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Ushering In The Spring

In true Indo-Caribbean tradition, Guyana nationals paraded through the streets in Queens, NY recently as they observed one of the most ancient festivals on the Hindu calendar. See Page 39.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Obamacare push gathers steam

By Kelly S. Kennedy

As the countdown to the implementation of Affordable Care Act gathers momentum, President Obama is proposing a boost to the National Health Services Corps from 8,900 a year to 15,000 a year over the next five years, as well as spending \$5.23 billion to train 13,000 primary

care residents over the next 10 years, in his budget next week, administration officials disclosed recently.

The president's proposed budget marks the first time Medicare funds will be used to increase the number of medical residents, and it's the largest-ever proposed increase of the corps, officials said.

The administration hopes to boost both team-based care, as well as send residents out to rural areas and areas with lower access to care, officials said.

The president's budget proposal:

- Adds \$5.23 billion over 10 years to train 13,000 primary

Continued on Page 4

ANATOMY OF THE T&T COUP

Abu Bakr misread the people

By Bert Wilkinson

A Black Muslim group which in July 1990 had staged a bloody and disruptive attempt to remove the government of Trinidad through guns, rockets and bullets, really wanted some of its rifle-toting members to be part of a new interim government which would have rolled back some of the tough, austerity measures which were in place at the time, a Commission of Inquiry has found.

The just-released report of the Commission, led by respected Barbadian Jurist Sir David Simmons was tabled in the Trinidad&Tobago House of Representatives last weekend and placed on various government websites for all to read. It gives a comprehensive insight into events leading up to the insurrection at the time, including the failure of the Special Branch of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to let authorities in on tons of evidence it had, that the Jamaat al Muslimeem

(JAM) was devising a plot which would have caused mayhem in the oil- and gas-rich republic.

The Commission laid bare its thoughts and findings that "the purpose of the attempted coup was to overthrow the government and install a new administration, of which members of the JAM would be a part of the planning and preparation for such an event which would be long and extensive. The JAM's overriding intention was "the removal of Mr. Ray (Arthur N.R.) Robinson, the prime minister, from office, in the hope that the government would fall consequentially," the report stated.

Had the plan worked, the then cabinet minister and legislator Winston Dookeran would be been installed to act as interim prime minister until fresh elections were held in 90 days. But the entire scheme was scuttled as mayhem and bedlam ensued once Jamaat Leader Abu Bakr and

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Caribbean

The United States Coast Guard says it has repatriated 38 Caribbean migrants in recently.

The Coast Guard said crew members aboard the Cutter Nantucket repatriated 10 Cuban migrants to Cuba.

This follows the repatriation of 28 Haitian migrants to Cap Haitien recently. And on Feb. 28 the Coast Guard intercepted a 35-foot vessel north of Mona Island, Puerto Rico and found 20 male and eight female Haitian migrants and two suspected smugglers on



board. They were later repatriated to Haiti. The Coast Guard also rescued 24 stranded Cubans off Grand Cayman in the Cayman Islands. The day before 23 men and one woman were picked up and were taken to the Cayman Islands, a British dependent territory about 125 miles south of Cuba.

Bahamas

The Bahamas says it hopes to develop a strategic plan to deal with domestic violence and violence against women by June and reiterated its condemnation of violence in any form against women in the country. "Hundreds of women in The Bahamas face situations that cause serious distress, pain and frustrations to them and their children and households," Minister responsible for Women's Affairs, Melanie Griffin told Parliament recently. She said the Perry Christie government does not condone violence against women.



By mid-June through the work of the Gender-based Violence Task Force and the results of a study being funded by UNWomen, we hope to have a strategic plan to strengthen the coordination of the various agencies that provide services to both victims and perpetrators and eventually to eradicate this ugly menace from our shores," she said.

Barbados

Officials of regional airline LIAT say they will take "decisive action" to deal with unprofitable routes as the Antigua-based airline seeks



Bees' importance to agriculture

Vincentian Allan Williams has been a beekeeper for the past seven years. See page 14.

IPS/Desmond Brown

to make its operations financially viable. LIAT Chairman Jean Holder said, "We have been trying, before going the harsh route, to persuade people to invest. We have met a number of governments and prime ministers... we have expressed to them that we will have no other option but to cut the service." "We'll have to take a very hard look at our current schedules and the profitability of our current routes. We have brought in some experts to assist us in looking more deeply into the route analysis issues, but it is clear that LIAT cannot continue to provide essential social services to 21 countries in the Caribbean on a daily basis, offering close to 1,000 flights weekly and only four countries put any funds into this operation," Holder said.

Holder said the company has taken the stance that it needs to be more professional and implement changes needed to keep the airline on an even keel.

Grenada

The German airline Condor is

set to return to Grenada later this year, tourism officials said.

The announcement became the talking point in the Caribbean hall at the world's largest travel show ITB held recently in Germany. Tourism Minister Alexandra Otway-Noel, who led Grenada's delegation at the travel show, has closed the deal with Condor after months of negotiations. The minister has been continuously holding negotiations with the carrier since and her efforts have paid off. Grenada will have direct weekly flights from Frankfurt for the upcoming winter season, in November this year.

Haiti

Haiti's new Roman Catholic cardinal celebrated his first mass recently, telling an audience of several thousand people there is need to show compassion to others. Cardinal Chilby Langlois reminded the crowd in the impoverished and predominantly Catholic nation



of 10 million people that many would go hungry or wouldn't be able to survive were it not for the kindness of others. The nearly three-hour ceremony took place in a soccer stadium in downtown Port-au-Prince. Haiti's National Cathedral was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake and has yet to be rebuilt. Langlois was little known outside his hometown of Les Cayes, a coastal town in southern Haiti. But that changed in January when Pope Francis named the 55-year-old bishop and 18 others as his first batch of cardinals. As Haiti's first cardinal, Langlois has become a leader overnight. In his new role, he had held negotiations among political parties to figure out how to hold legislative and local elections that are more than two years overdue.

Jamaica

Almost 200,000 illegal electricity connections were removed during operations by the Jamaica Public Service Company's Strike Force (JPS) in the second half of last year. But that was not enough to stop the bleeding of the bottom line, with electricity theft costing the company some US\$75 million

for the year. Gary Barrow, senior vice-president with responsibility for customer operations and support services at JPS admitted that the anti-theft system, the Residential Automated Metering Infrastructure (RAMI), introduced by the company to combat losses in some communities, has not been as successful as expected, but argued it was not a failure. The RAMI, when introduced, was not tagged as being tamper-proof to prevent widespread practice of "throwing up lines" onto the GPs network. The system also facilitates the remote reading of meters, as well as remote connection and disconnection from the system. However, Jamaicans have already found ways to beat the system.



Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar's rating and her People's Partnership has taken a significant drop in the latest opinion poll conducted by the North American Teacher's Association (NACTA). The poll found significant disillusionment with the PP's governance was hurting



Persad-Bissessar's approval rating. Although her approval rating was higher than that of the government, it declined significantly from what it was three years ago. In contrast, the People's National Movement (PNM) leader Dr. Keith Rowley's approval rating as Opposition Leader has been steadily increasing over the last three years, making him a serious challenger to replace Persad-Bissessar as prime minister whenever the next general election is held in 2015, the poll said. Asked if they approved of the performance of the prime minister, 44 percent said yes, 37 percent said no and 19 percent offered a neutral or no opinion. Rowley's approval rating for his performance as Opposition Leader is almost at par (a statistical dead heat) with Persad-Bissessar's as PM 43 percent approved, 39 percent disapproved and 18 percent gave him a neutral rating. Rowley is currently involved in battle for the leadership of

Continued on Page 15



The Metropolitan Museum presented Susan Taylor with a print while honoring her for Women's History Month. From left, Charles Atkins, trustee of the Metropolitan Museum and CEO of Atkins Captial Strategies LLC; Susan Taylor, founder and CEO, National CARES Mentoring Movement; Harold Holzer, senior vice president for Public Affairs at the Metropolitan Museum, and Donna Williams, chief audience development officer at the Metropolitan Museum.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Metropolitan Museum's women's history salute

By Tequila Minsky

Metropolitan Museum honored Susan Taylor, Bonnie Wang, and Gale Brewer, last week, in celebrating Women's History Month.

Susan Taylor is the former editor-in-chief of Essence magazine and now runs the group she founded, the National CARES Mentoring Movement, which is dedicated to closing the gap between the relatively few black mentors and millions of struggling black children. Harlem-born Taylor is of West Indian heritage, her mother is Trinidadian, and her father is from St. Kitts. As a teen, she lived in Queens.

After 37 years, Susan Taylor handed over the reins of Essence. She began planning her exit when she learned of the shocking statistic that 80% of Black fourth graders were reading below grade level. She founded National CARES Mentoring Movement in 2005, a

transformational wellness and mentor-recruitment program. The program is guided by a Brain Trust of more than 60 scholars, physicians, educators, entrepreneurs, grassroots and faith leaders. Its goal is to provide one-on-one relationships and other role models opportunities to populations that have fallen far into the under-achieving and wayward cracks in society.

Bonnie Wong, president of Asian Women in Business, which supports all aspects of Asian businesswomen and entrepreneurs, from skills-building workshops and seminars to identifying procurement opportunities and providing scholarships was also honored at the Museum. Additionally, Gale Brewer, newly elected borough president of Manhattan, former councilperson from the Upper West Side and decades-long community activist, received an award.

Salute to women of the New York Judiciary

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke on Saturday honored five outstanding black women judges in Brooklyn, concluding the all-day 3rd Annual Shirley Chisholm Women's Empowerment Conference at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

Clarke's mother, the trailblazing, former New York City Councilwoman Una Clarke, head of the conference's organizing group, Black Women for Fairness, Equity and Justice, presented the Congressional citations on behalf of the congresswoman.

The judges honored were: L. Priscilla Hall, Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Sylvia G. Ash, Cheryl E. Chambers and Sharen D. Hudson.

Prior to her election in 1993 to New York Supreme Court, Justice Hall served on the New York City Criminal Court, having been appointed by Mayor Edward I. Koch in 1986 and re-appointed to a 10-year term by Mayor David Dinkins, three years later.

In 1990, Gov. Mario Cuomo appointed Justice Hall to the Court of Claims.

Justice Hall received her



Justice Sharen Hudson (R) receives citation from former Councilwoman Una Clarke. Photo by Nelson A. King

undergraduate degree from Howard University in 1968.

After graduating Magna Cum Laude with the distinction of being a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, she pursued a Master of Science degree from Columbia University School of Journalism, graduating in 1969.

She received her Juris

Doctorate degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1973.

Barbadian-born Justice Sylvia Hinds-Radix was appointed Administrative Judge for Civil Matters in the Second Judicial District in May, 2009.

In this role, she oversees both the New York State Supreme Court, Civil Term

and the New York City Civil Court, which also encompasses the Housing Court of the City of New York.

Justice Hinds-Radix, whose husband is Grenadian-born dentist Joe Radix, was elected to the Supreme Court, Kings County in November of 2004 and served as a New York City Civil Court Judge, from 2002 through 2004, spending her first year in the Criminal Court of Kings County.

Justice Hinds-Radix earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts, her Master's degree in Political Science from Long Island University, and her Jurist Doctorate degree from Howard University School of Law.

Justice Sylvia G. Ash, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago to Vincentian and Grenadian parents, is a judge of the Kings County Supreme Court in the 2nd Judicial District of New York.

She was elected to this position on Nov. 2, 2010, effective Jan. 1, for a 14-year term, ending on Dec. 31, 2024.

Justice Ash received her
Continued on Page 28

March Madness inspires Obamacare sign-ups

Bronx, NY -- For the Council Member Andy King, this week's kick-off of March Madness is another chance to encourage young people — between the ages of 18-25 — to sign up for health care.

"When you're young you don't think about healthcare too much until you experience an injury or an accident and must be rushed to the hospital," Council Member King, who played neighborhood and college basketball. "It's not only important to have medical coverage in case of emergency but to receive routine check-ups of

your health."

On Saturday, March 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Congress Member Charles Rangel and Council Member King will host an affordable healthcare sign-up session at the Williamsbridge NAACP ECE Center, 680 East 219th St., off White Plains Road, Bronx. Congress Member Rangel will speak to attendees at 10:30 a.m. about the importance of signing up for health care.

The deadline to enroll is March 31, 2014. The financing of healthcare plan requires younger, healthier people to offset the costs of

older, less healthy people.

The purpose of Saturday's session is to help Bronx residents sign up for coverage with the NYS Marketplace, which offers affordable, free or low-cost health insurance options.

There are many plans to choose from, and due to the Affordable Care Act, all plans will cover 10 essential health benefits like emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care, and more. Additionally, no plan can cap how much insurance they will provide over the course of a year or a lifetime.

There will be trained independent enrollers who will work with individuals to understand options. For more information on Saturday's session place call the Office of Council Member King at (718) 684-5509.

For Bronx residents who are unable to attend, the NYS of Health Marketplace can be accessed on the Web at www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov and or call 311 for assistance. For questions or appointment with a trained enroller, you can email enroll@cssny.org or call (888) 614-5400.

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Care for underserved communities

Continued from cover
ry care residents in high-need communities, and in team-based care, such as an accountable care organization.

- Extends higher payments to Medicaid providers, including physician assistants and nurse practitioners, by one year at a cost of about \$5.44 billion.

- Adds \$3.95 billion over the next six years in the National Health Services Corps to support growing the program from 8,900 primary care providers in 2013 to at least 15,000 annually starting in the 2015 fiscal year.

"This is a booster shot unlike any other before now," said Mary Wakefield, administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The proposal also addresses a shortage of mental health providers by offering residencies for psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners and other mental health pro-

viders as part of the team-based approach.

"Recruiting primary care practitioners for the residencies makes sense because young people are interested in working with teams of providers."

The Affordable Care Act opened up health insurance to potentially millions of previously uninsured people — so far, 4 million people have signed up for private plans through the state and federal health exchanges. That means there will be a demand for more doctors. At the same time, Medicare pilot programs as well as hundreds of new Accountable Care Organizations offered by physicians' groups, hos-

pitals and insurers have pushed health care toward a team-oriented approach.

The administration officials said there should be no problem recruiting primary care physicians, although medical students have been drawn to medical fields that pay higher salaries, often to pay off their student loans.

"Recruiting primary care practitioners for the residencies makes sense because young people are interested in working with teams of providers, the officials said.

A medical home or ACO means a doctor can quickly get a patient exactly what he or she needs. For example, a heart-disease patient is likely to be more at-risk for depression and may also need physical therapy and nutrition counseling. The team-based approach makes the resources necessary, as well ensuring everyone on the team thinks about a patient's entire health, rather than just the

area in which he or she specializes.

Priority for the residents will be given to hospitals and other community-based health groups, such as ACOs or medical homes, that emphasize team-based care in underserved areas, including rural areas, though residencies in other settings will also be awarded. The budget also proposes bringing payments to teaching hospitals in line with the cost of providing care.

The National Health Services Corps now has 8,900 health care providers but would increase to 15,000 people in the service every year for the next five years. The corps provides scholarships and student loan repayments for people who practice in high-need areas. This comes in addition to increases that have more than doubled the number of corps members from 3,600 in 2008.

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Persad-Bissessar calls for ratification of Arms Treaty

By Azad Ali

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has called on CARICOM leaders to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and support Trinidad and Tobago's bid to host the Secretariat in Port of Spain.

Persad-Bissessar made the call during the recent 25th Inter-Sessional meeting of the conference of Heads of CARICOM governments recently in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Last month, Trinidad and Tobago made a formal bid to host the Secretariat for the Arms Trade Treaty, given its geographic location, which has made the country vulnerable to the trafficking of arms and ammunition.

She said while Trinidad & Tobago may not be a manufacturer of guns and cocaine, it had become a trans-shipment for the illegal trade.

"The Arms Trade Treaty pro-



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.
AP Photo/Rob Griffith

vides us with a significant component in the global fight against

the trade in conventional arms in illicit markets," she said during her plea to regional leaders.

Persad-Bissessar said to date, 116 states have signed the ATT, including all CARICOM members, except Haiti.

Eleven states have ratified the Treaty, thereby expressing their consent to be legally bound by its provisions. They are Iceland, Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Panama and Norway.

"For the ATT to come into force, Article 22 requires the signatures and early ratification by 50 states so that the treaty can come into force with the minimum of delay," Persad-Bissessar said.

Mexico and Chile have already formally pledged support for Trinidad and Tobago's CARICOM-endorsed bid to host the ATT Secretariat.

Caribbean leaders adopt slavery reparations plan

By David McFadden & Duggie Joseph

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (AP) — Leaders of Caribbean nations on Monday unanimously adopted a broad plan on seeking reparations from European nations for what they say are the lingering ill effects of the Atlantic slave trade on the region.

A British human rights law firm hired by the Caribbean Community grouping of nations announced that prime ministers had authorized a 10-point plan that would seek a formal apology and debt cancellation from former colonizers such as Britain, France and the Netherlands. The decision came at a closed-door meeting in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

According to the Leigh Day law firm, the Caribbean Community also wants reparation payments to repair the persisting "psychological trauma" from the days of plantation slavery and calls for assistance to boost the region's technological know-how since the Caribbean was denied participation in Europe's

industrialization and confined to producing and exporting raw materials such as sugar.

The plan further demands European aid in strengthening the region's public health, educational and cultural institutions such as museums and research centers.

The Caribbean Community also wants reparation payments to repair the persisting "psychological trauma" from the days of plantation slavery.

It is even pushing for the creation of a "repatriation program," including legal and diplomatic assistance from European governments, to potentially resettle members of the Rastafarian spiritual movement in Africa. Repatriation to Africa has long been a central belief of Rasta-

Continued on Page 26

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An avoidable loss of life and assets

Continued from cover his 113 heavily armed followers stormed parliament, the state television station, firebombed police headquarters and attacked other state installations, leading to an almost week-long standoff with security forces.

Robinson was shot in the leg, brutalized and humiliated by Jamaat members. Dookeran is the current finance minister.

A number of other legislators and ministers suffered similar treatment, while large sectors of the capital, Port of Spain, were burned as shops were looted and more than 20 people were killed, including a minister and a police officer.

Until now, all the previous governments and administrations had resisted calls from various societal quarters for a commis-

sion of inquiry, generally citing the belief that the nation was not ready for such, since the coup still represented a festering and

all information placed in one single document, the commissioners also turned their attention to the victims of the coup and wants

The commissioners said they were appalled that the Special Branch had acted as its "own republic," holding on to vital information it had that the Jamaat was planning a coup.

open wound.

The commissioners said they were appalled that the Special Branch had acted as its "own republic," holding on to vital information it had that the Jamaat was planning a coup and was importing arms and ammunition from South America and the US for the coup.

Taking advantage of the fact that the issue has not been fully ventilated and

government to move with speed to organize compensation for others injured or affected otherwise by the events of Friday, July 27, 1990.

"The commission respectfully recommends that a small, special unit be created to ferret-out and investigate credible information concerning all innocent victims of the attempted coup. The unit should be headed by an

attorney-at-law and include investigators. There should be categorization of the victims; for example, those who died; those who were injured and still suffer the effects thereof those who were injured but have made a complete recovery; those who received compensation and those who received no compensation," it said.

On the lack of proper governmental action since that time, the commissioners complained that governments "have done nothing to fix the significant damage wrought on Port of Spain's business community" and even suggested that suitcase higglers who had spent millions in Trinidad before 1990, have since switched to other destinations as the attempted coup had severely disrupted the shopping scenario back then.

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Caribbean to forge united front on elusive climate financing



A man stands outside the ruins of a house in Buccament Bay, on St. Vincent's damages estimated at millions of dollars.

IPS/Peter Richards

By Peter Richards

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, March 13, 2014 (IPS) - Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, says the promises of money by the "biggest polluters in the world" for small island developing states (SIDS) like his to

adapt to climate change are a mostly a "mirage."

But as chair of the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping, Gonsalves will be playing a lead role in getting the region to coordinate a united front on climate finance.

"We agreed on the estab-

lishment of a task force on climate change and small island developing states to provide guidance to Caribbean climate change negotiators, their ministers and political leaders in order to ensure the strategic positioning of the region in the negotiations," he told IPS following the CARICOM summit that ended here on Tuesday.

Gonsalves said the region is now preparing for two important meetings in September - the U.N. Climate Change Summit and the Third U.N. SIDS International Meeting in Samoa.

Guyanese President Donald Ramotar, who made a presentation at CARICOM's closed-door summit, told IPS that it was important for the leaders themselves to get involved in the negotiations "and to make our voices heard on this matter, because as you know we have been the least contributors to climate change, but we are among the first to feel the big effects."

Ramotar said the tragedy that occurred when a slow moving low-level trough hit St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Lucia on Christmas Eve last year, killing more than a dozen people and leaving damages estimated at more than 100 million dollars, "is just the latest reminder how vulnerable our region is."

The task force must now "find areas where CARICOM can agree on," he said.

"This is a critical decision by heads [of state] at a time when efforts are underway through the U.N. to have a global climate change agree-

ment by the end of 2015," he said.

"We need to ensure that as a region, our voices are being heard on this important issue, and not only from our technical people, but from the collective political leadership in the region," Ramotar said, stressing the need for a globally binding agreement.

"We have to ensure that we push for a climate change agreement by 2015 which is ambitious in terms of emission reduction targets and providing climate financing," he added.

The communiqué that followed the summit here "lamented the fact that much of the promised resources had not been forthcoming but emphasised the need for the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC) to work with member states in order to have projects prepared to access financing when it did become available."

Guyana, for example, has been playing a lead role with regards to climate change, and priority projects on adaptation are outlined within its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), which seeks to address the effects of climate change while simultaneously encouraging economic development.

Gonsalves told IPS that on the question of adaptation, there is a whole menu of initiatives which have been established through discussions, technical reports and the like. What is needed most now is the money to pay for them.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE

REMOVING IMMIGRATION NIGHTMARES

There are solutions to problems immigrants frequently experience. Among the problems and solutions are the following:

1. GETTING MARRIED TO A US CITIZEN OR GREEN CARD HOLDER AND BEING ABUSED OR ABANDONED BY THE SPOUSE:

If you are married to a US Citizen or green card holder who is abusive or has abandoned you, you may be entitled to a work permit and green card even if you are divorced or have a criminal record. You do not need your spouse to file for you or sponsor you or attend the interview with you. This relief is also applicable to child (including step child), fiancée and parent of US citizens or green card holder. You can also get relief if you are married to a citizen or green card holder who was already married but did not divorce before marrying you, that is, a bigamy or polygamy situation.

2. PARENTS OF US CITIZEN WANTING TO WORK AND MAINTAIN THEIR CHILDREN:

Are you a parent of a US Citizen Child or Green card holder? You may be administratively approved for a work permit to enable you to maintain your family. This is an administrative relief subject to discretion of the government officials.

3. ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE US:

This is a major problem but there is relief for special immigrants married to a US Citizen or green card holder or those who have US citizen children. You may still get a work permit and green card.

4. ILLEGAL REENTRY AFTER DEPORTATION:

Did you enter the US after being deported? This is a crime. There is relief for special immigrants married to a US Citizen or green card holder. Hurry to talk to us before you are arrested. You may be entitled to relief?

5. WORK PERMIT AND GREEN CARD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS:

- Are you less than 21 years old?
- Are you living in the US dependent on someone other than your parent?
- Is your natural parent dead or lack viable

means to take care of you?

- Do you think it is not in your best interest to return to country of birth or citizenship now? You may be entitled to work permit and or green card whether you entered with visa or not. You may still be approved even if you entered without inspection, entered with fraudulent document or overstayed your visa or have certain criminal record.

6. CRIMINAL RECORDS: WAIVERS AND PARDONS:

If you are convicted or pled guilty to a crime in the past it can generate complexities and be a nightmare but waivers and various special actions and legal procedures are available to relieve immigrants with past criminal records.

7. REMOVING 2-YEAR CONDITIONAL GREENCARD:

Many immigrants have found it difficult to remove conditions on their 2 year green cards either because they are not able to convince the government that their marriage is genuine or because they are not getting cooperation from their spouse. We can help remove conditions on your greencard, even if your spouse is not filing with you and even if you have been denied and placed in a removal proceeding. You need not wait for 2 years if you are abused by your spouse or if your spouse died.

8. ASYLUM PROBLEMS AND DEPORTATION ORDERS:

Do you have deportation order on you that makes you a fugitive? Hurry to talk to us before you are picked up by Detention and Removal Office (DRO). Your deportation may be suspended and get work permit & green card.

9. APPROVALS AND VISA BULLETIN PROBLEMS:

Do you have an approved petition filed by your brother or sister, parents etc and

you were unable to apply for a green card because you overstayed here in US? Call us now. We might be able to assist you.

10. NOTICE TO APPEAR (NTA) IN IMMIGRATION COURT AND IMMIGRATION COURT PROCEEDINGS:

Did you receive NTA from the government or are you currently in immigration court?

Consider speaking to us for a great first or second opinion and resolution of your case. You will not regret calling.



11. DO YOU NEED A WORK PERMIT, IDENTIFICATION CARD AND FOREIGN TRAVEL PERMIT?

You may be entitled.

12. CBP AND TSA PROBLEMS:

Correcting travel records- US-VISIT, ADIS Records, Enforce/Indent Records, DHSTRIP, and CLASS etc. Citizens and green card holders can remove names from CLASS

13. CITIZENSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP DELAYS OR DENIALS:

Did you apply for citizenship and you are being denied or unnecessarily delayed? Call us to enforce your rights in Federal Court.

14. WE PROCESS ALIEN WORKERS, STUDENTS, ENTREPRENEURS AND BUSINESS IMMIGRATION.



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Are you a victim of Domestic Violence, Sex, Assault, Trafficking and other crimes? You may be entitled to relief?

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Building Bridges To Tomorrow

'Unfair' UK airport taxes

To The Editor:

The British Chancellor George Osborne will present his budget on 19 March in a speech to the British Parliament. The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) will be listening carefully to see if the Chancellor is yet prepared to recognise the widespread concern that exists in the Caribbean and among the Caribbean community living in the UK about the damage being done and the lack of fairness in the way in which the UK's Air Passenger Duty (APD) is applied.

The duty on flights from London to the Caribbean will increase to £85 (US\$140) per person in economy from 1 April 2014 unless Mr. Osborne announces a change. By this point, APD on flights to the Caribbean will have increased by £35 (US\$58) or 70% since 2009. This compares to an increase of just £2 (US\$3) or 18% from London to Europe and £24 (US\$40) or 53% to the USA.

As CTO has pointed out over a number of years, the current structure sees duty on flights from the UK to Miami, Florida charged at lower rates than that on flights to Bridgetown, Barbados even though they are the same distance from London. Moreover, even though Hawaii is 3,000 miles further away from London, the duty on flights there is also lower than on those to the Caribbean.

Mr Osborne, who leads the British Treasury, noted the anomaly in the four band structure of APD in his 2011 budget speech, when he said: "...we are consulting today on how to improve the existing and rather arbitrary bands that appear to

believe that the Caribbean is further away than California."

Despite this, and a lengthy consultation in which the Caribbean participated, no change has been made to the discriminatory aspect of the duty.

The CTO recognises that all Governments are required to raise revenue but believes that this should not be at the expense of the economies of regions like the Caribbean which are tourism dependent. Nor should it be the case that the Caribbean's Diaspora in Britain should be penalised when for cultural reasons they return for funerals, weddings and other important family events.

The British Government's own statistics suggest that Caribbean destinations are seeing below average arrivals from the UK. This is reflected in the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's figures, which demonstrate that Eastern Caribbean nations continue to suffer reduced arrivals from the UK compared to other feeder markets such as the USA and Canada. In some Caribbean countries up to 40% of total arrivals by air are from the UK, making any reduction in visitors economically challenging. It is not surprising therefore, that many Caribbean countries are currently suffering extreme economic challenges. Many of those are countries which are highly dependent on the UK market.

The Caribbean Tourism Organization, along with Caribbean Governments, the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, Diaspora groups in the UK, the World Travel & Tourism

Continued on Page 12

Firestorm over 'Pay-to-Play' public school politics

To The Editor:

Currently, the State Senate Majority is considering a budget proposal that reportedly would invest state funds in capital construction for privately-run charter schools and would undermine the power of NYC to make its own determinations on charter school co-locations and charter school rent.

Governor Cuomo immediately reinforced the Senate proposal by saying today on the Capitol Press Room radio show that charter schools are "the big issue in the budget." As reported by ChalkbeatNY, the governor and the Senate Majority have been the beneficiaries of huge campaign contributions from the financiers and ideological backers of privately-run charter schools. New York's lead education and civil rights advocates released the following statement:

"The 'pay-to-play' school politics we are witnessing today

It's a power play to satisfy the big-money political donors that want corporate charter school chains to thrive at the expense of public school students.

between the governor and Senate Majority is an outrage. The real civil rights issue of our time is that Gov. Cuomo has completely abandoned his constitutional responsibility to provide adequate funding for the 97 percent of students in public schools across the state. Unfortunately, the majority of public school students do not have rich Wall Street honchos to make the governor pay attention to them," said Hazel Dukes, president of the NAACP's NYS Conference.

"Gov. Cuomo is the master puppeteer of this 'pay-to-

play' fiasco, pulling strings in the Senate to get 'gubernatorial control' over New York City school issues. It's a power play to satisfy the big-money political donors that want corporate charter school chains to thrive at the expense of public school students. The governor is the biggest beneficiary in Albany of shady 'pay-to-play' interests who want to privatize education, and he is taking it out on the 97 percent of parents, students and teachers that want him to stop his assault on public schools," said Jonathan Westin, executive director of New York Communities for Change.

"Governor Cuomo has not toured a single public school since he took office, and yet he wants 'gubernatorial control' of New York City schools. Give me a break—Gov. Cuomo has turned his back on the 97 percent of students across the state attending public schools,

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OP-ED

How to overcome challenges

By Shawn Anderson

It's inevitable that at one time or another life will punch us hard in the gut; no one is immune to experiencing tragedy or failure.

But when it's our turn to feel life's stomach blow, how will we handle it? Will we 'go the extra mile' and passionately keep on living, or will we just give up and go through the motions?

In my interviews, I learned that extra-mile people who transition positively through life's toughest moments practice at least one of these seven regrouping strategies.

1. They don't quit on life. Tragedy

might have happened, huge mistakes might have been made, but the world continues. People who have walked successfully over life's hot-coal moments always keep going. They never quit living.

2. They live day-by-day. It's easy to get overwhelmed by the, 'What am I going to do now?' feeling; but extra-mile people focus on the now. They don't let thoughts of how they're going to deal with tomorrow defeat them..

3. They find support. By forging relationships with positive, move-forward type people, survivors trigger positive energy to flow back into

their lives.

4. They get involved again. Extra-mile people transcend life's tragedies by not choosing isolation when life knocks them down. It's easy to want to hide in a cave after something bad happens, but the longer we stay in the cave, the more challenging it is to ever leave it.

5. They remain optimistic. Extra-mile people support themselves with their own words and actions. They don't let negative self-talk rule their brains, and they make sure not to surrender to negative, self-defeating emotions.

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Caribbean Life

Founded 1990 • Published by Community Newspaper Group
Corporate Headquarters: One Metrotech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA

PUBLISHER: Clifford Luster
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Ralph D'Onofrio
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Kenton Kirby
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Kevin Williams

Contributing Writers: Azad Ali, Roderick J. Broome, Fabian Burrell, Tangerine Clarke, Robert Elkin, Patrick Horne, Nelson King, Donna Lamb, Tequila Minsky, Vinette K. Pryce, George H. Whyte, Bert Wilkinson, Lloyd Kam Williams

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

No let-up soon in 'Money is King' politics

Senator Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, has on a couple of occasions now taken to the floor of the Senate to hack away at the infamous Koch brothers for the undue influence they think they have a right to exercise in politics in America. It was what one might call unabashed proclamation of a belief that in this country, money is king, that the Koch brothers would in turn issue a statement charging that Reid was being “un-American” for lambasting their having a money trough made available to seemingly anyone whose credentials align with the right-wing ideology playbook.

The high profile the Koch brothers' name has attained in recent times because of this front-row presence in the electioneering process is one of the foremost reminders of a scary turn this country's politics has taken. More so following the Supreme Court's clearing the way for a money glut in election campaigns with its devastating Citizens United decision of 2010. That 5-4 ruling, breaking down like so many others along ideological lines among the court brethren, was when all palaver in Washington about campaign

finance reform, lily-livered though it tended to be anyway, exited stage right with nary a fanfare.

Truth be told, it was provisions in one of the last congressional brushes with (tepid) campaign finance reform, the so-called McCain-Feingold legislation of 2002, that triggered the Supreme Court's floodgates-opening decision. Restrictions imposed by McCain-Feingold on campaign funding by corporations, labor unions and others were the focus of a suit that ultimately reached the nation's highest court. When “swing vote” Justice Anthony Kennedy joined with the court's conservative faction to overturn the lower court's ruling, for the Koch brothers and others intent on major influence buying, the war dance was on. Justice Samuel Alito mouthed his disagreement with the president at the 2010 State of the Union, when Obama denounced the negative impact the decision to allow an unimpeded money flow would have on the electoral process. Alito's “not true” to the president has so far proven to be anything but accurate prognosticating of the effects of his and his cronies' handiwork.

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

The necessity to build up a hefty war chest to run for office and remain there if elected has been part of the fabric of American politics for years now, many an incumbent who wasn't personally wealthy bowing out under the pressure to constantly raise funds and unavoidably compromise the time devoted to serving constituents. It's one of the reasons there's justifiable concern about the quality of human stock installed in elective office today and going forward. The eagerness of a profusion of political action committees, many of them funded by giants of industry, to funnel money to candidates or causes just as long as the contributor's interests are served is hardly a formula for ensuring that the brightest and best wind up as representatives of the people. It is, rather, the means by which we make a mockery of the democratic process.

For years the GOP, overwhelm-

ingly the party of big business and the privileged, enjoyed a huge advantage in funds available for presidential and other races. In 1988, Michael Dukakis, running against George H.W. Bush, made some strides toward leveling the playing field. Bill Clinton in 1992 took Democratic Party fund raising to new levels, so much as to outshine the other side. But it was the well-oiled machine assembled by Obama in 2008 that broke it open with an unprecedented outreach effort that targeted the full electorate spectrum, from some of the fattest wallets to the grass-roots. At least as far as the ability to fundraise, the view from the Democratic side was no longer lopsidedly negative.

But no sooner had Democrats brought themselves somewhat up to battle-ready speed than came the Citizens United game changer. The tycoon prepared to spend whatever it takes to try to get elected is one thing. This gear shift, courtesy the high court, which gave a green light to super rich defenders of the status quo to outlay limitless funds to preserve an America they fancy, never mind majority sentiment to the con-

trary, is as troubling as it gets. The Koch brothers and others of their ilk are obviously determined to use the authority handed them by Citizens United to deploy resources wherever around the country there are available foot soldiers to get the job done, the job extending even to state and local political control. Senator Reid has every reason to be at once appalled and enraged at this barefaced theft of the people's democracy.

To hear the Koch brothers tell it, theirs is the American way – a point of view much in tune with voices from within the celebrated one percent, ever since a more powerful beam came to be focused on that group. As for the rest of us, one cringes at the notion of a ruling shaped by five justices compromising the operation of this democratic model of which Americans boast. Its framers, consciously or otherwise, placed their bets on an ongoing exercise of interpretation and re-interpretation of the Constitution. The Citizens United interpretation gave the likes of the Koch brothers, for who knows how much longer, tools to manipulate “We the people.” There's a lot wrong with that.

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Forging relationships

Continued from page 10

6. They trust their faith and look for a higher purpose in their loss. Extra-mile people believe that there is a stronger power at work in the world. Faith in a higher power...and yourself...works miracles in overcoming bad events.

7. They seek to add value to the world. People who have weathered a life storm recognize the opportunity to re-

evaluate their own contribution to the world. They use their event not as a forever defeat, but rather as an igniting spark to do something meaningful.

When something bad happens, we have the choice to either throw our hands in the air and give up or 'go the extra mile' and keep giving life our best effort. When we achieve that extra-mile distinction, we change our destiny.

Editor's Note;
Shawn Anderson is a six-time author, keynote speaker and motivational success coach. His "go the extra mile" philosophy and ability to produce results have been praised by political leaders, world record holders and media outlets across the world. His book titles include A Better Life: An Inspiring Story About Starting Over and Extra Mile America: Stories of Inspiration, Possibility and Purpose.
For more information, visit www.ShawnAnderson.com.

School politics

Continued from page 10

but now he says charter schools are his top priority in this budget. Meanwhile, the Senate Majority

has school districts crying for relief from underfunding, yet they want money for charter schools. It looks like Gov. Cuomo and the Senate Majority are bend-

ing over backwards for the charter school lobbyists who are big campaign donors," said Zakiyah Ansari, public school parent and advocacy director for the Alliance for Quality Education.
Alliance for Quality Education.

Airport taxes

Continued from page 10

Council and partners from the British travel industry

such as airlines and tour operators have since 2009 been campaigning against the steep increases in APD.

The Caribbean therefore hopes to see on 19 March the chancellor introduce measures that address its concerns.
Caribbean Tourism Organization

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Beehives on a farm in Antigua increase pollination and crop yields. IPS/Desmond Brown

Heavy rainfall washing out honey production

By Desmond Brown

DUMBARTON, St. Vincent, March, 12, 2014 (IPS) - Allan Williams, 32, is an agriculture extension officer in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. But as a trained apiculturist, he has also been involved in beekeeping as a hobby for the past seven years.

He has seen beekeeping grow significantly since 2006, as stakeholders became increasingly aware of its importance to the agricultural sector, and thus an important contributor to economic growth and development.

What's happening in the Caribbean should not be confused with colony collapse disorder (CCD).

But today, Williams is

worried. Honey production has declined tremendously over the past few years and he blames the changing climate as one of the main causes.

He said unfavourable climatic conditions, such as continued heavy rainfall, reduce the honeybees' access to nectar and pollen, weakening the colonies, which do not have enough food.

"This threat was very evident over the past decade, occurring exceptionally so in 2009, 2010 and 2013. The weather as you know is very unpredictable and it has definitely affected the production of honey for the last two years, but last year was the most destructive in terms of harvesting," Williams told IPS.

"Climate change is evident as we see with the unpredictability of the rainfall and the flash flooding in very unusual times of the year."

Last December, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was among three Eastern Caribbean countries (the other two being Dominica and St Lucia) affected by a slow-moving, low-level trough which dumped hundreds of millimetres of rain, killing at least 13 people, destroying agricultural farms and other infrastructure.

"Most farmers, from what I understand, did not suffer destruction of their hives but they suffered from the torrential rain," Williams told IPS.

He explained that when

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2
the PNM with Penelope "Penny" Beckles, whom he fired from the Senate last year.

Jamaica

Jamaica police say they are foiling a rising number of attempts to smuggle drugs to and from the southern Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao. The Transnational crime police at Kingston's international airport said three alleged drug mules were recently arrested after they arrived on a flight from Curacao. The two Jamaican men and one Guyanese man allegedly expelled scores of pellets of cocaine after being stopped for security screening. Days before, a Jamaican woman who allegedly digested 32 pellets of cocaine was arrested at the same airport after disembarking from a Curacao flight. Several Jamaicans have also been arrested trying to smuggle marijuana to Curacao on recent flights from Kingston.



Trinidad

The Trinidad and Tobago government is seeking the assistance of China's President

Xi Jinping for a US\$5 billion loan (TT\$35 billion dollars) in loans.

This was disclosed by Prime Minister Kamal Persad-Bissessar, who recently returned from a five-day official visit to the communist country. She said her People's Partnership government had requested almost US\$775 million to finance six new special economic zones and a new transshipment port and dry dock at La Brea, South Trinidad be expeditiously processed in fiscal 2014 by the Export-Import Bank of China. Persad-Bissessar said both Chinese leaders provided their personal assurances that the loan applications would be urgently processed.



The construction and completion of these projects by March next year, she said, "will bring significant economic benefits, including new economic infrastructure to spur diversification of the economy and accelerate the development of the maritime economy." She said the two countries signed three memoranda of understanding and a protocol during the visit. One was on the issue of national security.

Compiled by Azad Ali

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Haiti Cherie' raises money for Haiti

By Tequila Minsky

Braving an arctic blast recently, on one of the coldest nights, young Haitian professionals with many others, filled a hall on Manhattan's far west side to celebrate Fabrice Armand's birthday. For the last four years, Fabrice has observed his "bonn fete" with a benefit for Haiti.

"After the (2010) earthquake, I knew people's attention on Haiti would wane. I decided to use my birthday as a way to galvanize our community into an annual event that could celebrate Haiti," he explains.

Elaborating that "Haiti Cherie" (Haiti Dear), the annual gathering's name, focuses on "Haiti's history, beauty, culture, while honoring successful Haitians who have excelled in their fields and are tied to American/global culture."

By now, this impresario sees himself as a part of a team that creates the fete that brings people together for a cause.



This year's honoree (left) Haitian-Canadian Katleen Felix from Montreal, Chair of the Haitian Hometown Association Resource Group, who is formerly Diaspora Liaison and Zafen coordinator with Fonkoze. She's with last year's honoree Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste and his wife from Illinois who worked tirelessly on the issue of dual citizenship for Haitians. Photo by Tequila Minsky

As for acknowledging noteworthy Haitians, this year's honorees certainly fit these criteria.

Haitian-born, Boston-

bred Ambassador Paul Altidor traveled from Washington DC and traveling from Montreal, Haitian-Canadian Katleen Felix, chair of the



Haitian Hometown Association Resource Group, who is formerly Diaspora Liaison and Zafen coordinator with Fonkoze received honors.

Also acknowledged were New Jersey resident Dr. Jean Orelie, founder and CEO of SciMetrika, a company dedicated to public health challenges and traveling from Los Angeles, Jimmy Jean-Louis, known for his role as the "Haitian" in NBC's Heroes and his recent portrayal in the French film production, Toussaint Louverture.

Two organizations are the recipients of this year's monies collected from sponsors, ticket sales, and auction items.

Prime recipient, Haven, an Irish-origin housing and development group works in Gonaives and Isle-a-Vache. Haven hires skilled Haitians to transfer their expertise by training locals in trades such as boat building and fishing or dressmaking. In Leogane, they also built 50 homes for earthquake victims in the Habitat for Humanity compound.

This year's other recipient, Project St. Anne, a small Diaspora-initiated organization, provides tuition assistance and school supplies for 50 children in the southern city of Camp Perrin. The organization also holds a

Christmas toy drive.

"By the time the final figures come in, we hope to have raised \$20,000 total to support the work of these two groups," Fabrice says.

Prior to the program, the band IET entertained with modern pop, Latin and Haitian music.

Master of Ceremonies, 11 Alive TV anchor in Atlanta, DeMarco Morgan presided over the program part of the evening and Jumaane Williams presented proclamations to all of the honorees.

Among honorees in years past are Mona Scott Young, CEO Monami Entertainment, Ralph Gilles, president and CEO of the SRT Brand and senior vice president of design at Chrysler Group LLC, from Michigan, and Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste from Illinois who worked tirelessly on the issue of dual citizenship for Haitians. Judge Baptiste and his wife were among the VIPs at Haiti Cherie, this year.

Fabrice Armand is a marketing fundraising professional, passionate about Haiti who wants to help the Diaspora reengage with the country.

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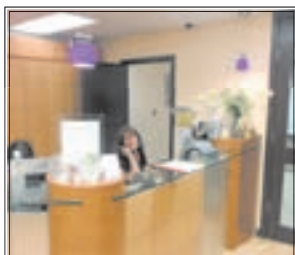
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A high-end tourist resort is expected to be built on Ile-a-Vache off the southern coast of Haiti. AP Photo/Daniel Morel

Haiti gov't defends plans to develop resort island

By Trenton Daniel

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A plan to transform a small Caribbean island off the southern coast of Haiti into a high-end resort will create more than 2,000 jobs and help change the image of this impoverished country, the prime minister said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe also denied allegations by some residents that the government will evict hundreds of poor farmers to complete the project.

Lamothe said that the development on Ile-a-Vache will be the most ambitious tourism project ever in Haiti and that critics who have clashed with police in protests do not fully appreciate the benefits.

"This will bring the hope for a better future for all the

residents of Ile-a-Vache," Lamothe said by phone while in Chile. "We definitely have no plans to evict anyone."

"This will bring the hope for a better future for all the residents of Ile-a-Vache. We definitely have no plans to evict anyone."

The \$260 million project being built with a combination of foreign aid and private investment is scheduled to be completed in two years. It includes condos, spas, a community radio station and an international airport that will allow foreigners to bypass chaotic

Port-au-Prince.

Lamothe said there will be more than 2,000 jobs in hotels, plus work building schools and a community center.

Work has begun on the airport, a \$24 million gift from Venezuela's government, amid a series of protests that began last year after the government announced it was seizing land for the project on the island of 15,000 people, many of them farmers and fishermen.

"All of sudden, the decree comes out, and they're taking away land to give to foreigners," said MacDonald Laine, a 27-year-old resident who has lived on the island his whole life.

Laine and his neighbors formed the Organization of Ile-a-Vache Farmers to pro-

tect their land, saying it's been passed down for generations.

They began staging tire-burning protests, and police were sent to the island to quell the dissent. A few residents said police beat them. They promise more demonstrations unless the government rescinds the decree.

Lamothe said the protests are being led by a small group of people that he alleges have ties to organized crime networks trying to smuggle marijuana through the area.

People in 100 homes will have to be relocated to make way for resorts, Tourism Minister Stephanie Ville-drouin said.

"There's going to be some compensation for people who live right there," she said.

St. Francis Center paves the way for Yolonda Watson, 16

When Yolonda Watson '16 signed up for the Entrepreneurship & Innovation course offered by the Center for Entrepreneurship at St. Francis College, she knew she would learn a few things about how to improve her travel business. But what she didn't know was it would lead to her getting a \$2,000 loan that positions her business to really take off.



Yolonda Watson. Photo courtesy of St. Francis College

"I enjoyed the presenters that took time out of their busy schedule to come to class and inform us of their business and products to help entrepreneurs," said Watson.

One of the guest speakers for the course was a representative from Accion, a nonprofit organization that offers training, resources, and loans to small business. She immediately followed up with the presenter and applied for a loan.

Yolonda had been growing her business, Destiny Tours & Travel, slowly but surely through word of mouth. But now, the loan made it possible to purchase a computer and significantly ramp up her business.

A Professional Studies major, Yolonda is already seeing the results.

The combination of the new computer with information from the

class has helped her become more efficient and able to handle more and bigger travel bookings for her growing list of clients.

Accion is not the only organization having an immediate impact. Yolonda is also now working with Capital One bank in hopes of setting up a line of credit that can help her continue to grow.

The Center for Entrepreneurship is committed to promoting social entrepreneurship which is about building a business venture that offers social value by creating jobs, wealth and opportunities for the community at large. Through education, research, and programs, the Center promotes entrepreneurial activities and initiatives. Go to sfc.edu/entrepreneur for more information.

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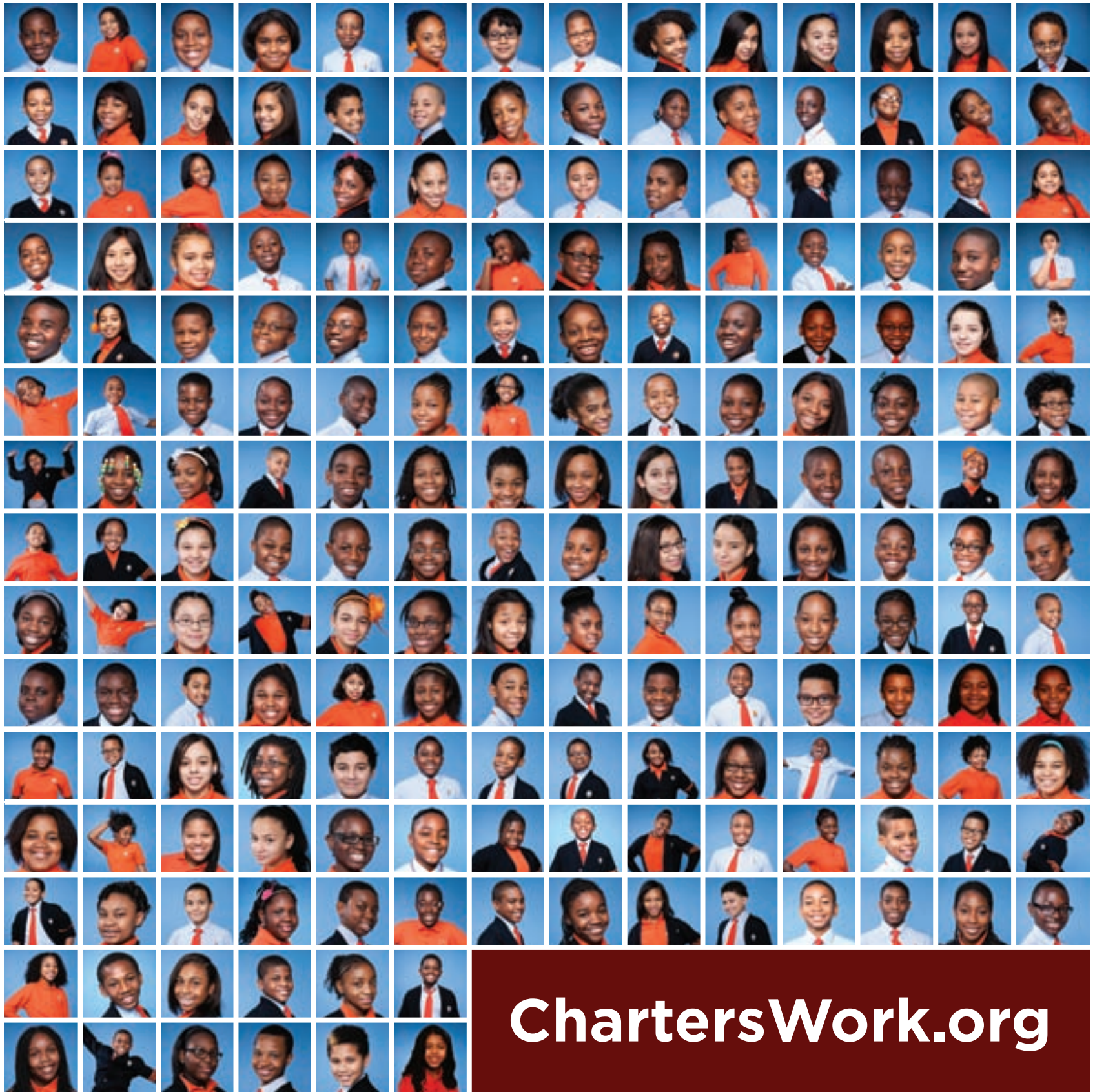
Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcny.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm
Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

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Three ways to improve your health from the inside out

(StatePoint) Heart health should be a year-round consideration for anybody looking to lead a healthy life. While that may sound like a daunting task, better heart health can be possible with a few steps in the right direction.

Iconic television, stage and screen actor, Tony Danza, makes his health a top priority, even when facing a busy schedule. Danza, who knows the importance of diet, exercise and “doing good to feel good,” offers his go-to tips for fitting health and wellness into your daily lifestyle:

- **Turn Your Daily Habits Into Exercise.** Most people know that exercise, in addition to a healthy diet, also plays a key role in bettering your overall health. However, many people have trouble fitting exercise into their busy schedule or think they have to look to costly private training options to see results. What most don't realize is fitting in exercise

HEALTH

can be as easy and cost-efficient as taking the stairs instead of the elevator or going for a walk on your lunch break.

Encourage others, like your friends or family, to join you on these mini exercise sessions. Having a support system of people who are looking for ways to be healthier can help provide motivation to keep going on your journey to better health.

- **Get Your Fiber Up.** Fiber is a crucial component to our diet, but most Americans are not getting the recommended daily amount of 25 to 38 grams of fiber, according to the American Dietetic Association. Many people know that fiber can help promote digestive health, but few know that it can also promote heart health.

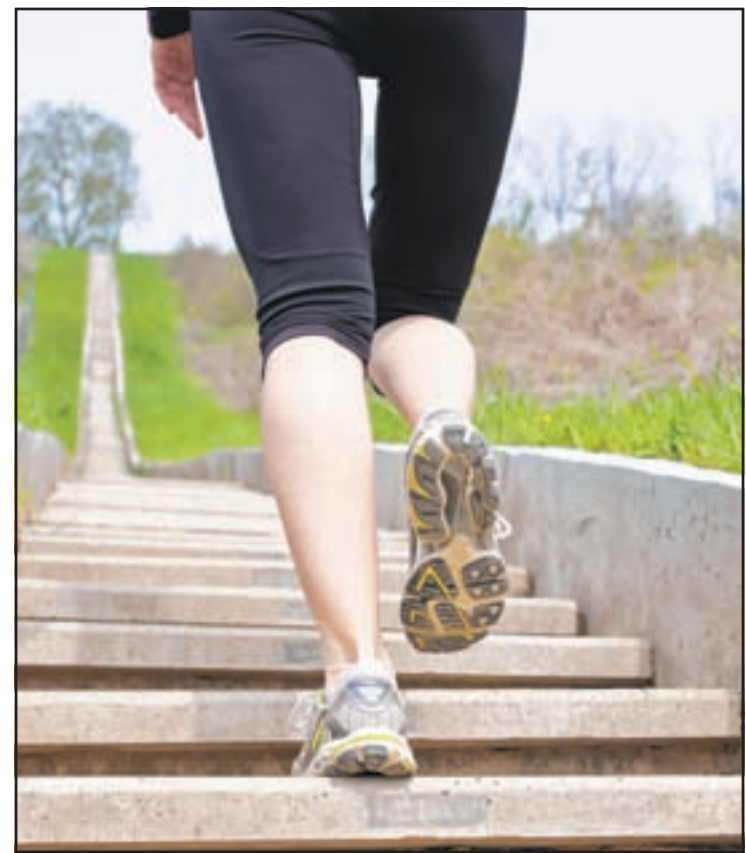
Diets low in saturated fat and

cholesterol that include seven grams of soluble fiber per day from psyllium husk, as in Metamucil, may reduce the risk of heart disease by lowering cholesterol. One adult dose of Metamucil has at least 2.1 grams of this soluble fiber.

“Metamucil has been an important part of my health regimen for over 20 years. It's a simple way to get multiple health benefits and an extra fiber boost since it can be hard to get all the fiber you need from food alone,” says Danza.

- **Do Good; Feel Good.** Overall health and wellness also comes from how you feel about yourself as an individual. Danza makes giving back to the community a regular practice and lists it among his healthy habits.

“Giving back is good for the soul and really warms the heart. You will be amazed to see how much you do for yourself as a person, when you are helping and giving back to others,” says



Exercise can be as easy and cost-efficient as taking the stairs.

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Danza.

More tips and information on healthy living is available at Metamucil's Facebook Fan page at

www.Facebook.com/Metamucil.

There are many ways to work healthy routines into your daily life.

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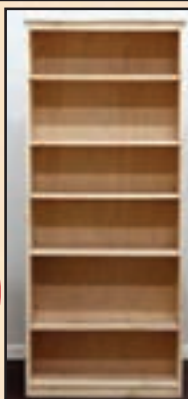
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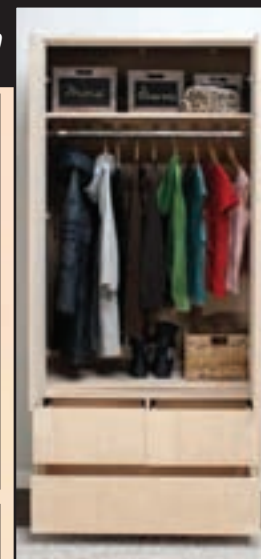
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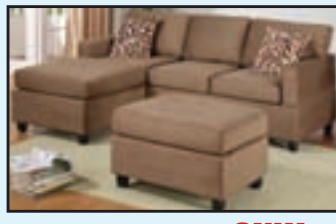


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WOMEN & MONEY

9th annual Black Enterprise Florida Power Summit

By Donnette Dennis-Austin

A gathering of hundreds of enterprising Black women recently for cocktail hour at the 9th Annual Black Enterprise Women of Power Summit at the Boca Raton Resort and Club in Florida, was a strong reminder that while Black History Month was nearing its end, Women's History month was on the horizon.

The event, which took place from Wednesday, Feb. 26 to Saturday March 1, attracted women from a variety of industries all across the United States.

Aptly titled, "Embrace your Power, the moment is Now," the summit offered workshops from "Mastering the Art of Time Management," to "Women and Money: What's in your purse?"

Facilitated by Robin A. Young a certified financial planner and founder of Women Behaving Wealthy, the summit included an

"Entrepreneur Master Class," as well as a workshop on "Strategies for Managing Racial & Gender Identities at Work" and several other workshops which suited the fancy of B.E.'s enterprising women.

In observing the women at this year's power summit as they strut the hall's and intermingled with other attendees, their power suits appeared well thought-out, and their strides said it all.

It was evident that they were women of power -- women who look like them, who understand their struggles of getting to the top of their respective industries while conquering their personal responsibilities; and that they came to hear what other powerful women had to say.

Madison Mobley, who works as a sales manager for EMC in Base Hopkinton, Massachusetts is the only Black woman in her com-

pany. She spoke with Caribbean Life about the reason she came to the conference for the second time in a row.

To be with other women who are alike is incredible," she said, adding that it helps her to grow.

For Daphne, an associate dean at her college, being a BE woman of power signifies that there are large shoes to fill, she said, adding that she is destined to take action and can go for it. This is her first time attending the event, but she said she definitely would come again.

Marie Vaughn says it means "walking in your authority." She has worked in H.R. for over 20 years as a mergers and acquisitions specialist, and attended eight of the nine BE summits. She was looking forward to seeing the great Cicely Tyson.

The 2014 B.E Women of Power Summit had a plethora of noted



Cecily Tyson (2nd from left), Myrlie Evers (2nd from right) and fellow honorees at the Florida gala.

Photo credit: Black Enterprise/Melanie Gomez

guest speakers. Amongst the host of familiar names, attendees got an opportunity to listen to the success stories of people such as Marian Wright Edelman, founder & president of the Children's Defense Fund. A graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, Edelman was the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar. Amongst her many accolades, Edelman also was a recipient of the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship and the Presi-

dential Medal of Freedom -- the nation's highest civilian award.

Myrlie Evers, widow of the late civil rights activist Medgar Evers, who was assassinated by white supremacists for his role in the civil rights movement -- was also among the noted speakers. Evers made history in January 2013, when she became the first woman to deliver the invocation for a presidential inauguration in January 2013. She also wrote her autobiography, entitled: "Watch Me Fly: Continued on Page 30

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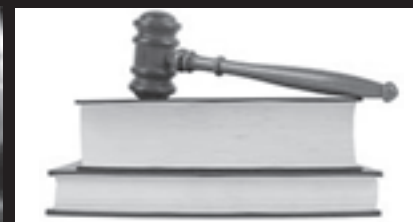


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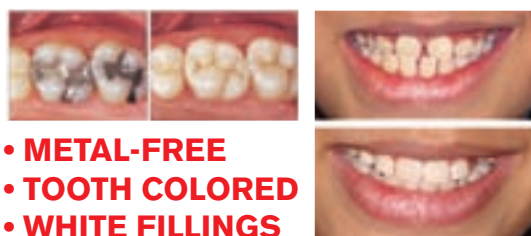
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Bernadette Lewis, secretary-general, Caribbean Telecommunications Union, leads an open conversation on regional development at the CARCIP Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Innovation Workshop, Buccament Bay Resort, Saint Vincent, Feb. 26, 2014.

Photo by Gerard Best

World Bank-funded workshop moves to Grenada

By Gerard Best

GRAND ANSE, Grenada: A series of workshops rolling out across the Caribbean is intended to spark and harness the power of Caribbean innovation as an engine for technology-enabled development and enterprise.

The workshop suite is part of a broader World Bank-funded initiative called CARCIP, the Caribbean Communications Infrastructure Program, which is coordinated by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU). The next CTU CARCIP Innovation workshop will take place in Grenada on March 24 and 25.

Building on the foundation of upgraded critical Internet and telecommunications infrastructure, CARCIP aims to clear the path for local innovators and entrepreneurs to develop world-class, locally driven, technology-enabled services that address the needs of Grenada and the wider Caribbean. The thrust by CTU to accelerate Caribbean entrepreneurship through technology-driven innovation builds on the work of their Caribbean ICT Roadshow, which has been held 21 times in 18 Carib-

bean countries.

“The CTU has been the regional pioneer for initiatives designed to build awareness of ICTs and to promote innovative, beneficial use of the technologies in Caribbean countries for fostering national and Caribbean development,” said Bernadette Lewis, secretary general of the CTU.

The underlying philosophy of the CTU's engagement with the region through CARCIP, Lewis said, is that the very same conditions that present severe challenges for the region are also creating unique opportunities.

“As twentieth-century frameworks are dismantled, the emerging economies of developing regions find themselves uniquely placed to take advantage of new rules of engagement,” she said.

In the case of Grenada, the CARCIP workshop is an opportunity to deepen the government's ongoing thrust to develop the country's ICT sector.

“We are extremely proud to be the next host of the CTU's CARCIP Innovation Workshops, and we look forward to discovering new ways to apply technology to

everyday challenges,” said Jacinta Joseph, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Communication, Works, Public Utilities, Physical Development and ICT, Grenada.

The CTU has established a record of bringing substantial value to Caribbean governments and citizens through aggressive regional public education activities. The two-day Grenada workshop will bring together local professionals in the field of telecommunications and regional experts in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), entrepreneurship, leadership development and innovation.

Bevil Wooding, Internet Strategist with U.S.-based non-profit, Packet Clearing House, is the lead facilitator.

“Caribbean problems are real but those problems have real solutions. Caribbean innovators must respond to our challenges by using and creating technology to discover and design relevant solutions,” said Wooding.

Against the backdrop of global economic uncertainty, the Caribbean now faces serious challenges,

Continued on Page 36

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Push for slavery's reparations

Continued from Page 5
fari, a melding of Old Testament teachings and Pan-Africanism whose followers have long pushed for reparations.

Martyn Day of the law firm called the plan a "fair set of demands on the governments whose countries grew rich at the expense of those regions whose human wealth was stolen from them."

Day said an upcoming meeting in London between Caribbean and European officials "will enable our clients to quickly gauge whether or not their concerns are being taken seriously." It was not immediately clear when the meeting to potentially seek a negotiated settlement will take place.

The idea of the countries that benefited from slavery paying some form of reparations has been a decades-long quest but only recently has it gained serious momentum in

the Caribbean.
CARICOM, as the political grouping of 15 countries and dependencies is known, announced in July that it intended to seek reparations for slavery and the genocide of native peoples and created the Caribbean Reparations Commission to push the issue and present their recommendations to political leaders.

They then hired Leigh Day, which waged a successful fight for an award compensation of about \$21.5 million for surviving Kenyans who were tortured by the British colonial government during the so-called Mau Mau rebellion of the 1950s and 1960s.

The commission's chairman, Hilary Beckles, a scholar who has written several books on the history of Caribbean slavery, said he was "very pleased" that the political leaders adopted the plan.

In 2007, then British Prime Minister Tony Blair expressed regret for the "unbearable suffering" caused by his country's role in slavery but made no formal apology. In 2010, then French President Nicolas Sarkozy acknowledged the "wounds of colonization" and pointed out France had canceled a 56 million euro debt owed by Haiti and approved an aid package.

The Caribbean Reparations Commission said Monday that far more needed to be done for the descendants of slaves on struggling islands, saying it sees the "persistent racial victimization of the descendants of slavery and genocide as the root cause of their suffering today."

Associated Press writer Duggie Joseph reported this story in Kingstown, St. Vincent, and David McFadden reported from Kingston, Jamaica.

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Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

Kyle Busby, Ditmas Park

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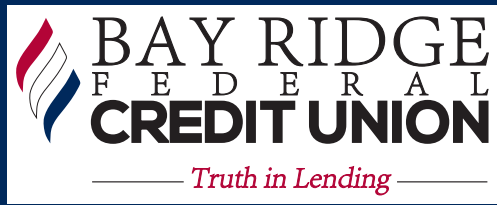
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Judges

Continued from Page 3

B.A. degree from State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1978 and her Juris Doctorate degree from the Howard University School of Law in 1984. She was admitted to the Bar in 1985.

Justice Ash was elected to the Kings County Civil Court in 2005 and took office in 2006. She served there until she joined the Supreme Court in 2011.

Justice Cheryl E. Chambers sits on the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department.

She was appointed to this division by Gov. Spitzer in February 2008 to a term that expired in 2013.

Chamber's current 14-year term as State Supreme Court Justice will expire on Dec. 31, 2026.

Justice Chambers holds a B.A. degree from Brooklyn College (1973), a J.D. (Juris Doctorate) degree from Boston University School of Law (1976), and a Master's in Business Administration degree from Rutgers Gradu-



Una Clarke (L) presents award to Justice Cheryl Chambers. Photo by Nelson A. King

ate School of Management (1984).

Justice Sharen D. Hudson serves on the New York City Civil Court in Kings County. She was elected to the court in 2011, and her term expires in 2021.

Justice Hudson defeated Housing Court Judge Cheryl Gonzales in the Sept. 13 Democratic primary election with 62.1 percent of the vote.

Justice Hudson was elected to one of two open seats

in the Nov. 8 general election, winning 41.89 percent of the vote.

Raised in the Red Hook community of Brooklyn, Justice Hudson obtained a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

She began as a court officer within the New York State Unified Court System, and enrolled in Brooklyn Law School, where she obtained her Juris Doctorate.



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M E T R O P L U S . O R G



Women of Power

Continued from Page 23

What I learned on my Way to Becoming the Woman I was meant to be.”

Along with the hosts of workshops to choose from, this year's, B.E.'s Women of Power Summit also honored several women of influence, including Evers. Yet, the night belonged to the legendary Cicely Tyson. Both women were welcomed with resounding applause from the women in attendance.

“I'm always left speechless at moments like these,” Tyson said. She humored the audience when she said that she was always known as her mother's “why” child, because she always wanted to know why?

To say she feels privileged would be an understatement,” Tyson added, while at the same time reminding the audience that they were all, “leaders, risk takers, innovators;” then followed with the question,

Tyson reminded the audience that they were all, “leaders, risk takers, innovators.”

“Do we all know that we are women of power?” Her statement was met with a standing ovation and another resounding applause.

One of the cleaners at the Boca Raton Resort and Club dropped by to chat with CLN about growing up German in a majority Black area in Washington, DC. He told that he was on his way out, but came back just to walk the hallways and admire what he sees as part of his own history. He said it reminds me of coming back home. He wanted to work the event, the moment he heard about the conference.

And when Caroline V. Clarke, B.E.'s executive editor and host of Black Enterprise

Business Report, as well as co-editorial director of the Women of Power Summit, was done giving her opening remarks, she instructed all of the women to hug and welcome each other -- a ritual she does each year.

There were no surprises when the Latino women servers who stood waiting to serve dinner also hugged each other -- a reminder that we're all women of color, and we understand the struggles to climb those ladders, or rather not be left behind.

One of the sessions encouraged participants to offer a one-minute elevated pitch of their business; then audience members were invited to give a feedback on how the “pitcher” could improve their pitch.

Linda Johnson Rice and Desire Rogers of Johnson Publishing offered advice on they talked about the importance of women's collaboration in business. They spoke also about the importance of having a Black-owned business that embraced the African American lifestyle.

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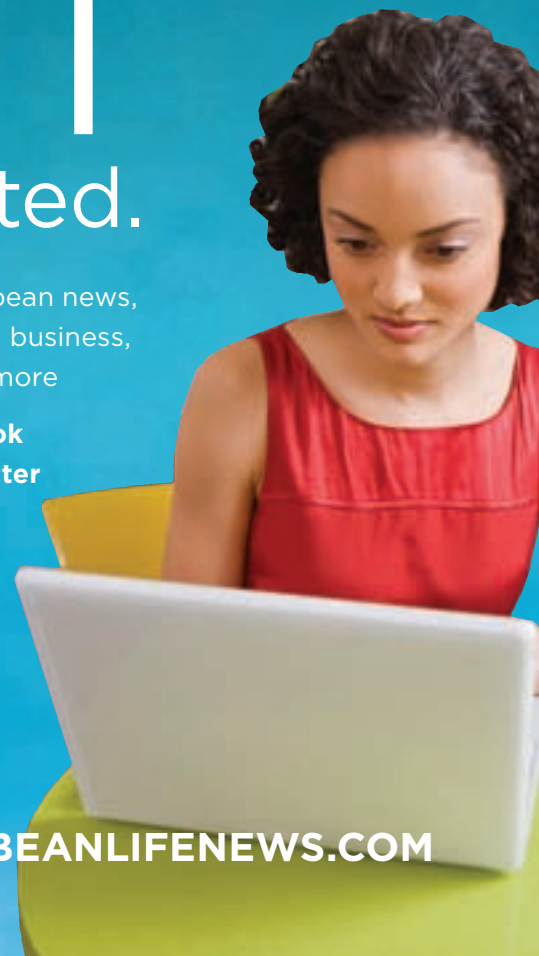
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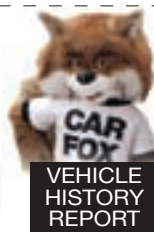
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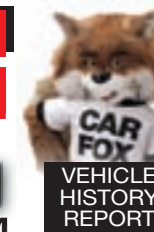
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JD Livingstone, radio producer, joins the ancestors

By Vinette K. Pryce

The lyrics to the popular Marvin Sapp gospel testament – “Never Would Have made It Without You” is being repeated with parallel to Guyana native Joseph D. Livingstone who died at 1:00 p.m. on March 14. Most people knew him as J.D. the go-to intermediary between Rev. Al Sharpton and the NYPD. As crisis manager of the National Action Network for more than a decade and a half, JD fielded phone calls related to police brutality, immigration, housing, education, medical care, Civil Rights etc before relaying concerns to the activist preacher.

“JD was the drumbeat that kept the movement informed, aware, and at the ready,” Sharpton said after hearing that cancer had



From left, Roy Ayersm, Sandra D. and JD Livingstone. Photo courtesy of Vinette K. Pryce

claimed the life of the loyal immigrant.

First to arrive daily at the headquarters of the National Action Network, JD was always last to leave after shuttering the doors to the Harlem landmark.

“We will miss his presence, fellowship and dedication.”

“He accommodated NAN members,” Vena Baker said, “After the Saturday rally members use to linger, talk and commune with each

other. With JD, members knew they could always watch television, share ideas, read or just hang out. After he became ill and was forced to take it easy, some members said they would return to NAN when JD did.”

Livingstone discovered his terminal condition two years ago when he was admitted to Harlem Hospital. After several months his condition seemed to improve. He received outpatient care at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx. And for a period, Livingstone resumed his routine of compiling newspapers, books, and making phone calls.

“I believe some of us were in denial,” reporter Peter Noel said. “We wanted to believe he had beaten the cancer and he probably did too.”

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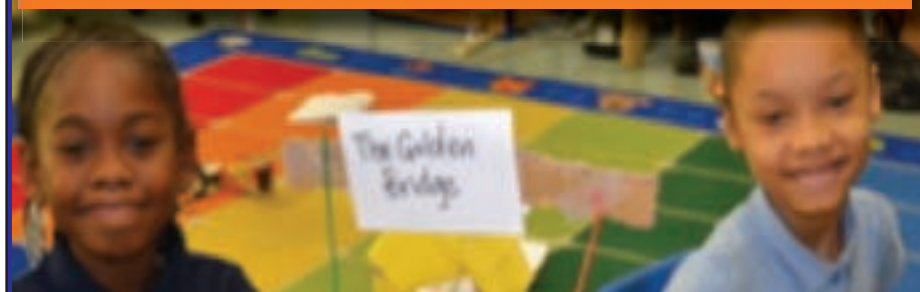
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Honey

Continued from Page 14

there is continuous rainfall "the bees are not able to go out and forage on trees where they could get food, so that really reduced our production and I was really affected by it. For two years we suffered a very unusual rainfall pattern.

"In April, the middle of the dry season, we had continuous rainfall for about three or four days and that impacted out production and we are seeing drier spells in the rainy season so there is a shift in the honey flow season when farmers can harvest," Williams told IPS.

He said it used to be from February to May and even April, but "we are not able to harvest anything. That kind of change of our weather pattern is due to climate change."

With just a dozen hives, Williams said that he harvests an average of 30 gallons of honey per year. This figure increases to 40 gallons in a "good year".

Local honey retails for an average price of 100 dollars a gallon, slightly less than the imported product.

The apiculture industry here, which primarily deals with the production and sale of honey, is now valued at 76,600 dollars. The sector is recovering from an all-time low in 2006, when the honeybee population was almost wiped out by the ferocious Varroa Mite.

Over the last three years, the sector produced more than 1,000 gallons of honey

from 477 colonies across the country.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines currently has 54 beekeepers recorded in its database, including nine women.

Rupert Lay, a water resources specialist with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), says climate change has begun to cause difficulties for bee farmers not only in St. Vincent but throughout the Caribbean.

"An interesting indicator occurring currently is the little to no production of honey in the region," said Lay, who is participating in the USAID-funded Reducing the Risks to Human and Natural Assets Resulting from Climate Change (RRACC) project that is being implemented by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

"This can be linked to the unpredictable weather patterns affecting farmer's beehive colonies and thus honey production," he told IPS.

"These events are disrupting farmers' livelihoods which in turn affect adversely the fabric of society and livelihoods, including education. A farmer's stress can be recognised by his or her children, thus creating worry which leads to decreased attention spans in the classroom manifesting in poor performance," Lay added.

Williams pointed out that what's happening in the Caribbean should not be confused with colony collapse disorder (CCD), a phenomenon in which worker bees from a beehive or European honeybee colony abruptly

disappear.

While such disappearances have occurred throughout the history of apiculture, and were known by various names, the syndrome was renamed CCD in late 2006 in conjunction with a drastic rise in the number of disappearances of Western honeybee colonies in North America.

Colony collapse is significant economically because many agricultural crops worldwide are pollinated by honeybees.

According to the Agriculture and Consumption Protection Department of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, the value of global crops with honeybees' pollination was estimated to be close to 200 billion dollars in 2005.

Williams listed other constraints to the development of the apiculture industry as the lack of appropriate sites for apiary establishment; exotic pests and invasive species; lack of equipment; aerial spraying and lack of staff in the apiculture unit.

For Ricky Narine, a beekeeper in Barbados, the toughest challenge right now is saving the bees.

"We are trying to save the bees. A lot of people out there are using a lot of chemicals that are killing them and they don't realise that without bees the environment is going to suffer. As much as you tell them they still do it," he said.

"They can call us or use something safer. There are a lot of different insecticides that you can use that are bee friendly.

Workshop

Continued from Page 24

such as its outmoded physical and institutional infrastructure, diminishing global competitiveness and the hemorrhaging of its qualified human resource and the climate change, flight of intellectual capacity and the dismantling of preferential trade arrangements for agricultural products.

In response, the regional program aims to improve the efficiency of telecommunications infrastructure development in the Eastern Caribbean and ultimately,

throughout the wider Caribbean. Through the World Bank's International Development Association, CARCIP was allocated a total disbursement of US\$25 million, including loans to the three countries and a grant to the CTU.

CARCIP is a partnership between the World Bank and the governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Grenada, alongside regional organisations such as the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) and the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN), all under the coor-

dination of the CTU.

The Grenada workshop is the third in the ongoing series. Among the workshop presenters are Dr. Farid Youssef, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine; and Norman Gibson, expert in rural development and environmental management in the Caribbean.

The first CTU CARCIP Innovation Workshop was held at the Bay Gardens Resort, Gros Islet, Saint Lucia on Feb. 10 and 11, while the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines event was held at the Buccament Bay resort on Feb. 26 and 27.

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Obama, DeBlasio to attend NAN Convention

President Barack Obama will revisit the annual convention of National Action Network which is slated to be held from April 9-12. Making his second appearance to the confab organized by organization founder and MSNBC commentator Al Sharpton, the leader of the free world heads the long list of prominent speakers invited to the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. New York City's Mayor Bill DeBlasio and first-lady Chirlayne will address delegations attending the annual meeting on separate occasions. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., along with celebrated names including TV personality Wendy Williams, Tracy Martin, Trayvon's mother, filmmaker Shola Lynch, Editor-in-chief emeritus of Essence Magazine Susan Taylor, MSNBC's Hardball host Chris Matthews and a long list of panelists are expected at the four-day event. All plenary sessions are free and open to the public. To register to attend, log onto www.nationalaction-network.net



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

JIMMY CLIFF AMPLIFIES CALL FOR REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY

Jamaica's reggae legend Jimmy Cliff amplified the call for restitution to Caribbean countries exploited by the slave trade. Cliff insists Caribbean communities have the right to be reimbursed. The often non-political international musician echoed the plea first made by the government of Jamaica and recently restated when leaders of 15 Caribbean nations issued a demand for official apologies and compensation from European countries for their part in the barbaric practice.

"You know, you have all these brethren, they were saying, 'Look, the Queen is supposed to pay us back.' There were lots of them who were very serious about it too and

they have a logical point to prove," Cliff told the London Evening Standard.

"But look, the Jews have always highlighted what has happened, their plight, what has happened to them, and also say, 'Ok, you did that, you're supposed to pay us something back.' So why not other people, like my ancestors? I think it's a fair deal."

The targeted countries are Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark – all participants in the slave trade that took place from the 16th through the 19th centuries. Last year Jamaica's Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller took the issue to the United Nations.

"Jamaica supports the call for an international discussion in a non-confrontational manner on the question of



Jamaican PM Portia Simpson Miller speaks during the 68th session of the General Assembly at United Nations headquarters, Sept. 28, 2013.

AP Photo/Seth Wenig

reparations," Simpson Miller said at the 68th session of the General Assembly.

The CRC said recently that far more needed to be done for the descendants of slaves on struggling islands. The CRC said it acknowledges the "persistent racial victimization of the descendants of slavery and genocide as the root cause of their suffering today."

Historian and retired head of the University of the West Indies, Dr. Adrian Fraser said the region must pursue

reparations from Europe but he does not think much will come of the effort.

"I think it is something which we really should do; it is something that we are, more or less, forced to do."

"I am not sure that there is going to be any success down the road, because it is a question of power. We don't have the power, and they (Europe) will simply neglect us and they probably feel that once they do that (pay reparations), it is going to open a can of worms," Fraser added.

At the same meeting, CARICOM heads of government reported "good progress" on reparations and immediately established a commission that will report back to them during their summit in July.

"I feel it is something which we need to do, because of the way our history is bastardized and the way our people suffered over that period of time," Fraser added.

"So, we are compelled to do it. As part of trying to reclaim our history and recognizing what has happened

in the past and also bringing before the international public the fact that Britain, and the Europeans generally benefitted tremendously from us.

"We provided the springboard for their entry into industrialization. That was not the only thing, but we played a very important role in it. So, we need to make that statement and we need to let the world understand what happened with us," Fraser said.

"Not to do this is to admit that we are not serious," he said.

He added that a large part of the reparations effort should focus on the indigenous people.

"We should have some understanding, particularly where indigenous people are concerned, what we want out of reparation, what we would do with whatever is offered us through reparation. ... Unless we do that, it will show that we are not serious about it."

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Phagwah Festival celebrates 26 years in Richmond Hill

By Tangerine Clarke

The weather forecast may have predicted snow on the horizon but thousands of Indo-Caribbean nationals came out dressed to welcome the spring season and to celebrate the joyous festival of Phagwah at the 26th Annual Indo-Caribbean Float parade in Richmond Hill, Queens.

Festively adorned floats and colorful images were highlighted by the smiles on the faces of participants who sprinkled each other with eye-catching dyes. The nationals reveled to live music as they honored the March 16 event, one of the most ancient, joyous and colorful festivals of the Hindu calendar.

The sweet-sounding Tassa drums accompanied the



Mexican-American Ximena enjoys the welcome of Spring with rainbow colors on her face.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

parade led by Grand Marshalls Dharmacharya Misir and Dharmacharya Ramlall. Guyana Vice Consul General
Continued on Page 42

Melanite Visions

By Amun

Gallery RIVAA (Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association) held its second Annual Black History Month exhibition "The Melanite Visions" curated by Lorraine Williams last month. The gallery's exhibition presented artists of the African Diaspora. The work in the exhibition included painting, sculpture, jewelry, photography and textile design. The participating artists were: AKASSA, Aziza, Bianca Dorsey, Carolyn A. Butts, Gie Rodz, Ron J. Upperman, June Terry, N. Steven Harris, Tiana Mone Scott and William Jamison.

The stand out artist of

the show was Aziza. She had four large monotype prints on paper (22" x 30") and four smaller framed foil pieces (8" x 10") in the show. Aziza describes her work as follows: "My artwork is mostly figurative, especially my illustrations. However, through printmaking I can merge abstraction and figurative compositions while fully exploring the diversity of its mediums. The process of printmaking in itself is a narrative. Through creating rich multi-layered surfaces, textures, vibrant color, carving, scraping, burnishing, and reworking the surface over and over again my
Continued on Page 42

GUITAR PASSIONS



From left, American jazzman Stanley Jordan, Sharon Isbin and Brazilian jazz master Romero Lumbambo.

Photo courtesy of Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

An exquisite concert of Latin music

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is proud to present the "Guitar Passions Of Sharon Isbin" in a concert of Latin, jazz and Brazilian music inspired by Sharon Isbin's popular 2011 album "Guitar Passions" on Sunday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m.

Isbin, the pre-eminent guitarist of our time, will be performing with two of her album's collaborators,

Brazilian jazz master Romero Lumbambo and innovative American jazzman Stanley Jordan. The concert will feature a mix of acoustic and electric guitars performing music from Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Venezuela in solo, duo and trio combinations.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park

Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468. Tickets for the Guitar Passions Of Sharon Isbin on Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. can be purchased by calling the Lehman Center box office at 718-960-8833 (Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and beginning at 12 noon on the day of the concert), or through online access at www.LehmanCenter.com

Continued on Page 42

'Splash, Anna Hibiscus'

"*Splash, Anna Hibiscus!*"
by Atinuke & Lauren Tobia
c.2013, Kane Miller
\$14.99 / \$17.95 Canada
32 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
"Look, Mom!"

You probably say that 10 times a day. You want to show her something, ask a question, or just get Mom

to see what you're doing. Sometimes, it's hard to get her attention, but if you're like the little girl in "Splash, Anna Hibiscus!" by Atinuke & Lauren Tobia, you might go ahead and have fun without it.

It was a beautiful, sunny day on a beach in Africa.

That's where Anna Hibiscus lives, and it's where her whole family was relaxing.

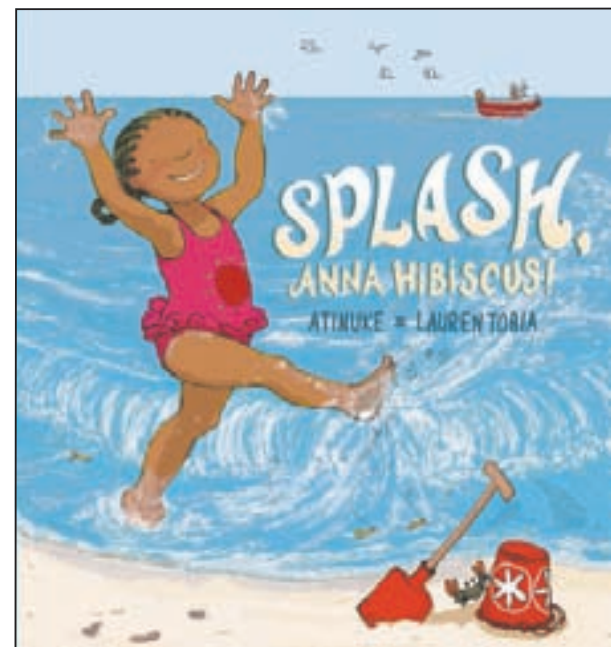
Everybody was having fun. Papa was with Uncle Tunde, and they were visiting with fishermen. Some of the cousins were on their phones, some were playing soccer, and Chocolate was

dumping sand on Angel. Even Mama was busy.

Anna Hibiscus watched the ocean waves as they splashed and laughed. She wanted so much to splash, too, and she wanted everyone else to come with her!

She asked Angel and Chocolate, but they were digging in the sand. They invited Anna Hibiscus to play in the sand with them, but that's not what she

BOOK REVIEW



Book cover of "Splash Anna Hibiscus"

Photo courtesy of Kane Miller

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wanted to do.

She asked Benz and Wonderful to splash with her in the waves, but they didn't even hear her. They were playing ball with beach boys and that wasn't what Anna Hibiscus wanted to do, either.

She asked her girl cousins if they would like to go play in the waves, but Clarity, Joy, and Common Sense said they were messing with their phones and were "too big now for playing." Anna Hibiscus didn't want to hear "too big," so she stomped away to watch the laughing waves some more.

Mama was braiding hair. Auntie Joli was working beneath an umbrella. Auntie Grace was cooking corn. Papa was standing by a boat, deep in conversation and everybody knows that men don't stop talking. Even Grandmother and Grandfather were busy asleep beneath their newspapers.

Anna Hibiscus looked at the waves again. She wanted to splash in them. They wanted to splash with her, too. They were laughing

and dancing. She started laughing, too.

And then Anna Hibiscus jumped....

It's been a long and difficult winter. On many occasions, I'll bet you dreamed of tropical things. So maybe now's the time to put sand between your toes, the sound of ocean in your ears, and "Splash, Anna Hibiscus!" in your hands.

If you can't tell by looking at the cover of this cute book, there's a lot of joy in the story of a little girl who just wants to play in the water. Author Atinuke and illustrator Lauren Tobia, in fact, make this one of the happiest books you'll ever read to your children: there's no pouting, no whining, just glee in what lies beyond the sand.

Just one caveat: careful parents of 3-to-7-year-olds might want to have a "don't go in the water alone" talk while reading this book. Do that, then immerse yourselves in the delight of this adorable story. For both of you, "Splash, Anna Hibiscus!" is a book you'll look at again and again.



Bride-to-be gets cold feet in cross-cultural comedy

“Shirin in Love”
Good (2 stars)
Unrated
In English and Farsi
with subtitles
Running time:
104 minutes
Distributor:
Sideshow Releasing

By Kam Williams

Shirin (Nazanin Boniadi) has never really found the courage to pursue her own dreams. For example, after graduating from college and law school, instead of going into practice, she moved back home and began writing book reviews for BH Style, a magazine owned by her domineering mother (Anita Khatbari). The deferential daughter knows her problems stem from living under the same roof as her very traditional Iranian-American parents. Furthermore, they're members of a tight-knit community

located in a section of L.A. known as Tehrangeles.

Consequently, more out of obligation than love, she accepted the marriage proposal of Dr. Joon (Maz Jobrani), a successful, Beverly Hills plastic surgeon who shares the same background. But with the wedding day fast approaching, Shirin is belatedly questioning the wisdom of tying the knot with a man she's not passionate about just because everyone else considers him to be Mr. Right.

A fly lands in the prenuptial ointment the night she spots a handsome hunk (Riley Smith) across a crowded room at a publishing party. Trouble is she's tipsy at the time, and he's too much of a gentleman to make a pass, given the situation. And since he lives far away in the coastal town of Mendocino, they seem fated to pass like ships in the night and never see each other again.

However, thanks to a frankly farcical series of coincidences they cross paths once more when Shirin



Nazanin Boniadi and Riley Smith in “Shirin in Love.”

ventures to Northern California on a writing assignment in search of an interview with a notoriously-reclusive, best-selling author (Amy Madigan). This time around, she and William do make a love connection, leaving the blushing bride-to-

be in quite a quandary.

Thus unfolds “Shirin in Love,” a formulaic romantic comedy that eschews breaking new ground in favor of resorting to a slew of shopworn Hollywood clichés. For that reason, the most amusing aspect

of this otherwise predictable romp is the presumably-authentic peek offered into Iranian culture. Nevertheless, you're left with a nagging sense of déjà vu that's hard to shake.

My Big Fat Iranian Wedding!

Independent & Foreign Films

50 to 1 (PG-13 for suggestive material and a bar fight) Fact-based drama chronicling the road trip from New Mexico to Kentucky undertaken by a posse of cowboys when their crooked-footed horse miraculously qualifies for the Derby. Starring Skeet Ulrich, William Devane and Christian Kane.

American Revolutionary (Unrated) Reverential biopic about Grace Lee Boggs, the 97-year-old, progressive political activist who, for many decades, has dedicated her life to the plight of the poor people of Detroit. Featuring commentary by Danny Glover, Angela Davis and Bill Ayers.

Anita (Unrated) Ugly biopic about beauty queen-turned-gay rights opponent Anita Bryant (Uma Thurman) whose homophobic crusade led to her divorce and bankruptcy, and heralded the demise of her showbiz career.

Awakened (Unrated) Supernatural thriller about a young woman (Julianne Michelle) who gets help from beyond the grave while unearthing the truth about whether her father (John Savage) murdered her mother



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

(Kiva Dawson) when she was a child. Featuring Steven Bauer, Edward Furlong and Sally Kirkland.

A Birder's Guide to Everything (PG-13 for profanity, sexuality, drug use and partial nudity) Ornithological comedy about a 15 year-old bird watcher (Kodi Smit-McPhee) who embarks on an expedition with a couple of friends in search of the supposedly-extinct Labrador Duck. With Ben Kingsley, James Le Gros and Katie Chang.

Blood Ties (R for sexuality, violence, brief drug use and pervasive profanity) Gangster saga, set in 1974, revolving around two brothers (Clive Owen and Billy Crudup) operating on opposite sides of the law in their Brooklyn neighborhood. Ensemble cast includes James Caan, Marión Cotillard, Mila Kunis, Zoe Saldana, Jamie Hector and Griffin Dunne.

Cheap Thrills (Unrated) Dark comedy about an

unemployed auto mechanic (Pat Healy) who, for some much-needed cash, accepts a rich couple's (David Koechner and Sara Paxton) series of increasingly twisted dares. With Ethan Embry, Amanda Fuller and Laura Covelli.

God's Not Dead (PG for mature themes, brief violence and an accident scene) Christian-oriented drama about a college freshman (Shane Harper) who finds his faith challenged by a philosophy professor's (Kevin Sorbo) pressure to embrace atheism for a passing grade. Featuring Dean Cain, Jim Gleason and Willie Robertson.

It Felt Like Love (Unrated) Coming-of-age drama about an envious, 14 year-old virgin (Gina Piersanti) who decides to seduce an older boy (Ronen Rubinstein) to match the exploits of her sexually-active BFF (Giovanna Salimeni). Support cast includes Nick Rosen, Richie

Continued on Page 43

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Happy**
Pharrell Williams
- 2 **Dark Horse**
Katy Perry Featuring Juicy J ..
- 3 **Team**
Lorde
- 4 **Pompeii**
Bastille
- 5 **Counting Stars**
OneRepublic
- 6 **All Of Me**
John Legend
- 7 **Drunk In Love**
Beyonce Featuring Jay Z
- 8 **Talk Dirty**
Jason Derulo Feat. 2 Chainz
- 9 **Story Of My Life**
One Direction
- 10 **Burn**
Ellie Goulding

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Mastermind**
Rick Ross
- 2 **G I R L**
Pharrell Williams
- 3 **Louder**
Lea Michele
- 4 **Frozen**
Soundtrack
- 5 **Oh, What A Life**
American Authors
- 6 **10,000 Towns**
Eli Young Band
- 7 **Morning Phase**
Beck
- 8 **Oxymoron**
Schoolboy Q
- 9 **100 (EP)**
KB
- 10 **Pure Heroine**
Lorde

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Afro Jazz & Blues

Continued from page 39

own story unfolds. My artwork celebrates the beauty and history of the African Diaspora.

"One of my current series honors Black music and the invention of Blues and Jazz music by African Americans, with its strong roots to Africa. My works highlight the contemporary talent keeping true to the art form such as musician Roy Hargrove and the legacy of the Apollo Theater, which celebrates 80 years as the center of Black music and entertainment in America. One of my monotypes titled "Looking Forward" expresses the direction we need to focus and act on within the Black community, but even more importantly as a global community. We must always remember our ancestors and history yet we must unify to strive ahead, continuing to create, invent, and make positive change."

Aziza was born in the Virgin Islands and grew up in a household in Queens, New York where her parents were both artists. She attended the 'famous' Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, graduating from its acclaimed visual arts program. Aziza continued her study of Fine Arts at Pratt Insti-

tute and received a BFA in Printmaking. Aziza currently lives and works in Queens, New York. She also prints at both Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop and the Lower East Side Printshop, where she was a past recipient of the Keyholder Residency.

She employs a fusion of printmaking mediums within her studio practice including relief, lithography, viscosity intaglio, calligraphy, hand stamping, and foil printing. Her background also includes freelance and commissioned illustration, mural design, and jewelry design. Aziza has worked extensively in arts and education as a teaching artist through programs such as P.A.L., Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration, Publicolor, and residencies in West Africa and Jamaica, WI. Her work has been featured on the The History Channel and Style Network Channel. Aziza's work has appeared in exhibitions at Manhattan Center, Joloff Restaurant, Langston Hughes Library and Cultural Center, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Gallery 402, Marianne Boesky Gallery, and Blackburn 20/20.

Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association (RIVAA) is a membership organization of approximately 25 artists dedicated to establish-



Aziza stands in front of one of her prints.

Photo by Amun

ing an art center in a unique island location on the East River in New York, bridging Manhattan and Long Island City. Gallery RIVAA is located in the hub of Main Street on Roosevelt Island, 527 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044 and is supported by the Roosevelt Island Operating Cooperation (RIOCO), the community along with the hard work and

dedication of the founding members, an ethnically diverse group of artist members, which brought the gallery to fruition. The gallery features work of RIVAA members and international guest artists: painters, sculptors, photographers, computer artists, graphic designers, ceramists and installation artists.

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Indo-Caribbean nationals celebrate Phagwah along Liberty Avenue in Richmond Hill, Queens.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Festival

Continued from page 39

banners that read "Happy Holi, Happy Phagwah."

Holi, which is celebrated 40 days from the planting of Holika – a Caster Oil tree, is seen as the coming together of everyone. This was evident as the immigrants of all parts of the Caribbean waved flags in harmony to celebrate triumph over evil alongside their Hindu brothers and sisters.

Indra Rampersaud, a resident, says she has enjoyed coming to the Phagwah parade while living

in America for the last 22 years. "Phagwah is very significant to me because I am a Hindu and it is a wonderful way to welcome the spring season," said Rampersaud. She said that she also goes on a period of fasting to celebrate the religious season.

"Phagwah festival, which was brought from India in 1838 by Indian indentured immigrants, is very significant to the children who get to learn about their Hindu religion and the joyous welcome to the spring season," said Cavita Gopaul. He recalled playing with water, as well as rainbow dyes, while living in Guyana.

Classical guitarist

Continued from page 39

er.org. Lehman Center is accessible by #4 or D train to Bedford Park Blvd. and is off the Saw Mill River Parkway and the Major Deegan Expressway. Low cost on-site parking available.

Isbin, acclaimed for her extraordinary lyricism, technique and versatility, was born in 1956 in Minnesota and began her guitar studies at age nine after her family moved to Italy. She studied classical music with the great Spanish guitarist Andrés Segovia, Italian guitarist Oscar Ghiglia and pianist Rosalyn Tureck. The multi GRAMMY Award-winning guitarist received both a B.A. cum laude and a Master of Music from the Yale School of Music. Isbin has given sold-out performances at the finest concert halls worldwide and has served as Artistic Director/Soloist of festivals she created for Carnegie Hall and the Ordway Music Theatre (St. Paul), her own series at New York's 92nd Street Y and the acclaimed national radio series Guitarjam.

She has recorded more than 25 albums of music ranging from

Baroque and Spanish/Latin to crossover and jazz-fusion including her 2010 GRAMMY Award winning CD Journey to the New World, which spent 63 consecutive weeks on the top Billboard charts. The author of the Classical Guitar Answer Book, Isbin is the winner of Guitar Player magazine's "Best Classical Guitarist" award, has been profiled in periodicals from People to Elle, The Wall Street Journal, and the New York Times and is currently the Director of Guitar Studies at The Julliard School. A one-hour film documentary on her titled Sharon Isbin: Troubadour will premiere in 2014.

Lubambo was born in 1955 in Rio de Janeiro and studied classical piano and musical theory as a young boy. Switching to the guitar at age 13, he graduated from Rio's Villa-Lobos School of Music in 1978. After moving to New York in 1985, he became very much in demand, not only for the cool, sophisticated rhythms of his authentic Brazilian sound, but also for his fluency in the American jazz tradition.

Independent & Foreign Films

Continued from Page 41
Folio and Andrew McCord.

Just a Sigh (Unrated) Serendipitous romance drama about the love which blossoms when a miserably-married actress (Emmanuelle Devos) and a grieving literature professor (Gabriel Byrne) sit across from each other on a train traveling from Calais to Paris. With Gilles Privat, Aurelia Petit and Laurent Capelluto. (In French and English with subtitles)

Maladies (Unrated) Dream deferred drama about a mentally-ill, soap opera star (James Franco) who retires prematurely to a quiet coastal town with his deranged sister (Fallon Goodson) and best friend (Catherine Keener). Cast includes David Strathairn, Jean Carter and Jon Prescott.

McCanick (R for profanity, graphic violence and brief drug use) David Morse stars in the title role of this out-of-the-closet drama chronicling an eventful day-in-the-life of a cop with a big secret. Featuring Mike Vogel, Tracie Thoms, Aaron



A scene from "God's not dead."

Yoo and recently-deceased Cory Monteith in the late Glee star's final screen appearance.

The Missing Picture (Unrated) Claymation documentary recreating the crimes against humanity committed by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia in the late Seventies. (In French with subtitles)

Nymphomaniac: Part One (Unrated) Lars Von Trier (Breaking the Waves) directed this erotic drama in which a 50-year-old woman (Charlotte Gainsbourg) recounts her adventurous sex life to the Good Samari-

tan (Stellan Skarsgard) who came to the rescue after she was beaten and left for dead in an alley. With Stacy Martin, Shia LaBeouf, Christian Slater, Jamie Bell, Uma Thurman and Willem Dafoe.

Rob the Mob (R for sexuality, drug use and pervasive profanity) Crime caper about a couple (Michael Pitt and Nina Arianda) that stumbles upon something unexpected at an underground club in the process of attempting to fleece the Mafia. Support cast features Ray Romano, Andy Garcia and Griffin Dunne.

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SUN KULCHA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRI., MAR. 21

VARIETY SHOW: Join No Name... & A Bag O' Chips" comedy for a special Women's History Month show featuring comedians Carole Montgomery (Nick @ Nite's Funniest Mom in America), Subhah Agarwal (New York Comedy Festival), singer / songwriter Emily Miele (animated web series "Damaged") and a few surprises. No Name" house band The Summer Replacements" including Carl (BabyFreak) Fortunato and Fernando (Dr. Sandman) Morales Gonzalez will be featured. Show begins at 7:00 p.m. No cover, no minimum. Otto's is located at 538 E 14th St (Cross Street: Between Avenue A and Avenue B). For more information, call (212) 228-2240 or go to: www.ottosshrunkenhead.com.

ZUMBA FOR ASTHMATICS: This is a dance-fitness class that's lively and fun from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those with well-managed asthma. These simple movements are designed to strengthen upper body muscles and support lung functions. Be sure to let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. This event is free and open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.

SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS: Take advantage of this opportunity to meet one-on-one with Greg Johnson, EmblemHealth's director of Community Outreach and creator of the Care for the Family Caregiver Program from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Greg has received numerous awards and recognition within the fields of health care, family caregiving and service to others. Family caregivers are welcome to meet with him for support and advice. To RSVP call (646) 447-7175.

MON., MAR., 24

SITTING EXERCISE: Join us for a DVD workout that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. It's designed to develop strength and enhance your ability to perform the activities of everyday life, making it perfect for seniors. The class will increase stamina, develop strength in upper and lower body, improve balance, and use of hand weights is optional. This event is free and open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.

THURS., MAR., 27

YAI PEOPLE OF DISABILITIES: Join us to learn how to navigate the ever-changing service system for individuals with developmental disabilities from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Learn About: eligibility to the developmental disabilities service system, the new procedures for accessing services through the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), and what services are available to you now and in the future. This event is free and open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.

ZUMBA FOR ASTHMATICS

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Homeowner seminar: When should you refinance? Are you paying too much or too little insurance on your homeowner policy? This seminar will cover ways to preserve the equity and the structure of your home. The seminar will held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Location: Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, 2806 Church Ave. (bet. Nostrand & Rogers Aves.) Sponsored by NHS of East Flatbush, a not for profit housing organization. To reserve space call: (718) 469-4679.

ONGOING

MON., JAN. 6 - SAT., MAR. 22

WINTER WORKSHOPS: Registration has already started but it is not too 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, 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 all age hands-on workshops 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.

THURS., MAR. 27- SAT., MAR. 29

PERFORMING ARTS: Amid a new hour-long dance piece by Suzanne Beahrs Dance is a vigorous representation of how a personal trial can take audiences on convoluted journeys through pain, love, fear, loss, joy, and resilience. The work of five women expresses how we understand and shape our own stories and is a celebration of the exquisite power in our broken, impermanent



selves. Showtime 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general / \$15 Danspace members and are available at danspaceproject.org Danspace Project, located inside St. Mark's Church, 131 East 10th St., NYC 10003.

FRI., MAR. 21 - SUN., MAR. 30

PERFORMING ARTS: Pantomime is a fast-paced comedy, which gives audiences a non-stop romp through cliché, humour, drama, societal roles and most interestingly, self image, embraces several issues of racial and cultural equality, of colonial history, and powerfully explores and deconstructs Caribbean identity as fabricated by the European colonizer. All performances are during the last two weekends in March. Please call (718) 783-8345 / info@caribbeantheatre.org for exact showtimes. General admission is \$25. Student/ senior \$15 for Sunday performances only. Actors Fund Arts Center, 160 Schermerhorn St., (between Hoyt & Smith streets), Brooklyn, NY 11201.

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.nhsof-eastflatbush.org.

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

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

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry



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Creighton's Devin Brooks (5) drives with the ball against Xavier's Dee Davis (11) and Isaiah Philmore, second right, in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Jan. 12, 2014. AP Photo/Nati Harnik

Waiting for senior year

Doug McDermott is attracting most of the attention while teammate Devin Brooks is coming off the bench for the Creighton University basketball team. Still the duo nor the rest of their teammates couldn't pull 'it' together in the championship game of the Big East College Conference tournament at Madison Square Garden by winning, Providence got the automatic bid.

While McDermott hopes to go into the National Basketball Association draft of col-
Continued on Page 48

CONCACAF eyes Caribbean League

By Azad Ali

Grenada's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell and former Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga have been named to a nine-member Task Force established by the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) to study the viability of a professional football league in the Caribbean.

The Speaker of the Bermuda House of Assembly, Randolph Horton is also included in the task force that COBCACA said would be backed by advisors from the major leagues in England and the United States.

It said the task force would examine the feasibility of a Caribbean football league, as the Confederation deepens its commitment to the growth of the game across the region.

Continued on Page 48



New York Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry, left, and Colorado Rapids defender Drew Moor go up for the ball during the first half of an MLS soccer game, Saturday, March 15, 2014, in Harrison, N.J. AP Photo/Julio Cortez

Disappointing result in home opener

By Patrick Horne

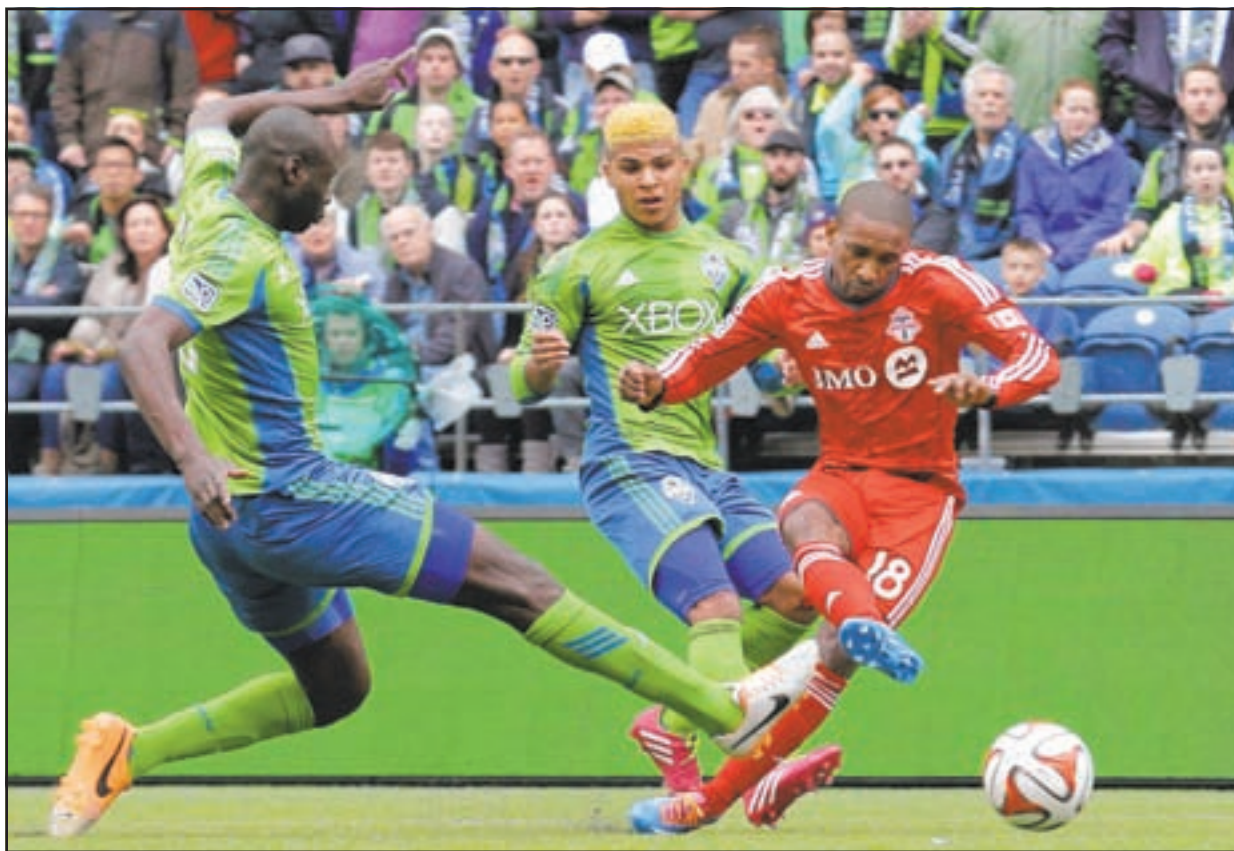
The Colorado Rapids must feel fortunate to get a point in their MLS season opener after the 1-1 draw against the New York Red Bulls at Red Bull Arena in Harrison (NJ) last Saturday afternoon. The game was the home opener for the Red

Bulls and a disappointing result, not only for the players, but also for the 20,542 fans that showed up under sunny skies on a lovely afternoon when the temperature climbed to over 50 degrees.

After an evenly played uneventful first half, New York came alive when Captain

Thierry Henry headed home a Lloyd Sam cross for his first goal in the 56th minute in his first goal of the season to put the home team ahead, 1-0. The goal was Henry's 42nd as a Red Bull and puts him second on the Red Bulls all-time goal-scor-

Continued on Page 48



Toronto FC's Jermain Defoe, right; kicks a goal ahead of the defense of Seattle Sounders' Djimi Traore; left; and DeAndre Yedlin; center; in the first half of an MLS soccer match on Saturday; March 15; 2014; in Seattle.

AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

High hopes for new team members

Continued from page 47
ing list behind Juan Pablo Angel's 58. At this point, it seemed that the Red Bulls (0-1-1) were on course for a home-opening win that would help the fans erase the memory of the 4-1 loss at Vancouver in the season opener a week earlier.

Misfortune struck in the 73rd minute, though, when referee Alan Kelly gifted the Rapids (0-0-1) a very questionable penalty kick and the opportunity to even the score. Kelly pointed to the penalty spot when second half substitute Marvin Chavez backed into Red Bulls defender Jamison Olave then fell to the ground. Forward Vincent Sanchez made no mistake in registering the tying goal for a 1-1 score, which was the final result.

The Red Bulls seemed a tentative and uninspired group although most of the squad that won the Supporters' Shield last year is intact and this is because the squad was not substantially improved. The notable additions were Bobby Convey, who started at left midfield, and Armando, who was paired with Olave at

central defense. New players should add enthusiasm and help to inspire the team, but the play of this pair, playing in crucial positions, has not been encouraging, which adds to the lack of enthusiasm, cohesion and creativity on the pitch.

Meanwhile, the Rapids' coach and former midfielder Pablo Mastroeni, was making his MLS coaching debut, and it seems that he has much work ahead. Colorado really resembled a team that was playing its first game. Defensively, the Rapids were good, with MLS veterans Marvel Wynn and Captain Drew Moor anchoring the back line from their central positions, but this good defensive play is no surprise because Mastroeni was a defensive stalwart in the league for a number of years and has smartly focused his initial efforts on his strong points.

The Rapids' midfield and frontline need Mastroeni's immediate attention because a team must score goals to win; he has to get his offense right quickly before too many games are played with no scoring.

Jamaican international forward Deshorn Brown and Panamanian Gabriel Torres were not in sync; the communication between the two was poor and this contributed to poor decisions in front of the goal by both forwards. Newcomer Jose Mari in midfield seemed to be the main cog there, but he is just learning the MLS, and it will take him some time to settle down. The Rapids will improve because they have some quality players, but making the playoffs in the tough Western Conference may be a stretch.

DEFOE MAKES IMPACT

It took England international Jermain Defoe just 17 minutes to show MLS fans his scoring prowess and that he is worth every million spent to bring him here. Defoe was always a lethal scorer in the English Premier League, and he continued his scoring exploits in leading Toronto FC to a 2-1 season-opening win in his MLS debut at Seattle Sounders last Saturday afternoon. The player, brought in from England's

Tottenham Hotspurs, scored twice, in the 17th and the 24th minutes, to give the visitors the needed cushion for their first season opening win since 2009.

Both Defoe's goals showed his ability to make effective runs off the ball to be in good positions to receive passes and execute his trademark quick shots. Jonathan Osorio sent a ball right down the middle of the Sounders defense where Defoe positioned himself between the two center backs and then left them behind to be in on goals for the first tally; when Marco Papa made a feeble back pass to his goal keeper, Defoe was in the position to intercept the pass and race towards the goal and get a shot off before a Sounder defender could shut him down.

"To score two goals on your debut, it's a dream," said Defoe after the game. Defoe's team mates added their comments. U.S. midfielder Michael Bradley said, "We knew that if we were able to get him the ball in certain spots, he's going to be able to put the balls in the back of the net."

College B'ball

Continued from page 47
lege players this spring, Brooks will return to the Creighton next year when he should get more playing time and maybe try to impress the pro scouts along the way.

Brooks, a 6' 2" guard, had his family and friends from Manhattan and the Bronx come to the games last week at the Garden.

Brooks played his high school basketball under Oliver Antigua and his staff at St. Raymond's High School of the Bronx. His school is a power house in the Catholic High Schools Athletic Association over past years.

"I learned a lot while I was in high school," said Brooks, who did not receive any honors while attending and playing at St. Raymond's.

After graduation from St. Raymond's, he had to improve on his game for the next level; so she attending a community college. He stepped up his game while at Iowa Western Community College, where he got playing time, contributed greatly to his team, earned some major awards and was noticed and considered by four year college recruiters.

In fact, he became Creighton's initial signee after the school's announcement of joining the Big East Conference.



Creighton's Devin Brooks (5) drives with the ball in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Villanova in Omaha, Neb., Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014. AP Photo/Nati Harnik

"I felt good in being runner-up in the Big East Conference tournament (to Providence)," he went on

His father Clinton Robathem originally came from Jamaica, West Indies, where he did not play organized soccer with a team. But Clinton did play some of the booter sport in his native land of Jamaica and continued this sport while in New York.

"I also played soccer in New York for fun," the 6' 2" resident of Harlem, New York recalled. "It was good experience and something that I always I looked back on."

Caribbean League

Continued from page 47

This will be the second effort to establish a professional league in the Caribbean.

A previous attempt to institute a Caribbean League lasted from 1992-1994, when clubs from as far north as Jamaica and south as Guyana competed in the now defunct Caribbean Professional Football League.

The task force, chaired by Horton, includes leading figures from the two biggest leagues in CONCACAF – Don Garber Commissioner of Major League Soccer in the United States and



Grenada's Prime Minister Keith Mitchell. AP Photo/MirafloresPress,Francisco Batista,HO

Decio de Maria, president of Liga MX in Mexico. It is scheduled to hold its first meeting on March 24 in Miami.



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West Indies World Cup chances are slim

WEST INDIES CRICKET TEAM FACES AN UPHI

It is a tall task when they defend their Twenty20 ICC world title in Bangladesh. The wickets in Bangladesh are slow and batsmen are expected to do very well under those conditions. West Indies batsmen are not playing top class cricket and the other teams have embarked on serious cricket. West Indies batsmen have not been consistent and their strategies are failing. World Cup 2014 Twenty20 will be very competitive and the West Indies team is in the same group as Australia and India.

BADREE, NARINE AND SANTOKIE HAVE TOUGH JOB

Samuel Badree, Sunil Narine and Krishmar Santokie all have difficult jobs set out for them as they face up to the World Twenty20 tournament. Badree and Narine are the recognized spinners and Santokie is



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

the medium pacer seamer with an accurate left arm steady action. Narine's figures in the last game of the tournament in 2013 when the West Indies won was three wickets for nine runs from 3.4 overs.

SAMUEL BADREE IS A SUPERB BOWLER

Badree is exceptional in Twenty20 cricket. He is an intelligent bowler with great strategies and knowledge on how to take wickets. He can be the trump card for the West Indies in picking up wickets but all the other bowlers must step up to the task and give valuable support. Taking catches and ground fielding must be to the top level. The West Indies bat-

ting force comprises Chris Gayle, Marlon Samuels, Dwayne Bravo, Lendl Simmons and Dwayne Smith.

TOUGH OPPOSITION

Opposing teams in the Twenty20 World Cup would play hard against the West Indies because the team is the current world champion. Teams that have the capabilities of bowling well and restricting any opposition should do well. West Indies are champions because their bowlers did a fine job in the final and where Marlon Samuels gave a fascinating batting display.

Australia, South Africa and India will be tough opponents throughout the World Cup. Australia has the best all-round team on



West Indies' Samuel Badree bowls against New Zealand in the Twenty-20 International Cricket Match, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014.

AP Photo/SNPA, David Rowland

paper and its players are now playing top class cricket. David Warner, Austral-

ia's opening batsman who just captured the man of the series award in South

Africa, is one of the players who can help his team to win the tournament.

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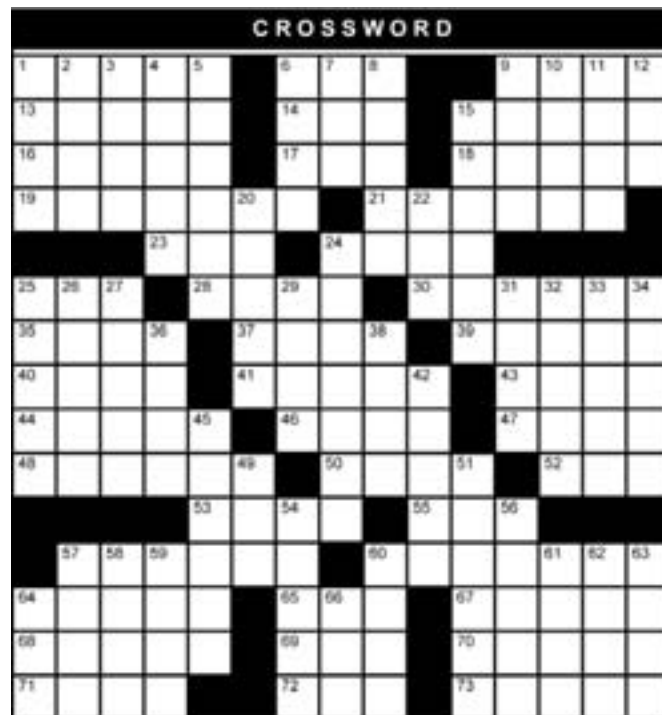
1. Bodily lumps
6. Be in the red
9. Flexible mineral
13. Unusual or eccentric
14. Pen _____
15. *National _____ of Science, awarded inventors
16. "Holberg Suite" composer
17. Put to work
18. Do penance
19. *Denim pants inventor
21. *Ford's assembly line product
23. ____ 7, 1941
24. Blondie's hit "The ____ Is High"
25. "Just kidding!"
28. *Richard _____, inventor of Scotch Tape
30. *Inventor of engine of same name
35. Crude group
37. Seed coat
39. Accent mark
40. "Good" to Sophia Loren
41. Betty Page, e.g.
43. To defeat decisively
44. Grind down
46. Largest volcano in Europe
47. Write on tombstone, e.g.

48. City on the Rio Grande
50. Hideous
52. Get the picture
53. Shakespeare's metrical unit
55. Sushi restaurant staple
57. Morally pure
60. *Tactile writing inventor
64. Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El _____
65. Wade's opponent
67. Remained firm
68. European finch
69. DNA transmitter
70. Not these
71. Dumbfounded
72. Japanese capital
73. Red Sea nation

DOWN

1. Wheel teeth
2. Nomad's round house
3. Affect emotionally
4. *Now found on the invention by Dunlop
5. Proceeded without pause
6. "Moonlight Sonata," e.g.
7. Singular past tense of "be"
8. Fragrant resin
9. Dole out
10. Object of worship
11. Not in optimist's vocabulary?
12. Draft pick

15. Conquered the Everest, e.g.
20. Junk yard stuff
22. 1, e.g.
24. Washer/dryer unit
25. *Dynamite inventor
26. "Carmen," e.g.
27. Luciano Pavarotti, e.g.
29. U.S. city and lake
31. De Valera's land
32. Gambling choice, pl.
33. Bring out
34. River in Hades
36. Surrender territory
38. *Cousteau's aqua-_____
42. More pale
45. *Motion-picture camera inventor
49. Granola grain
51. Possible adjective for bread
54. Like Christmas
56. Quality of many a ballerina
57. Captain and his party
58. Not there
59. *a.k.a. LSD, invented by Albert Hofmann
60. Chili seed
61. Rumpelstiltskin machine
62. Eminem's hit "_____ Yourself"
63. "I Dream of Jeannie" star
64. Fed. property manager
66. Two halves





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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE FOR MARCH 24TH TO MARCH 30TH

ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you have a great deal of energy but have no idea where to focus all of it. This could be a good week to visit with friends and family and spend time together.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Don't get swept away by old habits, Taurus. It is time to try something new and get a new perspective. Accept a new challenge and you will be glad for having done so.

GEMINI: May 22/ Jun 21
Gemini, you may be tempted to question the actions of others this week. But try to focus instead on what you are doing and do not be concerned with the motivations of other people.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you have to go to great lengths to get your point across this week. Approach such situations with tact and patience and do your best to simplify your point of view.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, all you need is a little spark to motivate you this week. You may be able to tackle projects around the house or assignments at work with ease and a little inspiration.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, your romantic life is full of complicated patterns and obstacles, which could be taking their toll on your relationship. Some subtle changes might get things back on track.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Unfortunately, sitting back and doing nothing this week will move you nowhere fast, Libra. The vacation is over; you need to find the motivation to increase the pace.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Things move along quite smoothly for you this week, Scorpio. There are plenty of distractions heading your way, but do your best to stay focused.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Get outdoors and enjoy some fresh air, Sagittarius. Fresh air is just what you need after a bout of cabin fever. The weather is breaking and outside projects beckon.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, start planning a much-needed vacation for you and your significant other. Some time away from the hustle and bustle is just what the both of you need.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Trust your instincts, Aquarius. When something seems off-kilter, you owe it to yourself to trust your gut and speak up, even if others aren't ready to believe you.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Express your passion for a special project to a loved one, Pisces. Don't be afraid to share your feelings with those closest to you.

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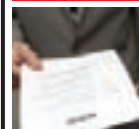
DEADLINE

Every Tuesday at 5:00 pm for new ads, renewals, changes, or cancellations.

DISCLAIMER: Community Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit, reclassify, reject or cancel an ad at any time. We can only give appropriate credit, not to exceed the cost of the ad, for one insertion. We are not liable for complete omissions. Any discrepancies must be brought to our attention within 7 days of the first day the ad runs, in order to receive consideration for credit.



Employment Pgs 53-55



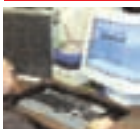
- Sales Help Wanted
- Medical Help Wanted
- General Help Wanted
- And More

Business Opps Pg 55



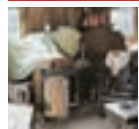
- Financing / Loans
- Business For Sale
- Misc. Business Opps
- And More

Instruction Pgs 56-58



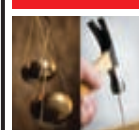
- **Career Training**
- Education Services
- Tutoring
- And More

Merchandise Pg 56



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

Here's My Card Pg 61



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

Real Estate Pgs 61-62



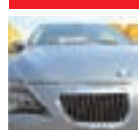
- Rentals
- Properties For Sale
- Open Houses
- Commercial RE
- And More

Services Pg 62



- Beauty Care
- Handymen
- Home Improvement
- And More

Automotive Pg 62



- Autos For Sale
- Autos Wanted
- And More

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► JOB INFORMATION

Leticia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads
Toll numbers may be a direct line to trouble. Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitating communication and advertising available services; however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. "Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consumers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an unknown party."
Office of the Public Advocate

► LEGAL

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: **INSTALLATION BROOKLYN LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/29/2013. Office location: Kings County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 149 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MOVEMENTS TRANSPORT LLC Art. Of Org. file w/Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/10/2013. Office location: Kings County, SSNY Designated as agent for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 3311 Clarendon Road, NY 11203. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 3/7,3/14,,3/21,3/28,4/4

► LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE - Prospect PL SC Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless is proposing to collocate antennas at 77'-9" on an existing 96' building located at 532 Prospect Place, in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. Public comments regarding the potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: Andrew Maziariski - IVI Telecom Services, Inc., 55 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, New York 10604, CulturalResources@ivi-intl.com, or (914) 740-1930.

► LEGAL

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, LLC, Plaintiff against DOUGLAS WILSON, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on September 16, 2013. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 10th day of April, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. Said premises known as 795 East 39th Street, Brook-

► LEGAL

lyn, N.Y. 11210. Tax account number: SBL #: 4986-69. Approximate amount of lien \$ 622,448.23 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 2316-08. Blaise Parascandola, Esq., Referee. McCabe Weisberg & Conway Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street - Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900

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