



Shakespeare in Harlem

Ron Cephas Jones embraces magic as William Shakespeare's Prospero in "The Tempest." See story on page 29. Photo courtesy of Classical Theatre of Harlem

BACKPAY LETTER TO EUROPE

CARICOM seeks compensation for Transatlantic slave trade

By Bert Wilkinson

A formal letter of complaint Caribbean trade group governments plan to send to European nations demanding reparations payments for the Trans Atlantic slave trade is ready for signing by leaders and is to be dispatched in the coming weeks.

The regional reparations committee said this week that the letter of complaint which has been worked on by the group for most of the past two years will demand that nations such as Britain, France, The Netherlands and Spain among others "agree to meet Caribbean leaders at a development conference" no later than November to discuss the effects of the slave trade and how the region will be compensated.

Officials say that Caribbean leaders who met at their annual summit in Barbados earlier this month were bogged down by the simmering border row between Guyana and Venezuela and the current moves by the Dominican Republic to expel its own citizens who have the blood of Black Haitians in their veins from the country despite the fact that they were born there. This is in keeping with a 2013 constitutional court ruling.

The other journalistically sexy issue that was not extensively discussed as expected had to do with the decriminalization of marijuana for personal use in small amounts and how the region should deal with the booming

Continued on Page 7

Global warming a Carib threat

By Nelson A. King

Subject to double vulnerability, from external economic shocks and natural disasters, the Organization of American States (OAS) says the islands of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) see sustainable development as an "urgent necessity rather than a politically correct slogan for

the future."

In effect, the OAS said on Tuesday that the impact of global warming is particularly worrying for the Caribbean region.

Alluding to a recent report on Latin America and the Caribbean by the World Bank, the Washington-based hemispheric

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While New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, left, looks on, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, right, kisses Valerie Bell, mother of Sean Bell, after Cuomo signed an executive order in New York, Wednesday, July 8, 2015, that puts the office of the state attorney general in charge of investigating killings by police.

Associated Press / Seth Wenig

NY governor appoints special prosecutor

By Nelson A. King

Caribbean legislators in Brooklyn have generally welcomed Gov. Andrew Cuomo's decision to appoint Attorney General Eric Schneiderman as a special prosecutor in cases where an unarmed person dies at the hands of a law enforcement officer.

"Their hard work paid off! Thanks to the family members of Eric Garner, Ramarley Graham, Anthony Baez, Shantel Davis, Kimani Gray and other family members who have lost their loved ones to police brutality, we've taken another step toward restoring trust in the process of determining how officers involved in civilian fatalities are held accountable," said Councilman Jumaane Williams, representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

"I would like to thank each of them for their resilient advocacy and strength," added Williams, stating that his district has dealt with two high-profile deaths in recent years, one including the unarmed Shantel Davis and the second of Kimani Gray, "where many witnesses did not corroborate the officer's account.

"I witnessed first-hand the pain of a family and community that had no faith that the system would be fair," he continued. "In each case, I also witnessed families in pain trying to steer an understandably frustrated and tired community into constructive actions for change.

"Governor Cuomo's executive order is an important step toward mending poor police-community relations and will further advance the cultural-

Continued on Page 40

Garner anniversary to coincide with Madiba Day

By Vinette K. Pryce

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead" – Nelson Mandela

The one-year anniversary of the tragic death on July 17, 2014 of Eric Garner will coincide with the Nelson Mandela International Day which annually celebrates the life-long dedication of the beloved South African affectionately known as Madiba.

On the anniversary of the hero's birthday — July 18, 1918 — thousands will rally at Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn at noon to demonstrate against the lack of prosecution against police officer Daniel Pantaleo who subdued Garner in a chokehold as the victim pleaded 11 times "I can't breathe."

Organized by Rev. Al Sharpton and his National Action Network, busloads will leave from his Harlem headquarters following the weekly rally there to raise a voice for justice and call attention to deaths that were allegedly caused by law officials and needlessly added to grief and a widening rift between the community and police.

Demonstrators will rally at the U.S. Federal Courthouse Eastern District Cadman Plaza, 225 Cadman Plaza at Tillary Street.

The rally comes four days after New York City offered a \$5.9 million settlement to the Garner family. The figure represents the second highest amount paid to a victim of police brutality. Abner Louima, a Haitian immigrant who was savagely brutalized while in police custody was offered \$7 million.

Although recently, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced plans to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate police killings of unarmed civilians, Sharpton



The Rev. Al Sharpton, second from right, is joined by Eric Garner's mother Gwen Carr, left, daughter Erica Garner, second from left, son Eric Garner, third from left, daughter Emerald Snipes, third from right, and wife Esaw Snipes, as he speaks during a news conference, Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in New York. The family of Garner, a black man who died after being placed in a white police officer's chokehold, discussed the \$5.9 million settlement it reached with the city days before the anniversary of his death.

Associated Press / Mary Altaffer

will dramatize the devastating issues of police brutality by inviting Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin who was gunned down by security guard George Zimmerman as he walked unarmed through a housing complex.

Gwen Carr, Garner's mother and other family members will also join the protest.

Cuomo's initiative makes New York the first state to ever call for such an appointment and came one day after mothers of New Yorkers killed by police rallied outside his New York City office demanding he fulfill his promise to appoint the

special prosecutor if state lawmakers did not take action.

A grand jury in Staten Island failed to indict PO Pantaleo when Daniel Donovan prosecuted the case.

Donovan was recently elected to Congress.

Madiba Day was launched in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July, 2009 by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly.

It was inspired by a call the iconic leader made a year earlier, for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social

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CACCI to pay special tribute on 30th anniversary

By Nelson A. King

The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI) continues its celebration of 30 years of service to the small business community with a special tribute to its founding members and corporate partners.

This tribute and gala dinner will be held on Thursday, July 30, at Tropical Paradise Ballroom and Banquet Hall, 1367 Utica Ave., Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn-based CACCI has grown from a virtual fledgling micro-organism into a multi-dimensional institution, according Grenadian-born founder and president Dr. Roy A.

Hastick, Sr.

"It is hard to believe that 30 years have past since CACCI was launched in New York State, and we are continuing to grow and expand," he said.

Over the years, Hastick said CACCI has amassed a record of accomplishments, which includes over 800 seminars, workshops and small business clinics, trade missions to Caribbean region, monthly power breakfast meetings, and business networking meetings.

CACCI has also partnered with numerous U.S. private sector agencies and city, state and federal institutions, as well as hosting heads of state and

trade delegations from Africa and the Caribbean, Hastick said.

"We say thanks to our board of directors, our network of supporters and contributors who have helped to sustain CACCI over the past 30 years, so that, today, we able to celebrate this milestone, and continue our advocacy, training and outreach services on behalf of small businesses," he said.

"It has been well documented that CACCI has evolved into an entity, which continues to advocate on behalf of the small business community in New York, and is poised to serve as a vital link between the Caribbean region and the U.S.A.," he added.

Antigua

A new, larger terminal at the V.C. Bird International Airport, the home base for regional airline LIAT, will open shortly in Antigua.

On July 2, 2015, LIAT together with other carriers and their staff participated in a full-scale exercise at the new terminal building, to test the various systems and to highlight any issues ahead of the official opening of the new terminal.

Dozens of people, including LIAT employees participated in the simulation exercise. They first checked in, went through immigration and security on the upper level of the terminal and prepared for departure through the allocated gates. They then proceeded through immigration. Before collecting their luggage and going through Customs and exiting the terminal.



The airport terminal, built by the China Civil Engineering Construction Cooperation, has 24 departure gates, modern security screening facilities, as well as a VIP lounge.

Officials say when the terminal is opened it would be the most advanced in the region.

Barbados

New Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart, has described the just concluded 36th CARICOM heads of government meeting, held in Barbados recently, a success.

Speaking during the closing press conference, Stuart said he and his colleagues focused on three major areas: energy; bolstering education system to build the social and economic resilience of countries; border issues – particularly the existing dispute between Venezuela and Guyana- and the looming humanitarian crisis in Haiti “created by the actions of the Dominican Republic”.

On the issue of energy, Stuart said leaders welcomed the establishment of a Caribbean Center for Renewable Energy, which will be the implementation hub for sustainable energy activities and projects within the Caribbean. He added that Barbados will be the host country for this center.



The CARICOM chairman further disclosed that the government of Trinidad and Tobago had proposed the creation of a Caribbean Energy Fund, which received the support of the other heads. During their discourse, the leaders also addressed the ongoing border dispute between Venezuela and Guyana. Stuart cautioned, however, that it was not one that could be resolved with the “snap of a finger”, as it was a very old dispute.



Haitians flee Dominican Republic

In this June 25, 2015 photo, farm worker Felix Babe, right, loads his luggage on a motorcycle taxi at the Dominican-Haitian border in Ouanaminthe, Haiti, as he returns voluntarily to his native Haiti after living nine years in the DR. **See Story on page 16.**

Associated Press / Ezequiel Abiu Lopez

Bahamas

Bankrupt Bahamas megaresort Baha Mar recently filed a lawsuit in England against its contractor, China State Construction Engineering Corporation, seeking more than \$192 million in damages to compensate for delays and reported substandard work.

The legal action was taken a day after Baha Mar filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States.

Baha Mar is listed as the claimant and China State Construction Engineering Corporation, the parent company of China Construction America Bahamas (CCA), is listed as the defendant.

The lawsuit says CCA Bahamas “has acted in breach of its obligations” under its contract with Baha Mar and as a consequence Baha Mar suffered loss and damage.



The court documents say CCA guaranteed the “due and punctual performance” of all its obligations.

Baha Mar is seeking “damages for delay, currently estimated at US\$50 million and damages as a result of failures to perform or provide professional construction management services, currently estimated to be at least US\$55 million”.

Additionally, it wants damages reflecting the cost of remediation work flowing from the breaches of contract, currently estimated to be approximately US\$30 mil-

lion and damages, which resulted in the late completion of the Conventions Center, estimated around US\$4 million.

Baha Mar is also seeking interest.

Baha Mar also filed court documents in the Supreme Court of The Bahamas recently. Baha Mar employs more than 2,000 Bahamians.

Cayman Islands

Former FIFA Vice-President Jeffrey Webb was recently charged in connection with an ongoing Cayman Islands criminal investigation involving the award of a public hospital contract to a local company prosecutors allege was controlled by Webb’s close associate Canover Watson.

According to a press release by the Cayman Islands Anti-Corruption Commission, both Watson and Webb have been jointly charged with two counts of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to common law, and with and additional count of breach of trust by public official, contrary to the Cayman Islands Anti-Corruption Law.



In addition, Webb, Watson and Watson’s former personal assistant at Admiral Administration, Miram Rodriguez, were jointly charged with one count of conspiracy to convert criminal property, contrary to the Cayman Islands Penal Code.

A warrant for Webb was issued from the Cayman Islands. He is currently held in detention in Switzerland following his

arrest on May 27 in connection with racketeering and money laundering charges in the USA.

Local police said they would begin extradition proceedings for Webb in Switzerland.

Guyana

The Guyana government has warned criminal elements that it was prepared to come after them as it moved to stem an increase in criminal activities in the country.

President David Granger chaired a recent high-level security meeting “to craft a crime-fighting strategy in light of an increase in violent crime” and, according to a statement issued afterwards, the “clear message coming out of this initial meeting is that the administration intends to move swiftly and vigorously to arrest violent crime in Guyana”.



The statement said among those who attended the meeting were, Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo, Minister of State Joseph Harmon, Minister of Public Security Khemraj Ramjattan and Commissioner of Police Seelall Persaud.

The government recently announced that it was implementing measures that would allow for business places to close down at 2 am (local time).

The measure covers many of the larger

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St. Lucia to make CCJ its final court

By Azad Ali

The St. Lucia government says it will soon table legislation that will allow for the island to make the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) its final court of appeal, replacing the London-based Privy Council.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony said St. Lucia has a provision in its constitution that is identical to a provision of which the constitution of Dominica, which used that measure to join the CCJ, which was inaugurated in 2005.

“St. Lucia has an identical provision but it makes reference to a section in the constitution which we believe was wrong. In other words, there is an error in the section,” he said.

Anthony said St. Lucia has a law that allows the attorney general to refer questions to the court of appeal for an advisory opinion in constitutional matters.

The prime minister said he has written to the British government “advising... that the government of St. Lucia wishes to delink from the Privy Council.”

Anthony said while he has no objection or problem with the move by the opposition, his administration would go ahead and table the legislation.



St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony. Associated Press / John Minchillo

“Our constitution requires a 90-day period between laying and the debate and once the constitutional process is completed, meaning that the legislation has gained the approval of parliament for which we must have a two-third majority, then I would expect that the persons who are opposed to the delinking will want to approach the court,” he added.

Bahamas gets help in reducing crime

By Nelson A. King

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a US\$20 million loan to help reduce crime and violence in the Bahamas, targeting at risk youths and strengthening institutional capabilities of the justice system, among other actions.

The Washington-based financial institution said the Bahamas has seen a steady increase in its crime and violence rates, with a homicide rate of 31.5 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2013.

Many victims are young and male, and killed with firearms, said the IDB, adding that violence is especially acute in the island of New Providence, where the capital, Nassau, is located, “with high rates of murders, armed robberies and rapes.”

The IDB said recent statistics points to a prevalence of violence to solve inter-personal and community disputes, especially among youth.

It said this is occurring in a context of high unemployment rates (30.8 percent in 2014 among 15-24 year olds), slow court systems and high rates of

recidivism.

The project comprises four components. The first component seeks to improve behaviors for non-violent conflict resolution in New Providence by including differentiated evidence-based interventions to address social norms that promote the acceptance of violence, the IDB said.

It said the second component aims to help at-risk youth find jobs through training and employability programs.

The third component seeks to strengthen the justice administration system to better prosecute and sentence crimes by including, among other, an integrated electronic system for case management and the introduction of innovative dispute resolutions mechanisms, the IDB said.

It said the fourth component seeks to better help reintegrate offenders to society through activities such as the design and implementation of a comprehensive rehabilitation model and a curriculum built on evidence-based practices.

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Contentious debate ahead

Continued from cover

medical marijuana sector. The final communiqué confirmed such.

As an alternative, the reparations committee now says that the letter will be circulated individually to heads of states and governments for signing before being dispatched to Europe for perusal.

It is expected to stir bitter debate and even bad blood between Europe and the Caribbean as there is a strong lobby against payments of any kind.

Many in Europe argue that the hundreds of millions in European development aid, those offered as grants in particular, are a form of reparations for the horrors of the slave trade.

The regional body counters by contending that the ordinary man on any Caribbean street should benefit from reparations as the European were audacious enough to compensate slave owners after abolition while never offering a cent to those they brutalize on sugar and other plantations. The time for that is now they say.

Leigh Day, the British law firm retained by governments to advocate the case had prepared the draft complaint letter but this has been updated by the regional committee and will be used as the document that is headed

to Europe the body said. The firm has already made the UK pay for atrocities committed against a tribe in Kenya.

The committee has already been afforded the opportunity of presenting a part of its case to the British parliament in the past year through its head, Sir Hilary Beckles who was recently installed as the vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies. The presentation to both houses of the British parliament was well received and widely reported but it remains unclear whether the European leaders will bow to demands to meet in the Fall.

Initial research shows that about 10 million Africans perished on the route to the region and countless others died as a result of the sheer brutality of the trade.

Initial research shows that about 10 million Africans perished on the route to the region and countless others died as a result of the sheer brutality of the trade.

Beckles has already reported that research has shown that the prevalence of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes in the Caribbean can be traced back straight to slave plantations because of poor diet, stress and other factors. For this Europe must pay.

CARICOM heads ratify declaration

Continued from cover

body said an increase of 2 degrees Celsius in the global temperature before the end of the century will lead to "concrete threats."

These include an increase of 40 percent in the number of severe hurricanes, with twice the force compared to the world average, a decrease of up to 50 percent of the volume of fishing hauls, and a "massive rise" in ocean levels.

The heads of state of CARICOM, who met last week in Barbados, moved forward in their intention to present a common vision at the upcoming Inter-American and global meetings, especially in the environment of the United Nations, in addressing the post-2015 objectives, the OAS noted.

In particular, it said they will seek to influence the International Conference on Financing for Development, currently underway in Addis Adaba, Ethiopia; and at the Special United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, to take place in September in New York; as well as at the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), in Paris in December.

"We must work to find a global solution for the impact of climate change raising the voice of the Americas," said the Secretary General of the OAS Luis Almagro, in reference

to COP21.

The Secretary General took part in the Caribbean Summit as a special invitee, together with the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Alicia Bárcena, among others.

In the final declaration of the Summit, the CARICOM leaders said they were "acutely aware of the opportunity provided to build truly vibrant societies and resilient economies and chart a new era of sustainable development for the region and the world", the OAS noted.

In the case of climate change, the Caribbean heads of state ratified the Declaration on Climate Actions that had been adopted in May, which defines a common position ahead of COP21.

Almagro said the OAS is "an excellent platform for amplifying the positions of the Caribbean on these issues and to bring them together with a common position of the entire hemisphere."

He said that following two decades of negotiations, the OAS will help the international community reach a binding agreement to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change.

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Jamaican mountains now world heritage site

By Nelson A. King

Jamaica's Blue and John Crow Mountains has been designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nation's Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The agency's World Heritage Committee voted unanimously to have the site inscribed on the prestigious World Heritage List during its 39th session in Bonn, Germany.

The designation marks the first World Heritage site for Jamaica, and is also the first mixed (cultural and natural) site for the Caribbean sub-region, according to the Jamaica Tourist Board.

The Blue and John Crow Mountains is one of only 32 mixed sites worldwide, which include several renowned sites, such as The Taj Mahal of India, Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the Great Wall of China, the



The Blue Mountain Peak Trail in Jamaica.

Photo courtesy of Jamaica Conservation Development Trust

Tourist Board said.

"We are pleased to learn that the Blue and John Crow Mountains is now recognized as a World Heritage Site," said Paul Pennicook, Jamaica's Director of Tourism. "It will enhance the appeal to visitors from around the world who travel for culture

and heritage.

"Jamaica has a rich cultural heritage and our addition to the World Heritage List will serve to boost our standing as a competitive destination in accordance with the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index," he added.

Venezuela reviews relations with Guyana

By Azad Ali

President Nicolas Maduro last week recalled Venezuela's ambassador in neighboring Guyana for consultation amid mounting tensions over their disputed border.

During an address to parliament, Maduro said that he is also initiating a comprehensive review of relations with much smaller Guyana and reducing the size of Venezuela's embassy in the South American country.

"Venezuela is coming under new forms of assault and aggression," he said, adding "that we must combat with national unity."

A potentially-rich oil discovery in waters off the northern coast of South America has rekindled the border dispute that stretches back to the 19th century.

Venezuela, which has the world's largest oil reserves, has long claimed a significant chunk of Guyana, including a large marine area where ExxonMobil Corp, recently announced it made a signifi-

cant oil discovery.

Venezuela issued a decree soon after that announcement extending its territorial claims further out into the Atlantic to encompass the area where the discovery was

"Venezuela is coming under new forms of assault and aggression, that we must combat with national unity."

made. Guyana denounced the decree as a threat to regional peace and said it would formally ask the United Nations to intervene. UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon has offered to mediate.

Maduro said Guyana President David Granger had rebuffed Venezuela's sincere efforts to open diplomatic talks. But he ruled out the possibility of war with Guyana and any armed conflict over the dispute which is widely seen as extremely unlikely.

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Women in sport – Scoring for equality

By Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

UNITED NATIONS, July 13, 2015 (IPS) - The Women's World Cup has shown people everywhere what women athletes are all about: skill, strength, unity and determination. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the winners — the team from the United States — and to all others who participated. You are inspiring millions of women and girls around the world to pursue their goals and dreams.

Women are far more visible in sports today than at any previous point in history. The Women's World Cup, as just one example, reached tens of millions of viewers, breaking television ratings records. The teams in that event were doing more than adroitly blocking a pass or scoring a goal.

They were challenging stereotypes and demonstrating women's leadership and other abilities that can readily translate into many other domains. Perseverance and team spirit, among other values, can take women far in business, politics, scientific research, the arts and any other field.

As inspiring as the Women's World Cup is, however, it also reminds us that gender inequalities still plague professional sports. For example, the women were required to play on artificial turf, which is often regarded as more physically punishing than natural grass — the surface favoured by athletes and provided when male teams play.

And there is the name itself—the World Cup is assumed to be

for men, while women require the qualifying “Women’s” to describe their event.

The total payout for the Women's World Cup was 15 million dollars, compared with 576 million dollars for the last men's World Cup—40 times less.

Women players also face a huge pay gap. The total payout for the Women's World Cup was 15 million dollars, compared with 576 million dollars for the last men's World Cup—40 times less.

The winning women's team received two million dollars in prize money, whereas the winning men's team took away 35 million dollars. The losing U.S. men's team was still awarded eight million dollars—four times as much as the champion U.S. women's team.

Similar pay gaps occur across other professional sports — with the exception of tennis, which since 2007 has awarded equal prize money at all four Grand Slam tournaments. That should be the model to which all other sports aspire. All sports federations should close the gap and put women and men, in this and all other respects, on an equal playing field.

Deeply entrenched, discriminatory notions of women's diminished status, whether the issue is a playing field or a paycheck, harm individual women and girls. They are denied their rights and blocked from achieving their full potential. Such norms also undermine sport itself, tarnishing notions such

Continued on Page 12

Bring back standards for women's reproductive health

By Joycelyn Elders, M.D.

As Americans, we strive for safety — the safest medicines, cars and toys. But when it comes to women's reproductive health, state legislatures have passed about 250 laws since 2011 that put women's health at risk. And they do it under the guise of “women's safety.” Women of color are disproportionately affected by these policies throughout the Southern states where I live and spend much of my time mentoring young physicians and health professionals.

Politicians are cutting access to family planning services and telling doctors how to practice medicine, especially concerning procedures that terminate pregnancies.

Clinic licensing standards, invasive ultrasound procedures and mandatory waiting periods are unnecessary because legal abortion is one of the safest surgical procedures. Nearly 90 percent are done in the first trimester, when abortion is safest.

Texas is one battleground in this war on women's bodies. A few years ago, Texas had 41 abortion clinics but a recent court decision to uphold restrictions may mean only nine will stay open. The public health community knows what's likely to happen: more unintended pregnancies, since many of these clinics also provide contraceptive services.

Research shows that 42 percent of women obtaining abortions have incomes below the poverty level.

Guttmacher Institute research shows unintended pregnancy is highest among the poor, youth and women of color. Eliminating barriers to culturally and linguistically appropriate health information and services would help reduce these disparities, as would age-appropriate sexual health education in our schools. Yet funding for these programs is being cut. Again, it's politicians making these decisions, not health professionals.

The Affordable Care Act resolves disparities by requiring that preventive services, including contraception, be provided at no cost. Congress' attacks on Obamacare, coupled with the Supreme Court's pending decision concerning access to insurance plans, stand to jeopardize these gains.

Ironically, some legislators talk about the “sanctity of life” while railing against affordable contraception and prenatal care, which serve to enhance women's quality of life.

Consider a young woman making minimum wage and not yet ready to raise

a child. Or an older woman with health conditions that could become life-threatening if she stays pregnant. Because at least 93 percent of Texas counties do not have an abortion provider, she may have to travel long distances, take time off work that likely has no paid sick leave and arrange transportation. With Texas' waiting period, she will have to find a place to stay overnight. Once at the clinic, she will hear state-mandated pseudo-science about the “risks” of abortion.

Research shows that 42 percent of women obtaining abortions have incomes below the poverty level. And because of the federal Hyde Amendment, Medicaid funding for abortions is prohibited under most circumstances and in most states.

The irony is that the U.S. ranks 47th among 183 countries for maternal deaths from pregnancy-related conditions. And childbirth is 14 times more likely to result in death than an abortion. These rates go up for women with diabetes and other health conditions.

Before the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade, the public health community expressed concern about high rates of maternal deaths in the U.S. and the need for universal access to a full range of reproductive health services, including abortion.

The recent restrictions, Continued on Page 12

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A thickening plot for upcoming T&T election

Anyone tuned in to the ebb and flow of current-day politics in Trinidad and Tobago would be aware that for at least three years now, it's been known that the 2015 general election, now scheduled for Sept. 7, would be a significant marker in the country's political evolution. That's because for at least three years, the regime voted into office by a comfortable margin in 2010 has been on a self-destructive course, the comfort zone of that champagne time in 2010 now but a misty memory. A term of office marred by unabashed power abuse excesses and runaway corruption would do that to any government. And so has it been for the crew led by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, creating a level of dysfunction in the government ranks that has added potboiler elements to this election season.

It need not have been this way for Bissessar and her government. Patrick Manning, her predecessor in office, had clearly outlived his usefulness by the time he called that 2010 election, half-way through his administration's term. A ridic-

ulous then-existing culture within the Manning-led People's National Movement (PNM) allowed Manning to hold on to the party leadership, even as his role at the helm obviously could mean nothing but disaster for the party. Bissessar, heading a coalition cobbled together, was the beneficiary of a head-strong Manning's channeling of imperialistic style authority. Meaning, she had only to be the "un-Manning" to sail effortlessly and successfully through the five-year term handed to her on a platter.

Instead, Bissessar proceeded to lead a government that has been riddled with scandal, a government that has shown a jaw-dropping disregard for playing by the rules. Our characterization here, several times previously, of the Bissessar administration as the most blatantly corrupt the country has ever had, is a call one makes without fear of (unbiased) contradiction. There has been an overall recklessness in the manner of discharging the government's responsibilities to the people that was a dramatic departure from tra-

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

dition, only, unfortunately, hardly for the better. Some of the more shocking examples of this indifference to process and / or guidelines have had their day in the swirl of controversy, whether concerning hiring practices, award of contracts or any other cavalier misuses of the privilege of governance.

One area where the classless flaunting of governmental authority was regularly paraded and was perhaps the ultimate unready for prime time knock on the government, was in the conduct of parliamentary business. Many were probably not surprised at how this played out, once Bissessar handed the speaker's job to a party hack upon whom she could depend to toe the party line, come what may. This ongoing sorry exercise reached its nadir a few months ago when a government member was allowed to mercilessly slander Leader of the Opposition

Dr. Keith Rowley in a personal attack that would have landed the member in court for defamation, had the diatribe occurred outside of Parliament. Obviously pre-arranged within the government caucus, the disgusting display went down with the complicity of the lackey masquerading as speaker and with Bissessar mysteriously exiting the chamber just before it began. For a second act, the government used its majority to suspend Rowley, in the process trampling all over constitutional limits and parliamentary protocol.

The Bissessar administration has also made history, of a kind one would prefer kept under wraps, in the virtual revolving door of cabinet appointees that has existed for five years. Early on, the prime minister pointed to the glut of personnel changes as a feather in her cap — an indication she was prone to act whenever those situations warranted. With time, and changes occurring faster than folks could or cared to keep track, the Bissessar defense and diversion became ever more threadbare. That she was of a piece with

whom she identified as transgressing colleagues became increasingly common consensus.

Further complicating things for the prime minister has been the presence in the mix of one Jack Warner. Facing problems of his own from his alleged FIFA-related wrongdoing, Warner, once bosom buddies with Bissessar, is now sworn enemies with her and her party. And he is committed, he says, to hanging out as much dirty linen on Bissessar and her posse as he's aware of. No one should doubt Warner's being in possession of lots of stuff on this regime, he having reportedly been its principal financier in 2010 and a cabinet member until they parted ways in 2013. When, for instance, Warner confirms what was all along surmised in the public square — that kickbacks were standard operating procedure in the Bissessar government — Warner ought to know.

Whatever Bissessar figured to be irritants in her path as she aimed for a re-do of 2010, chances are today's terrain isn't quite what was expected.

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OP-EDS

In pursuit of gender equality

Continued from page 10

as fair play and open competition.

It is time to overturn the barriers and stereotypes, because every step to do so is a step towards gender equality and women's empowerment. Many women athletes, especially in sports not traditionally considered "feminine", lead the way, with grit and grace.

Sports programmes have been successful in reducing restrictions on mobility and social isolation that many women and girls experience, particularly those who live in poverty, and who might otherwise be mainly confined within their communities and families.

Through sport, women and girls can find safe places to gather, build new interpersonal networks, develop a sense of identity and pursue new opportunities, often in the process becoming more engaged in community life.

Governments, the United Nations, civil society, the sport movement and others have recognized the contribu-

tion of sports to the social, economic and political empowerment of women and girls. Now is the time to act on this recognition.

Women and girls should be encouraged to explore sports, and anyone who would like to participate should be able to do so. In some cases, this may require increased investments; in others, a rebalancing of resources to ensure equal opportunities for men and women, girls and boys.

Sport and the pursuit of gender equality can be mutually reinforcing — through the creation of role models, the promotion of values and powerful outreach. Both can generate a dream and drive people to strive for change, unleashing tremendous benefits for individuals and for our societies at large.

Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is UN under-secretary-general and executive director, UN Women

Edited by Kitty Stapp

Women's reproductive health

Continued from page 10

rollbacks and de-funding of reproductive health services will inevitably drive up maternal morbidity and mortality rates, again placing women's health at risk.

As a nation, I hope we take a hard look at how our public policies stand to jeopardize the health of women and

prevent this from happening.

We must have healthy mothers and healthy babies if we expect to have a healthy nation.

Elders is a professor at the School of Public Health, University of Arkansas, and served as surgeon general of the United States from 1993 to 1994.

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Continued from page 3

injustices when he said that "it is in your hands now."

The former freedom fighter and South African president died at age 95 on Dec. 5, 2013. The day is more than a celebration of Madiba's life and legacy. It is a global movement to honor his life's work

and act to change the world for the better.

Nelson Mandela followed three rules throughout his life, which he did at great personal sacrifice:

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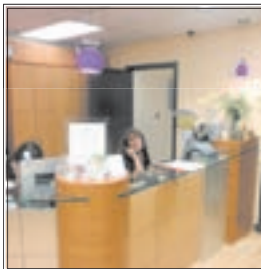
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Vincen-tian group conducts mission in Grenada



In Willis, Grenada at Ms Bridgeman's residence, Pastor Robert McBarnett with Ms. Bridgeman. Others in photo, from left, Pat Moore, Hannah Reid, Yvette Scott and Joan Moore.

By Nelson A. King

Teaming up with a Grenadian-born member, a Vincen-tian philanthropic group in the Bronx recently conducted what members described as a very successful mission to Grenada.

The St. Matthias Charities, Inc., headed by Pastor Robert McBarnett, has just returned from the "Spice Isle," where members distributed a variety of medical and other supplies to the local hospital, clinics and various communities throughout Grenada and its sister isle, Carriacou.

On the trip was Hannah Reid, who three years ago, when the group was formed, became a member and, subsequently, accompanied St. Matthias Charities, Inc. on two similar missions to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In return, the philanthropic group pledged to reciprocate

by collaborating with Reid and her Brooklyn church, Crown Heights Gospel Church, to conduct a mission in Grenada.

"Needless to say, we kept our promise; and, on June 28, we were in Grenada, along with Pastor Cyprian Joseph and members of Crown Heights Gospel Church," McBarnett told Caribbean Life.

With help from the Brooklyn-based Square Deal Shippers & Movers, McBarnette said St. Matthias, Inc. shipped 39 boxes, including commercial boxes and crates, of medical equipment and other supplies to Grenada. These comprised, among others, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, bath chairs, canes, dishes, food, clothing and household items.

"The mission was a complete success," Mc Barnett said. "We worked with the government of Grenada, which, instructed local personnel to clear and store the

shipment of supplies for us."

"Upon our arrival, everything was ready to be handed over and distributed to the hospital and various communities," he added, thanking for support particularly Minister for Health Nicholas Steele; Steele's advisor, Ann David-Antoine; Javan Williams, coordinator of the donation desk; and New York-based Ambassador of Diaspora

Affairs, Derrick James.

"The donations were received with gratitude from the government and all of the citizens of the communities that we visited," said Mc Barnett, disclosing that donations were also made to the Hilarion Chestshire Home; Hills View Home for the Aged and Richmond Hill Nursing Homes; Grand Anse Baptist Church;

and The International Pentecostal Church (IPA).


"It was good to see the faces of the people we helped, such as Ms. Norma Richards, who has an amputated leg," Mc Barnett continued. "We donated a wheelchair and pampers to her. She cried – tears of joy – almost as if she had been absolved of all the pain and had been given the opportunity to start again.

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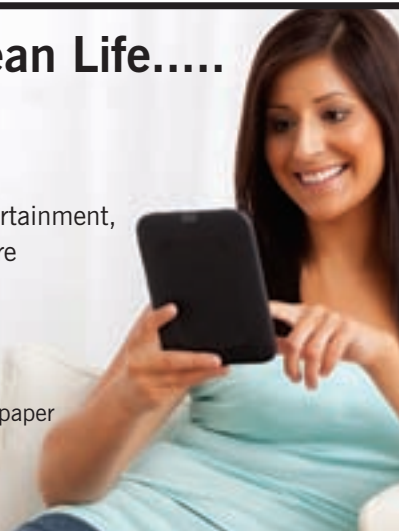
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In this June 25, 2015 photo, a moving truck loaded with furniture approaches the border with Haiti, in Dajabon, Dominican Republic. Thousands of people from Haiti or merely of Haitian descent aren't waiting to find out if they will be forcibly removed from the Dominican Republic now that the deadline has passed to apply for legal residency.

Many leave DR for Haiti to avoid deportation

By Ezequiel Abiu Lopez And Danica Coto

OUANAMINTHE, Haiti (AP) — Thousands of people from Haiti or merely of Haitian descent aren't waiting to see if they'll be forcibly removed from the Dominican Republic now that the deadline has passed to apply for legal residency.

The end of a yearlong application period has sparked an exodus to Haiti of people who failed to qualify. Some plan to wait out what they fear could be a wave of mass deportations, while others will start uncertain new lives on the poorer side of Hispaniola.

The two countries that share the Caribbean island have a fraught history, with generations of Haitians crossing into the Dominican Republic to take low-wage jobs in fields like agriculture and construction. They've also encountered discrimination and periodic crackdowns.

Among those who have left recently are Haitian farmworker Eragene Moncher, despite the fact he actually qualified for the "regularization" program for foreign-born people.

He returned to the homeland he left more than 20 years ago after failing to get the documents necessary for five of his six children to establish Dominican residency, all of whom were born there.

"We're arriving with nothing," he said while boarding a truck in the border town of Ouanaminthe with two of his children and headed toward the capital of Port-au-Prince. "I'm trying to figure out how we're going to make a living."

Dominican officials say migrants in

the country could stay if they prove they arrived before October 2011 and have taken steps to establish themselves by getting a job or going to school. Nearly 290,000 of the estimated 524,000 migrants in the country — the majority of them Haitians — applied by the June 17 deadline. The government says those who didn't apply or who didn't get legal permission to stay should leave or risk deportation.

The Dominican government says nearly 40,000 people had left as of July 6.

Many people going to Haiti say they fear the violent, often traumatic expulsions that have occurred periodically in the past, and are frustrated with requirements for documents many cannot obtain.

The Dominican Republic has been under international scrutiny in recent years for immigration policies that tend to affect mostly Haitians and people of Haitian descent, who tend to be darker skinned than most Dominicans and often find themselves victims of racial discrimination.

In September 2013, the Dominican Republic's Constitutional Court ruled that children born in the country to non-citizens did not qualify for automatic citizenship because their migrant parents — most of whom were Haitians — were "in transit."

Amid an international outcry, President Danilo Medina's administration announced it would grant citizenship to the estimated 55,000 people it said were born in the Dominican Republic to at least one parent who was a citizen or legal resident.



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Street vending at the touch of an app

By Alley Olivier

Anything can be made available to us with just a push of a button on our favorite smart devices.

Now, even grandma is technologically savvy and as we continue to advance, it only makes sense to utilize these advancements for something a bit more meaningful than the usual selfie.

First generation Haitian American, Christine Souffrant, is utilizing the convenience of an app to revolutionize the lives of more than 2.5 billion street vendors globally. Stemming from her own personal experiences, Souffrant's new Vendedy app is etched in her own lineage including her mother, grandmother and great grandmother working in Haiti as street vendors. "I did see myself doing something along the lines of Vendedy because I grew up around it and it was something that motivated me to figure out how to alleviate the situation," Souffrant said.

Souffrant's parents made the move to New York City just before she was born with suitcases of Haitian artwork. It was this artwork from their homeland that sustained the family's income for the next 20 years — first through vending on Columbus Circle then eventually into a store.

"When she first came to the states, she couldn't find a job so she was selling in the streets," Souffrant said. "Selling at Columbus Circle, selling at flea markets and her family was embarrassed by her, friend's disowned her and literally her own friends would cross the street to pretend like they didn't know her because they thought that she was crazy."



Founder Christine Souffrant hanging out in an artisan's booth. Photo courtesy of Christine Souffrant

Like her mother, Souffrant would face adversity for her choices to pursue what would ultimately become her app.

While studying at Dartmouth, Souffrant visited 11 countries during a term at sea as a Gates Millennium scholar where she conducted her own study of street vendors worldwide. This groundwork would ultimately set the foundation for more research to come to create Vendedy.

Like most entrepreneurs, Souffrant did not always view herself as such. Working comfortably in banking with a background in English, the Brooklyn native could have chosen to remain in her lucrative career but something within her called for more.

"In the beginning, my mother was a little concerned because

I quit banking to do this. I was already in my third promotion in, I was doing very well and I finally said 'you know what I'm going to quit and move over to Dubai.' There was no rationale to just stop what I'm doing and move away to figure out this business model that ended up being Vendedy," she said.

Leaving the comforts of steady and reliable paychecks, Souffrant packed up her life and moved to Dubai to pursue a masters in international business and social entrepreneurship at Hult International Business School.

Despite many bewildered and confused friends, Souffrant made the move with the unwavering support of her mother. "When she saw that I was going through that same experience of ridicule from my friends and my



Vendedy founder Christine Souffrant (right) pictured with an artisan in Brazil. Photo courtesy of Christine Souffrant

peers and my advisors. She saw my conviction and she backed me. It's easy for someone to jump on board when they see progress. It's not easy for someone to jump on board to believe in you," she said.

After intense market research and a pilot beta study, Souffrant and her team are working tirelessly to launch the full app this fall. Utilizing photos to connect travellers with street vendors, Vendedy allows for vendors and consumers to communicate directly.

"For the first time, street vendors can upload photos of their products online via mobile so that a traveling consumer can search, purchase, and pay via SMS. The innovation lies in the use of our global cross border mobile SMS cloud platform for mobile commerce exchange in third world markets — streamlining product, payment and delivery that connects street vendors to traveling consumers," according to the Vendedy website.

Getting street vendors to see Souffrant's mission is the easiest

part of the process that comes with some guidelines in terms of what photos will be selected and uploaded to the server's catalog. "We have albums where anyone can take photos of products and vendors in the streets whether that be a traveller taking pictures at a bazaar and is like 'hey check out this item I loved it,' a local who knows the area really well and all the cool spots, or the vendors themselves if they have access to a smart phone. It's literally a funnel of different photos being uploaded to the network and once we can confirm," she explained.

Since the completion of the pilot program successfully tested in Haiti, Souffrant and her team are hoping to reframe what it means to be a street vendor whether abroad or domestically.

"It frustrates the hell out of me when I talk to investors or those who are so ignorant to how savvy these people are around the world," Souffrant said. "They ask very mundane questions like 'do they know how to use a phone?' People around the world who are in these markets, you are talking about people who are creating unique items from scrap. Someone like that is not someone to be condescending about or overlook."

Souffrant and her Vendedy team are sparing no time this summer to finalize the app and re-launch it to be used in the Caribbean and introduced to Latin America.

Christine Souffrant is a game changer, leading the technology sector to help alleviate poverty and most importantly reorient the conversations surrounding street vendors in impoverished countries. To learn more about Vendedy, visit www.vendedy.com.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

and more prominent night spots in the city and Ramjattan said while a number of bars and liquor restaurants have lobbied him against the measure, has indicated “to them they are not going to get any assistance from me in that regard.”

Haiti

South Africa’s Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Luwellyn Landers recently paid a visit to Haiti after concluding a successful visit to Suriname.

While in Suriname, Landers held bilateral talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Winston Lakin. During the visit to Suriname, the two countries also signed a memorandum of understanding on political consultations.

The MoU will serve as a framework for the two countries to manage their bilateral relations and will further help to strengthen diplomatic relations.’

The deputy minister also paid a courtesy call on the Governor of the Central Bank in Suriname, Gilmore Hoefdraad. The two exchanged views on various pertinent issues and also echoed the need for South Africa and Suriname to find common areas of cooperation”.

Suriname and South African had enjoyed cordial reciprocal diplomatic relations since 1995. During his visit to Haiti, Landers held bilateral talks and discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lener Renaud. The deputy minister also paid a courtesy call on President Michel Martelly.

Haiti is the fourth country the deputy minister visited during his five-nation tour to the Caribbean.



the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), which safeguards the rules of trade, are necessary pillars that will move Montserrat forward,” Romeo said.

He added that CARICOM Secretary General, Irwin LaRocque, who visited Montserrat earlier this year, had assured him that all courtesies and assistance would be granted as needed “to help Montserrat advance as a found member of CARICOM, with the current new and revised arrangements or our regional integration movement”.

St. Lucia

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony says St. Lucia is not prepared to invest in cash-strapped regional airline LIAT and called on its shareholder governments to “bite the bullet” and put in place policies that would ensure the financial viability of the Antigua-based carrier.

“This is not a question of governments making sacrifices, it is also a question of LIAT, its employees and its pilots also making sacrifices for the future of LIAT,” Anthony said.

LIAT is owned by the shareholder governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The four regional governments have been appealing to other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) governments to invest in the airline that services 17 Caribbean destinations.

He said what is needed right now is to transform the airline to ensure that it is far more efficient, “that it is operated strictly on appropriate financial formula that ensures losses are curtailed and efficiencies are gained.”



Montserrat

Montserrat is continuing to take steps towards the full implementation of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Premier Donaldson Romeo gave the assurance that Montserrat, a British overseas territory, was continuing its engagements to ensure the timely completion of the processes to this end.

He made the announcement at the recent opening of the ceremony of the 36th meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Bridgetown, Barbados.

“Regarding the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, we continue our exchanges with her Majesty’s government and are preparing the required Legislation to submit to the Legislative Assembly of Montserrat. The CARICOM Authority has granted time lines for completion of the processes and for the full implementation of the Revised Treaty.

“We are very clear that our accession to the Caribbean Development Fund (CDF), which will assist our efforts to integrate, and the Original Court of

Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has offered support to Guyana in its present maritime waters dispute with Venezuela.

According to a release, Persad-Bissessar affirmed her support to Guyana’s President David Granger during the recent 36th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Bridgetown, Barbados.

During the discussion at the CARICOM meeting, she affirmed with Granger Trinidad and Tobago’s interests with both Guyana and Venezuela.

However, the prime minister stated that Venezuela’s Presidential Decree is a violation of international laws of the sea and expressed support for Guyana.

The release stated that the Commonwealth’s position was similarly affirmed by the secretary general, who expressed disapproval of the unilateral passing such decrees and again expressed the Commonwealth’s support of Guyana’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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Lecturer Rhonda Hamilton, center, with senior year students at the Center for Communication Studies lab of the Turkeyen Campus of the University of Guyana. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

University of Guyana enhances degree programs

By Tangerine Clarke

With the University of Guyana continuously expanding to include a wider variety of degree programs, students have more options to pursue their dreams. And while individualized degrees give students many options, the institution has enhanced programs to prepare graduates with better business

options. For example, the Center for Communication Studies has updated its curriculum to give students the opportunity to create a more realistic marketing communication plan that would matured into a business after graduation. Lecturer Rhonda Hamilton recently invited Caribbean Life newspaper to the Turkeyen

Campus, to witness presentations by final-year students who used theories to bring to life a model geared towards successful business opportunities. Hamilton, a five-year faculty member, said the Integrated Marketing Communication syllabus helped students to move away from just public relations, and instead give them

the opportunity to experience a broader step-by-step insight into a marketing plan. "The students must bring something to life in their presentation using concepts learned so when they graduate they could take their ideas and mature them into businesses," said Hamilton, adding that she hopes these business ideas would be implemented in

their personal lives, and would impact not only Guyana, but regionally and internationally as well. With close to 49 students from the Turkeyen Campus expected to graduate with a degree in communication studies in November 2015, Hamilton, who said she was impressed with the presentations, lauded

Continued on Page 40

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Royal Wine Inc. to distribute XM Rum in NY

By Tangerine Clarke

Guyana's award-winning billion-dollar XM Rum company has eluded the Guyanese community in New York for way too long due to stringent U.S. laws and regulations. But thanks to persistent requests from consumers for the alcohol, Banks DIH Limited recently partnered with New Jersey Royal Wine Incorporated, to distribute the popular liquor.

Fans savored the taste of their favorite Extra Mature rum during a reception at Zen Hibachi Lounge in Richmond Hill, Queens on June 30, and cheered the executives of Banks DIH distillers who traveled from Guyana to showcase the company's five, seven, 10, and 15-year-old rum to launch the brand.

The world rum masters put on a presentation to capture the attention of consumers in the New York area in an effort to ensure Guyana's largest alcohol brand stand out among the thousands of others that dominate supermarkets and liquor stores in the United States.

But according to Morty Herzog, chief executive officer of



Executives are pictured at the recent re-launch of XM Rum brands at Zen Hibachi Lounge in Richmond Hill, Queens. From left, George McDonald, (Banks DIH), Joselyn Mendez, (Royal Wine Corp.), Carlton Joao (Banks DIH), Howard Wang, (Royal Wine Corp.), Clifford Reis (Banks DIH) Mordy Herzog, (Royal Wine Corp.), Charles Lynch, (Royal Wine Corp.) and Edmon Braithwaite, (Nostrand Wine and Liquors).
Photo by Tangerine Clarke

vino giant Royal Wine, customers are ready for XM Rum to come to the United States. He noted that his company has received many requests from persons excited about the liquor's entrance to the marketplace.

"This is a great moment for

Royal Wine and one we will remember for a long time," said Herzog who expressed eagerness to merge his eighth-generation company with that of the D'Aguiare family, who migrated to Guyana from Portugal in 1840.

Herzog spoke of the passion

that Royal Wine will bring to the XM brand.

"This brand has a great legacy and history, and it's a fantastic, award-winning product that started from the ground up, and for that, you need passion, and that is what brings us together with the XM team

and the Banks family."

"It's passion that is fueling the mission and it's passion that is going to build XM into one of the most fabulous rum brands in the United States," added Herzog.

Banks DIH's Chairman, Clifford Reis, who received Sweden's second highest national award and the title "Commander of the Polar Star" last year, said the reception was a 're-launch' of XM, that he noted returned to Guyana three years ago because of tax and Labor laws and a competitor law suite that disputed the use of the word 'Demerara' in the XM brand name.

"Our company is a family business that started many years ago. We believe in everything we do, and the product we produce," said Reis.

"We are committed like Royal Wine, that has all the same ideas as us, we have a good relationship with consumers and suppliers, and we have a great relationship for the success of XM, and eventually GT beer. He also has plans to start a distillery in New York.



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Winning goal for heroines & FIFA

New York City proved the best venue for showcasing a positive aspect to International Federation of Football Association (FIFA) and the athletic women champions who won their third World Cup recently.

With all the fanfare surrounding a ticker-tape parade up the Canyon of Heroes, the U.S. female champions probably did more to restore confidence in the international governing body than any group of men could.

"When they brought home that trophy they also brought back a message about the power of women, about the strength of women and about the need to create a more equal society for all," Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

Following months of negative media reports about FIFA male officers involving corruption, the women of the international league kicked winning press for the sport, its mission and for a gender that still lags behind the men in reaping equity in pay.

That at peak, 30 million viewers watched the team play



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

a soccer tournament held in Vancouver, British Columbia was already an unimaginable feat to ignore given that much less those numbers ever watched the men when they vied for the same title.

According to reports, those viewers out-number viewing audience that watch the National Basketball Association finals, the National Hockey League, the National Football League and Major League Baseball.

One report is that "in many countries, more than half of the population tuned into the last FIFA World Cup."

The USA's 5-2 victory over Japan marks the most-watched soccer match in U.S. history.

One week ago — July 10 — after America celebrated Independence Day, red white and blue colored Broadway and a

crowded path up the Canyon of Heroes to City Hall where team players were given the keys to New York City.

Men, women and children cheered the victory.

A legion of women touted the gender and the game.

And soccer moms represented with banners declaring "We are the Champions of the World."

First Lady Michelle Obama might have cheered from the White House as one of the inclusive mothers whose daughters — Sasha and Malia — spend their off times on the green kicking a ball into a goal.

Captain Carli Lloyd, a New Jersey native, likened the experience to "a dream come true, but having this parade in New York City was one of the best moments of my entire life."



U.S. women's soccer team midfielder Megan Rapinoe, center, holds up the World Cup trophy as midfielder Carli Lloyd, left, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, left background, and head coach Jill Ellis, right, wave to the crowd as their float makes it way up Broadway's Canyon of Heroes during the ticker tape parade to celebrate the U.S. women's soccer team World Cup victory, Friday, July 10, 2015, in New York.

It has been 55 years since a woman was honored with confetti.

The first parade held for a female athlete was held in 1926 for Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim the English

Channel.

The last parade held exclusively for a female athlete was held in 1960 for women's Olympic figure-skating champion Carol Heiss.

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Rapper Doug E. Fresh performs at HOT 97's "The Tip Off" at Madison Square Garden on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press / Invision / Scott Roth

MLK Concert Series take a hit

By Vinette K. Pryce

Once regarded as one of the best deals in Brooklyn, the annual Martin Luther King summer concert series returns with an abbreviated lineup that begins and end with only four performance dates.

The 2015 season begins on July 27 with a lively rhythm & blues throwback show headlined by Minneapolis' master performers Morris Day and The Time and two weeks later, rappers Doug E.

Continued on Page 34

BRAATA to tour Trinidad

Braata Productions, a New York based cultural non-profit, has joined the list of charitable organizations turning to crowdfunding as a means of raising funds. As the organization prepares for its regional summer tour to Trinidad to participate in the New Waves! 2015/ Dancing While Black Performance Lab, July 22 to Aug. 1, 2015, the non-profit theater company is seeking to tap the power of social media to meet its fundraising goals.

Proceeds raised from the GoFundMe campaign will go towards defraying accommodation and travel expenses for members of the ensemble of "The Black That I Am", which was selected to participate in the New Waves! 2015/ Dancing While Black Performance Lab, co-curated by New Waves! Director,

Continued on Page 34



THE TEMPEST TAKES HARLEM

Prospero (Ron Cephas Jones) embraces daughter Miranda (Kimberly Chatterjee) during his opening monologue. Photo courtesy of the Classical Theatre of Harlem

Shakespeare's play set in Hispaniola

By Alley Olivier

What does the Caribbean and William Shakespeare have in common?

In many depictions of his famous plays, the characters are often depicted to be white and set in the many countries of Europe. The Classical Theatre of Harlem, however, is taking Shakespeare's "The Tempest" and infusing an Afro-Caribbean layer to create a universal story.

"There are ways that Shakespeare gets taught, gets seen that makes it exclusive, that makes it seem like it

belongs to somebody else – you have to be rich and white and maybe British to get Shakespeare and that is not the case. Shakespeare wrote about genuine human beings in human situations and that is universal," Anthony Vaughn Merchant, Jamaican and Puerto Rican descendant who plays Trinculo, explained.

Performed in Harlem's outdoor Richard Rodgers Amphitheater in Marcus Garvey Park, the story comes to life with the sounds of pulsing drums, a violinist and the soothing

singing voice of Haitian descendant Fedna Jacquet playing the spirit character Ariel.

Set in Hispaniola — home to Haiti and the Dominican Republic — Afro-Caribbean undertones shine through the use of dance, song, language and particularly the inclusion of spiritism, voodoo and thirst for freedom.

"The history of Haiti is nothing short of magical. This tiny Caribbean country won its independence by defeating three European superpow-

Continued on Page 34

Tzhasia Johnson portrays "Rocks & Roll."

Photo by Nelson A. King



D'MIDAS PRESENTS KALEIDOSCOPE ON BROADWAY

By Nelson A. King

The Brooklyn-based D'Midas International, N.Y. is hoping to continue doing well in the West Indian American Day Carnival Parade, as it presents "Kaleidoscope on Broadway."

"The costumes are designed to put on a stage performance and tell the story as they (masqueraders) cross the stage," said band leader and designer Glenn Turnbull in a Caribbean Life interview.

"The band has always done well, so there is no reason to believe it will not do well this year," he added. "If we get the numbers, I am expecting to place in the top three in our category."

Turnbull said D'Midas International, N.Y. has placed "first several times, second several times and third several times" (in the parade over the years).

He also disclosed that the senior band has won over eight "Queens of Carnival" and five



Zachary Lincoln portrays "Mystical Dream."

Photo by Nelson A. King

Kings.

In addition, Turnbull said the junior band has won several top categories, over the years, including "Junior Queen and King."

"The masqueraders can expect a great time and a well-made costume for their monies," he said.

Turnbull said "Kaleidoscope on Broadway" comprises 15 sections altogether – 12 female and three male.

With one section unidentified, the female sections are: Rock n Roll Dancer; Lemon Drop; Setting Sun; Peaches n Cream; Oceanic; Moon Struck; Kaleidoscope; Mystical Dream; Rocky Blue; Brown Sugar; and Mid-Night Madness.

The male sections are: Rock n Roll Dancer, Kaleidoscope and Mystical Dream.

Turnbull said each section comprises 15 masqueraders, "which will make for a great presentation, as the band makes its way up the Parkway" (Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn).

Masqueraders are from several Caribbean islands and the continental U.S., Turnbull said.

Turnbull can be reached at (718) 809-1017, or email at GFahie64@hotmail.com.

SoundCity Mas' 'Sucre' for Labor Day

By Nelson A. King

With about 30 years of mas-making experience, the producers of the Brooklyn-based SoundCity Mas are hoping to make a difference on Labor Day with "Sucre."

"Our 2015 presentation is called 'Sucre,' because we decided to showcase everything sweet in the Caribbean and to bring out some of the islands' flavors," said Grenadian Cathyann Cuffie,

co-founder of the mas camp, located at 834 Clarkson Ave., between Utica Ave. and East 51st Street, in a Caribbean Life interview. The other founders are Trinidadian Travis Esdelle and Jamaican Jasmine Graham.

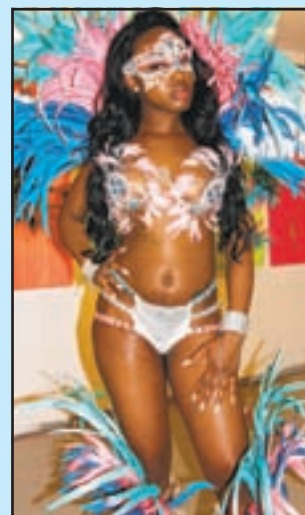
Cuffie said "Sucre" comprises seven sections in the all-female band: Arore de Minuit, Chocolat Savage, Mango Tango, Cotton Candy, Love and Romance, Hint of

Mint and Bubble Gum.

Cuffie said, while no male section is currently available, the mas camp is willing to add such section, "upon request." There will be 20-30 masqueraders per section, she said.

"Seeing that we are from different countries, we don't discourage people of any nationality to play mas in our band," Cuffie said. "So far, we have at least one masquerader from each Caribbean island, as well as numerous players of American descent.

"As our first year participating in the parade, as an independent entity, we are nervous, to say the least," she added. "But we hope that this year will be a successful learn-



Tasian Edwards portrays "Cotton Candy."

Photo by Nelson A. King

ing experience to foster further growth and prosperity for 2016 and beyond.

"In previous years, we have presented mas with other mas bands; they all sold pretty well," continued Cuffie, stating: "Masqueraders can expect, first and foremost, to enjoy the experience we provide."

She said preparations are in "full swing" for the parade, with "numerous people assisting in the production of the costumes."

The producers at SoundCity Mas can be reached by calling or texting at (347) 855-3705, emailing at soundcityny@gmail.com, or following on Instagram @soundcity_mas.

Horror flick unfolds at haunted high school

"The Gallows"
 Very Good (3 stars)
 Rated R for terror
 and disturbing violence
 Running time:
 81 minutes
 Distributor:
 Warner Brothers
 Pictures

By Kam Williams

Back in 1993, a student accidentally died onstage during the opening night performance of "The Gallows," a macabre play being staged at Beatrice High. The unfortunate understudy, a last-minute replacement for the suddenly-indisposed star, was somehow hanged when the noose around his neck actually functioned when the trapdoor under his feet gave way.

Fast-forward twenty years and we find the school's theater club planning to put on the same production, ostensibly as an attempt to pay homage to



A scene from the movie "The Gallows."

the kid who lost his life. Drama teacher Mr. Schwendiman (Travis Cluff) is now overseeing the well-intentioned project with the help of a nerdy, student stage manager (Price T. Morgan).

In terms of the casting, Pfeifer (Pfeifer Brown) has been

picked to play the female lead opposite Reese (Resse Mishler) who will be reprising the role of the ill-fated protagonist. Other critical persons of interest for these purposes include football team captain Ryan (Ryan Shoos) and his cheerleader girlfriend Cassidy (Cassidy Gif-

ford). Ryan also just happens to be an amateur filmmaker with OCD. So, he constantly keeps his hand-held camera on "Record." That annoying habit might prove valuable should anything tragic transpire on campus, even if the shaky

images are terribly dizzying.

In fact, these clues are all the police have to go on to decipher what happened in *The Gallows*, a found-footage flick co-written and co-directed by Travis Cluff and Chris Lofing. The movie is a worthy addition to this low-budget, horror sub-genre inaugurated by *The Blair Witch Project* in 1999.

Just as in *Blair Witch*, the characters here use their real names in order to blur the line between fact and fiction, and thereby suggest that what you're watching is a documentary. However, that pretense is pretty much undermined by the presence Cassidy Gifford in the picture, since it's hard to buy the idea that the daughter of Frank and Kathy Lee Gifford was raised in rural Nebraska. That being said, she does deliver a decent performance as a terrified coed.

Scary fright fare that puts a creepy new spin on the meaning of school spirit.

Independent & Foreign Films

Alleluia (Unrated) Suspense thriller revolving around a seductive womanizer (Laurent Lucas) who enters an unholy alliance with a lonely widow (Lola Duenas) after they share a very passionate, one-night stand. With Helena Noguerra, Edith Le Merdy and Anne-Marie Loop. (In French with subtitles)

Bonobos: Back to the Wild (Unrated) Endangered species biopic about Claudine Andre (Rebecca Hall), the renowned primatologist who has dedicated her career to saving the Congo's Bonobo apes. Co-starring Luke Evans and featuring an appearance by Andre herself.

Boulevard (R for profanity and sexuality) The late Robin Williams stars in the out-of-the-closet drama as a banker in a marriage of convenience tempted to leave his wife (Kathy Bates) of 26 years for a handsome male prostitute (Roberto Aguirre) he picks up on the street. With Bob Odenkirk, Giles Matthey and Eleonore Hendricks.

Caffeinated (Unrated) Java documentary highlighting the role coffee plays in cultures all around the world. (In English, Italian, Spanish and Korean)

A Hard Day (Unrated) Korean crime thriller about a police detective (Sun-kyun Lee) who is accused of corruption, served divorce papers, learns of his mother's death, and is involved in a fatal hit-and-run accident, all within a 24-hour period. With Jin-woong Jo, Dong-Young Kim and Jeong-geun Sin. (In Korean



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

with subtitles)

Lila & Eve (R for violence and profanity) Revenge thriller about a grief-stricken mother (Viola Davis) who tracks down her son's drive-by killers on the advice of another mourning mom (Jennifer Lopez) she meets at a support group. Support cast includes Yolonda Ross, Shea Whigham and Aml Ameen.

The Look of Silence (PG-13 for mature themes) Justice delayed documentary follows the search by siblings who survived the Indonesian genocide for the men who killed their brother. (In Indonesian with subtitles)

Safelight (R for profanity and sexual references) Romance drama, set in the Seventies, about a couple of teens (Juno Temple and Evan Peters) who embark on a road trip to photograph lighthouses located along the California coast. Co-starring Kevin Alejandro, Meaghan Martin and Christine Lahti.

The Stanford Prison Experiment (R for profanity, sexual references and abusive behavior) Psychological thriller inspired by the 1971 study conducted by Professor Philip Zimbardo (Billy Crudup) in which college students were enlisted to serve as guards and inmates in a mock penitentiary. Featuring Ezra Miller, Olivia Thirlby and Tye Sheridan.

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New Generation presents 'Dream Catcher'

By Nelson A. King

In continuing the legacy of her late Trinidadian-born mother Kathyann Hernandez, who went to the Great Beyond two years ago, Patrice Simmons says she is maintaining Hernandez's high standards in presenting "Dream Catcher" this Labor Day.

"It is a symbol of identification and unity," Simmons told Caribbean Life about New Generation's production. "We want our youth to know it is ok to dream, believe and achieve their goals."

"We hope to have fun with the children on the road, display our creativity and enjoy our beautiful culture," added the band's producer and designer, who, since childhood, has been assisted her mom in her productions.

"Dream Catcher" comprises 11 sections, with eight female



Tyemell Mc Koy portrays "Lost Tribe."

the "family-oriented band" comprises 20 masquerades of West Indian heritage.

She said the band has won many titles, including first place in the medium band category in the Junior Carnival, over the years.

"This year, we plan to continue promoting our culture with our youth, with great music and costumes," said Simmons about New Generation's "Dream Catcher," which was officially launched earlier this week.

DJ Xlence will provide soca music to masqueraders.

New Generation is located at 633 East 40th St., between Avenue D and Foster Avenue.

Simmons can be reached at (347) 475-6023; email at newgeneration2417@gmail.com; Instagram at newgeneration2417; or assistant band leader Malika Delpesche at (917) 586-3986.



Tyemell Mc Koy portrays "Lost Tribe."

and three male sections.

The female sections are: Lone Wolf, Amerindians, Spirit of the Drums, Pow Wow, Lost Tribe, Colors of the Wind, Pochantas and First Nations. The male sections are yet to be identified.

Simmons said each section in



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TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Bad Blood**
Taylor Swift Feat. Kendrick...
- 2 **See you Again**
Wiz Khalifa Feat. Charlie Puth
- 3 **Shut up & Dance**
Walk the Moon
- 4 **Hey Mama**
David Guetta
- 5 **Can't Feel My Face**
The Weeknd
- 6 **Cheerleader**
OMI
- 7 **Want to Want Me**
Jason Derulo
- 8 **Honey I'm Good**
Andy Grammer
- 9 **Talking Body**
Tove Lo
- 10 **Worth It**
Fifth Harmony Feat. Kid Ink

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Dreams Worth ...**
Meek Mill
- 2 **Wildheart**
Miguel
- 3 **Magic Mike XXL**
Soundtrack
- 4 **VHS**
X Ambassadors
- 5 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 6 **Dark Before Dawn**
Breaking Benjamin
- 7 **x**
Ed Sheeran
- 8 **Found in Far Places**
August Burns Red
- 9 **Pageant Material**
Kacey Mustgraves
- 10 **Into The Sun**
Bassnectar



Shakespeare

Continued from page 29

ers: France, Britain and Spain, demonstrating the same fighting spirit found in Caliban, and the same longing for freedom as Ariel." The *Tempest* highlights the dynamics of freedom and captivity, imprisonment and rebellion, authority and tyranny," Carl Cofield said in a press release.

"I think with Shakespeare you have a lot of different choices," Jacquet said. "The *Tempest* takes place on an island, no one knows where, and then you have a prince and duke of Naples and those are the only givens. The fact that we decided on Haiti meant that it opened up a full box of possibilities so we can throw in some voodoo, we can throw in Creole and all of this other stuff that say if we set it in Hawaii you'd have a whole different box of possibilities."

Veteran actor Ron Cephas Jones takes on the lead character of Prospero. Commanding the island with his charms and use of the spirits of the island, you are captured by the story's use of music, aerial acrobatics, and call for "Liberte" or freedom.

"It is a story of someone

being wronged and how that trickle down can happen unintentionally around them," Merchant said. "He was wronged and as he was wronged and shipwrecked he enslaves these spirits and he realizes 'wait a second, maybe this isn't right' and then that story of redemption and colonialism."

Do not anticipate being lost in translation while watching "The *Tempest*." The actors not only make it easy to understand the often-difficult text but there is also a well-balanced mix of modern day language infused. Expect to hear modern terms like "fleeck" in this Shakespeare play.

Comedy, betrayal, revenge, redemption and young romance are all present during the hour and a half production. What is important to note about this rendition of "The *Tempest*" is that the story is truly brought to life in this setting with a flare of authenticity in its representation of people within the Diaspora and beyond.

"I think that it is crucial to the way that we do theater at the Classical Theatre of Harlem. We are all about being inclusive by telling the story through the lens of the Afri-



Stephano (Emmanuel Brown) and Trinculo (Anthony Vaughn Merchant) offering comedic relief in "The *Tempest*."

Photo courtesy of Classical Theatre of Harlem

can diaspora and through the lens of the people who live in Harlem and make up Harlem. It's very important to us that we make it relevant," Merchant said.

Presented by the Classical Theatre of Harlem and City Parks Foundation's Summer Stage festival, the show is free to the public and runs until

July 26.

"People should come because it's a really cool production, it has blue sand and it is fantastic because you will see people who look like you spouting Shakespeare in a way that you will be able to understand it," Jacquet said.

For show time information, visit www.cthny.org.

BRAATA

Continued from page 29

Makeda Thomas and Paloma McGregor, director of *Dancing While Black*, and produced through the New Waves! Commission Project. The group is expected to depart New York for Port of Spain, Trinidad on Friday, July 24, 2015.

The New Waves! 2015/*Dancing While Black* Performance Lab is a manifestation of the New Waves! Commission Project, which has offered a presenting platform for dance artists in the Caribbean since 2012. Selected artists are invited to work during the course of New Waves! 2015, from July 22 to Aug. 1, with New Waves! faculty, guests, participants and the local community.

"We are excited to have been selected to participate in New Waves! 2015 in Trinidad and believe our presence will go a far way towards strengthening the regional ties. More and more it has become increasingly difficult for organizations like ours to carry out our mission, however, as we kick off this campaign we know we can count on the support of the



Members of the New York based Braata Productions.

Caribbean community and the wider Diaspora in helping us achieve our fundraising goal," said Andrew Clarke, founder of Braata Productions.

The trip to Trinidad marks Braata Theatre Workshop's first foray on the international scene following the Braata Folk Singers' trip to Canada in early 2013. Now in its sixth year, the cultural non-profit believes this move signals a broadening of the reach of the company and it is hoped that this will be the fuel that ignites similar tours to the Caribbean, Canada and Europe.

To donate, please visit: <http://www.gofundme.com/theblackthatiam>.

Concert Series

Continued from page 29

Fresh, Kutis Blow and Special Ed close-out the 32-year-old, free, East Flatbush bonanza.

First presented by a jovial, ambitious, politician named Marty Markowitz, the series emerged four years after he was elected to represent Crown Heights in the New York Senate. He said it was his dream and chose to name the music-filled summer series in tribute to Dr. King who he has said was one of his best inspirations to pursuing a life of public service.

Since 1983 Markowitz consistently provided a diverse lineup of entertainment that probably also established him as Brooklyn's best ambassador and according to Wikipedia the promoter of the "nation's largest, free, public concerts for African American and Caribbean audiences."

After leaving Albany and the senate to take the seat as president of the borough, Markowitz continued the concert series providing the hottest acts in gospel, reggae, soca, rhythm

& blues, hip-hop, pop and old-school, vintage veterans of the music industry.

Although he is no longer in the public arena, his legacy continues although far less diminished and much less appealing to patrons who admittedly traveled from as far away as New Jersey and Long Island in order to enjoy the bargain extravaganza.

Presented on Mondays, at Wingate Field, 600 Kingston Ave. near Winthrop and Brooklyn avenues, the 7 pm presentations include an evening of gospel on Aug. 3 featuring Ricky Dillard & The New G. The 2015 presentation also bills reggae talents Freddie McGregor, Christopher Martin and New Kingston Band for a limited Caribbean offering.

Oye Vey! Soca fans probably expecting the Mighty Sparrow or a reasonable facsimile will be disappointed that the genre is not represented and will not provide the spirited lead-in to the annual West Indian American Day Carnival Association's fanfare to summer.

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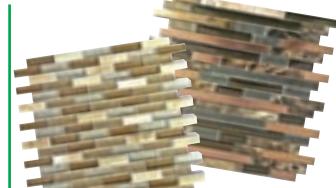
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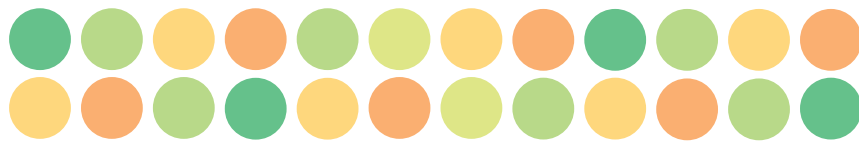
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LONG-RUNNING

“BASQUIAT: The Unknown Notebooks”: Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Ave., Brooklyn; (718) 638-5000; www.brooklynmuseum.org; Wednesdays and Fridays – Sundays, 11 am–6 pm, Thursdays, 11 am–10 pm, Now – Sun, Aug. 23; \$16 (students and seniors \$10, 19 and under free). Brooklyn-born artist Jean-Michel Basquiat filled notebooks with writing and sketches ranging from street life to themes of race, class, and world history. “Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks” features 160 pages of these documents.

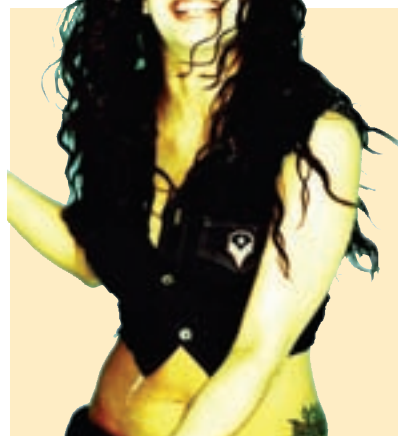
THE RISE OF SNEAKER CULTURE: Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 638-5000; www.brooklynmuseum.org; Wednesdays and Fridays – Sundays, 11 am–6 pm, Thursdays, 11 am–10 pm, Now – Sun, Oct. 4; Adults \$16, Students \$10, Adults 62+ \$10, Ages 19 and under free, and Members free. The Rise of Sneaker Culture is the first exhibition to explore the complex social history and cultural significance of the footwear now worn by billions of people throughout the world. The exhibition, which includes approximately 150 pairs of sneakers, looks at the evolution of the sneaker from its beginnings to its current role as status symbol and urban icon.

THE TEMPEST: Marcus Garvey Park, 18 Mt. Morris Park W New York, NY 10027, Manhattan; www.cthnyc.org/the-tempest; Daily, 8 pm–9:30 pm; Now – Sun, July 26; Free. “The Tempest” is a theatrical “gumbo”, with an intricate blend of usurping villains, youthful romance, music, magic, humor, and conspiracy. In this play, Shakespeare gives us such iconic characters as Ariel, Caliban, and our protagonist Prospero, whose quest for justice leads him to become unjust himself. Prospero’s magical island could be anywhere. CTH’s production references the enchanting island of Hispaniola, the island that is home to both the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

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 pm.; Free. Standup comedy, hosted by Max Silvestri.

FRI, JULY 17

CITIZENSHIPWORKS NATURALIZATION APPLICATION: Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238, Brooklyn; (718) 230-2100; 10 am – 3 pm; Free. A workshop to help eligible lawful permanent residents prepare their N-400 Application for Naturalization to become U.S. citizens. This workshop will use interactive online interviews from CitizenshipWorks.org to determine eligibility and help prepare forms. Immigration experts will be available to review applications and answer legal questions related



FREE ZUMBA

JULY 17: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights; 11:30 am – 12:30 pm; Free. Join us for a 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.

CITIZENSHIP WORKS

JULY 17: Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238, Brooklyn; (718) 230-2100; 10 am – 3 pm; Free. A workshop to help eligible lawful permanent residents prepare their N-400 Application for Naturalization to become U.S. citizens.



BIZ CONSULT

JULY 17: Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238, Brooklyn; (718) 230-2100; 10 am–2 pm; Free. Meet with a SCORE counselor to discuss your business needs. Get advice on starting a business, writing a business plan, implementing a marketing strategy and much more.

to applying for citizenship. Registration is not required, but strongly encouraged. Assistance will be provided on a first-come first-served basis, but pre-registered attendees will have priority. To register, visit citizenshipworks.org/register or call (888) 839-8682.

BUSINESS CONSULTATION: Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238, Brooklyn; (718) 230-2100; 10 am–2 pm; Free. Meet with a SCORE counselor to discuss your business needs. Get advice on starting a business, writing a business plan, implementing a marketing strategy and much more. SCORE is an SBA organization. To schedule an appointment with a SCORE mentor, please visit <https://newyorkcity.score.org/> and click the big green box on the upper right of the page to “Request a Meeting.” This is a Business & Career Library service.

LOW IMPACT ZUMBA: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights; 11:30 am – 12:30 pm; Free. Join us for a 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 participating in an exercise class. RSVP by calling (866) 539-0999.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IN-PERSON ASSISTANCE / NAVIGATOR PROGRAM: Sunset Park Public Library, 5108 Fourth Ave. at 51st Street, Brooklyn; (718) 965-6533; www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org; 12 pm. Find information about qualified health insurance plans, check requirements for subsidies and government insurance programs, and get enrollment assistance from trained and certified navigators. All sessions are by appointment only.

LITERARY SHOWCASE: KGB Bar, 85 E. 4th Street (2nd Floor), Manhattan; (347) 613-0988; www.attheinkwell.com; 7 pm; Free. “At The Inkwell” the monthly literary showcase curated by Monique Antonette Lewis presents an intimate reading with critically acclaimed novelist / poet Kola Bofo. Bofo is the Egyptian-Sudanese-American author of several bestselling novels and poetry collections, including “The Sexy Part of the Bible,” “Flesh and the Devil” and “Nile River Woman.” Her writing has appeared in

Harper’s and the story collection “Politically Inspired.” Her autobiography “Diary of a Lost Girl” was published in 2006.

COMEDY VARIETY SHOW: Otto’s Shrunkenhead, 538 E 14th St., New York, NY 10009, Manhattan; (212) 228-2240; www.ottosshrunkenhead.com; 7 pm; No Cover, No minimum. “No Name... & A Bag O’ Chips” comedy / variety show will feature Rachel Parenta (New York Underground Comedy Festival) Charles McBee (Laughs on FOX) and illusionist Lee Alan Barrett.

MON, JULY 20

LOW IMPACT ZUMBA: 10:30–11:30 am. Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care. See Friday, July 17.

TUES, JULY 21

MEDICAID AND CHILD HEALTH PLUS IN-PERSON ASSISTANCE / NAVIGATOR PROGRAM: Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238, Brooklyn; (718) 230-2100; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; Free. Community Health Project/Callen-Lorde Community Health Center’s Insurance Navigator Program is available to help determine if you may be eligible for free public health insurance (Child Health Plus and Medicaid) and, if so, help you enroll. Trained staff will meet with you, screen what programs you qualify for, and submit the application on your behalf. Although open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act ended on Feb. 15, if you have had a special life event (marriage, divorce, loss of job, birth or adoption of a child), you may still be eligible to enroll.

WED, JULY 22

MANAGING STUDENT LOANS: The Actors Fund, 729 7th Ave., 10th Floor New York, NY 10019, Manhattan; 5–7 pm; Free. Ever wonder how to make a living in the arts while paying off a sizeable student loan debt? The team from the Artists Financial Support Group is here to show you that it can be done! The AFSG are working actors and Drama MFAs who became experts on financial self-advocacy and are now helping other arts professionals to do the same. Their informative and accessible workshop is a must for everyone in a long-term relationship with a loan servicer. Please register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/managing-student-loans-tickets-17262107428?aff=es2> to reserve your spot.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD DIVIDED: Housing, Schools, & Race in America: The Century Foundation, 1 Whitehall Street 15th Floor, New York, NY 10004, 5:45–7:30 pm; Free. Join us for a conversation between TCF fellows Stefania DeLuca and Halley Potter and L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy of CUNY on the nexus of race, housing, and education in America.

Compiled by Natalie Henry

SPORTS

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Attention hoop buffs!

By Robert Elkin

One does not have to be a player to sit among the crowd and catch exciting basketball regardless of age during the hot summer months. The players who compete, especially in the high school division in such a league are capable of being the possible stars of tomorrow.

Some compete in the Men's Open Division consisting of ex-college, former high school or those who are students in college but not necessarily on their school's teams. They are trying to improve on their skills in this West Four Street League located in lower Manhattan near Sixth Avenue.

Games are held during the day, seven days a week on schedule. Because there is limited seating, all spectators are advised to bring their own chairs. In addition, there aren't any night games, for there aren't any lights, just like in past years.

The league provides some top notch action, as some of the players compete year after year regardless of age. The games are refereed by certified offi-

Continued on Page 38

Windies in tri-series

By Azad Ali

The West Indies team will participate in a tri-series against Zimbabwe and Pakistan in Zimbabwe in August and September this year. This was confirmed by the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) in a media release last week following a board of directors quarterly meeting at the Accra Beach Hotel in Barbados.

Bangladesh overtook the West Indies for seventh spot in the International Cricket Council (ICC) one-day team rankings following a 2-1 One-Day International series win over India.

Only the top eight sides in the rankings will contest the Champions Trophy and Pakistan is ninth with only one point separating the two teams.

It means there could be a straight

Continued on Page 38



El Salvador's Darwin Ceren, left, loses the ball to Jamaica's Giles Barnes during a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match in Toronto on Tuesday, July 14, 2015. Aaron Vincent Elkaim / The Canadian Press via Associated Press

Jamaica, Haiti, T&T advance

By Patrick Horne

Caribbean teams so far are getting a big kick out of the 2015 CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer tournament as three of the four participants — Jamaica, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago — have qualified for the quarterfinal round. Cuba, hit by several player-defections, was eliminat-

ed with a pointless record in its two games, with only Guatemala to play.

For one Caribbean team, the party will be over tomorrow. As the pairings would have it, two Caribbean giants have an elimination date in Saturday's quarterfinal matchup: Group B winner Jamaica plays Group A second-place finisher Haiti

at M&T Bank Stadium, 8 pm on Saturday, July 18 in Baltimore. The game is the nightcap of a double-header with Group A winner USA taking on an unknown opponent in the 5 pm opener.

Jamaica is the better team and should advance to the semifinals in

Continued on Page 38

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cials.

For those on high school or intermediate school teams, these student athletes are working hard on their weaknesses in order for them to be better players when September rolls around. In addition, the recruits on the college level certainly have some work to do during this time frame of the calendar year as they abide by NCAA or high school regulations.

Kenny Graham is the director of the league, which also includes two female divisions. He has a very competent staff consisting of those at the table, commissioner of the league, and assistant directors. They take care of other matters that might spring up during the action. Nike is the sponsor of the entire league.

Retired coaches keeping up with the sport on all levels certainly enjoy watching the hoop activity at its best.

One former junior college coach certainly enjoys to watch good basketball where ever and when ever it might arise. This coach has been associated with basketball for many years, resides in Manhattan, but wishes to remain anonymous. He doesn't even recruit.

"Those days are over," he said while watching a high school division game from one end of the court last week. "I used to live near Nassau Community College. But now I live in Manhattan. I give advice about basketball to my grand children. I've been following this West Fourth Street League for about 10 years.

"These players are really (impressive.) I see some great ones here These (high school) kids are still learning. It's good for them."

Some of the players put on great shows, are very talented, and certainly impress the crowd. For instance, Ismael Johnson is at Odessa College in Texas. "A lot of players at Odessa College end up at Division One colleges," he added.

Then there are several first timers in this high school division who still have to improve on their skills if they want to go places this winter. One is Elias Deneke, who is making his debut in this league.

"It's fun playing in this league," said Elias, who had attended high school in Connecticut. "I'm only a sophomore in high school and also play in other leagues such as Dyckman (in the Bronx) and Rucker (in Manhattan). I still must get stronger and bigger. Otherwise, I feel good."

About the staff of the league, all the directors, table help, and officials also help to make this circuit a success over past years and are continuing to do the same this time around once again.

Conducting a circuit happens to be a lot of hard work and patience. The high school division is growing in teams and in individuals.



Haiti defender Kim Jaggy (4) and Honduras midfielder Mario Martinez (10) battle for control of the ball during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match, Monday, July 13, 2015, in Kansas City, Kan.

Associated Press / Colin E. Braley

Quarter finals at Met Life

Continued from page 37

Atlanta at midweek. The Reggae Boyz came into the tournament in good form after their experience as a guest team in the recently concluded Copa Cup (South American Championship); although Jamaica lost all three games, by 1-0 scores to opponents such as Uruguay and Argentina, clearly there were valuable lessons learnt. The Reggae Boyz, after a slow start with a draw against Costa Rica, defeated Canada, 1-0, on a goal in the 90th minute by captain Rodolph Austin then turned back El Salvador, 1-0, when Garath McCleary scored in the 72nd minute, to win the group. Canada was eliminated.

Haiti has the world of potential and is quite capable of an upset, but the coach's ineffective strategy and the lack of the individual discipline needed to win at this very competitive international level stifles Haiti. The Haitians drew their first game against Honduras,

1-1, on a very late goal from Duckens Nazon, but in its second game, a 1-0 loss to the USA, the Haitians squandered numerous first-half chances to score, while at the other end, poor marking in the defense in the second half led to defeat. Haiti was also burdened by a lack of proper fitness to keep up with the more energetic Americans, and the situation was compounded by Coach Marc Collat's negative tactics, which clearly indicated that he gave the Americans too much respect. In its final group game, Nazon scored again to carry Haiti to a 1-0 win over a listless Honduran team that seemed disinterested in winning. Honduras was eliminated.

Trinidad and Tobago has a perfect 2-0 record, but to win Group C and play Panama, it must either win or draw against Mexico in its last group game that was scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, (NC). A loss to Mexico

means that the Soca Warriors will finish second to El Tri. The Trinidadians capitalized on a good schedule and was fortunate to meet an unprepared Guatemala to come out on top, 3-1, in their opening game. Trinidad hasn't look back since and has improved its play, as it set back Cuba, 2-0, in the second contest with clinical strikes from Sheldon Bateau and Andre Boucaud. The Soca Warriors have their stiffest test against Mexico, which will reveal the depth and true strength of Trinidad and Tobago and how deep into the tournament it will play.

Regardless of the outcome, Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Costa Rica (Group B second-place finisher) and Panama will play their quarterfinal games at MetLife Stadium in the Meadowlands (NJ) on Sunday, July 19. Panama will play the Group C winner and Costa Rica will take on the second place finisher; the first game kicks off at 4:30 pm.

Windies to play in Zimbabwe

Continued from page 37

contest between the two visiting sides for the right and last Champions Trophy spot, although the Pakistan Cricket Board and Zimbabwe are yet to confirm the scheduling the series.

Bangladesh is ranked seventh and their recent win against India has given them a comfortably five-point lead over West Indies, with a three-match home series against South Africa to follow in July. Pakistan has five ODIs against

Sri Lanka, but the Zimbabwe tri-series will be the only time West Indies play One-Day cricket before the Champions Trophy cut-off date.

The Caribbean side has not played any ODIs since the World Cup.

Indian player Kedar Jadhav kisses the trophy at the end of the One-Day International cricket match series against Zimbabwe in Harare, Zimbabwe, Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

Associated Press / Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi



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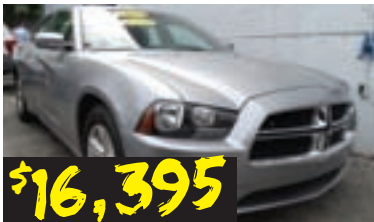
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Guyana Degree program

Continued from page 22

the curriculum change that has motivated an influx of students who graduate in both the two-year diploma, and four-year degree programs.

She pointed out that before the introduction of the Integrated Marketing Communication course however, only roughly 10 students graduated at the degree level, but noted that there has been a surge of 50 students who graduated in the class of 2014.

"They are staying the course because of the new opportunities that are available to them," added Hamilton, a public speaker who engages social groups, corporate and religious organizations in her programs.

During four semesters of instruction to obtain the diploma or eight semesters to complete the degree program, students must accomplish 34 courses and earn 92 or 126 credits respectively, to graduate from the course of study.

In addition to the IMC class which includes Research, TV and Radio Production, Online Journalism, Media Management and Print Media - specialized journalism is taught with a focus on cultural and artistic review writing with relation to Guyana.

"We ask students to focus on Guyana because we want to develop strong, critique and review skills within the realm of arts and culture in our country," added Hamilton who also teaches Contemporary Communication at the

Caribbean Nazarene College, as part of their District Education course.

At the completion of the course, students are also encouraged to create an online blog.

"We are constantly reviewing the curriculum," said Hamilton, who praised the senior year students for their outstanding presentations.

"I tell students, regardless of the theories that you have received, and all of the written work you have completed, I want to see you put what you have learned into action, even if its just two concepts. I want to see these business ideas grow from infancy to maturity," added Hamilton.

The lecturer said that the students who used tools such as video clips, and shared samples of their business ideas with each other, made compelling arguments of how well their business venture would impact the marketplace.

Hamilton, who argues that every communication must impact change said, "change that facilitates the development of the mind, body and soul acts as a conduit for the development of our society."

Students are taught the Foundations of Journalism, Logic, Evidence and Research, Writing, Media Ethics and Law, Sociological Theory, Computer Literacy, Broadcast Reporting, Writing for TV and Radio and Survey of Guyanese History, just to name a few.

Special prosecutor appointed

Continued from page 3

systemic shift needed within the NYPD (New York Police Department)," he said.

But Williams said this is only the beginning, stating that New York City still "struggles with a clear lack of racial diversity in our police force and legal system.

"So it's my hope that Attorney General Schneiderman recognizes this discrepancy when appointing special prosecutors for these cases," he said. "It is also important to note that the executive order was written in a way that should not strain an officer's ability to act in life threatening moments."

Williams said Cuomo "deserves credit. Still, so much more work needs to be done, including extending this executive order for more than one year."

Williams, who has fought for better police practices, said he will continue advocating for improved police-community relations, adding that he will work with city and state elected officials, as well as with the family members of police brutality victims, "to build on this victory and holistically improve our public safety system for all."

State Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, representative for the 43rd Assembly District, who traces her roots to Aruba and St. Martin, said she was also pleased

by the Cuomo's executive order.

"While this is a first step in rebuilding trust in the criminal justice system, it is still clear that we need a comprehensive, thorough review of the entire process, and needed reforms must be enacted into law during the next legislative session," the newly-elected official said. "Until then, we must remove any possible conflict of interest and make sure there is an independent review of these horrible incidents. We need reform, and we need transparency in the prosecutorial process.

"Part of rebuilding trust in the criminal justice system is ensuring that any family that has to deal with a loved one being killed by law enforcement is confident that the case will be fairly investigated," Richardson added.

"No family should have to live denied of justice in the case of a slain loved one, and no police officer should have to bear the burden of suspicion for the actions of another cop," she continued. "While we work toward a permanent state law that appoints an impartial special prosecutor in these situations, I believe the action announced today is a necessary first step in ensuring that everyone is treated equally under the law."

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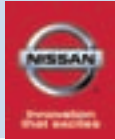
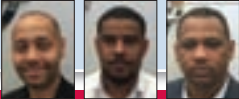
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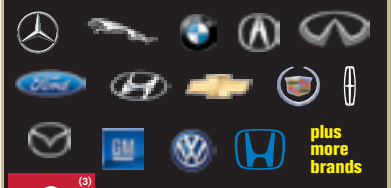
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TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, calmly approach a difficult situation this week. Giving yourself time to carefully assess a problem will provide the most effective solution.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, a resolution to a problem you haven't been able to solve is on the horizon. This will make things much easier in the long run, and your patience will pay off.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, since you are a friendly person and the life of the party, it should come as no surprise that everyone wants to be your friend. Expand your social circle if you feel you have time.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, sometimes you take on too much. Reevaluate your schedule and see if there are ways you can cut back on your commitments for a few days.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, your goal for the time being is to take care of business and clear your calendar. You may be more than ready to indulge in some rest and relaxation.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Curiosity may get the better of you this week, Libra. It's good to pursue your interests, but make sure you aren't stepping on anyone's toes along the way.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you desire quick answers, but no one seems to be moving at your pace this week. You might just have to buckle down and be patient. Answers will come in due time.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, a trip is enticing, but you have too many responsibilities on your plate to up and leave right now. You will have time to get away soon enough.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, take a hectic schedule day-by-day. Everything will get done in time, and you just need to have a little patience. Distract yourself this week.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Someone or something may have turned you off of making a large purchase, Aquarius. Discuss your sudden change of heart with someone close to you.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Don't turn your world upside down to take on another project, Pisces. You have plenty on your plate to keep you busy as it is.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on **07/14/2015**, bearing Index Number **NC-000755-15/KI**, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201,

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grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Caitlin** (Middle) **Zaikia** (Last) **Johnnie**. My present name is (First) Caitlin (Middle) Zaikia (Last) Brewster-Johnnie (infant). My present address is 481 Eastern Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11216. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 03, 2001.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on **07/14/2015**, bearing Index Number **NC-000754-15/KI**, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Keyshawn** (Middle)

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Malik (Last) **Johnnie**. My present name is (First) Keyshawn (Middle) Malik (Last) Brewster Johnnie. My present address is 481 Eastern Pkwy, NY 11216. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is August 08, 1996.

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NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee for New Century Alternative Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-ALT1, Plaintiff, against Showkat Ara Rahman, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 7/15/2014 I, the under-

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signed Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 07/30/2015 at 02:30PM, premises known as 14 Tehama Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 5307, LOT: 62. Approximate amount of judgment \$591,459.86 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 6101/09. Stephen V. Barbaro, Esq., Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEIS-

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MAN & GORDON, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff, 53 Gibson Street, Bay Shore, NY 051148-F00 1143447.

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY. RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, LLC, Pltf. vs. DOUGLAS WILSON, et al, Defpts. Index #2316/2008. Pursuant to final judgment for foreclosure and sale dated Sept. 6, 2013, I will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015 at 2:30 p.m., prem. k/a 795 East 39th St., Brooklyn, NY. Said property located at a point on the Easterly side of East 39th St. distant 480 ft. 1-1/2 inches Southerly

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from the corner formed by the intersection of the Southerly side of Foster Avenue with the Easterly side of East 39th Street; being a plot 100 ft. x 16 ft. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$622,448.23 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. BLAISE PARASCANDOLA, Referee. THE MARGOLIN & WEINREB LAW GROUP, LLP, Attys. for Pltf., 165 Eileen Way, Ste. 101, Syosset, NY. #86354

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PUBLIC NOTICE: "Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to in-

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stall roof-top wireless telecommunications antennas on a building that reaches an overall height of 65 feet above ground level at 2887 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY 11207. Public comments regarding potential effects from the site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Joseph Schuchman, E2PM, 87 Hibernia Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866, by email to: joseph.schuchman@e2pm.com, or phone: (973) 299-5200. Please refer to E2PM Tracking Number P-15-08-51".

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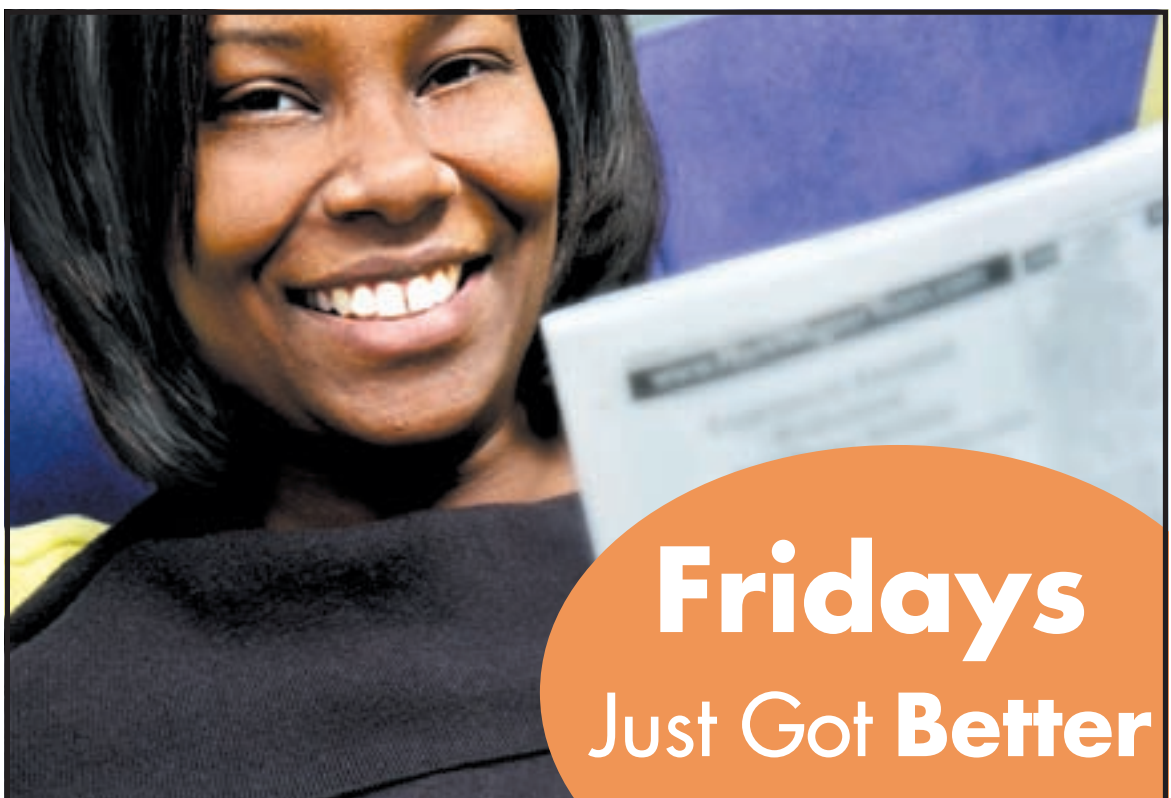
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