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SECTION**



Caribbean Comedic Drama

It is rare that a Caribbean artistic director, playwright and actor manage to collaborate on Caribbean-focused productions this close to Broadway. However, in a leap of faith between Jamaica-born Andrew Clarke, who founded the BRAATA Theatre Workshop, fostered by the brilliant writing from Karl O'Brian Williams, a stellar engagement is manifested just blocks away from Times Square. See Inside Life, Page 24.

Photo by Mercia E. Wilson

END OF A LOVE AFFAIR

-- Bermudans oust longtime
political party

By Bert Wilkinson

Bermuda's Afro-dominated Progressive Labor Party (PLP) knew that a stagnant economy was its political Achilles Heel, but leaders say they never expected that voters who had helped the party to topple 50 years of white rule would have abandoned it in general elections in Bermuda on Monday ending its three terms and almost 15 years in government.

Premier Paula Cox, who even lost her seat in a close contest where the newly-minted One Bermuda Alliance (OBA) won 19 of the 36 constituencies, said that four years of economic depression

and unemployment at eight percent were factors that had placed the PLP on the proverbial backfoot, leading to its surprise loss in the general elections.

"It's disappointing but the voters spoke. A good fight was waged by the opposition and I think that they deserved their win. I think the issue is the economy and the fact that people are feeling that."

Very few people in the PLP had even contemplated a win for the OBA which only in the past year emerged from the ashes of the racially tainted and stained United Bermuda Party (UBP).

Aware that too many people had

No confidence in McKeeva Bush

By Nelson A. King

Lawmakers in the Cayman Islands House of Assembly on Dec. 18 ousted embattled Premier McKeeva Bush from office in a no-confidence vote.

The legislators voted 11-3 in favor of a "no confidence" motion against the ruling government. Bush abstained from voting on the motion.

For the first time since the so-called 2001 government "coup d'état," lawmakers have effectively removed the head of the current administration.

Bush, 57, the longest-serving member of the Cayman Islands Legislature, became premier in 2009, after previous terms in office as leader of government business.

He has denied any wrongdoing and strenuously resisted calls to resign following his recent arrest.

But, after several days of silence on the matter, support within his own United Democratic Party (UDP) soon began to wane.

Five UDP members of parliament joined the opposition in

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Barbados

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart says Barbados' high oil importation bill leaves the island with no option but to seek alternative forms of energy to maintain its competitive edge in the Caribbean.

Figures released show that the island spends an estimated Bds\$787 million annually on importing oil.

"This expenditure has undermined our competitiveness and distorted electricity rates to an unprecedented extent. This situation has become the greatest challenge of our time and we cannot continue business as usual," he said.

Stuart said that the government is involved in various efforts to develop indigenous energy gradually into energy mix.



The Prime Minister outlined factors which he said were integral to the realization of this effort including intensification of efforts to maximize production of crude oil and natural gas both onshore and offshore; the diversification of the energy mix to make the use of natural gas and other non-liquid fuels more pronounced in the economy; the island-wide introduction and maintenance of energy conservation and energy efficiency measures.

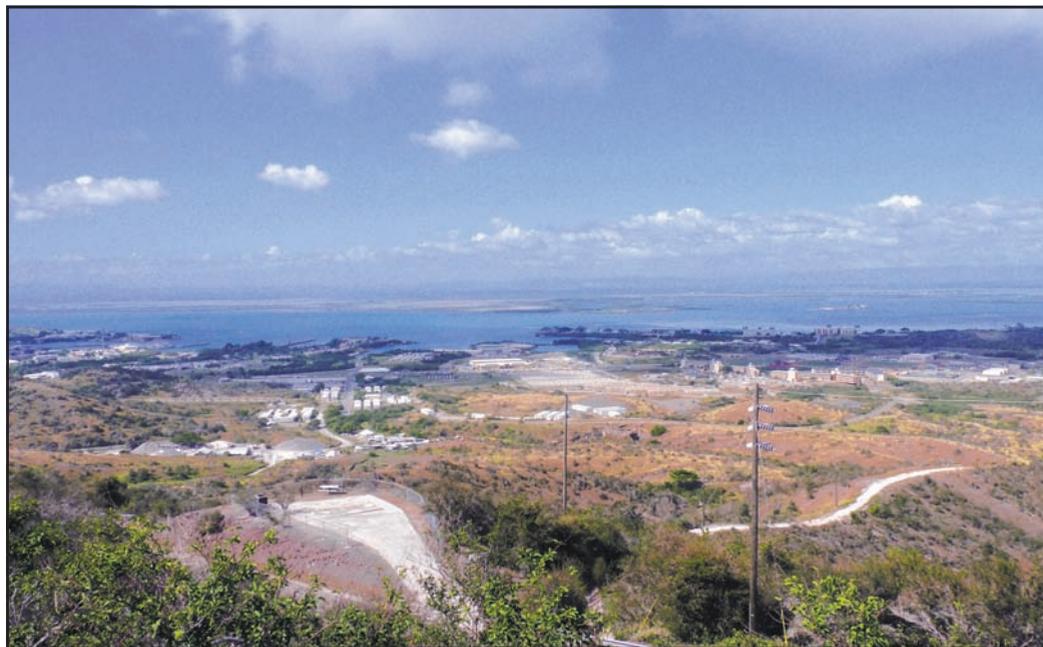
"We must be cognizant of the reality that fossil fuels will be with us for some time. That is why we are seeking to develop Barbados' offshore petroleum sector which seeks to access the benefits from the island's potential natural resources now and in the future," Stuart said.

Haiti

Haiti is overhauling its adoption laws for the first time in nearly 40 years in an attempt to end practices that have allowed thousands of children to be trafficked out of the country or suffer from neglect as they languish in squalid orphanages.



The proposed legislation is meant to bring Haiti in line with international laws that seek to protect children under consideration for overseas adoption, said Arielle Jeanty Villedrouin, general director of the government's social welfare agency. The legislation has gone



End of a era in Guantanamo

A view of the the U.S. Naval Station base in Guantanamo Bay where Harry Henry, 82, and Luis La Rosa, 79, have been working since they were in their late teens, in Cuba, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012. La Rosa and Henry, the last of what were once hundreds of Cubans commuting daily to work at the base, are retiring at the end of the December. See page 14. AP Photo/Suzette Laboy

before the Senate for review and awaits approval from both houses of Parliament.

Jamaica

Jamaican Dancehall entertainer Vybz Kartel has been granted bail in the conspiracy case against him. Kartel, whose real name is Adidja Palmer was granted J\$500,000 with sureties.

He is facing the charge of perverting the course of justice. As a condition of his bail, the entertainer is to report to the Constant Spring Police Station daily until January 25, when he is scheduled to appear in court.

He is also been instructed to surrender his travel documents and a stop order has been placed on him.

However, Kartel is unable to take up bail as he is also the center of two murder cases. He is jointly charged with associate Andre Henry alias "Pim Pim" and fellow entertainer Vanessa Saddler, more popularly known as "Gaza Slim". Bail was also extended for Henry and Sadler when they appeared in the Corporate Area Resident Mag-



istrate's Court recently.

It is alleged that Kartel and his co-accused were part of a plot to undermine a police investigation into the murder of Clive "Lizard" Williams. Kartel and four other men are before the court on a charge of murder in relation to the death of Williams.

St. Vincent

The Caribbean Organization of Indigenous Peoples (COIP) says it is encouraged by the recent discovery of ancient indigenous artefacts in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The historic findings, including pots, were unearthed at a site in Clare Valley on the leeward side of the island recently.

COIP coordinator, Nelcia Robinson, said the discovery is particularly significant coming 25 years after the first Conference of Indigenous Peoples of the English-speaking Caribbean, which was held here in 1987.

COIP said the discovery of artefacts from the Saladoid period has established the presence of the first peoples has established the presence of the first peoples on St Vin-



cent and the Grenadines and that three great indigenous races were the first builders of an independent civilization.

It said the artefacts are a confirmation of the need to name and protect heritage sites in communities where indigenous artefacts are found.

The COIP said it is also looking forward to the declaration of the village of Clare Valley as a Saladoid Heritage Village and to the people of the community enjoying the spiritual and economic benefits that are likely to flow from this declaration.

Tourism and Culture Minister Cecil Mackie said a committee has been established to work in collaboration with the owners of the property where the discovery was made.

Trinidad

The Trinidad and Tobago government is seeking to buy six naval vessels from Colombia because that country has been most successful in fighting crime, said National Security Minister Jack Warner.

Warner said Colombia has the most successful program in the fight against crime and drugs in

particular.

"The Colombian president (Juan Manuel Santos) is one who is being lauded and praised by even the US government. So there is something he is doing right and if he is doing something right it is good for us to go and emulate what is happening," he told reporters.



Warner said Trinidad and Tobago has much to learn from the Colombian government which is why that country's president and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar have been in constant dialogue, for the purchase of three vessels in the first instance, but ultimately six, for the use by the T&T Coast Guard.

When the new People's Partnership came into office after the May 24, 2010 general elections, it canceled an order for three offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), which was ordered by the previous Patrick Manning administration from the UK firm British Aerospace Engineering (BAE) Systems at a cost of TT\$910 million.

Barbados

Barbados recently hosted a two-day conference to discuss sexual violence against children in the Caribbean.

The conference with the theme "Combating Sexual Violence Against Children-From Isolated Actions to Integrated Strategies" – was convened within the United Nations (UN) Secretary General's UNiTE campaign to End Violence Against Women.

It was hosted by the Barbados government and supported by Britain and the United States.



The conference was attended by government ministers with responsibility for children protection, along with experts in child protection, law, policy reform, health and other sectors to identify coordinated responses to the problem.

The main objectives of the conference were to create a network of participating countries that can share initiatives on ending violence against children and to produce a country-level action agenda.

The conference follows a special CARICOM Council on Human and Social Development meeting, held

Continued on Page 16

U.S. orders forfeiture of gambling proceeds

By Nelson A. King

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia on Dec. 14 issued a consent order of forfeiture ordering the civil forfeiture of US\$6,976,924 traced to international money laundering of the proceeds from an offshore Internet gambling operation in Antigua that it claimed “illegally targeted U.S. residents.”

The U.S. Department of Justice said the civil forfeiture action was resolved in connection with the criminal prosecution and recent conviction of William Paul Scott for violations of the Wire Act and money laundering statutes.

The department said that on Dec. 15, 2003, the U.S. government filed a civil forfeiture action against about \$7 million held by Soulbury Limited, “a shell company controlled by Scott and used to conceal the profits he gained through his illegal offshore Internet gambling operations.”

The government alleged that the US\$7 million held by Soulbury were “proceeds of Wire Act violations and were subject to forfeiture as property involved in or traceable to money laundering transactions.”

According to the civil forfeiture complaint, between 1997 and 2002, Scott and an associate operated World Wide Tele-Sports (WWTS), an Internet gambling operation located in Antigua.

The complaint claimed that WWTS and related entities offered online sports betting services that had been heavily marketed to U.S. gamblers via the Internet and print and broadcast media.

It said U.S. residents, who made up the vast majority of WWTS’s clientele, purchased “credit” for their Internet gambling accounts over the phone or online, and sent hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars out of the United States to WWTS’s offshore bank accounts.

The complaint claimed that the U.S. gamblers then used these credits to place bets on popular professional and collegiate sporting events, such as the Super Bowl and the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s men’s basketball tournament.

The Justice Department said soliciting sports wagers over the Internet violates the Wire Act.

“Based on the significant formal legal assistance provided by relevant authorities in the Bailiwick of Guernsey (Scotland),” the Justice Department said the United States filed the civil forfeiture complaint

against WWTS criminal proceeds physically located in Guernsey, but seized US\$6,976,924 from a correspondent bank account in the United States held by the Royal Bank of Scotland International (Guernsey).

The Justice Department said the seizure marked the United States’ first use of a legal provision that Congress designed to overcome situations that might prevent full cooperation in forfeiture matters even where both jurisdictions wish to completely fulfill their legal forfeiture assistance obligations under the applicable bilateral and U.N. assistance treaties.

In March 1998, over five years before the civil forfeiture complaint was filed, the Justice Department said Scott was charged in U.S. District Court in the Southern District of New York, by criminal complaint, with conspiring to violate the Wire Act, relating to his operation of WWTS.

But because Scott resided in Antigua, the department said the United States could not execute the warrant issued for his arrest, and he remained at large.

Even as the criminal complaint against Scott remained outstanding, the Justice Department said Soulbury filed a claim on Mar. 1, 2004, answered the civil forfeiture complaint and proceeded to contest the civil forfeiture action.

In April 2004, Scott was indicted in U.S. District Court in the Southern District of New York on the conduct that formed the basis for the 1998 criminal complaint.

A year later, the Justice Department said Scott was indicted in the District of Columbia, “based on different criminal conduct, charging him with money laundering, violations of the Wire Act and other offenses relating to WWTS.”

In February 2012, the Justice Department said indictment in the Southern District of New York was transferred to the District of Columbia “so that it could be resolved by a plea agreement that covered both pending criminal cases.”

The Justice Department said Scott returned to the United States to enter a guilty plea in both cases in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Sept. 25, 2012.

It said Scott was convicted of one count of conspiracy to violate the Wire Act and three counts of international money laundering.



Prospect Park Zoo's Julia Larsen Maher Education Discovery Center.

Wildlife Conservation Society

Renovated Discovery Center for Children re-opens

By Chudi Chukwudi

The Wildlife Conservation Society's Prospect Park Zoo has re-opened its popular Discovery Center following extensive renovations that including the addition of several nature-themed learning areas for children and families.

The redesigned space includes:

- * A campsite where parents and children can read nature books

- * Activity boxes for children to explore nature and wildlife items with magnifying glasses

- * A woodland stage with puppets and costumes for kids to perform their own wildlife plays

- * An area where kids can make their own animal-themed magnetic tangram puzzles

- * An area just for tots to play with foam blocks and stuffed animals

The new Discovery Center maintains several of the popular activity areas that zoo-goers have enjoyed

in the past including the striped mice, great horned owl, and mud turtle exhibits, as well as the zoo vet center for kids and the scoop on poop exhibit.

The Prospect Park Zoo's Discovery Center is open on weekends from 11am to 3pm. During the week school groups, play groups, and camps can reserve a private visit for up to 35 people for \$150. Price includes the cost of zoo admission and an educational live animal encounter. The Discovery Center is also available for birthday parties for kids ages 2 to 8.

For more information or to book a private visit, call 718-399-7327 or email ppzeducation@wcs.org.

The Wildlife Conservation Society's Prospect Park Zoo – \$8.00 for adults, \$6 for seniors 65 and older, \$5 for kids 3-12, free for children under 3. Zoo hours are 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. weekdays, and to 5:30 P.M. on weekends

and holidays, April through October. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. November through March. The Prospect Park Zoo is located at 450 Flatbush Ave. in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. For further information, call 718-399-7339 or visit www.prospectparkzoo.com.

The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. “It is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on earth,” according to a spokesperson. “We do so through science, global conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony.”

Donations in support of helping save wildlife and wild places are accepted at: www.wcs.org.

CARICOM fetes expatriates at Christmas party

By Tangerine Clarke

Caribbean nationals were in a joyous Christmas mood on Friday, Nov. 7 after arriving all decked out in their finest festive attire to celebrate the holidays with CARICOM board members at the Barbados Consulate in New York City.

The event got under way with a prayer by Deputy Consulate Gen-

eral of Jamaica, Sharon Burrell Green. This was followed by festive fare, and stirring Caribbean music that was full of cheers, before the gathering was reminded by Consul General of Jamaica, Herman G. L. Mont that nationals in Jamaica were still reeling from Hurricane Sandy that ravished parts of the island.

The diplomat expressed his

gratitude to those who unselfishly gave of their time to raise funds and supported those who were devastated by the floods. Making the remarks during party, CG La Month noted that the work was not done, and quipped that he did not want to hold up the party much longer, since he also loved music and encouraged everyone to return to the dance floor.

McKeeva Bush

Continued from cover

calling for the no-confidence vote, which needed two-thirds support in the 15-member Legislative Assembly to force Bush from office.

Opposition leader Alden McLaughlin said he was bringing the no confidence motion "with a heavy heart."

"I am deeply saddened that we have come to this point," he said. "I cannot say how disappointed I am that the premier has brought us to this point."

"The reality that faced

with all of this, the premier will still cling to the Office of Premier," he added.

"What has happened over the past week is certainly a breakdown that could have been avoided," said Health Minister Mark Scotland in his contribution to the debate.

Bush was arrested on Dec. 11 and detained in police custody in connection with a number of ongoing police investigations.

The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) said Bush was arrested on suspicion of theft in connection with the alleged misuse of a government credit card and breach of trust, abuse of

office and conflict of interest, contrary to the Anti-Corruption Law 2008, in connection with the alleged importation of explosive substances without valid permits.

After being questioned for two days, Bush was placed on police bail until February 2013 to allow further investigations to take place in the Cayman Islands and elsewhere in connection with the allegations made against him, the police said.

The RCIPS also confirmed that a considerable amount of property, including computer equipment, was seized during searches of Bush's home.

Bush had made it clear following his arrest he had no intention of resigning.

"I have done nothing wrong, and I shall not be resigning as premier. I also wish to assure one and all that the government continues to operate as normal," he said in a statement on Dec. 13.

Later that day, he accused Cayman Islands Governor Duncan Taylor of being his "enemy" and implied that his arrest was orchestrated by the British governor.

The governor's office denied Bush's accusations, saying there was no truth to Bush's allegation of political vindictiveness.

Ousted Leader Accepts Party's Loss

By Elizabeth Roberts

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP) —Bermuda Premier Paula Cox said she believed the island's struggling economy led to her party's downfall, though candidates from her party pledged to alleviate the economic crisis and reduce a 10 percent unemployment rate while touting the government's health care plans and free daycare.

"What we've got to accept is the economy was a key factor, and there's nothing we can do in terms of a magic bullet or a magic wand to make it immediately go right," she said. "The people have decided that they want to pause, and we acknowledge that and appreciate it."

Opposition leader Craig Cannonier has vowed to create 2,000 jobs in the next five years and generate more revenue while reducing debt. He had accused Cox's administration of mismanaging the economy, saying it led to increased unem-

ployment and crime.

"It's a new Bermuda and a new day in politics," Cannonier said at a celebration rally. "A new standard has been set."

One Bermuda Alliance received 15,949 votes, while the Progressive Labor Party received 14,218 votes, according to preliminary results. Independent candidates won 695 votes, according to the local elections commission.

There are 43,767 registered voters in the tiny territory of nearly 70,000 inhabitants, which has long served as a global financial center for the insurance and reinsurance sectors and various investment funds.

The victorious One Bermuda Alliance, which was founded following the 2007 elections, will rule the territory for the first time.

Cox also lost her seat in the House of Assembly, where the One Bermuda Alliance claimed 19 of 36 seats for a two-seat majority.

Bermuda

Continued from cover

regarded the UBP as a party of white racists, intolerant of others and contemptuous of non-supporters like the GOP in the nearby U.S., leaders though it best to abandon ship, rebrand with the OBA, ensure its leadership and base were more diverse and try to take on the PLP, playing up the economic recession and high unem-

ployment. It clearly worked even as Cox admitted.

Until the rebranding and the emergence of the OBA, opposition leaders and supporters had largely accepted that the PLP would win most elections in the foreseeable future because the UBP had been such a badly-damaged piece of work.

Now, the mid-Atlantic island that lies east of the Carolinas and two hours by air from New York, will be led

by mixed-race Premier Craig Cannonier, a member of parliament for only 13 months.

He listed improvements to the economy as his main goal, contending that the OBA will look out for "those who cannot feed their families and seniors who cannot afford to stay in their own country. The OBA will work for you," he said as jubilant supporters danced in the streets and celebrated at the nearest pubs.

Several key cabinet ministers lost their seats. Some PLP top brasses even blamed redistricting for their losses in important constituencies. Cox has even resigned as leader of a party of mainly Black faces. For now, the OBA is the one that appears to be more diverse as it attempts to lead the racially tense island of 65,000 people out of recession. Bermuda is an associate member of Caricom.



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Corrupt premier won't budge

By David McFadden

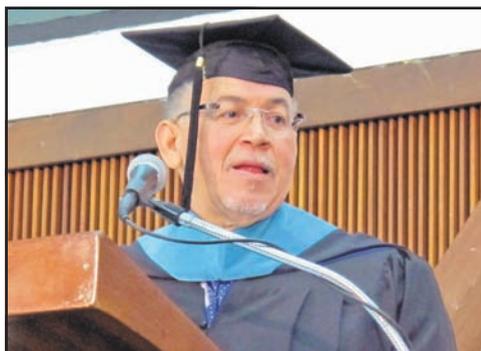
KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — The leader of the Cayman Islands government on Thursday rejected calls to resign over his arrest on suspicion of corruption, calling the investigation a plot by political enemies who are trying to weaken him and smear his reputation.

Premier McKeeva Bush shrugged off the allegations during a visit to Jamaica's capital on Thursday, two days after he was arrested by the British Caribbean territory's police and a day after being released on bail until early February.

The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service said they are looking into allegations that Bush misused his government credit card and abused his office by importing explosive devices without valid permits. He was arrested at his home on Grand Cayman on Tuesday morning and interviewed by investigators for two straight days.

No charges have been filed, but police describe their investigation as "very active."

There has been a growing call for Cayman's leader to step down since his arrest, which surprised many



McKeeva Bush, the embattled premier of the Cayman Islands addresses college graduates in Kingston, Jamaica, on Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012. AP Photo/David McFadden

supporters and critics in the famed Caribbean tax haven. But after giving a commencement address to college graduates in Kingston, a defiant Bush said he has done nothing wrong and intends to stay on as premier.

Bush described Gov. Duncan Taylor, who represents the British monarchy in the three-island territory, as his "enemy." He implied his arrest was orchestrated by the Britain-appointed governor and other political foes.

"We are a British overseas terri-

tory and as such it is run by the governor and the commissioner of police. And so I can't miss that it is nothing but a political, very vindictive political witch hunt," Bush said.

A spokesman for the governor, whose post is largely ceremonial, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

In Jamaica, Bush said he wanted to reveal the "whole story" behind his arrest but his lawyers advised him not to speak specifically about the allegations. He said he was confident he will be vindicated in coming months.

"I would just say that I have done nothing wrong," he said. "I have made a lot of friends and I have made a lot of enemies. There are a lot of jealous people in a very small island."

Bush had been scheduled to receive an honorary doctorate for public service Thursday from Jamaica's University College of the Caribbean. But the school's chancellor, Herbert Thompson, said school officials decided to wait the outcome of the investigations.

\$\$ Multimillion for untreated T&T waste

By Nelson A. King

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a US\$246.5 million loan to finance the first phase of a US\$546.5 million, three-phase program aimed at improving Trinidad and Tobago's environmental conditions.

The Washington-based financial institution said the loan would reduce uncontrolled discharge of untreated wastewater.

It said Phase I of the project will focus on the construction of two wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in San Fernando and Malabar catchments respectively.

The bank said the loan will also aid attendant trunk sewers, as well as on the institutional strengthening of the Water and Sewage Authority (WASA), through personnel training and implementation of key actions to improve commercial management services and corporate governance.

Planned works during this five-year-stage will include construction of 26 km of sewerage

network, the IDB said.

Through these activities, it said the Malabar and San Fernando population currently served in the two catchments will be covered by the new WWTP systems.

Additionally, the IDB said 90 percent of the wastewater treated by the WWTPs will be meeting water pollution norms and have a zero or positive net impact on downstream water quality.

"The institutional and policy reforms will allow WASA to modernize its institutional and corporate governance and operate under a more sustainable financial arrangement, as well as to adjust from operating many small and medium size wastewater treatment plants to running a smaller number of significantly larger units," Project Team Leader Evan Cayetano said.

He said Phase II, to be supported by a US\$100 million IDB loan, will continue institutional strengthening efforts and integrate the sewerage network for connection to the new WWTPs.

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Economic reforms are working

By Peter Orsi

HAVANA (AP) — President Raul Castro declared Thursday that Cuba's two-year experiment with market reforms is working and has the wind at its back, but said much work remains to breathe life into the sputtering economy.

In a speech devoid of any new policy announcements, the military khaki-clad leader sounded a generally positive tone in discussing the Marxist country's progress, though he conceded that the island faces a "colossal psychological barrier" in shedding old habits and "concepts of the past."

"The updating of the Cuban economic model ... marches with a sure step and is beginning to delve into questions of greater reach, complexity and depth," Castro said, according to an official transcript of his remarks before lawmakers at the second of their twice-annual sessions.

The proceedings were closed to foreign journalists, but state television later broadcast tape-delayed highlights.

Cuban economy czar Mari-



Cuba's President Raul Castro.

AP Photo/Ismael Francisco, Cubadebate

no Murillo told the assembly that the government is planning more measures to support and increase the ranks of independent workers and small business owners.

Real estate broker, delivery person, antiques dealer and produce vendor will all be newly legalized private jobs in a country where the government has long dominated the economy and employed nearly the entire workforce.

The self-employed "are

gaining space," Murillo was quoted as saying by the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina.

Economists have said Cuba needs to expand the number of allowable private enterprises, with an emphasis on white-collar work. Real estate has been a particular concern. Cuba legalized the buying and selling of property 12 months ago, but has yet to allow agents to facilitate transactions.



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IN COLLABORATION WITH



For Sandy, a huge NYC response

To The Editor:

There has been a huge response from the New York community in the wake of Hurricane Sandy:

* The Met Council distributed 170,000 pounds of food and prepared 85,000 meals.

* A rock climbing gym in Brooklyn became a staging ground for first responders.

* Taxicabs in New York are displaying disaster assistance information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

* All over New York, the whole community is responding to those who lost homes, cars, possessions and a sense of security after Hurricane Sandy swept over the region.

New York is made up of neighborhoods. Every neighborhood is distinctly different, with different traditions, dialects and sense of community.

That sense of community, in this case, is greatly expanded. It involves FEMA, other federal, state and local agencies, the private sector, voluntary groups and faith-based organizations.

FEMA is not the team. It is part of a much larger team, one that represents every aspect of the community. Individuals, groups and government agencies all came together to respond and begin recovery. This disaster was so immense that it required a massive effort by thousands of people. Those people are still at work, and will be for a long time.

Some examples of the team effort:

* Russian-speaking storm survivors in Brighton Beach and Coney Island came to FEMA

(disaster recovery centers to seek assistance and wound up volunteering to stay and translate for other Russian-speaking survivors.

* A woman lost her job and her basement apartment after the storm. She found another job as a caregiver and was sleeping on her client's couch. She came to a recovery center and was able to get transitional housing and legal assistance with the help of the American Red Cross, FEMA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

* The American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division is operating a hotline

(800-699-5636), coordinating with FEMA and the Legal Services Corporation to provide information and help to Sandy survivors.

* Sandy survivors are being given priority for 2,500 vacant apartments by private landlords in New York City, under an agreement between property owners and government officials.

* The Humane Society of the United States partnered with the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management, Nassau County SPCA, the North Shore Animal League and the Pet Safe Coalition to care for nearly 300

Continued on Page 12

Right to affordable healthcare

By Vernon O'Garra

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA or ACA) signed into law March 23, 2010, has mandated that each state establish a health insurance (or health benefits) exchange. This new law allows states to create a virtual, hybrid market place for individuals, families and small businesses to shop for health insurance coverage. The goal of this initiative is to significantly reduce the cost of health insurance coverage, provide all individuals with a standard essential health benefits plan, and create a "one-stop-shop" marketplace for millions of uninsured consumers to obtain health coverage.

This - health insurance exchange - will be a predominantly web-based portal for, health insurance quotes, coverage and billing options, premium tax credits, qualified health plans, insurance laws, links to brokers, plus online and telephone call center customer service.

This state run exchange will actually encompass two health exchanges. 1) Individ-

Uninsured intact families and single entrepreneurs can shop competitive pricing among premier health insurance carriers, and may also qualify for federal subsidies and tax credits

ual Exchange, for individuals and families, 2) Small Business Exchange, for the small business market. Individuals and families that access the exchange will be offered a variety of health plans from which to choose. The single mom applicant will be referred directly to the child health plus Medicaid option. Uninsured intact families and single entrepreneurs can shop competitive pricing among premier health insurance carriers, and may also qualify for federal subsidies and tax credits designed to keep premiums affordable. The unemployed applicant will qualify for the Medicaid health plan option.

Business owners will be referred to the - Small Business Health Options Program - or "SHOP" Exchange. This entity will allow small businesses to competitively shop health plan options in a competitive market environment. The SHOP exchange will consist of an online marketplace where business owners can comparatively shop for the most cost effective qualified health plans (QHP) for their employees. Data will be securely exchanged electronically between businesses and the exchange, to ease the burden of the application process. Customer service reps are available to assist the small business owners. Tax incentives and cost sharing subsidies are also available for all businesses that qualify. Under this SHOP exchange model, employers can make defined contributions, and employees will be free to choose from an array of qualified health plans (QHP) that have been benchmarked against the best, State health plans, Government health plans, and private health insurance HMO/PPO plans. The

Continued on Page 12

Confront tough decisions on taxes

By Chuck Hassebrook, chuckh@cfra.org, Center for Rural Affairs

The central decision confronting Congress during this lame-duck session is bringing the federal budget closer to balance. In 2000, America had a \$236 billion budget surplus. But following 9/11 our nation fought two wars - and cut taxes rather than pay for them. A financial meltdown sunk us into the deepest recession since the great depression, reducing tax revenue and prompting new stimulus spending.

War spending totaled \$1.3 trillion dollars through 2011. And 100,000 American troops served overseas - disproportionately from rural areas and modest-income families.

More than 6,600 died and 45,000 to 90,000 suffered traumatic brain injuries requiring specialized care.

Service members and their families made profound sacrifices for our nation; the rest of us received a tax cut. It is appropriate to ask the richest Americans to share the sacrifice to reduce deficits. Repealing their 2003 tax cuts would raise \$850 billion over 10 years covering two-thirds of direct war costs.

We should also tighten loopholes on the estate tax for the very wealthy. The current year estate tax credit exempts \$10 million for a husband and wife. And loopholes allow wealthy families to exempt several times that amount.

The estate tax raises revenue

and levels the playing field for ordinary Americans with those born to great wealth. It protects the free enterprise system, by countering the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few.

The richest Americans control a larger share of wealth than anytime in American history. We need their help in reining in the deficit.

The Center for Rural Affairs was established in 1973 as an unaffiliated nonprofit corporation under IRS code 501(c)3. The Center for Rural Affairs was formed by rural Nebraskans concerned about family farms and rural communities, and we work to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome from all readers. They should be addressed care of this newspaper to Kenton Kirby, Editor, Caribbean-Life Publications, 1 MetroTech Center North, Brooklyn, New York 11201, or sent via e-mail to caribbeanlife@cnglobal.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.

No more 'Give it time to blow over'

Who would have thought that hard on the heels of recent lambasting in this space of the NRA/gun lobby's stranglehold on discourse about gun violence, would come the unimaginable horror of Newtown, CT? Who would have thought that the alarm sounded by NBC's Bob Costas about firearm proliferation, following the murder-suicide involving a pro football player, could eventually come to be seen as precursor to a citizens' uprising that turned this issue on its head?

There was always something wrong with the picture in which, as a politician, talk of tightening gun laws was more likely than not to bring you pariah status. How quickly have things changed, though. The martyrs of Newtown -- most of them young innocents, to boot -- have reconfigured the politics of gun control, brought it around to where the madness gets confined to the margins and the rightful place of sanity and decency is duly honored.

After the tragedy, the NRA's initial silence followed by a pro forma commitment to participate in the now full throated demand for a "national conversation" on guns, was of course tactical. Given its

history, no one should harbor any doubts that the NRA will be what it will be. At the end of the day no one should be surprised at the kind of NRA scenario in which standard preachments are merely served up with a twist: "Of course we sympathize, but let's not get carried away." One of the interesting tidbits making the rounds, though, after those god-awful happenings, was survey results which indicated that better than 70 percent of NRA members favored increased control over the accessibility of firearms -- a statistic which showed the unyieldingly rigid stance of the organization's leadership clearly at odds with its membership.

Predictably, there have been pro-gun maniacs who aren't unduly troubled about staying the course, regardless. In that vein of ludicrousness we've been regaled with the theory that the solution for such as transpired in Newtown lay in an even more widespread presence of guns. Schoolteachers (other "deserving" folk as well) should be armed, went this bone-headed idea of a salve. In another realm came Mike Huckabee's take, that this latest, very palpable grief visited upon the nation is entirely a function of

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

God having been banished from the classroom. Credit believers in this eye-popping advocacy with at least the chutzpah to give voice to it in the town square, while the rest of us stood frozen in place over last Friday's news.

In the midst of the intense discussion that has ensued since Friday, the fervor of gun rights advocates who've been shamelessly uninhibited, even in the face of an unprecedented public outcry, has been one theater-of-the-absurd tableau assaulting our senses. Being bereft of even NRA-level sensitivity, in these circumstances, says a mouthful. One nut, whose name we need not record, has been getting a TV face-time bonus he would, for sure, not normally enjoy. That this kook owes his new-found notoriety to those young innocents' demise is hardly a thought, obviously. But as the long-crusading Rep. Carolyn McCarthy observed, billboard-ing these types is, in the end, a

good thing, "to show what we're up against."

Understandably, some still doubt whether Newtown was a game changer. After all, they argue, when Washington showed itself immune to even the Tucson outburst that maimed Rep. Gabby Giffords and killed others, what hope could there be that any other senseless gun-violence eruption would prompt the desired reaction? Clearly, the difference makers were the littlest martyrs. How mysteriously fate manifests itself.

There have been times that Americans have traveled paths of utter bewilderment to dispassionate observers. Two groups of Americans killing each other to the tune of a reported 600,000 over the slavery issue gets high ranking on that list. Then there have been instances along this American journey when its people have been called upon to stand up and do right. And they have. Forever will I recall reading in the Times, following Martin Luther King Jr's assassination, the comment of a man who evidenced being previously partial to segregationist sentiments. "And then they murdered this man," he said, letting on how the ghastly act had recalibrated

his sense of what's morally correct. So too have the littlest martyrs awakened something in the American soul whose existence many of us were seriously questioning.

Lawmakers, Republican and Democrat, in good standing with the NRA, have been chiming in about the need for a new paradigm. Even as we continue to look askance at the NRA's declared intention to participate toward that end. No way do we expect, this time, a fizzling out of this challenge to the national will, notwithstanding haplessness beyond redemption on the fringes. Not this time will there be the customary resort among gate-keepers of the status quo to, "Give it some time; it will blow over."

The littlest martyrs have proven themselves mightier than anything a massive, well heeled throng of heavies could concoct. A disturbing, perplexing turn of events cast them -- not the sad sack politicians, not the clergy, not some purpose-driven swaths of the citizenry -- but these beautiful departed, as the ultimate, defining voice of our humanity, and as a bulwark against a too-long raging lunacy. We need look no further for prime examples of Mr. Lincoln's "better angels of our nature." God bless them.



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Huge NYC response

Continued from page 10

pets daily in an emergency shelter on Long Island.

* More than 500 survivors with access and functional needs are being assisted by FEMA specialists. Some Disaster Recovery Centers are using iPads to help survivors with speech disability or hearing loss. The iPads have a Skype app that can provide video relay to help the survivor with the assistance process.

* The private sector displayed FEMA disaster assistance information on large screens at Times Square, Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall, Lincoln Center, movie theaters and taxicabs, increasing public awareness of disaster assistance information.

* More than 500 voluntary organizations have participated in the effort, including NY Cares, NY Disaster Interfaith Services, National Latino Evangelical Coalition, American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Mennonite Dis-

aster Services, among others.

* Federal partners have involved FEMA, Small Business Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation, Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture, Department of Homeland Security, General Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy and Department of Justice, to name a few.

In many cases, it requires a coordinated effort by several organizations to deliver assistance to people in need.

* After the storm, a Five Towns family lost their home to fire, caused by a candle when the power was out. They registered with FEMA and were staying in an aunt's living room on the floor. The wife gave birth and, with three other children, the family needed a place to stay. The father

found an apartment but had no money because he was out of work.

* A FEMA Community Relations team directed the family to a distribution center, where they received blankets, cots, baby formula, food and water. The FEMA team contacted a faith-based organization and a community center, both of which provided rent money. The family found an apartment and was being processed for FEMA assistance.

* To join the whole community effort, FEMA encourages volunteers and donors to work directly with our nonprofit partners to ensure that survivors' needs are addressed in the most effective and efficient way.

For online links to those organizations, visit:

www.fema.gov/hurricane-sandy-donate-and-volunteer

www.serve.gov
www.nycservice.org
www.newyorkcares.com

Michael F. Byrne

Editor's Note: Mr Byrne is FEMA's Federal Coordinating Officer and a New Yorker himself.

Affordable Health Care as a one-stop 'SHOP'

Continued from page 10
 Affordable Care Act (ACA) also mandates that each QHP (and individual plan) must offer what is referred to as "Essential Health Benefits." This plan option must include 10 essential benefits; namely, inpatient hospitalization, emergency services, ambulatory services, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance abuse services, preventative/wellness services, prescription drug plan, pediatric services (including vision and dental care), lab testing services, and chronic disease management.

The ACA is a very comprehensive and complicated law. There are several aspects to this Act; however, in my opinion the small business community is a major driving force behind this health insurance exchange concept. The State exchange will market qualified health plans that will provide everyone with a standardized health insurance product that will include essen-

tial health benefits. This in itself is a monumental accomplishment.

Another caveat of the SHOP Exchange provides general insurance agencies and brokers the flexibility to transition into the SHOP program. Small business owners can maintain their relationships with their brokers, because the health exchange recognizes that these relationships are important. It creates a win-win scenario. The health insurance brokers will market and promote the SHOP exchange to other small businesses, and the small businesses can work directly with brokers who are familiar with the SHOP process.

The State run health insurance exchange appears to be a wonderful concept. The ACA has certainly streamlined the health insurance process. But the debate against this legislation continues to rage on. Several issues that have come to the forefront include; State run health exchanges (like New York

will receive federal subsidies and tax credits. States that opt to let the government set up their exchange will not receive a subsidy or tax credit. Without tax credits, individuals and businesses alike will not be able to afford health insurance. Will the ACA support a "pay-for-performance" model and eliminate "fee-for-service?" What long term effects will this Act have on Medicare and Medicaid? These are just a few of the topics that continue to fuel the pro and con rhetoric surrounding Obamacare.

Our health care system was in desperate need of a serious overhaul and President Obama has taken some bold and aggressive steps toward this goal. It's certainly not the end-all, be-all solution, but with some tweaking and bipartisan support the ACA will transform health care delivery in these United States, and become a leading model for global health care delivery. Email: vogarra@nshs.edu - business

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BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

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Guantanamo Era comes to an end

By Ben Fox and Suzette Laboy

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — One of the world's most unusual commutes is coming to an end.

For more than a half century, Luis La Rosa and Harry Henry have left their homes before dawn each workday in the communist-run city of Guantanamo, where old American cars rumble past posters of the Castro brothers in a Cold War time warp, climbed into taxis and traveled to the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay, where troops shop at a Wal-Mart-like store and eat at McDonald's and Subway.

The commute takes less than an hour but spans two worlds and a heavily guarded border fence.

Now it is coming to an end. La Rosa, a 79-year-old welder who works at the base's motor pool, and Henry, an 82-year-

old office worker, are retiring at the end of the month and will be honored Friday at a retirement ceremony that will celebrate the uniqueness of their situation.

The close friends, who have a kind of celebrity status on the base, are the last of what were once hundreds of Cubans commuting daily to work at this isolated U.S. military installation.

For them, it is a bitter-sweet moment — a severing one of the last real links between Cuba and the U.S. Navy base that has been an unwelcome presence on the island for generations.

"I feel a bit sad because I'm leaving, but I'm going to my country," La Rosa said Thursday after passing through the coils of razor wire and a checkpoint guarded by U.S. Marines that separates the base from the rest of Cuba.

Though this spot is best known for the base's prison

for terrorism suspects, there is a substantial Cuban city of Guantanamo, which has a colonial downtown and a population of about 250,000. It lies to the northwest of the base, separated by mountains and marshland. A smaller city called Caimanera along the bay is the closest town to the U.S. installation.

There are about 30 other Cubans who live on the post, and the base commander has a monthly meeting with his Cuban counterpart to discuss logistics and administrative issues. But the base and Cuba have almost nothing to do with each other, and that fact is more pronounced with the two men's retirement.

"It is a real symbolic link that is disappearing," said Jonathan M. Hansen, author of the book "Guantanamo: An American History."

The U.S. seized Guantanamo Bay, which is considered



Luis La Rosa, left, and Harry Henry talk with a U.S. Marine, unseen, on the U.S. Naval Station base as they arrive for work in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012.

AP Photo/Suzette Laboy

an ideal natural harbor, from Spain in the Spanish-American War in 1898, retained it during the occupation of Cuba and then forced the

Cuban government to sign a lease for the 45-square-mile base. Relations deteriorated after Fidel Castro took power in 1959 and then turned

into outright hostility as the young rebel embraced Soviet-style communism.

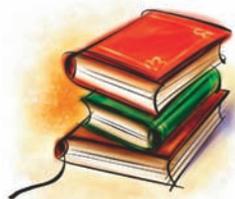
Castro, who has called the base "a dagger plunged into the heart of Cuban soil," famously refused to cash the checks for the lease payment of about \$4,000 a year.

Cuban anger deepened in January 2002, when the U.S. began using the base to hold suspected al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners. There are now 166 prisoners, down from a peak of about 680 in June 2003. President Barack Obama had pledged to close the prison soon after taking office but Congress blocked him from transferring prisoners to U.S. soil and the men still there largely remain in limbo.

Obama may have pledged to close the prison but the U.S. has not announced any plans to give up the base, which is still considered a strategic asset by the U.S. government.

Most Cubans want the base closed, though it also serves as a "nice piece of anti-U.S. propaganda that's handy" for Castro, said Hansen, a lecturer at Harvard University who is working on a biography of the Cuban leader.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2
in Guyana in July, when regional ministers expressed grave concern about the alarming prevalence of sexual abuse of children in member states.

Jamaica

The Jamaican economy is expected to contract during this quarter due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy.

Central Bank Governor, Brian Wynter, told the Bank's quarterly briefing recently that this would result in economic output in the December quarter contracting between point seven and minus 1.7 percent.

The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) Governor said the negative outlook has been influenced by preliminary estimates of the damage caused by the Hurricane on both the Jamaican economy and the East Coast of America.

"The domestic impact of Hurricane Sandy is substantial, as there has been a sharp decline in projections for activity in agriculture forestry and fishing.

"The impact on mining and quarrying would be also registering a sharper decline than we originally expected due to the closure of the bauxite plants," said Wynter.



Trinidad

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

recently announced there will be some TT\$20 billion (US\$3.3billion) in investments in the energy industry in South Trinidad.

Speaking at a United National Congress (UNC's) night forum in South Trinidad, Persad-Bissessar shared with the audience her Government's vision for a developed south-western peninsula which would see some US\$3 billion from BHP Billiton, Mitsubishi and local energy company Petrotrin.

She said the Energy Ministry recently completed a successful deep-water bid round for the exploration of oil and gas, Cabinet, she said, approved these which were won by BHP Billiton.

"The total investment associated with these successful bids is at least US\$580 million and at most US\$1,024 million or one billion US dollars

That is at least TT\$3.7 billion or at most TT\$6.4 billion in investment," she said.

The prime minister said this investment will expand the country and create more jobs for young people.

Persad-Bissessar said Mitsubishi of Japan in partnership with local conglomerate Neal and Massy will invest TT\$5.4 billion for the establishment of a methanol to petrochemicals project.

"At peak of its construction it will create 4,000 jobs and 265 permanent jobs," she said.

Compiled by Ali Azad



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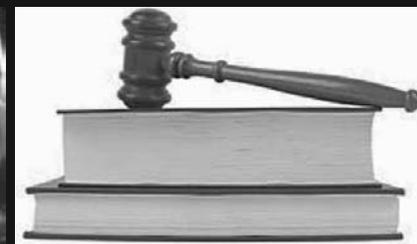


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This season, Green Acres is the place to be

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Save some green this season by shopping at the Green Acres Mall.

Located in the heart of Valley Stream, Long Island, the Green Acres Mall features more than 200 leading stores and eateries in an 1.8 million square-foot, beautifully renovated, enclosed shopping center.

From now until Jan. 1, pick up a free holiday savings book at the customer service desk inside the Sears wing. The book is filled with money-saving offers from participating stores.

Then, shop for everything you need for the holidays and beyond, at favorite stores such as J. C. Penney, Kohl's, Macy's, Macy's Men's & Furniture Gallery, Sears, Books A Million, Radio Shack, Zales, Express, Forever 21, H&M, Modell's, Old Navy,

Bath & Body Works, and Things Remembered.

In addition, several new retailers have decided to call Green Acres Home

this year: Toys R Us Express, Famous Footwear, Best Buy Mobile, Advantage Toyota, 21 Toppings Frozen Yogurt, Sasha

Hosiery, and Nesberrys' Premium Caribbean Ice Cream.

The latter is a New York-based ice cream company, inspired by the flavors and food of the Caribbean. In fact, the name is derived from the popular Jamaican fruit — a large ellipsoid berry that resembles a ripened kiwi. Here, customers can enjoy ice cream flavors such as Jamaican rum cake, sorrel and ginger, and rum and raisin, to name a few of the possibilities. They can also purchase famous Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee, coffee drinks, sundaes, floats, shakes, and smoothies. All are made-to-order. And just in case you prefer a good scoop of American favorites — vanilla, strawberry, and chocolate — you'll find those here, too.

After some ice cream, the kids may wish to ex-

plore the children's soft play area, located in the Kohl's wing. The woodland-themed section allows kids to release some energy, while giving parents a place to take a break.

While in the Kohl's wing, bring the entire family to visit Santa. He's residing there, now through Dec. 24, Mondays through Saturdays, 10 am to 1 pm, 2-5 pm, and 6-9 pm. On Sundays, visit Kris Kringle from 11 am to 2 pm or 3 to 7 pm.

Has your pet been naughty or nice? If it promises to be good for St. Nick, it can be included in the fun on "Paws and Claus" Night. The event takes place Tuesday, Dec. 18, from 6 to 9 pm. Have a photo taken with your pet and Santa.

With so many wonderful stores to shop at, deciding on the right gift is

surely a difficult task. If you're still not sure what would make the perfect present, purchase a Green Acres Mall gift card at the customer service desk, and let the recipients select anything they want. That way, you're certain to give a gift that will be valued and appreciated for a long time to come.

Green Acres Mall has extended holiday hours, allowing you the opportunity to shop at a time that's convenient for you. The closer it gets to the holidays, the longer the stores remain open.

Green Acres really is the place to be.

Green Acres Mall [Sunrise Hwy. off Green Acres Road in Valley Stream, Long Island, (516) 561-1157, www.GreenAcresMallonline.com.] See website for extended holiday hours.



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Delta spearheads lower Caribbean air fares

By J.D.Massiah

Although no “price war” is anticipated between the legacy carriers that service St. Maarten from New York City, the addition of Delta Air Lines to this route could result in lower air fares for travelers.

This was the opinion expressed by SXM Airport’s Manager of Special Projects Robert Brown, as he joined others in a St. Maarten delegation to welcome Delta’s inaugural flight DL 331 from John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) to Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) on Saturday, Dec 15, 2012.

Brown said, “historically the JFK-SXM route has been a proven market and SXM Airport, in acquiring this route from Delta, shows that the team has been working diligently to expand markets.”

He added that with an additional player in the market, fares on this route are likely to decrease.

Regular fares on the legacy carriers that service St. Maarten directly from New York vary according to the season and the day of the week passengers seek to travel but could vary between US\$900 and over US\$1,300 round trip per passenger in the economy class.



A welcome plaque is presented to Delta Air Lines personnel by a SXM Airport official on the occasion of the JFK-SXM inaugural flight.

Photo credit SXM Airport

Delta’s maiden flight from JFK landed here at exactly 1:30 pm “baptized” with the traditional water cannon salute for the Boeing 757-200 aircraft, which brought 140 passengers onboard who arrived to the sound of steel pan playing popular Christ-

mas songs.

Brown, who was accompanied by Audrey Jack of the Marketing and Communications Department of SXM Airport, presented Captain Bob Reynolds and First Officer Herb Ludwig with a commemorative plaque. The two

Delta Air Lines pilots were visiting the island for the first time and expressed the hope that the service would continue indefinitely.

“Getting this flight here has been in the process for three years,” said Brown, who vowed that, “SXM Air-

port will do everything in its power to keep the flight operating.”

Also on hand to welcome the new Delta Air Lines flight was Edward Dest, Marketing Director at the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau. He presented the crew with gift bags from

the bureau and told the crew, “St. Maarten is happy to have them here.” The Delta crew proudly showed off their St. Maarten T-shirts and memorabilia at a brief reception with SXM Airport and Tourist Bureau officials.

“This inaugural flight shows that the airlines have confidence in the destination,” Dest said, adding that he “hopes it will eventually become a daily flight.”

Confirming that the new flight has been “a few years in the making,” Delta’s Station Manager in St. Maarten, Charlene van der Linde, stressed that the JFK-SXM service is in addition to the existing Monday, Wednesday, and Friday flights of the airline from Atlanta. The new route, she said, offers customers more choice for travel.

“The flights from the other carriers are all spread out during the day so customers wanting to go to New York can have an additional late afternoon flight option on Saturdays,” she noted.

Delta introduced the new and expanded service due to an increased demand for more connections between New York and tourist destinations in the Caribbean including Aruba, Bermuda, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

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smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

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

2012 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

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

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

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

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

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

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm
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A rare form of skin cancer can be easily misdiagnosed

(StatePoint) Medical misdiagnoses may be a lot more common than many patients realize. According to a household survey commissioned by the National Patient Safety Foundation, of people who reported experiencing a medical error, 40 percent said the error was a misdiagnosis.

Dermatologists may unknowingly be contributing to that statistic, as some skin ailments may exhibit symptoms similar to a rare form of lymphoma called cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, or CTCL.

CTCL is estimated to affect 16,000 to 20,000 people across the U.S. and approximately 2,500 to 3,000 new patients are diagnosed every year. It can cause visible skin symptoms as mild as a small rash or as severe as tumors, extensive redness, peeling, burning, soreness and itchiness all over the body.

The illness can be hard to detect and diagnose, as it shares the same symptoms as other more common skin diseases. The

HEALTH

scaly, itchy, red patches of CTCL are often mistaken by doctors as eczema or psoriasis. Many patients are misdiagnosed and treated unsuccessfully for other disorders before receiving a correct diagnosis. In fact, it takes an

“By the time patients are diagnosed with CTCL, they are often exhibiting visible and debilitating skin symptoms that impact daily activities that most of us take for granted,”

average of seven years for patients to receive a correct diagnosis.

“By the time patients are diagnosed with CTCL, they are often exhibiting visible and debilitating

skin symptoms that impact daily activities that most of us take for granted,” says Dr. Francine Foss of Yale University. “Fortunately, treatment options like extracorporeal photopheresis exist, which can be a helpful treatment option for these patients.”

First discovered in 1987, extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP) was the first regulatory approved treatment for CTCL. ECP therapy offers an effective alternative for patients unresponsive to other forms of treatment. Most CTCL treatments often suppress the immune system of these already-ill patients; they can also cause harsh side effects that contribute to the debilitating nature of these diseases.

By comparison, ECP therapy helps to restore the body’s natural ability to maintain a balanced immune system by regulating the activity of overactive immune cells, involving the intravenous collection of white blood cells that are then treated with ECP



and re-infused into the body. And patients may stay on the treatment for an extended period of time and have shown no increased risk of opportunistic infections, relapse, or development of secondary malignancies.

In the U.S., Therakos currently markets the only approved integrated systems for ECP, which can result in outcomes such as decreased itching and redness,

as well as noticeable or complete clearing of the skin. If you’re affected by CTCL, talk to your doctor about whether this treatment option may be right for you.

To read about the experiences of patients, caregivers and health care professionals impacted by CTCL and using ECP as a treatment method, visit www.lightninglives.com.

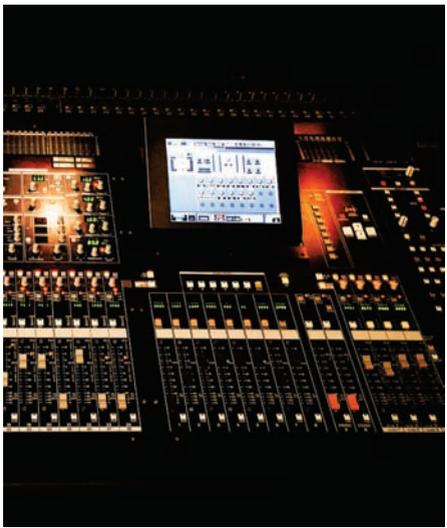
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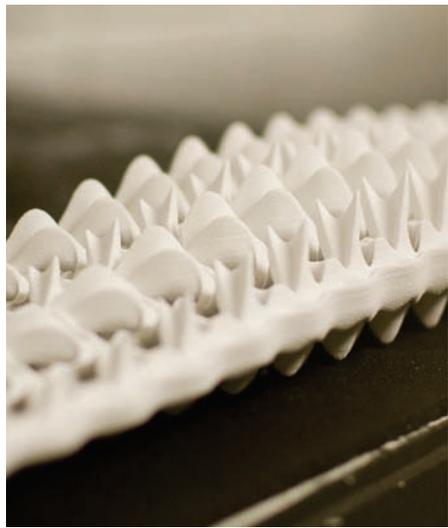
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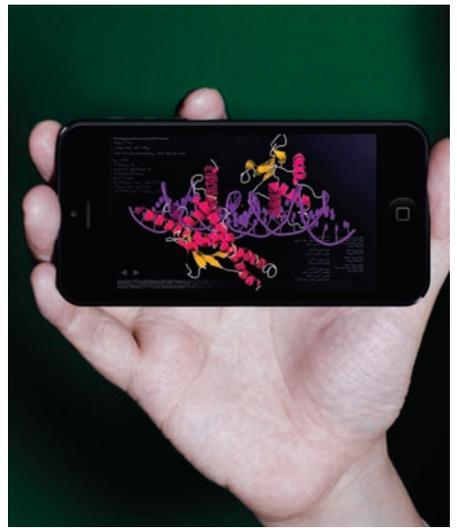
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 22

THE SNOW MAIDEN: Enjoy this magical Christmas tale in which a worthy young girl is transformed by Grandfather Frost (Russian Santa Claus) into the beautiful Snow Maiden. Traditional Russian songs, dances and elaborate costumes create a winter wonderland in this delightful children's extravaganza. Performed in Russian with English subtitles. Show starts 6:00 p.m.; recommended for ages six and up. Tickets: \$35-\$50

FEEDING HOMELESS: The Collective will host a Feed the Needy & Homeless event for our community. Food will be served and clothing and children's gifts will be distributed. This event will begin at 2:30 p.m. and be held in the Carroll Street Gym (1150 Carroll St.). For more information, please contact Akeem @718-270-4902; akeem827@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS CAROL: To celebrate the return of BMCC Tribeca PAC's operations after being impacted by Hurricane Sandy, "A Christmas Carol" is being presented. "A Christmas Carol" captures both the humorous and touching moments of the classic story with witty dialogue and fresh new songs, conveying Dickens' original message that the holiday season should be a "kind, forgiving, charitable time," a sentiment which still rings true today. For ages five & up. Admission is free, seating is limited and on a first come, first served basis. Box office opens 12:00 p.m. Call 212 - 220 - 1460 for more information. BMCC Tribeca PAC is located on 199 Chambers St., NYC.

KWANZAA CELEBRATION: The People of the Sun Middle Passage Collective will hold its annual Kwanzaa celebration. The Kwanzaa celebration will feature spoken word, song, and dance. Performances by: Shanto, Kow Teff, Imani Dance & Drum Ensemble, Wayne Russell, and a Fashion Show by Lama. There will be a special Tribute to Queen Mama Dr. Mary Umolu. Vendors will provide an array of items to purchase. The celebration will be held in the Carroll Street Gym (1150 Carroll Street) from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. For more information, please contact: Akeem @718-270-4902; akeem827@yahoo.com.

PRE KWANZAA CELEBRATION / AFRICAN MARKET: Join AYA, Inc. and Omo Obatala Egbe, Inc. for their Annual Pre Kwanzaa Celebration and African Market Place from 1:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The afternoon will be filled with games, face painting, storytelling, arts and crafts and free gifts for the children. Bring the family and enjoy the community Karamu (feast). All are welcome, come and enjoy the festivities at Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building 163 West 125 St., 2nd floor (Art Gallery) Manhattan, New York 10027. Admission: Free.

Friday, Dec. 28

HOLIDAYS AT THE APOLLO, KWANZAA



FINANCIAL COACHING: The NHS of East Flatbush is offering The Financial Capabilities and Coaching Program focusing on helping you reach your goals such as paying off bills, saving for a home, improving credit scores and more. For more information, call (718) 469-4679.



FOOD STAMP OUTREACH: Find out if you are eligible to receive Food Stamp benefits! A representative from the NYC Human Resources Administration will be available to assist you with eligibility pre-screening and to answer any questions every Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Community Board 12, 4101 White Plains Road at 229 St., Bronx. For more information, call (718) 881-4455.

CELEBRATION: Regeneration Night: The annual Kwanzaa celebration, featuring Abdel Salaam's force of Nature Dance Theatre, guest performances by Songhai Djeli and Flute Visions and Queen GodIs and members of the Harlem Children's Zone/Forces of Nature's Youth Academy. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$16; Groups (five or more):\$13. Tickets are available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212)531-5305, 235 West 125th street and Ticketmaster at 1(800)745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

Saturday, Dec. 29

KWANZAA: Afrikan Poetry Kwanzaa 2012:Umjamaa (Cooperative Economics), Springfield Gardens, High School, 143-10 Springfield Boulevard, Springfield Gardens, N.Y. (1 block off of North Conduit Avenue), Springfield Blvd. & N. Conduit. For information and vendor rental, call: 718-523-3312, www.afrikanpoetrytheatre.org.

Sunday, Dec. 30

MUSIC: Come out and enjoy Holiday Jazz Vespers featuring The Jimmy Heath Quintet from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 279 LaFayette Ave., Brooklyn.

TAI CHI: Stop. Breath. Relax. Join Tai Chi Easy, a wellness practice combining Tai-chi, Qigong, meditation and Chinese healing, taught by Daniel Weicher, certified teacher in Integral Qigong and Tai Chi, every Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Moore Street Market, 110 Moore St., entrance on Humbolt St., Brooklyn. Donations are appreciated. Call (914) 673-6016 for information.



OnGOING

HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW: All Aboard! Grand Central Terminal turns 100 in 2013! Our brand new Lionel layout features New York Central, Metro-North and the latest Grand Central Express trains racing North! Kids can join the Great Grand Central scavenger hunt! Meet the challenge weekdays 10:00 a.m. to noon. New York Transit Museum Gallery Annex and Store is located at Grand Central Terminal, Shuttle Passage, next to Station Master's Office Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission is free.

DONATIONS: St. Robert Bellarmine Church is joining efforts with the Dioceses of Trenton to bring relief to victims in the hardest hit areas. The church has organized a sorting sub station in the parish and will be delivering donations to various locations shortly. The church is seeking donations of cardboard shipping boxes for packing or rubbermaid bins for storage for victims. Donations are tax deductible and the church will provide you with a receipt upon request. Feel free to contact St. Robert

Bellarmino Church at any time Attn: SRB Hurricane Relief Effort, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728 or srbwelcome@gmail.com, Pam Stengel (732)580-0075, Linda Altini (917)578-4852. Phone: (732)462-7429 or Fax: (732)409-3496.

QUEENS SICKLE CELL: The Queens Sickle Cell Advocacy Network, 207-08 Hollis Ave., Queens Village, N.Y., presents a Parent to Parent Support Group meeting every first Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. For directions and registration, call (718)712-0873 or email Qscanorg@verizon.net.

FAIRWAY MARKET SHUTTLE: Fairway Market is now offering a free group shuttle bus to its Red Hook, Brooklyn store at 480-500 Van Brunt St., Mondays thru Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. For pick-up reservations for groups of 10 or more, within a five-mile radius of the store, call Viola Williams or Marcy Rosenblum at (347) 750-1251. There will also be pickups on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at 589 Prospect Ave., between 11 and 10 avenues. All seniors get a five percent discount in the store. Each group will have an hour and a half to shop and/or enjoy a bite to eat in the picturesque cafe by the waterfront.

FARMERS MARKET: Seeds in the Middle is sponsoring The Crown Heights Farmers Market offering fresh fruits and vegetables, including calaloo and Caribbean favorites and accepting EBT,WIC, Snap, FMNP, Health Bucks, and Fresh Connect. The market will be operating every Thursday from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton Metz Park at Albany and Lefferts avenues, Brooklyn. For more information, visit www.seedsinthemiddle.org.

COMPUTER TRAINING: Mount Carmel Worship and Outreach Center is holding adult and children computer training programs, 10:30 a.m 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Call (917)609-0909 for registration details.

REVERSE MORTGAGE COUNSELING: Are you a senior homeowner struggling to make ends meet? A reverse mortgage may be an answer. NHS can help determine if this is the best option for you. All programs discussed are backed by the federal government. For information, call (718)469-4679.

FORECLOSURE SERVICES: Are behind in your mortgage or seeking a modification? The Flatbush Development Vcorp, NHS of East Flatbush and the Center for N.Y.C. Neighborhoods are offering free services and assistance. Referrals for free legal assistance are also available. To schedule an appointment, call (718)469-4679.

HOME IMPROVEMENT: Did your roof collapse? Does your brolier need replacement? Do you need major repairs done but lack the finances? NHS of East Flatbush can assist you. For information on home improvement programs, call (718)469-4679.

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

Expect Success!

When you are involved and support the important work going on in the classroom, your child is more likely to succeed in school and in life. The Expect Success Family Guide can help you participate in your child's education. The Guide has information about school reforms, raising academic standards, course requirements and ways to help your child become college and career ready. For electronic copies, search NYC.gov for Expect Success or call 311.

Each month, look for a new insert with more information to help your child get the most out of the school year.

Does your school make the grade?

The NYC Progress Report

The New York City Progress Report awards schools grades based on student progress, performance, and attendance, as well as feedback from parents, students, and teachers.

For the first time this year, high school reports also include a section on college and career readiness. Parents can use the Progress Report to evaluate how well their child's school is preparing its students for success in high school, college, and careers.



Stay in touch with your child's school

ARIS Parent Link

Be sure to complete or update a blue card for every child attending a New York City public school. Schools rely on this important information to keep you informed about your child's progress, school closures, and to contact you in the event of an emergency. You may also want to keep your child's student identification number handy to log into ARIS Parent Link.

Apply to the Summer Arts Institute

The Summer Arts Institute is a tuition-free, four-week program for public school students entering grades 8 to 12 who want to immerse themselves in dance, theater, instrumental music, vocal music, film, photography, or the visual arts. The program provides students with a unique opportunity to train with Department of Education arts specialists as well as teaching artists from such cultural partners as American Ballet Theatre, Roundabout Theatre Company, Theatre for a New Audience, Tribeca Film Institute, and Young Audiences. To be eligible, your child must be at an intermediate or advanced level of study. The Institute is held at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School in Astoria, Queens. Applications for the summer 2013 session will be available online in January and are due February 8, 2013. Students who complete the program in good standing are eligible to receive a one-half unit of credit that may be applied towards an elective arts credit or a Regents or local diploma.

For more information and a short film on the program, search NYC.gov for Summer Arts.



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Mayor

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

NYC Parent Academy Workshops



This fall, the NYC Parent Academy was launched to help parents become more engaged in their child's education. This program

is dedicated to strengthening parent involvement to support student achievement in the City's 1,700 schools.

Attend the NYC Parent Academy's upcoming borough-wide workshops:

SAT., JAN. 12

9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

The Eagle Academy
for Young Men
4143 Third Avenue
Bronx, NY 10457

SAT., JAN. 26

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

P.S. 24
427 38th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11232

Breakfast is served at 8:30 a.m.

Parents in Schools:

Education Council Information Sessions

Parents are invited to attend the following upcoming events to find out how to make the most out of educational resources, and how to take part in district decisions by serving on an Education Council.

Who should attend?

Parents who want a voice in district and City policies affecting their children's schools.

Councils serve students:

- in grades 3-8 by district
- with special education needs
- in high school
- receiving special education services through District 75
- receiving English language learner services

THURS., JAN. 24

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Informational Session

Brooklyn Borough Hall
209 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Stay Connected

Is today a school holiday or snow day? When are parent-teacher conferences? When is the deadline to register for high school entrance exams? New York City public school families can now stay informed by receiving text messages in English or Spanish throughout the school year. Text "nycschools" or "escuela" to 877-877 to receive school-related information, including calendar updates, reminders and tips on how to access school resources. Standard text messaging rates may apply.



nycschools



nycschools

Text "nycschools" or "escuela" to 877-877 for alerts and info.

NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR:

MON., DEC. 24 - TUES., JAN. 1

Winter Recess
Schools Closed

2013

MON., JAN. 21

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Schools closed

MON., JAN. 28

Fall term ends for high school students.
No classes for high school students (Does not apply to District 75 high schools)

TUES., JAN. 29

Spring term begins for high school students

Are you Looking for Activities for the Winter Break?

The holiday break is the perfect time to take advantage of New York City's many free and low-cost cultural activities.

For a list of family-friendly events, visit NYC.gov and search for Winter Activities.

Braata blooms in Off-Broadway project

Despite misguided belief, there are no over-night successes and far fewer triumphs emerge on Broadway, theater's main highway to stardom.

Jamaica-born Andrew Clarke understands this concept when he founded the BRAATA Theatre Workshop — dedicated to presenting quality Caribbean productions.

After years of staging musically enchanting productions throughout the outer boroughs, Clarke recently took a giant step into Manhattan's theater district where fierce competition proliferates on nearly every corner.

It is rare that a Caribbean artistic director, playwright and actors manage to collaborate on Caribbean-focused productions this close to Broadway. However, their leap of faith fostered by the brilliant writing from Karl O'Brian Williams a stellar engagement manifested just blocks away from Times Square.

In some circles Williams is regarded as one of Jamaica's



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

best exports to the United States.

The actor and playwright, already acclaimed in his homeland for winning the equivalent of a Tony Award -- Actor Boy, the nation's highest accolades in theater -- for Best Jamaican plays in 2005 and 2006 Williams teamed with Clarke to take his consecutive winner "Not About Eve" to New York's proving ground.

With less than a month to showcase their prowess at the Roy Arias Stage, the winning duo invited three, dynamic thespians to illuminate the intricacies of the Caribbean, comedic drama.

While that may seem a daunting task, the acceptance of Actors Equity associated thespian Sharon Tshahi King to execute the matriarchal role proved a major

enhancement to the challenging prospect.

King made no mistake in accepting the role.

She invested in the intergenerational storyline to place herself at the center of a controversial domestic dilemma where she is Mama and eldest in the Shields household.

With daughter Katherine (portrayed by Ilana Warner from St. Kitts) and granddaughter Kimberley (Stacy Ann Brissett from Jamaica) the three live in constant disharmony.

Their address is somewhere in the capital city of Kingston where uptown businesswoman Katherine maintains a townhouse.

Needless to say, the upstairs garden terrace provides refuge to Mama Agatha who toils to recreate the Gar-



Sharon Tshahi King Katherine, Ilana Warner and Stacy Ann Brissett in "Not About Eve."
Photo by Marcia E Wilson

den of Eden she created while living in the rural countryside.

There with her husband Tom Rochester, she raised three children, Tony, Greg and Katherine. But her spouse died 15 years ago and the boys migrated to foreign North American countries to find their fortune.

At age 18, Katherine looked to Kingston to sow her seeds.

She left the parish with Glen, married, gave birth to Kimberley and on the seventh anniversary of Glen's death is hosting a media event that could change her profile in the public relations market. Although, inherit-

ance from his construction business cements a concrete status in the uptown community, Katherine would rather be accomplished for being an event coordinator and public relations expert. She juggles both professions to live the uptown lifestyle but find conflict at home with mother and child.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Prepare to meet OMI

OMI (Omar Samuel Pasley) of Clarendon, Jamaica, is an up and coming singer who is now in the process of producing his first CD.

The last of the four children of Kenroy and Rachel Pasley, OMI, while growing up, sang at every occasion that provided an audience – the church, school concerts or any other community gathering. Much to the delight of his onlookers, OMI would rise to the occasion once he got the opportunity.

OMI idolized his father and nurtured the desire to follow in his footsteps as a visual artist and musician. For him, this was no easy feat to accomplish, as his dad was not only outstanding at painting portraits, but also a great musician known in the industry as Jah Ken. However, before Jah Ken could pass-on all he knew about both vocations, he died of emphysema when OMI was nine years old. His dad's passing left a vacuum in his world and as young an



OMI.

he was, OMI pledged to use his talents to keep his family anchored together.

He attended the May Pen Primary School, before moving to the Garvey Maceo High School where he started to shine as a true performer among his friends. OMI was captivated by the beats and 'raw street poetry' that coloured the hip-hop music genre, so much so, that during class breaks, his peers would take turns providing hip-hop beats while he rapped. His friends were fascinated with the cutting edge lyrics he spit and voiced their approval

Continued on Page 26

Fascinating 3-D art work

By Tangerine Clarke

Artist Hye Rim Lee is a fascination designer. Her entire repertoire created in 3-D animation is mesmerizing. The Korean-New Zealander citizen is based in New York, but 3-D animation lovers all over the world have viewed her 200 eclectic shows that project images in motion.

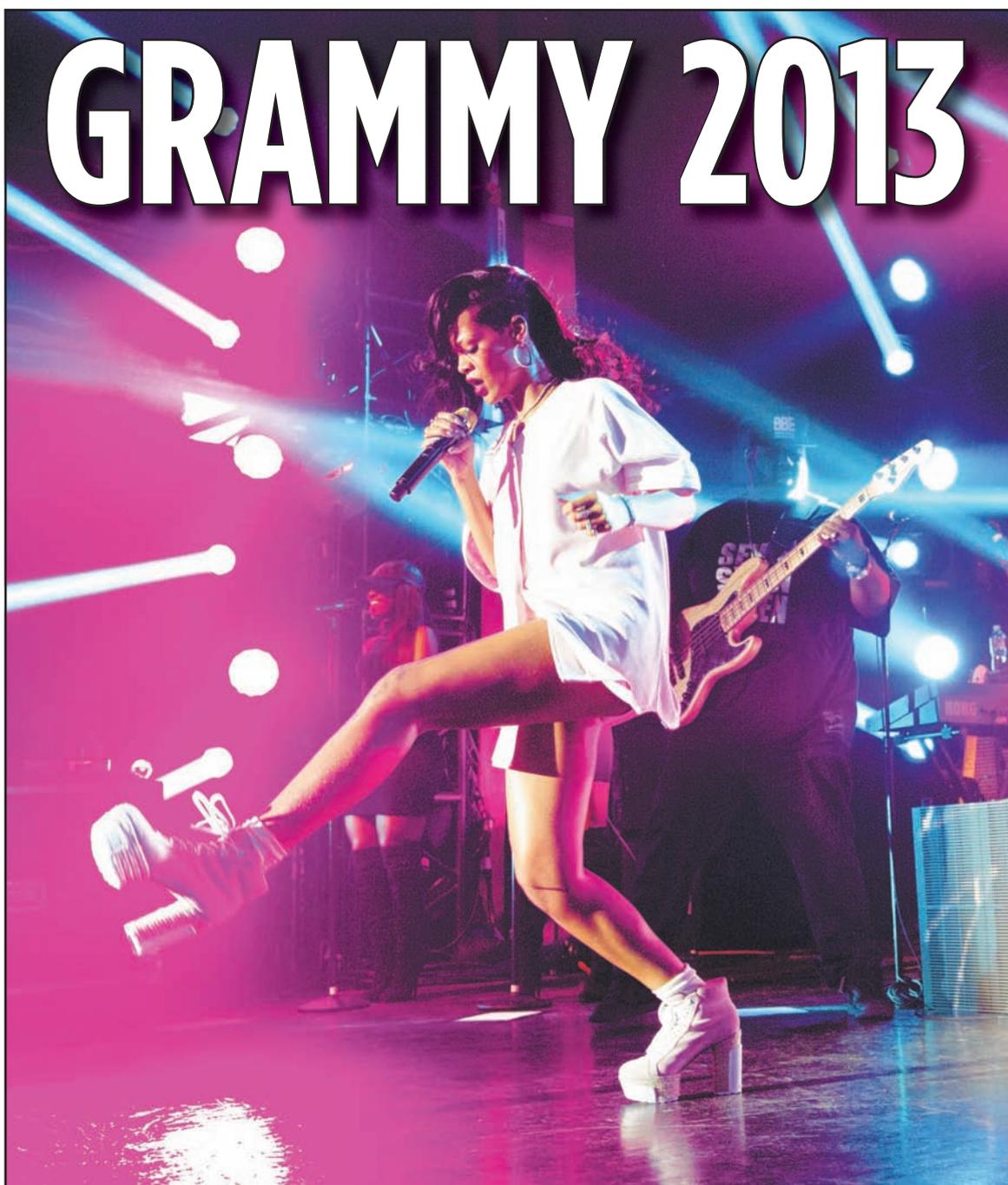
"I wanted to become a filmmaker, but I found myself adding animation to all of my projects, said Rim Lee who fell in love with the art form and moved into designing in 2D, before progressing to 3D format.

As one of the most viable career choices in the enter-

tainment industry working in film, TV series and video games, Hye Lee chose this new medium to bring fun and lifelike images to her works of art, that have captured the attention of her audiences everywhere.

The entertainer and photographer embraced the new medium because she wanted to be a part of the 'now technology'. She recently received rave reviews for her moving image that was projected onto a wall at the Waterfall Mansion Art gallery in New York City, during an eclectic art show by more than ten artists.

Hye Lee lives in a three-
Continued on Page 26



Rihanna performs on Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012 in New York.

Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/AP

Several Caribbean artists nominated

By Vinette K. Pryce

Several Caribbean talents – representing Jamaica and Barbados – were nominated for the 55th Annual Grammy Awards slated to be held next year in California.

Nominated in three categories – reggae, producer (non-classical)

and best compilation soundtrack for visual media – the music industry's highest honor is guaranteed in at least one category when winners are announced on Feb. 10, 2013.

The Best Reggae Album category pits an all-male field of five contenders for the sure-win gramophone to

a Caribbean talent. Except for the Wailers, finalists in the all-Jamaican roster of the Best Reggae Album category have each previously won the coveted music industry honor.

This year's finalists include: "Miracle" by the Original Wailers; "Tom-

Continued on Page 26

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Diamonds**
Rihanna
- 2 **Locked Out Of Heaven**
Bruno Mars
- 3 **Die Young**
Ke\$ha
- 4 **One More Night**
Maroon 5
- 5 **Let Me Love You**
Ne-Yo
- 6 **Ho Hey**
The Lumineers
- 7 **I Cry**
Flo Rida
- 8 **Some Nights**
Fun.
- 9 **Adorn**
Miguel
- 10 **Home**
Phillip Phillips

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **O.N.I.F.C.**
Wiz Khalifa
- 2 **Warrior**
Ke\$ha
- 3 **Christmas**
Michael Buble
- 4 **Here's To The Good Times**
Florida Georgia Line
- 5 **Red**
Taylor Swift
- 6 **Unapologetic**
Rihanna
- 7 **The Lumineers**
The Lumineers
- 8 **The World From The Side Of**
Phillip Phillips
- 9 **Girl On Fire**
Alicia Keys
- 10 **Babel**
Mumford & Sons

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GRAMMY 2013

Continued from page 25

ahawk Technique" by Sean Paul; "New Legend: Jamaica 50th Edition" by Sly and Robbie & the Jam Masters; "Rebirth" by Jimmy Cliff and "Reggae Got Soul: Unplugged On Strawberry Hill" by Toots and the Maytals.

"I am very happy that the Grammy committee has included this album for consideration along with the others nominated. I have great respect for the artistes in this category," Toots said.

Toots who was nominated five times in the same category won the golden miniature in 2005.

The veteran entertainer celebrated his 70th birthday here in New York last week and expressed pride in being acknowledged for recording his first-ever acoustic album.

The album features many of his classic hits.

Toots & the Maytals' acoustic

release feature classic renditions of "Sweet and Dandy," "Monkey Man," "Time Tough," "Bam Bam," "54-46," "Pressure Drop" and "Do the Reggae."

Cliff's critically acclaimed "Rebirth" is among the five nominees in the category. He previously won in 1986. Sean Paul took home his win in 2004; Sly & Robbie in 1999.

Reggae legends Bob Marley & the Wailers were named in the Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media category which compiles classic music from the movie "Marley."

Barbados' native Salaam Remi is the stand-out talent contending the Best Producer (non classical) Grammy.

Also rooted from the island of Barbados, Rihanna copped a total of three nominations in the best pop; best rap-sung collaboration and best short form music video



Toots & the Maytals perform at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in New Orleans.
AP Photo/Burt Steel

categories.

Last year Trinidad & Tobago's Nicky Minaj garnered three Grammy nominations. However, this

year her name was absent from the list of potential winners.

The ceremony is slated for the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Prepare to meet OMI

Continued from page 25

by drumming on the desks and chairs, while maintaining the rhythm to the lyrics he spun. It was at that moment OMI realized he could effortlessly create catchy melodies. As he grew older and his voice became more distinct, he found singing more to his liking. He enjoyed the latitude it gave him in putting more "soul" and creativity into his compositions.

OMI is the newest young discovery of international talent wizard, Clifton "Specialist" Dillon, who successfully produced and marketed such luminaries as Shabba Ranks, Patra and Italian reggae singer Alborosie. Discovered by Specialist three years ago, OMI is a prolific singer and songwriter inspired by music stars such as Nat King Cole, John Legend and Tanya Stephens. He enjoys reasoning on social, cultural and spiritual issues, from

which he elicits material to incorporate into the body of his songs. The timbre of his voice is smooth, bright and compelling. OMI's fluid vocal delivery and his contemporary songwriting skills will no doubt secure successive hits on both local and international charts.

OMI is being groomed in all aspects of the music business under the direction of Kingston, Jamaica-based Oufah Media & Production, spearheaded by Specialist, who is also producing his CD. He is currently in the studio laying tracks for his not-yet-titled debut album, of his self-penned songs, for which the intro singles "Standing On All Threes" and "Cheerleader" will be released shortly. Already on the scene is his "Fireworks" song, teasing music fans on YouTube. You are now officially forewarned: Prepare thyself to meet OMI!

3D Art

Continued from page 25

dimension world showcasing her work at lifestyle shows, fairs and art shows around the world. She is presently in New Zealand conducting master classes, and will return to New York for an upcoming show in the New Year.

To view Hye Lee's enchanting show, go to her website www.kukigallery.com or www.starkwhite.co.nz



Artist Hye Rim Lee with one of her 3-D designs.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Jamaica books Pop, R&B for 2013 Jazz & Blues Fest

By Vinette K. Pryce

The biggest names to perform at the next Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival will be three American artists whose reputation and repertoire represent rhythm & blues and pop music.

Reportedly, Mary J. Blige, John Legend and Michael Bolton will headline the 17th annual festival set for Trelawny from Jan. 24 to Jan. 26.

"It's a pleasure to have Mary, who is a powerhouse, along with John and Michael," Walter Elmore, the festival organizer said.

"We know Jamaicans love their music and we are working to create a package they will thoroughly enjoy."

"We have a tradition of a great entertainment experience at the Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival," he added, "and this year, we will return aspects of the experience favored by our patrons and add some new elements."

One of those will be the return engagement of Third World, the island's popular, super-reggae group.

Now celebrating 40 years in the music industry, the band's milestone anniversary is distinguished by the successful, global journey the group has enjoyed since it formed in Kingston.

Another home-grown reggae favorite -- Rootz Underground will also return to the venue that spawned their success.

Allegedly, it was during this annual festival that the popular, local band discovered wide acclaim with audiences.

Their initial appearance launched on a separate stage devoted to local talents has since made them bankable and a reliable crowd-pleasing act.

Although billed a jazz festival, the annual gathering has traditionally promoted foreign r&b and pop names to headline the Caribbean event.

Throughout the years, jazz and blues have taken a back-seat to commercial names outside the genre which include: Diana Ross, Smokey Robinson, Celine Dion, Kenny Rogers, Lionel Richie, Chaka Khan, Michael Bolton, Maroon Five, The O'Jays, Chicago, Air Supply, Alicia Keys and Billy Ocean.

Elmore added that in addition to other alluring aspects, an interactive and engaging digital lounge will be the new addition to the north coast venue.

He said the new attraction to the Caribbean festival will provide "an integration of our social-media space."

Landmark court decision on interracial marriage

By Kam Williams

Soon after Mildred Jeter and Richard Loving tied the knot in Washington, DC on June 2, 1958, they decided to move back to their tiny hometown of Central Point, Virginia to settle down and start a family. The groom, a bricklayer by trade, even purchased a plot of land where he promised to build his bride a house.

However, Virginia was one of 24 states where interracial marriage was still illegal because of racist laws designed to rob minorities of their dignity and to keep them in a lower social and economic status. Since Richard was white and Mildred was a mix of black and Native-American, it was just a matter of time before the local sheriff would catch wind of their illicit liaison and crack down on the felons like a ton of bricks.

And in the middle of the night, he and a posse broke down the door, dragging the newlyweds off to jail while threatening to rape Mildred. Given that this was Virginia during the disgraceful days of Jim Crow, the Lovings were, of course, ultimately found guilty and each given a one-year sen-

tence for the crime of marrying across the color line.

As their appeal dragged on, Mildred wrote to then Attorney General Bobby Kennedy for help avoiding incarceration. He declined, but suggested she approach the American Civil Liberties Union, which did decide to take the case.

"Just tell the Supreme Court I love my wife," Richard directed the ACLU attorneys as they prepared to argue before Chief Justice Warren and his associates. In the historic *Loving v. Virginia* decision handed down on June 12, 1967, the Lovings' convictions were overturned and their union finally garnered the blessing and government protection that had so eluded them for almost a decade.

All of the above is recounted in heartbreaking fashion in "The Loving Story," a combination biopic and courtroom drama directed by Nancy Buirski. What makes the film so touching are the reams of archival footage of the unfortunate couple at the center of the controversy.

For the lovebirds are so young and so innocent, it's hard to fathom why anyone would even seek to separate let alone imprison them.



Richard and Mildred Loving with their family.

Photo by Grey Willet

A moving, must-see documentary about the Lovings' belated vindication and the elimination of one

of the last vestiges of segregation. Could it be more fitting that the litigants in the landmark case

eradicating the crime of loving a person of a different color would be named Loving!

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Independent & Foreign Films



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

American Empire (Unrated) Eco-documentary indicting the U.S. and the capitalist system for destroying the planet's natural resources in the name of civilization and progress. Featuring commentary by John Robbins, Tariq Ali and economic hit man John Perkins.

Amour (PG-13 for mature themes and brief profanity) Romance drama, set in Paris, about a retired music teacher's (Jean-Louis Trintignant) desperate attempt to keep his word to his bed-ridden wife of 60 years (Emmanuelle Riva) never to move her to a nursing home. With Isabelle Huppert, Alexandre Tharaud and William Shimmell. (In French and English with subtitles)

Barbara (PG-13 for sexuality, mature themes and smoking) Nina Hoss handles the title role in this character-driven drama, set in East Germany in the Eighties, about a physician banished to a tiny hospital on the Baltic Sea after trying to get transferred to the western side of the Berlin Wall. Support cast includes Rainer Bock, Christina Hecke and Ronald Zehrfeld. (In German with subtitles)

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3-D (Unrated) Romantic fantasy about an attractive young woman (Erica Linz) who falls in love at first sight with a handsome trapeze artist (Igor Zaripov) performing in the circus. With Dallas Barnett, John Clarke and Matt Gillanders.

The Impossible (PG-13 for brief nudity, disturbing images and intense disaster sequences) Fact-based drama, set in Thailand, recounting a

family's real-life struggle for survival after a tsunami hits the oceanfront resort where they're vacationing. Starring Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor and Geraldine Chaplin. (In English and Thai with subtitles)

Not Fade Away (R for sexual, drug use and pervasive profanity) Rock and roll saga, set in the Sixties, about garage band from suburban Jersey's attempt to make it big. Ensemble includes James Gandolfini, Brad Garrett, Isaiah Whitlock, Jr., John Magaro, Jack Huston, Will Brill and Christopher McDonald.

On the Road (R for drug use, profanity and graphic sexuality) Screen adaptation of Kerouac Beat Generation classic about an aspiring writer (Sam Riley) who undergoes a transformation while embarking on a cross-country road trip with a couple of free-spirited hedonists (Garrett Hedlund and Kristen Stewart). With Amy Adams, Kirsten Dunst, Viggo Mortensen, Terrence Howard, Alice Braga and Steve Buscemi.

Tears of Gaza (Unrated) Pacifist documentary examining the fallout of modern warfare as visited upon women and children subsisting in bombed out homes without roofs or walls, and basic like food, water and electricity. (In Arabic and English with subtitles)

Zero Dark Thirty (R for

profanity, disturbing images and graphic violence) War on Terror docudrama, directed by Oscar-winner Kathryn Bigelow (for The Hurt Locker), chronicling the efforts of the CIA Agent (Jessica Chastain) spearheading the decade-long hunt for Osama bin Laden (Ricky Sekhon) culminating in his death during a daring, nighttime assault on his compound in Pakistan. With Jason Clarke, Jennifer Ehle, Kyle Chandler, Jeremy Strong and Harold Perrineau.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

The Guilt Trip (PG-13 for violence, profanity and drug use) Dysfunctional family comedy about a scientist (Seth Rogen) who, against his better judgment, invites his overbearing mother (Barbara Streisand) to tag along on a cross-country journey in search of a distributor for his new invention. With Ari Graynor, Kathy Najimy, Colin Hanks, Nora Dunn and Casey Wilson.

Jack Reacher (PG-13 for violence, profanity and drug use) Tom Cruise stars as the title character of this adaptation of "One Shot," the Lee Child suspense thriller about a military veteran-turned-drifter enlisted by a suspected serial killer's (Joseph Sikora) defense attorney (Rosamund Pike) to help clear her client's name. With Robert Duvall, Richard Jenkins and David Oyelowo.

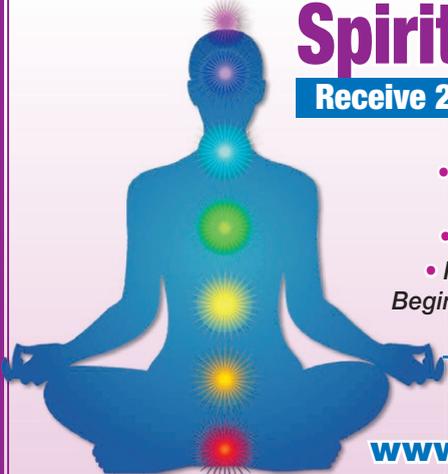


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SPORTS

Atkinson's move pays dividends

By Robert Elkin

Sean Atkinson would like to go out with some outstanding performances, maybe even, some, record breaking ones, during this winter's track and field season at Fordham University.

"I expect big things this year," Atkinson recently said. "And maybe I'll get to the Nationals (NCAA Division I track meet at the end of the season) in the 400 meters."

He got the indoor season off to a decent performance in the 800-meter run at the indoor facilities of Fordham's University Rose Hall Campus in the Bronx.

Before the race started, Head Coach Tom Dewey told his student athlete to go out and stay with the pack and make a move when he felt it was necessary. Atkinson made it at the right time to get the victory and start the season off in the right direction.

In a field of 17 college athletes, including his teammate John Blake, who finished in 14th place, Atkinson crossed the finish line in hand time of 1:58.7 to help start his sen-

Continued on Page 30

Narine moves up in ICC rankings

By Azad Ali

West Indies off-spinner Sunil Narine has moved up eight places to third in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) bowler's rankings released recently.

This comes following West Indies 3-2 series loss to Bangladesh in the five-match One-Day International series which ended earlier this month in Dhaka.

Narine's movement was driven by his successes in the series where he picked up nine wickets at an average of 21.55.

The right-arm bowler took 3 wickets for 38 runs in the final ODI, which the West Indies lost by two wickets in a thrilling finish at the Shere Bangla National Stadium.

Talismanic opener Chris Gayle suffered

Continued on Page 30



L.A. Galaxy midfielder Juninho, left, of Brazil, goes up for the ball against New York Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry, of France, in an MLS soccer game in Harrison, N.J.
AP Photo/Julio Cortez, file

Brazilian player expected to boost Red Bulls' fortune

By Patrick Horne

The New York Red Bulls announced Monday that the club signed former Brazilian World Cup star Juninho for his Brazilian club Vasco da Gama. Juninho previously played for Qatari club Al-Gharafa, where he won player of the year honor as

the team won the league title.

He was also a member of French League One club Olympique Lyonnais from 2001-2009, where he led the team to seven consecutive league titles. The Brazilian played for Houllier from 2005-07 at the club and won the League One

Player of the Year under Houllier. Juninho, member of Brazil's 2006 World Cup squad, played 47 times for Brazil and scored seven goals.

"Juninho is a world class player who our Global Sporting Director, Gerard

Continued on Page 30

RED BULLS SIGN JUNINHO

Continued from page 29

Houllier, and I have known and admired for many years," said Red Bulls Sporting Director Andy Roxburgh. "Aside from being a top dead ball specialist and a tremendous talent, Juninho is a fantastic professional both on and off the field. He is in great physical shape and we think he can make a positive impact for us in 2013."

Cuba wins first Caribbean title

On Sunday at the Antigua Recreation Ground, the Caribbean crowned a new champion when Cuba defeated Trinidad and Tobago, 1-0, to win its first Caribbean Cup title. The Cup had eluded Cuba, the first Caribbean team to play in a World Cup finals (1938), the past 23 years. The game was a rematch of the 1999 Cup final when host Trinidad and Tobago won, 2-1.

Cuba's win revealed the much improved standard of play in the Caribbean game and the parity that has developed in recent years. Gone are the days when the Caribbean Cup tournament was a shoo-in for top dogs Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica. There was a time when either of those teams would stroll through the tournament and take home the Cup. The two countries have won 13 of the 18 Caribbean Cup tournaments played in the past 23 years; Trinidad and Tobago is an eight-time Caribbean champion, with its last title won in 2001, while Jamaica has copped five titles, three in the past four years, its last in 2011.



Marcel Hernandez of Cuba during a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

AP Photo/Brandon Wade, file

The improved standard among the other Caribbean teams is reflected in the upsets that we saw in Antigua and Barbuda the past week. Defending champion Jamaica, still in the hunt for a second World Cup finals appearance after its historic first in 1998, finished last

in Group B. The Reggae Boyz, - the only Caribbean team in the CONCACAF final qualifying round for the 2014 World Cup, with games coming up in February - suffered two defeats, to French Guyana (2-1) and Cuba (1-0), and played to a goalless draw with Martinique on

the way to a fast exit. Jamaica scored one goal in the three group matches.

Host Antigua and Barbuda, which made history recently with an impressive run in the 2014 World Cup qualifying in CONCACAF when it reached the semi-final round, was knocked out of the tournament early. The Wadadli Boys managed only a win, against Trinidad and Tobago (2-0), against two defeats, to Dominican Republic (2-1) and Haiti (1-0). Both Jamaica and Antigua and Barbuda, which had high hopes to play in the prestigious CONCACAF Gold Cup next summer in the U.S. will watch from the stands. The re-emergence of French Guyana was a welcomed story as this team reached the final stage after a long absence from the tournament.

The final was a very testy game. Both teams started cautiously with each getting their chances, although few, at scoring. The first half ended goalless, which reflected the tense and cautious nature of the game. In the second half, Cuba took the initiative and it seemed to pay off when speedy forward Marcel Hernandez got behind the Trinidad and Tobago defense and was in one-on-one versus the Trinidad Soca Warriors goalkeeper Jan-Michael Williams, who had no choice but to foul the Cuban. The Soca Warriors were given a life-line in the 61st minute when Cuban midfielder Jaime Valencia's resulting kick from the penalty spot sailed over the crossbar.

Off-spinner Narine ranks higher

Continued from page 30

contrasting fortunes, dropping eight spots to 30th in the batting rankings.

Gayle, had a disappointing series with just 72 runs from five innings to lose ground in the standings.

The Jamaican left-hander, who had a bumper series against New Zealand in the summer, had a high score of 35 in the opening game that Bangladesh won by seven wickets in Khulna.

There was no such misfortune for Darren Bravo who jumped 13 places to 50th after a consistent outing in the series that yielded 161 runs at an average of 32.

Fast bowler Kemar Roach also saw progress in the rankings, returning to the top 20 at 18th moving up five places. He had a five-wicket haul in the fourth match. Captain Darren Sammy, who took six wickets at 26 runs apiece with his medium pace, also moved up six places to 35th in the rankings.

However, all-rounder Andre Russell and opener Lendl Simmons both suffered in the rankings as a result of their poor form in the series.

Russell, with nine runs from three innings including two ducks, fell 10 places to 46th, while Simmons, slipped four places to 44th after scoring just 22 runs in the first two ODIs.



Sunil Narine.i

AP Photo/Tom Hevez

Atkinson's move pays dividends

Continued from page 29

ior indoor season off to what he hopes to be some top times and personal best performances.

"Running here has been great," said Atkinson. "I'm happy that I came to this college. It's one of the best places to be at. I'm running with a great group of guys. All my coaches helped me here."

In fact, Dewey knew of Atkinson even before he came to Fordham. Dewey was an English teacher at Nazareth High School and Atkinson was a high school runner at the East Flatbush based Catholic school.

"I attended Nazareth because it was a good school," the middle distance runner recalled. "Dewey (at the time) told me to check out Fordham."

Sean only holds one indoor record - the 500-meter run at Fordham. And it was a 1:03.06 performance.

"When I came to Fordham, Dewey and his coaching staff helped me to stay healthy get my mind right," he said.

And talking about winning performances, he said that he doesn't have enough wins at Fordham.

"The greatest moment I had

here was in the Conference meet two years ago when I took second place in the 400 hurdles when I ran it in 53:18 in Charlotte and when I ran the first leg in the 4 x 400-meter relay."

Sean Atkinson is the son of Colin Atkinson, who originally came from Jamaica, West Indies where Colin never played in any sports during his school days.

After Sean graduates from Fordham this June, he may stay at the college and run and train with the coaches. He mentioned about running the 400 hurdles.

Meantime, he is continuing to put in a lot of hard work

and training to do well in the upcoming meets. He puts in time in the weight room as well as on the track, and of course, he studies hard to keep up with his academics.

The Rams' next meet is on Jan. 5 at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

In the 1000-meter run of the Fordham season opener, three Fordham athletes placed among the top five finishers with Lester Taylor winning the race in a hand time of 2:35.7. Dan Green ran a 2:37.9 and Kyle Clonon ran a 2:40 for third and fourth, places, respectively.

Trinidad & Tobago super-strong for Caribbean T20



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

Trinidad and Tobago has a very strong squad on paper for the Caribbean Twenty20, which includes eight players who represented the West Indies. The Trinidad/Tobago squad is as follows:

Denesh Ramdin [captain], Darren Bravo [vice captain], Samuel Badree, Dwayne Bravo, Keon Cooper, Shannon Gabriel, Jason Mohammed, Sunil Narine, Yannick Ottley, Evin Lewis, William Perkins, Kieron Pollard, Ravira Mpaal and Lendl Simmons.

It is to be noted that Dwayne Bravo, Darren Bravo, Denesh Ramdin, Kieron Pollard, Sunil Narine, Samuel Badree, Lendl Simmons and Ravi Ram Paul have all represented the West Indies at the highest level. The squad has a strong batting and bowling

side with experienced players who are very competitive, especially in the Twenty20 cricket game.

Sarwan, Chanderpaul, Permaul and Deo Narine in Guyana Squad

Guyana's squad for the Caribbean Twenty20 is as follows: Veera Sammy Permaul [captain], Christopher Barnwell [vice captain], Ronsford Beaton, DeVendra Bishoo, Shivnarine ChanderPaul, Derwin Christian, Royston Crandon, Narsingh Deonarine, Jonathan Foo, Trevon Griffith, Steven Jacobs, Leon Johnson, Rajiv Ivan and Ramneresh Sarwan.

Jamaica Squad

Jamar Lambert [captain], David Bernard Jr. [vice cap-

tain], Nkrumah Bonner, Odean Brown, John Campbell, Sheldon Cotterell, Yannick Elliot, Danza Hyatt, Andre McCarthy, Jamie Merchant, Nikita Miller, Andre Russell, Krishmar Santokie and Aldane Thomas.

Leewards Squad

Sylvester Joseph [captain], Kieron Powell [vice president], Justin Athanze, Shive Burton, Rahkeem Cornwall, Jahmar Hamilton, Chesney Hughes, Javia Liburd, Anthony Martin, Lyndel Richardson, Garvin Jonge, Devon Thomas, Kelbert Walters and Jonito Willett.

Barbados Squad

Sulieaman Benn, Jino Best, Carlos Brathwaite, Justin Brathwaite, Shamar Brooks, Jonathan Carter, Rolston Chase, Shane Dowrich, Fidel Edwards, Ryan Hinds, Kyle Mayers, Ashley Nurse, Javon Scantlebury-Searles Dwayne Smith. However, the captain has yet to be identified.



West Indies' Denesh Ramdin bats during the fourth day of the second cricket test match between Bangladesh and West Indies in Khulna, Bangladesh, Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012.

AP Photo/A.M. Ahad

Windward Islands Squad

Darren Sammy [captain], Miles Bascombe, Tade Carmichael, Johnson Charles, Andre Fletcher, Lyndon James, Delorn Johnson, Keddy LesPoris, Garey Mathurin, Kenroy Peters,

Nelon Pascal, Liam Sebastian, Shane Shillingford and Devon Smith.

ODI/Twenty20 Captain

West Indies allrounder Marlon Samuels should be appointed captain of the One-Day Internationals and Twenty20 match-

es for the West Indies. Samuels is a remarkable player who has repeatedly demonstrated his heroics. Appointing Samuels captain of these two categories of the game will do the West Indies very well. This will give captain Darren Sammy the opportunity to concentrate on Test matches.



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THEME: 2012 IN REVIEW

ACROSS

- 1. Come from an egg
- 6. Bad-mouth
- 9. Cargo
- 13. Gem state
- 14. Make a choice
- 15. Move sideways
- 16. Chocolate substitute
- 17. Wade's opponent
- 18. "The _____" moved to Chicago from NYC
- 19. *GOP's 2012 choice
- 21. *Deceased singing legend
- 23. Pock mark disease
- 24. Boris Godunov, e.g.
- 25. Chicken order
- 28. Vegetative prickly
- 30. Speed of play, pl.
- 35. Like decorated cake
- 37. Luau souvenirs
- 39. Third rock from the sun
- 40. Laughing on the inside, in a cha-troom
- 41. Small drum
- 43. Memorization method
- 44. Full of pep
- 46. Russian parliament
- 47. Farmer's purchase
- 48. Auteur's art

- 50. Peacock's pride
- 52. *Ann to Mitt
- 53. "Anything ____?"
- 55. Excessively
- 57. *PSY's style
- 61. Bronx Bomber
- 64. Whippet or Basset, e.g.
- 65. Bard's before
- 67. Lifeboat support
- 69. Elephant trainer's goad
- 70. Summer mo.
- 71. "Lohengrin," e.g.
- 72. In a golfer's pocket
- 73. Registration, for short
- 74. One born to Japanese immigrants

Down

- 1. Wino's sound?
- 2. Month of Purim
- 3. Tropical tuber
- 4. Bite
- 5. Rub elbows
- 6. Nemo's forgetful friend
- 7. *Facebook's big move
- 8. Seethes
- 9. Dryer fire hazard
- 10. Scandinavian war god
- 11. Burn soother
- 12. Refuse to accept
- 15. Evening party
- 20. Jump for joy

- 22. Pillbox or tricorne, e.g.
- 24. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, e.g.
- 25. Whitman's dooryard bloomer
- 26. A threat to food safety
- 27. "____ on the ground floor"
- 29. Part of ROM
- 31. "Curiosity" landing site
- 32. Preface
- 33. Weasel's aquatic cousin
- 34. Outbuildings
- 36. *Felix Baumgartner's space ____
- 38. "Brave New World" drug
- 42. Indian side dish of yogurt and cucumbers
- 45. Corrects or edits
- 49. Chicken ____ king
- 51. *Where many struck gold
- 54. ____ campaign
- 56. Giraffe-like African animal
- 57. Steps to the river
- 58. First rate
- 59. Heat in a microwave
- 60. African migrators
- 61. Safecracker
- 62. December 24 and 31, e.g.
- 63. Michael Collins's country
- 66. Parisian way
- 68. Chi precursor

CROSSWORD

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