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**NEW HOROSCOPE
SECTION INSIDE**



In this Aug. 4, 2012 file photo, Jamaica's Asafa Powell competes in a men's 100-meter heat at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. Powell has been banned from his sport for 18 months. The 31-year-old sprinter tested positive for the banned stimulant oxilofrone at Jamaica's national trials last June.

AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus, File

Asafa Powell pays a price for doping

By David McFadden

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — A Jamaican disciplinary panel on Thursday banned former 100-meter world record holder Asafa Powell from athletics for 18 months after the veteran sprinter tested positive for a banned stimulant last June.

In the sprinting powerhouse's capital of Kingston, the head of

the three-member panel of the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission said its decision was unanimous after examining the "voluminous nature of the evidence."

"In all the circumstances, Mr. Powell was found to be negligent, and he was at fault," said commission chairman Lennox Gayle, adding the panel would issue a written statement explaining its

decision in about a month.

Powell's backdated ban begins from the date of his sample collection on June 21, 2013 during national trials for the world championships. That means he's eligible to return to competition on Dec. 20, about a month after he turns 32.

Once the top sprinter on the

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TENSION IN THE FAMILY

Guyana-Suriname border row

By Bert Wilkinson

On the face of it, relations between the Caribbean trade bloc's two largest member states appear to be normal, with booming cross border trade, mutual governmental plans to bridge the border Corentyne River and daily trips by nationals of both countries seeking out friends and relatives.

But just raise the issue of which of the two South American mainland nations that are key members of the regional trading bloc owns the New River Triangle and tensions rise immediately.

In the past week, Natural Resources Minister Robert Persaud took to the floor of the Guyana parliament during annual budget debates to tell fellow legislators that Guyana was pulling out of an international oil and gas conference in neighboring Suriname because authorities there are dis-

tributing maps showing the area as Suriname's.

Nothing triggers a diplomatic tiff more than any ownership or territorial claim to the southeastern border area more than an official reference by a government or an official so when Guyanese authorities noticed the disputed area on Surinamese maps they went diplomatically ballistic.

The conference is set for three days from June 17 and will bring in a single space some of the world's largest and most important players in the energy and mining sectors—the likes of Spanish-owned Repsol, Tullow Oil, Exxon, Shell and others—to discuss what is widely regarded as a basin with one of the globe's biggest unexplored areas.

Suriname found oil onshore in the 70s when its water company was amazingly drilling for oil.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Updated daily at www.caribbeanlifeneews.com

THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Bahamas

Prime Minister Perry Christie is welcoming the liberalization of the telecommunication sector on the island saying “Bahamians would for the first time have competition and competition breeds greater levels of efficiency.”

The liberalization of the sector was one of the campaign promised of then opposition People's Labor Party (PLP) in 2012, with Christie promising voters that his administration would engage the British telecommunication giant, Cable & Wireless, the lone telecommunication provider in the country on the need to liberalized the sector.

In 2011, amidst public outcry, the Hubert Ingraham government sold controlling shares of the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) to the London-based telecommunication company for US\$210 million.



Christie had promised voters that a PLP government would seek to regain the majority shares and that the party “believes in a share owning democracy” and would sell the BTC shares in tranches to Bahamians.

He said that while the process had taken two years to be fulfilled he remains optimistic that the move is the right one given “some real tragic occurrences recently with the breakdown of the system and dropped calls.”

The prime minister said relinquishing the two percent shares by Cable & Wireless has been agreed upon in principle and currently the two parties are “trying to work through the conditions that are associated with it into a final agreement that should be signed soon”.

Barbados

Barbados has launched a Virtual HIV Research Unit (VHRU) as it seeks to better understand and address issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Comprising 5,000 scientific publications and reports on HIV in Barbados and the Caribbean, the BHRU will be accessible to researchers, students, non-governmental organizations and oth-



Kittitians see the light

St. Kitts residents welcome solar streetlights in areas they say have been dark and prone to crime. See story on page 14.

IPS/Desmond Brown

ers through the www.hivgateway.com.portal.

Social Care Minister, Steve Blackett, said the establishment of the VHRU was a step in the right direction.

“Barbados continues to be on par with other developed and developing nations in its HIV information gathering, monitoring and evaluating and compiling of journals on the successes we continue to attain,” Blackett told the launch attended by various stakeholders including Health Minister John Boyce, and chair of the NHAC Research Committee, Professor Clive Landis.

He said the island would “push forward” in its national response towards attaining and HIV-free generation by the year 2018.

Blackett described the VHRU's arrival as a timely one, which coincided with the beginning of government's five-year National Strategic Plan for HIV. It aims for zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2018.

Guyana

Police in Guyana have closed a government office that regulated

the sale of gold after discovering that millions of dollars' worth of gold had been laced with silver.

The South American country's Natural Resources Ministry says the office in the south-west jungle town of Bartica would gold plate - mix of silver and gold and then shipped to the capital as pure gold.



Officials said that several government employees have been detained. Investigation is continuing.

The office was in charge of buying raw gold from miners in the area. Gold is Guyana's main export.

Haiti

Haiti's cholera outbreak is still the worst in the world, a top UN Envoy in Haiti said.

Sandra Honore briefed the UN Security Council about the UN peace-keeping mission in Haiti, crime rates, public health and the cholera outbreak.



She told reporters “progress is being made” on the cholera epidemic. Of the 680,820 cases reported since 2010, only six percent arose last year – some 58,000 infections.

Honore said “the overall incidence of the disease has been reduced by half and the fatality rate is below one percent, which is the alert threshold defined by the World Health Organization globally.”

But she told the Security Council Haiti “still has the highest number of cholera cases in the world”.

Health officials in Haiti say the epidemic has killed more than 8,000 people.

In 2012, the United Nations announced a US\$2.27 billion initiative to help eradicate cholera in Haiti.

St. Lucia

Caribbean officials have launched a project to monitor volcanic gases on the island of St. Lucia and their impact on people and the environment.

The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Center will help measure sulphur diox-

ide levels in the air and arsenic levels in the water in the town of Soufriere and nearby areas that are popular with tourists.

The Soufriere Volcanic Center on St. Lucia's western region features hot springs and mud baths.



University officials say that the eight-month project was launched because of concerns about possible effects of volcanic gases on children, the elderly and asthmatics.

Jamaica

One of Jamaica's most influential clergymen, Reverend Al Miller will go on trial in July on charges of aiding and abetting a fugitive, arising from the arrest and later extradition of the country's most wanted man, Christopher “Dudus” Coke in 2010.

Reverend Al Miller appeared in the Corporate Area Magistrate Court last week and the trial was fixed for July 23-25, 2014.



Miller was arrested and charged in June 2010 with perverting the course of justice and harboring a fugitive after he was found in the company of the former Tivoli Gardens-based fugitive who at the time was on the run from security forces.

Coke was captured in the churchman's motor vehicle along the Mandela Highway in St. Catherine. Miller insisted that he was taking Coke, who was wanted in the United States on drugs and gun running charges to the U.S. Embassy in St. Andrew to surrender.

St. Lucia

Health authorities say there would be more cases of the chikungunya disease in St. Lucia, after the island recently announced the confirmation of its first case of the mosquito-borne disease.



Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Merlene Frederick said there is a possibility that other persons on the island may actually have the disease.

She said if St. Lucia has a low mosquito population it is likely

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Honorees receive 'Women Celebrating Women Award'



Publicist Andrea Daley (C) receives award from Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (R) and Dr. Una Clarke.

By Nelson A. King

By Nelson A. King

Seventeen phenomenal Caribbean and other women on Sunday, Palm Sunday, received the "Women Celebrating Women Award" at a gala ceremony in com-

memoration of Women's History Month.

The illustrious women were honored by the Brooklyn-based Progressive Democrats Political Association (PDPA), a prominent politi-

cal group headed by the trail-blazing, former New York City Councilwoman, Dr. Una Clarke. They also received Congressional Citations and proclamations from New York City

Council.

The event, which took place at Tropical Paradise Ballroom, on Utica Avenue in Brooklyn, marked PDPA's 22nd annual gala.

According to Dr. Clarke, the first Caribbean-born woman to ever hold elective office in New York City, the honorees were selected from a wide range of fields, including education, healthcare and non-profit.

Dr. Clarke's daughter, Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, representative for the 9th Congressional District, a PDPA executive member and honorary chairperson of the event, delivered the feature address at the over four-hour-long ceremony.

The honorees were: Andrea Daley; Arit Fuller-Harris; Barbara Moody; Daneel Howe; Denise Francis; Diana Richardson; Drs. Regine Bruny-Olawaiye, Kim Best and Miriam Vincent; Ermin Elliot; Hon. Roberta Nyong; Janice Jenkins; Karen Marks; Mildred Gonsalves Wright; Olivia Buery; Tammie Williams; and Vonette Pierre.

The following is a synopsis of the biography of the honorees: Daley- Jamaican-born entrepreneur, educator, life underwriter, media consultant, social

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Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

AP Photo/John Minchillo

CARICOM chairman to address reparations forum

By Nelson A. King

Current Caribbean Community (CARICOM) chairman and St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves will present the keynote address this month at an international forum on reparations for slavery in the United States.

According to the New York-based Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW), organizer of the event, the forum, dubbed "Revitalizing the Reparations Movement," will be held at Chicago State University on April 19.

IBW said Gonsalves is "one of the leading voices in the Americas demanding that the former European colonial powers pay reparations to Caribbean and South American countries for centuries of African enslavement, native genocide and colonial exploitation."

The forum will be held in collaboration with the Center for Inner City Studies and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, IBW said.

Specially invited guests will be Rep. John Conyers, Sr. (D-Ill.), dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, and sponsor of HR-40, the Reparations Study Bill, and Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation

of Islam.

"A primary goal of the forum is to revitalize the reparations movement in the U.S.A. by revisiting the Durban Resolution on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, presenting an update on HR-40 and examining the status of CARICOM's reparations initiative," IBW said.

"We are delighted and honored to have Prime Minister Gonsalves keynote this critical forum on reparations, a subject of fundamental historical justice that is near and dear to the hearts of Black people around the world," said IBW's president Dr. Ron Daniels.

Dr. Conrad Worrill, Director of Chicago's Inner City Studies, said "our ancestors will be pleased that the reparations movement is being re-energized from the Caribbean islands.

"In demanding reparations, CARICOM is vindicating the vestiges of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade," he added.

IBW noted that CARICOM leaders meeting in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on March 10 and 11 "took one more important step in their quest for reparatory justice against European countries that had engaged in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and in slavery itself."

Civil Rights pioneer tells her story to children

By Eulene Inniss

Historical events that detail the Black experience are best understood when the teller is giving a first person account. Claudette Colvin, who at 15 years of age found the courage and strength to stand up to Alabama's segregation Bus laws, was forefront at the United African Movement Forum at 1061 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn on Wednesday, April 2, to describe to a packed house of students and adults, her experience and treatment on that historic

day of March 2, 1955.

Ms. Colvin's gait is now slower and the scars of her life's battle are etched on her brow, but her spirit remains feisty as she vividly recalls every minute detail of what transpired 59 years ago. She said, "I was in a group of about 13 students who had walked downtown to take the bus. The students sat in their seats and as more whites got on, a young white woman was standing near me. Three students got up and moved to the rear. I

was sitting opposite a white woman, but whites are to sit in front of Colored people. I remained seated. I could not move because history had me glued to my seat. Fresh in my mind were the different Black leaders whom I had just studied for Negro History Week. I had learned about Frederick Douglas, W.E. Dubois, and George Washington Carver and talked about breaking barriers."

Claudette Colvin recalled the many local discrimination issues, like not being

able to try on shoes in local department stores if whites patronized the stores. Emotionally, she had reached the breaking point. She said she felt as though Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman both had their hand on each shoulder keeping her down in that seat, and "once you have that conviction that you will not let a white bus drivers harass you, then it was time not to be on the auction block." So when told that she had to get up and give

Continued on Page 4

Caricom prepares demand letters

By Bert Wilkinson

Caribbean trade bloc governments, historians and rights groups are preparing for the next big step in the fight to make Europe compensate for the TransAtlantic African slave trade.

They plan to serve-up demand letters to several European capitals in the next 10 weeks; and if those governments refuse to accept the letters or act on them, the region is prepared to take its case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Netherlands for a resolution, officials said his week.

National reparations committees across the region are now organizing town hall meetings and consultations with attorneys in time to meet the early-July trek to Europe, to hand in letters of demand detailing the hor-

In early July [we'll] hand letters of demand to various European nations to push them to formally start negotiations with countries affected by the slave trade.

rors of the Slave Trade and its effects on the health and well-being, the state of mind and other negatives associated with slavery, genocide and servitude.

Eric Phillips, who heads the Guyana Reparations Committee and sits on the CARICOM Reparations Commission, said governments "in early July will hand letters of demand to various European nations" to push them to formally start negotiations with countries affected by the

slave trade.

Last July, Caribbean leaders had endorsed a regional effort -- long started by the Caribbean Rastafari Movement and other civil society groups to make nations like Britain, France, Portugal, Holland, Spain and others own up to the horrors of the slave trade and compensate the survivors of the genocide.

Last month at their mid-year summit in St. Vincent, the leaders discussed the issue and retained a British firm to fight the reparations case on their behalf.

The law firm, Leigh Day & Company, had won millions in compensation from Britain for atrocities committed against the Mau Mau Tribe in Kenya during the colonial era. The firm already has said

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Civil rights

Continued from page 3

her seat to a white passenger because it was the law, she decided that she could no longer obey such unjust laws. Her resistance led to her being arrested, manhandled and taken to an adult jail with an empty cot and a peep hole. "When the keys went 'click,' I started to repeat the 23 Psalms and Edgar Allen Poe poems," she reminisced.

Ms. Colvin was placed on indefinite probation by the Juvenile Court for violation of the city's segregation law. This groundbreaking incident took place nine months before the celebrated Rosa Parks took a similar stand and refused to move to the rear of the bus. Ms. Colvin's incident spearheaded the Browder v Gayle case which involved three other plaintiffs. The outcome of this case was the ruling that Montgomery's segregated bus system was unconstitutional. Two years later, Ms. Colvin moved to New York and worked as a nurse's aid at a nursing home in Manhattan until she retired in 2004. Ms. Colvin is the mother of two



Reverend Herbert C. Oliver, Claudette Colvin and Sankofa students - Malik Gibson, Gene Johnson Jr. and Kalif Green.
Photo by Lem Peterkin

sons, (her first born was conceived around the time of the bus incident); five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. This true civil rights heroine has remained in the shadow of Rosa Parks and expresses neither envy nor remorse.

It was important for the students in attendance to interact with Ms. Colvin. Present and past students from Sankofa International

Academy helped to highlight the program. Malik Gibson gave a riveting presentation on Ms. Colvin and was later joined on stage by Kalif Green, Gene Johnson Jr. and Aliah Lovell to pledge tributes to the Elders. Reverend Herbert C. Oliver, a native of Alabama was also involved in the civil rights struggle and stood up to Bull Connor, Birmingham Commissioner of Public Safety.

Affinity Health Plan invite you and your family to the annual Affinity Spring Fling and Easter egg hunt event on Saturday, April 19th from 12-5 p.m. at St. Albans Park in Queens.

Activities include rides, games, live entertainment, Zhumba, healthy cooking demonstrations, and more! Free health screenings will be offered in the American Heart Association Health Pavillion, and of course there will be age appropriate egg hunts throughout the day.

The Affinity Spring Fling and Easter egg hunt is FREE to the public and will take place rain or shine. Come spend a fun filled day with the entire family at St. Albans park, located on Merrick Road between Lynden Boulevard and Sayers Avenue.



Affinity Health Plan

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DEP will provide a brief presentation at 6:30pm.

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To address combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in Westchester Creek, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is developing a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) that will evaluate solutions to CSOs into the waterbody. At the meeting, you will learn about DEP's proposed draft CSO control alternatives, the related water quality benefits and estimated costs.

Join us as we discuss the proposed draft CSO alternatives and the impact they may have on you, the rate payers and users of Westchester Creek.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

DEP staff will be available to answer any questions you may have.

To RSVP, please email ltcp@dep.nyc.gov or call DEP's Community Affairs Office at (718) 595-3496.

For more information on DEP's CSO program, please visit our LTCP Program website at www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp or follow us on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/NYCWATER.



New River Triangle counter claims

Continued from cover

It now exports and even refines oil but has struggled to tap alleged large offshore oil fields there for the taking, at least in the minds of authorities.

Neighboring Guyana on the other hand has found non-commercial quantities on land in the past 40 years but said that it remains hopeful of a big marine discovery based on the fact that a consortium involving Tullow, Repsol and Canada-based CXG Energy was forced to abandon a promising a well last year because they had unsuitable equipment to tap the deep sea well and feared an uncontrolled spill.

And so Georgetown said it has sent a so far unanswered diplomatic protest note to Paramaribo, demanding the maps be removed as a condition of its conference attendance.

The two have long feuded over the area that is a legacy of British and Dutch colonialism. In 1969, Guyanese troops armed with



Natural Resources Minister Robert Persaud.

heavy guns and commandeered commercial aircraft chased Surinamese counterparts from the area in

a military tiff that brought the two nations on the brink of all out war.

In 2000 it nearly hap-

pened again as Suriname paid back Guyana for the 1969 defeat by sending gunboats to expel a Canadian oil rig that was drilling for oil and gas in an offshore area that both had claimed. The issue has since been settled by a United Nations ruling offered a compromise to both. Arbitrators drew a new international marine boundary line that gave both a piece of an offshore area thought to contain elephant oil fields and huge amounts of gas but the land and river boundary at current center of dispute on the southeastern border between the two continues to simmer. Suriname refers to the remote area as Tigri. Guyana has a military base there.

Persaud said that the documents showing the New River Triangle as Suriname's "are a violation of our territorial integrity and an insult to the people of Guyana so we have informed them that we have withdrawn from participation."

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Trinidad & Tobago former leader dies

By Azad Ali

Tributes are pouring in from the Caribbean and other parts of the world for the late former Trinidad and Tobago President and former Prime Minister Arthur Napoleon Robinson, who died on Wednesday after a prolonged illness.

Robinson, 87, died at the private St. Clair Medical Hospital, where he had been patient since March 8, 2014.

The Tobago-born former president is the only person to have served as both head of state and prime minister.

He was the first and only person to hold three highest offices in Trinidad and Tobago: Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), from 1981-1986; Prime Minister from 1986-1991; and president from 1997-2003.

In 1958, Robinson was elected as a member of the Federal Parliament in the short-lived Federation of the West Indies.

He was a founding member of the People's National Movement (PNM) and was appointed minister

of finance after the Federation collapsed in 1962.

Robinson held the post until 1967, when he was moved to the Ministry of External Affairs, acting also as head of government in the absence of the then Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams.

In 1981, Robinson teamed up with the Organization for National Reconstruction led by Karl Hudson Phillips to contest the general election.

But while the ONR got 22 percent of the overall votes, the party failed to win a single seat.

In 1986, he got together with the United Labor Front (ULF) led by Basdeo Panday to form the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) and becoming victorious in the general election.

On July 27, 1990 Robinson was shot in his leg when members of the Jamaat al Muslimeen stormed the Parliament building in Port of Spain. Despite being held captive for six days Robinson urged the protective services to attack "with full force."



Former Trinidad and Tobago President and Prime Minister Arthur Napoleon Robinson. AP Photo/Robert Glass, File

In 1995 election, with both the PNM and the United National Congress (UNC) winning 11 seats, Robinson used his two Tobago seats

won by his party to form a coalition with the UNC.

Two years later, he resigned to become the head of state.

Guyana monitors forests

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana is boosting surveillance of activities in its remote interior to curb illegal deforestation.

Officials say the clearing of lush Amazonian jungles in the South American nation appears to be increasing over the past year due in large part to an ongoing gold mining boom.

On Monday, Environment Minister Robert Persaud said Guyana will use satellite imagery and military and civilian planes to monitor jungles.

Guyana is a regional leader in environmental protection. Some 75 percent of its land mass is covered in forests.

But it fears jeopardizing a 2009 deal it struck with Norway, which pledged a \$250 million grant.



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Death of a Caribbean scholar

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Class Starts May 12th

By Nelson A. King

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed “deep sadness” at the death of prominent Caribbean academic, Professor Norman Girvan, of Jamaica, who had been his personal representative on the border controversy between Guyana and Venezuela since April 2010.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson on April 10, Ban hailed Girvan as “one of the most distinguished Caribbean scholars of his time.”

“He was particularly devoted to the promotion of regional integration in the Caribbean and Latin America,” he said. “This commitment earned him the respect and admiration of the entire region.”

The U.N. chief expressed gratitude for Girvan’s contribution to the “U.N. good offices process between Guyana and Venezuela.”

At issue is the disputed Essequibo region, which, since 1899, has functioned as a territory administered



Norman Girvan of Jamaica dies at age 72.

Photo courtesy of the OAS

by Guyana but is claimed by Venezuela.

“The progress achieved during his tenure was acknowledged by the Heads of State of Guyana and Venezuela and is part of his impressive legacy,” Ban said.

Girvan died in Cuba on April 9, three months after he became paralyzed following a fall while hiking on Dominica. He was 72.

He was also the former secretary general of the

Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and Professor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Girvan had also served as a board member of the South Center and, since 2009, was a member of the United Nations Committee on Development Policy.

Additionally, he served as Professor of Development Studies and Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies at UWI and head

of the National Planning Agency of the Government of Jamaica.

Girvan was in the vanguard of efforts to get the Dominican Republic reverse a Constitutional Court ruling that stripped more than 210,000 Haitians born in the Dominican Republic of their citizenship.

In December last year, he co-signed a letter to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), on behalf of the International Relations Institute (IIR) at UWI, saying the new law had the potential to de-nationalize hundreds of thousands of people.

CARICOM Secretary General, Irwin LaRocque, has also expressed regret at the passing of the noted Caribbean academic.

LaRocque, in a statement, said Girvan’s work was underlined by unremitting dedication to a vision of an integrated Caribbean.

“His ideas and ideals placed him in the upper echelons of Caribbean intellectuals,” he said.

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When Wall St. skates Main Street suffers

By Katherine McFate and
George Goehl

The Great Recession “officially” ended almost five years ago, but looking at many communities across the country, you wouldn’t believe it. Ten million people are still searching for work, and more than 15 million families have lost their homes to foreclosure. Classrooms are more crowded, roads need repair, and states and cities struggle to meet growing needs as Congress imposes an austerity agenda. Unless you run a wealthy corporation, you are likely experiencing an America in crisis.

Many politicians spin this as a “spending” crisis, claiming, “There just isn’t any money.” Nonsense. Corporate profits are at an all-time high. The stock market has soared along with CEO bonuses, and yet corporate taxes have fallen to about a fifth of their profits. They are bailing on their responsibility to contribute to the public structures that make their commercial activities profitable.

“The Disappearing Corporate Tax Base,” a new report by our two organizations, shows that when corporations don’t pay their fair share of taxes, Main Street suffers.

On average, one-third of state budgets depend on revenue distributed by the federal government. As corporations have lobbied for – and won – loopholes, deductions and credits, the amount they have paid in federal

income taxes in the past decades has plummeted. This means less revenue is available for federal aid to states. More than 600,000 public jobs on the state and city level have been eliminated since 2009 – that’s fewer teachers, first responders, and road repair crews at work in our communities. In particular, money for schools, roads and environmental protection has fallen by 29.7 percent between 2008 and 2013 (after adjusting for inflation). As a result, two-thirds of the states are spending less per pupil on education this year than they were before the recession began.

At the state level, corporations have been lobbying hard for cuts to state corporate income tax rates and for increased subsidies. Among the 46 states that have state corporate income taxes, 34 of them collected less corporate income tax revenue in 2012 than in 2008 (after adjusting for inflation). By demanding state economic development subsidies to maintain or expand operations in a state, they manage to drain an additional \$80 billion from state coffers annually, according to The New York Times.

It wasn’t always this way.

In the 1950s, when Republican Dwight Eisenhower was president, corporations paid almost half of their profits in federal taxes, which amounted to approximately a third of the federal budget. These funds were used to build the nation’s inter-

Continued on Page 12

Raising the minimum wage – the comptroller’s call to action

By Scott M. Stringer

As New York City’s economy recovers from the recession, thousands of working families in all five boroughs face a grim reality: Although one of their members might have a fulltime job, the weekly wages they earn are not nearly enough to make ends meet. There are more than 800,000 of the so-called “working poor” in our City, and they struggle to get by -- fighting a daily battle to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads.

In some cases, job holders must also rely on public assistance simply to pay their bills. These hardworking New Yorkers include 165,000 Black households, many in the (Haitian or Caribbean community), and a large number are young people whose jobs offer only limited prospects for economic advancement, according to a Comptroller’s Office report.

It’s also a gender issue: Women make up two-thirds of all employees earning low-paying salaries, according to census statistics. In New York state overall, they typically make 83.6 percent of what men earn – a 16.4 percent disparity.

Much of the problem can be blamed on the state’s paltry

It’s also a gender issue: Women make up two-thirds of all employees earning low-paying salaries.

minimum wage, which is currently pegged at \$8.00 per hour and is scheduled to rise to \$8.75 next year. It is hard to imagine raising a family on such a paycheck, but that’s the harsh bottom line so many confront. What’s worse is that the wage, set by the state legislature, does not reflect our City’s economic realities. Employers pay the same hourly rate in Rochester, Syracuse and Albany as in New York City, which has the nation’s highest cost of living. Clearly, one size does not fit all when it comes to the minimum wage.

That’s why I am calling for the legislature to give our City the power to set its own minimum wage, like a growing number of American cities which have been able to help millions of working families. San Francisco’s minimum wage is already \$10.74; San Jose’s is \$10.15; Santa Fe’s is \$10.51

and Washington D.C.’s is set to rise to \$11.50 by 2016. President Obama just announced that he will unilaterally raise the minimum wage for employees of federal contractors to \$10.10 an hour. We need to have that same conversation in New York, and correct a gross economic injustice.

I recently testified about this before the state legislature, and pointed out that the benefits of raising minimum wage would pay dividends, not only to working families, but to small businesses which would profit from a huge infusion of cash into our local economy. Raising the minimum wage in New York City would be a “win-win” at a time when so many have yet to experience the benefits of a recovering economy.

Last year our state took a big step by increasing the minimum wage to \$8.75 in 2015, but we can and must do more to help working families. I hope you will join our campaign to give New York City the right to set its own minimum wage. Please check my website – www.comptroller.nyc.gov for more information.

Scott M. Stringer is the comptroller New York City

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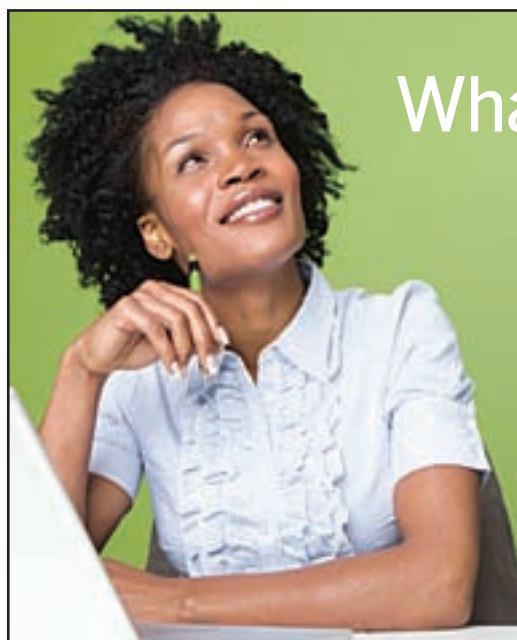
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What’s on your mind?

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 Metro-Tech Center North, Brooklyn, New York 11201, or sent via e-mail to caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com** All letters, including those submitted via e-mail, **MUST** be signed and the individual’s verifiable address and telephone number included. Note that the address and telephone number will **NOT** be published and the name will be published or withheld on request. No unsigned letters can be accepted for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Standing tall for the cause 50 years ago

The commemoration last week at the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin, Texas of the 50th anniversary of passage of the Civil Rights Act was a powerful enough event to warrant the presence of the country's sitting president, Barack Obama, as well as three of his predecessors – Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush (the only other living former president, George H.W. Bush, was named the three-day event's honorary chairman). Good move, that, for the organizers to have selected the Johnson Library as setting for this formal revisiting of a truly groundbreaking piece of legislation, spearheaded by a White House occupant of whom, it's fair to say, going in, most Americans didn't see initiative of such major historical significance in the cards.

"History will be kind to Lyndon Johnson," I recall an NYU professor saying in the mid-1960s. And it will probably take, over time, who knows how many consciousness-raising happenings in the vein of last week's special celebration to reshape public perception of the Johnson legacy. Making the ominous shadow cast by Vietnam less of a presence in the collective recall of the Johnson presidency

has been, and will doubtless continue to be no easy task. But, in truth, Johnson's domestic agenda and accomplishments were likewise of leviathan proportions, only vastly different from Vietnam's enduring ugliness.

The scuttlebutt has it that President Obama gets somewhat irritated whenever attempts are made to underscore the distinction between LBJ and himself, specifically with respect to the handling of Congress. An Associated Press report on last week's event, referencing the comparison, speculated that in some quarters there allegedly was "nostalgia for Johnson's mastery of congressional deal-making." It is of course patently unfair for not only Obama, but just about any other president to be compared, on the congressional relations front, to Johnson, whose legislative skills were legendary. Even were Johnson not in a class by himself, though, the comparative rankings of Obama and LBJ, based on the respective records with Congress, remains a most inequitable comparison.

There's no gainsaying that towering obstacles stood in Johnson's path at certain points of the aggressive agenda he was determined to

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

pursue. While the creation of programs like Medicare and Medicaid weren't exactly free of congressional opposition, it was in the landmark legislation intended to bring sweeping change to the lives of people of color that Johnson stood to have his head handed to him. Johnson's championing of civil rights and voting rights and his unflinching resolve to browbeat anyone in Congress who seemed likely to be a hindrance to passage of the legislation were responsible for those two iconic legislative initiatives being written into law. Notwithstanding Southern white support for the Democratic Party largely disappearing as a consequence.

What President Obama faces, by contrast, is a Republican presence on Capitol Hill, in the House particularly but the Senate as well, that is offended by his being where he is. The president has had to serve in an environment of abundant disrespect for the presidency

within the body of Congress that is unprecedented. It's a situation that clearly doesn't lend itself to any desire, on the part of many on the GOP side, to play ball. Being tagged with a "gridlock" or "do-nothing" label evidently fails to register with folks steeped in ill feeling toward this president.

Even so, let there be no trivializing of LBJ's heavy lift back in 1964 and '65. One has to appreciate that coming into the presidency, tragic circumstances and all, Johnson wasn't likely to be regarded as the Kennedy replacement who would seize the baton and run with fresh legs to successful conclusion of the civil rights fight Kennedy couldn't win. Johnson had been more or less in odd-man-out status in the Kennedy administration. It's a matter of record that President Kennedy's most trusted adviser, Robert Kennedy, barely hid his dislike for Johnson. This Texan, placed on the ticket in 1960 purely for political expediency and then dissd during his Veep stint by the Camelot elites, seemed the unlikely of civil rights gladiators.

Because of his origins and the system that framed his political orientation, Johnson's passionate

fight against the denial of rights for people of color was all the more remarkable. His anger was palpable when "Southern justice" reared its ugly head in outbreaks of violence directed at African Americans and their sympathizers, as in the triple murder of civil rights workers in Mississippi in June, 1964 and similar acts that followed. Johnson was forthright in making known to the Klan, perpetrators of much if not all of this mayhem, that he considered them enemies of his administration.

If last week's Civil Rights Act anniversary event and other occasions for serious reflection on the LBJ footprints get the country to more even-handed appreciation of the man, it would be richly deserved. Recent intelligence updates re Johnson's take on the Vietnam War tend to paint him as a reluctant warrior. Even if accurate, of course, this fails to speak to the humongous toll in human life and suffering occasioned by the war. History will not give Johnson a pass on this. But neither should history, and people of color prominently so, neglect to give him his due for standing tall on the domestic front.

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OP-ED

Corporate America must step up

Continued from page 10

state highway system and expand aid to the states. Corporations thrived, the middle class grew, and public services were strengthened.

Today, our economy is five times larger, corporations are delivering record profits to shareholders, yet they pay on average less than 20 percent of those profits in federal income taxes. And those taxes amount to less than a tenth of the federal budget. While corporations are thriving, the public services we all depend on are suffering.

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those that have done well in America should do right by America.

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deteriorated roads, bridges, school buildings, dams and water systems, creating 2.5 million new jobs.

Politicians, flush with corporate campaign contributions, tell us we can't afford to make these investments. We say we can't afford not to. It's time for Congress to demand that corporate America step up its contribution to the public systems that ensure our economy works for everyone.

Katherine McFate is president and CEO of the Center for Effective Government. George Goehl is the executive director of National People's Action.

Caricom

Continued from page 4

that it thinks the region has a strong and very winnable case to make, as its attorneys urged leaders to press ahead with the case even though a British government minister had said London will ignore the region.

Phillips noted that committees across the region have been holding national consultations in the build-up to July, to whip up sup-

port from citizens, garner feedback and lay the ground work for the next stages in the fight.

"We will take the matter all the way to the ICJ if those countries fail to respond," Phillips said, adding: "Attached to the letters will be a summary of the indigenous genocide committed on the African people in the Caribbean detailing their historical experiences and other forms of injustice during that era."

In the case of Guyana, letters will be handed into

Britain and Holland, the countries which had dominated the slave trade in the country.

Over in Suriname, demand letters will surely be handed to the Dutch while others like Trinidad&Tobago and some of the smaller islands will also include Spain and France, depending on their historical experiences.

The regional commission is to meet next in Guyana or Suriname later this month to refine the plans to take on Europe.

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

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



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

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

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

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

"I was treated very well by the staff. The doctors actually listened to me and I thought they would rush me out of the office but didn't, despite the fact I wasn't a candidate. The exam I had was very thorough, more so than any doctor I have seen yet. The doctor explained things to me that no one else ever has."
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Going green without sinking into the red

By Peter Richards

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, April 7, 2014 (IPS) - Most Caribbean countries are famous for their sun, sand and warm sea breezes. Far fewer are known for their wide use of solar, wind and other forms of renewable energy.

It is one of the failings of the region, which is characterised by high external debt, soaring energy costs, inequality, poverty and a lack of human capital.

The 53-member Commonwealth grouping is now trying to fill this knowledge gap with a new green growth analysis that circulated at last week's third Biennial Conference on Small States in St. Lucia, although the formal launch is not until May.

Titled "Transitioning to a Green Economy-Political Economy of Approaches in Small States," the 216-page document provides an in-depth study of eight countries and their efforts at

building green economies.

Dr. David Smith, one of the authors, notes that none of the eight, which include three from the Caribbean – Grenada, Guyana and Jamaica – has managed on its own to solve the problem of balancing green growth with economic development.

The other case studies are Botswana, Mauritius, Nauru, Samoa and the Seychelles.

"What is useful about this book is that rather than have us just looking inside our own borders for solutions, we can look at other people's solutions – or indeed other people's mistakes – and learn from those and try to tailor those to our own situations," said Smith, the coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Smith said that all the countries studied revealed that high dependence on imported energy and its



Dr. David Smith, coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development at the University of the West Indies (UWI), believes the Caribbean and other small states should look into payments for ecosystem services.

IPS/Peter Richards

associated costs are major factors constraining growth of any kind. Progress in greening the energy sec-

tor would have the great advantage of benefitting other sectors throughout the economy.

"Within our constraints we have to try and change that. We have to try and make sure we are much more energy sufficient and our diversity in terms of our sources of energy is increased," he said.

Grenada's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell wants his country to become a "centre of excellence" for a clean and green economy that will result in the dismantling of an electricity monopoly with a high fossil-fuel import bill.

He said that despite help under the Venezuela-led PetroCaribe initiative – an oil alliance of many Caribbean states with Caracas to purchase oil on conditions of preferential payment – Grenada has one of the highest electricity rates in the region.

"We are now engaging with partners on solar, wind

and geothermal energy to make Grenada an exemplar for a sustainable planet," he told IPS.

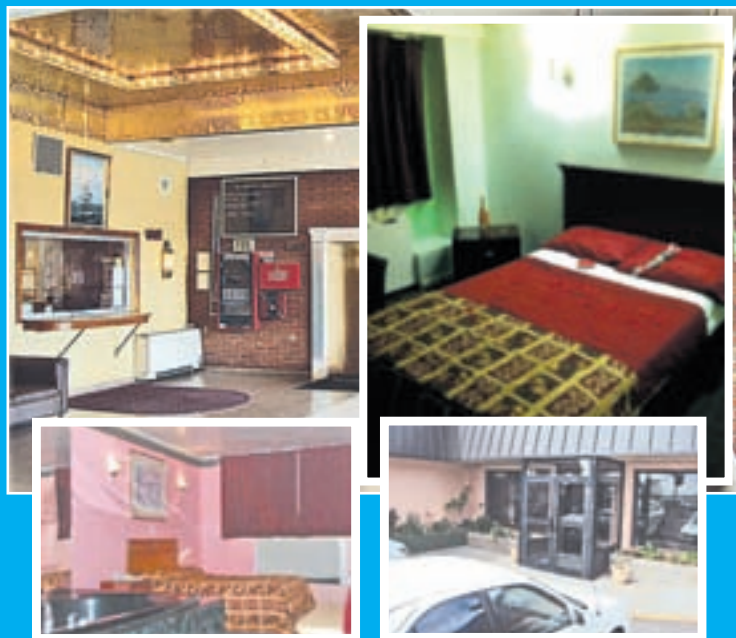
Mitchell believes that the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference in Samoa this September must advance small states' quest for energy that is accessible, affordable and sustainable.

"The threat of climate change is real and poses a clear and present danger to the survival of SIDS. We call on the international community to release long-promised resources to help small states like Grenada move more rapidly on our disaster risk mitigation and reduction efforts," he added.

Last month, the University of Guyana announced that it was teaming up with Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS) and the Belgium-based Catholic University of Leuven to be part of an 840,000-dollar programme geared at capacity-building in applied renew-

Continued on Page 29

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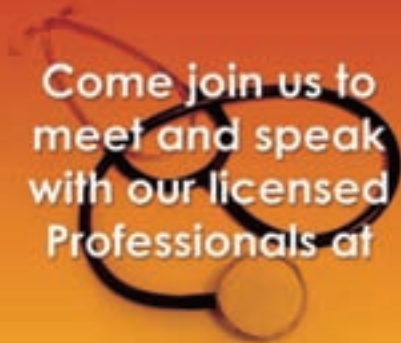
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Jimmy Jean-Louis speaks at the February fundraising Haiti Cherie event in New York where he was honored. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Jimmy Jean-Louis' dad succumbs to gunshot wound

By Tequila Minsky

On April 10, Lephène Jean-Louis, father of actor, Haiti advocate, and philanthropist Jimmy Jean-Louis, succumbed in a Haitian hospital to an injury from a gunshot wound he received four days earlier on Sunday, April 6.

The senior Jean-Louis was shopping in a local store in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Tabarre (Torcelle, Haiti), near his home and was wounded by a single bullet to the abdomen, an innocent bystander during an attempted robbery. Three assailants escaped by motorcycle and are still at large. Lephène Jean-Louis, 78, passed away of complications from his injuries. The senior Jean-Louis and his wife survived the January

2010 earthquake.

During the time of the shooting, the actor, who plays the father of the Haitian nation, Toussaint Louverture, in the French made-for-TV film “Toussaint Louverture,” was in Haiti to commemorate the April 7 death of the Haitian hero. With his own father fighting for his life, Jimmy Jean-Louis put on his game face and, dressed in period garb as Toussaint Louverture, stood alongside President Michel Martelly and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe for the commemorative ceremony.

His father was expected to pull through and the actor left Haiti for his home in Los Angeles, planning to return days later. The senior Jean-Louis died while

the actor was airborne. Lephène Jean-Louis is survived by his wife, the actor's mother who lives in Haiti, and another son and daughter and grandchildren living outside of Haiti.

The actor, who was very close with father, came to public attention from his role as ‘The Haitian’ in the TV series “Heroes” prior to his portrayal of Haiti's national hero. As one Haitian newspaper put it, “Now, he lost his hero.”

A public statement released by the family conveys this message: We appreciate the outpouring of love and concern shown at this time of loss. We ask that you please respect our privacy during this difficult time, and keep our family in your thoughts and prayers.”

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Brooklyn Trade Show attracts thousands

By Tequila Minsky

At least 2,500 New Yorkers, business owners, service providers, those looking for jobs or those who want to expand their businesses, visited Trade Brooklyn—Brooklyn's business-to-business trade show, earlier this month.

The show attracted professionals from all facets of a business or industry. For example, in the health field, health plan representatives, healthcare software providers, doctors looking to open a practice in Brooklyn and an acupuncturist attended the show.

The New York Marriot at Brooklyn Bridge provided a comfortable, larger space to accommodate the daylong event, held in previous years at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Visitors at the vendor hall and participants in the seminars came from a wide spectrum of the working world.

Launching the day of exhibitions and seminars, a networking 'crack-of-dawn' breakfast, moderated by Juliet Papa of 1010 WINS, featured an experience-rich panel from the private, non-profit to the educational sectors.

Among the panelists, Al Laboz, chairman of the



Brooklyn Leaders Forum: Power & Influence: Woman in Media & Marketing. From left, Kay Lucas, Amanda Spangler, Lisa Marie "Phoenix" Jackson, Ana Calerson Eugene and Liz Solomon at the New York Marriot. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Fulton Mall Association was there to represent the redevelopment of the Fulton Street area, the revitalization of the Fulton Mall including the Brooklyn Municipal Building.

Michah Kotch spoke of the exciting Innovation and Entrepreneurship program at NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering that he directs, a tech incubator program with the goal to

help developing young companies that will call NYC home.

For those unaware, panelists described Brooklyn Tech Triangle: DUMBO, Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Navy Yard, (plus some geographic spillover) home to more than 500 innovation companies, 11 universities, and thousands of talented and creative professionals.

While a plethora of banking, marketing, computer and technology industries participated—150 vendors in Trade Brooklyn, this year, businesses as different as candy manufacturing, liquor distilling, real estate development and car sales displayed their work. Some businesses are based in or looking to put roots down in Brooklyn. Some were seeking investors. Related

government agencies, trade associations and non-profits had tables with information, too.

A series of social media boot camps were among the workshops and seminars that also kept attendees focused on business during the day.

One of the exciting panels with high-powered media women from different generations was Women in

Media and Marketing moderated by Hybrid Media.

The women media powerbrokers addressed their journeys and challenges for the generation of young women looking to follow in their footsteps.

Lisa Marie "Phoenix" Jackson, a professional of these times, speaking with her computer at her fingertips, has developed a knack for building online relationships. In addition to her digital project management consultancy in fashion, education and entertainment, she teaches at Boston College.

Kay Lucas has more than 20 years of a distinguished career in marketing many major brands and now, as CEO and managing director of Media Sense, she designs and executes integrated marketing for Fortune 1000 companies. These two, along with Ana Calderon Eugene, Liz Solomon and Amanda Spangler, shared their wealth of experience.

At the New York Marriot, the Brooklyn vibe was definitely in the house. There were energy, openness, focus, and great networking opportunities offered by Trade Brooklyn for the borough where business prospects are looking up.

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www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

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

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

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

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

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

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

that the island would have a small chikungunya problem and conversely a high mosquito population would result in a "more serious outbreak."

Dr. Frederick said it was for that reason the Ministry of Health is encouraging citizens to ensure that they start eliminating breeding places for mosquitoes.

Trinidad

Police are investigating the apparent murder/suicide incident in which a controversial pastor shot and killed his brother, ran over his nephew with a vehicle, set fire to his house and shot himself to death in Central Trinidad recently..

Pastor Vishnu Lutchmansingh, 54, made headlines in Trinidad and Tobago a few years ago when he claimed he inherited several billion dollars from an American businessman and he had duped businessmen into lending him thousands of dollars.

Lutchmansingh was later charged with about 50 counts of fraud and was on bail when he shot his younger brother Kishan and took his life.

Kishan and three friends were in their garden in the farming community of Las Lomas when they were attacked. The three men managed to escape leaving behind

Kishan behind.

Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago has lodged an appeal of a ruling by Venezuelan authorities in relation to eight Muslims who remained detained in that country after they were held by the Venezuelan Intelligence Services on March 19, Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Dookeran said.

Dookeran said the appeal of the ruling under which the men were detained without bail is expected to be heard soon.

The foreign affairs minister said the matter was "still under the investigatory process" by the head of a team of seven persons who traveled to Caracas on March 27.

He said on March 19, a total of 23 citizens, including women and children were detained by the Venezuelan Intelligence Services.

The women and children were later freed and they returned home.

The Muslims had gone to Venezuela to obtain visas for a pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.

They had in their possession more than \$100,000 US and 6x1 T&T passports.

They are accused of plotting to overthrow the Nicholas Maduro government.



Compiled by Azad Ali

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Tips to boost infant and toddler brain development

(StatePoint) When babies are born, their minds are still a work in progress, and their brains will rapidly grow and develop based on their experience. That means the first few years are critical for healthy brain development.

“Parents play a daily role in promoting lifelong health by focusing on positive ways to nurture brain development, starting in infancy and extending through the toddler years,” says Dr. James M. Perrin, 2014 president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

According to Perrin, this means creating a safe, consistent environment to ensure children know they're physically and emotionally protected. He offers these tips for fostering a happy, healthy home:

- Talk to your baby in a responsive way, starting at birth. Watch how he responds to your face, focuses, and moves in time to your voice. As he grows, talk to him about everyday things, wait-

HEALTH

ing for his coos and ahhs, and then respond with an encouraging word.

One study showed that the more words parents used when speaking to an eight-month-old infant, the more words that child used at age three.

- Respond to distress with comfort. Even in infancy, it's an important way to build a child's confidence that the caregiver is there.

- Make eye contact with your child from day one. That could be during play, tummy time or even during necessary activities like diaper changes.

- When your baby starts to smile, smile back! If young children learn healthy, positive ways to get your attention, they'll be less likely to resort to fussing, crying or whining.

- Follow your infant's gaze to get a sense of what is capturing his or her attention. When it's appropriate, let your child explore that object.

- Be aware of what your face is “saying.” Temper negative feelings because your baby is “feeling” them as well.

- Infants let us know when they've had enough and it's time for a nap by avoiding eye contact, becoming sleepy or fussy, coughing or rubbing his or her eyes.

- Reading to your child from infancy stimulates language and cognitive skills, builds motivation, curiosity and memory and stimulates language development.

- Babies learn best from people, not screens, and unstructured play time is more valuable for the developing brain than electronic media. Through unstructured, unplugged play, children learn to think creatively, problem solve, and develop reasoning and motor skills.



It is important to talk to your baby in a responsive way, starting at birth.

(c) MichaelJung - Fotolia.com

Instead of screens, try to encourage supervised but independent play like exploring a set of nesting cups or pounding on a pot with a spoon while you are preparing dinner.

- Healthy brain, healthy body. Keep a regular schedule of visits to the pediatrician to ensure your child's physical, mental, and developmental and behavioral health is

on track. Your child's pediatrician can be a great resource.

For more tips and free parenting resources, visit www.HealthyChildren.org.

Raising healthy children means daily care, attention, comfort and love. Fostering such an environment early can help put your child on a permanent path of emotional well-being.

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Former New York City Councilwoman, Dr. Una Clarke (left) with honorees and Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clark (Second from right, standing). Photo by Nelson A. King

Awards ceremony

Continued from Page 3
 media strategist, event planner and public relations professional. Daley is the chief executive officer

and founder of Caribbean Media Marketing Inc (CMM), a Brooklyn-based advertising, marketing and public relations firm.

Moody was born in Belize City, Belize. She has been an active member of Fenimore Street United Methodist Church in Brooklyn for many years, serving as chair of several committees. Currently, she serves as a Lay Speaker and chair

of the Anniversary and Archives Committee. She also serves as District Governor for her district in the Brooklyn Lions Club.

Francis was born in Brooklyn and grew up in the Fort Greene neighborhood. After completing

her Masters of Engineering degree, she now works in real estate and property management but still uses her engineering skills to recommend energy management solutions and energy efficiency systems to building owners and

facility managers. Richardson, a native of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, is an experienced public sector administrator. A proud second generation graduate of Medgar Evers College, Richardson obtained her Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in policy analysis and evaluation from the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College.

Elliot hails from West Bank Demerara in Guyana. She taught herself as a child, to crochet, and soon became popular for knitting baby booties and bonnets for christenings. She worked as a ward maid in the Georgetown, Guyana hospital for 18 years. She is now retired, and continues to crochet.

Marks, who hails from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, represented her country on the national netball team at the tender age of 12. Currently, she coaches netball and is primarily focused on developing young netballers, as well as providing a "safe haven: for young adults in her community.



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HOME IMPROVEMENT

\$SAVE MONEY ON YOUR NEXT DIY PROJECT

Over the last several decades, more and more homeowners have embraced the notion that homes need not all be alike, and that an individual's home can cater to his or her personal tastes and needs. The trend of modeling a home after one's own tastes has extended beyond choosing furniture or other replaceable elements to structural changes and full-scale renovations, thus upping the financial ante for homeowners who want to turn their homes into places more in tune with their own personalities.

When it comes to improving their homes, many homeowners associate cutting costs with cutting corners, which can put residents' safety at risk. But there are ways for homeowners to save money on home improvement projects while still ensuring their homes are safe and sound.

Work with recycled materials

Homeowners about to undertake small-scale do-it-yourself projects can often save money by using recycled materials. However, homeowners should know that many contractors do not work with recycled materials in an effort to avoid liability should something go awry during the project or after it is completed. But DIYers can benefit from using recycled materials, which can be purchased at various locations. Habitat for Humanity, operates its own ReStores, which are nonprofit home improvement stores that sell recycled building materials at a steep discount. ReStore locations can be found by visiting www.habitat.org.

Get your hands dirty

Labor costs on home improvement projects are considerable, but homeowners can cut these costs by doing some of the labor themselves. Even those men and women with little or no DIY experience can still chip in and save some money. Homeowners about to embark on a rebuilding project can chip in and do some of the demolition on their own. For example, when replacing sidewalks, homeowners can simply break up and remove the existing sidewalk on their own rather than



paying their contractors to do such work for them. It's best for homeowners to leave interior labor to the professionals, as they are more knowledgeable about how to find load-bearing walls and plumbing fixtures than the average weekend warrior homeowner. Homeowners who mistakenly take out fixtures inside their homes in an attempt to cut down on labor costs might find such miscues are far more costly than simply paying for the labor from the get-go.

Remember how flattering imitation can be

As the old adage goes, "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." Homeowners working on tight budgets can opt for imitation materials that appear and feel just like more costly authentic materials.

Schedule projects during the offseason

Like many professionals, contractors have busy seasons and seasons that tend to be slow. These seasons can change

depending on geography, but homeowners can save money by postponing projects until the slow season, when contractors are more likely to offer discounts in an attempt to stay busy and continue to generate income. Savings will vary depending on a variety of factors, but it's not unlikely that patient homeowners willing to wait until the offseason to renovate their homes can save as much as 5 percent on the overall cost of the project.

Try not to customize

Going overboard with customizing is expensive. Building supplies are sold at certain dimensions because those dimensions are the most common. Altering these dimensions unnecessarily is only driving up the cost of the project, so it's best to stick with stock sizes when money is tight.

Home improvement projects are often expensive undertakings. But such endeavors need not break the bank.



Messy closets and clutter elsewhere in the home may be indicative of a storage deficit. But there are ways to easily increase storage space.

Storage solutions

TIPS ON DECLUTTERING YOUR HOME

What homeowner has not lamented that they have many more belongings than they have storage space? In some homes, particularly in older homes, closet space and other areas to store items may be lacking. Apartment dwellers often find they're lacking in storage space as well. But savvy homeowners can find both permanent and temporary solutions to their home storage problems.

One of the easiest ways to create storage space is to simply remove some belongings from the residence. Go through closets around the house and pick through the attic and/or garage to see if there are any items that can be discarded or donated. Items that are broken can be discarded, while those things that still have utility can be donated or sold.

The next step is to maximize the space of your existing closets. Many closets are equipped with just a shelf and a clothing rack, greatly limiting the storage potential. Investing in a closet organization system is one way to transform a poorly utilized space. These systems can be purchased, often inexpensively, from a home improvement center. Compiled of modular racks and shelving, the positioning can be customized depending on the size of

the closet. Oftentimes, the addition of shelving or another rack for hanging clothes can solve some storage issues. These closet systems also are ideal for

One of the easiest ways to create storage space is to simply remove some belongings from the residence.

renters because they can be installed with minimal damage and be removed when a lease expires.

Homeowners may have to think vertically to solve storage solutions. Wall space may be abundant in a home where closets are not. Therefore, shelving and cabinets can be places to keep items neatly off the floor. A series of shelves can be installed next to a washing machine to keep laundry supplies organized. In children's rooms, build bookcases the height of the room so children can store frequently used reading material and toys on the lower levels, and adults can put collectibles and mementos near the top. Hang hooks to hold hats and robes. When-

ever possible, look to store items on the walls where they will keep clutter off the floor.

Storage can even be created in the bathroom, where the space over the toilet can be used to hang a cabinet to store hand towels and other toiletries if the space under the sink has already been claimed.

Many apartment dwellers recognize the advantage of having items that serve double-duty in their living spaces. For example, a convertible sofa can be used for sitting and then turn into a bed for overnight guests. Ottomans that have a storage compartment can house anything from throw blankets to magazines. An armoire may house the television but also have a pull-out shelf that can hold a laptop computer.

In the kitchen, move food items out of cabinetry and into a "pantry" you create elsewhere in the house, such as a laundry room or garage. This frees up more room for pots and pans. Cabinets that have pull-out shelving help maximize tight recesses of cabinets and keep things organized and in sight. For those with limited cabinets, pots and pans can be hung from a pot rack suspended in the kitchen.

Even when there is a small amount of storage space, individuals can find clever ways to neatly store items.

HOW TO INSPECT FOR ROOF DAMAGE

Many homeowners do not think twice about their roofs. But when leaks develop, roof repairs and the subsequent costs of such work shed light on how important it is for homeowners to pay closer attention to the roofs over their heads.

Though certain roof issues, like shingles lost to inclement weather, are unforeseeable, many problems can be avoided with routine roof inspection. Checking roof conditions twice a year can help homeowners avoid potentially costly repair work or even more expensive roof replacement projects.

Spring is a good time to inspect roofs, which are often at the mercy of harsh conditions throughout the winter. Heavy snow, ice and biting winds can do significant damage, making spring the perfect time to assess if any such damage occurred and address any issues.

Start the inspection in the interior of the home.

Before breaking out the ladder and climbing up to the roof, inspect the home's interior, pinpointing potential problems that may indicate roof damage. Check for stains on the ceiling which may indicate leaks that need to be addressed. Homeowners with attics should enter their attics and look for signs of water damage, making note of any damp or wet insulation. This will let you know if water has been entering the attic all winter. Pay attention to the location of any wet spots or stains so you can match them up to the exterior of the roof later on. Musty smells also may be indicative of moisture problems, even if there are no visible leaks.

Inspect the roof outside.

Grab a set of binoculars and inspect the exterior of the roof. Look at the roof flashing, including around the chimney and other areas of protruding pipes and vents. If the flashing is warped or damaged, moisture might be settling underneath. Sealant around dormers or skylights can also degrade, resulting in leaks. Check for spalling on masonry, such as the mortar of chimneys. Porous areas will allow water to infiltrate.



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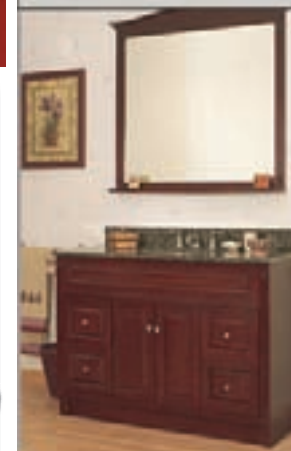
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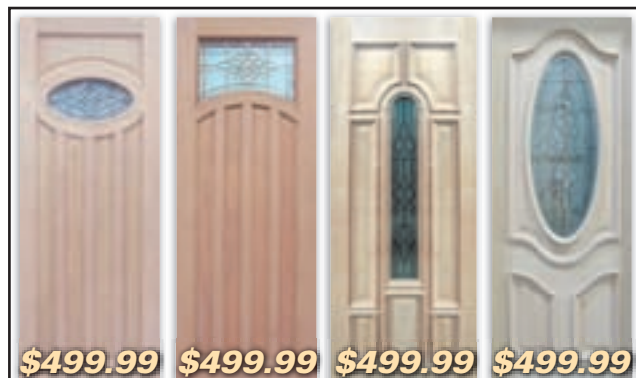
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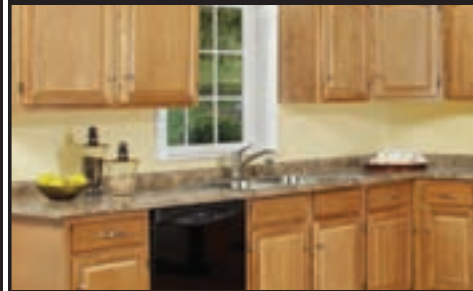
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Lionfish, humans trade places

By David McFadden

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica is reporting a big decline in sightings of lionfish, the voracious invasive species that has been wreaking havoc on regional reefs for years and wolfing down native juvenile fish and crustaceans.

Some four years after a national campaign got started to slash numbers of the candy-striped predator with a mane of venomous spines, Jamaica's National Environment and Planning Agency is reporting a 66 percent drop in sightings of lionfish in coastal waters with depths of 75 feet (23 meters).

Dayne Buddo, a Jamaican marine ecologist who focuses on marine invaders at the Caribbean island's University of the West Indies, attributes much of the local decrease in sightings to a growing appetite for their fillets. He said Sunday that Jamaican fishermen are now selling lionfish briskly at markets. In contrast, a few years ago island



In this July, 2007 file photo released by Oregon State University, a lionfish swims off Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas. Jamaica's government announced on Saturday, April 12, 2014 a big decline in sightings of lionfish, the voracious invasive species that has been wreaking havoc on regional reefs for years and wolfing down native juvenile fish and crustaceans.

AP Photo/Mark Albins/Oregon State University, File

fishermen "didn't want to mess" with the exotic fish with spines that can deliver a very painful sting.

"After learning how to handle them, the fishermen have definitely been going after them harder, especially spear fishermen. I believe persons here have caught on to the whole idea of consum-

ing them," Buddo said in a phone interview.

Lionfish, a tropical native of the Indian and Pacific oceans likely introduced through the pet trade, have been colonizing swaths of the Caribbean and Atlantic for years - from the U.S. Eastern Seaboard and the hard-hit Bahamas to the Gulf

of Mexico. They have been such a worrying problem that divers in the Caribbean and Florida are encouraged to capture them whenever they can to protect reefs and native marine life already burdened by pollution, overfishing and the effects of climate change.

Across the region, governments, conservation groups and dive shops have been sponsoring fishing tournaments and other efforts to go after slow-swimming lionfish to try and stave off an already severe crisis. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration launched a campaign in 2010 urging the U.S. public to "eat sustainable, eat lionfish!"

But just because shallow waters hugging coastlines have seen declines, the fast-breeding species is hardly on the way out. Fat, football-sized lionfish are daily caught in fishing pots set in deeper waters that spear fishermen and recreational divers never see.

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Going Green

Continued from Page 14

able energy technologies.

The overall objective is to improve the capacity of the Universities of Guyana and Suriname to deliver programmes and courses with the different technologies associated with applied renewable energy.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Robert Persaud says that one of the biggest needs for the local manufacturing sector is the availability of cheap energy.

"For us, it is an economic imperative that we develop not only clean energy, but affordable energy as well, and we are lucky that we possess the resources that we can have both," he told IPS. "The low-hanging fruit in this regard is hydro."

When he presented the country's multi-billion-dollar budget to Parliament at the end of March, Guyana's Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh said that with the intensification of the adverse impacts of climate change, the govern-

ment would continue to forge ahead with "our innovative climate resilient and low carbon approach to economic development backed by our unwavering commitment to good forest governance and stewardship".

Guyana has so far earned 115 million dollars from Norway within the framework of its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). Singh said that this year, 90.6 million dollars have been allocated for continued implementation of the Guyana REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) + Investment Fund (GRIF).

"Guyana is on track to have the world's first fully operational REDD+ mechanism in place by 2015. This will enable Guyana to earn considerably more from the sale of REDD+ credits than we do today," he told legislators.

But the case studies showed that locating suitable and adequate financing for greening was a major constraint, even in those

countries that had allocated government resources to green activities.

The study on Jamaica for example, noted that the country is still dependent on natural resource-based export industries and on imported energy, with debt servicing equalling more than 140 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). It said all these factors also contributed to constraining implementation of new policies.

With regard to financing, Smith argues that it wouldn't be a bad idea for the World Bank to consider allowing countries to access concessional financing up and until their human development index hits 0.8.

"We want to look at renewable energy and lower cost energy. We want to make sure that the human and environmental capitals that we have within our countries are maintained," he said.

Smith said the countries could look at the payment for ecosystem services, charging realistic rents for the use of their beaches and looking at ways debt can be used creatively.

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St. Vincent Children's Services links with Amigas

By Kevin Edwards

In a society where very few people give emphasis to the importance of children welfare. In this very few, we will find Norma Lewis, an honorable and caring citizen at heart.

With a passion for helping children, one evening Ms. Lewis had a heartwarming conversation with the minister of the church that she attends; the minister, recognizing her caring for children, advised her to pay attention to the way children's naturally gravitated to her, in addition, extended the advice to pray and to ask God, to reveal to her, her calling, to which she did. The heartwarming conversation with her minister and the power of prayer became the tools that revealed to Ms. Lewis, her divine purpose in life, the helping of children.

In the actual pursuit of her calling, Ms. Lewis hosted a meeting with intimate girlfriends, in the kitchen of her home, in Brooklyn, NY. During this special gath-



Norma Lewis (left) and St. Vincent Children's Services celebrate a friendship.

ering, she became aware of a very important need in society that manifested as her vision "to touch the lives of children that has been forgotten by many." This awakening, lead to a pledge to help children's in orphanages. The quest for this noble cause, lead to the foundation in March 15,

2003 of Amigas, Friends of Children Inc., a non-profit Organization.

In June 23, 2004, Amigas, Friends of Children, Inc., had their groundbreaking experience in the Republic of Panama, when the organization establishing relationship with Aldeas (village) SOS, a children's

home in Colon, Republic, of Panama. After establishing this relationship, this dynamic organization, during the years, managed to establish eight additional relationships with children's home throughout the Republic of Panama. The quest for helping continued and these wonderful Ami-

gas (girlfriends) managed to establish relationship in the year of 2005, with St. Vincent Children Services in Brooklyn, NY (USA).

As the passion for caring continued, Amigas, Friends of Children, Inc., broadened their arising by "planting seeds," in orphanages in various parts of the world. The first planting of seeds, was accomplished in May 19, 2011 at Medina's Children's Home, in Senegal. In this journey, Amelia Boyce, treasurer and devoted member of the organization, had a life-realizing experience:

"I had the opportunity to see the children's home, which was very humbling. In addition, I saw how people lived in various locations. What was interesting was to see the happiness in people faces, even when they lacked, to what we considered: the basic things."

The second planting of seeds, was in Aug.16, 2012, at the Centro de Crianza (Center for Children) in

Bahia, Brazil. The next planting of seeds will be in June of 2014, at New Life, in Ghana, Africa.

With creativity, the organization as managed to develop various programs to aid children's, programs such as the "godparent program. This program gives the opportunity for adults who meet the requirement, to extend caring and support to children in need. In addition, to promote the importance and the value of education, Amigas, created the scholarship program, which serves as an incentive to motivate and encourage children's at various homes to excel with academics; the idea is: by exceling in education, the child will have an opportunity to excel in life."

As the newly appointed president of Amigas, Friends of Children, Inc., Gladys Savage shared: "I would like to see Amigas, connecting to the Caribbean Diaspora. I recognized that we are still in the early stages, however, we have so much to offer.



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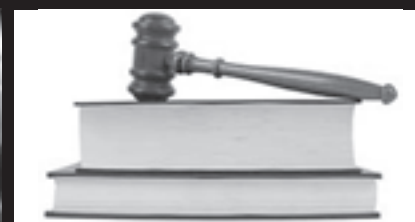


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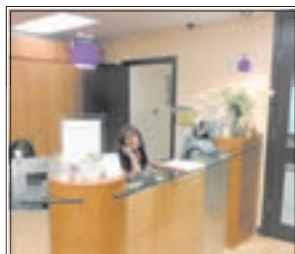
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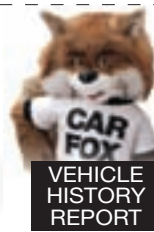
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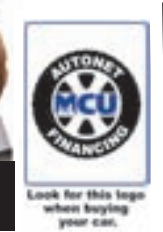
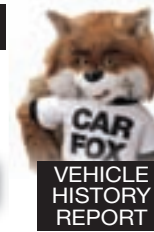
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Creative expression of the B'klyn Quilters Guild

By Tequila Minsky

Recognizable Brooklyn scenes — the Brooklyn Bridge to the Aquarium, each in fabric square blocks in a quilt, greeted quilters and fans as they entered the downtown Brooklyn exhibit. This weekend, at the NY Marriot, more than 500 attended the “Brooklyn Squared” 2014 Quilt Show that displayed the skilled and loving work of members of The Quilters’ Guild of Brooklyn.

A masterful combination of color, design, and fabric, these quilts are art pieces that draw inspiration from all kinds of sources. The quilters use hand and machine quilting, hand embroidery, and appliqué. Some pieces came from traditional quilting patterns others were completely member-designed. Some of the masterpieces were up to eight-feet by eight-feet.

Williamsburg resident, Sylvia Hernandez, working with El Puente Arts wanted to make a quilt for Black



Researching for Black History Month, Sylvia Hernandez, printed images on fabric of U.S. Postal Service commemorative stamps celebrating Black Heritage for her quilt homage to historical luminaries.



Photo by Tequila Minsky

History month. The result was her “Postcards from the Ancestors,” quilted photos, and printed on fabric, of 30 commemorative Postal Service stamps. The luminaries, literally the fabric of the quilt, include Frederick Douglas and Rosa Parks, and Billy Holiday and Duke Ellington. Ms. Hernandez is an 11-year member of the

Guild. She also exhibited a graffiti-inspired quilt. “It’s like painting with fabric,” says Arlene “Kweli” Jones, whose brown, gold, and black machine appliqué and quilted “Kalabash” quilt was among the two she shared at the bi-annual Guild show. Clearly the quilt was inspired from her travels to Ghana. A retired adult educa-

tion teacher who sources her supplies from her large personal accumulated stash — “I buy fabric because I like it”—disclosed that the idea takes longer than the execution. When members were asked, “Why quilt?” The response always included: creative and artistic expression. Ten-year member Shirley

Cox took two years to figure out the construction of her quilt with fabric origami pieces. “My instructor said, ‘that’s not how it’s supposed to be done,’” she said of her sampler piece named Shopping Sue. “I said, ‘This is how I need to do it.’” In the end, the instructor was happily appreciative. How did she get her start? Sewing since the age of eight — dolls, and later clothes for her children, Ms. Cox got hooked at a class at a senior center in Queens where she made one square.

The Guild, observing its 21st year, has monthly meetings of talks by experts and workshops every third Saturday, September through June, in Winsor Terrace where all are invited to attend (for info: brooklynquiltguild@gmail.com). “We get support, inspiration, knowledge, and it’s very social,” one member shared.

Gladys Watson’s quilt named “Ghana Mother Land” was inspired from

two months spent in Ghana, 14 years ago. “I was so excited!” she said of her trip that translated years later to this eight-foot square quilt with a fan motif, pieced with African prints (local supplier Yara Fabrics sourcing the fabrics all from Ghana). It took Ms. Watson, a neophyte to quilting, eight months, off and on, to complete.

The 2014 quilt show included a full schedule of demonstrations and vendors on hand selling fabrics and sewing machines.

The Quilter’s Guild of Brooklyn attracts retired professionals, moms at home, and full-time working New Yorkers as members who find a creative and very satisfying outlet with quilting. Additionally, the Guild supports numerous service out-reach efforts.

Members travel from all parts of New York City for the camaraderie, skill-building, and inspiration membership offers. For more info: www.quiltbrooklyn.org.

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LIC Food Bazaar's Spring Event Is a Huge Success!



The sunshine wasn't the only thing to bring people out in droves this past weekend. Long Island City's Food Bazaar Supermarket hosted its Spring Event and Car Giveaway Sweepstakes on Saturday, April 12th. Hundreds of people flocked to the LIC Food Bazaar for this fun-filled occasion. The event which streamed live on 93.1 Amor Radio, was a great day out for the

family, complete with delicious free food from over fifty food vendors, face painting, clowns and magic shows. The Long Island City YMCA hosted boxing, tennis and soccer tournaments. There was even a Mariachi Band serenading shoppers. Aside from the action packed festivities, Food Bazaar gave away some impressive prizes including thousands of dollars worth of



gift certificates. But, the grand prize, a brand new 2014 Hyundai Genesis went to one lucky winner; Marcario O from Woodside,

New York. Food Bazaar is committed to improving the quality of life in the communities they serve. And, the Spring Event

is one example of this. If you missed this event, stay-tuned, there's much more to come at the LIC Food Bazaar.

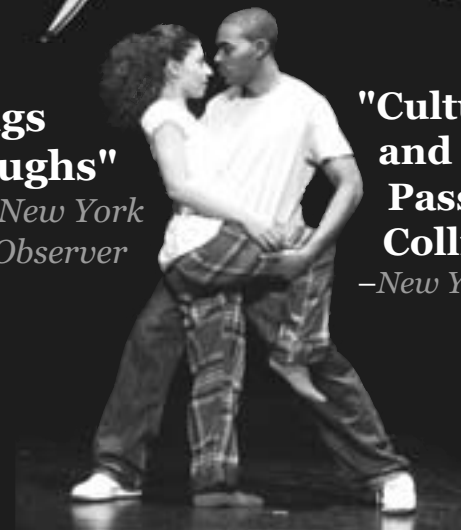
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May Day debut for 'Taboo Yardies' documentary

After years of anticipation, Jamaican filmmaker Selena Blake recently announced the opening of her much talked about documentary about Jamaica's homosexual community titled "Taboo...Yardies."

Promoted as a film that "represents the voice of those LGBTQ Jamaicans who are often publically ridiculed and beaten in the streets by angry mobs," Blake's expose offers "a cultural exploration of the influence of western religion, the lasting effect of colonization, misogyny and fear of the unknown."

Slated to begin at 7:30 p.m. on May 1 at the Faison Firehouse, 6 Hancock Place, (between 125th & Morning-side Ave.) in Harlem, the film about the stories of "Jamaican people who have long suffered from brutal treatment by their fellow Jamaicans and a political system that offers little protection" will be screened at the same time throughout the weekend with a matinee at 3 p.m.



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

on Sunday.

According to Blake, "The documentary is a searing, at times poignant depiction of the myriad of perspectives surrounding the topic of intolerance and violence towards same gender loving (SGL) lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender living in Jamaica."

The film has already been screened in Jamaica.

It was received "amid heated anti-homosexual protest, prompting media attention and open discussions on the Human Rights of the SGL/LGBT community in Jamaica." Regardless of which side of the lifestyle one advocates, "Taboo...Yardies" is sure to trigger controversy and at the very least spark conversation. Reportedly, a portion of the proceeds from the opening night reception will help fund

LGBTQ safe space charities in Jamaica; Quality Citizenship Jamaica (JCL).

"HOLLER" TUPAC MUSICAL GETS MAY DATE ON BROADWAY

Another musical tribute to a legendary entertainer hails hip-hop icon Tupac Shakur in a presentation beginning on May 29 billed "Holler If Ya Hear Me." Slated for the Palace Theatre, 1564 Broadway at 47th St. the newest musical tome adds to critically acclaimed bio-musicals to herald Motown, Carole King, Janis Joplin and Liberace. Inspired by the lyrics penned by the hip-hop proponent, the new Broadway musical written by Todd Kreidler is directed by Kenny Leon, the director who is also enjoying



This 1993 file photo originally provided by Columbia Pictures shows rap musician Tupac Shakur is shown in a scene from, "Poetic Justice."

acclaim with his dramatic direction of Denzel Washington's lead character in "A Raisin In The Sun."

Through the poetry of one of the 20th century's most influential and culturally prominent voices, audiences are given a window into realities of the streets still relevant today.

The "non-biographical story about friendship, family, revenge, change and hope" will also tap into indi-

vidual stories about "inner city lives struggle for peace against the daily challenges they face in this entertaining and original musical.

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ing the Middle Passage to America.

On May 3, 2014, a pictorial display and spoken word event will celebrate 25 years of paying tribute to the Ancestors of the Middle Passage. Slated to be held at Medgar Evers College, EOC Auditorium at 1638 Bedford Ave. (Medgar Evers Lane & Carroll Street) performances begin at noon.

Featuring a photo exhibition by Akeem and Reelz; spoken word performances by poets Ngoma, Osagyefo, Ras Atiba, Nena Blue, EKG, Osuntoyin, Poetry Flow, Her New She, James Gregory, Jessica Clarke, Finessa, Lyrisis, Imani Parker, Menes De Griot backed by Shanto, New Generation, Jelani Akeem, Jibri Akeem, Wayne Russell, Hermina, Jordan Franklin and other cultural entertainers, the program is slated to end at 8:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Akeem at 718-659-4999 and akeem476@gmail.com.

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Vanessa Williams in 'After Midnight'

By Deardra Shuler

Vanessa Williams took time out of her busy schedule to talk to this writer about her role in "After Midnight" which she presently appears in until May 11 with Dule Hill as her leading man. After Midnight is at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre, located at 256 West 47th St. (Between 8th Avenue and Broadway) in Manhattan. She replaces Toni Baxton who was featured until recently with Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds.

With "After Midnight," I feel I have been lucky to have yet another challenge -- when one door closes another opens" remarked the talented performer. "I have been able to jump from genre to genre which I suppose comes down to my having a musical theatre background. I majored in theater in college so I have had acting, music and dance train-

ing as well as theater. It's a great discipline because I get a chance to flex and use different muscles depending on where the job is and I get a chance to work with a phenomenal cast of talented performers," stated Vanessa.

As part of the cast of "After Midnight," Ms. Williams does eight shows a week. Normally a performer is able to rehearse at least three weeks before working in the show, but in her case, Vanessa only had one week of rehearsal and then went straight into the show. "Yes, it was a short rehearsal period; however, I get a chance to sing some amazing standards in the show, songs like "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," "Stormy Weather" and Sunny Side of the Street, et al." I'm able to both sing and dance in the show and the music is pure

Continued on Page 42

Caribbean seniors in a beauty pageant

By Tangerine Clarke

Two gorgeous senior citizens of Caribbean heritage will be the center of attention when they step on stage to be judged at the 29th Annual Ms. New York Senior America 2014, scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 27.

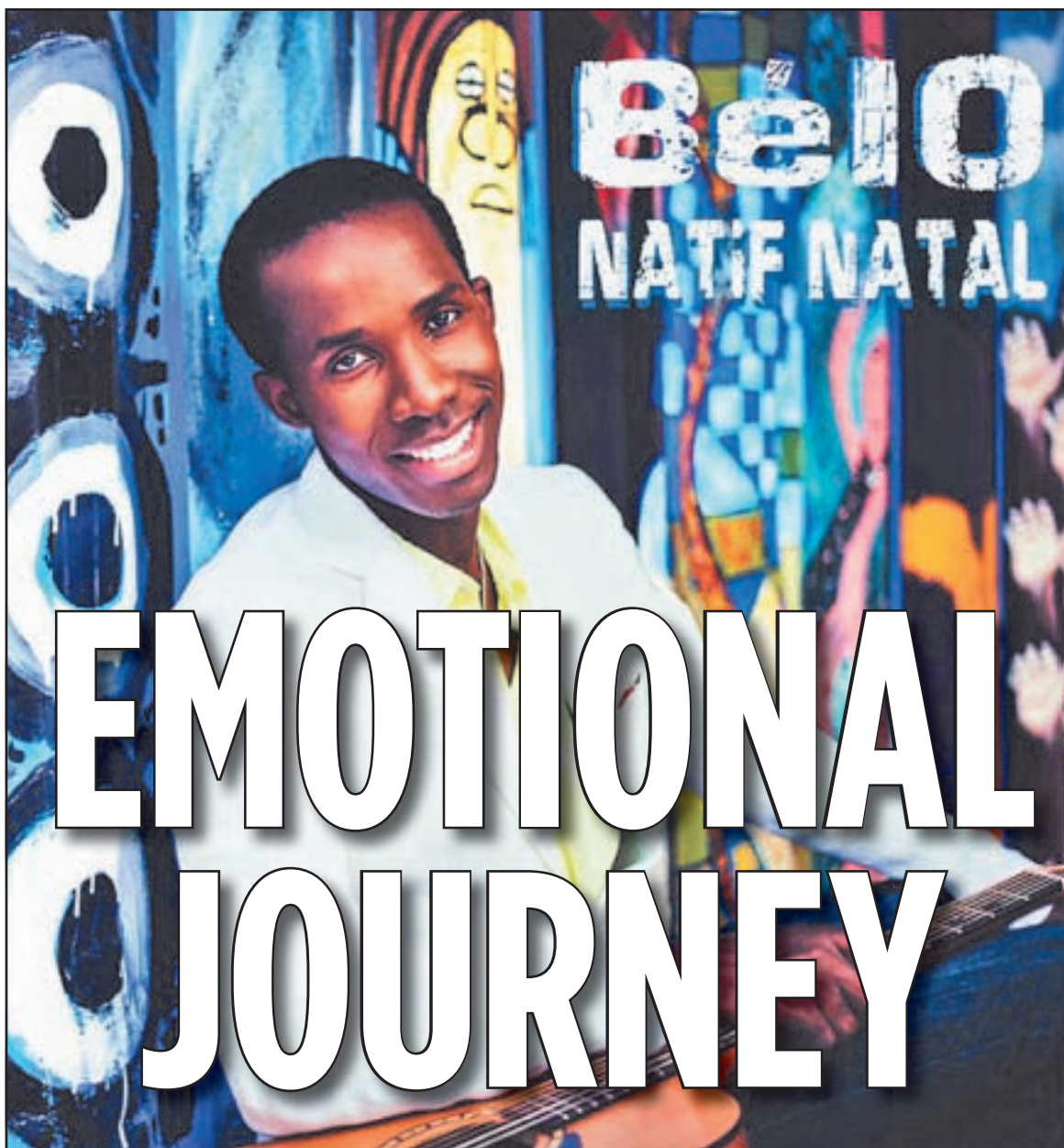
Barbadian-born Imogene Miller, a retired registered nurse from St. Michael, and Maureen Redman, an administrative assistant from Port of Spain, Trinidad, will vie with 13 other talented retirees at the John



Maureen Redman of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Cranford Adams Theatre at Hofstra University, located at 1000 Fulton Ave. in

Continued on Page 42



Album cover of BÉLO's, 'Natif Natal'.

BÉLO releases a new album

Haitian international artist BÉLO released his new album titled "Natif Natal" on April 9, 2014 with a worldwide tour, which began on April 11 at Artisphere, Virginia, where he performed in 2012 to a sold out concert. The Radio France International Discoveries winner's fourth album, "Natif Natal," is a journey of emotional social struggles, love and the need to belong.

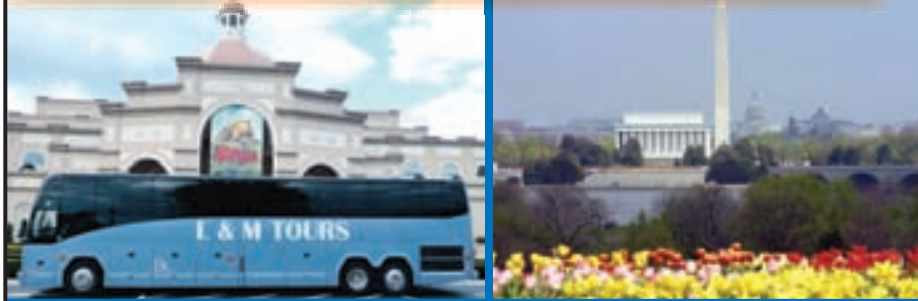
The social crusader is first a lyricist before a music composer, and it comes as no surprise that the first track, "Detripay" (Gutted), depicts the world being pulled apart from the inside out to reveal prostitution, human trafficking and rape. BÉLO's poetic vision and his colorful Kreyol proverbs are put on full display in "Natif Natal." A constant social spirit throughout the entire album

sending a message of hope (Track 4 Pa Lage), holding on to love (Track 10 Abondans), and despite critical labels of society one should be able to accomplish his/her mission in life (Track 9 Pa Koute Yo). "Natif Natal" is dedicated to mankind and the dream of a world without borders (Track 11 Citizen of World).

"Natif Natal" is produced by

Continued on Page 42

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Miss World Guyana launch party at Consulate of Guyana. Pictured are: Fashion Designer and committee member of MWG Organization, Michelle Cole, contestants Tiffany Magnath, Denicia Williams, Fashion Designer and Committee Member of MWG Organization Roger Gary, Contestants Atisha Gaskill, Rafieya Husain, Cherese James and Franchise Holder of MWG Organization, Natasha Martindale.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

New York launch for Miss Guyana World

By Tangerine Clarke

A flurry of excitement and flash bulbs greeted five of the eight contestants vying for the Miss World Guyana 2014 title when they arrived in the Big Apple last week for a soiree to kick-off the upcoming May 26 pageant in Georgetown. The official sashing of the contestants will take place on May 4 in Georgetown.

They were greeted at the Guyana Consulate by Consul General Brentnold Evans, who complimented them on their achievements, borrowing a quote from the great Chinese philosopher, Confucius who said, "The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential are keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence."

Patrons were then treated to a "catwalk" by the contestants who eloquently introduced themselves and their "Beauty With a Purpose Platform".

Miss Region 1 Barima-North West, Cherese James, a medical assistant and aspiring surgeon -- who is focused on becoming an advocate for the elderly

-- a cause that is close to her heart, looked elegant in a floor-length, sequined orange organza gown.

Twenty-one year old Rafieya Husain looked stunning in a gold mini dress; Miss Region 2 - Pomeroon-Supernaam, a Business Major student who hopes to become a CPA when she graduates from Manhattan College, is passionate about helping abused citizens through her domestic violence awareness BeautyW-with a Purpose platform.

Northern Virginia Community College student, Atisha Gaskill is Miss Region 4 (Demerara-Mahaicia). The lovely 19-year old freshman will graduate with a degree in forensic psychology and along the way will inspire her peers.

Denicia Williams will represent Region 5- Mahaica - Berbice. The 19-year old College of Staten Island Physical Therapy student hopes to impress the judges when she steps on stage wearing a red and gold topless mini-dress. Williams says she aspires to become a child psychologist. She will mentor autistic children and motivate them to

showcase their talents while pursuing their dreams. Her motto is "Your education is your liberations".

Tiffany Magnath, a Fordham University double-major, is proud to be on the Dean's List. Her course of study includes Communication and Media Studies, and Economics. Tiffany modeled a sleeveless mini sequin dress, designed with a V-neckline. As Miss Region 9 (Upper Taut-Essequibo_ she will advocate stamping out hunger in the world.

Other contestants not present were Ayana Whitehead, Miss Region 6 East Berbice Corentyne, Gericia Francis, Miss Region 8, Pataro-Sipanuri and Rebekah London, Miss Region 3, Essequibo Islands West Demerara.

Expressing her gratitude to the contestants, new franchise holder Natasha Martindale said the young women used an online resource to promote and improve themselves by learning proper etiquette and poise and receiving coaching tips to help them become the best ambassadors and role models.

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H.S. grad seeks bonding time with estranged dad

“Small Time”
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated R for sexual references.
Running time: 95 minutes
Distributor: Anchor Bay Films/Freestyle Releasing

By Kam Williams

Although Freddy Klein (Devon Bostick) is about to finish high school, he still hasn't decided whether to attend college in the fall. That's because he's considering taking a job as a salesman on his father's (Christopher Meloni) used car lot.

The very idea of it frustrates Freddy's mother (Bridget Moynahan) to no end, since she divorced Al years ago for being such a slippery character and poor provider. For that reason,

she raised her son without her ex's involvement.

Consequently, she's dismayed at the prospect of his serving as a role model upon belatedly coming back into the picture on graduation day. Predictably-unreliable Al even proceeds to screw up that occasion, arriving with his girlfriend (Garcelle Beauvais) too late to see his son walk across the stage. Nevertheless, Freddy opts to work and live with his long-estranged dad, an ill-advised decision which prompts his mom to warn, “I will hang myself, if he ends up like you.”

This is the intriguing point of departure of small time, a compelling, coming of age tale ostensibly inspired by a true story. The movie marks the directorial debut of veteran scriptwriter Joel Surnow, who is best known for the Emmy-winning TV series “24.”

Putting a unique spin on the



Dean Norris and Christopher Meloni star in the movie “Small Time.”

“last summer before college” genre, the film revolves around a father-son bonding opportunity as opposed to the familiar

escapist theme of hedonistic teens nostalgically reminiscing while bidding each other farewell in wanton fashion. Instead, we

soul who's understandably torn between moving on with his life and making up for lost time.

have Al and his partner (Dean Norris) showing Freddy the slimy tricks of the trade as the kid immediately takes to the sleazy profession like a fish to water.

Of course, this development is not lost on his worried mom who hates seeing her son emulating those slippery con artists. Ultimately, it all boils down to whether Freddy will continue down this checkered path or wise up and start school in September?

A refreshingly-realistic, slice-of-life drama highlighting the plight of a teen with a hole in his

Independent & Foreign Films

13 Sins (R for violence, profanity and bloody images) Remake of Game of Death (2006), a horror flick revolving around a down on his luck salesman (Mark Webber) manipulated to perform a series of increasingly sinister tasks for a promised prize of \$6.2 million. With Devon Graye, Rutina Wesley and Ron Perlman.

Authors Anonymous (PG-13 for suggestive material) Ensemble comedy about the envy which shows its ugly face in a support group of aspiring writers when their most recent member (Kaley Cuoco) becomes an overnight sensation. Cast includes Chris Klein, Teri Polo, Dylan Walsh and Dennis Farina.

Bank\$tas (Unrated) Buddy comedy about a couple of recent finance grads (Michael Seater and Joe Dinicol) who hatch a plan to prevent their crooked boss (Alan Thicke) from implementing a bank loan scheme designed to cheat millions of college students. With Grace Lynn Kung, Laura Vandervoort and Brandon Firla.

Cesar's Last Fast (Unrated) Farm workers' rights are the focus of this documentary chronicling the 36-day water



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

fast which would prove to be Chicano labor leader Cesar Chavez's final act of protest.

Fading Gigolo (R for profanity, sexuality and brief nudity) John Turturro wrote, directed and stars in the romantic comedy as a dashing Don Juan who woos wealthy widows in order to help out a cash-strapped pal (Woody Allen). Cast includes Sofia Vergara, Sharon Stone, Liev Schreiber, Jill Scott, Vanessa Paradis and Aida Turturro.

The Final Member (R for graphic nudity, phallic images, sexual references and brief profanity) Genitalia on ice documentary, set 30 miles from the Arctic Circle, extolling the effort of the world's only museum dedicated to the display of penises to add its first human specimen to its prized collection.

Half the Road (Unrated) Female empowerment documentary exploring the world of women's professional cycling.

Kid Cannabis (Unrated)

Idaho crime caper revisiting the real-life exploits of an 18-year-old, high school dropout (Jonathan Daniel Brown) who quit his job as a pizza delivery boy to build a multimillion dollar Marijuana empire. Featuring Ron Perlman, John C. McGinley, Aaron Yoo and Kenny Warmald.

A Promise (Unrated) Romance drama, set in Germany prior to the outbreak of World War I, revolving around a woman (Rebecca Hall) who falls in love with her husband's (Alan Rickman) young protégé (Richard Madden) and vows to wait for his return before the war separates them for a half-dozen years. With Toby Murray, Maggie Steed and Shannon Tarbet.

Vanishing Pearls: The Oystermen of Pointe a la Hache (Unrated) David vs. Goliath documentary, detailing a tiny, Louisiana fishing village's desperate struggle for justice since having their way of life ruined by the BP oil spill of 2010.

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



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

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **She Looks So Perfect (EP)**
5 Seconds Of Summer
- 2 **Frozen**
Soundtrack
- 3 **Head Or Heart**
Christina Perri
- 4 **La Gargola**
Chevelle
- 5 **Where It All Began**
Dan + Shay
- 6 **A Dotted Line**
Nickel Creek
- 7 **Cope**
Manchester Orchestra
- 8 **MKTO**
MKTO
- 9 **G I R L**
Pharrell Williams
- 10 **Pure Heroine**
Lorde

Presented by
verizonwireless

After midnight

Continued from page 39

The energy is electric and the talent is extraordinary so it's been fun every night," said Williams. "This is all music from the 1930s and 40s. Duke Ellington did all the arrangements. In fact, Wynton Marsalis first did the show at City Center about two years ago. So the musical has traveled its road having started off as a concept then becoming a Broadway show, "explained the singer/actress/Broadway star.

"After Midnight" is a 90-minute show without intermission. Generally the orchestra is in a pit but in this production the Jazz at Lincoln Center All Stars band is a featured part of the show and is allowed to demonstrate their own outstanding musical talents during the show.

"From the very beginning of the downbeat, you are on a ride. The audience can't stop tapping their feet. But it's the Harlem Renaissance era right up on stage. It's our history, our songbook. These are melodies you can't get out of your head and is an important part of our legacy" continued Vanessa.

The "After Midnight" producers also feature a slot called the Special Guest Star. Although all

the special guests do the same four numbers naturally they do it in their individual keys. "In my case," said Vanessa, "I dance. So, I get a chance to do new choreography that has never been done by anyone else. I am sure whoever comes after me will bring their own particular talents and specialties to the role as well. It's a joy whenever I am doing Broadway because it is something I love. Dule Hill is back in the show after some time away but he is back headlining with me, I know people may have seen his television show and may be unaware that Dule started off as a dancer. He has a background in tapping. Maybe some of you remember him in the "Tap Dance Kid," explained Ms. Williams.

I chatted with the entertainer about her roles in Ugly Betty and then later in Desperate Housewives. Vanessa discussed how actors must get used to immersing themselves into different roles. "I was Wilhelmina Slater in Ugly Betty and then was dropped into Wisteria Lane for my role in Desperate Housewives. Actors find themselves a different character in a different field and ambiance. Of course there are different writers and whole lot of different people to



Vanessa Williams.

work with. After four years of "Ugly Betty" I bonded with the ensemble cast, so naturally I miss the people in that show. You become a family. As an actor you take what you are given and emerge yourself into the moment. I stay in touch with my Ugly Betty cast members and even after I leave "After Midnight," I will stay in touch with some of the wonderful people I have met in the show."

When Vanessa ends her engagement in "After Midnight" on May 11 she is planning a two-week

tour in Japan. Then back to the U.S. where she will resume her role in "Trip to Bountiful" with Cicely Tyson and Blair Underwood in Los Angeles who takes over the role that Cuba Gooding filled in NY. Bountiful will run in LA until Nov. 2.

Listen to my show with Vanessa Williams on "Topically Yours" via <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/blakeradio/2014/04/10/topically-yours-vanessa-l-williams> on the BlakeRadio Network, Rainbow Soul.

Pageant

Continued from page 39

Hempstead. The event starts at 2:30 p.m.

The pageant that is promoting a positive image of aging will give Redman an opportunity to shine under the spotlight in her first effort to capture a title at the prestigious event.

Redman, a wife, and a mother who said she is enjoying this exciting time in her life, will be judged in a Q&A, and an evening gown segment where judges will evaluate the poise and appearance of each contestant.

Sporting a low-cut silver hairdo Redman said she wanted to challenge herself and show her children that beauty is ageless.

Redman, who has lived in the U.S. for 43 years, describes herself as friendly, outgoing, caring, and open minded. She will showcase her talent as a pan player - a skill she acquired as a member of the Blemann Steel Sounds of Brooklyn. Dancing and acting are talents she also possess.

Winning the \$1000 grand prize, would be wonderful said Redman, but her ultimately goal is to have



Barbadian-born Imogene Miller.

fun when she competes with her fellow contestants.

Like Redman, Miller is poised to bring home the cash prize, and the reign that would allow the winner to travel throughout the state as a role model showcasing the dignity, maturity and inner beauty of all senior Americans.

The winner will also compete in the nationals in Atlantic City.

Miller, who resided in London, England before immigrating to the United States 40 years ago, is looking forward to the pomp and excitement that comes with the pageant presentation.

Musical movement

Continued from page 39

Jean Belony Murat a.k.a BÉLO; arranged/final mixed by Andy Barrow. BÉLO refused to be shackled by the limitations of one genre and threw a wider net to capture various sounds for Natif Natal. "I am a native from Haiti, and I want to be part of the global musical movement," said BÉLO. Effortlessly, BÉLO's sound leaps from his native traditional Haitian roots, Rock/Pop, old school Reggae, vintage Bossa Nova and R&B. The structural shift across the whole album is very apparent. BÉLO's signature jazzy touch from his second album reappears while cultivating a more organic sound. BÉLO is known for being Haiti's live acoustic innovator, yet he has never recorded in that style. The recording features songs in a greener format like: a call-and-response chorus, acoustic guitar and Haitian Tambour (congas) arrangements (Track 4 Pa Lage & Track 13 Tinom).

The album showcases upcoming local Haitian vocalist like Mandela (Track 4 Pa Lage) and

Queen Bee (Track 10 Abondans), Haiti's renown rapper BIC (Track 6 Kase Tibwa) and the celebrated Haitian roots artist Eddy Francois - former lead singer of Grammy nominated group Boukman Eksperyans (Track 9 Pa Koute Yo). From different parts of the world numerous artists have contributed to this multi-inspirational album: Fabrice Rouzier, Clement Belizaire, Wesner St-Louis, Andy Barrow, Charleson Duverné, Hans Dominique (Bwagri), Harold St-Louis, Dony Felix, Johnson St Cyr, Kali, Carlomagno Araya, Ismael Vergara, Monica Frias, Alive for God (chorus group), and Alessandro Viviani.

On April 13, he participated in the Festival International Nuits d'Afrique de Montréal, Canada. April 16-19: France; April 26-27: International Festival de Louisiana; May 1-15: National tour in Haiti; May 23-25: Guadeloupe; May 30: Jamaica. Additional tour dates in Boston, Miami, New York, Europe and more on www.belohaiti.com. "Natif Natal" will be available on the iTunes Store.



Caribbean Life

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Where does your nominee currently work? _____

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Previous awards or professional recognition (if any): _____

What makes your nominee outstanding? (100 words or less): _____

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SUN KULCHA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRI., APR. 18

VARIETY SHOW: No Name... & A Bag O' Chips" comedy / variety show will feature Liam McEaney (Comedy Central's "Premium Blend"), alt-folk singer-songwriter Jessica Delfino ("Good Morning America") and sketch comedy collective Kokomo.(Upright Citizens Brigade). Showtime starts at 7:00 p.m. No cover, no minimum. Otto's is located at 538 E 14th St. (Between avenues A and B) "L" subway train to First Avenue. For more information, call (212) 228-2240 or go to: www.ottosshrunkenhead.com. Performers subject to change. For more "No Name," information, contact (347) 885-3466 /NoNameNYC@hotmail.com.

WED., APR. 23

PERFORMING ARTS: One of New York City's most esteemed and accomplished storytellers, Michele Carlo, will present an excerpt from her upcoming solo show, "Fish Out Of Agua" as part of the 9th Annual ONE Festival at the 4th Street Theater (83 E. 4th St.) in Manhattan, at 8:00 p.m. and "Fish Out Of Agua," developed in part with playwright/solo performer Peter Michael Marino ("Desperately Seeking The Exit"), is a 30-minute melding of theater, storytelling and performance art adapted from Michele's acclaimed memoir "Fish Out Of Agua: My life on neither side of the (subway) tracks," (Citadel/Kensington, 2010), the story of a redheaded Puerto Rican girl growing up in an Italian/Irish neighborhood in The Bronx who dared to dream of being an artist. Tickets are \$20.0 and Showtime 8:00 p.m. For additional information, go to: www.theonefestivalnyc.com.

SAT., APR. 26

HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO: Join us at the St. John's Health and Wellness Expo presented by Healthfirst, a free event open to the public from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the St. John's University, Queens campus. The day will feature interactive educational activities promoting a healthier lifestyle, including free health screenings, workshops and fitness challenges. Celebrity chefs, Elsie Ramos from FOX's Hell's Kitchen and Jeffrey K. Vaden from The Food Network, will host cooking demonstrations with recipe tastings, and the St. John's Red Storm Men's Basketball Team will host youth basketball clinics with kids in attendance. St. John's University, 8000 Utopia Parkway (in front of Carnesecca Room, Queens, NY 11439).

PROM DRESS GIVEAWAY: The L.A.C.E. Fashion Collision is an opportunity for less fortunate young men and women all across the city to receive graduation and/or prom attire. This event is free for all junior high and high school students and we depend solely on donations. Graduating students will not only receive a prom/graduation dress or suit this year, but they may receive shoes, accessories, and a makeup clinic. We also may have dresses for pre-schoolers who will be stepping up in June. Students with perfect grade point averages will

PROM DRESS GIVEAWAY

APR. 26: This event is free for all junior high and high school students and we depend solely on donations. Graduating students will not only receive a prom/graduation dress or suit this year, but they may receive shoes, accessories, and a makeup clinic. We also may have dresses for pre-schoolers who will be stepping up in June. Students with perfect grade point averages will be able to choose first and be entered in raffles to win brand new attire and special prizes. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at CS 21 180 Chauncey Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233.



STREET ART PANEL

APR. 18-24: Brooklyn Street Art. Brooklyn Street Art founders Steven P. Harrington and Jaime Rojo lead a dynamic, multimedia conversation that explores the evolution of street art stories as told by the earliest graffiti writers to today's D.I.Y. artists. Panel begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12; include Museum general admission and can be purchased at www.museumtix.com. Free for Museum Members; to reserve please email membership@brooklynmuseum.org. 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

be able to choose first and be entered in raffles to win brand new attire and special prizes. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at CS 21 180 Chauncey Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233.

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MUSIC: Dig Deeper is honored to present legends of ska, rocksteady, and reggae - the

three original members of The Gaylads - Harris "B.B." Seaton, Maurice Roberts, and Winston Delano Stewart in their first ever show together outside of Jamaica, performing this time under the name The Conscious Minds and backed by Crazy Baldhead, who will be opening the night with their own set. Doors at 9:00 p.m. with DJs; Live music starts at about 10:00 p.m.; live music ends by 12 midnight but DJs continue until closing. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. LittleField, 622 Degraw St., Brooklyn, NY 11217.

WED., APR. 30

CAREGIVING SUMMIT: EmblemHealth's NYC Partnership for Family Caregiving Corps and the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service: Be the Evidence Project will sponsor a day-long summit, "Family Caregiving: Name It; Know Its Many Faces" from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Family caregiving experts will come together for presentations, panel discussions and networking to discuss the challenges and rewards of caregiving and ways to support family caregivers. New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10029.

**ONGOING
FRI., APR. 11**

FREE PRE-KINDERGARTEN: For more information about FREE Pre-Kindergarten programs or to sign up, visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK/default.htm>. The deadline to apply for public schools is April 23.

TUES., APR. 15 - THURS., APR. 18

LEADERSHIP & YOUTH CONFERENCE: Need a Miracle? Join Peoples First Baptist Church from 6:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m., for the Leaders & Youth Conference in SE Queens at Occasions Banquet Hall, 127-08 Merrick Blvd., Springfield Gardens, NY. The workshops will bring insight, healing and restoration to the community and churches. Workshops include, How to Manifest Money by Faith; Social Media Bootcamp for Churches, How to Calm the Storms in Your Life, How to Get Out of a Financial Rut, Youth Gospel Fest, featuring gospel singer Carol Maraj, mother of superstar Nikki Minaj, as one of the judges. One young artist will win a chance to perform at BB Kings with Eve Soto, who is also a judge. Please pre-register at www.GetOutTheCage.org or (718) 297-3720.

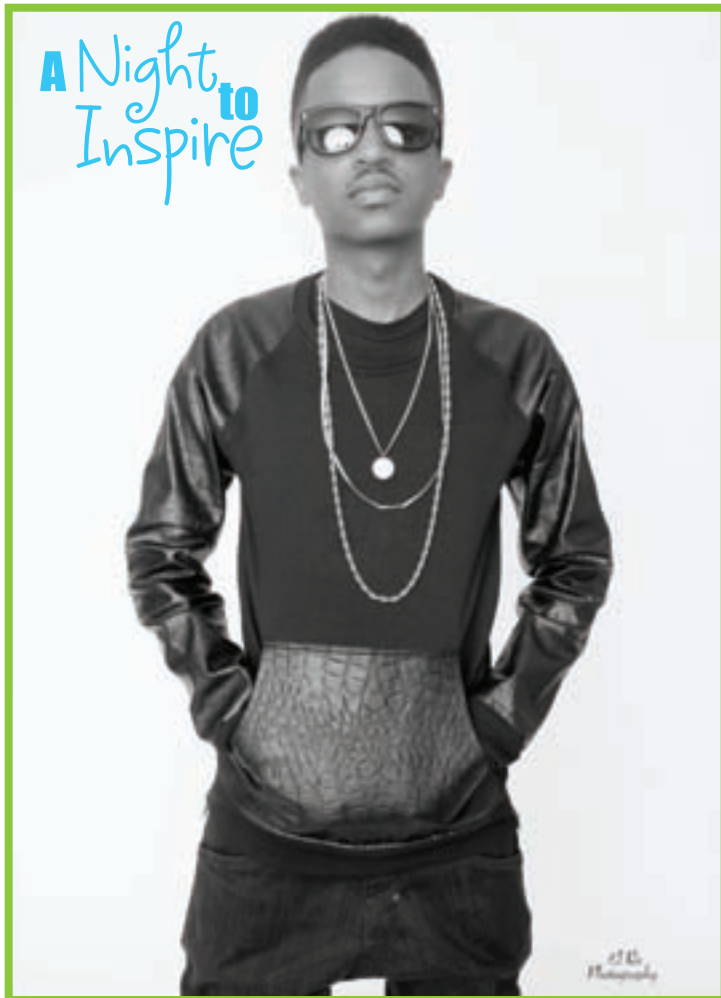
FRI., APR. 18 - THURS., APR. 24

STREET ART PANEL: The Brooklyn Museum presents In Conversation: Brooklyn Street Art. Brooklyn Street Art founders Steven P. Harrington and Jaime Rojo lead a dynamic, multimedia conversation that explores the evolution of street art stories as told by the earliest graffiti writers to today's D.I.Y. artists. They'll reveal secret backgrounds, show what stylistic themes are recurring today, and hint at the future of street art in New York. They are joined in conversation by artists Swoon and Luna Park, and curator Keith Schweitzer. A reception with a DJ, cash bar, and a guest-inclusive art-making project will follow. Presented in conjunction with the site-specific installation Swoon: Submerged Motherlands, on view in the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Gallery on the 5th Floor. Panel begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12; include Museum general admission and can be purchased at www.museumtix.com. Free for Museum Members; to reserve please email membership@brooklynmuseum.org. 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

PASSPORT APPLICATION CENTER: Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) launched a second Passport Application Center at the Kings Highway Library. 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.

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

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry



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SPORTS

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Red Bulls in waiting game

By Patrick Horne

Last Saturday's New York Red Bulls-DC United MLS showdown revealed the present tale of the two teams. Both teams, long-time Eastern Conference rivals, clearly are on different paths as a result of each club's off-season approach to the 2014 season. Host DC United (2-2-1, 7 pts.) won the contest, 1-0, at RFK Stadium on a goal by Davy Arnaud in the fourth minute to register its second win of the young, six-week-old season, while the Red Bulls (0-2-4, 4 pts.) are still searching for its first victory.

DC United had a disastrous season last year: it won only three games, lost 24 and drew seven and finished last in the Eastern Conference with the worst record in the entire league. In the off-season, it was vigilant in rebuilding the squad and brought in nearly an entire team. One of the new players was a Fabian Espindola from the Red Bulls, who had the assist on Saturday's winning goal. Among other new faces for DC United are U.S. national team forward Eddie Johnson, MLS veteran defender Sean Franklyn from Los Angeles Galaxy, Arnaud and Chris Rolfe from the Chicago Fire.

Conversely, the Red Bulls won the East-
Continued on Page 50

Bay Shore Carib Stars

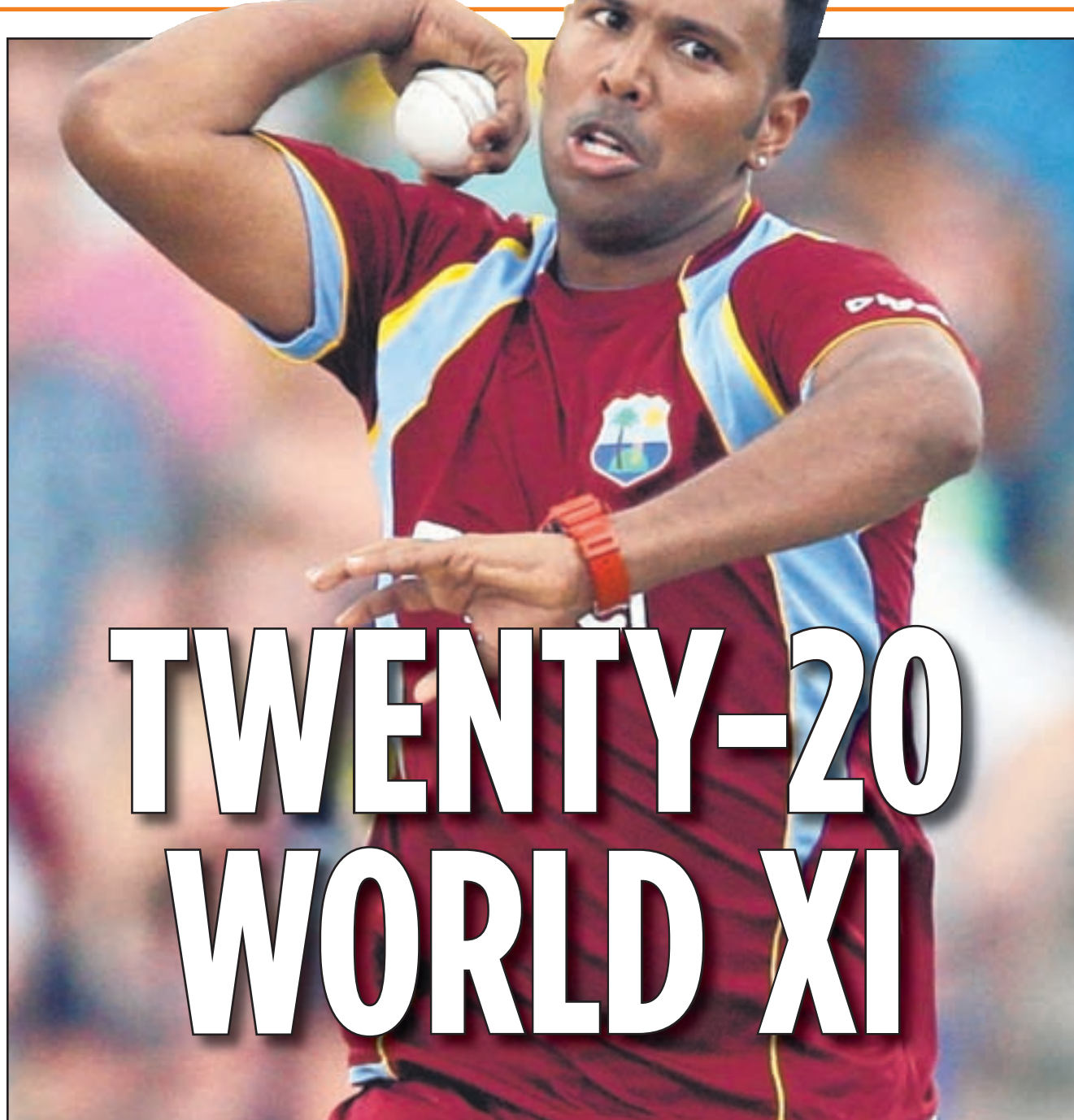
By Robert Elkin

The last field event in the Long Island Elite Track and Field Invitational at the indoor facilities of St. Anthony's High School marked the performance of the triple jump. And what a showing turned in by Bay Shore High School senior Omari Buckmire who recorded a 47' 2" jump.

In this event, he had three attempts in each of the preliminary and championship rounds in the triple jump.

All of his distances in the last round measured 45 feet. He made his winning jump on his first attempt of the initial round.

In addition to the triple jump, he competed in the long jump prior to the triple
Continued on Page 48



TWENTY-20 WORLD XI

West Indies' Samuel Badree bowls during the second Twenty20 International cricket match against England at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Tuesday, March 11, 2014.
AP Photo/Ricardo Mazalan

Three West Indies cricketers are named

By Azad Ali

Three West Indies cricketers have been named in a World Twenty20 XI. They are Trinidad and Tobago leg-spinner Samuel Badree, captain Darren Sammy and Jamaican Krishmar Santokie, who was named 12th man in the squad.

Badree was the Caribbean's leading wicket-taker in the recent ICC World Twenty20 in Bangladesh, with 11 wickets at a miserly average of 10.27.

The leg-spinner, who opened the bowling and regularly got early wickets while maintaining an economy rate of 5.65

said he was "delighted" to have made the World Twenty20 best 11.

Badree was ranked as the No. 1 Twenty20s bowler recently and was the lone Trinidadian to have been selected on the all-star team.

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Creditable performers on Windies team

Continued from page 47

While Sammy could not lead his team to a successful defense of the title they won in Sri Lanka in 2012, the all-rounder was recognized for his consistent and dynamic batting that earned him an average of 101.00 at a strike rate of 224.4.

Sammy's high score of 42 not out against Pakistan helped the West Indies set up an 84-run win that guaranteed them a semi-final spot.

Santokie, a left-arm seamer got honorable mention from the selection panel headed by match referee, the former Australian batsman David Boon, when he was named as the 12th man.

On the women's side, the West Indies also secured two selections in batters Stafanie Taylor and Deandra Dottin.

Mens' Team:

Rohit Sharma (India), Stephan Myburgh (Netherlands), Virat Kohli (India), JP Duminy (South Africa), Glen Maxwell (Australia), MS Dhoni India- captain, Darren Sammy (West Indies), Ravichandran Ashwin (India), Dale Steyn (South Africa), Samuel Badree (West Indies), Lasith Malinga (Sir Lanka), 12th player: Krishmar Santokie.



West Indies' Krishmar Santokie celebrates dismissing England's Moeen Ali, left, by LBW during their second T20 International cricket match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Tuesday, March 11, 2014. AP Photo/Ricardo Mazalan

Banned substances

Continued from cover

track, Powell lowered the world record in the 100 to 9.77 in 2005, then 9.74 in 2008 before being eclipsed by countryman Usain Bolt. Powell was the Jamaican athlete who first put Jamaica's dominating athletics prowess on center stage in the 21st century. But unlike Bolt, he could never win the big one.

The 31-year-old sprinter tested positive for the banned stimulant oxilofrone at Jamaica's national trials last June. He'd been suspended from competition since his doping case was disclosed in July.

Powell did not attend the Thursday session, but he issued a statement through his publicist saying his defense team will appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He described the ruling as "not only unfair, it is patently unjust."

Like former teammate Sherone Simpson, a three-time Olympic medalist who tested positive for the same stimulant at the national trials in June, Powell placed the blame on a newly-hired trainer who provided the two athletes with supplements, including one called "Epiphany D1" which lab tests later showed to contain oxilofrone.

"I have never knowingly taken any banned substances, I did all the necessary checks before taking Epiphany D1 and it is my hope that the CAS will prove to be a more open and fair avenue for the review of all the facts in my case," Powell said in his Thursday statement.

During hearings earlier this year, Powell testified that he received nine supplements from Canadian physiotherapist Christopher Xuereb, including Epiphany D1. Powell said he started taking the capsules in early June after he and a friend researched the supplement for up to six hours online and found no prohibited substances.

But Xuereb has said he never gave Powell or Simpson any performance-enhancing drugs and only purchased major brand vitamins. In July, he



Sherone Simpson of Jamaica was banned from her sport Tuesday, April 8, 2014, until Dec. 20 after testing positive for a banned substance.

AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus

asserted to The Associated Press that both athletes were looking for a scapegoat. Xuereb once worked at the Toronto clinic run by Anthony Galea, a sports physician who pleaded guilty to bringing unapproved and mislabeled drugs into the U.S. for house calls.

On the morning of the Jamaican trials, Powell said he took four capsules of Epiphany D1 at Xuereb's suggestion after previously taking two each morning. Powell ended up finishing in seventh place and failed to qualify for the world championships.

On Tuesday, Powell's former teammate Simpson was also banned until Dec. 20 after testing positive for oxilofrone. Her 18-month ban also began from the sample collection date at Jamaica's national trials. She will appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The two athletes, both represented by agent Paul Doyle, delivered nearly identical defenses.

The Jamaican disciplinary panel on Tuesday also issued a two-year ban for Olympic discus thrower Allison Randall, who is suspended until June 2015.

Earlier this year, sprinter Veronica Campbell-Brown was cleared of doping on appeal by CAS after testing positive for a banned diuretic at a Jamaican meet. The full reasons for the three-time Olympic gold medalist's exoneration have not yet been released, but CAS said the ruling was based on faulty sample collection.

Born in a family of athletes

Continued from page 47

one. He fouled out, as long jumping is not his main event.

His 47'2" tied his personal best performance which he established last year.

In the State Qualifying meet, he turned in a 46' 6" effort, and a week prior to this meet, came the Suffolk County meet, in which he tripled jumped 45' 11."

"I love these facilities," he said about the St. Anthony's one in Huntington, New York. "I got my personal best here in the triple jump as a freshman. It's always been a pleasure to come and jump here. I'm getting back into good shape from last year when I injured my heel."

Buckmire won the long and triple jumps at the Rhode Island Classic for the past two years and is ranked first on Long Island in the triple jump in the

"The difference between living in Trinidad and in America is that the schools, people and weather conditions were much different."

time of the Elite Meet.

Originally Buckmire came from the Caribbeans where he played soccer for a club. Born and raised in Trinidad and Tobago,

Buckmire came from an athletic family Omari's mother Sherin Stoe Thomas was a runner and his father Junior Gabriel Buckmire was a soccer player. But the latter's father passed away when he was three years old.

"The reason that I got into track was because she beat me all the time in races," the student athlete recalled. "So I said 'I'm tired of this ; so I did track, just to get back at her."

He was raised in the City of Port n Spain where the main sports were cricket, soccer and running. He gave up soccer when he was in the sixth grade in the Caribbean."

"I played cricket but I

wasn't that good at it," he recalled. "That wasn't my sport."

He and his family came from Trinidad to Brooklyn where they spent four months and later moved to Bay Shore.

"The difference between living in Trinidad and in America is that the schools, people and weather conditions were much different," said Buckmire.

In the fall, he trains for the track team and plays soccer with his friends. He ran cross country as a freshman but didn't like it and gave it up.

"My goals for the outdoor season is to jump 5'2" and to make it to the Olympics," he added.



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<p>2011 INFINITI FX35 AWD</p> <p>BUY FOR \$33,995</p> <p>Stk #U4632, V6, auto, nav, moonroof, lthr, back up cam, bluetooth, White, 30,345 mi.</p>	<p>2011 INFINITI QX56 AWD</p> <p>BUY FOR \$43,995</p> <p>Stk #U4680, 26,041 mi., V6, auto, Bluetooth, nav, leather, moonroof, dvd, back up cam</p>
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MLS All Star Davy Arnaud works with a ball during practice at Rio Tinto Stadium, for the MLS All Star game in Sandy, Utah, Tuesday, July 28, 2009. MLS All Star game will be held Wednesday July 29, 2009 in Sandy, Utah. AP Photo/George Frey, File

Finding a passion for Red Bulls

Continued from page 47
ern conference and the Supporters' Shield with the best record in the league at 17 wins, nine losses and eight draws. This success should be fuel to repeat and even go further to win the MLS Cup; it should be motivation to improve the team, ride the victory wave to attract better players to start a winning tradition. Instead, the Red Bulls fell well short of improvement.

The major losses in the off-season were central defender Marcus Holgersson, fullback Heath Pierce and Espindola; the major acquisitions - central defender Armando, fullback Richard Eckersley and midfielder Bobby Convey - don't compensate for the off-season losses.

The most dire consequence of not improving the team is that there seems to be no competitive team spirit, probably because there is hardly any competition for starting positions. This is evident because the Red Bulls get off to slow, lethargic starts, void of any passion win; when the team falls behind, the players then become energized and stage unorganized and desperate forays on an opponent's goal, but in most instances,

they run out of time.

Head coach Mike Petke seems to have recognized the team's shortcomings and with only six games played, he has time to find ways to make his team play with passion and purpose from the opening whistle. The Red Bulls plays the Philadelphia Union next; meanwhile, DC United is developing a winning momentum and is looking to its third straight win, against the Columbus Crew on Saturday.

AROUND MLS

U. S. men's national team coach Jurgen Klinsmann would be relieved to know that his top player, Clint Dempsey, has scored five goals in his last two games; Dempsey's latest performance saw him score two goals to lead a Seattle Sounders rally for a 3-2 win over previously unbeaten host FC Dallas at Frisco Park.

David Texeira put Dallas ahead early, but Dempsey equalized, 1-1, before Dallas forged ahead again, 2-1, for the halftime lead. Seattle turned up the pressure to force an own goal before Dempsey tapped in Chad Barrett's cross for the winner. In Philadelphia's PPL Park, the Union and Real Salt

Lake played to a 2-2 draw. Trailing in the 90th minute, it took a Maurice Edu's header off Christian Maidana's corner kick to save the day for the Philadelphia Union.

Luke Mulholland scored to give RSL the early lead; Andrew Wenger tied the game for the Union and Kyle Beckerman gave RSL its second lead five minutes before the end to set up the dramatic finish with Edu's header. Host New England Revolution got goals from Kevin Alston and Honduras international Jerry Bengtson to lead the home team a 2-0 win over the Houston Dynamo. Colorado Rapids and new coach Pablo Mastroeni keep on winning, this time veteran forward Edson Buddle scored his 99th career goal to give the Rapids the 1-0 victory over host Toronto FC at BMO Field. Toronto was without its top stars, U. S. international Michael Bradley and English international Jermain Defoe.

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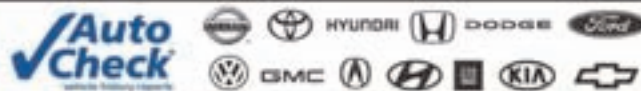
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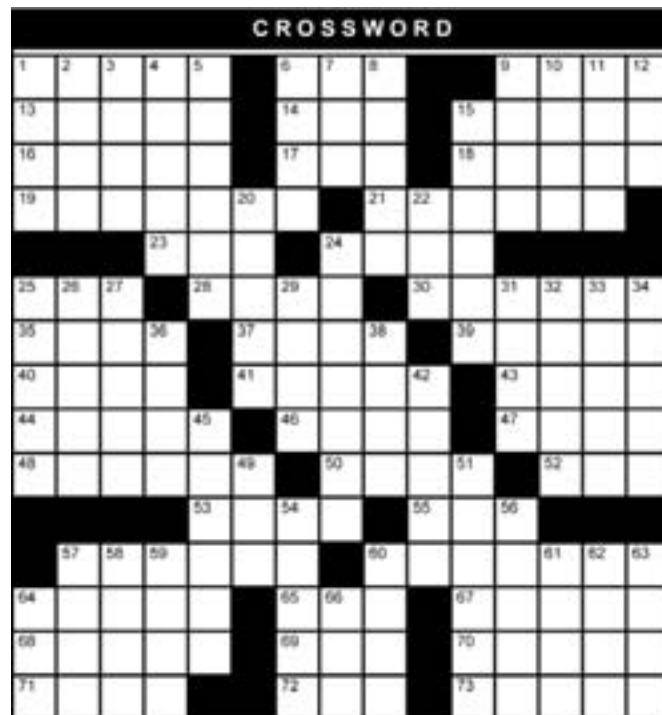
1. Top of Lady Liberty
6. *Scrappy-Doo, Scooby's nephew
9. Most vital part of idea or experience
13. D-Day beach
14. "Home of the brave"
15. Wash oneself
16. Committee or special group
17. Big ___ Conference
18. Gastric woe
19. *Ma or Pa or Laura
21. *Claire or Phil or Luke
23. Chinese "way"
24. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ___"
25. Madonna's iconic stagewear
28. Arizona Indian
30. Rub elbows
35. Animal house
37. Supernatural life force
39. a.k.a. Pleasant Island
40. Editing choice on computer
41. *"The Jetsons" genre
43. Largest organ of human body
44. Get ready to drive
46. Alpine transport
47. Pay attention
48. In this document
50. Show horse type

52. Like a fox
53. Toothy wheel
55. In the capacity of
57. *Danny or D.J. or Michelle
60. *Lorelai or Rory or Emily
64. Small and elegant
65. "Dear" one
67. Cut at an angle
68. Convert a book into a screenplay, e.g.
69. Schiller's "___ to Joy"
70. Perpendicular to the keel
71. Combustible heap
72. This instant
73. *Tim's "Home Improvement" son

DOWN

1. Serengeti antelope
2. Arab League member
3. Called
4. Use crib notes
5. Sabbath loaf
6. Places
7. Don't waste
8. Mostly vegetarian bear
9. Explore by touch
10. It makes one scratch
11. He plus she
12. ___ Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II
15. Swelling on foot
20. Rumpelstiltskin's machine, pl.

22. "Gross!"
24. Extra room charge
25. *Michael or Buster or Lindsay
26. Hindu queen
27. Support person
29. End to hostilities
31. Quite a party
32. Little Boy and Fat Man, e.g.
33. Architectural projection
34. *Peggy or Kelly or Al
36. Profligate
38. A long way off
42. Baghdad resident
45. Kind of hickory nut
49. Born
51. Involving the medulla oblongata
54. Match play?
56. Naked protozoa
57. Not a slob
58. Slightly open
59. Uh-uh
60. *The kids never did this on "The Simpsons"
61. Baker's baker
62. Go through volumes
63. Lined with elm trees
64. Small loaf of soft bread
66. *Mike and Carol said it on "The Brady Bunch" pilot



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, your energy needs an outlet. Exercise is a productive way to expend yourself, so stretch at your desk, skip the elevator for the stairs or take a walk at lunchtime.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Untangle yourself from conflicts at work, Taurus. This is not the time to get involved in anything that may put your chances for a promotion in jeopardy.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
You are full of intellectual energy, Gemini. Answers to trivia show questions come easily to you and you're ready to solve the world's most pressing problems.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, give your finances serious consideration this week. Find a solid plan for saving and stick with it because you are going to need extra funds in a few months.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Expect some great news to come your way this week, Leo. This news may impact your personal or professional life, or even both. Ready yourself.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, be flexible with your schedule so you can go with the flow as much as possible this week. Try something silly that will put you in a good mood.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Don't sweat the small stuff, Libra. Others are more focused on the bigger picture so you don't need to fret over everything. Relax and things will come together nicely.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Watch out for any impulses that are out of character for you, Scorpio. You could be feeling like abandoning your usual *modus operandi* in favor of taking a more risky approach.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
You have lots of social energy this week, Sagittarius. Others are relying on you, and you are likely to have many admirers by the week's end. Take this opportunity to improve.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, daily life can be tiring, but you need to find a way to muster a little more energy. Get adequate rest and eat right so you have the energy you need in the week ahead.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Life gets a bit interesting this week, Aquarius. Embrace change, even if the concept of change is alien to you. It is good to get out of your shell.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, now might be a good time to reflect and take a break from the hustle and bustle. See if you can fly solo for a little while.

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS
-----X
Adelene Altenor Plaintiff,
-against-
Albertony Altenor Defendant.
-----X
Index No.: 51129/14
Date Summons filed: 3/14/14
Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial
SUMMONS WITH NOTICE
Plaintiff/Defendant resides at: 894 Eastern Pkwy, #2, Brooklyn, NY 11213
ACTION FOR A DIVORCE
To the above name Defendant:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff with twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below.
Dated 3/05/2014
A. Altenor Plaintiff
Phone No.: 347-598-0596
Address: 894 Eastern Pkwy, #2, Brooklyn, NY 11213
Notice: The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties, on the grounds: **DRL § 170 subd. 2 - abandonment.
The relief sought is a judgement of absolute divorce in favor of the Plaintiff dissolving the marriage between the parties in this action.
The nature of any ancillary or additional relief requested (see p.14 of Instruction) is: NONE - I am not requesting any ancillary relief
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS
Index No.: 11474/05
Date Summons filed: 4/15/05
Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial The basis of venue is: Plaintiff

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against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below.
Dated 3/05/2014
A. Altenor Plaintiff
Phone No.: 347-598-0596
Address: 894 Eastern Pkwy, #2, Brooklyn, NY 11213
Notice: The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties, on the grounds: **DRL § 170 subd. 2 - abandonment.
The relief sought is a judgement of absolute divorce in favor of the Plaintiff dissolving the marriage between the parties in this action.
The nature of any ancillary or additional relief requested (see p.14 of Instruction) is: NONE - I am not requesting any ancillary relief
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS
Index No.: 11474/05
Date Summons filed: 4/15/05
Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial The basis of venue is: Plaintiff

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resides at 94 Chauncey Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233 ACTION FOR A DIVORCE LARRY PARKER Plaintiff, -against- GWENDOLYN PARKER Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to serve a notice of appearance of the Plaintiff's Attorney with twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you with in the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below. NOTICE: the nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties, on the grounds: DLR §170(2) The relief sought is a judgment of absolute divorce in favor of the Plaintiff dissolving the marriage between the parties in this action. The nature of any ancillary or additional relief demanded is: NONE Law Office

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Of Grace Nwachukwu Plaintiff's Attorney(s), 4703 Avenue D, Suite 2R, Second Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11203. Tel.: 718-629-5888
Carb- 03/28, 04/04,11, 2014

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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 15th day of May, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. Said premises known as 795 East 39th Street, Brooklyn, 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.

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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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On April 29, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held in the City Council Committee Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Manhattan, for the purpose of considering a local law which authorizes additional services and modifying existing services for the district in the Church Avenue Business Improvement District.

Wireless Telecommunications Facility - Collocation 2108 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, New York, New York PUBLIC NOTICE: Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to modify wireless telecom-

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munications antennas at an elevation of 96 feet above ground and supporting equipment on the existing building at 2108 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, New York, New York, 10027. Public comments regarding potential effects from the site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Marianne Walsh, E2PM, 87 Hibernia Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866 or by electronic mail to: marianne.walsh@e2pm.com, and please refer to E2PM Tracking Number P-14-02-08."

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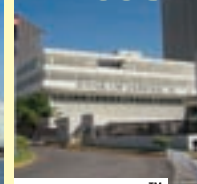
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