



People's Choice

Miss Jamaica Davina Bennett at the Miss Universe competition. See story on Page 45.

Missuniverse.com

APPEAL FOR MONEY

Caribbean storm rebuilding money insufficient, concessionary funding needed

By Bert Wilkinson

A week after the conclusion of a special conference to raise grants and loans to rebuild Caribbean nations battered by back to back hurricanes, the region is slowing coming to the realization that not that much money will be available for the rebuilding process after all and that additional financing will be required going forward.

Gaston Browne, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda is among the first to suggest that Barbuda, where more than 90 percent of the buildings were either damaged or destroyed, will barely get less than 10 percent of the \$2B in loans and grants to rebuild Antigua's sister isle. The smaller island in the federation is almost deserted with most of its 1,500 residents, jobless, homeless and still marooned in Antigua, two months after Irma pulverized it.

"My understanding is that it is about \$1.2B in pledged

of which \$1B was pledged by the Inter American Development Bank (IDB). Those are grants and loans to rebuild Caribbean nations battered by back to back hurricanes, the region is slowing coming to the realization that not that much money will be available for the rebuilding process after all and that additional financing will be required going forward.

Browne and his cabinet had suggested that the island will need in excess of \$200M to rebuild stronger and better as the 2018 hurricane season is now a mere seven months away and barely any rebuilding works have started. He is worried that there might not be enough to go around since Dominica is the other full CARICOM member state that had suffered a similar level of damage to Barbuda so there might not be enough money for rebuilders.

There is also deep fear that the 2017 season with two powerful consecutive category five

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Vincentian diplomat recalled

By Nelson A. King

As St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves on Monday recalled diplomat Sehon Marshall "for consultation" after he allegedly punched his newly-appointed diplomat wife in her face early Friday morning, the couple's Brooklyn neighbors have choice words for Marshall, according to reports.

Police sources told the New York Post that Sehon Marshall, 43, who serves as a counselor for the Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, "allegedly decked his wife, Sandra [Xandra] Marshall, 36, after a verbal

fight broke out at their Canarsie [Brooklyn] house at 1:15 a.m." on Friday.

Mrs. Marshall was recently appointed Deputy New York Consul General, a post that her husband previously held, according to New York Consul General Howie Prince

Cops launched an investigation and found that Marshall struck his wife "with a closed fist, leaving her with a bloody lip," the Post referred to sources as saying.

"But officers couldn't bust the thug-in-a-suit — because he's protected by a law forbidding prosecution of foreign diplomats in the US," the paper

said, according to sources.

Sehon Marshall wasn't getting diplomatic immunity from his Brooklyn neighbors, who called him a "son of a b---h," who "never says good morning or hello," the Post reported on Sunday.

"Why didn't she punch his a-- back?" one neighbor angrily told the paper.

Neighbors said the family has been living on the top floor of the two-story building at East 92nd Street and Avenue N in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn for less than a year, according to the Post.

Marshall allegedly left his
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Perry honors outstanding 11



San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz, left, and Speaker Viverito, right, presenting a proclamation to the New York City Emergency Management for their response to the island after the hurricane.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

City Council celebrates Puerto Rico's strength

By Alexandra Simon

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Mayor Bill DeBlasio honored the strength of Puerto Rican people with a celebratory event at City Hall on Nov. 27.

Hundreds of people turned out for the "Celebration of Puerto Rican Resilience," to recognize New Yorkers who contributed aid to the United States territory in the aftermath of the recent hurricane, and learn the action plan that city politicians have in motion for the island. For some guests, it was an opportune time to hear about the progress being made back home.

"It was great — it was very nice of them to inform us about what's going on in Puerto Rico because not too many people have the opportunity to go and help," said Nellie Gonzalez-Arce.

Nearly two months since Hurricane Maria left widespread destruction on the island, the speaker and several other elected officials applauded the resiliency of Puerto Ricans and those who assisted in their immediate recovery.

San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz was also at the event to present proclamations to the city's Emergency Management team and their assistance to the island. Gonzalez, who has relatives in Puerto Rico was thrilled to see Mayor Cruz, and said her presence provided a sense of relief in easing her curiosity about the leadership and what is to come.

"I think it was a good idea for her to come to New York and be there with us because one way or another, we have to work together. The connection between New York city and Puerto Rico is very good, and it's going to become much better."



Honorees--back row (District Leader Melba P. Brown, Assemblyman Latrice Walker, Leroy Morrison, Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie, Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, Assemblyman Nick Perry, Joyce Perry, Senator Kevin Parker, Mark E. Toney, District Leader Cory Provost, Robert Mohamed. (Seated) Collette Halliman, Jalessa Dickson-Montilus, Wanda Williams, Hazra Ali and Dr. Agatha Anosike.

William Farrington

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Assemblyman Nick Perry recently honored 11 outstanding community figures at his 25th Anniversary Award Gala at Paradise Catering Hall on Avenue U in Brooklyn.

The Rev. Terrence Melvin and Wanda Williams received the Distinguished Labor Leader Awards; Mark E. Tony received the Champion of Quality Healthcare Award; Robert Mohamed received the Legend of Broadcasting Award; Leroy Morrison received the Outstanding Entrepreneurial Leadership Award; and Dr. Agatha A. Anosike and Jaleese Dickson-Montilus received the Outstanding Entrepreneurial Leadership Award.

Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie received the Outstanding Educator Award; Collette Halliman received the Leadership in Early Childhood Education Award; and Hazra Ali and Roy McKenzie received the Outstanding Community Service Awards.

"I thank everyone who joined me tonight for helping honor these worthy individuals for their personal achievement and for their eagerness to share their success by meaningful involvement in their community in substantial ways that help make our city, state and nation and surely our world a better place," the Jamaican-born Perry, who represents the 58th Assembly District in Brooklyn, told patrons.

He later told Caribbean Life that "the hard working, dedicated members of my committee, Friends of Nick Perry, did a wonderful job of organizing this year's awards dinner dance.

"But all our efforts and planning would have been in vain without the over 350 individuals who shared their evening with us, and the distinguished group of honorees who we celebrated and recog-

nized," he added.

Rev. Terrence L. Melvin holds the second highest office in the New York State labor movement — Secretary-Treasurer of the 2.5 million members, New York State AFL-CIO. In July 2007, Melvin was elected to this position. In August 2008, he was re-elected to a four-year term.

In May 2012, at the 41st International Convention of the CBTU, Melvin was elected unanimously as the organization's new president, succeeding William (Bill) Lucy, who had held the position since he co-founded CBTU in 1972. CBTU, which is dedicated to addressing the unique concerns of black workers and their communities, has 50 chapters in major US cities and one in Ontario, Canada.

Among his various labor and community roles, Melvin is a man of devout faith and spiritual belief. He is an ordained Baptist Minister. He serves as Associate Minister and Assistant to the Pastor at Second Baptist Church, Lackawanna, New York.

Wanda Williams is currently the Director of Legislation for District Council 37 (DC 37). Previously, Williams served as the Director of Political Action and Legislation (PAL) Department of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) AFL-CIO, New York City's largest public sector municipal labor union, representing 125,000 members and 50,000 retirees.

Before joining District Council 37, she was a consultant for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, D.C. and Beirut, Lebanon.

Mark E. Toney is recognized nationally as an accomplished leader in serving as senior management for organizations,

both publicly traded and privately-held, that are underperforming, in distress, reorganizing, or preparing for or currently in bankruptcy.

He is also recognized for his balanced, independent, and creative thinking in difficult and complex situations. He has served in a number of roles as senior management, including that of the chief executive officer, chief restructuring officer, and chief financial officer.

Robert Mohamed — If it can be done in radio, legendary New York broadcaster Robert Mohamed has probably done it. Broadcast engineer and consultant, On Air personality, disc jockey, talk show host, voiceover artist, hearing aid inventor, an accomplished singer and recording artiste, and now the chief executive officer, owner and founder of WICR-AM 1620, the Indo-Caribbean Radio Network.

Leroy Morrison, a native of Jamaica, has been an activist and entrepreneur within New York's dynamic transportation community for over three decades.

Morrison is the owner and chief executive officer of Pebbles Transportation and Alexis Van Lines, Inc, two New York City's oldest and most reliable commuter van services.

Dr. Agatha A. Anosike is currently director of Nursing Education, Research, and Performance Improvement at the NYC H+H/Kings County Medical Center, as well as serve as adjunct professor at CUNY.

She has held multiple administrative, education, performance improvement positions in many healthcare facilities. Her areas of clinical experience include medical-surgical, critical care, emergency care and ambulatory care. Dr. Anosike is a Family Nurse Practitioner experienced in pediatric and adult ambulatory care centers.

Caribbean

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has declared it will help Caribbean countries recently devastated by two Hurricanes, Irma and Maria to get back on their feet.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde gave the assurance while delivering an address to regional leaders and other top officials in Jamaica on an IMF / Caribbean forum at the Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston, Jamaica.



Lagarde said there was no mistaking the ravaging impact of natural disasters on regional economies and the IMF would not turn its back on the vulnerable states.

“The IMF stands ready to do whatever it can in those situations in accessing macroeconomic implications, determining the financing needs and providing financial support that could also help to catalyze broader financing from the rest of the international community,” she said.

The IMF pledge came as Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit appealed to officials from the international community, who recently attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference which took place in Bonn, Germany, to deliver on their commitments to help rebuild the country, which was left with an estimated damage of more than US\$200 million.

The one-day conference was held under the theme, “Unleashing Growth and Strengthening Resilience in the Caribbean.”

Antigua

From Nov. 15, 2017 anyone found guilty of unlawful possession of a gun or ammunition in Antigua and Barbuda will be jailed.



Minister of Public Safety, Steadroy “Cutie” Benjamin said the Firearm (Amendment) Act is now in effect since the legislation has now become lawful.

He said anyone found in possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition the courts will be under an obligation to make certain those persons are incarcerated, except of course in very special circumstances where the court has discretion to take other action.

An offender convicted before a magistrate can be jailed for a maximum of two years.

The law came into effect just as the gun amnesty granted by the government from Oct. 15 to Nov. 15 has ended.

Benjamin said he was disappointed that only three firearms were turned in and several rounds of ammunition not-



Jamaican farm worker in Vermont

Roy Burns, a migrant farm worker from the island nation Jamaica, reaches for an apple at Scott Farm Apple Orchard, in Dummerston, Vt., on Wednesday, 20, 2017.

Kristopher Radder / The Brattleboro Reformer via Associated Press

ing that not many more persons did not take advantage of the amnesty.

The minister said a reward of \$20,000 is still being offered to anyone who provides the police with information that helps them catch and convict people with illegal weapons.

Barbados

The Barbados government has recently introduced amended road traffic legislation in Parliament for random drug testing for operators of public service and heavy duty-vehicles.

Minister of Transport and Works Michael Lashley also announced that the much talked about breathalyzer testing will soon become a reality under the Road Safety Amendment Act.



During the debate on the Act, the minister pointed out the 24 road deaths recorded so far for this year, some of the serious accidents on drivers “using drugs or alcohol or some other substance” were blamed for the accidents.

He said the Freundel Stuart administration was determined to rid the country of the “reckless and inconsiderate behavior” of some drivers.

Lashley said the government wanted to bring the Road Traffic Act for the random alcohol and drug testing of any person who was granted a driver's license for a public service vehicle.

He said the amendment is necessary in promoting and protecting the traveling public and general road users.

The Transport Minister said when the breathalyzer testing is introduced under the amended law members of the Royal Barbados Police Force would have the power to request a breathalyzer test from individuals suspected of driving under the influence.

Failure to comply with the regulations, he said, could result in fines and imprisonment.

Bahamas

Issues relating to the challenges of the delivery of justice in the Caribbean will be discussed at the inaugural Advanced Performance Exponents (APEX) convention which will be held in the Bahamas later this month.

The convention described as a “milestone even for the justice sector in the Caribbean” will bring together national, regional and international jurists, attorneys, legal practitioners and senior court officials.

In attendance will be government ministers and senior policy makers, as well as leading academics, technologist and business leaders.

The Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), which established APEX, describes it as a Caribbean-based, special purpose, non-profit agency gov-

erned by jurists and legal practitioners across the region.

The CCJ said that the APEX Convention starting on November 27, 2017 in the Bahamas is designed to define actionable approaches toward justice sector improvement; and raise awareness of regional, technology-enabled options by providing insight into the latest challenges and initiatives for re-filing and end-to-end case management.

The organizers say the convention, which is being held under the theme “Enabling Caribbean Court Excellence” comes against the backdrop of efforts to accelerate the development of Caribbean jurisprudence being challenged by constraints of finances and human resource capacity, and also by a lack of clear purpose.

Guyana

More than 24 former Guyanese government officials will be dragged before the courts for alleged wrongdoing in public office.

The Guyana State Assets Recovery Agency has served notice that it has 25 cases of officials under the former People's Progressive Party (PPP) administration using their high office to unlawfully acquire properties.



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IMF says Barbados budget projections off



Barbados Finance Minister Chris Sinckler.

Photo by George Alleyne

By George Alleyne

The International Monetary Fund has declared that despite jacking up a tax covering most goods on the island, the Barbados government is set to fall short of its budget target, and needs to sell state owned agencies.

This is the essence of the message in an IMF release issued by a team of specialists after visiting Barbados and consulting with government, business leaders and the political opposition in an examination of the island's finances that ended this week under the Fund's Article IV agreement.

When government imposed a 400 percent increase in its National Social Responsibility Levy in its 2017-2018 budget presented in June, Finance Minister Chris Sinckler had said that this sweeping tax would be the main driving force towards hauling in some \$542 million (Bds\$1 = 50 cents US) in increased revenue, which along with spending cuts and sale of



Barbados Opposition candidate Marsha Caddle.

Photo by George Alleyne

some other revenues, and high transfers indicate that the government is likely to fall short of its target."

The IMF team said that instead of balanced accounts it estimates "that the deficit will decline to 4.1 percent in FY2017/18 without divestment [sale of assets] proceeds. The larger than expected fiscal deficit is increasing funding challenges."

This is seen as a blow to the Sinckler-led financial initiative that saw NSRL spiked from two to 10 percent on most imports — except some food and specialised items — as of July 1, 2017.

So sweeping is the jacked-up tax that trade unions and the private sector combined for protests through Bridgetown as they feared the massive inflationary impact of NSRL.

But government persisted and Sinckler reported at the end of September a \$50 million haul from three months of the increased tax, affirming that the state was well on its way to the

some state assets would balance the accounts and produce a \$4.4 million surplus.

But the IMF press statement, that contains preliminary findings and are to be followed up with a comprehensive report stated in part, "exemptions to the NSRL, lower-than-expected non-oil imports, shortfalls in

budgetary target.

Now that the IMF has concluded that government is way off mark the international

agency said, "substantial further fiscal effort is needed to decisively place the debt on a downward trajectory."

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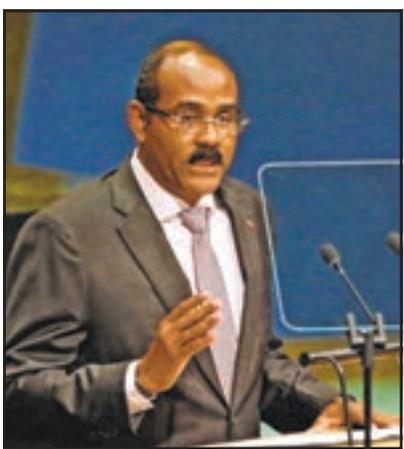
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Funds needed for battered islands



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, File

the close down of the cruise shipping industry in some islands. Ports have been destroyed and they can't get in. St. Maarten is literally closed," the prime minister said as he made a case for soft financing.

"We have no choice but to spend the money, because resilience is the insurance that investors need following the devastation to the region, caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria."

Like Browne, he was clear in his view that while the west helped in the aftermath of the storms, the money available was insufficient to rebuild the battered island nations.

Diplomats spar at home

Continued from Page 1

wife with an injured hand and bloody lip, sources told the Post.

It said one neighbor described Marshall as a "nasty man," who, the Post said "thinks nothing of blocking the driveway with his car."

"This is crazy. He thinks he is untouchable!" another neighbor said.

Gonsalves on Monday instructed the diplomats not to report for work until further notice, stating that his administration is treating the issue "with utmost seriousness, and is considering all the alive legal options in this matter."

"From what I have said, you can deduce certain possible conclusions, certain outcomes, really; but, as always, we have to act sensibly, deliberately, firmly as all circumstances, and the law and the guiding principles admit," the Vincentian leader said Monday on Star FM, the incumbent Unity Labor Party (ULP)-owned radio station.

The main opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) over the weekend has called for Sehon Marshall's recall, stating that the "reported allegations are extremely serious allegations of violence and domestic abuse, and they cannot be treated lightly."

Marshall wasn't available for comment, and his wife, who refused medical attention, declined to comment.

Marshall first served as Deputy New York Consul General before transferred

to the UN Mission. Sources claim he and then New York Consul General Selmon Walters were constantly at loggerheads.

On Nov. 23, 2014, despite initial outcry over his would-be appointment, Gonsalves presented the embattled Marshall, then newly-appointed Deputy New York Consul General to his compatriots at a town hall meeting in Brooklyn.

Marshall, who officially assumed office the week before, was dogged by controversial remarks he made on local radio in August 2014 regarding jobs that he said some Vincentians in the Diaspora, particularly in the United States, hold, such as "baby-sitters" and "dog-walkers."

As the controversy brewed, Marshall apologized for his comments, and then Foreign Affairs Minister Camillo Gonsalves, the prime minister's eldest son and now minister of government in the Gonsalves administration, urged nationals, at a town hall meeting, at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn, in September 2014, to give the potential diplomat "a chance."

The prime minister noted at the standing-room-only town hall meeting, at the same venue, that Marshall's appointment was "clouded in controversy," adding, however, that "Vincentians in New York, people of the Caribbean and the Diaspora should go past it (the controversy)."

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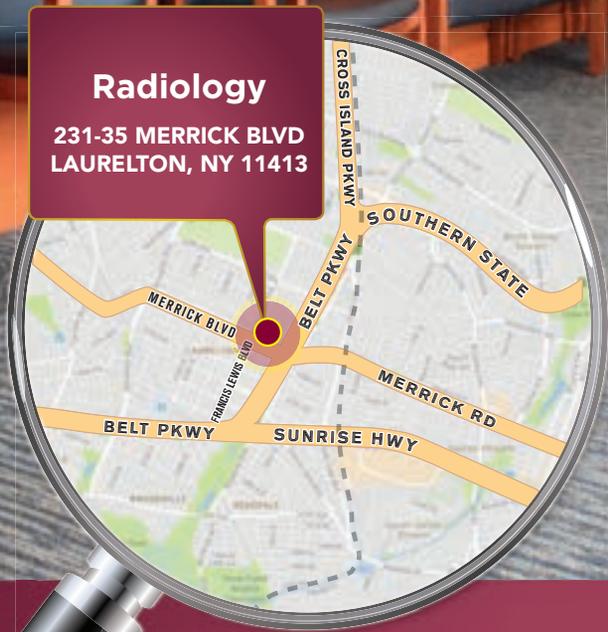
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A history lesson on tax cuts

By Ralph Martire

To stimulate the U.S. economy to “levels you haven’t seen in many years”— President Trump is proposing to cut federal income taxes, for most folks in general, but predominately for really affluent families and mega-corporations. His proposal is so skewed to the wealthy that over the next 10 years, more than half of his multi-trillion dollar tax cut will go to the wealthiest one percent. Big business does well too, gaining an estimated \$4.1 trillion tax cut during the next decade. And that’s not the only justification offered for the president’s full-on, supply-side, tax cut. According to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), this tax cut will “create so much economic growth, it [will] begin to pay down the nation’s debt.” Which sounds too good to be true — because it is.

By now, every American who is objective or can do math should know that the proposed supply-side tax cuts won’t work as promised. Why expect certain failure? First and foremost is something called “history.” Supply-side tax cuts have never worked as promised. Never. Second, focusing tax cuts on affluent individuals and corporations is not an effective way to stimulate private sector job growth — which pretty much explains why history has proven supply-side economic theory is bogus.

Start with history first. Top federal income tax rates for individuals were very high from the end of World War II through 1980—ranging from 90 to 72 percent. During that sequence, the U.S. economy grew at an average rate of 3.8 percent per year, in real, inflation-adjusted terms. Meanwhile income distribution slightly favored the top, with the wealthiest 10 percent realizing roughly 34 percent of all growth in income over that period, leaving 66 percent of income growth for the bottom 90 percent in earnings to share. Still, these were pretty good times, that included a strong middle class and real income growth for all earners.

Then came supply-side under President Reagan, who cut the top marginal income tax rate from north of 70 percent to 38.5 percent in 1981. President George W. Bush then cut the top rate down to 35 percent in 2001, while also cutting capital gains and dividend tax rates, which all primarily benefited the most affluent. That’s nearly four decades of supply-side. And the results ain’t pretty. In fact, average U.S. economic growth from the Reagan Administration through the end of George W. Bush’s second term was 2.8 percent annually after inflation. That’s one full percentage point lower than during the previous, high-tax era, and translates to about \$150 billion less in annual economic activity. There was never any trickle-down effect. Meanwhile, income inequality became much worse, with more

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Violence against women is at heart about power

By António Guterres

António Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations, in his remarks on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 23 2017 (IPS) - Every woman and every girl has the right to a life free of violence. Yet this rupture of human rights occurs in a variety of ways in every community. It particularly affects those who are most marginalized and most vulnerable.

As it was just said, around the world, more than 1 in 3 women face violence throughout their lifetime; 750 million women were married before age 18, and more than 250 million have undergone Female Genital Mutilation.

Women’s rights activists are being targeted at alarming levels. And violence against women politicians impedes progress on women’s civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights.

Women who run for office are more likely to encounter violence than men; women human rights defenders are at greater risk; and horrifying sexual violence in conflict shows no sign of abating.

There is increasing recognition that violence against women is a major barrier to the fulfilment of human rights, and a direct challenge to women’s inclusion and participation in sustainable development and sustaining peace.

There is also increasing evidence that violence against women and girls is linked to other attacks, including violent extremism and even terrorism.



Thousands marching in the demonstration ‘Non Una di Meno’ (Not One Less) during the World Day Violence against Women on Nov. 25, 2017 in Rome, Italy.

Andrea Ronchini/Pacific Press/Sipa USA)(Sipa via Associated Press

This violence, the most visible sign of pervasive patriarchy and chauvinism, directly impacts women’s physical and psychological health. It affects whole families, communities and societies. While it continues, we will not achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The recent emergence of reports detailing sexual harassment in the workplace from many organizations and institutions worldwide shows how pervasive this form of sexual violence is.

I have stressed a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment at the United Nations. The Under-Secretary-General for Management, Jan Beagle, will follow up by chairing an Interagency Task Force that will examine our policies and look at strengthening our capacities to investigate reports and to support victims.

Attacks on women are common to developed and developing countries. Despite attempts to cover them

up, they are a daily reality for many women and girls around the world.

As Prime Minister of Portugal, one of my most difficult battles was to win recognition that family violence and especially against women was a serious issue, and that we as a government should take measures to reduce and prevent it. I had to fight against a conspiracy of silence to push through urgently-needed reforms to the police and the judiciary.

It is time to further our collective action to end violence against women and girls — for good. That takes all of us working together in our own countries, regions and communities, at the same time, towards the same goal.

The United Nations is committed to addressing violence against women in all its forms.

First, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against women has been funding civil soci-

Continued on Page 12

Caribbean Life

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

Jamaica celebrates its bonds with James Bond

Who said “no man is an island?”

Certainly not Ian Fleming, the writer who wrote “my name is Bond – James Bond.”

He first introduced that identifier in 1962 in a film titled “Dr. No” just two months after Jamaica shed its dependency on its imperial governors.

As a matter of fact, the British novelist and Jamaican resident repeated the line in all his novels and films to successfully clue audiences throughout the world of a spy numbered 007 able to outsmart the most heinous criminals from Asia and Eastern Europe.

That Jamaicans celebrated two coming out events that year was not lost on the international community.

For the island independence signalled a historic, milestone achievement, unprecedented by any British colonial territory in the Caribbean.

And for Fleming, the first of what became a 24-film series shattered ticket sales at box-offices throughout the world; establishing Sean Connery as an international sex symbol, and also showcased the island /



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

nation as an adventure spot.

To commemorate these two special anniversaries, The Jamaica Committee and the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) hosted “Fifty-Five By Two” on Nov. 28.

Held at the historic Miracle Theatre in Coral Gables, Florida, the charity gala featured a red-carpet event in the theatre’s grand vestibule commemorates the two historic events.

Fleming first visited Jamaica in 1942 while serving as a naval office in the Royal Navy. Reportedly he was there to attend an Anglo-American intelligence summit. His biographer wrote that “despite the constant heavy rains during his visit, he decided to live on the island once the war was over.”

Fleming made Oracabessa in the parish of Saint Mary his home. In 1945, Fleming had a house built, he named it Goldeneye.

Named from his wartime “Operation Goldeneye” in 1941 he had published a novel “Reflections in A Golden Eye,” which described the use of British naval bases in the Caribbean by the American navy.

From the serene house and estate he wrote many novels.

Some of his neighbors included author Noel Coward and Blanche Blackwell, the mother of Chris Blackwell, founder of Island Records who signed Robert Nesta Marley to a recording deal..

Needless to say a visit to Goldeneye is eye-candy for any visitor.

Located on a hilltop, the grassy, estate overlooks the beautiful Caribbean Sea and remains one of the island’s most scenic landmarks. This Insider considers the spot a treasured and privileged retreat revisited on many occasions.

Chris has maintained the



Visitors look at as they walk by a James Bond’s Aston Martin DB5 used in the film ‘GoldenEye’ on display in the exhibition ‘Designing 007 - Fifty Years of Bond Style’ at the Barbican centre in London.

Associated Press / Sang Tan

property in pristine condition and on a visit there the many artifacts remain as if Fleming might be out for a stroll and could return for afternoon tea.

It is there that Fleming penned numerous films including: “Thunderball,” “Goldfinger,” “Live & Let Die,” “You

Only Live Twice” and “Dr. No.” The latter was the first of 24 James Bond films that established the series one of the highest grossing ever. It is estimated that since its release, a quarter of the world’s population have seen at least one Bond film. *Catch You on the Inside!*



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OP-EDS

Tax cuts grow national deficit

Continued from Page 10

than all real growth in income going to the wealthiest 10 percent. Everyone else earned less after inflation in 2007 than in 1980. And because the promised economic growth never materialized, federal deficits exploded.

Which should surprise no one, because tax cuts mostly benefiting businesses and affluent families can't be expected to stimulate job growth. Here's why: the economy is primarily, as in around 68 percent, consumer spending. Tax cuts for affluent folks won't generate much new consumer spending — because individuals at the top of the ladder already have rapidly growing real incomes. In economic terms, they have a low "marginal propensity to consume," that is, they are unlikely to spend any tax relief they get. No bump in consumer

spending, no job growth.

Business tax cuts also don't incentivize job creation, because businesses only hire more workers when they actually need additional capacity to satisfy growing demand for whatever they sell. It makes no sense for a business to utilize tax relief to hire folks if there's no work for them to do. Excess capacity is wasteful, and cuts profits.

Which means there's literally no reason to believe President Trump's proposed tax cuts will stimulate the economy, and every reason to believe they'll grow the national deficit.

Ralph Martire is executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, a bipartisan fiscal policy think tank. Article submitted by American Forum

Violence against women is at heart about power

Continued from Page 10

ety organizations for twenty years. It has successfully awarded \$129 million to 463 initiatives across 139 countries and territories.

Second, we recently launched the 'Spotlight Initiative', a large-scale effort by the UN and the European Union to eliminate all forms of violence against women. By connecting our efforts with those of national governments and civil society, this initiative aims to strengthen action on laws and policies, prevention, and services for survivors.

Third, the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative is leading to a comprehensive programme to end sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces.

And fourth, earlier this year I launched

a new, victim-centred approach to sexual exploitation and abuse committed by those serving under the UN. I am determined to prevent and end these crimes, which cause such lasting damage to the people and to the institution itself.

These initiatives should help us deliver transformative change. But much more needs to be done. We need strong political will, increased resources and coordinated action.

Violence against women is fundamentally about power. It will only end when gender equality and the full empowerment of women will be a reality.

My policy on gender parity in the United Nations is one step towards achieving this goal so that we can access and capitalize on the full potential of all staff.

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Caribbean prime ministers discuss citizenship program



St. Lucia's Prime Minister Allen Chastanet arrives during the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP) climate talks in Bonn, Germany, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017.

Associated Press / Martin Meissner, File

By Nelson A. King

Reports in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Sunday say some Caribbean prime ministers discussed Citizenship by Investment Prices after recent devastating hurricanes.

Beacon — a major conference and exhibition organizer that operates out of Hong Kong, Melbourne and London, running events globally — said that Dominica was impacted significantly by Hurricane Maria, a category 5 storm leaving behind a trail of devastation and over 50,000 people displaced.

Earlier this month, Beacon said Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit gave the opening address at the Investment Immigration Summit East Asia in Hong Kong.

“What we would like to recognize is that literally days after the hurricane, our Citizenship by Investment (CBI) program was back on the road,” Beacon quoted Skerrit as saying. “While we were receiving 200-plus miles wind, stakeholders

were processing applications because we were able to advance our program to ensure that we utilize technology to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our program.”

When asked about whether Dominica will follow St. Kitts and Antigua in the recent controversial reduction of its CBI program prices, Beacon said Skerrit replied: “The government of Dominica has not taken any decision in respect to this matter.

“What I would like to see though, for the long-term benefit of the program, is for there to be a base price for all the categories within our programs, based on a gentlemen agreement that we shouldn't go below a particular price point,” Skerrit said.

Beacon said Prime Minister Allen Chastanet of St. Lucia also made an appearance at the Investment Immigration Summit in Hong Kong.

When interviewed by the Investment Migration Insider, Beacon said, “he confirmed

that St. Lucia will be accepting other currencies as part of their CIP program, and are looking at the possibility of getting their domestic bank, Bank of St. Lucia, to open a branch in Dubai as part of the IFC.”

The Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) data model is intended to describe building and construction industry data.

“Chastanet hopes to have it up and running before the end of the year, if not, by early January,” Beacon said. “They will be looking at accepting the Euro and the Yen first, and possibly Bitcoin.”

Beacon said the investment migration industry is now looking towards the Middle East and North African region and hoping to tap into the potential of this market.

It said the sister event of the Hong Kong Summit, the 4th Annual Investment Immigration Summit MENA (IIS MENA), is coming to Dubai on Feb. 25-27, 2018.

Beacon said the conference and exhibition will offer the latest and most comprehensive information on investment immigration programs from around the world including the US, European Union, Canada,

the Caribbean, Australia and the Pacific Islands.

“It will showcase the latest content offerings for the local Middle East market, focusing on the alternative pathways to migration,” Beacon said.

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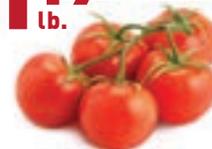
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

The agency's deputy director Aubrey Heath-Retmeyer said with Cabinet's approval of required resources for its work, lawyers would soon begin proceedings against the accused.

He assured that the agency was not on a witch-hunt but simply collecting what belonged to the people of Guyana.

The David Granger government has promised to be tough on corruption but has been accused of unfairly targeting former People's Progressive Party officials.

Attorney General Basil Williams made it clear that anyone charged with corruption or related offences would not be allowed to continue in the post once investigations are ongoing.

Grenada

A Grenadian criminal defense attorney has called for jurors to be given at least one week training in order to adjudicate over high-profile cases.

Anselm Clouden, described as one of Grenada's most experienced attorney made the call as he commented on the stiff prison sentence handed down by a female judge, Madam Justice Paula Gilford after a 12-member jury returned an unanimous guilty verdict on 6-year-old Albert Alexis for murder.

Justice Gilford imposed a life sentence on Alexis for manslaughter for the May 2015 death of 31-year-old Alson Henry of Plaisance, St. Andrew.

Speaking to reporters after the sentencing, Clouden said that jurors need some form of training to get more acquainted with certain legal concepts before being empaneled for high court service.

"You take a fellow from his work-

place, you put him on the jury, he doesn't know anything...and then he hears all kinds of technical arguments by counsel and counsel's submissions and he feels if the police bring an accused person here, he's guilty and that's where we are today," he said.

Clouden said he would appeal against the stiff sentence imposed by the judge.

Henry died following stab wounds during an argument with Alexis over a piece of land.

Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago state-owned Estate Management and Business Development Company (EMBD) has sued former Housing Minister Dr. Roodlal Moonilal and four other companies for allegedly engaging in an elaborate scheme of bid-rigging, bribery and collusion, which led to hundreds of millions of dollars being disbursed to five contractors just prior to the 2015 general election.

The lawsuit against Moonilal and four other EMBD officials, under the Kamla Persad-Bissessar administration alleged fiduciary duty, cartel behavior and unlawful means of conspiracy.

The Office of the Attorney General said in a statement that the lawsuit was filed in the Port of Spain High Court recently.

According to the statement, the lawsuit concerns ten contracts awarded in August 2015 to five contractors for the upgrade and rehabilitation of certain access roads in Central Trinidad and two contracts for rehabilitation.

The EMBD is also seeking compensation and repayment of sum paid.

- Compiled by Azad Ali



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Hamilton denounces Trump's decision to deport thousands of Haitians

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Sen. Jesse Hamilton has joined myriad politicians and community activists in denouncing the Trump administration's decision to deport nearly 60,000 Haitians living in the United States under Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

"I stand in resolute opposition to the Trump administration's disgraceful decision to target yet another vulnerable population for inhumane mistreatment by withdrawing Temporary Protected Status from 59,000 Haitians," said Hamilton, who represents the 20th Senatorial District in Central Brooklyn. "Haiti is still rebuilding in the wake of natural disasters that have killed hundreds of thousands and displaced more than 1.5 million people in recent years. In our country, that would be something akin to 45 million Americans displaced.

"Haiti is particularly vulnerable because the World Bank identified it as the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere,

with a 2016 GDP [gross domestic product] per capita of US\$739 compared to the United States' US\$57,466," he added. "Granting temporary protected status to 59,000 Haitians is incredibly important to them and their US-born, US-citizen children but also important to the capacity of Haiti itself to continue rebuilding.

"The Trump administration's decision to withdraw this status fails to recognize the situation on the ground in Haiti, wrenches families, and stunts Haiti's ability to rebuild with help sent from TPS recipients, Hamilton continued. "This unjust policy disregards our humanitarian obligations, perversely, at a time when the spirit of generosity and compassion should be especially fresh in our minds."

Hamilton said his office will continue to be a "Sanctuary Senate office, connecting immigrants to resources like free legal representation."

"I will stand with colleagues, advocates, and New Yorkers of good conscience across our state," he said. "We will not

permit Trump to trample the rights of our friends and neighbors."

Last week, Black Democratic congressional leaders in the US joined Caribbean legislators in expressing outrage over the Trump administration's decision.

US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Acting Secretary Elaine Duke said on Monday that she made the decision to terminate the TPS designation for Haitians, with a delayed effective date of 18 months, "to allow for an orderly transition before the designation terminates on July 22, 2019."

But on Tuesday, US Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Immigration Working Group, Congressman John Conyers of Michigan, House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member, and Congressman Cedric Richmond of Louisiana, CBC chairman, said, in a joint statement, that they were outraged by the decision that now forces the Haitian



Sen. Jesse Hamilton, D-Brooklyn. Associated Press / Mike Grol, File

immigrants to return home.

They noted that the massive earthquake in the French-speaking Caribbean country killed more than 300,000 people in 2010, disrupted the function of civil society, displaced families from their homes, closed schools and social service agen-

cies, created instability in the government and undermined the economy.

The Black congressional leaders said these conditions were exacerbated by the cholera epidemic, subsequent hurricanes and food insecurity crisis, "which continues to this day."



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Barbados parliamentary speaker before law court, again

By George Alleyne

A client dragged him before the court in 2014 demanding money, now three years later Speaker of the Parliament of Barbados, Michael Carrington, again finds himself in the Supreme Court accused of withholding someone's money.

In the 2014 matter, Carrington was found wanting and the court had ordered him to pay to an elderly disabled client almost a quarter of a million Barbados dollars (Bds\$1 = 50 cents US) in funds received and withheld for over two years from the sale of a property.

In the uproar that resulted after news broke on the first case, politicians and other Barbadians asked how could the person presiding over the law-making body of the island be involved in such questionable deals.

Now three years later another client has taken the Barbados speaker of Parliament to court alleging that he withheld money for the sale of land, a claim which is similar to the

first case.

In the current matter the client, a business entity, also challenged the level of fees charged by Carrington, who as a Queen's Counsel holds the rank of a senior lawyer.

In his defence on this matter now before the court, Carrington said that he was entitled to all the money.

Back in that December 2014 ruling the judge had said that the speaker must also pay costs to his former client, who had to petition the court contending that Carrington was holding on to the money after receiving it as his lawyer in the sale of property.

At that time the court heard that Carrington had sold a property on behalf of the elderly client but handed over only \$44,194 leaving some \$208,900 due over two years.

Revelations of this in the newspapers caused a furore that eventually led to parliamentarians demanding that Carrington explain his actions because he presides over the

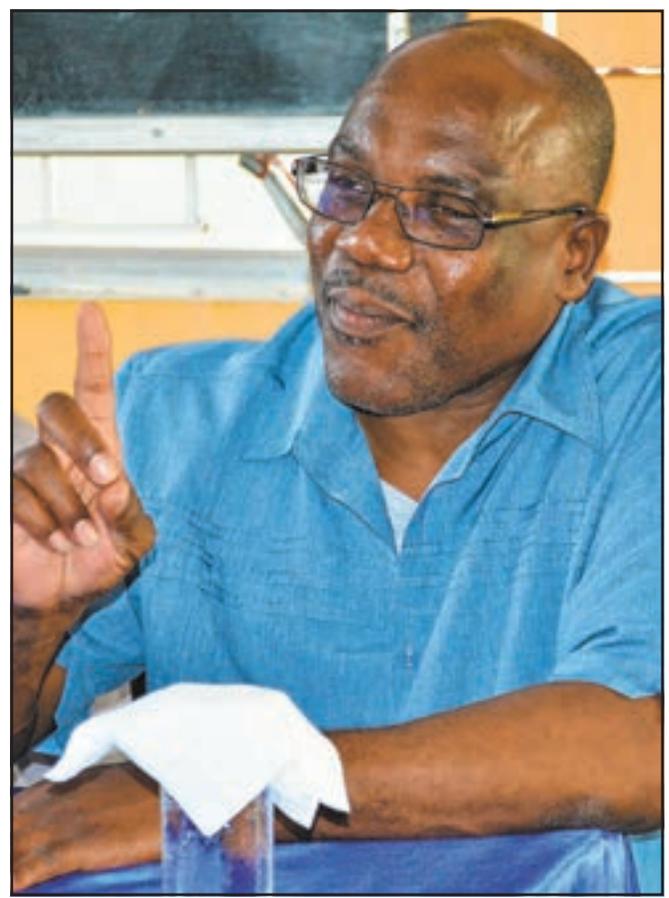
highest forum and law-making body of the island.

In requesting that explanation, Parliamentarian Santia Bradshaw, said in parliament, "I believe it would be in the best interest of preserving the integrity of this chamber and the overall government and the confidence of the people of this country, if indeed that opportunity was given to the speaker of this Chamber to address members."

An attempt to have a vote of no-confidence in Carrington was disallowed.

The issue eventually prompted a walk out by the parliamentary opposition that led to a seven-week boycott.

Following the 2014 case, opposition politicians and social commentators had said that the correct thing for Carrington to do was step down from this high office. But as a member of the government that holds the majority of seats of elected members of parliament, he was allowed to retain that position.



Speaker of Barbados Parliament, Michael Carrington

Photo by George Alleyne

With another court case months away, it is left to be seen if Carrington retains this high office should he lose this second court battle.



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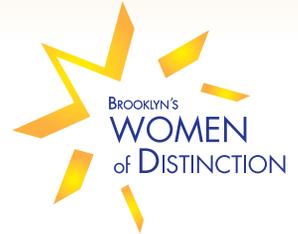
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Caribbean hotels face higher insurance rates

By Tangerine Clarke

Managing Director, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean for CGM Gallagher Insurance Brokers, Scott Stollmeyer said Caribbean hoteliers should plan now for an increase in insurance premiums anticipated to range from 10 to 40 percent following two Category 5 hurricanes, which struck several destinations in the region in September, during a Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) webinar earlier this month entitled 'Hotel Property Insurance After the Storms.'

Stollmeyer and panelists advised that now is the time to review coverage to ensure it is adequate against possible future damages, and without compromising coverage, to look at ways to minimize the expected premium increases.

He said that during the past eight years the Caribbean has enjoyed reduced insurance rates but that would now change. He said following the hurricanes, insurance companies have begun reaching out to their clients informing them of the increases that will occur in their next renewal cycle for inland and beach properties. He noted, this would lead to a "hardening" market: "We are going to be in for some challenging times in the next few years."

According to CHTA, the increases will affect the entire region, not only those islands that were struck by the hurricanes. "The Caribbean is ... lumped into one general region ... it's where the reinsurance markets are looking at the Caribbean as a general region — everybody is going to be impacted," Stollmeyer said.

"It pays to know your policy well before a disaster strikes. First, making sure you're adequately insured, understanding what's covered and what's not, and keeping good records are fundamentals which hoteliers should adhere to," said Stanley Smith, certified public accountant and licensed adjuster with Smith Orloff & Associates, who advised hotel owners and managers to be proactive and be their own advocates when handling insurance claims.



The certification is given to destinations that adhere to creating a safe environment including the Jade Mountain Select. Turner Forte Photography

Two St. Lucian resorts earn environmental recognition

By Alexandra Simon

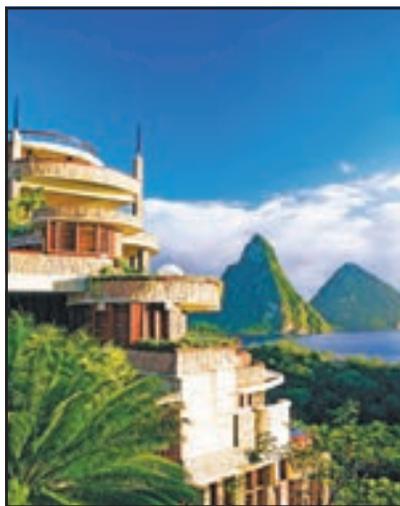
Two resorts in St. Lucia recently earned the Travelife Gold certification for adhering to and promoting safe and environmentally friendly principles. The Anse Chastanet and Jade Mountain resorts earned the certification from the global certifying system, for meeting guidelines in sustainability. The honor is awarded to tourist destinations throughout the world that practice safe conditions and promote green standards, and that is something important for the hospitality industry, said the resort's executive director.

"Respecting the people, nature, and cultural aspects of St. Lucia and showing guests how it's done at Anse Chastanet and Jade Mountain was central in achieving Travelife Gold Certification," said Karolin Troubetzkoy.

Both retreat sites use non-toxic cleaning products, aim to reduce waste, protect nearby shores, and save energy. The pathway to getting the certification is not hard to achieve when a pro-green mindset is already ingrained in the company's motto, said property manager Carl Hunter.

"We didn't do an awful lot — but since I've been with Nick and Karolin Troubetzkoy, that's been one of their passions," he said. "One of the main reasons I love working for them is that they make clear of their passion for all things sustainable."

In the age of climate change, it is extremely important more than ever



The Jade Mountain Resort in Saint Lucia is one of two tourist destinations that earned the Travelife Gold Certification. Macduff Everton

to apply safe and sound procedures for the future, said Hunter.

"There's absolutely no denying climate change and the fact that we are a coastal destination, we often think about the impact of climate change on our operations," he added. "We have a social responsibility not only for the reduction of CO2 emissions, but in order to sustain viability for tourism."

Through their environmentally-conscious mission, the owners are also helping out the local economy. The resorts are able to prioritize St.

Lucians and their livelihood, as well as creating a safe environment for them as well.

"We are the largest employer in the community and for each one person we employ, by extension we are probably touching additional people in the community," said Hunter.

Hunter said one of the ways they continue to be considerate to their community is through implementing foolproof initiatives such as how they access water. At the Jade Mountain Resort in particular, he said a water installation eliminated the need to create another avenue to get water to the locations, reducing the need for a more difficult method.

"We rehabilitated this ancient reservoir and we installed water under the World Health Organization's guidelines for water, and we utilize that for 100 percent of the resorts' needs and effectively removed ourselves off grid," said Hunter.

In addition, he said this process ensured water access to the resorts without negatively affecting the community.

"Not only does this give us a security of water and the ability to sustain ourselves, but it also removes the impact of us insisting on lifting water daily from the community," said Hunter. "Because in order to get water to us they would have to shut off great sections of the community and otherwise it would be severe."

TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

Using mobile phones

Leading the list of the top distractions behind the wheel are mobile phones. Phones now do more than just place calls, and drivers often cannot pull away from their phones, even when driving. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, studies have shown that driving performance is lowered and the level of distraction is higher for drivers who are heavily engaged in cell

phone conversations. The use of a hands-free device does not lower distraction levels. The percentage of vehicle crashes and near-crashes attributed to dialing is nearly identical to the number associated with talking or listening.

Daydreaming

Many people will admit to daydreaming behind the wheel or looking at a person or object outside of the car for too long. Per-

haps they're checking out a house in a new neighborhood or thought they saw someone they knew on the street corner. It can be easy to veer into the direction your eyes are focused, causing an accident. In addition to trying to stay focused on the road, some drivers prefer the help of lane departure warning systems.

Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

chewing gum at the same time may want to avoid eating while driving. The majority of foods require a person's hands to be taken off of the wheel and their eyes to be diverted from the road. Reaching in the back seat to share some French fries with the kids is also distracting.

Try to eat meals before getting in the car. For those who must snack while en route, take a moment to pull over at

a rest area and spend 10 minutes snacking there before resuming the trip.

Reading

Glancing at an advertisement, updating a Facebook status or reading a book are all activities that should be avoided when driving. Even pouring over a traffic map or consulting the digital display of a GPS system can be distracting.

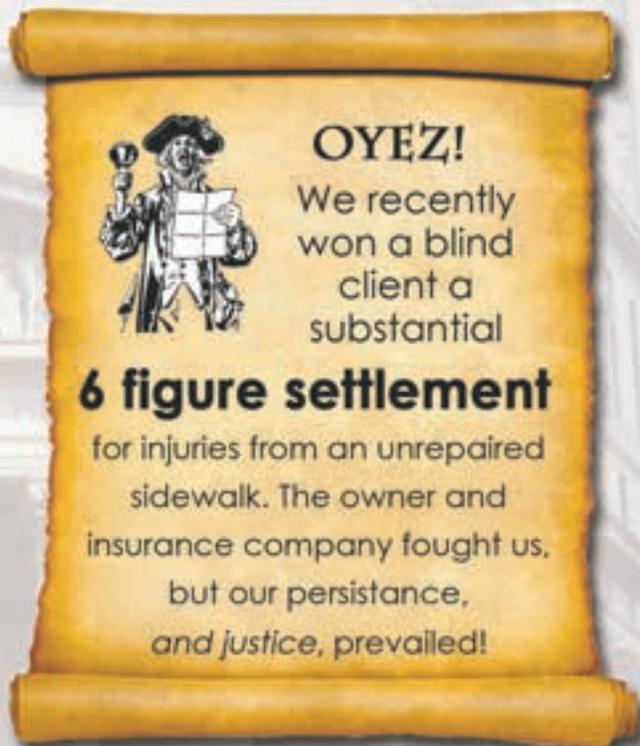
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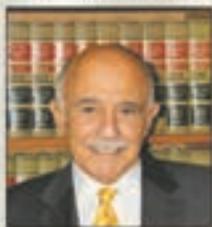
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‘Specific steps’ to help battered Caribbean women

By Nelson A. King

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) are urging health services in Latin America and the Caribbean to take “specific steps” to respond to violence against women and help prevent its future occurrences, if they are equipped with the tools and training they need.

PAHO said these are the conclusions of a new manual that it has issued with the WHO for the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women on Saturday.

The document, “Strengthening health systems to respond to women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence: A manual for health managers,” builds on other tools to help health care systems provide “compassionate and effective services” to survivors that address the consequences of violence and help reduce its recurrence.

This is considered urgent because at least 1 of every 3 women aged 15 to 49 in Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner, according to Alessandra Guedes, PAHO’s regional advisor on family violence.

She noted that violence against women is a public health problem, because it is associated with a number of significant health conditions, including anxiety, depression, suicide, unintended pregnancy, STI/HIV infection, unhealthy drinking and others.

“It can also take many forms, including sexual harassment, physical/ emotional/ sexual violence by a partner, sexual violence by strangers and femicide, among others,” she said.

“Health systems and health care providers have a key role to play in mitigating the negative health consequences of violence, preventing reoccurrence of violence, and connecting survivors with services provided by other sectors such as justice and social welfare,” Guedes added.

“By providing quality and compassionate care to women who have experienced violence, as well as to their children, health care providers can also help prevent the impact of violence on the next generation,” she continued.

PAHO and WHO recommended five specific steps health providers can take to support women who have experienced violence: “Listen closely, with empathy and no judgment; Inquire about their needs and concerns; Validate

their experiences. Show you believe and understand; Enhance their safety; Support them to connect with additional services.” These form the mnemonic “Lives,” PAHO said.

The organizations have developed several evidence-based tools to strengthen health care providers’ abilities and health systems’ capacity to respond to women who have experienced violence, which are available online.

These include: Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women: WHO clinical and policy guidelines; Health care for women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence: A clinical handbook; Strengthening health systems to respond to women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence: A manual for health care providers; and Responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused: WHO clinical guidelines.

Although some progress has been made in preventing violence against women in the Americas, including the Caribbean, there is still “limited recognition of violence as a public health issue that imposes a significant burden for countries,” health ministers from throughout the Americas heard at the Pan American Sanitary Conference in September.

“Few resources, financial or human, are allocated to these areas of work,” the health ministers were told.

To improve the situation, measures should be taken to continue advocating for the recognition of violence against women as a public health priority and for increased investment by governments in its prevention across the life course, the report to them said.

PAHO said it has intensified its cooperation with countries to prevent violence against women and children, developing tools, strengthening networks and coalitions, building capacities in the countries, and improving the availability of data.

Countries have agreed in regional and global plans of action to implement strategies that will strengthen the capacity of health systems to respond to survivors of violence against women, PAHO said.

It said essential actions to prevent and respond to violence against women include collecting data about prevalence, risk factors and consequences of violence and raising awareness of violence against women as a public health problem.

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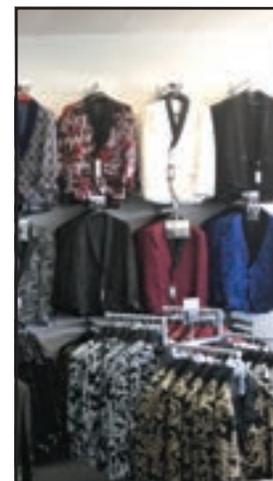
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Lord Kitchener awarded posthumous honorary doctorate

By Azad Ali

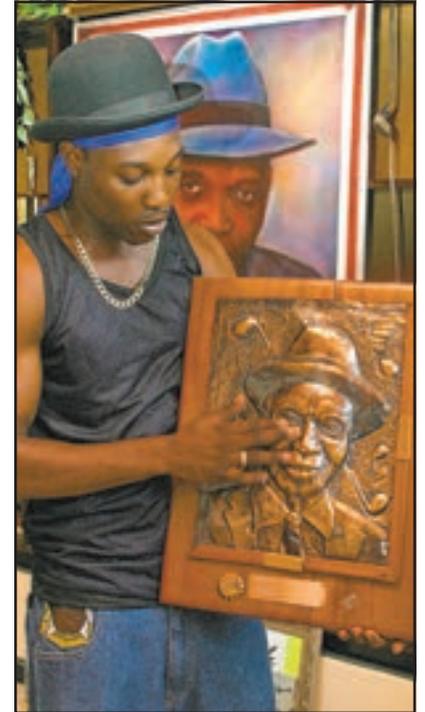
The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) has conferred a posthumous honorary doctorate on calypsonian Lord Kitchener (Aldwyn Roberts), during the 2017 graduation ceremony at the Graduation Pavilion East Trinidad.

The Doctor of Arts certificate was received by his daughter, Quwenia Roberts on behalf of the Grand Master, from President Anthony Carmona.

The commendation of Kitchener read at the ceremony said he contributed immensely to the enhancement and globalization of the national song calypso, and his innate musical ability saw him composing and singing calypso as a teenager and quickly rose to fame, becoming one of the best calypsonians in the country within a couple years of his debut.

In 1969, Kitchener was awarded Trinidad and Tobago's Humming Bird Medal (Silver). He won the Road March title on 11 occasions, the first with "Jump in Line" in 1946 and the last 30 years later with "Flag Woman." It is a feat that has not been repeated by any other artiste to date. His career spanned six decades.

Kitch also managed and performed at the Calypso Revenue Tent for more than 30 years. He died on Feb. 11, 2000.



Kernal Roberts, son of the late Aldwyn Roberts better known as "Lord Kitchener," holds up an award with his father's image at his home in Diego Martin, in Port of Spain, Trinidad on Wednesday, May 7, 2003.

Associated Press / Shirley Bahadur, File

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Career planning for teens and pre-teens

By Alexandra Simon

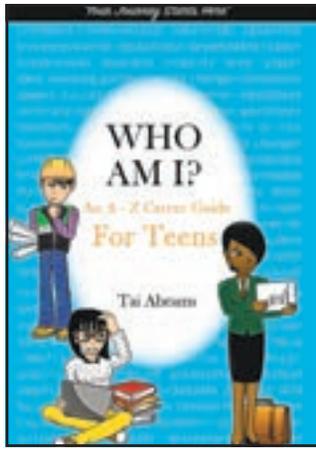
Getting a head start on your career.

Author and educator Tai Abrams is helping young kids and teens prioritize their futures with her self-help guidebook. Her book "Who Am I? An A-Z Career Guide for Teens," is an introductory manual aimed at teaching students 10 to 19 years old, how to obtain skills and amplify them in their job search. It provides thorough information that students will find useful in every aspect of school and career searching.

"It's a wonderful A through Z guide on the future of industries, how to market yourself, and working on your resume," said Abrams. "This book is a big push to build and prepare for it all."

She discusses everything from school choice, college applying, how to get the skills needed for specific jobs, and what a student can do during their school years to ensure they find work and internships after their schooling.

Abrams says the best time to encourage young kids about college and careers is during



The guidebook "Who Am I? An A-Z Career Guide for Teens," will give primary and middle school students an advantage in their future when they graduate.

Tai Abrams

their formal education years. She adds that this is especially important because there is going to be a huge a shift in many career fields in the coming years, and the young generation has to be prepared to adapt and assimilate accordingly.

"Close to 65 percent of jobs that exist today won't exist in

several years, so a lot of kids are preparing for jobs that don't exist," said Abrams.

With many inspired by and trying to achieve the success stories of Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg, Abrams said that early stimulation was a major key to accomplishing those feats because those men were able to flesh out their skills during their primary to middle school years and already began working towards where they are now.

"A lot of those millionaires and billionaires had a significant head start — Zuckerberg began coding when he was 10 and by the time he got to Harvard he was already prepared," she said.

At those young and eager ages, students start discovering what they want to do in life, according to Abrams. To activate those interests, the book has writing prompts that aim to tap into this mindset.

"In middle school, children are more curious and that's also when they start thinking about their high school choices and networking themselves, so I challenge them to think of a



Author and educator Tai Abrams.

Photo by Jordan Rathkopf

big problem and I want them to come with proposals to master a skill they would need," she said.

Readers in their twenties can also potentially find valuable tips for themselves, and even parents who do not always have

the time or resources to seek the direction of school counselors. Abrams said the feedback from them in particular is important, because a knowledgeable parent can help build a stronger support system for the student.



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IBW pleads for support for reparations bid



Dr. Ron Daniels, left, smiles as Rapper Snoop Dogg is introduced by Minister Ishmael Muhammad before addressing the Saviours' Day Convention in Rosemont, Ill., Sunday, March 1, 2009. Associated Press / Charles Rex Arbogast

By Nelson A. King

The New York-based Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW) is appealing for financial aid to support its bid for reparations for African Americans.

"We're on the move, but we have a problem" said Dr. Ron Daniels, IBW president and convener of the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) in a letter to "Friends in the Struggle." "IBW does not have a budget for NAARC or Area / Regional Hearings / Town Hall Meetings.

"Lack of funding has been serious a weakness of the reparations movement, and we cannot expect corporations or foundations to fund it," he added. "Thus far, we have managed by appealing directly to the people to donate to cover the costs of various events. We urgently need financial support to cover the expenses of the Reparations Gathering in New Orleans and funds to push on to the next Hearing and Town Hall Meeting.

"Accordingly, we are appealing to our friends and supporters to help IBW raise a minimum of \$15,000 in the next 30 days for the New Orleans Gathering. We are also planning a Benefit Reception in New Orleans to raise \$15,000 or more."

Specifically, Daniels said IBW need funds for air travel and lodging for Samia Nkrumah, daughter of Kwame Nkrumah, who has taken on reparations as a cause and will be one of our special Guests — \$2,500; lodging and catering for NAARC Commissioners and representatives from Colombia, South America, Jamaica and France — \$7,500; and the cost of livestreaming parts of the gathering, transportation and venues for the various events — \$5,000.

"When we raise \$15,000 through

this appeal and another \$15,000 in New Orleans, we will have a modest amount to begin organizing the next Area/Regional Hearing and Town Hall Meeting on the West Coast," Daniels said. "This is not a lot of money, but achieving this modest goal will be extremely helpful to IBW as we administer and coordinate the work of NAARC moving forward."

He disclosed that Dr. Julius Garvey and Dr. Leonard Jeffries, two iconic Pan Africanist leaders and stalwart supporters of reparations have donated \$500 each in support of this appeal.

"We are asking as many of our supporters who can afford it to match their tax-deductible donation or give more if you are able," Daniels urged. "However, every tax – deductible donation in whatever amount is deeply appreciated. Reparations is an issue whose time has come. Help IBW and NAARC keep pushing the movement forward."

He said the issue of reparations for African Americans for centuries of enslavement and generations of discrimination, exclusion and oppression through legal segregation in the south and de facto segregation "up south" has never been such a topic of discussion, debate and possibilities than now.

Daniels noted that the heads of state of the 15 nations that comprise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have voted unanimously to demand reparations from the former colonizers for genocide against the indigenous people and African enslavement.

He said a CARICOM Reparations Commission has been formed – which has developed a 10-Point Reparations Program.

"This is a major development which has given a huge boost to the global reparations movement, including the United States," Daniels said.



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Entertainer puts spotlight on Guyana

By Tangerine Clarke

Entertainer Courtney Noel, an award-winning lyricist, producer and writer of one of Guyana's most loved songs, "Arrowhead!" (I Love my Golden Arrowhead) said he was very privileged to sit in on a discussion that involved the United Nations endeavoring to partner with Hollywood to highlight human trafficking among other topics, with actress Serinda Swan of HBO's show "Ballers," and Marvel's "Inhumans." He said that he was inspired by the activist's impassioned discussion on this particular platform, and her charity — www.deedly.com.

Noel who on Nov. 21 attended the United Nations World TV Day, noted he had the unique opportunity to present his CD "A Child Should Be" (a song for the world's children) to Neal Weinberg who helped create CNN's "ASPIREist," which features superstars such as George Clooney.

The screen writer whose niece Ebonee Noel is heating up the TBS series "Wrecked," as well as the Shonda Rhimes produced show "Still Star Crossed" said his song about the "plight of children in the world," as well as the script for his first movie "Similar Differences" (an inter-racial romantic dramedy set in Guyana and the United States) were timely to programs spotlighting global issues through entertainment coordinated by MTV Networks Screen Raeshem NiJhon, creative director and series producer, and Carlos Islam of the United Nations Department of Public Information who were also on the panel.

With scores of recordings in his

repertoire, Noel, who, produced and directed the music video "Chutney Gyal!" featuring Guyanese Chutney superstar Terry Gajraj in Guyana last July, due for a Georgetown release over the Christmas season, will begin filming another video entitled "GT Woman," while there.

This production will pay tribute to Guyanese women in the arts and culture, business, politics, sports, medicine and peace keeping while showcasing the legendary beauty of Guyanese women, as well as the country's breathtaking panoramic vistas, majestic Kaieteur Falls, and stunning rainforest. With this stirring production on tap, Noel said he wanted to captivate tourists, as well as entice homesick expatriates who have not visited their homeland in many years.

The filming of the video will begin the moment Noel disembarks the plane at Cheddi Jagan International Airport, and will include locations such as Linden, Plaisance, Bartica and Mazaruni, where the producer hopes to capture the lives of women in their natural environment. He has pinpointed Aruwai Resort White H2O, on the Essequibo River, where salient elements of the video will be shot as "a director's dream locale."

The budding movie actor, producer and director, said he was looking forward to partnering with beverage giant, Demerara Distilleries Limited (DDL), as well as other local businesses to realize the diverse production in Guyana.

And while Courtney is expanding his entertainment portfolio, he said it is important for his fans, who, love "Arrow-



Courtney Noel (right) hands over his CD to CNN creator of ASPIRES, Neal Weinberg, while MTV Networks Screen, Creative Director / Series Producer, Raeshem NiJhon look on after a panel discussion on human trafficking on World TV Day at the United Nations Headquarters in NYC.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

head! (I love my Golden Arrowhead), to know that he deeply appreciates that they have popularized the patriotic track, but would like them to know he has also written and recorded many other Songs which he hopes Deejays would play on Guyana's airways to bring listening pleasure to his growing audience.

"Hopefully, people will eventually realize there is more to me than "Arrow-

head!" (I love my Golden Arrowhead)". I am not a "one-trick pony," quipped, Noel, who added that he would like to thank his production crew, Darrel Pugsley (AD / videographer and editor); make-up artiste, MOA; Carol Fraser, costume designer, and Shellon Smith of Miracle Hands Designs, coordinator.

To hear some of Noel's songs, go to www.SoundCloud.

Cricket icon Wes Hall tribute coming

By George Alleyne

A monument will soon adorn a yet to be named location in Barbados honouring one of the island's and West Indies' path-breaking fast bowlers, Wesley Winfield Hall.

For 11 years he terrified batsmen the world over with remarkable pace, delivered on behalf of his beloved West Indies, then went on to serve the people as a government minister and worked for his God as an ordained minister, now he is to be recognised with a statue in his likeness.

The Nation newspaper has reported that a private group is spearheading a fund-raising drive aimed at raising the money that is estimated to amount to over \$100,000 (Bds\$1 = 50 cents US) to place a lasting tribute to Sir Wesley Hall who celebrated his 80th birthday in September.

With his right-arm fast deliveries



Wes Hall (R) passing on words of wisdom to former West Indies fast bowler, Ian Bradshaw (L) while another cricketing great Sir Everton Weekes listens in.

Photo by George Alleyne

from 1958 to 1969, Hall reaped for the West Indies 192 wickets from 48 matches at an average of 26.38.

Martin Williamson of Cricinfo stated that among Hall's best efforts were, "in the classic Tied Test on 1961 at Brisbane he took nine for 203, and bowled the last over with six runs were needed for victory with three wickets left... Against India in 1961-62 he grabbed 27 wickets at 15.74 and in 1963, partnered by Charlie Griffith, he blasted England into defeat. At Lord's, in another epic finish, he bowled unchanged for three-and-a-half hours and took four for 93 (as well as breaking Colin Cowdrey's arm).

"In 1964-65 his 16 wickets were instrumental in guiding West Indies to their first series win over Australia."

Now a gentle giant, the octogenarian was gracious when discussing the coming tribute to his career.

Hundreds pay tribute to 'quintessential jokester'



Registered Nurse Phyllis Payne-Dublin being consoled by her sister, Annis. Photo by Nelson A. King

By Nelson A. King

Hundreds of Vincentian and other Caribbean nationals on Oct. 27 paid their last respects to Basil Dublin, described as a "quintessential jokester," who went to the Great Beyond on Oct. 18. He was 64.

Dublin – a former co-owner of the Golden Apple Restaurant in Kingstown, the Vincentian capital, who hailed from Chapman's Village, also in St. Vincent and the Grenadines – died in Brooklyn, where he had lived with his wife, Phyllis Payne-Dublin, a registered nurse.

Mourners at Caribe Funeral Home, near Ave. J in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, used myriad superlatives in describing Dublin. Among them: Pleasant, positive attitude, distinguished, sincere, genuine, kind, loving, communal, trustworthy and dependable.

Before rendering "Tear Drops," Bishop Michael Ellis told the standing-room-only funeral service that he was



Paul Richards reads the obituary. Photo by Nelson A. King

"here to join with my good friend, Minister Dublin. He's [was] my friend."

Ex-police officer Kenneth Matthias, of New Grounds in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, said he and Dublin went "a long way" since they were pupils at the Union Methodist School in South Central Windward in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Matthias said Dublin, who had worked in the life insur-

ance industry, had urged him to enroll in life insurance on enlisting in the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force.

"Basil was a very good friend," said Matthias, stating that he and Dublin had, at one time, lived in the same building in Boston, MA. "You can call on him at any hour of the night."

Both were also members of the Freedom Hall Church of God on Albany Avenue in Brooklyn, whose pastor is Jamaican Bishop Dr. Cecil Riley, who also eulogized Dublin.

An unidentified mourner, who hails from Dublin's home village, said she wanted to pay tribute "before I break down.

"Whenever I wanted money, I did not go to my husband; I went to Basil," she said, as mourners erupted in huge laughter.

"My husband was in the ICU [Intensive Care Unit], with Basil at his side," she added. "He brought the family together."

Registered nurse Judith

Lewis, a member of the Brooklyn-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nurses Association of New York, Inc., read a tribute on behalf of the Chi Eta Phi, Omega Chi Chapter, sorority.

"We, the members, express our sincere condolences to the Dublin family," Lewis said. "Basil was such a distinguished man with such a pleasing personality and fun to be around.



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TODAY



With lifetimes of experiences and seemingly everything they could ever want or need in life already at their disposal, seniors can be difficult to shop for come the holiday season. iStock

Gift ideas for the special seniors in your life

With lifetimes of experiences and seemingly everything they could ever want or need in life already at their disposal, seniors can be difficult to shop for come the holiday season. Many even insist that their family members save their money and not buy them anything for the holidays.

But if the thought of Grandma or Grandpa not having something to open come the holidays is simply unacceptable, consider the following gift ideas:

Activity assistance devices

The realities of getting older often mean the body slows down and activities may not be as easy as they used to be. Many active seniors are not ready to live sedentary lives, nor should they be forced to do so. Plenty of products exist that can make life easier and more comfortable for older adults.

Television-amplifying headphones are one product that can be a great fit for seniors, particularly those having difficulty hearing their

televisions. The headphones amplify the sound of the programming without disturbing others in the room, and many such headphones even allow users to mute their televisions. This feature is perfect for someone who likes to watch TV while a spouse is sleeping or reading in the same room.

Other devices that can make life easier for seniors include magnifying products or bookholders. In addition, gel seat cushions can take pressure off of the spine in the car or at home.

Food

Food is always a handy gift because it doesn't take up much room and can be enjoyed at a recipient's leisure. Perhaps there is something the senior in your life used to enjoy as a child but now finds hard to come by. A search of the Internet may uncover that special treat.

You may be able to ship a specialty soft drink or favorite cookie that is not available in a nearby store. Otherwise, ask a store manager if a particular item that's not in stock in the store

can be a special order.

Photos

What grandparent does not enjoy looking at his or her family members? Computer-savvy men and women can use photo software to design personalized photo books, calendars, mugs, and other photo-related gifts. Just about anything can be emblazoned with a photo, including tote bags and pillows.

Another idea is to collect old photos and compile a memory book. Scan the images so they are preserved digitally and then print out the images in a book that includes the family history.

Time

Seniors who truly do not want or need anything probably will likely jump at the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. Treat a friend or family member to a meal out or simply spend a few hours chatting at his or her home. Sometimes the company of a new face and good conversation is the ideal gift.

Prevent slips and falls this winter

Winter is right around the corner. That means that most people will be trading in windbreakers and rakes for heavy coats and snow shovels. Winter can be a beautiful time of the year, but the snow and ice that covers the landscape in a pristine sheet of white can present certain hazards as well.

Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly. According to the National Safety Council, slips and falls are the single largest cause of emergency room visits. Slip and fall injuries also are the third largest cause of workplace injuries, says the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many accidental falls occur from lack of stability or poor physical health. However, come winter, many falls can be attributed to walking on slippery surfaces covered with snow or ice. To avoid falls on ice, you might want to take certain precautions:

Change the way you walk

Adapting to the slippery conditions could help prevent some of the falls caused by snow and ice. When walking on ice, plant feet with toes



Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly.

facing outward slightly, and then shuffle along. Hunching over a little and extending arms outward will help to lower your center of gravity and also offer a little more stability.

Take short, flat steps so that the heels and toes of your shoes stay in contact with the ground as much as

possible and offer maximum surface contact.

Switch shoes

Flat shoes with rubber soles are more capable of gripping the ice than other types of shoes. Contrary to popular belief, clunky winter boots may

make walking more difficult. Try rain boots instead, as rain boots typically have flatter soles.

There also are many different types of shoe ice grips on the market that can be added to the soles of shoes. They easily slip on to offer more traction. Whenever possible, try to avoid shoes with already slippery soles or high heels. Carry these shoes with you and change after you are inside.

Remove shoes indoors

Slips and falls can happen inside a home as well. Many people have tile or laminate entryways in their homes, and these entrances can become quite slippery when snow-packed shoes warm up and the snow melts, creating a wet, slick surface.

Avoid falls by placing mats by the front door and removing shoes when you enter. Stash a pair of slippers nearby into which you can change.

Falls on slippery surfaces can be quite dangerous, especially for seniors. Avoid trips to the emergency room for broken bones or abrasions by slowing down, dressing appropriately, and walking on paths that have been cleared of snow and ice.

What to do when your home care agency closes

BY JOANNA R. LEEFER

One of the greatest fears for a family with a frail parent or spouse is learning their home care provider is withdrawing service. The family is then faced with the formidable task of finding another agency that will offer equivalent hours and service.

This situation is affecting families throughout the country. Many families who receive Medicaid home care are being notified that their plan is closing or withdrawing from their area. New York home care enrollees are currently confronting this new reality. In the last few months, two of the largest Medicaid home care providers announced they are withdrawing service from select areas of Long Island, Westchester County, and New York City. The two providers, Guildnet and Northshore LIJ announced they will cease serving select metro areas by December 31, 2017.

Between these two agencies thousands of home care recipients will be affected. Guildnet is withdrawing home care services from approximately 3,000 families in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties. Northshore LIJ has notified almost 5,500 clients that they are withdrawing service from New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

These Medicaid home health plans, called Managed Long Term Care plans are private agencies that are approved by Medicaid to administer care to the elderly. Medicaid reimburses them for their service, however the care providers receive the same amount per enrollee, regardless if they receive four hours or twelve hours of care per day. Many plans state that with so many clients requiring more hours, they can no longer afford to stay in business.



The harsh reality of the closing of a home care agency can create hardships for families with elderly relatives.

This is any family's worst nightmare. These families are faced with the task of finding another health care plan that will offer the equivalent time and service.

Fortunately, long-term care advocates in New York have put pressure on the state to take action. In September 2017 the New York State Department of Health passed Managed Long Term Care Policy 17.02, guidelines that Medicaid home care plans must follow before withdrawing service.

A care plan must first submit a closure timeline to the Department of Health. Once the timeline is approved the provider must notify each enrollee by mail

sixty (60) days prior to the closure. The letter must include a list of active Medicaid home care programs that cover the affected area. It must inform enrollees that if they do not select a plan within the allotted time period, the participant will be auto-assigned to a new plan that will provide equivalent home care services for up to 120 days or until the families agree to accept reduced services. This protects clients in the short term by guaranteeing the same number of hours per week for three months.

After the transition period the new plan may propose reducing services but it must offer evidence that the member's condition has improved to the point that services can be reduced. The family will be informed of the decision in writing and must be told how they can appeal this decision if they do not agree.

This is a hard reality for families who expected to provide their aging parents with a good old age. Cuts in Medicaid and Medicare budgets are putting a strain on home care for older adults. This does not mean that good care is not obtainable.

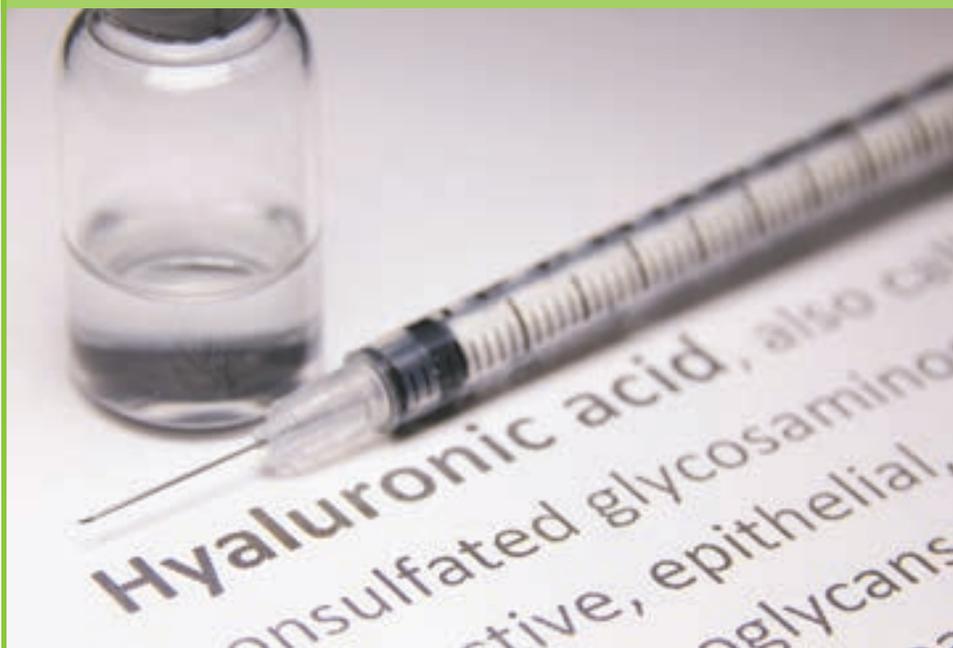
Advocacy groups are making strides in setting guidelines that protect the consumer. It is important for families with frail parents to remain aware of new developments in long term care and take advantage of these protections.

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. She understands the regulations covering long-term care, helps with life transitions, and monitors care through regular visits. She teaches advocacy skills to caregivers and professionals. For more information visit her website www.joannaleefer.com.

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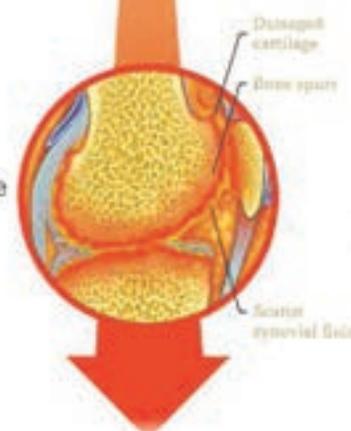
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Shedding pounds after 50

Losing some weight is a goal for many people, regardless of age. While youngsters and young adults might be able to get away with a few extra pounds without suffering any significant consequences, older adults carrying some extra weight might be putting their overall health at considerable risk.

Shedding weight after the age of 50 is not always easy. As a person ages, muscle mass tends to dwindle, while body fat has a tendency to increase. Since fat burns fewer calories than muscle, weight gain as a person ages is bound to happen. But that doesn't mean such weight gain is inevitable. In fact, men and women willing to make certain changes with regard to diet and exercise can shed pounds after 50 while preventing future weight gain:

Diet

Men and women need fewer calories as they age. For example, men and women in their 40s may need as many as 200 calories more per day than they will when they reach their 50s. Counting calories might



Muscle-strengthening activities, including yoga, can help men and women over 50 lose weight and keep the weight off.

seem difficult, so men and women in their 50s and older who don't think they can count calories can try to eat more low-calorie foods like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

Consuming fewer calories often requires changing dietary habits, not only with regard to what

you're eating, but also how you're eating and even how you shop for food. Those used to dining out for lunch every day can start bringing their own lunches so they can gain greater control of their daily caloric intake. For those who find they're frequently too exhausted to cook each night, they can prepare

meals in advance to have healthy, homemade meals waiting instead of always ordering takeout or delivery. When shopping for food, people should avoid doing so on an empty stomach so they're less inclined to buy unhealthy snacks.

Exercise

Exercise is another essential component to shedding pounds after 50, though men and women over 50 should always consult a physician before they begin a new exercise regimen. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention points out that regular exercise can help older men and women prevent the onset of a host of ailments, including heart disease and diabetes. In addition, it notes that regular physical activity as one ages helps muscles grow stronger, which increases the chances that an individual will be able to perform necessary daily activities without the assistance of others. Maintaining that independence into older adulthood is a goal for many men and women, and it's a goal that's far more realistic for men and women who exercise than it is for those who don't.



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A consistent sleep routine is beneficial for the continued good health of an elderly person suffering with dementia and the long-term comfort and efficiency of their caregiver.

The importance of schedules and sleep during winter months

The onset of winter brings shorter days and busy schedules as family and friends gather for holidays and events. What many caregivers may not realize is that this is the most critical time of the year for a person with Alzheimer's or a related dementia to maintain a consistent schedule, especially when it comes to sleep.

When daylight ends earlier, there is a disruption of circadian rhythm that may increase the agitation at the end of the day called "sundowning". Sundowning symptoms include agitation, confusion, frustration, mood swings and irritability and are often focused on the caregiver. During sundowning, it's not uncommon for the person with dementia to pace or even wander, increasing the risk of injury.

One way to minimize sundowning is to maintain a consistent daily routine. This includes getting enough sleep. Another helpful strategy is to maximize sunlight exposure during the day. Keeping the home brightly lit and turning on indoor lights late in the afternoon until bedtime can help decrease the confusion or disorientation that comes with early evening darkness. (Caregivers can buy lightbulbs designed for this purpose that simulate natural sunlight.) When appropriate, maintaining physical activity, avoiding alcoholic drinks, caffeine and large meals late in the day also support healthy sleep.

Daily routines are the touchstone of a calmer and more comfortable experience, not only for the person with dementia, but for the caregiver as well. A regular schedule provides a sense of comfort and control. Routines bring a sense of familiarity, safety and security to an individual with dementia. Establishing a predictable schedule may help transfer the daily routine into the



Care Chronicle
Lou-Ellen Barkan

long-term memory portion of the brain, which might contribute to greater independence in some activities for a longer period of time. And as another benefit, these same routines reduce stress and improve quality of life for the caregiver.

Things to consider when creating a routine include the time of day that a person with dementia functions best. At CaringKind, we recommend consistent times for waking up, eating meals, bathing, dressing, receiving visitors, and bedtime. And its key to insure ample time for meals, dressing, bathing and rest as well as time for creative, intellectual, physical, and social activities for both the caregiver and the person with dementia.

Perhaps the most important outcome of a daily routine is the potential to improve sleep quality for the person with dementia. Preventing fatigue is crucial to minimizing stress and minimizing sundowning, particularly in the middle and late stages of the disease. Adequate sleep might also reduce the risk for falls. And for individuals and family members affected by a dementia diagnosis at any stage, obtaining good sleep is a key component to the health of everyone involved in managing the disease and caregiving.

To speak to an expert on how you can create a caregiving schedule and minimize sundowning, and for information on other topics related to Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, call CaringKind's 24-hour Helpline at (646) 744-2900 or visit www.caringkindnyc.org.



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Caribbean vulnerable on edge of poverty

By Nelson A. King

A new World Bank report says the vulnerable in Latin America and the Caribbean is often just one disaster away from falling back into poverty.

The report, "Shaking Up Economic Progress: Aggregate Shocks in Latin America and the Caribbean," says that countries across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have made major progress in reducing poverty and inequality, but frequent natural and man-made shocks threaten to drive many people back into poverty, unless efforts to mitigate and manage risks are stepped up.

The report says that says that multiple aggregate shocks, including natural disasters, crime, violence and epidemics, pose major challenges for the most vulnerable residents in the region, particularly in the current context of low economic growth and rising government deficits.

"Despite the big prosperity gains in recent years, many people in Latin America and the Caribbean are just one disaster away from falling back into poverty," said Jorge Familiar, World Bank vice president for Latin America and the Caribbean on Wednesday. "Countries need to better prepare for and build resilience to shocks so that they don't lose in one day what took years to achieve."

The report says that the proportion of those living in extreme poverty was halved to 12.3 percent between 2003 and 2012, while those living in moderate poverty fell from 41.1 to 25.3 percent.

However, nearly four out of 10 households in the region are still considered economically vulnerable, facing the risk of falling back into poverty due to aggregate shocks, the report says.

It says that between 1970 and 2014, the incidence of natural disasters in the region tripled, with extreme rainfall and drought being "a near-constant threat."

In the Caribbean, the report says at least one country — and often more than one — is hit by a strong hurricane or cyclone every year.

Over a quarter of all earthquakes of magnitude 8.0 or higher occur in western South America. Also, infectious disease and viruses such as Zika and Chikungunya thrive in the warm and humid conditions found in many Latin American and Caribbean countries, the report says.

Vincentian community activist Haywood passes

By Nelson A. King

Just four days before he was to be honored by a Vincentian group in Brooklyn, popular Vincentian community activist Maxwell Haywood died on Wednesday after ailing for some time.

Haywood's wife, Sherrill-Ann Haywood — an employee at the predominantly Black Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn who had worked closely with her husband, while he served as the long-standing chairman of the Brooklyn-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Diaspora Committee of New York, Inc. — made the announcement Wednesday on the social network, Facebook.

"Family and friends, it is with a heavy heart that I confirm that my confidante, best friend and husband, Maxwell Iwaki Haywood, passed away peacefully this morning," posted Mrs. Haywood, drawing swift reaction from hundreds of Vincentian and Caribbean nationals, who posted their condolences on the network.

"Damn! I saw him on Friday. I knew he was low and ailing, but Che said we revolutionaries dream the impossible," posted Jomo Sanga Thomas, the speaker of the House of Assembly in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara, June 14, 1928 – Oct. 9, 1967, was an Argentine Marxist revolutionary, physician, author, guerrilla leader, diplomat and military theorist.

"I held out home [hope] that he will bounce back," added Thomas, also a lawyer and social activist. "Max and I went back to mid-1980s, when I met him at Medgar Evers [College]. We were comrades in arms in the SVG [St. Vincent and the Grenadines] Progressives League, which was the NY support arm of YULIMO [a defunct progressive group in St. Vincent and the Grenadines]."

"Max was disciplined and committed," Thomas continued. "He loved the people of our country — passionate — and spent his entire adult life working to build bonds of friendship and community."

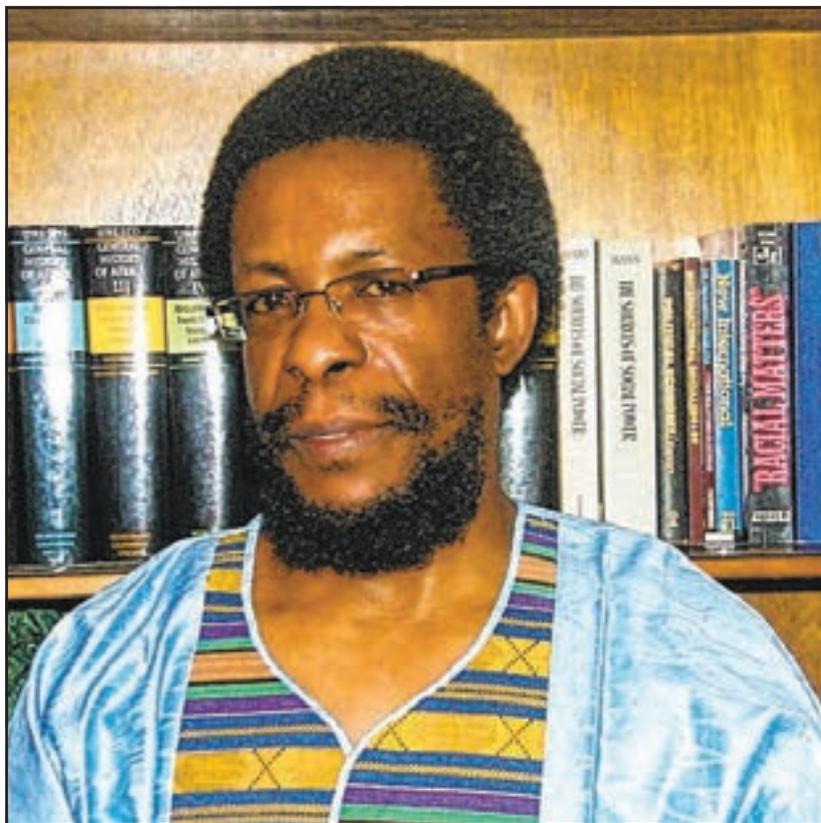
Thomas said Haywood had "the highest level of emotional intelligence for any man I knew."

"In these trying times, I send positive energy and offer my deepest sympathies," he said. "A little giant has left us. May his memory spur us on to new battles and greater victories."

Laverne McDowald-Thompson, the president of the Brooklyn-based umbrella Vincentian group in the United States, Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organizations, U.S.A. Inc. (COS-AGO), extended condolences to Mrs. Haywood and her family.

"Bro. Max has fought a good fight," she wrote on Facebook. "He has finished his course and [has] now gone to rest. May his soul rest in peace."

"Please find comfort knowing that we



Maxwell Haywood.

Maxwell Haywood

are all thinking of you and his beautiful daughters," McDowald-Thompson added. "Keep the faith my sister. Great lost to the community and truly a sad time for us. Peace be with you."

Dextar Rose, a former St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ambassador to Cuba, wrote: "Do accept my condolences, Sherrill-Ann. Last time we chatted, he was in good spirits. Much love to you and the fruits you shared."

Franklyn Dexter "Supadex" Richards, a prominent Vincentian graphic artist in Brooklyn, who served as a consultant to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Diaspora Committee of New York, Inc., said he felt numbed with Haywood's passing.

"I wish it wasn't true," said Richards, a former president of VincyCares, Inc., which will honor Haywood posthumously on Sunday at El Caribe Country Club in Brooklyn. "I've looked up to this brother because his knowledge and wisdom are second to none."

"His love of country and people are legendary," he added. "Oh what a loss! My heart grieves because the world didn't get to see your full potential. May our ancestors guide your way home and continue to look over your wife and children. Amun."

On Nov. 9, Mrs. Haywood posted on Facebook: "Dear friends, as many of you may know by now, my best friend and husband, Maxwell Iwaki Haywood, has

been battling serious health challenges for the greater part of this year.

"Many of you have offered your support, thoughts and prayers, and our family thanks you immensely," she said. "VincyCares has also seen it fit to honor him for his years of dedicated and selfless commitment to the Vincentian Diaspora. Maxwell has never given of himself for recognition but for his love of country and community."

"But he is humbled to receive this honor because of his admiration for the work of the members of VincyCares and their impact on the lives of children," she added. "Because of this, I encourage you to show your support to VincyCares and to Maxwell by placing a congratulatory message in their commemorative journal and by attending their scholarship luncheon on Dec. 3, 2017."

Michael Alexander, a VincyCares board member, said Haywood was born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the village of New Grounds.

He attended the New Grounds Primary School, which was then called Union Methodist School. He also attended the St. Martin's Secondary School in capital Kingstown.

Before migrating to the US, Alexander said Haywood was very active in sports (track and field, cricket and soccer); cultural arts (music, drama, poetry); and community development activities and organizations.



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The show will be a display of traditional Puerto Rican dances and music such as bomba and plena.

Andres Rodríguez

Bomba-tastic Christmas show

By Alexandra Simon

A group of intergenerational musicians and dancers are set to perform a Puerto Rican style Christmas show at the Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts on Dec. 10. The East-Harlem based band Los Pleneros de la 21, is presenting “Christmas in El Barrio,” — the band’s take on traditional Puerto Rican music with a New York twist. The universal joy the band members plan on sparking will be loved by everyone, said the group’s founder.

“It’s very honest, very approachable,

Continued on Page 48

Electric fete set for Barbados

By Alexandra Simon

The electric fete is almost here.

The inaugural electronic dance music festival in the Caribbean debuts in Barbados this spring, and the lineup is more than a dozen artists. The four-day Vujaday Music Festival is set for April 4–8, 2018, and will be the first ever music event of its kind for the region, helping to bring life to the growing scene of electronic music in the islands.

Many of the performers are also going to make their debut in the Caribbean, showcasing the variety

Continued on Page 48



INTERNET'S FAVORITE

Miss Jamaica Davina Bennett competes at the Miss Universe pageant Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press / John Locher

Miss Jamaica wins spot at Miss Universe 2017

By Tangerine Clarke

Twenty-one-year Davina Bennett heated up the runway in a stunning yellow appliqué gown, with a matching floor-length cape, and plunging Vee-neckline, capturing the second runner-up spot at Miss Universe 2017, at the Axis at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Loud screams from fans were heard, drowning out the boos against the tall Afro-haired beauty after she was announced the winner of the

third spot at the pageant, making this the first time since 2010, Miss Jamaica has snagged a top three finish in the history of the Miss Universe Pageant.

Bennett, a second-year marketing student at the University of the West Indies Mona campus, emerged from a field of 92 contestants from across the world, first wore a pink mini sequin dress, beaming with confidence as she announced her name and country before thousands in the audience.

Her jaw-dropping costume, a dazzling colorful design with a bellowing feathered headpiece, matched with a two-piece blue sequined midriff and floor-length skirt, accentuated with a cut-off glove design, certainly put her in the running for the third place finish.

The gorgeous young lady, selected as Jamaica’s representative from the 66th staging of the pageant after securing the crown in her homeland in August this year, hails from the

Continued on Page 48

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Thunder**
Imagine Dragons
- 2 **Feel It Still**
Portugal. The Man
- 3 **Havana**
Camila Cabello Feat. Young Thug
- 4 **Rockstar**
Post Malone Feat. 21 Savage
- 5 **What Lovers Do**
Maroon 5 Feat. SZA
- 6 **Perfect**
Ed Sheeran
- 7 **Sorry Not Sorry**
Demi Lovato
- 8 **Too Good At Goodbyes**
Sam Smith
- 9 **What About Us**
P!nk
- 10 **Attention**
Charlie Puth

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **Reputation**
Taylor Swift
- 2 **The Rest Of Our Life** Tim McGraw & Faith Hill
- 3 **Beautiful Trauma**
P!nk
- 4 **A Pentatonix Christmas**
Pentatonix
- 5 **Everyday Is Christmas**
Sia
- 6 **The Thrill Of It All**
Sam Smith
- 7 **Red Pill Blues**
Maroon 5
- 8 **Lambs & Lions**
Chase Rice
- 9 **Evolve**
Imagine Dragons
- 10 **Divide**
Ed Sheeran

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MISS JAMAICA

Continued from page 47
town of Clarendon. She is a staunch advocate for the deaf, and as such, established a foundation for the deaf in Jamaica. Bennett told the Jamaica Gleaner in an interview in September, that she never thought she would one day represent her country on the world stage.

"I didn't think I could do pageantry. I was always afraid of speaking. I was more of a walk on the runway and come off type of girl, but I decided that it was time for a change. I started the foundation before Miss Universe competition. I needed a platform to have a voice for these persons who need my support.

"That was my main motivation going in, and what can I say? I'm the winner today," she said after the Miss Universe Jamaica competition.

Bennett who has modeled

for Pulse Model agency at London Fashion Week, joins Kaci Fennell, who finished 5th at the Miss Universe pageant in 2014, putting her at the top of Jamaican contestants at the pageant.

Jamaica's highest placement at the Miss Universe pageant came in 2010 when Yendi Phillips finished in 2nd place. Jamaica's previous top 10 placements at Miss Universe included Sandra Foster (1989), Kimberly Mais (1991) Christine Straw (2004) and Nicole Haughton (1999).

The winner of Miss Universe 2017 is South Africa's Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters. Her runner-up is Colombia's Laura Gonzalez. Thailand's Maria Poonlertlarp and Venezuela's Keysi Sayago completed the top 5.

The top 10 included USA, Philippines, Canada, Spain and Brazil.



The final three contestants Miss South Africa Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, Miss Colombia Laura Gonzalez, and Miss Jamaica Davina Bennett wait for the winner to be announced at the Miss Universe pageant Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, in Las Vegas. Associated Press / John Locher

Bomba

Continued from Page 47
and very funky — it's something that regardless of where you come from you're going to love it," said Juan Gutierrez.

At the show, the 12-member group will perform music and dances inspired by bomba and plena — two Afro-Puerto Rican styles and sounds. Gutierrez said the band is going to combine both the new and commonly known tunes highlighting its evolution back home and in New York.

"Bomba is traditional music and our repertoire is based on that and has a New York flavor," he said. "The elders maintained the style untouched in Puerto Rico but it kept evolving outside, so the foundation is old school but there are many influences."

The holidays are usually the most opportune time to showcase it because it is when families are together and culture comes alive, added Gutierrez.

"Most people embrace their culture during this time of the season, and it is ingrained in our culture in many ways regardless of where we are," he said.

And now more than two months since Puerto Rico was badly hit by Hurricane Maria, Gutierrez said it was a chance for his band to bring



Puerto Rican group, Los Pleneros de la 21 will perform 'Christmas in El Barrio,' at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College on Dec. 10. Tom Elrich

a positive spotlight on Puerto Rico's culture, and foster a fun and entertaining moment of escapism.

"What they're feeling over there is what we are feeling here, so we're all just thinking about our friends and colleagues, and all this outpouring of support for Puerto Rico and many people who have supported the cause to raise Puerto Rico again," he said. "That's going to be part of what we're going to do and that feeling of sense of family is going to be there."

"Christmas in El Barrio" at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts [2900 Ave. H between Hillel Place and Nostrand Avenue in Midwood, www.brooklyncenter.org, (718) 951-4500]. Dec. 10 at 3 pm. \$25.

Vujaday Music Festival

Continued from Page 47
of sounds the genre boast, said co-founder and organizer.

"Our goal is to bring together a diverse group of internationally recognized DJs and rising stars from around the world in a unique setting," said Ryan Kruger. "Most of these artists have yet to perform in Barbados, so it's exciting to bring them to such a stunning location for the first time."

Currently, the artists set to take stage during the

weeklong event are: Art Department, Lee Burrige, Green Velvet, Justin Martin, DJ Tennis, Wolf + Lamb, Lonely C (Soul Clap), Lee Foss, Bedouin, Mikey Lion, Lee Reynolds, Nick Monaco, The Fitness & Pony, Peggy Gou, Francesca Lombardo, Solardo, and Latmun.

Kruger adds that Barbadian fans have a unique home advantage opportunity to take part in the show, and introduce themselves to all types of electronic music artists that are masters of putting on an entertaining show.



Singer Green Velvet is also among the more than 20 artists and deejays who are going to perform at the festival.

Green Velvet

Animals emerge unsung heroes in Christ's birth

"The Star"
 Very Good (3 stars)
 Rated PG for mature themes
 Running time: 86 minutes
 Production Studio: Affirm Films / The Jim Henson Company / Walden media
 Distributor: Sony Pictures Animation

By Kam Williams

Most movies based on the Bible have limited appeal beyond the faithful, because the stories are ordinarily dry adaptations basically recounting popular parables in straightforward fashion. A novel exception to the rule is "The Star," an animated reimagining of the Nativity.

What makes the production unique is that it unfolds from the point of view of a gang of anthropomorphic barnyard animals that apparently played a critical role in the birth of the Christ child. Who knew? Bo the donkey (Steve Yeun)



Bo, a brave donkey and his friends follow the Star and become unlikely heroes in the greatest story ever told - the first Christmas.

www.rottentomatoes.com

is the ringleader of the meandering menagerie ultimately huddled around the manger in the iconic creche tableau everybody knows.

Furthermore, instead of serving up a purely pious plot-

line, this relatively-lighthearted revision features a lot of humorous asides, much of it coming courtesy of a trash-talking camel played by the irrepressible Tracy Morgan ("Three wise men don't get

lost!"). Betwixt and between all the wisecracks, we witness the assorted ordeals of Joseph the Carpenter (Zachary Levi) and the Virgin Mary (Gina Rodriguez) as they negotiate the perilous gauntlet from

Nazareth to a sacred stable in Bethlehem, in accordance with New Testament lore.

Think of "The Star" as an irreverent cross of "Shrek" (2001) and "The Nativity Story" (2006). The movie marks the noteworthy directorial debut of Timothy Reckhart, who recruited a big name cast that included Oprah, Tyler Perry, Mariah Carey, Ving Rhames, Anthony Anderson and televangelist Joel Osteen.

To make sure you get the Christmas spirit, the score has been stocked with a profusion of holiday classics, starting with the familiar strains of "Carol of the Bells." If the name doesn't ring a bell, it's the catchy tune now better known as the "Give-a-Give-a-Give-a-Garmin" jingle from the GPS commercial. Also on the soundtrack are such standards as "O Holy Night," "The Little Drummer Boy," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "We Three Kings" and "Ave Maria."

The Nativity revisited as a kiddie cartoon adventure guaranteed to enthrall tykes of any race, color or creed.

Independent & Foreign Films

24 Hours to Live (R for profanity, drug use and pervasive graphic violence) Action thriller about a recently-deceased CIA agent (Ethan Hawke who embarks on a revenge-fueled reign of terror after being mysteriously resurrected for just one day. Cast includes Paul Anderson, Rutger Hauer and Qing Xu.

Brotherhood of Blades II: The Infernal Battlefield (Unrated) Action-oriented tale of redemption, set in the Ming dynasty, revolving around a disgraced cop's (Chen Chang) attempt to clear his name by tracking down a fugitive (Mi Yang) who knows that he is innocent. With Yi Zhang, Shih-Chieh King and Jiayin Lei. (In Mandarin with subtitles)

The Disaster Artist (R for sexuality, nudity and pervasive profanity) Adaptation of Greg Sestero and Tom Bissell's memoir of the same name recounting the friendship forged in an acting class between Sestero (Dave Franco) and Tommy Wiseau (James Franco), and how the two subsequently traveled together to Hollywood to pursue fame and fortune. A-list cast includes Seth Rogen, Bryan Cranston, Zoey Deutch, Alison Brie, Zac Efron, Lizzy Caplan, Kristen Bell, Sharon Stone, Zach Braff, J.J. Abrams, Melanie Griffith, Judd Apatow and Kate Upton.



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

Gangster Land (Unrated) Mobster saga recounts the rise of Al Capone (Milo Gibson) through the eyes of his right hand man, Jack McGunn (Sean Faris), as well as the Chicago turf war which led to the bloody St. Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929. Supporting cast includes Jason Patric, Jamie-Lynn Sigler and Mark Rolston.

Love Beats Rhymes (R for profanity and sexuality) Inspirational Hip-Hop drama about an aspiring poet/rapper (Azealia Banks) who finds her voice with the help of a demanding professor (Jill Scott). With Common, Method Man and Lorraine Toussaint.

Naples '44 (Unrated) World War II docudrama recounting the exploits of a British spy (Benedict Cumberbatch) in Italy near the end of the conflict. featuring archival footage of Alan Arkin, Ernest Borgnine and Keenan Wynn. (In Italian and English with subtitles)

The New Radical (Unrated) Political documentary featuring interviews with young anarchists employing a variety of high-tech methods to further their anti-establishment agenda.

The Best of Caribbean Life.....

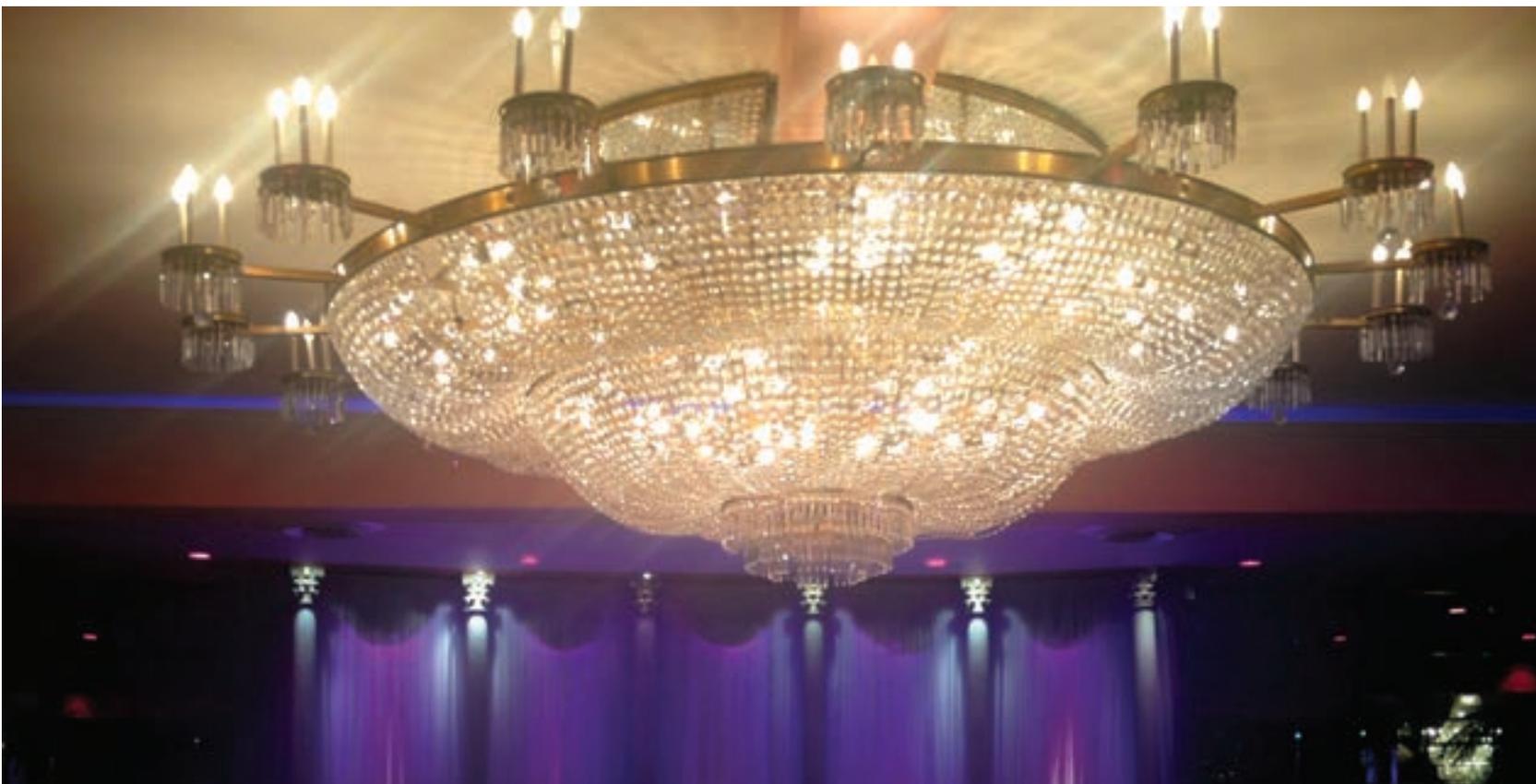
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They match the walls of marble and granite in the ballroom — which itself sports one of the largest chandeliers in all of Brooklyn — giving you just a brief inkling into what they have in store for you and your guests. Come and see the grandeur for yourself.

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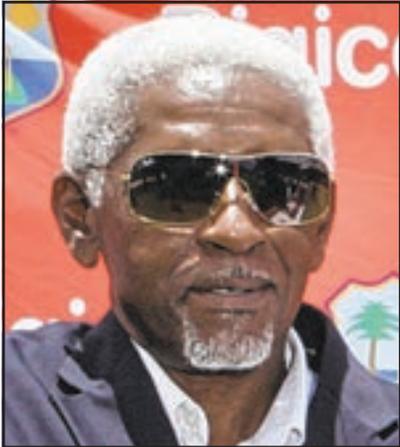
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Barbados Cricket Association President Conde Riley.

Associated Press / Lynne Sladky, File

Barbados to host English cricketers

By Azad Ali

Barbados will be breaking new ground in the Caribbean when it hosts a festival of English cricket next year with both the North-South Series and the MCC's Champion County Match against Essex.

The North-South Series, which was launched in Dubai and Abu Dhabi ear-

Continued on Page 52

ICC investigates match fixing

By Azad Ali

Then International Cricket Council (ICC), cricket's world governing body, is investigating an approach made to Zimbabwe captain Graeme Cremer to fix parts of the recent two-Test series against the West Indies.

Media reports said the Cremer had rejected the approach, allegedly from a former Zimbabwe Cricket board member prior to the first Test on Oct. 21, 2017 and reported the incident to head coach Heath Streak.

The matter was referred to Zimbabwe Cricket and then to the ICC who has since confirmed that its Anti-Corruption

Continued on Page 52



HOOPS FEAST

Notre Dame's Jackie Young, front, moves the ball on South Carolina's Tyasha Harris, top, during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game at the Gulf Coast Showcase basketball tournament championship game Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, in Estero, Fla. Notre Dame won 92-85.

Associated Press / Luis M. Alvarez

Mitchell breaks 3-point record during Thanksgiving week

By Doug Feinberg

NEW YORK (AP) — There was a feast of women's college basketball over the Thanksgiving week.

Tournaments in Las Vegas, Florida and Mexico pitted some of the nation's best players and teams against each other.

The game of the week featured No. 3 South Carolina playing sixth-ranked Notre Dame in the final of the Gulf Coast Showcase. The Irish came away with a 92-85 victory, rallying from a 12-point, second-quarter deficit.

"Our young team, this is great for

them," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "As much as you try to tell them there's another level of competition out there, until they face it — in defeat — that's when the learning takes place."

Stanford already has shown it's

Continued on Page 52

Cricket festival

Continued from Page 51

lier this year as part of England's preparations for hosting the 2019 World Cup, will feature two matches at Bridgetown's famous Kensington Oval on March 18 and 21, 2018, followed by a third at the Three Ws Oval on March 23.

The attention will return to the Kensington Oval for the first-class, four day fixture between an MCC XI and Essex, the 2017 County Championships, from March 27-30, which will be a day night fixture played with pink Dukes balls.

President of the Barbados Cricket Association, Conde Riley said the initiative would provide a timely boost for tourism and cricket in the country.

Riley indicated that entities such as Cricket Legends would be involved in the festival.

Cricket legend, Sir Garfield Sobers said he was delighted that the announcement was made to coincide with the second Royal London One-Day International between England and the West Indies at Trent Bridge.

He said Barbados is honored to have been chosen to stage the ECB North-South Series and MCC Championship County match for the very first time next year.

Match fixing

Continued from Page 51

tion Unit was investigating.

The Test, played at Queen's Sport Club in Bulawayo, saw the West Indies win by an innings and 17 runs inside four days.

However, Zimbabwe hung on for a draw in the second Test at the same venue, leaving the Caribbean side with a 1-0 series win.



Ohio State's Kelsey Mitchell, front left, drives to the basket on Stanford's Marta Sniezek, right, during the fourth quarter of an NCAA college basketball game, Friday, Nov. 10, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio. Associated Press / David Dermer

THANKSGIVING HOOPS FEAST

Continued from Page 51

grown a bit since the start of the season a few weeks ago. The Cardinal were routed by Ohio State by 21 points in the season opener. The teams played again on Saturday night in the Play4Kay championship game and the Buckeyes needed overtime to win.

"It was definitely a different look from when we played them the first time," said Kelsey Mitchell, who was named MVP of the event. "I knew something would be different. They're a great team with a great coach."

Mitchell had her own eventful weekend. Besides winning MVP, she set the NCAA record for most 3-pointers made in her career by passing the mark set by UConn great Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis.

Mitchell has hit over 400 3-pointers.

Other things that happened this week:

STEPPING RIGHT IN: Most teams would struggle if an All-American went down to injury. Most teams aren't top-ranked UConn. The Huskies lost Katie Lou Samuelson to a midfoot sprain in their win over California on Nov. 18. She was replaced in the starting lineup against No. 5 UCLA on Tuesday by Azura Stevens, who sat out last year after transferring from Duke. Stevens had a disappointing first start, only scoring six points with five rebounds in the Huskies' win over the Bruins.

She had a much better game against Michigan State on Saturday with 25 points, 16 rebounds and five assists.

"I definitely didn't play as well as I

wanted to and contribute to the team," Stevens said. "That had been on my mind for a couple of days."

POLL WATCH: No. 24 Arizona State had a rough time in Mexico, losing to Green Bay and No. 7 Mississippi State. The Sun Devils most likely will fall out of the poll on Monday. There will be a little movement in the top 10 with both UCLA and South Carolina losing games.

TEAM TO WATCH: Minnesota moved to 7-0 on the season after winning UNLV's tournament over the weekend. It's the first Thanksgiving tournament title in nine years for the Gophers, who were led by freshman Destiny Pitts. She hit six 3-pointers and had nine rebounds in the title game to earn tournament MVP honors.

Sammy to lead Peshawar Zalmi

By Azad Ali

Former West Indies Captain Darren Sammy has been appointed to lead Peshawar Zalmi's title defense for the third edition of the Pakistan Super league (PSL) set to bowl off next February.

The two-time Twenty20 World Cup-winning captain guided Zalmi to the title last season after taking over from Pakistan star Shahid Afridi and was widely praised for his leadership.

Franchise owner, Javed Afridi, said the decision to retain Sammy had been made following a meeting with

team management.

Sammy, who was surprisingly axed as Windies captain four months after leading the Caribbean side to an unprecedented second Twenty20 World Cup in India, will lead a Zalmi squad which includes former teammate Dwayne Bravo who was picked up in the PSL draft last Sunday.

Windies openers Andre Fletcher and Evin Lewis will also be available as supplementary players, while Barbados-born England all-rounder, Chris Jordan, will also turn out for Zalmi.



Former West Indies' cricket captain Darren Sammy.

Associated Press / Eranga Jayawardena

Clattenberg: English refs to return to World Cup in 2022

By Ronald Blum

NEW YORK (AP)— With English referees absent from the World Cup for the first time since 1938, Mark Clattenberg predicts that void will be filled in 2022.

Clattenberg quit the Premier League last season to work on referee education for Saudi Arabia's Football Association. After officiating the finals of the European Championship, Champions League and Football Association Cup in 2016, had he remained in England he almost certainly would have been on the list for next year's World Cup in Russia, when he will be 43.

Following Clattenberg's retirement from the EPL, FIFA decided not to take Martin Atkinson, who turns 47 before the tournament starts in June. Anthony Taylor (39) and Michael Oliver (32) are viewed as the top English candidates of the next generation.

"It's sad because we had Howard Webb, then myself.

And it's sad that we had no progression," Clattenberg said Saturday during his first weekend as a commentator for NBC Sports. "Martin's too old. You have an age restriction, and they were never going to take him because he had too many extensions. Michael Oliver will be the next. We'll have Anthony Taylor. They're the next level of referees, but they're not at the top level in UEFA. I was on the elite referee panel in UEFA maybe three, four years before I was given the chance of big matches. So they need the experience. I'm sure they'll be given the experience over the next one or two years."

FIFA decided in December 2014 to abolish a rule that dropped referees from the sport's international list at the end of the year of their 45th birthday. That was replaced by a mandate for careful evaluation once they reach that age.

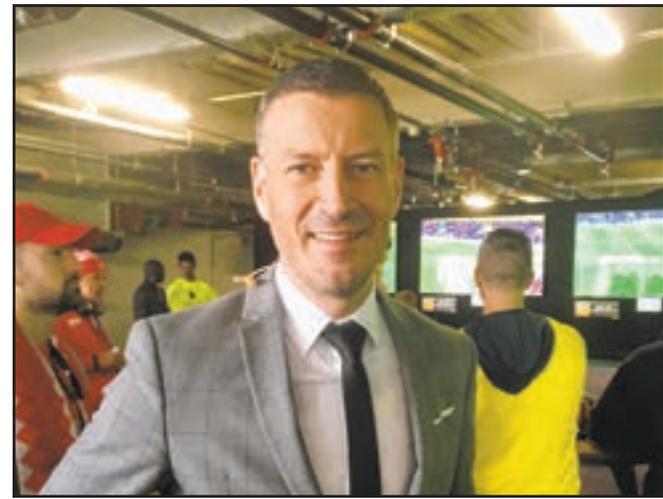
Clattenberg lives in Riyadh now and his family remains in England, where he also broad-

casts for BT Sports. He celebrated his big 2016 by getting tattoos on his arms of the logos of the Euro and Champions League finals.

He is looking forward to an expansion of Video Assistant Referees, which may be used in next year's World Cup. Major League Soccer and Germany's Bundesliga are among the leagues experimenting with VAR.

"I see many problems in all the leagues — United States, Germany, Holland, Australia — because many people are trying to use it too much," he said. "We don't want to stop the flow of the game, but we want to stop the scandal, the bad decision where everybody in football goes: That's a dive. That's a penalty."

He cited the decision by Romanian referee Ovidiu Hategan to call a hand ball of Northern Ireland's Corry Evans, which led to a Switzerland goal in a World Cup playoff this month. Hategan



Mark Clattenberg poses for a photograph on Saturday, Nov. 25, 2017 in New York. Associated Press / Ron Blum

was not among the 36 referees announced Nov. 18 for a pre-World Cup seminar, a list that included 10 from Europe and two from the United States: Mark Geiger and Jair Murrufu. "We want video where, for example the Northern-Ireland-Switzerland game, where it was clearly not a hand ball," Clattenberg said. "This is the one we want to change. And I think all referees in the world want to have it. Why? Because they don't want to be criticized for making a bad error."

Clattenberg maintains officials' errors have not increased.

They just get noticed more. "The game has got quicker," he said. "People say referees are getting worse. It's not. All that happens is we have more cameras, and it highlights the mistakes."

He attended NBC's first Premier League Fan Fest at the South Street Seaport, where the network broadcast its studio show Saturday. He plans to return to NBC every few months.

"I want to give people an insight into what referees think, how they act," he said. "Now I'm free to do media work."



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, an outburst of creativity may surprise those close to you, but this week you just may need an outlet. Channel this energy into a project you have been hoping to complete.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Your poker face is on this week, Taurus. Keep things close to the vest as you have a surprise to announce and don't want to spill the beans prematurely.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
You can't seem to sit still this week, Gemini. Get outdoors and take a hike or engage in another form of physical activity. Enjoy getting outside for some fun and fresh air.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, a drastic shift in direction at work can catch you off guard at first, especially since you've been comfortable. But this challenge can provide greater opportunities.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Impatience will not serve you well this week, Leo. There is no room for shortcuts, so buckle down and devote yourself to the tasks at hand, even if they take a while.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
A partnership might hit a rough patch this week, Virgo. But it isn't anything serious. Commit to working things out and you will have benefitted from this experience.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, an unexpected turn of events spices things up in the coming days. Enjoy this change of pace but do your best to stay grounded throughout the tumult.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, controlled chaos is the source of your inspiration this week. Ruffle a few feathers, but make sure you do so in a productive and effective way.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, the solution to a problem you have had for awhile will come to you this week. This immediately makes you more comfy allows you to focus on recreation.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Assignments at work take precedence this week, Capricorn. Do your best to navigate your way through a lengthy to-do list. Don't let distractions get in your way.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, living in your imagination helps you drum up creative ideas, but this week you have to periodically reconnect with reality. Shift the focus to work or family.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
The road to satisfaction can't be found on a GPS device, Pisces. You have to do some soul-searching and figure out what you want.

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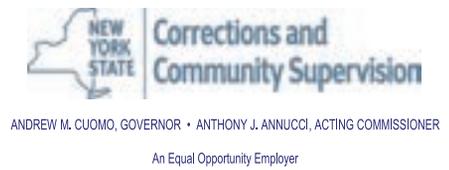
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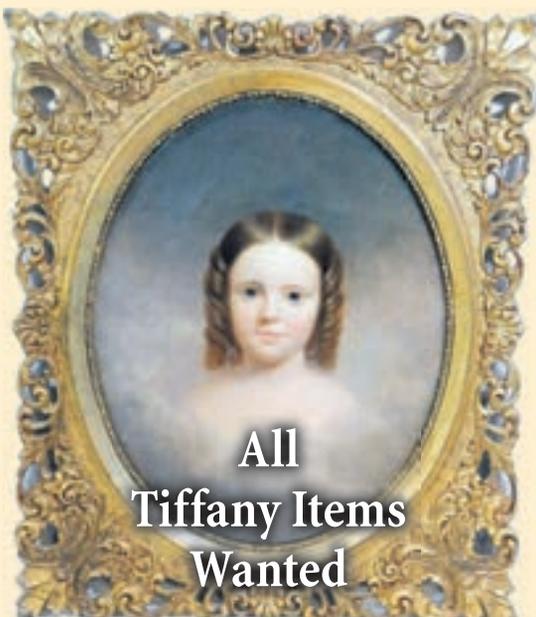
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