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A KWANZAA celebration

Members of Forces of Nature Dance Theater perform in a Tribute to the Ancestors during Dance Africa 2014 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. See Page 4.

Photo by Amun/Ankhra House

US-Guyana clean-up on track

By Bert Wilkinson

Frustrated by garbage pile-ups around the Guyana capital, flooded streets after normal levels of rainfall and a municipal system that barely works, the U.S. government has set-aside a grant to strengthen democracy at the local and grassroots levels, but Guyana authorities have all but stopped

short of accusing Washington of moving to destabilize the administration, as the project finally got under way.

Guyana authorities had become suspicious of the U.S. motive after it offered a \$1.5M grant to clean up the city, because the U.S. had dared to also include opposition parties and civic groups, to allow them

to build local organizations that could run community affairs, rather than have political parties dominate the disbursement.

But once U.S. Ambassador Brent Hardt announced plans for the project, the administration of President Donald Ramotar raised spirited opposition to

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TRINIDAD OIL-SPILL MYSTERY

Turns miles of beaches black

By Peter Richards

PORT OF SPAIN, Dec 23, 2013 (IPS) - Whether it is a case of sabotage or simply poor management practices by the state-owned PETROTRIN, as the union claims, a mysterious oil spill in south Trinidad is wreaking havoc on homes and wildlife in the area.

PETROTRIN claims it has no idea as to the source of the spills, and Energy Minister Kevin Ramnarine, who toured La Brea and other affected areas on Sunday, said "the mystery remains where this oil is coming from."

The Environmental Management Authority also said it had been unable to ascertain the source and that its immediate concern was the protection of life and the environment.

Gary Aboud, president of Fishermen and Friends of the Sea, told IPS that the only solution was to shut down all oil production in the area.

"As we speak, more and more oil is being pumped into the sea. Why doesn't the minister order the shut-

down of all oil being transported in the Gulf of Paria? Shut it down, if you don't know where it is coming from," he said. "We find it totally unbelievable."

According to the head of the La Brea Fisherfolk Association, Alvin La Borde, "[Local] fishermen cannot go out to work. They need to buy things for their families for Christmas. They would not be able to leave until this oil is cleared.

"The fishermen have also lost nets and ropes used to secure their boats," he told IPS.

In a statement, the EMA said it "will continue to closely monitor clean-up efforts and ensure that environmental best practices are carried out.

"Once the source of the spillage is determined, the EMA will be assessing the situation from a legal and compliance perspective to ascertain whether there is any breach in environmental legislation."

Fitzgerald Jeffrey, the member of
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Caribbean

The United Nations says growth in the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean will pick up pace in 2014 on an improved global outlook that will help increase demand for exports.

The UN's regional economic body based in Chile said recently that Latin America's economy is set to grow by 3.2 per cent next year from a forecast of 2.6 per cent in 2013.

The agency says the growth estimate for 2013 was cut back from three per cent because of financial volatility and falling consumption. But a more favorable external environment will help boost demand for the region's exports. Brazil is seen growing at 2.6 per cent versus 2.4 per cent this year. Mexico is set to clock an expansion of 3.5 per cent, well above the 1.3 per cent seen for 2013.



Bahamas

The Bahamas National Security Minister Dr. Bernard J. Nottage says law enforcement officials are hoping for an "early resolution" in their investigations after armed bandits stormed the home of Acting Prime Minister Phillip 'Brave' Davis recently.

Nottage said that three bandits also robbed and assaulted Davis' chauffeur at gunpoint.

"I am happy to report that we have a break in the case and we expect to have an early resolution with the help of the public," he said, noting that the bandits led the chauffeur



into the house where they subsequently accosted the minister and his wife "and robbed him of some money but did not assault them. "The bandits fled the scene in the silver Honda in which they arrived. It is suspected that the vehicle may have been stolen in a robbery, which took place in Western New Providence earlier," Nottage said, adding that the police were following significant leads which include the faces of at least one of the robbers and an image of the vehicle which was used.

Barbados

Barbados health authorities have sought to quell fears over



Cultivating climate resistant crops

Ramdeo Boondoo grows several root crops on his farm, including sweet potatoes, cassava, yam and tannia in Caroni, Trinidad.

IPS/Jewel Fraser

the safety of the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) that will be administered to school children from January next year.

The Ministry of Health said it would be introducing the vaccine, which prevents cervical cancer, to 11 and 12 year-old secondary school girls.

Health Minister John Boyce said that the government's decision to introduce the vaccine was informed by research and "good clinical and medical practice.

"We will continue our program with interaction with the public, and with the parents especially, because this is a consent form arrangement.

"The idea is to get our parents on board in terms of participating in the discussion around this vaccine and the issues that may surround it. We know the successes of the human papillomavirus vaccine in respect of the control of cervical cancer in ladies and this is why we are launching the program and certainly we expect full participation when that time arrives in January," he added.



Manager of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), Dr. Elizabeth Ferdinand, said that the first of these interactive discussions with parents will take the form of a town hall meeting on Dec. 18.

Grenada

The Grenada government says it is disappointed that Britain has not agreed to a reduction in the controversial Air Passenger Duty (APD) that Caribbean countries say puts them at a disadvantage and could destroy their vital tourism industry.

Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture Minister Alexandra Otway-Noel said she was disappointed that British Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, in his Autumn Statement to Parliament recently, did not announce a reduction in the taxes at a time when tourist arrivals from the United Kingdom were on the decline. In his address, Osborne said the increase in the tax, which goes into effect from April 1, 2014, would increase the cost of medi-



um and long-haul flights from Great Britain.

According to estimates, this essentially means that a family of four traveling economy to the United States will pay £276, up from £268, while the APD will move from £332 to £340 if they were travelling to the Caribbean. Moreover, those opting for premium economy, business, or first-class cabins, will be required to pay double the sum.

Noting that this is the sixth time there has been an increase in the APD, Otway-Noel said she was also disappointed that the decision to follow through with the tax increases was carried out in spite of the lobbying done by Caribbean tourism officials for the British to halt the APD augmentation.

Guyana

The Canada-based Guyana Goldfields says it is investing US\$238 million in the Aurora Gold Project as the government said it was looking forward to large scale gold production by the company during the first quarter of 2015.

Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, welcoming the second largest investment in the mining sector,

said as a country, "we have to open to the world...we have to partner with the world," particularly given the potential size of the multimillion-dollar investment.

Guyana Goldfields Inc. focuses on the exploration and development of gold deposits here and Hinds said that the experience, expertise and technologies which the investors were bringing into the country would have been difficult source locally.

"Our challenge is to develop partnerships with the world... we have to develop the ability to recognize who we could develop good partnerships with," he said, acknowledging that while the investment was "somewhat risky" he was looking forward to its success.



Natural Resources and Environment Minister Robert Persaud, who also supported the investment, said it would bring tremendous benefits to the Guyana.

He assured all stakeholders that Guyana Gold Fields (GGF) had undertaken a comprehensive environmental sensitivity index (ESI) and the necessary permits to ensure compliance with local laws and international best practices.

Guyana this year produced in excess of 452,000 ounces of gold surpassing the target of 451,000 ounces set and the 438,000 ounces declared in 2012.

Haiti

The U.S. Agency for International Development will shift from building houses to financing them for people displaced by the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the agency's chief for the Caribbean nation said recently. Mission director John Groarke said the agency will try to help people build their own homes through mortgages.

"There was definitely a shift, because USAID began to realize that building houses here is very complicated," Groarke said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We feel that we can reach and help more people through creative financing."

An October report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office criticized the USAID effort to pro-



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Maritza Acosta, 'Super' of 50 Lenox road, accepting her certificate of recognition & holiday turkey alongside Judy Spence, president of LRBAA and Jeff Lindor, Community Relations Event Planner of EmblemHealth.

Tree lighting on Lenox Road

On Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013, the Lenox Road Block Association Alliance (LRBAA) hosted 'Lights on Lenox,' the first community holiday tree lighting on Lenox Road.

Although it snowed heavily it did not stop the LRBAA from staging the event for the approximately 50 community residents, who turned out to cheer and sing-along with youth performers of the Lenox Christian Youth Chorus. Turkeys, toys and holiday themed gift baskets were given out to those who braved the cold.

Before lighting the tree, which is on display into January 2014 on the premises of 270 Lenox Rd., the organizers took the opportunity to recognize some of its building caretakers/'supers' for an



Some of the neighbors and lucky recipients of a holiday gift basket compliments of Dynasty Supermarket.

outstanding job in caring for the residential spaces and addressing the concerns of neighbors.

To find out more about the LRBAA, please send e-mail to lenoxroadalliance@gmail.com or call 347-746-1321.

SANDALS HOLIDAY TREAT FOR KIDS

Toy drive benefits thousands across Caribbean

MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA (December 20, 2012) – The Sandals Foundation – the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts International – through its annual toy drive and holiday treats, made it a merry Christmas for 12,500 children this year across the Caribbean.

They were recipients of toys as part of the Sandals Foundation's annual toy drive, which took place this year under the theme "Share The Luck", where donors were asked to give \$13 in 2013. The toy drive was made possible with online donations that were matched by Sandals Resorts International. Additionally, Hasbro, Inc., a valued partner of Beaches Resorts, donated a brand new toy or game as part of their \$8,000 philanthropic contribution to the cause.

Founder and President of the Sandals Foundation's Board of Directors Adam Stewart said: "We are grateful to have a longstanding partner like Hasbro supporting this important initiative to support our local communities and give local children of the Caribbean a holiday season they deserve.



Riana Sanderson accepts her Christmas gift from Sandals Whitehouse's team members Danian Maxam, playing the role of Santa Claus, Monique Nash (right) and Derrick Robinson at Whitehouse Basic School.

Photo Credit: Sandals Foundation

This was one of most successful toy drives to date and we could not have done it alone."

Meanwhile, 80 Christmas treats were held across the Caribbean many of which took place at children's homes, community centres and early childhood and primary schools in Jama-

ca, St. Lucia, Antigua, the Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos Islands and for the first time, Grenada.

"The students had been anticipating their treat and were even more eager to see Santa Claus after they were told that the Sandals Foundation would be coming. It was a wonderful experience

for them to get such lovely toys from Santa and to be on the receiving end of such excellent service from everyone," said Taniesha Poyser, principal of Beast Spring Early Childhood Institute. "I must admit that it was the perfect end to the school year for the infants."

Adios! to the last New York Black radio station

By Vinette K. Pryce

Once upon a time, Black radio listeners locked in 1600 -- the last frequency on the AM dial -- in order to hear music, news and the latest in cultural entertainment broadcasting from WWRL.

On Jan. 1, 2014, WWRL will transform the media landscape by providing the same service to a Latino audience and delivering the

same cutting-edge programming to a Spanish-language audience.

Although no official announcement has been released, program hosts at the station said they were notified of the New Year programming conversion from English to Spanish.

Founded Aug. 26, 1926, the station has been steadily losing its appeal with target Black audiences due

to the FM revolution, the emergence of numerous Black-oriented outlets and the departure of personalities who provided unique programming.

Frankie Crocker, Hank Spann, Douglas "Jocko" Henderson, Gerry Bledsoe, Bobby Jay, E. Hawthorne Gregory, Gary Byrd and Jeff Troy were celebrated names to broadcast from the flagship station.

"They played a blend of Motown, Stax and Memphis and early James Brown-styled funk. In the 1960's WWRL became the principal rhythm and blues radio station "focusing on popular music aimed at the young Black community. The station was owned during this period by Sonderling Broadcasting. In the 1970s WWRL stressed Philadelphia soul and other and

soul artists.

In 1979 Sonderling merged with Viacom.

At night Bob Law commanded a curious audience who tuned in to listen to his "Night Talk."

According to Wikipedia, com "by 1999, WWRL began mixing in paid programming during the week," and "by 2001, the station evolved into a diversified station selling blocks of time to various

interests."

Trinidad & Tobago native Peter Noel co-hosted a popular morning, drive time talk show with Orthodox Jewish author and inspirational speaker Boteach Schmuley.

Yours truly also co-hosted a Saturday morning talk show with Rennie Bishop named "Caribbean Views."

During that period Caribbean music found a medium

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NGUZO SABA



By Dr. Maulana Karenga

Umoja (Unity) – To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) – To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) – To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) – To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose) – To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity) – To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith) – To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Kwanzaa is a modern-era holiday created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University at Long Beach. Dr. Karenga is an author, scholar and political activist who founded the holiday to stress the need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African-American culture. It runs for seven days from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.



Forces of Nature Dance Theatre performing "A Kwanzaa Celebration."

Photo by Amun

SPIRITED AND UPBEAT KWANZAA CELEBRATION

By Amun

On Saturday, Dec. 14 New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) held its all-day Kwanzaa Celebration. The program consisted of a Children's Festival, a Kwanzaa Market Place, a Tribute to the Elders with a full Kwanzaa mazaio buffet spread for all to partake, and a performance by Forces of Nature Dance Theatre.

In spite of the horrendous weather, the event was well attended and the spirit was upbeat. The Children's Festival included craft workshops, dancing, drumming and singing. The Elders Tribute began with a procession lead by the drummer, with elders following into the Chase Room where the tribute was held.

Baba Chuck Davis, founder and artistic director of DanceAfrica, who had just returned from Santiago, Cuba lead the elders into the room and to their seats at the head table. Could that mean that the Cuban

Folkloric Dance Company will headline "DanceAfrica 2014?" I'm just speculating.

Forces of Nature Dance Theatre did two performances of the program entitled, "A Kwanzaa Celebration." The last performance began with The Procession of Elders. After they were seated, Olabamidele Husbands, co-founder, CEO and company manager of Forces of Nature proceeded with the traditional pouring of the libation and talking about the seven principles of Kwanzaa, the Nguzo Saba. Then the dance began.

Forces of Nature is a very dramatic and accomplished company, and they performed the Artistic Director, Abdul Salaam's choreography exquisitely. The dance was in five parts: "Rhythm Legacy," "Continental Drift," "Grey Flannel Matter," "Club Legacy" and "A Question of Modesty." The concert was a history lesson executed in rhythm



Mary Mary, Erica Atkins-Campbell and her sister Tina Atkins-Campbell delivered a soul stirring faith based inspirational show.

Photo by Amun

and movement.

On Sunday there was another program of holiday celebration. Sinbad and Mary Mary presented a Gospel and Comedy Celebration. Sinbad preceded Mary Mary with topical humor and tongue and cheek advice to parents on raising their teenage children.

He even put out a call to Kanye West, asking him to come home and get back to himself. He added that, if its big butts that intrigue him, he needs to come to Newark and walk with him down Market Street, plenty, plenty there!

Mary Mary, Erica Atkins-Campbell and her sister

Tina Atkins-Campbell delivered a soul stirring faith-based inspirational show, celebrating self-reliance and upliftment. Those sisters can really sing. They set a high bar as they sang, strutted "their stuff" around the stage and reached out to the audience. The audience wasn't half-steppin' either. They were the choir. They knew the lyrics and sang them with joy and feeling. The call and response was in full effect as they joined Erica and Tina in singing, "Get Up," "Heaven," "Go Get It," "Walking," "Yesterday," "Can't Give Up," "Something Big," "Little More Jesus," and more. There was dancing singing, hand clappin' and toe tappin' going on. They were holding church up in there!

NJPAC is located in Newark at One Center Street. For information on future programs check their website: www.njpac.org or call 973-642-8989.

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Trinidad's steps up fight against crime

By Azad Ali

Over the weekend, National Security Minister Gary Griffith said the authorities would soon launch a major crime fighting initiative.

Griffith said that the Virtual Police Officers (VIPO) will when launched make every law abiding citizen a virtual police officer.

"In this way you can go on a secure website and report a crime which may be about to be committed or has been committed," Griffith said, adding he would be personally held responsible to ensure the confidentiality of the informants remained secure.

"VIPO will fall directly under me so that people will feel safe to report information that can be turned into evidence," he said, sending a message to rogue elements within the police.

"We are putting special mechanisms to weed out rogue elements in the Police Service and give citizens responsibility to become virtual officers on cyberspace. It is no secret that there are police officers on the payroll of gang members, and once we find the evidence to remove them, they will be removed," he added.

Acting Police Commissioner Stephen Williams said it was not fair to judge the police merely on the number of murders solved.

"The Police Service should be judged on all that it has the responsibility to address,



Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar.

AP Photo/Frank Franklin II

and it's not supposed to be judged on one issue, that of murders," Williams told the Trinidad Express newspaper.

He said in 2013, the police have seen the "phenomenal results" of a 33 per cent

Murder is murder and every single one is painful and traumatic to us.

reduction in violent crime, surpassing its goal of an 18 per cent reduction.

"In the 2013 budget, the mandate to the TTPS (Trinidad and Tobago Police Serv-

ice) was to reduce violent crimes by 50 per cent over three years. We have already achieved 33 per cent reduction in violent crimes in one year. I'm not hearing anyone saying anything about that.

"Anywhere else people will say that's a phenomenon. All I'm hearing is one discussion: murder... We are seeing abnormal—I mean positive abnormal results. We set ourselves an 18 per cent reduction in serious crime in 2013. We have achieved 30 per cent," he said.

"Murders that is the only category of offences that has defied the Police Service in

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Meeting with the doctor, we discussed and viewed if I was truly a candidate for the treatment. The doctor let me know I was not a candidate but did leave the door open for me to seek her services in the future if I thought I needed her services."

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but none of it worked. After receiving spinal decompression treatment, my pain has been totally eliminated and I can now walk much better."

**Lincoln Leung
Brooklyn, NY**

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

**Fabienne Alexander - Retired
Brooklyn, NY**

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

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Brooklyn at the Helm!

By Sidney McKenzie

Brooklyn now becomes the center of African American politicians replacing the old guards of Harlem's Gang of Four after the late Adam Powell. From the late Percy Sutton to the remaining trio of State Supreme Court Judge Basil Patterson, former and first black New York City Mayor David Dinkins and dean of the New York's congressional delegation Charlie Rangel. With combined years of more than two hundred their life services should now become one for the history books. Through them; multitudes of blacks involved themselves in politics to make a difference for their community. Their foresight of a better New York for blacks didn't only inspire African Americans in the city to vote and be a part of the process but blacks coming to live in the city, including the Caribbean's late trailblazer Shirley Chisholm.

The general election of 2013 delivers such political baton to cross the bridges into Brooklyn. With Blacks in the borough voting overwhelmingly and liberal whites joining in to stop the tales of two cities, and the controversial continuation of stop and frisk, Brooklyn deliv-

ers its first African American top cop in the borough in Ken Thompson after more than two decades of Charles Hinds. Then with term limits, Mr. Brooklyn himself; Marty Markowitz Brooklyn Borough President seat became occupied by retired cop now politician Eric Adams. For the second time in modern time Brooklyn deliver a mayor for the City, Bill de Blasio and his wife first lady Chirlane. From 35th Council District and holding the city's second highest elected office is Public Advocate Letitia James, representing the most populous Borough, Brooklyn. Brooklyn the largest of the five boroughs holds the highest amount of congressional elected official's along with the senior senator.

Now with a new administration taking over the city, minority that went to the polls with the intention of diminishing "Stop and Frisk" especially in Brooklyn may have their wishes answered. As for the liberal whites and wealthy residence across the city and in Brooklyn who had become exasperated with "Tales of Two Cities" paying their fair share of taxes may be just what they wanted in order to build a more balance New York.

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@cnglocal.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.

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The Bedford Academy

To The Editor:

Founder & former principal of Bedford Academy George E. Leonard congratulates Bedford Academy for its continued success. On Dec. 3, Mayor Michael Bloomberg visited Bedford Academy and praised the Bedford Model.

Bloomberg candidly stated, "We've shown how you can improve a major, large system with all of attributes and disadvantages and resources and problems any other city has." He went on to say, "A bigger pool should, we think, mean lower scores, but it didn't because it shows that we're doing something right," shining light on the in place structures implemented by Leonard, and continued by current principal Muhammad.

In 2007 under the leadership of George E. Leonard the first graduating class of Bedford Academy completed the full four-year program with extraordinary results: a 98% graduation rate, 90%+ attendance rate, each class member was accepted by at least two colleges, acceptances to successful pre-med, pre-law and Ivy League programs and out performing some of NYC's "specialized" high schools.

New York State Regent Dr. Adelaide Sanford at a City Council gathering honoring Bedford Academy acknowledged, "Bedford Academy under the leadership of Mr. Leonard and his staff has once again put to rest any question about our children's capacity and the ability of strong leadership to fulfill the promise of our ancestors."

As Leonard puts it, "The Bedford approach got its start in the 1980's when he utilized a spectrum of personal insights – from his own NYC public schools experience as a student to his expertise as President and CEO of World Institute of Science and Technology – summarily creating an advanced science program which allowed typical grade-school children to pass the New York Regents sci-

Bloomberg candidly stated, "We've shown how you can improve a major, large system with all of attributes and disadvantages and resources and problems any other city has."

ence exam normally given to 9th-graders."

The New York Times even highlighted Bedford Academy's success where, "63 percent of the students qualify for a free lunch, a majority are being raised by a single mother ... yet close to 95 percent of students graduate." The New York Daily News also pointed out that, "Bedford Academy in Brooklyn, where roughly 90% of students earn a more rigorous Regents diploma in four years, have 84 percent and 100 percent black students respectively."

After Leonard's departure from Bedford Academy in 2007 he was still available as an advisor / consultant to insure a smooth transition and continuity. His results were so successful that he and his class were profiled in a PBS special. Currently he is Chief Executive Officer of Friends of Bedford, "an educational consultancy that reaches the hearts and minds of inner-city students" via the Bedford Approach.

Former DC Schools Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee hailed Leonard's genius bringing him and his team to DC to effect change in her school system. Once in Washington, Leonard "provided intensive volunteer tutoring after school and worked hard to make sure students took advantage of it. The team hired and trained teachers carefully. It sought the safe and orderly school environment that brought success to the small public Bedford Academy, the school it created in Brooklyn that initially caught Rhee's eye," as reported by V. Dion Haynes of

The Washington Post.

It made perfect sense to such a master of education that the Bedford Project would be born to replicate the success of Bedford Academy on a national level. "All of the instructional methodologies, strategies and most importantly, the leadership of Bedford Academy are present at the Bedford Project." Washington DC schools experienced unprecedented success after the first year, but despite the efficacy of the Bedford Approach in DC schools, The Friends of Bedford were forced out due to changes in political leadership. Michelle A. Rhee speaks highly of Leonard's Friends of Bedford, and thanks him and his team in her latest book entitled "The Bee Eater-Michelle Rhee Takes On The Nation's Worst Schools," by Richard Whitmire.

Leonard stands on his belief, "To teach students, educators must first reach students – inspire them to care, help them set goals and provide the support they need to get there. That's how Friends of Bedford helps at-risk students." For this is his vision.

He is known to go above and beyond using effective unconventional strategies to achieve extraordinary educational results for underserved children in schools such as Brownsville Mott Hall Bridges Academy where the students achieved great end results using The Bedford Approach, however Friends of Bedford received unsubstantiated and unjustified criticism from a select few within The Department of Education and questionable websites like dnainfo.com.

With such high exacting standards, impeccable credentials, a long track record of success and innovative approach to education, it's no wonder why George E. Leonard would be an obvious prime "short list" contributor for new wave educational initiatives.

Sincerely,
Tachelle Wilkes
Tachelle@femmixx.com

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

Proud to be anti-government crusaders

There appears to be enough of a consensus built for referring to the more reactionary, obstructionist element among Republican members of Congress as “anti-government.” This is a tag that one would imagine confounding the Dickens out of any unsuspecting observer. But for those of us familiar with the jaw-dropping combat positions some of today’s gladiators have staked out for themselves, we’re probably immune to the incredulity of a crusade founded on de-legitimizing the institution of government. We’re very aware that there is indeed such an animal within the bowels of the GOP, and that its adherents wear the “anti-government” label like some red badge of courage.

For starters, we probably should give these folks the benefit of the doubt and assume that although committed to this anti-government cause, their presence in government is explained by the desire to effect a dismantling of government (a whole chunk of it, at least) from within. Hence the presence in the Senate of the likes of Rand Paul and Ted Cruz, and in the House, a slew of Tea Party partisans, all of them rabidly loyal to the “government is the problem” mantra Ronald Reagan introduced

for his brand of populist revolt decades ago.

There’s a lot ascribed to Reagan that pokes holes in the contention of some commentators, not all of them necessarily on the right, who assign to him a premium ranking among presidents that’s very much open to question. That’s another forum, but the anti-government push of which he was prime instigator is certainly one of those none too flattering constituents of the Reagan legacy.

Especially given the reckless disregard for the sanctity of governance we’ve seen of late, one begins to see how there could be a mindset developed which dismisses outright the notion of government as central to the society-building apparatus. When some of the players involved in shutting down the government prattle on glibly about allowing the shutdown to endure indefinitely, it’s clear that purveyors of such tripe are seamlessly wedded to a comfort zone in denial about the role of government at society’s core.

Strictly speaking, it’s not that these would be insurgents acknowledge no role whatsoever for some “government” facsimile. It is that they are prepared to ride the “get government off our backs” rally cry

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

to such ludicrous extremes, their re-design of government would leave the bulk of the population up a creek and paddle-less. Government is for arming the state to the teeth to protect against invasion and for invading when there’s that urge. Not surprisingly, government is for allowing the citizenry to also arm itself silly. Government is not for taxing the people and if it must, do so sparingly; and absolutely have no designs on the well-to-do paying a fair share. Government is not for regulating business in any way; “free enterprise” means those who engage in business have earned themselves an unimpeded path. Government has no business concerning itself about income inequality having reached alarming proportions. Etc, etc.

In the view of the anti-government crusaders, it is not government’s call to show concern for those who find themselves left behind, economically. So that Lyndon Johnson’s introduction of Medicare was a major

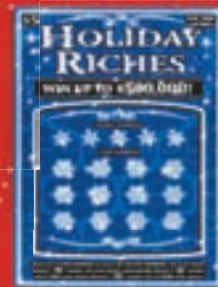
misstep in the American narrative. As was Franklin Roosevelt’s introduction of Social Security. Movement standard bearer Rand Paul sounded off on the uproar over last week’s budget deal not including an extension of jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed; he supports unemployment benefits for 26 weeks; to pay benefits beyond that is to encourage the unemployed to remain unemployed!

One good thing about comments like Paul’s unconscionable dismissal of folks about to be thrown into desperate straits, is that sentiment in the camp of those endorsing state indifference as exemplified by Paul tends now not to be camouflaged. Time was that such indicators of assault on working class folk would perhaps not be given that sort of in-your-face prominence, more likely hidden behind the full-court press mounted to woo the gullible with tried and true social conservative carrots like abortion, gay rights, immigration and the rest. The movement today to stand on a platform of fiscal conservatism even to an extent potentially of throwing most Americans under the bus bespeaks a tightened-jaw level of unconcern for the working class and middle class.

We cannot but reference yet again Mitt Romney’s famous “47 percent” comment. Romney, being as unabashedly lacking in conviction as he showed, numbering him with the anti-government lot wouldn’t be smart. But his hoof-in-mouth “47 percent” spiel to those high-rolling Republican sympathizers would seem pretty close to what one might presume to be a strategy plank of anti-government advocates... although we suspect that the 47 percent of voters that Romney wrote off needs to be ratched up some. The right flank players championing this idea of government abdicating a substantial portion of its customary role know full well that massive pushback is assured from folks taking it on the chin. And they happen to be most Americans.

Deficit reduction at the federal level is an objective we all, regardless of political persuasion, need support. But using the deficit as rationale for insensitively going the other way is the kind of ploy from the usual suspects with which by now we’re quite familiar. Government may not be the paramount solution. But there’s still every reason to think of government as much more solution than problem.

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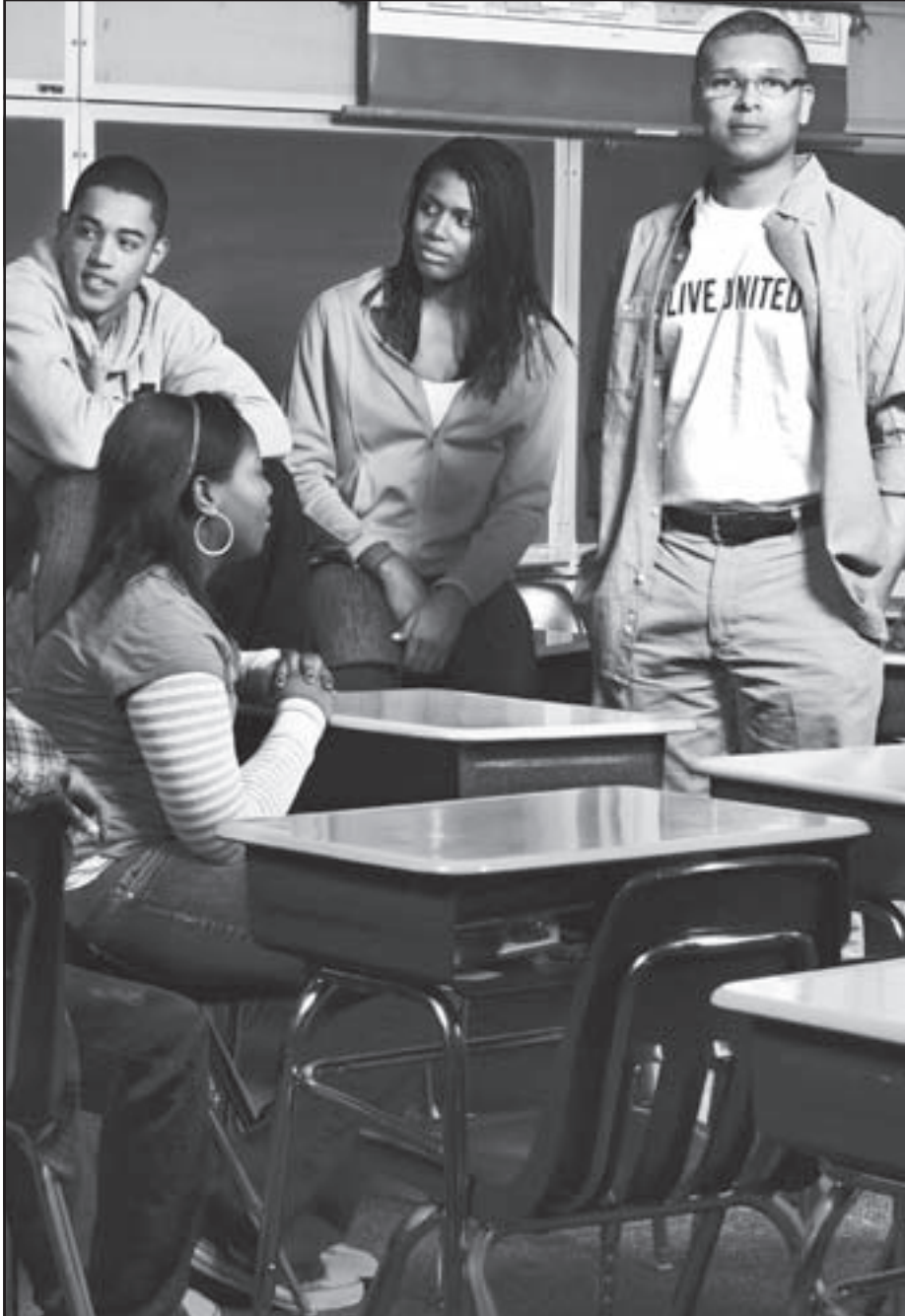
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2
 vide housing as part of the Caracol Industrial Park, which is the United States' biggest investment in Haiti since the quake destroyed thousands of homes and displaced 1.5 million people.

The number of people still living in grim encampments of quake survivors is now at 170,000, the International Organization for Migration says. Many Haitians left the camps not because new housing became available but because they received rental subsidies or were evicted by landowners.

Jamaica

As investigations continue into the discovery of a machine used to make and reload ammunition, the police are reporting the shipment originated in Florida. Recently, police and customs officials discovered 3,300 warheads and the machine in a barrel on the wharf. Other items were also recovered which can be put together to make a round of ammunition.

The communications arm of the police force—the Constabulary Communications Network (CCN) reports that customs agents were carrying out routine checks when they became suspicious of a barrel and called the police who made the discovery.

The police with the assistance of overseas law enforcement agencies, have since established that the shipment originated in Florida.



A statement from the CCN said local detectives continue to work closely with their international partners to gather more information on the case.

St. Kitts

The governments of St. Kitts-Nevis and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have renewed an agreement of technical cooperation in agriculture for another five years. Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Nigel Carty and Taiwanese Resident Ambassador Miguel Tsao signed the agreement recently in the presence of members of the Taiwanese Technical Mission and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture.



Ambassador Tsao said the agreement was significant for both countries and would provide a solid foundation for future cooperation.

"It will be a milestone for remaking our new round of cooperation in the future. I would like to pledge my unwavering and unshakable commitment to work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to benefit all the farmers," he said.

Minister Carty pointed out the history of cooperation the Federation has enjoyed with the government of Taiwan shortly after its Independence in 1983 "on many subject matters." He said the expertise and assistance from the Taiwanese have helped the nation in its efforts to ensure food security.

Compiled by Azad Ali

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Trinidad & Tobago oil contamination

Continued from cover

Parliament for the La Brea region, which is known for having the largest natural deposit of asphalt in the world, told IPS that he is hoping the evacuation is carried out "as quickly as possible".

"There are young people and it is difficult for them to breathe...and as much as 24 families are directly affected. In addition, there are fishing vessels contaminated with oil. We are seeing crabs and dead fish along the beach.

"Yesterday I was down there and there is a very strong gas scent and people have been advised not to do any cooking in the area," he added.

On Monday, the environmental group Papa Bois Conservation issued an urgent appeal for paper towels, dishwashing liquid and other supplies to aid birds that are covered in oil.

The Wildlife Orphanage and Rehabilitation Centre (WORC), which is also trying to rescue animals affected by the oil spill, reports "oil in the mangrove as

well as a strong hydrocarbon smell". The WORC also posted on its website a picture of an oil-slicked dead pelican at La Brea.

PETROTRIN, which has been in operation for 100 years, has acknowledged that there are installations across the country engaged in refinery activities and that some of its pipelines may still contain hydrocarbons that can be hazardous to health.

Ramnarine said the authorities were now seeking international assistance in dealing with the oil spill, even as the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) maintained that PETROTRIN should shoulder the blame for the environmental disaster.

"We do not concur with the company's offering of the excuse that it is some kind of sabotage or otherwise," OWTU president general Ancel Roget told a news conference on Sunday.

"We want to say there is a massive cover-up of the PETROTRIN management to shield their friends, the lease operators, who they invited to and in fact gave away some of the

lucrative acreage of PETROTRIN assets, and therefore a cloud of silence and secrecy has shrouded the lease operators in the La Brea situation," he said.

Roget has accused the company of knowingly reducing the level of security in the fields, allowing thieves to roam freely.

"The reduction and removal of morning tower shifts...these shifts provided as a monitoring effort and additional security effort so that if there are any oil spills throughout fields they were reported in real time."

Roget said PETROTRIN had no emergency response contract to deal with the latest series of oil spills, saying "they violate their own investigation policy which states that investigations of that nature ought to take place within the first 24 hours."

But Ramnarine said that unmanned platforms were part of the industry globally.

"We can't put people on every single platform," he said, adding "in the Gulf of Mexico, there are unmanned platforms."

Over the weekend, PETROTRIN's president Khalid Hassana-li said one of the company's lease operators, Trinity Oil and Gas, had discovered several valves open at its operations in Rancho Quemado, allowing oil to flow out of the tanks onto the lands.

Guyana clean-up

Continued from cover

it, saying it was allowed no input into how the funds were to be disbursed and wanted absolutely no part in its implementation.

Ramotar's governing People's Progressive Party (PPP) and Washington have had a long and bitter history of political engagement dating back to the CIA's well-publicized involvement in Guyana in the '60's when it had successfully destabilized the then left-leaning PPP administration.

Race riots at the time claimed the lives of more than 150 people; large parts of the capital were destroyed by fire and civil service strikes brought life to a standstill. So any move today by the U.S. to involve itself openly in local politics was quickly seen as an effort to once again destabilize a still-paranoid PPP.

In the past week, the level of suspicion and distrust between the two sides boiled over into an interesting exchange between Amb. Hardt and the Guyana governing party.

Cabinet Secretary Roger Luncheon had said that government had rejected the project out of hand because it was presented to them

as a done deal and they were only asked to sign on the dotted lines.

"Cabinet had no option but to pull the plug," said Luncheon, calling the U.S.' actions "grievous."

Hardt said there was no such thing as an offer and the understanding was that whether government got involved or not, the (project) was going ahead as planned.

"The project contractor is on the ground. We will engage with those stakeholders who wish to engage. We will continue to work in that spirit. We hope government will find a way to work with us. We have had over one dozen meetings. From the onset of this proposal, we have worked diligently to involve the government and have been working to get the government's input on this project."

Hardt and other Western ambassadors are concerned that no local elections for the city and five towns have been held since 1994; that the system is completely broken down and needs reinvigorating with fresh polls. The US envoys had even led garbage clean-up campaigns in the city to make the point.

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New adult day-care services in Flatbush

By Lin-Jay Harry-Voglezon

Another care-giving center has opened in Flatbush.

Renaissance Adult Day Services opened doors on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 2625 Bedford Ave. (at Flatbush Avenue), with four hours of activity as it introduced its services to the community.

In association with the Gay Men of African Descent and the Good Dog Foundation as community volunteers, the center promises “a fresh approach to adult day services.” Its doors are open to all: “gay, straight, handicapped. Gender, race/ethnicity does not matter. The services are tailored to suit the cultural diversity of the community,” said Project Manager Christian Santos. Although Renaissance is a for-profit organization,” he says, “it is driven by a commitment to the much-needed quality health care without discrimination.

Its president, Alexander C. Markowitz opened doors on Thursday, Dec. 12 and his culturally diverse leadership team are healthcare providers with over 10 years’ experience in the business.

They started as a licensed home care agency in Coney Island, serving the five New



Martha Smith, left, introducing Chanel, her miniature apricot poodle therapeutic dog to an attendee.

Photo by Lin-Jay Harry-Voglezon

York City boroughs. Two years ago, they opened a branch in the Bronx at 625 East Fordham Road, and in September last year they added the social services, adult day-care dimension which is scheduled to open

shortly at 787 E. 156th St.

Renaissance offers holistic care whether it’s for three hours or 24 hours, in or out of the home, by a Caregiver or Care Nurse. Services are custom-designed to serve different levels of need

and cultural patterns. Caregiving services range from escorting clients to laundry, cooking, and cosmetic services, as well as personal assistance with “feeding, bathroom and incontinence, grooming, mobility, dress-

ing, medication reminders and bathing.”

The agency also offers a multilingual, professionally-trained team with a broad range of skills and in pediatric care, wound care and medication management,

physical, occupational and respiratory therapy, language and speech pathology, nutrition and social services.

The spacious Flatbush center can accommodate a range of recreational activities, exercise programs, including karaoke and socialization to benefit the body, mind and spirit. There’s a coffee- and juice bar, Skype room, and two medical rooms. What distinguishes it most is the provision of pet therapy, Wi-Fi and Skype accessibility for members to connect to friends and family around the world, the management claims.

Renaissance membership is open to clients enrolled in or eligible for Managed Long Term Care, Medicare or Medicaid, or require or qualify for Home Care.

Agencies represented at the open-house included AARP, Alzheimer’s Association, Patty Cake Theatre, Al Medina Pharmacy, Ella Dekhtyar and I Freyberg DDS PC, So-Fine Troopers Fitness Training, Church of God, and DJ Luko, all vendors.

To join, call (718) 408-8891, (866) 367-8878 or see go to: www.renaissanceadulthood.com.

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smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

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

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

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

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Memory & Identity in Black America

“Jim Crow Wisdom: Memory & Identity in Black America Since 1940” by Jonathan Scott Holloway c.2013, University of North Carolina Press \$39.95 / \$50.00 Canada 273 pages

BOOK REVIEW

Scott Holloway, you'll see how that storytelling prowess may have helped your family survive.

Throughout his life, Jonathan Scott Holloway heard stories.

One of the ones he remembers particularly was that which his father, an ex-military man, told Holloway on the way to school one fall day. It had something to do with fighting and how not to react. Holloway thought it was a strange thing then but, he says, “I discovered that there was more to this story than a father merely preparing his son for a world of inequality.”

Many African Americans, Holloway claims, share stories of perseverance and strength through memoirs,

stories, and anecdotes, and some of the most powerful tales are told in physical manifestations of museum or preserved buildings. Many of these stories serve as subtle (or not-so-subtle) warnings, lessons in getting along in a White world.

But, as he learned, stories can be edited or omitted entirely. There's a certain kind of unneeded “shame” in some facets of family history that may be hidden or forgotten. They're buried or, as Holloway says of his own family, a certain “branch of the family tree isn't even dead. It's simply gone.”

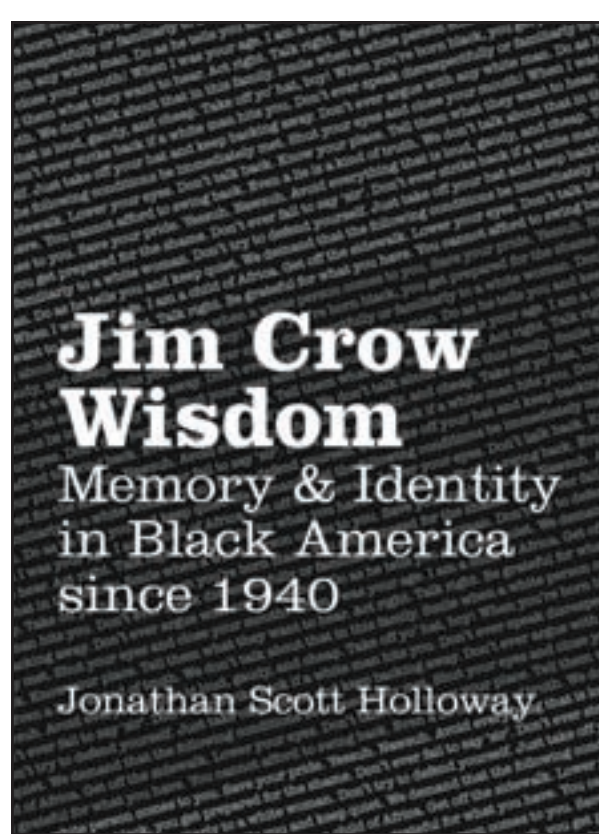
Good or bad, this all serves as “the preservation of social status and authority,” as well as being cautionary in nature for future gen-

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You've always prided yourself on being a good storyteller.

You've always been able to craft a good tale – whether it was one of imagination, one to escape trouble, or a story with lesson added.

It's a talent you got from your parents, and they from theirs. In the new book “Jim Crow Wisdom” by Jonathan



erations. It helps in “establishing links, forged from common experience, to the larger black community” by sharing wisdom and lessons learned from the Jim Crow era and more recently. Still, “The editing... continues”

and that, says Holloway, is detrimental to the black community.

“... the silences in a family's past can serve their purposes,” he believes, “... but they also come with the risk of too little memory,

of not knowing the value of sacrifice that enabled a better future in the first place.”

In a way – at least for the casual reader – “Jim Crow Wisdom” was written backwards.

Author Jonathan Scott Holloway writes, in the second half of his book, about his family: recollections of learning stories he'd never heard, and finally understanding the tales that were ingrained at his core. It's semi-biographical, lively, and because of the nature of what he writes, the latter half of this book underscores its title.

But first, we must get through the first half, which is very, very academic. Holloway is a professor at Yale, after all, and the beginning of the books shows it. It's not unreadable, but it belies the spiritedness that the second half possesses.

Keep that in mind when you're reading this book, be willing to read it second-half-first, and you may find it to be quite eye-opening. For you, “Jim Crow Wisdom” might spur you to share a few good stories.

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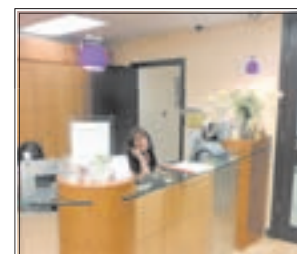
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Plan to end Carib hunger

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says a group of South American and Caribbean countries have adopted a common plan of action to eradicate hunger and poverty, designed with FAO support.

The FAO says the agreement was announced during the Second Extraordinary Summit of the Petrocaribe oil bloc and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America - Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP).

"The plan aims to strengthen food and nutrition security in the Petrocaribe economic zone and in ALBA countries through national and regional hunger eradication projects," said the FAO, adding that it will provide advice to governments in developing interventions.

During the summit, Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro said that "the Action Plan ALBA-Petrocaribe to free our territories from



Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro. AP Photo/Fernando Llano, File

hunger seems fundamental for the future."

The FAO said the plan reflects the priority that hunger reduction has been given by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and under the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, a commitment by the 33 countries of the region to eradicate malnutrition by 2025.

"The ALBA-Petrocaribe Action Plan represents the most ambitious attempt to eradicate hunger in the history of the region," the FAO said.

"Latin America and the Caribbean are showing that across the entire region there is political will for and commitment to achieving hunger eradication," said FAO director-general José Graziano da Silva, speaking at the summit.

Filing for your parents

By Gertude Onuoha Esq.

As a U.S. citizen who is at least 21 years old, you can petition for your parents (mother or father) to live in the United States as green card holders. To petition for your parents (mother or father), you will file the following documents with United States Citizen and Immigration Services:

- A completed and signed Form I-130.
- A copy of your Certificate of Naturalization or U.S. passport if you were not born in the United States.
- A copy of your birth certificate showing your name and the names of both parents.
- A copy of your Certificate of Naturalization or Citizenship or U.S. passport if you were not born in the United States.
- A copy of your parents' civil marriage certificate.

If you are an adopted child, you will need a certified copy of the adoption certificate showing that the adoption took place before your 16th birthday. When USCIS approves the application, it will send you a notice and then forward the case to the National Visa Center (NVC) for further processing, if your beneficiary parent is residing abroad. Your will

parent(s) will be required to provide more documentation, attend medical examination. Thereafter, they will attend an interview at the U.S. consulate in your country. A visa will be issued if the interview goes well. They will receive a passport stamp upon arrival in the United States. This stamp will prove that they are allowed to work in the United States until their Permanent Resident Card is received.

If your parent is currently in the United States, he or she may be eligible to file Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or to Adjust Status, at the same time as you file Form I-130. They are eligible to apply for employment and travel authorization while their case is pending. Some common problems associated with parental filings are incomplete application / petition, illegal entry, missing I-94 cards criminal issues and fake documentation. Under certain circumstances, some of the problems can be addressed.

The content of this article is intended for general information purposes only, and is not legal advice. Those seeking specific legal advice should contact Gertrude Onuoha Esq. at 575 Lexington Avenue, 4th Fl. NY NY 10022

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Taste test stymies climate-resistant crops

By Jewel Fraser

CARONI, Trinidad, Dec 22, 2013 (IPS) - Ramdeo Boondoo, a root crop farmer in Caroni, Trinidad, understands better than most the challenge of developing crops that are both climate resilient and marketable.

"It is the eye that buys, not the money," Boondoo said. Crops must be able to resist effects of climate change while looking and tasting as good as their traditional counterparts. But such produce requires decades of experimentation, which researchers in the Trinidad are beginning to undertake.

"It is very rare that you will get [a genetically altered] crop that is as good as any of the parents" from which the new variety is made, said Herman Adams, a consultant at the Trinidad-based Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

Popular varieties of crops were developed over the centuries by people cutting slips of old varieties that they enjoyed and then growing them as clones in a process known as vegetative reproduction, according to Adams.

Developing climate-resistant

crops, however, requires sexual reproduction – combining one climate-resilient crop with another variety, which has a preferable taste or shape, to produce a new variety.

"It takes over 20 years of selection and cross-pollinating to get the right organoleptic qualities, including taste, which is hard to recapture," Adams said. Organoleptic qualities are those affecting the senses.

He explained that sexual reproduction disrupts the parental genetic combination that gives the traditional varieties their appealing taste.

Boondoo has been working on developing a sweet potato that combines the climate-resilient qualities of the traditional "chicken foot" variety popular in Trinidad with the uniform shape of the American Centennial sweet potato.

The chicken foot sweet potato is the most resilient, according to Boondoo. "It withstands drought and damp conditions," he said. "But...they do not carry a uniform shape or size."

Manufacturers of agro-products, such as chips and flour

made of cassava or plantain, want crops that are not just uniform in taste but also in shape, to make mechanical processing easier. The American Centennial variety has a uniform shape but does not appeal to locals who are accustomed to sweet potatoes with a firmer consistency.

If Boondoo can develop a sweet potato with the traits of both the chicken foot and the American Centennial, he will be better able to supply food processors while also giving local consumers more variety, and his crop losses due to floods or droughts would be greatly reduced.

Chairperson of the Tobago Agro Processors Association, Darilyn Smart, also emphasised that "uniformity is key for the export, hotel and restaurant sectors."

"In order to export to the EU, produce must meet requirements in terms of size, shape, degree of ripeness, and so on," Smart told IPS. "For the hotels and restaurants it is also important that we provide consistent products, especially if they are being used on the buffet table."

Producing new varieties of crops that meet these exacting

standards is "a long process", according to Adams. It involves cross-pollination of the plant, first on a small scale, and then, depending on the initial outcome, large-scale field trials are conducted.

Another objective of these trials is also to produce "high-yielding, competitively priced products," Boondoo said.

CARDI is working with farmers on these field trials to identify climate-resilient varieties that will also fare well on the market. The institute's assistance includes training in good agricultural practices, said Dr. Janet Lawrence, an entomologist and programme leader for protected agriculture at CARDI.

"When you create a good environment through [good agricultural practices], then varieties can show their true genetic potential," Adams explained. Those varieties that show the greatest promise are then used for the field trials.

Smart told the IPS that the Tobago Agro Processors Association will soon be introducing its own pilot project to "ensure crops are uniform, consistent, and disease free, as much as possible."

Guyana seeks help to protect its parks

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana is seeking help from experts in Florida to help the South American country properly manage and develop its vast system of national parks.

Environment Minister Robert Persaud said Saturday that he has held meetings with officials at the South Florida National Parks Trust.

Persaud said Guyana also wants to improve its environmental education campaigns and revise its policies to better protect and develop natural resources.

Protected areas in Guyana include Kaieteur Falls, a scenic waterfall in the country's central region that measures about 741 feet (226 meters).



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GET TO KNOW CATARACT RISK FACTORS

As men and women age, they can experience certain physical changes and health challenges. Vision impairment is one condition that many associate with aging, and cataracts are a primary concern for those of middle-age and older.

Today, more than 22 million Americans age 40 and older have cataracts. According to the National Eye Institute, by age 80, more than half of all Americans will either have a cataract or have had cataract surgery.

Cataract is clouding of the eye's lens that blocks or changes the passage of light into the eye. Normally the lens is clear, which allows light to pass through to the back of the eye, so that a person can see well-defined images. If a cataract forms and the lens becomes covered in an opaque film, light cannot pass through easily. The result will be fuzzy vision, almost like looking through a fogged-up window. If cataracts are not treated, an individual may eventually lose most of

his or her vision.

One or both eyes can be affected by cataracts. In the case of both eyes being compromised, one eye is usually worse than the other.

The primary risk factor for developing cataracts is age. The older a person is, the greater their risk. However, there are several other risk factors as well.

- Intense heat or long-term exposure to UV rays from the sun
- Certain diseases, such as diabetes
- Obesity
- High blood pressure
- Inflammation in the eye
- Hereditary influences
- Long-term steroid use
- Eye injuries
- Other eye diseases
- Smoking

Prevent Blindness America provides free information to the public on everything from cataract basics to tips on what to expect from cataract surgery. And, as part of its new Healthy Eyes Educational Series, the organization offers a specific online module

on cataracts, including a Power Point presentation and guide. The organization shares this information about cataracts:

- Early symptoms of a cataract may include cloudy or blurry vision.
- Lights may cause a glare, seem too dim, or seem too bright.
- Sufferers may also find it difficult to read or drive, especially at night.
- Individuals may have to change their eyeglass prescriptions often.

There are no medications or other treatment options besides surgery to correct cataracts. In the United States, cataract surgery has a 95 percent success rate, and patients often have 20-20 or 20-40 vision post-surgery. Cataract surgery is also the most frequently performed surgery, often performed as an outpatient procedure.

In Canada, where, according to Statistics Canada, seniors will make up 21 percent of the pop-

Continued on Page 28

Different conditions comprise low vision

Millions of people have significant visual impairments that can make daily life challenging. Although many vision problems are readily treated with corrective lenses, treating low vision may not be so simple.

“Low vision” is a term used to describe the inability to see clearly. Even after correcting for vision with glasses or contact lenses, many people still cannot see well and test at lower than 20-40 vision. The American Academy of Ophthalmology defines low vision as what happens if ordinary eyeglasses, contact lenses or intraocular lens implants do not provide a person with clear vision.

Anyone with reduced vision that is not corrected by some method of lenses or surgery is considered to have low vision or be visually impaired. Low vision may cause slight vision loss or even blindness.

Causes of low vision

There are many factors that contribute to the onset of low vision, including disease, aging, injury, and heredity. The following are some of the more common causes of low vision.

- Age-related macular degeneration: This is a common eye condition among people age 50 and older. In fact, it is the leading cause of vision loss in older adults, says the National Eye Institute. When a person has age-related macular

degeneration, the macula — which is the most sensitive part of the retina responsible for fine-tuning images received by the eye — deteriorates and does not work properly. Though there might be some vision, images won't be clear. The most common form of age-related macular degeneration is known as nonexudative, or “dry” form. This generally causes vision loss that develops gradually. More rapid and severe vision loss comes from exudative, or the “wet” form, of macular degeneration. This occurs when abnormal blood vessels develop under the macula and leak fluid and blood.

- Cataracts: Cataracts are a
- Continued on Page 26**



Only a doctor can determine the culprit behind vision loss. Routine visual exams are recommended at least every year and may need to be more frequent if a person is suffering from deteriorating vision.



Glaucoma does not always exhibit symptoms

As the human body ages, certain things might not work as well as they used to. Though no two individuals are the same, there are certain things people expect to deal with as they age.

Changes in vision are one thing many people associate with aging. Some people maintain perfect vision throughout their lives, while others' vision deteriorates and conditions begin to develop. Though not exclusive to the elderly, glaucoma is one such condition many seniors must deal with. But even though risk for glaucoma increases as a person ages, that doesn't mean younger men and women should not familiarize themselves with this condition and learn its symptoms and characteristics. In fact, glaucoma can be present for years before it's recognized. This only further highlights the importance of understanding this condition so, should it appear, it can be effectively treated as

soon as possible.

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a term used to refer to a group of conditions that can cause damage to the optic nerve. The optic nerve is responsible for carrying visual information from the eye to the brain, and oftentimes optic nerve damage is a result of increased pressure in the eye. In the United States, glaucoma is the second most common cause of blindness. In Canada, the Glaucoma Research Society of Canada reports that more than 400,000 Canadians have glaucoma today.

What role does intra-ocular pressure play?

The eyes are filled with fluids that help maintain pressure in the eye. That pressure is called intra-ocular pressure. This is not a bad thing, but high pressure is a risk factor for glau-

coma. Measuring intra-ocular pressure is fairly easy. Doctors will use a tonometer to measure it, but men and women should know that normal intra-ocular pressure does not necessarily mean a person does not have glaucoma, nor does a high case mean a person does have glaucoma. While high intra-ocular pressure is a risk factor for glaucoma and controlling it is a focus of glaucoma therapy, there is more to diagnosing and treating glaucoma than just focusing on intra-ocular pressure.

What causes high intra-ocular pressure?

The eye produces a fluid called the aqueous humor which is used to bathe and nourish the various parts of the eye. This fluid typically flows out of the eye through channels in the front of the eye in an area called the anterior

Continued on Page 28



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How to recognize if your child has a vision problem



Many children have a form of myopia, commonly known as nearsightedness, which progressively worsens as kids get older, but eventually stabilizes when their eyes have stopped growing, typically in a young adult's early 20s.

Parents want their kids to be as healthy as possible. Whether tailoring kids' diets to include healthier foods or encouraging their youngsters to be physically active, parents often go the extra mile with regards to the health of their children.

But as hard as parents may try, some health-related issues are difficult to avoid or prevent. For example, even the most conscientious parents might have little influence over their children's vision. Many children have a form of myopia, commonly known as nearsightedness, which progressively

worsens as kids get older, but eventually stabilizes when their eyes have stopped growing, typically in a young adult's early 20s. Myopia is common and treatable, but parents should still educate themselves about it so they can better respond should they suspect their child is suffering from nearsightedness.

What causes myopia?

When a person has myopia, light entering his eye is focused incorrectly. Nearsighted people usually have an eyeball that is slightly longer than normal from front to back, and the

light rays that make up the images a nearsighted person sees focus in front of the retina instead of directly on it. The result is that objects that are far away appear blurry.

Are there indicators that a child is nearsighted?

Kids likely won't tell their parents that they are struggling to see distant objects clearly, so it's important for parents to look for indicators that a child might be struggling with myopia. Kids who are nearsighted might squint to see objects that are far away, including the television.

One of the telltale indicators is how a child behaves in the classroom. Children who tell their teacher they need to move closer to the chalkboard should be taken to the eye doctor. Parents who suspect their child might be nearsighted can talk to their child's teacher and ask if the teacher feels the child might be struggling with his or her vision. Such struggles can affect how a child performs in school.

Children who get frequent headaches might also be suffering from nearsightedness.

Doctors recommend that kids have their eyes examined at six months, 3 years of age, and prior to entering the first grade. But even if kids have passed previous eye examinations at each of those benchmarks, it's best to take them for another exam the moment a vision problem is suspected.

Is myopia preventable?

Since it is often inherited, myopia is not preventable. However, treatment can significantly minimize its effects. Children who appear to be struggling to see distant objects clearly should be taken for an eye exam. That exam may include an eye pressure measurement; a refraction test, which is used to determine a correct prescription for eyeglasses; a retinal examination; and a visual acuity test, which measures sharpness of vision at close and far distances.

When a child is diagnosed as being nearsighted, the doctor will likely prescribe eyeglasses or contact lenses. LASIK surgery can correct vision, but many surgeons are reticent to recommend such surgery until a patient's eye has fully developed, which does not occur until after childhood.

Are there other symptoms?

There are additional symptoms of



Low vision

Continued from Page 24

Cataracting of the lens of the eye that usually develops with aging. It may be present at birth or be the result of an injury to the eye. Depending on the severity of the cloudiness of the lens, vision can be impacted greatly. Cataracts may form as a result of long-term exposure to ultraviolet light, exposure to ionizing radiation, secondary effects of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and advanced age, or trauma.

• **Glaucoma:** When a person has glaucoma, eye damage occurs to his eye when there is a buildup of fluid pressure within the eye, also known as intraocular pressure. This pressure can damage the optic nerve and cause visual field loss, which over time might escalate to blindness. Glaucoma is often dubbed "the silent thief of sight," because in most cases it progresses slowly and vision loss is not immediately apparent.

• **Diabetic retinopathy:** Vision can fluctuate daily as a result of diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy can cause blood vessels in the retina to develop abnormal off-shoots that leak blood and interfere with vision, eventually causing severe damage to the retina.

• **Retinal detachment:** This occurs when the retina separates from its underlying layer. The portion that detaches may be rendered useless and cause total impairment of vision. Some retinas can be surgically reattached, and vision may be restored partially if surgery occurs promptly.

• **Aniridia:** Aniridia occurs when the iris, which is responsible for controlling the diameter and size of the pupils and regulating the amount of light reaching the retina, fails to develop normally. If the iris is not functioning properly, extreme sensitivity to light and an inability to see clearly may result.

Treatment for low vision

Treatment cannot begin until your vision is assessed by a professional. An optometrist may conduct various vision acuity tests to determine what might be the cause of vision loss. Each type of low vision problem requires a different approach to treatment, so it's important to correctly diagnose the problem before beginning treatment.

Some treatment options for low vision may include specialized optical systems, video magnification, therapeutic filters, or special prescription glasses. There also may be the need to perform eye exercises that help maximize existing visual function. Individuals may have to use a combination of devices to find the ones that help the best.

Only a doctor can determine the culprit behind vision loss. Routine visual exams are recommended at least every year and may need to be more frequent if a person is suffering from deteriorating vision. If caught early, many eye conditions can be managed to help prevent further loss of vision.



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Glaucoma

Continued from Page 25

chamber angle. When the flow of the aqueous humor is blocked or slowed, the fluid gets trapped in the eye and then intra-ocular pressure builds, at which point damage to the optic nerve can occur.

Are all cases of glaucoma the same?

Not all cases of glaucoma are the same. In fact, there are four major types of glaucoma.

- **Open-angle, or chronic, glaucoma:** Open-angle glaucoma is the most common type of glaucoma. The cause is unknown, but an increase in eye pressure occurs slowly over time as the pressure starts to push on the optic nerve and the retina at the back of the eye. This type of glaucoma tends to run in families, so those who have a parent or grandparent who has had open-angle glaucoma should not miss appoint-



ments with his doctor, even if vision seems normal. This is especially important because most people with open-angle glaucoma have no symptoms until they begin to lose vision, though gradual loss of peripheral vision may occur.

- **Angle-closure, or acute, glaucoma:** Angle-closure glaucoma occurs when the aqueous humor is suddenly blocked. This is very noticeable, as it causes instant and severe pain as the intra-ocular pressure quickly increases. Risk for angle-closure glaucoma increases for those who have already had it one eye. Symptoms

include decreased or cloudy vision, nausea and vomiting, seeing rainbow-like halos around lights, and reddening of the eye.

- **Congenital glaucoma:** Congenital glaucoma is present at birth and results from an abnormal development of the fluid out-flow channels in the eye. Symptoms are typically noticed when the child is a few months old. These can include cloudiness of the front of the eye, enlargement of one or both eyes, sensitivity to light, tearing, and reddening of the eye.

- **Secondary glaucoma:** Secondary glaucoma results from other conditions, including uveitis, a condition where the middle layer of the eye, known as the uvea, swells and causes irritation. Secondary glaucoma can also result from systemic diseases and drugs such as corticosteroids.

More information about glaucoma is available at the Glaucoma Research Society of Canada Web site at www.glaucomaresearch.ca.

Cataract

Continued from Page 24

ulation by 2026, cataract surgery is also frequent and well tolerated. Approximately 250,000 cataract surgeries take place in Canada each year, according to The National Coali-

tion for Vision Health.

It is widely recommended to get regular eye exams to check for cataracts early on.

“By getting a complete, dilated eye exam, your doctor can discuss with you the best strategy to protect your vision well into the future,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and

CEO of Prevent Blindness America. “We encourage everyone, especially those ages 40 and older, to make their vision a priority by scheduling an eye appointment today.”

Prevent Blindness America, visit preventblindness.org/cataract or call its toll free number at (800) 331-2020.

Child's vision

Continued from Page 26

childhood vision problems that might not indicate nearsightedness, but might indicate another problem that should result in a trip to the eye doctor. For example, a child might close one eye when watching television or reading. This could be indic-

ative that vision in one eye is poorer than the other.

Young children who struggle to color within the lines might have an issue with their hand-eye coordination. Poor hand-eye coordination could be the result of a vision impairment.

Children who tilt their

head to one side to improve vision might be suffering from a vision problem that makes it difficult for them to look directly down.

Vision problems can negatively affect how a child performs in school as well as in social situations. Though such vision problems are not always preventable, parents who can identify them can greatly minimize their effects.

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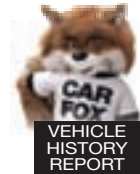
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St. Lucia seeks media regulations

The St. Lucia government says it wants the media in St. Lucia to regulate itself, insisting that it does not want to be involved in the exercise.

“There are many FM stations, many television stations operating in St. Lucia. They are all competing for a very small market share and I think that has caused some of them to be very aggres-

sive in their programming; to take some risks that try to be ahead of the pack and unfortunately that has happened in an environment that has not been regulated,” said Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. James Fletcher.

He said the challenge now for the Kenny Anthony administration “is to try

to put in place some sort of regime.”

The government has said the issue was still being discussed and that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has solicited comments, suggestions for improvement, and expression of concern on a proposed Draft Broadcasting Authority/ Services Bill.

Increase in Jamaica murder rate

National Security Minister Peter Bunting is predicting that Jamaica will end the year with a murder toll at least 10 percent higher than in 2012. Recently, the number of people murdered stood at 1,126, compared to 1,025 for the corresponding period last year. Figures also show that 1,097 people were murdered in total last year.

Recently, the main opposition Jamaica Labor Party

Now just seems that the gains that we made in 2010 have completely lost that momentum.

(JLP) described as frightening, the escalating crime situation, particularly murders in the country.

“We are surely heading in the wrong direction and

it now just seems that the gains that we made in 2010 during the period of the limited state of emergency we have completely lost that momentum, I don’t know if the Minister or the Commissioner is waiting on divine intervention....but in the meantime I’m strongly of the view that we are not getting the maximum from the police,” said JLP spokesman on National Security, Derrick Smith.

T&T crime

Continued from Page 6

2013,” Williams said, adding that the police would continue to work with communities and put more effort into community policing.

Meanwhile, the killings continued over the weekend after three men were gunned down in Diego Martin, West of here and Marvant, along the east-west corridor.

Police said that 36-year-old Robert “Ming” Awong was in the yard of his neighbor when gunmen in a vehicle shot at him. Two other people were also injured.

In the other incident, an unidentified man was shot and killed while he was standing on the road

The Police Service should be judged on all that it has the responsibility to address, and it’s not supposed to be judged on one issue, that of murders.

in Morvant on early Sunday morning. Police said another man who was standing nearby was also shot and injured.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar says her coalition People’s Partnership government is committed to the fight against crime, as Trinidad and Tobago recorded yet three more murders, pushing the toll so far this year to 376.

“Murder is murder and every single one is pain-

ful and traumatic to us. We will continue to remain committed in the fight against crime. I know the minister of National Security is doing the best that he can, but there is still much more that we need to do.”

“Some of the crimes are crimes of passion. That does not mean that it is something that is right. Those are more difficult to contain where it is a domestic situation, where crimes of passion are taking place,” she told reporters at her annual Christmas treat at Skinner Park, south of here on Sunday.

“Every crime is one crime too much and that remains number one priority in our list, to deal with crime in Trinidad and Tobago.”

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New Yorkers give praise and thanks for Madiba

The voices of New Yorkers added to those of multitudes around the world during a service of thanksgiving for the life of former South African President Nelson Mandela who died Dec. 5 at age 95.

In song and speeches, many who yearned to praise the African who President Barack Obama described as a “liberator” had the opportunity on Dec. 11 at Riverside Church.

Inside the reputed cathedral, where the iconic freedom-fighter visited twice – first July 2, 1990 and again on his last visit here May 14, 2005 – hundreds filled the rafters for a thanksgiving service held in conjunction with the South African Consulate.

On a program that invited almost three dozen participants, everyone lavished adulations on the sole international leader to serve 27 years in prison and on release was voted commander-in-chief of the country that jailed him for



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

treason.

“It was not a career move,” Rev. Al Sharpton said about Mandela’s back-breaking prison term at Robben Island, “There was no guarantee he would ever see the light of day.”

The preacher side of the community-activist turned MSNBC television host added: “Don’t lionize 27 years and don’t even have the courage to fight for minimum wage,” Sharpton warned.

Of Madiba, Sharpton said “he was at peace with himself.”

“They called him a red sympathizer,” he reminded the congregation.

But now “we are the ones battling, Madiba was always at peace.”

In requiem he added “you’ve walked the long walk

to freedom – we are way behind you but at least we know the direction because you showed us the way.”

Sharpton’s acid admonition provided sobering reality to an evening filled with platitudes and reflections from former Mayor David N. Dinkins, Rev. Calvin O. Butts, Rev. James A. Forbes Jr. and Gina Belafonte, daughter of activist/singer/actor Harry Belafonte.

The senior pastor at the cathedral described Mandela as a prophetic conveyor who “God used to call attention to show that he is not pleased.”

Rev. Forbes surmised “all God’s children must eat at the table, they must have shelter” and for all he did and all he suffered “it was to get the attention of the entire world.”



Tourists offer floral tributes near a sand sculpture of Nelson Mandela on a beach in Puri, India, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013. AP Photo

A congregation of more than 2,000 held rapt attention listening to Rev. Forbes’ spiritual eulogy.

Forbes had campaigned for Mandela in 1990 and related how a number of his colleagues travelled to South Africa from the USA to dissuade voters from voting for the candidate to represent the African National Congress.

The Christian preachers he said told South Africans

to ignore the ANC candidate and “to vote for Jesus.”

According to Rev. Forbes, he in turn had to undo their actions.

“I told them that I had spoken to the Lord and he told me if nominated he would not run and if elected he would not serve.”

The crowd cheered his technique.

“He told me that he already rules a huge kingdom.”

The senior minister of the cathedral who is temporarily serving in that position since retirement delivered pearls of wisdom and gems of knowledge which the crowd readily absorbed.

“His words should be posted on doors and remembered every day,” Belafonte said of the “comrade” and “moral leader of the world” she met at her father’s side.

“I was not born to fail,” 16-year-old poet Andromeda Small, a member of Dr. Glory’s Youth Theater at Riverside Church said. Her engaging recitation amplified the legacy Mandela gifted the world. With confidence and poetic grace she epitomized a future full of hope.

When the service ended, the bells of the Gothic Church tolled a sound echoed through Harlem and perhaps across the nation.

A special memorial tribute was also slated for the United Nations on Dec. 19.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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'American Promise'

By Tequila Minsky

On Feb 3, "American Promise" airs on TV, part of PBS's Point of View-POV series. For 14 years, the documentary film follows two Brooklyn boys, from kindergarten at the elite Dalton School in Manhattan and on. (One of the subjects, Idris, is the filmmakers' son.)

Garnering nationwide kudos and favorable reviews, most recently, the film is the core of Judith Ohikuare's December 17 The Atlantic article "When Minority Students Attend Elite Private Schools." (She tells us that she entered Chapin School in the 6th grade, the second black girl out of 60 students and had been prepared by going through a program called Prep for Pre, a non-profit organization that filters low-income minority students into New York independent schools.)

The premiere screenings of "American Promise" at the New York Film Festival this fall were to standing ovations.



At BAM, Fort Greene resident, camera shooter, director and parent, Joe Brewster fields questions following the preview screening of American Promise, a film 14 years in the making.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

A preview BAM screening in October was to the home crowd, friends of the subjects and the filmmakers who are Fort Greene residents.

Joe Brewster and Michele Stephenson spent 14 years on this film project that began in 1999. Their son, Idris Brewster and his friend Seun Sum-
Continued on Page 38

The Alice-in-Wonderland Follies

"The Alice-in-Wonderland Follies" choreographed by Keith Michael at New York City's Florence Gould Hall, 55 East 59th St., New York City will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

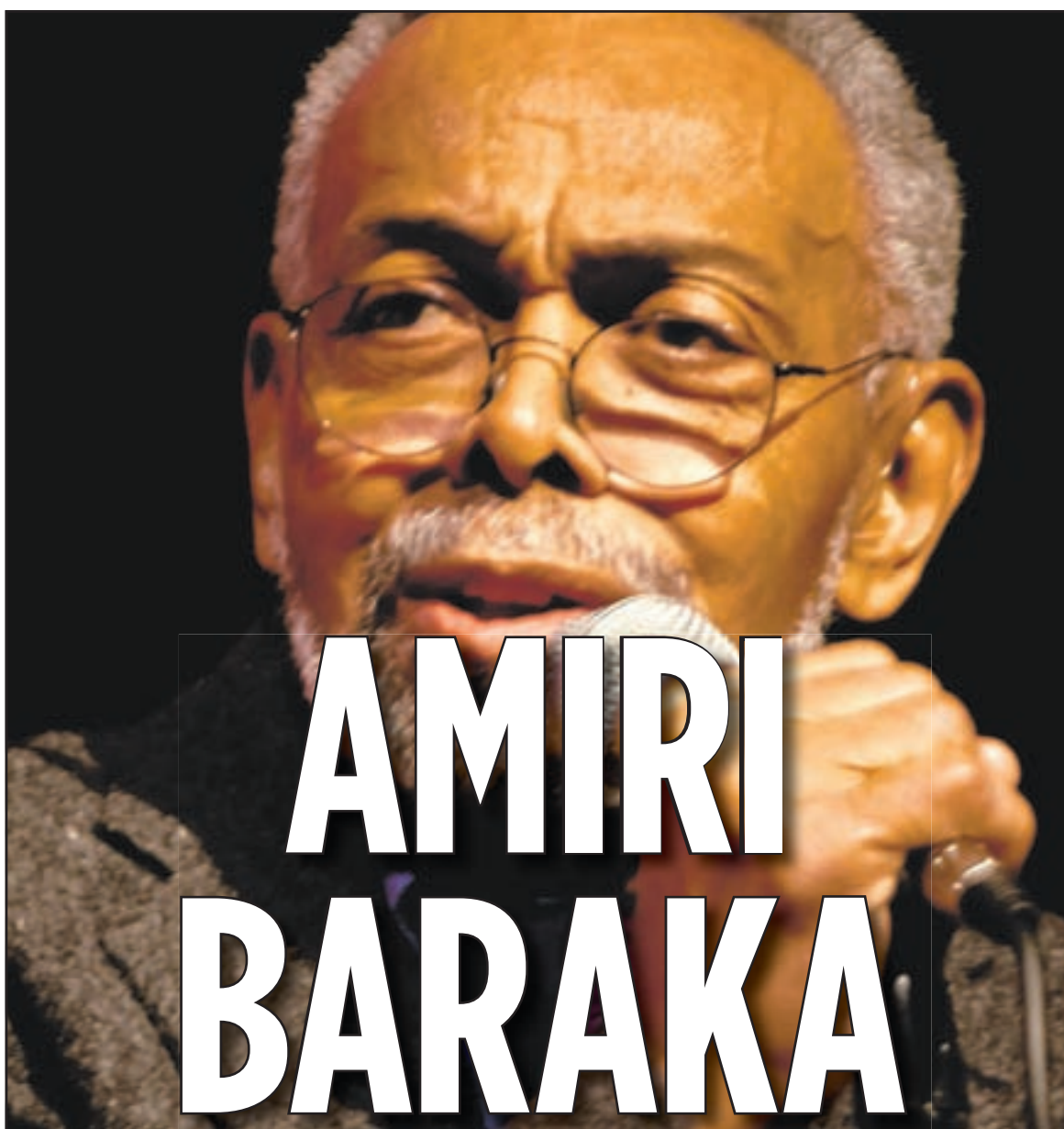
Tickets are available online at www.nytb.org, via Ticketmaster at (800) 982-2787, or in-person at the Florence Gould Hall box office.

"Imagine a totally unwired world and the

impact of so much visual richness on the children in it. Then unplug a 21st century kid, and head for the Gould..." - The Village Voice

Follow Alice's adventures through Wonderland as she meets some of the most beloved characters in children's literature. Presented in a vaudeville setting (NY circa 1915) this eclectic ballet draws on many different dance forms - from Irish step dancing to African Jubba to classical ballet.

The ballet features sets by
Continued on Page 38



Author Amiri Baraka formerly known as LeRoi Jones at the Newark Museum.

Photo by Amun

Blues People at 50

By Amun

"Blues People: Negro Music in White America" by LeRoi Jones was published by the William Morrow Company in 1963, although Jones completed the book in 1961. "Blues People" is a seminal study of African American music and culture, and also the history of African people in America. This is a very important book, as important today as it was

when it was published in 1963, fifty years ago. To this day "Blues People" is considered one of the most influential volumes of jazz criticism ever published.

This year 2013 the book and its author, LeRoi Jones, now Amiri Baraka, have been celebrating the 50th anniversary of the publication of "Blues People." Baraka was a young man of 27 when he com-

pleted "Blues People." He was just beginning his rise to recognition and fame. His book of poetry, "Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note" was published in 1961 and his controversial and celebrated play, "Dutchman" opened at the Cherry Lane Theatre and received an Obie Award in 1964. In April 1965 Baraka and group of Black writers made a

Continued on Page 38

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **The Monster**
Eminem Feat. Rihanna
- 2 **Counting Stars**
OneRepublic
- 3 **Demons**
Imagine Dragons
- 4 **Wake Me Up!**
Avicii
- 5 **Counting Stars**
OneRepublic
- 6 **Hold On, We're Going Home**
Drake Feat. Majid Jordan
- 7 **Timber**
Pitbull Feat. Ke\$ha
- 8 **Wrecking Ball**
Miley Cyrus
- 9 **Let Her Go**
Passenger
- 10 **Stay The Night**
Zedd Feat. Hayley Williams

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Beyoncé**
Beyoncé
- 2 **Because The Internet**
Childish Gambino
- 3 **Black Panties**
R. Kelly
- 4 **Wrapped In Red**
Kelly Clarkson
- 5 **The Grohl Sessions: Vol. I (EP)**
Zac Brown Band
- 6 **PTXmas (EP)**
Pentatonix
- 7 **Frozen**
Soundtrack
- 8 **The Marshall Mathers LP 2**
Eminem
- 9 **Pure Heroine**
Lorde
- 10 **Christmas**
Michael Buble



Blues people at 50

Continued from page 37

move to Harlem and opened the Black Art Repertory Theatre and School (BARTS). This marked the beginning of the Black Arts Movement, the cultural arm of the Black Power Movement.

Baraka tells the story of the seed being planted that spawned his writing of "Blues People." He and his long time friend and Howard University roommate, AB Spellman were feeling their new found "Hip-ness" and identification as "BeBoppers" having seen/heard Bird, Dizzy and Monk and even Brubeck at Oberlin College, when they were students at Howard University in DC. Their English professor, the renowned poet, Sterling Brown pulled them up one day, and invited them to his home. There he showed them his collection of Jazz and Blues Records. 45's were just making their appearance and most of the collection consisted of LPs and 78s, organized by performer and genre, chronologically. The collection was huge and went back to the early Blues recordings to the then present. Brown told his young students that they were looking at their history, the history of African people in America. Baraka says that it took him a decade to really understand, what Sterling Brown meant.

Of the many programs that took place in 2013 to celebrate "Blues People," I mention three. On October 3rd the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Cultural presented "The Blues People 50 Years Later," conversation with Amiri Baraka, Dr. Ingrid Monson and Dr. John Szwed. On October 14th The Center of Jazz Studies at Columbia University presented "Amiri Baraka's Blues People at Fifty," a conversation with Professors William J. Harris, Robert G. O'Meally and John Szwed.

On Nov. 5, New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) as part of the "James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival," presented, "A Celebration of Amiri Baraka's Blues People at 50," "Keep Your Razor Sharp," a musical composition by Craig Harris featuring Craig Harris & Nation of Imagination at the Newark Museum.

Amiri Baraka is arguably the finest living poet in America and perhaps the world. He is a word-smith extraordinaire as well as a fine novelist, essayist and dramatist. Only two of his many works remain in print today, "Blues People" and "Dutchman & The Slave." Baraka is not being published in spite of the fact that he remains prolific and is currently working on a biography of Max Roach and one on Pat



Craig Harris & Amiri Baraka-Blues People at 50 at the Newark Museum. Photo by Amun

Patrick, the great saxophonist with the SunRa Arkestras and the father of Deval Patrick, governor of Massachusetts.

When I referenced the library for a copy of "Blues People" there was not a single copy in the whole New York Library System that could be charged out. The Brooklyn Public Library does not even own a copy.

The Queens and New York Library do have reference copies available, but only scholars and researcher make use of those copies. The youth with their hungry minds are virtually barred from access to this valuable and essential book of wisdom and critical analysis of jazz and the source of its birth.

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Promises

Continued from page 37

East Side as kindergarteners. They are part of Dalton's diversity program and are among the few students of color there.

The viewer travels through time with them from school start through high school. And, especially in middle school we experience their painful academic struggles and the frustration of parents Brewster and Stephenson and the Summers. We follow the two at Dalton and later, with Seun at the public high school Benjamin Banneker Academy in Brooklyn, where he transfers.

There are plenty of laughs, quiet gasps, and moments near tears in this 215-minute epic film, an emotional roller coaster of the boys' lives. After seeing the film, some of the poignant dialogue lives in the viewer's mind.

Long-term observational films like Aped's 7-Up series, "Hoop Dreams" and the work of African-American filmmaker Marlon Riggs had impact on filmmakers Brewster and Stephenson who wore the many hats of camera shooters,



The Brooklyn moms of, "American Promise," devoted to a quality education for their children and willing to be open and vulnerable in the making this intimate film about their and their sons', lives. Stacey Summers (right), Seun's mom, and filmmaker Michele Stephenson (left), Id-ris's mom.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

directors and parents. Taking its own course through the years, the project shifted for the filmmakers from looking at the Dalton diversity experiment to focusing on the African American male experience and what has been described as the

"achievement gap."

The documentary considers race, class, and opportunity as the boys come of age, authentically revealed through intimate and vulnerable exchanges before the camera, a direct cinema approach to filmmaking.

Since the premieres and preview, there have also been screenings of this film with parent groups around the country. It has opened up dialogue about young black male success.

Additionally, filmmaker Brewster, who is also a psychiatrist and filmmaker/wife Stephenson and Hilary Beard have written the book "Promises Kept," of the lessons learned from their "American Promise" project. Subtitled "Raising Black Boys to Succeed in School and in Life", the book's launch will coincide with the airing of the PBS documentary.

Where "American Promise" raises questions, "Promises Kept" offers insights that the authors derived from their own experiences with the latest research on

closing the black male achievement gap.

Brewster's film credits include the 1996 feature film "The Keeper." Stephenson's Panamanian and Haitian heritage has fueled her passion to tackle stories on communities of color.

Ballet

Continued from page 38

Gillian Bradshaw-Smith and costumes by Sylvia Taalshon Nolan, resident costume designer of the Metropolitan opera.

The Alice-in-Wonderland Follies is part of NYTB's Once Upon a Ballet series. Other ballets in the Once Upon a Ballet series include:

Cinderella

March 1-2, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

Carnival of the Animals & Sleeping Beauty's Wedding

May 3, 2014 at 1:00 p.m., May 4 at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

Father, son bond during nostalgic road trip

“Nebraska”
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated R for profanity
Running time:
115 minutes
Distributor:
Paramount Pictures

By Kam Williams

77-year-old Woody Grant (Bruce Dern) is an addled alcoholic whose brain is so bent out of shape that he’s convinced he’s struck it rich after getting one of those mass-produced letters in the mail announcing that you’ve just won a million dollars in a magazine sweepstakes. Nevertheless, he soon sets out on foot by himself from Billings, Montana to collect his grand prize in Omaha, Nebraska.

Once it’s clear that the cantankerous curmudgeon can’t

be talked out of that foolhardy endeavor, son David (Will Forte) opts to drive his dad there. This doesn’t sit well with Woody’s acid-tongued wife, Kate (June Squibb), who’s too well-grounded in reality to indulge the old coot’s nonsense.

However, as futile as the quest might sound, the pair’s ensuing sojourn across four states does prove rather fruitful. After all, not only does it afford father and son a chance to spend some quality time together, but they also get to catch up with lots of long-lost friends and relatives they visit along the way.

Eventually, Kate and elder son, Ross (Bob Odenkirk), join them en route, grudgingly making the long jaunt a family affair. It’s understandably hard for them to be enthusiastic about an outing inspired by a fraudulent marketing scheme.



A scene from “Nebraska.”

Still, sometimes, getting there is all the fun, as is the case with Nebraska, a nostalgic road trip unfolding against the barren

backdrop of the heartland’s crumbling infrastructure. The film was directed by two-time Oscar-winner Alexander Payne (for writing Sideways and The Descendants) whose decision to shoot the picture in black-and-white was nothing short of a stroke of genius.

For the lack of color only serves to further emphasize the absence of hope in a rural region left devastated by the failure of its factory, farm and small town life. It’s no wonder, then, that some of the pour souls the Grants encounter might seize on Woody’s pipe dream as a way of alleviating their own misery.

Featuring a career performance by Bruce Dern destined to be remembered during awards season, Nebraska is a lighthearted character study which, ironically, offers a stone, cold sober look at the downsizing of the Midwest’s American Dream.

Independent & Foreign Films

The Invisible Woman (PG-13 for sexuality, mature themes and brief violence) Historical drama revolving around Charles Dickens’ (Ralph Fiennes) clandestine relationship with the mistress (Felicity Jones) he kept hidden from the height of his career until his death. With Kristin Scott Thomas, Michelle Fairley and Tom Hollander.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

47 Ronin (PG-13 for intense violence, disturbing images and mature themes) Martial arts saga, set in 18th C. Japan, about a biracial outcast (Keanu Reeves) who joins a group of grieving samurai seeking vengeance for the murder of their sensei. With Ko Shibasaki, Hiroyuki Sanada and Min Tanaka. (In English and Japanese with subtitles)

August: Osage County (R for profanity, sexual references and drug use) Meryl Streep heads an A-list cast in this adaptation of Tracy Letts’ Pulitzer Prize-winning play, about an dysfunctional Oklahoma clan’s reunion for the funeral of its self-destructive patriarch (Sam Shepard). Ensemble includes Julia Roberts, Benedict Cumberbatch, Margo



Kam’s Kapsules

By Kam Williams

Martindale, Ewan McGregor, Chris Cooper, Abigail Breslin, Juliette Lewis, Dermot Mulroney and Julianne Nicholson.

Grudge Match (PG-13 for violence, sexuality and profanity) Sly Stallone and Robert De Niro co-star in this comedy about a couple of aging boxers coaxed out of retirement for a rematch three decades after their first scheduled bout was canceled. With Kevin Hart, Alan Arkin and Kim Basinger.

Justin Bieber’s Believe (PG for brief profanity and mature themes) Reverential biopic offering a revealing, behind-the-scenes look at the 19-year-old pop icon. Featuring appearances by Usher, Will.i.am and Ellen Degeneres.

Lone Survivor (R for graphic violence and pervasive profanity) Adaptation of Marcus Luttrell’s (Mark Wahlberg) memoir recounting his harrowing ordeal as a member of a team of Navy SEALs

ambushed by the Taliban while on a mission in the mountains of Afghanistan. With Eric Bana, Ben Foster and Emile Hirsch.

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG for violence, crude humor and mild epithets) Ben Stiller directed and stars as the title character of this remake of the 1947, Danny Kaye classic based on the James Thurber story about a mild-mannered milquetoast with a fertile imagination. Support cast includes Kristen Wiig, Jon Daly, Kathryn Hahn and Shirley MacLaine.

The Wolf of Wall Street (R for violence, graphic nudity, explicit sexuality, drug use and pervasive profanity) Cautionary biopic recounting the rise and fall of Jordan Belfort (Leonardo DiCaprio), a notorious penny stockbroker convicted of securities fraud in 2003. With Jonah Hill, Matthew McConaughey, Rob Reiner and Jon Favreau.

Rolling Stone
“A POWERHOUSE”
Peter Travers

“UNFORGETTABLE, TENSE AND INSPIRING.”
Pete Hammond, MOVIELINE

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PRODUCED BY PETER BERG SARAH AUBREY RANDALL EMMETT NORTON HERRICK
SPENCER SILNA MARK DAMON BRANDT ANDERSEN JEFF RICE WRITTEN BY PETER BERG DIRECTED BY PETER BERG BASED ON THE BOOK BY MARCUS LUTTRELL WITH PATRICK ROBINSON
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SUN KULCHA COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRI., DEC. 27

ZUMBA: Join us for a dance-fitness class that's friendly and fun from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.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 Boulevard in Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.

SUPPORT GROUP: Helpful tips, tools and resources, as well as guidance, support, sharing and caring from 2:00-3:30 p.m. This event is open to the public. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 215 West 125th Street in Harlem. To RSVP, please call (866)469-0999.

SAT., DEC. 28

FALL WORKOUT: Join EmblemHealth 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.

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.

TAI CHI AND MEDITATION: Join us to experience the healing benefits of tai chi from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. It's easy on the joints, helps reduce stress and can improve flexibility and balance. While tai chi is generally safe for all ages and fitness levels, please let your doctor know you'll be taking an exercise class. Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothes. Space is limited and reservations are required. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 215 West 125th Street in Harlem. To RSVP, please call (866)469-0999.

MON., DEC. 30

SITTING EXERCISE: Join us for a DVD workout that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile from 12:00 p.m - 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.

WALK WORKOUT: Join us for a fun walk-in-



TAI CHI

TAI CHI AND MEDITATION • DEC. 28: Join us to experience the healing benefits of tai chi from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 215 West 125th Street in Harlem. To RSVP, please call (866)469-0999.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

place workout from 11:00 a.m- 12:00 p.m! No complicated steps and no equipment needed. This DVD workout is safe for all ages and fitness levels, so lace up your walking shoes and join us! Wear comfortable shoes and workout wear. We'll provide plenty of water. We'll ask you to fill out an emergency form on the first day of class. 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 215 West 125th Street in Harlem. To RSVP, please call (866)469-0999.

ZUMBA: Join us for a dance-fitness class that's friendly and fun from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. 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 Boulevard in Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.

ONGOING CURRENTLY - MON., DEC. 30

HOLIDAY BASH: The "Three Bears Holiday



FREE ZUMBA

DEC. 27: Join us for a dance-fitness class that's friendly and fun from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.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. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Boulevard in Cambria Heights, Queens. Please RSVP by calling (646)476-1294.



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. Tickets are sold at the door, only when available. To guarantee admission, purchase tickets online at <http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/arts/swedish-cottage-marionette-theatre/>. The Cottage is located in Central Park at 81th Street and Central Park West, just south of the Delacorte Theater. For more information, maps and walking directions, please visit <http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/arts/>.

FRI., JAN. 1 - SAT., JAN. 5, 2014

PERFORMING ARTS: Gotham Chamber Opera presents Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *La descente d'Orphée aux enfers*, a co-production with Trinity Church, from at St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway and Fulton, NYC. Charpentier's 1686 opera retells the story of Orpheus who, upon learning of Eurydice's sudden death, descends

to Hades in order to convince Pluto to allow her to return with him to earth. This classic story of selfless love and the power of music to overcome death will be staged by Andrew Eggert and presented in historic St. Paul's Chapel. Performances: Wednesday, January 1 and Friday, January 3 at 7pm; Sunday, January 5 at 5pm. Tickets are \$15-\$125 and are available at www.ticketcentral.com or (212) 279-4200. For more information visit www.gothamchamberopera.org.

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

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

FORECLOSURE: Are you behind in your mortgage or seeking a modification? Come in for free services and assistance. We will help you as much as possible to keep your home. Referrals for free legal assistance are also available. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (718)469-4679. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush and the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, not-for-profit organizations. www.nhsnyc.org.

HOME HELP FOR DISABLED: If you are a disabled homeowner living in Brooklyn or have someone disabled living in your household, you may qualify for up to \$5,000 in home repair grants. Repairs must be geared toward making the home accessible and convenient for the disabled person. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, a not-for-profit housing organization, and the New York State Housing Trust Corporation. For more information, please call (718) 469-4679.

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

DONATIONS: St. Robert Bellarmine Church is joining efforts with the Diocese of Trenton to bring relief to victims in the hardest hit areas. The church has organized a sorting sub station in the parish and will be delivering donations to various locations shortly. The church is seeking donations of cardboard shipping boxes for packing or rubber bins for storage for victims.

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

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West Indies bowler Shane Shillingford delivers a ball during the second day's play of the Second Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and West Indies in Colombo; Sri Lanka.

AP Photo/ Eranga Jayawardena

Off-spinners in trouble

By Azad Ali

West Indies off-spinner Shane Shillingford has been suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC) after his bowling action was found illegal.

His team-mate Marlon Samuels, a part-time off-spinner, has been banned from bowling quicker deliveries in international cricket.

Continued on Page 44

Nassau's Winter Season

By Robert Elkin

Over past years, one of the top distance runners to come out of Westbury High School and the entire Long Island was Owen Skeete, who dominated the long distance events. Skeete had a unique style of running – to go out fast, open a huge lead, hopefully not 'die' and hold on or easily get the victory. He holds every distance record at Westbury.

Is there anyone in Section Eight to equal or pass his style of running? Just ask his coach Donald Ross or any other Westbury athlete!

Take current student athlete senior Jason Aparicio, for example. "I saw him

Continued on Page 44



Real Salt Lake's Alvaro Saborio who will be playing for Costa Rica in World Cup 2014, (front in white) is brought down by San Jose Earthquakes' Ike Opara during the first half of a MLS soccer game in San Jose, Saturday, April 21, 2012.

AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

Hopes to make Second Round in World Cup

By Patrick Horne

Current Central America champion Costa Rica probably has the best chance among the CONCACAF nations of advancing to the second round in next summer FIFA World Cup in Brazil. The Costa Ricans, which finished second to the U.

S. in qualifying (Honduras was third and Mexico won the fourth-place berth) qualifying, is in Group D against Uruguay, Italy and England.

The Costa Ricans are making their fourth World Cup appearance; it played in 1990, 2002 and 2006 and won three

of the 10 games and loss six, with one draw. Although this is not an impressive record, the present Costa Rican team is well coached and has a very balanced team that plays well together.

Led by scoring leader Alvaro Saborio

Continued on Page 44



Costa Rica national soccer team, 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match, Costa Rica, Honduras, San Jose, Costa Rica, Keilor Navas, Ariel Rodriguez, Celso Borges, Brian Ruiz, Christopher Meneses, Giancarlo Gonzalez, Joel Campbell, Cristian Gamboa, Jairo Arrieta, Roy Miller, Cristian Bolanos.

AP Photo/Moises Castillo, File

Preparing for CONCACAF 2014

Continued from page 43
of Real Salt Lake in MLS, the Ticos kick (July 14) off against a very familiar foe in Uruguay. Costa Rica is very familiar the Uruguayans and even though it has never defeated Uruguay, it can well have a positive result in its most important game of the tournament.

Italy, Costa Rica's second game in the first round (July 20), is favored to win the group and advance to the second round. Unlike England, Italy is an exceptional tournament team; it has won four World Cups and knows how to find way to win; the slow-starting Italians grow as the tournament develops, so Costa Rica will have to play a very

tight game with few mistakes to get a good result.

England, the Ticos' third and final opponent (July 24) in the first round, are a very poor tournament team, which is why it has only one World Cup title (1966) to its credit and no European Championship titles. Despite having one for the best league in the world, there are very few players who can make an impact at the international level, least of all at the World Cup; Wayne Rooney of Manchester United (English Premier League) is the only player that comes to mind that could possibly win a game for England at this advanced level.

If Costa Rica, employs

sound strategy that includes keeping the ball for long periods, which the Ticos can do, it will have a good chance for a good result. Cost Rican needs only to take a page out of Chile's playbook: the Chileans played a good possession game and beat England, 2-0, in front of a full house of its supporters at Wembley Stadium in London about three weeks ago.

JOHNSON TRADED

The Seattle Sounders (MLS) announced on Tuesday that it's leading scorer the past two seasons, Eddie Johnson, has been traded to D C United. Johnson, ranked second all-time on the scoring chart for the Sounders, scored 23 goals

the past two regular seasons. "Eddie was a valuable part of our team the last two seasons," said Owner and General Manager Adrian Hanauer. "Eddie is a tremendous player who gave us some wonderful moments. This was an opportunity for us to receive allocation money that can strengthen our club in many areas. We wish him the best in D.C."

The 29-year-old Johnson played 61 times for the U.S. and scored 19 goals; he played in MLS with FC Dallas/Dallas Burn (2001-2005) and the Kansas City Wizards (2006-2007)...Johnson scored two goals in three 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cup appearances, helping the U.S. to its fifth title.

Long distance record-holder

Continued from page 43

over the summer," Aparicio said, after he watched some of the girls compete in the Friendship Games at Nassau Community College. "He (Skeete) told me to work hard, to work on form, bring the knees up when tired, believe in your self, and to must win."

Skeete is now on the track team at Indiana University, where he is training hard for the indoor or winter season.

Jason's father Hugo Murillo, a former soccer player in El Salvador, South America, started his son off because he had over weight problems, Murillo came to New York at the age of 22. Track helped Aparicio in reducing his weight.

His favorite events are the 200-meter-dash and 400-meter-run. He uses the latter event mainly for endurance. In these races, Aparicio does not follow the style of running that Skeete did. Instead, he tries to follow in the footsteps of another former Westbury athlete Darnell Mickens, who was a State champion while at Westbury in 2010. And Micken's father does come from the Caribbean.

Now Aparicio is trying to lowering his times in the events that Coach Ross enters him into. He is trying to get a track scholarship to a college down south.

The student athlete says that the major differ-

ence in running in New York and in El Salvador is that down south the weather is hot. Here in New York it is not as hot.

However, soccer is the main sport in El Salvador. And from time to time, he visits El Salvador.

"I used to play soccer when I was little," the athlete recently said. "When I was in the fourth and fifth grades I played soccer. Then I broke my ankle, and stopped soccer... and (eventually) I stopped the triple jump."

Meanwhile, the coaches at Westbury High School entered many runners in various sections of the 600-meter-run. Based on time, Westbury's Richard Taylor won the Open 600 in a time of 1:30.40. Teammate Josh Jean also took a section of the same event.

Jean's father Joseph Jean, a native of Haiti, was a versatile athlete, and even was a tennis player in Haiti.

Action in the 22nd Friendship Games resume on Friday Jan. 10 with the boys action starting at 5:00 p.m. Finals are on Jan. 20 starting at 9:00 a.m. with boys and girls competition. Shot put, high jump and pole vault, are contested at Farmingdale High School on Jan. 8. Various awards will be presented on the day of the finals.

The Friendship Games are organized by Malverne High School and Lakeview Youth Federation, Inc.

Spinner's woes

Continued from page 43

Shillingford and Samuels underwent biomechanical analysis in Perth last month before the start of the series against New Zealand after they were reported for suspect action.

An ICC statement said that an independent biomechanical

analysis had revealed that for both Shillingford's standard off-break delivery and his doosra, the amount of elbow extension in his bowling action exceeded the 15 degrees' level of tolerance permitted under the ICC regulations.

Shillingford will remain

suspended until he submits a fresh analysis that proves his action has been corrected.

The Dominican bowler had been suspended from bowling in international cricket in December 2010, a month after being reported for a suspect bowling action on West Indies' tour of Sri Lanka.

He underwent remedial action on his bowling and was cleared by the ICC in

Shillingford and Samuels underwent biomechanical analysis.

June 2011.

The analysis on Samuels' action revealed that the spinner's standard off-break delivery was legal but the quicker delivery exceeded

the prescribed levels of tolerance.

If Samuels is reported for a suspect action in the next two years, the ICC will take note of it as a second report and the player will have to undergo a biomechanical analysis.

West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels.

AP Photo/Pavel Rahman





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BIG 2013

Appoint Denesh Ramdin as West Indies captain



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

West Indies wicketkeeper/batsman Denesh Ramdin has the capabilities of leading the West Indies team after being vice captain for the longest haul and captaining the Trinidad and Tobago team on numerous occasions. These opportunities have given him the experience needed to take up such a position.

Ramdin has been around West Indies cricket long enough to understand what areas of major concern have to be addressed. This is the time for Ramdin to take over the West Indies captaincy in Tests. The proper rebuilding of the West Indies team can only come about by a change of leadership. At least this should be one of the steps.

WEST INDIES MUST STRENGTHEN ITS

ODI SQUAD

West Indies One-Day International squad needs to be strengthened and the inclusion of Kevon Cooper, the young allrounder from Trinidad & Tobago, should be certain. Cooper is not only a Twenty20 player but he is undoubtedly a fine cricketer. As a prolific all-rounder his talents must not be utilized only by playing in the Indian Premier League (IPL) but he must be involved in the West Indies One-Day International team.

Ashley Nurse, Jonathan Carter and wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich all from Barbados are superb talented players and should be considered. Carter, the all-rounder, already was highly looked at when he played



West Indies' Denesh Ramdin bats during the fourth day of the second cricket test match between Bangladesh and West Indies in Khulna, Bangladesh, Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012.

AP Photo/A.M. Ahad, File

for Barbados in the last ODI regional competition.

DWAYNE BRAVO MUST PERFORM WITH BAT

West Indies One-Day

international captain Dwayne Bravo must do a better job with the bat. Bravo has not been scoring runs for the West Indies although he is an important player in this type of

cricket. For him to be constantly failing as a batsman and also as captain does not look good for him. Captains must lead by example. Kieran Powell must wait for Lendl Simmons in

the opening position of the ODI'S. Simmons is a much better One-Day opener and it is just fitting to have him start the innings.

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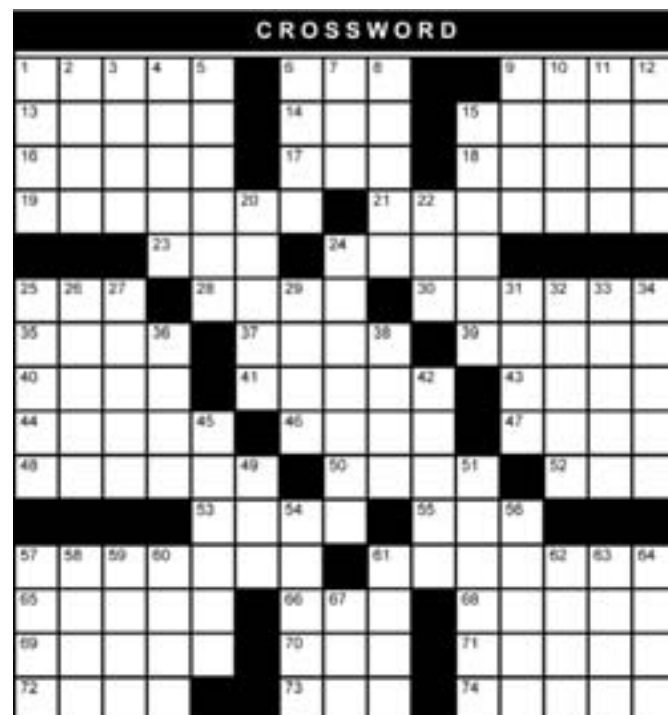
1. On a day like this, one can see forever
6. Barley bristle
9. "_____ up!"
13. Former French currency
14. *Poor man's caviar
15. Walk through slush
16. "He's _____ nowhere man" (The Beatles)
17. Mike's sugary partner
18. These lips sink ships
19. *Cook briefly
21. *Cook in oil
23. _____ Gabriel
24. Greek muse's strings
25. Before now
28. Le Corbusier's art
30. State further
35. *Coffee servers
37. Clever tactic
39. Bristles
40. San Quentin, e.g.
41. Shocking gun
43. Inmate's blade
44. Full-length
46. Of higher order
47. Famous Amos
48. Three-dimensional sound
50. Tree branch

52. *Salt in cocina
53. "In the _____, you can sail the seven seas"
55. OB-GYN test
57. *Firm pasta, not hard
61. Not sidesaddle
65. Shade of purple
66. Bubble maker
68. Bushed
69. More eccentric
70. *_____ mode
71. _____ Zola
72. Astute
73. _____ degree
74. Pine product

DOWN

1. Form of approval
2. Italian money
3. _____ and anon
4. Omani and Yemeni
5. To add another magazine
6. Brown part of apple seed, e.g.
7. *Chinese convex pan
8. Down and out
9. Pig food
10. *Pig part, often served pickled
11. America's WWII ally
12. He plus she
15. Lodging ad: "_____ four"
20. Incompetent

22. Pitcher's stat
24. More or less
25. *For dipping
26. Hollywood's legendary Cary
27. *Chilled
29. *Can be hard-shelled or soft-shelled
31. Boll weevil, e.g.
32. Distinctive spirit of a culture
33. Nigerian money
34. *Coat with hot seasoning
36. Result of too many drinks
38. Sasquatch's Asian cousin
42. Stadium walkways
45. Ten dollar bill, slang
49. *Bran source
51. *It's coated on fish of chicken before frying
54. *Strictly vegetarian
56. *Like standing rib roast
57. Crazy
58. *Serve soup, e.g.
59. City slicker on a ranch
60. Balanced
61. Asian nurse
62. Fleur-de-lis
63. *Cured meat and cold cuts
64. Genesis garden
67. Final, abbr.



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Answers in Classified Section

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Now may be the time to try something new, Aries. You are not one to shy away from anything, but right now you're a bit apprehensive about things. Take a leap of faith.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, many people look to you as a leader, and they are wise to do so. You are especially trustworthy, and you will be asked to solve a few problems this week.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, there won't be much time to enjoy recreational activities this week, so you may have to find a new way to let loose. Rest assured there will be more time for fun down the road.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, a new opportunity comes your way but you're not quite sure if you're ready for such drastic changes. Take your time before making a final decision.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, no matter how hard you try, some people just can't see things from your point of view. Don't take this personally, as everyone is entitled to their own opinions.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, sometimes it seems like you have all of the answers, while at other times, you might not know how to approach a situation. Take some time to analyze your approach.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Feeling homesick, Libra? If so, make some post-holiday plans to visit with friends or family you didn't get a chance to see during the holidays. Enjoy this time spent with loved ones.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you like to stay busy. But you sometimes feel overwhelmed with all that you have to do. Stop biting off more than you can chew and take things one task at a time.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, now is a good time to make resolutions and reconnect with distant friends. It is good to rekindle relationships and commit to spending more time with friends and family.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
After time away for the holidays, getting back into a routine can be challenging, Capricorn. But you like to stick to a schedule, and getting back on track is the way to do it.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, although you have many friends, you recently have only spent time with a select few. This week is a great time to reach out to those friends you haven't seen in awhile.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Your competitive juices will be flowing this week, Pisces. Enjoy the competitive atmosphere but don't take things too far.

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

Business Opps Pg 52



- Financing / Loans
- Business For Sale
- Misc. Business Opps
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Instruction Pgs 52-54



- **Career Training**
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Merchandise Pg 52



- Garage / Yard Sales
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- Professional, Commercial And Residential Services
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Real Estate Pg 58



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NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS
NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANK, as Successor in Interest to THE ROSLYN SAVINGS BANK, Successor By Merger with THE ROOSEVELT SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff against HANNA LOFTIN, ET AL., Defendants (Index No. 30124/2006)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale and Addendum to Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated September 12, 2013, and duly entered herein, I will sell at public auction at KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201, IN ROOM 224 on THURSDAY January 16, 2014 at 2:30 p.m., the premises known as 390 Vanderbilt Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11238 (Block 1959, Lot 48) and more particularly described as:

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the Westerly side of Vanderbilt Avenue, distant 510 feet 4 inches Northerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the Westerly side of Vanderbilt Avenue with the Northerly side of Gates Avenue;

RUNNING THENCE Westerly parallel with Gates Avenue and part of the distance through a party wall, 100 feet;

THENCE Northerly parallel with Vanderbilt Avenue, 18 feet 8 inches;

THENCE Easterly parallel with Gates and part of the distance through a

► LEGAL

party wall, 100 feet to the Westerly side of Vanderbilt Avenue;

THENCE Southerly along the Westerly side of Vanderbilt 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

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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 Over-

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brook Lane, Oreland, PA 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 Dopusgally 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.]

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SONY
 INTEL CORE-DUO
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