



Santa arrives early

The man that keeps giving: Santa presents a young girl with a gift at the West Indian American Day Carnival Association's children's Christmas party at Tropical Paradise on Dec. 18. See story on page 20.

Photo by Jasmine Yedigarian

Eugene tours community to discuss education

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene on Dec. 10 joined community advocates throughout Brooklyn to discuss educational and healthcare initiatives, in addition to helping constituents

usher in the holiday season.

As a guest of PowerMyLearning, Eugene, who represents the 40th Council District in Brooklyn, toured the Family Learning Workshop at JHS 62 Ditmas, where students are given free computers equipped

with educational software to support student learning at home.

The program provides students with the necessary educational tools to succeed, regardless of family income,

Continued on Page 6

PETRO BOOM SOON

Guyana prepares to start oil production in a few years

By Bert Wilkinson

Taken as a bloc, there is vicariously good news for the region by way of Guyana as global oil giant ExxonMobil which found a humongous amount of oil and gas off the coast last year has given its clearest indication yet that it will actually start production in a few years.

The company said in a formal announcement this week that it is awarding contract to SBM Offshore, a company headquartered in The Netherlands to build the vessel that will be used as a floating production and storage platform

for oil and gas flowing from its fields more than 120 miles from the Guyana coast.

This is as several other Caribbean countries including Jamaica Barbados, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Grenada are working feverishly to award exploration contracts to established companies hoping to find commercial quantities of oil and gas. Jamaica, for example, said it will get help from Ecuador and Venezuela in exploration endeavors.

Of the 15 nations in the Caribbean trading group, Continued on Page 6



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Brooklyn prosecutor honored

By Nelson A. King

Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez says that Assistant District Attorney, Joseph Alexis, Chief of the Trial Division, has been awarded the Thomas E. Dewey Medal by the New York City Bar Association at a medal presentation in midtown Manhattan.

"I am very pleased to announce that Joseph Alexis is a recipient of the 2016 Thomas E. Dewey Medal," said Gonzalez about the award that was conferred on Dec. 6.

"Joe embodies the ideals that Thomas E. Dewey himself valued so highly in a prosecutor – integrity, fearlessness, fairness and excellence," he added.

Alexis, who has been with the District Attorney's Office for more than 25 years, has prosecuted some of the most challenging cases that the office has handled, Gonzalez said.

He said Alexis' trials have ranged from the successful prosecution of former Police Officer Peter Liang for the shooting death of Akai Gurley to that of Supreme Court Justice Gerald Garson for accepting bribes.

In his previous position, as Chief of the Red Zone Trial Bureau, which encompasses East New York, Cypress Hills, Canarsie and other areas, Alexis "worked diligently to repair the frayed relationship between the community and law enforcement," Gonzalez said.

He said Alexis was promoted to chief of the Trial Division this month.

He now oversees the work of the office's five trial zone bureaus, as well as some of the specialized trial bureaus.

The Thomas E. Dewey Medal is an annual award that goes to outstanding assistant district attorneys in each of the District Attorney's Offices in New York City and the Office of Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York.



Brooklyn Assistant District Attorney, Joseph Alexis.

Brooklyn District Attorney's Office



Distinct in their yellow rain ponchos, 1199SEIU was out in full force standing and marching with immigrants in New York. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Thousands march on International Migrants Day in New York

By Tequila Minsky

Sunday was International Migrants Day.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, thousands of New Yorkers braved the on-again off-again rain to rally near the United Nations and join the March for Immigrant New York, organized by the New York Immigration Coalition.

Union 1199 SEIU members stood out in their yellow rain ponchos among the sponsoring eighty-five organizations that represented immigrant rights and advocacy, legal services, faith, civil rights, LGBTWI, women's rights, and anti-violence groups.

Together they were sending a clear message to the upcoming Trump administration: We are here to stay!

Rally participants pledged to help protect and defend immigrant New Yorkers, and fight back against hate and anti-immigrant policies.

Jamaican-born Minister Patricia Malcolm of Churches United to Save and Heal (CUSH) and the Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform was one of the first speakers to address the rally.

Adamant that a betrayal of our values will not be tolerated at this pivotal time in history, she said, "We fear for our freedom in this nation of immigrants. Now more than ever, we must oppose the separation of families, support DACA, and fight to ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright future."

She emphasized how, "We must condemn the very thought of a Muslim registry, and promote compassion for



Public Advocate Letitia James assured participants that NYC will always stand behind their immigrants. "We will never allow anyone to normalize hate." Photo by Tequila Minsky

refugees."

Among the electeds, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Public Advocate Letitia James, and Congresswoman Nydia Vasquez joined the rally, pledging their support for New York's immigrants, many who feel tremendous fear and uncertainty.

"New York is and always will be a sanctuary city," said Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

In a firebrand manner Public Advocate Letitia James reassured the gathering, "New York City will always stand behind our immigrants."

She acknowledged, "With the recent spike in acts of hate against immigrant

populations, it is more critical than ever to affirm the rights of our immigrant brothers and sisters and their vital place in our city. We will never allow anyone to normalize hate."

Exhibiting courage in her public testimony, the undocumented mother to a U.S citizen child, Sara Martinez spoke from the heart, "I am in fear and concern about what's to come." This Ecuadorian from Brooklyn continued, "Immigrants like me are only helping to improve our communities; we work hard to support our families and we do not deserve to be treated as scapegoats."

Community organizer Aber Kawas for the Arab American Association of New York told how his father was deported in a rise of post-9/11 Islamophobia and anti-immigrant legislation. He denounced this treatment toward Muslims and other immigrants, pointing out how hate crimes toward these communities have increased since the Trump election.

After the speakers, the "March for Immigrant NY" began along East 48th Street to Trump Tower, taking the message of resilience and hope directly to the president-elect.

On a crowded 5th Avenue, there were occasional voices of an opposition yelling "Trump, Trump, Trump!" One man was heard to shout: Give him a chance! Other passing shoppers as well as vendors expressed approval with the march. The occasional vehicle honking in support added to the thousands who pledged to protect "Immigrant New York."

The hashtag #ImmigrantNY was the number one trending hashtag on twitter.

Caribbean

The European Union (EU) is funding a multi-million program INTERREG V Caribbean to strengthen regional partnerships, which was recently launched in St. Lucia.

In addition to boosting the economic competitiveness of the region's countries the INTERREG V Caribbean will also respond to environmental challenges and health issues, while promoting the joint cultural heritage of the region.

The program will focus on priority areas such as employment and innovation, health hazards, the cultural environment, public health and renewable energy.



The organizers recently met to discuss the coordination and implementation of the program in St. Lucia.

The three-day conference highlighted projects supported by the INTERREG Caribbean program, which aims to enhance regional collaboration.



Baha Mar mega resort changes hands

Bahamian Tourism Minister Vincent Vanderpool Wallace, center left, leads Bahamian Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette, center, into the Baha Mar groundbreaking ceremony in Nassau, Bahamas, Monday Feb. 21, 2011. The 1,000 acre, \$3.4 billion dollar resort, financed and largely built by China, is being billed as the largest project of its kind in the Caribbean. Associated Press / Tim Aylen, File

Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his Cabinet ministers have been advised to place their wealth in a blind trust by the head of an international anti-corruption group in order to remove themselves from their private business obligations and avoid conflicts of interest.

The suggestion came from Chief Executive Officers of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC), Akaash Maharaj, who said; "we would like to see is ministers and heads of government be required to place their funds in a blind trust. That means that a banker or an investment company can make decisions on their behalf about where to invest those funds".



He said it was "not appropriate" for ministers "to be involved in directing investments themselves".

Maharaj added that the blind trust ensures that they continue to participate in the economic system.

Barbados

Two CARICOM nationals were allegedly caught trying to smuggle cocaine into Barbados recently.

According to a police media release, members of the Drug Squad have charged Trinidadian Dexter Taylor with possession, possession with intent to supply, trafficking and importation of cocaine.

Taylor recently arrived in Barbados and after clearing Immigration at the Grantley Adams Airport he was questioned by police and referred to Customs.

During a search of his luggage, three packages of cocaine were allegedly found in false compartments in a backpack he was carrying. He was charged with several drug offences and later appeared in court. He was remanded in

custody until next month.

And Guyanese national Odetta Marsha Bentick is also facing similar charges after Customs officers found 3.2 kilos of cocaine in a false bottom in the suitcase she was carrying.



She also arrived on the same flight as Taylor from Trinidad.

Bentick is being held at the HMP Dodds Prison.

Bahamas

The controversial multi-million dollar Baha Mar mega resort has been recently sold to property developer and business conglomerate, CTF BH Holdings Ltd, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong conglomerate — Chow Tai Fook Enterprises.

The announcement of the sale of the

US\$3.3 billion project which is expected to feature a Las Vegas-style casino and more than 2,000 rooms was made by Prime Minister Perry Christie.

He told Parliament that the sale and purchase agreement represents a significant achievement for the Bahamas and a milestone in the troubled history of the Baha Mar resort.

The prime minister said the resort was first scheduled to open in December 2014, and then postponed to March 2015, but those dates were missed although construction work was more than 85 percent complete.

Christie said disputes with the developer, Sarkis Izmirlan led China Construction America to stop work and the Export-Import Development Bank of



Continued on Page 16



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Drilling for oil continues in Guyana



ExxonMobil's President Neil Duffin. Associated Press / RIA Novosti, Alexei Druzhinin, pool

Continued from page 1

Trinidad is by far the largest producer, exporter and refiner of oil and has substantial amounts of gas reserves. It recently signed a purchase and sharing agreement with neighboring oil and gas-rich Venezuela. Trinidad is one of the largest gas exporters to Eastern Seaboard states in the United States.

Behind Trinidad are Suriname, Belize and Barbados which at peak less than a decade ago had been producing about 1,200 barrels of oil daily from a few inland wells. It also imports gas to augment the meager production at home.

Barbados recently awarded an offshore bloc to Spanish owned Repsol and BHP Billiton to drill for commercial deposits. Islanders are confident that gas and oil are offshore being just about 200 miles away from Trinidad. Guyanese had for decades made a similar reckoning being neighbors with Trinidad, Venezuela, Brazil and Suriname. Exxon proved them right.

Now, Guyana with its already apparently unlimited gold, timber, bauxite, uranium, manganese resources as well

as large quantities of rice, sugar, fish and shrimp and other revenue earning sources, seems set to become the region newest oil producer.

Exxon has already drilled five wells with only one coming up dry since it announced in mid 2015 that its Liza 1 well had offered deposits of up to 1.4 billion barrels. It is set to announce the results from Payara, its latest well, anytime now but officials say such a move could upset slowly rising international prices so they are holding off for now.

In all it plans to drill up to 17 wells in this phase of operations with some being set aside to store water from wells and gas until a decision is taken as to what to do with gas officials say.

Eugene focuses on education

Continued from page 1

Eugene said.

Later, he took part in National Youth Enrollment Day at the Metro-Plus Health Plan Community Office in Brooklyn, where he met with Get-CoveredNYC specialists to discuss the importance of educating young adults regarding their healthcare options. The event also provided on-site enrollment assistance for eligible residents.

Eugene joined members of the Church Avenue BID, the Flatbush Avenue BID, and residents at Flatbush Reformed Church to celebrate

the annual Tree Lighting and visit with Santa.

On Saturday evening, Eugene was a distinguished guest of the non-profit organization, Be Good To The Children, at its "Gift of Hope," where he was honored as the "2016 Man of the Year" for his work as part of the Haitian humanitarian relief effort in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

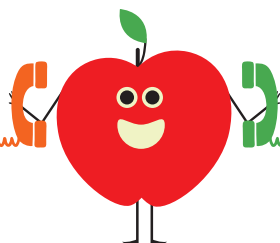
"I'm so proud to be here today because of the job that this organization is doing," he said. "It is something that will make a difference in the lives of children in Haiti."



Council Member Mathieu Eugene speaks with families at the PowerMyLearning Workshop. Office of Council Member Mathieu Eugene

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Brooklyn's Acting District Attorney Eric Gonzalez at the podium addressing issues some immigrants are facing. Kings County District Attorney's Office

City officials advise Brooklyn's immigrants

By Dawn Plummer

In the aftermath of the United States presidential election there have been streams of attacks and threats against several immigrants in the City of New York. In the midst of these frightening experiences against individuals, New York city and state political and civil leaders are strategizing and implementing methods to protect local immigrants.

Last Saturday morning, Dec. 17 at the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Brooklyn District Attorney's office hosted an immigration forum to help inform the community on some of the plights immigrants are facing. In his address to the group, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said his office as the chief defense for the borough will protect everyone, including documented or undocumented immigrants. Regardless of your immigration status he noted, "...know your rights, we will keep immigrants informed, the criminal justice system is here for everyone and to make people less afraid despite their immigration status," Gonzalez pointed out. The Brooklyn district attorney reminded immigrants that they should be mindful of the documents they are preparing in any immigration processing and he suggested that individuals do not leave original documents with anyone, for example their birth certificate. The Brooklyn DA mentioned also how important it is to understand, "... what you are signing. There is no current amnesty, so don't be fooled," he warned.

Gonzales reiterated the need to be aware of unscrupulous actions and illusive fraud, "demand receipts from people you are conducting business affairs with." The district attorney also suggested that immigrants who are utilizing an attorney ask their attorneys

questions and know what risks and alternatives are opened.

In addition, Gonzalez also noted that with regards to the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA, Dreamers) there are bills pending to protect the more than 800,000 young people benefiting. The district attorney asked that more New York City young people take advantage and learn more about DACA. In New York City, he noted, only 35,000 young persons are a part of the DACA.

At the forum, experts on immigration participated in a panel discussion and decried some of the serious issues immigrants are now facing. The panelists discussed the increase in hate crime, insults and real estate fraud against immigrants. They told the audience to seek legal council to guide them through their varying situations.

Members of the panel also suggested that the immigrant community refrain from being isolated and collaborate with various agencies that work on immigration issues. Learn how to go through the process to avoid deportation panel members recommended. The group explained the dangers, "happening to immigrants on the streets." The panel members informed the audience on the available resources for everyone in New York City. During the presentations also it was mentioned that the New York City identification card can now be process without leaving personal documents with the city. Documents will be returned immediately to recipients of the NY City identification card holder. The group of panelists encouraged the immigrant community to be proactive in their legal affairs with anyone they are conducting business with. They suggested that immigrants "spend time seeking out who you will work with regarding your immigration issues," one panelist noted.

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More of the Same: World Bank Doing Business Report continues to mislead

By Anis Chowdhury and Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Anis Chowdhury, a former professor of economics at the University of Western Sydney, held senior United Nations positions during 2008–2015 in New York and Bangkok. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor, was United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, and received the Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought in 2007.

SYDNEY and KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 15, 2016 (IPS) - The World Bank's Doing Business Report 2017, subtitled 'Equal Opportunity for All', continues to mislead despite the many criticisms, including from within, levelled against the Bank's most widely read publication, and Bank management promises of reform for many years.

Its Foreword claims, "Evidence from 175 economies reveals that economies with more stringent entry regulations often experience higher levels of income inequality as measured by the Gini index." But what is the evidence base for its strong claims, e.g., that "economies with more business-friendly regulations tend to have lower levels of income inequality"?

Closer examination suggests that the "evidence" is actually quite weak, and heavily influenced by countries closer to the 'frontier', mainly developed

countries, most of which have long introduced egalitarian redistributive reforms reflected in taxation, employment and social welfare measures, and where inequality remains lower than in many developing countries.

The report notes that relations between DB scores and inequality 'differ by regulatory area'. But it only mentions two, for 'starting a business' and for 'resolving insolvency'. For both, higher DB scores are associated with less inequality, but has nothing to say on other DB indicators.

Other studies — by the OECD, IMF, ADB and the United Nations — negatively correlate inequality and the tax/GDP ratio. Higher taxes enable governments to spend more on public health, education and social protection, and are associated with higher government social expenditure/GDP ratios and lower inequality. The DBR's total tax rate indicator awards the highest scores to countries with the lowest tax rates and other contributions (such as for social security) required of businesses.

Bias

The DBR's bias to deregulation is very clear. First, despite the weak empirical evidence and the fallacy of claiming causation from mere association, it makes a strong general claim that less regulation reduces inequality. Second, in its selective reporting, the DBR fails to report on many correlations



Eight of The World Bank's "Doing Business" report 2017's 'top 10 improvers' including Kenya, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have, in fact, worsened workers' rights, according to the International Trade Union Confederation. Inter Press Service

not convenient for its purpose, namely advocacy of particular policies in line with its own ideology.

The World Bank had suspended the DBR's labour indicator in 2009 after objections — by labour, governments and the ILO — to its deployment to pressure countries to weaken worker protections. But its push for labour market deregulation continues. For example, Tanzania's score is cut in 2017 for introducing a workers' compensation tariff to be paid by employers while Malta is penalized for increasing the maximum social security contribution to be paid by employers.

New Zealand beat Singapore to take first place in the latest DBR rankings following reforms reducing employers' contributions to worker accident compensation. Nothing is said about how it has become a prime location for 'money-laundering' 'shell' companies.

Meanwhile, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Belarus, Serbia, Georgia, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain — eight of DB 2017's 'top 10 improvers' — have recorded poor and, in some cases, worsening workers' rights, according to the International Trade Union Confederation. A DBR

2017 annex claims that labour market regulation can 'reduce the risk of job loss and support equity and social cohesion', but devotes far more space to promoting fixed term contracts with minimal benefits and severance pay requirements.

In support of its claim of adverse impacts of labour regulations, DBR 2017 cites three World Bank studies from several years ago. Incredibly, it does not mention the extensive review of empirical studies in the Bank's more recent flagship World Development Report 2013: Jobs, which found that "most estimates of the impacts [of labour regulations] on employment levels tend to be insignificant or modest."

DBR 2017 adds gender components to its three indicator sets — starting a business, registering property and enforcing contracts — concluding: "For the most part, the formal regulatory environment as measured by Doing Business does not differentiate procedures according to the gender of the business owner. The addition of gender components to three separate indicators has a small impact on each of them and therefore a small impact overall".

Should anyone be sur-

prised by the DBR's conclusion? It ignores the fact that the policies promoted by the Bank especially adversely affect women workers who tend to be concentrated in the lowest paid, least unionized jobs, e.g., in garments and apparel production or electronics assembly. The DBR also discourages regulations improving working conditions, e.g., for equal pay and maternity benefits.

Despite its ostensible commitment to 'equal opportunities for all', the DBR cannot conceal its intent and bias, giving higher scores to countries that favour corporate profits over citizens', especially workers' interests, and national efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Sadly, many developing country governments still bend over backwards to impress the World Bank with reforms to improve their DBR rankings. This obsession with performing well in the Bank's 'beauty contest' has taken a heavy toll on workers, farmers and the world's poor — the majority of whom are women — who bear the burden of DBR-induced reforms, despite its proclaimed concerns for inequality, gender equity and 'equal opportunities for all'.

Caribbean Life

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

Carib nationals cop Grammys AMA, Billboard's top nod

Santa Claus arrived early to deliver a sack full of treasures to a few Caribbean nationals he might consider naughty or nice but definitely worthy of distinction for being outstanding achievers in the music industry during 2016.

In the current edition, Billboard Magazine heralded Grenadian Yvette Noel-Schure as one of "Six Topline Publicists Shaping the Careers of Everyone From The Boss to Queen Bey."

Profiled in the acclaimed "Bible of the Music Industry" along with five influential power publicists — in a story titled "Women In Music 2016," the insider publication shone a beam of light on the Caribbean woman acclaimed for helping to shape the career of the top pop international female performer. That she also honed her career working with Prince, Mariah Carey, John Legend and others on a long list of hit-makers was missing from the article but the fact she is founder of Schure Media Group founder who "kept Beyonce at the pinnacle of popular culture in 2016" anchors the telling biography.



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

The pub spotlighted the fact Noel-Schure was actively involved in 2016 when the superstar led "the charge on a Super Bowl halftime performance" and introduced "Lemonade" in a surprise CD launch before pursuing the \$250 million-grossing "Formation World Tour."

"During some weeks, it's a wonder Noel-Schure, a long-time staffer at Columbia Records before forming her own firm, finds time to sleep," the writer documented.

"When we are in the middle of a big production or a major tour or planning a huge editorial shoot, it is an endless process that only ends when the project is completed," Noel-Schure said.

"There is no stopping and coming back to it. I find myself constantly asking for more hours in the day."

The reward, however, "is always the finished product,"

the New York-based Grenadian added. "It gives me pause to marvel, to appreciate the artist more and more and to admire the hard work of the team."

The busy publicist accepted the honor which grouped women in a variety of music categories which were presented earlier this month in Los Angeles, California.

The event lauded Madonna as Woman of the Year.

Also cited in the publicity category were celebrity spokespersons for Bruce "the Boss" Springsteen, Carole King, A Tribe Called Quest, Harry Connick Jr., Eric Clapton, Justin Timberlake, Sia and Alicia Keys.

Jolly St. Nick also ensured that Barbados claimed a place on the shortlist of distinguished Caribbean music achievers. With Robyn Rihanna Fenty's red-hot successful treasure trove of hits that earned her



Grenadian Yvette Noel-Schure at right.

Photo courtesy Billboard Magazine

seven American Music Awards (AMA) nominations and a whopping eight nominations for the 2017 Grammy Awards, Rihanna might be the naughtiest to win the confidence of the white-bearded sled rider.

Despite a promise to reward the well-behaved of the world, the fella might have overlooked the naughty clause to ensure that she is second only to Beyonce's phenomenal nine

Grammy nods. The 28-year-old Rihanna was named in top categories — for Record of the Year and Best Urban Contemporary Album categories as a solo artiste, as well as in the Best Rap/Sung Performance where she featured on Kanye West's "Famous" CD.

The island superstar will face stiff competition in the Record

Continued on page 12

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Inside Life

Continued from page 11

contenders Adele (Hello), Lukas Graham (7 Years) and Twenty One Pilots (Stressed Out) in addition to Queen Bey's "Formation."

Slated to air on Feb. 12 in a ceremony hosted by James Corden at Los Angeles' Staples Center, Rihanna might be nicely rewarded for her nods in the Best R&B Performance (Needed Me) and Best R&B Song (Kiss it Better) categories.

In the Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, Rihanna's "Work" featuring Drake and will rival fellow Caribbean talent Sean Paul who features on Sia's "Cheap Thrills."

Paul, a Grammy-winning deejay reputedly stamped his mark on two smash hits this year, starting with a featured spot on the reworked single version of Sia's "Cheap Thrills."

The song was chosen as the second official single off Sia's "This Is Acting" album, and did not originally feature Sean Paul, but his input was

added when "Thrills" was sent out to radio.

The unexpected collaboration with Sia took the song all the way to number one position and throughout the summer owned the season and also gave Sia her first Billboard number one recording.

"Cheap Thrills" golden run came a full 10 years after Sean Paul entered the Billboard Top 10 on his own with "Temperature" and (When You Gonna) "Give It Up To Me."

While "Thrills" was a huge international hit, it's not the only success story for Sean Paul this year. He is featured on Clean Bandit's latest smash "Rockabye," which shot to the top in the UK, remains riding high, and is starting to spread to some markets, most notably the US.

According to Forbes, "While these songs aren't making Sean Paul's name, they are helping to resuscitate his career, as well as to introduce him to a new, younger generation that might not know his own works very well."

His 2002 album "Dutty Rock" is said to have launched dancehall into

the mainstream.

Songs the likes of "Get Busy," "Gimme The Light," the Beyonce-featuring "Baby Boy," and "Breathe" all helped place him among the world's pop elite of the day.

Paul's resounding return to the Billboard landscape revives Jamaica's dancehall music profile on the international circuit. Hailed by Forbes Magazine as "one of the most surprising stories of 2016 in the music world," the magazine speculated that the 44-year-old star may owe his resurgence either to "an expertly curated strategy on the part of his management, his record label, and him, or if he just happened to work with the right artistes at the right time and the stars aligned."

Jamaicans have always excelled in music and 2016 marked another banner year for Ziggy Marley who in addition to being named for his sixth Grammy award also published a cookbook, and for the holidays introduced his own Rasta emojis.

Catch You On The Inside!

OPHTHALMIC SURGERY

Simple Procedure Improves Dry Eyes & Sagging Eyelids

Exclusive interview with Dr. Golio, Director of Craniofacial Surgery

If you have recurring infections on your eyelashes, dry eyes, feeling of dirt, debris, sand, odd bodies or watery eyes, you are not alone. A simple procedure performed under local anesthesia can help.

Dr. Dominick I. Golio says, "A growing number of people flock annually to be examined due to these symptoms. There are many different causes for these problems. Age, Arthritis, the use of certain drugs to lower blood pressure, meds to treat allergies, Parkinsons & nerves may increase the chances of dry eyes exposing them to recurring infections & other serious conditions."

Not everyone can reduce or stop using meds or drops of artificial tears and antibiotics are not enough for many. Dr. Golio explains, "A test that all patients with these symptoms should take in front a mirror, lower the lower eyelid with the index finger and hold it in this position for five seconds. It is important not to blink for this test. Typically, the lid returns to its normal position in a second. We often see patients with such sagging eyelids that after taking this test their eyelids do not return to their position within 7 to 10 seconds."

A simple procedure that does not require hospitalization, removes a small amount of skin from the edge of the eyelid restoring the position thereof. "It's like

pulling the rope of a hammock that has withered with time," says Dr. Golio.

If this situation is not corrected, eyes that are exposed outdoors for longer periods of time may have increased symptoms and incidences of infections. Flabby eyelids occasionally veer inward and the lashes touching the eye causing even more irritation.

This procedure that corrects a sagging lower lid is done under local anesthesia by removing excess skin, aligning the eyelid to the outer eye while removing excess fat by pulling the eyelid down. There is no pain or patches needed, you return home the same day and the stitches fall out on their own within one or two weeks.

The same day of the surgery you can watch television, read a book, warm up your own food as well as wash your face permitting the stitches to get wet.

In short, you will be able to fend for self the same day of procedure.

Private insurances and Medicare will cover the procedure when it's done to correct the excess flab, symptoms of tearing, recurrent infections or inversion of the eyelashes. This procedure should not be confused with under-eye bags that are considered a cosmetic concern and therefore is not covered by any insurance.



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Medgar Evers College honors namesake in new exhibit

By Alexandra Simon

Medgar Evers finally gets his shine at home.

An exhibit highlighting the life and death of civil rights activist Medgar Evers opened at Medgar Evers College library in Crown Heights on Dec. 14. It is first time the college installed a permanent multimedia exhibit honoring the late leader, detailing photos, artwork, trial transcripts, and even books about his life. Despite thousands of students attending the college, the display is also the first time some students will learn more about the icon, said one student.

"We don't really get to know much about him even though his name and his picture is everywhere," said Asuma Jalloh, a biology major at the college. "We never really go in-depth about him and his life."

Medgar Evers was a civil rights and anti-segregation activist assassinated in Mississippi in June 1963. The City University of New York (CUNY)

opened a college in Crown Heights in 1970 and named it after him. Jalloh feels that many students synonymize the name with the college, and not much thought to the person their school is named after.

"We need this to help every student appreciate him more because in a normal day students go to class and don't pay attention to that," said Jalloh. "I think this exhibit will help them get to know more about him and understand his life."

Organizers of the exhibit stressed the importance of it at the college and said it was time a series was created about Evers because outside of the college name, many students do not know key things about his life and what they enjoy today as a result, said college professor Dr. Alexei Oluanov.

"This is our mission because Medgar Evers is a historical figure associated with our college and he is dear to our hearts," said Dr. Oluanov. "He was the first martyr during the peri-

od of fighting for rights, and because of his contributions, that resulted in the better life we have today and he inspires us to continue this progress in the future."

Several pieces used in the new exhibit have been presented at the college before, but it will finally have a home in the college's library and remain there, said Oluanov. Included are transcripts from the trials, the infamous Life Magazine of his widow Myrlie Evers at his funeral, and several books and autobiographies.

Other students who are familiar with Evers contributed artwork for the display and are even working on more to grow the exhibit, which the college expects to grow into something bigger, said the exhibit's curator, Yelena Novitskaya.

"There will be more student artwork in the future and there are students still finishing their collages right now," she said. "Our overall initiative is to grow. This is just the stepping



The man himself: Medgar Evers college introduced a new multimedia exhibit, honoring the late civil rights icon who the college is named after.

Community News Group / Alexandra Simon

stone — we are in the process of turning the Medgar Evers College library into a repository associated with Medgar Evers."

With the college hoping to seek more additions for the exhibit from the Mississippi Department of Archives and other historical preservation organizations, Oluanov said in

the meantime he hopes the exhibit energizes the students to continue his work in social justice.

"I want everyone to become knowledgeable about Medgar Evers because his life is an inspiration for their own life journeys, and fighting for a better life," he said.



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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

China to halt lending.

The Baha Mar group of companies suddenly filed for bankruptcy, which was dismissed.

Cayman Islands

InterCaribbean Airways has introduced a new non-stop weekly service from Providenciales to Montego Bay, Jamaica.

These new flights will commence operating from December 18, 2016, every Sunday and return every Monday. The service is initially offered on a once weekly basis.

Jamaica's Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett welcomed the announcement by InterCaribbean Airways of the new service from Providenciales to the island's tourism capital and second city.

There would be connections from San Juan, Puerto Rico, Nassau, Bahamas and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

He said intra-region travel has a critical role to play in Jamaica's efforts to grow visitor arrivals over the current growth rate of five percent.

InterCaribbean Airways Chief Executive Officer Trevor Sadler said the steady increase in demand to Montego Bay warrants the introduction of this new service.

InterCaribbean Airways is based in the Turks and Caicos Islands and was founded 25 years ago.

Grenada

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved US\$1.4 million financing for the government of Grenada to support the establishment of a juvenile justice prevention and response system.

The project aims to prevent young people from coming into conflict with the law, as well as rehabilitate young offenders.

Over the period 2010 to 2014, there were a 30.5 percent increase in the number of offenses committed by youth in Gre-

nada, suggesting there is a need for intervention.

The project, juvenile victims and youth at risk will be targeted for diversion and rehabilitation and also for integration into the labor force and society.

They will also be given the opportunity to increase their life and employability skills through targeted psychoeducation and training.

Guyana

The Bank of Guyana has put on hold the buying of Trinidad and Tobago dollars and Barbados dollars from cambios in an effort to stem the increase demand for United States currency.

Guyana's Central Bank Governor Dr. Gobind Ganga said there was evidence that people have been traveling to Guyana from Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago to buy United States dollars, resulting in the decision to stop buying those countries' currencies from cambios.

Dr. Ganga said individuals who have legitimate transactions can still get approval from the Central Bank.

Figures show there were Bds\$8 million circulating in Guyana in 2014 compared to Bds\$13 million currently and TT\$9.1 million in 2014 compared to TT\$38 million at present.

The economic downturn in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Suriname has led to a severe shortage of United States currency in those countries.

Jamaica

The revitalization of the Jamaica's train system will cost investors US\$250 million.

Foreign investors, including US-based Company Herzog are interested in reviving the country's cargo and passenger rail service.

The project is to be undertaken in segments with the first four phases from Montego Bay to Appleton, which is due to get underway before the start of the winter tourist season in 2017.

— compiled by Azad Ali



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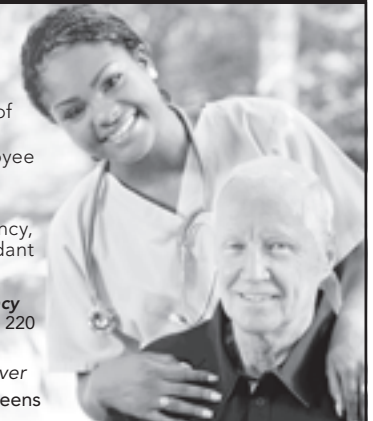
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'One Brooklyn' New Year's Eve celebrations

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams on Wednesday announced plans for grand New Year's Eve celebrations in Coney Island and Prospect Park for the third year in a row, giving Brooklynites greater access to free family-friendly festivities.

The events will be hosted by Adams, in partnership with the Alliance for Coney Island, with lead sponsorship from Council Member Mark Treyger; One Brooklyn Fund Inc.; and T-Mobile.

Promotional support will be provided in part by the NYC & Company Foundation.

Adams said the third annual New Year's Eve celebration in Coney Island will be highlighted by a digital "burst" of lights to ring in 2017 from the iconic Parachute Jump.

He said this year's Coney Island event at Steeplechase Plaza will once again complement his ongoing support of the 37th annual fireworks and festivities held at Grand Army Plaza, staged in partnership with the Prospect Park Alliance, with sponsorship from Visa.

Festivities will begin in Coney Island at 6:00 pm, while the party at Prospect Park will commence at 11:00 pm, Adams said.

"We have built an incredible New Year's Eve tradition here in our borough, leaving no doubt as to where is the best place on the planet to ring in 2017," Adams said. "There are two types of people: Those who celebrate the New Year in Brooklyn, and those who wish they could. Make sure to be one of the lucky ones!"

Both Coney Island and Prospect Park will ring in the New Year with celebrations that will include fireworks, live entertainment and hot chocolate, Adams said.

He said Coney Island will countdown to 2017 with the digital "burst" from the Parachute Jump, while Prospect Park will feature music from DJ C. Live and the Brooklyn Mash It Up Band at Grand Army Plaza "that leads into a bigger-than-ever pyrotechnic display."

"Once again, the People's Playground will play host to what is fast becoming a beloved annual tradition: New Year's Eve, the Coney Island way," Treyger said.

"Thousands of people will converge on our beloved boardwalk, beneath the peak of the iconic Parachute Jump, to enjoy all of the sights, sounds, tastes, and thrills that Coney Island has to offer," he added. "I can't wait to greet that crowd and join them in welcoming 2017."



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Caribbean Christmas market

By Alexandra Simon

It is a very Caribbean Christmas! A new Ditmas Park holiday market is selling gifts made by artisans of West Indian heritage, including candles, rubs, foot spas, and lotions. Many people in the community are exhausted after a year of fighting racism and gentrification, said the organizer, and she felt a joyous bazaar full of pampering products was just what Santa ordered.

"It's going to be festive, happy, and there's going to be a lot of food and drinking — this market is a gathering with family and friends and us celebrating beauty of the holiday with our traditions," said Shelley Worrell founder of CaribBeing, an art and cultural space housed in a shipping container outside the Flatbush Caton Market. "Between all the violence that we witnessed this year and Black Lives Matter movement — I think there's a lot of healing that needs to be done."

The market, which kicked off Dec. 16 and runs weekends through Christmas Eve, features 12 vendors selling the indulgent goods as well as ornaments and scarves, plus seasonal beverages including cocoa tea and kremas — Haiti's answer to eggnog — all to recordings of Caribbean artists performing seasonal songs.

She says the back-home feeling of the fair has people flocking there, and sticking around just to soak up the atmosphere.

"I think the diversity of the products people are going to enjoy the atmosphere — it's very comfortable and intimate," said Worrell. "People are finding us and staying for an hour and a half, because they want to lime with us."

Caribbean Holiday Market at CaribBeing House in the courtyard of Flatbush Caton Market (794 Flatbush Ave. between Caton Avenue and Lenox Road in Ditmas Park, www.caribbeing.com) Fri. 5–8 pm, Sat. 1–8 pm, and Sun. 1–5 pm. Dec. 16–24. Free.

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All of the gifts: From left, Jaylan Goring, Rhea Edward, Kate Reynolds, Ari Miller, & Saadie Samuel, showing off their face-paint and gifts from Santa. Photo by Jasmine Yedigarian

Annual kids Christmas party gives gifts and dance off

By Alexandra Simon

Hundreds of children came to see Santa and get gifts at the West Indian American Day Carnival Association's (WIADCA) children's Christmas party at Tropical Paradise on Dec. 18.

Kids at the annual party received many gifts donated by local restaurants and businesses, and dined on hot dogs and desserts. But the youngsters also got more than presents — they even performed classic Christmas tunes and took part in a calypso dance competition.

"My favorite part of the event was the dance-off," said Dr. Ionie Pierce, a committee member of WIADCA. "It was nice to see how the kids were able to put out their best and they did very good."

The day was filled with well-loved children's entertainment and activities, including singing and dance performances, and a game of musical chairs, according to Pierce.

The governing body of one of North America's largest carnivals, organizes the kid-friendly holiday party every year as a random act of kindness to parents who may not be able to fulfill their children's wishes. Pierce said the event gives children the opportunity to still get gifted with toys, and interact with each other.

"Well I think the number one thing is giving back to community, and giving to community we are helping the



Holiday serenade: Nathaniel Sobers sings Christmas songs for his peers at the annual Christmas party. Photo by Jasmine Yedigarian

parents who may not be able to buy gifts for their kids this year," she said. "This is a good way of bringing everyone

together, and allowing kids of different backgrounds to have fun. I think they all look forward to that."

A tiny tornado takes a leap of faith in the gymnasium

“Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance” by Simone Biles with Michelle Burford, foreword by Mary Lou Retton
c.2016, Zondervan
\$24.99 / \$31.00 Canada
251 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

It took a leap of faith.

A new job, a big move, a new skill, a major purchase, a ring on your finger and “I Do.” Even if you knew you were on the right path and you could handle whatever came next, you still felt like you were stepping off into the unknown. It definitely took a leap of faith but, as in the new book “Courage to Soar” by Simone Biles (with Michelle Burford), sometimes, you just have to close your eyes and jump.

It all began with a rainy-day field trip to a Houston, Texas gymnasium.

Simone Biles was six years old then, but she’d already endured more than many adults. She and her siblings

were born in Ohio to a mother who was unable to care for them, so the children circled between foster homes, grandparents, and mother. Finally, it was decided that the younger two would be adopted by their grandparents and would stay in Texas, which turned out to be a fortuitous decision: there was a trampoline at their Texas home, and Biles almost couldn’t stay off it.

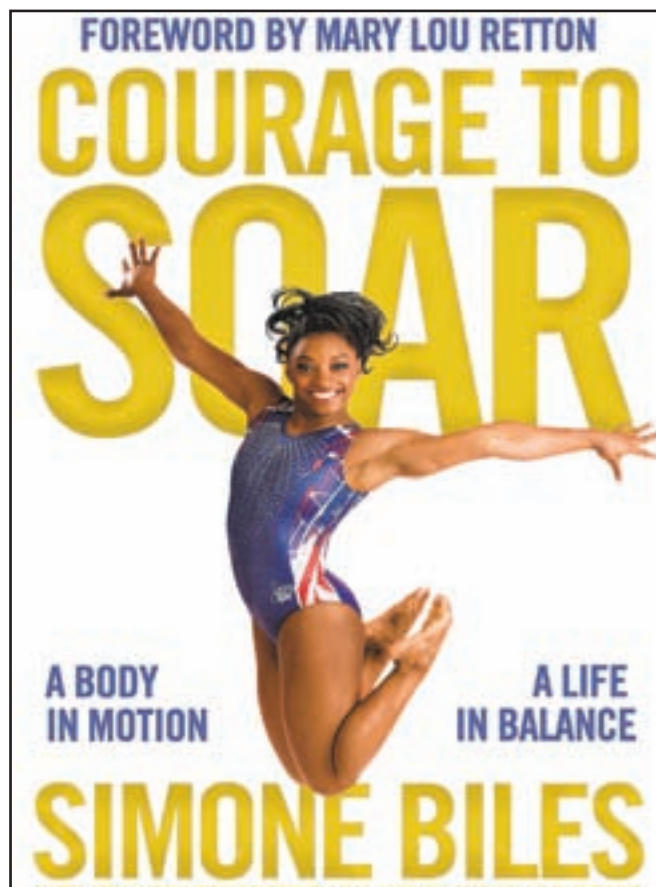
Always an active child (and later diagnosed with ADHD), Biles was a tiny tornado on that first day in the gym. She flipped and ran and tumbled until she caught the eye of a trainer who invited her and her younger sister to classes. It turned out to be “the perfect outlet” for a “little bouncing bean” like Biles.

In short order, she worked her way up the various levels of training with her eyes on winning more and bigger. She was “a dork” at school and sometimes a “brat” but always a star on the mat and she knew she wanted to “go the farthest I

can,” even if a dream of a gymnastics career meant giving up a dream of “normal” high school and being on a NCAA team. Her parents helped her find the best coaches. They even built a gymnasium for her and her team. And after achieving the goal of landing a spot on the junior national team, Biles then “quietly asked God to please help me do everything I could to be part of the 2016 Olympics team.”

Out of my chair. That’s where I was last summer when author Simone Biles nailed that floor routine at Rio. But in my chair is where this book kept me this week because I really couldn’t put “Courage to Soar” down.

Fans who notice that Biles (with Michelle Burford) is bubbly-but-focused will be happy to know that’s how her biography reads, and it’s a delight. What’s also refreshing is that it’s not boastful athletic chest-thumping. There is some teenage-angsty drama here, but mixed with the pressure of compe-



Book cover of “Courage To Soar.”

tion, it’s not a distraction. Instead, it and the pure joy inside both serve to enhance the appeal of this book.

This is a story you can share with anyone; in fact, when you’ve finished “Courage to Soar,” you’ll probably want to. A book like this, you’ll fall head-over-heels for.

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Home goods store serves Caribbean community locally and back home

By Alexandra Simon

Instead of sending remittances to buy products to furnish a home, you can send the furniture directly.

An international furniture chain based in the Caribbean is providing this option to New Yorkers with houses or family back home. Courts sells furniture, appliances, and electronics to the Caribbean community for their households locally and abroad. The store sells various types of vital home products and is already a household name in the region. Being the only store to offer such an international service, that specific aspect is what continues to attract customers despite the popularity of online shopping, said a representative for the company.

“People do buy online but being able to actually see and touch the product — it’s one of bigger and great experiences and something that people still enjoy doing,” said Daniel Garcia, marketing coordinator of Unicomer, which owns Courts.

“We are also an internationally recognized brand and have been around for 50 years in the Caribbean, so people know we sell high quality items that are even recognizable within their families.”



Alex Harris is a senior sales associate at Courts Caribbean furniture and appliance store on Church Avenue in Brooklyn. He worked at a Courts store in Jamaica prior to coming to the states.

Community News Group / Alexandra Simon

Since 2011, the company branched out with two locations one in Brooklyn and the other in Queens, serving the predominantly Caribbean communities of East Flatbush and Jamaica respectively.

But one of the standout qualities of the Courts chain is their shipping. With factories in Jamaica, Trinidad, Belize, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Kitts and

Nevis, St. Vincent, Antigua, and Dominica, customers with family in these countries can experience the product in-store and purchase it for them, and a factory located in that country will follow-through with the deliveries.

Garcia says often at times, new buyers are confused to how it all works.

“It’s a common mistake — a

lot of our first time customers think we ship the things we have in the store, but we have factories in the countries we service,” he said.

Because of this unique ability they are very popular here, but in the Caribbean there is a little rivalry with other businesses.

“We have competition that’s really aggressive in the Carib-

The multiservice company has an atmosphere that is far-reaching, compared to other brands.

bean countries,” said Garcia. “But locally we are the only ones to offer international delivery because our facilities already have those products.”

Courts offers a credit program for customers to pay in installments, which Garcia said a good percentage of customers use to make payments. There is also a JN Money Transfer booth in each store. Alongside remittance access, Courts also offer installation and warranty services for purchased products. “The multiservice company has an atmosphere that is far-reaching, compared to other brands,” said Garcia.

“I would say a big factor about us, apart from the ambiance in the store, is the friendly and family orientated environment,” he said. “We have a Caribbean staff that knows where our customers come from and know the products and what they need — it’s big incentive that our customers can buy and relate to the staff.”

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

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www.smallbusinessenergy.com/NewYork

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NYC Small Business Resource Center | The New York Public Library

smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm

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

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm

Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

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

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

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

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm 100+ items — to assist the small business community in the State of New York.

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Caribbean Community Consular Corps share Christmas cheer

By Tangerine Clarke

The Barbados Consulate in New York City was alive with merriment last Friday, Dec. 16, when Caribbean rhythms, festive dressed nationals, and food from around the Caribbean, celebrated the CARICOM Consular Corps annual Christmas party.

Hostess, Dr. Donna Hunte-Cox, consul general of Barbados to New York, extended warm greetings to the gathering of diplomats, consul generals and expatriates, during the hours-long evening of enjoyment, after a year working diligently to deal with issues that affect the region.

The diplomat acknowledged the 50th Independence Anniversary of Barbados, on Nov. 30, 2016, before congratulating Guyana on its 50th Independence Anniversary that was commemorated on May 26 of this year, by saying “hip hip hooray,” to a receptive audience.

“It is a pleasure to see all of you here. I hope this is a start to something new and better than we have ever seen before,” said Consul General Hunte-Cox as she addressed the attendees who stopped dancing to infectious Caribbean music to listen to the envoy.

She called on her colleagues to encourage expatriates who are documented to become citizens to affect change in New York, stating, “If you have green cards, go to the next step to become US citizens. This is the only way you could affect change.”

Hunte-Cox invited the nationals to attend collaborative town hall meetings and seminars at the consulate so that they are better educated of citizenship procedure, and ongoing programs to address issues that affect them.

“Spread the word that we must come together as one in the region. I wish you a safe and happy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2017,” said Consul General Hunte-Cox.

Jeremiah Hyacinth, vice consul of St. Lucia to New York, who served as emcee, said, “We would like to welcome you to this side of the region. After dealing with lots of issues this year, we felt it was time to come together to host our Christmas party as one.”

VC Hyacinth then acknowledged the presence of Peter Helder Bernard, consul general of Haiti to New York, Barbara Atherly, consul general of Guyana



Members of the Caribbean Community Consular Corps in New York.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

to New York, Urvashi Ramnarine, (AG) consul general of Trinidad & Tobago to New York, Michelle Longworth, consul general of Belize to New York, and Roman Longworth, vice consul general of Belize to New York.

Ambassador, H.E. Keith H. L. Marshall, Barbados permanent representative to the United Nations and Senator Roxanne Persaud, of the 19th Senate District of Brooklyn also attended the event.

Unity and family celebrated at pre-Kwanzaa celebration



Buxton Drumming Corps join the audience for a photograph.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

By Tangerine Clarke

The common thread that ran through the fabric of the Sunday evening, Dec. 11, pre-Kwanzaa celebration at the American Legion Hall in Brooklyn was unity, and it showed, with the remarkable presentation that celebrated family, community, culture and the history of African people, themed ‘Kuumba.’

The first event hosted by the Queens-town, Essequibo New York Association, a Guyanese organization, showcased elements of the African people, that

Guyanese-born Kimani Nehusi said have been in existence for a very long time.

In his presentation on the significance and continuing relevance of libation, professor of African history and Ancient Egyptian languages at Temple University, Kimani Nehusi, in chronicling the lives of Africans said that they lived in many places of the world and created variations and reinterpretation of their existence.

“Where ever African people are ‘we

really celebrate our culture and principles, so we are all united. Our challenge in the world today is to rediscover ourselves to perpetuate unity and prosperity.”

Basir Mchawi’s Sankofa, Kwanzaa and Diaspora, called on the community to be unified in its struggle to build its culture, as he explained the principles of Kwanzaa which are organized around five fundamental activities.

They are: The gathering of family, friends, and community; Reverence for the Creator and creation; Commemoration of the past, recommitment to the highest cultural ideas of Afrikan community; and Celebration of the Good of Life.

The cultural evening opened with the pouring of libation by African drummer, Mboya Wood, before folklorist and author Roy Brummel brought nostalgia to the festivities with his rousing “Nancy Stories.”

Little Dakarai Drakes’ saxophone rendition of Bob Marley’s “One Love,” cemented the evening’ tribute to the African culture and the ancestors who Mboya Wood said, must be given respect for the ground work they did so that others could follow.

In addition to Guyanese food and drink, nationals danced to the African drums of the Buxton Drumming Corps

and committed themselves to unity and culture.

“The Legend,” by Eusi Kwayana, Libation by Kimani S. K Nehusi and “Know Thyself A-Z” by Eric. M. Phillips, books on African culture and history were on exhibition, and are available for sale by contacting the organization.

Organizers, Arnold “AB” Drakes, Harold Stephney, Neil Grant, Bernard Kilkenny and Evo Benjamin thanked the Caribbean audience for their participation and wished them a ‘Happy Kwanzaa.’



Saxophonist Dakarai Drakes on stage playing Bob Marley’s “One Love.”



The kids create arts and crafts.
Atiba Williams

Christmas party for Vincy kids

By Nelson A. King

About 150 Vincentian kids and their parents Sunday evening were treated to another special Christmas treat at the 10th annual party organized by a Vincentian shipping concern, friends and community groups in Brooklyn.

“Once again, it was a huge success and glad we can do our part in spreading the Christmas cheer,” said Atiba Williams, coordinator of the event that is spearheaded by Gideon “Fessy” Yorke, the owner of Standard Shippers on Clarendon Road in Brooklyn, adjacent to Café Omar, who hosted the event, in conjunction with Solid Band, among others, in a Caribbean Life interview.

Williams, president of Bishop’s College, Kingstown, Alumni Association, said the event was “very good, very exciting.

“It was good to see the smile on the kids’ faces,” said Williams, who is also deputy chair of the Cultural Association of Vincentians in the U.S.A. (CAVUSA), a member of the Brooklyn-based SVG Diaspora, Inc.

He said the kids, including toddlers, parents and friends were treated to free gifts, entertainment and food.

Many kids also participated in dances, karaoke, arts and craft, and sat on Santa’s lap. Popular community advocate Garnes Byron, of Calliaqua, served again as Santa Claus.

Williams also thanked a number of participating organizations and individuals for contributing to the event’s success, including management and staff of Café Omar; management and staff of Standard Shippers; Nekes Promotions; Garnes Byron; SVG Ex Teacher’s Association; VincyCares; Vincy Liberators; Bishop’s College Alumni; Mas Productions Unlimited; Friends of Sion Hill; and McMillan Plumbing.

Seniors bring holiday spirit music to Kings County hospital

By Alexandra Simon

The sounds of Christmas music never had this much rhythm.

The Blenman Steel Sounds orchestra played steel pan renditions of holiday music at New York City Health and Hospitals Kings County on Dec. 21. Crowds of guests, staff, and visitors surrounded the lively steel band made up of mostly women who are senior citizens, to dance along and sing. Some onlookers were so pleased with the music, they said it brought in an atmosphere that made their job easier.

“This is the best thing they could’ve done,” said Rosalind Hardy, an employee at the hospital.

“I think that’s the best idea they could’ve done because sometimes we have a down day and the energy is extremely down that day — but this type of music lifts us up and that way when we deal with visitors we are more cheerful, they enjoy it that way when they come to us we don’t have to worry about have attitudes.

The musical director of the seasoned band says happy vibes was just the right kind of energy they wanted to bring leading up to Christmas, and spoke of the health benefits of their music.

“These days there’s so much going on and music is therapy,” said Alston Jack, a 20-year-old member of the band. “Music brings love and it brings a lot of togetherness — it’s important to share that love this time of the year — for all seasons, but mostly this time of the year.”

The band played songs such as “Oh Christmas Tree,” the Latin classic “Perfidia,” and “Silent Night.”



Members of the Blenman Steel Sounds Orchestra perform cheery holiday music for guests at New York City Health and Hospitals Kings County on Dec. 21.
NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County

Seeing the happy crowds surround them was a sight to see, said one of the oldest members of the band who performed the medley for the first time with her bandmates.

“It was very nice and I’m glad

everyone seemed to be enjoying the music and in the Christmas spirit,” said Elva Lewis. “There was a large crowd there, and they really enjoyed it and we’re happy to play for them.”

Guyanese ambassador praises nationals

By Tangerine Clarke

The mood at the Permanent Mission of Guyana to the United Nations on Friday, Dec. 16 was jovial, as H.E. Rudolph M. Ten-Pow entertained Guyanese, and Caribbean nations at an inaugural Christmas party, since becoming the newest ambassador earlier this year.

The Manhattan office on 2nd Avenue, packed with Guyanese from the United Nations and the diaspora were welcomed and applauded for their work at the United Nations where Ten-Pow alluded that they make up a large part of the international body.

“I heard in some quarters that there are too many Guyanese at the UN, we are over-represented,” quipped the diplomat. “We not only have quantity, we have quality, and there is one such person who symbolizes that quality, who, just this week, Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon commended publicly as one of

his most competent and effective senior managers,” said the ambassador.

“We are honored to have with us Catherine Pollard, under secretary general for General Assembly and Conference Management,” he added.

While acknowledging that half of the Guyanese population abroad live in the New York area, the envoy thanked Consul General to NY, Barbara Atherly and her staff for the great work they do to address the needs of the broader diaspora through town hall meetings and outreach initiatives.

Ambassador Ten-Pow, a career diplomat and whom Deputy Permanent Representative Troy F. Torringon noted took on his job with great dedication and dynamism said, “Our job at the mission is more narrowly focused and political, dealing with issues through the UN, but we want you to know that this is your home.”

“This year has been a historic year for Guyana in many ways, and I want

to thank the hardworking staff of the mission, especially, Executive Officer Sheila Hazelwood who is also the party planner.”

The diplomat welcomed his CARICOM counterparts and with tongue-in-cheek, debated the region’s diplomats as to which ‘rum’ is the best, while praising Guyana’s El Dorado as the top brand in the world.

However, Ambassador, Penelope Beckles, Trinidad and Tobago Representative to the UN and Dr. W. Aubrey Webson, Antigua and Barbuda Representative to the UN, boasted that their country had the best rum, in a cheerful exchange. In the end, they offered each other a drink.

Ambassador, Ten-Pow who began his career in the Foreign Service in 1980 as a desk officer for Venezuela and later, head of the Frontiers Division, wished the gathering a “Merry Christmas,” and encouraged them to keep their spirits up.

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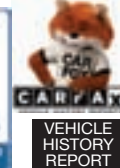
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Flatbush tackles diabetes

By Nelson A. King

Dec. 3, 2016 marked the grand official launching of “The Island of Flatbush,” a geographic area mapped out of Central Brooklyn that is known to be the largest concentration of West Indian people, anywhere in America, outside of the Caribbean, at which a Diabetes Task Force was launched.

This community is currently being ravished with an epidemic of diabetes and its consequent complications of kidney disease, blindness, amputations, obesity, hypertension, heart disease and more, according to organizers, New Creation Community Health Empowerment Inc. (NCCHE), a community-based health organization established in Central Brooklyn since the early 1980s.

The group said it has developed a 20/20 vision for effectively dealing with this problem.

“Never has there been seen so many dialysis centers opening up in the Flatbush community, like the present,” said the group, pointing out that its vision is to reverse the incidence of diabetes and its complications by 20 percent by the year 2020 on the “Island of Flatbush.”

NCCHE said it did this through the establishment of “The Island of Flatbush Diabetes Task Force,” a task force comprising 300 churches, Islamic centers, community centers and community-based organizations, among others, “to wage an aggressive warfare on this epidemic of diabetes.”

“The Island of Flatbush’ Diabetes Task Force was launched with a ribbon cutting ceremony endorsed by Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Assistant Commissioner Dr. Torian Easterling and led by Minister John Williams, founder / president of New Creations Community Health Empowerment Inc.

Surrounded by the event’s strategic planning committee members and partners, including three members from Vanderveer and Health Educators Lions Clubs — Esline Green, Donna Budai and Yoreel Fraser — as well as Kingsbrook Jewish Hospital, Kings County Hospital, the Borough of Brooklyn Interfaith Advisory Group, among others.

More than 400 guests who attended the symposium received valuable information about diabetes and eye health, how to keep your heart healthy and the importance of reducing stress through spiritual health.



Guests expressed positive video messages about Haiti to be posted on social media outlets. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Haitian millennials support Haiti in their own way

By Tequila Minsky

This is not your parent’s organization. Many Haitian parents of millennials — those in their 30s — support their home country by sending remittances or money to home town organizations, but their offspring, have other connections to their heritage.

The new organization, Haiti Global Village (HGV) has attracted these Haitian-Americans, most educated in this country yet feeling deeply connected to their roots and homeland.

Chef and cookbook author Nadege Fleurimond and graphic artist Gracie Xavier started the organization to create a space to get engaged in the aftermath of devastating Hurricane Matthew. The status quo of responses of Haiti support was so ineffectual.

Fleurimond describes how people wanted to respond and didn’t know how or to whom. (And, they obviously didn’t want to repeat the missteps of donations after the 2010 earthquake when it was not clear where the money went.)

“The goal isn’t Haiti relief,” says Fleurimond. “It’s long term sustainable development.”

Attracting Haitians, Haitian-Americans and friends of Haiti, HGV aims not for a one-time response, but to create a movement around Haiti. Fifteen young Haitian-Americans have formed the volunteer core of the organization.

On Sunday at the Juan Carlos Center at NYU, a meet-and-greet holiday fundraiser for Haiti Global Village attracted a mix of supporters and new people who came to find out how they could get involved.

Queens-born actress Vicky Jeudy who plays Janae Watson in Orange is



Nadege Fleurimond introduces Haitian-American actress Vicky Jeudy who also encourages positive expressions about Haiti on social media.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

the New Black was on hand, lending her support and also promoting her efforts to use social media to project positive messages about Haiti.

Guests at the Sunday event stepped into a side room where in front of Patrick Ulysse’s video camera they expressed their feelings toward Haiti in short videos. These comments will also find their way into a promo video for the HGV project.

“Ours is a call to make things happen,” said Fleurimond. “Let’s stop hoping. Let’s come together and build something. There is a cache of talent in the Haitian Diaspora — we’re building a database of monetary human capital.”

Last month, through a series of fundraising events — a poetry reading, a potluck dinner, a marketplace, a dance class, a dance party, and a book club

gathering, HGV raised \$10,000. Fleurimond explained that HGV wants to amass a significant amount of money in order to have a substantial affect. HGV is also identifying organizations already on the ground doing important work that they can partner with.

“We’ll do one project at a time,” Fleurimond said, mentioning that a water and irrigation system was at the top of their priorities. As they work on their non profit status, soon a financial conduit will temporarily provide the tax exempt status so that donations will be tax deductible.

Haitian food fueled those present who also danced to DJ El at the holiday party.

On board early on, educator Wynnie Lamour and Yzeline Vincent organized the Sunday event.

US, Cuba meeting on clean energy

By Nelson A. King

The United States Department of State says the United States and Cuba have held an historic, first Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Working Group in Washington, D.C.

The State Department said delegates last week discussed regional developments related to clean energy, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, and exchanged ideas and information on how the United States and Cuba can move forward on this shared interest.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Working Group participants also shared information about domestic and international energy policies, and established a meeting framework for future collaboration, the State Department said.

It said the working group was jointly proposed and agreed to at the US-Cuba Economic Dialogue on Sept. 12 in Washington, D.C.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Working Group is made up of officials from the United States Department of State and Department of Energy, and officials from Cuba's Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment, and Ministry of Industry.

Earlier this month, the United States and Cuba held the fifth Bilateral Commission meeting in Havana, Cuba.

Acting US Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Mari Carmen Aponte led the US delegation.

Embassy Havana Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey DeLaurentis and Deputy Assistant Secretary John Creamer also attended for the United States. Josefina Vidal, the Foreign Ministry's Director General for US Affairs, led the Cuban delegation.

The State Department said the United States and Cuba reviewed the achievements of the Bilateral Commission since diplomatic relations were re-established in July 2015.

The Commission has "prioritized and sequenced" a number of bilateral initiatives since its first quarterly meeting in November 2015.

The State Department said the United States and Cuba have established dialogues on law enforcement, claims, human rights, and economic and regulatory issues, and have continued biannual Migration Talks.



Barbados Minister of Health John Boyce speaking Sunday, Dec. 18.

Photo by George Alleyne

Barbados faces sewage crisis

By George Alleyne

The Barbados government has finally sprung into action cleaning up the effluent plaguing the South Coast for over a month, and ordering replacement parts for the defective pump that caused what some see as a disaster.

For just over a month, waste water and sewage began popping up through manholes of the sewerage system, angering residents and owners of supermarkets and restaurants, along with hotel operators who suffered some cancellations by tourists complaining of the stench.

Since reports began in November of the effluent emerging on the streets and flowing onto premises along the coast, government had been in denial, contending that it was only harmless excess water caused by heavy rains, but the administration finally buckled down last weekend to admitting that the sewerage system on that side of the island was defunct.

"I certainly regret the fact that we allowed the situation to reach the point where it affected so many people," Health Minister, John Boyce said Sunday.

Built in 2003 by the previous Barbados Labour Party government, the South Coast Sewerage Plant is responsible for extracting solid waste from sewage that is pumped in from households and businesses, and disposing it a designated dump site, while sanitizing the remaining liquid before thrusting it deep into the sea almost a mile offshore.

But there was apparently little or no upkeep of the facility from that time, despite a change in government in 2008 to a Democratic Labour Party administration.

Boyce conceded, "it is a fact that



Opposition leader Mia Mottley at her party's rally. Photo by George Alleyne

maintenance should have been applied to that plant, the kind of interventional maintenance should have been applied, at a much earlier stage."

On the Saturday preceding Boyce's admission, officials of the Barbados Water Authority, that holds management responsibility for the plant, announced that Bdos\$2 million (Bdos\$1 = US 50 cents) in special equipment has been ordered for the plant. But preparation by the overseas manufacturers and shipping will take a total six weeks. Added to that, installation of this vital machinery into will take another two weeks.

This means that the people of the area, especially householders, restaurateurs and hotel operators in Christ Church West, Christ Church South, and Worthing have to endure another two

months of foul-smelling waste matter popping up on the roads outside their premises and flowing onto their building compounds.

All Health Minister Boyce could offer, as a consolation in the meantime, was rapid responses by cleaning teams.

"The Environmental Protection Department [will] work hand in hand to ensure that in the event of any similar situation ... there will be corrective action."

He added, "there will be sterilization going on, and there will be clean-ups wherever necessary."

He assured that the management of the defunct sewerage system, "will ensure that the spillage is kept to a minimum, or completely eliminated."

But this crisis that threatens a significant segment of Barbados' tourism offering at the peak winter season, gave Opposition Leader, Mia Mottley, an opportunity to say, "I told you so."

In fact, Mottley had warned government of an imminent danger to the sewerage system since October 2015, when she read, at her Barbados Labour Party conference, a leaked confidential letter from a Ministry of Health biochemist to the Water Authority, warning that the entire South Coast waste disposal network will soon crash.

"One year ago I warned the prime minister about the non-functioning of the South Coast Sewerage Plant," Mottley said at a political rally a week ago.

"But 14 months later, what do we have?," she asked.

She then quoted numerous news reports indicating, "from as early as the 4th of November of sewage being seen all along the south coast."

JAMAICA'S ARTBEAT

Liguanea Art Festival features fine art and photography

By Kevin Williams

For the love of art, more than 110 artists participated in the 12th Liguanea Arts Festival held at the Liguanea Plaza, Kingston, Jamaica on Sunday, Dec. 4.

This premier event attracted top Jamaican artists to display their best works in fine art and photography. Alethia Barker served as coordinator for the event.

Graphic artist Mark Weinberger, a member of the management team who has been with the Liguanea Arts Festival for 11 years, produced the art catalog with all the artists represented in the book. "It is a great souvenir, keepsake and reference for people if they want to get in touch with an artist," he said.

He explained that June and Tony Wong, owners of the Liguanea Plaza, created this event. "Tony was in a photography club and he wanted a place where the members could display their photography and where the community could come and talk to the photographers about their work," he said.

Weinberger said Tony's wife suggested "we have the plaza, why don't we do something out here." He said in the first year it was artists as well as photographers who participated. "It was a big hit and people said you must do it again. That second year they did it again and that is when I saw a supplement in the newspaper and I said the supplement is not doing the event justice even though the Gleaner newspaper is a great sponsor every year we have been here, but we should do our own catalog," said the graphic artist.

The organizers had to find a way to pay for the catalog and they were able to garner support from the suppliers of the pharmacy and the general food supermarket located in the plaza.

"They all felt it was a great idea. So it became more of a food event, photo-

graphy and fine art and we even had entertainment. We put on little shows and then we found that was distracting because the artist would say, 'I have a tent here and I am trying to sell my art and you are distracting people by having shows,'" said Weinberger. He added, "So it kind of morphed. I always wanted it to be a juried show so the art would have been of good quality. We can say it has become an institution and it is the largest outdoor art show in the Caribbean."

"Nobody does it the way we do it and nobody does it in the size. We have 120 artists this year. We do not have that many booths but we have double ups and clubs. And we also have young people sponsored by the Institute of Jamaica, one of the oldest established museum groups that help promote art," said Weinberger.

Jezeel Martin who assisted the Festival Committee team in social media said, "We find that in Jamaica, and I think in the Caribbean at large, not much focus is placed on the visual arts, and our artists are left out." He noted there were not many avenues where kids learning art could showcase their work. "Although it is something small, it is an effort to expose these artists, to connect them with their potential clients. One of the mandatory requirements is that no artist shall exhibit without being present at the event. It gives patrons an opportunity to speak one on one with the artist."

Artist Paul Blackwood who has been practicing his craft for 34 years said he began his journey on June 20, 1982 on Trafalgar Road, New Kingston

He said he did not have any formal training but learned to paint at a cooperative which was formed in 1979 and became a member in 1982. "It has been a fantastic ride. That's the best thing that have happened to me," he said. "Career wise it's fulfilling, gratifying and God is just good."



Michael Corcho of Foga Road High School displays some of his art at the Liguanea Art Festival in Jamaica. Photo by Kevin Williams

Blackwood said he used to love art while in school. He said several of his friends in school wanted him to help them with their art and at times he was unable to finish his own work in class. He said his teacher recognised his potential and took the class on a trip from Westmoreland to Kingston to the National Gallery and the Olympiad Gallery. He said as a country boy he loves the country houses and landscapes that's all around him.

Photographer Shawn Murray said although he has no formal training, he is a bit of a perfectionist and that he has

an obsession for capturing landscapes as best as possible. "It is a bit painstaking at times but I like the results that I get from it despite the sleepless hours it puts me through," he said.

"I have a passion for capturing Jamaican landscapes. I have a personal mission to capture Jamaica and inspire Jamaicans and foreigners alike to come to Jamaica." He said he has been taking pictures for six years now. He explained that this was a side hobby but works in information technology full time. "I hope in the near future I will make the full switch."



Self-taught artist Paul Blackwood displays his oil paintings at the festival.

Photo by Kevin Williams



Devon Garcia stands near to one of his favorite paper mache creations depicting some of Jamaica's national heroes. Photo by Kevin Williams



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The lavish party room, which can be made intimate enough for parties of 100, or grand enough to host a spectacular of up to 400, is marked by a central chandelier that will take your breath away. It is the focal point for a magnificent space done up in sophisticated pinks and reds, with mirrored accents that lend a touch of infinity to the already expansive area.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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In this Aug. 15, 1996, photo, rapper Tupac Shakur attends a voter registration event in South Central Los Angeles.

Associated Press / Frank Wiese, File

Tupac makes it to Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

By Vinette K. Pryce

Tupac Shakur considered a thug when he was alive is now a class act.

Voted on his first year of eligibility, the revered hip-hop icon acknowledged for his acting, writing and performing skills, has become the first ever solo rapper to receive an induction to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

The hip-hop legend was one of only two solo recording artists to make it into the 2016 class of the revered R & R institution.

Continued on Page 34

Mediative therapy

By Alexandra Simon

At-risk men and women were serenaded with meditative singing at the Stay'n Out Foundation in Bedford-Stuyvesant on Dec. 16.

Dozens of men and women, who are former parolees or homeless, attended a feel good session to relieve the stresses of life, and learn some breathing techniques. Guests enjoyed the session so much, they felt emotional, said mediator.

"They showed incredible humility — you could see it in their eyes. You could see it in their minds they felt better,"

Continued on Page 34



Sing for the soul: Characters in the play sing different renditions to popular Motown songs. Steven Schnur

A snazzy rendition of the nativity story

By Alexandra Simon

It's a funky and modern take of an old tale!

The Harlem School of Arts returns this year with it's back by popular demand Christmas play, "Soul Nativity," which will run until Dec. 23 at the Harlem School of Arts. The artistic director of the play which opened Dec. 9, says the Christmas-themed play is a youth-inspiring production creating a lot of buzz.

"We have gotten so much amazement and sold out tickets," said Alfred

Preisser, artistic director of the play. "It's really exciting for young people who want to be a part of something and create something — to be part of this excitement."

The dance musical play is a snazzy rendition of the nativity story, and follows Mary and Joseph in modern-day New York, depicting the reactions of people if it were to happen today. Preisser says fans find it hilarious.

"There's a lot of humor — there are scenes where people are gossiping about Mary and Joseph and

how a 16-year-old could possibly be pregnant with God's baby," he said. "When you hear what the cast will say — it's funny."

The 45-member-cast sings and dance to classic Motown tunes, rhythm and blues, and gospel music, and even transform from current fashions into the outfits of popular singing groups, said Preisser.

"We have people dressed as Arab Sheiks, and under it they have on classic Temptation's jackets and

Continued on Page 34

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Don't Wanna Know**
Maroon 5 Feat. Kendrick Lamar
- 2 **Closer**
The Chainsmokers Feat. Halsey
- 3 **Side To Side**
Ariana Grande Feat. Nicki Minaj
- 4 **Starboy**
The Weekend Feat. Daft Punk
- 5 **24K Magic**
Bruno Mars
- 6 **Let Me Love You**
DJ Snake Feat. Justin Bieber
- 7 **Scars To Your Beautiful**
Alessia Cara
- 8 **Black Beatles**
Rae Sremmurd Feat. Gucci Mane
- 9 **Heathens**
twenty one pilots
- 10 **Starving**
Hailee Steinfeld & Grey Feat. Zedd

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **4 Your Eyez Only**
J. Cole
- 2 **A Pentatonix Christmas**
Pentatonix
- 3 **24K Magic**
Bruno Mars
- 4 **Stoney**
Post Malone
- 5 **That's Christmas To Me**
Pentatonix
- 6 **The Storm**
Tech N9ne
- 7 **Starboy**
The Weekend
- 8 **Moana**
Soundtrack
- 9 **Do What Thou Wilt.**
AB-Soul
- 10 **'Tis The Season**
Jordan Smith

Presented by



'SOUL NATIVITY'

Continued from page 33

perform dance moves," said Preisser.

But it is the new choreography by celebrity-choreographer, Otis Sallid, which Preisser says is the best addition this year. Sallid's exceptional style attracts and compliments "Soul Nativity" and the youthful energy the Harlem School of Arts seeks to display, said Preisser.

"Otis is one of the best — I've seen him do things in theater for companies and teens, with an amazing level of expertise," he said. "He's a storyteller in his choreographer and it's important for our young people to be exposed to that because my students respond to him well."

Preisser wants families to enjoy the story, but mostly kids, because theater he says is



Switch!: Characters dress as Arab shiekhs before they switch into new costume transformations. Steven Schnur



Dancing homage: Female cast-members presenting as a seventies girl group in "Soul Nativity," a play depicting a remixed version of the nativity story, running at the Harlem School of Arts until Dec. 23. Steven Schnur

an explorative outlet for creativity to aid them discover their self-awareness, he said.

"It's unique and energetic," said Preisser. "It's their show and they own it. I'm concerned for our young people and theater can help them feel good

about themselves."

"Soul Nativity" at the Harlem School of Arts [649 St. Nicholas Ave. between W. 141st Street and W. 145th Street in Harlem, www.hsanyc.org, (212) 926-4100]. Dec. 23, 7 pm. \$25 for adults and \$15 for students.

Tupac

Continued from page 33

Along with Joan Baez, Shakur was the only solo act voted by luminaries of the music industry to be permanently installed to the prestigious fraternity of creative talents.

In a recording career tragically cut short after just five years, Shakur sold more than 75 million records worldwide.

His "All Eyez On Me" and "Greatest Hits" collection both surpassed sales of 10 million.

He was gunned down in 1996 at the age of 25 but his contribution to the music industry has risen to the status of global legend.

When asked by Rolling Stone Magazine to name one of the "100 Greatest Artists Of All Time" Rapper 50 Cents said "Every rapper who grew up in the '90s owes something to Tupac."

Rockhall.com said: "He has become an international symbol of resistance and outlaw spirit, an irresistible contradiction, a definitive rap anti-hero."

Some of Tupac's hits include: "I Get Around," "Keep Ya Head Up" (1993) "Dear Mama" (1995) "California Love" (1996) "Changes" (1998)

In a ceremony slated for April 7 at Barclay Center, Shakur will



Tupac's star on the Hollywood Walk-Of-Fame.

be inducted with Cheap Trick, Electric Light Orchestra, Chicago, Deep Purple, N.W.A. and Steve Miller.

Nile Rodgers will be presented with an Award for Musical Excellence.

Although the Chic group Rodgers is most known for spiraling to fame has been nominated 11 times, once again they were not voted into the Hall.

The 2017 induction ceremony will reward him for his contribution to the industry and mostly for all the hits he collaborated with.

To be eligible for nomination, an individual artist or band must have released its first single or album at least 25 years prior to the year of nomination. The 2016 nominees had to release their first recording no later than 1990.

Mediative therapy

Continued from page 33

said Michel Pascal, French-born singer and mediator.

"After the show a lot of people took the time to talk to me and invite me to eat with them."

With 15 years of experience as a meditator, Pascal's meditative methods include singing and teaching breathing skills with visualization — where he makes people imagine an object or a thing, and pace their breathing around it. He says his techniques are not complicated, but intense enough to encourage a challenge so people can see quick results.

"My way of meditation is very simple, but simple doesn't mean simplistic because it's deep at the same time," he said. "It must be concrete for me because they will feel better immediately."

Stay'n Out Foundation is a local organization which provides therapy to assists adults who have been to prison on changing their lifestyles to combat recidivism. Pascal said he chooses to target these groups because often these services are not available to at-risk men and women for free, and he enjoys the sincerity of

the feedback he receives.

"The experience I share with them is my highest — my highest spiritual experience is when I am with these people because they have nothing but essential, they have determination," said Pascal. "This is why I want to break the rules — because when we teach free, I teach many and more people that they have hope."

Pascal wants to expand his services to people who need it the most, but also encourages mediation in everyone.



Mediator Michel Pascal held a free meditation session for the homeless and former parolees at the Stay'n Out Foundation on Dec. 16. Chelsea Cooper

Denzel, Viola co-star in prize-winning play

"Fences"

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated PG-13 for profanity, ethnic slurs, mature themes and sexual references

Running time: 138 minutes

Distributor: Paramount Pictures



Denzel Washington and Viola Davis in "Fences" a film directed by Denzel Washington from a screenplay by August Wilson, adapted from Wilson's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play.

www.rottentomatoes.com

By Kam Williams

Back in 1987, "Fences" won both the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play. The August Wilson classic, set in the Pittsburgh in the Fifties, chronicled the day-to-day struggle of a blue-collar, African-American family. The production was brought back to Broadway in 2010, and it landed the Tony for Best Revival in addition to ones for Denzel Washington and Viola Davis in the Best Actor and Best Actress categories.

Directed by Denzel, the big screen version reunites him with Viola and most of the rest of the principal cast, including Viola, Mykelti Williamson, Stephen Henderson and Russell Hornsby. The faithful adaptation of the Wilson masterpiece

doesn't attempt to amplify the original beyond a few tweaks made in service of the cinematic medium.

The story revolves around the unenviable trials and tribulations of Troy (Washington), a 53-year-old garbage man who aspires to someday being promoted to truck driver. Trouble is, he's "colored," and that

relatively-lofty position has, to date, been strictly reserved for whites. So, Troy and his BFF/co-worker Bono (Stephen Henderson) have to settle for grumbling about the racism that has kept them at the bottom of the totem pole.

Now Troy didn't always have such modest dreams. In his youth, he'd exhibited promise

as a baseball player. However, his hope of turning pro disappeared in a flash the day he was sent up the river for committing a murder. He did still try out for the major leagues when he was paroled at 40, but that belated attempt proved to be little more than an exercise in futility.

As a result, Troy tends to soak

his woes in alcohol, drinking hard liquor straight from the bottle. This doesn't sit well with his long-suffering wife, Rose (Davis), who is understandably worried her man might drink himself to death. The picture's other pivotal characters include the couple's teenage son (Jovan Adepo), Troy's trifling adult son (Hornsby) from his first marriage, and Troy's mentally-challenged brother, Gabe (Williamson), a wounded World War II vet left with a metal plate in his head.

The plot thickens when Troy informs Rose that he not only has a mistress but has knocked her up, to boot. Will this be the proverbial last straw that finally breaks the back of their shaky relationship? After all, putting up with an underachieving alcoholic is one thing, a flagrant philander, quite another.

Refreshing familiar roles which are obviously second nature to them, Denzel and Viola deliver emotionally-provocative performances likely to garner Academy Award nominations in Oscar season. A poignant period piece painting a plausible picture of black life in the inner city prior to the advent of the Civil Rights Movement.

Independent & Foreign Films

Santa Barbara during the summer of '79, revolving around the exploration of love and freedom by a landlady (Annette Bening), one of her tenants (Greta Gerwig) and her teenage son's (Lucas Jade Zumann) BFF (Elle Fanning). With Billy Crudup, Alia Shawkat and Alison Elliott.

The Ataxian (Unrated) Against-the-odds documentary recounting Kyle Bryant's participation in a grueling bicycle race across America, despite being diagnosed with a terminal neuromuscular disorder.

The Bad Kids (Unrated) Education documentary chronicling a group of Mojave Desert teachers' unorthodox approach to helping at-risk high school's students.

Boy 23: The Forgotten Boys of Brazil (Unrated) Harrowing ordeal recounted by the last survivor among the 50 black orphans taken by Nazis from an institution in Rio de Janeiro and enslaved on a ranch in Sao Paulo. (In Portuguese with subtitles)

I, Daniel Blake (Unrated) Ken Loach directed this unlikely-buddies drama



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

mom (Hayley Squires) to battle Britain's welfare and healthcare bureaucracies. Cast includes Briana Shann, Sharon Percy and Dylan McKiernan.

Julieta (R for sexuality and nudity) Pedro Almodovar directed this flashback flick about a brokenhearted woman (Emma Suarez) who reflects on her life while pining for a reconciliation with her long-estranged daughter (Blanca Pares). With Daniel Grao, Inma Cuesta and Pilar Castro. (In Spanish with subtitles)

Silence (R for disturbing violence) Adaptation of the Shusaku Endo novel of the same name, set in the 17th Century, revolving around two Portuguese priests (Andrew Garfield and Adam Driver) who travel to Japan to search for their missing mentor (Liam Neeson). With Ciaran Hinds, Issei Ogata and Nana Komatsu. (In English and Japanese with subtitles)

Toni Erdmann (R for profanity, graphic sexuality, frontal nudity and brief drug use) Father-daughter dramedy about a workaholic (Sandra Huller) whose dad's (Peter Simonischek) idea of sharing quality time involves playing practical jokes on her. Featuring Michael Wittenborn, Thomas Loibl and Trystan Putter. (In German, English and Romanian with subtitles)

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Assassin's Creed (PG-13 for intense action and violence, mature themes and brief profanity) Sci-fi adventure about a career criminal (Michael Fassbender) who discovers he's descended from a long line of assassins before taking on his ancestors' ancient adversaries. With Marion Cotillard, Jeremy Irons, Brendan Gleeson, Michael Kenneth Williams and Charlotte Rampling.

A Monster Calls (PG-13 for mature themes and scary images) Escapist fantasy about a 12-year-old boy (Lewis MacDougall), teased by bullies and mistreated by his grandmother (Sigourney Weaver), who copes with his single-mom's (Felicity Jones) terminal illness with the help of an ancient tree monster (Liam Neeson). Featuring Geraldine Chaplin, Toby Kebbell and Ben Moor.

Passengers (PG-13 for sexuality,

nudity, action and peril) Outer space adventure revolving around two astronauts' (Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt) struggle to survive aboard a rocket ship headed to a distant planet after their hibernation pods open 90 years prematurely. With Laurence Fishburne, Andy Garcia, Fred Melamed and Michael Sheen.

Sing (PG for rude humor and mild peril) Animated musical revolving around an optimistic koala bear's (Matthew McConaughey) attempt to save his struggling theater by staging a singing competition for a menagerie of anthropomorphic animals. Voice cast includes Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane, Scarlett Johansson, Jay Pharoah and John C. Reilly.

Why Him? (R for profanity and pervasive sexuality) Dysfunctional family comedy about an overprotective father (Bryan Cranston) who schemes to sabotage his Stanford student daughter's (Zoey Deutch) relationship with a Silicon Valley billionaire (James Franco) during a campus visit when the boorish boyfriend plans to propose. With Megan Mullally, Keegan-Michael Key, Cedric the Entertainer and Adam Devine, with cameos by hi-tech visionary Elon Musk and Kiss' Gene Simmons and Peter Criss.

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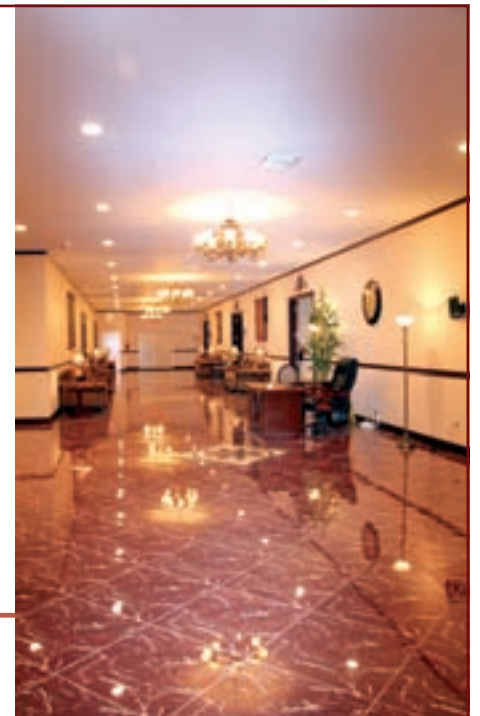
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Clive Lloyd speaks during a news conference at Lord's cricket ground in London, Friday, May 21, 2010.

Associated Press / Matt Dunham, File

Tribute to Clive Lloyd

By Azad Ali

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has paid tribute to Clive Lloyd, the former West Indies captain for his 50 years of service to the game this month.

The legendary former West Indies captain entered international cricket on Dec. 13, 1966, in his first Test match against India at the famous Brabourne Stadium in Bombay.

WICB President Dave Cameron has hailed Lloyd as a true pioneer and a

Continued on Page 38

Cricket board debars Bravo

By Azad Ali

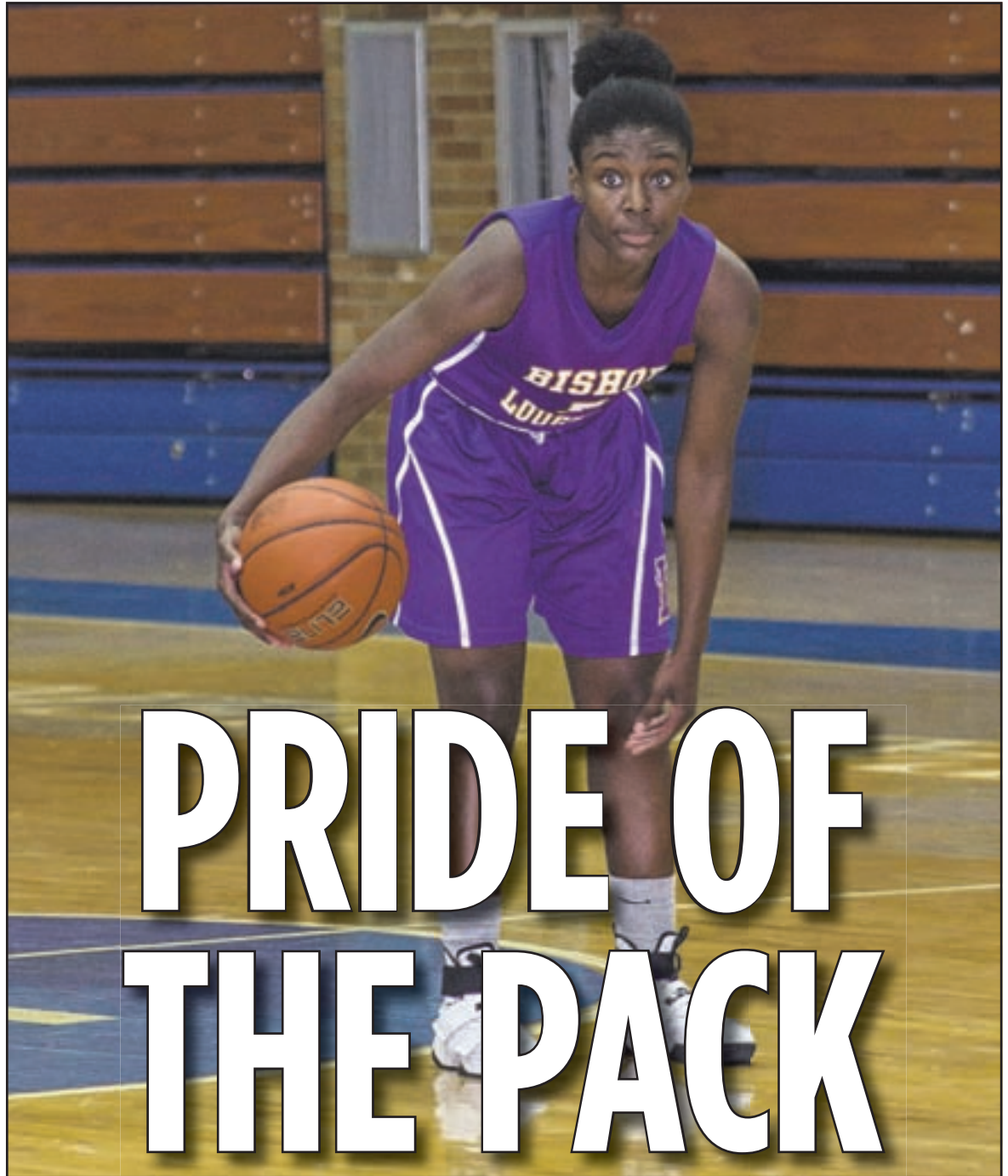
West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has debarred Darren Bravo from appearing in both the Trinidad and Tobago current Digicel four-day tournament and the West Indies until he meets with the regional body. No date has been set for the meeting.

It is the latest twist in the strained relationship between Bravo and WICB.

Last month, the WICB canceled the 27-year-old contract following remarks he made on Twitter about the board's president Dave Cameron. Bravo called Cameron a "big idiot" after he stated on Sportsmax that Bravo was not offered an "A" contract by the WICB because he was warned previously and failed to live up to that standard.

Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board

Continued on Page 38



Offensive outpouring: Bishop Loughlin senior guard Lynette Taitt led the Lady Lions with a double-digit scoring effort in a win over Archbishop Molloy on Dec. 15.

Photo by Naeisha Rose

Loughlin senior lifts Lions to final-second victory

By Laura Amato

She was, simply, doing her job.

Bishop Loughlin senior guard Lynette Taitt knew she had to make the shot and when, at first, it didn't work, she grabbed the ball and tried again.

Taitt scored the game-winning basket — just moments after

her first attempt was blocked — with 5.6 seconds on the clock to lift the Lady Lions to a 68–66 victory over Archbishop Molloy on Dec. 15.

It was Loughlin's first win of the season.

"I just heard my coach yell 'Let's go' and I knew I had to put it on my

shoulders," Taitt said. "So I went to the basket, faked and I just rolled it and prayed for it to go in the basket."

Taitt scored 10 of her 28 points in the final six minutes of play, sparking the young Lions roster after Lough-

Continued on Page 38

Continued from page 37

man of vision as well as an outstanding ambassador and one of the game's greatest leaders.

Cameron said: "We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Lloyd on this, his golden anniversary on the international stage."

Lloyd scored 82 and 78 not out to help the West Indies defeat India by six weeks back in 1966 when he stepped onto the international stage for the first time in a West Indies cap.

Lloyd led the West Indies in 74 Test matches and won 36 and was at the helm when the West Indies won the ICC Cricket World Cup in 1975 and 1979.

Lloyd was also an International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee and chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee. He is one of the greatest cricketers of all time.

He played 1,100 matches; scored 7,515 runs with a top score of 242 not out among his 19 centuries.

Lloyd retired in 1985 and since then he has contributed at all levels as a coach, selector, mentor and advisor.



One on one: Loughlin guard Laysha de los Santos takes on an Archbishop Molloy defender as the Lions held on for a 68-66 victory, the team's first win of the season, on Dec. 15.

Photo by Naeisha Rose

LOUGHLIN GETS MUCH-NEEDED WIN

Continued from page 37

lin (1-4) had squandered a double-digit lead. She also netted 11 of the team's final 14 points of the game.

"I've got a young team and she's a senior and she played like a leader. I'm happy for her and happy for my girls," said Loughlin coach Chez Williams. "It was a rough start for us this season. We came together as a team and we won the game."

Molloy took its first lead since the early-minutes of the game with 1:30 left in the third quarter — jump-started by a five-point Jenna Mastellone run. Loughlin would not go down easily, however, and Laysha De La Santos put the Lions up one heading into the point

with a deep three-pointer.

"I knew it was a few seconds off and I had to get the ball out of my hands," she said. "I just had to let the ball go and I'm confident in my shot. I didn't think I was going to miss."

The squads exchanged baskets in the early goings of the fourth quarter and Molloy jumped out to a 54-49 lead with just over two minutes left.

That's when Taitt went to work. She gave Loughlin a two-point cushion with 34.4 seconds on the clock, connecting on a pair of free throws. Molloy answered with its own trip to the line, but Margarita Kilpatrick went 2-for-3 from the stripe, leaving the game open for Taitt's heroics.

"It's so important for me to do that because the energy and the vibe starts with me," she said. "If I play hard and finish my free throws and go to the basket, then I know everyone else is going to follow me and do the same."

It's a much-needed victory for a Loughlin squad that has struggled to hit its stride this season. It wasn't a perfect game, much closer than any of the Lions would have liked, but a notch in the win the column is a big-time confidence boost.

"Their heart and their desire tonight stood above everything," Williams said. "They wanted it and that's how you have to come out every game, no matter who we play."



Jimmy Adams.

Associated Press / Max Nash

Adams is new cricket director

By Azad Ali

Former West Indies and Jamaican batsman Jimmy Adams is now the new West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) director of cricket.

He replaces Englishman Richard Pybus, 52, who did not seek renewal of his contract.

Adams, who represented the West Indies as player and captain during his career, will have as his head coach Australian Stuart Law.

Law has taken up the position left vacant by Trinidad and Tobago's Phil Simmons after he was fired by the WICB back in September.

The decision to fill these two vacant positions was taken recently at the WICB's final quarterly meeting in St. Maarten recently.

Adams quit his position at Kent in England earlier this year after serving five seasons between 2012 and 2016 as coach, to make himself available for either the position of director of cricket or that of head coach of the West Indies team.

Cricket board debars Bravo



West Indies Darren Bravo prepares to bat during a training session ahead of their third test cricket match against India in Mumbai, India, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011. India won the first two tests.

Associated Press / Rajanish Kakade, File

Continued from page 37

(TTCB) CEO Suruj Ragoonath said Bravo was free to play for the Red Force and had been included in the list of 41 players called to training in preparation for the franchise's defense of the Regional Super50 title.

The West Indies middle-order batsman is currently involved in a legal battle with the WICB over his dismissal from the One-Day International team on the eve of last month's (November) Tri-Nation series with hosts Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

Former Lincoln star back on court after being sidelined

By Laura Amato

He's grateful for every moment on the court.

Former Lincoln basketball star Travis Charles was nine games into his first season at the University at Albany last year when he was diagnosed with acute pericarditis, an inflammation of sac surrounding his heart. The Flatbush native didn't know what to think when he heard the news, terrified of the words "heart condition," but after deciding to redshirt his junior year, Charles knew he only had one option — get back in the game.

"It was very hard at the time because I've never had any prior health issues or major health issues like that," Charles said. "And then finding out that what I really had was something so serious was tough. I had a lot of sleepless nights. But I had support from my coaches and my family and I knew I could come back."

Charles couldn't do any-

thing physical after his diagnosis — sitting on the end of the Great Danes bench for the remainder of the season. He didn't get back into the gym until late March and trying to *literally* get up to speed was a brand-new challenge.

Charles wasn't used to ever feeling out of shape when he was on the court and he struggled to stick to a workout schedule, but he knew there were no shortcuts when it came to doing this right.

"It went from completely nothing and then trying to work out again," Charles said. "I had basically had to start from the bottom. And it was baby steps. That was always frustrating, but I realized that was the process."

Charles worked throughout the off-season to be ready for the Great Danes' schedule this winter and while it was a, sometimes, difficult journey he found comfort in focusing on the things he could control. He couldn't control his diagnosis

or his breathing level while running sprints, but he could control his effort and, in the end, that was the difference.

"I knew it was going to take me awhile to get back, but I had to just do it," Charles said. "There are plenty of people in worse positions than me, I just had to rise back up."

Charles took the long way to Division I basketball — playing a season of prep basketball after graduating from Lincoln and spending two years at the junior college level — and he wasn't going to give up on his dream at U-Albany without a fight.

This is a team he wanted to be part of as soon as he stepped on campus and one more challenge wasn't going to stop him from suiting up again.

"Basketball-wise, they're a great team," he said. "And they've got a winning way up here. I wanted to be part of that."

In his first nine games this season, Charles averaged 5.7



Great Dane determination: Travis Charles took a long road to Division I college basketball and the one-time Lincoln standout was not going to waste the opportunity in front of him at U-Albany. U Albany Athletics / Bill Ziskin

points and 2.6 rebounds in a bit more than 14 minutes of work. It's still a work in progress and he's still trying to get back to

peak physical form, but Charles isn't taking anything for granted. He's simply happy to be back.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, someone is interested in what you have to say, especially with regard to a personal issue. You're not quite sure if you're ready to reveal all that much to others.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, plans go well for you this week and you will follow through with the tasks you need to tackle. You may need to tweak a few things in the days to come, however.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you may not see eye-to-eye with a few close friends this week, but you can push past this and your friendship will endure. Try to find some common ground.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
A series of new ideas might make you everyone's best friend this week, Cancer. Your brain is working overtime, and you may be shocked at what you can accomplish.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Try something new this week, Leo. Make it something as simple as taking a new route to work or school or trying a new recipe in the kitchen. New experiences may surprise you.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you have a strong sense of pride and don't like to give up on things prematurely. But this week you have to respect another's perspective and concede a point.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, navigate a sticky situation as carefully as possible. Many may come to you for advice, but try not to get too involved in a conflict that has nothing to do with you.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
You will be full of energy this week and ready to handle just about anything that comes your way, Scorpio. You may gain some admirers after your even-keeled handling of a situation.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Big plans this week does not mean you can pass up on your existing responsibilities, Sagittarius. Try to make time for everything, and delegate any tasks that you can.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Keep listening when others around you are talking, Capricorn. You can learn valuable lessons just by sitting back and listening to what others have to say.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, others' charitable spirits prove contagious this week. Explore the volunteer opportunities available to you and don't be afraid to try something new.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
You may crave change this week, Pisces. Even small changes can make a difference. Try to incorporate new experiences into your days.

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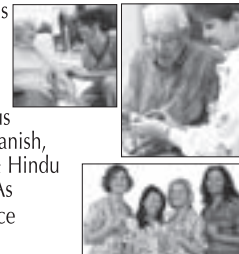
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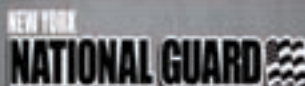
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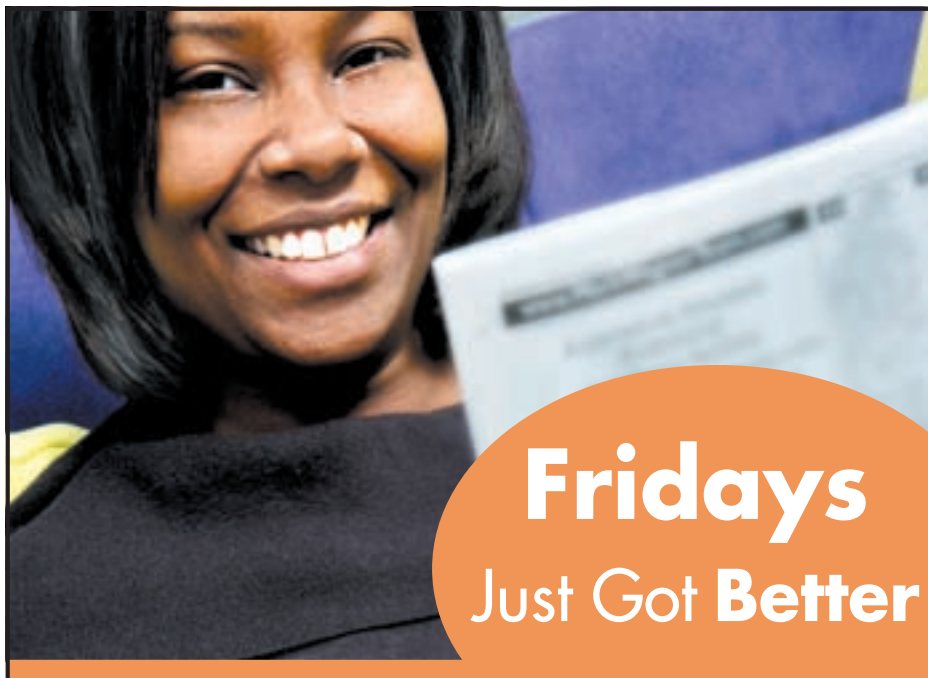
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