



In this file photo, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, left, listens as Congresswoman Yvette Clarke speaks during a press conference outside police headquarters on Thursday Aug. 14, 2014 in New York.

Associated Press / Beбето Matthews

Clarke, Jeffries urge Guyana probe

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Democratic Congressional Representatives Yvette D. Clarke and Hakeem Jeffries have called for a probe into the dissolution of Guyana's National Assembly.

In a letter to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Clarke and Jeffries said on Monday that they were deeply concerned that Guyana's President Donald Ramotar dis-

solved the National Assembly "in an apparent attempt to prevent general elections and maintain himself in authority indefinitely."

"We are deeply concerned by the decision of President Donald Ramotar of Guyana to dissolve the National Assembly when members started to debate a motion of no confidence," they wrote.

"Democracy cannot exist

without the consent of the government — in a republic such as the United States or Guyana, expressed by their elected representatives," they added.

Under the Constitution of Guyana, the congressional representatives noted that the National Assembly has the authority to enact a motion of no confidence which, if

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CARIB BANKS GRIEF

Region labeled as high risk

By Bert Wilkinson

Until regional finance ministers and Caribbean Community heads like Gaston Browne of Antigua and Perry Christie of the Bahamas made some noise about it, the problems some commercial banks have been experiencing with counterparts such as Bank of America in recent months were hardly known to people in the region.

As the two leaders put it, the region is now being unjustifiably labeled as a high risk area and those in authority outside the region are discouraging international financial institutions from completing transactions made in the Caribbean trade bloc.

The issue was discussed extensively at last week's two-day summit which ended in the Bahamas at the weekend.

The result of the discussions by leaders and finance ministers is that governments have agreed to establish a special committee of finance ministers to probe reasons why American and European commercial

banks are reluctant to transact business with regional counterparts saying they fear many will soon face closure if the situation is not corrected.

CARICOM Chairman and Bahamian Prime Minister Christie announced the setting up of the ministerial sub-committee to try to determine why "the region is being unjustly labeled as a high-risk area for financial services."

The ministers are scheduled to hold talks with the umbrella Caribbean Association of Indigenous Banks on the issue in the coming weeks as the situation is considered as serious and urgent Christie said.

Immediate past group chairman and Antiguan Prime Minister Browne raised the issue during the summit saying that many banks in the Caribbean face imminent closure and this has nothing to do with their financial health or operational wrongdoing but simply because American correspondent banks are refusing to collaborate with

Continued on Page 5

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Vincentian elected to NY State Supreme Court



East Flatbush Village, Inc. All Stars Youth Cheer, Step, and Dance Team.

Photo by William Gerlich, NYC Council

Williams honors All Stars Youth

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Jumaane D. Williams has honored the East Flatbush Village, Inc. (EFV) All Stars Youth Cheer, Step and Dance Team, with City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, for its outstanding teamwork at the 2014 American Youth Football and Cheer National Championships.

On Dec. 14, 2014, EFV took 14 young women and men from their cheer team to compete in the 2014 American Youth Football and Cheer National Championships in Kissimmee, FL.

This was the second time EFV All Stars have competed in Florida at the national level.

"These exceptional youth placed first and third in the categories of Dance, Step and Cheer, respectively," Williams said.

At Nationals, Division 8, the team placed third in the dance category and, in Division 15, it placed first in the step category, thus securing the titles of 2014 National Step Champions and 2014 Step Grand Champions.

"These All Stars are exceptional examples of youth doing amazing things in District 45," said Council Member Williams, who is also Deputy Leader of the City Council and Chair of the Council's Housing and Buildings Committee.

"I am proud to stand with Speaker Mark-Viverito and my council colleagues to recognize these talented young people and to congratulate them for their success at the national competition," he added. "It is my hope that we continue to see great things out of these young people and that there are more occasions for us to celebrate in the near future."

By Nelson A. King

Vincentian-born judge Sharon M.J. Commissioning Gianelli has been elected for a 14-year-term to the New York State Supreme Court in Nassau County, Long Island.

Justice Commissioning Gianelli, 52, the niece of Vincentian lawyers Samuel and Bertram Commissioning, was previously elected to serve two terms as a district court judge in Nassau County's Third District.

Justice Commissioning Gianelli told Caribbean Life, in an exclusive interview, that it is a "genuine honor" to serve the people of New York "with mighty expectations I intend to meet.

"Reflecting on my own Vincentian heritage – and the changes America has experienced in the last few decades – reminds me to always be gracious and hard-working in my position," she said. "While few of my background have come before me, my wish is that many will follow.

"I've been elected to the New York State Supreme Court, and it feels truly great," she added, noting that the Supreme Court is the highest trial level court in New York. The court handles civil and criminal cases that exceed the authority of the state's lower courts.

Commissioning Gianelli said the law is about equal treatment for all, stating that there should be "no room for prejudice, nor time for silliness and unnecessary delay.

"It's important to always remember that the law affects every day human beings," she said. "There is no weakness in hearing out all sides before coming to a firm decision."



Justice Sharon Commissioning Gianelli. Photo courtesy of Justice Commissioning Gianelli

Commissioning Gianelli said she is "a proud Vincentian," pointing out that her values, work ethic and core principles were "forged and formed" in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and "further developed and honed here in America."

She said she was "raised by a village of parents, grandparents, aunts,

uncles, sisters, brothers, cousins, teachers, friends and others of good will", and that she was "honored and humbled to have been bestowed this blessing."

She said she will always be mindful that her newly-elevated position comes with "great responsibility to observe the law and [to] ensure that justice is done."

Guyanese culture aids scholarship fund

By Tangerine Clarke

Many students will benefit from the Dr. Walter A. Kyte Memorial Foundation, thanks to ongoing fundraising efforts in honor of the late professional whose motto was: "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain."

These meaningful words of Dr. Kyte continue to inspire compatriots who came out in full on Saturday, Feb. 28, to lend their talents to a cultural evening of song, dance and music to aid the memorial scholarship fund, named for the late Guyanese American educator.

The packed Grace Christian Church of Seventh Day Adventist on Dewitt Avenue in Brooklyn, showed commitment to fostering the growth of the fund that recently handed out its first scholarship to Miss Taneshia Lewis of Teachers Prep



Petra Young, and Ingrid Cudjoe performing a Trinidad Bele Dance. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

High School.

After a word of prayer by Pastor R. Howell, and an introduction of Emcee Jacob Caesar by Elder L. Abrigo, Jamai-

can Dr. A. Myers evoked stirring laughter with folklorist Louise Bennett's stylized poetry.

Petra Young, Ingrid Cudjoe and Judy Abrigo, dressed in costume, in turn, garnered loud applause for their traditional Trinidad Bele Dance sequence, before Anne Marie of St. Vincent and the Grenadines presented tales from her homeland.

Set against the backdrop of flags from Guyana, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Nigeria, Guyanese Cheryl Martin and group, engaged the audience with classic folksongs from Guyana, and danced to the rhythmic beat.

Many other performers helped to raise much needed funds to carry on the work of Dr. Kyte, who was called an advocate

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Antigua

The Antigua and Barbuda government says it has made an offer to purchase the property once owned by disgraced financier Allen Stanford who is serving 110 years in a United States jail for operating America's second-largest Ponzi scheme.

A government statement said the Cabinet of Prime Minister Gaston Browne at its meeting recently "decided to make an offer to the receivers of the Stanford Development Company (SDC) for the purchase of the Pavilion Restaurant and the seven acres of adjacent land," which sits within the precincts of the VC Bird International Airport.



It said the purchase is to ensure that the former Stanford employees, who have been awaiting monies due to them since 2009, will likely be paid shortly after purchase.

The receivers have asserted that the lack of funds have made payments to the former employees impossible.

Late last year, Stanford, the former Houston, Texas billionaire banker, filed a 299-page brief with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, making no fewer than 15 lengthy arguments about why he should be set free.

Stanford, who was once knighted by the Antigua and Barbuda government and operated several businesses on the island, was convicted in 2012 on 13 felony charges.

Barbados

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is projecting regional economies to grow by an average of two percent this year with expansions expected in all 19 borrowing member countries.

As was the case last year, most are set to grow by between one percent and three percent with the strongest performances expected in tourism and construction, along with some improvement in commodity exports.

The bank's preliminary forecast also reflects an anticipation of moderate improvements in the economies of the region's major trading partners, officials told a press conference in Barbados recently.



According to the CDB, while its preliminary estimate of regional growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) of 1.3 percent for last year is slightly lower than the revised figure of 1.7 percent for 2013, there is cautious optimism of further strengthening of the regional recovery.

In fact, the CDB says almost all regional destinations for which data were available recorded increased visi-



St. Lucia's renewable energy push

Cruise in Castries Harbour, St. Lucia. The island is hoping to use renewable energy to fuel a greater part of its tourism sector. See story on page 14.

Inter Press Service / Kenton X. Chance

tor arrivals last year.

Bahamas

The probable cause of the fatal plane crash that killed world renowned pastor, Dr. Myles Munro, 60, his wife and seven others in Freeport, Grand Bahamas, last November was "poor decision making of the crew," according to a final report by the Bahamas Department of Civil Aviation.

According to the report, "the AAIPU (Department of Civil Aviation Aircraft Accident Investigation and Prevention Unit has determined that the probable cause of the accident was the poor decision of the crew in initiating and continuing a descent in IMC (instrument meteorological conditions) below the authorized altitude, without visual contact with the runway environment."



The AAIPU said the aircraft made an initial instrument landing system (OLS) approach to runway 16 at Grand Bahamas International Airport.

Due to poor visibility and rain at the decision height, a specified altitude in the approach, the crew executed a go around procedure, the report said.

According to the report, a fireball that lasted approximately three seconds was observed as a result of the contact between the aircraft and crane.

This resulted in the aircraft traveling

out of control, before crashing inverted into a pile of garbage and other debris in the City Services Garbage and Metal Recycling Plant adjacent to the Grand Bahama Shipyard.

The group was traveling to Freeport for the Global Leadership Forum.

Guyana

The Ministry of Health has intensified efforts to prevent the reintroduction of measles into Guyana following the outbreak of the infectious disease in the United States of America and other parts of the world.

Indigenous Measles and Rubella were eliminated from Guyana and the Region of the Americas in 2002 and 2009 respectively, but remained endemic in some World Health Organization (WHO) regions.

These outbreaks, occurring since 2013, pose a threat to the Caribbean and sub Region including Guyana.

Immunization coverage nationally over the last five years is reported above 97 percent, but varies across the Region and is lower in rural and remote areas if Guyana, with small pockets of vulnerable persons including children and adults existing. The ministry is advising travelers into Guyana with a fever, rash along with a cough or running nose or pink/red eye to please contact a doctor or the nearest health center within your



community immediately.

Haiti

The Haitian government is exploring measures to prevent future incidents involving overhead high voltage power lines, the Minister of Communication, Rotchild Francois Jr. said recently.

The development followed a revision of the death toll from the recent electrocution during the Carnival celebration which left 18 dead. Most of the dead, 15 men and three women, died during a stampede after one of the floats carrying the popular band Barikad Crew hit an overhead electric cable causing a sudden large flash that caused a crowd of spectators to panic.



Jamaica

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is urging Jamaica to pass a law to abolish corporal punishment.

The body considers corporal punishment to be violence against children and made the recommendation for a full ban in the final report on Jamaica, following a visit and presentation by a Jamaican delegation to its meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, recently.

The committee was responding to



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Caribbean banks may face closure

Continued from cover

the region because it has unjustifiably been labeled as a high risk area. Where the labeling has come from is anybody's guess he said.

Indigenous member banks have at least \$30B in assets Brown said so money certainly cannot be an issue in this regard he argued. He pointed out that the region is at a loss to find out why it has been labeled as high risk.

"Unless this situation is addressed with urgency, the indigenous banks in each of our countries will be forced to close their doors, not because of any inherent difficulties in the banks themselves, but because they are constrained from transacting business abroad."

"Unless this situation is addressed with urgency, the indigenous banks in each of our countries will be forced to close their doors."

Browne said that the region is wasting no time in trying to solve the misconception that the area is bad



Bahamas Prime Minister Perry Christie speaks at the Caribbean Energy Security Summit, Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, at the State Department in Washington.

Associated Press / Pablo Martinez Monsivais

for business, noting that "if banks are unable to settle their transactions in the United States, Canada and Britain, that clearly has serious implications. It means therefore that we wouldn't be able to settle our trade transactions expeditiously. It also has implications for investments and we thought that rather than having the banks deal with these issues on their own, that there was need to elevate it to the level of the regional governance and to have CARICOM as a whole address the issue with various entities, to include the IMF, the World Bank, OAS and also to have dialogue with the correspondent banks in the various countries."

Guyana parliamentary probe

Continued from cover

successful, requires general elections within three months.

"The apparent attempt by President Ramotar to prevent general elections has effectively disenfranchised the people of Guyana by precluding a majority of the members of the National Assembly from acting in the interests of their constituents," they said.

They urged Kerry to "investigate this situation in collaboration with the community of nations and to work with elected officials in Guyana to secure fair elections in which the people have the ability to control the future of their nation."

On Jan. 20, Ramotar, who has suspended Parliament in November to avoid a no-confidence vote, announced that general elections would be held on May 11. Ramotar's People's Progressive Party (PPP), which is dominated by Indo-Guyanese, has held power for more than 20 years.

But it fell short of a majority in the assembly in 2011 with the rise of a multiethnic third party as a political force, according to the New York Times.

It said the two main parties have traditionally hewed to racial lines: one drawing support from the descendants of Africans, the other from the descendants of Indians.



President Donald Ramotar, of Guyana, addresses the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly, at U.N. headquarters, Friday, Sept. 26, 2014.

Associated Press / Richard Drew, File

Ramotar said he intends to invite international observers to observe the general elections.

"I will expect the political parties, the security services and the people of Guyana to conduct themselves in a manner that would ensure continued peace and stability before, during and after the elections," he said in a nation-wide address on Jan. 20.

"We have a collective obligation to ensure the protection of the democratic gains we have made and for which we have endured so much as a nation to secure," he added.

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serve as an example of the peaceful exercise of the right to vote," he said. "Your actions will strengthen the entire region's commitment to democratic institutions."

The U.S. Secretary of State said Guyana "participates positively in the region" through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, CARICOM and the Union of South American Nations.

"The United States stands with you as a partner and friend in the Inter-American System

"By working together, we can create a more stable, prosperous, and environmentally friendly region for both our peoples."

and in continuing to strengthen and revitalize the Organization of American States," he said. "We will continue to work together to achieve energy and environmental sustainability, as agreed upon during the recent Caribbean Energy Security Summit."

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Steel Pulse to liven Brooklyn book launch

By Vinette K. Pryce

Reggae fans will be nourished mentally, physically and probably in other ways when they stop into the Brooklyn Public Library on March 4 for a book launch.

The book, penned by Gary Himmelfarb AKA Doctor Dread is entitled "The Half That's Never Been Told: The Real Live Reggae Adventures of Doctor Dread."

In it, Doctor Dread "explains how a white, Jewish American became one of the foremost producers in reggae."

Born in Washington DC in 1954, he began working as a disc jockey at WHFS in 1979.

He chose the moniker, Doctor Dread to identify his programming of roots, reggae music.

Recounting his first visit to Jamaica in 1977 after hearing music by Jimmy Cliff and Bob

Marley, Doctor Dread details how four years later he was able to start his own distribution company which transformed to RAS (Real Authentic Sounds) Records, reggae label and emerged the sought-after producer to sign Culture, Eek-A-Mouse, Freddie McGregor, Don Carlos, Israel Vibrations, The Melodians, Michigan & Smiley, Luciano, Gregory Isaacs, Black Uhuru, Mad Professor, Inner Circle and Bunny Wailer.

As a matter of fact, the introduction to the book is written by Wailer, the only living member of Bob Marley's collaborating Wailers.

The cover features a classic photo of Dread with revered crooner, the late "Night Nurse" singer Isaacs.

Published by Akashic Books, the book has been anticipated by reggae insiders.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Associated Press / J. Scott Applewhite

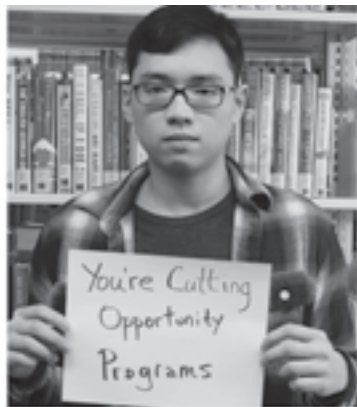
Energy Security Summit.

"We discussed the importance of attracting energy investments to move us down the path of energy independence," Kerry said. "By working together, we can create a more stable, prosperous, and environmentally friendly region for both our peoples."

On Guyana's 45 years of independence, Kerry noted that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member-state will hold national elections this year.

"I am confident that it will

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Venezuela objects to oil exploration off Guyana

By Bert Wilkinson

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana said Sunday that neighboring Venezuela is objecting to oil exploration in contested waters off the smaller South American country's coast.

There has been a decades-long territorial dispute between South America's biggest oil producer and sparsely populated Guyana, one of the region's poorest nations.

Guyana's foreign affairs ministry said that Caracas objects to plans for an exploratory well to be drilled in an area it contends is within Guyana's territorial waters. A subsidiary of U.S.-based Exxon Mobil Corp plans to conduct exploratory drilling later this month under a Guyana concession.

Guyana said it is requesting that Venezuela "desist from taking any actions that could only result in the stymieing of the development of Guyana."

Venezuela has for decades claimed two-thirds of Guyana's territory as its own, arguing that the gold-rich region west of the Essequibo River was stolen from it by an 1899 agreement with Britain and its then-colony. The area, roughly the size of the U.S. state of Georgia, is often shown in 19th-century maps of Gran Colombia,



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, right, greets supporters during a rally outside of Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015.

Associated Press / Fernando Llano

the short-lived republic revered by the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez.

Chavez's successor, Nicolas Maduro, has previously described the dispute as a relic of the colonial era and vowed to peacefully resolve the issue in accordance with international law. But the issue is not going away.

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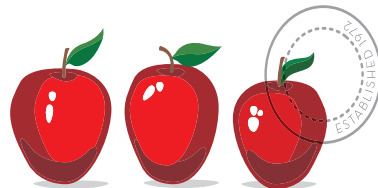
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Coverage of Islamic State, Ebola, VA and Secret Service failures Recognized as Top Investigative Works

Brooklyn, N.Y. (Feb. 15, 2015) – Reporters who risked their lives in 2014 to cover the Ebola epidemic, traced the rise of the Islamic State, and revealed secret ransoms paid for the release of hostages are winners of Long Island University’s 66th annual George Polk Awards in Journalism. Additional honorees include reporters who uncovered systemic failure in two federal agencies, the Secret Service and the Veterans Administration, as well as journalists who exposed brutal treatment of prison and jail inmates.

Awardees will be honored at a ceremony at The Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan on Friday, April 10.

“The excellent work across a variety of media platforms reflected by 558 nominations from news organizations, individual journalists, and members of our advisory panel suggests that journalists are adapting well to a landscape no longer dominated exclusively by print,” said John Darnton, curator of the awards.

The George Polk Awards are conferred annually to honor special achievement in journalism. The awards place a premium on investigative and enterprising reporting that gains attention and achieves results. They were established in 1949 by Long Island University (LIU) to commemorate George Polk, a CBS correspondent murdered in 1948 while covering the Greek civil war.

Reporting by the 2014 award recipients also laid blame for a deadly mudslide in Washington State on lax environmental enforcement, sparked the successful prosecution of a 10-year-old Chicago homicide by authorities reluctant to charge its well connected perpetrator, and connected the deaths of more than 300 domestic abuse victims in South Carolina and 400 migrants in Texas to inadequate laws, insufficient resources, and indifferent responses.

Garry Trudeau will be the 33rd recipient of the George Polk Career Award and is the first cartoonist in

the program’s history to be so honored. He has cut political pretension down to the size of his *Doonesbury* comic strip for 45 years. Four other cartoonists—Jules Feiffer (1961), David Levine (1965), Jeff MacNelly (1977), and Edward Sorel (1980)—have also been cited for their work in specific years.

Trudeau, Feiffer, and Django Gold, senior writer for *The Onion*, will discuss the role and impact of comics and satire in journalism in light of the Paris terrorist attacks on Charlie Hebdo in early 2015 at the David J. Steinberg Seminar of the George Polk Awards, “Dangerous Lines: Cartoonists and Other Subversives.” The seminar takes place on Thursday, April 9, at LIU Brooklyn’s Kumble Theater for Performing Arts. The event is free and open to the public.

“LIU is proud to honor excellence in investigative journalism that spans the globe with the George Polk Awards,” said Dr. Kimberly R. Cline,

president of LIU. “This year’s winners are true heroes who risked their lives uncovering the truth behind some of 2014’s most incredible stories, and we salute their courage and determination.”

About LIU

LIU is one of the nation’s largest private universities. Since its founding in 1926, LIU has provided high quality academic programs taught by world-class faculty grounded in the liberal arts and sciences. LIU offers 500 accredited programs to 18,500 students in the New York City metropolitan region. LIU has an active network of more than 180,000 alumni that includes leaders in industries across the globe. LIU is recognized for its commitment to experiential education, service learning, and entrepreneurial thinking. LIU empowers students with skills they need to excel in the classroom and in their careers. Visit liu.edu for more information.

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Ransom for Hostages
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Dennis Wagner
VA Hospital Scandal
The Arizona Republic

State Reporting

Doug Pardue, Glenn Smith, Jennifer Berry Hawes and Natalie Caula Hauff
“Till Death Do Us Part”
The Post and Courier
(South Carolina)

Television Reporting

Marisa Venegas, John Carlos Frey, and Solly Granatstein
“Muriendo por Cruzar”
 (“The Real Death Valley”) Telemundo, The Weather Channel, Efran Films and The Investigative Fund (Melvin McCray)

Commentary

Ta-Nehisi Coates
“The Case for Reparations”
The Atlantic

Career Award

Garry Trudeau

Water and the world we want

By Corinne Schuster-Wallace and Robert Sandford

HAMILTON, Canada, Feb 25 2015 (IPS) - We have entered a watershed year, a moment critical for humanity.

As we reflect on the successes and failures of the Millennium Development Goals, we look toward the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals to redress imbalances perpetuated through unsustainable economic growth and to help achieve key universally-shared ambitions, including stable political systems, greater wealth and better health for all.

More than any other resource, freshwater underpins sustainable development. Not only is it necessary for life and human well-being, it's a key element of all human industry.

And a U.N. report launched Feb. 24, "Water in the World We Want," outlines what must be done within the world's water system.

Effective management and universal provisioning of drinking water and sanitation coupled with good hygiene are the most critical elements of sustainability and development, preventing disease and death and facilitating education and economic productivity.

While two billion people have gained access to improved drinking water since 2000, it is estimated that just as many do not have access to potable quality water, let alone 24-7 service in their homes, schools and health facilities. Furthermore, 2.5 billion people without ade-

quate access and 1 billion with no toilet at all.

If we don't regain momentum in water sector improvements, population growth, economic instability, Earth system impacts and climate disruption may make it impossible to ever achieve a meaningful level of sustainability.

If this occurs we could face stalling or even reversal of development, meaning more people, not fewer, in poverty, and greater sub-national insecurity over water issues with the potential to create tension and conflict and destabilize countries.

Threat of a global water crisis is often mischaracterised as a lack of water to meet humanity's diverse needs. It is actually a crisis of not enough water where we want it, when we want it, of sufficient quality to meet needs.

Moreover, changes in atmospheric composition and consequent changes in our climate have altered the envelope of certainty within which we have historically anticipated weather, producing deeper and more persistent droughts and more damaging floods. These changing water circumstances will cascade through the environment, every sector of every economy, and social and political systems around the world.

So what in the world do we do?

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, every country must commit funding,

Continued on Page 12

Community Reinvestment Act can boost energy-efficiency, fund low-income schools

By Kathleen Rogers

One in five Americans spends his or her days in our nation's 140,000 K-12 schools. Those schools spend close to \$8 billion a year on energy costs, the second-largest line item in a school budget after personnel costs. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 25 percent of the energy used in schools is wasted. In a world of shrinking budgets and resources, energy-efficiency savings in utility costs could be used for desperately needed funding for additional teachers and school resources.

Nowhere is this more important than in our nation's poorest school districts, where the concept of a green, healthy school is rarely a priority.

Energy-efficient schools are now being lauded as places to be if you want to see improvements in standardized testing, and some studies have shown that students score significantly higher up to 20 percent if they attend green schools. In green school, school violence declines, teacher retention soars, and children and their teachers miss fewer days because of illness. Schools are already realizing significant gains from even simple energy-efficient retrofits. Schools from Utah to Tennessee are saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs and improving air quality, which keeps kids' minds more alert and teachers more engaged.

Richardsville Elementary School in Kentucky received

Energy-efficient schools are now being lauded as places to be if you want to see improvements in standardized testing.

a check last year for \$37,000 from the utility company for power it sold back to the grid. But those sorts of energy paybacks could be replicated elsewhere with larger investments, funding that has eluded our nation's most dilapidated and underperforming schools, where the backlog of routine maintenance alone is staggeringly billions of dollars.

What if we could secure billions of new private dollars for school energy-efficiency projects in low-income disadvantaged areas and allow the resulting energy savings to remain with each school?

The next frontier of green school funding could come from banks through the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), a federal law that requires banks operating in low-income areas to invest significant amounts of money in these areas, usually in the form of loans and grants for economic development projects, low-income housing projects and community centers. From 1996 to 2008, banks invested more than \$1 trillion in community development and small-business loans in low-income areas in part to score CRA points.

Banks take the CRA

requirement seriously because the points they earn are a determining factor when regulators review requests for mergers and acquisitions.

The litmus test for whether banks will receive CRA points is satisfied only if the "benefits" that accrue from these investments remain in the low-income communities.

Now the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the banks' regulator, has proposed a clarification that will allow banks to get CRA credit for investing in energy efficiency in low-income communities. This clarification incentivizes banks to give out low- to no-interest loans, or even grants, for green affordable housing and other community projects. These new projects will pass the "benefits test" because they will drive down energy costs for projects, centers and housing in the targeted low-income community.

The CRA currently provides that some schools are eligible for CRA funding, but only if the schools have fiscal autonomy. Public schools, on the other hand, are ineligible for CRA funding because their budgets are managed at the district or state level, and the benefits do not remain in the community, but rather accrue to the district or state budgets. Low-income-area public schools might qualify for low-interest loans or grants if the benefit stays with the individual school.

How would that work? Energy-efficient school re-

Continued on Page 12

Caribbean Life

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

Going global with the presidential ‘dis’

In how many different ways will Republicans on Capitol Hill and elsewhere in the country be prepared to show their wanton disrespect for the President of the United States? We are but a mere two months into the life of the new Congress, and the bashing and attempted blocking of the president that has seemingly been the be-all and end-all of the GOP’s *raison d’être*, has continued right on in inveterate fashion, perhaps with even more gusto now that the party controls both houses of Congress.

We were treated last week, once again, to that old tried and true GOP circus routine — threat of shutdown of a key government operation. This time it was the Department of Homeland Security being readied as the sacrificial lamb. All because voting to fund the department would mean allocating funds for the president’s executive order intended to bring relief to certain undocumented immigrants. And the GOP caucus in the House, particularly the extremist flamethrowers unable to be controlled by their own so-called leadership, would have none of it. So another stop-

gap measure for a temporary fix, and another and another ad nauseam looks like what we can expect from this Congress. Today it’s Homeland Security; who knows what tomorrow. Some folks are of the view that it’s just as well Republicans won those Congressional majorities last November, handing them an opportunity to display an affinity for taking care of the people’s business that conspicuously eludes them.

But really, on the matter of presidential disrespect, “open season on Obama” continues to surpass all else that went before it in sinking to eye-popping levels of bad taste. With respect to the immigration issue, rabid Republican opposition to President Obama’s executive order hardly would suggest to the unknowing the multiple instances of presidential precedent...by Republican presidents, no less. Eisenhower in 1959, Reagan in 1987, George H.W. Bush in 1990 and George W. Bush in 2002 all issued executive orders meant to offer some form of relief to immigrants. But even if ideologically they aren’t disposed to be supportive of immigration

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

overall, the fanatical extremes to which some Republicans are prepared to make good their objections to this president’s initiative, like de-funding a critical government operation, is merely more of the special anti-Obama venom that spews from haters of the first non-Caucasian who dared to be president.

Inevitably, the courts get involved in the process, with the immigration issue as with everything else. So a bunch of states joined in a suit to throw a monkey wrench into the program the president’s executive order would have initiated. A federal judge in Texas, in a 123-page decision (more is better?), ruled for the plaintiffs halting, at least temporarily, thousands of undocumented immigrants about to take advantage of the opportunity for a change in status that the president’s order offered them. The president and his legal team, in immediately

serving notice of appealing the decision, believe they have both the constitutional parameters of presidential authority and precedent on their side to prevail in a higher court.

We all know, however, that any notion of the courts being politics-neutral enclaves is laughable — that the highest court in the land is as indisputably a bastion of ideological bias as there is. So while Eisenhower, Reagan and the two Bushes issued executive orders that went into effect unhindered, we ought not be surprised if some right-leaning tribunal today impedes the Obama effort, never mind attempting but failing to mask the naked politics of it all.

And then we’ve seen come to fruition this week the barefaced indifference to President Obama by Speaker John Boehner in his outreach to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, inviting Netanyahu to address the Congress. Boehner and the prime minister or their surrogates could attempt to rephrase the rationale for their little duet every which way. It doesn’t require Rhodes scholar brains to understand that a ‘dis’

of the president was the overriding impulse here. Because they scheduled the thing with-in striking distance of Israel’s elections, possible political gain for Netanyahu would be gravy. Boehner, were he imbued with the right stuff (fat chance!), would be thoroughly ashamed for his flagrant breach of foreign policy protocol in circumventing the president to issue the invitation. And the same applies for blustery Netanyahu in his readiness to participate in the Boehner gambit. Both men, well aware of what was at stake, proceeded to allow their mutual dislike of President Obama to lead them to a grand-scale show of disrespect. The Boehner-Netanyahu collusion, slice it how they will, was all about sticking it to this president.

But even with an international dimension introduced into this non-stop treating the president with scant courtesy, the drumbeat gets to the point of no longer registering here among the plebes. After hearing a GOP Congressman call the president a liar during a State of the Union address, we can be excused for thinking we’ve heard it all.

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OP-EDS

Striving for a sustainable future

Continued from page 10

institutional resources and tools to the cause — including major realignment of national economic priorities where needed.

New mechanisms are required for transferring and sharing not only money but knowledge, data, technology and “soft” solutions proven in different contexts. Engagement of the private sector is critical in this transfer of technologies and know-how.

National governments must prioritize water, wastewater, and sanitation management, supported by a dedicated and independent arm’s length water agency.

The balance between environment, human security, and economic viability need to be articulated in a manner which holds all nations accountable for helping one another achieve the highest global standard for sustainable development, does not tolerate compromise, yet provides flexibility on the mechanisms by which to achieve those outcomes.

If we want to live in a sustainable world we have to provide clean and reliable sources of water to the billions of people who do not enjoy this basic right today and provide sanitation services to the more than two and a half billion people on Earth who lack even basic toilets.

Agriculture and energy sectors must be held accountable for water use and other system efficiencies while maintaining or increasing productivity. Companies that rely on, or have an interest in, water have a key role to play in financing and implementing sound water, sanitation and wastewater man-

agement strategies. Such companies must step up to the plate or risk significant losses. This is no longer simply corporate social responsibility but sound economic investment.

To ensure financial resources for implementation, new and emerging opportunities must be explored in parallel with more efficient expenditures, taking maximum advantage of economies of both scope and scale and accounting for trickle through benefits to many other sectors.

Additional funds can be freed up through phased redirection of the 1.9 trillion dollars currently granted as subsidies to petroleum, coal and gas industries. Corruption, a criminal act in its own right, siphons up to 30 percent of water sector investments which could be viewed as a crime against humanity within the context of sustainable development.

We can still have the sustainable future we want. But only if the world finds renewed determination and resumes the pace needed to reach our water-related development goals.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of, and should not be attributed to, IPS – Inter Press Service.

Corinne Schuster-Wallace, Senior Research Fellow at the UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health, and Robert Sandford is EPCOR Water Security Chair at UN University, are lead authors of the new report, “Water in the World We Want, Catalyzing National Water-Related Sustainable Development.”

Community Reinvestment Act

Continued from page 10

Unlike wealthier schools, our low-income schools do not have outside funding or inside advocates to bring in additional funding. The answer to this disparity lies partially with saving money by saving energy. Leaving those energy savings with the school, which allows banks to invest in energy retrofits under the CRA, would open the door to low-interest loans or grants. It’s a win-win proposition for our nation’s poorest schools.

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Rogers is president and CEO Earth Day Network. This article previously appeared in The Hill.

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MEDICAL RESEARCH GUIDE

CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

concerns on corporal punishment contained in a report submitted by local human-rights group Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ).

The lobby group said the government has failed to make the necessary legislative changes to prohibit all forms of physical and mental violence, which it said was part of the committee's recommendation in 2003.

The committee, too, also acknowledged progress, but agreed with the JFJ that corporal punishment should be abolished everywhere.

St. Lucia

Venezuela is gearing to receive its first set of medical students from St. Lucia through a new ALBA-funded education program.

In August 2014, the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, through the Grand Mariscal of Ayacucho Foundation, introduced the process of promotion and postulation of scholarships to pursue studies in Integral Community Medicine at the University of Health Sciences of ALBA-TCP.

The Ministry of Education in coordination with the Venezuelan Embassy in St. Lucia initiated the process, exceeding the expectations of the estimated number of students who would be interested in pur-

suage higher education in Venezuela.' In December 2014, the group of pre-selected students was interviewed at the head office of the Embassy of Venezuela and in January a selection committee was formed to validate the requirements and results of the interviews.

The embassy now awaits notification and publication of the final list of students accepted to pursue Integral Community Medicine in Venezuela.

St. Vincent

St. Vincent and the Grenadines authorities are seeking to ensure that the merger between British telecommunications giant, Cable and Wireless Communication (CWC) and Columbus Communication will not seriously affect local customers.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Commerce and Information Technology Nathaniel Williams said that while Jamaica has given the green light to the planned merger, individual countries in the region continue to assess the implications of the multi-billion deal.

Speaking on the state-owned NBC radio, Williams told listeners that individual governments will agree whether or not it is in the interest of each state for there to be a merger.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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Falling oil prices won't derail St. Lucia's push for clean energy



Workers use electricity and firewood to prepare cassava bread in Canarias, St. Lucia. The country's government says renewable energy can help with value-added in the agricultural sector. Inter Press Service / Kenton X. Chance

By **Kenton X. Chance**

CASTRIES, Feb 25, 2015 (IPS) - At Plas Kassav, a roadside outlet in Canarias, a rural community in western St. Lucia, a busload of visitors from other Caribbean countries, along with tourists from North America and Europe, sample the 12 flavours of freshly baked cassava bread on sale.

In the back of the shop, employees busily sift the grated cassava and prepare it for baking. Next to them, an electric motor powers a device that turns grated cassava as it bakes into farine — a cereal made from cassava tubers — in a wood-fired cauldron.

This is one of the ways in which this eastern Caribbean nation of 180,000 people is marrying its tourism and agriculture sectors.

Tourism makes the largest contribution to St. Lucia's 1.3-billion-dollar economy. And with oil prices expected to continue falling for some time, this 617-square-kilometre island is hoping for sig-



St. Lucia hopes to generate up to 30 megawatts of electricity in Soufriere, home to Sulphur Springs, the "world's only drive-in volcano."

nificant economic growth on the heels of the slim years since the global financial crisis struck in 2008.

The government says that the move toward renewable energy will see businesses and households paying less for energy and will also strengthen the nation's argument at the international climate change negotiations.

A renewable energy expert

with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) tells IPS that falling oil prices present an excellent opportunity for small island developing states such as St. Lucia and its 14 other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) allies to accelerate their renewable energy programme.

"I think you can look at it as a windfall that buys you time for the transition," Dolf Gielen says.

He tells IPS that falling oil prices will slow down but will not end the push towards clean energy.

"Oil prices will somewhat slow the acceleration but you will see a continued transition towards renewables," he says. "Now you have a little more time to plan it and to make sure that it functions well."

James Fletcher, St. Lucia's Minister of Public Service, Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology, tells IPS that he agrees that the region needs to accelerate its transition toward renew-

able energy, but is not certain whether lower fuel prices is really reason to exhale.

"I'm not sure about the breathing space. I think what it does, however, show is that this fuel price game is not one we want to be playing," Fletcher tells IPS.

He notes that while the price of oil has fallen to 50 dollars a barrel — less than half of what it was half year ago — the decrease did not result from any advances in technology.

"The price of oil right now

is being determined by the geopolitics of oil," he says, noting that Saudi Arabia has increased its production in an effort to make production of shale oil in the United States and Canada less attractive.

Fletcher says that Caribbean nations, with their fossil fuel-dependant economies, "don't want to be caught in a situation where today the price of oil is less than 50 dollars a barrel and tomorrow, if the Saudis and the other players decide, that the price of oil could go up to 120 dollars a barrel."

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Marley heirs win licensing suit

By Vinette K. Pryce

Thinking about using a photo of Bob Marley to decorate a T-shirt?

Think again.

If you do, the heirs to the reggae king could legally haul you into court and slap you with a hefty fine.

They recently won the right to do just that.

Recently, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in their favor making it illegal for individuals and merchandisers to use the image of the Jamaican, Rastafarian icon without permission.

Marley's heirs are behind a company called Fifty-Six Hope Road Music — which controls the late reggae star's likeness for licensing endeavors.

Six years ago, the company sued A.V.E.L.A. and others for using Marley photographs in merchandise sold at Target, Walmart and other large retailers.

Three years later, the plaintiff prevailed at trial on a Lanham Act claim that the merchandisers confused the origin of their goods. The defendants were ordered to disgorge more than \$750,000 in profits. Additionally, A.V.E.L.A. had to pay an additional \$300,000 in damages for interfering with the official licensing of Marley merchandise, and all the defendants were ordered to remit nearly \$1.52 million more in attorney fees.



A vendor displays Bob Marley items at the West Indian Day Parade, Monday, Sept. 1, 2014 in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Associated Press / Mark Lennihan

“This case presents a question that is familiar in our circuit,” 9th Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith said.

“When does the use of a celebrity’s likeness or persona in connection with a product constitute false endorsement that is actionable under the Lanham Act?”

A.V.E.L.A. threw up various objections, but perhaps the one most notable was that the judgment overextended a false endorsement claim by creating a federal right of publicity.

“State publicity right claims

protect a plaintiff when the defendant uses the plaintiff’s identity for commercial advantage, without permission,” Judge Smith explained. “However, (Lanham Act) claims require an additional element — that the use be likely to confuse as to the sponsorship or approval of a defendant’s goods.”

A.V.E.L.A. argued that consumers would always “associate a deceased celebrity’s image with that of his or her estate,” but Judge Smith responded that plaintiffs only succeed if they “show more than mere

association.”

In analyzing consumers’ likelihood of confusion in celebrity cases, courts are supposed to weigh factors such as the level of recognition of a celebrity, the relatedness of the fame of the celebrity to the defendant’s product, the marketing channels used and the defendant’s intent on selecting the celebrity.

Another factor is evidence of actual confusion on the part of consumers.

In this dispute, allegedly, the plaintiffs conducted a

survey of 509 individuals at shopping malls. The interviewees were shown an actual A.V.E.L.A. T-shirt bearing Marley’s image and were asked, “Who do you think gave their permission or approval for this particular T-shirt to be made or put out?” The interviewees were also shown a T-shirt of an unrenowned African-American man with dreadlocks and were asked the same question.

When shown the Marley T-shirt, 37 percent answered Marley or his heirs gave permission. When shown the other T-shirt, the number dropped to 20 percent. Some of the respondents opined the law required permission from the person whose image appeared on the shirt.

That’s not always true, but according to Judge Smith, “Drawing all reasonable inferences in plaintiffs’ favor, the survey shows actual confusion.”

“Evidence of actual confusion is relevant to likelihood of confusion but not required in a false endorsement case,” the judge added,

In addition, 9th Circuit Judge Morgan Christen agreed with the reasoning why the jury’s award was proper but addressed the issue of actual confusion.

In fact, she said consumers might not care who endorsed the shirt.

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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.

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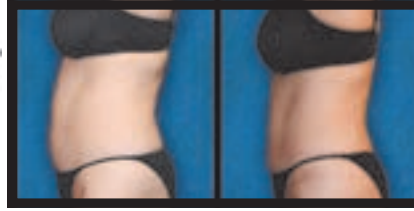
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First time at camp?



Camp is not anything if it is not about making new friends.

By Bob Ditter

Sending your child away to camp for the first time is a major milestone for most families, one that is often marked by excitement, anticipation, and perhaps even some anxiety. Though camp is certainly about making friends and having fun, it is also about being on your own and being a part of a community. One of the most important things you as a parent can do to help prepare your child for both these aspects of camp is to talk with your child about it before she goes. In fact, it may be better to have several occasional, shorter talks rather than one long conversation, as children often absorb more when there is less to think about at one time. I also find that children do better with this sort of conversation if it is part of a more general conversation and if it is part of a pattern of talking, either at the dinner table or while riding in the car doing errands.

The following are some sam-

ple topics for discussion that will help prepare your child emotionally for their big adventure:

Friends

Camp is not anything if it is not about making new friends. If you are shy about meeting new kids, then learn to get to know others by being a good listener. Remember also that not everyone in your cabin, bunk, or group has to be your friend, and you don't have to be everyone else's friend.

As long as you treat others with respect and they do the same with you, then having one or two friends at camp is fine. If you have more, then that's great!

Activities

There are many exciting things to do at camp, many of which you may never have tried before. If your child tends to be a bit homesick or worried about being homesick, remind her about the excitement of going

to camp: Remember, when you first decided to go to camp, what made you so excited? You may not like all the activities, or you may be better at some than others. That's normal. I, however, hope you are willing to try. The more you put into camp, the more you will get out of it!

Cooperating

You, like every other camper there, will be part of a cabin, bunk, or group. As your parent, I hope you will cooperate with others and help out. That's part of what makes camp so special — kids helping each other out. Most kids will help you if you are friendly and help them.

Give yourself time. One thing about camp is that almost everything is new — the kids, the activities, the routines, the bed you sleep in, the bathroom. It takes a few days to get adjusted, so be patient with yourself. Most of the time you will be having so much fun you won't mind all the changes, but if you do,

remember that you will get so used to things that by the time you come home you will miss all those things!

Helping out

Camp is about fun, but it also requires that you help out.

Clean-up is part of camp. You do it every day! As your parent, I hope you will cooperate!

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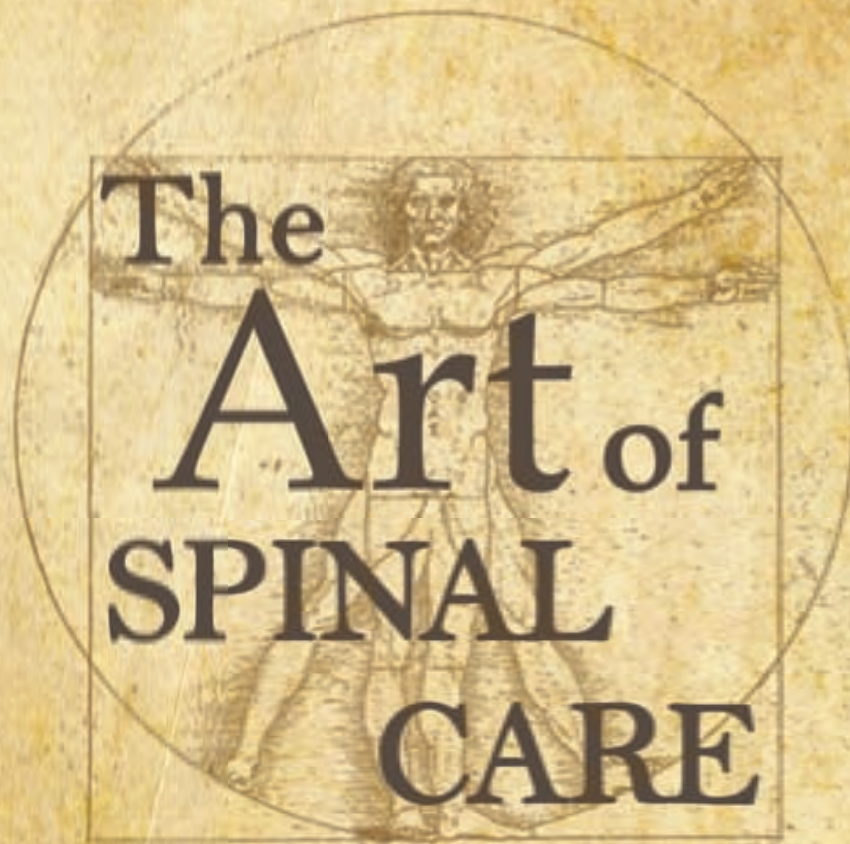
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TODAY

HOW TO AVOID GROWING BORED IN RETIREMENT

From the moment young men and women first walk into the office for their first day as a working professional until the day they officially retire, the notion of planning for retirement is never far from their minds. But when the day to hang up the briefcase and donate all those business suits arrives, some retirees wonder what to do next. Some retirees know exactly how they will spend their days when they no longer have to work, while others who decide to play it by ear may find themselves battling boredom.

For those among the latter group, it's important to understand that many retirees find themselves bored once they no longer have to focus on a career. Jobs keep men and women busy and provide a sense of purpose in their lives, so it's understandable that retirees feel bored once those jobs are no longer a part of their lives. But just because you no longer have an office to go to every day does not mean life cannot be as fulfilling or even more fulfilling than it was when you were still working. You just need to find something to avoid succumbing to retirement boredom.

Work part-time. Though it might seem odd to start working right after you retire, a part-time job can provide the type of structure you have grown accustomed to without all of the responsibility that comes with a full-time career. Part-time jobs can range from consultancy work that makes use of your professional experience to something entirely different like landscape maintenance at a nearby golf course that gets you out of the house and enjoying the warmer seasons. Whichever you choose, make sure it's something you find fun and interesting.

Continued on page 24



Popular sports for seniors

Age doesn't have to stop older men and women from enjoying their favorite sports. In fact, remaining active can improve physical and mental health.

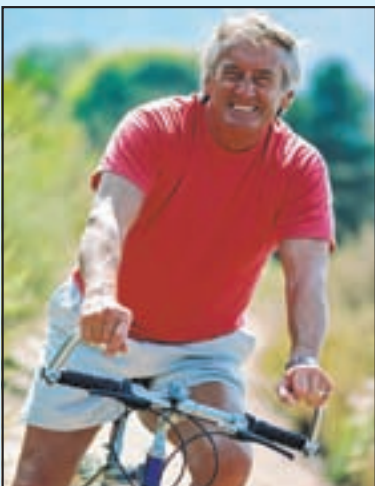
If a doctor has confirmed that it is okay to participate in sports, these activities can help men and women 50 and older enjoy friendly competition and physical activity.

Fishing

Fishing is more than just a leisurely day at the lake. Casting and reeling in your catch provides a good workout for the arms, legs and core muscles of the body. If you fish on the water, rowing out to your lucky spot provides additional cardiovascular exercise.

Golf

Golf is enjoyed by people of all ages. Requiring a combination of strategy and skill, golf also pays several physical dividends. Play at your own pace, taking your time walking from hole to hole so you can enjoy the sunshine and soak in the beauty of the course.



Age doesn't have to stop older men and women from enjoying their favorite sports.

Cycling

Many seniors are avid cyclists. You can ride a bicycle in competition or for pleasure. You can even vary your route depending on how physically intense you want the ride to be.

RETIRE

Continued from page 23

Embrace a new hobby. Working professionals often say they wish they had time to pursue a hobby. Now that you are retired, you have all the time in the world to do just that. Whether it's perfecting your golf game, writing that novel, learning to cook like a gourmet chef, or whatever else you might have always wanted to do, retirement is a great time to do it.

Get in shape. If retirement boredom has started to negatively affect your mood, one great way to conquer your boredom and improve your mood at the same time is to start exercising. Exercise is a natural mood enhancer. When the body exercises, it releases chemicals known as endorphins, which trigger positive feelings in the body. In addition, regular exercise has been shown to reduce stress, boost self-esteem, and improve sleep. Working out at a gym also is a great way to meet fellow retirees in your community, and the energy you have after exercising may give you the boost you need to pursue other hobbies.

Volunteer. If a part-time job is not up your alley, then consider volunteering in your community. Volunteers are always in demand, and



Embracing a new hobby is one way for recently retired men and women to avoid growing bored during retirement.

volunteering with a local charity can provide a sense of purpose and provide opportunities to meet like-minded fellow retirees, all while helping to quell your boredom. Retirees who love to travel can combine their passion for volunteering with their love of travel by signing up to work with an international relief organization that travels abroad to help the less fortunate.

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Depression and our Seniors

While there is a common belief that depression is a normal part of aging. It's not. But unfortunately it is prevalent among the elderly. It is not uncommon for people of all ages to experience bouts of sadness but amongst the elderly the results can be debilitating and life threatening. Some examples of the devastating effects of depression can be increases in the risk for cardiac diseases and exacerbates a person's ability to recover from other illnesses. Increases in the risk of mortality and feelings of hopelessness may dissuade older individuals from following their treatment. Clinical depression is a disorder that effects mood, feelings, behavior and potentially physical health and is diagnosed when sadness is persistent or begins to affect a person's ability to function normally.

Depression is the most significant risk factor for suicide. And suicide is more common among older individuals than any other age group in the U.S. The elderly make up about 13 percent of the U.S population, but they account

for 20 percent of deaths by suicide, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Fortunately, depression is highly treatable.

Symptoms

Depression is often overlooked among the elderly. The problem lies in that it is often hard to spot and distinguish from other conditions or treatments which cause similar symptoms.

Family members should look for the following signs in their loved ones:

- Agitation or Anxiety
- Persistent feelings of guilt
- Social withdrawal
- Appetite disturbance
- Unexplained weight loss or gain
- Lack of attention to personal care
- Sleep disturbance
- Loss of interest in normally pleasurable activities
- Feelings of discouragement or hopelessness

Triggers

Roughly Six million Ameri-

cans over the age of 65 struggles with depression. Changes to body (biological) and or mind (psychological) factors that often accompany the aging process may contribute to depression among our seniors. Examples are:

- Social isolation and loneliness
 - Onset of a serious illness like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Stroke or Cancer
 - The use of certain medications (which can trigger depression or worsen existing conditions)
 - Stressors like the loss of a spouse or close friends
 - Struggling with loss of independence
 - Living with a chronic medical illness
 - A change in environment such as moving into a new home
- These factors can all trigger or increase depression.

Treatment

Patients can be successfully treated with their depression in a number of ways. In general the treatments for depression in

younger patients are the same in the elderly. Medications (antidepressants) and/or psychotherapy are usually the techniques Professionals will treat their patients with successful results.

Physical activity, staying busy by keeping the mind and body occupied, and maintaining social interactions through activities and time spent with family and friends can be key to warding off serious bouts of depression.

If You Suspect a Problem, What Should You Do?

- Talk with your physician. Explain how you feel and describe what is not normal for you. Have a list of all medications, vitamin, mineral, and herbal supplements
- Talk to a trusted friend, family member, or spiritual advisor

Talking with Your Doctor, Pharmacist, or Other Health Care Providers

- Have a list of all medications, herbal remedies, vitamin, mineral and herbal supplements
- Ask questions. Take a list if necessary.
- Don't be shy or embarrassed. Explain how you feel.
- Remind your doctors and pharmacist about your medical

history

- Ask for advice and instructions in clear writing
- Ask for a follow-up visit if all your questions cannot be answered during your appointment

A healthy mind contributes to a healthy body. Depression is a treatable illness and physicians and family members should not mistake it as normal symptoms of aging.

Rabbi Ronen Fuksbrumer, has a Master's degree in Applied Clinical Psychology and Education from Columbia University and is a Certified Life/Executive Coach. He is the Executive Vice President at Homecare Services of NY, a Licensed Home Care Agency. HCS founded by Jeff and Agnes Shemia is licensed in the 5 boroughs and Nassau county. HCS prides themselves in finding the right match for the patients they service and treating their patients like family. Ronen can be reached at 917-238-9393 or ronem@hcs-homecare.com for any questions regarding homecare.



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Sheltering seniors from rent increases

BY JOANNA LEEFER

My mother-in-law Lillian celebrated her 98th birthday last month. The weather was too frigid to go out so my husband, son, and my in-laws decided to celebrate her birthday in her spacious one-bed room rental apartment located on the fashionable Upper West Side. The building is a 12-story luxury doorman residence with a marble-floored entrance and plenty of brass railings, doorknobs, and accessories. It is quite a desirable find.

Most of my readers already know that my mother-in-law lives on her Social Security and receives 24-hour home care through Medicaid. How can she afford to live in a luxury building? The answer: she participates in a little known New York State program called Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption.

New York State's senior exemption program allows tenants aged 62 years old and older with an income of \$50,000 a year or less to live in their rent-controlled or stabilized apartments without paying rent increases. Before they become eligible, they must prove that they pay at least one-third of their disposable income toward rent. Once a senior is accepted into the program, it makes up the difference between the frozen rent and the increase. No matter how much the rent increases, the tenant's rent remains the same. If a tenant applies for the program while paying \$1,500 a month in rent, her rent will remain at that rate for the rest of her residency. If the rent increases by \$100 a month, the tenant pays the original rent, and the state pays the increase. The same is true if the rent increases by \$200 or \$300 a month — or even \$1,000 a month.

Lillian moved into her current apartment back in the 1980s, when her neighborhood was considered a little too edgy for many people. Her rent was \$350 a month, a bit of a stretch for a woman who sold coats in a clothing store on W. 72nd Street. I remember looking out her bedroom window and seeing trash and drug paraphernalia strewn around the back courtyard. I worried about her safety.

Lillian retired when she turned 62. Knowing her income would be limited, she applied and was accepted into the program. At least she knew her rent was secure. Every two years when she signs a new lease, she submits a copy to the program's office and continues to pay the same \$350 a month rent. The program pays the difference between the rent increase and her original rent. Thirty-five years later, she still pays the same rent she paid when she first moved in.

Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption was created in 1970 to protect low-income seniors from rent increases in rent-controlled and rent-stabilized apartments. In 1976, the income requirement was extended to eligible tenants in certain rental and cooperative apartments in buildings that are now referred to as Mitchell-Lama apartments. When the program was first introduced the eligibility income cut off was \$29,000, but in July 2014 the income requirement was increased to \$50,000.

Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption was created in 1970 to protect low-income seniors from rent increases in rent-controlled and rent-stabilized apartments.

To apply for the program, an applicant must fill out an application and submit it along with required documents, which include proof of income and a copy of the prior and current lease. The form is available through the New York City Department of Finance office, online at the NY ACCESS website, www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/tenants-scrie.page, or at many senior citizen centers. The completed application is then sent to the Department of Finance, where it is processed. A participant must reapply every time a new lease is signed.

New York State offers a similar program to people with disabilities called Disability Rent Increase Exemption. It was established in 2005 through an amendment to the senior rent law. The requirements are the same; but the applicant must have an income level of \$50,000 or less and proof that he pays at least one-third of his disposable income for rent.

Not everyone can be lucky enough to pay only \$350 a month rent for a desirable apartment in Manhattan, but if you know of some one who might be eligible for the program, she might continue to live in the same place without rent increases going forward.

Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor/advocate and founder of ElderCareGiving, a service that helps families find and get the best care for their aging loved ones when family care is no longer enough. She has been working with seniors and their families for 10 years. Her book "Almost Like Home: A Family Guide to Navigating the Nursing Home Maze," is now available. To order, go to <http://joannaleefer.com/book-preview>.

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Egbert Hall was born in Plaisance East Coast Demerara, Guyana, on Feb, 26, 1914. He attended Plaisance Wesleyan Primary School. On leaving school, he worked on the the Demerara sugar plantation as an engineer apprentice where he developed to be a first class engineer.

He later joined the Transport and Harbor Department after the closure of the estate in Guyana then immigrated to England in 1959. Hall worked there with the British Railways in 1962.

Hall returned to his native Guyana in 1975 to join his wife. They later immigrated to the United States to live with their daughter in 1984. They lived with her for some time and went on their own. His wife died in September 1988.

He is a proud resident of Bushwick, Brooklyn living at the Duncan Genns Senior Citizen Apartment. He is a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church over many years and would always offer his input when any issues arise. He also supports different events given by the church groups. Hall spends his day interacting with his peers at Lucille Rose Adult Day Care Center which he considers a home away from home where he is pampered by Veronica Alert who he adores very much. He enjoys



Egbert Hall celebrates his 101 birthday in Brooklyn.

dancing, playing dominos, and attending Bible study. He maintains his wittiness and sense of humor.

Ebert Hall is a father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, cousin, friend, activist, and a great confidant.



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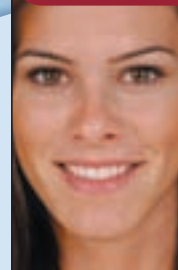
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Haitian chanteuse Emeline Michel with Haiti Optimiste co-host Marc Baptiste. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Haiti's Artists Institute celebrates

By Tequila Minsky

Brooklyn resident, Haitian-born Marc Baptiste is an image-maker — his photographs appear in a slew of fashion and beauty magazines. He's well aware of the power of representation and how popular media mainly dwells on negative images about Haiti.

In 2008, he teamed up with lower Manhattan resident David Belle for the first of

Continued on Page 34

Patoranking signs deal with VP Records

By Kevin Bollers

Nigerian reggae-dancehall singer and songwriter Patoranking has signed a distribution deal with VP Records. He made this huge announcement via Instagram on Feb. 9, 2015.

Patoranking, also known as Patrick Nnaemeka Okorie, started his musical career doing underground collaborations with artists such as XProject, Konga, Slam and Reggae Rockstone. He signed a record deal with K-Solo's Igberega Records in 2010, releasing "Up in D Club" under the outfit. He became a protégé of Dem Mama Records after collaborating with Timaya on his song "Alubarika." It is a song that he

Continued on Page 34



Members of the National Dance Theater Company of Jamaica (NDTC).

Photo courtesy of BAR

DANCE TREAT

Jamaica's national dancers return to Brooklyn

By Vinette K. Pryce

"Kumina" and other island dance favorites are among treats programmed into a two-day repertoire billed for the 60th anniversary season at Brooklyn Center of the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College when the National Dance Theater Company of Jamaica (NDTC) return here.

Returning to the borough for the first time since their 50th Anniversary tour in 2012, the company will perform two programs "combining evocative new works with favorites

from their extensive repertoire."

Helmed by the talents of Barry Moncrieffe, artistic director in collaboration with musical director Ewan Simpson, NDTC provides a reliably satisfying program anticipated by New York audiences for two decades.

One of the highlights feature the much revered routine choreographed by the late Rex Nettleford, a co-founder with Eddy Thomas of the reputable Caribbean dance company.

"Kumina" has endeared patrons to performances that proudly boast the

rich culture and history of the people and region.

Combining folk music, drumming and powerful elements of ancestral spirits, the dance displays a ritual of African origin to acknowledge an African-Jamaican religion, a supreme creator and Shango.

Through a powerful and entrancing routine performed by some of the company's best dancers, the engaging routine guarantees standing ovations, repeat curtain calls and revela-

Continued on Page 34

Postage stamp to honor 'Miss Calypso' Forever

It is Women's History Month and a phenomenal woman is being memorialized when spring breaks — less than a year after her death.

First acclaimed as Miss Calypso — prior to becoming the well-known Maya Angelou — she was known by a moniker that lauds the Caribbean and its music.

During the final days of Black History Month, the United States Postal Service announced that the poet, author, educator and calypso singer will be honored with a 'Forever' postage stamp.

"Maya Angelou inspired the nation through a life of advocacy and through her many contributions to the written and spoken word," Megan J. Brennan, USPS Postmaster General said in a press statement.

At age 29, Angelou appeared in an Off-Broadway production entitled "Miss Calypso."

The ambitious and enter-



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

prising young woman also recorded "Miss Calypso," a 1957 album she wrote and released on the Scamp Records label.

According to Wikipedia, "the album was released during a craze for calypso music catalyzed by Harry Belafonte, the previous year. Angelou sings every song on the album, and she composed five of them. Behind Angelou's voice, studio guitarist Tommy Tedesco and percussionist Al Bello created an exotic mood. Angelou toured in support of the album, performing calypso songs in nightclubs."

Songs she recorded included: "Run Joe," "Stone Cold Dead In The Market," "Neighbor Neighbor," "All That Happens In The Market Place" and

"You Put It On Me."

As a matter of fact, the album inspired her first feature film, "Calypso Heat Wave" which she starred and sang.

Launching her into another genre, she became Hollywood's first Black female director.

"Her wide-ranging achievements as a playwright, poet, memoirist, educator, and advocate for justice and equality enhanced our culture," the postmaster added.

Probably best-known for her poetic memoir "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," the telling story details her life in the Jim Crow South.

That her photo image will decorate one of USPS' perpetually priced postage stamps adds to those celebrating the legacy



In this file photograph, poet and activist Maya Angelou addresses the delegates during the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Tuesday, July 27, 2004.

Associated Press / Elise Amendola

of outstanding Americans.

The agency did not disclose when the stamp would be made available to customers or the exact location and date for a first-day issue ceremony.

Born Marguerite Annie Johnson in St. Louis, after her parents separated she was sent

to live with her grandmother in a town in Arkansas, named Stamps.

Imagine that, the future fixture to guarantee domestic mail delivery actually lived in a place named Stamps, after James Hardy Stamps.

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Con man matches wits with former protégé

"Focus"
 Good (2 stars)
 Rated R for profanity,
 sexuality and brief
 violence
 Running time:
 104 minutes
 Distributor:
 Warner Brothers
 Pictures



Jess Barrett (Margot Robbie) and Will Smith (Nicky Spurgeon) in a scene from the film "Focus."
 Photo courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes

By Kam Williams

Jess Barrett (Margot Robbie) is an aspiring con artist who picked the worst guy to steal a wallet from when she settled on Nicky Spurgeon (Will Smith). She had no reason to suspect that he was a third generation flimflam man descended from a grandfather who ran a crooked poker game in Harlem back in the day.

Nicky was more curious than infatuated when he accepted the seductive stranger's invite up to her hotel room after sharing drinks at a bar in midtown Man-

hattan. So, he was ready when an accomplice (Griff Furst) posing as her berserk husband burst in brandishing a fake gun.

Rather than hand over his

wallet, Nicky calmly laughs and schools the two in the flaws of their little shakedown, such as not waiting until he was naked to try to rob him. Jess is so

impressed that she not only confesses, but begs him to take her on as a protégé, giving him a hard luck story about having been a dyslexic foster kid.

Nicky agrees to show her the ropes, and even invites her to join his team of hustlers about to descend on New Orleans where they plan to pickpocket plenty of unsuspecting tourists. They're also set to hatch an elaborate plan to fleece a wealthy compulsive gambler (BD Wong) of over a million dollars.

Though Jess proves to be a fast learner and the plot is executed without a hitch, Nicky is reluctant to include her in his next operation after they become romantically involved. Instead, he moves on alone to Argentina, where he hopes to bilk a racing car mogul (Rodrigo Santoro) of a small fortune.

The plot thickens when Jess is already draped on the arm of the playboy billionaire by the time Nicky arrives in Buenos Aires. Is she in love with the handsome Garriga or simply staging her own swindle? Will she expose Nicky as a fraud or might she be willing to join forces with her former mentor?

Independent & Foreign Films

Bad Asses on the Bayou (R for violence, profanity, sexuality and nudity) Danny Trejo and Danny Glover reprise their roles in this sequel to "Bad Ass 2" set in Baton Rouge where the aging tough guys take the law into their own hands to rescue a pal's (John Amos) daughter kidnapped for ransom (Loni Love). Rob Mello, Sammi Rotibi and Jimmy Bennett.

Earth's Golden Playground (Unrated) Gold Rush documentary highlighting the present-day resurgence of mining among prospectors searching for the mother lode up in the Yukon.

Faults (Unrated) Psychological thriller about desperate parents (Beth Grant and Chris Ellis) who hire a disgraced deprogrammer (Leland Orser) to rescue their daughter (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) from the clutches of a mind-controlling cult. With Jon Gries, Nicholas Tucci and Leonard Earl Howze.

An Honest Liar (Unrated) Retrospective about magician-turned-skeptic The Amazing Randi's career spent debunking hoaxes, pseudoscience and claims of paranormal activity. Featuring Aice Cooper, Uri Geller, Penn Jillette, Bill Nye and Michael Edwards.

Kidnapping Mr. Heineken (R for pervasive profanity) Fact-based drama recreating the 1983 abduction in Amsterdam of the heir (Anthony Hop-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

kins) to the mammoth beer fortune. Cast includes Sam Worthington, Jim Sturgess and Jemima West.

The Lesson (Unrated) Survival saga about a cash-strapped schoolteacher (Margita Gosheva) who resorts to desperate measures to provide for her family. With Ivan Barnev, Ivan Savov, Stefan Denolyubov and Ivanka Bratova. (In Bulgarian with subtitles)

Merchants of Doubt (PG-13 for brief profanity) Screen adaptation of Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway's best-seller of the same name, a cautionary documentary warning about the profusion of pundits-for-hire who create confusion by posing as impartial experts who dispute the conventional wisdom about global warming, pollution and the pharmaceutical industry.

October Gale (Unrated) Crime thriller set in a remote cottage on an island where a recently-widowed doctor (Patricia Clarkson) cares for a mysterious stranger (Scott Speedman) who washed ashore with a gunshot wound while trying to evade the shooter (Tim Roth) seeking to finish him off. With Callum Keith Rennie, Aidan Devine, Billy MacLellan and Eric Murdoch.

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Uptown Funk!**
Mark Ronson
- 2 **Thinking Out Loud**
Ed Sheeran
- 3 **Blank Space**
Taylor Swift
- 4 **Style**
Taylor Swift
- 5 **Take Me To Church**
Hozier
- 6 **Sugar**
Maroon 5
- 7 **Time of Our Lives**
Pitbull & Ne-Yo
- 8 **Lips Are Movin**
Meghan Trainor
- 9 **I'm Not The Only One**
Sam Smith
- 10 **FourFiveSeconds**
Rihanna & Kanye West...

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **If You're Reading This...**
Drake
- 2 **Smoke + Mirrors**
Imagine Dragons
- 3 **50 Shades of Grey**
Soundtrack
- 4 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 5 **The Underdog**
Aaron Watson
- 6 **x**
Ed Sheeran
- 7 **In The Lonely Hour**
Sam Smith
- 8 **2014 Forest Hills Drive**
J. Cole
- 9 **V**
Maroon 5
- 10 **Hozier**
Hozier



DANCE

Continued from page 31

tions each time “Kumina” fits the NDTC bill.

Aside from presenting entertainment, the aim of the NDTC is “to encourage the Jamaican public to better appreciate the art of dance, and to research and utilize indigenous dance-forms and movement pattern from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.”

Slated for March 21 and 22, two 8 o'clock performances will showcase the much-anticipated program.

A Sunday matinee begins at 3:00 p.m.

Other incomparable offerings from the repertoire include:

“Drumscore” (1979) choreographed by Nettleford and features the NDTC singers.

“Dialogue for Three” (1963) is also a Nettleford work.

“Playtime” (2014) showcases traditional Jamaican folk songs featuring NDTC singers and orchestra.

“Sulkari” (1980) choreographed by Eduardo Rivero-Walker, originally premiered on May 13, 1971 by the Danza Nacional de Cuba and “Incantation” (2002), choreographed by Jeanguy Saintus, offer a solo



The National Dance Theater Company of Jamaica will be performing at the Brooklyn Center of the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College on March 21- 22, 2015. Photo courtesy of BAR

excerpt featuring Kerry-Ann Henry.

For details, check www.brooklyncenter.org or by calling the box office at 718-951-4500.



Haiti Optimiste ended the evening of music, screenings, and testimony with a rara band that led the audience up the stairs into a reception to continue the warm vibes on a frigid night.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Artists

Continued from page 31

what has become an annual benefit event, Haiti Optimiste, a celebration of the positive aspects of Haiti.

Last week, the Haiti Optimiste event was held at the French Institute Alliance Française to celebrate how far the Artists Institute — the filmmaking Ciné Institute program and its sister Audio Institute — has come in these last 10 years since its early beginnings in Jacmel. There are a combined 150 students attending the tuition-free, two-year programs of the Institute.

Early in the evening, Ciné Institute founder David Belle made the point how only one percent of high school graduates in Haiti can go on to higher education. He emphasized how education is a powerful weapon against poverty and a tool for social change. “These graduates have fought so hard for where they’ve got to today,” he said.

Very moving film portraits of Ciné Institute graduates were screened followed by a panel with three graduates who traveled from Haiti to participate.

Of the Institute, Keziah Jean says, “It’s the best thing in my life.” She is now the head communication officer for Sean Penn’s JP/HRO organization.

Reggae dancehall

Continued from page 31

describes as a summary of his life as a musician. In February 2014, he signed a record deal with Foston Musik and released “Girlie O,” a single that has put him in the lime-light.

The reggae-dancehall singer spoke of this announcement and the excitement he felt about what it represents in terms of his music career, “This announcement, this partnership with VP, was the best way to start 2015. I give thanks to God, to my fans, to my family, to my close friends, and to my team for what has been accomplished so far. A new book is being written and I am honored to be amongst the writers. It may have taken time for the world to see the talent that lives on the ‘dark continent,’ but now we’re ready to take on the world. I believe music is one of the strongest influencers in the world, maybe even stronger than government. But for my career, signing with VP means that the world now has direct access to my



Nigerian reggae-dancehall singer Patoranking.

music. I’ve been given a platform that has developed and pushed out some of the biggest reggae and dancehall acts in the world. I have become the African Ambassador for reggae and dancehall music, so I must represent for the continent and show the world what we’ve got.”

In a 2012 interview with Entertainment Express, he said he references socio-political issues in his music. He has described his music as a morally inclined variation of dancehall.

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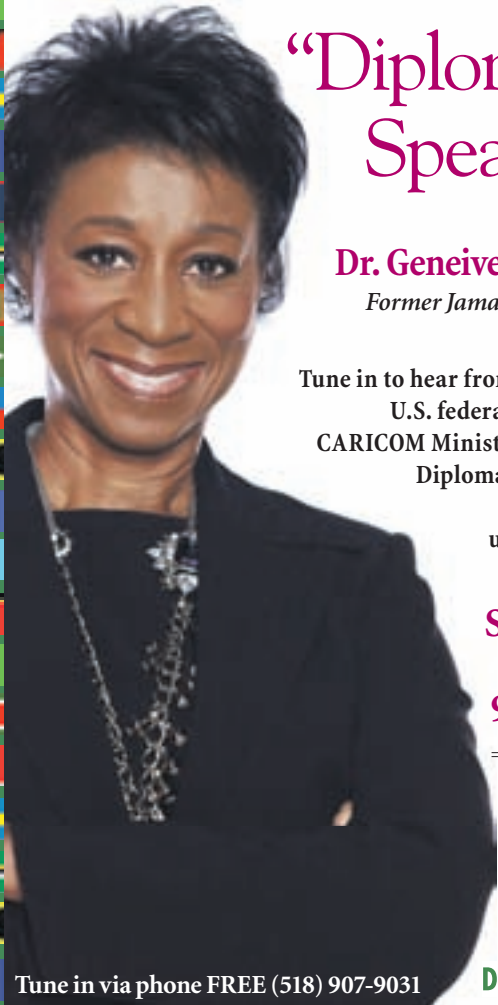
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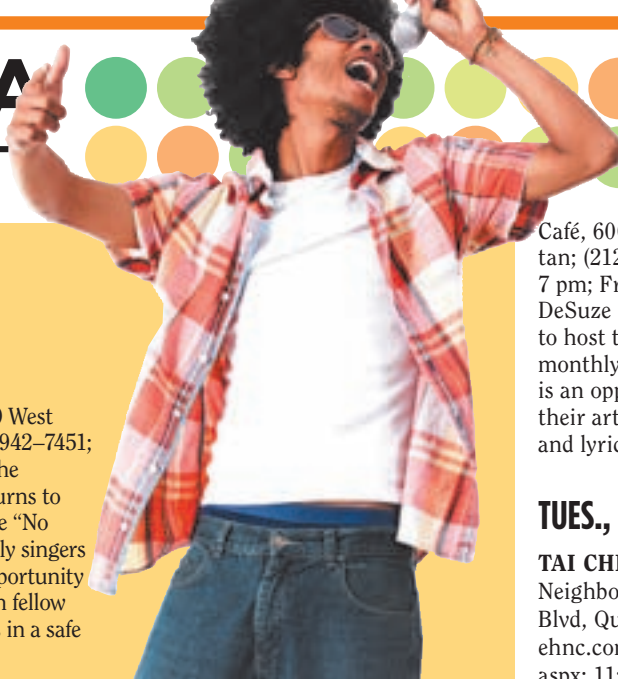
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Café, 600 West 218th Street, Manhattan; (212) 942-7451; nonamenyc.com; 7 pm; Free. The multi-talented Alex DeSuze returns to the Indian Road Cafe to host the "No Name Uptown Cabaret" monthly singers showcase. The Cabaret is an opportunity to enjoy and share their art with fellow singers, composers and lyricists in a safe and fun place!

TUES., MARCH 10

TAI CHI QIGONG: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd, Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 11:30 am – 12:30 pm; Free. Join us for this restorative wellness class. You will experience basic chi (energy) movements that can help reduce stress, increase energy and promote relaxation. You will be guided through: Chi (energy) movements and stretches Breathing techniques Energy meditation Please wear comfortable loose-fitting clothing and plan to arrive 10 minutes early to settle in. Be sure to let your doctor know that you will be taking part in an exercise class.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION: Canarsie Library, 1580 Rockaway Pkwy (at Ave. J) Brooklyn, NY 11236, Brooklyn; (718) 469-4679; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Free. Are you current or behind in your mortgage? Come in and get some answers. Free consultations. Certified counselors will be available. Sponsored by Neighbor Housing Services, a not-for-profit housing organization.

INSURANCE REVIEW WORKSHOPS: Neighborhood Housing Service, 9715 Ave. L, Rockaway Parkway, 2nd floor, Brooklyn; (212) 519-2571; www.nhsny.org; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Free. Are you covered adequately by your homeowner's insurance? Are you paying too much? Neighborhood Housing Services will review your policy free of cost. We also speak to community groups about how the changing flood maps will impact your policy and flood insurance.

WED., MARCH 11

LITERARY SHOWCASE: KBG Bar, 85 E. 4th Street (2nd Floor), Manhattan; (347) 613-0988; www.attheinkwell.com; 7:00 p.m.; Free. "At The Inkwell" - the popular East Village monthly literary showcase kicks off their Spring Poetry Series. Curated by Monique Antonette Lewis, the event will feature poets / writers Angela M. Carter, Neil Shephard, Alice Friman, Gil Fagiani and Susan Maurer.

Compiled by Natalie Henry

SINGERS SHOWCASE

MAR. 9: Indian Road Café, 600 West 218th Street, Manhattan; (212) 942-7451; nonamenyc.com; 7 pm; Free. The multi-talented Alex DeSuze returns to the Indian Road Cafe to host the "No Name Uptown Cabaret" monthly singers showcase. The Cabaret is an opportunity to enjoy and share their art with fellow singers, composers and lyricists in a safe and fun place!



FORECLOSURE PRESENTATION

MAR. 10: Canarsie Library, 1580 Rockaway Pkwy (at Ave. J) Brooklyn, NY 11236, Brooklyn; (718) 469-4679; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Free. Come in and get some answers. Free consultations. Certified counselors will be available.

TAI CHI

MAR. 10: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd, Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 11:30 am – 12:30 pm; Free. You will experience basic chi (energy) movements that can help reduce stress, increase energy and promote relaxation. You will be guided through: Chi (energy) movements and stretches Breathing techniques Energy meditation.



after-school services for children. The forum is in response to numerous inquiries from parents and other community members about services that are so vital to our community. Light refreshments will be served.

LOW IMPACT ZUMBA: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Free. Join us for a dance-fitness class that's friendly and fun. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. Be sure to let your doctor know that you will be taking part in an exercise class.

SAT., MARCH 7

SYMPOSIUM ON IMMIGRATION: The Friends of Crown Heights Center #2, 671

Prospect Place, (Between Bedford and Franklin Avenues); Brooklyn NY 11216, Brooklyn; (718) 638-8686 Exts. 18,19,30; healthyfamiliesfoch@gmail.com; 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Join Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center, Inc. in conjunction with St. Vincent and the Grenadines Consulate, SVG Diaspora Committee of New York, Inc and Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organization for a white or solid sheet-sets drive for hospitals in St. Vincent & the Grenadines and a discussion on immigration. St. Vincent & the Grenadines passport drive start at 1:00 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. speak with an immigration officer who will discuss Deferred Action for Parental Accountability, expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and other administrative relief actions. NYC ID card and a networking session open to all.

MON., MARCH 9

SINGERS SHOWCASE: Indian Road

LONG-RUNNING

"STATIONS OF THE CROSS": The Episcopal Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew, 520 Clinton Ave. between Fulton St. and Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn; (347) 515-4044; Weekdays, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sundays, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Now until Monday, March 16; Free. Fourteen Brooklyn artists exhibit their interpretations of the Christian tradition of the Stations of the Cross.

IDENTIFICATION ENROLLMENT:

The Bronx; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Now – Fri., June 26; Free.

Make your appointment today - NYC is offering a free ID card for all city residents. Enrollment in the program provides access to services and programs offered by the city as well as by businesses. Holder may gain access to all city buildings that provide services to the public and is an accepted form of identification for accessing numerous city programs and services. Benefits also include a free one-year membership at many of the city's leading museums, zoos, concert halls, and botanical gardens.

"WE THE PEOPLE: The Citizens of NYCHA in Pictures and Words": Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street, Brooklyn; (718) 222-4111; www.brooklynhistory.org; Wednesdays – Sundays, Noon-5:00 p.m., Now – Sun., March 8; \$10. This collection exhibits candid photographs and interviews with African Americans and Latinos residing in NYCHA housing, taking a different look at the stereotypes surrounding them.

WINTER FLEA AND HOLIDAY MARKET:

Brooklyn Flea, 1000 Dean St. between Classon and Franklin avenues, Brooklyn; www.brooklynflea.com; Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Now – Tues, March 31; Free. A hundred vintage, antique, and other vendors, plus 25 vendors selling food.

THE BIG TERRIFIC COMEDY SHOW:

Cameo Gallery, 93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street, Brooklyn; (718) 302-1180; www.cameony.net; Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m.; Free. Standup comedy hosted by Max Silvestri.

FRI., MARCH 6

CHILD SERVICES: 972 Fulton Street (3rd floor) Brooklyn, NY 11238, Brooklyn; 10:30 – 11:45 am; Free. The Fort Greene Council will be hosting a forum to provide information about the status of the agency sponsored day care and

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Board members of the Dr. Walter A. Kyte Memorial Foundation: From left, Joel Haravay, Carolyn Kee, Linda Felix, Barbara Haravay, Cheryl Martin, (partly hidden) Jennifer Kyte, Dr. Pamela Outram, Louis Abrigo, Jean Pickering, and Dr. Reynold Howell.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Foundation

Continued from page 3

for education, by widow, Jennifer Kyte.

“He was a visionary, and was acclaimed as a turnaround expert based upon the results of advancement in his district,” said Kyte.

Formed in 2013, after Dr. Kyte’s tragic accident in Linden, where he was born, the foundation has stayed true to its mission to increase students’ opportunity for careers in education by implementing and supporting social, economic, educational and community-based programs.

Kyte had gone to Linden to head the Linden Fund USA’s annual three-day Edu-Professional Development for teachers, administrators, and head

teachers when the accident occurred.

This is an intense workshop that the Linden Fund had been spearheading for several years and facilitated by the late Dr. Kyte.

“He had a reverberating passion for education and special gifts of excellence in Special Education and Early Childhood education,” said Kyte.

With the generous support from individuals, public and private enterprises, Kyte thanked the diverse and experienced board which she said is charged with keeping the legacy of Dr. Kyte alive.

The Dr. Kyte Memorial Foundation Scholarship fund will expand its awards this year by giving more than one scholarship to deserving students who are college bound.

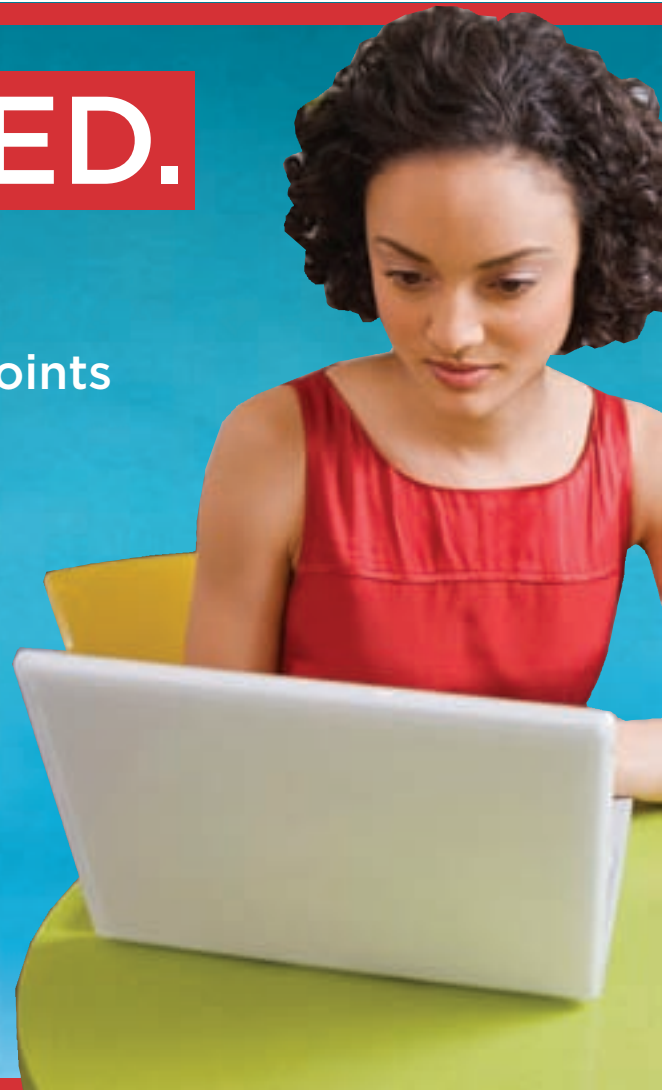
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What makes your nominee outstanding? (100 words or less): _____

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Online nomination submissions at
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AB de Villiers scores record 162 not out

Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

South Africa scored 408 runs for five wickets off their 50 overs at the Sydney cricket ground in Australia against the West Indies in the ICC Cricket World Cup. South Africa's captain AB de Villiers slammed a record 162 runs not out from 66 balls with 17 fours and eight sixes. Other useful scores came from Fdu Plessis 66 runs from 70 balls, Hamish Amla 65 from 88 balls and RR Rossouw 61 from 39 balls.

PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY TO BOOSTING TOP SCORES

Hamish Amla and Fdu Plessis did well to put together a partnership of 127 runs for the second wicket. Rossouw and Captain de Villiers scored a partnership of 134. South Africa scored 109 runs in 10 overs increasing the score from 149 for three wickets to 258 for three. In their last 10 overs South Africa added 150 runs at the end of the 50th over.

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Jerome Taylor: 0 for 64 off 8 overs
Jason Holders: 1 for 98 off 10 overs

Darren Sammy: 0 for 50 off 7 overs
Andre Russell: 2 for 74 off 9 overs
Sulieman Benn: 0 for 79 off 10 overs

Chris Gayle: 2 for 21 off 4 overs

WEST INDIES FAILED TO KEEP PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA

At 146 for three wickets in the 30th over the West Indies were in control of this game. Three of South Africa's premier batsmen were gone but the West Indies failed to capitalize on their dismissal.

Nikita Miller who played against Zimbabwe was replaced by Sulieman Benn for this game. Why is Benn in this World Cup? The South Africans are fully aware of Benn's limitations. Why can't the West Indies selectors? I continue to stress the need for Dwayne Smith to be bowling his seamers and also bringing him down the batting order and starting the innings with Denesh Ramdin.

Miller deserves to be playing in this World Cup. This is his opportunity



South Africa's AB De Villiers hits the ball during their Cricket World Cup Pool B match against the West Indies in Sydney, Australia, Friday, Feb. 27, 2015.

Associated Press / Rick Rycroft

to prove his qualities as a bowler and also as a useful batsman. Benn had his opportunity in South Africa and he failed to show any threat to the him steam. Captain Jason Holder have

to surprise the opposing teams with new strategies in the bowling department. After that thrashing from the South Africans a new image must be introduced.



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West Indies batsman Chris Gayle hits the ball to the boundary during their Cricket World Cup Pool B match against Zimbabwe in Canberra, Australia. Associated Press / Rob Griffith

'Gayle' force fastest score

By Azad Ali

West Indies opening batsman Chris Gayle smashed the highest ever score in a World Cup and the fastest ever double century in One-Day Internationals, as West Indies powered their way to 372 for two against Zimbabwe in their third Group B in Australia last week.

Continued on Page 42

St. Lucia native plays at Xaverian

By Robert Elkin

One of the reasons that Xaverian High School's varsity basketball team went to the finals of the Catholic High School's Diocese of Brooklyn-Queens playoff tournament has been the play of senior Natee Larcher.

Even though he may not be a stand-out player, he feels that he has a bright future ahead for himself.

The resident of Brownsville, in his second year of playing for the Bay Ridge-based school, and his teammates faced Christ The King of Queens, the team that won the State tournament last year, in the finals but lost to a bet-

Continued on Page 42



New York Red Bulls defender Roy Miller, top, heads the ball as he battles Sporting Kansas City forward C.J. Sapong (17) in the first half during an MLS playoff soccer match at Red Bull Arena in Harrison, N.J., Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014. Associated Press / Rich Schultz, File

Two area teams begin season on Sunday

By Patrick Horne

The two local teams kick off the 20th MLS season on Sunday, March 8, and area fans, who are waiting with much anticipation to what the local soccer scene will look like, will have some idea come Sunday as to what's in store for them this season.

If all goes well, there should be some exciting times ahead, because for the first time there are two MLS teams in the New York/New Jersey area, which bodes well for an intense, Hudson River rivalry. The New York Red Bulls are still located across the Hudson River in Harrison (NJ), while

the new men on the block are on the other side; New York City Football Club (NYCFC), in its inaugural season, will play in Yankee Stadium in the Bronx.

Interestingly, the Red Bulls, which has been in the area for a few years

Continued on Page 42



David Villa, left, plays soccer with kids from the South Bronx United program in front of Yankee Stadium in New York, Thursday, July 31, 2014. Villa, the Spanish all-time leading goal scorer, was the first player to sign with the New York City Football Club, which will be playing in the stadium. Associated Press / Seth Wenig

Record score

Continued from page 41

The Jamaican left-hander finished on a career best 215 off 147 deliveries while Marlon Samuels carved out an unbeaten 133, innings that helped the regional team to the fifth highest total in World Cup history.

Gayle combined with Samuels decimated the Zimbabwe bowling attack in a phenomenal second wicket stand of 372 — an all-time recorded for any wicket in One-Day Internationals.

Overall, Gayle struck 10 fours and an incredible 16 sixes, on his way to a double century off a mere 138 deliveries.

He became the only fourth batsman to score an ODI double and first non-Indian national.

His knock was also the third highest in ODIs behind Rohit Sharma's 264 last year against Sri Lanka and Virender Sehwag's 219 against West Indies four years ago.

Along the way, Gayle passed 9,000 runs. Samuels was reduced to a virtual spectator, despite chalking up his ninth ODI century in a career-best effort.

He faced 156 balls and hit 11 fours and three sixes.

The two came together after Dwayne Smith was bowled without scoring by seamer Tinashe Panyangara off the second ball of the innings without a run on the board.

Gayle, who narrowly survived a very close LBW review in the same over before he had scored, then emerged in history from an uncertain start to flay the Zimbabwe bowling to all parts of the Manuka Oval.

Meanwhile, West Indies Twenty20 captain was the only Caribbean player sold in the 2015 Indian Premier League auction recently.

A powerful lower order batsman and steady medium pacer, Sammy was snapped up by Royal Challengers Bangalore for US\$466,000.

The 31-year-old was released by Sunrisers Hyderabad following the 2014 campaign.



West Indies' Darren Sammy edges the ball against Ireland during their Cricket World Cup pool B match at Nelson, New Zealand, Monday, Feb. 16, 2015. Associated Press / Ross Setford

Red Bulls face more changes

Continued from page 41

now, probably has more new faces than their cross-river rival. There was much upheaval in the Red Bulls club during the offseason; there is a new administration, including new managing director, Ali Curtis; gone is the entire coaching staff, with head coach Mike Petke, who led the team to the Eastern Conference title, and his first assistant Robin Fraser; also gone is the club's first legendary player, Thierry Henry, along with popular Australian forward Tim Cahill; stalwart defenders Jamison Olave and Ibrahim Sekagya, who manned the central defense for most of last season, are now in the past and promising left-sided player who did so well for the team last season, Ambroise Oyongo, was traded to the Montreal Impact along with midfielder Eric Alexander.

Actually, by the third or fourth game, Red Bulls fans will notice more absentees from last year, while getting acquainted with the numerous new faces that are the new Red Bulls. Local

fans, who now have a choice of soccer venues this season, will soon find out if it is worth it to continue to make the trip across the Hudson.

The burden is now on new Red Bulls Coach Jesse Marsh and his assistants, along with the leftovers, to justify the numerous changes: will the central defensive pair of Ronald Zubar and Damien Perrinelle solidify the defense the way Olave and Sekagya did? Will full backs Chris Duval and Roy Miller continue to shore up the defensive flanks? What about the all-important central midfield play that worked so well late last season when Petke paired Alexander with Dax McCarty? McCarty will be flanked in the middle by U.S. international Sacha Kljestan and Frenchman Felipe Martins, while veteran Lloyd Sam will be on the wing, so how effective will this new midfield trio be?

Bradley Wright Phillips scored a record-tying 27 goals last season with the help of Henry, Cahill and Alex-

ander, but now he will be partnered by newcomer Mike Grella from Leeds United and the NASL's Atlanta Silverbacks. Midfielder/forward Peguy Luyindula is still around, but he lacks speed of Oyongo, who I think will be badly missed. There are many questions the new Red Bulls must answer, and answer right away, or fans may look to NYCFC for answers. The Red Bulls play a televised game at Kansas City on Sunday, 7:00 p.m.

NYCFC

Head Coach Jason Kreis is no stranger to MLS because he was a leading scorer in the league and won MLS Cup three years ago as coach of Real Salt Lake. The team spent much time at its parent club in Manchester, England, training and playing very competitive games and seems ready to take on Orlando City, on Sunday, 5:00 p.m. (ESPN) as the two newest teams in MLS kick off the season.

Larcher aims for Xaverian championship

Continued from page 41

ter team last week. The winner, CTK, year-after-year produces great players and is currently ranked among the top teams in New York State.

"When Christ The King has it going it's hard to stop them," he said after the game. "And it's hard to stop their high scorer Rawle Aikin (who tallied 28 points in last week's game). He can

dominate a game in any fashion."

Larcher's father came from St. Lucia, where he played basketball. The youngster grew up playing basketball even though soccer was the big sport there.

"I started playing basketball four years ago," he said after the setback at the hands of Christ The King, for the Diocesan of Brooklyn title. "I wanted to

get away from soccer and get more into basketball. I also played some cricket."

He stopped playing cricket because as he explained "it didn't fit me."

When the 6'6" center came to the USA, he concentrated more on the hoop sport and should be better at it on the next level. His goal is to win a championship for Xaverian and go to college.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, give a loved one the benefit of the doubt before jumping to conclusions. This beloved confidante deserves your trust and ardent support.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, expect some powerful emotions to surface when you meet a new person this week. You may be immediately drawn to this individual, so embrace the attraction.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21
Gemini, the week starts off on a bumpy note but quickly turns itself around. By Friday, you will have a smile on your face and be ready to make the most of the weekend.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, some long weeks have left you physically and emotionally wiped out. Take some time out for yourself in the coming days and resist the urge to jump back into the fray too quickly.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
A romance at work begins to heat up, Leo. This may be the perfect opportunity to find your match. Just don't let feelings get in the way of productivity.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
A problem dominates your thoughts as you work to find a solution, Virgo. Until you pull away and focus on something else, you will not be able to see the answer clearly.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you have a difficult decision to make, but forge ahead with what you think is best. Keep a level head and weigh all of the consequences of your decision.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Friends jokingly suggest you have psychic powers, Scorpio. They are put to the test this week when you suspect something is amiss. Rectify the situation in due time.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Avoid taking a big financial risk this week, Sagittarius. Hold on tight to your money and resist the temptation to spend any money for the time being.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, pressure to complete an important project will find its way to you this week. No matter how quickly you need to get things done, calmly approach the tasks at hand.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Resist the instinct to keep your feelings bottled up this week, Aquarius. Get your thoughts out in the open, and you will instantaneously feel much better.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you will be very productive this week as you benefit from a new outlook. Plan ahead for some magic.

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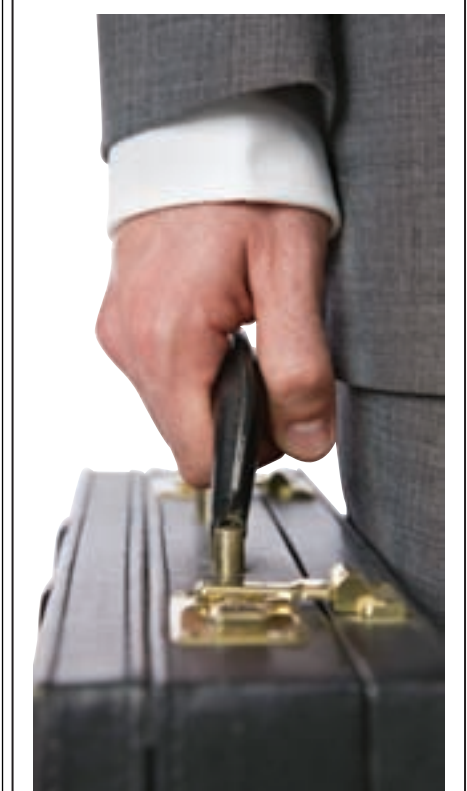
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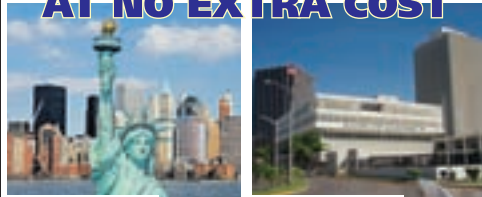
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