of his life.

Robert McBarnett, 53, a Spiritual Baptist, originally from Dickson Village, Georgetown in North Central Windward constituency in St. Vincent and the Grenadines – who has been furnishing medical, educational and personal supplies to several medical clinics and hospitals and ordinary nationals in his homeland – said he will continue doing so until God draws his last breath.

“I see myself doing this for the rest of my life,” McBarnett, who has been working as an aide in the Environmental Service Department at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn since 1994,

HEALTH

told Caribbean Life in an exclusive interview.

“I believe we’re all called to serve, and that’s what we’re trying to do,” added McBarnett, who, with his wife, Sharon, and his compatriot Joan Moore, a registered nurse who lives in Queens, recently formed the St. Matthias Charities, Inc., named after the St. Matthias Baptist Church in Dickson Village that was founded by McBarnett’s late grandfather, Archbishop Percival Dick.

“For instance, we’ll like to touch on all different sectors – medically, educationally and so on,” said the president of St. Matthias Charities, Inc., disclosing that his small church group also plans to establish shortly a scholarship fund for under-

privileged children in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

McBarnett, who migrated to New York in 1980, said his fervent interest, in helping his native land, intensified three years ago after participating in a crusade at home with members of the St. Jude Baptist Church on Bristol Street in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn.

He said the team, at the time, conducted worship services at the Market Square and Sion Hill in Kingstown, the Vincentian capital, and Dickson, and distributed food items to less fortunate communities.

“After we did that – that same year – I donated a wheel chair to Georgetown Hospital; and, when I came back (returned to New York), I wanted to do more,” McBarnett said.

Last April, he and his wife



Robert McBarnett.

Photo by Nelson A. King

McBarnett said the supplies – including clothes, books, foodstuff, blood pressure and diabetic monitors with testing strips, walkers, crutches, canes and pampers – were distributed to residents in Overland (North Windward), Stubbs (South Windward) and Dickson.

The Spiritual Baptist said he returned home last month to distribute a larger shipment of supplies – a 40-ft. long container shipped again by Square Deal Shippers and Movers – which comprised medical supplies and equipment for the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (MCMH) in Kingstown, such as x-ray view box; duplicator and film bin; and a US\$100,000 endoscopy/colonoscopy machine, donated by Dr. Vijay Arya, a physician at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, and his foundation.

McBarnett said the group is now planning a fundraiser for June 22 at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn. Funds raised at that event will go towards, among other things, the purchase of a bronchoscope for the MCMH, which is expected to cost over US\$10,000.

– with support from well-wishers, such as New York merchant Ronald Chase, who furnishes clothes, shoes and other supplies, and

US\$10,000.00 out of the couple’s pockets – shipped a container of supplies home with the Brooklyn-based Square Deal Shippers and Movers.

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FOCUS ON *Health*



Laser therapy: Another tool to fight cancer

Cancer patients are well-versed in treatment options, with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery generally at the forefront of their treatment plans. They are also very aware of the side effects of those treatments, some of which include pain, nausea, hair loss, and fatigue. New advancements in laser therapy may help to change the way doctors choose to treat cancer.

Lasers have been used in the medical field for many years. "Laser" is an acronym for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation. Unlike ordinary light that has many different wavelengths spread in various directions, laser light has a specific wavelength that is very concentrated with a high-intensity. It is so powerful that it can be used to cut through some of the strongest materials, like diamonds and steel. Lasers also can be used to cut through body tissue and pinpoint very precise areas of the body.

Nowadays lasers are increasingly being used to combat cancerous tumors. The high-intensity light can be directed at a tumor and shrink or destroy it. Lasers also may be used to remove precancerous cells. They may be implemented to stop symptoms of cancer, such as bleeding or pain in nerve cells. Furthermore, lasers can be used to seal lymph vessels to prevent the spread of cancer

to other areas of the body.

Lasers are typically used in areas of the body that are hard to reach or require the ultimate in precision. That's why, according to St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., laser treatment can be so effective when treating the vocal cords, skin, lungs, and genitals. They are often used in surgery by way of an endoscope, which is a small tube that allows surgical tools access to the body. Lasers actually can cut very minute areas, some less than the width of thread, which minimizes damage to surrounding tissue.

One of the other ways lasers are used in cancer treatment is through photodynamic therapy. This is a method of destroying cancer cells selectively while leaving healthy cells unscathed. Patients are injected with a chemical that reacts with argon light. Cancer cells tend to hold onto the chemical longer than healthy cells, so doctors wait for a precise time after injection and then use a red argon laser to focus on the tumor or suspected cancerous cells. A chemical reaction occurs between the injected chemical and the argon light, destroying the cancer cells. What's more, argon lasers can pass through roughly an inch of tissue without damage, so photodynamic therapy is very popular with cancers that are close to or on the surface of the skin.

The minimal damage and

precision of these devices is one of the foremost advantages of laser treatment. Surgery with lasers can be done on an outpatient basis, potentially reducing some medical costs for patients. The National Cancer Institute says that patients may have less pain and scarring and may actually heal faster without much risk of infection after a laser procedure. There are three different types of lasers used in cancer treatments, and patients are urged to talk with their doctors about the therapy that is right for their situations.

Although laser therapy can be a relief to cancer patients, there are some limitations. Therapy is expensive and requires bulky, specialized equipment. Not all medical centers are equipped to provide laser therapy. Also, surgeons must have specialized training before they can implement laser therapy, and there are strict safety precautions. One significant disadvantage is that laser therapy's effectiveness does not last as long as other methods of treatment. As a result, laser treatment might need to be repeated after the initial procedure.

Laser therapy is a relatively new option doctors can consider when treating cancer. Patients can discuss the pros and cons of this therapy with their healthcare providers.

What to know about bladder cancer

In a given year, the National Cancer Institute estimates that more than 70,000 Americans will be diagnosed with bladder cancer, while the Canadian Cancer Society estimates that slightly less than 8,000 Canadians will learn they have bladder cancer this year.

Despite its prevalence, bladder cancer remains a mystery to many people. But as is true of many cases of cancer, early detection of bladder cancer increases the chances that treatment will prove successful. So while bladder cancer might not be a hot topic, knowing its risk factors and symptoms increases the likelihood of early detection and successful treatment.

Where is the bladder, and what does it do?

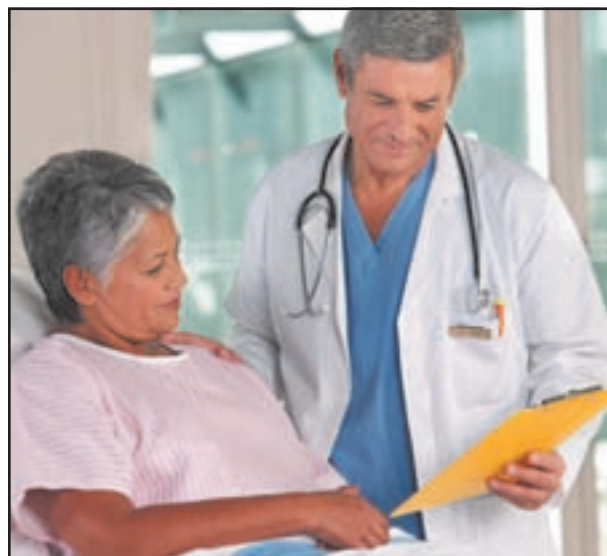
The bladder is a hollow, balloon-shaped organ found in the lower abdomen. It collects and stores urine made by the kidneys, which pass urine to the bladder. When the bladder is full, the muscles lining its wall tighten and urine leaves the body.

The bladder wall has three layers. The inner layer of the bladder is also known as the lining. The transitional cells along the lining surface stretch as the bladder fills up with urine, and these cells shrink when the bladder is emptied. Nearly all bladder cancers start in the lining.

The middle layer of the bladder wall is muscle tissue, which will squeeze urine out of the body when the bladder is full. The outer layer covers the bladder, and it is made up of fat, fibrous tissue and blood vessels.

What are the risk factors for bladder cancer?

It's important to note that a risk factor is something that may increase the chance of getting a disease. But the presence of a risk factor does not guarantee a person will get a disease. That said, studies have shown that there are sev-



eral risk factors for bladder cancer. Those risk factors include the following:

- **Smoking:** The institute and the Canadian Cancer Society note that smoking is the most common risk factor for bladder cancer. The tars and chemicals from tobacco smoke pass from the lungs into the bloodstream and then into the urine. That urine collects in the bladder. People who smoke for many years have a higher risk than nonsmokers or those who smoke for a short time.

- **Exposure to chemicals:** The presence of cancer-causing chemicals in the workplace increases an individual's risk for bladder cancer. Men and women who work in the dye, rubber, chemical, metal, textile, and leather industries may be especially at risk. The institute notes that hairdressers, printers, machinists, painters, and truck drivers are also at risk.

- **Personal history:** People who have already had bladder cancer have an increased risk of getting it again.

- **Medication and treatment:** Those with cancer who have been treated with cyclophosphamide, a drug used to treat many different types of cancer, may be at increased risk of developing bladder cancer. In addition,

people who have had radiation therapy to the abdomen or pelvis may also be at increased risk.

- **Arsenic:** A poison that increases the risk of bladder cancer, arsenic can be found in drinking water. Developed countries may have safety measures that limit arsenic levels in drinking water, but those same measures might not be in place overseas, particularly in less-developed countries.

Are there symptoms of bladder cancer?

Just like with risk factors, a person may exhibit the symptoms of bladder cancer but not have the disease. In fact, these symptoms might be indicative of another disease or condition entirely. As a result, it's important for people to consult their physicians, should any of the following symptoms appear.

- Blood in the urine that makes urine appear rusty or dark red
- Feeling an urgent need to empty the bladder
- Having to empty your bladder more often than usual
- Feeling the need to empty the bladder without results
- Needing to strain when emptying the bladder
- Painful emptying of the bladder

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CenterLight Opens First Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Center in Flushing, Queens

Flushing, NY (March 7, 2013) – CenterLight Healthcare is pleased to announce the opening of its first Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) center in Flushing, Queens. The site offers significant benefits to the community's elderly population, enabling them to receive a wide range of healthcare services in one convenient facility. Located in the busy downtown district at 136-65 37th Avenue, the new, 10,000 square foot, state-of-the-art day care facility offers medical care, rehabilitation, social activities, round-trip transportation and meals. This is the 14th center opened by the CenterLight PACE program, which is the largest and one of the oldest such programs in the country.

"CenterLight's PACE program benefits not only our members, but their families and the community at large," says Michael Fassler, CEO of CenterLight Health System. "By enabling members to continue living safely in their homes, they can remain connected with their families and active in their communities."

Located in the heart of one of New York's most historic Asian neighborhoods, the Flushing Center has the capacity to care for 500 members. The Center's professional staff reflect the culturally diverse community and speak multiple languages, including Chinese and Korean. All members are encouraged to participate in and enjoy the Center's wide range of day care services.

"Flushing's vibrant culture and proximity to major transportation made this an ideal venue for this site, says Maureen Connolly, Vice President of Clinical Operations for PACE. "This modern facility serves the needs of our patients in a dynamic neighborhood, surrounded by restaurants, markets and activities. We look forward to serving the needs of our patients here for many years to come."

CenterLight's additional PACE facilities are located in the five boroughs of New York, Westchester and Long Island. Those needing managed long-term care services and interested in becoming a PACE member, can get more information by calling 1-888-238-4223.

About CenterLight Healthcare

CenterLight Healthcare is an innovative managed care organization that provides long-term healthcare services throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island, as well as Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland and Westchester counties. Our goal is to help older adults, the chronically ill, disabled individuals and others we serve to enjoy the highest possible quality of life while living safely in their homes and communities. Our PACE program serves over 3,000 members at 14 centers across the New York Metro area that offer recreation therapy, medical care, nursing, social services, physical, occupational, and nutrition therapy, and other specialized services. CenterLight Healthcare's Select program offers Medicaid-funded long term care services to a nursing home eligible population, while CenterLight's Direct program offers Medicare-covered services to nursing home residents. Our interdisciplinary team-based approach enables us to provide highly personalized, culturally sensitive care.

About CenterLight Health System

CenterLight Health System is a non-profit national leader in providing and coordinating residential, home and community-based long term care for chronically ill and disabled adults throughout the New York metropolitan area. Our continuing care services include residential health care, subacute medical care, rehabilitation, home care, HIV/AIDS home care, comprehensive care management, adult day health care and independent housing facilities for the elderly and disabled. For more information visit us at <http://www.centerlight.org>.

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FOCUS ON *Health*

Skin cancer help at NYM

When it comes to the summer months, there's never a shortage of places to catch some rays in Brooklyn. Whether spending time on the beach at Coney Island, or delving into summer reading at Prospect Park, more and more Brooklynites spend their days out of doors as the weather warms. If you're going to be spending time in the sun, always take proper precautions, including wearing sunscreen with sun protection factor of 30 or higher and applying it regularly, staying indoors when the sun is strongest (between 10 am and 4 pm), and wearing light clothing and a wide-brimmed hat.

However, being proactive against skin cancer (the most common type of cancer in the United States) isn't simply about protecting yourself from the sun — it also involves recognizing that, even if you never set foot out of doors, you are not immune to the

disease. The Division of Dermatology at New York Methodist Hospital offers the latest and most comprehensive screening and treatment options for all types of skin cancer.

Skin cancers are divided into two major categories: non-melanoma and melanoma. The two non-melanoma types of skin cancer are called basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma, both of which most often occur on skin that is exposed to the sun, such as the face, hands, and ears. Basal cell carcinomas appear as wax-like bumps or flesh-colored patches and squamous cell carcinomas look like hard, red bumps or raised patches.

Unfortunately, melanoma — the deadliest type of skin cancer — is more difficult to distinguish, and can appear anywhere on your body, regardless of sun exposure and skin tone. It results in almost 10,000 deaths per year in the United States, and signs

can include a large, dark spot with dark flecks surrounding; a small patch of skin that turns red, white, dark blue, or brown and has an irregular border; or a mole that changes shapes or bleeds.

The good news is that there is a wide array of treatment options, including surgery to remove the tumor or tumors, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy. However, as with any type of cancer, early detection plays a crucial part in a positive outcome, so if there is any spot on your skin that causes concern, it is best to get it checked right away. Those with a personal or family history of melanoma and individuals with irregular moles that are larger than normal may benefit from a whole body skin exam performed by a dermatologist.

To get a referral to a dermatologist affiliated with New York Methodist Hospital, call (718) 499-CARES.

Maimonides partners with Einstein College

Maimonides Medical Center, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, and Montefiore Medical Center have now partnered, signing an affiliation agreement with the goal of advancing medical education and research. Under terms of this agreement, Maimonides will become a university hospital and the Brooklyn Campus of Einstein.

"These agreements build upon current relationships and better positions Maimonides for future success," said Pamela Brier, president and chief executive officer of Maimonides. "As Einstein's Brooklyn Campus, we will strengthen our teaching programs and fortify physician recruitment. As a strategic partner with Montefiore, we will better prepare for new

models of health care delivery."

The enhanced academic affiliation with Einstein will provide its students with educational and clinical clerkships at Maimonides in all core hospital programs. Maimonides physicians who teach and supervise students will receive faculty appointments at Einstein, and participate on faculty committees and in faculty development programs. Additionally, two trustees from each institution will serve on each other's boards.

"Maimonides Medical Center offers a superb environment for training Einstein students to become the competent and compassionate physicians the health care system of the future demands," said Dr.

Allen M. Spiegel, the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. "The partnership between Einstein and Maimonides will make two outstanding institutions even stronger."

Separately, Montefiore, the University Hospital and Academic Medical Center for Einstein, and Maimonides entered into a strategic alliance to leverage the strengths of both institutions. The alliance of Montefiore and Maimonides will allow the two institutions to work together to establish programs of clinical excellence, expand research capabilities and ensure that all patients have access to the full range of clinical services — from primary care to advanced specialty care.



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'25 Influential Black Women' honored

By Tangerine Clarke

The Network Journal- a black professional and small business magazine – paid tribute to 25 accomplished women at its recent “25 Influential Black Woman in Business” Awards Luncheon, at the New York Marriott Marquee.

The group of women, who came from varied fields, from academia, to beauty, to finance, media, tourism, small-business, public service and philanthropy - were celebrated as leaders.

The 15th Annual Awards was part of Women's History Month, planned to honor the women for their excellence and success.

They are Kimberley A. Blackwell, Sandra Bookman, Audrey Boone Tillman Esq., Erica C. Bowen, Erika Irish Brown, Kimberly Brown Drumgo, Erika C. Gladden, Allison E.



Guyanese American, Dawn S. Walker, assistant VP Office of Communications and External Affairs, Medgar Evers College.

Photos by Tangerine Clarke

Green, Sylvia B. Hamer, Donna A. Johnson, Anita Johnson-Patty, Cindy Kent, Rhonda R. Mims, Karen E. Nethersole Esq., Marjorie Perry, Pamela S. Robertson,

Angela Roseboro, Sandra Sims-Williams, Stephanie P. Smith, Sharon C. Taylor, Keisha M. Vaughn, Wanji J. Walcott, Esp, Dawn S. Walker, Lorna Welshman-Neblett, and Rosa Whitaker.

Michelle Miller, CBS News Correspondent, and recipient of the National Association of Black Journalists' Award of Excellence, hosted the magazine's star-studded event that publisher Aziz Gueye Adetimirin said has been successful in honoring some 400 women over the years, who are not only appreciated for what they do for their families, but also for their communities.

He thanked the selection committee that included past honorees, and praised Guyanese-American Executive Editor, Rosalind McLymont, saying she has been very important to the suc-



Guyanese American, Lorna Welshman-Neblett, senior manager, Sales & Marketing Administration, Clarins Fragrance Group.

cess of the Network Journal.

McLymont who has spearheaded the maga-

zine for the past 10 years, congratulated the women and told them to keep the faith, and maintain a bond

with each other. She added that would help them to go higher in their endeavors, either in their careers or their businesses.

“Never compromise on your standard of excellence,” she said.

During her remarks, Angela Guy, senior vice president, Diversity and Inclusion of L'Oreal USA, told the women to continue to inspire others. “Beauty is not just external, it also comes from within said Guy who praised the women for their courage, tenacity and their passion to empower others.

“Leverage the moment because you are worth it,” she added, using L'Oreal's legendary tag line.

The Network Journal (TNJ) is an award-winning magazine that was founded in 1993. It is published six times per year and provides news and commentaries on issues that affect the growth of business and the advancement of professionals in the workplace for an audience of predominantly African-American professionals, corporate executives and small-business owners.

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SALUTE

Aretha, Queen of Soul

By Chudi Chukwudi

Known around the world by her first name, the undisputed, reigning "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin is peerless. One of the most influential voices in the history of American music, with a repertoire that spans pop, soul, jazz, rock, blues and gospel, Aretha was named the No.1 Vocalist of All Time by Rolling Stone magazine.

With her ever-distinctive, soulful, to-the-bone vocal style, she has graced music charts for nearly five decades and her 'live' performances have touched the hearts of tens of millions since she began her musical journey in Detroit as a singing child prodigy. It is her rich legacy of recordings that are a testament to the power, majesty and genius of this one-of-a-kind artist of the first order.

Aretha Franklin has earned countless international and national awards as well as accolades and global recognition on an unprecedented scale. She is a 2005 recipient of the Presidential

Aretha was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Medal of Freedom (the U.S.A.'s highest civilian honor), presented by President George W. Bush. In 1999, she was awarded the National Medal of Arts, presented by President Bill Clinton. In 2009, she sang at the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama and at the inauguration of President Bill Clinton in 1993.

Aretha also performed at the inaugural gala for President Jimmy Carter (1997) and in 1968, she sang at the funeral of Martin Luther King, Jr.

She is the recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor; won 19 GRAMMY® Awards, including the award for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for eight consecutive years; received a GRAMMY Legend Award and a GRAM-

MY Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as five American Music Awards and four NAACP Image Awards.

In 1987, Aretha was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and in 1979 she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2007, Franklin was honored at the Annual United Negro College Fund Evening of Stars and was presented with UNCF's Award of Excellence.

She was named 2008 MusiCares® Person of the Year by the Recording Academy and she was presented with the prestigious NAACP Vanguard Award. In 2010, she was inducted into the Apollo Legends Hall of Fame at the Apollo Theater in New York. In April 2012, Franklin received the TV Land Music Icon Award and in August, Franklin was inducted into the Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame.

To date, she has received 12 Honorary Doctorate Degrees.



Aretha Franklin

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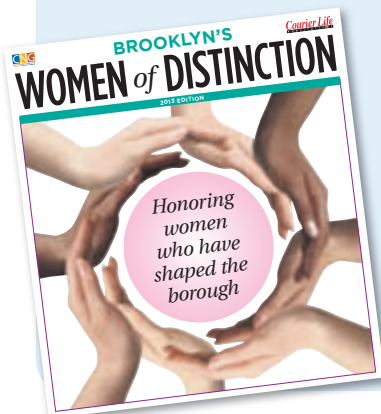
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Jeanine Ramirez
Brooklyn Reporter



Jeanine Ramirez joined NY1 News in October 1996 and covers Brooklyn's schools, politics, religions and neighborhoods. She also is the lead reporter on many Latino issues. A native Brooklynite, Ramirez majored in communications both at Brooklyn Technical High School and Fordham University.

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'Seawall' benefit and screening

By Tangerine Clarke

The Mason Richards Film Fellowship for students of the University of Guyana will be launched on Saturday, April 6, when Friends & Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Guyana (FROG) present an evening of Fine Art, Music, and a special screening of the award-winning 64th Cannes Film Festival selection - "The Seawall."

The three-hour event that begins at 6:00 p.m. at downtown Manhattan's 156 Stanton Gallery private Roof Garden, will feature entertainment by Master Drummer Baba Mpho's Creole jazz Shanto tradition, and prominent artists of Guyanese-descent such as renowned Yale University MFA Marlon Forrester.

During the cocktail evening, patrons will enjoy fine Guyanese fare and specialty cocktails, courtesy of Guyana's premier El Dorado Rum.

Guyanese-born filmmaker Mason Richards, winner of the 2012 Sony Pictures Diversity Fellowship, is excited about sharing his experience as an award-winning filmmaker at the benefit that was planned to raise funds towards the production of the feature-length version of "The Seawall" and the fellowship that will inspire UG stu-

dents to study and produce film in Guyana.

In addition to being viewed by audiences at London's Caribbean Film Center, the short film, which was shot entirely on location in Guyana, was played in the Bahamas, and festivals in the U.S., including the Kansas City Urban Film Festival, and Goethe-Institute in Washington, DC.

The organization, the films 's official fiscal sponsor, has helped to raise more than \$20,000 for the production, said Stadum, adding, 'our goal is to increase the amount of support for the film and to reach a wider audience.

Former president of (FROG) and the film's producer, Scott Stadum noted that the feedback has been tremendous and concludes that the feature aims to be even better as a full-length feature film.

The organization, the films 's official fiscal sponsor, has helped to raise more than \$20,000 for



Guyanese-born filmmaker Mason Richards.

the production, said Stadum, adding, 'our goal is to increase the amount of support for the film and to reach a wider audience. "We also want to support Mason in telling this beautiful, heartfelt story set in Guyana."

"The Seawall," tells the story of emigration and highlight issues changing and challenging Guyanese culture within its borders and across the world," says Mason, winner of the 2012 Sony Pictures Diversity Fellowship given to promising filmmakers with potential.

"This night of celebrating cinema, art and Guyana is all for a great cause," said the director, who has earned a MFA in Film Directing from Cal Arts, where he wrote and directed several narratives and short films, including his thesis.

To RSVP, log on to GuyanaFilmBenefit.eventbrite.com - Donations are also being accepted at Friends & Return Peace Corps Volunteers -www.guyfrog.org.



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Radioman Michael Baisden signs off, begins new chapter

Wednesday was not only hump day but the day nationally syndicated radio personality Michael Baisden announced a hiatus from his radio show. The popular, personality whose daily talk show aired on KISS-FM said he will exit from radio on the last day of March.

He made the announcement on his Facebook page explaining that he is unable to discuss the particulars but made the decision because he could not reach a mutually agreeable deal with his affiliates. For more than a decade, "The Michael Baisden Show" maintained leadership in many national, radio markets as one of the top rated afternoon drive time programs heard in the top urban markets. In addition to his radio program, Baisden also hosted a TV talk show and was



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

acclaimed for being a filmmaker and New York Times best-selling author.

He told his radio audience he did everything in his power to continue his show without interruption. "We're already planning to return to the air as soon as possible in a way that will give a more direct relationship with our affiliates, and most importantly, our listeners," Pamela Exum, his business manager said.

The radio personality is most known for his 2008 endorsement of Senator Barack Obama to become president of the U.S. After the victory, Baisden celebrated the victory with

more than 4,000 fans at a watch party in Miami on election night. The Obama organizers, along with millions of listeners, credited him with being one of the major forces behind this historic victory to elect the first African American to the presidency and in his re-election in 2012.

The following year, Baisden called for a National Mentor Training Day and announced his plans for a 2010 nationwide campaign.

He pledged up to \$350,000 of his own money to be donated in over 72 markets he would visit on a bus tour. The outreach was named "One Million Men-

tors National Campaign To Save Our Kids."

Of those visits he said: "If the affiliates still want us to come to town, we'll be there," Baisden added. "There's no reason for our relationships to stop, in fact, this is our chance to get on the ground close to the people where we belong!"

"It's not about the job, it's about the journey. I have been grinding for over 10 years, fighting for the underdog, inspiring people daily on my live page on Facebook and working my butt off to produce the best show on radio. I hope my fans miss me because I'm definitely going to miss them," Michael said.

"This is not the end, it's the Next Chapter!"

Catch You On The Inside!



File photo of Michael Baisden with Anita Baker, as she accepts the Legend Award during the Soul Train awards Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010, in Atlanta.

AP Photo/David Goldman

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Ida B. Wells in Bed-Stuy!

By Lem Peterkin

A packed audience at Restoration Corp in Bed-Stuy witnessed Safiya Bandele in a powerful multimedia performance of the anti-lynching advocate Ida B. Wells on Sunday, March 24, 2013.

Born to enslaved parents in 1862, Wells was not only a fearless antilynching crusader but a strong women's rights advocate and investigative journalist.

The riveting performance included narration, lynching images, poetry, music and dance presented to an enthusiastic cross-generational audience of artist/activists, parents and educators.

Reverend Elizabeth Butler, retired educator and pastor of Church of New Beginnings, commented: "It was a great creative and historical analysis... we clapped and cheered as the



Safiya Bandele as Ida B. Wells. Photo by Lem Peterkin

powerful Safiya Bandele took on the role of orator, narrator and character of Ida B. Wells."

"It was a stunning performance - energetic and informative," according to Dr. Robyn Spencer, professor of African-American History at Lehman College CUNY.

Dr. Segun Shabaka, an International African Arts

Continued on Page 36

'Cinderella' comes to Broadway

By Vinette K. Pryce

Beloved child favorite character Cinderella has lost her shoe again.

And while children will be eager to see how she recovers the high-heeled, glass slipper in the Broadway version of "Cinderella" many more adults are pouring into The Broadway Theatre to reaffirm their youth, delight in the fantasy and accompany a new generation of theater enthusiasts.

Another reason post-fairytale believers are flocking to the theater is because —

although a longtime favorite -- "Cinderella" has never made it to the Great White Way and is debuting for the very first time. The popular, children's tale was originally made for television in 1957 and starred Academy Award winner Julie Andrews.

This Rodgers & Hammerstein musical opened earlier this month and like an open book presents a revised edition of an age-old story that amplifies the mantra that good can conquer evil.

Directed by Mark Brokaw, Continued on Page 36



De'Andre Aziza and Francois Baltiste settle a dispute.

Photo Joan Marcus

World premiere of Detroit 67 in Harlem

By Chudi Chukwudi

Directed by Kwame Kwei-Armah, the powerful drama will run through Sunday, April 14, presented by Time Warner. Billed as "Uptown Meets Downtown," the production is a collaboration between the Classical Theatre of Harlem (Ty Jones, Producing Artistic Director), National Black Theatre (Sade Lythcott, CEO; Nabii Faison, General Manager and

The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director; Patrick Willingham, Executive Director).

"Uptown Meets Downtown" is an unparalleled theatrical collaboration not seen since the late 1960s when renown theater icons and friends, Dr. Barbara Ann Teer and Joe Papp—founders of the National Black Theatre and The Public Theater respectively—first envisioned that theater

could be a viable tool for embracing and confronting the complexities of contemporary society while nurturing artists, developing audiences, and affecting change. Fifty years ago, they partnered together on a musical adaptation of Gwendolyn Brooks' poem *We Real Cool*, directed by Teer, which toured the five boroughs of New York City; the co-

Continued on Page 36

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Thrift Shop**
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis...
- 2 **When I Was Your Man**
Bruno Mars
- 3 **Suit & Tie**
Justin Timberlake Feat. Jay-Z
- 4 **Daylight**
Maroon 5
- 5 **I Knew You Were Trouble**
Taylor Swift
- 6 **Locked Out Of Heaven**
Bruno Mars
- 7 **Don't You Worry Child**
Swedish House Mafia Feat. John Martin
- 8 **Scream & Shout**
will.i.am Feat. Britney Spears
- 9 **Sweet Nothing**
Calvin Harris Feat. Florence Welch
- 10 **Ho Hey**
The Lumineers

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **The Next Day**
David Bowie
- 2 **What About Now**
Bon Jovi
- 3 **Spring Break... Here To Party**
Luke Bryan
- 4 **Night Visions**
Imagine Dragons
- 5 **Sound City -- Real To Reel**
Soundtrack
- 6 **The Very Best Of Chicago:...**
Chicago
- 7 **The Definitive Rod Stewart**
Rod Stewart
- 8 **Unorthodox Jukebox**
Bruno Mars
- 9 **The Truth About Love**
P!nk
- 10 **The Heist**
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis

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Classical theater

Continued from page 35

her brother Lank, who are making ends meet by turning their basement into an after-hours joint. Always at odds, they fight over the future of the family trade. But when a mysterious white woman finds her way into their care and a string of raids increases police brutality around the city, the siblings become divided over much more than business. Suddenly, they find themselves caught in the middle of the '67 riots.

A Jane Chambers Playwriting Award Honoree and two-time NAACP Image Award recipient, Morisseau developed the play as a part of The Public Theater's Emerging Writers Group at The Public, which provides playwrights a platform to further develop their work on stage, while giving audiences access to new work.

The complete cast of *Detroit '67* includes De'Adre Aziza (Bunny), Francois Battiste (Lank), Brandon J. Dirden (Sly), Samantha Soule (Caroline), and Michelle Wilson (Chelle).

The play features scenic design by Neil Patel, costume design by Emilio Esosa, lighting design by



Dominique Morriceau (left) and De'Andre Aziza share the stage in *Detroit '67* now drawing audiences at the National Black Theater in Manhattan.

Photo by Joan Marcus

Colin Young, and sound design by Shane Rettig.

The show will run through Sunday, April 14 at the National Black Theatre (2033 Fifth Avenue at 125th Street in Harlem). Per-

formances will take place Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 pm, with matinees on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors and may be purchased online at www.classicaltheatreofharlem.org or by calling 866-811-4111. For group sales contact Nicole Judd of Walker International Communications Group at 718-703-2260 or nicole@walkercommunicationsgroup.com.

Ida B. Wells

Continued from page 35

Festival administrator, explained their sponsorship of the program: "IAAF and Brothers Who Cook are pleased to present Safiya Bandele as Ida B. Wells during

"I liked the program. It was very informative. I had heard of Ida B. Wells but I hadn't really examined her life."

Women's History Month. Wells is an important, often overlooked historical figure of great importance."

Twelve-year-old Hadiyah Orr, in attendance with her parents Adaleta and James Orr, said, "I liked the program. It was very informative. I had heard of Ida B. Wells but I hadn't really examined her life."



Dancer - Renee Donaldson.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

Safiya Bandele is available for performances. For info: safiya.bandelegmail.com or via facebook.

Cinderella

Continued from page 35

Carter Beane.

In this version Ella (Laura Osnes) is the transformative figure.

She is kind, gentle, sings, dances and represents a deprived and homely step-child.

Animals in the forest adore her. And while this is consistent with the familiar storyline, change comes with a revolutionary side story that pits the people against the prince.

The royal, clueless and un-decisive introduces Topher (Santino Fontano).

Although he rules the kingdom, his decisions are mostly based on instructions from his manipulative and conniving advisor, Sebastian (Peter Bartlett).

Surely a stepmother (Harriet Harris) and two hateful step-sisters also prevail.

But Gabrielle (Marla Mindelle) and Charlotte (Ana Harada) are only half-bad.

Far less hateful sisters than the book depicted, one bare hilariously,

striking resemblance to comedienne Margaret Cho.

Her comedic lines temper jabs at the unfortunate plight of her ignored half-sister.

But truth be told if she could pare down her heels to fit into the shoe the prince owns, her routine could pay off handily.

However while there are some new twists to the tale, most engaging are the wonderful transformations that occur onstage.

One blink and patrons could miss an opportunity to see a pumpkin change into a carriage, tree-dwelling animals into horses and the dowdy Ella into a beautiful princess.

A fairy godmother (Victoria Clarke) flies and ball-gowns are gloriously designed. While adults exit feeling renewed and even child-like, little princesses who attend matinee performances might want to wear tiaras to identify with the experience.

They are available for purchase in the lobby.

All in all "Cinderella" on Broadway is a definite show-stopper.

Presidential bodyguard gets shot at redemption

"Olympus Has Fallen"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated R for graphic violence and pervasive profanity
In English and Korean with subtitles
Running time: 120 minutes
Distributor: Film District

By Kam Williams

While serving as the President's (Aaron Eckhart) personal bodyguard, Mike Banning (Gerard Butler) grew very close to the First Family. During his tenure at the White House, the dedicated, detail-oriented Secret Service agent also familiarized himself with every aspect of the building's layout.

Nevertheless, Banning was reassigned to a desk job after failing to rescue the First Lady (Ashley Judd) before the presiden-

tial limo plunged off a bridge into an icy river en route to a Christmas party. Although the accident wasn't his fault, he was left agonizing over a snap decision that might have been the difference between her living and dying.

A year and a half later, we find Banning still riddled with guilt despite receiving assurances from the Secret Service Director (Angela Banning) that there was nothing he could have done. However, he soon gets that sorely needed shot at redemption when a swarm of ninjas from North Korea attack the White House, taking the President and his Cabinet hostage.

With the President and Vice President (Phil Austin) abducted, the line of succession dictates that the Speaker of the House (Morgan Freeman) assume power from a well-fortified bunker. Meanwhile, the maniacal leader (Rick Yune) of the bloodthirsty terrorists proceeds to torture his hostages, hoping to learn



Angela Bassett (left) as Lynne Jacobs and Morgan Freeman as Congressman Allan Trumbull in "Olympus Has Fallen."

the codes controlling America's nuclear arsenal.

The unfolding crisis is not lost on Banning who observes the slaughter of his former colleagues from an office window across

the street. The disgraced agent springs into action and surreptitiously enters the White House armed only with a handgun and a walkie-talkie. But he still enjoys the advantage over an army of

heavily-armed intruders by virtue of his knowledge of the premises' every nook and cranny.

Directed by Antoine Fuqua, "Olympus Has Fallen" is a derivative action flick which might be best described as a cross of "Die Hard" (1988) and "In the Line of Fire" (1993), except that instead of Bruce Willis or Clint Eastwood, we have Gerard Butler playing the invincible, two-fisted protagonist. The fast-paced film is engaging and entertaining enough to come recommended provided you're willing to put your brain on hold and not question any of the picture's implausible plot developments.

Featuring pyrotechnics worthy of a 4th of July fireworks display, "Olympus Has Fallen" is an eye-popping, patriotic, high-octane adventure that leaves no doubt about who's the vindicated hero that kept the world safe for democracy. The Butler did it! Gerard Butler, that is.

Independent & Foreign Films

Blancanieves (PG-13 for violence and sexuality) Silent version of a classic fairy tale, set in the 1920's, reimagines Snow White (Angelina Molina) as a bullfighter being rescued from a wicked stepmother (Maribel Verdu) by a half-dozen, tiny toreadors. Ole, Sneezy! With Pere Ponce, Daniel Gimenez Cacho and Macarena Garcia. (In Spanish with subtitles)

Code of the West (Unrated) Ganja documentary revisiting the heated, 2011 debate in Montana about whether it should become the first state to repeal its medical marijuana law.

Family Weekend (R for sexuality and drug use) Quality time comedy about a frustrated teenager (Olesya Rulin) who takes her parents (Matthew Modine and Kristin Chenoweth) hostage after they fail to attend her jump rope competition. With Joey King, Shirley Jones and Chloe Bridges.

Mental (Unrated) Dysfunctional family dramedy about a charismatic nanny (Toni Collette) hired to raise five teenage sisters (Lily Sullivan, Bethany Whitmore, Malorie O'Neill, Nicole Freeman and Chelsea Bennett) whose insti-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

tutionalized mother (Rebecca Gibney) suffered a nervous breakdown after being unable to cope with their politician father's (Anthony LaPaglia) shameless philandering. With Liev Schreiber, Caroline Goodall and Kerry Fox.

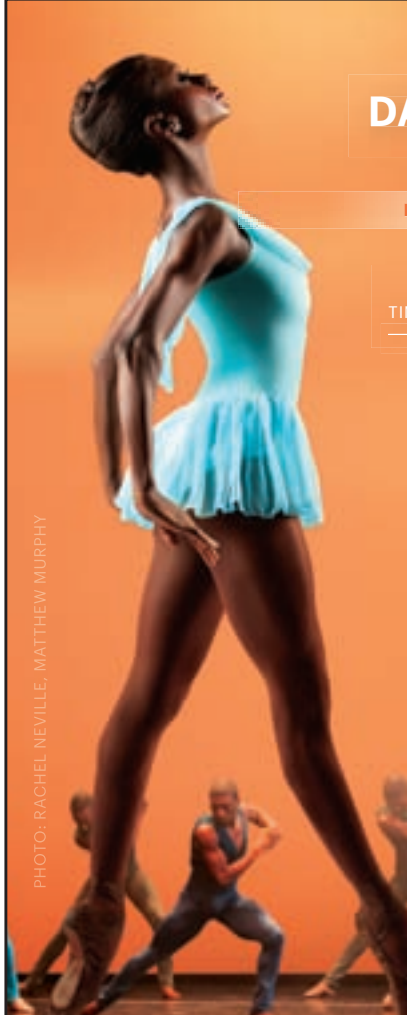
Renoir (R for nudity and brief profanity) Costume drama, set on the French Riviera during the summer of 1915, revolving around the convalescence of Impressionist painter Auguste Renoir's (Michael Bouquet) son, Jean (Vincent Rottiers), a soldier wounded while serving in World War I. Cast includes Christa Theret, Thomas Doret and Michele Gleizer. (In French and Italian with subtitles)

The Revolutionary Optimists (Unrated) East Indian documentary, set in the slums of Calcutta, where poor kids are being empowered to overcome poverty by picking themselves up by their bootstraps. (In Bengali with subtitles)

Room 237 (Unrated) Conspiracy theory documentary deciphering the subliminal secret messages supposedly hidden in the movie The Shining by director Stanley Kubrick. Featuring archival footage of Nicole Kidman, Tom Cruise and the late Scatman Crothers

Somebody Up There Likes Me (Unrated) Buddy comedy about best friends (Keith Poulson and Nick Offerman) who are both in love with the same woman (Jess Wexler). Cast includes Kevin Corrigan, Megan Mullally and Stephanie Hunt.

Temptation (PG-13 for violence, sexuality and drug use) Tyler Perry wrote and directed this modern morality play about a jaded marriage counselor (Jurnee Smollett) who cheats on her husband (Lance Gross) of six years with a wealthy media mogul (Robbie Jones). With Kim Kardashian, Vanessa Williams and Brandy Norwood.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

SBA ANNOUNCEMENT: The U. S. Small Business Administration has extended the deadline for Hurricane Sandy survivors in New York to return applications for physical damage to March 29, 2013. Additional details on the locations of other Recovery Centers and the loan application process can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing).

INSURANCE CLAIM: Will be hosting FREE informational presentations on How to Maximize the value of your property Insurance claim from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Speakers will include licensed insurance adjuster Lee Corey. The Ancient Order of Hibernians, 2750 Gerritsen Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

WRITERS CONFERENCE: Join us at the National Black Writers Conference Biennial Symposium. A Tribute to the Life and Works of Toni Cade Bambara from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. General Donations: \$10, Student/Faculty/Senior Donations: \$5 (Valid ID required onsite), and Closing Reception Suggested Donations: \$30. On-line registration ends: Thursday, March 28, 2013. Founders Auditorium, Medgar Evers College, CUNY, 1650 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225 cancer awareness: Learn more about colorctal cancer (cancer of the colon and rectum) and treatment options from noon-1:30pm. Salon 804 2071 Seventh Avenue, between 123rd and 124th streets. For more information, call 212-824-8772.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 & SUNDAY, MARCH 31

MUSEUM: Peter Rabbit visits the Museum! 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. & 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Beatrix Potter's favorite rabbit Peter will make a special appearance at Brooklyn Children's Museum! Join us for crafts, programs and lively book readings about the magical world of Peter Rabbit and his friends in Mr. McGregor's Garden. All Ages.

MONDAY, MARCH 25 – SUNDAY, MARCH 31

TAX PREP: Liberty Tax will give free tax preparation to all non-profit organizations staff member and all volunteers during "Volunteer and Non-profit Appreciation Week." Taxpayers can contact the local Liberty Tax location by calling (914) 997-9711. Liberty Tax does take appointments but they are not necessary.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4,

COMMUNITY RESOURCE AWARENESS DAY: Join us for information and discussions about many free programs and services available in our community including: Homeless prevention, Childcare, Education, Employment, Housing, Mental Health, Nutrition, Preventive Services, Youth Services and much more. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free admission and parking along with free entertainment and lunch. York College 94-20 Guy R. Brewer Jamaica, NY 11451.



FREE TAX ASSISTANCE: BronxWorks will be provide free tax prep to the South Bronx residents. Morris ISC: Monday to Thursday, 10:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. 2070 Grand Concourse, Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



IMMIGRATION SERVICES: Free immigration services. Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 67 Hanson Place, Office of Coucil Member James. Call (718) 260-9191.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

WORKSHOP: We will be exploring the important role ships played in the Battle of Brooklyn at the Waterfront Museum, located on a barge in Red Hook from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. In the summer of 1776, local residents would have seen the imposing British fleet from Red Hook; Washington later rounded up more humble vessels in order to retreat to Manhattan from Brooklyn Heights. Participants in this family workshop will make their own improvised armada from objects found in Brooklyn today, such as coffee cups and cardboard packaging. Weather permitting, we will test launch our boats from the deck of the barge. The Waterfront Museum, 290 Conover St., Pier 44, Red Hook. Taught by Artist Eva Mendes.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM: Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs invites you to a free symposium to learn about heart, vascular, and stroke issues including signs and symptoms, available treatments, and preventive care from acknowledged experts in the field at 2:30p.m. St. Jerome RC School Gymnasium at 465 East 29th St.

ONGOING UNTIL APRIL 15

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE: BronxWorks will be provide free tax preparation to the South Bronx



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residents.

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UNTIL APRIL 15

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE:

Ariva at Spring Bank, 69 E. 167A Gerard Ave., 2nd Fl., Monday & Thursday, 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday & Wednesday, 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.; call (718) 292-2983 for further information.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly, at the Bethex Federal Credit Union, 20 E. 179th St., Thursday And Friday, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; call (718) 299-9100 for further information.

Food Bank of New York City, at 1000 Sedgwick Ave., Ste. 1A, Monday & Thursday, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 3:00 to 6 :00 p.m.; Call 212-639-9675 for further information.

IMMIGRATION SERVICES: Free immigration services. Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 67 Hanson Place, Office of Coucil Member James. Call (718) 260-9191.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

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Shantytown facelift

Continued from Page 8

slum's residents.

Belizaire said he welcomes controversy, adding that the project's visibility is important. It's a concrete accomplishment for the government and he contends that it does indeed help Jalousie residents.

"People are sitting on the balcony, having a beer, smoking a cigarette — whatever — and you have all of Port-au-Prince at your feet, and you're living in colors," Belizaire said, sitting in his office.

Jalousie, perched above rich Petionville, has become a flashpoint for class controversy in Haiti recently. It is among many slums that have sprawled across the hills of Port-au-Prince in recent decades because governments past and present have failed to provide affordable housing and basic services. Many of the homes crash down the hills every year during the country's rainy seasons.

Haiti's class divisions spilled into the streets last year when more than 1,000 people from Jalousie protest-

ed in central Port-au-Prince. They threw rocks at a luxury hotel and criticized rich Haitians, threatening to burn down Petionville if the government followed through with a plan to demolish their homes. Officials had wanted to tear down the homes next to a ravine to build a flood-protection project. During heavy rainfall, rocks from the ravine clog the entrance to a private school for the children of diplomats and wealthy Haitians.

The demolition never happened.

These days, most people in Jalousie chalk the protests up to a "misunderstanding," and talk about the project with pride.

"It's beautiful. Jalousie is not the same anymore," Resilia Pierre, a 53-year-old wife and mother, said as she waited at a well to buy water. "We don't have the means to do it ourselves. I would like to say 'thank you' to the people who did that."

The government's goal it to eventually paint 1,000 homes and other buildings.

Workers hired by three companies began two weeks ago by putting concrete finishes on the ash-colored facades of the slum's cinder-block houses. Then they paint over the finish with bright colors using rollers, standing atop wobbly ladders next to buckets of paint. The entire effort is supposed to take six months.

Duffaut, one of Haiti's most famous painters, was born in the country's south in 1923. He studied at the Centre D'Art in the late 1940s and his work, appearing in museums worldwide, has long been a source of national pride.

While the project in Jalousie may be inspired by Duffaut, when completed it will still require a bit of imagination by the viewer to see his psychedelic cities in the sky, with their dazzling colors and surreal tiers that seemingly hovering in the air.

What residents will have in their neighborhood high up on a mountainside will be a lot of bright colors and a love of the artist.

"The people of Jalousie," said Jameson Misery, a coordinator of the project who lives in the slum, "we plan to honor Prefete Duffaut."



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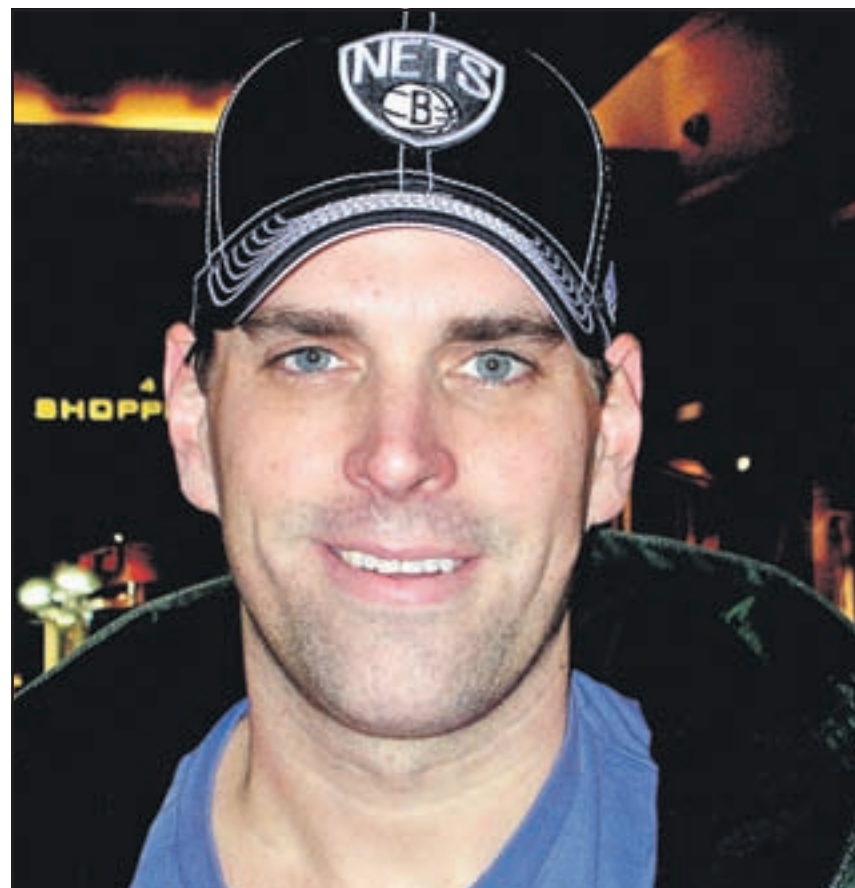


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Guyana's Maestro sawyer shines in New York

By Vinette K. Pryce

A predominant Guyanese crowd recently clamored to see and hear one of Hollywood's finest but in their midst a world-class musician quietly and patiently waited his turn to shine.

His name was not even listed on the program. Perhaps only his fellow nationals noticed his quiet disposition. Some familiar with his gifted performances, referred to him as Maestro.

However, at the end of the formalities surrounding the Power of Dreams Award luncheon, octogenarian Moses E. Josiah positioned himself on a folding chair, opened a carrying case, removed what appeared to be a regular, carpenter's wood saw and with a cello bow brilliantly illuminated Richie Rice's Banquet Hall in Brooklyn Hall playing "This Little Light of Mine."

Propped upward from

his knees, the gritty-edged, smooth surfaced cutter became a magnet to curious patrons eager to source the mellifluous sound.

The sound of music wafted past noisy distractions to resonate on virgin ears that had never heard the soothing decibels emanating from a workman's tool.

A musical saw player, a saw musician, a Sawyer, Sawist or just an innovative artist, this reporter mesmerized by the music searched for a proper identifier.

According to the 83-year-old Guyana-born talent, since 1987, he has been recognized by the Sawyers Association Worldwide as a Master Sawyer.

Their actual reason for distinguishing the Guyana-born native credits Josiah for "possessing the indispensable qualities of technical ability, musical artistry and wisdom required to uphold the digni-

fied and honorable tradition of musical sawing."

It was like hearing the sound of the steel pans for the first time.

As a matter of fact, Josiah claimed when he lived in Guyana, instead of a cello or violin bow, he used a felt hammer – akin to those used to play pan – to find the chords.

The music seemed new and enchanting, calming and peaceful. Josiah seemed at ease playing gospel.

In 2007, he released 12-recordings "Celebrating 60 Years of Ministry."

Among them, church favorites: "There Is A Balm In Gilead," "Jacob's Ladder," "Jesus Loves me," "How Great Thou Art" and "Sunshine In My Soul."

On this occasion, Josiah neither mentioned his CD nor promoted his unique artistry.

As a matter of fact, Glover



Moses E. Josiah, from the Brooklyn borough of New York, plays inspirational music on his tenor saw in the subway under New York's Grand Central Terminal, Friday, April 29, 2005. Josiah, originally from Guyana, has been playing the saw for 63 years.

AP Photo/Richard Drew

had long gone when he played his first note.

Guests had dined, chatted and mingled with the dozen honorees and most hurried to avoid the St. Patrick's Day crowd.

But a few lingered and were treated to the tastiest after-party treat.

His mastery and focused attention proved the main ingredient to the soothing music that gave pause from the hectic diversions that competed.

A decade ago, lucky strap-hangers passing through the 14th St. Union Square subway station gawked at his

prowess, talent and ingenuity. Changing from one train to the next some claimed to have heard the sound of music and followed it to find a "West Indian sitting on a chair."

"This is an authentic instrument," Josiah explained.





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Mexico's Jesus Zavala, left, and United States' Geoffrey Cameron go for a header during a World Cup 2014 qualifying match at the Aztec stadium in Mexico City.

AP Photo/Christian Palma

U.S., Mexico in 0-0 tie

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Americans were clinging to a scoreless tie, seconds away from earning a rare point in Mexico, when Angel Reyna's shot darted perilously close to the goal.

Brad Guzan lunged, smothering the ball with his body.

"It's always going to be a bit hectic and a bit crazy, especially late in the game," Guzan said. "You're never going to come

Continued on Page 48

More funds for Windies cricket

By Azad Ali

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has been given a US\$3 million financial boost by signing an agreement with the International Cricket Council (ICC) under the Targeted Assistance and Performance Program (TAPP), which is aimed at developing more competitive teams in international cricket. Under its program, the WICB will be awarded US\$3 million.

The funding will aim to provide enhanced support to the current elite West Indian players and future generations.

"We are delighted to be signing a TAPP agreement for this enhanced agreement with the ICC and are grateful for this enhanced support to help WICB achieve our

Continued on Page 48



Photo by Lem Peterkin

St. Louis's Kwamain Mitchell (center) during a match against Virginia Commonwealth University at the Barclays Center in downtown Brooklyn.

Atlantic 10 debuts at Barclays Center

By Robert Elkin

What a tremendous success for a first time and newly built venue to host a major post season college basketball Division I tournament! And it also marked a Brooklyn product to be competing near his old high school and residence.

Barclays Center in downtown Brooklyn went up or opened last fall as the New Jersey Nets moved its National Basketball Association franchise across two rivers to a much larger venue.

An idea came about by the management and owners to stage other events,

including more basketball ones, in this new venue. One idea was college basketball attractions.

Atlantic 10 Commissioner Bernadette McGlade negotiated with officials of the Barclays Center to host a post season

Continued on Page 48

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2003	Hyundai, 63k	H1088	\$2,995	2006	Chevy Cobalt, 100k	70263	\$3,995	2005	VW Passat ndsmtr, 24k	69686	\$4,995
2001	Toyota Corolla, 73k	17062	\$2,995	2004	Nissan Sentra, 53k	UC16122	\$3,995	2005	Toyota Camry, 65k	62871	SAVE
2001	Honda Civic, 87k	73406	\$2,995	2002	Ford Escape, 97k	67450	SAVE	2003	Ford Mustang, 99k	63795	\$4,995
YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
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2003	Jeep Cherokee, 136k	70605	\$5,995	2003	BMW x5, 110k	68755	SAVE	2006	Cadillac CTS, 67k	JU12013	SAVE
2002	Mercedes C240, 112k	67680	\$5,995	2006	Chrysler Town & Country	JU14877	SAVE	2007	Toyota Corolla, 92k	74352	\$7,995
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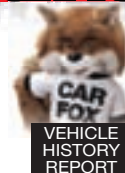
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2007	Chevy Impala, 28k	42370	\$7,995	2010	Chrysler Sebring, 38k	61787	\$9,995	2011	Nissan Rogue, 50k	69968	\$13,995
2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2004	Toyota Highlander, 134k	69228	\$9,995	2007	Lexus ES350, 53k	56974	\$14,888
2005	Nissan Quest, 60k	63458	\$8,995	2011	Ford Escape XLT, 25k	74493	\$9,995	2010	Infiniti G37, 30k	69927	\$19,995

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Mexico's Jesus Zavalá, left, tries a header as United States' goalkeeper Brad Guzan blocks him during a World Cup 2014 qualifying match at the Aztec stadium in Mexico City, Tuesday, March 26, 2013. AP Photo/Christian Palma

U.S. moves into third place

Continued from page 45

to a place like Azteca and go out and have it nice and easy. So we knew at some point, it was going to come, the pressure was going to come, and we were able to deal with it."

Guzan swatted away shot after shot, young defenders Omar Gonzalez and Matt Besler showed the poise of veterans and the Americans hung on for a 0-0 draw Tues-

day night, earning only their second point in a World Cup qualifier at Azteca Stadium.

The tie moved the U.S. (1-1-1) into third place in World Cup qualifying for the North and Central American and Caribbean region after three of 10 matches, one point behind Panama (1-0-2). The Americans and Costa Rica both have four points, but the Ticos are ahead on goal difference.

After playing at Jamaica on June 7, the U.S. will be at home for four of its last six qualifiers.

"We wanted to win, but we are pleased with the result," coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "They gave us everything they have."

Klinsmann was criticized after the opening 1-0 loss at Honduras in February, with unidentified players and people close to the

team questioning his tactics and leadership in a Sporting News report before last week's home win over Costa Rica.

Mexico coach Manuel De la Torre is sure to come under fire after a third straight draw, which dropped El Tri (0-0-3) to second-to-last place in the standings. The top three teams in the group, which also includes Honduras, advance to next

year's World Cup in Brazil next year while the No. 4 nation meets New Zealand in a home-and-home playoff for another berth.

Mexico certainly had its chances with a whopping 17-1 advantage in shots and 15 corner kicks, three just in the last two minutes of stoppage time. But El Tri was plagued by poor finishing and dismal execution on set pieces.

"There are 21 points left. The leader has five; we have three. It's tight," De la Torre said. "It's close, and of course we are not where we wanted to be. Our obligation is to win at home, and we have left points behind."

Azteca is one of the world's most imposing venues and, like just about everybody else, the Americans have a miserable track record there. They are 0-13-2 in World Cup qualifiers in Mexico, with their only other point — also from a 0-0 draw — coming in 1997.

But Klinsmann has never lost to Mexico, either as a player or a coach with Germany and the U.S., and he has bolstered the Americans' confidence when it comes to their fierce rivals. The U.S. won at Azteca for the first time ever in an exhibition last summer, and the Americans talked repeatedly of making more history on this trip.

"Many people said it couldn't be done," said American forward Herculez Gomez.

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Funding for new talent



WICB President Julian Hunte.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton

Continued from page 45

high performance objectives," said Julian Hunte, WICB president.

"We have started to make progress on the field over the past year and this support will allow us to build on that by investing more resources than ever in the development of emerging talent in the West Indies," he said.

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St. Louis earns NCAA berth

Continued from page 45

tournament with the winner automatically qualifying for the very prestigious NCAA tournament. This latter event is what most college players strive for.

It was a four-day/evening event with teams coming from the Atlantic 10 Conference. Everything went smoothly with the players and fans bussed from their college to the Center to watch first class basketball in a first class arena. The players had nothing but praise for the spacious facilities.

It was a pleasure for the fans and spectators to cheer for their favorite team. Col-

lege students, parents and friends of the competing players plus high school students and kids from the neighborhood packed the stands.

They cheered for Chaz Williams, a point guard, who can also put the ball in the hoop for the Massachusetts Minutemen during their games. But they were disappointed when UMass were eliminated and did not compete in the finals.

Chaz had praise for the new venue, located maybe close to three miles from his former school, Bishop Ford, a member of the Catholic High Schools Athletic Asso-

ciation.

His play in college induced the pro scouts to keep him on the list for consideration even though he stands only 5'9." But his height maybe in the way.

When coach Derek Kellogg needs a score, he knows who can start it and finish it. This player is Chaz, the same that he did when he was at Bishop Ford. He can do almost anything on the court except rebound. He can drive inside or shoot from the outside, including from long range out. And he can run the show from a backcourt position setting up his teammates. And he



Commissioner Bernadette McGlade (Second left) with members of the St. Louis Championship Team.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

can play tremendous defense including making those steals. He became the 'go to' player while at UMass and

has one more year left at college.

All eyes were focused on him in the tournament. In

a quarter final game when UMass defeated Temple, 79-74, he scored 28 points and assisted five times. When his coach needed him to score, he counted a great deal on him.

However, against a stronger VCU team, it was a different game, as the Rams defeated UMass, 71-62, to send the losers packing. Chaz committed four fouls and five turnovers but still managed to score 18 points to disappoint the fans.

In the championship game, St. Louis took the title with a 62-56 win over VCU, thus earning a NCAA berth.

The tournament was an extreme success on all fronts. And the committee agreed that they would continue to do the same next year.

Windies selectors must use caution!

West Indies selectors must be much more cautious and use much more discretion when selecting the West Indies squad. This is especially important as the head coach serves as master of ceremony in the selection of the final 11.

Some steps have been made to create changes but there are too much of "do this for me and I will do that for you."

The overall management of the West Indies cricket and decision making bodies do not reflect the professional ingredient of the sport. West Indies cricket needs restructuring at every level. Some steps have been made to create changes but there are too much of "do this for me and I will do that for you." The interest of building cricket to a higher



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

level and creating systems to boost the confidence and morale of youths seem to be non-existent. Too many cricketers have been just passing through on the field. Selectors have shredded the names of many cricketers because of a few failures.

Twenty20 Cricket has Reshaped the Cricket World

The introduction of Twenty20 cricket has revolutionized the cricket world and it was important that cricket boards throughout the world put in place proper structures to keep Test cricket alive. The shorter version is much more attractive financially and the majority of players have been attracted to that

arena. In spite of the West Indies being world champions in Twenty20, it is a great opportunity for them to be world champions in Test cricket as well. The last two occasions West Indies met with Australia in Tests, the West Indies should have played tougher cricket and come out as winners!

Australia, India and England and even Pakistan are the Test teams to be beaten before the West Indies can rise in the hierarchy of Test standings. The West Indies selectors have been sidelining too many talented players after a few failures. Those players must not be dropped from the team. Coaches ought to work harder with those players and give them guidance.



The West Indies cricket team poses for the media after receiving the trophy for winning the one-day international series, 4-1, against India at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad.
AP Photo/Andres Leighton, file

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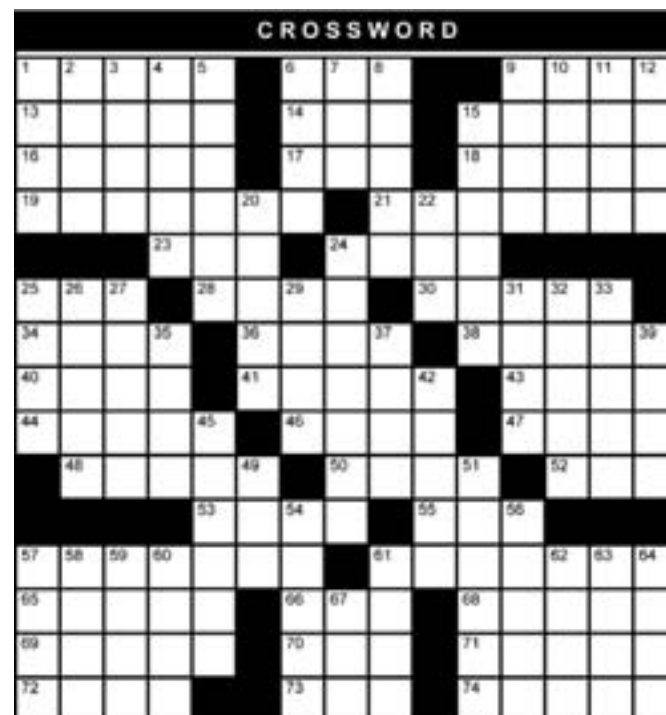
1. Property held by one party for the benefit of another
6. Band booking
9. Mary's pet
13. Blood circulation organ
14. Under the weather
15. Last test
16. Beech tree fiber textile
17. Jersey call
18. 2:3, e.g.
19. Conceited
21. *Common Twenties description
23. Relations
24. Update, as in iPod
25. Read-Only Memory
28. Light beige
30. Mother?
34. "_____ to it!"
36. Space above
38. Respected Hindu
40. Bride screen
41. Suggestive of an elf
43. *7-Up was one such drink created in the twenties
44. Betty Page, e.g.
46. Italian money
47. Commoner
48. Type of advice
50. Cecum, pl.

52. "But I heard him exclaim, _____ he drove out of sight"
53. Fiber used for making rope
55. "For _____ a jolly..."
57. *a.k.a. _____
61. *Speakeasy serving
65. Accepted truth
66. Earned at Wharton or Kellogg
68. Infested with lice
69. As opposed to down feather
70. *Woodrow Wilson, e.g.
71. Relating to the ulna
72. Boundary of surface
73. _____-Wan Kenobi
74. Smooth transition

DOWN

1. Woolen caps of Scottish origin
2. _____ canal
3. Pakistani language
4. Library storage
5. *"The Jazz Singer," e.g.
6. Long John Silver's gait
7. International workers' group
8. Civil War movie starring Washington and Freeman
9. One with burning pants
10. Prefix often preceding #1 Across
11. *"_____ Street" by Sinclair Lewis
12. It features postings
15. Bar brawl, e.g.
20. Cry of surrender

22. The loneliest number?
24. Be sufficient or adequate
25. Please get back to me
26. WWE's Titus _____
27. Easternmost state
29. *1920's Jazz great, Jelly _____ Morton
31. Coarse file
32. Oar pin
33. Opposite of seeker
35. It fits in a socket
37. Cars have a spare one
39. *1927 was his hit season
42. Popular ball game snack
45. Slumber party wear
49. Carry a suitcase?
51. God of the winds
54. Moderato, e.g.
56. *What "Pretty Boy" Floyd did in the 1920s
57. Humorous anecdote
58. What Lizzie Borden did
59. Move like a bullet
60. Z in DMZ
61. Island near Java
62. Black _____
63. Brother of Jacob
64. Swirling vortex
67. *Hairstyle



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vices; however, some of
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"Most newspapers print a
disclaimer in their classified
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about numbers that are a
direct line to trouble. Any
number starting with 900,
540, 595 or 871 charges a
fee beyond a local call. In
some instances, ads initial-
ly advertise calls to a local
number, but then direct
callers to a second number
starting with one of the
paid exchanges. "Consum-
ers must also question the
legitimacy of vague
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fore responding to an ad,
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➤ LEGAL NOTICES

➤ LEGAL

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: GPH FOOD LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/27/2013. Office location: Kings County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Gerald P. Holman, PO Box 380563, Brooklyn, NY 11238. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

➤ LEGAL

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF THE GWINNETT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: S.A.J.
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➤ LEGAL

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, acting by and through the GWINNETT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES, PETITIONER
TO: SHARON ANDREWS, the biological mother of the above-named child, whose address and whereabouts are unknown.
You are hereby notified that a Petition for Deprivation has been filed by the Gwinnett County Department of Family and Children Services, the present temporary custodian of the above-named child. You may obtain a copy of the Motion from the Clerk of this Court at 115 Stone Mountain Street, Lawrenceville, Georgia during regular business hours, or a copy will be mailed to you at your request.
You are further notified

➤ LEGAL

that a hearing thereon will be held before this Court on April 11, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. You are required to appear and answer the allegations of the Petition at said hearing. Findings of fact and orders of disposition will become final at the hearing.
You have the right to be represented by legal counsel. If you are unable to employ legal counsel without undue financial hardship, the Court will appoint counsel to represent you. If you desire to have an attorney appointed to represent you, you should advise the Court of such need prior to the hearing.
Witness the Honorable Stephen E. Franzén, Judge of said Court, this 16th day of November, 2012.
Sheila Williams
Clerk of Court

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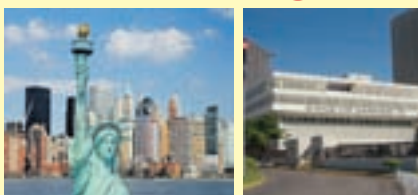
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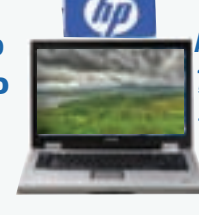
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