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In this photo provided by NBC, Tessanne Chin performs after being announced the season five winner of "The Voice" on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013, in Los Angeles. The 28-year-old Kingston native had nearly given up on her dreams before landing a spot on the NBC singing competition. Chin's coach, Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine, was also thankful to add a second win to his resume.

AP Photo/NBC, Tyler Golden

Jamaican reggae singer wins 'The Voice'

By Nelson A. King

Jamaicans everywhere were in ecstasy when reggae singer Tessa-channe Chin on Tuesday night was declared the winner of the fifth season of NBC TV's "The Voice".

"The winner of 'The Voice' is Tessa-channe Chin," said host Car-

son Daly to millions of television viewers around the world. "Jamaica is celebrating with the United States tonight."

Reports indicate that scores of Jamaicans converged on capital city Kingston on Tuesday night to celebrate Tessa-channe's win, simi-

lar to when they converged at President Barack Obama's first inauguration.

"A better coach for me I could not find," Tessa-channe told her coach, Adam Levine, just before the winner was announced. "I

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BAJAN FISCAL CRISIS

Layoffs loom for thousands of public service workers

By Bert Wilkinson

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart put on an extremely brave face and toughed the criticism out when he took to the airwaves in Barbados in the past week to announce plans by his increasingly unpopular administration to lay off 3,000 civil servants by March of next year.

Blaming the global economic crisis for the state of the economy, Stuart said that some of those being sent home are being let

go on the advice of international multilateral agencies and could occur by the end of this year, while others will join them by the end of February.

He said also that cabinet ministers will see their salaries and emoluments cut by 10 percent, but former Prime Minister Owen Arthur is suggesting that the pink slips should be more broad-based and sweeping to include political appointees linked to his Democratic Labor Party (DLP).

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Caribbean Life would like to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas!



CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Updated daily at www.caribbeanlifeneews.com

THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Barbados

Minister of Health John Boyce has suggested a “proper” pardon for Barbadian cricketers who defied public opinion and took part in the rebel tours of racially divided South Africa in 1982 and 1983. He said a pardon was in line with the work of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which had preached forgiveness and reconciliation for people who had perpetuated wrongs against society during the apartheid era.

Boyce said the commission operated on the premise that all people failed in one way or another. He made the comments recently as the House of Assembly paid tribute to South African icon Nelson Mandela. Boyce said that decades after the controversial tour of a country, which was under an international sports ban because of its racial segregation policies, the former cricketers still needed to be properly pardoned, recognized and acknowledged.



He listed among the sportsmen who had taken part in the tours: Sylvester Clarke, Alvin Greenidge, Collis King, Ezra Moseley, Franklin Stephenson, Emmerson Trotman, Albert Padmore and Hartley Alleyne. Also touring South Africa were Gregory Armstrong, who acted as coordinator/manager, and David Murray. The South African rebel tours were a series of seven cricket tours staged by a number of teams between 1982 and 1990.

They were organized and conducted despite the disapproval of national cricket boards and governments, as well as the International Cricket Conference and international organizations including the United Nation.

Dominica

Dominica and China have signed a new US\$300 million cooperation agreement that includes the construction of a hotel, construction of an international airport and building a new hospital.



The agreement was signed between Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit and the president of ASCG, Xue Song recently.



Where the sea meets the land

This cemetery in St. Lucia was among the sites which suffered damage when Hurricane Tomas hit the island in 2010. The Oct. 31 hurricane killed 14 people. See page 26. IPS/Desmond Brown

According to ASCG, the hotel, to be situated in Roseau, will be the first to be constructed at a cost of US\$70 million.

The Chinese government will provide a preferential loan to support the projects.

ASCG’s general manager Wang Yueyuan said since both countries established diplomatic relations in 2004, China has strengthened its cooperation with Dominica.

Meanwhile, a government statement said that a team of Chinese officials is now on the island inspecting the site for the construction of the five-star hotel in the capital.

The government of Dominica and the firm have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

It quoted Skerit as having declared during the 2013-14 national budget that the design works for the hotel had been completed and an offer of financing for the construction was being considered by the government.

“The construction of the hotel is part of government’s commitment to making the tourism product more competitive and for enhancing stay over visitor capacity on island,” the statement said.

Grenada

The Grenada government recently presented a national budget of EC\$933.9 million outlining a series of taxes and stressing the need for a curtailment of government expenditure over the next 12 months. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. Keith Mitchell presented the fiscal package to Parliament indicating that it would have recurrent revenue estimated at EC\$471.1 million and recurrent expenditure of EC\$487 million.



He said the budget with an overall deficit after grants totaling EC\$139.4 million or 6.2 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) would be financed from domestic and external sources. Mitchell told legislators that a loan authorization bill to raise EC\$140 million in financing to support implementation of the 2014 budget accompanies the fiscal presentation and that most of the external financing will be direct support for Grenada’s “Homegrown Program.”

The prime minister said that it is an established fact that Gre-

nada now has the lowest total tax revenue in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) and throughout the consultations on the Homegrown Program.

Guyana

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has strengthened its commitment to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in the signing of the Declaration of Petion Ville recently in Haiti.



In the Declaration, the CARICOM Member States reiterated their commitment to the implementation of the Kingston Accord on the Responsibilities of States with respect to Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, in accordance with the Constitution and laws of respective Member States.

According to a statement from the Georgetown based CARICOM Secretariat, they have agreed “to

address with renewed energy and dedication the development of legal frameworks at the national level made through adherence to international and regional instruments to promote and protect the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.”

Haiti

Hundreds of protesters gathered recently to criticize a recent court decision in the Dominican Republic that could strip the citizenship of generations of people of Haitian descent living in the neighboring country.

The crowd peaked at about 2,000 people but thinned out during the march uphill to the Dominican Embassy to protest the decision passed two months ago by that country’s court. The demonstrators urged people to boycott travel to the Dominican Republic.



Riot police set up metal barricades on a major thoroughfare that block protesters from reaching the district where the diplomatic mission is located.

The ruling has been met with sharp objection, from Caribbean leaders to the United Nations. Recently, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights became the latest international entity to oppose the court decision, calling on the Dominican government to take urgent measures to guarantee the rights of those people affected.

Advocacy groups estimate 200,000 people, many of them of Haitian descent, could lose their Dominican citizenship because of the court ruling. Dominican officials say only about 24,000 would be affected.

Jamaica

Jamaica has widened its strategy to deal with money laundering with the Senate giving approval to five Orders under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).



The Orders cover non-financial businesses and professions and Justice Minister Mark Golding said the government had determined that certain sectors that were outside of the traditional

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South Africa President Jacob Zuma, second left, shakes hands to pose for the media with Mandla Mandela the oldest grandson of former South Africa President Nelson Mandela after unveiling a 9 metre bronze statue of Nelson Mandela outside Union Buildings in Pretoria, South Africa, Monday, Dec. 16, 2013.

AP Photo/Matt Dunham

Antigua pays tribute to Mandela

By Nelson A. King

Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS), Deborah-Mae Lovell, has paid tribute to Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, who passed away on Dec. 5 after a prolonged illness.

Lovell, who is chair of the OAS Permanent Council, paid the tribute at a special Council meeting in Washington, D.C.O. on Dec. 13.

She spoke of the example of struggle that Mandela set and how the lessons of his life and legacy can be taken into the work of the OAS, according to an OAS statement.

"How can we begin to express our appreciation to an icon who not only changed a country but influenced the world? How can we fully grasp the vision of a man who could harvest grace, majesty, and dignity from brutality and hardship?" she asked.

Lovell quoted the words of the African leader to discuss how the OAS can apply his vision and legacy.

"As Nelson Mandela put it, overcoming poverty is not a task of charity but an act of justice. Poverty is not natural; it is man-made, and we can eradicate it with the actions of human beings," she said.

The Antiguan envoy said Mandela's legacy "can be maintained if we strengthen the development agenda of the OAS."

OAS Assistant Secretary General, Albert Ramdin, who spoke on behalf of Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, said Mandela will be remembered "not only for his leadership in the liberation of his people and the African continent but also for his message of tolerance and humanity, an example for all those around the world fighting for freedom, democracy and respect for human rights."

Ramdin said Mandela was a man "who not only brought together the people of South Africa but was also a leader, who inspired the peoples of the Americas, with a significant impact on the world."

He said Mandela "belonged to all of us," adding that "what he fought for, what he believed in and what he represents are convictions, goals, and ideals shared by all who strive for peace, equality and democracy."

Ramdin said the former South African president was "a leader among men, who recognized that true peace requires commitment and political will and that changing the course of history requires personal sacrifice and, most of the time, deep pain.

CARICOM joins Mandela Farewell

French, English, Spanish Dutch Represent

By Vinette K. Pryce

CARICOM Chairman Kamla Persad-Bissessar led a delegation from the twin-island republic to join in the final farewell celebration for the 95-year-old founding father of the South African nation. The Trinidad and Tobago prime minister chartered a plane and invited other leaders in the region to join her; however, among the first arrive in South Africa was Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller of Jamaica.

"I am honored and privileged to be leading this very distinguished delegation," Simpson-Miller said upon arrival.

Along for the ride with the Caricom delegation were: Trinidad and Tobago Opposition Leader, Bahamas Prime Minister Perry Christie, Grenada's Deputy Prime Minister Elvin Nimrod, St Lucia's Phillip J. Pierre. Barbuda was represented by Ambassador Colin Murdoch and Barbados was represented by Foreign Affairs Minister Maxine Mc Clean.

Guyana President Donald Ramotar, Surinamese President Dési Bouterse and Haitian President Michel Martelly also attended the ceremony.

Cuba's role in ending apartheid cannot be understated. During the long struggle for freedom, the tiny Spanish-speaking Caribbean island boldly dispatched soldiers to fight in Angola and alongside ANC freedom-fighters. For 13 years, Cubans fought and many lost their lives when Afrikaanders resisted racial equality.

Although Fidel Castro was unable to attend, his brother, current President Raul Castro, stood tall and was greeted by President Obama, who shook his hand on arrival.

Mandela did not forget those sacrifices.

Most 100 nations sent leaders to the farewell ceremony for former South African president.

"The world literally is coming to South Africa," South Africa's head of public diplomacy, Clayson Monyela said before the memorial



Former South African President Nelson Mandela.

AP Photo/Schalk van Zuydam, file

ceremony held Dec. 10 in Johannesburg.

Ten days of memorials, celebration and tributes marked by a public and private funeral for the iconic international figure -- the first memorial held at FNB Stadium aka Soccer City attracted leaders from 91 nations.

In contrast to the most recent international gathering where "Pope John Paul's funeral brought together 70 heads of state and 14 leaders of other regions," Monyela added. "I don't think it has ever happened before."

Royalty included Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, Queen Rania of Jordan, the wife of King Abdullah and the crown princes of Denmark, Norway and Japan.

Britain's Prince Charles represented Queen Elizabeth II on Dec. 15 in Qunu, while their Prime Minister David Cameron attended the Dec. 10 memorial.

"We're already over 91 and counting," the spokesman said early in the week

preceding the burial.

America sent four presidents. President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle headed the delegation which included former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, former President Bill Clinton and former President Jimmy Carter. Former secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton also attended.

Reportedly a government aircraft carrying 22 members of the House and one U.S. senator arrived ahead of the presidential cortege.

Include United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, his predecessor, Kofi Annan and virtually every African leader and it would appear that every leader made an effort to show respect to the world leader.

President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya attended the ceremony despite the fact the services coincided with his own nation's weeklong observation of the 50th anniversary of Kenya's independence.

Mandela's fellow Nobel Peace laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the president of Liberia arrived in the downpour that drenched most of the guests. Zimbabwean strongman Robert Mugabe received loud cheers as his name was announced.

Representatives of the African Union, the Arab League and the European Union walked side-by-side leaders from Brazil, Australia, Afghanistan, Iran, India, Benin, Canada, Chad, China, Equatorial Guinea and Senegal.

In the English-speaking countries, Jamaica was first to publicly protest the injustices of apartheid. Before becoming an independent nation Jamaica in 1962, while a colony of England in 1957 imposed trade sanctions against the SA regime.

According to former Caribbean diplomat Sir Ronald Sanders, Prime Minister Errol Barrow of Barbados and Forbes Burnham of Guyana "opened up their coun-

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Program of Attrition

Continued from cover

“In the same way that Mr. Freundel Stuart and his Cabinet will send home people, Mr Freundel Stuart must send home some of his ministers,” he said, adding that ministers salaries are “already in the nature of a cost overrun.”

Stuart has not had much time to respond to Arthur, an economist by profession, but has been busy along with Finance Minister Chris Sinckler trying to manage the political fallout and the anger the announcement has triggered.

General elections are not due for another four years. Stuart jangled nerves in February when his Democratic Labor Party (DLP) barely beat Arthur’s Barbados Labor Party (BLP) by two seats, 16-14, dropping four from 2008; but it is unclear when he could reduce the anger the dismissals will engender. The win kept the island tradition of two terms for each party.

“The fact that Barbadians are about to celebrate the Christmas season was not a consideration to delay the decision, because I wanted you to know we have taken proactive action to arrest

the deteriorating fiscal position,” he said, to the consternation of many including union leaders and critics.

The cuts, Minister Sinckler says, would trigger government savings of about \$70M, while a strict program of attrition involving workers who are near retirement would be implemented.

“This attrition is expected to reduce central government employment levels from approximately 16,970 to 14,612 jobs - a projected loss of 2,358 posts, and savings of \$60 million. Over the current 19-month adjustment period, public sector employment will be reduced by an additional 501 jobs with a projected,” he said.

The island economy depends largely on tourism for survival as well as garment manufacturing and international financial services.

It and others in the Eastern Caribbean as well as Jamaica, are still struggling to recover from the global crisis, but others like Guyana and Suriname as well as oil- and gas-rich Trinidad are flourishing and have little need to deal with the IMF’s strict austerity measures.

Ending Apartheid

Continued from page 3

tries’ airports in the mid-1970s for Cuban planes to refuel to and from Angola, transporting Cuban military advisers and equipment.”

The senior fellow at the University of London added: “Some contributions were overt, such as the financial support given to Mandela’s African National Congress (ANC) by the governments of Guyana under Forbes Burnham and Jamaica under Michael Manley in the 1970s. Other contributions were not in cash but significant nonetheless — like the government in Antigua under Vere C. Bird Snr. “who gave its passports in the 1980s to ANC exiles who were deprived of travel documents by the apartheid regime and were otherwise stateless.”

Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1977 initiated sports boycotts of South Africa, which was one of the sanctions that helped to end apartheid. The small group of leaders at Gleneagles in Scotland that negotiated the boycott included Jamaica’s Michael Manley.

Guyana-born Sir Shridath Ramphal who was secretary-general of the Commonwealth joined the boycott.

The sports boycott almost crippled the richest country in Africa. Especially, “amongst Afrikaansers whose teams could no longer participate in the Commonwealth Games or play international rugby and, worst of all, could no longer compete in cricket.”

Although the apartheid regime “lured cricketers from many countries to play in South Africa to break the sporting ban between 1982 and 1984, the most outstanding ones the South Africans most desperately wanted to parade, among them Clive Lloyd (Guyana), Vivian (later Sir Vivian) Richards (Antigua), Joel Garner (Barbados) and Courtney Walsh (Jamaica) stood firm in their solidarity with the oppressed in South Africa.”

“The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1985 in Nassau, The Bahamas, is remembered by historians as the turning point of the Commonwealth’s struggle with Britain’s Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. She, like President Ronald Reagan dispensed with holding a veto on Commonwealth sanctions. Bahamas Prime Minister Lyndon Pindling, as chair, steered the meeting to that end. It was sanctions — started by the Commonwealth and pushed into

the United Nations — that eventually crippled the apartheid regime, drying up loans from the international market and deterring investment.”

“But the Nassau meeting also established the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) with a mandate to promote a process of dialogue for change, for ending apartheid and establishing a genuine non-racial democracy in South Africa. Seven Commonwealth countries, The Bahamas among them, consulted with the secretary-general on their nominees. Sir Shridath wanted Dame Nita Barrow of Barbados, and Prime Minister Pindling agreed that she would be his nominee from the Caribbean. As a member of the EPG, Dame Nita would be the first West Indian to see Mandela in prison. She was a vital member of the group — the first among them to enter the grim Soweto dressed as a local woman accompanying Winnie Mandela.”

“The EPG’s Report Mission to South Africa exposed the iniquities of apartheid, became the catalyst for sanctions, and produced a negotiating concept to which the regime turned in the end to surrender its apartheid apparatus, including Mandela’s release. Shridath Ramphal’s engagements were central and manifold as he acted for the Commonwealth in its crusade to free Mandela and end apartheid.



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Bleak picture of Barbados economy

By Nelson A. King

As the Barbados government on Dec. 13 announced plans to lay off 3,000 public sector employees and cut the salaries of high-ranking government officials, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has painted a very bleak picture of the island's economy.

"The Barbados economy continues to face considerable economic challenges," said the IMF on Dec. 13 after conducting the 2013 Article IV consultation with Barbadian authorities.

"The authorities agreed with staff on the need for urgent policy adjustments and deeper reforms over an extended period to restore fiscal and external sustainability," it added.

The IMF mission, which visited Barbados from Dec. 3-13, was headed by Nicole Laframboise.

Laframboise said weak exports and tourism arrivals, slow growth, and expansive fiscal policy "have led to a sharp increase in public debt and fiscal financing pressures."

She said real output is projected to fall by 0.7 percent in 2013, and that inflation has declined



Barbados Finance Minister Chris Sinckler.

Photo by George Alleyne

and is forecast to average 2.3 percent for 2013.

In the external sector, the mission said that tourism receipts have "remained flat", and the current account deficit is projected to widen to 11.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) this year.

Together with a sharp drop in private capital inflows in 2013, the mission said international reserves have fallen this year to US\$468 million at end-October.

"In this environment, the fiscal position has come under increasing strain," said Laframboise, adding that the central government deficit is expected to rise to 9.5 percent of GDP in 2013/14, and central government debt had risen to 94 percent of GDP by September 2013.

She said spending cuts under the authorities' budget proposals announced in August are "broadly on track," but she added that tax revenues are "falling short of projections."

Laframboise noted that the Barbados government plans to take additional measures to strengthen adjustment and reduce pressures on the balance of payments.

"A strategic, comprehensive approach is needed to address the underlying weaknesses in public finances and to increase efficiency in the public sector," she said.

"Policy formulation should be guided by a medium-term fiscal anchor to reduce central government debt to below 85 percent of GDP by 2018," she added.

Laframboise said a "fundamental review" of the tax sys-

tem is warranted, disclosing that the Barbadian authorities have requested technical assistance on this from the IMF.

"The goal would be to broaden the revenue base, which has been seriously eroded by statutory and discretionary waivers," she said.

In the interim, Laframboise said a number of measures could be taken to "significantly improve the yield by strengthening compliance and efficiency in revenue and customs administration."

The mission chief said the Barbados central government wage bill rose to 10.3 percent of GDP in 2012/13, the highest in the region, "which together with interest payments limits room for investment spending."

She said IMF staff took note of the government's decision to reduce the civil service "up front", adding that "this will lower spending and send a strong signal about policy commitment, though these workers should have access to unemployment support and programs for re-employment."

T&T names jet after Mandela

By Azad Ali

The Trinidad and Tobago-owned Caribbean Airlines (CAL) Boeing 776-300 jet, which took Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and the Caribbean delegation to South Africa for Nelson Mandela's memorial service last week, has been named the "Nelson Mandela" aircraft.

The announcement was made by Persad-Bissessar in South Africa after the memorial service at the FSNB Stadium, Johannesburg. Mandela died at the age of 95.

It is the first time a national aircraft was being named after a non-national.

Persad-Bissessar was among 90 world leaders, including U.S. President Barack Obama, Indian President Manmohan Singh and Cuban President Raul Castro and Cuban President Raul Castro.

Obama, who referred to Mandela as the "last great liberator of the 20th century", gave words of comfort to the people of South Africa during a speech, for which he received loud cheers from the massive crowd at the stadium.

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Self-employment on the rise in the Caribbean

By Nelson A. King

The World Bank says while self-employment is on the rise in the Caribbean, quality jobs remain elusive.

In launching a new report in Miami, the Washington-based financial institution said almost 70 percent of employees in the Caribbean work for businesses with five or fewer employees, compared to 60 percent in Latin America.

But while entrepreneurship is often considered to be a driver of development, the World Bank said the resulting companies grow at a much slower rate than in other middle-income regions.

Furthermore, the high percentage of small businesses reflects a lack of quality jobs in the region's larger or multinational businesses, the bank said.

Declaring that "this should ring warning bells," the report says that, in the Caribbean, almost 70 percent of business owners have opened a business out of fear of losing their job or because jobs were not available.

The report notes that, in the past 10 years, Latin America and the Caribbean have "benefited significantly from favorable economic tailwinds."

But, as these tailwinds die, it says "growth has to come from within," adding that innovation is "key if the Caribbean is to build upon

the social gains of recent years."

The report says that Caribbean firms develop new products less frequently than their counterparts in other developing regions.

It says in Jamaica, for example, the rate of product development is less than half that of Thailand or Macedonia, adding that while Grenada topped the region for new product development, six of the "worst offenders" also hailed from the Caribbean. The report did not identify these "worst offenders."

The report cites four possible reasons for the less frequent development of new products in the Caribbean: Human capital, intellectual property, risk taking and logistics.

It says while science, technology and engineering graduates are at "a premium, it's a scarcity that has a direct effect on innovation."

Closely related to the quality of education, the report recognizes this will be a major challenge for the region.

With separate laws governing copyright in every country, the report says "the complicated panorama lends less protection to the product creators, deterring much-needed investment for new product research and development."

It says "a deep cultural shame of failure is hindering innovation by dissuad-

ing entrepreneurs from taking risks."

The report says this is evident as much in "individual reticence at a business level as in the low levels of investment in research and development, especially from the private sector."

The report says modernizing ports, transport and customs can add a competitive edge to products from the region.

Currently, it says poor public services, communication links and transport infrastructure are hindering efforts to boost production capacity in the region.

The report says younger firms "far outshone" more established ones in terms of job creation.

"The key is identifying and supporting those startups, which have the most potential through start up programs, subsidies or policy," it says.

The bank said entrepreneurs are "key actors in turning low productivity around to create lasting economic benefit and quality jobs," but it said the vast majority, some 70 percent, of business owners across the Caribbean work alone.

Consequently, the report recommends establishing an economic environment, where entrepreneurs will "innovate and compete in order to increase productivity and enable them to grow into quality employers."

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Randall: Christmas is a time to remember

By Sharon Randall, Scripps Howard News Service

This morning I heard myself singing, "Deep in December it's nice to remember."

That's from a song in "The Fantasticks," a musical I never saw and don't care to recall. It was stuck on replay in my head the way some songs seem to get stuck there. Don't ask me why.

I was just glad it wasn't "All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" or "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." I get stuck on them sometimes, too.

Those songs aren't high on my Christmas play list. I'd prefer to get stuck on Handel's "Messiah" or "O Holy Night" or even "I'll Be Home for Christmas." But the older I get the more I find my mind has a mind of its own.

There I was, loading the dishwasher, singing "Deep in December" when suddenly I remembered: Christmas is a time for remembering.

One of my favorite holiday traditions is to ask friends or family or strangers in line at the post office, "What's your favorite Christmas memory?" The answers often tell me more about the person than I could learn in an hour-long interview.

See for yourself. Ask someone that question. But be prepared for them to ask you in return.

What's my favorite Christmas memory? Thanks for asking. For me, it's not one, but a lifetime collection. For example: Christmas Eve, when I was 3, my

dad pointed to the sky and said, "Look. That's the Star of Bethlehem." I saw it that moment and every Christmas since, even if I can't see the sky.

-- When I was 10, my family fell on hard times, harder than our usual, so Santa wouldn't make it to our house until spring. But some good people from church brought us a ham and cookies and a tree with colored lights. After they left, my mother said, "Life is a bank. Sometimes you give, sometimes you take. It's all the same bank. Just remember how it feels to take, because one day you will do the giving."

-- When I was pregnant with my first child, I lay awake Christmas Eve, wanting to hold him, not in my belly, but in my arms. I couldn't imagine it any more than I could imagine riding a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. But I believed in the hope of it. And four weeks later, it came true.

-- My youngest was 7 when we spent Christmas at a cabin in the mountains. He asked Santa for a chance to see snow fall, and he got it. He also managed to lock the keys in the car, forcing his dad to jog three miles in the snow back to the cabin for a spare set of keys.

-- A few weeks before my first husband lost a long battle with cancer, we celebrated his 54th birthday on Christmas Eve with our three children. I remember their laughter, their faces,

Continued on Page 12

Building a strong economy

By Camille Moran

Let's bring the spirit of Christmas to Congress. The last time the minimum wage went up was in 2009, and, as the owner of a Christmas tree farm and other businesses, I think it's time for another raise.

Today's \$7.25 an hour minimum wage befits Scrooge — before he saw the error of his ways. It amounts to just \$15,080 a year for full-time workers.

Workers shouldn't have to depend on food stamps or food banks to put Christmas Dinner on their tables.

In my state, Louisiana, which is not a high-cost state, a single adult needed income of \$19,256 to afford basic expenses such as food, housing, transportation, health care and taxes in 2012, according to the MIT Living Wage Calculator. That's \$9.26 an hour at 40 hours a week year-round, which is \$2 more an hour than the current minimum wage.

McDonald's made waves this year by recommending a sample monthly budget to its employees — many of them earning at or near minimum wage — that

Increasing the minimum wage to \$10.00 an hour.

assumed they needed a second job to make ends meet. Most McDonald's employees, like most minimum-wage workers, are adults. The budget had them working at McDonald's for \$1,105 a month after taxes, and then a second job for \$955 — for a total of \$24,720 yearly after taxes. McDonald's CEO Don Thompson, meanwhile, made \$13.8 million in 2012. That's \$37,808 a day, every day of the year.

Most Americans agree that if you work full time you should not be living in poverty. Today's miserly minimum wage doesn't just impoverish workers, it hurts our economy.

If I don't pay my employees a decent wage, they won't have money to spend at other businesses. And if other businesses don't pay their workers a decent wage, they can't afford to buy my trees, and I can't afford to hire more employees. That's a

negative cycle, instead of a positive one.

At 4 Seasons Christmas Tree Farm, our lowest paid employees earn at least \$10 an hour and we provide a better product at competitive prices with big box stores. Raising the minimum wage makes good business sense.

A recent national poll shows that 67 percent of small-business owners support increasing the minimum wage and adjusting it yearly to keep pace with the cost of living. The small-business owners were predominately Republican in the poll commissioned by Small Business Majority.

Sixty-five percent of small-business owners in the poll agreed that "Increasing the minimum wage will help the economy, because the people with the lowest incomes are the most likely to spend any pay increases buying necessities they could not afford before, which will boost sales at businesses. This will increase the customer demand that businesses need to retain or hire

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Let's stop buying and giving things that people don't want or need

By Daniel Fink, Los Angeles Times (MCT)

Some celebrate Christmas, some Hanukkah and some Kwanzaa, but to me the coming holiday time is potlatch season, and it's starting earlier every year.

A potlatch was a festival of the indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest during which the host distributed property and gifts as a way to demonstrate wealth, generosity and social standing. Guests would reciprocate at a later time with items that matched or exceeded the value of the original

gifts, or risk being humiliated.

Although births and marriages were sometimes acknowledged at a potlatch, the main purpose was the reciprocal redistribution of wealth. The more one gave away, the greater one's power. In some tribes' celebrations, the goods were destroyed, in what might be called the ultimate act of conspicuous consumption.

In the late 1800s, Canada and the United States banned potlatch ceremonies at the urging of Christian missionaries and government agents, who saw the custom as

wasteful, unproductive and contrary to civilized values. These bans were clearly discriminatory, but were also a way of assimilating the native peoples into Western traditions of displaying power by accumulating and keeping wealth rather than by giving it away. The potlatch bans were eventually repealed.

Past-forward 125 years, and one wonders whether modern American society has adopted the potlatch traditions. As "Black Friday" morphs in one direction to inter-

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

Abandoning debt to Newtown isn't an option

Quite understandably, the Newtown, CT folks who had such unspeakable horror visited upon them one year ago last Saturday requested that the public respect their choosing to have their privacy a foremost consideration as they marked the anniversary. Heaven knows that in the time since that dark day's events unfolded at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the people of Newtown, and especially those families directly impacted by the violence, have been nothing if not supreme exemplars of grace in the face of unimaginable heartbreak. Even as it has borne its grief, Newtown has summoned the strength to confront the core evil that delivered last December's blast of notoriety – a gun culture in this country that defies logical explanation.

So Newtown went for a quiet observance of one year since the tragic theft of its innocence. But it is not Newtown's resolve to be silent about what brought it to such a god-awful place.

Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty, whose 5th District includes Newtown, talks today about the ongoing mobilization effort to get folks to "stand against cowardice in Washington," as she declared in

an MSNBC interview the other day. Esty reflects the determination one has seen typically displayed by the people of Newtown and, one gathers, much of the rest of the state. Outraged, like so many of us, that not even their nightmare experience could move Capitol Hill to show some spine against a callously uncaring gun lobby, the people of Newtown are evidently dedicated to stoutly carrying the fight forward. The voice of Newtown duly made itself heard when the Connecticut state legislature sought to tighten its gun laws and wound up passing a comprehensive reform package earlier this year.

That action by Connecticut's legislators, as well as a few other states where there was courage enough to do likewise, only made more disdainful the rebuff dealt to reform efforts at the federal level. It makes for a pretty bleak outlook for gun violence legislation in Congress, given that what had been proposed, only to get derailed in the Senate, was no ground-breaking, tough measure. It was mild stuff which polls indicated having the support of 90 percent or thereabouts public support – closing background check loopholes, limiting magazine

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

clip size...The infamous filibuster was once again brought out of the Republican obstructionist arsenal to kill anything fixing to happen in the Senate. And in the House Speaker John Boehner's tactic of half-heartedly deferring to the Senate to act first was but a lame attempt to refute the "cowardice" label Rep. Esty very correctly slaps on Congress.

One wonders when will there be a true death-blow delivered to this absurdity of elected lawmakers in cavalier fashion stomping all over the will of the people. The big-stick capacity of lobby power is of course no stranger to the legislative process. But the manipulating ways of vested interests explode the shame on Congress to outsize proportions when they're allowed to negate such overwhelming public approval as those modest reform measures enjoyed. What right to continued public service do senators have, who block legislation favored by very

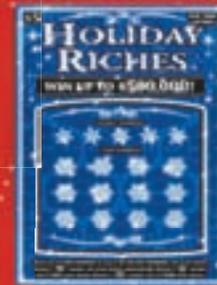
nearly all of the folks they represent? What possible justification can a lawmaker offer for kowtowing to lobbying influences, which contradict such a clamor from the masses?

In the immediate aftermath of the Newtown tragedy, when the NRA and others of their ilk were in high profile as they readied push-back strategy in the midst of calls for gun law reform, speculation frequently centered on the timing element – that the preference of apologists for widespread gun use would be to have any reform move delayed until the emotionally charged public response had subsided. Disturbing as it may be to some of us that the fate met by those innocents last December gets tossed in with every other marketplace idea or product requiring "strategy," that cold reality improbably becomes the other side's focus. Of course, any thought among the Capitol Hill crowd, of seeking cover for their gutlessness in somewhat abated public emotion warrants instant rejection. There should be no quarter given to politicians with the wherewithal to respond decisively to what befell Sandy Hook Elementary School, who choose not to.

Speaker Boehner seemed to have all the proper atmospheric in place a few days ago when he went public with what some suggest was a long-simmering resentment against the far-right bully cartel's dominion over space he should control. It's risky betting that Boehner's rant is good for any dialing back of the hard-line extremist posture on an issue like gun control, which isn't exactly a GOP pet peeve. In the Senate, the Democratic majority's recent changing of the filibuster rules should translate into elimination of what presented a barrier to any passage of gun legislation months ago.

So one doesn't know where Congress will come down when and if the ball lands in its court again. We do know that even with random outbreaks of gun violence so frequent as to, God forbid, numb our senses to the phenomenon, Newtown's hurt remains fresh and will, for a long time yet, refuse to grow old. Newtown isn't done with us. And we dare not think to be done with Newtown. The huge debt to that community incurred last December by the nation, including a pathetically indifferent Congress, is one that has to be paid.

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OP-EDS

A fair minimum wage is key

Continued from page 10
more employees.”

That's right. Increasing the minimum wage will boost the sales that drive employment. And with increased wages, businesses also see lower costly employee turnover, increased productivity and better customer service.

No wonder the most rigorous studies of the impact of actual minimum wage increases show they don't cause job loss, reports Business for a Fair Minimum Wage. For example, the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment compared all neighboring counties (we call them parishes) located on different

sides of a state border with different minimum-wage levels between 1990 and 2006 and found no adverse employment effects from higher minimum wages.

There's a proposal in Congress to raise the minimum wage by 95 cents a year for three years to \$10.10 an hour, and then adjust it annually to keep up with the cost of living.

If the minimum wage had kept up with the cost of living since 1968, it would already be over \$10. In case you're wondering, the unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in 1968 and 3.5 percent in 1969.

When families come to our farm looking for a

Christmas tree, they seek out trees that have a strong, full base and are healthy from top to bottom.

Our minimum wage is the base of our economy. If it's weak, our economy will not be healthy.

At the end of "A Christmas Carol," Scrooge doesn't just give Tiny Tim's family a turkey. He gives his father a raise.

Moran is owner and CEO of Caramor Industries, which includes 4 Seasons Christmas Tree Farm, in Natchitoches Parish, La. She is a member of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage.

Memories of Christmas

Continued from page 10

their eyes, how they shined. I wish you could've seen them. It was not our merriest Christmas, but I never knew one more holy.

-- My final favorite Christmas memory is this: After years as widow, I remarried and moved with my new husband to Las Vegas. Christmas in the desert was different from those I knew in the mountains of the Carolinas, or on the coast of California. But the kids came to visit and we made

the best of it.

Then one night in January, it snowed. My husband and I put on every article of clothing we owned and sat out by a palm tree catching snowflakes on our tongues. It wasn't Christmas on the calendar. But it felt like it.

Christmas is a time for singing songs, good or bad, for seeing stars and tasting snowflakes and believing in hope. Sometimes you give, sometimes you take. But it's always a time to be thankful, whether you get what you want or have to

jog three miles in the snow. It doesn't have to be merry to be holy. It can happen any day, any time of year. Because more than a date on a calendar, Christmas is a feeling somewhere in the soul.

Here's wishing you and yours a Christmas to remember.

(Sharon Randall can be contacted at P.O. Box 777394, Henderson NV 89077, or at www.sharonrandall.com)



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'We in the Caribbean are living climate change'

By Desmond Brown

MOCHO, Jamaica, Dec 10, 2013 (IPS) - The Mocho Mountains that run through the centre of Jamaica were once covered by lush tropical forests that helped control rainfall. Now, much of the forests and farmlands have been destroyed and the community is hard hit by the resultant extreme weather.

"[The area] is one of those that was severely mined for bauxite and so the trees were lost and so too was the arable land for farming," Indi McLymont-Lafayette, the regional coordinator for Panos Caribbean, told IPS. Panos, a global network of institutes, works to give a voice to poor and marginalised communities.

McLymont-Lafayette, who grew up in Mocho, said the community was now very vulnerable to climate change.

"People are seeing coastlines now being inundated and

the sea encroaching further inland." -- St. Lucia's Minister for Sustainable Development Dr. James Fletcher

"They were very hard hit by hurricanes Ivan and Dean [in 2004 and 2007 respectively]. There are longer droughts and the farmers are grappling with issues of trying to access water because the community is primarily rain-fed," she said.

In the past, Mocho, which is about one and a half hour's drive from the capital, Kingston, was well known as the breadbasket of the central parish of Clarendon.

"And if [there is] sporadic rainfall, which is also predicted under the climate change umbrella, it's harder for the farmers on the ground to regularise their planting season so that means it has implications for the food security of Jamaica," McLymont-Lafayette added.

She said she clearly remem-

bered the first time she experienced a natural disaster. It was in 1988, when Hurricane Gilbert made landfall on the island. Before that, the last hurricane had occurred 37 years previously, in 1951.

"When I was growing up in my teens there was only one hurricane, which was Gilbert in 1988. It was an exciting thing for me then because it was the first hurricane we'd had since 1951 and I heard about that from my grandparents," she said.

But when it came, the devastation it caused made her "never want to see a hurricane again".

"But of course that has not been the case. And over the past 15 years, almost every year we've had tropical storms or some hurricanes.

"I think if you look at the statistics between 2002 and 2007, up to 70 million dollars [was] lost due to extreme weather events, and that is a



Indi McLymont-Lafayette the regional coordinator for Panos Caribbean said that Jamaica had put a lot of focus on preparing for climate change. IPS/Desmond Brown

IPS/Desmond Brown

lot of money for a developing country like Jamaica. So I know it's a serious concern for us and many of the small islands in the Caribbean," she said.

Among the small island Caribbean states is St. Lucia, which was hit by major hurricanes in 2007, 2010 and 2011.

The country's minister for

sustainable development, Dr. James Fletcher, told IPS that climate change was affecting the island.

"That's a point that we've been at pains to [explain] to the international community – that while for some of them climate change is an academic discussion or some sort of esoteric concept, for us in the Caribbean we are living cli-

mate change," Fletcher said.

"Fishers are seeing their fish catches affected because the oceans are warmer, coral reefs are bleaching and fishery is not as productive as it used to be. People are seeing coastlines now being inundated and the sea encroaching further inland."

He said that St. Lucia was
Continued on Page 34



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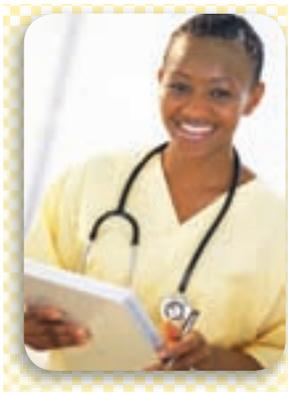
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2
financial sector, and in keeping with international requirements and trends, should be subjected to anti-money laundering measures.

"The reason for this is that criminals often need to use the services of these professionals and others to launder their illicit cash.

"As a consequence, having these professions being subjected to anti-money laundering measures is a strong deterrent to launderers, and should also assist law enforcement in tracking assets, where these professionals make the required disclosures under law," he said.

Golding said that the purpose of the orders was to designate these professions as nonfinancial institutions under the provisions of POCA.

"The effect of this designation is that these professions will then be brought within the definition of a regulated sector and thereby be subjected to certain anti money laundering obligations under the POCA and the proceeds of crime money laundering regulations." he said.

Opposition Senator, Alexander Williams, said there was support for the legislation as it "will tighten our compliance with the requirements laid out by the financial action task force."

The orders will come into effect on April 1, 2014, except for the Proceeds of Crime (Designated Non-Financial Institution

(Attorneys-at-law) Order, which will take effect in June 2014.

Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica have agreed that changes would have to be made in the way immigration authorities in T&T and elsewhere in the Caribbean treat Caribbean visitors.

T&T Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Dookeran who traveled to Jamaica to discuss the deportation of some 13 Jamaican nationals recently made a pledge with his Jamaican colleague AJ Nicholson to free up travel to T&T for Jamaicans.



Dookeran said the tension between both countries have been "defused" following two-days of talks with Nicholson, the implications of what was proving to be a budding trade and diplomatic dispute after the Jamaicans were sent back home when they recently arrived at Piarco International Airport.

Jamaicans had threatened to boycott T&T manufactured products in protest.

One of the outcomes of the discussions was the proposal for an urgent meeting of CARICOM Heads of Immigration Departments to elaborate on ways to sensitize (border) officials on the fair treatment of CARICOM nationals exercising their rights within the Community.

Compiled by Azad Ali



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Flatbush Ave BID hires new executive director

After a lengthy search, Brooklyn's Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) hired Lauren Elvers Collins, executive director of the adjacent Church Avenue Business Improvement District, as its new executive director. Lauren will manage both BIDs and will bring the benefit of overlapping programs, cost efficiencies, and economies of scale, while keeping the two as separate entities. Each BID will continue to be overseen by their board of property owners, business owners, and elected officials.

The Flatbush Avenue BID runs on Flatbush Avenue from Parkside Avenue to Cortelyou Road and includes approximately 250 property owners and businesses. Under BID Board Chairman Voltan Bagot, the BID is characterized by a mix of mom and pop stores and regional and national chains. It also includes the Flatbush Caton Market, a large shopping area on Tilden Avenue, and the soon-to-open Kings Theatre. It is funded by a tax assessment levied on properties within the BID and provides supplemental sanitation, security, and marketing for the businesses within its borders.

The Flatbush Ave. BID had been managed by longtime



Lauren Elvers Collins.

Photo by CAMBA

executive director, Jack Katz, until his unfortunate passing in late 2012. The former owner of the Buster Brown shoe store on Flatbush Ave., Jack and wife, Rita, were well-known on the avenue. He was best known to facilitate the BID's support of local charitable efforts, especially the annual Thanksgiving luncheon at the Flatbush Reformed Church, and had a close relationship with the NYPD.

Lauren is the former executive director of the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, co-founder of the Windsor Ter-

race Alliance neighborhood association, and a member of Community Board 7. She specializes in marketing and media, nonprofit management and operations, government relations, and community planning. She created successful marketing campaigns to highlight small businesses including the From Roti to Rhubarb program spotlighting food establishments and attracting four new restaurants, a Shop Local campaign on Prospect Park West, and a current program celebrating the Caribbean impact on

Church Avenue. She oversaw a \$300,000 storefront restoration program which reimbursed property owners for up to 75 percent of their construction costs and she worked alongside local elected officials and the management of a national pharmacy chain to overhaul their upcoming site to add a grocery store.

"Lauren Elvers Collins has a great track record as the executive director of the Church Avenue BID, and it makes perfect sense for the Church Avenue BID and the Flatbush Avenue BID to

come together under her leadership," said Rob Walsh, commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services. "Lauren will help make the two organizations stronger, bigger, and better, and I am convinced will have a greater impact on the neighborhood and the city at large."

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz stated, "Congratulations to Lauren Elvers Collins on her role as executive director of the Flatbush Avenue BID! Flatbush is primed for great growth in the years ahead, starting with the impending revival of the Kings Theatre. The opportunities to expand retail and entertainment growth along Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn's major commercial artery, are truly endless. I wish Lauren, who also serves as president of my local Windsor Terrace Alliance, all the best in her endeavors!"

"I'm very happy with the work that Lauren has been doing on Church Avenue, and we're especially happy with the storefront that the Church Avenue BID helped fund last year," said Sammy Aoun, owner of Berto Kid's Fashion on Flatbush Ave. and Berto for Kids on Church Ave. "I'm looking forward to more of the same on Flatbush Avenue. And now she

can visit me at both Berto locations on Church and Flatbush avenues."

A native New Yorker, Lauren welcomes the opportunity to serve the diverse constituencies in the district. "[Former Executive Director] Jack was one of a kind and I'm looking forward to building upon the work he did on the Avenue he loved so dearly. There is so much untapped opportunity on Flatbush Avenue to create programs to attract shoppers, identify resources for the businesses and property owners, and make Flatbush Avenue everything it can be."

She added, "The Flatbush Avenue BID owes a huge thanks during this major transition to the dedication of the BID's Board, interim BID manager Flatbush Development Corp. under Robin Redmond, and the tremendous support of the team at the Dept. of Small Business Services, particularly Commissioner Rob Walsh, Deputy Commissioner Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, Assistant Commissioner James Metham, and Senior Project and Contract Manager Mahadya Mary. Their combined efforts kept the BIDs afloat during the past year and created a foundation for an even better Flatbush Avenue commercial corridor."

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

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

smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

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

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.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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Photographed by Sean Kennedy Santos

What to ask the doctor about your skin cancer

HEALTH

(StatePoint) While skin cancer is highly prevalent and incidence rates are rising, it also remains one most treatable types of cancer. But you need to remain vigilant about your skin and share any changes or concerns with your doctor before they become bigger problems.

In fact, one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. However, the disease is 95 percent curable if diagnosed early.

“Staying vigilant about the health of your skin is crucial to early diagnosis and more effective intervention,” says L. Michael Hone, President and CEO of Caliber Imaging and Diagnostics, a medical technology company that develops diagnostic tools for skin diseases.

It’s all about regular screenings, says Hone, who recommends making an appointment with your dermatologist on an annual basis.

Though the incidence of skin

cancer in the United States is on the rise, there’s good news -- new innovations in skin cancer detection are making thorough, regular screenings easier for patients.

For example, the VivaScope, by Caliber I.D., offers a noninvasive optical biopsy of the skin, so patients don’t need to have any portion of their skin cut or removed to check for cancer and can receive results immediately. As the only FDA 510(k) cleared, noninvasive skin imaging technology that enables physicians to make an accurate diagnosis of skin diseases through the direct visualization of cells, it is used for the diagnosis of melanoma, basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, as well as for the accurate noninvasive diagnosis of benign lesions and dermatoses.

At your next doctor’s visit, here

are topics to discuss regarding your risks of developing skin cancer and what you and your doctor can do to check for it:

- Risk: While anyone can develop skin cancer, the risk is elevated by overexposure to harmful UV rays, a family history of the disease and a lighter complexion. Ask your doctor to assess your risk and offer you ways of mitigating the threat.

- Self-exam: Between doctor’s visits, you can perform self-exams on a monthly basis. Using a full-length mirror as well as a handheld mirror, look for changes in your skin that could be indicative of skin cancer. Don’t forget to check your scalp and nail beds of your toes and fingers. Your doctor can offer you guidelines for what to look for and how.

- Screening: Ask your doctor about innovations in skin cancer detection that offer a noninvasive alternative to a biopsy. More information can be found at www.caliberid.com.



The VivaScope, by Caliber I.D., offers a noninvasive optical biopsy of the skin.

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Dealing with common gastrointestinal problems

(StatePoint) Frequent and bothersome gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms are more common than you may think. While estimates may vary, five percent to 15 percent of adults in the United States may be affected by chronic GI conditions, such as irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) or chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC).

This could mean as many as 13 million adults may suffer from IBS-C, and as many as 35 million adults may suffer from CIC.

According to a survey, the majority of adults with these conditions may experience disruptive symptoms three to five days per month. Recurring abdominal pain and constipation, including hard stools, and infrequent and incomplete bowel movements, may indicate IBS with constipation or, if you have these symptoms with little to no abdominal pain, chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC). Adults report that these symptoms impact their daily activities.

Research also shows that only 40 to 50 percent of these sufferers plan to talk to their physician

HEALTH

about their GI symptoms within the next year. Experts say that part of the problem is patients are uncomfortable discussing the specific symptoms of IBS-C or CIC.

“Patients often get embarrassed talking about their bathroom habits with a physician,” says Dr. Steven Lamm, internist and author of “No Guts, No Glory.” “There is no need to feel self-conscious.”

You are not alone. Dr. Lamm recommends preparing for your appointment ahead of time to ensure a more effective conversation. Be ready to discuss the following with your doctor:

- Do you feel abdominal pain?
- How often do you experience hard stools associated with constipation?
- Do you have fewer than three bowel movements a week?
- Are your bowel movements satisfactory; with a sense of complete evacuation?
- How long have you experienced these symptoms (a week, a

month, more)?

- How frequently do you experience these symptoms?
- What have you tried to relieve symptoms (drinking more water, taking fiber or laxatives, increasing exercise)?
- Do your symptoms keep coming back?
- Has your life been disrupted due to your symptoms?

Unfortunately, there is no cure for these conditions, but there are ways to help manage symptoms, including dietary and lifestyle changes and taking laxatives. Also, keeping a symptom diary may help identify triggers that exacerbate symptoms.

Keep in mind, over-the-counter laxatives and stool softeners may help with occasional constipation, but they are not approved for long-term use without physician supervision and are not approved for IBS-C. If you are a candidate, a physician may prescribe FDA-approved medications for these conditions.

With open and clear communication between patient and doctor, managing bothersome symptoms may be possible.



Dietary and lifestyle changes and taking laxatives can help ease gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms. (C) Lars Zahner - Fotolia.com

Dinner time.

A perfect moment to talk about alcohol.

An alarming number of pre-teens are drinking alcohol — which makes it urgent to find every opportunity to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking. For tips on how — and when — to begin the conversation, visit:

www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov

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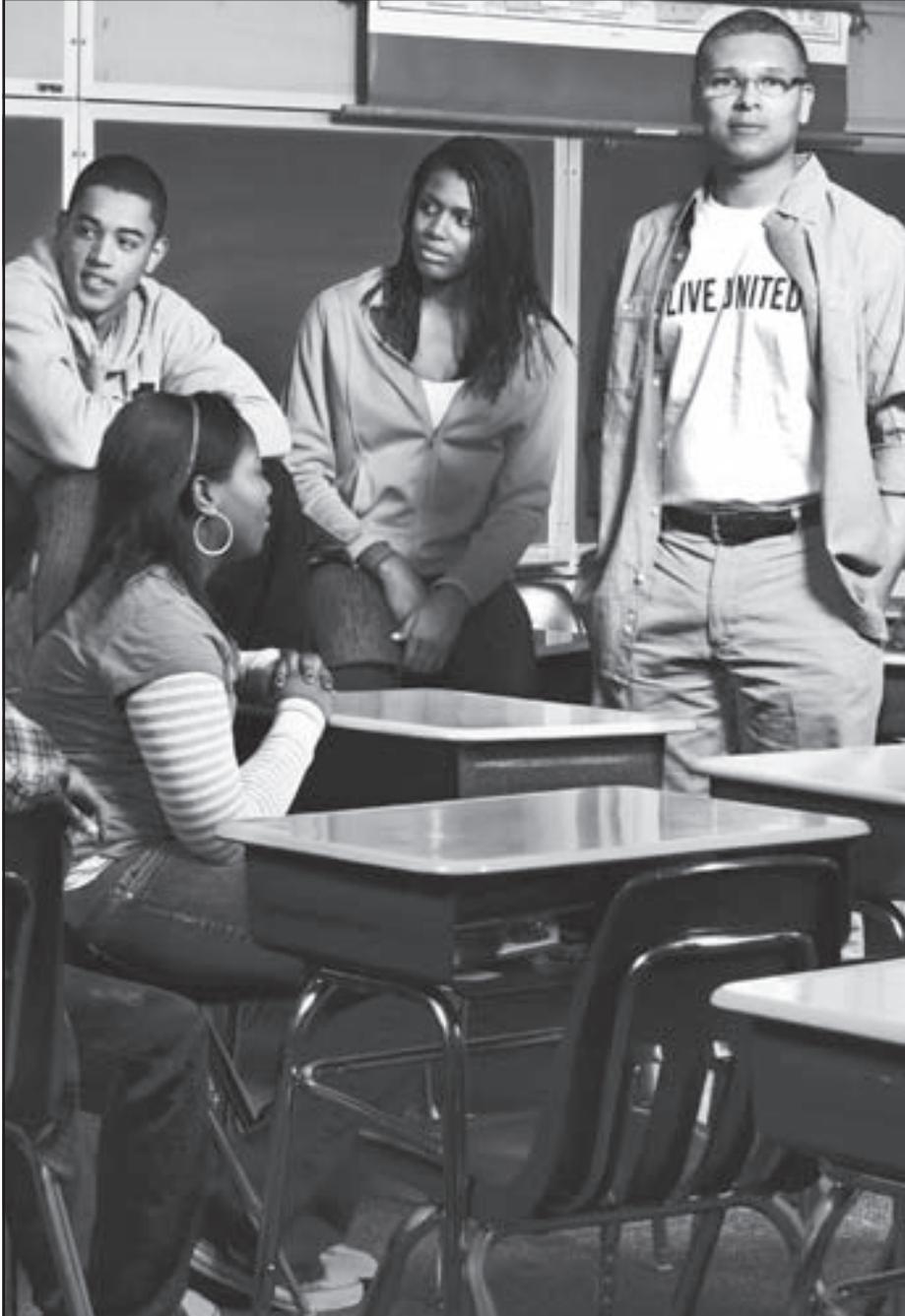
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Holiday gifts with a personal touch

Continued from page 10

...fere with the celebration of Thanksgiving and in the other toward Cyber Monday, people continue to buy one another things just because they “have to get someone a gift,” even if it may be re-gifted, returned or never used. Our society’s barely restrained annual celebration of blatant commercialism approaches the seemingly needless exchanges and even destructiveness of the potlatch.

Judging from news reports and holiday sales that began before kids were done trick-or-treating, retailers are very concerned that business will be down from last year. They have reason to be concerned. Aside from the shorter shopping period between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the economy is still a shambles, the economic impact of Obamacare is unclear and there are no really “must have” consumer electronics,

books or toys.

Unfortunately, in these hard economic times, when jobs are still scarce, there is great need and even food insecurity, especially among younger people and families with children. But in most parts of middle- and upper-class Southern California, nobody appears to need much more than what they already have.

My wife says that if everyone thought as I do, the economy would be in even worse shape. She’s probably right. The malls would be emptier and business would be down for sweatshops in China, unsafe factories in Bangladesh and makers of gift cards and wrap. But here in the Los Angeles area, cars are parked in driveways or on the street because garages are full of stuff. And when Angelenos run out of space there, they rent storage lockers, where from time to time they visit their extra things.

Maybe this year, we can

work toward ending the potlatch season. Let’s stop buying and giving things people don’t want and don’t need.

If you feel a need to give, give food to the hungry, clothes and toys to those in need, or donations to victims of storms, violence or conflict. A plate of homemade cookies or some other delicacy delivered personally is a much better way to remember friends and family than a meaningless generic gift, a “dustable” to sit on the shelf or yet another ill-fitting sweater in the wrong color. And most older people need even fewer things. Unfortunately, what they really want — youth, vigor, health — are things we can’t give them. But they, and I’m sure many others, would appreciate a call, a card or a visit from family, neighbors and friends. So will you.

About The Writer
Daniel Fink wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

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From left, Vice Consul General, Bahamas Sandra Poitier-McLaughlin, Barbados Consul General Lennox Price, Consul General of Trinidad and Tobago, Rudrawatee Nan Ramgoolam, Deputy Consulate General of St. Lucia, Julian Dubois, Deputy Consulate General of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Edison Augustus, Consul General of Antigua & Barbuda Ms. Omya David, Consul General of Bahamas Forrester J. Carroll, Consul Agent, St. Vincent, Forrester J. Carroll, WEEA 88.9FM Baltimore Radio Host, Sheldon Peter-Anthony Victoria Bousquet, UWI Professor Dr. E. Nigel Harris, Jamaica Cabinet Minister, Dr. Noel Ascott.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

CARICOM Consular party

By Tangerine Clarke

A beautifully decorated Christmas tree illuminated the front area of the Jamaican Consulate in Manhattan recently, where nationals greeted each other with joy and goodwill at the annual CARICOM Consular Corps reception, hosted by Barbados Consulate General Lennox Price.

The smell of festive fare and cheerful chatter were evident everywhere, as the elegantly dressed expatriates mixed and mingled, shake hands, and hugged each other during the delightful evening that brought out many dignitaries, including some from back home.

Referencing on how cold it was outside of his New York office, Consul General of Jamaican, Herman G. LaMont welcomed Jamaica's Cabinet Minister Noel Ascott, and UWI Professor, Dr. E. Nigel Harris, visitors he called warm friends from the sunshine.

The expatriates that enjoyed infectious Caribbean music received a rousing welcome from Chairman of the Consular General Committee, Lennox Price. The diplomat then quipped that he was going to keep

his speech short because he was the only person standing between the guests, and a good time. He thanked the nationals for choosing the reception instead of any of the other activities they could have gone to in New York area.

Price, who was host of the night, thanked Jamaican Consul General Herman Lamont for the use of the venue, and the consulate staff for availing themselves to help in the execution of the reception, adding that it was indeed a pleasure to be in the company of such a happy group of individuals.

"This annual Christmas party is of particular importance to the consular corps, in that it provides a forum for us to interact and network with our community. It is also important to us because it allows us to express our appreciation to you for supporting us during the year" said Price.

"Many times the contributions of others are taken for granted, but let me assure you that the Caricom consular corps is indeed mindful of the importance of partnering with others as we pursue our various endeavors".

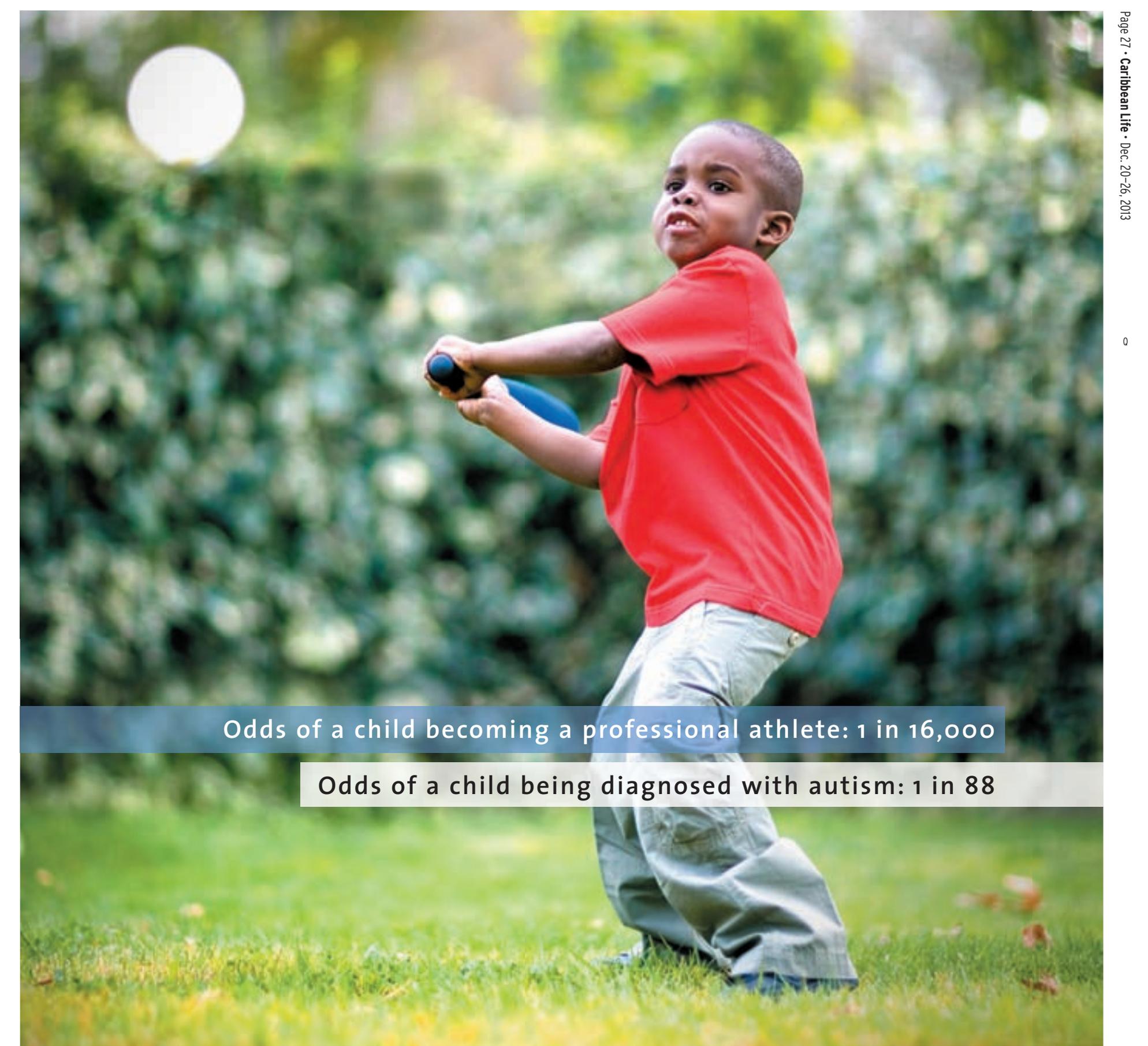
"I would like to thank our many partners who have assisted with our health fair, the Caribbean American Heritage program, or those who simply made presentation at our meetings.

"You have worked well with us over the years, and I remain confident that such facilitation will continue. I sincerely thank you for extending a hand of friendship to us, and may long live the spirit of corporation that exists between you and our respective consulates.

"May the spirit of warmth and happiness be with you this holiday season and throughout the New Year," he concluded.

Dignitaries in attendance were Consul General of Trinidad and Tobago, Rudrawatee Nan Ramgoolam, Deputy Consulate General of St. Lucia, Julian Dubois, Deputy Consulate General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Edison Augustus, Honorary Consul of Grenada, Derrick James, Consul General of Antigua & Barbuda, Ms. Omya David, Consul General of Bahamas, Forrester J. Carroll and President of the Guyana Tri-State Alliance, Patricia Jordon-Langford.

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



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BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Jerome Neuman is an attorney who brings 31 years of experience to the negotiation table.

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"I am attentive and aggressive," he says. "I keep clients informed every step of the way, whether reaching a settlement, or taking a case to court, if necessary."

He counts numerous success stories, such as the compensation he se-

cured for a child who was jumping off chairs in a school, and whose chin was caught on the hook of a window guard while doing so.

"The argument was that there should be no compensation because the child shouldn't have been jumping," he says.

However, he convinced the judge that children are expected to be active, and the school was order to pay a significant settlement.

Mr. Neuman also negotiated successfully for a man who fell on ice, broke his hip, and couldn't work.

"He received a six-figure settlement," he says.

When you are injured, seek medical attention immediately, he says. Then, call the office for advice. Cases can take from six months to a year to be settled, if they do not go to trial. If they do go to trial,



Attorney Jerome Neuman.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

it may take anywhere from a year and a half to three years, he says. Due to Mr. Neuman's negotiation skills and experience, the vast majority of his

cases are settled without trial, saving his clients time and money.

He also notes that clients can take comfort that there are doctors who may

agree to work on a "lien basis," meaning they will be paid after a settlement is reached, assuring you get the care you need. After all, you are not simply a court case or a number. You are a person whose medical needs must be secured.

Mr. Neuman is very familiar with the borough in which he practices law. He grew up in Brooklyn, attending local schools and Yeshivas. He graduated from Cardozo Law School in Manhattan in 1980, and worked for a corporation before opening his own private practice. He has been practicing in Brooklyn for more than 20 years, working closely with members of the community, assisting them with slip and fall cases, medical malpractice suits, and wrongful death suits.

It is important to have a skilled, compassionate,

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Mr. Neuman has the knowledge and the work ethic to best represent the rights of each and every client. He will keep you informed about the progress of your case and is available to answer questions and concerns. Just as important, he is an advocate who has your best interest in mind. He will fight with insurance companies and defend your cause until a just resolution is obtained.

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Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center Receives Stroke Achievement Award

Award Demonstrates Kingsbrook Commitment to Quality Care for Stroke Patients

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center has received the Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. The award recognizes Kingsbrook's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted guidelines.

Get With The Guidelines-Stroke helps Kingsbrook's staff develop and implement acute and secondary prevention guideline processes to improve patient care and outcomes. The program provides hospitals with a web-based patient management tool, best practice

discharge protocols and standing orders, along with a robust registry and real-time benchmarking capabilities to track performance.

"Recent studies show that patients treated in hospitals participating in the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke program receive a higher quality of care and may experience better outcomes," said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., chair of the Get With The Guidelines National Steering Committee and director of the TeleStroke and Acute Stroke Services at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Mass. The Kingsbrook team is to be commended for their commitment to improving the care of

their patients."

Following Get With The Guidelines-Stroke treatment guidelines, patients are started on aggressive risk-reduction therapies. Hospitals must adhere to these measures at a set level for a designated period of time to be eligible for the achievement awards.

"Kingsbrook is dedicated to making our care for stroke patients among the best in the country. The American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke program helps us to accomplish this goal," said Dr. Burney, Chief Medical Officer, Sr.VP Quality Effectiveness. "This recognition demonstrates that we are on the right track and we're very proud of our team."



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| 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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Extreme weather

Continued from Page 14

still recovering from Hurricane Tomas, which hit the island on Oct. 31, 2010 and killed 14 people, and explained that the government was still repairing much of the damage it caused.

He also lamented that the bread and butter industries for most Caribbean countries, like agriculture and tourism, were already being affected and stood to be affected even further.

“Very soon I think we will start seeing differences in fertility for some of our agricultural lands, because for us in the Caribbean there isn’t any place that isn’t too far away from the sea,” Fletcher explained. “As salt water starts coming inland, then it starts having impacts on the fertility of your agricultural lands so we are experiencing climate change in so many different ways.”

For Antigua and Barbuda, McLymont-Lafayette pointed to the climate prediction in Germanwatch’s 2008 climate risk index that Barbuda would probably sink in another 40

years.

“When I heard that, as a Caribbean person, I was devastated because I primarily thought of climate change as impacting the Pacific and those places,” she said.

But Caribbean countries are fighting back and have recognised the importance of adaptation to cope with the impact of climate change.

Just last week the Barbados House of Assembly gave the green light for government to utilise 13.3 million dollars from the consolidated fund for an on-going project to battle climate change and protect the country’s coastline.

Minister of Environment and Drainage Denis Lowe said Barbados needed to fight back, since climate change was already leading to dying and bleached coral.

“We believe that there is a direct correlation between the state of the corals around the island and the intensity of weather patterns and weather systems, including sea level rise and temperature of water,” he said.

The minister explained

that there were 20 coral reef sites around the island that were in need of protection.

McLymont-Lafayette said that Jamaica had put a lot of focus on preparing for climate change. “Last month, we tabled a climate change policy in cabinet and Jamaica has established a Climate Change Ministry, which is one of the few in the world, so we are taking this very, very seriously,” she said.

Jamaica’s Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change was created in January 2012. It has responsibility for the formulation and implementation of policy relating to its related subject areas.

Seventy percent of Jamaica’s infrastructure is along the coast.

“Our airports, our hotels are on the coast and in Negril where we advertise seven miles of beautiful beaches there has been significant beach erosion partly due to sea level rise and other factors,” McLymont-Lafayette said.

“So the bottom line is that we have to put measures in place to restore the coastline if we want tourism to continue to be sustainable.”



Dominica to launch multi-purpose identification card program

Dominica is launching a pilot program that would provide nationals with a multi-purpose identification card. Acting Chief Elections Officer, Anita Rodney, said the enrolment program would begin with public officers and based on the results, the Electoral Office will decide on a date for enrolling the general public.

Rodney said public servants being enrolled should bring in a pictorial ID such as a social security card, or passport, a birth certificate,

where applicable.

In August, the Roosevelt Skerrit administration, which has dismissed opposition calls for separate ID cards for electoral purposes, announced that it had provided US \$785,000 towards the purchase of the equipment and that it was providing a further US\$96,000 for the first 100,000 cards, which would be provided free to nationals.

The main opposition Unit- ed Workers Party (UWP) has

criticized the idea of a single ID card, saying that voter ID cards had been recommended by the Chief Election Officer in a 2009 report as well as by an observer team from the Organization of America States (OAS).

But Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said that his administration was prepared to pay the four million (EC) dollars (US \$1.48 million) for the national identification card which he said could also serve as a voter ID card.

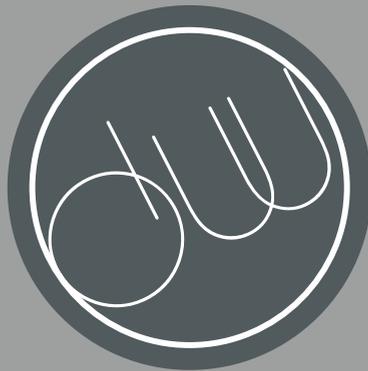


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Tessanne, 28, a back-up singer for the legendary reggae star Jimmy Cliff, stunned the global audience on Monday night, the final night of competition, with an emotional rendition of Whitney Houston’s “I have Nothing.”

On Tuesday night, she performed with Celine Dion, rendering the legendary singer’s “Love Can Move Mountains.”

“For weeks, we have watched our darling Tessanne deliver one flawless performance after another on ‘The Voice,’” said Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, at a fundraiser at the Woodland Restaurant on Flatbush Avenue.

“As people of Jamaican and Caribbean ancestry and heritage, we feel a special infusion of pride when any



In this photo provided by NBC, Tessanne Chin sings during the season five finale of “The Voice” on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013, in Los Angeles.

AP Photo/NBC, Tyler Golden

one of us excel in our chosen paths, and we are compelled to rebel in that success,” she added.

During Tessanne’s audition, Levine said: “It would have been the mistake of a lifetime to not turn around for you. You have something crazy special, and I

want it bad.”

Jacqui Lee, from Team Christina, and Will Champlin, from Team Adam, placed second and third, respectively.

For her win, Tessanne takes home a US\$100,000.00 cash prize and a Universal recording contract.

Tropical Paradise party

The polished, reassuring sound of Lambert and the Matadors, the most enduring and renowned Caribbean orchestra in the Greater New York area, will be spicing up the celebratory mood in this year’s Gala New Year’s Eve Ball to be presented at the elegant Tropical Paradise Ballroom in Brooklyn. It will be the fifth consecutive year that the management of Tropical Paradise will be hosting a New Year’s Eve bash.

“We are fortunate that the Matadors are headquartered right here in Brooklyn and available to us to add the kind of class we have established for the event” said Dave Gayle, owner-operator of Tropical Paradise. “New Year’s Eve is special. With the high-level musical entertainment the Matadors deliver, we are ensuring that patrons ring in the New Year on an upbeat note and in the stylishly festive environment the occasion demands.”



The Caribbean orchestra Lambert and the Matadors.

Lambert and the Matadors have been in existence as a unit for almost 30 years. With the aggregation consisting of solid musicians and vocalists who are transplants from all over the Caribbean, the band boasts a repertoire that runs the gamut from romantic pop through reggae, R & B and sizzling soca.

Tropical Paradise lays it all out New Year’s Eve. The gaily decorated ballroom is designed to put attendees in party mood directly upon entering. Party hats

and favors are in plentiful supply. Complimentary champagne is served to toast the arrival of the New Year. Buffet dinner, comprising many of the choice Tropical Paradise Restaurant specialties, is included in the price of advance tickets. Supplementing the music served up by the Matadors will be the D.J sounds of Madman Maddy. Doors open at 10:00 o’clock. Tropical Paradise Ballroom is located at 1367 Utica Avenue, between Foster Avenue and Farragut Road.

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Former consul launches 'Jamaicans: Children Of God'

Jamaicans poured into the Manhattan address of their nation's consular to meet, greet and herald Dr. Basil K. Bryan who returned to New York City with a 550-page discography titled "Jamaicans: Children of God In The Promised Land."

On a historically significant day – the 89th birthday anniversary of former Prime Minister Michael Manley; the anniversary date SA posthumously honored Manley with the O. R. Tambo award, a memorial send-off in South Africa for former President Nelson Mandela and the first official snow-blizzard of the season – Jamaicans filled the eastside offices where their former consular general introduced a book that explains, details and compliments his island people who migrated to Canada and the United Kingdom and in significant numbers to The United States.

"I have not been to the consulate since he (Dr. Bryan) demitted office,"



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Dawn Warren said.

Her comment was echoed by a great many nationals who claimed much had changed at the headquarters for immigrants who reside in the tri-state area.

"Everything changed after he left and it no longer felt like our home away from home."

Dr. Bryan seemed to offer a reason to return to the space and also to help launch the book that describes why and where Jamaicans left their homeland.

"From 1838 (after the abolition of slavery) Jamaicans were leaving because they wanted nothing to do with plantations, banana or sugar," Dr. Bryan said "they went to Ecuador, Cuba, Costa Rica, Panama, and some were even paid merce-

naries in Central America."

"Between 1881 and 1921, net emigration from Jamaica amounted to 156,000. More than 46,000 traveled to the USA, 45,000 went to Panama, 22,000 to Cuba and Costa Rica attracted 43,000," he read from the pages of his researched document.

"It is said that in the period immediately following the Russian revolution (1917) there was a Jamaican, one Herbert Bell from Highgate in the parish of St. Mary, who was then in Moscow serving with the Canadian expeditionary force in Siberia. And in 1934, Jamaican Robert Robinson was elected to represent some 17,000 workers in the Moscow city council, serving alongside another elected delegate Josef Stalin who



Dr. Basil K. Bryan (left) presents a copy of his book to Consul General Herman G. Lamott at the Jamaica consulate.

Photo by Aubrey Campbell

went on to become leader of the soviet union. Robinson had lived in America for six years before migrating to Russia in 1930."

"Throughout the country's history Jamaicans have migrated to foreign lands carrying with them the heritage culture and

diversity of the people and doing so with a uniquely Jamaican audacity that transcended class and language barriers."

The audience seemed awed by the historical revelations and with each excerpted paragraph, the former diplomat who remains the longest serving consul – from 1998 to 1007 – offered an avalanche of tidbits to bolster his claims. Responsible for 38 states in America, Bermuda and Puerto Rico, Dr. Bryan paused at intervals to punctuate each revelation.

"The movement of the people from Jamaica to America began around 1619 when some 20 indentured workers arrived in Jamestown, Virginia. Between 1715 and 1741, thousands of slaves were sent to New York, the majority from Jamaica. Charlestown, South Carolina was seen as the city in the western hemisphere to surpass Falmouth, Jamaica in wealth."

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Make room for MonCherie

By Ivan Thomas

New Caribbean R&B/pop singer, MonCherie, has been building anticipation for the release of the official music video for her first single, "No Santa." Now, the wait is finally over, and the tune which adds a sexy, Caribbean twist to Christmas songs, has been unveiled for the world to see. Viewers can watch the video on her official website, Moncheriemusic.com and on YouTube.

"No Santa" brings a different flavor to the holiday season, which generally centers around children, toys, knitted sweaters and of course, Santa Claus. With playful lyrics and high octane beats, the track is sure to be a crowd pleaser. Not to mention, the video will showcase MonCherie's vocal abilities and feature some of the hottest dance moves.

"People are always talk-



MonCherie.

ing about Santa Claus, gifts, Charlie Brown Christmas CD's and a bunch of kid stuff," MonCherie said. "We decided, we don't want Santa, we want to have fun and party. Therefore, our goal with the song is to give people something with a unique spin that is fun and

Continued on Page 40

Four Grammy nods for Jamaicans

By Vinette K. Pryce

Jamaica's reggae recorders are once again within ear-shot of voters deciding the only music category dedicated to the English Caribbean-derived genre. With four of the five nominations – Beres Hammond, Sizzla, Ziggy Marley, Sly and Robbie & the Jam Masters – familiar to local radio playlists on the island, the 2013 achievers depart from previous years which heavily favored works made popular outside the nation.

Continued on Page 40



Reggae artist Ziggy Marley poses for a portrait in-between rehearsals with his band at Swing House Recording Studio in Los Angeles.

AP Photo/Chris Pizzello

BRING THE STING



Grammy award-winning artist Wyclef Jean.

Photo by Toni Dubois

The next major dancehall clash

By Toni Dubois

This year marks the 30th anniversary of "Bring the Sting" the biggest dancehall clash of all time. Sting (not to be confused with the artist from U2) recently announced that, Grammy award-winning artist, writer and producer Wyclef Jean has been added to the diverse lineup with the likes of reggae legend Super Cat (who hasn't performed since

1992), American rapper 2Chainz, Beenie Man, Elephant Man, dancehall kingpin Mavado and many others. "Bring the Sting" will take place at Jamworld in Portmore, Jamaica. The event will be broadcast live on Pay Per View in North America and video-streamed live all around the world on Dec. 26.

Caribbean Life had the opportunity to sit down with Wyclef and dis-

cuss his invitation to perform at one of the greatest reggae & dancehall shows on earth, and what the Fugee frontman's plans are for 2014.

The Haitian-American musician known mostly for his run with the Fugees, is quite familiar with Jamaican music. While with the Fugees he collaborated with Bounty Killer for their song, "Hip Hopera" in

Continued on Page 40

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **The Monster**
Eminem Feat. Rihanna
- 2 **Wake Me Up!**
Avicii
- 3 **Demons**
Imagine Dragons
- 4 **Royals**
Lorde
- 5 **Counting Stars**
OneRepublic
- 6 **Hold On, We're Going Home**
Drake Feat. Majid Jordan
- 7 **Wrecking Ball**
Miley Cyrus
- 8 **Timber**
Pitbull Feat. Ke\$ha
- 9 **Roar**
Katy Perry
- 10 **Unconditionally**
Katy Perry

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **PTXmas (EP)**
Pentatonix
- 2 **Britney Jean**
Britney Spears
- 3 **Wrapped In Red**
Kelly Clarkson
- 4 **Frozen**
Soundtrack
- 5 **The Marshall Mathers LP 2**
Eminem
- 6 **Christmas**
Michael Buble
- 7 **Pure Heroine**
Lorde
- 8 **Midnight Memories**
One Direction
- 9 **Days Of Gold**
Jake Owen
- 10 **A Family Christmas**
The Piano Guys

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2013 Jamaican Reggae achievers

Continued from page 39

Departing from the predictable trend of acknowledging and rewarding ambiguous artists, only one foreign nod was named for US hip-hop rapper Snoop Lion to decide the Best Reggae category at the 56th annual Grammy Awards. The rap legend's release of "Reincarnated" debuted in April and marked a name-change from the moniker he became known as Snoop Dogg. Prior to recording the album, Snoop Lion traveled to Jamaica and studied in the Nyabingi branch of the Rastafarian movement.

"I feel like I've always been Rastafari, I just didn't have my third eye open," Snoop Lion said.

The album launched Snoop's 12th album and foray into the Jamaica-popular genre. It also featured collaborations and guest appearances with Drake, Chris Brown, Busta Rhymes, Akon, Rita Ora, Mavado, Popcaan, Mr. Vegas, Collie Buddz and Miley Cyrus.

Of all the nominations his is the

best selling reggae CD of 2013.

It has sold more than 80,000 copies in the United States.

The Los Angeles, California honors could prove a toss-up in January when the island's most-nominated contenders Ziggy Marley (six) and 10-time nominees, the rhythm twins -- Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare vie for the sole reggae category.

A miniature gramophone could also be awarded to firebrand dancehall talent Sizzla who earns his first nomination with "The Messiah."

"Ziggy Marley in Concert" introduces a live album and another entry for the most nominated family in the category. With five wins, Ziggy could add another to the family's already fully loaded stash which includes six for Stephen and two for Damian.

Last year Stephen's "Revelation Part 1: Root of Life" won the category.

The Grammy Awards take place Jan. 26 at the Nokia Theatre.



Beres Hammond performs at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casinos' Hard Rock Live! in Hollywood, Florida.

Photo by Jeff Daly/Invision/AP

Wyclef and friends

Continued from page 39

the late 90s. He also collaborated with Mavado on several occasions, including their hit, "Holding On" and more recently joining forces with the 'Gully Gad and Cris Cab for the single, "Rihanna's Gun."

Not surprisingly, Wyclef is honored to perform at "Bring the Sting."

"I definitely feel great about it, because Sting is not a festival that you can be ... like: "Let me have my people call your people so I can perform.

"Sting chooses who they want to perform. It's one of the roughest crowds in Jamaica. It's very raw, real and energetic," said Wyclef. He promises to add drama to an already dramatic line-up at "Bring the Sting."

"It will be nothing less than awesome. Don't be surprised if I do the unexpected. It will be the talk of the show," said Wyclef.

He has plenty in store for us. He's been in Europe developing what will be the new Wyclef sound for 2014. He's been working with Avicii, along with different pro-



Jamaican reggae artist "Beenie Man" performs on stage during the 41st Montreux Jazz Festival at the Miles Davis hall in Montreux, Switzerland, Friday, July 13, 2007.

AP Photo/Keystone, Martial Trezzini

ducers.

"Everyone who has loved the album 'Carnival & The Score' will love what I've been working on."

MonCherie as role model

Continued from page 39

that they can dance to."

Born and raised in Castries, St. Lucia, MonCherie always believed she was destined for stardom. At the tender age of five, she picked up a microphone for the first time and immediately gained the adoration of those she came in contact with, especially on her native island of St. Lucia. She went on to represent her country in numerous pageants, including an island-wide pageant in St. Martin, where she was awarded best promotional speech and Ms. Congeniality. The country adored her presence, burning passion for music, and positive outlook on life. Now, she wants to share with the world some of what has made her so beloved on her island. This starts with her music. She has already built a loyal fan-base across the Caribbean, and as a current New Jersey resident, fans in the States are also eager for her material.

"I am so excited to share my music with the fans," she said. "It has been a long road for me,

and I have endured many trials and tribulations. I have experienced working with people who did not have my best interest at heart. Now, I am confident that I have a great support system around me, and people who want me to succeed."

"No Santa" is the first of a plethora of tracks MonCherie has under her belt, and in 2014 more songs are to follow. And not all of them are party tracks. An aspiring St. Lucian ambassador for music and tourism, MonCherie wants to share a wide range of her experiences and messages. She wants to inspire, and she also wants to empower women worldwide.

"I don't consider myself a role model *per se*, but I want to show people that anything is possible. It doesn't matter where you come from, who your parents are, or what you have been through. Only you can stand in the way of your success."

The official video for "No Santa" is now available for view and can be seen online at MonCheriemusic.com and YouTube.

Tyler Perry's back in drag for Christmas

"A Madea Christmas"
 Very Good (3 stars)
 Rated PG-13 for profanity, crude humor and sexual references
 Running time: 105 minutes
 Distributor: Lionsgate Films

By Kam Williams

Mabel "Madea" Simmons is the moralizing, motor-mouthed senior citizen created and first introduced on stage by the incomparable Tyler Perry. The compulsive granny is a self-righteous vigilante who can't help but intervene on the spot whenever she sees an innocent victim being bullied by a sadistic villain.

At the point of departure in "A Madea Christmas," the eighth screen adventure in the popular film series, we find her working

as Mrs. Santa Claus in a downtown Atlanta department store. The seasonal job affords the politically-incorrect impersonator an opportunity to shock kids and their ears-covering parents with a profusion of her trademark off-color asides and English-mangling malapropisms.

Soon after she's unceremoniously relieved of her duties, Madea decides to drive with her niece, Eileen (Anna Maria Horsford), to tiny Bucktussle, Alabama to spend the holidays with the latter's daughter, Lacey (Tika Sumpter), the local schoolmarm.

What neither of them knows is that Lacey recently eloped with a likable local yokel, but failed to inform her mom about the marriage because Conner (Eric Lively) is white. She fears her mother might object to the interracial liaison. Complicating matters further is the fact that coming along for the ride is Oliver (JR Lemon), Lacey's ex-boyfriend



Tyler Perry (right) as Mabel "Madea" Simmons in "A Madea Christmas."

who'd like to rekindle a little romance.

Meanwhile, Oliver has told his

parents, Buddy (Larry the Cable Guy) and Kim (Kathy Najimy)

about the nuptials, and they are

arriving soon from Louisiana, so something's gotta give. But rather than come clean, Lacey enlists her new in-laws' help in hiding the truth.

Unfolding in accordance with the age-old "One Big Lie" TV sitcom formula, A Madea Christmas is a pleasant, if predictable, modern parable peppered with plenty of humorous asides. Tika Sumpter and Eric Lively manage to generate just enough chemistry to be convincing as shy newlyweds.

But the production is at its best when Madea and equally-outrageous Buddy are trading barbs toe-to-toe. For instance, when he tries to tell "the one about the two rabbis and the black dude," he's cut off by Madea asking if he's heard "the one about the stray bullet that kills the redneck for telling the story about the two rabbis and the black dude."

Sassy sister squares-off against backwoods hillbilly for lots of harmless laughs!

Independent & Foreign Films

All the Light in the Sky (Unrated) Character-driven drama directed by Joe Swanberg about an aging actress (Jane Adams) forced to reassess her career prospects when her fresh-faced, aspiring niece (Sophia Takal) arrives in Malibu for a weekend stay. With Kent Osborne, Larry Fessenden and Ti West.

Dhoom 3 (Unrated) Third installment in the Bollywood action series finds crimefighter Jai (Abhishek Bachchan) and sidekick Ali (Uday Chopra) matching wits with a new pair of worthy adversaries (Aamir Khan and Katrina Kaif). With Jackie Shroff, Diana Penty and Don Kress. (In Hindi, English, Tamil and Telugu with subtitles)

The Past (PG-13 for mature themes and brief profanity) Fractured family drama about a Persian man (Ali Mosaffa) who returns to Paris from Iran four years after abandoning his family there only to find his French wife (Berenice Bejo) dating an Arab (Tahar Rahim). With Pauline Burlet, Elyes Aguis and Jeanne Jestin. (In French and Persian with subtitles)



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

The Selfish Giant (Unrated) Adaptation of Oscar Wilde's cautionary, coming-of-age tale of the same name about a couple of ambitious teenagers (Conner Chapman and Shaun Thomas) whose ill-advised association with a crooked junk dealer (Sean Gilder) leads to tragic consequences. Support cast includes Lorraine Ashbourne, Ian Burfield and Steve Evets.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

American Hustle (R for sexuality, pervasive profanity and brief violence) David O. Russell wrote and directed this crime drama about a couple of con artists (Christian Bale and Amy Adams) forced by an overzealous FBI agent (Bradley Cooper) to infiltrate a New Jersey underworld inhabited by mobsters protected by a crooked, big city mayor (Jeremy Renner). Support cast includes Jen-

nifer Lawrence, Louis C.K. and Michael Pena.

Anchorman 2 (PG-13 for profanity, sexuality, crude humor, drug use and comic violence) Will Ferrell reprises the title role as the oafish broadcaster in this sequel which finds his former news team reuniting in New York to work for a 24-hour cable network. Returning cast members include Steve Carell, Vince Vaughn, Paul Rudd, Good, David Koechner, Luke Wilson, Chris Parnell, Fred Willard and narrator Bill Kurtis, as well as new additions Greg Kinnear, James Marsden, Harrison Ford, Kristen Wiig, Meagan Good and Christina Applegate, and featuring cameos by Will Smith, Jim Carrey, Kanye West, Amy Poehler, Nicole Kidman, Drake, Tina Fey, John C. Reilly, Sacha Baron Cohen and Kirsten Dunst.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRI., DEC. 20

OBAMA CARE: DO YOU KNOW... If you qualify for a plan on the New York Health Benefit Exchange?, If you qualify for financial help on the exchange? The health coverage options available to you? and Get the facts on health care reform and what it means for you and your family. Join EmbleHealth and get all your questions answered from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Take advantage of this opportunity to meet one-on-one with Greg Johnson, EmblemHealth's Director of Community Outreach and creator of the Care for the Family Caregiver Program from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Family caregivers are welcome to meet with him for support and advice. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.

PERFORMING ARTS: Manhattan Youth Ballet and Manhattan Movement & Arts Center present "The Knickerbocker Suite." "The Knickerbocker Suite" is a celebration of New York City, its culture and the magic of the holiday season. Come and see the magic at the Manhattan Movement & Arts Center, 248 West 60th Street, NYC (between Amsterdam and West End Avenues) in the Lincoln Center area. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. Tickets are available at <http://www.manhattanyouthballet.org/performances.html>, www.manhattanmovement.com/calendar or by calling (212)787-1178. Performances: Fridays at 7:00 p.m., Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

SAT., DEC. 21

FALL WORKOUT: Join EmbleHealth Neighborhood Care for a cardio workout that can improve your overall health and improve circulation and endurance from 5:00 p.m. - 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. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.

PERFORMING ARTS: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College continues with "An R&B Christmas" at 8:00 p.m. Hosted by WCBS-FM 101.1's "Broadway Bill Lee," this holiday concert will feature chart-topping doo-wop and R&B artists performing their biggest hits along with some holiday favorites. Tickets are \$45/\$36 (orchestra/mezzanine) and can be purchased by phone at (718)951-4500 (Tues-Sat, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.) or online at BrooklynCenterOnline.org.

PICTURES: Come visit Santa and have your photo taken with him from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m! Enjoy face painting with Mrs. Claus, plus



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! 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. 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/>.

refreshments too! Free and open to the public. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.

SUN., DEC. 22

PERFORMING ARTS: New York Theatre Ballet announces Keith Michael's The Nutcracker at New York City's Florence Gould Hall, 55 East 59th St., New York City. Performances are at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for children ages 12 and under and \$40 for adults, and are available at www.nytb.org, via Ticketmaster at (800) 982-2787, or in-person at the Florence Gould Hall box office. For more information, contact the Florence Gould Hall box office at (212) 355-6160.

PERFORMING ARTS: Manhattan Youth Ballet and Manhattan Movement & Arts Center present "The Knickerbocker Suite." "The Knickerbocker Suite" is a celebration of New York City, its culture and the magic of the holiday season. Come and see the magic at the Manhattan Movement & Arts Center, 248 West 60th Street, NYC (between Amsterdam

SANTA PHOTOS

PICTURES • DEC. 21: Come visit Santa and have your photo taken with him from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m! Enjoy face painting with Mrs. Claus, plus refreshments too! Free and open to the public. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.



DINNER & DANCING

FUNDRAISER • DEC. 28: Join the Presentation Brothers College Alumni Association New York for their annual end of year "Red and Black Affair" fundraiser at Crystal Manor 1460 Flatbush Ave. Cocktails will be served from 10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. There will be an open bar, buffet dinner and dancing until 3:00 a.m. For ticket information, call Wilton (347)668-1708 or Eric (347) 526-6061.

and West End Avenues) in the Lincoln Center area. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. Tickets are available at <http://www.manhattanyouthballet.org/performances.html>, www.manhattanmovement.com/calendar or by calling (212)787-1178. Performances: Fridays at 7:00 p.m., Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

MON., DEC. 23

ZUMBA: Join us for a dance-fitness class that's friendly and fun from 10:30 a.m. - 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. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.

SITTING EXERCISE: Join us for a DVD workout that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. It's designed to develop strength and enhance your ability to perform

the activities of everyday life, making it perfect for seniors: increase stamina, develop strength in upper and lower body, improve balance. Use of hand weights is optional. Please let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.

SAT., DEC. 28

FUNDRAISER: Join the Presentation Brothers College Alumni Association New York for their annual end of year "Red and Black Affair" fundraiser at Crystal Manor 1460 Flatbush Ave. Cocktails will be served from 10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. There will be an open bar, buffet dinner and dancing until 3:00 a.m. For ticket information, call Wilton (347)668-1708 or Eric (347) 526-6061.

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CURRENTLY - MON., DEC. 30

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Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

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DESIGNING FOR A PURPOSE

By Tangerine Clarke

The recent haute couture show of preeminent Guyanese fashion designer Donna Ramsammy-James was fashion poetry in motion. The pieces were whimsical in style, colorful in glorious splendor and gorgeous on the bodies of the models.

This was one of the best collections ever unveiled by the designer who for the last fifteen year has given her private audience a reason to stand and applause. Muujiza wa Amani, meaning “magic of peace”- was the themed 2014 collection that captured Ramsammy-James’ designing sensibilities, her multi ethnic roots, and more so, her love of Africa where she lived for many years.

The music of South Africa’s Hugh Masekela and Bob Marley set the tone for an evening of elegance in the picturesque courtyard of the

designer’s secluded D’Urban Backlands home in Georgetown. The eclectic blend of colorful garments stamped with the designer’s intricate hand painted trademark were cut from cotton and linen fabrics, and created for all shapes and sizes.

The Shape Custom Creations couturier designs from the heart, and this particular line honored victims of the recent mall tragedy in Nairobi Kenya, where Ramsammy-James said her daughter had visited just before the tragedy. This inspiration was evident in the sequence that opened show. The models sauntered on to the runway - centered in the luscious garden, wearing cream outfits, etched with black painted designs, while covering their faces with African masks.

The resonant voice of former radio broadcaster, Carlton James – enriched the showcase and brought



Creations by Donna Ramsammy-James.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

into focus the expressive mood of the designer who transcended her spirit into each piece of attires, to make the line spectacular.

Ramsammy-James, methodically showcased

earth-toned colors, of brown, purple and black, before she gradually brighten up her emotions with colors of green, pink, orange, yellow, red, blue, fuchsia and gold in splen-

did one-of-a-kind, timeless pieces.

“I think about my feelings and what is taking place in the world at the time, before I create, said the designer who described

her collection as top fashion. The pieces are sold in boutiques in 17 countries around the world, including London, Italy Florida, Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados and St. Lucia.

The creations the designer calls wearable art, were embellished with gold, black and colored paints, to match the varied textile. The collection included male shirts, elegant skirts, and pretty floor length and mini dresses. Some of the pieces were layered, while others showed asymmetric hemlines. The ensembles exuded the designer’s exotic Caribbean panache.

The display of 141 pieces were fabricated to embrace peace and the environment, and accessorized with head wraps, hand-made jewelry and replicated leather craft, the designer once sold in her “Leather for Legends” store in Africa.

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FDU shines in season opener

By Robert Elkin

Jasper Savoy, Lloyd Morris, Marquis Robinson, Montaniz Stills, Kazeem Otus, Darrel Gooding, and Moquiez Headly all placed among the top five runners in the individual 2013 Season Opener meet at Fordham University. All compete for the Fairleigh Dickinson University track and field team and shined on the indoor track in The Bronx.

Savoy won the 60-meter-dash in 6.7; Robinson placed second in the 400-meter-run in 51.2; Gooding was in last place at the start as he was pushed back at the beginning, gradually gained ground, moved up and took his first title in the mile in 4:24.1; Headly tied for first in the 60-meter-high hurdles in 8.4 all in the season opener to see 'where they 'are' and what shape are they in. After their events they were all evaluated by their coaches.

They all compete under FDU head coach Sharlene Milwood-Lee and her staff in Teaneck, New Jersey. Ms. Lee has been coach of the track and field and cross country pro-

Continued on Page 49

WIPA withdraws court challenge

By Azad Ali

West Indies Players Association (WIPA), has withdrawn its challenge to a High Court ruling, which has cleared the way for the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) to negotiate directly with players.

Notice of WIPA's withdrawal was filed in the registry of the Court of Appeal, Hall of Justice, in Port-of-Spain on Nov. 20. The decision also means that WIPA will now have to pay the almost one million dollars in legal costs to the WICB, which successfully won the lawsuit.

Continued on Page 49



United States national soccer team goalkeeper Tim Howard makes a save during their World Cup training camp.

Faces Ghana for a third time in World Cup

By Patrick Horne

The 2014 FIFA World Cup draw on Friday, Dec. 6 posed serious challenges for the four CONCACAF teams that will play in Brazil come June 12. The 32 teams were placed in eight groups of four for their preliminary games, from which the

two best from each of the groups will move to the second round, the start of the single defeat exit stage.

CONCACAF first-place finisher USA will compete in Group G, which seems to be this tournament's group of death as it will tangle with Ghana, Portu-

gal and Germany. Second-place finisher Costa Rica will play in Group D against Uruguay, England and Italy. Honduras, which finished third in the region to get the last automatic berth, is in Group E to tangle with Switzerland, Ecuador and

Continued on Page 49



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WIPA, WICB at odds

Continued from page 47

In dismissing WIPA's lawsuit in March, which sought to bind the WICB to comply with the October 2005 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), for all negotiations with players to be approved by the union, Justice Ricky Rahim, rejected WIPA's claim for US\$10m (\$64m). The judge found that WIPA's claim was "grossly exaggerated." He also ordered WIPA to bear the legal costs of the WICB in the sum of \$555,535.

WIPA claimed that the two agreements made the WICB incapable of unilaterally terminating a player's contract but rather by mutual assent or through a revision of the agreements.

WIPA claimed that the WICB had illegally attempted to unilaterally terminate the agreements, which it asserted could only be terminated by mutual consent, revision of the documents or the dispute resolution procedure contained in the agreements.

Carib track stars

Continued from page 47

grams for 15 years including 11 as head coach and is looking forward to very successful seasons. She has nothing but praise for her athletes.

Milwood-Lee has a background from Jamaica, West Indies, and brought a great deal of experience with her to the coaching position at the time.

Ms. Lee was raised in New Jersey, lived in Jamaica, West Indies, for a while and moved to Florida for a while, as she and her family bounced around, then came back to New Jersey.

"I lived in Jamaica for a year and a half," she said. "My parents came to this country from Jamaica," she said. "My father Solomon Milwood-Lee, claims to have been a runner as he competed in road races in Jamaica. My brother Byron is still in Jamaica and my nephew Bryan is an 800, 1500, and 5000-meter runner for Wolmer's High School in Kingston, Jamaica. My mother Loretta was not an athlete. My parents were born and raised in Kingston.

"I, myself, was an athlete at FDU many moons

ago," she explained during the Fordham Opener Meeting at the Lombardi Center on campus. "I ran under Mike Shea at Fairleigh Dickinson. We (My family) go back and forth to Kingston to visit."

In 2004, she was inducted into the Fairleigh Dickinson Athletics Hall of Fame.

"I didn't run in Jamaica, but I (know) there are great runners and sprinters in Jamaica," added the veteran coach. "And distance runners are coming in. A lot of sprinters come from Jamaica because of the warm weather and of the good food. (Eventually) there will be other surges where the (athletes) will be moving into other events such as the 800 and up and into the field events such as the throws, as track and field gets bigger in the country. Different athletes are doing a lot to bring popularity to this sport nationwide and worldwide and a lot of attention is given to the sport."

More and more Caribbean people will be headed into the right direction in track and field and will expand their skills.



In this Nov. 19, 2013 file photo; the United States national soccer team poses prior to the start their friendly soccer match between Austria and the United States in Vienna; Austria. Background from left: Omar Gonzalez; Tim Howard; Geoff Cameron; John Brooks; Michael Bradley and Brek Shea. Foreground from left: Jermaine Jones; DaMarcus Beasley; Alejandro Bedoya; Aron Johannsson and Jozy Altidore.

AP Photo/Hans Punz; File

Soccer for the fun of it

Continued from page 47

France. Mexico, which won the fourth play-in spot after defeating New Zealand, will take on Brazil, Croatia and Cameroon. In this column, a look at the USA's group.

Of the four regional teams, the U. S. undoubtedly has the toughest road to the second round, and American coach Jurgen Klinsmann, a veteran World Cup winner (1990) and coach with his native Germany knows all too well about World Cup play. "Obviously it's one of the most difficult groups in the whole draw," U.S. head coach Jurgen Klinsmann told ESPN. "Having Portugal with Cristiano Ronaldo and then Ghana, who has a history with the U.S., it couldn't get any more difficult or any bigger. But that's what a World Cup is about. It's a real challenge, and we'll take it."

The U. S. A., which will be based in Sau Paulo, plays its first game versus Ghana (June 16), which eliminated it the last two World Cups (2006, 2010) and is making its third consecutive World Cup appearance. U.S. goal keeper Tim Howard remembers the defeats all too well. "I think the memory will still be very fresh of the



In this Nov. 19, 2013 file photo, Ghana soccer team poses prior to the start the World Cup qualifying soccer match between Egypt and Ghana at the Air Defense Stadium in Cairo, Egypt. Background from left: Kwadwo Asamoah, Michael Essien, Rashid Sumaila, Fatau Dauda, Andriy Shevchenko, Ayew and Jerry Akaminko. Foreground from left: Asamoah Gyan, Harrison Afful, Daniel Opare, Majeed Waris and Sulley Muntari.

AP Photo/Ahmed Gomaa, File

loss in the Round of 16 in 2010," Howard told USsoccer.com. "I think that will help us more than it will them. We're a much stronger team than we were, and they'll know that going into the game. We'll look to set that result right." Ghana is fast, physical, very skilful and has the mental edge on the USA; this team is a bit too much for the USA.

In Germany (June 26), the U. S. has a foe that has won the World Cup three times and has beaten the

U. S. in the two previous tournaments (1998, 2002). In 2002, it was in the quarterfinal stage when the U. S. should have gotten the call against Germany for a hand-ball infraction on the goal line that would have given the USA a penalty and possibly a semifinal appearance, but that is now history. This German team will match the USA work rate and is much better than the 2002 outfit; it will pose a major problem for the Americans.

Portugal (June 22) was shocked by the U.S. in 2002 when the Americans came away with a 3-2 advantage in their opening game. The USA went on to make its first and only quarterfinal appearance in that tournament.

This time around, Portugal has one of the most dangerous players in the world and a player currently in good form in Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo, whom many consider the best player in the world at the moment. Ronaldo will pose problems for a USA defense that is still trying to come into its own.

Said USSF president Sunil Gulati in a statement: "We've had a very, very good two years; the best two years in our history. It's a tough group, but they are all tough groups at some level. If you want to advance in the World Cup, you have to beat some good teams."

Gulati is correct when he says that to be successful in the World Cup you have to beat good teams, problem for Gulati and the Americans, they are in a group with teams the has the USA's number. The Americans just don't have enough to get out of this group.

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Gibson and Sammy should get the boot

West Indies head coach Ottis Gibson and Test captain Darren Sammy must be relieved of their positions after the disastrous performance of the West Indies cricket team in India recently. The team lost both the Test and One-day series. There seems to be a lack of selective abilities and an overall out-of-control stigma, which plague the West Indies cricket team. The decision-making has been very poor and in spite of constant failures within the team and lack of success, no proper changes have been made.

Gibson, a former bowling coach with the English team, has not been impressive with the West Indies squad. Captain Sammy is yet to show his credibility. His decision-making has been very poor and continues to get poorer. It is not uncommon for both captain and coach to be removed at the same time because when England removed captain Kevin Pie-



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

tersen, the coach was also removed.

West Indies cricket authorities must be constantly diligent in restoring respect for the team and ensuring that qualified people always occupy the important positions. For too long the progress of West Indies cricket has been hampered by too many inefficient people making bad decisions.

DAVE CAMERON MUST ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS

When Dave Cameron took over the presidency of the West Indies Cricket Board, it was widely believed that some significant structural changes would have been made. Though some vital

efforts have been made at the lower level for the development of younger players, the senior team is not at the level it should be.

West Indies bowling appeared to have lost its strength following the injury of Kemar Roach. However, this should not be, because Tino Best took up the challenge and showed his class as a developed Test bowler. He is controlling the ball much better than before and when Roach returns these two bowlers should create havoc for any top team.

Shane Shillingford and Sunil Narine are West Indies' specialist Test spinners, therefore both of them must be included in the touring team.

Narsingh Deonarine's Test position is secure. He



West Indies' Darren Sammy plays a shot for four runs off India's Ishant Sharma during their Tri-Nation Series cricket match in Kingston, Jamaica, Sunday, June 30, 2013.
AP Photo/Andres Leighton

is an all-rounder who has shown that his talents are a contributory factor to the team's success. He bowls a pretty good fast off-spin

with good control and he picks wickets. With his batting, Deonarine has proven to be solid and capable of holding down a middle-

order position in Test cricket. Every effort must be made at all times to have the best players in the Final Eleven.

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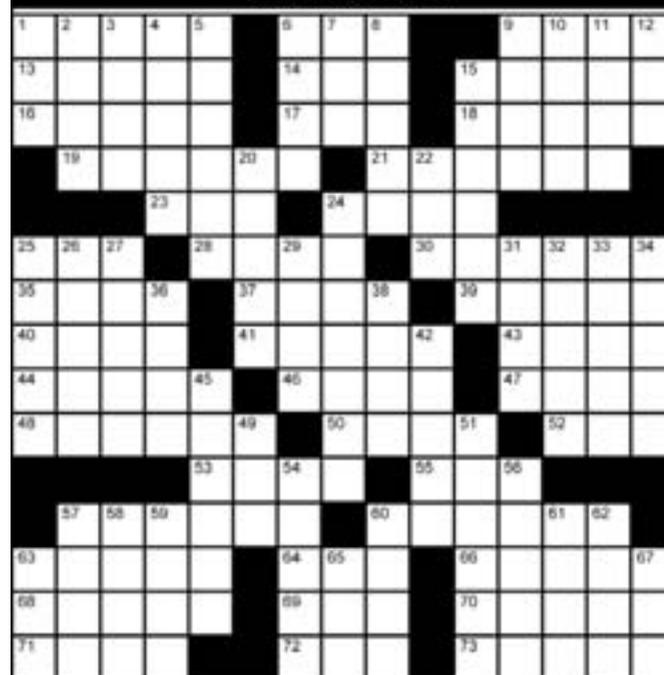
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19. *New prince of Cambridge
21. *Leno's successor
23. And not
24. Dispatched
25. What hernias do
28. Yamaguchi's court
30. *Football HOFer, _____ Jones, died
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39. Eye _____
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47. Kitten's plaything
48. *Kind of care

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64. Augment
66. Fear-inspiring
68. MPH
69. Bull's mate
70. Sheep-like
71. Hibernation stations
72. *Kourtney and Kim
73. Cause aversion

DOWN

1. *Jennifer Lawrence won for doing it
2. Smelting waste
3. Endure
4. *Satire newspaper that stopped printing
5. Reign of _____
6. "The Way We ____"
7. Gershwin or Levin
8. Blooper
9. "____ Me Maybe"
10. Assortment
11. Fifty-fifty
12. *____ Draper of "Mad Men" went to L.A.
15. Some chips are this, some are not
20. Done on a barbie
22. Plus
24. Biathlete's equipment
25. Jerusalem's ancient land
26. Cell phone bill item
27. It's firma
29. Season to be jolly
31. Bohemian
32. Reef constructor
33. Met's offering
34. *Boy group, reunited
36. Movie _____
38. Agrippina's slayer
42. Boxer's stat
45. Engraved
49. Clod chopper
51. *Cause of Chelyabinsk's disaster
54. Sweater style
56. Pet annoyance
57. *The new one is from Argentina
58. "I Dream of Jeannie" star
59. Long, long time
60. Tailored
61. *Artist Banksy took one to New York
62. Country dance formation
63. a.k.a. acid
65. Ornamental carp
67. Unagi

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A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Thanks to the chilly weather, a beach vacation beckons you, Aries. Start planning an excursion to a warm locale that allows you to escape the daily grind.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
A sporting event or something that draws a large crowd is just where you need to be this week, Taurus. Surround yourself with people who share your interests.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Give an issue in your relationship the consideration it merits, Gemini. Though it might not seem like it now, taking time to work this out will ultimately strengthen your relationship.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, the final stages of a project you have been working on are ready begin. Don't be afraid to take credit when all of your hard work pays off in a big way.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Obligations to work and family leave you short on personal time, Leo. Though your schedule is hectic, make time to unwind and you will be glad for having done so.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
It may take a while to convince someone to go along with your idea, Virgo. Yet once you have this person's support, they will be fully on board.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
You may have been bouncing around aimlessly for some time, Libra. But now is the week to get all of your affairs together and put your plan for the future in motion.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Restlessness can sometimes be a dangerous thing for you, Scorpio. Channel any restlessness into a worthy project that makes good use of your boundless energy.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, make the best of a situation that needs changing. You might not be able to affect change, but that does not mean you can't improve the situation with a positive attitude.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Perceptions vary, Capricorn. Just because you feel strongly about something doesn't mean another will view it the same way. Accept that your passion will not always be reciprocated.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, even though it will be a busy week, you aren't likely to feel wiped out. There will still be time for fun. Figure out a day to do something enjoyable.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you are torn between being creative and following convention at work. Ask a colleague for some input.

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Employment Pgs 53-55



- Sales Help Wanted
- Medical Help Wanted
- General Help Wanted
- And More

Business Opps Pg 55



- Financing / Loans
- Business For Sale
- Misc. Business Opps
- And More

Instruction Pgs 55, 58-59



- **Career Training**
- Education Services
- Tutoring
- And More

Merchandise Pg 57



- Garage / Yard Sales
- Merchandise Wanted
- Merchandise For Sale
- And More

Here's My Card Pgs 58-62



- Professional, Commercial And Residential Services
- Attorneys
- Home Improvement
- Moving & Storage

Real Estate Pgs 62



- Rentals
- Properties For Sale
- Open Houses
- Commercial RE
- And More

Services Pg 62



- Beauty Care
- Handymen
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Automotive Pg 62



- Autos For Sale
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LEGAL NOTICES

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derbilt Avenue, 18 feet 8 inches to the point or place of BEGINNING.

Amount of judgment: \$314,461.34 plus interest, fees and costs.

Dated: December 5, 2013
Melissa Bonaldes, Esq., Referee

Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP
Attorneys for the Plaintiff
The Omni
333 Earl Ovington Blvd., Suite 1010
Uniondale, New York 11553

LEGAL

PROBATE CITATION
FILE NO. 2009/2311
SURROGATE'S COURT - NEW YORK COUNTY CITATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
By the Grace of God Free and Independent
To EDGAR WOUCHOPE, if living and if dead, to his heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if he died subsequent to the decedent herein, to his executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose name and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of CRESONA GWENDOLYN PALMER, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained.

A petition having been duly filed by ASLENE E. PALMER-BENNETT, who is domiciled at 602 Overbrook Lane, Oreland, PA

LEGAL

19075.
YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, New York County, at 31 Chambers Street, Room 509, New York, on January 24, 2014, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Cresona Gwendolyn Palmer lately domiciled at 602 Overland Lane, Oreland, PA 19075 admitting to probate a Will dated September 10, 2001, a copy of which attached, as the Will of Cresona Gwendolyn PALMER deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that [x] Letters Testamentary issue to: Aslene Palmer-Bennett. (State any further relief requested)
November 27, 2013
Dated, Attested and Sealed
November 27, 2013 (seal)
Hon. Nora S. Anderson
Surrogate
Diana Sanabria
Chief Clerk
Spencer C. Gibbs, Rawlins + Gibbs, LLP
Attorney for Petitioner
212-222-7005
Telephone Number
2610 Frederick Douglass Blvd., New York, NY 10030
Address of Attorney
[NOTE: This citation is served upon you are required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.]

LEGAL

Miscellaneous No.
1848313
UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF TITLES LAW
OFFICES OF TITLES

LEGAL

P.O. BOX 494
KINGSTON, JAMAICA
November 20, 2013
WHEREAS I have been satisfied by Statutory Declaration that the duplicate Certificate of Title for ALL THAT parcel of land part of GREENDALE formerly part of BRETT'S PEN and GRAHAM PEN in the Parish of SAINT CATHERINE being the Lot numbered TWO HUNDRED AND NINE on the Plan of Greendale aforesaid deposited in the Office of Titles on the 6th day of October, 1964 of the shape and dimensions and butting as appears by the Plan and being the land registered at Volume 1011 Folio 333 of the Register Book of Titles in the name of IRA LIMONIUS- HAS BEEN LOST:-
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I intend at or after the expiration of fourteen days after the last appearance of this advertisement to DISPENSE with the production of the duplicate Certificate of Title and to endorse on the original a Transmission No. 1848312 whereby HOWARD DELANO ANTHONY FORBES and DONOVAN BRYAN acquires all the estate and interest of the abovementioned IRA LIMONIUS and thereafter cancel the said Certificate of Title and to register a new Certificate in duplicate in place thereof.
J. Walker
Senior Deputy Registrar
Titles
Insert once each week in Jamaica Observer for two successive weeks AND once in a newspaper in the vicinity of Bronx, New York 10456, U.S.A. COOPER, KEITH HARTLEY 11 CONNOLLEY AVE KINGSTON 4 ST. ANDREW, JAMAICA

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- Brooklyn Scholars - 4/30/2014 at 6:00 PM

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