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BROOKLYN/STATEN ISLAND EDITION

Dec. 26, 2014 - Jan. 1, 2015



Santa brings cheer

Kids with Santa at the Interfaith Medical Center Winter Wonderland on Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn. See story on page 8.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

Caribbean pols revile killing

By Nelson A. King

Caribbean legislators in New York have condemned the killing on Saturday afternoon, at point-blank range, of two police officers by a gunman, who, officials said, had traveled to New York from Baltimore vowing

to kill officers.

Police Commissioner William J. Bratton told reporters Saturday night that the officers were sitting in a police patrol car, outside a housing project in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, when the gun-

man walked up to them and shot them dead.

Bratton said the suspect then committed suicide with the same gun, after police closed in on him, as he fled down the stairs of a nearby subway station.

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DEATH PENALTY DEBATE

Kamla wants to restart hanging

By Bert Wilkinson

Like all prime and national security ministers before her, Trinidad's Kamla Persad-Bissessar is so frustrated with the number of annual murders in Trinidad that she is now leading a revived and spirited campaign to resume hangings for criminals convicted of cold blooded murders.

As this week began, official records were showing that 399 people had been murdered so far for the year and given the fact that a killing occurs every 36 hours on the twin-island republic with Tobago, the final tally will likely be closer to 410 or so before the year closes.

The prime minister who faces a general election by mid September that polls show she and her umbrel-

la People's Partnership (PP) would most likely lose, the head of government at the weekend vowed to retable a death penalty hanging bill back to parliament for approval as a means of stemming the continuous flow of blood in Trinidad.

The first attempt failed two years ago because the opposition had refused to side with government, disagreeing with some of the clauses. Whether the cabinet will lobby the opposition or meets its demands for amendments is unclear but those in authorities say there are simply too many murders and the country could not be happy with its ranking as the 10th most murderous state in the world. In 2008 for example, there were 550 mur-

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Sankofa pupils lead pre-Kwanzaa celebration

By Eulene Inniss

The children of Sankofa International Academy in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, held a pre-Kwanzaa celebration for the community on Friday with a ceremony that embodied a true understanding of the Principles of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa, an African American holiday, is celebrated from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. It embodies seven principles known as the “Nguzo Saba” and there are also seven symbols which are associated with the ceremony.

When Dr. Maulana Karenga founded this holiday in 1966, he probably did not envision children internalizing the seven fundamental Principles in such a passionate and committed way as to be able to demonstrate them with emotionality and ownership to the elders of the community. Kwanzaa means “first fruit.”

The pupils, ages 6-14, all dressed in African attire, and led by Kelsey Hair, explained the meaning of Kwanzaa. Individual students explained the seven symbols which were on the display table. They were: a decorative mat (Mkeka), on which other symbols are placed; corn (Muhindi); a candle holder (Kinara) with seven candles (Mishumaa Saba); a unity cup for libations (Kikombe cha Umoja) and gifts (Zawadi). This detailed introduction was followed by the naming of the seven Principles of Kwanzaa; Umoja (Unity); Kujichagulia (Self determination); Ujima (Collective work and Responsibility); Ujamaa (Cooperative economics); Nia (Purpose); Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith) as students, in their own words, explained the meaning of each principal as it pertains to the African culture. The ceremony culminated with the singing of, “The seven days of Kwanzaa” and exchanging of Zawadis, hand made gifts.

City Councilmember Inez Barron, a Sankofa supporter attended the ceremony. She said that she, “is always fascinated by the abilities of the Sankofa students and the fresh approach they bring to cultural lessons.” The community residents and parents in attendance were encouraged to see the youths give their own rendition of the ceremony and, Neddi Stoute, wife of renowned Jazz Artist Ed Stoute, was brought to tears. She said, “I have traveled all over the country and gone to Kwanzaa celebrations among the most educated in the highest of places, but never, have I been so moved by any of the ceremonies.



Residents queue for free Christmas turkey.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Free turkeys for the holidays

By Nelson A. King

In keeping with its objectives of assisting “those pure and lofty principles, which are in the interest of humanity,” the Brooklyn-based Independent United Order of Mechanics, Friendly Society, Western Hemisphere, Inc. on Saturday provided free turkeys for the holidays to members of the community.

According to Jamaican-born Glenver Jones, grand treasurer, the Order’s Charitable Foundation arm distributed 360 turkeys to community residents outside the Order’s Bedford-Stuyvesant headquarters at 65-67 Putnam Ave., Brooklyn.

“The reception was excellent,” Jones, who is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Business and Technology at La Guardia Community College, Long Is. City, Queens, told Caribbean Life in an interview, as a crowd gathered around a truck where the “goodies” were distributed.

“We anticipated a large turn-out because of the work we do in the community,” added Jones, disclosing that recipients, who presented coupons in order to redeem their turkeys, were notified primarily through area churches, day care centers and block associations.

He said the Order purchased the turkeys for \$10,000, and that they were distributed between 1:00 and 4:00 pm



Grand Treasurer Glenver Jones.

Photo by Nelson A. King

on Saturday.

Jones said it was the first time that the Order launched such event on a “macro level,” adding that the fraternity hopes to make it an annual affair.

“We want the (wider) community to be aware of our function within the community,” he said, adding that the organization also wants the city to be “aware of the Independent United Order of Mechanics.”

Throughout the year, the Order offers assistance to others by, among other things, providing scholarships

to high school students, hosting a community Thanksgiving Luncheon on Thanksgiving Day and conducting a toy drive during the Christmas season.

The Order, which was established in 1757, with headquarters in Lancashire in England, was later incorporated, with head office in New York City.

Jones said the Order – with branches in Europe, Central America and the Caribbean – has a youth sector in which “boys and girls between the ages of eight and 18 can join.”

The Adult section is referred to as lodge (for males) and chapter (for females), Jones said.

“The Order is open to men and women of reputable character; integrity; law-abiding; and, first and foremost, must believe in a true and living God,” he said.

Jones said he was grateful to Panamanian-born Councillor Cecileo Leacock and Jamaican-born Sis. Hyacinth Robinson for working with him on the “Turkey Project.”

He also expressed gratitude to other members of the fraternity for their support and cooperation, including Grand Master Jamaican-born Clive Ascar Sang, the executive committee, the district grand masters, and the “brothers and sisters who assisted with the program today (Saturday).”

Antigua

The Antigua and Barbuda government says the efforts by the owners of a hotel on the island to have Prime Minister Gaston Browne jailed over an outstanding multimillion dollar debt by the government have failed.

In a statement recently the government said the owner of Half Moon Bay were seeking the payment of outstanding debt, "owed for forced acquisition of the property."

The statement said a High Court has ruled Prime Minister Browne cannot be held in contempt for not paying the debt.



"The country is not in a position to pay Half Way Moon Bay US\$40 million. We do understand they are owed and we do understand the principle in the constitution when you acquire someone's property that you have to pay them. We recognize that in law there is no discretion. We must pay," Browne said in a statement.

The prime minister said paying a lump sum of EC\$208 million would mean no payment for pensioners and sending home government workers.

He accused the owner of the hotel of "being greedy."



Jamaica's Truth Commission

In this Dec. 8, 2014 photo, market vendor Adina Derby takes an oath before testifying to a truth commission about the 2010 state of emergency when security forces conducted a raid to capture a gang kingpin that killed at least 76 civilians and one soldier, at a conference center in Kingston, Jamaica. "They come with blood in their eyes to kill off everybody!" Derby exclaimed, describing how she was shot in the back while trying vainly to save her wounded 20-year-old son by pushing him on a handcart to a nearby hospital.

Associated Press / David McFadden

Barbados

The Barbados government said it has signed an agreement with Trinidad and Tobago that would protect local fishermen and vessels from being detained in each other's territorial waters.

A government statement said that the Protocol on Common Procedures for dealing with the issue was signed recently by non-resident High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago Robert Morris and Trinidad and Tobago Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Dookeran.



"The protocol is designed to be reciprocal in nature and will set out standards and procedures on how fishing vessels and crew are handled in the event that they are detained or arrested by either party," the statement said.

The high commissioner stated that the signing of the protocol by Barbados was in keeping with the management of the Caribbean Sea and its resources and the development of the blue economy. The blue economy refers to the use of maritime resources for development.

Haiti

Thousands of anti-government protestors have clashed with police in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince.

They burned tires and threw stones at officers who responded with tear gas.

The protestors want President Michel Martelly and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe to resign and long overdue elections to be held.

Some protestors accuse the U.S. of supporting Haiti's leadership and called on Russian President Vladimir Putin for help.

Hundreds succeeded in reaching the National Palace, an area which has been restricted for several years.

President Martelly was supposed to call elections in 2011, but the elections have been postponed in a stalemate between the government and a group of opposition senators over election law.



Haiti is still struggling to recover from a 2010 earthquake.

Jamaica

A fact-finding panel appointed to examine a bloody 2010 security operation in Jamaica has started its work in the island's capital.

The three-member commission is led by Sir David Simmons, a retired chief justice and ex-attorney general of Barbados.

The panel recently convened and has started holding hearings two weeks ago and will resume in 2015.

They will examine a 2010 operation



during a state of emergency that killed more than 75 people as police and soldiers hunted for the island's biggest gang boss, Dudas Coke.

Most of the bloodshed occurred in a Kingston slum called Tivoli Gardens.

Jamaica's public defender has said 76 civilians and one soldier were killed.

There have been numerous claims of unlawful killings by the security forces.

St. Lucia

A British MP has called on the United Kingdom government to assist with the investigation into the murder of prominent hotelier Oliver Gobat, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has reported.

It said that the Conservative MP for Eser and Walton, Dominica Raab made the request during a sitting of the British parliament.

"The foreign secretary knows my constituent Ollie Gobat was brutally murdered in St. Lucia in an apparent assassination. I'm very grateful discussing assurances on the death penalty to allow the UK police to support the investigation at St. Lucia's request," Raab said.

However, the issue of contention is that the United Kingdom cannot examine cases where a suspect could face the death penalty.

While the death penalty has not been

applied in St. Lucia for 19 years, the island has not abandoned the old law.

British Foreign Minister James Dudgeon told legislators that he had written to Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony on Oct. 14, to seek assurances that any person convicted of this crime will not have the death penalty applied.

Gobat's body was found in his Range Rover on Cap Estate on April 25, 2014 burnt beyond recognition.

His family has offered an EC\$500,000 reward to find the killer or killers.

Suriname

Police say they have arrested and charged five Brazilian men suspected of robberies in the gold fields.

They said four of those detained were held in connection with a fatal robbery last month when gunmen ambushed a boat on a river in District Sipaliwini and shot and killed Brazilian Renato Alves de Carvalho.

The victim was traveling with his employer, who was subsequently kidnapped by the robbers and released only after the bandits stole several kilos of gold from him.

Police have charged the four suspects with aggravated robbery and murder. The men are between the ages of 19 and 36.

Police gave few details about the inci-

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Hanging back on T&T agenda



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar. AP Photo/Anthony Harris

Continued from cover

ders on the island, many blamed on drug and gang activities.

“We will continue with initiatives and some new initiatives. In fact, I have asked the attorney general to bring back the hanging bill for cabinet’s consideration, so we look again to introduce the death penalty for homicides, for murders. We have brought down serious crimes but the murders still remain too high and, therefore, I want cabinet to reconsider the introduction of the death penalty and to take that legislation to parliament,” she told reporters.

Apart from the defeat of the bill in parliament, efforts by governments around the Caribbean to implement the death penalty, by hanging for the most part, have been frustrated by international bodies such as the United Nations human rights appeals division which has in many instances forced authorities to hold their hands while reviews over prolonged periods are done.

Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad, the countries with the largest number of convicted prisoners on death row, last succeeded in carrying out judicial executions more than a decade ago. Their efforts to proceed with the death penalty were also frustrated by a UK Privy Council decision in the 90s which had

basically said that a prisoner on death row for more than five years would have been subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment and conditions. That forced governments to convert sentences to life or less.

The most famous of these occurred in Trinidad in 1999 when the administration of Prime Minister Basdeo Panday hanged nine men, including ‘businessman’ Dole Chadee who was at the time considered the Pablo Escobar of the region.

Persad-Bissessar said there was “empirical data” linking state executions with a reduction in violent crime and she thinks this scenario will play itself exactly along these lines in Trinidad.

Attack on New York

Continued from cover

“On behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District of New York and all people of good will from throughout our city, I would like to share my most profound condolences with the families and friends of the two police officers, Officer Wenjian Lui and Officer Rafael Ramos, who gave their lives in service to Brooklyn, and our city, and were killed today in the line of duty,” Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke told Caribbean Life.

“I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the entire New York City Police Department, the men and women who make New York City the one of the safest cities in the world,” she added.

“Murderous and violent attacks on the public servants who are charged with the duty of protecting our public safety are a threat to all of us. This heinous act was despicable and inexcusable. This assassination was, indeed, an attack on our entire city,” Clarke continued.

New York City Councilman Jumaane D. Williams who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn, said: “It pains me to hear the officers were executed in the most cowardly fashion imaginable, apparently by someone from out-of-town.

“No one of good conscience could encourage or tolerate horrors such as what has occurred today (Saturday),” said Williams, the Deputy Leader of

the City Council and co-chair of the Council’s Taskforce to Combat Gun Violence.

“Tomorrow (Sunday), as the investigation continues and no matter where the facts lead, the memories of this tragedy must serve as an additional guide to any discourse that may soon come,” added Williams, a frequent critic of NYPD policing tactics.

Bratton said the suspected assassin, Ismaaiyl Brinsley, 28, fired several rounds into the heads and upper bodies of Liu, 32, and Ramos, 40, who never had a chance to draw their guns, adding that police have recovered a silver semiautomatic handgun that Brinsley reportedly used in the fatal shootings.

The police commissioner also disclosed that Brinsley, who had a long rap sheet of crimes, including robbery and carrying a concealed gun, reportedly shot his ex-girlfriend near Baltimore before traveling to Brooklyn.

Brinsley had made statements on social media suggesting that he planned to kill police officers and was angered about the Eric Garner and Michael Brown cases, in which two grand juries — one in Staten Island, New York and the other in Ferguson, Missouri — declined to indict two white police officers for killing two unarmed black men, according to the New York Times.

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BOOTH FOR RENT



Christmas treat for Vincentian kids

Kids get presents, photo with Santa

By Nelson A. King

After making most of their income throughout the year during the Christmas season, several Vincentian businesses in New York say it was befitting to give back to the community by hosting an extraordinary treat for children.

Hundreds of Vincentian children and their parents participated in the special Christmas Party Sunday afternoon/evening at Café Omar in Brooklyn.

"This is the biggest event I've ever had," Gideon "Fessy" Yorke, owner of Standard Shippers on Clarendon Road in Brooklyn, adjacent to Café Omar, who hosted the event in conjunction with Solid Band, Minors Catering and Friends, in a Caribbean Life interview.

"This is very good," added Yorke, who has been hosting the party for the past eight years. "We appreciate all the people who donated their time and toys. We look forward to bigger and better things next year."

Yorke said the kids, including toddlers, were treated to free gifts, entertainment and food.

Many kids also participated in karaoke, arts and craft, face-painting, and sat on Santa's lap.

One of the "friends," Ruby Wood, owner of Square Deal Shippers and Movers on Church Avenue in Brooklyn, said she contributed to the event for



Kids, toddlers and parents surround Santa during Christmas Party at Cafe Omar in Brooklyn.

Photo by Nelson A. King

the second successive year.

"It's good that he's (Yorke) giving back to the community," she told Caribbean Life. "Thanks to everyone who supported us (Square Deal Shippers and Movers) over the years."

Steve Minors, owner of Minors Catering, said he was delighted to prepare "all the food" free of charge.

"I feel wonderful just to see how the kids are happy," he said. "And I think we need more of this — bringing people together."

Newly appointed Deputy New York Counsel General Sehon Marshall also attended the party.

"It's, indeed, a pleasure to be here and to bring greetings, and also to thank the children," he told the audience in a very brief message. "Let me commend each and everyone of you, and wish you happy holidays."

Atiba Williams, who coordinated the party and served as master of ceremonies, described the event as "an overwhelming success," adding that "the response from everyone was tremendous."

He also complimented former New York City Councilman, Dr. Kendall Stewart, proprietor of Café Omar, for "the use of the venue free."

Pre-schoolers and kindergarteners, ages three to five years old from PS 305, Community Parent Head Start, and Medgar Evers Day Care met Santa and received holiday gifts and pictures



A bag full of gifts for this Brooklyn girl.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

at Interfaith Medical Center's Winter Wonderland, 1545 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014.

Over the course of the day, Interfaith distributed gifts, ranging from Frozen dolls and talking Iron Men to toy cars and board games, to 500 children from eight area schools and day care centers including The Weeksville School (PS 243), PS 335, PS 305, Medgar Evers Daycare Center, Community Parents Head Start, Stuyvesant Heights Daycare, and Safe Haven Day Care. The event was funded by private donations.



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Employee, employer benefit from paid family leave

By Amy Hall

The holiday season can be a time of great joy. But for many working parents, the holidays are also a stark reminder of how tenuous their employment and benefits are.

When you have paid time off, spending time with family is joyous, but what if you were forced to take time off to care for yourself or a family member?

By one estimate, 23 percent of Americans have either lost a job, or been threatened with the loss of their job, for taking time off to care for themselves or another family member. For many Americans, there's no good option: Either you worry about your family member, or you worry about losing your job. And nobody is productive when they're stressed.

Of course, for business owners and managers, it's not just productivity they worry about. For example, employers might want to provide paid leave, but feel that the business can't afford to.

Luckily there is a solution. Just over one year ago, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand introduced the Family Act that would create a national paid family leave insurance program. As Congress looks to the new year, companies like Eileen Fisher look forward to seeing the Family Act reintroduced and passed.

Family leave insurance programs let employees pay into

a program that will fund paid leave following the birth of a child. For people whose employers don't offer paid leave, these programs are invaluable.

Of course, some employers do offer leave, precisely because it's good for employees. For example, at Eileen Fisher, we support our employees with a comprehensive benefits package, including as much as 12 weeks of paid leave following a birth or adoption (including leave for fathers as well as mothers), reimbursement for adoption expenses, and flexible work schedules. The result is a loyal, productive, and efficient workforce.

At Eileen Fisher, we believe so strongly that this program would be good for the country that we've signed on to a petition from the American Sustainable Business Council Action Fund supporting the Family Act. We encourage all businesses to sign on.

Critics have made the same arguments we always hear about programs like these: that they're too costly, or that they place a heavy burden on businesses. But the evidence shows the opposite. Family leave insurance programs in California and New Jersey have been in place for years, and a third just took effect in Rhode Island this year. Not only have businesses not suffered because of them, they've thrived. Companies

Continued on Page 12

Leave us all alone! We can't breathe!

By Jacob G. Hornberger

The last words out of the mouth of strangling victim Eric Garner are actually a metaphor for how libertarians feel about the entire welfare-warfare state under which modern-day Americans have been born and raised.

Don't his words express precisely how we libertarians feel? Leave us alone, we say to the state. Get out of our faces. Get out of our lives. You're suffocating us. You're killing us — literally, spiritually, financially, and economically.

Thomas Jefferson described this phenomenon in the Declaration of Independence: The king's government was sending "swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance."

There is hardly any part of our lives that government officials aren't involved in. They just won't leave us alone. Drug laws. Economic regulations. Income taxation. IRS audits. Asset forfeitures. Home raids. Secret surveillance. Draft registration. Permits and licenses. Minimum-wage laws. Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Terrorist blowback from an interventionist foreign policy. Checkpoints. Perpetual crises and chaos.

It never stops.

The direct cause of Eric Garner's death was obviously the chokehold that the cops put on his neck, which prevented him from breathing.

But let's face it: The real cause of death was his selling of individual untaxed cigarettes, in violation of law. That's what the cops were arresting him for when

The solution is to dismantle all the destructive policies both here and abroad that serve as the justification for soldiers and law-enforcement personnel to harass people.

they killed him.

Oh sure, they call it "resisting arrest." That's what they always call it. But the truth is that they killed him for selling individual untaxed cigarettes in violation of the law.

Under libertarian principles — indeed, under the principles enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, which Americans celebrate every Fourth of July — a person has the fundamental, natural, God-given right to sell whatever he wants to sell without governmental interference, including booze, tobacco, marijuana, fatty foods, or whatever.

My hunch is that deep down Eric Garner understood that. My hunch is that that's why he was saying, "Stop harassing me. Leave me alone!"

In the 1950s, cops killed a man in Utah named John Singer. He wasn't selling cigarettes. He was refusing to send his children to public (i.e., government) schools, which at that time was against the law.

When the cops came to arrest John Singer for refusing to comply with some judge's order, they shot him dead. They said it was because he was "resisting arrest." The truth was that

they killed him for refusing to send his children into the state's schooling system.

Eric Garner had six children, whom he was obviously trying to support. He was doing that by selling cigarettes. I wonder how much money he earned doing that. Despite his anguished plea — Stop harassing me! — Just leave me alone! — the cops simply couldn't do that. They obviously felt compelled to continue going after him. The law is the law.

The death of Eric Garner — indeed the death of so many other Americans at the hands of the cops, especially in the war on drugs — is the culmination of the welfare-warfare state way of life and what it has done to America. The federal government is killing people overseas as part of its perpetual "war on terrorism." The cops are killing people here. All with impunity. Killing has become an integral part of America's governmental culture.

We are the serfs. The government is the master. The cops kill people because they can. The CIA kills and tortures people because it can. We all know that nothing will happen to any of them.

Is the solution better soldiers and better cops? Better training? More secrecy? More efficient chokeholds?

No, the solution is to dismantle all the destructive policies both here and abroad that serve as the justification for soldiers and law-enforcement personnel to harass people, eat out their substance, abuse

Continued on Page 12

Caribbean Life

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

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Typical Cuba noises from usual suspects

It goes without saying that, considering the number of occasions on which we have robustly condemned in this space how pointless and retrogressive the U.S. stance toward Cuba has been, President Obama's announcement last week of a major policy re-set was news that got a big thumbs-up here. About the braying from the usual suspects that has come in the wake of his long overdue course correction, we would simply say to the president: "Keep on strutting!"

Chances were minuscule that there could be any objectivity-based rationale for the nations of the world being almost unanimously wrong on the issue of America's decades-old Cuba embargo being kept in place, while this country, joined by one or two lackeys in the UN, conspicuously thought itself correct. Surely, even neighboring Canada and other close western allies deserting the U.S. on its inflexibility regarding the embargo should have been enough of a reality check.

And undoubtedly it was, probably as far back as the Carter presidency, reports suggest. The

red flag all these years being a Cuban-American population in Florida whose stock over time had so risen as to make it a classic rendering of tail wagging dog in American politics. Maintaining Cuba's pariah status became, for Florida's Cuban-American bloc, a major wedge issue which, politicians came to understand, they would oppose on pain of political death. The Cuban-American lobby wielded a clearly disproportionate degree of power in the political marketplace. Perhaps the most bizarre example of that sense of power mirrored at base level in the Cuban-American community was the celebrated story of young Elian Gonzalez in 2000, when the boy's relatives stood in defiance of the U.S. Justice Department following a court ruling that the relatives had to release Elian to his father.

It's not surprising, in light of the Cubans-in-Florida factor, that Washington would want to first check that community's pulse before venturing onto the sensitive ground articulated by the president the other day. Once again it's been time, good old reliable time, working its magic

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

the way only time can to tidy things up, even when they seem irreparably messy. Polls have been indicating, in more recent times, that the younger set among Cuban-Americans aren't quite the stubbornly combative, pro-embargo types predominant in the generation(s) before them. So came the cue that initiating a policy switch would not occasion the political suicide risk it once did. Joining the rest of the civilized world in honestly appraising an idea whose time had long gone became, if not necessarily hazard-free, not the very perilous move it formerly was.

What's left, by way of barriers to enlightenment and progress, is the braying of head-in-the-sand characters and apologists for American hegemony, come what may, who would rather that the U.S. hewed to the regressive, punitive provisions of the Helms-Burton Act till kingdom come. That act, passed by Con-

gress in 1996 to even further tighten the screws on the U.S.-Cuba no-trade status already existing, being as hard-line as is suggested by the two arch-conservative Republicans whose names it bears.

Common to all the rhetoric about how wrong it is to now proceed with a policy change is that the obstructionists insist they have the Cuban people's best interests at heart. That this "news camera" line is just so much hot air is of course immediately borne out by the reception that greeted the president's announcement on the streets of Havana. From all we've been able to gather, it seems obvious that a thaw in relations between the two countries is something that has generated nothing but positive excitement for the average Cuban. So what super-grade wool are these jokers attempting to pull over people's eyes, about having the Cubans' back? Trying your darnedest to block what Cubans see as opening up economic opportunities for them is one helluva way of expressing solidarity, isn't it?

And then there's the barefaced disconnect so many folks have

hastened to point out, regarding these disingenuous critics raising hell about Obama's move to end a Cuba policy that had outlived any usefulness, while there's no squawking whatsoever about this country's continuing relationship with China. Richard Nixon scored himself a major reelection campaign bonanza with his breakthrough visit to China in 1972, nothing but hosannas for this emanating from the very quarter whence comes today's anti-Cuba drumbeat. Evidently, the potential for a big-business windfall following the opening of trade with China neutralized any contemplation there may have been of lecturing the Chinese on what governmental form they should have. For pipsqueak Cuba, all bets off.

In the final analysis, what has followed the Cuba announcement is true to form with the tiresome polemical barrage from the right that the president has faced throughout his term. Another Democratic president would likely have been ripped into as well for doing likewise. For this one, poison darts come with the territory. It's Cuba today, who-knows-what tomorrow.



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OP-EDS

Benefits of paid family leave

Continued from page 10

nies have reported improved employee loyalty and less turnover; in California, 60 percent of businesses actually cut costs by coordinating their benefits with the state's program.

This is precisely why Eileen Fisher offers these benefits - because when our employees don't have to worry about how they'll pay the bills during an already stressful period in their lives, it's easier for them to focus when they work, and the more productive they are,

the better we all do.

Passage of the Family Act would allow more businesses to join us in this effort. The new year represents a chance to start with a clean slate and really bring change that will help businesses across the country and millions of Americans. We urge Congress to act on the Family Act in the new year.

Hall is director of Social Consciousness for Eileen Fisher, a women's fashion design and manufacturing company based in Irvington, NY.

Just leave us alone

Continued from page 10

them, torture them, and kill them. The solution is to dismantle the entire welfare-state, warfare-state way of life that is alien to our heritage of liberty. When that happens, we won't need so many soldiers or cops.

In other words, go away. Just leave us alone. You're suffocating us. You're killing us.

Jacob G. Hornberger is president and founder of The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va. (www.fff.org).

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

The management and staff of Econocaribe wishes to thank our community and agents for their support throughout 2014. We wish you a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year 2015. Remember the reason for the season.



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Hawaiian Chicken	\$45	\$85
Cornish Hen	\$45	\$90
Stuffed Chicken Breast w/Spinach or Vegetable	\$60	\$110
BBQ, Jerk, Buffalo, Fried Wings	\$45	\$85
Stewed King Fish	\$80	\$150
Escovitch King Fish	\$80	\$150
Escovitch Porgies	\$50	\$90
Escovitch Whiting	\$50	\$90
Grilled Salmon	\$80	\$150
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"We Deliver"



Unlocking innovation for food and farming sustainability

By Andy Jarvis

LIMA, Dec. 13, 2014 (IPS) - The digital revolution that is continuing to develop at lightening speed is an exciting new ally in our fight for global food security in the face of climate change.

Researchers have spent decades collecting data on climate patterns, but only in recent years have cost-effective solutions for publicly hosting this information been developed. Cloud computing services make the ideal home for key climate data – given that they have a vast capacity for not only storing data, but analysing it as well.

Gone are the days when farmers could rely on almanacs for predicting seasonal planting dates, as climate change has made these predictions unreliable.

This rationale is the basis for a brand new partnership between CGIAR, a consortium of international research centres, and Amazon web services. With 40 years of research under its belt, CGIAR holds a wealth of information on not just climate patterns, but on all aspects of agriculture.

By making this data publically available on the Amazon cloud, researchers



Climate change and variability demands new varieties of beans. A Massive Participatory Assessment in Yojoa Lake in Honduras led by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) work together with local NGOs and farmers to make group observations and share their results with their neighbors. Photo by J.L.Urrea (CCAFS)

and developers will be empowered to come up with innovations to solve critical issues inextricably linked to food and farming, such as reducing rural poverty, improving human health and nutrition, and sustainably managing

the Earth's natural resources.

The first datasets to move to the cloud are Global Circulation Models (GCM), presently the most important tool for representing future climate conditions.

Visa program

By Tangerine Clarke

Grenada's ambassador to the United States of America, Dr. Angus Friday praised the US for Grenada's continued inclusion on the list of countries eligible for H-2A and H-2B programs being offered by the USCIS and the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Department of State.

The visa programs begin in January 2015.

In a statement to Caribbean Life, the diplomat said Grenada has long standing relationships with the United States, and policies that allow the free flow of people, knowledge, culture and skills that are positive for both countries. "It is not a one way flow," he added.

Referring to a release that listed five Caribbean countries among 68, eligible for the programs, Friday, who also holds the post of Ambassador to the Organization of American States, said Grenada has a vibrant expat community, and St. George's University based in Grenada trains one in every one hundred doctors practicing in the United States.

"Grenada deeply appreciates the renewed vigor in U.S. / Caribbean relations and expresses its congratulations to both the United States and to Cuba for their historic efforts announced recently to normalize diplomatic and economic ties," said Friday.

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Incredible scooter cops in community

By Eulene Inniss

“Two Street Savvy Cops Nail ‘em With Words,” was the glaring headline of a New York Daily News article written in 1977. No Bullets, no choking, no abuse and yet, retired NYPD officers Joseph Willins (Scooter Joe) and his partner Kenneth Kaufman were consistently able to take hardened criminals and murderers into their custody during the 70s and 80s, a time when drugs and crime were rampant and police and community worked together.

“We would not have choked Eric Gardner, we would have hugged him. Ken and I would have taken a much different path. We sought out street-wise individuals, as Eric, because he was the eyes and ears of the community. He knew what was going on. We would have befriended him and enlist him



Retired NYPD officer Joseph Willins (Scooter Joe).

Photo by Lem Peterkin

as an asset to solve crime in the community. He was a family man with children; He wanted a safe community for his wife and family too. He was not a hardened criminal. Wall Street executives committed worse crimes against the people than Eric. No one choked them,” Joe stated during a recent interview at his Bed-Stuy residence.

Joe and Kenny were partners for almost 20 years and worked in the 79th Precinct in Bedford Stuyvesant. Joe lived in the community, while Kenny, his Jewish partner, commuted. The community knew them.

They patrolled up and down the streets on scooters. They knew the criminal elements and the criminals knew their no-nonsense approach to crime. They knew every nook and cranny of the community- the burglars, number joints, dope dealers and they also knew the doctors, lawyers, teachers, other professionals, hard working residents, home owners, elders and youths of the community. There was no profiling because they knew the community and had gained the respect of the people whom they had sworn to serve and protect.

Brooklynite indicted for defrauding immigrants

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement New York Special Agent-in-Charge, James T. Hayes Jr., on Thursday announced that a Brooklyn woman who allegedly promised green cards and work permits to undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants has been charged with stealing about US\$12,850 from them.

Thompson and Hayes also said that Nickya Wittington, also known as Nicky John, 27, of 280 Grafton St., Brownsville, Brooklyn, falsely promised to help an undercover detective obtain the same documents.

“This defendant is accused of preying on some of the most vulnerable members of our society,” Thompson said. “I created an Immigrant

Fraud Unit – which is prosecuting this case – to stop such opportunists from targeting undocumented individuals.”

Hayes said: “This defendant’s alleged actions served not only to victimize immigrants attempting to comply with federal laws, they also threatened to undermine confidence in the federal government.”

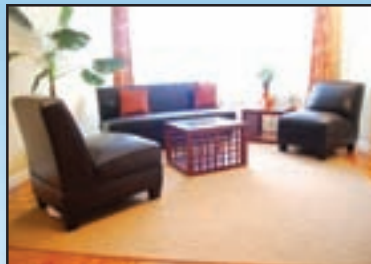
Thompson said Wittington has been arraigned by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Danny Chun on an indictment in which she is charged with first-degree scheme to defraud, third-degree grand larceny, third-degree attempted grand larceny, fourth-degree grand larceny and petit larceny.

She was ordered held on US\$5,000 bail and to return to court on Feb 4, 2015. If convicted of the top count, she faces up to seven years in prison, Thompson said.



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Woman visionary wins Digicel Entrepreneur award in Haiti

By Tequila Minsky

Uzale Remy founded APLADEM, Meyer's Planters Association for Development, 25 years ago in a region near Jacmel, two hours south of Port-au-Prince. She is the first woman to take the title Digicel Entrepreneur of the Year.

In a country that requires true grit, perseverance, and know-how to operate a business, Digicel began to recognize exceptional entrepreneurs five years ago.

Remy is described by Dennis O'Brien, chairman of the Digicel Group and chairman of the judges, as a leader, an entrepreneur and a woman with vision for her community. "What is really rare is someone who looks at a business and sees its potential to change an entire community – that is something truly laudable," said O'Brien.

When Remy saw the amount of fruits and vegetables wasted in her community of Meyer, she set out to do something about it.

She contacted the Ministry of Agriculture who responded by providing initial training for local women in fruit processing and product manufacturing. This allowed the fledgling enterprise of food transformation to get started on a business footing.

Modest funds came from organizations such as the Pan



Uzale Remy, the first woman to win the coveted Digicel Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2014, at the awards ceremony in Haiti on Dec. 16. Ms. Remy also won the first prize in her category, Agriculture and Environment.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

American Development Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank and Women in Democracy.

Over the years, increasing numbers of women in local networks began producing jelly, peanut butter, coffee, cocoa, cassava and crémas. In August 2013, a

"That is a remarkable tribute to the deep well of enterprise we have been privileged to discover and tap here in Haiti."

modern new cassava processing plant with Oxfam as a partner became part of the business.

Now, the business supports more than 1500 families and has become a role model for similar organizations around the country.

This year, the coveted Entrepreneur of the Year award selected eighty-five regional finalists from Haiti's north, center, south, and west, in the first stage of the competition.

Twenty-five finalists in the fields of agriculture and environment; education, tourism and culture; emerging; industry; and services, battled through to the national finals, from which the overall winner was chosen.

Remy also won honors in her division, Agriculture and Environment. Only 21 percent are women.

Richet Junior Jacques from Gonaives, founder of Le Transporteur, whose reliable modern bus service revolutionized rural transport, won the prize in the emerging entrepreneur category.

The award in the Industry sector went to Jonas Guillaume, founder of detergent manufacturer Digo Industries SA; in Services to Jn-Rony Vincent of IT company, BITS SA; and in Education, Tourism and Culture to education entrepreneur, Jean Rico Felix, of the Wonderful Institute.

A special Social Entrepreneurship award was presented this year to Remise Belizaire, founder of LOCAL, which promotes self-help and entrepreneurship networks in marginalized rural communities – working mainly with women and acting both as a social support and a business incubator.

The awards ceremony took place Dec. 16, in Haiti.

Digicel Chairman Maarten Boute said, "That is a remarkable tribute to the deep well of enterprise we have been privileged to discover and tap here in Haiti."

Over these last five years, 350 entrepreneurs have acknowledged for their contributions.

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smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/busref.htm

Selected business-related web sites compiled by staff at the New York State Library for use in response to reference questions.

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

manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm
Find resources and advice on starting a business in New York City. Get information on New York business licenses and incorporation, free NYC resources for starting a business.

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

www.yourmoneyny.com/help-resource/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.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm

Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

Visit www.nyfirst.ny.gov to learn what New York State can do for businesses.

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

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

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm
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Tips for families to get healthy this New Year

HEALTH



Help your children develop a healthy lifestyle.

Photo courtesy of Statepoint

(StatePoint) New Year's resolutions often focus on personal improvement. This year experts are encouraging entire families to consider making a pledge to adopt a healthier and more active lifestyle.

Parents have more potential than anybody else to influence their children's behavior — including their eating habits — according to a study by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. In fact, parents outrank sports celebrities as the people most children would most like to be, according to the survey.

"You are the most influential role model in your child's life," says Kim Larson, registered dietitian nutritionist and Academy spokesperson. "Modeling healthy eating behaviors encourages children to adopt and choose healthy behaviors that will benefit them for a lifetime."

Setting Realistic Goals

Small steps add up, and Larson recommends making healthy lifestyle changes that are realistic and easy to stick with for the long-haul. Try adopting healthy changes for the entire fam-

ily, such as:

- Make sure your kids know they are part of the team and that health and fitness are a family affair.
- Encourage children to help plan meals — from developing the menu to shopping to preparing and serving the meal.
- Serve regular, balanced meals and snacks with a variety of nutrient-rich foods.
- Eat breakfast daily.
- Enjoy family dinner together each night or as often as possible.
- At each meal, fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables.
- Make at least half of the grains you eat whole grains.
- Get active. Incorporate physical activity where you can in your day, whether taking a family walk after dinner or hitting the gym. Remember, children and teens should get at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day, and adults should get two and a half hours per week.

Focus on Overall Health, Not Weight Alone

According to the experts, good nutrition, health, and fitness fun should be the focus of your family's goals, not calorie counting, food restriction or working out.

"You don't want your kids to think that a healthy lifestyle is only about how much they weigh," Larson says. "Concentrate on delicious nutrition

and fun physical activities," says Larson.

For a personalized plan tailored to your lifestyle, food preferences and the unique needs of your family, consider consulting a registered dietitian nutritionist. You can find one in your area at www.EatRight.org.

This New Year, you can get the whole family together by committing to a healthier lifestyle as a team.

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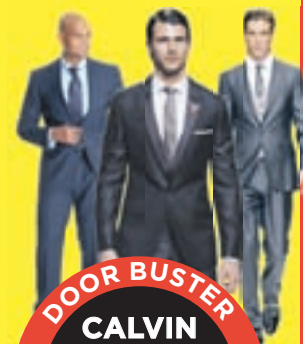
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

dent but in February robbers attacked the gold mine there killing one person and stealing more than 800 grams of raw gold.

Trinidad

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and New York Police Commissioner William Bratton will return to Trinidad and Tobago to help the local police service improve the dismal detection rate.

This was revealed by National Security Minister Gary Griffith who said the two U.S. crime fighters are expected in the country next month to conduct an audit of the police service to help improve investigation methods, including better forensic testing to improve the detection rate.

The two New York cops were retained previously by the Ministry of National Security to help map a way forward.

Griffith said while serious crimes were at the lowest level in 31 years, homicides continue to pose some challenges for the police service. The mur-

der rate is just short of five to reach the 400-mark for this year.

Jamaica

Grammy-winning reggae artiste Buju Banton, whose given name is Mark Myrie, who was convicted on cocaine trafficking charges in 2011, has filed a motion in a USA court in an attempt to secure an earlier release date.

The Tampa Bay Tribune reported that Buju filed his own motion from prison asking to be released early based on a recent change in federal drug sentencing guidelines. This would mean an earlier release date and deportation to Jamaica.

Buju is currently serving a mandatory 10-year sentence for his conviction on a charge of conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

He is scheduled to be released in 2019.

However, the amendments do not apply to those serving minimum mandatory sentences under the law.

— compiled by Azad Ali



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Pumpkin soup, a Haitian New Year's tradition

By Tequila Minsky

As New Year's Day approaches, Haitians around the world prepare for another time-honored custom, the making of soup joumou, pronounced "joo-moo." Jan. 1 is not celebrated properly for Haitians unless they partake in their traditional pumpkin soup.

The ingredients have long been assembled by the time New Year's Eve rolls around. That's when Maryse Jean-Baptiste of Bushwick begins making her soup stock with a beef bone.

The soul of the soup is the squash, usually a West Indian pumpkin. This mother of two young adults uses either calabaza squash—looks like a small pumpkin, often sold in cut sections, or kaboucha—a green mottled, squat pumpkin. Both have bright orange flesh that flavors, colors, and thickens the soup.

"We have a lot of Caribbeans in this neighborhood and you can find both types in the stores," Jean-Baptiste says.

"Early on New Year's day, I



Kaboucha squash, a West Indian pumpkin, is used for soup joumou (along with calabaza and sometimes butternut) and is found in Chinatown and Caribbean green grocers.

cook the squash, and then blend it," she details, eventually adding it to the stock with the vegetables: cabbage, carrots, onions, leeks, potatoes, celery and "a few handfuls of macaroni, spaghetti,

and some rice" and the meat that has been browned.

It turns out that everyone's recipe for soup joumou is a combination of historical, family and personal tradition. Some people don't use rice or pasta. "Sometimes, I add chicken," says Jean-Baptiste. (Vegetarian versions are also a popular adaptation).

Jean-Baptiste is originally from the small town of Pilate in Northern Haiti. After noon on Jan. 1, close family members assemble to celebrate and eat her time-perfected soup.

Canarsie-resident Lily Cerat marinates her meat before she leaves for her New Year's Eve's festivities. "I make up a packet of herbs when I cook the stock," she divulges on how cilantro is an important addition in her flavoring.

"When I get home, I begin cooking in earnest." She puts a big pot on the stove for the undetermined number of friends and family who will drop by during the day. "I like



Kaboucha squash, a West Indian pumpkin, is used for soup joumou (along with calabaza and sometimes butternut) and is found in Chinatown and Caribbean green grocers.

Photos by Tequila Minsky

to add ziti, but cook it on the side, just adding some at the end so it doesn't thicken the soup too much. In a pinch, I'll add some frozen squash," she admits. (For others, butternut squash is sometimes used.)

"My first bowl is an offer-

ing to the ancestors," she says. "When we eat the soup, we sit around and reminisce what it means."

Jan. 1 is also the Haitian day of independence. On that date in 1804, Haiti was liberated from France.

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Everybody needs a hero in their life.

Somebody to look up to. Somebody to want to be like some day, to follow and admire - perhaps a parent, maybe a grandparent or uncle. A friend or classmate might be your hero, or maybe even someone you don't know.

Or, as in the new book “Bass Reeves: Tales of the Talented Tenth” by Joel Christian Gill, your hero just might be a lawman.

George Reeves was a careful man.

His young slave boy, Bass, wanted to learn to read but Reeves “couldn't have that,” so he taught Bass to shoot. Before long, the boy was one of the best sharpshooters Reeves had ever seen, and he decided to enter Bass in a few contests.

Nobody thought a slave could win a shooting match, but that's exactly what Bass did - over and over again. As he grew, so did his talent with a gun but though Bass won every competition, Reeves still treated Bass like a “family pet.”

That continued for many years. Even during the Civil War, Colonel Reeves took Bass to the front with him as his personal slave - until Bass escaped.

Not knowing where he was, Bass ran until he was exhausted. He ran until he couldn't run any more, until he was rescued from near-death by a tribe of Native Americans who tended Bass's

wounds and welcomed them into their village. They considered him family but Bass remembered how he'd been enslaved, so he left the village and returned to the battlefield, where he fought for the Union Army.

After the War was over, Bass married, started a family, and settled down to farm until, once again, duty called. Because Bass (who'd taken his former master's surname) had a good relationship with the Native Americans in the Territories, he was hired to be a U.S. Marshal. It didn't take long before he was deputized, and he began to make a name for himself. Word soon spread that a tall, black lawman was patrolling the territories and that, wherever he went, he left a silver dollar as a calling card. Bass Reeves was known to be smart, and he would do anything to bring a criminal down.

Even when that criminal was



Book cover of “Tales of the Talented Tenth.”

his own son.

Though its back-and-forth timeline can be confusing sometimes - particularly in latter pages - I liked “Bass Reeves: Tales of the Talented Tenth” quite a bit.

Based on little-known but true events, this is a story of action, honor, and the Wild West. That's very good, but what equally appealed to me was the way author Joel Christian Gill uses his artist's skills to tell this tale.

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Erectile Dysfunction — more than a quality of life problem!

BY JACK RYAN

The benefits of seeking professional treatment for erectile dysfunction may seem obvious to both the patient and his partner. But what many men don't realize is that a thorough evaluation of this condition can uncover serious threats to their health.

Dr. Vitaly Raykhman, Director of the Accord Physicians Prostate Center in Sheepshead Bay along with Dr. Llewellyn Hyacinthe and Dr. Yuly Chalik, says that millions of men in the United States suffer from erectile dysfunction. Typically, he said, the man can't perform at all or is not satisfied with his sexual performance. The dysfunction can surface at any age, but it is more common in men 50 years old or older.

The problem can be psychological or the impotence may be caused by physiological abnormalities. In such cases, he said, the dys-

function may be related to diabetes or an indication of even more serious conditions. A series of clinical tests done at the Urologic Institute can help doctors determine the reason of impotence.

“It is important that men who are experiencing this problem be promptly and properly evaluated by a urologist.”

Erectile dysfunction, he stressed, can be an early indicator of “metabolic syndrome,” a name given to a group of factors that raise the risk for heart disease and other health threats, including heart attack and stroke.

“The fact that they are bringing this problem into their consciousness can give a physician several years of lead time in heading off these far more serious medical problems,” said Dr. Raykhman. “Could a visit to a urologist indirectly save a patient's life?

Absolutely.”

A skilled urologist can slow the progress of the dysfunction and with the proper treatment most patients can regain a more satisfying sexual experience.

Although surgery is sometimes necessary, “it's the last resort.” Changes in lifestyle can often reverse the effects of erectile dysfunction. These include exercise, improvements in diet, and a reduction in smoking and alcohol intake. Erectile dysfunction can often be treated with medications such as Cialis, Viagra, Levitra or hormone therapy.

Dr. Raykhman stressed that because an erection is a vascular event, erectile dysfunction needs to be taken seriously.

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2005	Chevy TrailBlazer, 81k	J1066	\$5,995	2004	Toyota Highlander, 101k	6771	\$7,995	2007	Jeep Gr Cherokee, 98k	J1091	\$10,995
2004	Nissan Pathfinder, 107k	9891	\$5,995	2007	Acura MDX, 104k	10125	\$8,995	2010	Mitsubishi Endeavor, 54k	001305	\$11,995
2005	Ford Expedition, 122k	8789	\$5,995	2006	Honda Ridgeline, 135k	4629	\$9,595	2007	Toyota 4Runner, 86k	9610	\$12,995
2006	BMW X3, 128k	A75616	\$6,995	2006	BMW X5, 85k	Y39624	\$9,995	2006	Cadillac Escalade, 100k	10464	\$12,995
2006	Toyota Rav 4, 114k	2554	\$7,500	2006	Mercedes R-Class, 88k	J2048	\$10,995	2007	Toyota FJ Cruiser, 70k	62323	\$16,995
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2003	Honda Accord, 91k	72885	\$3,995	2012	Honda Civic, 31k	5650	\$9,995	2009	Honda Pilot, 36k	1032	\$13,995
2011	Honda Civic LX, 47k	7569	\$8,995	2011	Toyota Rav4, 48k	1066	\$9,995	2011	Honda CRV, 24k	4923	\$13,995
2010	Toyota Camry, 34k	1013	\$8,995	2011	Nissan Altima, 10k	1026	\$9,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 20k	1226	\$13,995
2012	Ford Fusion, 27k	1880	\$8,995	2012	Nissan Altima, 32k	1079	\$9,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995
2013	Kia Soul, 10k	10515	\$8,995	2012	Chevy Traverse, 50k	1260	\$12,888	2012	Nissan Murano, 12k	5822	\$16,995

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2014	Nissan Versa, 9k	3309	\$9,995	2011	Honda Odyssey, 35k	4830	\$13,995
2012	Ford Escape, 72k	7278	\$10,995	2008	BMW 528xi, 34k	1008	\$13,995
2011	Nissan Rogue, 32k	4761	\$10,995	2009	Infiniti G37x, 52k	1255	\$14,888
2012	Honda Accord, 32k	1223	\$10,995	2012	Dodge Charger, 8k	1030	\$15,995
2013	Dodge Caravan, 43k	3793	\$12,995	2012	Nissan Maxima, 20k	3788	\$16,400
2011	Ford Edge, 51k	1241	\$12,995				

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A toast to Karen Aletha Maybank MD, MPH

By Verna D. Ademu-John

Since 2009, Dr. Karen Aletha Maybank led the Brooklyn District Public as assistant commissioner, and has made an indelible mark on the landscape of health across Brooklyn. On a festive evening in early December, representatives from various community organization, as well as government officials came together to raise a toast to honor her for her work and passion in the borough. Dr. Maybank, now an associate commissioner at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, is serving as the founding Director of the Center for Health Equity. The newly created Center for Health Equity will, “align efforts in advancing health equity across the City and ensure that the deployment of resources will be aimed at reducing health and mental hygiene disparities across all neighborhoods in NYC.”



Dr. Karen Aletha Maybank.

ciation, Inc. Brooklyn Health Disparities Center, Woodhull Medical Center, Brooklyn Hospital, North Brooklyn YMCA and the Brooklyn District Public Health Office. More than 70 people attended the event, representing various organizations in Brooklyn. Highlights of the evening included a citation presentation from Hon. Eric Adams, words of praise from former Deputy Borough President Yvonne J. Graham, Councilmember Robert Cornegy, HealthFirst’s George Hulse, and a slew of other colleagues and friends and community representatives.

The toasts and speeches highlighted Dr. Maybank’s experiences with the community and her passion for health equity. They featured many of the initiatives she led, as well as many of her accomplishments as a champion for health in Brooklyn’s underserved communities.

A keepsake booklet was assembled for Dr. Maybank. It chronicled several partner-



Councilmember Robert Cornegy and Dr. Karen Aletha Maybank.

ships and sentiments, many of which spoke of Dr. Maybank’s “commitment to community engagement” and “tireless work to bring comprehensive health care and awareness to

communities throughout the city.” Other tributes included statements like she’s a “true inspiration,” “authentically engaged,” “strong supporter,” “committed and passionate.”

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Zulu drums tell history

By Vinette K. Pryce

Post-apartheid South Africa era gets a huge four-night salute at Symphony Space when “Africa Umoja: 20 Years Freedom and Democracy” tour arrives here following engagements in several U.S. cities.

The musical event is slated for Jan. 6, 7, 8, and 10 at 2537 Broadway (at 95th Street) and begins at 7:00 p.m.

Featuring a 32-member cast of dancers, singers, and actors from the former flagship nation that practiced segregation before electing Nelson Mandela its first Black president, the show has already played to sold-out audiences in more than 50 countries.

Continued on Page 36



From left, Kayla Mathlin, Taylor DeBerry, Tandra Smith, play the violin while Lexi Williams plays the viola.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

Phantazia in the community

By Jamie Benson

NPF’s Phantazia String Players is an ensemble that exemplifies NPF’s mission to increase the social mobility of students from some of the most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in Brooklyn. Participating music students are given intensive music instruction, high-profile performance opportunities and school placement assistance.

A full schedule of community performances offers young musicians opportunities to access new environ-

Continued on Page 36



CALYPSO QUEEN TRIBUTE

Calypso Rose performs before appreciative crowd.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Hundreds honor Calypso Rose

By Nelson A. King

Though she was barely able to walk a week before because of gout, Calypso Rose was still able to woo her audience Sunday afternoon/evening, as Brooklyn paid tribute to the woman who “broke the glass ceiling” in the calypso genre.

“This woman – sometimes I sit and wonder what got that woman to sing calypso in the 1950s and survive,” said popular Grenadian-born radio personality Harold Pysadee, a co-Master of Ceremonies, at a grand

tribute in honor of Calypso Rose, renowned as the “Calypso Queen of the World,” at the Brooklyn Christian Center, on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn.

“Every woman you see singing calypso today is because of Calypso Rose,” added Pysadee at the event organized by the Brooklyn-based Dee Vee International Productions, headed by Grenadian-born entertainment producer Derek Ventour.

“Calypso Rose has set the pace,” he continued. “[Calypso] Rose is a Carib-

bean Lady first of all.”

Bronx-based Gus White, a former announcer with the popular, legendary Radio Antilles in Montserrat, who also served as Master of Ceremonies, said he was “honored to be part of this function” that honored Calypso Rose.

“Dr. McArtha Lewis, Calypso Rose, for what you have done, I’ll truly grateful,” he said.

Dave Elcock, an erstwhile popular radio personality in Trinidad and

Continued on Page 36

Tosh estate to donate 'Equal Rights' revenue

The estate of Jamaican reggae icon and Grammy-winning musician Peter Tosh recently announced that 10 percent of all net income collected throughout 2015, from streaming and downloads of the 1977 mega-hit Tosh released called "Equal Rights" will be donated to the families of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

The bold decision was announced by Brian Latture, manager of the Peter Tosh brand and CEO of entertainment management firm The MegaSource Group.

"Brown and Garner are symbols of an issue that needs to be urgently addressed in America," Latture said.

"These cases of racially-motivated police brutality, and the no-indictment rulings for the cops, set off a movement of all ages and races demanding criminal justice reform. The time has come to re-energize the pursuit of equal rights through music, and I know that if Peter were physically with us he'd want to, in some way, help support the relatives of those that were killed in the line of



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

living."

Tosh's anthem for fairness pleads, "I don't want peace, I want equal rights and justice," the same call many have been demanding since two Grand juries acquitted police of causing the deaths of Black men in Ferguson, MO and Staten Island prompting nationwide protests.

The reggae recording also reflects an accurate description of the growing incidents of deaths of unarmed Black men at the hands of police officers.

Tosh was a founding member of Bob Marley and the Wailers, and perceived to be the most militant of the triumvirate that captivated world attention.

After leaving the group, Tosh also achieved success as a solo artist.

He is credited as one of the most outspoken of Jamaica's reggae music pioneers.

As a musician and writer,

Tosh earned the respect of popular music's greatest artists, including the Rolling Stones, a label that signed him to their roster in 1978.

He opened for the rock 'n roll Stones throughout its 1978 US tour.

Had he lived he would have celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary of Sept. 11.

GARNER FUNDRAISER SLATES "BLACK LIVES MATTER" EVENT AT SOBs

"Black Lives Matter: A fundraiser for Eric Garner" is planned for Christmas eve, eve at SOBs.

According to a press release from the Manhattan showplace, "across the nation, men and women of all ages, races and creeds are staging "die-ins," flooding the streets, marching with their hands-up and



Peter Tosh.

Associated Press / File

demanding the attention of authorities. It is impossible to ignore the chants for change that fill the air, S.O.B.'s hears you loud and clear."

Tuesday before Christmas, S.O.B.'s Cares presents Black Lives Matter featuring local R&B/Neo-Soul/Gospel artists with a surprise special guest.

Demonstrating solidarity, the club requests that the attending audience wear all black attire. For every ticket purchased, S.O.B.s will donate 100 percent

of ticket sales proceeds to Esaw Garner and Eric Garner's five children.

The organizers maintain that not everyone are able to march long hours across city highways or brave the cold night protesting at Foley Square.

They are asking anyone wanting to show solidarity with the cause of an open Grand Jury system to contribute by participating in a different way other than marching.

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igt

Bilbo and pals in epic showdown

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated PG-13 for intense violence and frightening images
Running time: 144 minutes
Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

By Kam Williams

"The Battle of the Five Armies" is the third and closing chapter in "The Hobbit" series based on the classic fantasy novel of the same name by J.R.R. Tolkien. The film also represents the finale in the sextet of Tolkien adaptations directed by Peter Jackson also including The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

Picking up from where the cliffhanger of the last episode left off, this action-oriented



A scene from "The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies."

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

installment opens with protagonist Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and his dwarf pals fretting over having unwittingly awakened Smaug (Benedict Cumberbatch). For, the fero-

cious, fire-breathing dragon has left his mountain lair and begun venting his wrath upon the helpless citizens of Lake-town.

Fortunately, a savior even-

tually arrives in the person of Bard the Bowman (Luke Evans) an intrepid archer who takes aim at the seemingly-invincible Smaug's Achilles' heel. However, piercing the tiny bare

patch of skin on the dragon's vulnerable belly doesn't settle the question of who gets the gold and priceless baubles still sitting inside the now unprotected Lonely Mountain.

As word spreads of the demon's demise, greed gets the better of assorted individuals who proceed to descend upon the area to stake a claim on the vast treasure. Only the arrival of a horde of evil orcs doing the bidding of the avaricious Dark Lord, Sauron the Necromancer (also Benedict Cumberbatch), inspires the contentious masses to end their hostilities and join forces against a common enemy.

Clocking in at a mercilessly-brief 144 minutes, The Battle of the Five Armies is not only the shortest, but the most entertaining of Jackson's Tolkien screen adaptations. Between an engrossing plotline and virtual non-stop combat, the picture proves to be just the perfect way to bring down the curtain on a storied fantasy franchise.

Independent & Foreign Films

Barbecue (Unrated)
French farce revolving around a trim and fit, diet-conscious health nut (Lambert Wilson) who decides to throw caution to the wind after suffering a heart attack on his 50th birthday. Supporting cast includes Franck Dubosc, Florence Foresti and Sophie Duez. (In French with subtitles)

Beloved Sisters (Unrated)
Incestuous romance drama about a couple of aristocratic siblings (Hannah Herzprung and Henriette Confurius) who opt to share when they both fall in love with the poet, philosopher and playwright Friedrich Schiller (Florian Stetter). With Claudia Messner, Ronald Zehrfeld and Maja Maranow. (In German and French with subtitles)

Leviathan (R for profanity, sexuality and nudity)
Legal drama about a humble family man (Aleksey Serebryakov) who retains the services of an attorney (Vladimir Vdovichenkov) to prevent his seaside home with a view from being seized for a pittance by eminent domain by a corrupt mayor (Roman Madyanov). Support cast includes Elena Lyadova, Anna Ukolova and Sergey Pokhodaev. (In Russian with subtitles)

Tale of the Grim Sleeper (Unrated)
Keystone Cops documentary revisiting the badly-bungled investigation of the case of Lonnie Franklin, Jr., aka The Grim Sleeper, a serial killer whose reign of terror around South Central L.A. claimed at



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

least ten lives over a quarter-century.

Two Days, One Night (PG-13 with mature themes)
Slice-of-life drama about a woman (Marion Cotillard) recovering from a nervous breakdown who has to spend a weekend trying to convince her factory co-workers to reverse their vote to have her fired in return for a big bonus. With Fabrizio Rongione, Catherine Salee and Pili Groyne. (In French and Arabic with subtitles)

BIG BUDGET FILMS

American Sniper (R for graphic violence, sexual references and pervasive profanity)
Clint Eastwood directed this adaptation of the best-selling memoir by Navy Seal Chris Kyle (Bradley Cooper), the most successful sniper in the history of the U.S. military. With Sienna Miller, Luke Grimes and Jake McDorman.

Big Eyes (PG-13 for mature themes and brief profanity)
Revisionist history biopic correcting the record about Margaret Keane (Amy Adams), the painter whose husband (Christoph Waltz) became one of the most celebrated artists of the Fifties and Sixties by passing off her work as his own. Co-starring Krysten Ritter, Danny Huston and Jason Schwartzman. (In English, French and Italian with subtitles)

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Blank Space**
Taylor Swift
- 2 **Animals**
Maroon 5
- 3 **Habits (Stay High)**
Tove Lo
- 4 **Love Me Harder**
Ariana Grande & The Weeknd
- 5 **Waves**
Mr. Probz
- 6 **I'm Not The Only One**
Sam Smith
- 7 **Don't**
Ed Sheeran
- 8 **Blame**
Calvin Harris Feat....
- 9 **Take Me To Church**
Hozier
- 10 **Jealous**
Nick Jonas

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **2014 Forest Hills Drive**
J. Cole
- 2 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 3 **That's Christmas To Me**
Pentatonix
- 4 **Anybody Wanna Buy ..**
K. Michelle
- 5 **Guardians Of The Galaxy:**
Soundtrack
- 6 **The Dream Walker**
Angels & Airwaves
- 7 **x**
Ed Sheeran
- 8 **Greatest Hits: Decade #1**
Carrie Underwood
- 9 **In The Lonely Hour**
Sam Smith
- 10 **Christmas**
Michael Buble

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Calypso Rose

Continued from page 33

Tobago, also gave his "heartfelt congratulations to our beloved McArtha Lewis, the indomitable Calypso Rose," adding that Calypso Rose has won "countless" fans and over 23 awards, over the years, for her catchy songs, including the "ever-green," signature "Fire, Fire."

Elcock, who sat next to Rose, during the near three-hour-long event, noted that she was the first female to win the Trinidad and Tobago Road March Competition.

"This is the spirit that we lionize today," he said.

Noting that the Caribbean community, the single largest population of Caribbean people outside of the islands, is "critical to every sector of our city's life," New York City Mayor Bill deBlasio said Sunday's tribute was "a wonderful opportunity to celebrate one of its most creative and trailblazing artists."

"By sharing the transcendent spirit, rich sounds and contagious rhythms of Trinidad and Tobago, Calypso Rose has given the world a great gift," said deBlasio in his message. "I applaud her extraordinary talent and distinguished legacy, which enriches lives through-

out the five boroughs and well beyond.

"On behalf of the City of New York, Chirlane and I offer our congratulations to Calypso Rose for receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of the West Indies, and extend our best wishes for a joyful celebration and continued success uniting the world through song," the mayor added.

The Rev. Dennis Dillon, the Jamaican-born pastor and founder of the Brooklyn Christian Center, said he was "grateful" for Calypso Rose's "leadership, her inspirational spirit and for doing what few people have done.

"Many people at the Christian Center they dance to your music all the time," he said looking at Calypso Rose seated at the front pew. "We salute you for your inspiration to all of us.

"I'm not saying that we shouldn't say Calypso Rose, but it's Dr. McArtha Lewis you'all," added Rev. Dillon, alluded to the honorary doctorate recently conferred on Calypso Rose by the University of the West Indies.

Among others paying tribute in song, speeches, dances, instruments and poems were:



Former Grenada calypsonian-turned-gospel artiste Janice Charles pays tribute to Calypso Rose. Photo by Nelson A. King

Ujamma Pan Sounds; Carriacou, Grenadian-born Blackman, lead singer of the band Lambert & the Matadors; former Grenadian calypsonian-turned-gospel singer Janice Charles; Vincentian Colin Connell; Grenadian calypsonian Lady Samo; Calypso Rose's granddaughter Arianna Butler (dance); Ziad Garraway (poetry; and Jude Phillip and Joe Allert (trumpeter and sax-

ophonist, respectively). "Last week, I couldn't walk. Thank God for bush medicine," said Calypso Rose before belching out hits from her diverse repertoire, as well as contemporary gospel and Christmas songs, referring to the medicine that helped her recover from a bout of gout.

"Thank God for giving me the inspiration for writing my songs," she added.



Krystle Ford, co-artistic director of the NPF's Phantazia String Players.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

Phantazia

Continued from page 33

ments, become more engaged in their communities, as well as the chance for Bedford Stuyvesant residents to experience live string music.

Public performances are a crucial element to the programs offered by the Noel Pointer Foundation in that it inspires and informs students, who are approaching adulthood, to become more active members of the community.

Umoja

Continued from page 33

Highlighting an exuberant journey through South African history, using the traditions of storytelling, drum talk, dance and song, the tour stopped into the nation's capital of Washington D.C., Charlotte, North Carolina, Atlanta, Georgia, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Miami, Florida before coming here.

The sweeping tale moves from the potent rhythms of tribal music to the intricate steps of Gumboot dancing. The storyline takes the audience from the country's early history, through the racist years and into the more progressive era of today's regime. With the one-year anniversary of Mandela's death on Dec. 5, one of the highlights of the show include a personal tribute to the beloved leader known as Madiba. In it a visualized performance retraces the world leader's time in jail until his release from prison in 1990.

The song "Long Road To Freedom" amplifies that har-



Africa Umoja tribal female dancers.

Photo courtesy of Glenna Freedman PR

rowing experience. In addition "I Have A Dream" incorporates the similarities with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as both men traveled the same road to very different paths.

There are also spirited renditions of African American classics such as "Amazing Grace" and "Oh Happy Day."

An emotional tribute to South Africa and the Zulu heritage blends traditional and contemporary elements including authentic Zulu dancing; explosive drumming, and gospel music. Translated from Swahili, Africa Umoja is interpreted to mean "together."

The production tells the

history of South Africa from the earliest rhythms of the Zulu drums to the current club sounds called "Kwaito."

The repertoire includes internationally acclaimed choreography, cross-cultural and traditional love songs, lullabies and other musical expressions of rural life. The narration reflects on stories of love and community as well as overcoming pain and endurance of South Africa's most tumultuous period era.

Woven throughout the historical journey are reminiscent sounds of vibrant jazz that saw Black South Africans through some of the country's stormiest passages.

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Sunderland's Jozy Altidore during their English Premier League soccer match against West Ham United at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland, England, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014.

Associated Press / Scott Heppell

New York City in MLS

By Patrick Horne

New York City's own MLS franchise, New York City FC makes its league debut on Sunday, March 15, 2015 versus the New England Revolution and after a year of planning and preparation, the semblance of a competitive team is beginning to unfold.

The team has solid financial backing from its owners - English Premier League club Manchester City, one of the richest soccer clubs in the world, and the New York Yankees of Major League Baseball, one of the richest baseball franchises. Former U.S. national team

Continued on Page 40

Windies humiliated

By Azad Ali

West Indies suffered their heaviest ever defeat in South Africa when they were humiliated by an innings and 220 runs, 70 minutes before lunch on the penultimate day of the opening Test in Centurion Park, last week.

Resuming at 76 for two in their second innings still requiring a further 275 runs to avoid an innings defeat, the Caribbean side capitulated inside just 15.3 overs to 131 all out, to fall behind 1-0 in the three-Test series. They were ripped apart by the ruthless Dale Steyn who grabbed six for 34 to trigger the collapse that saw the last eight wickets

Continued on Page 40



Team Freedom's Thon Maker #24 in action against Team Liberty during the Under Armour Elite 24 Game on Saturday, August 23, 2014 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Associated Press / Gregory Payan

BIG APPLE HOOPS

17 top high, prep school teams to compete

By John Neves

Big Apple Basketball (BAB) will host the 12th Annual Big Apple Basketball Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 17 and Monday, Jan. 19, 2015 at Baruch College in New York City. The invitational features 17 top high school and prep school teams from

New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Washington DC, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ontario, Canada.

The invitational will feature New York City schools, St. Raymond (Bronx), Benjamin Cardozo (Queens), Thurgood Marshall (Man-

hattan), Cardinal Hayes (Bronx) and Abraham Lincoln (Brooklyn); along with Orangeville Prep (Ontario, Canada), Gill St. Bernard's (New Jersey), Long Island Lutheran (Long Island), Phelps (Pennsylvania), Saint James (Maryland), St. John's College High

Continued on Page 40

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midfielder Claudio Reyna is responsible for the soccer operations, which includes selecting the coaching staff and player acquisitions; and the team will play in Yankee Stadium in the Bronx until a soccer specific stadium that bears the New York City FC (FC means Football Club) name is built, according to reports, in either Queens or Brooklyn.

Former MLS player and Real Salt Lake City coach, Jason Kreis, was named coach a year ago and has since spent time in England at the team's parent headquarters as an understudy to the Manchester City coaching staff to understand the coaching philosophy and culture that Man City encourages. Kreis was selected, according to the coach, because his style is similar to that of the parent club. Kreis said he was hired for his attractive, possession-oriented soccer he employed at Real Salt Lake.

The club's first signings reveal its attempt to bring that attractive, possession game to New York City, which has a very knowledgeable soccer community. Former Spain and Barcelona forward David Villa and former England and Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard are the Designated Players who will suit up for New York FC; Lampard is currently on loan at Manchester City and scoring goals for the club which currently leads the English Premier League standings. Designated Players are those high-priced stars whose salaries do not conform to the MLS salary cap. NYCFC is allowed a third designated player and there is speculation that this could be a U.S. national player such as Jozy Altidore.

"As we've gone from there, we're looking for players to complement those two players' styles and also fit in with the way Manchester City wants to see the game played and also the way Claudio and I want to see the game played," Kreis said of future players. "We're always looking for players who fit into the style of soccer and the type of group we want to be."

In its quest to complete a roster, New York City FC took part in the recent MLS expansion draft, where players who were out of contract and those whose contracts were not renewed were available for selection. The club also acquired players on loan and traded directly with clubs for players

Among the 22 players acquired through the Expansion draft are three MLS veterans who played for Kreis at Real Salt Lake: Chris Wingert, a Long Island product who played at St. John's University, Ned Grabavoy and Kwame Watson-Siriboe, all defenders. Also among the new players are midfielders Sal Zizzo from Sporting Kansas City, former Red Bulls player Mehdi Ballouchy from Vancouver and defender George John from FC Dallas.



Team Freedom's Tyus Battle #8 in action against Team Liberty during the Under Armour Elite 24 Game on Saturday, August 23, 2014 in Brooklyn, N.Y. Associated Press / Gregory Payan

Big Apple Basketball Invitational

Continued from page 39

School (Washington, DC), Seton Hall Prep (New Jersey), Genesis Academy (Virginia), South Kent (Connecticut), MacDuffie (Massachusetts), Life Center Academy (New Jersey) and Archbishop Stepinac (White Plains).

Notable players include Thon Maker, (Orangeville Prep – rated #1 Junior in U.S. and Canada), Tyus Battle (Gill St. Bernard's – Top 15 Junior Nationally), Jordan Tucker (Archbishop Stepinac - Top 20 Sophomore Nationally), Omari Spellman (MacDuffie – Top 25 Junior Nationally), Tremont Waters (South Kent – Top 30 Sophomore Nationally), Josh Hall (Genesis Academy – Top 60 Junior Nationally), Temple Gibbs (Seton Hall Prep – Top 60 Junior Nationally),

Justin Robinson (Saint James – Virginia Tech); Amarveer Singh (Thurgood Marshall – Top 80 Junior Nationally), Traci Carter (Life Center – Top 90 Senior Nationally), Devonte Green (Long Island Lutheran – Top 100 Junior Nationally) and Mike Watkins (Phelps – Penn. State); along with several other nationally ranked seniors and juniors.

Locally, Benjamin Cardozo and St. Raymond are all expected to be front-runners for the New York City championship.

NBA players who participated in the BAB Invitational include: Kemba Walker (Charlotte Hornets); Danny Green (San Antonio Spurs); Lance Stephenson (Charlotte Hornets); Andre Drummond (Detroit Pistons); Brandon Knight (Milwaukee Bucks); Dion Waiters (Cleveland Cavaliers); Markieff and Marcus Morris (Phoenix Suns); Steven Adams (Oklahoma City Thunder) and Isaiah Thomas (Phoenix Suns).

Since 2004, the Big Apple Basketball Invitational event has helped over 1,000 student-athletes gain exposure for college scholarships through the event. BAB annually sponsors selected high schools for the showcase and invites college coaches nationally to travel to New York City to scout the student-athletes for scholarship opportunities.

Founded in 1999, Big Apple Basketball is a not-for-profit organization which provides exposure and assists young people in their athletic, educational, professional, and life skill development.

South Africa crushes Windies

Continued from page 39

tumble for 55 runs.

Fast bowler Morne Morkel picked up two for 43.

West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach did not bat because of an ankle injury.

Captain Hashim Amla hit his third double century as South Africa declared its first innings on 552 for 5 before rain prevented further play on day two of the Test.

Amla scored 208 and put on a record for the fourth wicket with AB de Villers, who contributed 152, while Stiaan van

Zyl became the fifth South African to score a century on debut.

Scores: South Africa first innings 552/5; West Indies 1st innings 201; West Indies 2nd innings 131.

The second Test starts on Boxing Day.

West Indies batsman Sulieman Benn, plays a shot on the fourth day of their 1st cricket Test match against South Africa at Centurion Park in Pretoria, South Africa, Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014. South Africa beat West Indies by an innings and 220 runs.

Associated Press / Themba Hadebe



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Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

South Africa declares at 552 for 5

South Africa scored a massive 552 runs for five wickets against the West Indies at the Centurion ground in South Africa. South Africa captain Hashim Amla scored 208 runs, Abde Devilliers 152 and debutant Stiaan van Zyl 101 not out. West Indies should now be aware of their shortcomings and hopefully the WICB can fill the gaps. Marlon Samuels and Jermaine Blackwood should not be doing much bowling in Test cricket.



West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels, bowled by South Africa's bowler Morne Morkel, for 33 runs on the third day of their 1st cricket test match at Centurion Park in Pretoria, South Africa, Friday, Dec. 19, 2014. Associated Press / Themba Hadebe

Strike bowlers needed

West Indies have to start preparing cricketers for Test cricket with the understanding that the five-day format calls for much more concentration. Twenty20 and One-day internationals are different to Test cricket. Twenty wickets must be taken in a Test for victory. West Indies have a good group of fast bowlers but a valuable wicket taking spinner is a necessity. Sulieman Benn bowls very well but he is not taking wickets frequently as needed. In any Test match, the spinner must be a wicket-taker to ease the pressure on the pacers. Samuel Badree must be introduced to Test cricket because he is a wicket taker who is capable of removing top players. Benn's style of bowling will not gain too

many wickets in South Africa.

Jonathan Carter must be drafted into Test cricket

Barbados middle order batsman Jonathan Carter seems to have the skills to perform as a middle order batsman. With some useful scores for Barbados in regional cricket, he showed his potential. It is important that young

players show much more dedication to their career as cricketers.

Samuel Badree will be challenging

Badree's bowling creates the competitiveness which is good for the game. He changes up his line and experiments a lot which cause batsmen to make mistakes. Selectors must identify and select wicket-taking spinners.



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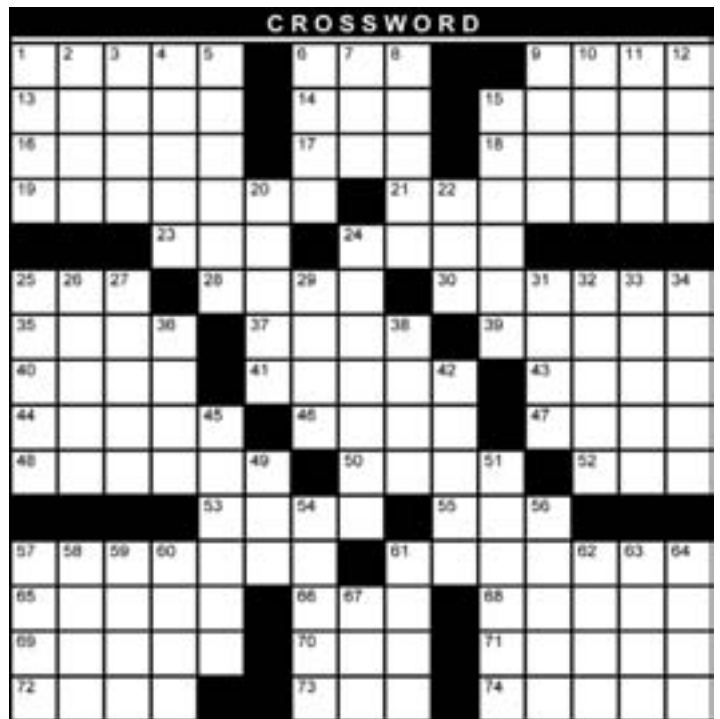
ACROSS

- Greek letter and ancient symbol of death
- First prime number
- _____ of March
- Curvaceous, as in a woman
- Common furniture wood
- "_____ and beyond"
- September stone
- E in BCE
- Downy duck
- *Remus' twin
- *The first woman, Greek mythology
- *Chinese zodiac animal
- Engage
- Adherent of Taoism
- Additionally
- Central vein of a leaf
- *Viracocha worshipper
- Smidge or scintilla
- *Roman goddess of the hunt
- South American monkey
- Lowest Hindu caste
- Give the cold shoulder
- Improve or rectify
- Theater section
- At this point
- *Hegemone and Chloris were _____ deities
- Clinton's #2
- Moray, e.g.

- "The _____ have it"
- Foe of illegal aliens
- "With a rumbly in his tumbly, but not even a _____ of honey..."
- *Half man, half horse
- Leisurely walk
- *Pandora's box was actually this
- High wave caused by tidal flow
- "Home Improvement" star
- Exclamation of surprise
- Tapestry
- Not to be confused with "want"
- Small dog's bark
- Doled out, as in cards

DOWN

- Kind of ski lift
 - Designer Boss
 - Test
 - Add
 - Female aviation pioneer
 - Little piggies?
 - *The Trojan _____
 - Giraffe's cousin
 - In the same place, when citing a reference
 - Popular symbol of extinction
 - _____ after
 - Plural of serum
 - *An epic by Virgil
 - a.k.a. tangelos
- *Greek mythology tells that humans originally had four of this
 - Ballpark staples
 - *Cronus or Oceanus
 - True inner self
 - The kids in "Eight is Enough," e.g.
 - *Psyche, Greek goddess of the _____
 - DIRECTV competitor
 - Hindu queen
 - Habituate
 - Confusion of voices
 - Hokkaido native
 - *Jason's vessel
 - Eagle's home
 - *To be slayed by a knight
 - *On Cyclops' forehead
 - *Group of nine deities in Egyptian mythology
 - Relish
 - Don't take one's eyes off
 - Bridge, e.g.
 - Stag
 - A small island
 - Act
 - Weather may affect its yield
 - City of Taj Mahal
 - Caspian basin river
 - One R in R&R
 - "Bingo!"



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Answers in Classified Section

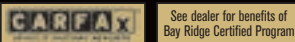
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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
It may seem that you have your head in the clouds, Aries. But you know that you have everything under control. Disregard the critics and keep plugging away.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, look inside yourself for the solution to a problem that has puzzled you. You understand the situation better than anyone else, so bear down and find the solution.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
There is no easy way out of the work you have to get done, Gemini. Just hunker down and accept that these tasks have to be completed before you can move on.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
You may feel some pressure from higher-ups, Cancer. But don't allow that pressure to distract you from the tasks at hand. You will get things done on time.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, after weeks of running around, it is finally time to kick your feet up and relax. The concept may seem strange to you, but soon enough you will get the hang of it.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you have been stuck on a problem but the solution is right around the corner. Perhaps you should change your perspective and go about it in a new way.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Focus on the positives of a new venture even if you're nervous about the outcome, Libra. If you let negative thoughts slide in you can quickly be overwhelmed.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
New possibilities seem to arise out of nowhere, Scorpio. Embrace the good fortune coming your way and make the most of these wonderful and exciting opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
It will take some energy to referee a situation at home, Sagittarius. Strong personalities can clash at times, but you have a way of working through the obstacles.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Don't try to hide your emotions this week, Capricorn. If others know just how you are feeling they will be more likely to offer a helping hand and some valuable advice.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
You have an infectious amount of energy this week, Aquarius. That will serve you well because many things are piling up on your to-do list. You're ready to meet tasks head-on.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Do you feel like you're being pulled in too many directions, Pisces? Let up on accepting any new responsibilities for now.

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Due to the holidays, the deadline for Classified ads will be Tuesday, December 30th at 4PM for the January 2nd issue. To avoid missing deadline, try to place your ads by Monday, December 29th. Have a safe & enjoyable holiday!

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CITATION File No. 2007-87/B PA. No. 142409 SURROGATE'S COURT, KINGS COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: Iris Beatty Simmons, Hettie Brown, Naomi Martindale, Venus Martindale Apatu, Dalton Simmons, House of Hills Funeral Home, Attorney General of the State of New York, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, New York City Human Resources Administration. The spouse, if any, and any and all unknown distributees and creditors of AMY PHILIPA ARTHUR, deceased, whose whereabouts are unknown and if any of

the aforesaid persons be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if the persons died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of AMY PHILIPA ARTHUR, the decedent herein, whose names and/or places of residence are unknown and cannot after due diligence be ascertained. A petition having been duly filed by the Public Administrator of Kings County, who has offices at 360 Adams Street, Room 144A, Brooklyn, New York 11201, United States. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street, Room 319, Brooklyn, New York, on January 27, 2015, at 9:30 o'clock in the fore noon of that day, why: (a) The account of proceedings of the Public Administrator of Kings County as Administrator of the estate of AMY PHILIPA ARTHUR, a summary of which has been served herewith, should not be judicially settled; (b) The Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid its commissions pursuant to SCPA §2307 in the amount of \$46,325.56, as set forth in Schedules C-1 and I of the Account; (c) The Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid its administrative expenses pursuant to SCPA §1106(3) in the amount of \$14,930.23, as set forth in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (d) The Court should not fix, determine and approve the legal fees of Cullen and Dykman LLP, counsel to Petitioner, in the amount of \$84,651.14 as shown in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (e) The Court should not fix, determine and approve the disbursements of Cullen and Dykman LLP in the amount of

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\$1,296.00 as shown in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account.; (f) The claims of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, the New York City Human Resources Administration, Dalton Simmons and House of Hills Funeral Home, if any, should

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not be fixed and determined; (g) The Petitioner should not be permitted to distribute so much of the net estate to the decedent's distributees, as now known or hereafter determined, as their interests may appear, and to deposit any

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amount not so distributed with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York to be held for the benefit of decedent's unknown distributees or for the benefit of any distributees of the decedent who are under disability for whom no guardian of the property has been

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appointed; (h) The Petitioner, upon fully complying with the Decree to be made in this proceeding, should not be released and discharged of and from any and all liability, responsibility and accountability with respect to the Petitioner's acts and proceedings as Ad-

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ministrators as set forth and embraced in said account and the Court grant such other and further relief as it deems just and proper; Dated, Attested, and Sealed, December 5, 2014 HON. Margarita López Torres, Surrogate Doreen A Quinn Chief Clerk Jo-

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seph J. Borges, Esq. Cullen and Dykman LLP 44 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005-2407 212-701-4175 NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do

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not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you, and you or your attorney may request a copy of the full account from the petitioner or petitioner's attorney.

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