



Reggae time

Beenie Man performs onstage at the BET Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Sunday, June 30, 2013, in Los Angeles. See story on Page 41 Frank Micelotta / Invision / Associated

Top US official travels to Haiti

By Nelson A. King

Just eight days after granting limited Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to 58,000 undocumented Haitians living in the United States, a senior Trump administration official is traveling to the French-speak-

ing Caribbean.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said on Tuesday that its Secretary, John F. Kelly, will travel to Haiti on Wednesday "where he will meet with President Jovenel Moïse and other senior government

officials."

DHS said in a very brief statement that Kelly will "discuss international cooperation and issues related to repatriation, as well as efforts to build Haiti's maritime law enforcement

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PETRO DEAL FEARS

Caribbean countries worry over oil deal with Venezuela

By Bert Wilkinson

Despite repeated assurances from Venezuelan diplomats and authorities in Caracas, governments in a growing number of Caribbean Community countries are becoming increasingly worried about the continued existence of a concession oil deal Venezuela signed up with the bloc 12 years ago as the economic and political situation worsens in the oil and gas-

rich South American nation.

Apart from anxiously monitoring events in the country, many are worried about whether a change of government at elections in about two years, or before, could lead to a cancellation or severe altering of the PetroCaribe Agreement that late leftist President Hugo Chavez signed with more than a dozen Caribbean countries in

Continued on Page 6



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Bipartisan effort to give ex-youth offenders a fresh start

By Nelson A. King

US Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08), a member of House Democratic leadership and the Judiciary Committee, along with US Rep. Trey Gowdy (SC-4), a Republican member of the Judiciary Committee, this week introduced the "Renew Act," a bipartisan measure to reduce corrections costs and help young ex-offenders become productive citizens.

"This is a common-sense measure that will improve the lives of millions of people across New York City and this great nation," said Jeffries, whose district encompasses parts of Brooklyn and Queens.

"It serves as a ripple of hope that will allow hardworking people to get back to work and provide for their families," he added. "Rep. Gowdy should be applauded for his leadership in this regard."

Gowdy said federal convictions for non-violent low-level drug offenders often prevent young individuals from finding work, housing and education, posing additional challenges as they work to transition back into society.

"By raising the expungement eligibility age from 21 to 25, the Renew Act promotes opportunities for young former offenders and reduces the risk of recidivism," he said. "I want to thank Rep. Jeffries for his longstanding commitment to promoting a fair and equal justice system and for his bi-partisan effort on this bill."

Jeffries noted that, in 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed into law 18 U.S.C. § 3607, which allows a young person convicted of misdemeanor possession to expunge that conviction if that person meets a certain criteria.

The criteria comprises committing the offense while under age 21; the individual is a low-level, first-time state or federal drug offender; the court uses its discretion to order the individual to probation; and that person successfully completes probation.

If those conditions are met, Jeffries said then the misdemeanor possession is expunged and "shall not be considered a conviction for the purpose of a disqualification or disability imposed by law."

Jeffries said the Renew Act would increase the expungement eligibility age from 21 to 25.

He said this will allow judges to use their discretion under Section 3607 to help more young people earn probation needed to expunge a misdemeanor possession.

Vincentian ex-police group continues to serve with pride

By Nelson A. King

After 37 years of service, the Brooklyn-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association, U.S.A., AInc. continues to "stand unwaveringly on the foundation laid down by its founding fathers," according to the group's president Arden Tannis.

"They were men who adhered to a creed while they were serving members of the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force: 'One for All and All for One,'" said Tannis in addressing the 37th Anniversary Fundraising Gala and Awards Ceremony Saturday night at Glen Terrace on Avenue N in Brooklyn.

"It was this belief that pushed them to act, resulting in the formation of this organization," added, who has served two consecutive years as president of one of the older Vincentian groups in the United States. "Their coining and use of our tagline, 'Staying together to Serve,' have served the organization well. It has been the secret of our longevity.

"As the SVG [St. Vincent and the Grenadines] Ex- Police Association continues to grow, so will be our commitment to serve our members and our community both in our motherland and here in the Diaspora," continued Tannis, stating that the group will, among other things, continue to increase donation of supplies and equipment to needy institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, render aid to ex-police officers and their families in times of distress, provide additional aid towards the education of the youth, and extend visits and contributions of toiletries and other personal effects to nursing homes and the sick and shut-ins in the homeland.

He said the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association, U.S.A., Inc. comprises former members of the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, and was founded in August 1978 in Brooklyn.

According to the commemorative journal, the objectives of the group are to unite former police officers who resided in the United States, particularly in New York, and engage them in fund-raising initiatives, thus allowing them to provide assistance to other ex-police offices during unforeseen emergencies.

The decision to form the association was made as a result of the tragic and untimely death of Alpheus Diamond, a 36-year-old police sergeant of the Royal St. Vincent Police Force.

While on vacation in Brooklyn, Diamond, in attempting to escape a fire in the home where he stayed, jumped from a window and sustained injuries from which he later died.



Arden Tannis, president of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association, U.S.A. Inc. addresses the audience at the award ceremony.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Celebrating 37 years demonstrates your tireless work in the communities you serve.

Since returning Diamond's body home to St. Vincent and the Grenadines for burial became a financial burden for his family, ex-police officers in New York "got together and pooled their resources to provide the necessary funds to have his body transported," the journal states.

Despite occasional difficulties, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association, U.S.A., Inc. "continues to create a positive impact here in New York and at home in St. Vincent and the Grenadines," the journal adds.

In saluting the group, the Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United States noted its "longevity as an organization that functions in the Diaspora to benefit police and police organizations in the homeland."

"Who would have thought that the actions of a handful of ex-police officers

37 years ago, who, by pooling resources to repatriate the remains of a fallen colleague, Sergeant Alpheus Diamond, would result in the formation and sustaining of such a vibrant organization?" said St. Vincent and the Grenadines Consul General Howie Prince in his remarks. "Clearly, yours is a master tale of determination, strength of character and perseverance."

The umbrella Vincentian group in the US, the Brooklyn-based Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organization U.S.A. Inc. (COSAGO), of which the police association is a member, also extended congratulatory greetings.

"Celebrating 37 years demonstrates your tireless work in the communities you serve," said COSAGO president Laverne McDowald-Thompson in addressing the Award Ceremony. "You have come this far, maintaining a stellar record. 'Today, your focus is on offering scholarships, acquiring a building and taking care of the youth. I support your positive visions, as you work to make a difference in our communities.'"

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Antigua

Public outcry and condemnation by the main Opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) has forced Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne to scrap a proposed plan to give investors permission to build a gun-assembly plant in the proposed Economic Zone on the island.

The prime minister announced on Radio Observer that he had instructed the attorney general to scrap the deal.

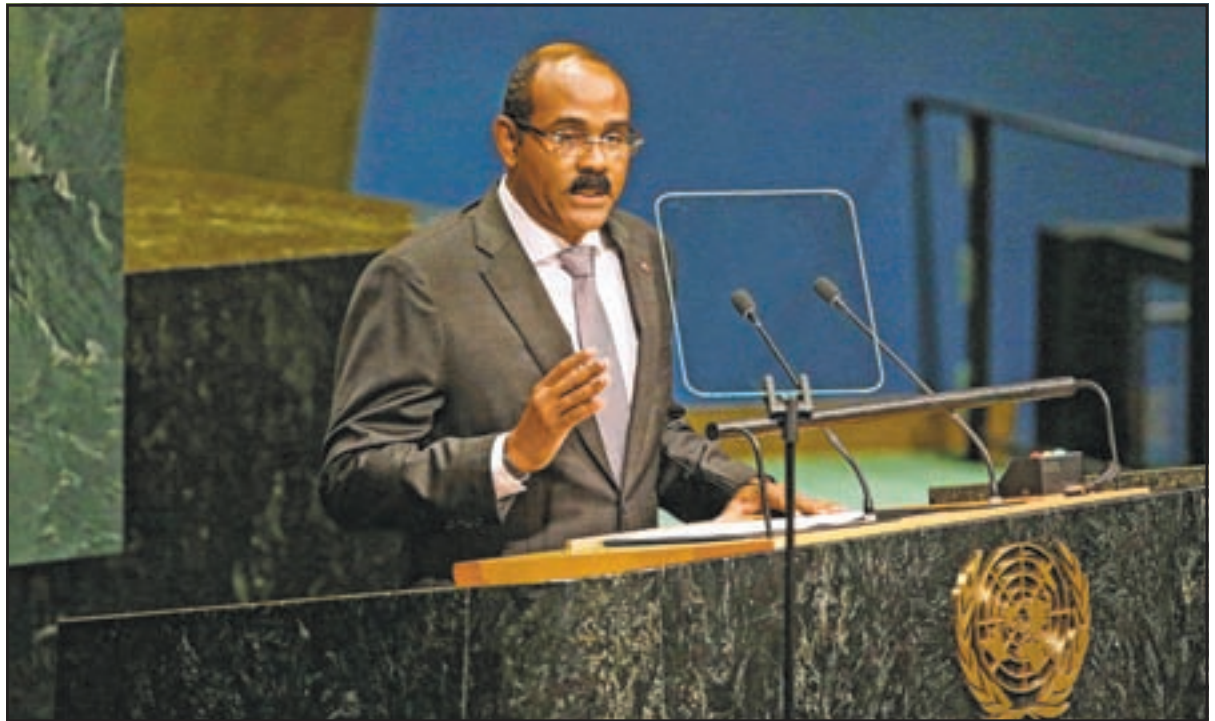
Browne had called the radio station earlier in the afternoon and confirmed that the plan was going ahead.

But scores of residents called the radio station to criticize the prime minister for agreeing to the gun factory.

The prime minister claimed that he was not on the island when the decision was made in Cabinet to set up the gun manufacturing plant in Antigua, for export.

He agreed that it was a risk and it was in the best interest of the nation to scuttle the deal.

The UPP in a release said this reflects the "scant regard that the Gaston Browne administration places on the safety of the residents of the country through a proposal to establish a gun assembly plant in Antigua and Barbuda."



Antigua scraps gun assembly plant

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Alphonso Browne addresses the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016.

Associated Press / Jason DeCrow

Bahamas

The new Bahamas Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has sent a warning of immediate dismissal as a consequence of "unethical" behavior from Cabinet ministers and permanent secretaries.

This includes 12 ministers and three ministers of state.

Dr. Minnis told the persons who attended his swearing in ceremony recently that the government will be marked by "order and punctuality."

He noted that his administration was one of less talk and more action.

Dr. Minnis promised to hold ministers to the highest standards of ethical



conduct in performance of their duties.

He also warned his ministers that if they should engage in any unsavory or unethical requests to the permanent secretaries and he finds out they would be fired immediately.

The new appointees include Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest and Attorney General Carl Bethel who were also sworn in.

Barbados

Barbados Finance Minister Chris Sinkler was dismissive of a suggestion from the governor of the Central Bank Clevison Haynes to approach the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a bid to safeguard the local currency.

Sinkler told Barbados Today that while the economy "is not doing well at



the moment," he is yet to see the logic in approaching the international lending agency.

He said even if the government went to the IMF it was unlikely that any tangible benefits would be realized within the next six months.

The minister said he was looking forward to the economic review by the Haynes on the country's first quarter economic performance.

Jamaica

A DNA registry has been opened in Jamaica which will make it easier for police to positively identify perpetrators of crime.

National Security Minister Robert Montague in making this announcement said the DNA science will enable police to rely less on fingerprinting to guarantee a positive identification.

He noted that government has invested in the Institute of Forensic Sciences and Legal Medicine and more equipment and more pathologists will be available in the all-out war on crime.

Montague said this new technology and advancements are allowing the police to prepare better cases and enhance their intelligence gathering.

The minister said the DNA will now tie suspects to the crime scene and ensure there is no more escaping on a technicality.

St. Kitts

The St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris said the two economic citizens who are alleged to have



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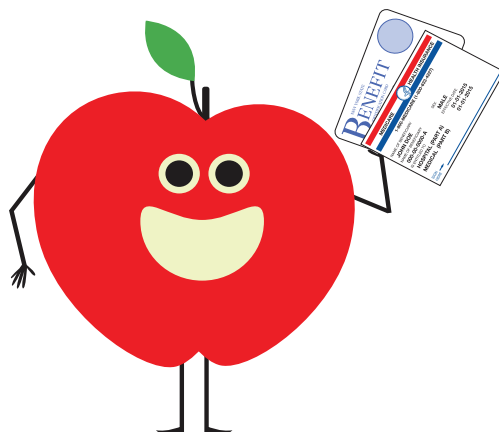
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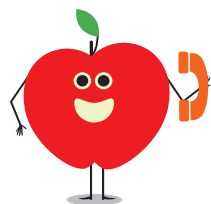
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Venezuela tries to allay fears

Continued from Page 1

Jamaica back in 2005.

Just this week, the head of Venezuela's Embassy in Jamaica thought it best to reassure authorities there that despite the daily upheavals in the country, they should rest assured that nothing will change anytime soon.

Luis Gutierrez, the deputy head of mission in Kingston talked about the extremely close relations the two countries have had over the decades and is adamant that all bilateral agreements, PetroCaribe included, will be respected and honored as the months roll by despite the problems back home. "The Venezuela government remains committed to the bilateral arrangements and trade between the two countries," she told reporters as officials nervously eye the situation in Caracas and other cities affected by violent protests and clashes with riot police.

More than 50 people have been killed as the opposition ramps up pressure on the administration of President Nicolas Maduro to either call early elections or to step down as a chronic foreign exchange shortage in a country with, ironically the world's largest oil reserves, has led to massive shortages of food, medicines and other basics.



A supporter of President Nicolas Maduro holds a picture of late president Hugo Chavez during a concentration outside of Miraflores Presidential Palace to support a process to rewrite the nation's constitution, in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, May 30, 2017. As President Maduro faces daily protests in the streets he has offered to rewrite the constitution as a way out of the impasse, something the opposition as rejected out of hand. Associated Press / Ariana Cubillos

Thousands have left the country for the United States, the Caribbean and neighboring South American nations.

As the situation continues in Caracas, some Caribbean Community nations have found themselves at the center of a major diplomatic snafu at the Organization of American States (OAS) over Venezuela.

US to discuss repatriation

Continued from Page 1

capacity, and to encourage cooperation between the Dominican Republic and Haiti's nascent border security unit."

Kelly's visit comes after announcing last week Monday that he was granting a six-month TPS extension to Haitians living illegally in the US. The extension, which becomes effective on Jul. 23, 2017, runs through Jan. 22, 2018.

But Kelly warned that the extension should allow Haitian TPS recipients living in the US "time to attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their ultimate departure from the United States, and should also provide the Haitian government with the time it needs to prepare for the future repatriation of all current TPS recipients."

In making the decision to grant Haitians limited TPS, rather than the usual 18 months, Kelly said conditions in Haiti had "substantially improved since the earthquake in 2010."

He cited, among other things, the impending withdrawal of the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH) in Haiti after 13 years; newly elected President Moise's promise to rebuild the razed National Palace; and the closure of most of the tent cities.

But Haitians in the US are querying their fate after the limited TPS ends. Miami resident Evita Fremont, 48, like

thousands of her compatriots, wondered what she would be going back to, according to the Miami Herald.

"If they tell you to get out, you have to get out," she told the paper. "Haiti is my country, but it doesn't have jobs. So, I am going back to do what?"

Fremont and others, however, take issue with DHS' assessment, according to the Herald.

Seven years after the devastating earthquake, they say, Haiti is still recovering from the collapse of its economy, and is struggling to restore social and economic normalcy, the Herald said.

"They are doing politics. They haven't gone to Haiti," said Fremont, a mother of four. "If you just look at the South where I am from, there is no way anyone can say it has improved."

Fremont has been in the United States since 2008, the Herald said.

"I can't even think about going back," said Fremont, who suffers from hypertension and diabetes. "All I know is that if I go back, I am not going to live long. I am a sick woman."

An official with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which keeps a close eye on Haiti, told the Herald that Haiti depends heavily on remittances from nationals living abroad, like Fremont.

Their dollars account for 20 percent of the income of people in Haiti annually, the unidentified official told the Herald.

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Banking impasse hits Barbados commerce

By George Alleyne

Lawyers are threatening to take the Barbados government to court if an amendment to the Revenue Act is not repealed, in the latest turn of events after a protest by commercial banks that halted real estate business.

This amendment to the act that became effective in March demands that persons wishing to conduct business transactions involving their property must have a clearance certificate showing that all due taxes were fully paid up, or that an arrangement to pay has been worked out with the Barbados Revenue Authority.

Government officials said the change is a measure to close loop holes in tax collection and bring in much needed revenue that is anyhow due to the Treasury.

But after commercial banks last week halted some 330 real estate transactions valued at an estimated Bar\$221 million (Bar\$1 = 50 cents US),

the Bar Association a few days later issued an ultimatum giving government by June 09 to revoke the amendment or face the court.

The banks claimed that the amended law was unclear on how they can conduct future real estate-related business and argued that demanding a tax clearance certificate from each client takes too long, and the lawyers supported this view.

"Several members of the bar, who in fact are integral to every land transaction completed in Barbados have reported significant challenges with obtaining the clearance certificates and consequently are unable to conclude property transactions on behalf of their clients," the Nation newspaper this week quoted Bar Association President, Liesel Weekes.

When banks had halted their attempts to process real estate transactions the Bankers Association issued a statement asserting, "the association further advises that until such clarification is obtained, commercial banks will not be in a position to close real estate related transactions and disburse monies associated with same."

This stoppage in real estate business transactions comes while the Barbados economy continues to wilt under a recession characterized by generally slow commerce, low foreign exchange earnings and government struggling with a high deficit.

The Opposition Barbados Labour Party did not miss a beat on this matter, dispatching a press release after the Bankers Association statement reminding government that the BLP had vigorously opposed the amendment in Parliament.

Opposition Leader, Mia Mottley, stated, "when this amendment was introduced by the government two months ago, the BLP took the position that this action would be the death knell of business in Barbados."

She contended, "the amendment to the Barbados Revenue Authority Act would cause total and complete chaos in the lives of citizens and businesses, conducting ordinarily routine transactions. The Barbados Revenue Authority simply does not have the institutional capacity to undertake the role of issuing this volume of Tax Clearance Certificates in acceptable timelines required for commercial transactions in Barbados."



Barbados Opposition Leader, Mia Mottley.

Photo by George Alleyne

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Why international financial crises?

By Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, received the Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought in 2007.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, May 31 2017 (IPS) - International currency and financial crises have become more frequent since the 1990s, and with good reason. But the contributory factors are neither simple nor straightforward. Such financial crises have, in turn, contributed to more frequent economic difficulties for the economies affected, as evident following the 2008-2009 financial crisis and the ensuing Great Recession still evident almost a decade later.

Why international coordination?

Why is global co-ordination so necessary? There are two main reasons. One big problem before the Second World War was the contractionary macro-economic consequences of the 'gold standard'.

In 1944, before the end of the Second World War, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt convened the United Nations Conference on Monetary and Financial Affairs – better known as the Bretton Woods Conference – even before the UN itself was set up the following year in San Francisco. After almost a month, the conference established the framework for the post-war international monetary and financial system, including the creation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Interna-



An underlying cause of international financial crises has been the ascendance, transformation and hegemony of the financial sector over the past three to four decades.

Inter Press Service

tional Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), or World Bank.

To be sure, the Bretton Woods system reflected sometimes poor compromises made among the negotiating government representatives. Nevertheless, it served post-war reconstruction and early post-colonial development reasonably well until 1971.

In September of that year, the Nixon Administration in the US – burdened with mounting inflation and unsustainable budget deficits, partly due to the costly Vietnam War – unilaterally withdrew from its core commitment to ensure full US dollar convertibility to gold at the agreed rate. Thus, the unilateral US action did not involve a transition from the Bretton Woods system to any coherent, internationally agreed alternative.

Birth of a 'non-system'

The pre-1971 post-Second World War period has often been referred to as a Golden Age, a period of rapid reconstruction, growth and employment expansion after the devastation of the Second World War. It was also a period of development and structural transformation in many developing countries.

All this came to an end when coordination and multilateralism collapsed following President Nixon's decision to renege on 1944 US commitments at Bretton Woods which became the basis for the post-war international monetary system.

The leading international monetary economist of the post-war period, Robert Triffin, described the post-1971 arrangements as amounting to a 'non-system'. Now, with the international monetary system essentially the cumulative outcome of various, sometimes contradictory and ad hoc responses to new challenges, the need for coordination is all the more urgent.

A strong case for co-ordination has long been made by the United Nations. For example, soon after the global financial crisis exploded in late 2008, the 2009 mid-year update of the UN's World Economic Sit-

uation and Prospects showed how better coordinated and more equitable fiscal stimuli would have benefited all parties – developed countries, developing countries, transition economies and, most of all, the least developed countries.

Anarchy and fragility

Since the collapse of the Bretton Woods system in 1971, a small handful of currencies – especially the US dollar, the international favourite by far – have been held by others as reserve currencies. This has allowed the issuers of these currencies – especially the US – to run massive trade deficits, contributing to unsustainable global imbalances in savings and consumption.

A second underlying cause of international financial crises has been the ascendance, transformation and hegemony of the financial sector – termed 'financialization' – over the past three to four decades. Partly as a consequence, many decision-makers are now often more concerned with short-term financial indicators than other key economic indicators, often presuming that the former reflect the latter despite the lack of such evidence.

A third factor has been growing 'financial fragility', part-

ly due to the global financial 'non-system' in place since the collapse of the Bretton Woods system. Referring to this 'non-system' as an international financial 'architecture' is really insulting to architects. The lack of coherence and coordination has been exacerbated by financial deregulation, liberalization and globalization over the past three decades.

Finance calling the shots

The growing and spreading subordination of the real economy to finance in recent decades is a fundamental part of the problem. While finance is indeed a very important, if not an essential hand-maiden for the functioning of the real economy, the subordination of the real economy to finance has transformed macro-financial dynamics, with unproductive, contractionary, even dangerous consequences.

So, to address the root causes of crises, much better, including more appropriate regulation of the financial system is needed to ensure consistently counter-cyclical macro-financial institutions, instruments and policies, and to subordinate the financial sector to the real economy.

The 2008 financial crisis has catalyzed many debates on these issues – some old, some new – for instance, between Keynesian/Minskyian economists and their opponents; between Anglo-American and continental European worldviews; and between the global North and South. Any sustainable solution will clearly require much better international cooperation and co-ordination.

Hence, almost a decade since the 2008 global financial crisis began, there is no shared political commitment to much needed international financial reforms. It took fifteen years from the beginning of the Great Depression, a world war and Roosevelt's extraordinary leadership before the world was able to reform the international financial system in 1944. But sadly, there is no Roosevelt for our times.

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NASA scientist bound to inspire Caribbean girls

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that many Caribbean immigrants to the United States have distinguished themselves as trailblazers and in the process made their homeland proud.

Just ask Trinidad & Tobago-born NASA aerospace scientist Dr. Camille Wardrop Alleyne, accomplished as the only woman of Caribbean descent in a top position at NASA she is now on a mission to inspire thousands of girls across the organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to greatness.

"When you empower and inspire youth to believe in themselves and their capacity for greatness, they embrace their power to be the leaders of tomorrow — leaders who will create positive and lasting change in their communities and our world," the space engineer said.

On a mission to infuse a message to "dream big dreams and know there is no limit to success with hard work, determination, focus and a strong self-esteem," Alleyne plans to motivate at least 10,000 girls by touring OECS countries and on each stop deliver the empower-



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

ing passport to success.

As the founder of the Brightest Stars Foundation — an organization she established in 2007 to benefit girls in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America by directing them to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields — she envisions her brainchild as a motivator that will empower girls in the sub-region to achieve against all odds.

To that end she has partnered with the OECS Commission to achieve her goal.

Along with her team of experts, they plan to visit 10 Caribbean islands by the end of the year.

The aim is to host 1,500 girls in each island.

Deserving girls will be pooled from underserved rural and urban communities.

Allegedly, Dr. Alleyne will use the facts from the recently nominated Academy Award film "Hidden Figures" to moti-

vate, inspire and empower thousands of girls throughout the region to reach their full potential.

The film depicts the experiences of African-American women mathematicians who worked at NASA during the 1950s. Unsung heroines of a nail-biting space race with the Russians during that era, they were instrumental in calculating the flight trajectories that made the mission of astronaut John Glenn a successful first for an American to orbit the earth.

Alleyne was born in 1966 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Reportedly she had a fascination with space and planes from an early age.

After leaving her homeland at 17 years old, she was determined to study aeronautical engineering.

Focused and motivated by all she had seen and read, she received a bachelor's in mechan-



Dr. Camille Wardrop Alleyne.

FAMU Alum

ical engineering from Howard University, a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Florida A&M, and a master's in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland. She also has a PhD in Educational Leadership from the University of Houston.

Years later, the curious and industrious youngster found herself stepping through

the doors of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Centre in Florida as a spacecraft engineer.

Her first job was as an aerospace systems engineer with the Department of Defense, where she worked on missile defense systems. She began working at NASA testing environmental equipment for the

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Seven Guyanese honored at fundraising event

By **Tangerine Clarke**

Sen. Roxanne J. Persaud, while thanking members of the Guyana Action Committee (GAC) for honoring her, said politicians shouldn't be given awards for doing community work. "Our job is to enrich the lives of people who we work for."

She encouraged GAC to continue their domestic violence forum, headed by Bonita Montique, saying, "keep up the good work, together we can move mountains, together we can achieve more," during the group's recent Annual Fundraising Brunch and Mother's honors at Cristo Rey Brooklyn School in Flatbush.

Other distinguished honorees included; Guyana Consul General to New York, Hon. Barbara Atherly, Louisa Grimmond, Paula Sandy, Albertha Braithwaite, Natricia Hooper, and Yonette Hooper, presented with GAC Certificates of Appreciation and Statues, and Appreciation Certificates, from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

President Errol Lewis, lauded the honorees for

their contribution to Guyana Action Committee (GAC), and the community as large, and complimented Sen. Roxanne Persaud for the outstanding work she is doing in the diaspora.

Council General Barbara Atherly, in turn told the group that their financial contributions for education in Guyana, their provision of footwear for children in Guyana, and the recognition and honor bestowed on women are remarkable efforts.

"More impressive, are your plans for the women and children in Guyana. Your plans to set up a home for abused women and children is a very noble cause, it is a clear sign that you are in touch with Guyana and the current needs of that society."

Guyana Action Committee, whose motto is to engage in projects and discussions aimed at providing means for cultural economic and social change, hosted an afternoon of music, tributes, and a fashion show, to raise funds to carry out its work in Guyana and the U.S.



Bonita Montique and Errol Lewis hand over GAC award and Appreciation Certificate from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke to Sen. Roxanne Persaud. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Acting District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, who congratulated GAC for their contribution, later danced with 99-year-old Louisa Grimmond, who received the old-

est mother award. Grimmond later displayed her British Guiana birth certificate for all to see. Saxophonist Flantiss provided the music.

Mother of the year went

to Albertha Braithwaite, who was among the elegantly dressed attendees, treated to Guyanese fare, music by Rudy Bishop's Chronicle Atlantic Orchestra, and a trendy fashion show.

A Dutch auction and a raffle raised much-needed funds to carry out GAC's mission.

Some of the organization's initiatives are Gun Violence Prevention, and Domestic Violence Awareness. The group has also made donations to Little Friends Nursery in Guyana, and a Guy\$M check, accepted by Guyana Attorney General Basil Williams on behalf of the Burnham Education Scholarship Trust. A donation of 200 pairs of shoes for Guyana's underprivileged children were handed over to First Lady Sandra Granger as part of President David Granger's humanitarian initiative.

Executive officers are Errol Lewis board chairman / president; Bonita Montaque, director of operations; Anita Cochran, treasurer; Nিকেitta Leung, secretary; and Ellen Tappin, PR director.

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Farm Up Jamaica!

By Dawn Plummer

This promises to be a major fundraiser food festival, and last Thursday evening at the Consulate General Office of Jamaica, Farm Up Jamaica, a non-profit organization held its media conference to launch its first drive of a "Jerk, Roots and Yam Festival." The food festival is slated to help struggling farmers in Jamaica, also young agriculturalist students who are enthusiastic about farming and want to be self-reliant.

The June 11, Fundraiser Food Festival event will take place at the Roy Wilkins Park in Queens. In making this announcement, Executive Director of Farm Up Jamaica, Neil Curtis, reminded the media of how important agriculture was in the Jamaican culture, yet it made no significant impact on the Jamaican economy. "Agriculture is only six percent of the GDP. We have to organize farming, so it has a better impact on the GDP. We have done some research and found ways we can help the farmers in Jamaica," Curtis said.

The Jerk, Roots & Yam Food Festival, he explained is an exposition for some of the food produce coming out of Jamaica and other Caribbean nations. The items utilized in the festival will be highly favoured Caribbean foods. The Food Festival is expected to help the Diaspora businesses who buy and sell Jamaican food items as well. These vendors participating in the festival will earmark and promote their food produce and their businesses. The food festival exposition will encourage food vendors to show their best displays, Curtis emphasized.

Farm Up Jamaica is also hoping to have the diaspora community members who are concerned or passionate about agriculture galvanize on the importance of this matter, and work to help make a reduction, on the importation of foreign foods to Jamaica a realization. According to Curtis, the organization, through its research methods have identified onion as a produce that is imported from the United States, "we took a look at the growth of onion and learnt that over 90

percent of Jamaican's onion came out of the United States." In further explaining this situation, he said that Farm Up Jamaica will now assist onion farmers in Jamaica who have the land to produce. These farmers, he said, will work with young agriculturalists who are enthusiastic about farming and are willing to take the steps to produce more than the normal.

The organizers also hope that the June 11 event will help expose the Jamaican farmers to new possibilities for them to consider while engaging their work. Curtis said organic agriculture is at the top of the agenda for Farm Up Jamaica. He added that some research and testing are being done on locally grown foods including ginger. He said that some 200 at risk young people are involved in the process to have clean organic farming as part of this development. Some farmers in Jamaica are also asked to identify foods that are imported that can be grown at maximum capacity in Jamaica to help Jamaicans. Once



From left, Rhea Smith, representative from NY State Senator Jesse Hamilton; Executive Director for Farm Up Jamaica, Neil Curtis; Elisa Heligar, representative from Senator Hamilton's office and Dr. Julius Garvey, board member, Farm Up Jamaica.
DeAnna Williams

the foods are identified, Farm Up Jamaica will run tests and research ways on how to assist those farmers.

Support has come from a wide cross section of the Jamaican community including Dr. Julius Garvey, son of the late Marcus Garvey, Ky Mani Marley, son of Bob Marley, the Bob Marley Foundation, the legendary poet, Mutabaruka, Lieutenant Stiche, Sister Carol, Glen Washington and several other local artists. The artists will all perform at the June 11 Food Festival at Roy Wilkins Park to help make their contri-

bution to the struggling farmers in Jamaica.

Dr. Garvey, in his remarks at the media conference, said Farm Up Jamaica is one of the best ways to help build Jamaica. "Agriculture is the best place to start to help Jamaica's economy. Jamaica has the numbers to help promote our local foods and develop agriculture," Dr. Garvey noted. Farm Up Jamaica has also been introducing its organization and its work since the last four years to schools across Jamaica to help expose the students to a better understanding of agriculture.



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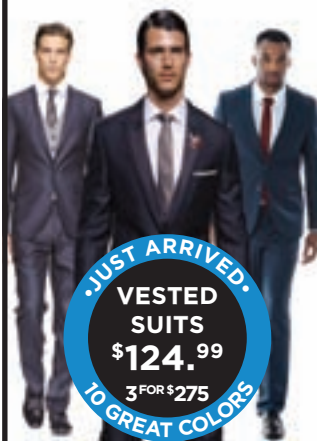


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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

defrauded state institutions to the tune of US\$100 million no longer have legitimate St. Kitts and Nevis passports.

He told a press conference recently that the St. Kitts-Nevis government is actively investigating the matter surrounding the economic citizens of Chinese descent, who applied for and obtained St. Kitts and Nevis citizenship in 2013 during the tenure of the Denzil Douglas administration and have been living in the Federation since 2014.

The former Douglas government had granted the St. Kitts and Nevis passports with their country of origin concealed.



St. Lucia

The CARICOM Cannabis Commission will soon hold meetings in St. Lucia to hear the views of St. Lucians on the subject of marijuana.



Spokesman for the local Cannabis Movement, Andre Pancho Decaries said the commission wants a wide-cross section of views on marijuana use.

He said there are scores of people in the country who are concerned about changing the laws and their views should be heard.

Decaries said politicians are avoiding taking a clear position on marijuana out of concern for the political

future.

He believes that St. Lucia is in a great position to capitalize on the economic benefits of marijuana growth.

The commission was established to determine whether there should be a change in the current drug classification of marijuana thereby making the drug more accessible for all types of usage including religious, recreational and medical research.

Trinidad

The Trinidad and Tobago government has failed in its bid to have the Appeal Court overturn an injunction to stop the process of the Property Tax which was due to go into effect in June.



Justice Frank Seepersad granted an injunction restraining the government from implementing the tax until the judicial review matter is heard on May 31, 2017.

Attorney Anand Ramlogan SC who is appearing on behalf of Devant Maharaj is contending that the enforcement of the property tax in its current form and the requirement of citizens to file Valuation Return Forms are illegal, unconstitutional and ultra vires.

The state rushed to appeal the decision of Justice Seepersad, which was heard two days later in the Appeal Court in Port of Spain.

The three judges said there was no urgency to hear the matter and adjourned the case to June 6, 2017.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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Guyanese told to recommit to Guyana's growth

By Tangerine Clarke

Guyana's 51st Anniversary of Independence was celebrated against the backdrop of unity during a reception at the United Nations Headquarters in Manhattan on May 26. The exact date the republic celebrated its freedom from the British.

Permanent Representation of Guyana to the United Nations, Ambassador Michael Ten Pow, and Consul General of Guyana to New York Barbara Atherly, welcomed the diaspora to the General Assembly Hall which Amb. Ten Pow called fitting for the commemoration, that showcased Guyanese pride, comradery, and harmony.

Ambassador Ten Pow reminded Guyanese of the indentured laborers who came to Guyana, and inter-married to make Guyana what it is today, a rich, racial and cultural tapestry of unity in diversity, woven into one people, one nation with one destiny to mold.

"My fellow Guyanese, I must say that along with the rights,



Consul General Barbara Atherly, and Ambassador Michael Ten Pow cut a 51st Anniversary of Independence cake at a United Nations reception hosted by the diplomats on May 26.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

privileges, freedoms and opportunities that come with being independent, we also have responsibilities. We must use the tools and opportunities

available to us to build on the foundation left us by the first two generations of independent Guyanese."

"I am reminded of the words of our national poet Martin Carter: 'I do not sleep to dream. But dream to change the world. Development begins in our dreams, in our imagination, and so this generation must dream to change Guyana in our time, and to leave it a better place for our children and grandchildren to inherit,' he said.

"Let us recommit ourselves to the development of Guyana to become better citizens in every sense of the word. Let us strive together in unity to realize the dream of the good life for all."

The diplomat thanked guests for joining Guyanese in celebrating the 51st Anniversary of Independence and called on ambassadors and representatives of member states of the United Nations to work with Guyana.



Ambassador Michael Ten Pow, Sentor Roxanne J. Persaud, Britnee Timberlake, president of NJ Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Legislative Aide Ira Lewis, and Consul General Barbara Atherly, during a Resolution presentation.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

"I invite you to join us, work with us, share with us the knowledge and expertise that come with experience, those of you who have been masters of your own destinies for far longer than 51 years," he said.

The diplomat then asked the audience to raise their glasses to toast His Excellency President David A. Granger, and the government of Guyana.

Consul General Barbara Atherly who presided over the festivities, extended a warm welcome to guests and recalled the joyous moment on May 26, 1966, when the Union Jack flag

was lowered, and the majestic Golden Arrowhead flag hoisted, stating that was a proud moment for Guyana.

She thanked the Friends of the Consulate Independence Committee for organizing the event and acknowledged the contributions made by Nosstrand Liquors, Trevor Rupnarain and Ann Narine of Zen Lounge and others.

Celebrated under the theme: Unity and Diversity in a Green Economy, CG Atherly told expatriates to continue to unite and support each other as Guyana forges ahead as a young nation.



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Caribbean American politicians denounce limited TPS for Haitians

By Nelson A. King

Two Caribbean American legislators in Brooklyn have denounced as woefully inadequate the limited extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for undocumented Haitians living in the United States.

New York State Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, and New York City Assemblyman Jumaane Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants, said on Wednesday, May 24 that the Trump administration's decision this week to extend TPS for six months, rather than 18 months, is an insult to nationals from the French-speaking Caribbean country.

"The extension for Haiti's TPS designation was needed, but the length of six months is not enough," said Bichotte, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn.

"It definitely begs the question, 'why would the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) only extend the designation for six months and not for 18 months, which has been the normal practice?'" asked Bichotte, the first Haitian American from New York City to be elected to New York State Assembly.

She said while the US' premise is that conditions have improved in Haiti, it is "patently false."

Bichotte noted that Haiti was struck by Hurricane Matthew last year, "the worst hurricane to hit Haiti in 52 years," and that the country is still experiencing a cholera epidemic, "which has killed nearly 10,000 people and made another 800,000 very sick."

"Combined, these two events have also resulted in extreme food insecurity on the island," she said, adding that the Trump administration "would have

us believe that most of the camps that were created for those displaced during the hurricane have been disbanded.

"That is true, however not because people have been provided with adequate housing but because they were forcibly closed due to large scale evictions by landowners," she pointed out. "Unfortunately, these evictions have mostly gone unchallenged."

"It has even gotten to the point that now several of the larger camps have been reclassified as 'permanent housing' simply because the residents had attached so much salvaged building material to their make-shift housing," Bichotte continued. Williams, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn, said that the six-month extension, announced by DHS Secretary John F. Kelly on Monday, is unfathomable, stating that it puts the administration's "ignorance on full display — to believe that Haiti will be significantly better in six months."

"This also shows a continued lack of consideration on viewing immigrants humanely and forcing them to live under a continued cloud," he added, calling for continued unity and strategy in helping Haiti rebuild after a series of natural disasters, "and focus on how we can create a path to permanent residency for the thousands of Haitians, who now call the US home."

"I stand committed and ready to advocate for and with the Haitian community for the months and years to come," Williams affirmed.

Kelly said on Monday that the TPS extension is effective July 23, 2017 through Jan. 22, 2018.

But he warned that the six-month extension "should allow Haitian TPS recipients living in

the United States time to attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their ultimate departure from the United States, and should also provide the Haitian government with the time it needs to prepare for the future repatriation of all current TPS recipients."

Prior to the expiration of this limited six-month period, Kelly, however, said he will re-evaluate the designation for Haiti and decide anew whether extension, re-designation, or termination is warranted. But he maintained that Haitian TPS recipients, who do not have another immigration status, to use the time before Jan. 22, 2018 to "prepare for and arrange their departure from the United States — including proactively seeking travel documentation — or to apply for other immigration benefits for which they may be eligible."

With a decision looming on TPS for 58,000 undocumented Haitians living in the United States, a number of immigration lawyers in the United States had urged Haitians worried about deportation to start contingency plans.

At a forum in Miami on Friday, organized by the Haitian Lawyers Association and Haitian Women of Miami, at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex, lawyers and others said it's time for TPS holders to begin making contingency plans in the event that John Kelly had decided to end the program in January, according to the Miami Herald.

Bichotte pointed to reports last month that the Trump administration "was trying to characterize Haitians as criminals and people who cheated our welfare system."

But she said TPS recipients are ineligible for welfare benefits.

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Caribbean exports increase

By Nelson A. King

Washington, D.C.-based Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) says that after four consecutive years of contraction, Latin American and Caribbean exports returned to “a path of growth.”

In the first quarter of 2017, the IDB said the value of goods exports increased 17 percent year-on-year, having contracted 2.9 percent in 2016.

The recovery was driven primarily by a rebound in commodity prices, according to an analysis conducted by the IDB using detailed data for 25 countries in the region.

The update to the annual report, Trade Trend Estimates of Latin America and the Caribbean,” argues that, in 2016, regional exports followed a trend similar to that of world trade, “whereas the recovery observed in the beginning of 2017 was more intense.”

“The trend reversal is great news for Latin America and the Caribbean. Yet, in the current context, one should not overestimate the drivers of this export expansion, which remain unstable and still restricted to a few regional economies,” said Paolo Giordano, principal economist of the Integration and Trade Sector and coordinator of the report.

He said countries with a high share of oil and mineral products in their export supply posted the largest increases, due to the recovery in commodity markets.

Meanwhile, export volumes in the entire region registered only a slight acceleration of 2.2 percent on average, and real export growth was observed in just a few countries, Giordano said.

He said South American countries exhibited the strongest recovery, with an average export growth of 23 percent.

Noteworthy in this group were the performances of Venezuela, with a 75 percent increase, followed by Peru with 39 percent, Ecuador with 34 percent, Colombia with 31 percent, and Brazil with 24 percent, the IDB said.

It said Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America) and the Caribbean registered an expansion of 11 and 12 percent, respectively.

“The return to an export growth path marked the end of the longest trade recession in the region’s recent history, which lasted 24 months,” the IDB said.

Despite the expansion, it said the value of exports remains 10 percent below its peak registered in 2014.



Singers performing at Caribbeing’s Haitian flag day musical event on May 19.

Caribbeing

Caribbeing House reopens with a new look and many activities

By Alexandra Simon

They’re back and with a new look.

The Flatbush Ditmas Park-based cultural center Caribbeing House is open again after its winter hiatus. The center which officially re-opened in April, is also sporting a new look leaving its signature red color behind for a metallic gold. The change of color is a change of direction for the hub, and a commemoration of the West Indian American Day Parade’s 50th anniversary, said the executive director.

“It’s the 50th year anniversary of carnival in New York City and we painted it gold because it’s also about us remaining in the space and thinking a lot about carnival in Brooklyn being in its golden year,” said Shelley Worrell.

“We wanted to tie into that legacy, which is one of the strongest symbols we have of Caribbean culture.”

Recently celebrating Haitian Heritage Month with a month-long exhibit and a concluding musical concert on May 19, there will be an array of summer activities in store at Caribbeing, added Worrell.

Worrell says several new things are also coming to Caribbeing, such as a monthly Saturday outdoor fitness with Wukkout — Caribbean dance fitness, and a change of setting for their film screenings of classic and contemporary Caribbean films in Flatbush-Caton market’s courtyard.

“For the first time we’re going to be doing outdoor screenings. Last year was the first year we were really trying to



Haitian artist Shakespeare Guirand painting artwork at Caribbeing House.

Caribbeing

activate the Caribbeing house with our film program,” said Worrell. “We really want to get back to this and we’re trying to remix the format.”

In honor of Caribbean Heritage Month in June, the center is set to host similar events and more work from Caribbean artists, local and abroad, said Worrell. In addition, they will be collaborating with other organizations.

“Next month (June) is Caribbean Heritage Month, so we’re going to have more happy hours and more Caribbean-themed exhibitions and other related programming,” she said. “We’ll also be going back to Brooklyn

Museum for target first Saturday in the summer.”

Caribbeing’s compact size makes it all the more easier to allow these types of gatherings, and give these artists a chance to get their artwork seen more locally, according to Worrell.

“One of the unique things about Caribbeing’s size is that it offers unique opportunities to connect directly with the Caribbean audience,” she said. “A lot of artists want to be in a museum because the hall is much larger, but we host it at our venue and there is an immediate feedback from our audiences.”





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SmartTerm sponsors athletic games in Jamaica

By Alexandra Simon

The creators of the comprehensive school management program SmartTerm, which launched in Jamaica last year, are now sponsoring one of Jamaica's leading athletics competition.

As associate sponsors for the Jamaica Independent Schools Association (JISA) Prep Championship, the company is working on forging partnerships in the Jamaican education system, said the director of communications.

"This is a big part of what we're doing right now. We've been speaking with them about working with number of preparatory schools currently piloting and look for a sponsor for prep championship," said Theon O'Connor.

The tournament's goals aligns with the values of SmartTerm and supports the educational programming the company champions, added O'Connor.

"Our mission is to help students and a big part of that is helping students both inside and outside of the classroom," he said. "We care about their

development outside of learning in class so it was simple for us to come on board for JISA."

Our mission is to help students and a big part of that is helping students both inside and outside of the classroom

SmartTerm is a platform which facilitates communication between parents, educators and students regarding their classroom performance. The program can also be used as a managing system for school records. It was launched in Jamaica in July 2016 and now runs in three schools.

Four more schools are in the process of converting their school management systems to SmartTerm before the next school year starts but pilots will run first, according to O'Connor.

The company encountered several challenges in the initial stages of their launch. Their July release delayed them with

the chance to get school officials, already preparing for the school year, to get on board, said O'Connor. And schools converting from manual to digital would take longer.

"This definitely affected the way the program ran — a lot of schools were hearing about the system but a lot don't have an idea of how the learning or the school management system worked," he said. "Then there are schools that have their files on paper, and it would be difficult to explain and how to get it to work for them."

O'Connor said now that SmartTerm is sponsoring a big program and said the collaboration with other organizations was a chance for the company to become known names in the educational process of Jamaica.

"This is the beginning of a great partnership for years to come," he said. "Our hope is to be able to sponsor other things. We want to support various programs that pertain to students, and anything regarding student development."



From left, Stuart Crooks, Shamir Saddler, and Jomo Hal-dane, three of the six founders of SmartTerm.

Sean Wilkinson

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Surviving childhood in the neighborhood

"The Cook Up: A Crack Rock Memoir" by D. Watkins
c.2017, Grand Central
\$14.99 / \$19.49 Canada
262 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Everything has a price.

You say you'll never sell your granddad's watch, your dream car, or that collectible you coveted because it's priceless — until it's not, because everything is for sale. But in "The Cook-Up" by D. Watkins, it may cost your entire life.

Around the country, headlines scream about a heroin epidemic every day. It's shocking, but what many (white) people don't know is that, as Watkins says, "if you're black and poor, the heroin epidemic has been around."

He should know. For a time, he sold drugs on the streets of Baltimore, where the average life ends so early that "We go through midlife crises at 15..."

He was much younger than that when he saw his first shooting; much younger when he understood that drugs were as easy to get as oxygen. He idolized his big brother then; Bip was larger-than-life, a dealer who doted on Watkins and urged him to stay in



Author D. Watkins. Mike Morton

school. He wanted Bip to be proud of him, so when his brother was murdered just blocks from home, Watkins tried to stay in college but his heart wasn't in it. Instead, he created his own business with the contents of a safe Bip left him: miscellaneous items, a brick-and-a-half of raw cocaine, guns, and thousands in cash.

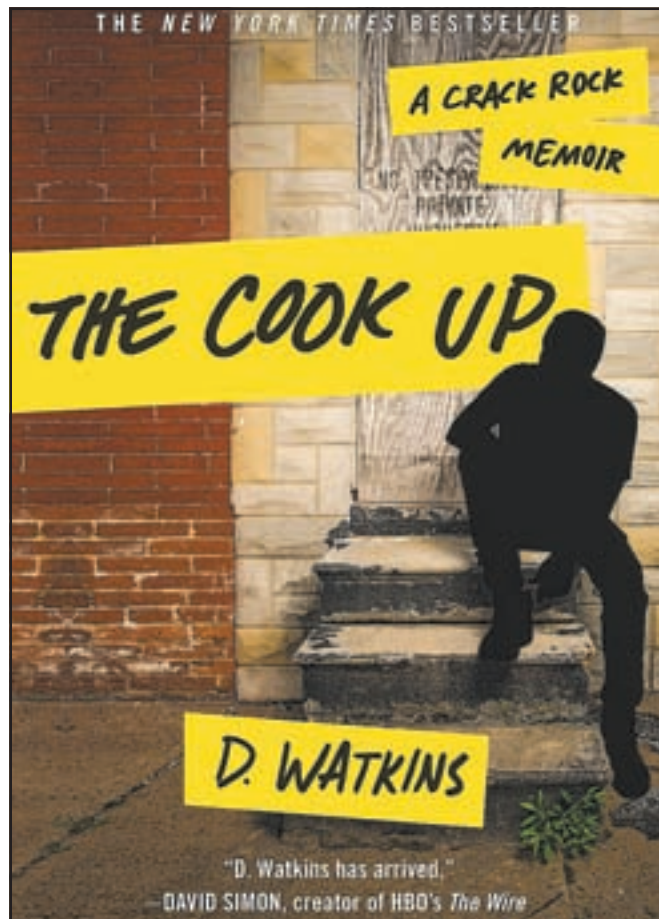
With help from a childhood friend, Watkins cooked the cocaine into rocks to sell and as his clientele list grew, so did the number of workers he needed to stay one step ahead. His level of responsibility grew, too; Watkins made sure that folks in his neighborhood were fed, clothed, and safe. That took money, but there was plenty of it.

For months, Watkins and his boys had whatever wanted, the "fiends" had their highs, and cops looked the other way. Things were good until suddenly, Watkins looked around and into the future: he'd met a girl, and he needed to come up with an "exit strategy" for himself and one of his boys.

The problem was, he said, "dudes don't know when to leave the block alone."

The first thing you need to know about "The Cook Up" is found on its cover: Watkins himself is in shadow, on the bleakest of stoops, near a doorway covered in plywood. An inexplicable feeling of electricity, then, screams that what you're about to read is going to be raw, and it's right.

With a fascinating tone that sometimes seems impassioned, almost matter-of-fact, author D. Watkins writes about childhoods spent in poverty — his, and that of his friends — and the things it led them to do to survive. Read further, however, and you'll see that his quiet voice almost quivers with righteous anger and anguish as Watkins' story progresses to an ending that feels happy and perfect and depressing, all at the same time.



Book cover of "The Cook Up" by D. Watkins

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US issues advice on summer travel to the Caribbean

By Nelson A. King

With the Memorial Day weekend kicking off the start of the summer travel season, the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency is inviting travelers to learn the guidelines concerning international arrival at any port of entry, particularly those arriving from international destinations into Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

At the ports of entry, CBP said its officers inspect passengers for compliance with United States immigration, customs and agriculture regulations, stating that the more international travelers know about what to expect, "the easier and quicker the process becomes."

In preparation for the summer travel season, CBP's San Juan Field Office issues an advisory to improve every visitor's experience when entering United States via the territories in the Caribbean.

"Programs such as Global Entry, expedite the arrivals process, but travelers can make their own experience better by being ready and aware of the requirements when entering the United States," said Vernon Foret, acting director of field operations for Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands (USVI).

"Tourists, US citizens (USC) and legal residents can take additional steps to smooth their arrivals process by familiarizing themselves with US rules and regulations before departing to avoid potential penalties and fines upon their return," CBP said.

On arrival to a United States port of entry, CBP said travelers must declare items they purchased and are carrying on return to the United States; items bought in duty-free shops, on a ship or on a plane; repairs or alterations to any items taken abroad and then brought back, even if the repairs / alterations were performed free of charge; items brought home for someone else; and items intended to sell or use in personal business, including business merchandise that was taken out of the United States on their trip.

In addition, CBP said individuals traveling abroad must have approved travel documents when returning home, such as a valid passport, United States Military ID with official orders, Merchant Mariner's Document for USC's on official maritime business, or permanent resident card for international air travel.

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) requires United States and Canadian citizens, age 16 and older, to present a "valid, acceptable travel document," such as a passport, a United States passport card, a "trusted traveler" card, permanent resident card or an enhanced driver's license that denotes both identity and citizenship when entering the United States by land or sea, CBP said.

It said United States citizens who board a cruise ship at a United States port within the Western Hemisphere and return to a United States port on the same ship (Closed Loop Cruises) may present a government issued photo ID, along with proof of citizenship (birth certificate, Consular report of Birth Abroad or Certificate of Naturalization.)

United States and Canadian citizens under age 16 may present a birth certificate or alternative proof of citizenship when entering by land or sea, CBP said.

It said all nationals or citizens of Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries are required to have an approved Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to boarding a carrier to travel by air or sea to the United States under the VWP.

CBP said ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel, and, once approved, generally will be valid for up to two years or until the applicant's passport expires, whichever comes first. Authorizations will be valid for multiple entries into the United States.

CBP recommends ESTA applications be submitted as soon as an applicant begins making travel plans.

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for the latest in Caribbean news,
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FINAL
DAYS

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MEMORIAL DAY SALE

UP TO
\$**300**^{**} GIFT WITH
PURCHASE

On select mattress set purchases.
Good towards a free luxury pillow, free Premier mattress protector or free mattress frame.



Beautyrest
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A hi-tech mattress that combines memory foam and Advanced Pocketed Coil™ Technology. Designed to be the perfect marriage of contouring comfort and superior support.



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A luxurious mattress with BlackICE™ memory foam that immerses you in unmatched comfort for a completely restorative sleep experience. Designed to help maintain an ideal sleep climate.



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A luxury mattress experience unlike any other. Pocketed coils and layers of memory and latex foams provide a fresh perspective on sleep.

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AVIATOR

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*Graduation
Parties!*

**POOL
PARTIES!**

*Summer
Day Camp!*

**SPORT SPECIFIC
SUMMER CAMP**

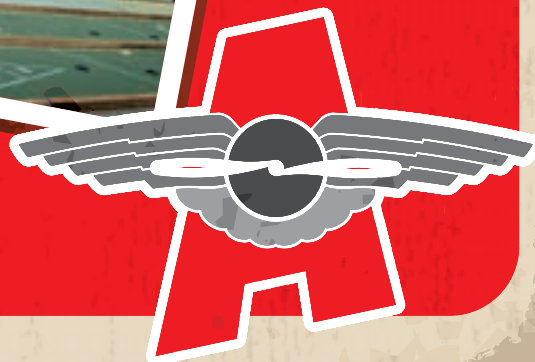
**BACKYARD
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Aviator Sports and Events Center

3159 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11234 • (718) 758-7500

AviatorSports.com    @AviatorSports



Welcome to Aviator



AVIATOR MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

Sign up for an Aviator Sports and Events Center membership today & start saving now!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual Membership: \$35 per person
Family Membership: \$85 for a family of 3 to 6 people

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Aviator Member ID Card
- Customer preferences, waivers and registration history on file for easy access.

- Pre-registration and special discounts to Aviator special events
- Discount pricing on drop-in and open play sessions: Basketball, Volleyball, Hockey, Sticks and Pucks, Fun Gym, Freerunning, Teen Night, Public Skating, Rock Climbing, Bungee Jump
- 5% off food court purchase
- 10% off birthday parties, BBQs and catered events

AVIATOR DAY PASS

Cost: \$32.50 + Tax

We're offering a new way to enjoy Aviator with our new Day Pass. Available on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays the Day Pass can be purchased all day, from open to close

- Includes :**
- Open sports
 - Public skating and rental
 - Rock wall

- Sky jump
- 10 credits for the arcade

**Restrictions apply.*

Visit aviatorsports.com/day-pass for more information

For questions or comments about online registration, email harvey@aviatorsports.com.

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FEATURES

Aviator Sports Summer Day Camp

A8

Aviator Sports Summer Day Camp is fun for everyone! Experience sleepaway camp without sleeping away. Campers follow a daily rotating schedule of 5 activities a day. Activities are led by professionals in their department, tailored to suit their developmental level and skill set.

Indoor & Outdoor Catering Event Spaces

A11

We offer several convenient catering options to meet all of your event needs. The food service at Aviator is overseen by our team of experienced restaurant catering professionals. Parties are overseen by experienced event planners and promoters

Backyard Barbeques and Pool Parties

A5

Have your backyard BBQ at Aviator. We have pool too! Special packages available

Aces Outdoor Patio

A10

Party in the backyard! Aces Outdoor Patio features 8 taps and a full range of cocktails. When you're hungry from playing shuffleboard, bocce or basketball visit Aces Food Truck, parked right next to the patio for delicious appetizers and meals

GENERAL HOURS

Monday–Friday: 6:00 a.m.–12:00 a.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 6:00 a.m.–1:00 a.m.

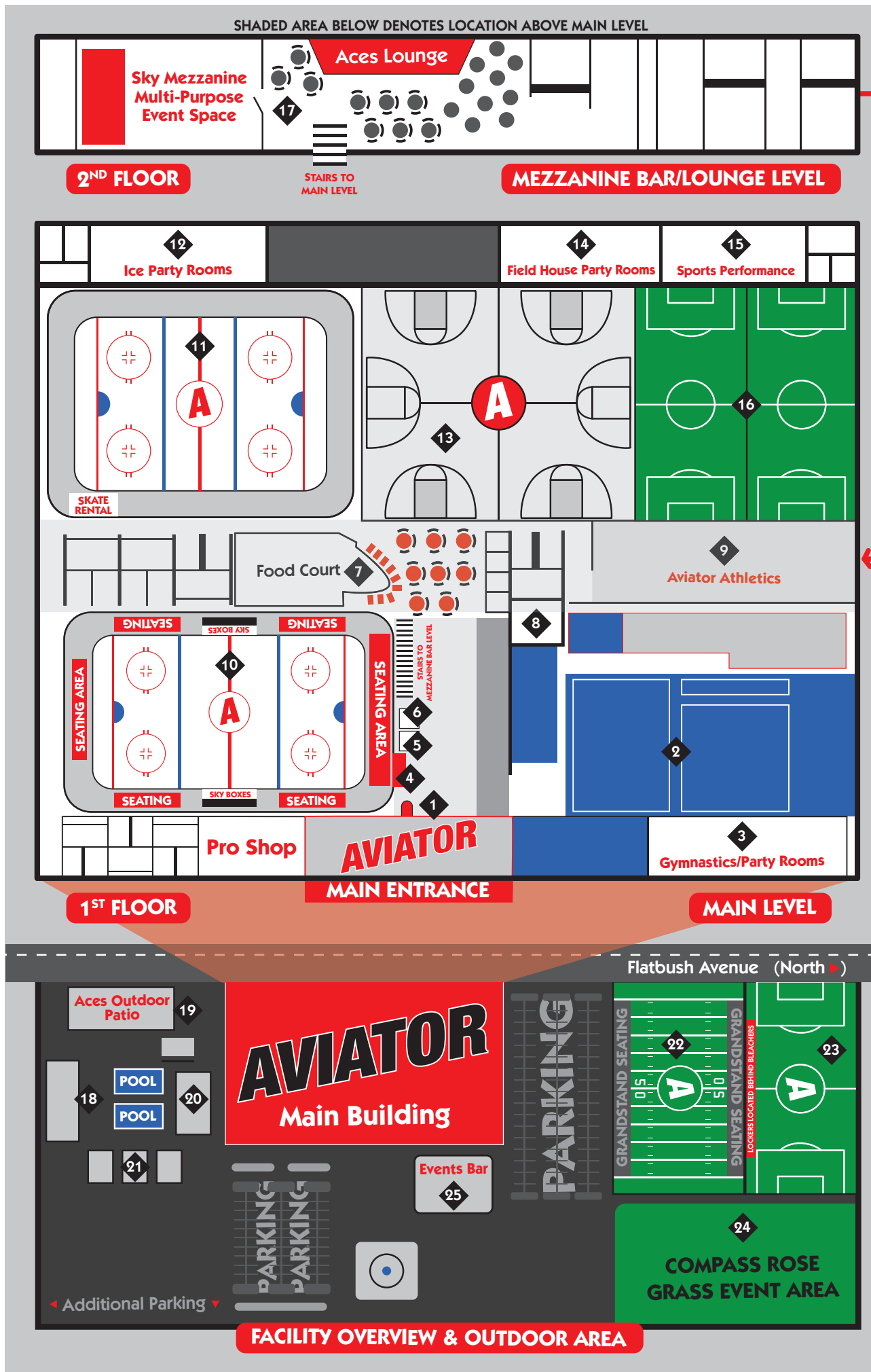
Aviator Sports & Events Center Facility Map

Map Legend

- 1 Main Street & Customer Service
- 2 Gymnastic Center 15,000 sq ft.
- 3 Gymnastic Party Rooms (3 rooms)
- 4 Rock Climbing Wall 35 ft. tall
- 5 Max Flight - Flight Simulator
- 6 Bungee Jump
- 7 Food Court and Seating Area
- 8 Aviator Arcade and Redemption Center
- 9 Aviator Athletics
- 10 Rink A - Seating Capacity 2000 people
- 11 Rink B - 2nd NHL Size Rink
- 12 Ice Party Rooms (2)
- 13 Field House: Hardwood courts for basketball, volleyball, boxing, and trade shows 10,000 sq ft.
- 14 Field House Party Rooms (2)
- 15 Sports Performance Room
- 16 Two indoor turf fields with full walls and netting - 5000 sq ft. each
- 17 2nd Level Mezzanine and Lounge
- 18 Summer Camp, Picnic/BBQ, Outdoor Sports and Pool Area
- 19 Aces Outdoor Patio
- 20 Large Party Tent
- 21 Small Party Tents
- 22 Outdoor Turf Field #1 Lined for Football and Soccer
- 23 Outdoor Turf Field #2 Lined for Soccer and Lacrosse
- 24 Compass Rose Outdoor Grass Event Area - 18,000 sq ft.
- 25 Events Bar



AviatorSports.com



Toddler/Youth			Adult		
• Baseball	• Figure Skating	• Kid Center	• Basketball	• Gymnastics	• Aviator Athletics/ Sports Performance
• Basketball	• Flag Football	• Soccer	• Figure Skating	• Ice Hockey	
• Camps	• Gymnastics	• Tennis	• Flag Football	• Soccer	
• Aviator Athletics	• Ice Hockey	• Volleyball		• Volleyball	

FACILITY FEATURES

See all that Aviator Sports and Events Center has to offer, all under one roof.



Main Street



Basketball (2 Courts)



Indoor Turf (2 Fields)



2 NHL Size Hockey Rinks



Gymnastics (15,000 sq. ft.)



Aviator Athletics Facilities



2 Outdoor Fields



Birthdays (7 Party Rooms)



Acres Patio



Event Space (10,000 sq ft)



Large Catering Event Spaces (20,000 sq ft)



Mezzanine



Acres Sports Lounge



Rock Wall (35 ft.)



Food Court



Aviator Pro Shop

Confessions of a Non-Ninja

By: Avi Glickstein

Here's a minor confession. American Ninja Warrior is a national obsession and has been on the air for close to a decade. Despite this, I had no idea it existed until someone in my family shared this video of Kacy Katanzaro's 2014 run. My jaw gradually slacked to the floor as I watched.

But then the awe gradually subsided. In its place arose the thought that so readily occurs to all my fellow soft-bodied couch coaches: "It can't be THAT hard." This is, of course, the illusion someone at such a high level of athleticism creates – our minds just leap right over all the work and pain that goes into them making it seem so easy.

I was crestfallen to discover that I am out of excuses as Aviator Sports is apparently springboarding off their popular parkour program and will begin offering Ninja Warrior classes. They're in the process of building out a course containing many of the obstacles fans of the show will be familiar with – Warped Wall, Cannonball Alley, Cargo

Net, etc. – and plan to start introducing Ninja Warrior elements into their parkour classes in April with an eye toward doing a combined class in the summer and possibly offering separate Ninja Warrior classes in September.

So back to that "work and pain" thing. I wondered what training to run a Ninja Warrior obstacle course would look like – aside from lots of falling down – so I spoke with Gymnastics Manager Jenn Dooley and instructor Thomas Dolan, who are working on building the Ninja Warrior program.

Depending on age (students can be age 5 to adult), classes will run one hour or 1.5 hours. They'll start with warm-up and stretches (mostly arms and shoulders) and move into going through the course one obstacle at a time. The final 20-30 minutes will be devoted to going through the course. While the parkour classes also utilize obstacle courses and timed runs as part of their training, the Ninja Warrior classes focus on completing specific unique and

challenging obstacles with the end goal of making it all the way through the course without falling.

In addition, there are some features Aviator has that other facilities don't. One is their foam pit and trampoline into the foam pit. Another is their relationship with USA Gymnastics, as Jenn explained:

"We've been members of USA Gymnastics since we've opened – so the past 10 years. And USA Gymnastics has been working with Drew Drechsel, who's known as The Real Life Ninja. We've taken a lot of the information from USA Gymnastics – from their partnership, going to conferences and conventions – directly from him. It's just kind of fit in here very well. It's great to have both in the same facility – Ninja Warrior and the gymnastics program."

Thomas adds: "All of our parkour and Ninja Warrior coaches have been practicing for many years – most of us over a decade – and are extremely passionate about movement of all forms. We're excited that

we can now introduce a new generation of students to these activities that have meant so much to us growing up!"

The main difference between the parkour and Ninja Warrior classes is that the parkour class is meant to prepare students for any type of obstacle they encounter by developing strength and speed while Ninja Warrior is focused on practice for specific, unique obstacles. If keeping it loose is more your speed, they have a fully modular parkour setup and change it up every couple of weeks.

Unfortunately, their parkour classes are currently full, but I'll definitely be keeping an eye on their site. They're going to be offering a 6-week introductory class in the spring in anticipation of ramping up their Ninja Warrior program.

Or you could always go the DIY route... But this is Brooklyn – space is at a premium, right?

BKLYNER is your go-to source for local news, one neighborhood at a time. For the latest news, food, and events go to BKLYNER.com

Backyard Barbeques at Aces Patio



There's no better way to enjoy a summer day than by a private pool at Aviator! Celebrate your special event with a picnic at Aviator's newly renovated Aces Patio. It's equipped with a basketball court, 2 bocce ball courts, 2 shuffle board courts, 2 corn hole set-ups and a full service bar. It's perfect for your next birthday party, family reunion, graduation party, or any outdoor event!

Picnic Packages

Backyard Picnic Party 25 People

- 3 Hour Party
- 2 Hours of Pool Time
- Classic BBQ Package

Includes: private party tent, lifeguard, party host, table covers and paper goods.

Bar options available for an additional cost.

Deluxe Backyard Picnic Party 50 People

- 3 Hour Party
- 2 Hours of Pool Time
- Snow Cone Machine
- Classic BBQ Package

Includes: private party tent, lifeguard, party host, table covers and paper goods.

Bar options available for an additional cost.

Ultimate Backyard Picnic Party 100 People

- 3 Hour Party
- 2 Hours of Pool Time
- Snow Cone Machine
- Choice of either Water Slide or Inflatable Quarterback
- Classic BBQ Package

Includes: private party tent, lifeguard, party host, table covers and paper goods.

Bar options available for an additional cost.

Add-On Activities

- Water Slide
- Inflatable Quarterback
- Snow Cone Machine
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Shuffle Board
- Bocce Ball
- Rock Climbing
- Ice Skating
- Arcade Tokens
- Bounce House
- Additional 1 Hour of Party

Barbeque Options

Classic Barbeque: Hamburgers, hot dogs, salads (coleslaw, macaroni and potato salad) corn on the cob, baked beans, corn bread and watermelon.

Aviator BBQ: Includes Classic Barbeque PLUS your choice of one - ribs or barbeque chicken and includes collard greens, mac n' cheese and applewood smoked bacon.

Top Flight Barbeque: Includes Classic Barbeque PLUS your choice of two - ribs, barbeque chicken and sausage & peppers and includes green beans, roasted brussel sprouts, collard greens, mac n' cheese and applewood smoked bacon.

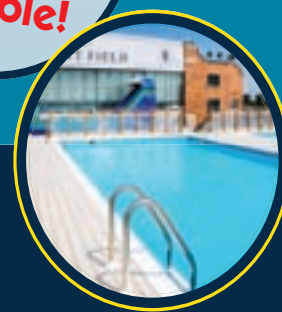
Dessert Bar: Bread Pudding, blueberry cobbler and pecan pie

Pitchers of lemonade, sweet southern tea, soft drinks and water available with all options.

Beverage Options (per person)

- Draft Beer Only
- Draft Beer, bottled beer and wine
- Draft Beer, bottled beer, wine and select liquors
- Top Shelf Service

**Private Bar
& Bartender
Service
Available!**



Aviator Sports and Events Center

3159 Flatbush Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11234

(718) 758-7551 or email Party@AviatorSports.com

AviatorSports.com



ACTIVITIES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There is always something to do at Aviator Sports and Events Center. All times are subject to change; please refer to our website and social media for updated times. Check out some of our walk-up activities:

ROCK CLIMBING

Admission Fees: \$10 Non-member (for 2 climbs) • \$9 Aviator Member
At 35 feet high, it is among the tallest indoor rock climbing walls in NYC and another "Best of Brooklyn" for Aviator.
Hours of Operation:
Friday 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Saturday 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Climbers must be wearing sneakers to climb.
Check website for scheduled holiday & school break hours.



ARCADE

New VIP Program featuring Bonus credits and tickets coming soon! Visit the Aviator Arcade to learn more!

More than 30 games to choose from featuring reloadable swipe cards, you're guaranteed to have an awesome time in the Aviator Arcade.

Crane Games: UFO Catcher, Bling King

Racing Games: (3) Fast & Furious- Motorcycles

Sports Games: Lil Hoops Basketball, (2) Hoop Fever Basketball, (2) Air Hockey Tables Knock-Out Punch, Jamm Session, and NFL 2 Minute Drill.

Arcade: Rail Rush, Jumpin Jackpot Wheel Deal, Winners Wheel, Hot Ticket, Spin-N-Win, Smokin Token,, Big Rig Trucking, Lighthouse, Wheel-A-Win, Key Catcher, Slam A Winner, Big Bass, Ticket Troopers, Crank It Revolution, Dance Dance Revolution Extreme, Sea Wolf, SpongeBob Pineapple Arcade, Flappy Bird, Pirates Hook, Duo Drive

Prizes: Plush Dolls, iPods, Puppets, BMX Models, Disney Characters, Chains, Inflatables, iPads

New Games: SpongeBob Squarepants, Penalty Shot, Superstar, Harpoon Lagoon

We are now the only place in New York with the Bay-Tek Prize Hub – a self-vending prize machine!

COMING SOON: - Our new VIP program allows frequent players to rack up credits and tickets. Benefits of program include replacement of game card should they be lost, an exclusive VIP game card and bonus credits and e-tickets. Stop by the Aviator Arcade to learn more and register for the VIP program.

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday & Thursday 4:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Friday 4:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Check website for scheduled holiday & school break hours.



OPEN ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Admission Fees: (per person) \$10 Non-member
\$9 Aviator Member

Hours of Operation:

Thursday 8:00 p.m.–12:00 a.m.



Sunday 7:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.

Join us at Aviator for a fun night of recreational pick-up games of Volleyball then head outside to the Aces Outdoor Patio
For more information **contact 718-758-7569 or email Fields@AviatorSports.com.**

SKY JUMP & MAXFLIGHT

Admission Fees: \$6 per person

MaxFlight: Faster, sharper, and more exciting than any indoor thrill-ride on the market, the FS2000 let's you take a ride on a thrilling rollercoaster

Sky Jump: 12-foot bungee trampoline located on Aviator's Main Street. Jumpers must be wearing socks.

Hours of Operation:

Friday 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Saturday 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Sunday 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Hours subject to change. Check website for scheduled holiday & school break hours.



OPEN BASKETBALL

Ages: 11+ years old

Admission Fees Per Person

\$10 Non-member

\$9 Aviator Member

Hours of Operation:

Monday 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Wed. & Friday 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Sat. 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Adult Midnight Basketball

Ages: 18+ years old

Fri. & Sat. 11:00 p.m.–2:00 a.m.

*ID required & must arrive before 12:00 a.m.



NOTE: In order to borrow a basketball during any session you must leave a valid ID with the Staff at the door. All Basketball games will be played to 15 points straight. Aviator Sports and Events Center's 10,000 square foot hardwood Field House is home to two regulation suspended maple hardwood courts, programmed for a variety of basketball leagues, camps, clinics, and drop-in play.

For more info. **Contact 718-758-7569 or email Fields@AviatorSports.com.**

OPEN ADULT HOCKEY

Admission Fees: (per person) \$20 Non-member • \$18 Aviator Members

It's no-hassle hockey where and when you want it! For a small drop-in fee, you get 80 minutes of the best ice in Brooklyn, locker room, and shower facilities. No leagues to join! Men and women are welcome. Players should bring both dark and light jerseys!

All sessions are "no-check" and limited to a maximum of 30 players. The first two goalies are always free! Pucks will not be provided so; please bring your own. All evening sessions



attracting more than 20 skaters will have an open hockey monitor timing shifts and making sure ice time is equal.
For more information **contact us at 718-758-7554. For up-to-date open hockey times, please www.aviatorsports.com/ice-hockey**

GYMNASTICS

Adult Gymnastics (1.5 hrs)

Admission Fees: \$22 per class or \$160 for 10 class card

Ages: 18+ years old

Hours of Operation: Monday and Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Play Dates (Ages 3-17)

Play dates can be arranged for groups of three or more upon request.

Cost: \$10 per session

Call to schedule today! Must give a minimum notice of 24 hours; times are not guaranteed. For more information, call 718-758-7575 or email Gymnastics@AviatorSports.com

Free Running

Ages: 17+ years old

Cost: \$17 per runner

Dates and Times: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Sunday, 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Tween/Teen Night (45 minute session)

Ages: 10-17 years old

Cost: \$10 per session

Dates and Times: Friday, 6:15 p.m., 7:30 PM.



PUBLIC SKATING SUMMER 2017

Our ice rinks rank among the top skating surfaces in New York City, according to the Daily News and AAA, and we also offer some of the best-trained and professional coaches in the area. You can bring your own skates or rent a pair from us. Open 7 days a week, our regularly scheduled open skate hours offer you a chance to experience year-round fun on New York City's only twin NHL-sized ice rinks.

Admission & Rental Fees:

Adults: \$11 Non-members • \$10 Aviator Members

Children (11& U): \$9 Non-members • \$7.20 Aviator Members

Skate Rentals: \$5/pair

Regular Schedule:

Monday 11:00 a.m.–3:50 p.m.

Tuesday 11:00 a.m.–3:50 p.m.

Wednesday 11:00 a.m.–3:50 p.m.

Thursday 11:00 a.m.–3:50 p.m.

Friday 1:45 p.m.–5:50 p.m. / 7:30 p.m.–11:00 p.m.

Saturday 1:45 p.m.–5:50 p.m. / 7:30 p.m.–11:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:20 p.m.–3:15 p.m. / 3:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

For up-to-the-minute schedule changes, call 718-758-7567. If you are interested in booking a field trip or group outing **contact Joe at 718-758-7520 or Joseph@AviatorSports.com to learn more and to book your dates!**



SUMMER GRADUATION PARTY IDEAS

» Learn more online at AviatorSports.com

The best part about graduating is the party that comes after. Make a splash with your family and friends, and take advantage of the warm weather by having a pool party and BBQ bash. Here's 8 epic Party ideas to help kick off your Graduation Pool Party.

Party Invitation

The invitation sets the mood for the party and of course lets everyone know the party details. Let the party planners at Aviator get creative and send Beach Ball invitations! Bonus: Guests can bring their beach ball to toss around in the pool.

Photo Booth

We know photos are a must with special occasions like graduation. Aviator can provide your party with a photo booth. Keep it fun and entertaining with a few graduation props.

Party Bar

Party bars are a popular option that are both creative and playful, easy to prepare, and are sure to please your guest. Aviator can provide you with a variety of choices like our popular sno cone bar and popcorn bar.

Make It Sweet

Your personal party host with Aviator can even hand out "class rings" to all your friends.

Table Decorations

Table decorations can transform a simple party to a work of art. Our party planners are

experts at adding simple touches that tie a theme together. Our crafty table decorations certainly will make a grad feel special!

Party Games

Graduation parties don't have to be boring, and they won't be at Aviator Sports. You can still celebrate the graduate while having a good time with one of our fun backyard games.

Entertainment

Create and share a memorable graduation slideshow with a Dive In Movie, while you and your friends kick back in an inflatable

tube. And if you're still looking for more fun, Aviator has a massive Blow-up slide to add to your pool party.

Pool Decor

What's better than a pool? A Spruced up pool with floating decorations.

Our party experts here at Aviator make it happen! We will work with your vision and provide you with an event completely unique to your personality, style, and taste. If you're interested in planning a graduation party at Aviator Sports email us at Party@AviatorSports.com to speak to our Party Planners.



All Party Packages Include: Birthday Cake, Pizza or Hotdogs, and soft drinks for all children. Also includes private party room, party host, paper goods, electronic invitations, and party favors (ice skating vouchers) for all children and a birthday t-shirt for the birthday child that is signed by guests during the party



BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Contact Jenna at 718-758-7551 or email Party@AviatorSports.com

» Learn more at
AviatorSports.com/birthday-parties

Aviator Sports and Events Center is THE birthday destination for you and your family, a minimum of 90 minutes in a private party room or tent with a dedicated party host. We have something for everyone, offering various activities through our Party Packages and add-ons. We can also custom design a party just for you. And remember, at Aviator the birthday child is always free!

POOL PARTY

Keep Aviator in mind when warm weather returns. On a hot day, a pool party is a great way to get friends together and have some fun! Aviator pool parties are privately held, feature lifeguards, plus two party staff with the children at the pool at all times. Pool parties consist of 1 hour in the pool and 1 hour in your private party area.

\$550 for the first 10 children
\$25 per additional child

ROCK CLIMBING BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Rock Wall is 35 ft. high, one of the tallest rock walls in Brooklyn. All of your party guests will have an opportunity to climb. Our instructors will work the safety ropes for the children so you can be sure the children will have a safe and unforgettable experience. Parties consist of 1-hour rock climbing and 30 minutes in the party area. Recommended for children ages 7 and up.

\$525 for the first 10 children
\$25 per additional child

SPORTS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Our Sports Birthday Party will start off with the sports activity of your choice. The sports activity may include basketball, indoor soccer, flag football, and whiffle ball. Parties consist of 1 hour of activity and 30 minutes in your party area. Recommended for children ages 4 and up.

\$500 for the first 10 children
\$25 per additional child

ULTIMATE BIRTHDAY PARTY CHALLENGE

This unique birthday party package brings together our most popular games and activities. The fun starts with a relay race, potato-sack race, wheelbarrow race, three-legged race, "steal the bacon" game, egg and spoon race, tug of war, etc. It finishes with a game of soccer or flag football. Parties consist of 1 hour of activity time and 30 minutes in your private party room. A second party host will make sure everyone

gets the attention they deserve on your child's special day. Recommended for children ages 7 and up.

\$525 for the first 10 children
\$25 per additional child

BUBBLESOCER BIRTHDAY PARTY

Get your party moving with BubbleSoccer presented by David Schwartz and GameTruck Long Island. High quality inflated balls add a new dynamic to soccer, and allow guests to bounce and fall without any risk. 25 by 50 foot Bubble Soccer Arena for 2-3 minute sessions of 4 v 4 gameplay. Trained GameCoach Referees emphasizes safety and fun during play. They keep the game rolling and help players up when they bounce around. With high-energy play, your guests will get to experience soccer like never before. From falling and bouncing to scoring, BubbleSoccer will keep your guests engaged and entertained. Parties consist of 1-hour activity and 30 minutes in party area. Recommended for children ages 7 and up.

\$850 for the first 15 children
\$25 per additional child

GAMETRUCK BIRTHDAY PARTY

GameTruck's brightly-colored high-definition TV's reveal awesome adventures, co-operative challenges, and epic competitions. The music pulsing throughout the truck gets your heart racing. The long alluring couch beckons you and your friends to come relax and start gaming. Then as soon as you pick up that game controller, you will know that the party has truly begun. The GameTruck comes with 100+ age-appropriate video game titles and the latest Consoles including Xbox One, PlayStation 4, and Wii-U and Nintendo Switch. GameTruck Birthday Parties at Aviator Sports and Events Center are 2 hours, 90 minutes in the GameTruck and 30 minutes in the party room. Recommended for children ages 5 and up.

\$950 for up to 15 children;
\$25 per additional child

GYMNASTICS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Gymnastics parties are great! You'll love our trampoline, foam pit, soft play equipment and our innovative rope swing. Our activities are supervised by birthday hosts who ensure that every child participates and has a great time. Parties consist of a 1-hour activity and 30 minutes in the party area. Gymnastics parties are for children ages 4 and up.

\$525 for the first 10 children
\$25 per additional child

ICE SKATING BIRTHDAY PARTY

Join us for the "coolest" birthday party on ice! Parties consist of 1 hour of skating during a public skating session and 30 minutes in your private party area. This party is every ice-lover's dream. Children ages 6 and up love AVIATOR'S Ice Skating parties. Reserve your spot today!

\$500 for the first 10 children
\$25 per additional child

TINY TYKES BIRTHDAY PARTY

Preschoolers will have a blast with pin the tail on the donkey, ring toss, giant parachute, a big inflatable Bounce-House, a piñata, and more. This package includes 1 hour of activity and 30 minutes in your private party room. An additional party host is also provided to ensure that the children have proper supervision. Recommended for children ages 2 to 5.

\$525 for the first 10 children
\$25 per additional child

NEW NINJA WARRIOR PARTY

The newest athletic obsession our Ninja Warrior parties feature complex obstacle course that will be a fun challenge for kids as they use their strength, speed, and endurance to make their way through the course. Party guests will try their best to overcome each individual obstacle. Ninja Warrior is supervised by birthday hosts who ensure that every child participates and has a great time. Our Ninja Warrior course features slanted steps, cliffhangers, unstable bridges, cannonball alley, cargo net swing, rumbling dice, spider wall, two warped walls, and more. Parties consist of a 1-hour activity and 30 minutes in the party area. Ninja Warrior parties are for children ages 9 and up.

\$525 for first 10 children
\$25 per additional child

NEW GYMNASTICS & NINJA WARRIOR COMBO PARTY

Our Gymnastics Combo Party combines the challenging fun of our Ninja Warrior course and the bouncing good time of our gymnastics center equipment. All party goers can use the trampoline, foam pit, soft play equipment and rope swing. Adventurous party goers can tackle the Ninja Warrior course using all their speed, strength and endurance to complete the course. Gymnastics Combo Parties consist of a 1-hour and 20 minutes of activity and 40 minutes in the party area for a total 2 hour long party. Gymnastics Combo parties are for children ages 9 and up.
\$725 for first 10 children
\$25 per additional child

THEME PARTIES

Just because you're not a kid anymore doesn't mean you can't make the whole neighborhood jealous with your theme party. Whether you want a disco, tiki-bar, or even Disney-themed party, or perhaps something even more specific, our party planners will be able to customize each aspect to make sure your day is perfect. Indoor, outdoor, poolside or sports-themed, our theme parties are always a hit

CUSTOMIZE YOUR PARTY

- *NEW* Gluten Free Cake Options
- *NEW* Kosher Catering Options: Contact Parties for menu
- Ice Cream Bar OR Candy Table: \$75 for the first 11 kids, \$6 each additional child
- Sand art and ice voucher: \$8
- Piñata: \$50 each
- Inflatable Bounce House, Water Slide or Quarterback: \$250 each
- Interactive Hot Dog Cart: \$75 for the first 11 hot dogs, \$2.25 for each additional
- Cotton Candy machine, popcorn machine, snow cone machine – rent one machine for \$100 and each additional machine for \$50



CAMPS

Contact Jason Vasquez at 718-758-7510 or email Camps@AviatorSports.com

» Learn more at
www.AviatorCamps.com

SUMMER CAMP

Visit: <http://www.aviatorsports.com/summer-day-camps/> for up to date information on program activities and pricing.

GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION

Camp Runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily
Camp is broken into four separate divisions
Junior Camp (Ages 3-5)
Younger Division (Entering 1st – 3rd Grade)
Older Division (Entering 4th – 6th Grade)
Teen Division (entering 7th- 9th Grade)
Additional Services offered are listed on application
Corner Bus transportation
Combo Early (drop off at 7:45 a.m.) or Late Stay (Pick up at 6:30 p.m.)

DIVISIONS
Junior Camp

This camp is designed especially for our youngest campers. At this level, campers will still benefit from a wide variety of activities for the older children, but it's scaled to be suited for their developmental stage. Among the activities that your children will enjoy include tumbling, turf activities, fun team sports, as well as appropriate educational programming. There are two scheduled downtimes during the day, as well as two snack times and lunch. This group does not go on outside trips.

Younger Division

Children in this division are at the translational level and will be introduced to new activities, including ice skating. These campers will have an outside trip every week, expanding their horizons, and can look forward to a higher level of gymnastics, team sports, and science projects. Children will have fun socially with sports, educational activities, and one field trip per week to an age appropriate destination that reinforces what is learned in camp.

Older Division

In the Older Division, kids are participating in in-house sports leagues, pedal karts, ice skating, theater, drama and will take one field trip per week. Children in the Older Division will feel like they have earned all the new activities they have available to them. Campers will be having fun with their friends while learning and staying active.

Teen Division

At the Teen Division level, our counselors help empower campers to explore their bigger interests while engaging in social activities with friends. It's all about your child feeling confident, excited, and engaged. Teens are actively participating at the highest level of our activities in swimming, sports, science, and everything else we have to offer.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

After School Programs are available Monday through Friday, for full week or a combination of days. The After School Program provides children a safe and fun environment to enjoy a wide range of activities. Our well-rounded program helps to build healthy bodies, encourage lifelong learning, and develop moral character in our campers.

Our programs offer:

- Academic enrichment and homework help
- Healthy snacks
- Sports and fitness activities such as ice skating, rock climbing and basketball
- Team-building activities
- Arts & Crafts
- Special events

Time: From conclusion of school through 6 p.m. Late stay is available until 7 p.m. for an extra fee.

We also have discounts available:

Sibling Discounts: 15% (Register one child and receive 15% discount for each additional child's registration)

Ask us about bus pickup from your child's school call 718-758-7510 or email Camps@AviatorSports.com

HOLIDAY BREAK CAMP

Throughout the school year, we offer Holiday Break Camp on most NYC school holidays. This day program is an excellent solution on balancing work and life. Our professional staff will make sure everyone has fun taking advantage of Aviator Sports and Events Center's countless activities, everyone will have some lunch and a snack and pick up will be a breeze.

Pricing and discounts vary - Contact Jason Vasquez at 718-758-7510 or email Camps@AviatorSports.com

Walk-ups are welcome until 11 a.m.

PROGRAM FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Ice Skating
- Rock Climbing
- Gymnastics
- Arts & Crafts
- Sports
- Group Games
- Movies

Lunch and a light afternoon snack is included.

SPORTS SPECIFIC SUMMER CAMPS

Aviator Sports has 6 specific sports summer camps where campers participate in focused activities. With qualified coaching, campers will partake in training and instruction to reach new performance levels.

GYMNASTICS

Contact 718-758-7575 or email
Gymnastics@AviatorSports.com



» Register online at
AviatorSports.com/gymnastics/

Gymnastics Full Day Camp- All levels

Time: 9:00am-4:00pm

Ages: 5-16

Weeks Offered: July 10, 17, 24 & 31 (M-F)

Price: 1 week \$450, 2 weeks \$850, 3 weeks \$1,200 4 weeks \$1,500 + \$35 Annual Membership Fee

*Can register for 1-4 weeks, all 5 days

Gymnastics Half Day Camp- All levels

Time: 9:00am-12:15pm

Ages: 3-16

Weeks Offered: July 6-Aug. 30 (M-F)

Price: \$45/day + \$35 Annual Membership Fee

*Can register for 1,2,3,4 or 5 days per week (minimum of 5 days)

Camp Features – Safe, fun and secure environment.

Experienced and qualified gymnastics instructors. Low staff/child ratio. Lunch and afternoon snack for full day campers. Mid-morning snack for half day campers. Variety of skills taught on vault, bars, beam, floor, tumble trak, trampoline, foam pits, & our new Parkour/ninja warrior equipment!

FIGURE SKATING

Contact 718-758-7514
or email Slava@AviatorSports.com



» Register online at
AviatorSports.com/figure-skating

ADVANCED FIGURE SKATING SUMMER CAMP

During the summer, Aviator Ice Academy offers an Advanced Figure Skating Camp at our facilities in Brooklyn, NY. The Advanced Figure Skating Camps are for skaters who have progressed through the ranks of Learn to Skate and are ready to take a more serious approach to their technique and conditioning. Our expert coaches will work with skaters on refining each aspect of figure skating with a detail-oriented approach. Acceptance to the camp is contingent upon evaluation.

Schedule and Info

Dates: July 5,6,7 - July 10,12,13 - July 17,19,20 - July 24,26,27

August 8,10,11 - August 15,17,18

Cost: \$240 per week
+\$35 annual Aviator Membership
\$90 per day for walk-in

HOCKEY

Contact 718-758-7554 or email
Hockey@AviatorSports.com



» Register online at
AviatorSports.com/ice-hockey

AVIATOR HOCKEY SCHOOL

Aviator Hockey will have two separate weeks of camp in the summer starting in July.

-Group A: Advanced – geared towards travel players and the more advanced house league players

-Group B: Intermediate/Novice – geared towards house league and Atoms (Learn to Play Hockey) players

2 weeks Offered:

-July 10th-14th

-August 7th-11th

Prerequisite: Learn-to-Skate program and/or Aviator Atoms program.

Price: \$475 per week. Participants must also have Annual Aviator Membership (\$35)

Discounts Available:

Sibling discount – 5% off (per week)

Multiple Week Discount – \$95 off total registration

Early Registration Discount – \$23.75 off (per week)

Bus transportation available

For more information, call the office at 718-758-7554 or email Chris LoRubbio CLorubbio@aviatorsports.com

Full Equipment Required: Helmet with full face mask, Mouth guard, Neck guard, Shoulder pads, Hockey skates, Hockey pants, Hockey jersey, Hockey gloves, Hockey socks, Shin pads, Athletic support with cup (boys) or pelvic protector (girls), Elbow pads, Hockey stick.





BASKETBALL

Contact 718-758-7543 or email
MichaelB@aviatorsports.com

» Register online at
AviatorSports.com/baseball

Aviator Sports and Events Center field house is home to two regulation suspended maple hardwood courts totaling 10,000 feet. The courts are programmed for a variety of basketball leagues, camps, clinics, and drop-in play.



AVIATOR SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMPS

Aviator Summer Basketball Camps are perfect for kids focused on the game of basketball. Week-long camps give children the opportunity to spend the day immersed in basketball learning from our skilled coaches in a safe and fun environment. Players will work on a variety of skills each day. Camp will be led by Head Coach of St. Edmund Prep Dan Wiatre.

Dan Wiatre has been coaching basketball for 22 years. He has been the Head Coach of the Boys Varsity Basketball team at St. Edmund's Prep for 20 years and is the Co-Athletic Director at the school. He previously coached for two years at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Wiatre has helped lead St. Edmund's has to Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) championships in 2011, 2012 and 2014.

SCHEDULE AND INFO

Dates: July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28

Times: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$255 per week register before June 1st + \$35 Annual Aviator Membership

\$280 per week after June 1st + \$35 Annual **Aviator Membership**

For more info **contact Michael Barbato 718-758-7543 or michaelb@aviatorsports.com**



SOCCER

Contact Field House 718-758-7569
or email Fields@AviatorSports.com

» Register online at
AviatorSports.com/soccer

The Dutch Total Soccer camps at Aviator Sports and Events Center offer a great balance between instructional training and games in which players are required to use the skills they've learned. Our morning sessions will consist of mostly training while instructing players in many technical aspects of the game. Afternoon sessions will be more game-oriented.



Junior Camp

July 10-14th
July 17th-21st
July 24th-28th
July 31st- Aug 4th
August 7th-11th

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Pricing

Regular Registration \$175 until July 1st
Late Registration \$200

Half Day Camp

July 10-14th
July 17th-21st
July 24th-28th
July 31st- Aug 4th
August 7th-11th

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Pricing

Regular Registration \$175 until July 1st
Late Registration \$200

Full Day Camp

July 10-14th

July 17th-21st
July 24th-28th
July 31st- Aug 4th
August 7th-11th

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Pricing

Regular Registration \$255 until July 1st
Late Registration \$280

Advance Camp

July 10-14th
July 17th-21st
July 24th-28th
July 31st- Aug 4th
August 7th-11th

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Pricing

Regular Registration \$255 until July 1st
Late Registration \$280

Aviator Sports provides bus services to and from camp the price is \$150 per week or \$500 for 4 weeks. **Contact Jason Vasquez @ 718-758-7510 in Day Camp Office to register** for Bus service make sure to tell them you are in the DTS Soccer Camp.



VOLLEYBALL

Contact 718-758-7584 or email Fields@AviatorSports.com

» Register online at:
AviatorSports.com/volleyball

VOLLEYBALL SUMMER CAMP

Monday – Thursday 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

July 10th – July 13th

July 17th – July 20th

July 24th – July 27th

Ages: Girls, 10-18 years old

Price:

*Regular Registration: \$255 per week before July 1st

*Late Registration: \$275 per week

*Annual Aviator Membership required

FUNDAMENTAL VOLLEYBALL SUNDAYS

7 WEEK VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

Date: Begins Sunday, July 9, 2017 (3PM-6PM)

Cost: \$350 + \$35 Annual Aviator Membership

Early Registration by June 1st: \$325 + \$35 Annual Aviator Membership

PROGRAM SUMMARY

To assess and enhance player's current skill level with leading-edge instruction and accurate demonstration, that helps build

consistency in overall performance. This is an ideal camp that perfects players' skill levels in preparation for their school tryouts.

Connect with Us!
@AviatorSports





CATERING

Contact Jenna at 718-758-7549
or email Jenna@AviatorSports.com

» Learn more at:
AviatorSports.com/catering

LARGE CATERING EVENT SPACES

Aviator's catering event spaces include indoor and outdoor recreation and entertainment venues. Event planners and promoters appreciate Aviator's convenient location.

SKY MEZZANINE

Contact Jenna at 718-758-7549 or Jenna@AviatorSports.com.

Our Sky Mezzanine is a large event space located on the second floor of the Aviator Hangar. Elevated ceilings and unique architecture add a distinctive Industrial Art Deco Experience.

The Sky Mezzanine seats approximately 250 guests for dining events, and approximately 500 guests with theater-style seating. The possibilities for this space are endless. Our sports-themed bar will accentuate Bar/Bat Mitzvahs to corporate parties. The team at Aviator Sports and Events Center is here to make your event a memorable one! Catering options range from grab-and-go snacks and refreshments to full-service heated meals in our mezzanine-level event space. Also, ask about bar rental availability, which allows large groups renting the Sky Mezzanine to expand their group into Aces Sports Lounge.

AVIATOR CORPORATE EVENTS

For more information on corporate events contact:
Lorrie@AviatorSports.com or call (718)-758-7560

When it comes to entertaining clients, or bonding with your employees, what better way to do so than by incorporating sports? Allow us to work with you to develop unique ways to hold off-site meetings and training sessions, launch new products and services, host industry trade shows, or just gather up the troops for a fun-filled company field day. Aviator truly is the ultimate off-site team-building, corporate picnic, and morale building experience. With dozens of corporate teambuilding opportunities, full-service catering, meeting and breakout space, and activities for every interest, your attendees will be inspired to interact and communicate with each other, and they will thank you for the experience.

FIELD HOUSE

Contact Harvey at 718-758-7552 or email Harvey@AviatorSports.com

The field house is 10,000 sq. ft. of hardwood surface for basketball, volleyball leagues, games and tournaments. There is 10,000 sq. ft. of turf. The area can be covered and converted into event space for boxing, trade shows, college fairs, family days and charity events. The curtain can be lifted, and the room expanded to a total of 20,000 sq. ft. The room contains an in-house sound system, wireless microphone, wireless internet, bathrooms and two private meeting rooms. The capacity of the entire 20,000 sq. ft. Field House is 3,000 people.

CATERING

Contact Jenna at 718-758-7549 or email Jenna@AviatorSports.com



Aviator Sports and Events Center can offer several convenient catering options to meet all of your event needs. The food service at Aviator is overseen by our team of experienced restaurant and catering professionals.

SMALLER MEETING & PARTY ROOMS

For meetings and gatherings of up to 50 guests, Aviator has smaller rooms, which can be reserved for Team-Building Sessions to Informative Company Policy Changes. Continental Breakfasts, Snacks, Coffee Service, Buffets, and Desserts are available to make your next meeting or event a success.

COMPASS ROSE

The expansive grassy area located in front of Aviator Sports & Events Center is known to guests as the "Compass Rose." We host unique festivals, fairs, and circuses that take place on the Compass Rose throughout the year. The field is 300 ft. wide by approximately 700 ft. long with easy access to the main building, outside bar and outdoor



ACES PATIO

As the weather gets warmer and the sun gets brighter, Aces Outdoor Patio is the place to be. Enjoy a cold drink while playing fun backyard games. When you're hungry try our new BBQ menu featuring delectable items like steak tacos, shrimp skewers, our Aviator Burger as well as old favorites like hot dogs.



ACES OUTDOOR PATIO

The outdoor bar is open to the public on the weekends from May through the Fall. It is a full-service bar with TVs, music, picnic tables and food available. Aces Patio can be used for corporate events, group outings, and picnics. You can also book this area for your own group event!

Lorrie@AviatorSports.com or call (718)-758-7560



FIELD TRIPS & GROUP OUTINGS

Call 718-758-7520 or email
Groups@AviatorSports.com

» Register online at:
AviatorSports.com/field-trips

FIELD TRIPS & GROUP OUTINGS

Call 718-758-7520 or email Groups@AviatorSports.com

Aviator Sports and Events Center is an ideal location for a broad range of group outings and events. With a wide array of sports and activities to choose from, it's easy to see why hundreds of schools, small businesses, corporations, and summer camps take advantage of our programming each year. Let our experienced staff and instructors plan a trip specifically designed for your needs. Aviator can handle small to large groups, and the best part is that you choose the sports and activities for your students, campers, or staff to experience.

ACTIVITIES

At Aviator, student groups scale the rock wall, leap and jump in the gymnastics foam pit and do much more. Groups also have options for year-round ice skating, basketball, and indoor/outdoor field for soccer, flag football, and turf-based field games.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips, class outings, Scout trips, Summer camp, and youth group outings at Aviator are unforgettable educational experiences that allow students to discover their natural talents. These programs expand student horizons and build self-esteem by allowing students to experience and learn about an extraordinary variety of sports and activities.

GRADUATION

Aviator Sports is a unique location for graduations. Choose from an indoor setting for up to 2,500 people or our outdoor tented area seats 750 people. Each option includes a stage, chairs and a room for the graduates. Catering options are available upon request.

SENIOR TRIPS

Our Senior Trips include breakfast, lunch, 3 activities, ie, Rock wall, Team Building, Backyard games and ice skating and a disco party which includes a DJ and an ice cream bar. A minimum of 50 students is required for this 6 hour day trip.

FIELD DAYS

A customizable 3 hour day trip includes your choice of 3 activities, ie, basketball, kickball, gymnastics and lunch. A minimum of 10 students is required.

FUNDRAISERS

Want to raise money for your organization? Looking for a low-risk, fun way to do it? Aviator has great ways to help your organization. Charge entrance or participation fees and earn money for your fundraiser while having unforgettable experience(s) at the same time!

Connect with Us!
@ AviatorSports



SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS

For more information about any of our events,
contact Harvey@AviatorSports.com or visit AviatorSports.com/Events

Throughout the year Aviator Sports hosts a wide array of events from Junior Hockey games, Paint Nite, college fairs, sports tournaments, the extremely popular brunch events Brunch With Santa, Brunch With The Easter Bunny and more! During the Spring and Summer our events expand outdoors where we host circuses, fairs and 5K's and fun runs for the whole family.

This year we look forward to events such as Black Light Slide, Night Nation Run, Black Light Wars, The Great Inflatable Race, Rugged Maniac and many more! Events are added to our Events Calendar as tickets are released so visit AviatorSports.com/Events



ADVERTISING & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Aviator Sports and Events Center offers unique marketing and sponsorship opportunities as it inspires, excites and motivates with 175,000 sq. ft. of interior space used for sports programming and 35 outdoor acres which hosts 5K's, concerts, fairs & festivals. With over 1.2 million visitors per year, Aviator Sports and Events Center can help your company meet its marketing goals by creating unique programs that will build exposure for your brand and drive sales. Aviator Sports and Events Center represents the ideal venue for companies to reach their untapped market potential through a wide range of strategic platforms.

CALL NOW FOR MORE INFO

Contact Lorrie Burger, Director of Sales Email: Lorrie@aviatorsports.com Phone: 718-758-7560

One place for all your family's dental needs

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www.envysmile.com

718-891-0606



Aviator Sports is perfect for any Team Building!

Aviator is your destination for your next function. Event packages include 90 minutes of activities and 90 minutes of hot or cold food options.

Contact the groups department to customize your team building event.

Call **(718)758-7520** or email **groups@AviatorSports.com**

Use Promo Code **SUMMER** to get **10% off!** Ask about designing your own package.

Sample of Team Building Options:

Critical Thinking Games:

Human Knot • Team Charades • Jeopardy

Backyard Games:

Giant Jenga • Kan Jam • Cornhole

Sports Activities:

Rock Climbing • Ice Skating • Kickball



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On select adjustable bases.

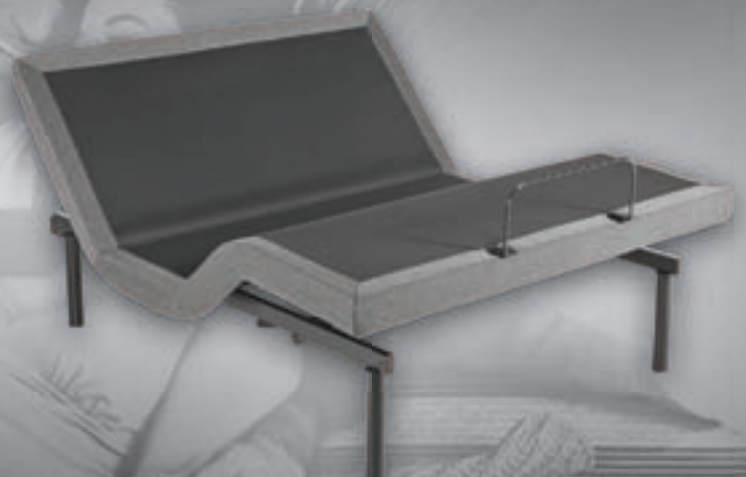


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An adjustable base is perfect for binge-watching
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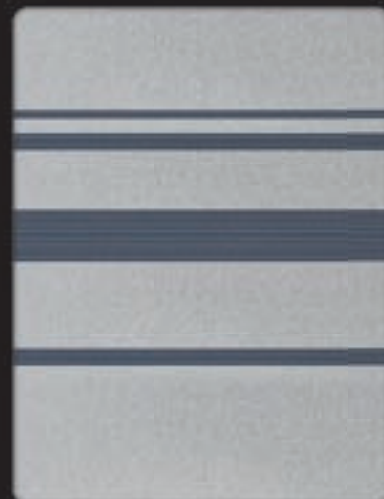
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IN SLEEP TECHNOLOGY



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SLEEP INTEREST FREE FOR 6 YEARS*

Minimum purchase of \$2,499 on a mattress plus adjustable base with your Mattress Firm credit card. 72 Equal Monthly Payments required.

WK35_NYC_WRAP_6.2_COMMUNITY_FRONT

Trinidadian scientist to partner with OECS commission

Continued from Page 11

space shuttle at Kennedy Space Center.

In 2004 she was a finalist for astronaut training and came close to actually going into space when she was shortlisted in NASA's astronaut selection program.

Alleyne served as the manager of testing and is reputed for designing and developing space vehicles, most particularly the Orion crew exploration vehicle, which is designed to carry astronauts to the moon, Mars, and beyond.

She is currently the assistant program scientist for the International Space Station, where she helps the ISS develop programs to attract students to STEM fields and communicates the findings at the ISS to stakeholders and the public.

Reportedly in 2011 she was invited

by Trinidad & Tobago's National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) to keynote the gathering of the tenth annual Caribbean Youth Science Forum.

The twin-island organization named Alleyne one of its "Caribbean Icons in Science, Technology, and Innovation."

Didacus Jules, director general of the OECS Dr. has strongly endorsed her initiative, saying that "the OECS Education Strategy is committed to gender equality, and that the promotion of science, technology, engineering and maths was an important element in the educational formation of young Caribbean women."

"We are hopeful that this will ignite a passion for the sciences among our girls," he said.

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United Healthcare members exercise and learn benefits

By Alexandra Simon

Senior members of United Healthcare got to learn a lot of new information about their membership at a new enrollment event at Restoration Plaza in Bedford-Stuyvesant on May 24. Dozens of seniors showed up to participate in the free event, and hear about the options available to them because many are underutilizing the services that can be useful to them, said a representative for the company.

"We want to make sure that they're aware of benefits because we know that with the changes in health insurance industry, a lot of people have questions and they don't know what they benefits they have," said Alnando Nieves, manager for community relations. "We want to make sure we do a deep dive of all of our members and those around them as well, and explain to them what benefits they have."

Guests were given a walk-through on the benefits that come with their membership



Move in your seat: Zumba instructor, Marisol Ramirez, demonstrates seated exercise moves for seniors.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

such as the free-membership at one of 10 gyms throughout the city, additional funds for vision wear, and transportation coverage to doctor appointments and other United Healthcare events, said Nieves.

"There are a lot for rewards

out there — we pay for transportation if people want to go to the doctor or any of our events," he said. "All they have to do is call us three days in advance and we'll pay for their taxi for 48 one-way or 24 two-way trips."

As part of the enrollment, services like screening, fitness, and transportation are offered for free but members are not taking advantage of them because they do not know about the availability, said Nieves.

"We teach everything. All the ins and outs of our membership," he said. "A lot of our members don't know about this and the best part is they can have up to 10 different gym memberships," he said.

At the event, participants also got some fitness in with a free zumba class. The session was an example of the insurance company dedicating to the various needs of its members and modifying it to their abilities, said Nieves.

"We did low impact zumba



Work it off: United Healthcare member Joyce Delhall doing zumba moves at the company's new membership event at Restoration Plaza in Bedford-Stuyvesant on May 24.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

and low impact chair exercises — so they're sitting and moving in their seats, but what's important is getting their blood flow moving," he said. "All of those things help the seniors

and they stay happy and energetic. Our goal at end of day is to educate our members and keep them healthy, and we're happy to make sure we take good care of them."

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Benefits of growing older

Many people are quick to think of growing older in a negative light. There certainly are some side effects of aging that one may wish to avoid, but people may find that the benefits of growing older outweigh the negatives.

Seniors are a rapidly growing segment of the population. In the United States, the Administration on Aging states that the older population — persons 65 years or older — numbered 46.2 million in 2014 (the latest year for which data is available).

With so many people living longer, it's time to celebrate the perks of getting older rather than the drawbacks. Here are some great benefits to growing old:

Higher self-esteem: The insecurities of youth give way as one ages, and older people have less negativity and higher self-esteem. A University of Basel study of people ranging in ages from 18 to 89 found that regardless of demographic and social status, the older one gets the higher self-esteem climbs. Qualities

like self-control and altruism can contribute to happiness.

Financial perks: Seniors are entitled to discounts on meals, museum entry fees, movies, and other entertainment if they're willing to disclose their ages. Seniors also can enjoy travel perks, with slashed prices on resorts, plane tickets, and more. The U.S. National Park Service offers citizens age 62 and older lifetime passes to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites for just \$10 in person (\$20 online or via mail).

Reasoning and problem-solving skills: Brain scans reveal that older adults are more likely to use both hemispheres of their brains simultaneously — something called bilateralization. This can sharpen reasoning skills. For example, in a University of Illinois study, older air traffic controllers excelled at their cognitively taxing jobs, despite some losses in short-term memory and visual spatial processing. Older controllers proved to be experts at navigating, juggling multiple aircrafts simultaneously, and

avoiding collisions.

Less stress: As people grow older, they are able to differentiate their needs from wants and focus on more important goals. This can alleviate worry over things that are beyond one's control. Seniors may realize how little the opinions of others truly mean in the larger picture, thereby feeling less stress about what others think of them.

Growing older may involve gray hair or wrinkling skin, but there are many positive things associated with aging.



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Cataract surgery effective

As men and women age, their risk for cataracts increases. Starting at age 50, cataract risk rises, and that risk only grows more significant as people get older. The National Eye Institute predicts that, by the year 2050, 50.2 million Americans will experience cataracts.

The lens of the eye is normally clear, but as a person ages, the lenses can begin to cloud and lead to impaired vision. Cataracts can cause blurry vision and increase the glare from lights, affecting how a person can manage daily activities. They also may make it more difficult for eye doctors to examine the back of the eye during routine visits to detect conditions such as age-related macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy.

Eye experts routinely recommend surgery when cataracts interfere with daily activities, such as driving, watching television, or even reading medication bottles. Surgery is a safe and common way to treat cataracts.

The American Optometric Association says cataract surgery involves the removal of the natural lens of the eye, which is replaced with an artificial lens. This clear, plastic intraocular lens requires no special maintenance and is designed to properly focus. In many cases, the eye doctor will make a small incision in the side

of the cornea, where he or she inserts a tiny probe. This device will use ultrasound waves to soften and break up the lens into small pieces, which are removed by suction in a process known as phacoemulsification. The cataract lens is removed, but the thin, outer layers of the lens, called the lens capsule, are not touched. Afterward, the plastic lens is placed in the lens capsule.

If the cataracts have advanced and phacoemulsification is not an option, the eye doctor will have to find another way to remove the lens.

The intraocular lens used may be monofocal, fixed-focus, accommodating, and multifocal lenses, and which type of lens is best for a patient's needs will be determined by the eye doctor.

Cataract surgery may only take 15 minutes, though patients will likely spend more time at the surgical facility to allow for prep time and post-operative evaluation. Recovery will involve the use of medicated eye drops several times daily, and a protective eye shield should be used while sleeping.

As the eye recovers, a special pair of post-operative sunglasses are required to protect the eyes from bright light. Eye doctors also advise patients to avoid strenuous activity, including exercise, for at least the first week of recovery.



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Moving tips

Sending a parent to an out-of-state nursing home

BY JOANNA R. LEEFER

Monica's mother was living in Florida when she fell and broke her hip. She was treated at a local hospital, and then sent her to a rehab facility to recover. There is a good chance that she will not regain full mobility and might need to move into a nursing home. Monica, who lives in Queens, wants her mother closer to her and hopes to transfer her into a rehab/nursing facility in the New York City area.

Monica's situation is not unusual. Many adult children want their frail parents closer to them. However, the situation and procedures often overwhelm them.

What are the steps that need to be taken? Is there a residency requirement to move a parent between state nursing homes? Will a parent's medical insurance transfer?

The good news is an out-of-state transfer can be done, but there are certain guidelines that must be followed. Here are seven steps that need to be taken:

1. Select a desirable facility. Before making a move, you must identify a few facilities where you would like your parent to live. There are several tools for evaluating nursing homes. One government website, Medicare Compare, rates nursing homes on a series of factors such as size of staff, cleanliness, and safety. Other sites, including Yelp.com, offer individuals the opportunity to air their personal impressions about specific nursing homes.

2. Apply to the out-of-state facilities. Ask the admissions staff at the current facility to send a Patient Review Instrument to each of the selected nursing homes. This is the standard medical assessment tool that summarizes a patient's condition and needs. The desired facility will evaluate your parent's care, determine if it can fulfill them, and if it have a bed available. Once the parent is accepted in a facility you can move on to the next step.

3. Transfer the primary health insurance. Most people aged 65 and older are covered by two insurance policies — Medicare, which is the primary insurance, and a secondary insurance that covers supplemental costs and services not covered by Medicare. Medicare is the federal government's health insurance program for older adults. It covers doctor care, hospital care, and 80 percent of in-rehab care. Medicare is managed by the federal government and is viable in all states.

4. Transfer the secondary insurance. Some secondary insurances are nation-wide programs and can easily be transferred between states. Other

programs, including Medicaid, are not. Medicaid is a program that pays for healthcare for people with low income/assets. It is a federal program but is overseen by individual states. Each state decides on its own eligibility requirements determined in part by a state's cost of living. In some instances a person might be eligible for Medicaid in one state and not in another. For this reason Medicaid cannot automatically be transferred. A person must drop one plan when she leaves a state and reapply in the new one.

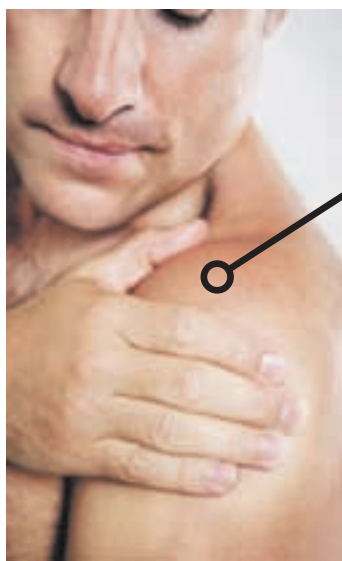
5. Apply for Medicaid in a new state. A person cannot be eligible for Medicaid in two states at the same time. A resident must first close out her Medicaid coverage in one state before applying in another. It is usually best to dis-enroll at the end of the month, because it takes until then to end Medicaid coverage.

6. Understand Medicaid residency requirements. As soon as a parent is in the new nursing facility, she can apply for that state's Medicaid program. Unlike residency restrictions for voting, federal law prohibits a residency requirement to apply for Medicaid. This means a person is eligible for Medicaid immediately upon moving to a new state. The new nursing home can help with the application process. Medicaid acceptance might take as long as 90 days, but this should not be a deterrent. Medicaid coverage is retroactive to the date of application. This means a nursing home cannot turn you down if your Medicaid registration is still pending.

7. Move to the out-of-state residence. The move between two facilities is the easiest part of the total process. This can be coordinated through the nursing homes. It can be done by employing an ambulette to transport the patient or by having the patient escorted to her new location by plane.

Moving a parent between state nursing homes can seem like a formidable task, and in some way it is. It takes careful planning and coordination. Fortunately, all the steps are possible and with help from the nursing homes and knowledgeable professionals, the job can be accomplished smoothly and effectively.

Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor, advocate, and founder of ElderCareGiving, a service that helps families make difficult care decision for aging loved ones when family care is no longer enough. She works to determine their best care option, helps with the transition, and monitors care through regular visits. She teaches advocacy skills to caregivers and professionals. For more information, visit www.joan-naleefer.com.



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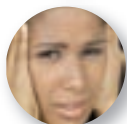
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We all know that sleep is critical to good health, vital to restoring mental acuity, and is needed to ensure a proper immune response. Its role in our ability to perform our everyday activities cannot be stressed enough. Adult insomnia costs the United States almost 14 billion dollars a year. In children, sleep deprivation contributes to a wide range of health issues, including attention deficit disorder, mood disturbances, and memory problems. Overall, sleep ailments contribute to absenteeism, poor job or school performance, and an increase in car and machine accidents.

The good news is that there is plenty that we can do to improve our sleep. Taking steps to decrease stress, avoiding pharmaceutical sleeping aids, limiting caffeine intake, keeping technology away from the bed, paying attention to what we eat at bedtime (limiting the carbohydrates), sleeping in a dark room, and, of course, getting a spinal adjustment, can all lead to a more beneficial night of sleep.

A chiropractor can help to explain why simple changes may make the greatest impact. We know that by sleeping on our stomach (perhaps the most compromising position), the full weight of the head pulls on the muscles and ligaments that hold the cervical spine together. This amount of weight on the delicate structures of the neck will eventually lead to joint damage.

The consultation with your chiropractor will begin with a discussion on proper sleeping positions (preferably side lying with a pillow between the knees and one supporting the head), the use of an approved cervical pillow, what type of mattress is best for your particular spine, and how many hours of rest you should be getting. Additionally, a review of how diet and nutritional supplementation may be affecting your sleep habits will be addressed as well.

If you find counting sheep just isn't helping you sleep, perhaps a visit to a chiropractor is in order. Dr. Nick Chiappetta, a member of the New York State Chiropractic Association, American Chiropractic Association, and International Chiropractic Association, can help Brooklynites catch some zzs.

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Reduce your risk of falls

Falls are one of the biggest contributors to fatal and nonfatal injuries among seniors. Such accidents not only threaten safety, but they also can compromise a person's independence. Falls can cause broken bones, impaired mobility, and even death.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says every 13 seconds an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall. In addition, every 20 minutes an older adult dies from a fall. One-third of Americans age 65 and older falls each year. Falls do not have to be an accepted side effect of aging. With some balance training and other techniques, older men and women can avoid falls and the injuries that result.

The National Council on Aging and its National Falls Prevention Resource Center have implemented fall-prevention programs. By following these guidelines, individuals can remain safe and upright:

Get a vision check-up. A decrease in visual ability and perception can increase risk of falls. Impaired vision can cause people to trip over items they can't see, miss steps, or bump into obstacles. Make sure your vision has been checked recently and you are using contact lenses or glasses as prescribed by an eye doctor.

Know your medication side effects. Ask your doctor about the medications you are taking and whether they can contribute to dizziness or decreased balance. Medicines that affect blood pressure can lead to light-headedness as well. Your doctor may be able to substitute a medication with an alternative if your existing prescription is affecting your balance.

Begin a regimen of strength training. The National Institutes of Health suggests strength exercises to keep muscles strong. Strength training also can impact the strength of bones, as well as increase metabolism to keep weight and blood sugar in check.

Engage in specific balance exercises. Balance exercises can improve stability. Balancing on one foot while standing for a period of time is one such exercise. Stand up from a seated position without using your hands, then shift your weight from the left to the right while standing on the respective leg on that side. A physical therapist can work with you to ensure you are using correct form in balance exercises.

Try tai chi. Look for tai chi classes at a gym or senior center. Tai chi is a form of movement training that can help strengthen the body, improve balance, and improve flexibility.

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Estate Planning for Our Parents



BY: ISAAC YEDID, ESQ. &
RAYMOND ZEITOUNE, ESQ.

Estate planning is one of the most important steps a person can take to make sure that their final property and health care wishes are honored, and that loved ones are provided for in their absence. Though often overlooked or put off in favor of more immediate concerns, a comprehensive estate plan can resolve a number of legal questions that arise whenever anyone dies.

Trusts have become an integral part in estate planning. A trust is a fiduciary arrangement that allows a third party (a "trustee") to hold and manage the assets of the creator of the trust (the "grantor") on behalf of the grantor's beneficiaries. Trusts can specify exactly how and when the assets pass to the beneficiaries. Trusts are used for minimizing estate taxes and can offer

other benefits as part of a well-crafted estate plan. Some of those other benefits include:

- **Controlling Wealth.** With a trust, a grantor can specify the terms of the trust and control when and to whom distributions may be made. A trust can also be set up as a revocable trust so that the trust assets remain accessible to the grantor during his or her lifetime while designating to whom the remaining assets will pass thereafter.

- **Wealth Protection.** A properly constructed trust can help protect an estate from creditors of the estate's heirs or from beneficiaries who are not able to manage money responsibly.

- **Privacy.** A person's last will and testament is a public document (after filing with the courts) and a matter of public record. However, a trust is a private document and may allow assets to pass outside of the court system and remain private.

Special Trust for the Elderly

Estate planners and elder law attorneys are often faced with the challenge of protecting the assets of an aging client that is vulnerable to dishonest relatives, friends

and caregivers.

Clients typically want to maintain control of their assets as long as practically possible, but also want to protect those assets from the undue influence when the client is vulnerable, either due to age, health or other reasons. These two goals conflict with each other because if a person retains the power to change his estate plan, that person is susceptible to be influenced by outsiders. On the other hand, taking away the power to change the client's estate plan, the client may feel that he or she has been "handcuffed" from doing as he or she pleases.

Forming a special estate planning trust for the elderly resolves these problems in a way that many clients feel comfortable with.

Example: Jacob and Rachel have been happily married for 52 years, and were living well into their seventies. They had three adult children and many grandchildren. Jacob and Rachel were always accustomed to having complete control of their assets, but their ultimate goal was to divide their assets evenly among their three children. Unfortunately, Ra-

chel passed away, and Jacob became depressed. One day, Jacob befriended Marilyn, who has been struggling financially. Over the next ten years, Jacob mortgaged his house and spent upwards of \$800,000 on Marilyn, and was eventually forced to sell his house and move in with his kids.

Had Jacob and Rachel planned ahead and created a special trust designed for the elderly, Jacob and Rachel would have been free to control their assets as they wish, including buying, selling, giving away and spending any money or property. However, when either Jacob or Rachel would have died or become disabled, the trust would have become irrevocable and no longer changeable. As a result, when Rachel passed away and Jacob became depressed, he would no longer have had the ability by himself to mortgage his house, sell his house, or spend considerable amounts of money on Marilyn, or anyone else for that matter.

Forming a special trust for the elderly would have assisted Jacob and Rachel in protecting their hard earned wealth from being

negligently squandered away, and would have allowed the wealth to remain intact to be passed down to their children.

Not many clients will walk into a professional advisor's office and identify their need for asset protection during a future period of vulnerability. The Trusts & Estates Practice Group at Yedid & Zeitoune, PLLC collectively work together with each client to ultimately put together the best asset protection model for each client's needs, taking into account the need to balance control with protection. May we all merit living long, happy and healthy lives - amen!

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Like mother: Singer Lydia Caesar and her daughter performing together on stage at her first New York concert at Milk River Lounge in Bedford-Stuyvesant on May 18.

Christina Mallas

Hats off to Lydia Caesar

By Alexandra Simon

A big welcome home!

Songstress Lydia Caesar performed her first New York Concert at Milk River Lounge in Bedford-Stuyvesant on May 17. The Hollis, Queens-born singer returned to the city for a show to debut new songs from her newly released album "Queen of Hearts." The singer was nervous about singing at her first home show but her audience's positive reaction killed all her stage fears,

Continued on Page 42

Jamaican poet honored

By Vinette K. Pryce

Linton Kwesi Johnson, Jamaica's premier dub poet was recently honored with a doctorate in literature from a university in South Africa for his "inspiring political activism" and relentless dedication to his craft.

The UK-based poet renowned for blending reggae music with political and social commentary to accentuate conditions in England and elsewhere received an honorary doctorate from Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa in recognition of his poetry which was described as "the soundtrack of the 1980s anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa."

Nominated for a doctorate by Rhodes

Continued on Page 42



Beenie Man performs onstage at the BET Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Sunday, June 30, 2013, in Los Angeles.
Frank Micelotta / Invision / Associated Press, File

REGGAE CENTRAL

Reggae, Dancehall fetes to preview Jamaica's 55

By Vinette K. Pryce

Jamaica could easily claim the title of being reggae central this summer when the island marks 55 years of self rule.

Flagship location for slating enumerable island-wide concerts from now until the official Aug. 6 independence date, a cultural national ministry has endorsed two back-to-back international attractions that recently launched in New York City.

Organizers of Reggae Sumfest and Dream Weekend stopped into Finn

Partners to launch the two signature summer outings that lead into national revelry.

With two separate and distinct events aimed at attracting media attention, the Jamaica Tourist Board presented the unique and diverse calendar presentations to usher in 55 years of independence.

"This launch is a strategic move for the organizers considering that their biggest support is from the tristate area," Trudy C. Deans, Jamaica's consul general said.

"And with 750,000 Caribbean nationals in the region any entertainment package that supports that should be encouraged."

Montego Bay's annual marathon reggae party promises an all-Jamaican showcase of vintage, current and dancehall artists billed to satiate the appetites of local and visiting tourists from every region.

With a reputation based on a quarter century years of presenting popular music — since Reggae Sun-

Continued on Page 42

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- That's What I Like**
Bruno Mars
- Shape Of You**
Ed Sheeran
- Something Just Like This**
The Chainsmokers & Coldplay
- Say You Won't Let Go**
James Arthur
- Stay**
Zedd & Alessia Cara
- It Ain't Me**
Kygo x Selena Gomez
- Despacito**
Luis Fonsi, Daddy Yankee...
- I'm The One**
DJ Khaled, Justin Bieber, Qavo...
- Issues**
Julia Michaels
- Body Like A Rock Road**
Sam Hunt

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- Harry Styles**
Harry Styles
- Welcome Home**
Zac Brown Band
- Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol.2**
Soundtrack
- After Laughter**
Paramore
- From A Room: Vol. 1**
Chris Stapleton
- Bloom**
Machine Gun Kelly
- DAMN.**
Kendrick Lamar
- Poison The Parish**
Seether
- Thankful (EP)**
New Kids On The Block
- Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol.1**
Soundtrack

Presented by

verizon wireless

REGGAE CENTRAL

Continued from page 41

splash moved its trailblazing marathon concerts — during nightly concerts, the second city dusk to dawn showcases are the main attraction.

In contrast, Dream Weekend acclaimed to being “the largest party festival in the Caribbean” boasts a very different approach to its alluring appeal.

“We are doing our part to make Jamaica the entertainment capital of the Caribbean by designing mega-events that attract visitors from all over this world,” Ron Burke, marketing director of Dream Entertainment said.

“Our record of customer service and security speak for itself.”

With a record of only eight years previous staging of events in the resort area of Negril, 11 people that comprise the Dream Team testifies to a weekend nationals and foreigners flock to along a seven-mile beach for unrivaled fun and adventure only available in Jamaica.

A trio of ambassadors — Burke, Scott Dunn, managing director and Kamal Bankay, public relations director

detailed plans for the week-end saying two events each day totaling nine, all offered at one price offers “value for money.”

“Much of the support is from tri-state area,” Bankay said.

He explained that the largest amount of arrivals to the island for their events originate in NYC.

He said many of the fun-seekers make up a database of 16,000 and subscribers to a social media network which has built a global foreign market in Canada, the United Kingdom and the USA.

Throughout the years, launches have been held in Barbados, Atlanta, Georgia and St. Lucia.

The five-day festival promises to deliver authentic dancehall — the likes of Popcaan, Alkaline Aidonia, Mavado, Beenie Man, Bounty Killer, Jah Cure, Koshens, Spice, Sizzla, Sean Paul, Masicka, Bunji Garlin, Machel Montano, Kes, Tony Matterhorn. It accounts for attracting 30,000 patrons.

Some of the activities slated from July 28 – Aug. 1 include: Dream Live, Daydreams, Yush, Xtreme Wet and Wild “Mardi Gras,” World Vibes Sound-



Reggae artist Sizzla, whose real name is Miguel Collins, performs at Beres Hammond's 30th Anniversary tour concert at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y.

Associated Press / Brad Barket, File

clash, Twisted Spiritz, Pajama party Igloo, Celebrity Red and White and Dream Jungle Jouvert.

With launches scheduled in Miami and Toronto, all early bird tickets are already sold out with regular tickets selling quickly.

Reputedly, the weekend adds more than \$10 million to the local economy annually while creating thousands of year-round employment opportunities for the island.

For more information, log on to www.jamaicadreamweekend.com.

Daughter steals show

Continued from page 41

she said.

“It’s always scary to sing new material even to the fans, because you never know how people will respond but I was really humbled because they got it right away,” said Caesar. “Whenever I come home, it’s nerve-wracking because I’m hoping that people come out and it’s also my first show performing an album I produced with my husband, but the biggest thing was that people came out, and they really showed up.”

At the show she sang two fan favorites tracks and seven new songs. Seeing the crowd sing along was one of the most exciting things to see, she said.

“It’s humbling when you see people singing your lyrics — I put the mic out to the crowd and had them sing and it’s really special to see that,” said Caesar.

Out of her new songs, the song paying homage to her Caribbean heritage, “Caribbean Girl,” received a lot of positive criticism from the crowd, as well as songs “Crawl-

ing Back” and “Shake It.” After the show fans praised her for a relatable song and recalled how her songs, said Caesar.

“I got great feedback — when the show ended I would have people come out to me and say ‘How did you know I was going through this?’, she said. “It’s powerful when people receive yours on and that’s why I do music. It’s a great way to communicate and relate to what I’m saying and if someone can relate, I did my job.”

But the highlight of the night Caesar’s daughter also performing on stage. The moment was a hit with fans and she says this was also an opportunity to pass the torch and have her daughter explore the world of music.

“She stole the show and the crowd went absolutely crazy,” she said. “Just to share stage with her, she’s mine and she has a stage presence — she has a gift that I encourage her and having her on stage is a great way for her to get used to performing and having a platform.”

Dub poet honored

Continued from page 41

University’s Professor Rod Walker, Professor Robert van Niekirk, Professor S. Naidu and Professor M. Hendricks, they said the reason Johnson was named was because they wanted to recognize his “seminal contribution, through poetry and music, to decolonize the English language and the English literary canon.”

Popularly known as LKJ, he has always maintained that for him “writing was a political act and poetry was a cultural weapon”

Since arriving in Brixton in the early 60s LKJ has tackled British foreign policy, the pervasive racism there and police brutality.

Incorporating words, sound and music, he relentlessly railed against the governance of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher through recitations he penned with titles such as: “Inglan Is A Bitch,” “Sonny’s Lettah” (police brutality) “Letter Fi Dada” (about the death of his father in 1982) and others.



Jamaican born dub poet and author Linton Kwesi Johnson.

Associated Press / Beбето Matthews, File

His homage to Caribbean immigrants in Britain — “It Is No Mystery...We’re Making History” emerged more than syncopated poetic rhythms but classic commentary phrased by Jamaica’s patois.

Most of Johnson’s poetry is political, dealing mainly with the experiences of being an African-Caribbean in Britain.

Doling out 'justice' in color-coded fashion

Abacus: Small Enough to Jail
Excellent (4 stars)
Unrated
In English, Mandarin and Cantonese with subtitles
Running time: 88 minutes
Production Studio: Kartemquin Films
Distributor: PBS

By Kam Williams

Asian-Americans are often referred to as the "model minority" because of their success in the U.S. despite the existence of discrimination which has crippled other ethnic groups. However, the label has also led many a racist to misread Asian modesty as an invitation to treat them like doormats.

Consider the serious rudeness done to Dr. David Dao, the Vietnamese-American physician who was beaten to a pulp by the police and dragged off an airplane for refusing to surrender a seat that he'd paid for to a United Airlines employee flying for free. Lost in the sauce was the fact he and his family were



"Abacus: Small Enough to Jail" tells the incredible saga of the Chinese immigrant Sung family, owners of Abacus Federal Savings of Chinatown, New York. www.rottentomatoes.com

very likely selected because of the color of their skin. After all, the airline employee probably specifically targeted the Dao family never expecting members of the model minority to put up much of a fuss about getting bumped.

"Abacus: Small Enough to

Jail" is a jaw-dropping documentary which chronicles an equally-outrageous example of bigotry, this time against the Sung family, a clan of Chinese-American immigrants. Inspired by the classic film "It's a Wonderful Life," family Patriarch Thomas Sung founded Abacus

Federal Savings Bank in 1984 in the heart of New York City's Chinatown.

He was motivated to help his community after repeatedly witnessing how other lending institutions were willing take Chinese people's deposits, but were very hesitant to let them

borrow any money. Abacus flourished over the years, and his daughters, Jill and Heather, joined the family business as executives after becoming lawyers.

The world came crashing down around them all when the bank and 19 of its employees were charged with conspiracy, larceny and fraud in the wake of the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis. What's stunning is that Abacus was the only financial institution the government ever held responsible criminally for the collapse of the mortgage market. Furthermore, the case was based entirely on evidence which Abacus itself had turned over to federal regulators upon unearthing felonious behavior on the part of a loan officer it fired on the spot.

Was the ensuing prosecution malicious or warranted? Judge for yourself. But don't be surprised if this chilling expose leaves you convinced the Sung family were innocent victims of a thoroughly corrupt legal system doling out "justice" in color-coded fashion, even when it comes to white-collar crime.

Independent & Foreign Films

3 Idiots (PG-13 for crude humor and brief profanity) Mexican remake of 3 Idiots, the Bollywood comedy about a couple of college buddies (Christian

Vazquez and German Valdez) who belatedly decide to mount a search for a missing classmate (Alfonso Dosal) five years after he disappeared without a trace on their graduation day. Cast includes Martha Higareda, Vahir Derbez and Sebastian Zurita. (In Spanish with subtitles)

Aaron's Blood (Unrated) Tale of demonic possession about a single-dad's (James Martinez) desperate attempt to reverse his hemophiliac son's (Trevor Stovall) gradual transformation into a vampire in the wake of a blood transfusion. With Michael Peach, Michael Chieffo and Farah White.

All about the Money (Unrated) Action comedy about two guys (Eddie Griffin and Casper Von Dien) tricked into vacationing in Colombia by a broke buddy (Blake Freeman) who wants their help apprehending a drug kingpin (Jose Yenque) with a \$25 million bounty on his head. Cast includes Lin Shaye, Danny Trejo and Jonathan Slavin.

Band Aid (Unrated) Marital crisis comedy about a couple that can't stop fighting (Zoe Lister-Jones and Adam Pally) who try to save their relationship by starting a rock band and turning their



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

arguments into songs. Featuring Fred Armisen, Colin Hanks, Jamie Chung and Brooklyn Decker.

Churchill (PG for mature themes, brief battle scene images, pervasive smoking and some mild epithets) Brian Cox plays the legendary British prime minister in this World War II adventure recounting the 96 hours leading up to the D-Day assault on Normandy. With John Slattery as General Dwight Eisenhower, James Purefoy as King George VI and Julian Wadham as General Bernard Montgomery.

Dean (PG-13 for profanity and some suggestive material) Demetri Martin wrote, directed and stars in this romantic dramedy as a commercial artist grieving the loss of his mom who falls in love with a woman (Gillian Jacobs) he meets when he travels from Brooklyn to L.A. to negotiate a contract with an advertising agency. With Kevin Kline, Mary Steenburgen and Asif Ali.

Finding Kim (Unrated) Gender identity documentary chronicling 50-year-old Kim Byford's struggle with self-image and self-acceptance in the wake of sexual reassignment surgery transitioning her from a woman to a man.





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SPORTS

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West Indies' Jason Holder takes off for a run against Australia during their cricket test match in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015. Associated Press / Andy Brownbill, File

West Indies ranks eighth

By Azad Ali

West Indies remained fixed at eight in the World Test rankings recently released by the ICC annual update.

The Jason Holder-led team has gained five points in the period (2015-2016) and now has a total of 75, trailing sixth-placed Sri Lanka by 16 points and ahead of Bangladesh who is sitting in ninth place.

West Indies lost their last three Test series against India last year in the Caribbean, followed by Pakistan last year, four in the United Arab Emirates

Continued on Page 46

Eligibility rule under review

By Azad Ali

The West Indies selectors are considering revisiting the eligibility rule to include their limited-over stars for national selection, particularly for the 50-over format.

The West Indies Cricket Board has followed a stringent policy of considering those players who have featured in the domestic 50-over competition that goes back to 2010 under the former Julian Hunte presidency.

The current criterion has ruled out a number of senior players including Dwayne Bravo, Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard, Sunil Narine and Andre Russell.]

Continued on Page 46



COSMOS CAN'T CONNECT

Open opportunity: Cosmos midfielder Emmanuel Ledesma came up short of two early, second-half chances on May 27, but was still named Man of the Match.

The New York Cosmos

NY settles for a draw with San Francisco

By Laura Amato

There were plenty of chances—the Cosmos just couldn't capitalize.

New York played the San Francisco Deltas to a 0-0 draw at MCU Park on May 27, unable to connect on a handful of scoring chances, even as the squad controlled the tempo from

the opening whistle.

"I think we want to win every game, we want to have those three points, but we have to look at the positives and today the performance was very good," said Cosmos coach Giovanni Savarese.

"We were missing only a few good

movements inside the box, but overall the movement of the ball, the fluidity of play, the way we recovered the ball, we looked like a strong team," he added. "I think this gives us a good feeling about what is coming in the future."

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and the recently concluded series on home soil.

Out of the 10 matches, West Indies has won two matches, lost six and drew two.

India retained the No 1 Test ranking, leading South Africa by six points, but only nine points separate Australia from seventh-ranked Sri Lanka.

Australia has retained their third place, England has stayed in fourth position while Pakistan has dropped behind New Zealand in sixth place.



Former West Indies vice-captain and wicketkeeper Courtney Browne.

Associated Press / Andres Leighton

Eligibility

Continued from Page 45

None of them were part of the West Indies' most recent series against Pakistan, which they lost 2-1.

West Indies is falling further behind in the race to be among the top eight teams in the ICC rankings and so qualify directly for the 2019 World Cup.

If this policy changes, West Indies could significantly boost its chances of fielding a full strength team leading to the masterpiece event.

Chairman of the selectors Courtney Browne said "we have to look at the eligibility rule but also be mindful that we have to develop our own domestic product, a stage where we can have a very good standard of regional cricket."

Go to

www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com

for the latest in Caribbean news, viewpoints and more.



Bringing the pressure: The Cosmos front line notched a handful of prime scoring chances in the second half on May 27, but couldn't find the back of the net at MCU Park.

The New York Cosmos

COSMOS CAN'T CONNECT

Continued from Page 45

The Cosmos had the first chance of the match, but the shot sailed wide of the net in the 22nd minute. San Francisco responded just three minutes later when a Greg Jordan through-ball found forward Thomas Heinemann.

Goalkeeper Brian Holt held strong between the pipes as he filled in for starter Jimmy Mauer, who was sidelined with a hamstring injury.

"I was called upon tonight, so I just tried to make the most of my opportunity, just play my game and keep it secure in the back," Holt said. "The guys in front of me did a heck of a job to make it a little easier. We got a lot of ground balls, challenged them and that helped out."

It was a physical game from the outset, with several yellow cards in the first half, but the Cosmos weren't surprised;

if anything, the home squad fed into the Deltas' physicality, taking advantage of San Francisco's defensive mindset and pushing the ball into the attacking third as much as possible.

"When you have two teams that are good teams and two teams that really want to win, you'll see these types of matches," Savarese said. "It was a battle today. You'll see yellow cards because it was a very physical game. But I think, from the first half, we dominated."

The Cosmos took their offense to the next level in the second half, recording several key opportunities in the first few minutes of the period. Emmanuel Ledesma led the charge — directing a pass to midfielder Javi Márquez whose header bounced off the crossbar before he followed up with his own shot that bounced off the side netting.

"We tried, we hit the cross bar, had a couple of chances, but today's a day

[we came up short]," said Ledesma, who was named Man of the Match. "I think we play 20 more minutes, we'd score. We tried, we created, but we missed the opportunities."

New York controlled possession for much of the second half, and had several goal-scoring opportunities, but failed to find the back of the net. It was a frustrating match for the Cosmos. The team has struggled on offense at home this season, but did its best to focus on the positives, and is determined to build on its front-line control.

"I think the movement of the ball, how we played from the back, the solutions that we found, we were able to have fluidity of play against a team that closes spaces," Savarese said. "We found different areas that they struggled with and we took advantage of it. But the goal was a thing we missed today, out of a very good performance."

WICB names women squad

By Azad Ali

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) selectors have named a 15-member squad for the ICC Women's World Cup from June 24 to July 23 in England.

There four newcomers in the squad — Renience Boyce, 19, (wicketkeeper / batsman) from Trinidad and Tobago; Quiana Joseph, a 16-year-old fast bowler from St. Lucia; Akeira Peters, 23, a left-

handed all-rounder from Grenada; and Felicia Walters, 25, an opening batsman and part-time spin bowler from Trinidad and Tobago.

Jamaican Stafanie Taylor will captain the team.

Chairman of selectors, Courtney Browne, said the team comprises a mixture of youth and experience and was based on performances in this year's Women's Regional Super50 tournament.



Stafanie Taylor, captain of the West Indies' women cricket team.

Associated Press / Bikas Das

Back to Brooklyn: Blackbirds point guard withdraws from NBA draft

By Laura Amato

He tested the waters, and decided to return to the Blackbirds' nest.

Long Island University freshman point guard Jashaun Agosto officially announced his decision to withdraw from the National Basketball Association draft on May 24, posting a statement on Twitter

"I have decided to pull my name out of the NBA Draft 2017," Agosto tweeted. "I'm very confident in coach [Derek] Kellogg and I love my teammates and the fans at LIU Brooklyn. I want to thank the NBA scouts, agents & coaches for giving me the opportunity to experience the process."

Agosto was one of 182 players who filed in April as early-entry candidates for the 2017 draft. That decision gave him several different options regarding the future of his game; allowing him to work out in front of professional teams and scouts with-

out requiring him to hire an agent. It also left Agosto free to return to the Blackbirds if he felt his draft prospects weren't exactly where he wanted them to be. To maintain his college eligibility, he was required to withdraw from the draft by May 24.

"The feedback has been helpful as I realize the exciting reality, which I'm ready to embrace, that it won't be easy or handed to me," Agosto tweeted. "My mission is to help my team win and be a role model like all the great point guards before me."

Agosto, a 5-foot-11 guard from Seattle, Washington, had a dominant rookie year with the Blackbirds last winter, appearing in 31 games, averaging 33 minutes, 11.2 points, 3.2 assists and 2.1 rebounds a game. He was one of the most efficient shooters on the Blackbirds' roster, connecting on 41.4 percent of his field goal attempts.

The offseason hasn't been easy for LIU-Brooklyn; the

squad fell to Robert Morris in the first round of the Northeast Conference tournament, and shortly afterward fired coach Jack Perri.

It took several weeks for the school to hire new coach Derek Kellogg, and Agosto's decision to return to Brooklyn — and continue to direct the Blackbirds' offense — is as big an offseason win as Kellogg could have hoped for.

"Can't wait to coach you and go on this run together!!!" Kellogg tweeted in response to Agosto's decision.

Agosto was named to the conference All-Rookie team last season, but the former two-time state champion is far from satisfied. He's got his sights set on a pro career and while he might be tempering his expectations for now, he's hardly slowing down. In fact, just a day after announcing his decision to return to school, Agosto posted a new workout video on Twitter, showcasing his skills, and his determina-



Back for more: Long Island University point guard Jashaun Agosto announced his return to the Blackbirds last week, officially pulling out of this year's NBA draft.

Long Island University Athletics

tion to be even better on the court this winter.

"I thank God for contin-

uing to Bless me," Agosto tweeted, "and I will see y'all at March Madness 2018."

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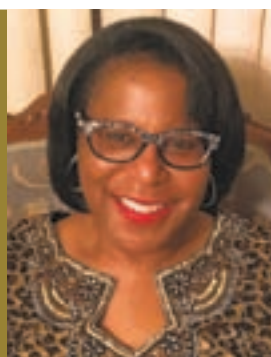


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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, remaining quiet about how you truly feel about someone will not be helpful this week. It's better if you unleash your emotions and let your loved one know the truth.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Your dedication could be the key to putting things back on track at work, Taurus. After a little turbulence, everything will work out once more with you on task.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, profound change is never easy, but you have to give it a try. Start slowly with little things that may not affect you as much, then build up to bigger changes.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
You may be feeling invincible this week because you haven't run up against much resistance lately, Cancer. Just don't believe everything will be a piece of cake.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you are on a roll this week, and everything you encounter puts an extra spring in your step. Just don't get so engrossed in your progress that you forget others.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, your creativity is overflowing this week. This proves a boon to anyone who has asked for your assistance with party planning, decorating or other creative pursuits.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, this week you feel more comfortable working with others in a group than you do on solo projects. This reinforces to others that you are a team player and a valuable asset.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Others won't stand in your way this week, Scorpio. You are a productivity powerhouse, and you are ready to overcome any and all obstacles.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you may be tempted to throw in the towel when things are not going your way. Give the situation a little more time before you make a foolhardy decision.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Others realize you are willing to put in long hours when you see the possibilities for a positive return Capricorn. Share this enthusiasm with others and they might reciprocate.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Continue to be that steady rock that others can rely on, Aquarius. The waters could get a little choppy this week, and others will need a strong anchor to get them by.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, sharing your opinions may not scare off others, even when they don't agree with your views. Continue to be open and honest.




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