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Gwoka gets UN status

Raymonde Pater-Torin's Kamodjaka dance company, performing at the 2014 Gwoka festival in Guadeloupe. **See story on page 25.**

Photo by William Farrington

CARIB TOURISM THREAT

Destination Cuba creates buzz

By Bert Wilkinson

A relaxed looking Barack Obama earlier this month detailed plans to move towards normalizing decades of thawed relations with hemispheric pariah, Cuba, irking many in the rival GOP Republican camp as well as the anti-Cuban, anti-Castro types in South Florida who had long opposed any improvement in ties with the Caribbean island.

But once the dust settled, the attention of leading players in the Caribbean tourism industry immediately turned to the possible impact of the island on the regional tourism and whether or not the sheer novelty of an open Cuba's would devastate the regional product sun, sand and

sea product the region has been offering for decades.

By the time Obama had finished outlining plans to the country after 18 months of astonishingly secret talks, academics from around the world had started to unveil a plethora of studies that had mostly predicted not so good news for countries which are members of the Barbados-based Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

The Miami Herald which has sometimes been criticized for its hawkish stance towards things Cuban, for example, quoted from a 2011 study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) called "The Vacation is Over" noting the open-

Continued on Page 6

Americans favor lifting embargo

By Nelson A. King

A raft of new polls taken in the wake of the announcement by President Barack Obama to normalize relations with Cuba shows that more Americans want the half-century-old economic and trade embargo against the Spanish-speaking Caribbean country lifted.

The polls — conducted for The Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald and the Tampa Bay Times by CNN/ORC International, Langer Research/ABC-Washington Post, Reuters/Ipsos, and CBS and Bendixen & Amandi International — show that Cuban exile hardliners and Republicans are in

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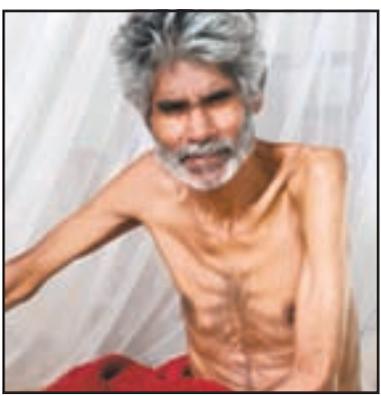
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In this Dec. 24, 2014 photo, Wayne Kublalsingh poses for a portrait at his home during his hunger strike in D'Abadie, Trinidad and Tobago.

Associated Press / Tony Fraser

Hunger strike surpasses 100 days

By Tony Fraser

D'ABADIE, Trinidad (AP) — A prominent environmental activist in Trinidad who claims to have passed the 100-day mark of a hunger strike said he will reject medical intervention and keep protesting a highway project he says could hurt wetlands and remote villages.

Wayne Kublalsingh, 55, told The Associated Press in an interview this week he will suspend the strike only if the government lets independent mediators assess the project. He declined government offers for dialogue, saying community leaders have met repeatedly with officials without results.

"All we have gotten from them is malingering, procrastination, a high degree of insincerity," said Kublalsingh, his gaunt frame buried in the soft cushion of his small bed, closing his eyes through most of the interview.

Works and Infrastructure Minister Surujrattan Rambachan told the AP Saturday that development company representatives are prepared to meet with Kublalsingh and other protesters in January.

"We continue to build the highway to allow people to be able to get to their destinations quickly and for their own economic and social purposes," said Rambachan. He said the government is concerned about Kublalsingh's health.

"It's up to those around Dr. Kublalsingh to urge him to end the fast and save his life," he said.

The former university professor went on strike on Sept. 17 and is down to 88 pounds (40 kilograms) from 133 pounds (60 kilograms). He wants the government to reroute a nine-mile (14-kilometer) portion of the Port Fortin highway extension project in southern Trinidad to avoid cutting through 13 communities and part of the Oropouche Lagoon.

Mighty Sparrow — Person of the Year

By Vinette K. Pryce

The man whose reputation established Grand Roy, Grenada as a Caribbean place of interest was recently voted Person of the Year by Caribbean nationals who agree the Mighty Sparrow should wear the 2014 title. According to Everybody's Magazine publisher Herman Hall, voters of his publication named 79-year-old Francisco Slinger the most worthy individual to receive the 2014 honor.

Initiated since 1977, the annual gesture heralds an individual who has excelled in a career field or has made an impact on the Caribbean community. Criteria to decide worthy individuals included most importantly that the person must be of Caribbean background -- born or residing in the Caribbean, born or living in the Caribbean Diaspora which includes the United Kingdom, Canada, the USA and other regions.

In order to fully qualify, eligible candidates had to also fulfill these requirements:

(1) The person's actions should make a positive regional impact and/or impact the Diaspora.

(2) The individual's achievement should be based on success during 2014 or based on accomplishments throughout the years.

"This year, we asked readers and our social media friends" to participate in deciding the most suited individual. The response was overwhelming," Hall said.

Votes flooded in via email messages from Toronto, Canada, London,



The Mighty Sparrow performing at Everybody's magazine's Pre-Mother's Day Concert at Brooklyn College this year. Photo by Hayden Roger Celestine

England, Jamaica, Guyana and cities throughout America.

Although there were a record number of suggestions including Tiffany Ford, of Saint Lucian-Grenadian heritage who was elected into municipal government in Toronto; Rodneyse Bichotte, the first Haitian-American elected to the New York State Assem-

bly; Barbados Leader of the Opposition Mia Ottley; the 2008 and 2014 Formula One Grand Prix World Champion Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain who is of Grenadian heritage; outgoing U.S. Attorney-General Eric Holder who is of Barbadian heritage; and Antigua/Barbuda's newly elected Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Jamaican jailed for falsely obtaining US passport

By Nelson A. King

The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency says a Jamaican national has been jailed for eight months for fraudulently obtaining a U.S. passport.

CBP said Wayne Christopher Morgan, 42, was also sentenced to three years of supervised release and a US\$100 special assessment in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for "obtaining a U.S. passport through fraudulent statements."

U.S. federal authorities initially arrested Morgan at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) on June 6 after U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers discovered that Morgan made false statements and assumed the identity of a Florida man in his application for a U.S. passport.

Special agents from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and from the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) conducted the investigation and filed the arrest charges, CBP said.

It said the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania prosecuted Morgan, who presented a guilty plea on Sept. 23.

"Violating U.S. immigration law is a very serious offense, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection hopes this conviction sends a strong message to deter others wishing to violate our nation's immigration laws," said Susan Stranieri, CBP Port Director for the Area Port of Philadelphia.

"This case also illustrates the tremendous collaboration between our respec-

tive law enforcement agencies to end this impostor's charade," she added.

John Kelleghan, special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations Philadelphia, said: "This criminal's sentence is a lesson to anyone who tries to unlawfully enter our country.

"We will continue to work with CBP and other partners to safeguard our nation's access," he said.

CBP said Morgan arrived to PHL on the evening of June 5 from Montego Bay, Jamaica and presented a U.S. passport in the name of a U.S. citizen from Florida to a CBP officer.

CBP said the officer "referred him to a comprehensive secondary inspection, where a biometric examination revealed a Department of State record on Morgan, a Jamaican citizen, who was denied a U.S. Visitor's Visa in 2007.

Antigua

Pilots employed with cash-strapped regional airline LIAT are calling on the airline to pay salaries on time, saying that the failure to do so is creating significant hardship for them.

Recently the Antigua & Barbuda government, which is one of the four shareholder governments of the airline, said it met with LIAT officials and the Leeward Islands Airline Pilots Association (LIALPA) to discuss the issues facing the company.



A government statement said the talks would continue early this year and that Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne met with the officials "following public concern so as to avoid a possible breakdown of regional air services over the holiday period."

It said the meetings were aimed at "promoting resolution to a number of the issues presently confronting relations" between LIAT and LIALPA.

Barbados

The Barbados government says it remains firmly committed to the strategy for growth and development on which it has embarked insisting that "the strategy has already begun to show positive results."

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart was responding to the latest downgrade of the island's long-term sovereign rating by the U.S.-based rating agency, Standard & Poor's, said that the strategy is one "based on Barbados' established competitive strengths in tourism, international business and finance, and food and beverages and on the island's potential for green energy.



"It is a strategy led by investment and outstanding entrepreneurship by the private sector, supported by government incentives and world class financial regulation and legal safeguards. The strategy is anchored on our fixed exchange rate to the US dollar, which is protected by an adequate cushion of foreign exchange of foreign exchange reserves," Prime Minister Stuart said.

Stand & Poor's (S&P) downgraded the long-term sovereign rating of Barbados to "B" from "BB-" warning also of the potential for a further economic downgrade.

S&P said the potential for a further downgrade existed "if the government doesn't succeed in bringing down its wide fiscal deficit, if growth boosted by key investment projects fails to materialize, or if external pressures of persistent current account deficits mount."

Bahamas

President of the Grand Bahama



Keep the soil healthy

The fertility of tropical soil can be appreciated at this market stall in the Amazon city of Belem do Pará in northern Brazil. See story on page 16.

Inter Press Service / CMarianela Jarroud

Human Rights Association (GBHRA), Frederick Smith has written to Prime Minister Perry Christie urging him to intervene "in the growing debacle that is the Department of Immigration's iron-fisted and unconstitutional new enforcement police, effective Nov. 1, 2014."

In an open letter to Prime Minister Christie, the Queens Counsel is also calling on him to curb the action of his Immigration and Foreign Minister Fred Mitchell, who he said wants to take criminal libel action against senior GBHRA officials over statements regarding the Carmichael Road Detention Center.

Recently, Mitchell said statements allegedly made by Smith and another GBHRA official, comparing the detention center to "Auschwitz in The Bahamas" were unfortunate.

"For edification of the general public, Auschwitz was a network of German Nazi concentration camps where Jews and other political prisoners were gassed to death, and other political prisoners were executed by firing squad," he said.

In his statement, Mitchell said the two GBHRA officials were "alleging by their characterization that the government of The Bahamas is involved in these kinds of activities as part of the enforcement of this country's immi-

gration policy. The allegations made are false and outrageous and there is not one scintilla of evidence to support these outrageous allegations.

The GBHRA has been very vocal against the new immigration policy that requires non-nationals living in the Bahamas to show evidence that they have permission to live or work in the country.

Guyana

Guyana's main opposition party has asked a high court in the South American country to ban the administration of President Donald Ramotar from any spending that wasn't earlier approved by legislators.

The request comes over a month after Ramotar temporarily suspended the opposition-controlled National Assembly to avert a no-confidence vote.

The main opposition party, A Partnership for National Unity, said that the court has given Ramotar's government a week to answer the complaint.

Together with the Alliance for Change, the party has a one-seat majority in Parliament.

The National Assembly could remain suspended for up to six months under an unusual constitutional procedure Ramotar used.

The president said he will soon dissolve parliament altogether and will

announce a date for the elections. They must be held within three months following the dissolution.

Jamaica

National Security Minister Peter Bunting says while Jamaica is experiencing a decline in all categories of violent criminal activities, there will be no easing up in the fight against crime.

"We are seeing double-digit reductions right across the board in all serious and violent crimes in Jamaica. We know we are not where we need to be, but at least we are closing in one being in line with the rest of the Caribbean and we are not going to let up until we are below the Caribbean average," he said.

Bunting, who met with stakeholders to discuss security matters affecting the tourism sector, said there have been "dramatic reductions" in Westmoreland, where violent crime is down "very significantly this year."

While, he provided no figures, Bunting noted that murders in the parish have been reduced by 50 percent.

Commissioner of Police Dr. Carl Williams said the mission of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JFC) is to ensure that people are safe.

Continued on Page 14



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Polls show support for lifting embargo

Continued from cover

the “clear minority nationwide when it comes to the embargo and re-establishing ties with Cuba, according to the Miami Herald.

But there’s one aspect of U.S.-Cuba policy that Cuban-Americans, rank-and-file Republicans nationwide and Americans in general agree on: Easing travel restrictions to the island, the Herald said.

The paper said the surveys are unwelcome — but not unexpected news — to embargo supporters, mostly centered in South Florida, where two potential presidential candidates, former Gov. Jeb Bush and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, have been outspoken about strengthening the embargo.

“We’ve found that the more information people learn about what happens in Cuba, the more they are to support U.S. policy,” said Mauricio Claver-Carone, executive director of the U.S.-Cuba Democracy PAC, considered the U.S.’ premier political action committee that supports the exile community.

“That’s always been the challenge: Informing people,” he added. “We’re a small community, yes, but we have a big



Cuba's President Raul Castro gestures to lawmakers during the closing of the legislative session at the National Assembly in Havana, Cuba, Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014. Associated Press / Ramon Espinosa

megaphone.” In the U.S. in general, Republicans’ and the Cuban-American community’s attitudes about Cuba policy are decidedly in the minority, according to a comparison of national polls.

Due to differences in methodology or forms of questions, the individual polls differ from each other when it comes to topline results, the Herald said.

But it added that they all show a “clear break between majority opinion and that of either Cuban Americans or self-identified Republicans, some of whom might not be actual voters.”

In normalizing relations with Cuba, the ABC/Langer poll found that Americans back it 64-31 percent; while the Republicans are split 49-47 percent.

Tourism

Continued from cover

opening of Cuba to U.S. tourism would represent a seismic shift in the Caribbean’s tourism industry.”

But even as those with multi-million investments in the Caribbean watch with baited breath, experts are divided on what would be the real impact should two to three million Americans with their vast spending power and geographical nearness would have on Cuba and whether in fact an overcrowded island full of over enthusiastic Americans won’t chase non-U.S. visitors to other places such as Aruba and Jamaica.

Hemispheric expert Andres Oppenheimer of the Miami Herald is one of those who think that Obama’s latest move on Cuba-US relations might still yet work in favor of the other competing countries.

“Cuba may be a blessing in disguise for Caribbean countries and Mexico. An overnight lifting of the travel embargo would have produced an avalanche of U.S. tourists to Cuba that would have crippled Cancun and other Caribbean tourism resorts. But since the flow of U.S. tourists to Cuba will grow gradually, they will have time to prepare themselves for the new reality,” he said.

He also suggests that operators will have little choice but to “re-invent themselves as something more

than sun and beach destinations, for instance building up adventure tourism or medical tourism industries” and it would be fatal if they just sit around and take no action.

An overnight lifting of the travel embargo would have produced an avalanche of U.S. tourists to Cuba that would have crippled Cancun and other Caribbean tourism resorts.

Contrast that with Barbadian Cabinet Minister Richard Sealy who is the current Chair of the CTO. Despite the new buzz about Cuba, Sealy says that “data collected by the CTO’s research department thus far indicate that the Caribbean is moving in the right direction as it relates to cruise visits, long-stay arrivals and tourism spend.” He also suggested that a reduction in a crippling travel ticket tax that Britain had imposed on passengers will help maintain and even grow the number of arrivals to non-Cuba destinations.

Quoting from yet another study, international writer Lorenzo Perez reports up to three million Americans could head to Cuba annually in the short to medium term. Travel costs would head downwards encouraging bulk travel but the downside is that Cuba’s infrastructure would not be that ready to take off an avalanche of tourism from anywhere all at once.

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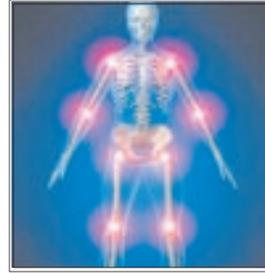
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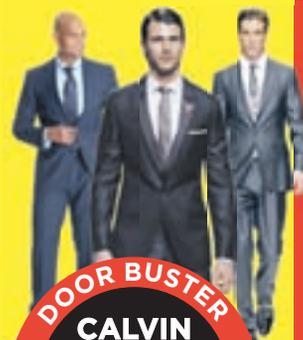
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Disease threatens banana industry

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned that without global efforts to respond to a fungal disease affecting banana production, the US\$36 billion global industry, which provides a source of income or food to some 400 million people around the world, is under threat.

The agency and its partners said US\$47 million is needed to tackle the new and deadly Tropical Race 4 (TR4) strain of Fusarium wilt disease, part of which would be used to provide swift on-the-ground assistance to countries facing new outbreaks.

"Fusarium wilt disease has been a major challenge in the history of banana production," said FAO's head of Plant Protection, Clayton Campanhola, at a meeting of experts at FAO headquarters here.

"After the devastation TR4 recently caused to bananas in parts of Asia, we have to fear its spread in Africa and the Middle East and also to Latin America (in the Caribbean), and consider it as a threat to production globally," he added.

Campanhola said that fusarium wilt disease, colloquially known as Panama Disease, brought Indonesia's banana exports of more than 100,000 tons annually to a grinding halt, causing annual losses of some US\$134 million



Anand Ramsing, right, Louis Kenson, center, and Roy Bhagwan cut down inferior banana trees and fruits at Jarikaba plantation, 30 kilometers (19 miles) west of Paramaribo, capital of Suriname. Associated Press / Edward Troon

in revenue in Sumatra alone.

Currently, he said the disease is severely affecting more than 6,000 hectares in the Philippines and 40,000 hectares in China.

Following a case in Mozambique in December, which prompted an emergency intervention from FAO, the agency and a group of international experts agreed on a framework for a global intervention-and-prevention program that would work to prevent

outbreaks, manage existing cases and strengthen international collaboration and coordination.

Supporting ongoing research, educating producers and assisting governments in developing country-specific policies and regulation for prevention of the disease would be key aspects of the program, the FAO said.

It said fast responses are vital because of the speed with which the disease spreads and the damage it can cause.

Antigua port development

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP) — The government of Antigua has signed a \$255 million deal with a Chinese company to renovate the island's main port and harbor.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said Tuesday that China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation will modernize St. John's port and harbor. The company previously built other structures in Antigua, including a stadium and new airport terminal.

The government is seeking a loan from a Chinese bank for the project.

Nearly 377,000 cruise ship passengers visited Antigua this year through October, a seven percent drop compared to the same period last year.

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Boost business by raising minimum wage

By Chris Sommers

As a restaurant owner operating in four states and looking to expand, I'm happy to see the minimum wage going up in 21 states to kick off the new year. I'd like to see the federal minimum wage increase as well to benefit business and our economy nationwide.

Last spring, my business partner, Frank Uible, and I raised the minimum wage in our restaurants to \$10.10. And we did it without raising prices.

Our teams work hard at our restaurants. But some of our employees couldn't afford to buy the pizza they put so much effort into for our guests. That's not right.

And it's not good for business.

Business owners don't create more jobs when they have more money in their own pockets thanks to low wages. We create more jobs when other people have more money in their pockets to spend at our businesses.

More working Americans walking around with money to spend is what fuels this economy and creates more consumer demand.

Some business owners who haven't run the numbers like us will say they can't afford a wage increase. I'm here to tell them they can.

A sense of right and wrong may have sparked our decision, but it was old-fashioned number crunching that showed we can and should do what Congress should have already

done. Our increased payroll costs were more than balanced by reduced employee turnover rates, increased productivity and greater customer satisfaction.

We lost employees before because they couldn't afford to fill their tank with gas to get to work, or make a car repair. Employees who can make ends meet stay longer, are less stressed and are more productive.

Too many people forget that the lower the wage, the higher the employee turnover, which costs businesses time and money in recruiting and training new workers. We spend more than \$500 training a new line cook. We threw away thousands of dollars in product a year due to inexperienced employees preparing it improperly. Eliminating just a portion of these expenses pays for increased minimum wages.

The morale boost and loyalty we have already gained from our employees also pays for our wage increase. It's a win-win when employees can concentrate on serving customers, without worrying about how they are going to make rent or put food on their own table.

Our more experienced teams take better care of our guests. We've gained many new customers who have written us notes telling us how grateful they are that we treat our employees fairly. Those guests are visiting our business more frequently, further contributing to our bottom line.

Continued on Page 12

Sony and the Sociology of Racism

By Ezra Aharon

As a result of the North Korean-related hacking of Sony's computer system, certain "racist" emails of Sony executive Amy Pascal were made public. This may appear as an isolated incident of racism amongst individuals. But it offers opportunity to uniquely examine certain aspects of the "sociology of racism" that not only fester in entertainment, but extensions of this same sociology have historically led to deadly consequences in the streets of America when Black men encounter law enforcement.

By "sociology" I am simply referring to America's sum total of ethnic and cultural distinctions and exchanges; shared and conflicting beliefs, ideals, and values; common sociopolitical influences; and the human actions, ethos, and consciousness that publicly and privately shape American society, institutions, and government.

It offers opportunity to uniquely examine certain aspects of the "sociology of racism" that not only fester in entertainment, but extensions of this same sociology have historically led to deadly consequences in the streets.

Among Pascal's emails were "jokingly racist" comments that President Obama probably liked Kevin Hart, along with the movies "12 Years A Slave," "Django," "The Butler," and "Think Like A Man." She thereafter launched an apology campaign, topped with a meeting with Al Sharpton where he scolded her about the "lack of diversity" in movies (which is inarguably rel-

evant yet arguably impertinent to the impetus behind her comments). White House Spokesperson, Josh Earnest, said her apology was "appropriate."

But wait, Hollywood is no longer producing Sambo-like movies that cast Blacks as dimwits ... are they? So what requires apology? Think about it ... Kevin Hart can sellout just as many or more arena seats to mixed audiences as any comedian, Black or White. And every movie Pascal mentioned was a relative box-office success on its own cinematic merit.

For the record and despite "lack of diversity," 12 Years A Slave earned \$188m worldwide and won numerous awards, including Oscars for "Best Picture of the Year" and "Best Supporting Actress" by Lupita Nyong'o, who People magazine subsequently dubbed "Most Beautiful Woman in the World." "Django" had

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Another attempt to sabotage Petrotrin

By Capil Bisson

Just over a year ago, on Dec. 21, 2013, Petrotrin's management called a news conference to present its take on the spectre of a deliberate sabotage of its pipe-lines. This was 96 hours after the disaster had struck.

Neither Petrotrin nor the Ministry of Energy at that time could not have recognised the depth of the problem since the spills were popping up one after another and in areas not connected. T&T is in the oil exploration business for over 100 years no major leaks but in ten days, we have six leaks

just popping up. literally.

The national consequences of any perceived act of sabotage against major state enterprises like Petrotrin are indeed designed to create fear, confusion and economic disruption on the economy, in fact, such sabotage can be considered as economic terrorism on the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago.

And now, we have a similar situation. This time, Petrotrin's police has made reports to the Oropouche Police Station and are in the process of notifying the EMA police

and other agencies about a nearby independent source of oily material that could have entered the sea.

There is a video which shows that an individual or individuals deliberately threw oil into the Otaheite Bay.

This is a criminal offense and one hopes that the TTPS moves with urgency and bring these perpetrators to justice.

Indeed, I will like to see Petrotrin announce a reward for information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of anyone who had anything to do these acts of sabotage.

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

Toward ensuring that divisiveness ends

Pleas from the relatives of senselessly killed Eric Garner, from public officials at all levels and from the clergy, including Cardinal Timothy Dolan, have all failed to satisfactorily lower the temperature that shot up, not just in this city but elsewhere across the nation, following that horrendous Staten Island grand jury decision in the Garner case. The equally senseless murder of Officers Ramos and Liu of the NYPD by a maniacal loser only served to exacerbate those tensions. That some chose to ignore the requests of Mayor Bill de Blasio and others for a pause in protests until after the two cops' funerals was a measure of the out-of-control rage gripping the city. Way out of control as well is a PBA that would countenance (perhaps more correctly instigate or incite) the insufferable demonstration of open disrespect toward the mayor that the PBA thinks it's cool for its members to engage in.

On the matter of respect, a basic rule of thumb is that it is earned only when it is

given. The tactic of having cops turn their backs to the mayor whenever he's in their presence is such coarse, primitive behavior, it is difficult to figure whether the thinking of the PBA hierarchy is predicated on (a) that earning public support for this ongoing crudeness is of no consequence or (b) that the New York citizenry would somehow find merit in the cops' action. It would be a truly sad day if, within the PBA, there's no significance attached to the concept of mutual respect between New Yorkers and the NYPD. And if the residents of New York are of a collective mind to condone cops' disrespect of the city's mayor as orchestrated by the PBA, it would be just as sad a commentary on the body politic here.

We need underscore what egregious sins, as far as we can tell, Mayor de Blasio has committed to warrant such contempt from the police rank and file. In his successful mayoral campaign last year, he made a point of emphasizing that the stop and frisk initia-

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

tive needed to be reformed. As mayor, he has left no doubt that the city appreciates the job and the sacrifice made by the overwhelming majority of cops, but that those few who bring dishonor to the badge do not belong in the police service. In the wake of the Staten Island outrage he said the city had no objection to peaceful protest by citizens. And on the issue of the treatment to which young men of color are oftentimes subjected by the police, he mentioned having spoken to his teenage bi-racial son about what he possibly could encounter when and if he is stopped. Unless somewhere, sometime, de Blasio has scathingly slammed the entire NYPD as a good-for-nothing bunch or something similar, this is the sum total of his "transgressions" for which the truculent PBA

head and his minions now see fit to plumb the depths of ugly in the war they've declared against City Hall.

On its face, there is nothing Mayor de Blasio has said to or about the NYPD that wasn't perfectly in order to say. Which suggests that any mere hint of criticism of wrongdoing on the law enforcement side is evidently seen as a step too far: no mention should be made that there are indeed rogue cops among the more than 30,000 in the department; demonstrating against that miscarriage of justice on Staten Island should not be condoned; that countless young men of color have experienced a rough time when stopped by the police should be dismissed as non-events. By contrast, what passes the mayoral bar as set by the PBA is unsealing the juvenile record of a black man shot and killed by police, as Rudolph Giuliani did. Or joining cops in a bordering-on-disorderly-conduct march across the Brooklyn Bridge, as Giuliani also did when angling for the job of mayor.

The media (with the exception, of course, of Fox News and its ilk) will hopefully come to learn, before too long, that the "America's mayor" gravy train ride they've continued to accord the former mayor should long since have been stamped "invalid." To say nothing of the man's racist traits, which are beyond concealing.

It's a pretty safe bet that a hefty majority of New Yorkers have no yen for this city, more than its renowned melting pot image, being also reputed for a searing racial divisiveness, defiant of all the well-meaning spirits in search of healing. The best of us aren't to be found among those who use a march or demonstration to loot and plunder. We aren't to be found among those who can't respect the families of two innocent cops slain by temporarily halting demonstrations. We aren't to be found in a PBA high command cheering on an ill-founded lack of civility toward a mayor. And the best of us must repudiate all of this and find a way to prevail.

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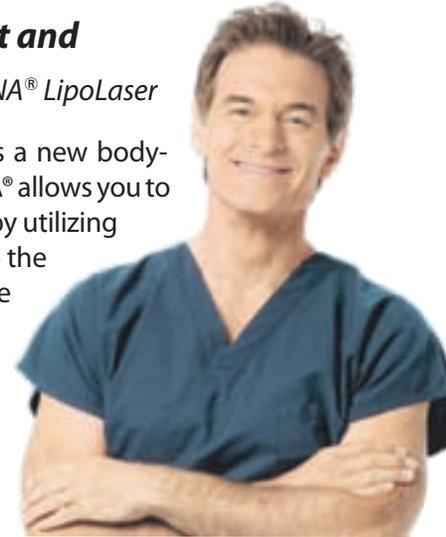
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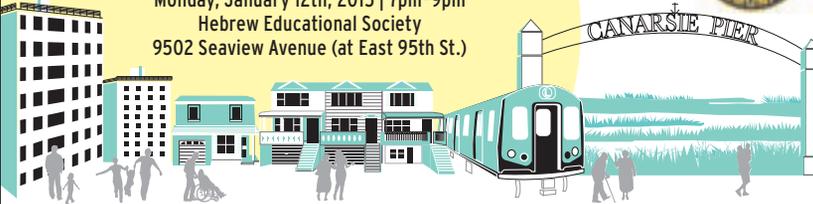
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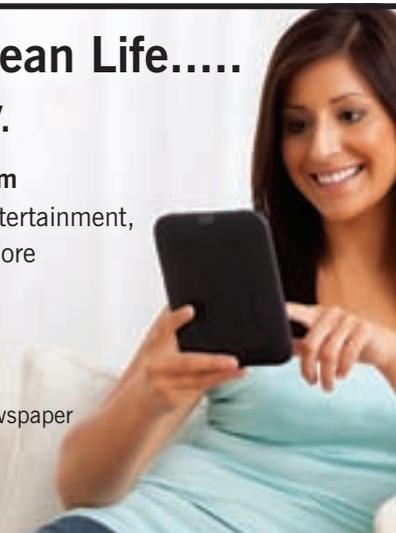


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Sociology of racism

Continued from page 10

blockbuster earnings of \$425m worldwide and starred former Oscar winner Jamie Foxx. "The Butler" earned \$177m worldwide and starred former Oscar winner Forest Whitaker and billionaire-extraordinaire Oprah Winfrey. "Think Like A Man" earned \$96m worldwide and was based on Steve Harvey's book that ranked #1 on The New York Times best seller list.

So nothing should be wrong with any president or anybody liking any of these films with decorated Black actors. After all, they grossed nearly \$1billion for both Black and White people in the industry. Both Black and White people walked the red carpet. Both Black and White people applauded these stars and movies at black-tie awards. And all of the Black actors are probably on Obama's short-list of invitees to certain occasions anyway, and all have most-likely attended a White House event already.

So beyond box-office and star-power, some other veiled criteria must lurk behind the scenes of these movies that render Pascal's apology "appropriate." To wit, the unidentified elephant in the room that drips with racism, relates historically to America's unarticulated but implicitly understood "sociology of racism" that places definitively higher values on ideals, interests, and institutions that are White, Anglo, Protestant or Jewish.

In this vein, had she said that Obama or any other president "liked Tina Fey, Adam Sandler, or Seth Rogen movies," it would be a nonstory. Not because they — or even White actors from the past — are more talented per se than their Black contemporaries. But because there's a qualitatively greater premium that is always assigned increasingly to the sophistication of White movies, the significance of White

actors, and the affluence of the White audiences they draw.

So the goal of equal validation of Blacks (via diversity) is really a phantom pursuit because the goalposts are continually moved out-of-reach, in relative and incremental measure, to assure that White accomplishments signify the apex.

But it neither begins nor ends there. Understand that this sociology is four-centuries in the making. Its implications and evidence saturate society on multiple and widespread levels, whereby a diminished worth has been historically and intrinsically equated to the Black experience as a whole ... Black ethos, Black history, Black culture, Black leaders, Black lives.

Extreme frictions from this sociology help explain existing racial tensions of why Americans of all races are now protesting nationwide against such desensitization, while displaying placards in 1960's-fashion, stating: "Black Lives Matter."

However, to enact concrete systemic change, people should be mindful of implementing a collective approach that recognizes the origin of this 400-year sociology, as opposed to protesting against its symptoms and outgrowths. But this becomes problematic because, any effort to confront the source and substance of this sociology head-on, would be viewed as too subversive. This, in consequence, would interrupt the government access and corporate revenue streams that prop-up certain Black leaders, who would then have to put a "For Sale" sign on their operations.

Whether shooting movies or shooting Black men, there are ingrained sociological and systemic elements that underlie and desensitize government and society.

Raise the federal minimum wage

Continued from page 10

We've seen that after implementing a \$10.10 minimum wage our teams are performing better, our labor cost is under budget, our sales are great and we're expanding.

To those who say jobs will be eliminated due to wage increases, we say you're wrong!

We didn't reduce employees at our St. Louis and Washington DC restaurants. We created more jobs. We opened a new Pi Pizza this year in Cincinnati, Ohio and are opening soon in Miami, Florida. We're planning a second Pi Pizza in Washington DC and are looking into expanding to new states.

And we're far from alone. Contrary to what opponents of a minimum wage raise claim, a 2014 nationwide poll showed that 61 percent of small busi-

ness owners with employees support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 and adjusting it in future years to keep up with the cost of living.

It's time for lawmakers to listen to the majority of business owners who believe a minimum wage increase makes good business sense. Individual business owners can't do it alone. Individual states can't do it alone. We need Congress to raise the federal minimum wage for the good of our whole economy.

Chris Sommers is co-founder of Pi Pizzerias and Gringo Mexican Restaurant based in St. Louis, Missouri, with locations in Washington DC, Ohio and Florida. He is a member of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

Suriname

Two senior police officers, including a major, have been arrested following the escape recently of six suspects from the police station in Latour, located in the Paramaribo District.



The six suspects were awaiting trials for various crimes, including robbery when they broke out from their cells.

Police spokesman Humphrey Naarden said the officers are suspected of aiding the escape.

Investigators said one of the suspects, Guillermo Blomhof, has been re-captured and the search is continuing for the other five people.

In recent months, police have arrested several of their colleagues on various crimes, including two officers from the Traffic Department who were caught collecting fines from motorist whom they had given tickets.

St. Vincent

St. Vincent and the Grenadines government owes EC\$141 million to Venezuela under PetroCaribe, an oil alliance of some Caribbean and Latin American nations with Venezuela to purchase oil on conditions of preferential payment.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves told Parliament "in the aggregate, it

is EC\$141 million dollars, comprising EC\$62 million dollars plus, as indicated in the debt profile to IADC (International Airport Development Company), just over \$60 million dollars in the central government, and other monies as I have just indicated when I read out the entire printout, and eight million in cash balances."



St. Vincent and the Grenadines received its first shipment of petroleum products under PetroCaribe in December 2005, on the eve of the general elections and has since received diesel and some liquefied petroleum products under the agreement on a regular basis.

Trinidad

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— compiled by Azad Ali

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The soil, silent ally against hunger

World Bank, Suriname partnership

By Marianela Jarroud

SANTIAGO, Dec 19 2014 (IPS) - Latin America and the Caribbean should use sustainable production techniques to ensure healthy soil, the basic element in agriculture, food production and the fight against hunger.

"Keeping the soil healthy makes food production possible," said Raúl Benítez, regional director for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). "Without good soil, food production is undermined, and becomes more difficult and costly."

"We are often not aware that it can take 1,000 years to generate one centimetre of healthy soil, but we can lose that centimetre in a few seconds as a result of pollution, toxic waste, or misuse of the soil," he said in an interview with Tierramérica.

Despite its importance, 33 percent of the planet's soil is degraded by physical, chemical or biological causes, which is reflected in a reduction in plant cover, soil fertility, and pollution of the soil and water, and which leads to impoverished harvests, FAO warns.

Latin America and the Caribbean have the largest amount of potential arable land in the world.

The worst degradation of soil is in Central America and southern Mexico, where it affects 26 percent of the land. In South America that proportion is 14



Farmers in the northern Peruvian department of Piura show native seeds they preserve.
Inter Press Service / Sabina CÃ³rdova

percent.

According to FAO statistics, four countries account for more than 40 percent of the degraded land in the region, and in 14 countries between 20 and 40 percent of the national territory is affected by degradation.

Forty percent of the most degraded land is in parts of the world with high poverty rates.

On Dec. 5, FAO launched the International Year of Soils 2015 as part of the Global Soil Partnership and in collaboration with the world's governments and the Secretariat of the U.N. Convention to

Combat Desertification.

Latin America "is highly aware of the fundamental role played by the soil in the fight against hunger, which means it takes this issue extremely seriously," Benítez said in the central FAO offices in Santiago.

He pointed out that Latin America has made the most progress in achieving food security, as the region in the world with the greatest number of countries that have met the hunger target of the first of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) – a series of anti-poverty targets agreed by governments in 2000.

By Nelson A. King

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors have launched a new Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Suriname for 2015-2018.

The Washington-based financial institution said this is the first comprehensive strategy for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country in 30 years.

The new strategy proposes a lending program of about US \$60 million to support Suriname's efforts in leveraging and sustaining its economic growth through greater social inclusiveness and economic diversification.

"While Suriname has recorded an average growth of 4.4 percent between 2000 and 2012, poverty remains prevalent, especially in the interior areas, and development progress is highly vulnerable to climatic disasters," said Sophie Sirtaine, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean.

"This renewed partnership reflects a common effort to boost an inclusive private sector growth and build climate resilience," she added.



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Mastering the Haitian dialect

By Tequila Minsky

In recent years, it was impossible to find Haitian Creole (Kreyòl) instruction in the New York area, open to the general public, until Wynnie Lamour began giving classes, four years ago. She formally opened her Haitian Creole Institute of New York in October 2013, held in shared spaces in Brooklyn.

Lamour's class for Haitian Creole Heritage Learners, 13 sessions-per-series that includes two field trips, targets students and others with a deep familiarity with Haiti. This class has many students who grew up with one or both Haitian parents.

While many first-and second-generation born Haitian-Americans are familiar with the language — hearing it at home with Haitian-born and raised family members — they don't feel confident or comfortable speaking it.

"I offer students a space to claim the language as their own," Lamour explains, elaborating that many of her students were not encouraged to speak the language at home and subsequently, they are made fun of by locals when they travel in Haiti.

With not more than 10 in a class, she says, "I have a mix of



Wynnie Lamour offers Haitian Creole classes to New Yorkers hungry for language instruction. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Haitian-ancestry and American college students."

One of her students is a Haitian-American psychiatrist who wants to speak Haitian Creole to her patients. One young Haitian-American woman travels from New Jersey for the weekly Brooklyn sessions. The Heritage Learners class resumes Jan.

20 and will meet at The Commons on Atlantic Avenue near the Hoyt-Schermerhorn subway stop.

Her beginners' class, which will start in February, has more non-Haitians. "I have American students with a Haitian spouse and a Columbia student who wants to work in a Haitian com-

munity," she says. Lamour distributes her own written materials; the first lessons are a mixture of English and kreyòl.

One of her first private students is a Brooklyn resident who adopted a daughter, now six, from Haiti and wants to maintain a connection to the country. "Language is a powerful connection," Lamour emphasizes. Another student is a public school teacher with a number of Haitian students.

More recently, award-winning Haitian-American playwright Dominique Morrisseau (Detroit '67) has begun taking private lessons.

This fall, Lamour attended a conference at Brooklyn College entitled "Kreyòl: The Language of Transformation and Liberation of Haiti," alongside more than 250 scholars and educators, community practitioners, cultural workers, and students.

A good generation younger than many of the participants, she loved the presentations, absorbing everything at the first all-kreyòl academic event she's ever attended.

"I wish more young people participated," she assessed. "There are a lot of young people doing incredible things and

they can learn so much from our elders." Her main critique, "There should have been information shared using social media."

(Even though some people say Haiti is a French speaking country), a very low percentage of the population in Haiti actually speaks French explained Serge Madere, the keynote speaker for the conference. Historically speaking, he reminded attendees, "In the Act of Independence, the first thing was the oath: We are going to renounce, forever, France and everything that is French."

One hundred percent of Haiti's population speaks Haitian Creole.

Outside of New York, kreyòl can be studied in an intensive three-week summer class at U Mass/Boston or at Florida International University's Summer (six-week) Haitian Institute. Duke and Brown University offer kreyòl classes for their students and there are other forms of instruction available on-line and by Skype. Recently, the Haitian Embassy in Washington DC has begun a twice-weekly kreyòl class.

Dad builds daughter's last wish: Haiti orphanage

By Tracee M. Herbaugh

BOSTON (AP) — A few hours before she was buried in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, 19-year-old Britney Gengel texted her parents her last wish: "I want to move here and start an orphanage."

Nearly five years later, her parents have fulfilled Britney's wish, building a complex in the shape of a "B" that houses 33 boys and 33 girls — one of each for the exact number of days her body lay missing beneath the ruins of the hotel where she was staying.

Britney's last text message dramatically altered her parents' lives.

After her death, the Gengels started a nonprofit, Be Like Brit, and opened an orphanage in Grand Goave, a town about 30 miles southwest of the country's capital, Port-au-Prince. They now split their time between Holden, Massachusetts, and Haiti; Britney's father, Len, has made the journey to the Caribbean island 66 times.

"We look at Brit's text as a gift to us, that three hours before the earthquake, she would send that text message and it resonated with us," Len Gengel said in an interview from Haiti. "There's no relief from the poverty here, and we're



This Feb. 13, 2010, file photo shows a child standing among makeshift tents at a refugee camp for earthquake survivors in the Cite Soleil neighborhood of Port-au-Prince.

Associated Press / Rodrigo Abd, File

doing everything we can to help the community in which we live."

Britney was a sophomore at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, when she went to Haiti to hand out meals to children for Food for the Poor, a Florida-based religious charity.

The service trip soon turned into

a nightmare for Britney and her parents. After the earthquake struck Jan. 12, school officials initially told Len and Cherylann Gengel that Britney was missing. Later, her parents were told she had been rescued and was on a Florida-bound helicopter. Feeling relieved, the Gengels immediately traveled to Fort Lauderdale to reunite with their daughter.

But once they arrived, the Gengels learned there was a terrible miscommunication. Britney was dead.

It took 33 days to recover her body from the collapsed Hotel Montana.

"The biggest challenge is that we have broken hearts," Len Gengel said. "Everyone here has been affected by the earthquake. You don't meet anyone who hasn't lost a loved one. It's helpful to be around people who understand our pain."

The Haitian government estimates 300,000 were killed and 1.5 million left homeless after the magnitude-7.0 quake. Unstable construction throughout the island country was a major factor in the death toll.

For Len Gengel, a home builder for 30 years, constructing an orphanage

that could withstand another earthquake was his first priority. He worked with an engineering firm to draw up plans for a flexible but sturdy building.

He recently installed 96 solar panels and wants to make the complex self-sustaining. The orphanage campus includes an acre of fruit trees and vegetation. Gengel's next step is building a cistern and catch basins for water.

It costs about \$75,000 a month to run the orphanage, which is paid for by donations and volunteer mission trips. There are 78 Haitians and two Americans on the orphanage staff.

People pay the orphanage a set fee of \$1,750 a week and receive airfare, housing and meals. There also is a "sponsor a child" program, where people donate \$33 a month to assist the orphanage with operation costs. There are currently more than 300 sponsors.

The Gengels, now retired, donate all their time and efforts to the orphanage and foundation. Cherylann runs the U.S. operations of Be Like Brit.

"As an American, I came to Haiti thinking I was going to help Haiti," Len Gengel said. "But in actuality, Haiti has helped me."

Coping with cold sores

HEALTH

(StatePoint) Those pesky cold sores on the lips and around the mouth always seem to pop up at the most inopportune times.

Not only are cold sores painful, dealing with their appearance can be frustrating! But you're not alone in dealing with this nuisance. In fact, more than half of the U.S. population carries the herpes simplex virus 1, the virus that causes cold sores, by the time they reach their 20s, according to the National Institutes of Health.

While the causes of breakouts aren't fully understood, some triggers have been identified, including sun exposure, stress, menstruation, and fever or illness. They can also be brought on by other infections or even certain foods and drugs. For many, cold sore outbreaks can be unpredictable.

The first symptoms of a cold sore may include pain around your mouth and on your lips, a fever, sore throat, or swollen glands in your neck or other parts of the body. After the blisters appear, the cold sore usually breaks open, emits a clear fluid, then crusts over and disappears after several days to two weeks; sometimes they can be very painful.

Naturally, having a cold sore may make you feel self-conscious. And, while no product can cure a cold sore

(as in remove the virus from one's system), there are many tips for managing cold sores outbreaks:

Ask your doctor about anti-viral prescription medications to limit the virus' growth.

- Live a healthy lifestyle. Eat right, exercise, get plenty of sleep, and avoid stress.

- Avoid long exposure to the sun.

- Keep your lips moisturized. Cold sores can be linked to dry or cracked lips so keep them moisturized with a lip balm that contains sun protection.

- A variety of treatments can alleviate symptoms. One new product that may help you feel more comfortable and confident while managing a cold sore outbreak is new Carmex Cold Sore Treatment. It works on contact to block pain and itch with 10% benzocaine, and ingredients in the formula smooth and fill to make the cold sore appearance less noticeable.

More tips for managing a cold sore outbreak can be found at www.carmexcold sore.com. While there may be no cure for a cold sore, there are steps you can take to look and feel better faster.



While there may be no cure for a cold sore, there are steps you can take to look and feel better faster.

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TECHNOLOGY

is helping seniors remain independent longer

BY JOANNA R. LEEFER

There is no place like home! Most seniors want to live independently for as long as possible, but some are forced to give this up due to concerns for their safety. As people age they often face more physical and mental handicaps. Many are at risk for falls or emergency medical care and fear they will be unable to alert anyone. Other seniors begin to show signs of memory loss and might inadvertently leave the stove on, or forget to take medications as required.

Now seniors and their families can breathe a sigh of relief. Many elderly people are able to stay in their homes longer and more safely than ever by taking advantage of today's modern technology. Newly developed sensor devices and web-based programs offer older adults and their concerned children ways to live safely at home. These high-tech devices called

Sensors can be placed in a bed and note when the person lies down and gets up. They can be programed to note when the person gets up to go to the bathroom.

Personal Emergency Response Services unobtrusively monitor folks at homes.

A newly published study released by Frost and Sullivan, a global consulting firm specializing in high technology, estimates the Personal Emergency Response Services market earned an estimated \$1.04 billion in revenue in 2013. The firm predicts the market will continue to grow and will reach \$1.46 billion by 2017.

One of the simplest and best-known devices is the medical alert system. This simple device has been available for years. The alert is worn around the neck or on the wrist and

can signal an outside source in case of need. If a person falls or finds himself in a dangerous situation, he can press a button to call for help. The biggest problem with this technology is the user must agree to or remember to wear the device, and must be motivated to press the button. Many older adults prefer to remain unattended rather than alarm a loved one when they need help.

More sophisticated technologies are being developed that can solve these problems and make living around the house easier. Companies are creating customized sensory systems that can monitor activity and

unobtrusively track a person's movement around the home 24 hours a day. These wireless motion or contact sensors can be placed on kitchen appliances, cabinets, doorways, windows, walls, and beds and record all household activities.

The sensors can even be programmed to anticipate activity. For instance, if your mother usually sits in a favorite chair every afternoon, a monitor in the chair can be programmed to note when she is sitting. If the sensor cannot detect her for a significant period of time, a signal will alert a central monitoring center and a staff member will call. If your mother does not answer, the center will alert you or another designated person who can check on her.

Other sensors can be placed in a bed and note when the person lies down and gets up. They can be programed to note when the person gets up to go to the

bathroom. If the person is not back within a predictable period of time, the sensor alerts the system to the possibility that the person might have fallen.

Another type of monitor is the medicine reminder or pill dispenser that alerts the user to take medications at set times of the day. Some medicine devices are programmed to dispense medications at specific times only, so there is no danger that the user can take more than one dosage at a time. These devices can also send out reminders when medications need to be taken. The reminders can be in the form of visual and, or, auditory alerts. If the individual does not respond in a reasonable period of time, an outside service will call and remind the user. If the user still does not respond, a family member or assigned caregiver will be notified by phone, email, or text.

Cognitive ability better among bilingual seniors

Seniors who are bilingual and have spoken two or more languages since their youth may have cognitive advantages over adults who have only spoken one language their entire lives.

A new study headed by Brian Gold, a neuroscientist at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, which was published in the journal *Neuroscience*, found that bilingualism leads to heightened mental skills. In the study, participants were divided into three groups: bilingual seniors, monolingual seniors, and younger adults. Each group was instructed to sort colors and shapes in a series of simple cognitive exercises. The researchers used a brain imaging technique to compare how well the subjects switched between mental tasks. The results indicated there were different patterns of brain activity among the groups when the tasks were be-

ing completed.

The patterns showed that bilingual seniors were able to switch between tasks and activate their brains in a manner closer to the younger subjects. They didn't have to expend much effort, and they outperformed their peers who were monolingual. The researchers surmised the bilingual seniors were using their brains more efficiently.

Other studies have shown bilingualism pays even more dividends, including improved cognitive function in those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. A study titled "Lifelong Bilingualism Maintains Neural Efficiency for Cognitive Control in Aging," found that even though seniors who spoke dual languages had more brain atrophy due to Alzheimer's, they were still able to function better than individuals with lower levels of atrophy who spoke one language. Research-

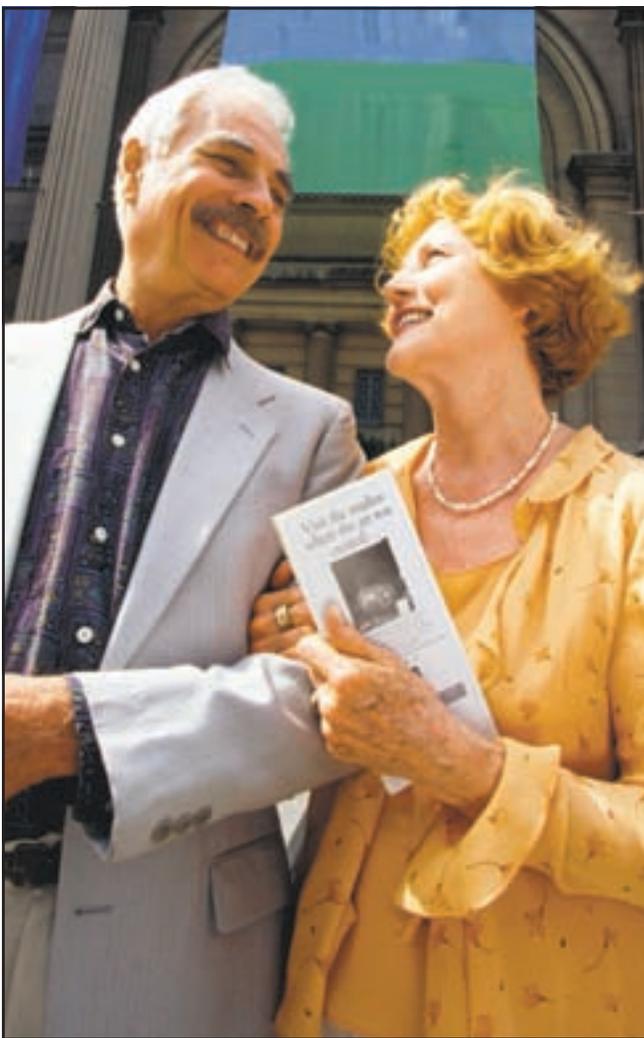
ers believe that being bilingual strengthens the brain's capacity for doing work, even if it is working at a deficit.

The jury is still out as to whether learning a second language or moving to a foreign country as an adult can provide the same level of cognitive advantage as being bilingual from childhood. However, learning a new language can help keep the brain sharp. Many experts now believe learning a second language is no harder when you're getting on in years than when you're a child.

There are different methods to learning a new language:

- Foreign language tapes
- Grammar and vocabulary books from a child's foreign language class
- A foreign language tutor
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Seniors who have been bilingual since childhood have cognitive advantages over those who only speak one language.

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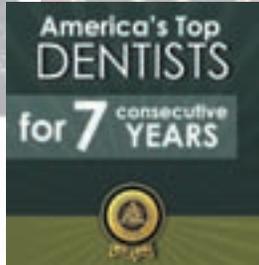
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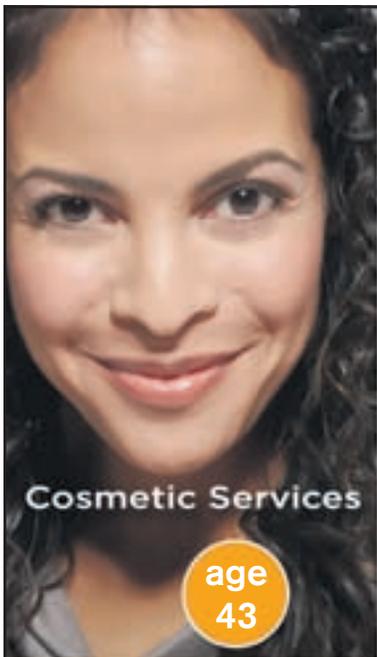
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Auld Lang Syne to 2014

At this time of year we tend to sum up the previous year by either labeling the 365/6 days as either the best or worst with no regard to the fact elements of both enabled the time-span.

While personal achievements and challenges could help define the total calendar, public and shared adventures seem to also aid in the definition.

Undoubtedly some of the most memorable by most people are the disappearing Malaysian Airliner lost over the Indian Ocean and just last week another Asian aircraft flying from Indonesia to Singapore that vanished with 162 passengers onboard.

The phenomena affected more than a few.

Some frequent flyers opted not to travel to regions where wide open seas dominated the journey – Australia and New Zealand must have lost a bit of tourist trade due to the long hours of flight over wide open waters to the continent.

The tally of chikungunya cases in the Caribbean pushed upward every month and last month 19,000 new cases were reported in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic's



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

tally of suspected cases reached 486,306, up by 19,240 from a week earlier. Confirmed cases in the country stayed the same at 84.

In neighboring Haiti, the case count stayed at 64,695, about the same as it was in late July.

In a recently updated report, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said the numbers since Sept. 19 for the Caribbean and neighboring regions reached 729,178 suspected and 9,537 confirmed cases, for a total of 738,715.

Public health agencies claim the total Caribbean figures surpassed 738,000.

But Florida added to the numbers with 10 local acquired cases of the mosquito-borne viral infection.

Ebola also scared the nation and the diaspora with returning volunteer medical professionals from West Africa stricken with the deadly disease. Although not

a single American died from the debilitating virus, for a period it was the main focus of mainstream media and the talk of the town.

Good news from South America cheered a summer of World Cup Soccer Competitions. For a brief moment, sports took the spotlight with a game, still marginally celebrated in America.

And last month when America's most audacious leader ever displayed his audacity of hope by announcing that Cuba will no longer remain the estranged Caribbean island but a renewed friend with re-established diplomatic relations, some expats expressed joy at receiving a gift they never imagined in their lifetime. Although some decried the change President Barack Obama promised, one can only refer to Biblical stories which did not appeal to everyone who lived during those time.

Although births, weddings



In this Nov. 5, 2014, file photo, a woman covers a child's face as a health ministry worker fumigates for mosquitoes that transmit dengue and chikungunya in Managua, Nicaragua.

Associated Press / Esteban Felix

and recovery from health setbacks and tragedies will significantly register as most memorable, through it all personal loss of loved ones will stand out as indelible to many.

And while we continue to grieve the tragic deaths of Eric Garner, Michael Brown and so many Black men slain by police across the nation, we also mourn the loss of P.O. Rafael Ramos and his partner P.O. Wenjian Liu who were assassinated in Bedford-Stuyvesant just five days before Christmas.

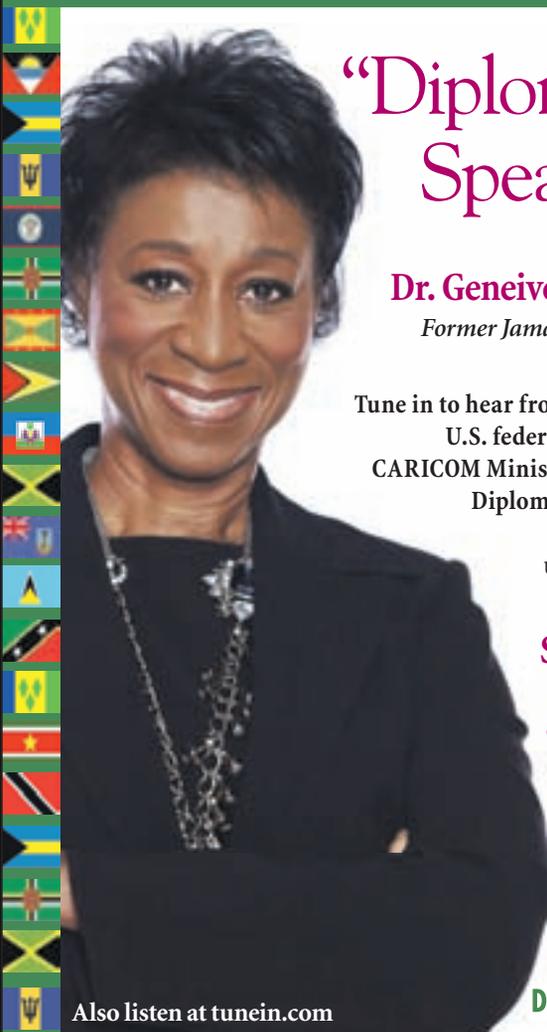
Some of the prominent personalities that transitioned last

year include: actress Ruby Dee, Jamaican singer Barbara Jones, first Puerto Rican Congressman and Bronx Borough President Herman Badillo, boxing champion Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, T&T born, actor/choreographer Geoffrey Holder, actor Robin Williams, poet/actress/singer Maya Angelou, child actress/diplomat Shirley Temple, singer Bobby Womack, singer Jose Feliciano and Joe Cocker.

This Insider wishes all readers the very best for positive memories, good health and happiness in 2015.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Ambassadors band aim high

By Trevor Simon

The Ambassadors Steelband from the Canaan/Bon Accord community is one of the many Tobago pan sides preparing for the 2015 steelband competitions.

The relatively young steelband will be attempting to bring back the steelband glory to the Tobago West community, which the once popular Starlift Steelband brought to the Canaan/Bon Accord area during the 1960s.

Ambassadors is a very youthful steelband which has done reasonably well in 'on the road' carnival days competition. However, according to one of the band's inspirational members, the "next Panorama competition, we will be endeavouring to make our mark in the competition".

Ambassadors have chosen Soca Monarch champion, Machel Montano's 2013 smash hit 'Mr Fete' as their 2015 Panorama selection. The band is also seeking to impact on all of the carnival days 'on

Continued on Page 28

T&T gov't to lease Sparrow's keepsakes

By Azad Ali

The Trinidad and Tobago government will pay calypsonian icon the Mighty Sparrow (Slinger Francisco) TT\$2 million to acquire his memorabilia.

This was announced by Minister of Culture Dr. Lincoln Douglas who said the money will go to the family of the calypsonian.

He said the Ministry of Culture will acquire the memorabilia for 10 years with the option to renew the deal.

Douglas said he expected Sparrow's works to be put on display by Feb. 15, next year and the government will license all the memorabilia which includes six crowns, 52 certificates, 42 CDS, eight citations, four DVDs, 14 medals, 136 plaques, 76 pictures, 22 proclamations, eight tokens, 94 trophies, and 78 videos.

Continued on Page 28



Wozan Monza and band performing at the Gwoka Festival, Ste. Anne, Guadeloupe. Photo by William Farrington

2015 The Year of Gwoka

By William Farrington

UNESCO is recognizing gwoka as an integral part of Guadeloupean identity in its 2015 world heritage designations. The honor is notable because it was awarded for its intangible qualities. The designation usually is attached to site of architectural importance or natural wonders.

Gwoka in its most traditional form is the Lewoz, a communal gathering in which a drummer chooses one of the seven rhythms and dancers enter a circle formed by the audience and

interact with the drummers.

"Gwoka most closely resembles the Bomba of Puerto Rico, in fact some historians believe there is a historical connection between the two," ethnomusicologist Dominique Cyrille tells Caribbean Life. Ms. Cyrille worked closely with Felix Cotellon and a broad coalition of community members on the successful proposal. The rhythms show up in contemporary music in the work of artists including Wozan Monza, Esnard Boisdur, and Jacques

Schwarz-Bart, but explains Raymonde Pater-Torin, gwoka is more than music and dance.

Ms. Pater-Torin is the founder, director and choreographer of Kamodjaka Dance Company. Growing up, her mother had a shop in Pointe-a-Pitre where the sugar cane workers would come to eat and drink. Two Saturdays a month when they were paid, they played and danced Gwoka at the store and she was fascinated. Later, Velo, (the iconic master

Continued on Page 28



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Civil Rights saga revisits historic MLK March

“Selma”
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated PG-13 for
violence, disturbing
images, and brief
profanity
Running time:
127 minutes
Distributor: Paramount
Pictures



David Oyelowo (fifth from left) as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a scene from “Selma.”

Photo courtesy of www.selmamovie.com

By Kam Williams

I was born in the early Fifties, which means the Civil Rights Movement unfolded over the course of my formative years. And like the average black kid growing up in that tumultuous era, I can distinctly recall having a very visceral reaction to the nightly news coverage, since I had such a personal stake in the outcome of the events.

One of the most consequential flashpoints in memory was when a trio of voting rights marches were staged in Selma, Alabama

in 1965. Launched by locals with the help of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the first demonstration came to be known as Bloody Sunday because of the way the police

viciously attacked the 500+ participants with teargas and billy clubs, all at the direction of a racist Sheriff named Jim Clark (Stan Houston).

Fallout from the shocking

media coverage garnered the attention of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (David Oyelowo) who agreed to get involved. And after an aborted second attempt to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge,

the controversy blossomed into a nationwide cause célèbre with 25,000 people willing to risk their life and limb descending upon tiny Selma, including cultural icons like Harry Belafonte, Nina Simone, Joan Baez, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Peter, Paul and Mary.

Three times proved a charm as the third march went off without a hitch, although participant Viola Liuzzo (Tara Ochs), a mother of five from Detroit, was murdered by a quartet of cowardly Ku Klux Klansmen just a few hours later. A couple of other martyrs also made the ultimate sacrifice in Selma, Jimmie Lee Jackson (Keith Stanfield) and Reverend James Reeb (Jeremy Strong). Fortunately, none of them died in vain because, in August, President Johnson (Tom Wilkinson) signed historic voting rights legislation into law.

All of the above has been evocatively reenacted in “Selma,” a gut-wrenching civil rights saga directed by Ava DuVernay (Middle of Nowhere).

Independent & Foreign Films

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

Most Violent Year (R for profanity and some violence) American Dream drama, set in NYC in 1981, revolving around the efforts of an immigrant couple (Jessica Chastain and Oscar Isaac) to make it in the corrupt, oil delivery business during one of the most dangerous periods in the history of the city. Cast includes David Oyelowo, Albert Brooks and Alessandro Nivola. (In English and Spanish with subtitles)

[REC] 4: Apocalypse (R for profanity, gore and graphic violence) Fourth and final installment of the horror franchise finds soldiers rescuing a television reporter (Manuela Velasco) unaware that she's infected with a demonic virus. With Javier Botet, Paco Manzanedo and Maria Alfonso Rosso. (In Spanish with subtitles)



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

The Search for General Tso (Unrated) Foodie documentary exploring both who was General Tso and the derivation of the sweet and spicy fried dish that has become so popular with the American palette. (In English and Mandarin with subtitles)

The Taking of Tiger Mountain (Unrated) Adaptation of the Qu Bo novel of the same name about an intrepid captain (Gengxin Lin) who leads a liberation army to recapture a mountain fortress from a ruthless bandit (Tony Leung). With Liya Tong and Hanyu Zhang. (In Mandarin with subtitles)

BIG BUDGET FILMS

The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death (PG-13 for disturbing images and mature themes) Haunted house sequel, set in the English countryside during World War II, where a group of children evacuated from London unwittingly unleash a demonic force. Ensemble cast includes Phoebe Fox, Helen McCrory, Jeremy Irvine, Leanne Best and Adrian Rawlins.

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

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

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **The Pinkprint**
Nicki Minaj
- 2 **Black Messiah**
D'Angelo And The Vanguard
- 3 **2014 Forest Hills Drive**
J. Cole
- 4 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 5 **That's Christmas To Me**
Pentatonix
- 6 **LIVESOS**
5 Seconds Of Summer
- 7 **Guardians Of The Galaxy: Soundtrack**
- 8 **x**
Ed Sheeran
- 9 **Guardians Of The ...**
Kevin Gates
- 10 **Hozier**
Hozier

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Gwoka rhythms

Continued from page 25

drummer) taught her and her sister to play the seven rhythms of gwoka, she says. At the time it was rare for a woman to play the drum.

Raymonde compares the fears some have about the UNESCO designation: that 'Gwoka would become universal and lose its soul' to the days when women were not allowed to drum. "Gwoka is stronger, we shouldn't be afraid. Gwoka is the music of now, always changing always moving, it is in every moment and evolving with each breath, all throughout life. I am a dancer, but I don't dance the way my mother danced. Its more than just in my blood, its the way I speak, dress, move, the way I grow in life."

Wozan Monza is one of Guadeloupe's foremost musicians in his music can be found strains of jazz and soul and strong vocals woven into the gwoka rhythms. He recalled for Caribbean Life how he was introduced to Gwoka: "I was then the youngest son of a family of 11 children and the one chosen to help my grandfather Durville "Vivilo" Monza, his real name, who became handicapped in a car crash a year after I was born. He was a keeper of ancestral knowledge because in addition to be a praised gwoka musician he was also a charismatic figure on plantation Meynard, located in Saint-Louis, Baillif. This plantation, where sugarcane and later on, banana were grown, was a place where enslaved

laborers and, after emancipation, agricultural workers were exploited like in Louisiana. These places had created their own set of rules, had fostered a culture and modes of resistance that were specific. Gwoka, both a means and a music of resistance has always been the atavistic tool that best expresses the creole spirit of the Guadeloupean people.

Keepers of ancestral knowledge such as my grand-father contributed to keeping it alive generation after generation in the post-slavery era, like a link to the story of our deportation.

Gwoka is African in origins, yet it is profoundly and thoroughly Guadeloupean. Gwoka is the matrix that shapes our creoleness. It is the process by which our diverse communities (African, East Indian and European) not only could live side by side but also could merge. It is a great marker of our identity which, thanks to the work of some ethnomusicologists, of NGOs like Repriz and most importantly of tradition bearers who continue to keep all aspects of the gwoka world alive (music, creole speech, dance and other traditions that have been associated with it), will be proclaimed in 2015 by the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage of the world.

My music takes part in this process. It merges melodic instruments with gwoka percussion instruments. Gwoka, like African root music is mostly based on pentatonic scales. From that, one can combine chords at will and pay attention



Anais Cheleux dancing to gwoka drummers at a Lewoz at the Gwoka Festival. Photo by William Farrington

to the seven rhythms of gwoka (Léwoz, Kaladja, Menndé, Toumblak, Padjanbel, Graj,Woulé). The function of the musical instruments are then inverted and the harmonic musical instruments as well as influences from jazz and blues have to meet the needs of the fundamental gwoka rhythms.

Monza's 3rd CD album will be released in early 2015 ('Maux Phrasés'... a word play based on the Creole expression "Mofwazé.")

The effort to attain the UNESCO designation began in 2011. Some artists such as Teddy Pelissier embraced it

immediately others had to be convinced, the idea of intangible cultural heritage had to be introduced to the community. "It was a job I loved," says Ms. Cyrille "Now the work really begins. Its time for:

(1) Public funding and institutions to become involved in several areas, research, education and facilities.

(2) For the Gwoka community to decide what they feel is important and how to commit to safeguard Gwoka.

(3) To show the world that a place called Guadeloupe exists and it has a unique cultural identity."

Sparrow

Continued from page 25

He revealed the government was preparing a festival village to display the items in Port of Spain.

In September 2013, the calypsonian icon nearly lost his life after he suffered a stroke, then fell into a diabetic coma. He spent three months in a hospital in New York, USA.

He later returned home and announced that he would make guest appearances at shows to help get income to pay for his medical expenses.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar subsequently



The Mighty Sparrow.

Associated Press / Tim Larsen

said the government would cover the costs of his medical bills.

Steelband competition

Continued from page 25

the road' competitions.

Meanwhile, the steelband organisation, Pan Trinbago will begin their national Panorama competitions in Tobago on Monday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m. at the Buccoo Integrated Facility. This will see the preliminary round for the Single Pan steel bands.

The steelband competitions in Tobago will continue on Monday, Jan. 26, 7:00 p.m. with the preliminaries for the small and medium steelbands at a venue to be announced. Then, on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 7:00 p.m., the national steelband judges will judge the Tobago large bands at their respective pan-yards. In 2014, only one Toba-

go steelband, RBC Redemption Soundsetters participated in the Large Band category.

Meanwhile, the Tobago House of Assembly sponsored Tobago Pan Champs competition has been scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7:00 p.m. at a venue to be announced. On Carnival Monday, the Tobago steelbands have three 'on the road' competitions.

These competitions are the Early Bird Jam, the Josey Richardson Bomb Competition and the Best Beating Band contest.

On Carnival Tuesday, there will be five road competitions which are, Best Beating Steelband, Tobago Calypso Contest, Best Groovy Soca, Last Lap Jam.

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SPORTS

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Gabrielle Wilkinson of Friends Central Academy in Wynnewood PA wins the 1500 meters in 4:51.8.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

Fast pace at Colgate

First time competitors and returning national champions shared the spotlight recently, as the nation's largest track and field series for women, the Colgate Women's Games returned to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Standing room only crowds cheered on star athletes from ages seven to seventy, from all over the East Coast as they set a fast pace for the opening of the indoor season; and Friday night's High School meets ran long as participation in the High School Shot Put swelled to double the average number of participants.

Continued on Page 32

Shared blame for India tour

By Azad Ali

The high-level Task Force commissioned with investigating the ill-fated recent tour of India says the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), the West Indies Players Association (WIPA) and West Indies players were all at fault in the controversy.

The WICB recently received the Task Force report into the abandoned India tour in October.

In their report submitted to the WICB, the task force said while the board and WIPA had "erred significantly" in their administration of the new Memorandum of Understanding, the players also needed to shoulder a

Continued on Page 32



CONCACAF AWARDS PLAYERS

Costa Rica's goalkeeper Keylor Navas eyes the ball during the World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between the Netherlands and Costa Rica at the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador, Brazil, Saturday, July 5, 2014.

Associated Press / Hassan Ammar

Top soccer players, referees named

By Patrick Horne

It's that time of the year when we reflect on the accomplishments of athletes in myriad areas of sports and reward them for their stout play during the past 12 months. A week ago CONCACAF (The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football), the governing body for soccer in this region, released its list of top players whose performances last year left us lifelong impressions.

Performers for national and club teams from different age groups were considered and voted on by techni-

cal directors, national team coaches, captains, media personnel and fans from among the Confederations' 41-member associations.

Heading the list of individual awardees are U.S. national team forward Abby Wambach and Costa

Continued on Page 32

CONCACAF AWARDS

Continued from page 31

Rican Goalkeeper Keylor Navas cited as the CONCACAF Female and Male Players of the Year.

Wambach's year-long accomplishments were highlighted by her Golden Boot award as the leading goal scorer in the CONCACAF Championship and World Cup qualifying tournament in the fall. She finished the tournament as the USA's leading scorer in World Cup qualifying with 18 goals, including a four-goal performance in the championship game versus Costa Rica, when the U.S. won, 6-0. Her performance was the second such feat in a match. Shirley Cruz of Costa Rica finished second to Wambach, who plays for the Western New York Flash of the New Women's Professional League (NWPL).

Navas was outstanding when he led Costa Rica to the top of its group and into the quarterfinal round at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. It earned him a contract with Real Madrid of Spain, the best club team in the world; it was Costa Rica's best World Cup performance. Navas' countryman Bryan Ruiz was second in this category. Costa Rica's Jorge Luis Pinto won Coach of the Year award, and Luis Fernando Suarez of Honduras was second.

Among goalkeepers, USA national team player, Tim Howard, who plays his club soccer for Everton of the English Premier League, was outstanding when he led the U.S. to the Round of 16 and made history for the most saves in a World Cup game with 16. Mexico's Guillermo Ochoa was also outstanding in the nets and was voted second.

For the Goal-of-the-Year, Ruiz's one-time volley shot to lead Costa Rica over Italy a World Cup group match, won the day, with Esteban Ramirez's goal for Herediano over Saprissa in the Costa Rican league last month voted second.

In the referees' category, USA's Mark Geiger, a former mathematics teacher from New Jersey, was named Referee of the Year after outstanding performances in three World Cup games in Brazil. He was later chosen to carry the whistle in the 2014 MLS Cup and was also named 2014 MLS Referee of the Year. Marco Antonio Rodriguez of Mexico was second in the voting.



In this July 1, 2014, file photo, United States' goalkeeper Tim Howard saves a shot by Belgium during a World Cup. Howard has won the 2014 Player of the Year award on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, for his work with the U.S. national team

Associated Press / Felipe Dana



My Khyiah clears the bar at 5 feet 4 inches in the Midschool High Jump.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

Colgate Women's Games

Continued from page 31

In the High School division, national champion Zola Golden of Poughkeepsie scored a double win in the 200 meters (26.) and 400 Meters (58.6); Freshman Gabrielle Wilkinson of Friends Central Academy in Wynnewood PA won the 1500 meters in 4:51.8; Returning High Jump champion Shayla Braughton of Medgar Evers College Prep cleared 5'4" for the win, and returning Shot Put champion Egypt Parker of St. Catharine Academy, Bronx won with a toss of 12.76 M.

The Shot Put participation swelled to a record numbers of participants and Meet Director Cheryl Toussaint said that publicity about recent outstanding performances have helped spread the word. "The Colgate Games are truly inclusive and the Shot Put provides another way for students other than runners to compete in athletics, a crucial part of building self-esteem."

In the College/Open division World Games Champion Samantha Edwards ran a 7.0 in the 55 meters. Edwards recently joined the Virginia State University athletic staff as a Graduate Assistant, and holds 10 NCAA All-American honors and is the school's most decorated Student Athlete of all time. New Jersey's Breasha Morton won the 200 meters in 26.1, and the High Jump, clearing 5'4".

The Elementary A, B and Middle School divisions saw hundreds of newcomers competing with returning student athletes all hoping to earn their way to the finals to be held at the Armory in New York City on Feb. 7, 2015.

Toussaint said "We were pleased to see so many familiar faces back at Pratt Institute, where the Colgate Women's Games began. All weekend around the track, veteran national champions encouraged novice newcomers as families enjoyed a day of watching their kids

in friendly competition. I think all of our officials, and our returning participants would agree that especially so close to the holidays, it's really nice to come home to Pratt."

Three more preliminary meets and semi-finals at Pratt will determine finalists who will compete at The Armory where trophies and educational grants-in-aid from Colgate-Palmolive Company are awarded to top place finishers in each age/grade division.

The Colgate Women's Games have produced several Olympians, hundreds of age/grade division national champions, and countless changed lives. Each year, High school participants are among the most heavily recruited athletes by colleges and universities across the nation. Coaches, recruiters, athletes and fans can follow scores each week at Colgategames.com.

Cricket Task Force allots blame

Continued from page 31

"significant proportion of the blame for the abandoned tour."

The month-long investigation of the crisis, which stemmed from the one-day team's decision to walk off the tour

of India, over a contract dispute with WIPA and the WICB.

Michael Gordon, QC chairman of the Task Force, commissioned to review the matters relating to the premature end to the tour of India, presented the

report. The other members of the Task Force were Sir Wes Hall and Sir Richard Cheltenham QC.

According to a WICB media release, the board of directors reviewed the various governance reports and will set a date to further discuss the various recommendations "with a view to implementing best practice in corporate governance."

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THEME: BROADWAY SONGS

ACROSS

1. A minority people of New Zealand
6. Dr. Frankenstein's workplace
9. *"_____ Enchanted Evening"
13. Straight _____, e.g.
14. _____ king
15. *Exclamatory song from the Buddy Holly Musical
16. Narcotics agent
17. Under the weather
18. Hal-9000's chess opponent
19. *Fantine: "I _____ a dream in time gone by..."
21. Type of canned tomato
23. _____ talk of encouragement
24. *"Who's Got The _____?" from "Damned Yankees"
25. Pick up, as in a criminal
28. Hit song by Katy Perry
30. *DesirÉe: "Quick, send in the _____"
35. Footnote word
37. Horsefly
39. Search helper
40. Mongolian desert
41. Greek ruler of the underworld
43. Ripped
44. Edward Teller's creation
46. Iranian coin
47. *Song title from "Beauty

- and the Beast" and "The Wiz"
48. Conical dwellings
50. Gunk
52. Pavlova's step
53. Dirty money
55. Singer-songwriter Stewart
57. *Peggy Sawyer: "...I am taking you to forty-_____ street."
60. Like a light and confident step
64. Hammerin' Hank
65. "_____ la la!"
67. Food safety threat
68. Summer romance, e.g.
69. Genetic info carrier
70. Clean a spill
71. Change for a twenty
72. Make a seam
73. Agenda entries

DOWN

1. Fix, especially by sewing
2. Month of Purim
3. Fictional giant
4. Summary
5. Chemical compound
6. "Best _____ plans"
7. *"_____ That Jazz" from "Chicago"
8. Model-building wood
9. *"There's no business like _____ business..."
10. Symphony member
11. Dehumidifier's foe
12. Needle hole
15. In an open way
20. Historical period

22. Clinical twitching
24. What meteorologists do
25. *Phantom: "Help me make the music of the _____"
26. PDF reader
27. Jazz style
29. Winglike
31. Often taken with help of a bible
32. Celebrate or "_____ it up!"
33. Marilyn Monroe's original name
34. Sound units
36. Play charades
38. Toothy wheel
42. Impolite dinner sound
45. Be in the right place
49. Duke of Cambridge to Prince of Wales, e.g.
51. *SolfÉge-sounding "Sound of Music" song
54. Emitted from frankincense or myrrh, pl.
56. Monocot's alternative
57. *Cole Porter's "Love for _____"
58. Julia Roberts' character Brockovich
59. Flipside of pros
60. Playwright George Bernard
61. Uh-uh
62. Dour
63. Puppy sounds
64. Away from the bow
66. *"_____ singular sensation..."



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Don't be afraid to embrace your lighthearted side this week, Aries. Laughter is the best medicine, and those around you will enjoy your sense of humor.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, embrace your desire to be close to friends this week. Spend as much time as you can with your friends, especially those you have not seen in awhile.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
A great week with regard to matters of the heart is on the horizon, Gemini. If you have been in a relationship for some time, now is a great time to talk about the future of that relationship.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
You harbor desire to spend some time alone this week, Cancer. You are a social person, but even you need some moments to retreat into your own mind for a while.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
You may be noticing all of the good vibes surrounding you this week, Leo. Expect some positive changes in the days ahead. It may just be a new romantic relationship or friendship.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, a work opportunity could spring up this week if you are willing to expand your horizons. It may be a bit outside of your comfort zone, but you can handle it.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you are in a relatively optimistic frame of mind this week as you try to see the bright side of things. You may find that many new opportunities are headed your way.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Don't spend too much time lost in your own fantasies, Scorpio. You need to maintain your focus on the tasks at hand, both at home and at work.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, resist the urge to take yourself too seriously. Instead, lighten up and embrace the "class clown" role for a little while. This departure from the norm is a breath of fresh air.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, your mind is running a mile a minute this week, but do your best to maintain your focus. This breakneck pace will only last for a little while.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Jump into a situation without restraint, Aquarius. You may find it's refreshing to let go for a change and not worry about the potential outcomes.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
You may receive happy news relating to your partner's finances this week, Pisces. It could be a salary increase or a good bonus. It's time to celebrate.

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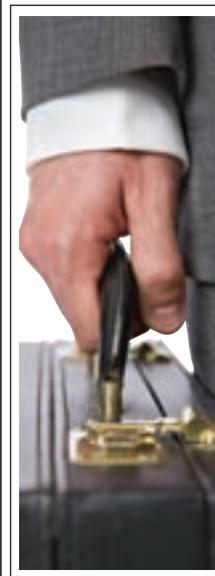
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CITATION File No. 2007-87/B PA. No. 142409 SURROGATE'S COURT, KINGS COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: Iris Beatty Simmons, Hettie Brown, Naomi Martindale, Venus Martindale Apatu, Dalton Simmons,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

the aforesaid persons be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if the persons died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of AMY PHILIPA ARTHUR, the decedent herein, whose names and/or places of residence are unknown and cannot after due diligence be ascertained, A petition having been duly filed by the Public Administrator of Kings

County, who has offices at 360 Adams Street, Room 144A, Brooklyn, New York 11201, United States. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street, Room 319, Brooklyn, New York, on January 27, 2015, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why: (a) The account of proceedings of the Public Administrator of Kings County as Administrator of the estate of AMY PHILIPA ARTHUR, a summary of which has been served herewith, should not be judicially settled; (b) The Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid its commissions pursuant to

SCPA §2307 in the amount of \$46,325.56, as set forth in Schedules C-1 and I of the Account; (c) The Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid its administrative expenses pursuant to SCPA §1106(3) in the amount of \$14,930.23, as set forth in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (d) The Court should not fix, determine and approve the legal fees of Cullen and Dykman LLP, counsel to Petitioner, in the amount of \$84,651.14 as shown in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (e) The Court should not fix, determine and approve the disbursements of Cullen and Dykman

LLP in the amount of \$1,296.00 as shown in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account.; (f) The claims of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, the New York City Human Resources Administration, Dalton Simmons and House of Hills Funeral Home, if any, should not be fixed and determined; (g) The Petitioner should not be permitted to distribute so much of the net estate to the decedent's distributees, as now known or hereafter determined, as their interests may appear, and to deposit any amount not so distributed with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of

New York to be held for the benefit of decedent's unknown distributees or for the benefit of any distributees of the decedent who are under disability for whom no guardian of the property has been appointed; (h) The Petitioner, upon fully complying with the Decree to be made in this proceeding, should not be released and discharged of and from any and all liability, responsibility and accountability with respect to the Petitioner's acts and proceedings as Administrator as set forth and embraced in said account and the Court grant such other and further relief as it deems just and proper; Dated, Attested, and Sealed, De-

ember 5, 2014 HON. Margarita López Torres, Surrogate Doreen A Quinn Chief Clerk Joseph J. Borges, Esq. Cullen and Dykman LLP 44 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005-2407 212-701-4175 NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you, and you or your attorney may request a copy of the full account from the petitioner or petitioner's attorney.

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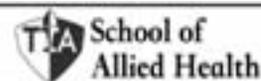
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