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Ahead of the pack

Bronx twins Arianne and Ariel Strunkey of Taft Educational Campus who repeated their victories in the 200 meters in 25.5 and 25.8 seconds respectively pose with their mother Cheryl Strunkey at the Colgate Games. See page 45.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

Jamaica-Trinidad free travel, trade deal

By Nelson A. King

After what was developing into a major immigration and trade row between two of the larger Caribbean Community (CARICOM) states, the foreign ministers of Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago have signed an agreement aimed at enhancing free trade and movement between nationals of both countries.

"I think we have created a platform for addressing not only the issues which brought this meeting together but for a wider set of considerations, both in our bilateral relations and in the relations within the wider CARICOM," said Trinidad Foreign Minister Winston Dookeran Tuesday after meeting with his Jamaican counterpart, Arnold J.

Nicholson, in Kingston.

Dookeran and his four-member delegation were invited for the two-day parley by Nicholson following a recent incident in which 13 Jamaicans were refused entry into the twin-island republic, to discuss matters of free movement and free trade within the context of the Caribbean Sin-

Continued on Page 6

CARICOM FAMILY DILEMMA

Leaders caught between a rock and a hard place

By Bert Wilkinson

Some have rebuked Caribbean governments for not coming down hard enough on the Dominican Republic for taking away citizenship of persons born in the country with Haitian blood, but the truth about the relatively mild rebuke might lie in the fact that no one might be too anxious to interfere with the robust trade in goods between the DR and the Caribbean Community in recent years.

Early last week, the prime ministers of Trinidad, St. Vincent and the president of Haiti met in emergency session in Port of Spain to discuss a recent court ruling in the Dominican Republic that basically stated that people of Haitian ancestry who were born on its soil after 1929 could no longer be considered as citizens and must prepare to leave the country in

the coming months or go through a humiliating process to prove actual connection to DR society.

The three heads of government were at the special meeting of the CARICOM Bureau of prime ministers, which runs the affairs of the region in-between the two yearly summits. Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad is the current chairperson.

At the end of their meeting, the leaders decided to suspend any consideration of an application by the administration of President Danilo Medina to allow the DR to become a full member of CARICOM, just as Haiti did back in 2002. Haiti has traditionally protected against racist policies perpetrated against its darker skinned citizens at the hands of its neighbor. The two share the island of Hispaniola. They also said

Continued on Page 6

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Blue & Gold Georgia Salute for St. Lucia PM

By Shonda Lewis

Fort Valley, Ga. - This week, a high-ranking Caribbean dignitary will receive an official blue and gold salute from Fort Valley State University leaders, University System of Georgia officials, politicians and business elite during a special event in Atlanta.

FVSU will hold its first Global Initiatives Council Excellence Forum in honor of Saint Lucian Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny Anthony, on Friday, Dec. 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The invitation-only event, hosted by Chairman Emeritus of the 100 Black Men of America and TWD, Inc. president, Dr. Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., who is also an FVSU alumnus, will take place at The Commerce Club.

"The purpose of the Excellence Forum is primarily to welcome Prime Minister Kenny Anthony to Georgia," said Dr. Melody L. Carter, vice president for FVSU's Division of External Affairs and executive director for the FVSU Foundation, Inc. "The prime minister will serve as our commencement speaker on Saturday, Dec. 7 in Fort Valley, Ga. He also will receive the honorary doctorate of Humane Letters at the ceremony."

According to Carter, the meet-and-greet affair will also serve as an opportunity for the FVSU president to forge collaboration to increase our enrollment and boost academic excellence. Prime Minister Anthony, himself a distinguished professor of law before entering politics full time, leads the nation that gave the world two Nobel Laureates: Dr. W. Arthur Lewis for economics in 1979, and Derek Walcott for literature in 1992.

Distinguished invitees



Dr. Kenny Anthony.

Photo Credit: FVSU

to the forum include Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed; Fulton County Board of Commissioners chairman, Dr. John Eaves; FVSU National Alumni Association, Inc. president and FVSU

"The purpose of the Excellence Forum is primarily to welcome Prime Minister Kenny Anthony to Georgia. He will serve as our commencement speaker on Saturday, Dec. 7 and receive the honorary doctorate of Humane Letters at the ceremony."

Foundation board member, Dr. Lawrence Marable; and University System of Georgia Chancellor, Hank Huckabee. FVSU Atlanta-area alumni chapter and Chamber of Commerce presidents are also invited.

For more information about the Global Initiatives Council Excellence Forum, contact FVSU's Office of Marketing and Communications, (478) 825-6319.



The Clarkes celebrate with Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio and his wife Chirlane, and Public Advocate-elect Letitia James.

Photos by Leonard McKenzie

Birthday bash for a Queen

Una Clarke turns 79 and getting younger

By Leonard McKenzie

Former City Council member Una Clarke celebrated her 79th birthday in fine fashion as she proudly vaunted her four successful candidates in the recent New York City general election: From Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio to Brooklyn's top law-enforcement officer Ken Thompson, who defeated Charles Hynes twice for the top spot after he had served for more than two decades in the position.

Mrs Clarke wasn't at any loss for words as she talked up her longstanding relationship with newly elected Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, who will replace 'Mr. Brooklyn', Marty Markowitz.

Mrs Clarke broadened her smile as she embraced newly-elected Public Advocate Letitia "Tish" James, who is also a very close friend of her daughter, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.



The Clarkes with U.S. Rep. Hakim Jeffries (left) and City Comptroller Scott Stringer.



The elder Clarke, now in the twilight years of her life, was quite vibrant and energetic as usual, as she constantly flashed her broad smile to her guests.

CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda recently described as “disappointing” the latest round of talks with representatives from the Office of the United States Trade Representatives (USTR) in a bid to resolve their long standing internet gambling dispute.

“There is no escaping the fact that this was a disappointing meeting, and that the USTR proposals fell far short of what is required to settle this matter,” said Ambassador Colin Murdoch, who headed the local delegation to the talks in Washington.

“In failing to address key proposals that we have made, the USTR has put U.S. intellectual property rights holders at risk,” he added.

Antigua and Barbuda has criticized the United States since 1998 of breaching its commitments to members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) by enacting laws that prevented foreign-based operators from offering gambling and betting services to its citizens.



In 2005, the WTO ruled that Washington had violated international trade agreements by prohibiting operation of offshore Internet gambling sites. Antigua claimed that it lost US\$3.4 billion a year due to the U.S. action, but the WTO awarded the island US\$21 million.

But in its final ruling, the Geneva-based WTO has allowed Antigua and Barbuda to suspend certain concessions and obligations it has under international law to the United States in respect of intellectual property rights.

Bahamas

Asailboatcrowdedwithmigrants from Haiti apparently struck a reef and capsized in the Bahamas, killing at least 30. Photographs taken by the U.S. Coast Guard during a rescue operation showed about 100 people on the boat, clinging to every available space on the overturned vessel off Staniel Cay in the Bahamas.



The Royal Bahamas Defence Force and U.S. Coast Guard



Not so fast... Nutmegs are back!

Farmer Scott Boca plants lettuce besides the remains of two nutmeg trees at the Birch Grove village, Grenada, Wednesday, May 25, 2005. See story on page 22. AP Photo/Andres Leighton, file

launched the rescue operation.

Staniel Cay is about 80 miles southeast of Nassau, the Bahamian capital.

It is part of the Exuma chain and is surrounded by low-lying reefs. The boat, in addition to being overloaded, likely encountered choppy water, said Lt Origin Deleveaux, a spokesman for the Royal Bahamas Defense Force.

Barbados

The ratings agency, Standard & Poor's (S&P) has revised downwards the long-term rating for Barbados - the second downgrade in four months.

Recently, the United States-based credit rating agency announced that it had moved the island's rating from BB+ to BB- in response to a persistent current account deficit and a high fiscal deficit.



“The downgrade reflects the mounting external pressures associated with a persistent current account deficit and external financing challenges, as well as the ongoing high fiscal deficit largely because of a substantial

fall in government revenues as a result of the weak economy,” the agency said.

According to S&P due to the large fiscal deficits, it is expected that the net general government debt burden will rise to above 70 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in fiscal 2013 (ending March 2014) from 67 percent in fiscal 2012 and 60% in fiscal 2011.

In reacting to the news, former president of the Economic Society, Ryan Straughn, said the latest rating has not come as a surprise and suggested that the writing had been on the wall for some time since government did not go ahead with the expenditure cuts announced by the minister of Finance in the August 2013 Budget.

Straughn met with a visiting team from S&P two weeks ago.

Guyana

Guyana has launched a GUY\$5,000 note that will go into circulation on Dec. 9. (GUY\$1=US\$0.01).

Bank of Guyana Deputy Governor Dr. Gobin Ganga said an awareness campaign would be

launched before the note goes into circulation.

The bank said the new note would significantly reduce the number of notes it would be required to process in the fast-approaching holiday season.

The note also carries two track threads with optically variable and metallic print properties. In addition, it carries a mark for the visually impaired and partially sighted.

Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh, who unveiled the new note, said it represents an important addition to the range of local currency in use, and businesses would be handling a single note for every five \$1,000 notes.

“This really just represents a higher denomination; that is to say that our dollar has the same value today as it had before, except that now we will be holding one \$5,000 bill instead of five \$1,000 bills,” he said.



Haiti

A major highway in Haiti will get an overhaul with the help

of US\$50 million from the Inter-American Development Bank.

The bank's grant aims to repair parts of National Highway #1, which connects Haiti's two biggest cities and busiest seaports, Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitien.



The goal is to foster economic development by making road transport from the north to Port-au-Prince more efficient and safer. This includes widening shoulders and installing guardrails, speed bumps and road signs. The program also seeks to educate motorists about road safety.

Jamaica

The Constitutional Court recently threw out an application challenging the refusal of three Jamaican television stations to air an advertisement promoting tolerance for homosexuals.

The three-member panel in handing down their ruling dismissed claims brought by gay rights activist Maurice Tomlinson against Television Jamaica (TVJ), CVM TV and the Public Broadcasting Corporation of Jamaica (PBCJ).

Tomlinson, a Jamaican attorney who married another man, Tom Decker, in Canada recently, had argued the action of Television Jamaica, CVM TV and the Public Broadcasting Corporation of Jamaica breached the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.



He also contended the advertisement did not violate broadcasting laws or regulations and, as such, the television stations are unjustified in refusing to air it. Managing director of the RJR Communications Group Gary Allen said he welcomed the ruling.

The judges had recently reserved their judgment after hearing arguments over a four-day period.

Queen's Counsel Lord Gifford argued the stations violated the Character of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms by refusing to broadcast the advertisement. But the attorneys for the defendants asked the court to dismiss the claim, with QC Hugh Small arguing the advertisement could be viewed as support for homosexuality.

Continued on Page 16

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Jamaica, T&T trade deal

Continued from cover

gle Market and Economy (CSME), according to a Jamaica government statement issued in New York.

Nicholson said Dookeran arrived in Jamaica at a time of “considerable discontent and unease with our regional integration movement”.

The Jamaica foreign minister said the treatment meted out to Jamaicans at Piarco International Airport in Trinidad and Tobago and the sharp increase in the number of Jamaicans being returned from Trinidad and Tobago had generated “considerable public outrage.”

He said that this has “undoubtedly affected confidence in the region’s integration movement; diminished goodwill on the part of many Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora towards the twin-island republic; as well as threaten to change patterns of consumption in Jamaica.”

“Given the paradigm shift in immigration law and procedures in relation to the treatment of CARICOM nationals entering countries of the region, both our countries recognized the need for a common approach and interpretation of the law,” Nicholson told reporters at the end of the talks



Jamaican Trade Minister A.J. Nicholson (L), and his Trinidad & Tobago counterpart, Winston Dookeran, in discussion prior to the start of the meeting. Photo courtesy of JIS

on Tuesday.

Dookeran said he had extended an invitation to Nicholson to visit Port-of-Spain, the Trinidad and Tobago capital, by the end of the first quarter of 2014 for further consultations, adding that there was a need to follow up on agreements emerging from the two-day talks.

In light of the immigration furor, Jamaica had warned its nationals about travelling to Trinidad and Tobago.

But Nicholson and Dookeran vowed to find “mutually beneficial solutions” to the impasse, according to the Jamaica government statement.

“It is of no benefit to Trinidad and Tobago or to Jamaica to allow a trade war to develop – both our countries will suffer,” Dookeran said.

“[We will] suffer in terms of investment, employment and in terms of building our own productive capability,” he added.

Family dilemma

Continued from cover

they would review working relations at a host of international forums including the OAS.

But statistics seen by this newspaper in recent days show since the two sides signed off on a free trade deal in 1998, exports from the region to the DR have moved from \$73.1M in 2002 to \$261M in 2011 the last year for which statistics are available.

On the other hand, businesses in Santo Domingo started to benefit from the trade deal in 2002 with a mere \$26M in exports but this has since moved up to \$153.1M in 2011.

Incidentally, the 2011 figure was the highest recorded so far for the DR while CARICOM’s 2008 export figure of \$531.2M was the highest since the 1998 agreement actually came into force in 2001.

The figures clearly show that the two sides are of great value to each other despite a recent ruling by the DR’s highest court

“With respect to goods traded duty-free under the agreement for the period 2002-2011, CARI-

COM’s average annual exports to the Dominican Republic were US\$176.9 million. CARICOM’s average annual imports from the Dominican Republic were US\$64.6 million, with an average balance-of-payment surplus of US\$112.3 million in favour of CARICOM,” the main document stated.

So far the agreement covers only trade in goods. The portion pertaining to the trade in services has not been enacted as yet, while the DR has been restricted from exporting duty-free products to smaller Eastern Caribbean islands which fear they would be swamped by imports. They are however allowed to export products tariff-free to the DR, the document showed.

Among the exporting nations, oil- and gas-rich Trinidad has dominated exports, selling liquefied gas, motor fuels, urea, baby napkins and other products, while the DR has concentrated on products like beer, milk, cream concentrate, animal vegetable fats and oils, cane- and beet-sugar, aerated water and cement, among others.

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Celebrating World AIDS Day through film

By Natalie Y. Henry

The film, "David is Dying," a provocative drama written and directed by Stephen Lloyd Jackson journeys through the life of a tortured soul that constantly engages in self-destruction and self-sabotage. David Brown's need to be in control destroys his true love Clara and their relationship. In the end it's not his HIV diagnosis that is killing him but the death of his soul. This film was part of the first installment of Dine-In Cinema Health Fest Series followed by a Q&A with the film director, Dr. Leonard Berkowitz, chief of infectious diseases at Brooklyn Hospital Center; Dierdre Wallace-Hinds, licensed social worker/pharmacy specialist at the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and moderator HIV Activist Michelle Lopez.

The Dec. 2 program



Stephen Lloyd Jackson, director/writer of David is Dying and Dr. Leonard Berkowitz, chief, division of infectious diseases medical director, PATH Center at The Brooklyn Hospital Center answering questions from the audience during the Dine In Cinema at The Brooklyn Hospital. Right: Karen Jemmott.

presented by caribBEING, Brooklyn Hospital Center and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation celebrated World AIDS Day and sought to have discourse about

awareness, education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS. "This event is a great opportunity for The Brooklyn Hospital Center moving forward to continue the dia-



logue already had AIDS when diagnosed.

Statistics from the report also show that Brooklyn has the highest percentage of new HIV cases compared to the five boroughs with 27 percent, followed by Manhattan (25.7 percent) and The Bronx (18.6 percent). Hopefully, showing films like "David is Dying" makes the issues surrounding HIV more digestible in combating the stigma associated with the disease.

Some people are still clinging to myths about HIV/AIDS and how it can be contracted.

"Individuals still want to lock themselves into this myth that if you touch someone, kiss someone, hug someone with HIV you're going to contract it", says Lopez.

Open dialogue about HIV/AIDS can be difficult to discuss in Caribbean communities, which is ironic, since the Caribbean ranks second to sub-Saharan Africa for HIV/AIDS infection rates.

"There is a tremendous amount of stigma related to HIV/AIDS awareness among Caribbean constituents,"

Continued on Page 20

logue regarding HIV/AIDS awareness," says Leroy R. Charles, vice president of external affairs. According to the New York City Dept. of Health's 2012 HIV

Surveillance annual report, HIV diagnoses in New York City have decreased by 40 percent. However 3,141 New Yorkers were newly diagnosed with HIV and 20 per-

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DC 37 on TV

The State of the Union

hosted by Lillian Roberts
District Council 37 Executive Director

District Council 37 discusses fight to stop the layoffs of more than 160 social service workers at New York City Housing Authority community and senior centers, and from NYCHA's Resident Watch program city-wide, with DC 37 Secretary Cliff Koppelman, sitting in for DC 37 Executive Director Lillian Roberts, co-host DC 37 Associate Director Henry Garrido and guests: Health Services Employees Local 768 President Fitz Reid and Social Services Employees Union Local 371 Secretary-Treasurer Juan Ortiz.

The program airs on:

Brooklyn's BCAT:

Thursday, Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. on Time Warner Ch. 34, Cablevision Ch. 67, Verizon Ch. 42 and RCN Ch. 82.

BRONXNET:

Wednesdays this month, beginning Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. on Cablevision Ch. 70 and Verizon FiOS Ch. 36.

Manhattan Neighborhood Network

Thursday, Dec. 19 at 9:30 p.m. on Time Warner Ch. 34, Verizon FiOS Ch. 33 and RCN Ch. 82.

Queens Public Television (QPTV)

Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 2:30 p.m. on Time Warner Chs. 56 & 1996, Verizon FiOS Ch. 36 and RCN Ch. 84 & Thursday, Dec. 26 at 7:30 p.m. on Time Warner Chs. 79 & 1998, Verizon FiOS Ch. 35 and RCN Ch. 83.

Staten Island Community Television (CTV)

Mondays this month, beginning Dec. 9 at 9 p.m. on Time Warner Ch. 34 and Verizon FiOS Ch. 34.

DC 37 on the Radio, AM 1600 WWRL – "DC 37 Works For You"

Listen to the program "DC 37 Works for You" with host DC 37's Lillian Roberts, Saturdays, December 7 and 28, from 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

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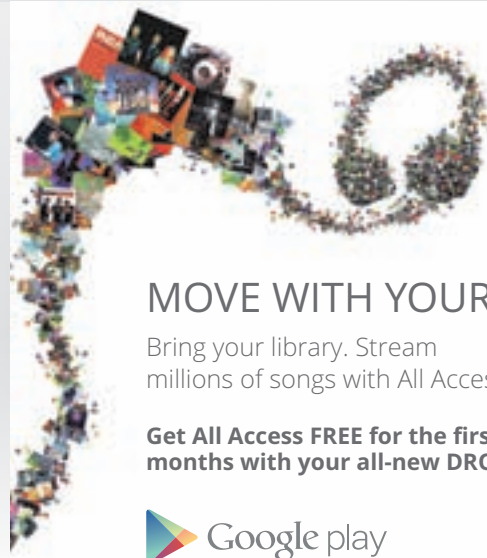
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'Bargain Shoppers the Real Winners'

To The Editor

Washington, Nov, 29, 2013 – Cold temperatures weren't any match for eager holiday shoppers last night. Early morning reports show that millions of Americans lined retailer's sidewalks Thanksgiving evening and into Black Friday in order to stock up on discounted toys, laptops, tablets, apparel, and more.

"By all appearances and according to CEOs I've spoken with across the retail spectrum, it looks like the early opening of stores on Thanksgiving and the traditional start of holiday shopping on Black Friday is breaking new records, including what companies are seeing through their digital channels," said (National Retail Foundation) President and CEO Matthew Shay. "The key take-away at this point is that the real winners are in fact the consumers, who are recognizing more savings through competitive pricing and great promotions being offered in every category.

If there was any question Friday morning as to whether the Thanksgiving shopping tradition still resonates with Americans, we can simply look at the news coming from those who opened their doors to millions of eager shoppers last night." NRF estimates that holiday sales will increase 3.9 percent this year to \$602 billion. NRF's holiday sales forecast is based on an economic model using indicators like housing data, unemployment and previous monthly retail sales reports and includes retail industry sales from November and December.

NRF was scheduled to release the results of its Black Friday survey on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013, by 1:30 p.m. ET, with President and CEO Matthew Shay hosting a special media briefing at 2:00 p.m. ET to discuss those results.

Thereafter, NRF experts were expected to discuss where people shopped over the weekend, what time they started shopping, how much they spent, what influenced their purchases and how many people were expected to shop online on Cyber Monday. Members of the press and analysts were invited to RSVP for the call by emailing press@nrf.com. (Calls were to be monitored to only allow accredited reporters, editors and writers to have access to the results. Additionally, NRF analysts were promised access to the results on NRF's website by Monday morning.

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Trinidad & Tobago deportation undermines regional integration

By Rickford Burke

The New York-based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) condemns the Nov. 19 deportation of 13 Jamaican nationals from Trinidad & Tobago. We also strongly denounce Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar's explanation of this action as being "compliant with the law." CGID wishes to ask of what law does the prime minister speak?

The Jamaicans alleged that T&T Immigration officers informed them that entry was denied because of the recent murder of Trinidadian Keron Fraser in Jamaica. They said that they were mistreated while in detention, and deported the following day. T&T Immigration service claimed that their expulsion was either because no one met them at the airport or that they presented no evidence of funds to support their stay.

The unjust deportation of CARICOM nationals constitutes reprehensible violations of Articles 45 and 46 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguramas (RTC) as well as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). They also especially flout settled law established by the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in its landmark *Shanique Myrie v State of Barbados* ruling.

While the court affirmed a Member State's right to deny a CARICOM national entry, it likewise concurrently affirmed a CARICOM national's right to be granted entry into a member State, provided the following two limited exceptions: (i) If the national would become "a charge on public funds" and (ii) If the national presents a threat to "public morals, the maintenance of public order and safety and the protection of life and health."

The CCJ placed the burden

States must commit to freedom of movement.

of proof to establish a sufficiency of grounds to invoke either exception on the refusing state, not the national. They also conferred jurisdiction to interpret the scope and right to exercise such exceptions on the CARICOM Heads Conference or designated organ, and ultimately the CCJ itself as the guardian of the RTC.

The actions of the T&T Immigration are therefore opprobrious violations of the law. Suffice it to say, Mrs. Persad-Bissessar's assertion that the actions of T&T Immigration were lawful because the CCJ ruling gives immigration officers discretion to determine undesirability, is atrociously uninformed as the said ruling imposed strict restrictions on the exercise of such discretion. The prime minister's comments therefore engender division among nations and dangerously undermine regional integration.

National Security Minister Gary Griffith told the Guardian newspaper that one person was deported because she claimed she brought her child to visit the father but the father never showed up at the airport. Another, he said, only possessed US\$250 to support their stay. He affirmed that his government would not admit "people who did not have a clear way of supporting themselves or did not have individuals to assist them on entry." He said this could lead to unemployment.

This is an appalling level of insularity. T&T Immigration at no time established that the thirteen Jamaicans presented a threat to "public morals, nation-

al security, safety and national health" or would be "a charge on public funds." Any belated assertion of this nature strains credibility.

Furthermore, the requirements for entry delineated by Mr. Griffith are exceedingly arbitrary, subjective and contrary to the law. They are a flagrant violation of Articles 45 and 46 of the RTC. Would the T&T government countenance the arbitrary imposition of such "wishy-washy" criteria on Trinidadians by other CARICOM States?

The CCJ in the instant ruling expressly held that the mere assertion by the refusing State of a national's inability to identify a legitimate host, or failure to be greeted at the airport, is in and of itself insufficient grounds to justify refusal of entry. Moreover, the ruling reaffirmed the supremacy of regional law whenever there is a conflict between national and regional laws.

Article 45 of the RTC states that "Member States commit themselves to the goal of free movement of their nationals within the Community." Article 46. 2. States that "Member States shall establish appropriate legislative, administrative and procedural arrangements to: (a) facilitate the movement of skills within the contemplation of this Article; (b) provide for movement of Community nationals into and within their jurisdictions without harassment or the imposition of impediments, including: (i) the elimination of the requirement for passports...work permits..." Can this vision ever be achieved?

These violations by the T&T government demonstrate the urgent need for Caricom to establish uniform regulations

Continued on Page 12

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.

Beat-down of filibuster abuse was overdue

The only appropriate response to the decision taken the other day by majority leader Harry Reid and his caucus in the Senate, to change the ground rules regarding use of the filibuster, is: how come it took so long? Sure, there was always going to be a sword of Damocles threat overhanging whichever side, Democrat or Republican, went for the extreme measure that had come to be called the “nuclear option.” But as Reid and his Democratic colleagues said after voting to implement the new rules, whatever Republicans come up with by way of retribution if they ever regain Senate control, doesn’t figure to be much worse than they had already been doing.

In predictable blowback against the Democrats’ action, one heard talk of the historic rule change violating long-standing Senate tradition and dishonoring the collegiality that supposedly resides within that chamber. The Senate, for sure, has many times shown itself more inclined to legislative conduct befitting the Congress of the United States than its counterparts in the House...particularly so with respect to what now prevails in the latter body, given the out-of-control

renegade Republicans influencing business there. But any claim of collegiality in today’s Senate is quickly reduced to the myth it actually is, in the face of what has been done filibuster-wise in recent years. Since the start of the Obama era, to be precise.

Senator Reid’s office released a statement when the Democrats went for the jugular, to graphically make the case that the seismic change had become necessary. Reid’s statement indicated that over the years, the number of occasions on which presidential appointments had been blocked by the Senate totaled 168. Of this total, 82 or practically half, have happened during the Obama administration. There was some minor quibbling in certain quarters about those numbers, but nothing that materially changed an unconscionable disparity in the resort to filibuster tactics pre-Obama and since this president assumed office. The glaringly heavy-handed use of the filibuster tool against President Obama makes a mockery of any pretensions to civility and respectful accommodation in the Senate’s conduct of its affairs. How do they begin to rationalize bias taken to those extremes?

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

Senate Republicans can’t have it both ways. They can’t, on the one hand, lay claim to a position a cut or two above the howling lunatics to be found in the House and elsewhere who wear their party brand, while having to defend such an obnoxiously high number of roadblocks to sabotage the president’s appointments. It’s very clear that these very Senate Republicans, allegedly more committed to making democratic government work than fellow GOP lawmakers, aren’t as loyal to fairness in the system as they would have us believe. With their record on going the filibuster route against the president, the Republican caucus in the Senate is as guilty as anyone else on that side for whom the Obama presidency has long been declared one not entitled to normal courtesies of the office.

The hue and cry from the GOP following the move orchestrated by Reid was that by instituting a simple-majority vote for ending

most filibusters, as opposed to the super majority (60 votes) formerly required, Democrats were denying the opposition a minority protection that Senate forerunners had wisely adopted years ago. On its face, judicious use of the filibuster does indeed provide the parliamentary minority with a legislative bulwark against what look to be undeniable excesses foisted by the majority. There can be no mistaking, however, that when approximately half of all filibusters utilized to derail appointments are clustered under Obama’s time at the helm, even with a second term not yet one year running, flagrant abuse, not judicious use, is what we’ve got.

Having earned the office by way of the ballot, or even if special circumstances landed him there, every president is of course entitled to the team of his choosing. Going way overboard as they did in opposing the president’s appointments, GOP senators proved themselves willing to deny him one of the basic rights of victory at the polls. Notwithstanding other efforts by members of their caucus involving compromise or an appearance of goodwill, their record on filibuster use against the president eclipses

all else and stands as a major indictment.

Conversations around the issue of different standards being applied, blatantly or more subtly, to Barack Obama’s stewardship must unavoidably arrive at the question of the president’s ethnicity. Which in turn invariably prompts us to dial up a line of analysis proffered by some commentators at the time of Obama’s historic victory in 2008: that it had provided an opportunity for whites to expunge their collective guilt for mistreatment of people of color over the years. If there were in fact whites who were that way inclined, it’s pretty obvious that a whole lot of others either ignored or didn’t get that memo. Senate Republicans may not have gone for the billboard style advertising of their prejudice as reckless confederates in the House, blogosphere and other GOP/conservative enclaves are wont to do. But in initiating 82 rejections of the president’s choices to fill key slots in his administration, GOP senators didn’t much distinguish themselves from what’s continuously spewed by rabid extremists. A blocking maneuver by Senator Reid and his caucus was long overdue.

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LETTER

Green Dot Money-Pak Scam

To The Editor:

People are losing thousands of dollars in a phone scam involving Green Dot MoneyPak cards.

Here is how the scam works:

After receiving a call from someone who claims to be collecting a debt for either a Utility Company or the Internal Revenue Service, people are being threatened with the loss of their heat, electric or told they will be deported.

Utility Company Scam:

The victims are contacted by a caller who states that they work at a utility company and are collecting money that is past due. The caller informs the victim that they can avoid having their utility service disconnected if they immediately pay the past due amount using a Green Dot MoneyPak card that can be purchased at a local store. The caller instructs the victim to purchase a Green Dot MoneyPak card in a specified amount and provides the victim with a phone number to be called back when the MoneyPak has been obtained.

The victim purchases a Green Dot card at a local store and proceeds to call back the number they were given. The victim is instructed to scratch off and read the MoneyPak card serial number to the perpetrator.

Beware Of Scams

Using Green Dot MoneyPak Cards

Once the scammer has the Green Dot MoneyPak serial number they are able to transfer funds onto a prepaid debit card. The victim has now lost their money.

Internal Revenue Service Scam:

The victims receive a call and are told that they owe back taxes, fees or fines to the I.R.S. and that if they do not make an immediate payment using a Green Dot MoneyPak card they will be arrested or deported. This scam is perpetrated in the same manner as the utility scam. The results are also the same the victim's money is stolen.

Summary:

Green Dot MoneyPak cards themselves are legitimate products when used for the right purposes. Once purchased at a participating retailer with cash, consumers can use MoneyPaks to reload other prepaid cards, add money to a PayPal account without using a bank account, or make same-day payments to major companies. Because the cards can only be bought with cash, consumers never need to disclose their personal or financial information to a retail cashier or to make a payment.

While many schemes still involve scammers asking for funds to be wired to them, MoneyPaks have the added benefit of the scammer not

having to show up at an office to claim the funds. Anyone with the 14-digit number found on the back of the MoneyPak card can drain the card of funds.

In all of these examples, the intended victims are instructed to buy a Green Dot MoneyPak cards, load the amount of the fine or other money owed onto the card and then provide the number on the back of the card to the scammers, who will then drain the funds from the card.

Crime Prevention Tips To Help You Avoid Falling Victim To This Scam:

- Be suspicious of callers who demand immediate payment for any reason.
 - Remember that anyone who has the number on a Green Dot MoneyPak card has access to the funds on the card.
 - Never give out personal or financial information to anyone who emails or calls you unsolicited.
 - Never wire money, provide debit or credit card numbers or Green Dot MoneyPak card numbers to someone you do not know.
 - Utility companies and government agencies will not contact you demanding immediate payment by MoneyPak
- Police Department, New York City*

OP-ED

Respect for the CCJ

Continued from page 10

and modalities for entry and stay in member States. The RTC must also be amended to mandate that States must, within a specific time-frame of enactment, harmonize their national laws to comport with regional law.

Regional integration can-

not be attained in the face of protectionist, insular public policy by individual States. Deeper integration will derive from altruistic, harmonized policies that propel the "region as a whole" towards greater cohesive-ness and development.

CGID reiterates its call for all Caricom member

States to amend their laws to recognize the CCJ as the court of ultimate appellate jurisdiction. It is preposterous that the CCJ is based in T&T but that country refuses to amend its constitution to recognize the court as its ultimate court of appeal.

The author is president of the CGID

Go to www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com for the latest in Caribbean news.

Fly Jamaica presents ticket to NY Tutorial Alumni patron

By Tangerine Clarke

Fly Jamaica Airways has set in motion, the planned 2014 Tutorial High School Alumni reunion in Guyana, by presenting a complimentary airline ticket to lucky patron Frank Smith, who won the fundraising prize at a recent event hosted by the New York Tutorial Support Group in Brooklyn.

Assistant Area Manager of Fly Jamaica, Kayla Reece, handed over the JFK/GEO roundtrip ticket on Saturday, Nov. 23 in the Church Hall of St. Gabriel's, against the backdrop of the two entities.

After making the presentation, Reece told Caribbean Life, that it is critical that representatives of Fly Jamaica, go into the communities of Brooklyn and Queens to support folks who want to visit relatives back home, some who share the same alma mater. She added that

it is also significant to stay in touch with what is taking place in the Guyanese community, and to support Guyanese as a whole.

Reece said she hopes liaison Anna French, would help Fly Jamaica to create a link with all organizations, in an effort to build support for the airline's service to the Republic.

Kayla Reece, the daughter of Captain Ronald Reece, chairman/CEO, and Roxanne Reece, director, both part owners of the eleven-month old carrier - thanked the Guyanese community for their support and feedback, but reiterated that it is important for travelers to purchase tickets so that the airline could stay in business.

"We hope it's not too much of a hassle for Guyanese passengers," she remarked, who must stop-over in Kingston, until the U. S. Department

of Transportation reviews the direct GEO/JFK status over a 90-day period. However, Reece noted that the airline is also working on its own strategy to acquire the non-stop status.

The airline, which provides service to Guyana, Jamaica, and Canada, is soon to embark upon a massive Christmas promotion to boost its Sundays and Thursdays JFK to Georgetown, via Kingston, and its non-stop Friday flights to Georgetown, with a two-hour layover in Kingston, on its return leg.

Reece intimated that the carrier has fallen short of its projected planeload but looks forward to offering passengers the best prices, and the best service, and hopes that the carrier build up momentum for its success. "We look forward to great things in the future, she added.



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HELP assists higher education students in Haiti

By Tequila Minsky

The HELP-Haitian Education Leadership Program center in the calm residential Pacot neighborhood of Port-au-Prince is a beehive of activity. In a sheltered outdoor backyard structure, university students (outside of school) struggle with English instruction. Inside, crammed together desks with laptops provide the equipment for learning computer programs.

In the early evenings—it gets dark at 5:30 p.m.—topical talks, like GARR's Colette Lespinasse's presentation on Dominicans of Haitian ancestry being stripped of their citizenship, are given as part of leadership training that also includes exercises in being straight forward and being able to talk truthfully about oneself.

The merit- and need-based HELP scholarship



In addition to their university studies, HELP students get computer training at their center in Pacot, Port-au-Prince. Photo by Tequila Minsky

program for excelling Haitian high school graduates with no resources has come a long way since a number of American friends in 1996 pooled money in order that Ismonde Joseph could study

to be a doctor. And she is one.

Progressively adding more scholarship recipients, HELP boasts 65 graduates and this year, has over 100 university students in 4- or



Seven years ago, Garry Delice joined HELP as director leaving his teaching job at Louverture Cleary School in Croix des Bouquets where he taught history and geography.

Reviewing a graduating student's thesis, a function he often fulfills along with HELP thesis coordinators, he took time to share thoughts. (Delice was reading Nemdia Dacene's (studying economics) 76-page thesis on the treatment of workers in the Ouanaminthe free zone. HELP students defend their thesis before a HELP advisor and student committee prior to their defense at the university).

"There are two major challenges, I identify," he said. "Advising students is complex, not just academic but social and in the context of Haiti. It is a problem to get good student advisors; this isn't something one studies in school, although there is a degree in education."

He explained how 65 percent come from the provinces, where they very actively recruit. These students need

Continued on Page 20

5-year programs studying an array of subjects.

HELP weathered the 2010 earthquake but lost two of their students. Their Turgeau, Port-au-Prince headquarters was irretriev-

ably damaged.

When the universities were closed for five months and not to be idle, HELP students volunteered in the tent camps until the universities reopened.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

St. Lucia

St. Lucia has called for a shakeup of the financially strapped regional airline, LIAT, as it agreed to guarantee a three-million EC dollar loan for the airline now undergoing a modernization of its aging fleet.

"It's not just a matter of changing the chief executive officer but dealing decisively with a problem in management that has been inherited over the years," said Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony.

The airline, which last week had been forced to cancel many of its flights because of a strike by pilots, has been without a chief executive officer since Trinidadian Ian Brunton resigned in September.

Anthony, who is also the finance minister, said that there was also a need for a complete overhaul of the airlines business model in order to ensure its long term sustainability and recommended a revision of operations and logistics.

Anthony said that LIAT, which flies to more than 21 destinations daily, must stop operating in a traditional manner believing that the only two bases it can have in the region are Antigua and Barbados. Castries has now become the fifth regional country to have a stake in the airline that in September signed a US\$65 million loan with the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to finance the purchase of aircraft in the context of a fleet modernization project.

LIAT said that the loan agreements "provide for the loans to be on lent-to and repaid by LIAT over a 13-year period following a grace period of two years."

St. Vincent

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves says while a recent public opinion poll has predicted a re-election victory for the ruling Unity Labour Party (ULP), he wants supporters to remember that opinion polls do not win general elections.

Gonsalves, who is seeking a fourth consecutive term in office at the next general election constitutionally due in 2015, told reporters that his administration still has many outstanding projects to undertake during the next few months.

"There are many items on the agenda. And, as you notice, we are not only talking. We are doing things," he said.

The poll, conducted by the Barbados-based Caribbean Research Services Inc. (CADRES) during the month of October found that there was "overall positive support for the ULP government, which is above the level that it received in the 2010 election."

It said that voters still prefer Prime Minister Gonsalves by an almost two to one margin over Opposition Leader Arnhim Eustace, the leader of the main opposition New Democratic Party (NDP).

In the 2010 general election, the ULP won eight of the 15 seats with the remain-

der going to the NDP.

Eustace has already downplayed the findings of a poll saying that the ULP had conducted its own poll between July and September that showed the party being booted out of office.

Trinidad

High Court Judge and former Director of Public Prosecutions, Justice Geoffrey Andrew Henderson was recently elected a Judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

His unanimous election followed the withdrawal on Nov. 21 of Uruguay's nominee to fill the vacancy created by Trinidad and Tobago's President Anthony Carmona's resignation as an ICC judge in March.

The election was conducted recently by the ICC State Parties of the Rome Statute assembled at the ICC in The Hague during the Twelfth Session of the Assembly of State Parties. In a release issued recently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Henderson's candidacy was approved by the assembly in the first and only round of voting.

He secured 98 votes out of the 99 cast with one abstention, surpassing the two-thirds majority required for election. Henderson will serve the unexpired portion of the term left on Carmona's resignation as a result of his election to the president of the Republic of TT. He will serve until March 10, 2021.

Barbados

The Barbados government says it will implement fully, the 15 percent tax on lottery winnings over a certain amount, even as it acknowledged that "some changes" had been made to the measure announced in the national budget.

The Ministry of Finance said that the new measure would come into effect now that the appropriate legislation has been approved.

The statement said that the Ministry of Finance is now putting the "finishing touches to the proposal, following which industry players will be duly informed. It is expected that this process will be completed in a few weeks."

Under the new proposal, people who won more than BDS\$100,000 or more in lotteries would be required to pay 15 percent tax.

Meanwhile, the government said that legislation regarding the Consolidation Tax, The Tax on Bank Assets, and the Municipal Solid Waste Tax, have either been completed or are in the final stages of completion and will be laid and debated in Parliament over the next three weeks.

"When passed, together with the passage of the Lottery Winnings Tax, they would represent the full legal implementation of the tax component of government's fiscal measures from 2013," the Ministry of Finance said.

Compiled by Azad Ali

More natural ways to stay healthy this season

(StatePoint) While you're probably already accustomed with conventional ways of looking and feeling your best, this winter, consider more natural approaches to health and wellness.

Here are several good-for-you and good-for-the-planet steps you can take to help stay strong and healthy this winter:

HERBAL REMEDIES

Feeling under the weather? Before turning to your medicine cabinet, take a look at your kitchen cabinet. Herbs are not just a low-calorie flavor booster of meals, they're said to also contain healing properties. Many herbs have been used for centuries as remedies for common ailments.

For example, according to the National Institutes of Health, sage may help ease your headache, hoarseness or cough, and is an effective remedy for a sore throat. Try infusing tea with sage, or using it to add flavor

HEALTH

to your sauté or roast at dinner. Running a fever? Rosemary has been used to treat fever and headache. So the next time you hit the grocery store, fill your cart with organic herbs that heal.

CHECK THE LABEL

Where natural ingredients are concerned, the focus is often on our plates. It's easy to forget the range of items we put into our body daily. Given how often we use them, it's worth a closer look at their ingredients.

Toothpaste, for instance, is something that goes in your mouth twice a day. Have you ever wondered what was on the label, where the ingredients are sourced or their purpose? Ingredients contained in some conventional toothpaste are unnecessary or offer no health benefit.

When choosing your next tube of toothpaste, consider a natural oral care option free of artificial colors, flavors, sweeteners and preservatives.

For example, Tom's of Maine, a natural products company focused on oral and personal care, offers information about the purpose and source of every ingredient they use. This winter, try their seasonally-inspired Cinnamon Clove Whole Care natural toothpaste, made from real cinnamon leaves and bark.

Depending on your needs, Tom's of Maine offers personal care products that are vegan and gluten free as well as kosher and halal-certified. To learn more about their sustainable practices and cruelty-free line of products, visit www.TomsOfMaine.com.

BOOST IMMUNITY

Help stay cold and flu-free this winter with some natural lifestyle tweaks. Proper hydration and nutrition are important for good



Achieve the best health possible by making positive lifestyle tweaks.
© Kzenon - Fotolia.com

health and your skin. In addition to drinking plenty of alcohol-free liquids, look for soaps and skin care products that have natural olive oil as a primary ingredient. Natural oils help lock in moisture. Also, take steps to reduce stress from your life -- which studies have shown can take a mighty toll on your body's ability to fight infection, according to the American Psychological

Association. When you're feeling tense, try products infused with lavender or chamomile, both of which can help relieve stress, or use the opportunity to finally try that yoga class.

If you're interested in achieving the best health possible this season, making positive lifestyle tweaks and exploring natural health alternatives are two great places to start.

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HOLIDAY HOURS

NOVEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11am - 7pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 9:30pm	Closed Thanksgiving Day	12am - 11pm Black Friday	7am - 10pm

DECEMBER 2013



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10am - 9pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 10pm	10am - 10pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11am - 9pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 9:30pm	9am - 9:30pm	9am - 9:30pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10am - 9pm	9am - 10pm	9am - 10pm	9am - 10pm	9am - 10pm	9am - 11pm	8am - 11pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8am - 11pm	7am - Midnight	7am - 6pm Christmas Eve	Closed Christmas Day	7am - 10pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 9:30pm
29	30	31	1			
11am - 7pm	10am - 9:30pm	10am - 7pm New Year's Eve	10am - 9:30pm New Year's Day			

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HELP

Continued from page 14

guidance in adaptation and integration to life in the very urban Port-au-Prince and life within the HELP structure.

Away from family and a different way of life is very difficult. "The first year is hard for everyone," two young men, one from St. Marc studying pharmacy and the other from Gonnaves studying computer science later agreed.

Also, continued Delice, "We are challenged in how we fulfill our mission to contribute to a more just society in Haiti. It's not just about helping educate (train) the students."

"There needs to be a project

students work on together to help build a strong sense of social commitment," he said. "I want to make students aware of the situation in Haiti." In a previous project, 10 HELP students taught in Cite Soleil.

Delice emphasized that "after they graduate, they all go their separate ways" and it was important that they be part of change once outside of HELP.

Another reflection Delice offered was how HELP doesn't want "to create a border between students past and their situation at HELP." He doesn't want students to be alienated from their past.

On graduating, all HELP students get jobs, employed in the private sector, government, and NGOs. Many Haitian businesses are bristling to get qualified Haitians to

hire (particularly, management) now filled by Dominicans and Filipinos, for example.

When HELP started, it only paid school fees and books. Now three nearby large homes house about 80 students.

HELP pays tuition, housing, and a small stipend for food and incidentals, nurtures, advises and has career services for its students.

To stretch HELP's resources, since 2010, students sign contracts that once employed, they will return back to HELP 15% of their revenues for nine years.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently visited HELP and Bill Clinton is among many others who recognize HELP for its outstanding work.

AIDS

Continued from page 8

someone (who) has zero-tolerance towards it. As a woman living with HIV, I tend to put a face (to it) to help individuals understand this fear or this myth that you are walking around with people who are diagnosed with HIV. You could be in the same situation as I am," said Lopez.

"When I got diagnosed, I was offered HIV testing because of a situation I was living [in]. I wasn't someone out there as an active drug user and I wasn't doing anything promiscuous. These are the labels that people

tend to say: "Well I'm not promiscuous, I'm not using drugs, I'm not shooting up, so I'm good ... so I don't have to worry about HIV."

David Is Dying is an excellent opportunity to stimulate dialogue in the community," says Lopez. "There is common ground that you could sit and look at the movie and parts of it can reflect your life and people you know."

Both Brooklyn Hospital Center and caribBeing want to continue the film series to open dialogue about various health related issues in the future.

"I wanted to look at the role healthy and thought-provoking programming can play in creating dia-

logue and a sense of urgency around chronic health problems such as HIV/AIDS. As a hospital, we must take an active role in health education, not only for humanitarian reasons, but because of the threat of disease in our community," said Karen Jemmott, director of community affairs at The Brooklyn Hospital Center.

Hopefully, more Brooklyn residents will attend future Dine In HealthFest events.

"I would like to see more support from the community because the series is intended to be an exchange between health practitioners and Brooklyn residents", said Shelly Worrell, founder of caribBeing.

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Nutmeg heads up 'economic revolution' in Grenada

By Nelson A. King

The World Bank says nutmeg is heading up an "economic revolution" in Grenada as the island bets on agriculture to become an additional engine for an economy looking to diversify away from the usual sun and sand.

With Grenada being the world's second largest exporter of nutmeg, holding 20 percent of the market, the Washington-based financial institution said in a statement on Dec. 2 that the Keith Mitchell-led administration is also counting on nutmeg to help "shore up food security for its inhabitants."

"While Latin America as a region is rich in water and arable lands (the region play's home to around a third of the planet's reserves), the small island nations of the Caribbean, such as Grenada and its neighbors, have to deal with the added challenge of a highly hostile climate, including hurricanes, severely limited freshwater supplies – which worsen further during the dry season – and a rising sea level," the World Bank said.

"Now, small hold farmers on this island paradise, situated some 200km off the Venezuelan coast, are lead-



Farmer Scott Boca shows a defective nutmeg while working at the Birch Grove village, Grenada.
AP Photo/Andres Leighton, file

ing an initiative to refocus Grenada's economic profile with a project which has also caught the attention of other governments within the region," it added.

The World Bank about 1,500 farmers in Grenada are taking part in a pilot project in which farmers receive technical assistance

and financial support from the Japanese Social Development Fund and the World Bank to buy seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and tools.

The bank said the crux of the project is, however, the possibility of protecting farmers from climate and economic shocks, and to better coordinate their pro-

duction, especially after two consecutive hurricanes.

While there is little farmers in Grenada can do against inclement weather in a region extremely exposed to natural phenomena, the World Bank said the project "aims to alleviate potential economic, and also planning, havoc."

For example, it noted that, in 2004, Hurricane Ivan swept through Grenada, felling huge swathes of jungle along with many of the country's valuable nutmeg, banana and cocoa plantations.

A year later, the World Bank said Hurricane Emily took much the same path, hampering efforts to rebuild the devastated farmlands and, above all, "pushing the smallholders to respond, in desperation, with planting fruits and vegetables in an improvised manner.

"Consequently, the market has unwittingly been oversaturated by certain products while others suffer from a lack of supply, as the country experiences what experts call a cycle of over- and under-production," it said.

Alongside limited water supplies and the impact of climate change, the World Bank said various Caribbean islands also suffer additional problems, adding that "it is hoped that they can find a common solution."

"I think it's going to be interesting to have a dialogue among all the OECS (sub-regional Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) countries on this subject and see if we can do

something in the future," said Eli Weiss, a rural development specialist for the World Bank.

The World Bank referred to Earnest Mitchell as "just one of this next generation of local farmers."

"I'm thinking of doubling my production next year," he told bank officials with pride, while showing his small farm perched high in Grenada's fertile mountain region.

The World Bank said Mitchell is among the farmers who have taken part in the pilot project, "which stands out thanks to its work to identify our biggest challenges."

"This is no small feat on an island with a population of around 110 000, 70 percent of whom are considered to be rural," the Bank said.

"What's more, the scheme is also opening the door to job creation on the island, where 40 percent of the active population is unemployed," it added.

For small-hold farmers like Mitchell, and the wider island community, the World Bank said it will be "vital to protect themselves both from natural disasters and the damage they cause to their economies."

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

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

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

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD
www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm
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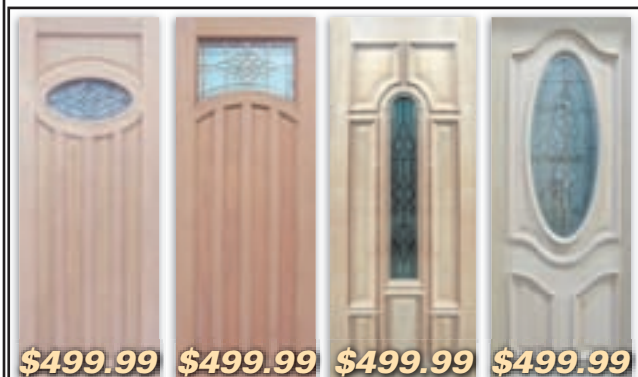
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Sculptures honor the Vodou god Gede in Haiti

By Tequila Minsky

The verdant grounds of the historic Oloffson Hotel are the exhibition space for fantastic sculptures by Artis Resistans, (Resistance Artists), sculptors of the Grand Rue in Port-au-Prince.

Honoring Gede, the name of the Vodou god who accompanies people from death to the next stage, the holiday falls at the beginning of November and is celebrated by visiting ancestors in the cemetery.

The Artis Resistans live or work in downtown Port-au-Prince, in the midst of auto supply and repair shops. The used and cast-off industrial materials, metal parts, hopelessly worn tires and tubes are the mediums of choice.

Following in the artistic steps of Haitian artist Nasson is master and internationally exhibited Andre Eugene exhibiting more than 10 works along with nine other artists' on the hotel's grounds.

Eugene was an accomplished wood sculptor when he started using cast-off industrial materials. (The downtown area was the center of wood sculptors, bowl makers, and was in close proximity to the Iron Market, a venue for sales.)

A wooden core with other cast off materials form many of his works. He explained that when he started it was easy to get the materials, but now used metals are sold to China and he needs to buy many materials.

Sculptor Claudel's welded found-metal sculptures are some of the works one first sees on entering the grounds. The 33-year-old started making art seven years ago, inspired by Eugene and Celeur's sculptures and encouraged by Eugene.

Claudel just returned from a six-week residency at the dump in San Francisco commenting that what he saw at the dump in the U.S. would still be used in Haiti.

Ronald Edmond's life-size figures using animal horns and skulls gleaned



Artist Jean Frederic, known as Wabba, stands with two of his sculptures as he looks up toward the gods. His portrayal of Gran Brigitte (in orange) and Baron (in black) greet visitors to the Artis Resistans Gede Exhibition in a sheltered pavilion at the Oloffson Hotel in Port-au-Prince.

Photo by Tequila Minsky



from the cemetery convey Bizango (secret society) representations.

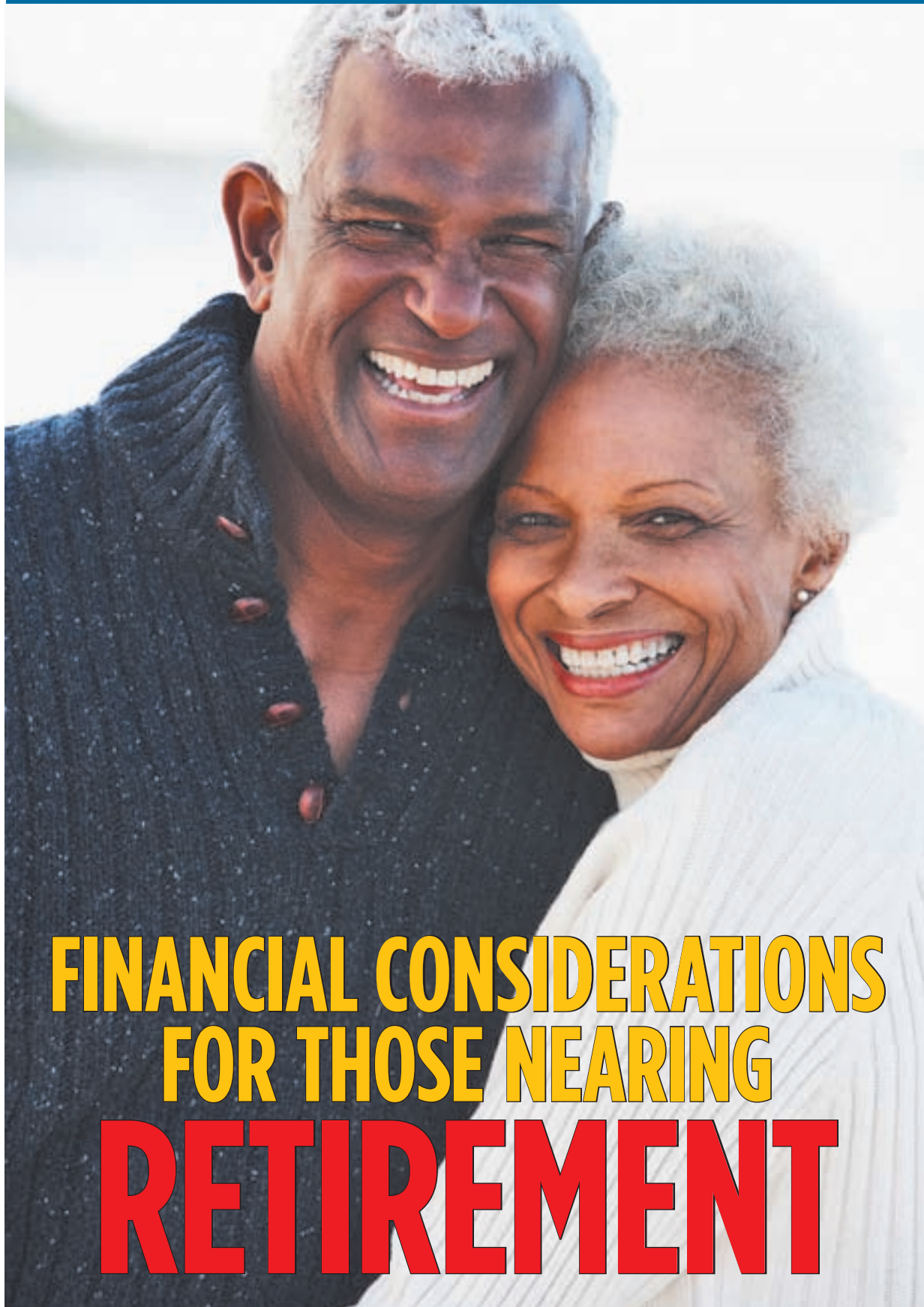
Twenty-five-year-old Theridor Davidson, the third generation of these artists and mentored at a local artist's organization, works with tin, adding fans and other metal parts. (He also paints and mixes media, too.) His sculptures portray animals, are figurative or convey Haitian lwa (gods).

The Oloffson Gede exhibition is a prelude to a much greater event beginning end of November, the three-week Ghetto Biennale, with the sculptors of the Grand Rue.

Photographer and writer Leah Gordon and Andre Eugene started this event in 2009, with a call out to artists to come to Haiti and collaborate with the Artis Resistans.

Eldercare

TODAY



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THOSE NEARING RETIREMENT

Retirement can simultaneously excite and distress men and women as they approach the day when they end their careers. Anticipating the freedom can be exciting, while concerns about maintaining financial independence can be stressful.

Though there are no guarantees that men and women who prioritize retirement planning will not outlive their finances, those who do arrange their priorities in such a manner are far more likely to enjoy a comfortable retirement without worrying about their finances. As men and women approach retirement age, certain steps with regard to preparing for retirement can put them in position to enjoy their golden years to the fullest.

Assess your resources

An honest assessment of your assets will help you determine a retirement lifestyle you can afford. Assets can include any property you own, investments, savings, and retirement accounts. Your property may be your biggest financial asset, but unless you plan to sell that property or take out a reverse mortgage, then you won't be able to rely on that property to fund your lifestyle. When assessing resources, keep in mind that you might have to pay potentially steep taxes when attempting to access any retirement accounts, such as a 401(k). Factor in any such taxes when assessing your retirement resources.

Make a list of your monthly expenses

Once you have assessed your resources, make a list of your monthly bills. Mortgage payments, healthcare costs, taxes, and food are among the essentials, while additional expenses like travel and entertainment will need to be factored in as well.

When considering monthly expenses, keep in mind that some of those expenses, including mortgage payments and commuting costs, will likely disappear, while others, including healthcare costs, are likely to increase significantly. Once you have assessed your resources and expenses, you can then begin to paint a picture of the retirement lifestyle you can afford to live.

Compare the lifestyle you want to live versus the one you can afford to live

Considering your finances several years before you retire affords you the opportunity to make changes if you determine the retirement you can afford does not exactly match up with the retirement you want to live. After you have figured out what you can afford, compare that lifestyle to the one you hope to live. If they are one and the same, then you did a great job planning for retirement. If they are slightly or significantly different, then look for ways to close that gap. If necessary, consult with a financial planner, who might be able to help turn your dream retirement into a reality. Closing the gap between your dream retirement and the one you can afford to live may require you to work an extra year or two, so be prepared to make that decision if need be.

Plan on continuing to grow your money

Just because you're retiring does not mean your money has to stop working as well. You will still need to combat inflation during your golden years, so plan on continuing to grow your money even after you retire. Though it's best to reduce investment risks as you age, many retirees still need to keep a toe in the investment waters. Find

Continued on page 26

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Tips to prevent slips and falls this winter

Winter is starting to blow its cold winds. That means that most people will be trading in windbreakers and rakes for heavy coats and snow shovels. Winter can be a beautiful time of the year, but the snow and ice that covers the landscape in a pristine sheet of white can present certain hazards as well.

Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly. According to the National Safety Council, slips and falls are the single largest cause of emergency room visits. Slip and fall injuries also are the third largest cause of workplace injuries, says the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many accidental falls occur from lack of stability or poor physical health. However, come winter, many falls can be attributed to walking on slippery surfaces covered with snow or ice. To avoid falls on ice, you might want to take certain precautions.

Change the way you walk

Adapting to the slippery conditions could help prevent some of the falls caused by snow and ice. When walking on ice, plant feet with toes facing outward slightly, and then shuffle along. Hunching over a little and extending arms outward will help to lower your center of gravity and also offer a little more stability. Take short, flat



Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly.

steps so that the heels and toes of your shoes stay in contact with the ground as much as possible and offer maximum surface contact.

Switch shoes

Flat shoes with rubber soles are more capable of gripping the ice than other types of shoes. Contrary to popular belief, clunky winter boots may make walking more difficult. Try rain boots instead, as rain boots typically have flatter soles. There also are many different types of shoe ice grips on the market that can be added to the soles of shoes. They easily slip on to offer more traction. Whenever possible, try to avoid shoes with already slippery soles or high heels. Carry these shoes with you and change after you are inside.

Remove shoes indoors

Slips and falls can happen inside a home as well. Many people have tile or laminate entryways in their homes, and these entrances can become quite slippery when snow-packed shoes warm up and the snow melts, creating a wet, slick surface. Avoid falls by placing mats by the front door and removing shoes when you enter. Stash a pair of slippers nearby into which you can change.

Falls on slippery surfaces can be quite dangerous, especially for seniors. Avoid trips to the emergency room for broken bones or abrasions by slowing down, dressing appropriately, and walking on paths that have been cleared of snow and ice.

Finances

Continued from page 25

a balance you're comfortable with so your money continues to grow, but be conservative at the same time. As

you grow older, continue to reduce your risk. While conventional wisdom long suggested retirees should completely eliminate risk from their portfolios, today's retirees are living longer than ever before, so you likely can't afford to follow the ad-

vice of yesteryear.

As retirement draws closer, men and women must start making important financial decisions to ensure their nest eggs can support the lifestyles they want to live throughout their golden years.

The basics of atrial fibrillation



Working in concert with a qualified doctor can make the atrial fibrillation process go more smoothly, and treatment with medication may need to continue throughout a person's life.

When working properly, the human heart is a wonder. The heart's two upper chambers work in conjunction with the two lower chambers to deliver blood and oxygen to every area of the body. Sometimes the heart may beat irregularly and rapidly, in which a person is experiencing atrial fibrillation, commonly shortened to AF or "afib."

When a person is healthy, the atria (upper chambers) of his heart contract, followed by the ventricles (lower chambers) in a normal sinus rhythm. When timed perfectly, this beating enables the efficient flow of blood throughout the body. Normally, the heart beats at a rate of 60 to 100 times per minute at rest. When atrial fibrillation occurs, the electrical rhythm of the heart is not orderly and many different impulses fire rapidly at once,

causing a chaotic rhythm in the atria, which can no longer effectively contract blood into the ventricles. The result is an irregular, fast heartbeat that may range in 300 to 600 beats per minute at rest.

There is no one cause of AF, which has been linked to a number of different heart conditions. These include, but are not limited to, hypertension, coronary artery disease, heart valve disease, cardiomyopathy, congenital heart disease, and pulmonary embolism. Hyperthyroidism and excessive alcohol consumption as well as pneumonia and certain lung conditions also may contribute to AF. The Mayo Clinic says the older a person is, the greater his or her risk for atrial fibrillation. Around 8 percent of the United States population over the age of 80 has AF.

In many cases, AF exhib-

its no symptoms and a person may not realize that the heart is beating erratically. Fainting, chest pain, lightheadedness, confusion, and shortness of breath may be symptoms of AF. Others with AF have reported palpitations, which are the sensation of a racing heartbeat that almost seems like the heart is flopping in the chest. Very often people spend several years with AF without knowing it.

A doctor will diagnose AF through a variety of different tests. An electrocardiogram, or ECG, graphs an image of the electrical impulses traveling through the heart. This is one of the more common ways to diagnose AF. A monitor may be worn for a few days to continuously record the heart rhythm.

Oftentimes a person can live with AF without any problems. However, there are some dangers in letting

AF go untreated. Because the heart is beating irregularly, blood flow can be compromised and not pump efficiently. This can make the heart weaken and lead to heart failure. When the atria are not beating correctly, blood will not flow through them as quickly. This may cause blood to pool in the upper chambers and contribute to clot formation. If a clot dislodges and gets pumped into the brain, it can cause a stroke. The Cleveland Clinic says those with AF are five to seven times more likely to have a stroke than those without AF.

Treating AF may require a series of medications to prevent clots and reset the rhythm of the heart. Resetting the rhythm is known as cardioversion, which can be done with medication or through a brief electrical shock under sedation.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HEALTH CARE PROXY



BY JOANNA R. LEEFER

Want to know how to insure an aging friend or relative receives the best medical care? Answer: Become her health care proxy. A health care proxy, also called a health care agent, is a person who is legally permitted to make medical decisions for another when the friend is no longer able to speak for herself.

As your friend's health care agent, you can approve or refuse medical treatments and make health decisions on all types of care. You can sit in on her medical meetings, decide on special treatments, approve all diagnostic tests and surgical procedures, and even agree or disagree to organ donations.

The health care agent has the authority to make decisions on more than medical procedures. You can insure the health care staff treats your friend with respect and dignity. You can stay in the room when your friend is being bathed or dressed in a nursing facility or at home. In fact, as your friend's advocate, it is often a good idea to occasionally stay in the room when an aide is attending to her. In this way you can note if your friend is developing bedsores or bruising, and

if so, that they are reported and treated.

A friend can appoint you as her agent by filling out a legal document called a Health Care Proxy. The only major requirement is the agent be competent and be 18 years or older. The role can be activated either in a temporary situation, as in the case of surgery, or in a long-term situation, such as if your friend develops dementia or enters a coma. To insure that there is no abuse of power, only a doctor can determine when an individual lacks mental capacity to make her own decision and when an agent's role can be activated.

A health care agent does not have to be a family member. In fact, a person may prefer to appoint a friend, especially if she believes her family's values clash with her own. For instance, if your friend does not want to be resuscitated or put on life support and her family's religious beliefs conflict with this desire, it is better to find someone with similar beliefs.

More than one person can be appointed as an agent but there should be a hierarchy for decision-making so there are no conflicting disputes. One person should be the prime decision maker with a back-up person in case the

first individual is not available. In addition, the agent's role does not have to be permanent. In fact, a person can change the designated appointee at any time. This insures if either person has a change of heart or disagrees, the beneficiary can seek another person to represent her.

One important part of your role as agent is to understand your friend's fundamental beliefs. Before you agree to take on this responsibility, you should learn how your friend feels about such important issues as artificial nutrition and hydration and life support.

The health care proxy is one of the easiest documents to obtain and activate. It can be downloaded for free by logging on to New York Department of Health's website. You do not even need a lawyer. The only requirement is that two adults must witness you and your friend signing the form.

Once the proxy is signed, you should make several copies. You should keep one copy, give one to your friend, and others should be distributed to all your friend's physicians and lawyers. If your friend enters a hospital, the attending physician and nurse should be given copies,

and if your friend is assigned to a nursing home or rehabilitation facility, the staff of that institution should have copies as well.

The health care proxy is one of several documents categorized as Advanced Directives. These directives refer to any instructions about health care. Two other important directives include living wills, and financial power of attorneys. A living will outlines specific medical measures that are to be taken under specific circumstances. It can indicate a person's medical preference even though it cannot possibly cover all questions. The financial power of attorney appoints a person to oversee financial, legal, and other matters. The health care proxy is only good for medical situations.

If no one is appointed as a health care agent, state law determines who can make health decisions. Many states, including New York, allow a hierarchy of decision makers to determine who to consult. It usually starts with a court-appointed guardian if one has already been assigned to an incapacitated adult. Next in line is the spouse or domestic partner, then a child over 18 years old, then a parent, then a sibling over 18, and finally a close friend or relative.

In any case, the health care agent is one of the most powerful advocacy positions a person can be assigned. It offers you the opportunity to represent a loved one when she is no longer able to speak for herself. It is an important way to be able to insure that your friend is treated with the dignity that she deserves.

Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor and founder of ElderCareGiving, and has been working with seniors and their families for 10 years. For more information, visit www.joannaleefer.com.



How to stay healthy when the 'sick season' arrives

The cold weather brings with it a season of smiles, the first snowfalls and, unfortunately, cold and flu outbreaks. While everyone else is suffering, there are ways you can make it through the season unscathed.

It is estimated that a billion people across North America will succumb to the cold virus this year, says Medline. Considering there is no cure for cold and flu viruses, prevention remains a person's best option at fending off cold and flu, especially for seniors. There are different precautions to take that can help protect you against getting sick or at least reduce the frequency and severity with which cold and flu strikes.

Here are ways to improve your odds.

Wash your hands the right way

Washing your hands frequently remains the single-best way to keep viruses and bacteria that can make you sick from infiltrating the body. Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds can effectively remove any dirt, grime and invisible invaders.

Skip antibacterial products

Because colds and the flu are the result of viruses, which are different in behavior and structure from bacteria, they will not be killed off with the use of antibacterial products. What you may succeed in doing is killing off any beneficial bacteria on your hands as well as creating resistant bacteria that form with overuse of antibiotics and antibacterial products.

•Get the flu shot. There is no vaccination to prevent the common cold, but there are immunizations that can help reduce your risk of getting the flu or help minimize its severity. Doctors' offices, clinics, and even pharmacies all offer annual flu shots.

Use sanitizer on house items

Surfaces that are frequently touched should be wiped down with a disinfectant product. A bleach-and-water solution is an effective sanitizer.

Surfaces to sanitize include phones, door knobs, light switches, remote controls, computer keyboards, faucets, toys, and countertops.



RECOGNIZING SAFETY HAZARDS AROUND THE HOUSE

Home may be where the heart is, but it also can be an unsafe place if safety hazards are not recognized and addressed.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission says that each year 33.1 million people are injured by consumer products and other dangers in the home. Here is a collection of home hazards that can compromise safety in and around the house.

Flooding:

Super storms have been wreaking havoc on many areas of the country. Flooding is a common side effect of strong rains and high tides, and the aftermath of a flood can turn a home from a haven into a hazard.

Microorganisms in flood waters may contaminate drinking water, and wet walls and floors can present a breeding ground for insects, pests and microorganisms like mold and mildew. The National Safety Council says microorganisms can penetrate into soaked, porous materials and later be released into the air and inhaled. Flooding also may lead to weakened or rotted floorboards.

Magnets:

Very small magnets are popular in jewelry, toys, building sets, and more. The number of products with strong magnets has increased, which may pose significant safety threats to children. The CPSC says

that magnets have contributed to one death and 86 injuries since 2005. Eight million magnetic toys have been recalled. Magnets that are swallowed may not pass easily through the digestive system. Oftentimes, they can get trapped in place when attracted to one another or a piece of metal and pinch or twist the intestines, potentially causing blockage or infection.

Furniture tip-over:

Large furniture and electronics that are not balanced well or anchored to a wall can be pulled over by children and even adults. Small children can be seriously injured by tip-over accidents. Tip-overs cause an estimated 22 deaths per

year.

Pools and spas:

While drowning in pools and spas is a leading cause of death, there are other dangers lurking. Faulty underwater lighting, appliances that fall into the water and aging wiring can result in electrocution. The CPSC notes that suction from a pool or spa drain is also potentially hazardous. The majority of suction accidents involved children, but suction can hold an adult underwater. There have even been cases of people being disemboweled from pool drains. Installing a safety vacuum release system that turns off the pool pump when a drain is blocked can prevent entrap-

ment.

Fire:

Home fire injuries are highest among seniors and children under the age of five. In addition, home fires are a leading cause of emergency room visits. Smoke alarms on every level of the house can alert to danger, but ensuring candles are extinguished and electrical wiring is up to date and making sure space heaters and other appliances are not left unattended can help prevent fires.

Garage doors:

The CPSC says an average of 20,000 people each year are treated in the hospital for injuries caused by garage doors. From fingers and

toes getting trapped to heavy doors falling on children and adults, garage doors can cause serious injury.

Falls:

Falls are a leading cause of injury to people of all ages. Falls down stairs, from windows and off of ladders are just some of the reasons people visit emergency rooms each and every day. Ensuring there are no tripping hazards around the house and also having sturdy handles and guardrails present for use by the elderly can help prevent some falls.

There are many dangers lurking around the house, and awareness of such hazards can help prevent serious injury.

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2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$7,995	2011	GMC Terrain, 51k	82272	\$13,995
2012	Hyundai Elantra, 15k	79461	\$8,995	2007	Lexus ES350, 53k	56974	\$14,888
2008	Jeep Liberty, 17k	54235	\$9,495	2010	Infiniti G37, 28k	70898	\$18,995
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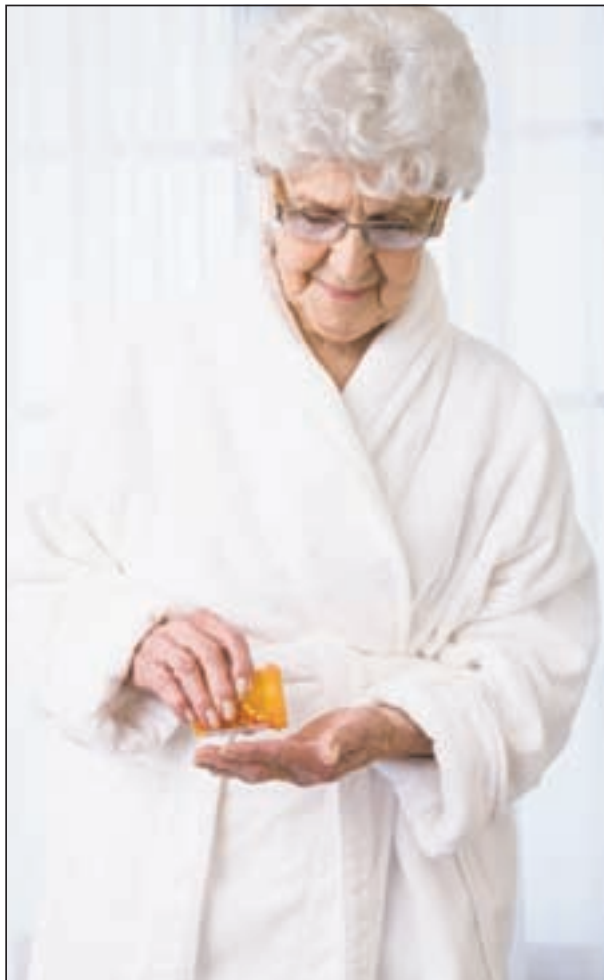
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It can be challenging for many people to keep track of all the medications and supplements they need to take.

HOW TO MANAGE MEDICATIONS AT HOME

Turn on the television and you're likely to be inundated with commercials for the latest prescription medications that should be discussed with a doctor. According to "Generation Rx: How Prescription Drugs Are Altering American Lives, Minds, and Bodies," by Greg Crister, the average number of prescriptions drugs taken per person, annually, in 2004 was 12. Individuals who take multiple medications may find it difficult to manage them all.

The challenge of managing medications can be difficult for anyone, but particularly for seniors. Some organizational strategies

and a little help from others may be the keys to getting meds straight.

First and foremost, it's important that doctors and pharmacists know of all the medications that are being taken. It's a good idea to use one pharmacy to fill prescriptions. This way it will have a record of medication use and can alert to drug interactions that may be dangerous, which could otherwise go undetected. And remember, over-the-counter supplements, vitamins, and medicines count, too. They should be mentioned at the doctor's office or, at the very least, when getting a new prescription filled at the pharmacy. Herbal reme-

diaries and other items — even foods — can interact with certain drugs. For example, it's best to avoid grapefruit juice while taking many of the cholesterol-lowering statins available.

Purchasing a medication organizer can be the next step to getting drugs in check. There are a number of different styles and sizes available. Seniors may want to enlist the help of a family member to sort through pills at the beginning of each week and place the right pills in each compartment.

Knowing which days to take each medication is sometimes not enough. Certain medications must be

taken at different intervals each day, often inviting confusion. A chart listing the times of each medication posted next to where the prescriptions are kept can help. A watch with a timer or an alarm clock can be programmed to chime as a reminder. Tech-savvy people can program smartphones with reminders to alert when it's time to take a pill. There are even advanced pill dispensing systems that can be programmed to dispense medication according to a set schedule.

Safety should be the top priority when there are many different medications that need to be taken.

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EPA

Barbados job losses

By George Alleyne

The anxiety began since an Aug. 13 budgetary projection for next year, but while rumours circulated the prime minister gave assurances, now one newspaper has stepped up and said it - thousands of Barbados civil servants are to be laid off.

The Barbados Nation newspaper published a series of reports Sunday and Monday asserting that a decision was made by the cabinet of government ministers to cut the civil service payroll as part of measures to meet demands by international lending agencies and what is expected in an IMF report that is to come soon.

"Job layoffs in the public sector that could 3,000 are imminent," the Nation stated Sunday, suggesting that the decision was taken by ministers at their meeting last Thursday.

What is troubling for Barbadians is that government has not denied this information, coming from

an unofficial source such as a newspaper.

Instead, the Monday newspaper followed-up with a union official's statement, implying that massive job cuts are coming and the softest impact is being sought for workers. "We are indeed having discussions with the minister of finance, the minister of labour and the head of the civil service, among others," said National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) President, Akinni McDowall.

NUPW is the primary representative of civil servants, and Akinni was reported Monday saying that talks are at a sensitive stage.

Is it believed that when parliament meets Tuesday or Friday, an announcement to this effect will be made.

The layoffs are expected to come in January, and speculation is that the number of workers affected may be far higher than 3,000.

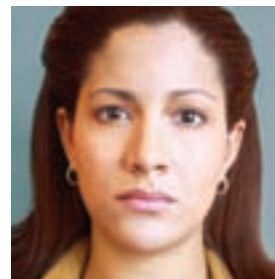
Cutting these numbers from a public workforce of some 24,000 can severe-

ly damage commerce. And while recognising a need to trim the bloated government service in this time of austerity, the private sector is blaming government for delaying what had to be done and now being forced to do it all at once.

"It is pretty obvious that if government had done incremental cuts it would have been easier to digest and people would have had time to find new sources of income," lamented President of the Barbados Economic Society, Jeremy Stephen.

President of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, Lalu Vaswani, noted that in response to the island's prolonged economic downturn, private sector companies had had adjusted by slowly reducing staff, and said, "It is expected that in a similar fashion, in order to rein in the high fiscal deficit, government too will have to take some action but it is necessary to approach this matter with great sensitivity."

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Articulating the concerns of City residents

Caribbean nationals missed an opportunity to weigh-in on topics of interests they would like the next city government to address. During public forums, digital transmissions and name-tag stickers available since Nov. 9 at a temporary structure in Manhattan, thousands voiced concerns to aid in the transition from leadership from Mayor Mike Bloomberg to Mayor Bill DeBlasio.

Using an online portal at www.talkingtransitionsnyc.com residents were able to speak to topics they consider important.

Talking Transitions – the tag identified with the aid -- offered New Yorkers an opportunity to imprint notes directed to the mayor-elect, Scott Stringer, the next comptroller and Leticia James, the only Black woman elected to a city-wide position and also the City Council.

The 'sounding board' presented a tool to assist in the transition and was funded



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

by private organizations.

Throughout the glass-framed edifice individuals etched brief phrases and sentences to amplify the most urgent issues the new administration must address. An overwhelming majority decried police brutality, lack of jobs, poor schools and questioned the possibility of affordable health and housing. Many offered suggestions related to education, employment, the subway system, NYPD and quality of life issues.

However, Caribbean concerns were scarce to none.

On any given day, elected officials also stepped into the space, held press conferences, talked with individuals and groups and were able to answer queries about policies the next city administration might implement.

Simultaneously panel discussions and forums were presented in two spaces erected throughout the green-space.

The process ended Nov. 23, but perhaps should be considered as an aid to the federal government.

With that the focus could allow a more impressive soapbox for Caribbean nationals.

Among the posts one individual asked the next city administration to "Bring back Rock & Roll."

However, for most, name-tags stuck throughout the space read:

"Justice for bike riders"
 "Is Obamacare really good for us?"
 "More jobs please"
 "Rents Too high"
 "Fewer Skyscrapers in Brooklyn"



Mayor-elect Bill DeBlasio.

AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews

"Stop over-developing Atlantic yards"
 "Stop Stop & Frisk"
 "Jobs for artists"

"No racial profiling"
 "HPD Need to be audited"
 "I live in a dump – can't

afford to move"
 "End HIV criminalization"
 "Food stamps are too low"
 "Less expensive Toys"
 "Universal Pre-K"
 "Raise minimum wage"
 "Create more jobs"
 "Stop targeting Muslims"
 "Ban guns now"
 "Stop privatization – public libraries, hospitals"
 "Stop NYPD surveillance"
 "Justice for bike riders"
 "Please stop putting Fluoride in the water"
 "Protect the rights of home attendants"
 "Legalize marijuana"
 "Stop victimizing minorities"
 "Make the city affordable"
 "Bring more lights into parks"
 "City ID's for immigrants! Yes"
 "Let's talk about race"
 And at least one sticker pleaded for "justice for the Central Park Five."
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Musical, 'Bah Humbug' comes to Harlem

The Faison Firehouse Theater presents "Bah Humbug from the Notorious E.B. Scrooge," a hip-hop musical adaptation of Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol." This holiday production was conceived by George Faison with Rah Digga, Jasmine Thomas and Charles Wallace, and directed, choreographer and produced by the multi-talented award winning, internationally celebrated producer, writer, essayist, composer, director, choreographer and dancer, George Faison.

Faison made history in 1975 when he became the first African American to win the Tony Award for Best Choreography for "The Wiz." He began his career as a dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre as a principal dancer and his Broadway career with the musical "Purlie." He went on to create several American dance classics:

"Slaves" and "Suite Otis" for the George Faison Universal Dance Experience. He has choreographed and staged concerts for musical greats including Ashford and Simpson, Roberta Flack, Stevie Wonder, Earth, Wind and Fire, Dionne Warwick, Stephanie Mills and many more. Faison has numerous film credits including "The Cotton Club," "Josephine Baker Story," and "Sergeant Peppers Lonely Hearts Club" to name a few.

He and Tad Schnugg established and founded the Faison Firehouse Theatre in 2000. Since its opening with the renowned Maya Angelou, they have presented and or produced many productions including: "Remembering Jimmy" (James Baldwin), "Harlem Opera Theatre," "Cook, Dixon & Young," "Opera is Hot at the Firehouse" and "Accept, Except" and more.

Continued on Page 36

Ellis, Marshall release some early tracks

By Toni Dubois

Ghetto Youths International crew has been at it again. They recently released the much anticipated EP's from two Jamaican artists of distinctively different styles and origins. Christopher Ellis "Better Than Love" on Nov. 19 and Wayne Marshall's "Tru Colors" on Nov. 26.

Reggae and dancehall singer, Wayne Marshall's original version of "Go Hard" a dancehall banger, featured killer verses from



Wayne Marshall.

Photo courtesy of Ghetto Youths International

Continued on Page 36



Norwood Fisher and director/producer of the series, Angela Tucker.

Photo by Marshall Tyler

Critical, humorous look at stereotypes

The third season of "Black Folk Don't," the satirical documentary web series challenging common stereotypes of African-Americans, premiered on Monday, Dec. 2. Alternately provocative, irreverent, comical and profound, the series heads to California for its third season, with engaging interviews of celebrities such as John Norwood Fisher of the punk band Fishbone, direc-

tor Ava DuVernay, actress Lisa Gay Hamilton and renowned feminist Sikivu Hutchinson, as well as everyday black folk.

The series, a project of TuckerGurl LLC, is funded by National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and runs weekly on Mondays for six weeks through Jan. 6. NBPC serves as

executive producer.

The brainchild of director-producer Angela Tucker, who specializes in creative, bold and varied social issue, film-based projects from public service announcements to features, "Black Folk Don't" is designed to inspire dialogue around several controversial issues. Featured in Time magazine's "10 Ideas

Continued on Page 36

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1** **Royals**
Lorde
- 2** **Wake Me Up!**
Avicii
- 3** **Hold On, We're Going Home**
Drake Feat. Majid Jordan
- 4** **Wrecking Ball**
Miley Cyrus
- 5** **Demons**
Imagine Dragons
- 6** **The Monster**
Eminem Featuring Rihanna
- 7** **Roar**
Katy Perry
- 8** **Counting Stars**
OneRepublic
- 9** **Applause**
Lady Gaga
- 10** **Holy Grail**
Jay-Z Feat. Justin Timberlake

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1** **The Marshall Mathers LP 2**
Eminem
- 2** **The Wrong Side Of Heaven**
Five Finger Death Punch
- 3** **The Hunger Games...**
Soundtrack
- 4** **I Am**
Yo Gotti
- 5** **Baptized**
Daughtry
- 6** **Pure Heroine**
Lorde
- 7** **ARTPOP**
Lady Gaga
- 8** **Nothing Was The Same**
Drake
- 9** **Night Visions**
Imagine Dragons
- 10** **Sail Out (EP)**
Jhene Aiko

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African stereotypes

Continued from page 35

That Are Changing Your Life," on NPR, TheRoot.com, Huffington Post and in PBS's Online Film Festival, the series this season questions whether black people go green (Dec. 2), live to the end of a horror film (Dec. 9), do plastic surgery (Dec. 16), do feminism (Dec. 23), adopt (Dec. 30) and join the NRA (Jan. 6). A special episode on Thursday, Dec. 12, will be a behind-the-scenes mini-episode about California.

"As only about 6.6 percent of the population, black people are far from the majority in California and that intrigued me. And I found that people in Oakland, Los Angeles and San Francisco had such diverse views of the world, leading to a real clash of ideas this season among the interviewees, more so than in past seasons," said Tucker.

"Season three of 'Black Folk Don't' is going to spark conversations in homes and offices around the country as well as online, as people take sides and even question the audacity of the assertions that are raised in the show," said Nonso Christian Ugbo, Black

Public Media director of Digital Media.

The series is shown on BlackPublicMedia.org, the official website of NBPC, You Tube, and PBS.org, as well as at blackfolkdont.com.

ABOUT ANGELA TUCKER

Angela Tucker is a Brooklyn-based writer, director and producer. Her directorial work includes (A)sexual, a feature-length documentary about people who experience no sexual attraction, and "Black Folk Don't," a satirical documentary web series that challenges common stereotypes. She is a co-producer of "The New Black," a feature-length documentary about the complicated histories of the African-American and LGBT civil rights movements, currently in theatrical release. She is the series producer for the public television documentary series "AfroPop: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange." Tucker can be followed on Twitter @tuckergurl. For more information, visit tuckergurl.tumblr.com/.



Franklin Hamilton, creator of "The Black List" and participant in the series.
Photo by Camille Curtis

ABOUT NATIONAL BLACK PROGRAMMING CONSORTIUM (NBPC)

The National Black Programming Consortium is a national, nonprofit media arts organization founded in 1979 that is the leading provider of black programming on public television and the greatest resource for the training of black media professionals within the Public Broad-

casting Service (PBS). Dedicated to developing black digital authorship and distributing unique stories of the black experience in the new media age, NBPC distributes engaging content online at BlackPublicMedia.org. NBPC also facilitates the community engagement project Public Media Corps (PMC). For more on NBPC and its initiatives, visit <http://blackpublicmedia.org>.



Cast of, "Bah Humbug," with Director, Choreographer, Producer, George Faison: (Front Row, from left) Mahalia Mays, George Faison, (Director), Rah Digma, Ebon Charles. (Back Row, from left) Khalia Campbell, Charles Wallace, Jasmine Thomas, Rev. Akanke Rhonda McLean-Nur, Daniel Carlton, Aqura Lacey, Raven McRay.

Photo by Amun

Faison Firehouse Theater

Continued from page 35

"Bah Humbug" is a tale of the rise of the Notorious E.B. Scrooge and his spiraling decent into the evils of the 21st century. Driven by his lust for fame and fortune, EB Scrooge's relentless pursuit of money and power "by any means necessary" made him the most selfish, disloyal, heinously corrupt businessman in the recording industry. His humanity and

compassion were replaced by his craving for power, fame and bling, until he learns the true meaning of Christmas.

This holiday season you don't have to go downtown to see world-class musical theatre. The Faison Firehouse is offering a Broadway quality production right in the Village of Harlem for your enjoyment and pleasure, "Bah Humbug." The show opened on Thursday, Dec. 5 and runs through Dec. 15.

Ghetto Youths International

Continued from page 35

Damian Marley, Bounty Killer, Assassin, Vybz Kartel, Aidonia and I-Octane is now back with a new twist of his 2012 hit "Go Hard" on his EP "Tru Colors" (full album will be available January 2014). The track produced by certified hit-maker Damian Marley, came up with the idea to do a hip-hop version of the song. "We figured the song was doing quite well in the dancehall circuit, why not create a track that's hard hitting and has an urban underground mixtape feel to it," said Marshall.

"Damian came up with the beat and the idea for the remix. Through connections we managed to get the track to down South's hottest rappers, Ace Hood (known for hit songs like Bugatti which features Rick Ross & future) and Waka Flocka (known for the single "No Hands," which features Roscoe Dash and Wale), along with Jamaica's dancehall, crooner Baby Cham. Once they heard it, they loved it and that was history," added Marshall.

Another song on the Tru Color EP, "Stupid Money" fea-

tures guest vocals from Assassin (he was featured on Kanye West's Yeezus album on a track called I'm In It) and a children's chorus over hip-hop production from Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley. It is a catchy song with definite cross over to commercial radio.

Christopher Ellis, the son of "The Godfather of Jamaican Rocksteady," Alton Ellis, is in a class by himself. Although there is audible similarities to his dad, he has managed to blend the old with the new creating a unique sound that is soulful, fresh and alive. His debut EP "Better Than Love" which was produced by Damian Marley and all tracks written my Chris (with a couple of suggestions from labelmates), is a story that's told from beginning to end. Starting with the emotional roller coaster plagued love stories (Roller Coaster) taking a leap of faith with love (Left Unsaid) it manages to show a modern take on classic rocksteady energy with groovy R&B sounds.

Although both artists are distinctively different in their style of music, it will be worth your while to wait for the full length albums, dropping early next year.

Inspirational adaptation of Mandela's autobiography

"Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom"
Excellent (4 stars)
PG-13 for sexuality, intense violence, disturbing images and brief profanity
In English, Afrikaans and Xhosa with subtitles
Running time: 146 minutes
Distributor: The Weinstein Company

By Kam Williams

Nelson "Mandiba" Mandela (Idris Elba) secretly started writing his autobiography "Long Walk to Freedom" while still serving what he had every reason to believe might very well be a life sentence on Robben Island. The lawyer-turned-spokesman for the outlawed African National Congress had been convicted of trea-

son for trying to dismantle South Africa's racist regime.

But he was indeed freed following 27 years in prison of imprisonment when the bloody civil war was on the brink of bringing an end to Apartheid. At that point, Mandela assured the apprehensive white minority that despite the fact that, "Fear has made you an unjust and brutal people, when we come to power, there will be no revenge."

Soon thereafter, he was democratically elected the nation's first black president, assuming the reigns of power in 1994. And that transition to majority rule did prove to be smooth, with the help of pardons for crimes against humanity being granted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to guilty parties from both sides of the conflict.

Directed by Justin Chadwick, *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* is an epic biopic chronicling the rise, incarceration and ultimate



From left, Idris Elba and Naomie Harris star in "Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom."
Photo by Keith Bernstein

redemption of the revered political icon. Versatile British actor Idris Elba exhibits the requisite combination of outrage, dignity, empathy and steely resolve need-

ed to portray the picture's complex title character convincingly.

Still, since Mandela spends the bulk of the movie behind bars, much of the action revolves

around his wife Winnie's (Naomie Harris) efforts to raise their children while serving as a leader of the movement in her husband's absence. Sadly, the decades-long separation eventually took a toll on their marriage, between the denial of conjugal visits and Winnie's resorting to ruthless methods to silence suspected snitches.

This film easily eclipses a biopic covering the same subject-matter called *Winnie Mandela*. Released just a couple of months ago, that relatively-pathetic disappointment co-starring Terence Howard and Jennifer Hudson as Nelson and Winnie, respectively, was marred by the protagonists' atrocious accents as well as by a godawful script.

By contrast, this inspirational adaptation of Mandiba's autobiography more than does justice to the legacy of the triumphant freedom fighter who made so many selfless sacrifices on behalf of his people.

Independent & Foreign Films

Crave (Unrated) Psychological thriller about a crime scene photographer (Josh Lawson) disturbed by wanton street violence who loses his tenuous grasp on reality when a romance with a beautiful woman (Emma Lung) goes sour. Support cast includes Ron Perlman, Edward Furlong and Christopher Stapleton.

Ernest & Celestine (Unrated) Anthropomorphic animated adventure about the unlikely friendship forged between a bear (Lambert Wilson) and a mouse (Pauline Brunner). Voice cast includes Lauren Bacall, Anne-Marie Loop and Patrice Melennec. (In French with subtitles)

Expecting (Unrated) Adoption dramedy about a barren housewife (Radha Mitchell) who finally gets a chance to start a family when her pregnant best friend (Michelle Monaghan) offers to turn over the unplanned fruit of a one-night stand. With John Dore, Michael Weston and Mimi Kennedy.

Implanted (Unrated) Sci-fi thriller about an accident victim's (Justin Leak) struggle to separate fact from fiction when an experimen-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

tal, life-saving procedure performed by his neurologist father (Robert Prago) goes awry. Supporting cast includes Jason Turner, Deborah Childs and Jackie Goldston.

A Journey to Planet Sanity (Unrated) Wacky conspiracy theories are the subject of this investigative documentary chronicling a skeptic (Blake Freeman) and a gullible geezer's (Leroy Tessina) cross-country quest for the truth about aliens, psychics and the paranormal.

Khumba (Unrated) Computer-animated adventure about a semi-striped zebra (Jake T. Austin) rejected by his own kind who embarks on a perilous trek in the company of several other species in search of a safe watering hole. Voice cast includes Liam Neeson, Steve Buscemi and Laurence Fishburne.

The Last Days on Mars (PG-13 for brief profanity)

High attrition-rate horror flick about a crew of astronauts who mysteriously perish one-by-one while collecting specimens on the surface of Mars. Co-starring Liev Schreiber, Romola Garai, Elias Koteas and Olivia Williams.

Lenny Cooke (Unrated) Diminished hoop dreams documentary about a Brooklyn-born, high school basketball phenom who never got a chance to play in the NBA after declaring himself eligible for the draft instead of attending college.

Live at the Foxes Den (Unrated) Midlife crisis drama about a jaded corporate attorney (Jackson Rathbone) who, after a night spent carousing, impulsively quits his job at a prestigious law firm to pursue a new career as a saloon singer. With Jocelin Donahue, Jack Holmes, Brian Doyle-Murray and Elliott Gould.



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SUN KULCHA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SAT., DEC. 7

FESTIVAL AFROLATINO: Join the Afrolatino Festival of New York at Breukelen Coffee Shop in Brooklyn from 9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. for their holiday celebration and fundraising event. There will be music by DJ Inspire and live performances. Please make a \$10 donation along with school/ art supplies for a public school in Bastimentos Island, Bocas del Toro, Panama. This is one party you should not miss!! Invite all of your friends! 764 Franklin Ave., New York, NY 11238 (718) 789-7070.

SUPPORT GROUP: The Sarcoidosis Support Group will be holding monthly meetings at EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care for those with sarcoidosis or those caring for someone with sarcoidosis from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Sarcoidosis is a disease that results from a specific type of inflammation of tissues of the body. It can appear in almost any body organ, but it starts most often in the lungs or lymph nodes. The cause of sarcoidosis is unknown. The disease can appear suddenly and disappear. Or it can develop gradually and go on to produce symptoms that come and go, sometimes for a lifetime.

FALL FITNESS: Join EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care for a cardio workout that can improve your overall health and improve circulation and endurance 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. We'll also work on building muscle with strength training. Please let your doctor know you will be taking part in an exercise class. RSVP by calling : 1-646-476-1294. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Bld., Cambria Heights, Queens.

SUN., DEC. 8

DIWALI: Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, returns to Pelham Art Center as part of its Folk Arts Series, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Join us for this popular event with free hands-on workshops and activities, held during Arts-Westchester's Free Arts Day! 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham, NY 10803. Call 914-738-2525 for more information.

MON., DEC. 9

DEMYSTIFYING ACS: Come and learn more about Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and find out more information about community-based organizations and services. St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., Brooklyn. Register, by visiting <https://brooklyn-expo.eventbrite.com/>.

WORKOUT: Join EmblemHealth neighborhood care for a DVD workout that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile from 12:00-1:00 p.m. The class is designed to develop and enhance your ability to increase stamina, develop strength in upper and lower body and improve balance. Use of hand weights is optional. Please let your doctor know that you will be taking part in an exercise class. RSVP by calling : 1-646-476-1294. Each event is open to the public and



DIWALI

DIWALI: Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, returns to Pelham Art Center as part of its Folk Arts Series, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Join us for this popular event with free hands-on workshops and activities, held during ArtsWestchester's Free Arts Day! 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham, NY 10803. Call 914-738-2525 for more information.

DANCEHALL WORKSHOP

DANCEHALL WORKSHOP • DEC. 15:

The choreographers of "FIYAH" will be hosting a "Triple Treat Dancehall Workshop" at Cumbe from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. with Yaminah Legohn, Jessica Phoenix and Blacka Di Danca along with DJ Yanks. For advance tickets, visit cumbedance.com. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Cumbe: 558 Fulton St., NY 11217.



is being held at 206-20 Linden Bld., Cambria Heights, Queens.

ZUMBA: Join EmblemHealth neighborhood care for a dance-fitness class that's friendly and fun from 10:30-11:30 a.m. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. Be sure to let your doctor know that you will be taking part in an exercise class. RSVP by calling : 1-646-476-1294. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens.

WED., DEC. 11

ZUMBA: Join EmblemHealth neighborhood care for a dance-fitness class that is friendly and fun from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. Be sure to let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. RSVP by calling : 1-646-476-1294. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens.



HOLIDAY BASH

HOLIDAY BASH: The "Three Bears Holiday Bash" is a variety show that celebrates the holiday season in song, dance and puppetry. The audience also gets to join in on the fun with a "12 days of Christmas" sing-a-long during the performance! Monday through Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., with an additional 2:30 p.m. performance each Wednesday. Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$7/children under 12, \$10/all others. For more information, maps and walking directions, please visit <http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/arts/>.

THURS., DEC.12

MEDITATION: Join EmblemHealth neighborhood care in learning how to meditate in just a few simple steps from 2:00 - 3:00p.m. Besides being a way to let go of the harmful effects of stress, worry and tension, daily meditation can help you experience a new feeling of calmness, ease and quiet inner knowing. RSVP by calling : 1-646-476-1294. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens.

FRI., DEC.13

MANAGING BLOOD PRESSURE: Join EmblemHealth neighborhood care in learning how manage your blood pressure from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Do you know which medications you take to control your blood pressure? Do you feel confused about these drugs and why you need to take them? You can bring all of your medications with you and join us in learning: What IS high blood pressure? Why do you need to control your blood pressure? Which lifestyle changes can help you manage your blood pressure? What are some of the common medications that people take and what are the

side effects? What should you monitor when taking these medications? What should you do when you experience side effects? RSVP by calling : 1-646-476-1294. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens.

SAT., DEC. 14

HOMEOWNER FORUM: Free Homeowner Insurance Information session from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Mortgage check-ups and review. Free information on home improvement options, Home Repair Courses and the NYC Build-It-Back program. Counselors will be present to address mortgage modification needs. We encourage you to bring your homeowner insurance policy and mortgage statement for review. Capital One Bank, 1425 Rockaway Parkway (corner of Glenwood Rd.) Brooklyn, NY 11236. To register, please call Tyrone 718.469.4679 or email infoef_01@nhsnyc.org. Lunch provided. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services, Capital One and CNYCN.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION: Brainorkestra Learning Programs will be conducting a free informational session for parents from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., at the main branch of the Brooklyn Public Library at Cadman Plaza, 1st floor meeting room 7. For information or to reserve a place, leave an email or message at the following: www.brainorkestra.com or call (917) 821-8836.

FALL FITNESS: Join EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care for a cardio workout that can improve your overall health and improve circulation and endurance 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. We will also work on building muscle with strength training. Please let your doctor know you will be taking part in an exercise class. RSVP by calling : 1-646-476-1294. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens.

MON., DEC. 15

DANCEHALL WORKSHOP: The choreographers of "FIYAH" will be hosting a "Triple Treat Dancehall Workshop" at Cumbe from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. with Yaminah Legohn, Jessica Phoenix and Blacka Di Danca along with DJ Yanks. For advance tickets, visit cumbedance.com. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Cumbe: 558 Fulton St., NY 11217.

ONGOING CURRENTLY - MON., DEC. 30

HOLIDAY BASH: The "Three Bears Holiday Bash" is a variety show that celebrates the holiday season in song, dance and puppetry. The audience also gets to join in on the fun with a "12 days of Christmas" sing-a-long during the performance! Showings are Monday through Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., with an additional 2:30 p.m. performance each Wednesday.

Continued on Page 40



Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete: 1 in 16,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 88

Some signs to look for:

No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.

No babbling by 12 months.

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SUN KULCHA COMMUNITY EVENTS

Continued from Page 38

day. Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$7/children under 12, \$10/all others. Tickets are sold at the door, only when available. To guarantee admission, purchase tickets online at <http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/arts/swedish-cottage-marionette-theatre/>. The Cottage is located in Central Park at 81th Street and Central Park West, just south of the Delacorte Theater. For more information, maps and walking directions, please visit <http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/arts/>.

PASSPORT APPLICATION CENTER: Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) launched a second Passport Application Center at the Kings Highway Library providing a convenient facility for Brooklyn residents and new immigrants to apply for passports. Hours are temporarily set for 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Sunday by appointment. Saturdays are currently closed until further notice. 2115 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11229. To make an appointment, call 718-230-2292 or 718-375-3037 ext. 128.

FEATURING HOME REPAIR: Is your boiler, water main or roof in need of fixing? Do you need major repairs done but lack the finances? Now is the best time to fix it. Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, a not-for-profit housing organization can assist you. For more information on our Home Improvement Programs, please call 718-469-4679 or visit www.nhsflatbush.org.

FORECLOSURE: Are you behind in your mortgage or seeking a modification? Come in for free services and assistance. We will help you as much as possible to keep your home. Referrals for free legal assistance are also available. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 718.469.4679. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush and the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, not-for-profit organizations. www.nhsnyc.org.

HOME HELP FOR DISABLED: If you are a disabled homeowner living in Brooklyn or have someone disabled living in your household, you may qualify for up to \$5,000 in home repair

grants. Repairs must be geared toward making the home accessible and convenient for the disabled person. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, a not-for-profit housing organization, and the New York State Housing Trust Corporation. For more information, please call (718) 469-4679.

COMMUNITY CENTER: Are you looking to improve your life? Take a class at Community Learning Center: How to Write a Book or Script, Create a Resume, How to Create Wealth, Get/Keep a Spouse, Start a Business. Classes for everyone. Community Learning Center, 147-12 Archer Ave., Queens. For more information/RSVP, call (718) 291-1094.

DONATIONS: St. Robert Bellarmine Church is joining efforts with the Diocese 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.

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.

If you have an event that you would like to post in Sun Kulcha, please email your submission to Caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com. All submissions are up for review by the editor.

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

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Portland's Coach Caleb Porter.
AP Photo/Don Ryan

MLS Coach of the Year

By Patrick Horne

Portland's first-year coach Caleb Porter was the unanimous winner of the 2013 MLS Coach of the Year award, announced last Monday. New York Red Bulls' Mike Petke was second in the voting, Jason Kreis of Real Salt Lake was third and Colorado Rapids coach Oscar Pareja fourth. In winning the award, Porter quieted critics who doubted his ability to excel in the professional game.

Porter was a successful college coach at the University of Akron, Ohio (2006-1012), but it was his failure to qualify a
Continued on Page 46

Bolt fears losing his sponsorship

By Azad Ali

Sprint icon Usain Bolt fears he will lose millions of dollars in potential sponsorship as a result of suggestions that he could be barred from competing at the Rio Olympics in 2016.

The claim has come from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) as it carried out a probe into the country's drug testing program for athletes.

Bolt who was for the fifth time named the World Athlete of the Year recently, said he is bothered by the threat to his ability to earn money from the sport.

"It's really costing me money now, and I'm not too happy about that," Bolt said. "Track and field is my job, that's the first
Continued on Page 46



High School 55 Hurdles team members Tia Livingston and Sandreka Bancroft

Photo by Lem Peterkin

EAST COAST STARS SHINE

Nation's best head to Colgate semi-finals

The final preliminary meet of the nation's largest female track series, the Colgate Women's Games, featured some of the East Coast's best athletic talent as competitors of all ages continue to set the national pace with fast times, and excellent performances at the Army, New

York from Nov. 29-30.

From an initial field of more than 10,000 girls and young women, some 430 point-scorers from the preliminary meets have earned their place in the Semi-Finals to be held on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013, where they will continue to contend

for a place in the finals, Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013.

In the High School division, Junior Olympic Champion and Colgate Women's Games' record-holder Sandreka Bancroft of Manhattan's Benjamin Cardozo

Continued on Page 46



Real Salt Lake midfielder Kyle Beckerman, center right, holds up the trophy for the MLS Western Conference Championship as he celebrates with teammates after Real Salt Lake beat the Portland Timbers 1-0 in the second game of the Western Conference finals in the MLS Cup soccer playoffs to give Salt Lake an aggregate score of 5-2 in the two-match series, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Portland, Ore.

AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Western Conference Soccer Finals

Continued from page 45

talented USA men's Olympic team for the 2012 games in London that casts doubts. The U. S. hadn't missed the Olympics soccer tournament since 1972, so the rumors swirled about Porter's inability at a higher level. Porter later revealed to writer Grant Wahl in an interview for *Sports Illustrated* that he did a 150-page post mortem on his failure with the U.S. Under-23 team, learned from the experience and used it as motivation to succeed.

Portland lost 16 games in 2012 and fired its coach, John Spencer. Early in 2013, Porter went on a rebuilding binge and brought in Jamaican goal keeper Donovan Ricketts, scorer Diego Valeri and skillful Jamaican speedster Darling Nagbe; hard-nosed midfielder Will Johnson was already with the club and with other additions, Porter led the Timbers to the Western Conference regular season title with a record of 14-5-15. The Timbers, though, lost to Real Salt Lake in the Western Conference playoff finals, 5-2 on aggregate.

As the Timbers season emerged, the 38-year-old Porter became the most successful rookie coach in MLS history. The Timbers set single-season records for most points (57), most wins (14) and most goals (54); there was an impressive turnaround in goal differential as the Timbers went for negative-22 in 2012 to a plus-21 in 2013. The Timbers also recorded 15 shut-outs, the fewest losses (5) and the least goals allowed (33), all MLS season bests. Portland's 15-game unbeaten streak is a record for a first-year MLS coach.

Porter seemed to pride himself on the style of play that he introduced to the Timbers; he referred to his team's play as the three Ps – passing, pressure and passion. The Timbers really were one of the most entertaining teams to watch this past season; they moved the ball creatively and quickly around the pitch and created mistakes with their pressure game, while the fans fed off this exciting brand of soccer and frenzied the always-sold-out JELD-WEN Field. The excitement and

passion in Portland was evident throughout the season. The Timbers even created a lumberjack character that would cut a slab of timber at the stadium for each player who scored at home games. According to Porter, this is just the beginning.

MLS CUP

Sporting Kansas City and Real Salt Lake will play in the 2013 MLS Cup, the championship game, on Saturday, Dec. 7, 4:00 p.m. (ESPN) at Sporting Park, in Kansas City, Kansas. Sporting, which will host the game because of its superior regular season record, reached the final by defeating the Houston Dynamo, 2-1, on aggregate in the Eastern Conference finals, while Real Salt Lake knocked off Portland in the West.

Both teams are seeking their second MLS championship. Sporting Kansas City beat the Chicago Fire, 1-0, to win the Cup in 2000; Real Salt Lake beat the Los Angeles Galaxy in the 2009 MLS Cup on penalties. RSL goalkeeper Nick Rimando is among nine players on

this year's team who won the final in 2009.

CONCACAF AWARDS

The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) will stage the first annual CONCACAF Awards to recognize its best performers in 2013. "We are delighted to introduce the first edition of the annual CONCACAF Awards, which will provide rightful and much-deserved recognition to our region's best players, coaches and referees in the women's and men's games," said CONCACAF President Jeffrey Webb. "This event promises to become a prominent date on the football calendar for players and fans alike."

This year's award categories include Male and Female Player of the Year, Coach of the Year, Goalkeeper of the Year, Referee of the Year, and Goal of the Year. Ten nominees in each category have been determined by CONCACAF Technical Directors and the CONCACAF Technical Study Group.

Drug testing

Continued from page 45
thing. I know we've been going through a lot when it comes to drug-testing, WADA and the IAAF. There's been a lot going on."

WADA's probe into Jamaica's drug-testing program took place after several high-profile Jamaican athletes tested positive for banned substances.

WADA had warned that athletes from Jamaica – like Bolt – could be prevented from competing in Rio, if Jamaican authorities did not address their concerns.



Usain Bolt.

AP Photo/PA, Sean Dempsey

Colgate Games

High School remains in first place after winning the 55-meter-hurdles in 8.2; Bronx Twins Arianne and Ariel Strunkey of Taft Educational Campus also repeated their victories in the 200 meters in 25.5 and 25.8 respectively.

Freshman Chelsea Ogindo of Peekskill High School upset Shaniqua Kirkpatrick, of Cardozo High School, crossing the tape first in the 1500 meters in 4:45.1; and Emilie Cowan of Columbia High School in Maplewood, NJ won the 800 meters in 2:21.6. In the High Jump, a much improved Brionna Singleton of Newark Technical High School cleared the bar at 5'6" for the win over Colgate Women's Games veteran Shayla Broughton of Brooklyn's Medgar Evers who took second clearing 5'2" and Egypt Parker, a sophomore at St. Catherine's Academy in the Bronx, continues to dominate the shot put, tossing 11.95 for the win.

In the Mid School division, Sidney Townsend of St. Cyril Middle School in Landsdowne, PA improved her performance in both the 200 meters (25.6) and 400 meters (57.6) for the double win, trading places with Paris Peoples of IS 238 in Queens, NY who won both races at the first preliminary meet, sending the pair to the semi-finals tied for points. Gabriella Wilkinson of Friends Central School in Wynnewood, PA a familiar sight in first place since Elementary A, continues undefeated and continues to impress, shaving nearly 7 seconds off her 800 meters run and finishing first in a very fast 2:13.8. Wilkinson made it a double win by taking the 1500 meters in 4:45.9; and My'khiyah Williams of Ocean Hill Collegiate Middle School in Brooklyn, NY who set the Elementary B High Jump record at 4'9" returns as a Mid School competitor, placing first in both prelims with improved 5'2" performances.



My'khiyah Williams of Ocean Hill Collegiate Middle School in Brooklyn, NY wins MS High Jump with a height of 5' 2".

Photo by Lem Peterkin

Concerns over Test captain

By Azad Ali

West Indies cricket selectors seem to be coming under increasing pressure to review the role of Test captain Darren Sammy following the team's humiliating innings defeat to India in the recently concluded two-match Test series.

For the third time in recent days a former West Indies captain is calling for selectors to consider Sammy's future in the team.

Clive Lloyd has conceded that Sammy has been a unifying force in the Windies setup but now believes that his role in the team has now become an unsettled issue.

"Sammy as a captain has brought the guys together. They are definitely looking a better bunch under his leadership," said Lloyd who led the most dominating Test team of all times in mid-1970s and 80s.

"But now, I think people are taking a look at the balance of the side," Lloyd added.

The West Indies captain made a total of 25 runs in the four innings and went wicket less, forcing questions to be asked of his role as an all-rounder in the team.



Captain Darren Sammy.

AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe

"I believe that when a team is losing, the captain is the first person to be blamed," Lloyd said.

"However, having said that, he

(Sammy) needs to take a look at himself, put his hand up and the selectors need to take a decision on his future."

Jamaica native looks toward track season

By Robert Elkin

Jamaica native Andrew Lewinson is looking toward the upcoming track and field season at Uniondale High School in Nassau County. Lewinson ran in his first cross country season in high school and turned in a decent job under the coaching of Elijah Blue, an assistant coach at Uniondale. He happened to be one of the school's top harriers even though he and his teammates failed to qualify for the New York State Meet.

With the addition of some soccer and football players as has been the custom over the past years at the school, Uniondale should be strong in the sprints and become a contender for team honors in Nassau County.

A former football player for only a brief time, Lewinson eventually gave up the sport to concentrate on the running one, whether it be one of long distance runs, like the mile and two miles, or the sprints.

Lewinson completed his first year on its cross country team in his second season of running at

Uniondale.

Originally from Jamaica, West Indies, where Lewinson attended high school for a while before coming to Long Island, he is trying to improve on his skills. He and his teammates competed in the Class County 'A' championships to end his interscholastic harrier career. He was not a factor as he was timed in 20:27.9 over a 5K course at Bethpage State Park.

Cross country here in Uniondale is different than running on a high school track.

"Running at full speed is really hard," he added. "Cross country isn't too bad."

Another highlight for him this past season was competing on a slightly shorter course at Van Cortland Park in The Bronx. This was one of 2.5 miles and was the Manhattan College Interscholastic meet comprised of schools all over the country in various divisions. He was timed in 17:06.

"The hills there are easy," he went on. "They're not too bad."

"Running is hard in Jamaica,"

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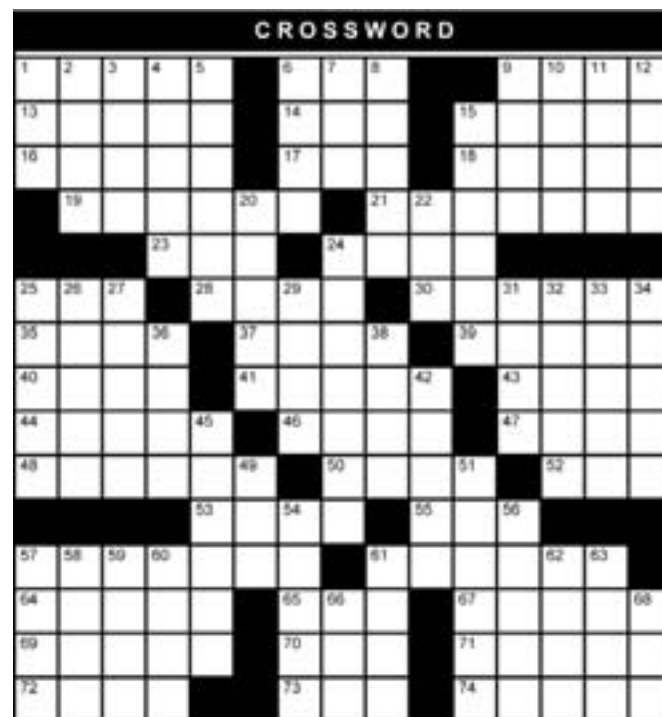
ACROSS

1. Bug hitting windshield, e.g.
6. Presidents' Day month
9. Party barrels
13. Moonshine
14. Grassland
15. Beyond normal limits
16. _____ Boo Boo
17. Opposite of nothing
18. It has front and rear seats
19. *Misfit elf dentist
21. *It's a Wonderful Life" star
23. Unopened tulip
24. Oliver Twist, e.g.
25. White wine and cassis
28. _____ good example
30. Sect follower
35. "National Velvet" author Bag-nold
37. Earth's neighbor
39. Some are on a shorter one than others
40. Windmill blade
41. Top dog
43. Attached to a wheel
44. Magazine's special feature
46. *A Christmas Story" leg _____
47. Capital on the Dnieper
48. Vital
50. Cleopatra's necklace

52. Chester White's home
53. Strip of wood
55. *"_____ Be Home For Christmas"
57. *It happened on 34th Street
61. Show off
64. Acid in proteins
65. Ides month
67. Holy See loyalist practicing different rites
69. Closely watched on Black Friday
70. Before prefix
71. _____ Domingo
72. Old World duck
73. *Astaire's character in "Holiday Inn"
74. Clear the blackboard

DOWN

1. "Be quiet!"
2. *Winnie the _____ and Christmas Too"
3. Like a famous Ranger
4. Tart
5. Immune system organ
6. Strip the skin off
7. Slippery reef dweller
8. Model-building wood
9. Acknowledged or recognized
10. Tropical tuberous root
11. Its seed yields gum used as thickener
12. Email folder
15. Utilitarian
20. Swelling from accumulation of fluid
22. Clinical twitching
24. "On the _____" or in a bel-ligerent mood
25. *He was left home alone
26. Silly
27. Between shampoo and repeat
29. _____ tale
31. Pipe problem
32. Yellow rides
33. Speck in the ocean
34. *Famous lampooner on Christmas vacation
36. Owner's acquisition
38. Idiot, Yiddish
42. Patriots' Day month
45. Phone companies
49. Indian dish
51. *Agreement to assume Santa's identity
54. Dangle a carrot
56. Relating to the moon
57. Physics calculation
58. Mosque V.I.P.
59. Agitate
60. All over again
61. *Santa's bitter old brother
62. Columbus' vessel
63. Makes lace
66. Exist
68. Corn site



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, handle some unfinished business and establish clear priorities. Otherwise, you may turn what could be a productive week into something frustrating.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, when you wear your heart on your sleeve for everyone to see, you cannot be shy about expressing your emotions. Friends may be skeptical of you though.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, don't be shy about sharing unique plans with your loved ones. The support of friends and family members will only restore your confidence in this new direction.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Expect your ideas to take shape over the next couple of days, Cancer. Concrete plans will materialize as you begin to pull thoughts from your imagination. The results will be unique.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
You probably are not interested in inching along this week, Leo. Though it's good to attack a project with gusto, don't rush so much that you make mistakes.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you are quite comfortable sharing your thoughts now that you have gotten some things worked out. It's now much easier to talk about future possibilities.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Decoding all of the mixed signals coming your way won't be easy, Libra. The only thing you can do for the moment is to take each signal one at a time.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you are not in the mood to play games, so you will want to push your romantic relationship to the next level. You will have no problem leading the way.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Opportunities to address your physical well-being present themselves this week, Sagittarius. Make the most of these opportunities to make a significant change.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you will ride a creative wave for the next several days. Inspiration will strike when you least expect it. You should have some time for play.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, expect some support from family members and close friends. Receive their generosity as warmly as you can, even if you're feeling a bit smothered.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, it can be easy to get swept away by other people's agendas when you attempt to lend a helping hand. Do your best to pitch in.

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<p>Here's My Card Pgs 53-56</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional, Commercial And Residential Services • Attorneys • Home Improvement • Moving & Storage 	<p>Real Estate Pgs 56-57</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rentals • Properties For Sale • Open Houses • Commercial RE • And More 	<p>Services Pg 57</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauty Care • Handymen • Home Improvement • And More 	<p>Automotive Pg 57</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autos For Sale • Autos Wanted • And More

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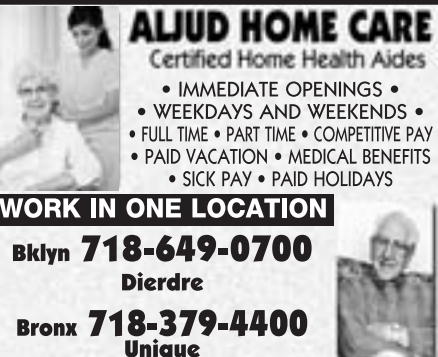
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DeBlasio Warns Consumers About Classified Ads
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Office of the
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► LEGAL

► LEGAL

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► LEGAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/27/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001328-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Dereck (Middle) G (Last) Nanton. My present name is (First) Dereck (Middle) G (Last) Nanton AKA Dereck Garvin Nanton AKA Derek Garvin Nanton. My present address is 307 Sterling Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225-. My place of birth is Trinidad and Tobago. My date of birth is December 18, 1966.

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Page 53 • Caribbean Life • Dec. 6-12, 2013

LEGAL

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS
U.S. BANK, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO LASALLE BANK N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE

LEGAL

LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff, - against- OSVALDO ACOSTA, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed OCTOBER 2, 2013, I, the undersigned Referee, will

LEGAL

sell at public auction in ROOM 224 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NY on the 12TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. premises known as 74-76 SOUTH 2ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11211 further described

LEGAL

as follows: Block: 2416, Lot: 8
ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of New York, bounded and

LEGAL

described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the Southerly side of South 2nd Street, distant 50 feet Easterly from the corner formed by the intersection on the Southerly side of South 2nd Street with the Easterly side of Wythe Avenue; RUNNING THENCE South-

LEGAL

erly parallel to Wythe Avenue, 75 feet; THENCE Easterly parallel with the South 2nd Street, 50 feet; THENCE Northerly again parallel to Wythe Avenue, 75 feet to the Southerly side of South 2nd Street; THENCE Westerly along the Southerly side of

LEGAL

South 2nd Street, 50 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING. SAID PREMISES known as 74-76 South 2nd Street, Brooklyn, NY. Approximate amount of lien \$973,828.71 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judg-

LEGAL

ment and terms of sale. Index Number 14712/2008. LYLE SILVERSMITH, ESQ., REFEREE & DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 100 Cummings Center Suite 225D Beverly, MA 01915

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