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Marleys own the store

CAREER TRAINING

Brittany Williams, left, and Jobari Parker during a performance of "Bob Marley's Three Little Birds," a new musical for kids that features the legendary reggae artist's songs. See entertainment, page 33. AP Photo/New Victory Theater, Michael Horan

Cheers for Obama's bold agenda

By Nelson A. King

Local members of the US House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, and the New York City Council are among the elected officials who have commended President Barack Obama for addressing the issue of comprehensive immigration reform in his State of the Union Address.

"A policy of comprehensive

immigration reform will also support our economy by preventing the exploitation of workers who lack legal status, despite -- in some instances, some who have lived in the United States for almost their entire lives," US. Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, a Brooklyn Democrat of Caribbean heritage, told Caribbean Life.

In his address to the members

of Congress Tuesday night, the president urged the elected officials to enact immigration reform that would allow the more than 10 million immigrants living in the country without legal status, to apply for temporary legal status and eventually, U.S. citizenship.

Earlier, in a joint letter with Arizona Congressman Raúl M. Grijal-

Continued on Page 4

HUGE COKE BUST

SECTION INSIDE

Trinidad in the spotlight

By Bert Wilkinson

In the past two weeks, authorities in Trinidad with the help of an unusually large group of DEA, FBI and other American federal agents have been trying to track down the players behind a major cocaine shipment from the Caribbean island to Norfolk, Virginia now that they know that similarly large shipments have been entering the U.S. since 2011.

Earlier this month, customs and border-patrol agents in Virginia stumbled on a shipment of 732 pounds of cocaine with a street value of over \$100M concealed in grapefruit juice cans.

The cans bore the label of S. M.

Jaleel, a prominent Trinidad manufacturing company; but for now, investigators say, the firm is not the main target in their probe, as there is some evidence that the smugglers have used products and registration names from dormant and even active companies to hide their real identity.

But even as the Feds are preparing to ask local courts to hand down indictments against a few prominent businessmen, there has been a bizarre twist to the probe as the British are asking to be officially listed as investigators in the widening international probe. This is so because a Joromie Lewis, 33, a

Continued on Page 4

В

Updated daily at www.caribbeanlifenews.com CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Caribbean

The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) is urging the Caribbean and other developing nations to maximize the use of its tools and services to fight crimes against children.

In a report here, Interpol said crimes against children "tend to be local crimes with the vast majority taking place within the home or family circle."

It, however, said there is an "international angle," pointing out that Internet crimes against children are "facilitated by the Internet, the increased use of which in recent years has led to a huge rise in offending".

"Not only can offenders distribute and access child abuse material more eas-



ily, but they can also come into direct contact with children via chat rooms and social networking sites," the statement said.

Interpol said it runs a project in conjunction with Internet Access Service Providers to block access to child abuse material online.

In addition, it said "sex tourism" involves "the abuse of children in developing countries by people who travel there."

Antigua

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer says his administration has no plans to follow its Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member country, Barbados, and send home public sector workers in an attempt to revive the ailing economy.

Speaking at a public meeting of his ruling United Progressive Party (UPP) recently, Spencer assured supporters that "however we do it, we are not going to embark upon

any kind of wholesale retrenchment of government workers, public sector workers." He said his gov-



ernment intends to hold on its obligation "because we recognize that in a situation where the private sector does not have the absorptive capacity to absorb all the workers that are required to be engaged in Antigua and Barbuda, we have a social responsibility as a government.

"What is happening in Barbados and in certain other countries, we could have adopted the same posi-



Return to a life of depression

Betania Bruno; 26; sits with her children next to her few belongings after she was evicted from the Petion-Ville Golf Club; a camp for displaced people of the 2010 earthquake; in Port-au-Prince; Haiti; Wednesday; Jan. 22; 2014. The camp that was erected on Haiti's only golf course in the days after the 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit the country; was cleared by police Wednesday leaving many homeless. See page 14. AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Cherv

tion here because the same issues do exist, but we have taken a different position," Spencer told supporters.

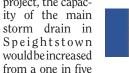
Recently, the Barbados government announced a plan to cut public service jobs in a bid to save Bds143 million.

It said it would also institute a "strict program of attrition" across the central public service, filling posts only where it is absolutely unavoidable, over the next five years, ending 2018-2019.

Barbados

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) says it is providing a loan of US\$4.6 million to the Barbados government for a project to reduce flood hazard risks in the country's second largest town.

The CDB said that under the project, the capac-



year rainfall flow event to a onein-20 year storm flow event.

The project also provides for technical assistance to improve the planning, execution, and funding of

routine maintenance in Speightstown, and to develop and implement a community education program on flood reduction measures in the town.

CDB also announced it was providing a US\$25 million loan to Guyana to fund a project which will protect a number of communities from flooding and other hazards brought on by the effects of climate change.

It said components of the project include the reconstruction and improvement of approximately 5.4 km of sea and river defenses, as well as for capacity in shoreline change monitoring and analysis.

Dominica

Dominica has recorded its first case of the chikungunya virus but health officials say there is no cause for alarm.

"We can confirm that we have the first local case of chikungunya

in Dominica, (but) there is no need for any alarm at this time," said Chief

Medical Officer of Dominica Dr. David Johnson, add-

ing that it was "very importantly for us we want to establish if there are any other cases in Dominica.'

Recently Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency (CAR-PHA) said it is working closely with the French and Dutch authorities after the region recorded its first ever case of chikungunya.

Late last month, CARPHA said it had received notification of 10 confirmed cases of locally acquired chikungunya virus infection on the French side of the Caribbean island of Saint Martin.

Chikungunya is a viral disease, carried mainly by the Aedes aegypti mosquito and causes a dengue-like sickness.

Grenada

Unless you know someone in Grenada, be wary of any calls you receive from a 473 area code.

That's the word from police departments in Utah, USA, who say that Utahans across the state are answering their phones without recognizing the 473 number which

comes from Grenada, Carriacou or Petite Martinique.

According to Utah Department

of Public Safety spokesman Dwayne Baird, residents are reporting that

regardless of whether or not they call back, they're getting a US\$19.95 charge immediately tacked on to their cell phone bill.

Baird explained that the scammers are able to use Utahans' basic cell phone information gathered when they answer to add the charge to the bill.

When the residents answer, they hear "a commotion or sounds of moaning or someone in distress before the caller abruptly hangs up," The Salt Lake Tribune reports.

While police said they didn't know what was prompting the charges, Fox 13 reported the number is linked to a phone sex business.

Verizon is also urging caution to its customers – particularly those in Utah - who have been charged for returning a call to 473-520-9734, says a report on the channelpartnersonline.com website.

One person in Centerville, Utah, reported getting a call from the number, which rang only once or twice.

When he called back, he heard "a small child or person moaning ... it lasted for a short time," the Standard Examiner reported that community's police chief as saving.

Other reports have described it as sounding either like someone in distress or the sounds that one would expect on a porn line.

Guyana

Two people were killed after a small plane crashed in the South American country of Guyana.

Civil Aviation Chief Zulfikar Mohamed says Canadian pilot Blake Slater and cargo handler Dwayne Jacobs were abroad the single-engine Cessna Caravan when it crashed recently in the heavily forested Mazaruni area in western Guyana.

He said the plane belonged to domestic operator Trans Guyana Airways and was en route to pick up fuel and other cargo.

It was not immediately clear what led to the crash. It is the second plane crash in



a week to occur in Guyana. A smaller Cessna 206 crashed shortly after takeoff on Jan. 11, injuring three people.

Haiti

Haiti's Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe has pledged that his government will provide the necessary Continued on Page 16

















From left, Maurie Lacey, Honoree David Flemister, Carla D. Brown and Maria Willis at BAE Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon at NY Hilton. Photo by Amun

Black Agency Executives honored

By Amun

On Thursday, Jan. 16 the Black Agency Executives (BAE) held their 37th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon at the New York Hilton. BAE is a membership organization comprised of executives of major human services agencies in New York City. Their president, Danielle Moss Lee said, "Our annual luncheon not only supports our ongoing work toward supporting the growing needs of Black leaders in the human services profession, it's also a premier networking event for people who engaged in the social sector as professionals and supporters."

David Ushery of NBC 4 New York served as master of ceremonies for the event. Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Director of Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture was the Keynote speaker, and he delivered a thought provoking speech, the theme of which was: "Voting Rights Suppression: The Widespread Effect of Millennium Jim Crow." His address really resonated with the audience.

Since it's first event in 1977, the organization has continued to grow steadily and continues to honor the life and achievements of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., bringing together thinkers in the field for an afternoon of thought provoking discussion. The event is designed to inspire social change and make a difference within the Black community.

Honorees were: Emblem Health, accepted by David Flemister, director of Brand Strategy and Community Marketing; David R. Jones, president and CEO, Community Service Society; Esmerald Simmons, Esq., executive director, Center for Law and Social Justice, Medger Evers College, CUNY; Vivian Manning Fox, president Childcare Corp. and Executive Director, 1199 Childcare Funds, Bill Lynch, III, (posthumously) vice president, Bill Lynch Associates, LLC.

Entertainment included performance by "The Trio," from "After Midnight," actresses / singers, Carmen Ruby Floyd, Rosen M. Hill Jackson and Bryonha Marie Parham, and topical humor from comedian and television personality, Chuck Nice.

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Empowering Residents in East Harlem

By Chudi Chukwudi

Michael Pugh, president and chief operating officer of Carver Federal Savings Bank has announced a partnership with Union Settlement Association, the oldest and largest social services provider for residents of East Harlem.

Founded in 1895, Union Settlement Association is one of the largest settlement houses in New York, serving more than 10,000 people of all ages each year. Through innovative programs in education, health, job training, senior services, youth development, childcare, counseling and economic development, the association is dedicated to helping their neighbors realize their goals, while building the vitality and success of East Harlem.

Carver will provide \$10,000 to help fund various programs, offer financial seminars to Union Settlement Association employees and members, as well as coordinate employee volunteer opportunities.

"Union Settlement is

very pleased to partner with Carver Bank to further our mission of assisting and empowering the residents of East Harlem," said David Nocenti, executive director of Union Settlement. "I thank Carver for their support and commitment to community-building in East Harlem."

Celebrating its 65th anniversary as the largest African American and Caribbean American-operated bank in the country, Carver's mission has been rooted in helping the underserved in local communities throughout the boroughs of New York City.

"Carver is pleased to be partnering with Union Settlement in order to support the East Harlem community. The partnership represents a special opportunity to serve East Harlem as we have recently celebrated the first anniversary of our newest branch located on 125th Street, inside Pathmark. We look forward to a long standing relationship with Union Settlement and the East Harlem community," says Michael Pugh.

Vincentian storm relief gospel concert

By Nelson A. King

In ensuring that they are not left out of relief efforts, members of the Vincentian Seventh-day Adventist Church community in New York have joined the Christmas Eve storm relief drive in the United States by recently staging a very successful gospel concert in Brooklyn.

The event – which took place on Sat., Jan. 18, at Boys and Girls High School, in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn – was organized by the Brooklynbased Vincentian American Adventist Association (VAAA) in collaboration with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' New York Consulate General.

Despite the bitterly cold weather, the three-hour concert attracted a wide section of the Vincentian community in New York,

Several leading Vincentian and Caribbean gospel artistes and groups participated in the fundraising effort that also featured poetry, drama and steel pan music.

Participating Vincentian gospel artistes comprised, among others, Theophilus Homer; Ellsworth "Lifeboy" Quammie; Monodel Ollivierre; Vonetta Richards; and Abena Amory-Powell.

Jamaican Odayne Rhoden and Trinidadian Wayne Johnson were among Caribbean gospel artistes.

The Seventh-day Adventist Majestic Heights Steel Orchestra banged out gospel rhythms to the appreciative audience.

Tamarah Jackson also waxed nostalgic with drama and a poem, written by Malanie Bynoe, on the "good old days" in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"We are a people of perseverance, and we're a peo-



Theophilus Homer performing at the Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn.

Photo by Nelson A. King

ple of strength," said Jackson in her monologue.

Beverly Regisford-Henry, VAAA president, agreed.

"We thank you for the support," she told patrons. "This is the time for us to pull together.

"Vincentians are very strong people," she added. "We'll come together and build our country together."

While rendering a medley – comprising "He's an On-Time God," "Hear My Cry, O Lord," and "It's Raining" – Richards said: "I think it's time that Vincentians take a stand for God."

Ollivierre reminded nationals that it is God's "Grace and Mercy" that see them through many struggles and difficulties; Johnson urged that "When We Have Troubles, Don't Cry;" Homer appealed to the Almighty for His "Love and Affection;" and Quammie noted, in his signature piece, that, despite all troubles, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is still "Island of Love."

"Let's rally to the cause of St. Vincent and the Grenadines," said Consul General Selmon Walters in his remarks. "Let's operate as a people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We're one people."

T&T drug bust

Continued from cover

sailor with roots in St. Vincent and the Grenadines died after ingesting a cocaine-laden bottle of juice he found on his factory floor in the UK last month.

The juice is also manufactured by a subsidiary of S. M Jaleel so British investigators now want to know if there is a connection between the sailor's death and shipments of beverages laden with cocaine that might have entered the UK market undetected in recent years.

British officer Ian Sainsbury says that UK probers will also "share intelligence" with the DEA and FBI as they suspect that similar shipments might have entered British ports without detection by customs and other officials.

For many in Trinidad who look down on the poor, the bust is proof that many of those at the top of society on the island might not have earned their money the oldfashioned way through dint of hard work but are secret-

ly behind massive drug and weapon shipments as well as other forms of transnational crimes with little or no hassles from enforcement authorities.

Still, a clearly embarrassed Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar was quick to point out that every country on the planet is battling with the drug trade and that "it has been known for a long time that this country is a transshipment point for drugs. The matter is under investigation and very sensitive, and it would be inappropriate to comment," she said.

As an indication of how fast the probe is widening, investigators have also trained their sights down south on neighboring Guyana, as one of the dormant companies used by the smugglers to ship the 'beverages' to the U.S. is owned by a Guyanese businessman with long-established roots in Trinidad.

DEA officials have already indicated that requests for arrest warrants are to be handed down soon.

Pols welcome statement on immigration

Continued from cover

va, Clarke -- who represents a predominantly Caribbean district, earlier had joined with Arizona Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva, urging the president to "respond to the crisis of deportation in the undocumented community" of Caribbean and other immigrants.

"With legal status and an opportunity for citizenship, these workers will finally have the ability to benefit from the rights guaranteed to American laborers, and thus become full participants in our civil society," they had told the president. "As your administration nears an astounding 2 million deportations, we write again to reiterate our initial request and inquire into additional steps the White House can take to provide relief to the millions of 'Americans in Waiting', who live and work among us," they said.

"There is a great urgency to secure avenues for humanitarian relief for the



Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio listen as President Barack Obama gives his State of the Union address on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014.

AP Photo/Susan Walsh

millions of families that are families across the nation. currently suffering under The congressional repthe fear of detention and resentatives said there is deportation and being subconsensus in Congress that ject to widespread violations the current immigration system is "inhumane and unacceptable in addition to of labor and civil rights," the Clarke also told Caribbeing wasteful and ineffecbean Life that the continued

tive." Meanwhile, another local elected official with Caribbean roots, also lauded the president for outlining a "bold, progressive agenda."

Councilman City Jumaane Williams, of Grenadian heritage -- who represents the largely Caribbean 45th Council District in Brooklyn, said the president's agenda "re-focuses the nation's attention on the need to end income inequality and to ensure increased opportunities for every American, including those who struggle to find work, those who came to the United States in search of a better life, and those who have not reaped the benefits in an economy that continues to leave many behind.

"Many of the ideas outlined in the speech, from extending unemployment benefits, increasing the minimum wage for those working for federal contractors, to ending wage discrimination against women, would benefit the constituents of the 45th Council District that I represent," said Williams, chair of New York City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings.

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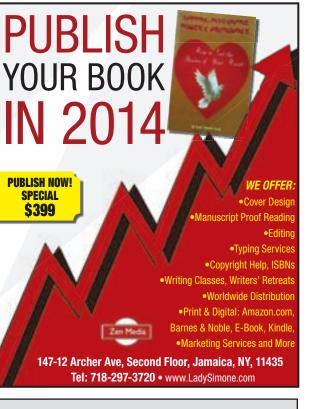


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Jamaica police units to get wearable video cameras

By David McFadden

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Some Jamaican police units will soon be wearing video cameras on their uniforms in part to encourage officers to use appropriate force and perhaps curb high rates of killings by law enforcers in a country where they have long been accused of trigger-happy tactics.

On Thursday, National Security Minister Peter Bunting announced that "select" units of the Jamaica Constabulary Force will start wearing the cameras this year. The small cameras record anything from a traffic stop to a car chase to an unfolding violent crime and are typically worn on an officer's lapel or on a small headset.

At a press briefing, Bunting said it will encour-



In this May 26; 2010 file photo; police officers stand guard near the emergency room entrance of the national hospital in Kingston; Jamaica. National Security Minister Peter Bunting announced Thursday; Jan. 23; 2014. AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd; File

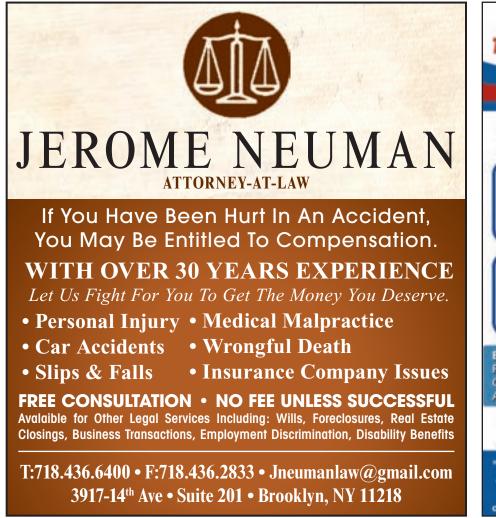
age professional behavior by police officers, improve transparency and evidence collection, and head off unfair allegations of wrongdoing.

The security minister's comments come as an independent commission that investigates charges of abuses by security forces is launching a probe into alleged homicides by policemen in Clarendon parish.

Bunting said the investigation is at a "sensitive stage" and he couldn't comment on it. "However," he added, "the administration views the issues of extrajudicial killings with the gravest concerns and is committed to the police being accountable for their actions."

Human rights activists have repeatedly criticized the high number of fatal shootings by Jamaica's nearly 10,000 police officers, and residents of poor neighborhoods regularly protest what they insist are unjustified killings by lawmen.

Last year, 258 civilians were killed by security forces on the island of 2.7 million people.





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A large screen shows Cuba's President Raul Castro speaking at the opening ceremony of the CELAC Summit in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014. Leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean are in Cuba to talk about poverty and inequality at a summit of a regional bloc formed as a force for integration and a counterbalance to the U.S. AP Photo/Ismael Francisco, Cubadebate

Cuba's Castro calls for Carib integration free of United States

By Peter Orsi

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban President Raul Castro called on Latin American and Caribbean leaders Tuesday to work together on pressing regional problems at a gathering of all Western Hemisphere nations except the U.S. and Canada.

In his keynote speech as head of the host nation for the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, or CELAC for its initials in Spanish, Castro argued that the bloc should aspire to unity despite diversity, and is "the legitimate representative of the interests of Latin America and the Caribbean."

"We should establish a new regional and international cooperation paradigm," Castro said. "In the context of CELAC, we have the possibility to create a model of our own making, adapted to our realities, based on the principles of mutual benefit." The summit's main theme is fighting poverty, inequality and hunger. According to the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 28.2 percent of the region's inhabitants live in poverty and 11.3 percent in extreme poverty.

"While it is true that some progress has been made during the last few years, this has been slow, fragmented and unstable," Castro said. Tuesday's session of heads of CELAC states began with a one-minute silence to remember the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who succumbed to cancer last March.

Chavez, an outspoken U.S. foe, was a driving force behind CELAC's creation in 2011. It was conceived as an alternative to the Washington-based Organization of American States, which suspended Cuba's membership in 1962.

St. Lucian named among new cardinals

By Azad Ali

History was created in the Caribbean as Pope Francis will elevate Monsignor Kelvin Edward Felix, archbishop emeritus of Castries, St. Lucia, to a cardinal.

He also named Chibly Langlois, Bishop of Les Cayes, Haiti as new cardinals recently.

They were among 19 men chosen from Asia, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere, including the developing nations of Haiti and Burkina Faso, in line with his belief that the church must pay more attention to the poor.

Monsignor Chibly Langlois, 55, is the youngest new cardinal chosen. Francis made the announcement as he spoke from his studio window to a crowd in St Peter's Square.

Sixteen of the appointees are younger than 80, meaning they are currently eligible to elect the next pope, which is a cardinal's most important task. The ceremony to formally install them as cardinals will be held Feb. 22 at the Vatican. Since his election in March as the first pontiff from Latin America, the Pope has broken tradition after tradition in terms of protocol and style at the Vatican. But recently Francis stuck to the church's rule of having no more than 120 cardinals eligible to elect the next pontiff.

The College of Cardinals is currently 13 shy of that 120-mark among eligibleto-vote members. In addition, three cardinals will turn 80 by May. That means Francis chose the exact number of new cardinals needed to bring the voting ranks up to 120 during the next few months.

Some appointments were expected, including that of his new secretary of state, the Italian Archbishop Pietro Parolin, and the German head of the Vatican's watchdog office for doctrinal orthodoxy, Gerhard Ludwig Mueller. Two others named recently also come from the curia, as the Holy See's Rome-based bureaucracy is known.

Karl Hudson-Phillips QC dies in London

By Azad Ali

Tributes continue to pour in from the Caribbean for the late Karl Hudson-Phillips QC, of Trinidad and Tobago who died recently in his sleep at his son's home in London.

Hudson-Phillips, 80, an advocate, practiced extensively in the Englishspeaking Caribbean. He has appeared in major trials involving both civil and criminal trials and was a former judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

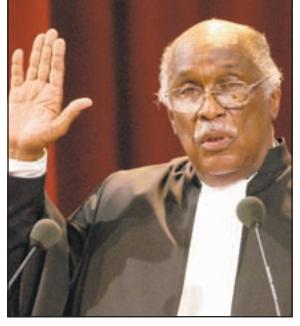
He has practiced in all of the States of the Eastern Caribbean in addition to Jamaica and Guyana.

He was elected a Member of Parliament in 1966 and in December 1969, he was appointed Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago and held that post until September 1973, when he resigned. Also in this capacity he was associated with the dreaded Public Order Act, which was proposed by the People's National Movement government in response to the Black Power riots and the Army Mutiny of 1970.

In 1980, he founded the Organization for National Reconstruction (NAR) party. Hudson-Phillips was also the lead counsel against 19 persons charged with the murder of Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and members of the Revolutionary Government in 1983 in Grenada. They were all convicted and sentenced to death, which was later commuted to life imprisonment.

He was awarded the Order of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for his sterling contribution to law.

He will be buried next week.



Judge Karl Terence Hudson-Phillips, of Trinidad and Tobago, is sworn in during the inaugural session of the International Criminal Court in The Hague Tuesday, March 11, 2003. The court will have jurisdiction to punish war crimes, including genocide, in any country that has ratified the statute, if that country refused to prosecute suspects itself. Nonparty states can ask the court to intervene, as can the U.N. Security Council. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

AP Photo/Dusan Vranic



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B O

LETTERS

OP-EDS

FDCC Fundraiser for Caribbean Children

Dear Editor:

My name is Kim Jean. I am a proud donor to and ambassador for the Foundation for the Development of Caribbean Children (FDCC). This letter is to gain your support and that of your readers to donate \$5 to continued early education learning of our children in the OECS. This is a call to the charitable side of our people. A chance to support programmes for children zero to five years and their families and keep the dedicated care givers doing what they love.

The FDCC is based in Barbados. It is a private non-profit organization - the first of its kind in the region. Their objective is "to significantly increase the number of disadvantaged children who acquire the knowledge and skills to prepare them for entry into primary school and lifelong learning by accessing quality early childhood development services". The foundation has been in operation since 2011 when it took over from the Caribbean Child Support Initiative (CCSI). Its primary mission to strengthen the care environment with highly effective early childhood development and family support programmes is being continued.

They currently do great work in Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent, Saint Lucia and Belize. Other islands show interest and they are working to extend services there too. Their collaborative resources have been depleted since local governments are experiencing grave difficulties due to the world market crash. They need our help. Our children need our help. The FDCC has launched their "Help FDCC Impact 2,000 children's lives by December 2015" and needs to raise US\$30,000 to keep their programmes going strong.

I live in Chicago. I first heard about the FDCC in 2012 from a Facebook post. I've wanted to support a Caribbean charity and this is the one. I believe in the potential of our people, our children. They need access as early as possible to services that will be the springboard that catapults them to realizing their fullest potential. It all starts will early education exposure that will give them the motor and psychological advantage before they enter primary school.

While I was in Saint Lucia I saw first-hand the work of the Roving Care Givers. These are well trained people who go to homes and provide care and support for kids and their families with one goal in mind - Give our children the foundation they need to succeed. They read, play, talk with, and are good companions to and executioners in their duties.

As Caribbean nationals and descendants of Caribbean nationals living and working in the US, we have access to services that can give our children the foundation they need to suc-Continued on Page 13



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Inefficiencies of prison system under scrutiny

To The Editor:

The high costs associated with corrections and inefficiencies within state prison systems have caused a number of states to reexamine their practices and embrace justice reinvestment, an evidence-based approach that reduces prison populations and reinvests savings into practices that can improve public safety and reduce costs.

Through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), 17 states have used private and federal assistance to collect and analyze data on the drivers of their corrections populations and their costs, identify and implement responsive and efficient policies, and measure both the fiscal and public safety impacts of those changes.

A new report issued by the Urban Institute, Justice Reinvestment Initiative State Assessment Report, analyzes the experiences of the participating states. JRI is administered by the Bureau

No programs to ensure successful re-entry.

of Justice Assistance at the U.S. Department of Justice (BJA) and in partnership with the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera), Council of State Governments Justice Center and the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Vera worked with states in two phases. In Phase I, Vera helped Delaware and Louisiana analyze data, develop policy options, and adopt new policies. In Phase II, Vera is assisting Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oregon, South Carolina, and South Dakota implement new policies, put reinvestment strategies into place, and measure performance.

The report concludes that several factors were driving prison costs and increasing populations, including unnecessary parole and probation revocations, sentencing policies, inefficient community supervision and insufficient resources, and parole system processing delays.

For example, Delaware passed legislation in April 2013 as a result of a JRI task force that requires implementation of an objective risk assessment instrument to help magistrates make informed decisions about pretrial release, makes available objective risk and needs assessment for judges to use at sentencing, supports improved community supervision practices, and creates incentives for individuals who are incarcerated and under supervision to complete evidence-based programs designed to reduce recidivism.

In Vera-supported states, the results have been encouraging:

Kentucky has saved \$25 million by reducing the number of defendants held in jail prior to Continued on Page 13

NY State Budget Highlights & Proposals

By Rhoda Jacobs

Gov. Andrew Cuomo unveiled his budget proposal Tuesday, Jan. 21. It includes: funding for Universal Pre-K statewide, increasing school aid by \$800 million, increasing support for after-school programs, creating a college scholarship for STEM students, a panel to oversee Common Core and work to correct problems identified by parents and teachers.

The promise to fully fund Universal Pre-K for all New Yorkers and the increase in school aid are excellent starting points. I remain committed to seeing a much greater increase in school aid and a more progressive way to pay for the expansion of Universal

Pre-K.

Some items were not included in the budget proposal, including the enactment of the New York State Dream Act and other legislative priorities many had hoped to see proposed.

We will continue working to ensure educational support for immigrant youth in New York State, and we will continue to fight for an accelerated increase in the minimum wage and to promote access to child care services. The Executive Budget calls for:

* An increase in education aid by \$807 million;* \$1.5 billion over a five-year period to fund a statewide universal full-day pre-K programs; * Authorization for \$720 million over a five-year period to expand after-school programs;

* A \$2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act to ensure that all of our children have access to the latest technology needed to compete on the global stage;

* Provision of \$1.2 billion in capital funding to help hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities restructure to provide quality community-based care;

* A renters' personal income tax credit to help defray the impact of escalating rental housing costs;

* Increasing the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) by \$4 million to \$157 million;

Continued on Page 20

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.

B

Employee woes go unheeded at T & T Consulate

Employees at the Trinidad and Tobago consulate in New York (a goodly number of them, anyway) have been living a nightmare since the current consul general, Nan Ramgoolam, assumed the position in 2011. In having the New York consulate headed by Ramgoolam, the government of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar abandoned a long-standing policy of career diplomats filling such posts. Ramgoolam, formerly a member of Bissessar's cabinet, had been shuffled out of her cabinet slot relatively early in the life of the Bissessar government. And as if to validate concerns about political hacks being assigned to professional foreign service duty, it has become increasingly clear to many that operations at the New York consulate are being driven by naked partisan considerations

In a series of draconian moves, Ramgoolam, presumably doing the bidding of superiors, initiated regressive changes that made the consulate more reminiscent of a 1920s workplace. In 2012, eight staffers, including long-serving individuals (10, 15 and more years on the job) were summarily terminated. This was action ostensibly arising from a first-of-its-kind exam mandated for the staff, the exam's fair-mindedness very much guestioned both internally by staff as well as outside observers. Workers (some of whom, again, were longserving members of staff), whose original permanent status had earlier been amended to two-year-contract service providers, had another change in status imposed, namely, new contractual arrangements of six months duration. Unlike the two-year deal, the new contract was stripped bare of even minimal workplace entitlements. In order to be renewed, the six-month contract requires the employee/contractor to be off the job for one week without pay at the end of the six- month tour, thence to re-apply for the "vacated" position. There is also no provision in this contract for paid absences from the job for medical or any other reasons.

This is of course stone-age behavior to which the consulate employees are being subjected. It would be bad enough, were this to be explained simply as the conduct of a renegade employer, unconcerned about basic standards that should govern the labor-management relationship. Infinitely worse



is that appearances strongly suggest a more sinister origination of the Trinidad and Tobago government's unloading on these besieged consulate staffers.

The foreign affairs minister when the Bissessar government assumed office in 2010 was Suruj Rambachan. Rambachan's track record has had him widely pegged as uncompromisingly racist for quite a while now. His undertaking to the consulate staff back when he came aboard, that he intended to "change the face" of the consulate, many believe, is what's being borne out in the rash of autocratic operational "reforms" introduced at the consulate.

Any objective look at the narrative since Ramgoolam's arrival makes it difficult to refute suggestions of some kind of orchestrated purge at the consulate. Apart from what reportedly was an intimidating presence she immediately imposed, making for a tension-

filled working environment, Ramgoolam is thought by some to have conceived or been party to subterfuge attempts aimed at facilitating the darker "purge" objective. The aforementioned written examination laid on staff in summer 2012 was one such. More recently, there's been a furor over employees holding A-2 visas issued by the U.S. State Department. Although this is well known to be a long existing practice through which individuals who aren't U.S. citizens or permanent residents are permitted to work, consulate staff so classified have been advised that their visas would not be submitted for renewal. Reportedly, despite a green light coming from the permanent secretary in the foreign affairs ministry - the nominal head of the foreign service -- for the visa renewal routine to proceed as normal, another government figure, attorney general Anand Ramlogan, weighed in to declare that holders of A-2 visas should no longer be employed. Ramlogan's edict, intimating something inappropriate or unlawful about such hires, has been roundly challenged and indeed dismissed as groundless. Our own checking, elsewhere in the legation commu-

nity, brought the same reaction of perfectly legitimate hiring practice with respect to A-2 visa holders.

A member of the Bissessar government summoning the chutzpah to override the U.S. take on what is and isn't permissible on a U.S.-issued visa, if that's what went down here, would be a laughprovoking absurdity, had the end game not involved trifling with the welfare of defenseless workers. That there's been a deliberate campaign of degradation directed at consulate employees whose tenure pre-dates Ramgoolam's arrival seems at this point entirely plausible.

In which case the goings-on at the consulate should elicit a reaction of: "There they go again!" The government of Prime Minister Bissessar has so often now displayed a cavalier attitude toward episodes of wrongdoing, it has become practically a defining administration marker. Although she evidently wasn't a blazing success as a government minister and had to be soon sent packing, the scuttlebutt is that Consul General Ramgoolam has parlayed supposedly close ties to Bissessar into license for a "loose cannon" manner of handling consulate affairs.





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В

OP-EDS A successful re-entry system

Continued from Page 10

disposition by 5 percent, with no negative impact on public safety.

Georgia invested \$17.5 million in mental health and drug accountability courts, residential substance abuse treatment programs, and risk assessment tools.

Louisiana reinvested \$1.7 million in savings from institutional corrections into community-based substance abuse treatment in 2013.

Arkansas reduced its prison population by 9 per-

cent from 2011 to 2012 and projects \$875 million in savings over 11 years.

"Justice reinvestment is a team sport, and the collaboration we have seen between government leaders, the courts, state policymakers, and criminal justice stakeholders has resulted in encouraging progress," said Peggy McGarry, Director of Vera's Center on Sentencing and Corrections. "By investing in programs that address the causes of criminality and providing the necessary services to ensure successful reentry into society, we can lower costs, increase public safety, and help formerly incarcerated individuals reshape their lives."

Vera Institute of Justice The Vera Institute of Justice is a research and policy organization that combines expertise in research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance to help leaders in government and civil society improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety.

Helping our kids

Continued from Page 10

ceed. As Caribbean nationals who love where we come from and want to help our region get ahead, helping our children is the best way to do that.

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Please contact Mr. Clive A. Murray, director of Operations in Barbados at (246) 436-8702 or cmurray@fdcchildren.org. He would love to give an interview. I also ask that your newspaper lend your voice in helping the FDCC meet its goal. Write about the foundation and make a donation as well.

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U.S. actor Sean Penn carries the belongings of a person displaced by the 2010 earthquake as people are relocated from the Petion Ville Golf Club to a new camp in Port-au-Prince; Haiti. AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa; File

Sean Penn's homeless camp in Haiti clearing out displaced people

By Trenton Daniel

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A country club golf course that became a refuge for tens of thousands of people left homeless in Haiti's capital by a 2010 earthquake is clearing out the remaining residents by this weekend.

Rachel Beach, an aid

worker who is handling a relocation effort carried out by actor Sean Penn's humanitarian group, J/P Haitian Relief Organization, said the several dozen people still in the settlement are expected to leave by Friday.

They either will get or already have received a \$500



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rental subsidy, obtained from a local bank, to help them find a new place, along with an extra \$40 for transportation and \$110 to ease the move, Beach said.

"People will be moving out in the next hours and days," Beach said.

The camp was erected on Haiti's only golf course, the Petionville Club, in the days and weeks after the 7.0-magnitude earthquake clobbered the capital and other cities in the south, killing tens of thousands of people.

The nine-hole course swelled to an estimated 60,000 people but became famous largely because Penn assumed responsibility for the settlement as he founded the J/P Haitian Relief Organization to help people return to their old neighborhoods.

The relocation effort was criticized early on for encouraging about 5,000 people from the camp to move to Corail-Cesselesse, an arid field about 15 kilometers (10 miles) north of Port-au-Prince.

Still, Penn's involvement in Haiti's reconstruction effort prompted President Michel Martelly to appoint the actor as an ambassadorat-large for Haiti.

It's not clear what the owners of the Petionville Club will do with the land. William Evans III, president and managing director, didn't respond to requests for comment.

As many as 1.5 million people lost their homes in the earthquake but the number of camp residents has dwindled to about 146,000, the International Organization for Migration savs.

The clearing of camps like the Petionville Club signals a return to life for Haitians. One public plaza that housed quake survivors will serve as the stage for a New Orleans jazz band, the Soul Rebels, this Friday.

Housing advocates worry that lives of people displaced by the quake haven't improved much despite the drop in camp populations. Rent subsidies will end within a year and it's unclear if people will be able to afford rent after that.

"This is not meant for a long-term solution," Beach said. "It's kind of a first step. It's to get them in a house where they can close and lock a door, secure their belongings and go search for a job."

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

means to the electoral council to facilitate the holding of legislative and local elections.

During a cabinet meeting recently, Lamothe reiterated the commitment of his team and President Michel Martelly to democracy and the rule of law, of which regularly organized free, fair and honest elections remain an inescapable corollary.

"The elections will take place this year and my government will provide the means to support the work of the electoral council," said Lamothe.

"This will allow us to move forward on the path of democracy which

would result from a failure by the Martelly-

Lamothe government to find a political

consensus to facilitate the holding of such

telly also promised that the ballot will be held

this year to elect one-third of the 30-member

Senate and hundreds of entities of local gov-

The election date will be announced soon

Consultations are underway between elec-

toral authorities and various political actors

and civil society groups in order to reach a

by the electoral council, tasked with organ-

In an address to Parliament recently, Mar-

this government believes in," he advised. Many feared the worst in

Haiti because of allegations

that a major political crisis

important elections.

ernance.

izing the vote.



consensus on the electoral calendar and other important steps in the election process.

Jamaica

Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ), a local human rights watchdog group, has raised alarm at the increase in the number of civilians who lost their lives in incidents involving the security forces in 2013.

Following the release of statistics from the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM), which revealed that 258 persons had been killed in 2013 - up from 219 in 2012 - JFJ says the upward trend raises questions about the operations carried out by the security forces.

According to Susan Goffe, JFJ's spokesperson, the organization is concerned about accountability in the police force and the use of lethal force.

JFJ has also called on National Security Minister Peter Bunting to

address the country on the increase in the number of civilian deaths during police/military operations. According to the report



from INDECOM, an analysis by parish revealed that the corporate area, which includes the parishes of Kingston and St Andrew, recorded the highest number of fatalities with 76, representing 29 per cent of the total number of fatalities recently.

Compiled by Azad Ali



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THE CARIBBEAN BUSINESS REPORT

Guyana winery attracts expats, **US Peace Corps, Russians**

By Tangerine Clarke

The pristine, sandy Linden Soesdyke Highway that is home to Pandama Winery and Retreat in Guyana has become guite the hot spot for wine connoisseurs from around the world, who trek to the South American country to sample the vintage made from local fruits, while experiencing the natural wilderness among the 17-acre property.

Owners Warren and Tracey Douglas welcomed members of the United States Peace Corp who for three weeks savored the beauty and natural environment that is surrounded by dark water lakes, and Pandama palm trees.

The duo, who are excited about their new found popularity, attributes the success to their inviting web presence from where online reservations are pouring in for wine tours at the tropical paradise. In addition, Douglas said the campgrounds provide a bonfire opportunity for tourists to sit around and learn about the rich diverse Guyanese culture.

The proprietors were happy to entertain groups from Russia and Canada who heard about the hid-



Wine maker Warren Douglas pours his aged Jamoon wine for overseas Guyanese, Teresa Nadir, local Lillieth Clemonds, US residents, Claire Bristol, Claire Patterson-Monah. Verna Walcott and Barbara Chase. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

den treasure in Guyana and wanted to see for themselves.

Just recently, master winemaker Warren Douglas engaged a group of Guyanese Americans, taking them through the paces of the winemaking process, while educating them on how he produces 600 gallons of the aged alcoholic beverage monthly. The 13

varieties of seasonal fruits including Aunty Desmond, Jamoon, sorrel, Five Fingers and mango are bottled on the premises. "Pulse," a libido tonic made from three different barks is one of the top sellers.

Warren, who prides himself on being an educated chemistry professional said he always wanted to become a winemaker and has worked very hard on blending the right fruits to give his brand international appeal.

The Guyanese American hopes to expand his storage capacity to increase productivity. This will allow him to stock supermarkets, and later duty-free shops at the Guyana airport, and later overseas.

http://www.pandamaretreat.com/

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Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.nv.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.

ers to cash flow management," says Tim Carroll, vice president of small business engagement at

> here are resolutions for small businesses to succeed in 2014.

CONNECT WITH CUSTOMERS

Nothing beats word-ofmouth recommendations. Thanks to new digital technologies and social media, it's easier than ever to share these kudos.

you can reach millions of eves simultaneously. The key is to also get customers to engage with you and share your story with others," points out Carroll.

You don't have to be a social media maven to make the most of your digital presence. Take a look at other websites and incorporate appealing aspects of these on vour website. Use the space to highlight successes. But don't over-



look more "traditional" communications.

recent survey found that

86 percent of consumers

preferred receiving cus-

tomer appreciation gifts

- including thank you cards - through tradi-

tional rather than online

A website can be a pow-

erful marketing and sales

tool. But if nobody visits,

Your website needs to

be indexed properly to

show up high in search

engine results. According to researchers, more than

Don't get caught off

guard by annual events

that matter to your busi-

ness. For example, it's

never too early to think

about holiday marketing. Plan now to maxi-

mize sales when it mat-

it's a virtual ghost town.

GET NOTICED

methods.

ONLINE

(StatePoint) For small businesses, adapting to the changing times is crucial. Periodically, it's important to review what's working and where there's room to transform.

"The new year is a blank slate for small businesses, offering the opportunity to streamline everything from connecting with custom-Deluxe Corporation.

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half of online shoppers don't go past the first two pages of search results. This is why Search

Engine Optimization (SEO) is critical. Optimize your website for keywords and phrases your customers are searching for online. "In today's digital world, To accomplish this and

improve search engine rankings, small businesses increasingly turn to marketing services firms, like Deluxe. THINK AHEAD



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OP-EDS New York State budget

* Connecting the suc-

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program to community col-

leges and expanding the tax

credit program from \$6 mil-

lion to \$10 million annu-

ally to help encourage more

employers to hire inner-city

* New economic oppor-

All provisions in the gov-

ernor's proposed budget are

subject to review by the leg-

islature. The Assembly and

Senate have begun review-

ing the governor's proposed

budget and will conduct

public hearings before tak-

ing action. Public hearings

will begin next week in

tunities for veterans.

ship program;

youth

Continued from Page 10

* Legislation requiring the State Health Department to adjust Medicaid rates to address cost increases stemming from the home care wage parity law for home-care workers in New York City;

* Strengthening of our public higher-education system so that students may excel both academically and at the same time also serve as an economic engine, by providing \$110 million for new and expanded round of SUNY2020 and CUNY2020 programs, plus \$8 million in funding for a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) scholarAlbany.

For a schedule of the budget hearings visit the Assembly's website here: http://assembly.state.nv.us/ comm/WAM/20140110/

Assemblywoman Rhoda S. Jacobs represents the 42nd Assembly District, which includes sections of the Flatbush, Flatbush Gardens. Midwood. and Victorian Flatbush neighborhoods of Brooklyn. She serves in the leadership as the Assistant Speaker, and on the Rules, Ways & Means, Health and Insurance Committees as well as the Task Force on Women's Issues and the Task Force on New Americans.

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Schedule of Events 11am Film Screening: The Dream Keeper, St. Clair Bourne, Director (1985)

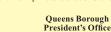
Performances

12pm Many Rivers to Cross... A Musical Journey Through 500 Years of African American History Featuring Monique McDonald, Mezzo-Soprano and Inna Leytush, Pianist 1pm The Poetry of Langston Hughes - David Mills 2pm Live Performance - Afro-Jersey 3:30pm Dance Performance - Annabella Gonzalez Dance Theatre 4:30pm Harlem Blues - Harlem Blues & Jazz Band Program subject to change.

2pm Knowledge is Power! Sickle Cell Disease: From Evolution to Revolution Program Room B Lower Level

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Funding for this program is provided in part through grants received from the New York State Cou8ncil on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Council Discretionary Grant from Council Member Julissa Ferreras, former Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall, Queens Library, Library Action Committee of Corona-East Elmhurst, Incl., and from private donations and contributions



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В

What every cold and flu sufferer needs to know

(StatePoint) During cold and flu season, an ounce of prevention goes a long way. But despite best efforts, getting sick is sometimes unavoidable.

This year, Americans will suffer from approximately one billion colds, and as many as one in five will get the flu.

Many people turn to over-thecounter medicines (OTC) for relief from their cold and flu symptoms. When illness strikes, treating your symptoms safely and responsibly is just as important as relief.

During this cold and flu season, McNeil Consumer Healthcare, the maker of Tylenol, is educating consumers about the safe and appropriate use of medicines through its educational initiative "Get Relief Responsibly."

Many cold and flu medicines contain acetaminophen, a common pain reliever used to provide relief from their cold and flu symptoms such as fever, sore throat, and body pains.

HEALTH

Acetaminophen is the active ingredient in Tylenol but it can also be found in more than 600 OTC and prescription medications such as NyQuil, Theraflu, Percocet and Vicodin.

If you take multiple medicines at a time to treat various symptoms, it is important to be aware of the ingredients and to follow labels to prevent accidentally taking more than the recommended dose.

"Acetaminophen is safe when used as directed, but taking too much can harm your liver," says Edwin Kuffner, M.D., Vice President of Medical Affairs at McNeil Consumer Healthcare. "Some people may accidentally take more than the total daily dose of acetaminophen because they do not realize they are taking multiple products containing acetaminophen, or because they may not read and follow the label."

This cold and flu season, get relief responsibly with these tips from McNeil Consumer Healthcare:

• Always read and follow your medicine labels carefully. If you're taking more than one medicine, read and compare the labels.

• Never take more than one medicine that contains the same active ingredient at the same time.

• Never take more than the recommended dose, unless directed by your doctor. And don't take any medicine for longer than directed. If you're not getting effective relief, contact your doctor.

• Inform your doctor and pharmacist of your medical history and what medications you take. This will help your healthcare team ensure you're taking medicines that are appropriate for you.

• If you suspect an overdose, even if you don't have any symp-



When seeking relief from the cold or flu first learn about the medications you're taking and be sure to take them responsibly.

(c) Subbotina Anna - Fotolia.com

toms, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away at 1-800-222-1222.

• Learn more. Visit the website www.GetReliefResponsibly.comfor tools and resources about how to take medicines safely -- including an interactive medicine checker to find out which of you medicines contain acetaminophen, tips on how to read medicine labels and steps to keep medicines safely out of the reach of children.

During cold and flu season, do yourself a favor. When seeking relief, first learn about the medications you're taking and be sure to take them responsibly.

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Are You Suffering With Severe Constant Pain?

New Laser Light Breakthrough Treatment May Reduce Or Even Eliminate Pain Of The Worst Kind In Just Minutes

If you are suffering with severe pain despite all the treatments, that may have failed you in the past, you may now have some hope of reducing or even eliminating your pain with a new non-surgical, painless laser treatment now available in Brooklyn.

Deep Tissue Laser Treatment is an innovative, scientifically based, therapeutic modality. This new technology offers advanced pain relief and expedited healing times through a process known as photobiostimulation.

Deep Tissue Laser Treatment delivers, deep, penetrating, photonic (light) energy to bring about profound physiological changes. ATP (Adenosinetriphosphate) production is increased, inflammation and pain reduced and circulation increased at the site of pain. These changes in cellular chemistry are triggered by the deep tissue laser making it a true healing modality.

Deep Tissue Laser Therapy does not require the use of drugs or surgery, and there are no known side effects or risks that may occur with other forms of treatment. In addition, it can often achieve results faster than other treatment modalities. During the treatment the patient will feel a deep soothing warmth. This pleasant sensation reassures the patient that the laser is stimulating cellular activity.

Lasers have made a remarkable contribution toward healthcare, allowing practitioners to treat a variety of conditions with the speed of light. As a non-invasive tool, the laser is particularly effective for the efficient treatment of soft tissue injuries, sprains and strains, and a variety of other ailments and pain.

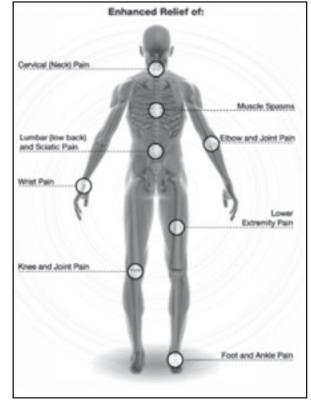
Low Level Laser enhances metabolic activity at the cellular level, without generating tissue-damaging heat.

Some of the benefits of laser treatment include:

- Fast reduction of pain
- Improvement of nerve function
- Reduction of muscle spasms.
- Speeding of tissue repair
- Development of muscle tissue and collagen
- Reduction of inflammation, swelling and scar tissue formation
- Pain reduction immediately

The Class IV laser, approved by the FDA in 2006, packs a punch while remaining non-invasive. The Class IV laser is capable of reaching depths of 6 to 9 inches, with a treatment beam of up to 3 inches. Because the Class IV laser reaches deep into the

Because the Class IV laser reaches deep into the tissues, it is ideal for treating sprains and strains, arthritis, calcified muscles and fibrotic adhesions, as well as intraarticular tissues inside of the joints. Its far-reaching capabilities also allow the Class IV to achieve results in less time than most cold lasers currently used today. With treatment times of as little as 5 to 15 minutes, the Class IV laser allows many conditions to vastly improve within a few visits. Oftentimes, patients find immediate, soothing relief that improves with each treatment.



A partial list of the kind of conditions that can be helped...

- Bulging, Slipped Discs
- Spinal Fusion
- Neck Pain
- Sciatica Pain
- Migraine Headaches
- Back Pain & Spinal Conditions
- Tennis Elbow
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Neuropathy Pain
- Bell's Palsy
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Sports Injuries
- Sprains & Strains
- Knee Pain
- Hamstring Tears
- Arthritic Pain

If you are tired of living with pain and would like to see if you qualify for deep tissue laser treatment call 718-234-6206 for a FREE CONSULTATION right now. Dr. Keller has seen such dramatic fast pain relief with Deep Tissue Laser Treatment, that she offers one FREE treatment to see if you respond and if you are a candidate for this revolutionary new non surgical pain relieving treatment. Due to the overwhelming response to this type of offer, this offer will be good for the first 25 callers. If the lines are busy, keep trying.

Listen to what patients are saying:

"I had been suffering from knee pain for many months before I tried laser treatments using Deep Tissue Laser. After just a couple treatments, my knee pain was reduced to the point where I can finally live a more normal life again. These treatments are simply remarkable!"

- Jennifer C.

"I started treatments with Deep Tissue Laser after I had injured my neck in a car accident. The treatments allowed me to return to work much more quickly than anyone had expected, considering the pain I was in. During the treatments, all I felt was a warming sensation as the laser was moved across the injured area where all my pain was. After just three short treatments, my pain was almost totally gone. Thanks, Doctor!"

- Jason B.

"The Deep Tissue Laser treatments I received dramatically helped my recovery from a broken leg. Not only did it help reduce the swelling, the pain relief I experienced was nothing short of miraculous. My orthopedic doctor was amazed with the results." - John M.

> Brooklyn Spine Center Dr. Melinda Keller 5911 16th Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11204 brooklynspinecenter.com

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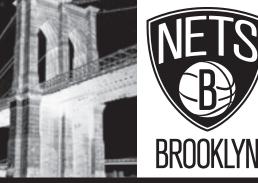
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THE RIGHT CARE NOW



Emphasize oral hygiene in new year

Of all the plans people make at the dawn of a new year, getting healthier is often at the top of the list. Although many individuals are concerned about shedding a few pounds, there are many other ways to focus on health in the upcoming months, including paying more attention to dental hygiene. Proper dental care can not only keep a smile bright, it can affect other areas of the body.

FOCUS ON Health

Fluoride benefits

One of the keys to oral health is the use of fluoride to prevent cavities. In fact, many health professionals will say that exposure to fluoride, whether through use of toothpaste or fluoridated water supplies, is probably the most effective cavity-prevention treatment available. Fluoride helps the teeth in a number of ways.

Fluoride can promote tooth remineralization. This means it attracts other minerals, particularly calcium, to the areas of the teeth where tooth decay can form, helping to strengthen teeth. Fluoride also helps to make teeth more resistant to decay. New tooth mineral created when fluoride is present helps to make teeth harder, making it more difficult for acids and bacteria to penetrate the enamel of the teeth and cause damage.

Another advantage is that fluoride helps to inhibit acid

creation. Dental researchers have found that fluoride can inhibit bacteria living in the mouth. That's an important finding, as such bacteria can contribute to the formation of damage-causing acids that are notorious for wearing down tooth enamel, causing spots for more bacteria to congregate and form cavities.

According to the American Dental Association, individuals who find themselves prone to cavities or whose dentists have deemed them at elevated risk for developing cavities may benefit from fluoride application beyond the norm. This may include prescription fluoride applied directly to the teeth at home or procedures where dentists apply the fluoride in their offices.

Recent clinical recommendations from a multidisciplinary expert panel convened by the Association's Council on Scientific Affairs suggest that topical fluoride, used in conjunction with drinking optimally fluoridated water and using toothpaste with fluoride, can prevent tooth decay. These clinical recommendations cover professionally applied and prescriptionstrength, home-use topical fluoride agents for cavity prevention. The panel concluded

that additional research is needed, but recommended the following products for patients at elevated risk of developing cavities.

• Professionally applied 2.26 percent fluoride varnish or a 1.23 percent fluoride gel every three to six months.

• Home-use prescriptionstrength 0.5 percent fluoride gel or paste or 0.09 percent fluoride mouth rinse (for patients 6 years old or older).

•A2.26 percent professionally applied fluoride varnish every three to six months for children younger than 6 years old.

Application of additional fluoride should not replace daily oral hygiene habits. It is still vital to brush twice a day, floss daily, eat a balanced diet, and visit the dentist regularly for checkups.

Heart disease and oral health

The millions of bacteria that proliferate inside of the mouth and contribute to cavities also can affect other areas of the body. Evidence suggests the same bacteria that can cause plaque and gum disease may lead to cardiovascular problems. According to information from Harvard Medical School, several species of bacteria that cause periodontitis have been found in the atherosclerotic plaque in arteries in the heart and elsewhere. This plaque can lead to heart attack.



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For dazzling flowers, nobody's better than 13th Avenue Florist

By Camille Sperrazza He's got "flower power." George Procovas, owner of 13th Avenue Florist, knows how flowers make the occasion.

He creates beautiful and unique floral arrangements for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions. The exotic flowers come from all over the world, including many from the Caribbean and Hawaii, places noted for having some of the prettiest.

Brides have been dazzled by his creations that have included cherry blossoms. They are also happy with the very reasonable prices.

"We take good care of our customers," says George.

It's how the business has grown — via word of mouth from all his happy customers.

George likes to say he's been in the flower business since he was 7 years old. Back then, his uncle owned a Brooklyn flower store, and George helped out. He observed how his uncle would take flowers and somehow turn them into beautiful bouquets and arrangements, a craft George was eager to learn.

An outgoing kid, he also loved to chat with customers, and they, too, enjoyed their conversations with him. It was such a happy business. Flowers made people happy, was the lesson George learned at an early age. It was then he knew that this was the career for him.

At age 18, George opened his first flower shop, also on 13th Avenue in Dyker Heights.

"I started from scratch, and there were many challenges," he says. Despite hard times, he continued. His family was supportive of his endeavor, and after a while, his brother, Dino,



(Clockwise from top left) George Procovas, owner of 13th Avenue Florist, prepares a white hydrangea with white rose wedding sample. George's hard worked has kept his 13th Avenue business open for years. The exotic flowers come from all over the world. George and his staff create beautiful and unique floral arrangements for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions. Photos by Steve Solomonson

came into the business.

"By treating everyone with respect, the business eventually grew," he says.

In fact, it grew so much, they soon outgrew that location, and moved to where they are now, just a few blocks away from where they started.

As a result of the move, they were able

to expand their inventory. Today, they sell plaques, balloons, picture frames, candles, mugs, and more, items that can be included in floral arrangements or in gift baskets they can also create.

When spring arrives, and it's time to plant outdoor flowers, the 13th Avenue Florist has everything you need to create spectacular flower gardens at home. Create a little pizzazz of your own by piecing together some exceptional beauties in hanging baskets.

If you don't have a green thumb, but simply love looking at flowers, there's a huge selection of silk arrangements that might just work for you. Fresh flower arrangements, for every occasion, can be delivered locally and worldwide.

George is living his dream, and customers reap the benefits of having a florist they can trust for all their floral needs. Today, he advises young business owners.

"Trust your dream, and follow it," he says. "Be willing to take the risk. Nothing is handed to you in life, and nothing worthwhile comes without taking risks. Follow your dream."

13th Avenue Florist [7806 13th Ave. between 78th and 79th streets in Dyker Heights, (718) 236– 9088, www.13thaveflorist. com]. Open Mondays through Saturdays, 9 am–7 pm; and Sundays 9 am–4 pm.



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New Caribbean center promotes green business

By Nelson A. King

A new World Bank-supported business hub inaugurated on Monday in Trinidad and Tobago will support the growing number of clean energy and climate technology ventures in the Caribbean, the Washingtonbased financial institution says.

The World Bank said the Caribbean Climate Innovation Center (CCIC), first of its kind in the region, will help reduce the significant threats posed by climate change through the creation of new green businesses.

It said climate change can have "a serious impact on the Caribbean," pointing to a recent study it conducted that highlights how an estimated 4°C increase in global temperatures "would have disastrous consequences, including increased frequency and intensity of storms, coastal erosion and decline of fresh water resources."

Additional research estimated that the cost for the Caribbean could be up to US\$11 billion annually by 2025, the World Bank said.

To address the economic impact of climate change in the region, the bank said the CCIC will help local companies – working g in solar energy, energy efficiency, water management, resource efficiency and agribusiness – become successful "green: ventures through financing, training, mentorship and other services.

^aThe new CCIC will help turn climate challenges into economic opportunities," said Sophie Sirtaine, World Bank country director for the Caribbean.

"Companies in the Caribbean have the skills and experience to innovate and find environmentally sound and profitable climate solutions the region needs," she added. "The CCIC will work with them to make this happen."

Sirtaine said numerous domestic natural resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass, can be tapped to move the region away from fossil fuels.

By supporting local climate technology companies that make use of these natural resources, Sirtaine said the CCIC is expected to cut 20,882 metric tons in Green House Gas emissions in the first six years of operation, which is equivalent to the exhaust emissions from 4,500 passenger cars per year.

"We believe biodiesel could play an important role in the energy landscape of the Caribbean," said Elliot Lincoln, founder of Themba Biofuels, based in Antigua. "We aim to replace 10 percent of imported diesel fuel with biodiesel and create more than a hundred jobs," he added. "I look forward to the support of the CCIC as we scale our operations and develop new markets."

The World Bank said the CCIC will have facilities in Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago, as well as satellite hubs in other Caribbean islands.

It said the center will be part of a global network of eight Climate Innovation Centers located, among others, in Kenya, India, Vietnam and Ethiopia.

The CCIC will complement other on-going World Bank and donor initiatives, including the Foundations for Growth and Competitiveness in Jamaica and the Caribbean Growth Forum, the bank said.

Supported by the World Bank Group and its global innovation program infoDev, and by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada, the CCIC was developed in close collaboration with regional public and private sector partners.

The World Bank said it is hosted by the Jamaica-based Scientific Research Council and the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute in Trinidad and Tobago.





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'Motown' star on health crusade to help women

Jan.

B

"Motown: The Musical' features a star-studded cast of thespians who nightly, nostalgically reflect on the heydays of the most successful record label out of the motor city AKA known as Detroit. With Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, The Four Tops and Temptations dominant in the Broadway production, no character leaves as indelible an impression on audiences as the Diana Ross character portrayed by Valisia LeKae.

Nominated for a 2013 Tony Award in the Best Actress in a Musical category, LeKae was acclaimed for channeling the superstar who rose from being one of a trio known as the Supremes to overwhelm the entire music industry when she became a singular sensation.

LeKae's gestures, singing and voice epitomized the star regarded as The Boss. Through weekly matinees and nightly performances she charmed audiences who packed into the Lunt



Fontanne Theater to capture and reprise the nostalgia that made Berry Gordy a mogul. Towards the end of last year, LeKae withdrew from her routine. Persistent stomach pains forced her to leave the show. After diagnosis at Mount Sinai Hospital by Dr. David Fishman, professor and fellowship director in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine she was told her pain was caused by carcinoma of the ovary. Dr. Fishman is also the Director of the National Ovarian Cancer Early Detection Program at the same facility.

In his position he immediately scheduled surgery for Dec. 19.

The 34-year-old actress under-went surgery (unilateral salpingo-oophorecto-



my) for clear cell carcinoma
of the ovary.
Better known as ovarian

cancer, the disease has been defined as the fourth leading cause of death in American women. Approximately 22,000 women are diagnosed annually and 14,000 die from the disease.

"Her cancer is associated with genetic inherited cancers- yet she has no family history. She required an operation and will need six rounds of chemotherapy," Dr. Fishman said.

"The surgery does not require losing her uterus or other ovary as she desires option for future fertility. Her cancer can be very aggressive and survival can range from 40-90 percent."

Since the surgery, LeKae has been on a crusade to bring awareness to African-



Vinette K. Pryce (left) and Valisia LeKae. Photo by Don Thomas

American women and all young women about ovarian cancer. Already she has mounted a new stage and is informing women that "ovarian cancer incidence for African American women is 74 percent of the rate for white women according to the American Cancer Society. Death rates from ovarian cancer are 80 percent of the

rate for white women."

"As a 34 year old, African American woman, I feel that it is important that I share my story in order to educate and encourage others about this disease and the fight against it. 2013 has been full of blessings, from being nominated for a prestigious Tony Award for my portrayal of Diana Ross in Motown The Musical as well as many other accolades. God has given me another role to play and like all my previous roles, I plan to go all in, only this time I plan to Win!" actress Lekae said. She is also spreading the news that:

Jan. 23 Krystal Joy Brown assumed the role of Diana Ross in the musical.

And although Lekae is no longer portraying the role that launched her among celebrated Motown stars, she is now on another galaxy where the applause resonates with saving lives.

The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition recently contacted LeKae informing her that she is invited to speak at their annual conference in March.

In addition, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance will honor LeKae in May at their Gala.

For more information on relevant patient care check www.mountsinai. org/patient-care/service-

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Caribbean Life

ENTERTAINMEN

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Ziggy, Rihanna net more Grammys

By Vinette K. Pryce

On a night hip-hop recorders attempted to change sexist stereotypes, Caribbean super-recorders Rihanna and David "Ziggy" Marley won the music industry's highest by winning a Grammy award.

It was the Barbadian singer's eight win since rapper Jay-Z introduced her to a world-wide audience. This year she won for in the best Urban contemporary category for her "Unapologetic" CD. Nominated twice, Rihanna lost out in the Best Pop Duo Performance where she collaborated with Mikki Ekko to sing "Stay."

The eldest son of Rita and Bob Marley -- whose family leads in tallying the most Grammy nominations and victories in the reggae category -- claimed his third as a solo artist and sixth overall Grammy win



Ziggy Marley arrives at the 56th annual GRAMMY Awards at Staples Center on Sunday; Jan. 26; 2014; in Los Angeles. Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP

when added to three others with collaborations with his brother and sisters. The 45-year-old heir to a reggae dynasty took home his Continued on Page 34

Jamaica 'Voice' booked for St. Kitts

By Vinette K. Pryce

Jamaican singing sensation, Tessanne Chin will return to perform during the St. Kitts Music Festival where she performed seven years ago. According to representatives from the St. Kitts Tourism Authority and the St. Kitts Music Festival committee, the winner of NBC's hit reality TV competition "The Voice" is slated to perform at the 18th Annual St. Kitts Music Festival, which will take place from June 26 to June 28.

Continued on Page 34



Tessanne Chin performs after being announced the season five winner of "The Voice" on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013, in Los Angeles.

AP Photo/NBC, Tyler Golden



This image released by the New Victory Theater shows S. Lewis Feemster during a performance of "Bob Marley's Three Little Birds," a new musical for kids that features the legendary reggae artist's songs. AP Photo/New Victory Theater, Bruce Douglas

Bob Marley musical for kids jammin'

By Mark Kennedy

NEW YORK (AP) — A snowy, frigid New York is about to enjoy a blast of Caribbean warmth courtesy of Jamaica and its most favorite son, Bob Marley.

The New Victory Theater in the heart of Times Square is putting on "Bob Marley's Three Little Birds," a new musical for kids that features the legendary reggae artist's songs.

"I want Daddy to speak to children through his music," says Cedella Marley, the first-born daughter of Bob Marley and Rita Marley and who helped create the show.

The story centers on Ziggy, a shy Jamaican child who hides from his fears — hurricanes, mongooses and evil spirits — at home, watching TV. A bird, his mom and his nagging neighbor coax him out to face his demons and enjoy life. Cedella Marley hopes it can bring "a little bit of Jamaica to kids who probably never heard of it."

The tropically colored musical includes the title song, "Three Little Birds," as well as "Jamming," "Roots Continued on Page 34 B



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| 2 | The Monster Eminem Feat. Rihanna |
| 3 | Timber Pitbull Feat. Ke\$ha |
| 4 | Wake Me Up! Avicii |
| 5 | Royals Lorde |
| 6 | Demons Imagine Dragons |
| 7 | Let Her Go Passenger |
| 8 | Burn Ellie Goulding |
| 9 | Dark Horse Katy Perry Featuring Juicy J |
| 10 | Story Of My Life One Direction |
| | OP 10 LBUMS |

Frozen

Soundtrack

Beyonce

Fading West

High Hopes

Bruce Springsteen

Jennifer Nettles

Kidz Bop 25

Kidz Bop Kids

Pure Heroine

Bad Blood

The Marshall Mathers LP 2

Veri70n wireless

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Bastille

Eminem

Night Visions

Imagine Dragons

Beyonce

Switchfoot

That Girl

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TOP OF THE

CHARTS

TOP 10

SINGLES

Counting Stars

OneRepublic

Grammy winners

Continued from page 33

latest for "In Concert" which was nominated in the Best Reggae Album category. He won his first solo Grammy in 2007 for "Love is my Religion.'

Three years later, the Jamaican singer/musician won a Grammy for Best Musical Album for Children with a recording titled "Family Time."

With his 14-track album, recorded during his 2012 world tour, he equals the number his younger brother Stephen has accumulated.

Ziggy beat out popular drum and bass musicians Sly and Robbie's release of " The Jam Masters' Reggae Connection," Sizzla's "The Messiah," "One Love, One Life" by Beres Hammond, and a first, reggae-effort by hip-hop Snoop Dogg whose Snoop Lion moniker produced "Reincarnated."

In previous years since 1984, Ziggy's youngest brother Damian also two Grammy awards. His sis-

ters Sharon and Cedella each won three Grammy honors collaborating as members of Ziggy Marley & the Melody Makers. Brothers Kymani and Julian have also been nominated for the coveted award.

Although Robert Nesta Marley, the avowed King of Reggae --died in 1981 (three years before a reggae category was included) the legend was celebrated in 2001 with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

This year's celebrated ceremony featured a mass wedding, which included same-sex couples which was officiated by rapper/ singer/actress and TV talk show host Queen Latifah.

On a night 100 million TV viewers reportedly watched the awards, 34 couples accepted wedding vows. The two achieving Caribbean music-makers were announced winners during the pre-telecast ceremony of the 56th annual Grammy awards held at the Staples Center in California.



ihanna arrives at the Roc Nation 2014 Pre-Grammy Brunch Celebration on Friday; Jan. 25; 2014 in Los Angeles. Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP



patrons first fell in love with Tessanne when she performed here early in her career in 2007, and we are even more pleased to welcome her back to St. Kitts this year following her recent career-changing The Voice victory," Sen. Ricky Skerritt, minister of Tourism & International Transport said.

Described as "a Jamaican, reggae, fusion, artist," Chin earned her fame last year by winning Season 5 of NBC's reality TV show "The Voice." Born to musical parents and raised in Jamaica, Chin started performing at age six years-old with Cathy Levy's Little People and Teen Players Club, one of Jamaica's top performing arts schools, before moving to England at age 12. Upon her return to Jamaica, Chin joined the Jamaican Rock Band, "Mile High" and performed for crowds at numerous local venues. Upon leaving the group to launch her solo career, Chin started writing songs for her debut CD. Her debut single, "Hideaway," allegedly received heavy rotation on Jamaican radio and brokered stations here. After winning "The Voice," Chin performed at the annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California where the first

ever "Voice" float debut on New Year's Day.

She kicked off the year by returning home to perform at a "Shaggy and Friends" benefit concert. Chin also headlined her first show in celebration of her victory with a free concert held downtown Kingston.

SUPER SUPERBOWL **CONCERT IN HARLEM SALUTES JAZZ**

Harlem is not about to miss out on the Feb. 2 Super Bowl frenzy.

Not to be outdone by all the celebrations scheduled prior to SuperBowl 48, the Apollo Theater plans a Jan. 31, "Friday Night In Harlem" concert.

The event is billed as a megaconcert that will pay tribute to jazz legend and the king of swing Edward Kennedy Ellington. Popularly known as The Duke, his music will resound with featured performances by the Manhattan School of Music Swing Jazz Orchestra. A special guest performances by Nea Jazz Masters: Cecil Bridgewater and Arturo O'Farrill is also billed

To add to the game-plan, an all-star band led by contemporary jazz musicians Alex Bugnon, Victor Bailey, Lenny White and award winning vocalist Regina Belle are also planned.



From left, Tara Yates-Reeves, Jobari Parker, David Little and Ayanna Hardy during a performance of "Bob Marley's Three Little Birds," a new musical for kids that features the legendary reggae artist's songs. AP Photo/New Victory Theater, Michael Horan



Continued from page 33

Rock Reggae" and "Is This Love," among others. It's even got the melody from "I Shot the Sheriff," a sly note to the adults in the room.

It was inspired by the 2006 picture book written by Cedella Marley and Gerald Hausman about the Bob Marley song of the same name. Michael J. Bobbitt, the producing artistic director of Adventure Theatre MTC in Glen Echo, Md., worked with Marley on turning it into a musical.

"It was sort of fun to put it all together and figure out what songs would weave well with the story," says Bobbitt. "I really think it showcases the gravity of his work and the breadth of his work." Recommended for anyone 5 or

over, the show's message - get over your fears, enjoy your life, things get better — is as allembracing as Bob Marley's music, which refuses in 2014 to sound out-of-date.

"There's something in the beat that he really fine-tuned that I think is infectious. It's a beat that can be felt in a universal way," says Bobbitt, who helps run the D.C.-region's longest-running children's theater.

"But beyond that, I think that his songs and his messages and his feelings of good vibe and just enjoying life are also something that's universal and infectious."

The show opens Feb. 7, the day after what would have been Marley's 69th birthday.

Jaded playboy rethinks his womanizing ways

"Cavemen" Very Good (2.5 stars) Unrated Running time: 86 minutes Distributor: Well Go USA Entertainment

By Kam Williams

Dean (Skylar Austin) lives in L.A. with three buddies in a warehouse converted into a windowless loft they call "The Cave." The appellation is apropos since these twenty-something slackers behave like cavemen, spending most of their free time at local haunts bars trying to lure women back to their bachelors' lair for wanton liaisons with no strings attached.

For instance, African-American Andre (Dayo Okeniyi) has been sleeping with a luscious Latina (Fernanda Romero) as well as an attractive Asian (Victoria Park) who have no idea that each other exists. That state of affairs is a recipe for disaster destined to blow up in the two-timing brother's face.

Meanwhile, Andre's roommates, Jay (Chad Michael Murray) and Pete (Kenny Wormald), have been behaving just as badly, inspired by the macho mantra, "Get out there and take what's yours." Dean, however, has finally tired of the string of shallow conquests after sharing pneumatic bliss with Sara (Megan Stevenson), a cutie-pie who means nothing more to him than another notch in the bedpost.

Over lunch the next day, he cries on the proverbial shoulders of his BFF Tess (Camille Belle) and his nephew Jimmy (Kaden Gibson) about wanting to find a meaningful relationship. Because the cozy confidantes sitting at the table seem very well-suited, the precocious 9 year-old asks whether they've ever dated.

Dean and Tess awkwardly admit that they once kissed long ago, but purely by accident. However,



Kenny Wormald, Dayo Okeniyi, Skylar Austin and Chad Michael Murray in 'Cavemen."

instead of now considering each other romantically, the obvious soul mates continue to look elsewhere for a love connection. Soon, Tess starts sleeping with inveterate womanizer Jay, which leaves the audience impatiently wondering when Dean will wake up and confess his deep feelings before it's too late? At which point the question will be whether she's inclined to reciprocate?

Those are the pivotal plot points driving Cavemen, an amusing romantic comedy exploring the mating habits of male members of the Millennial Generation in superficial fashion. Written and directed by Herschel Faber, the otherwise entertaining picture suffers from a flaw reflected in its failure to develop its characters beyond recognizable clichés.

Best thought of as a 21st Century update of

the Little Rascals' He-Man Woman Hater's Club episode where Alfalfa wises up and woos Darla, his Neanderthal pals' protestations notwithstanding.

Independent & Foreign Films

12 O'Clock Boys (Unrated) Crime does pay documentary profiling a biker gang of troubled teens inexplicably given free rein by the police to terrorize the citizens of Baltimore.

At Middleton (R for sexuality and drug use) Romantic romp revolving around the antics of a couple strangers (Andy Garcia and Vera Farmiga) who meet and fall in love while their kids are taking a tour of a college campus. With Taissa Farmiga, Tom Skerritt and Spencer Lofranco.

Best Night Ever (R for profanity, graphic nudity, drug use, crude humor and pervasive profanity) Parody of the road trip genre about a bride-to-be (Desiree Hall) who gets more than she bargained for when she ventures to Vegas with her bridesmaids for a bawdy bachelorette party. Co-starring Samantha Colburn, Eddie Ritchard, Crista Flanagan and Jenny Lin.

Breaking the Frame (Unrated) Reverential retrospective chronicling the career of iconoclastic, visual artist Carolee Schneemann, best known for her



explorations of eroticism and gender.

Brightest Star (Unrated) Romantic dramedy about a jilted college grad (Chris Lowell) who tries to make himself over to win back his uptight ex (Rose McIver), only to meet a free-spirited bohemian (Jessica Szohr) who likes him just as he is. Support cast includes Allison Janney, Clark Gregg and Peter Jacobson.

Charlie Victor Romeo (Unrated) Aviation disaster post mortem deconstructing the final moments of a half dozen, doomed commercial airliners via a combination of animation and black box transcripts.

Jobriath A.D. (Unrated) "It's better to flame out than to fade away" biopic recounting the brief career of Bruce Wayne Campbell (1946-1983), aka Jobriath, the first openly-gay rock star, and the first to die of AIDS.

Love Is in the Air (Unrat-

ed) Transatlantic comedy about a lawyer (Nicolas Bedos) who makes the most of a second shot at romance with his ex-girlfriend (Ludivine Sagnier) when he finds himself seated next to her on a flight from New York to Paris. With Jonathan Cohen, Arnaud Ducret and Brigitte Catillon. (In French and English subtitles)

Peter Brook: The Tightrope (Unrated) Life's a stage biopic, shot with five hidden cameras, highlighting legendary theater director Peter Brook's creative process.

Somewhere Slow (Unrated) Road flick about a fugitive from justice (Jessalyn Gilsig) who is befriended by a teen drifter (Graham Patrick Martin) she meets while on the run after a botched convenience store robbery. With Robert Forster, Lindsay Crouse and David Constabile.



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

SUN KUCHA COMMUNITIONTS

FRI., JAN. 31

SOLIDARITY NIGHT: Join the Grenada Independence Anniversary Committee of New York for Caribbean Solidarity Night in celebration of Grenada's Independence. This is a free event for the public at 7:00 p.m. Holy Cross Auditorium, 2530 Church Ave., (between Bedford and Rogers Ave.). For more information, call (212) 599-0301.

SAT., FEB. 1

YOUTH FETE: Join the Grenada Independence Anniversary Committee of New York in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Grenada's Independence at 10:00 p.m. Admisson is \$20. Plenty's Paradise 992 Rogers Ave (between Beverly Rd. and Tilden Ave.) For more information, call (212) 599-0301.

FREE HEALTH SCREENING & SERV-ICES: You are invited to the 3rd Annual People's Health Spectacular, there will be free dental, asthma/breathing, blood pressure, cholesterol, mammograms, vision/blindness, diabetes, HIV testing, prostate, mental health, children's health and family fun, games, giveaways and sports from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Madison Square Boys & Girls Club Navy Yard Club House 240 Nassau St. Brooklyn.

SUN., FEB. 2

CHURCH SERVICE: Join the Grenada Independence Anniversary Committee of New York in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Grenada's Independence at 4:00 p.m. Beulah Church of Nazarene, 1250 St. John's Place (between Troy and Albany Aves.) For more information, call (212) 599-0301.

TUES., FEB. 4

STORYTELLERS: The long-running No Name Comedy / Variety Show brings New York's best established and upcoming authors and storytellers including David Arroyo, Cyndi Freeman, Nisse Greenberg, and Courtney Weber to Washington Heights for their monthly series: "No Name @ Word Up Super Storytellers' Edition", at the Word Up Community Bookshop (165th Street & Amsterdam Avenue). The show will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will include a "Magic Hat open mic" where members of the audience can sign up for a chance at four minutes of stage time to tell their story. Admission is free, donations welcomed.

THURS., FEB. 6

SENIOR TEA PARTY: Join the Grenada Independence Anniversary Committee of New York in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Grenada's Independence at 3:00 p.m. Free Admission. Teresa Moore Center, 2702 Linden Blvd. (between Eldert lane and Lincoln Ave.)

ASHION/TALENT SHOW

FEB. 8: A fashion/talent show to raise funds for The Milton Cato Memorial Hospital's Pediatric Ward in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Showtime: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Admission: \$10 per person (Children under 5 free) Food and refreshments will be on sale. Friends of Crown Heights, 671 Prospect Place (between Bedford Ave. & Franklin Ave.).



FEB. 6: Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Grenada's Independence at 3:00 p.m. Free Admission. Teresa Moore Center, 2702 Linden Blvd. (between Eldert lane and Lincoln Ave.) For more information, call (212) 599-0301.

FEB 1: Join the Grenada Independence Anniversary Committee of New York in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Grenada's Independence at 10:00 p.m. Admisson is \$20. Plenty's Paradise 992 Rogers Ave (between Beverly Rd. and Tilden Ave.) For more information, call (212) 599-0301.

and 6th avenues). For more information, call (212) 599-0301.

FUNDRAISER: BMZ Entertainment in conjunction with the New York Consulate of SVG presents "Runway Rippers With a Difference." A fashion/talent show to raise funds for The Milton Cato Memorial Hospital's Pediatric Ward in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Showtime: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Admission: \$10 per person (Children under 5 free) Food and refreshments will be on sale. Friends of Crown Heights, 671 Prospect Place (between Bedford Ave. & Franklin Ave.).

ONGOING Mon., Jan. 6 - Sat., Mar. 22

WINTER WORKSHOPS: Registration has already started but it is not to late to get in on the action. Registration for classes and workshops is ongoing throughout the term. Families, adults and children can choose from a variety of classes and workshops running morning, afternoon, evening and on weekends. Pelham Art Center Members receive 10 percent off classes. Need-based scholarships and payment plans are available. The Winter Catalog can be found on the Art Center's website, pelhamartcenter. org/education, or call (914) 738-2525 ext. 111 to request one by mail or email. Students may register online, in person, by mail, email, phone or fax. Pelham Art Center administrative hours are Tuesday- Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FRI., JAN. 31 - SAT., MAR. 29, 2014

MIGRATION NARRATIVES: Pelham Art Center is pleased to announce a group exhibition of kinetic sculpture, installation, drawing, painting, and video narratives by seven contemporary artists. There will be an opening reception and all age hands-on workshop from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Admission is free. This multi-media exhibition relates stories of individual transitions from one state of being to another. Independent Curator, Lisa A. Banner is an art historian and visiting associate professor at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. Additional free public programming will include a Curator Talk on Thursday, Feb. 27, 6:00 p.m.

FLOOD RELIEF: Donations are being accepted at the Friends of Crown Heights Center located at 671 Prospect Place, Brooklyn. Donations will also be accepted by Mirtha Colon, a Garifuna from Honduras, who operates Hondurans Against Aids out of Casa Yurumein in the Bronx. Casa Yurumein is located at 874 Prospect Ave. in the South Bronx, corner of Westchester Avenue. Checks and money orders are welcomed and should be made out to "SVG Community Inc." Anyone in the Long Island area who wishes to make a donation but cannot drive to Brooklyn, please call (347) 488-4395 to arrange a drop off or to arrange for Colon to pick up the donation. Items needed include medical supplies, non-perishable food, clothes, shoes, candles. Monetary donations can be made in the form of checks or money orders addressed to "SVG Community Inc."

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. - 3:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday and Sunday by appointment. The Center is currently closed on Saturdays until further notice. The library is located at 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 the Home Improvement Programs, call (718)469-4679 or visit www. nhsofeastflatbush.org.

If you have an event you would like to post in Sun Kulcha, please email your submission to Caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com. All submissions are subject to a review by the editor. Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

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For more information, call (212) 599-0301.

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY: Join the Grenada Independence Anniversary Committee of New York in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Grenada's Independence at 11:00 p.m. Free Admission. Borough Hall, 290 Joralemon St. (between Court and Fulton street). For more information, call (212) 599-0301.

SAT., FEB. 8

MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE: Come to this free event where professionals will be available to discuss foreclosure prevention, Sandy-related issues, home improvement, flood insurance coverage and more, 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Pac-Plex Recreation, 1500 Paerdegat Ave., North (between Paerdegat 15th Street & Seaview Ave.), BK, 11236. For more information, please call: (718) 469-4679. Sponsored by the Center for NYC Neighborhoods and the Canarsie Coalition.

INDEPENDENCE GALA: Join the Grenada Independence Anniversary Committee of New York in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Grenada's Independence at 9:00 p.m. Grand Prospect Hall, 263 Prospect Ave. (between 5th

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This June, Caribbean Life presents its first ever Healthcare Awards, recognizing Caribbean Americans' essential contributions as caregivers and practitioners in New York City.

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Nominate an Outstanding Caribbean American Healthcare Professional

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| Yout relationship to nominee: | | | | | | |
| Nominee's occupation/profession: | | | | | | |
| Where does your nominee currently work? | | | | | | |
| How many years has your nominee been working in healthcare? | | | | | | |
| Previous awards or professional recognition (if any): | | | | | | |
| What makes your nominee outstanding? (100 words or less): | | | | | | |
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"Everybody is thrilled about the new 2014 Cherokee! We're excited that wecan give our customers the



The All-New, Redesigned 2014 Jeep Cherokee is here! Come to Kings CDJR and check it out today!

inventory they want at the prices they want," explained Evereton McLeod, General Sales Manager. "New ownership, new opportunities to save, and the all-new 2014 Jeep Cherokee—it doesan't get any better than this!"

Guests walking into Kings' new impressive showroom will be welcomed by a friendly and knowledgeable sales staff and management team, ready and willing to listen to their automotive needs. Their bilingual staff also includes Spanish speaking salespeople to provide customers with personalized care. For customer comfort, Kings offers beverage and snack machines, a coffee bar, an inviting waiting area with ample seating, high-definition TVs, and a team who aims to give a memorable car buying experience to everyone.

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Caribbean Life



FOR MORE SPORTS, GO TO CARIBBEANLIFENEWS.COM/SPORTS

WI legends on ACF Cricket Board

By Azad Ali

Legendary West Indies cricketers Sir Clive Lloyd and Michael Holding are among cricket luminaries announced in a recently established Honorary Advisory Board of the American Cricket Federation.



et Federation. Sir Clive Lloyd. Sir Clive, a former West Indies captain and Wisden Cricket-

and Wisden Cricketer of the Year, is the latest addition to the board, which also comprised of Holding, Ian Chappell, Alvin Kallicharan, Damien Martyn, Nathan Bracken, Stuart MacGill and Niall O'Brien.

"As someone who has always taken a keen interest in the success of cricket in the United States, it gives me great pleasure to see the positive developments Continued on Page 40

NY Tennis Junior League

By Robert Elkin

Even though the sport of tennis is more noted for the spring and summer in the New York City area with competition at all levels, it still remains as an all-year round activity. On the major circuit, there was an upset in the singles finals of the men's Australian Open. Fans across the world were stunned when 'Rafa' Nadal lost in the singles final. And here in New York City on the junior circuit, the major clubs stage their own winter programs and tournaments for the beginners and juniors on all levels.

One individual very much involved with the sport and is still active is Bill Wiese, who was recently spotted during a Big East College Conference basketball game matching Continued on Page 40

West Indies' batsman David Bernard Jr. drives on the opening day of the second cricket Test match with Bangladesh at the National Stadium in St. George's; Grenada. AP Photo/Andres Leighton; File

Jamaica names new Super50 captain

By George H. Whyte

Former West Indies captain Chris Gayle who was named captain of the Jamaica squad for the 2014 Nagico Super50 tournament was ruled out of the series because of a medical assessment. Gayle led Jamaica to the 50-over title in the 2007-08 season and also two seasons ago. Gayle has played 99 Test matches and 255 One-Day Internationals.

DAVID BERNARD JR. WILL LEAD JAMAICA

The experienced David Bernard will lead

Jamaica in the Nagico Super50 regional competition. The 14-member squad comprises: David Bernard Jr. [captain], Nikita miller [vice captain], Kemar Lewis, John Campbell, Nkrumah Bonner, Jermaine Blackwood, Horace Miller, Andre Continued on Page 40 В

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Trinidad and Tobago's opening batsman Adrian Barath.

AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade

Nagico Super 50 Tournament

Continued from page 39

McCarthy, Tamar Lambert, Andre Russell, Carlton Baugh, Andrew Richardson, Jerome Taylor and Sheldon Cotterell.

Jamaica is in zone "A" with the Windward Islands, Guyana and Ireland. Zone "B" includes Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Combined Colleges and Campuses and the Leeward Islands.

SUPER50 TOURNAMENT MUST GAIN MOMENTUM

West Indies players must play intelligent cricket in order to capture the other ICC One-Day International trophy. They must demonstrate their abilities with quality One-Day cricket in the region and the various coaches officiating over the respective teams must prepare players with the strategy to be successful in the one-day arena.

The West Indies senior team are losing too many wickets before the half way mark of 25 overs. This team or any team will come under severe pressure if they lose early vital wickets.

A PERFECT EXAMPLE

The One-Day series with New Zealand and West Indies have been going New Zealand's way not only because of the hits made by New Zealand but because its players are excellent with their ground fielding and also have home court advantage. The New Zealanders are taking early wickets including India's openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan who are vital to that team. The number four Indian batsman Ajinkya Rahane is also getting out early too.

Despite a stable and strong middle order batting, when the top players fail to score sufficient runs while chasing huge totals it creates a situation which puts additional pressure on the team. One of the setbacks facing the West Indies is the lack of a specialist number three batsman for Test and One-Day International cricket. The One-Day International format will continue to pose huge problems for the West Indies if modifications are not made.

ADRIAN BARATH WILL STAKE HIS CLAIM

Trinidad and Tobago's opening batsman Adrian Barath, who started his Test career for the West Indies with a blistering century against Australia and was sidelined because of a lack of form, will be back in action in the Nagico Super50.

ACF Series

Continued from page 39

coming from the American Cricket Federation. The ACF's leadership and its member leagues point the way to a brighter future, and I am happy to give them my full support, and to join its Honorary Advisory Board," Lloyd said. Under Lloyd's leadership,

the West Indies appeared in three consecutive World Cup finals, winning twice. The ACF anticipates that Lloyd will bring this same winning attitude to the ACF Honorary Advisory Board.

"The ACF couldn't be more excited to have someone of Clive Lloyd's stature on the Honorary Advisory Board," said CEO Jamie Harrison.

"Clive is not only a match-winning international cricketer, but is also someone who regularly spends time in the United States and follows events here closely. His insights will be significant as we grow the game in the States."



Michael Holding. Press Association via AP Images

NY Tennis League

Continued from page 39 Seton Hall at St. John's Universities.

Wiese was relaxing and watching an exciting game won by the St. John's Red Storm who saw their 17-point lead midway into the second half shrink all the way down. However, the Red Storm won the contest in the closing seconds, 77-76, at Carnesecca Arena. Wiese stopped to talk about the progress of his New York Junior Tennis Learning, formerly New York Junior Tennis League (NYJTL) program is doing during the course of the winter Anyway, NYJTL is an allyear round program primarily for the kids.

The NYJTL makes use of major facilities including the Billie Jean King United States Tennis Association (USTA) National Tennis Center in Queens, during the calendar year. The USTA conducts its own tournaments and programs as well as the NJTL for the juniors and kids.

"I'm still with the New York Junior Tennis League, and responsible for all the tournaments as always," Wiese said. "We're building a new tennis center in the Bronx. I hope it will open up in the by the end of the year. It's a 23 million-dollar project that the Junior Tennis League is undertaking. It's really exciting."

The new facility will be servicing the whole New York City community. Of course the major part of the funding will be from the City of New York and The Bronx borough president's office

"We will be giving free tennis instruction and programs for the children, but we also will be operating a commercial end to be able to get enough money to continue our non-profit activities and programs for the children," added Wiese.

"I'll be up there to (run) the tournaments in the Bronx and involved with the community and helping out anywhere that I can."

As for right now the NYJTL still has a winter early morning program

going on at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. There are eight more weeks every Saturday and Sunday mornings from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. "We supply the racquets and balls," said Wiese who is in attendance every week. The kids have to bring their own sneakers (tennis shoes).

After the spring break in April, the NYJTL will start its after school programs on April 28. This spring program culminates with the Mayor's Cup in various categories in June.

Wiese is looking forward to the opening of the new Tennis Center in The Bronx.

"It's going to create a legacy that the founder Skip Hartman and those of us who have been there a longtime will be able to look back and say that their son was passed on to the community and the

"We're looking forward to get through this cold winter, and running their tournaments.

City," Wiese added.

When asked about some of the future real 'good' players coming out of the program, Wiese did say 'it is more important that we have a lot of players playing tennis and taking advantage (of our program).

"We just got a five thousand dollar grant for the SAT preparation which we are also doing it at the National Tennis Center for high school juniors on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. untill noon," he went on. "We're preparing for March or June...."

"We're looking forward to get through the this cold winter, looking to go out with the kids and running their tournaments, being in shorts and T-shirts (instead of) being in this over coat.

As for basketball, Wiese is a fan of the St. John's Red Storm and follows them closely. In fact he is a helping the university to get a tennis bubble built on campus.





В

Fitness fails Trinidad Princesses

By Patrick Horne

Once again, the work ethic failed a Caribbean team in a most consequential and devastating way! The Trinidad and Tobago women's under-20 team were a mere five minutes away from becoming the first English-speaking Caribbean women's team to qualify for a World Cup when it failed to maintain a 3-2 lead in the third place match against Costa Rica at the CONCACAF Under-20 Women's Tournament at the Truman Bodden Sports Complex in Georgetown, Cayman Islands on Sunday, Jan. 19. The young Soca Princesses gave up a goal with minutes to play and allowed Costa Rica to tie the game at 3-3 and go into the overtime period with the upper-hand.

Costa Rica went on to win the contest, 7-3, and got the last World Cup berth; the

other offer. See the for datalia. Not resp for typos

USA beat Mexico in the final to win the tournament, as both finalists qualified for the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup scheduled for cities across Canada this summer.

Trinidad captain Anique Walker, whose two early goals put her country on the verge of making history, was terribly disappointed at the outcome. "Yes, I am very disappointed," Walker lamented. "I don't know what to say than we lost our concentration and those two goals I scored don't mean anything now as we have lost and we are not going to the World Cup."

Walker was exactly right about the lost of concentration, which is what happens when players are not conditioned to play well beyond the required 90 minutes in the game. Watching highlights of the contest on the CONCACAF web site, I saw a Trinidad and Tobago team that was not fit enough and a team that simply could not go the distance.

It always amazes me that, with the Caribbean's year-round tropical weather and physical terrain, Caribbean teams are not fit enough to play well beyond 90 minutes. Teams in the Caribbean should be as fit, if not fitter, than their CON-CACAF and other counterparts: there is the sand on the ever-present beaches to run on and strength their legs and build stamina; the hills and mountains that are the envy of many teams that would love that sort of rugged terrain to plough and force-stretch the lungs and encourage the heart to work harder to circulate oxygen throughout the body – all in the name of fielding a physically strong and fit body that could constantly pressure opponents



Noelle Sanz No 3(Costa Rica) and Anique Walker No 19 (Trinidad and Tobago) at the CONCACAF Under-20 Women,Äôs Tournament at the Truman Bodden Sports Complex in Georgetown, Cayman Islands. Photo courtesy of CONCACAF.com

into mistakes and turn those mistakes into opportunities.

Instead, the Soca Princesses were weak towards the end of their contest and as Walker stated, lost their way. It reminded me of when I embarrassingly and painfully watch the Grenada men's national team in a loss to Guatemala in a game at Red Bull Arena during the 2011 Goal Cup; Grenada could hardly move on the pitch by mid-way of the second half.

The Soca Princesses made a gallant effort and are to be commended for advancing well into the tournament, but we have to realize our shortcomings, no mater how unpleasant, and address them.

Walker gave Trinidad a 2-0 lead with her goals in the 16th and 28th min-

utes before Melissa Herrera closed to gap for Costa Rica at the 33rd minute; Khadisha Debessette restored Trinidad and Tobago's 2-goal margin when she scored in the 41st minute, just before the half. The Soca Princesses battle and maintain the 3-1 lead until there was 19 minutes left, when Costa Rican substitute Nicole Araya scored to make it 3-2;

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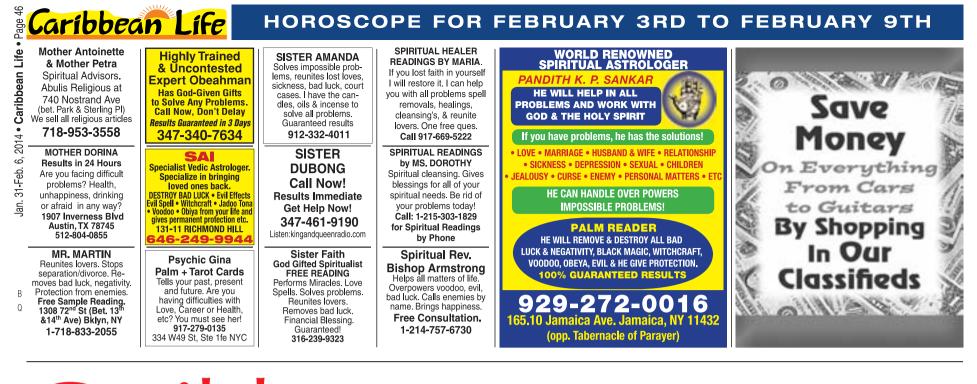
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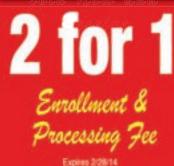
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