

March to protest TPS suspension

By Tequila Minsky

On April 20, immigrant activists will march from Grand Army Plaza over the Brooklyn Bridge to Times Square in a "Days of Outrage" demonstration, pushing back against this government's brutal policies toward immigrants — particularly from Africa, Haiti and Latin America.

Demanding permanent residency for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and DACA — Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals holders, and the

Continued on Page 8

Cabinet reshuffle

By Azad Ali

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness recently reshuffled his Cabinet and Minister of National Security after just two years in office.

He has appointed MP Dr. Nigel Clarke as the new minister of Finance and Public Service.

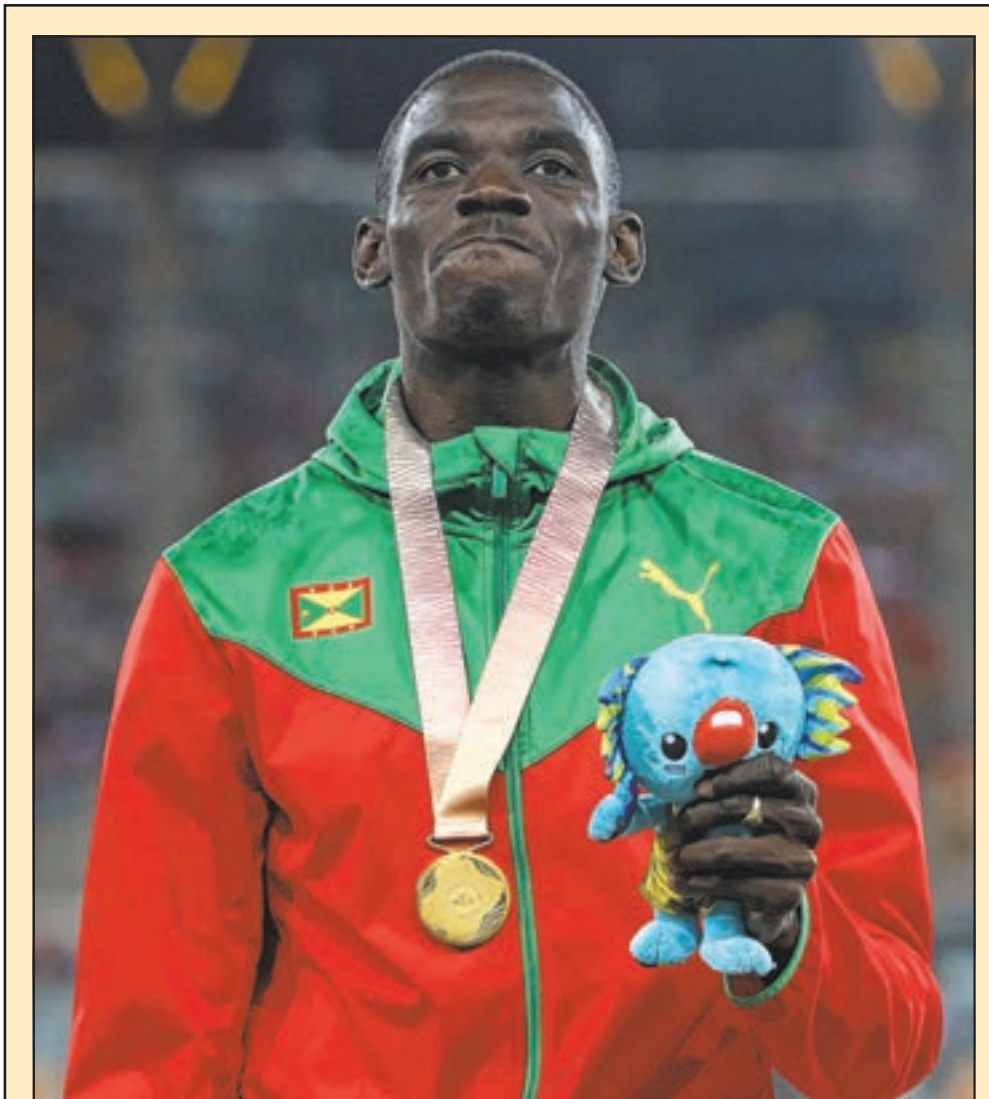
Former Finance Minister, Audley Shaw, has been assigned to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries.

Dr. Clarke will get support from Fyval Williams, who was appointed minister without portfolio in the Finance Ministry.

Clarke's appointment came a few weeks after he won a by-election in the constituency of St. Andrew North West for the ruling party.

Dr. Horace Chung is now
Continued on Page 12

REFUGEE CRISIS EXPANDS



Grenada takes gold

Decathlon gold medalist Grenada's Lindon Victor on the podium at Carrara Stadium during the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia, Tuesday, April 10, 2018. See story on Page 51.

Associated Press / Mark Schiefelbein

Trinidad, Guyana worry about Venezuelan refugees

By Bert Wilkinson

Two Caribbean Community countries with close borders to Venezuela are beginning to pay greater attention to an increase in the number of Venezuelans crossing into the two nations, seeking food, jobs, shelter and medical services as the economic and political situation at home worsens.

Authorities in Guyana and Trinidad in particular, say that they are now being asked to cater for large numbers of economic refugees seeking help outside of Venezuela and moves to arrest, charge and deport those who entered the countries illegally are not necessarily working as others are showing up with each passing day.

In recent months, Guyana's health ministry has sent additional medical staff to several bordering districts with Venezuela to deal with arrivals, asking for treatment for illnesses ranging from malaria to fevers to malnutrition.

The military and police have
Continued on Page 8

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Daniel Glover

United Nations / Amanda Voisard, File

Calls for 'Marshall Plan'

By Nelson A. King

Emerging from its recently successful "Marshall Plan" symposium, economic summit and national town hall meeting, April 3-4, in Newark, NJ, the Black New York-based group, Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW), is calling for a "bold and innovative 21st Century Marshall Plan" to rebuild urban America and to support Newark's quest to become a "Model City."

IBW said on Tuesday that the Newark events were dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 50th Anniversary of his martyrdom in Memphis, TN and were consistent with IBW's ongoing efforts to highlight the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent.

Scores of African American community economic development specialists, urban planners, community organizers, and scholar/activists along with leaders from the civil rights, faith and business communities gathered to discuss a wide range of strategies for revitalizing urban communities across the country, IBW said.

It said several participants cited the success of the US Government's Marshall Plan in the 1950s, a \$19 billion program that assisted in rebuilding Europe after the devastation of World War II.

IBW said Whitney M. Young, executive director of the National Urban League, first proposed a "Domestic Marshall Plan" in 1964.

Since then, IBW said the Urban League has been at the forefront in advocating the Marshall Plan idea and recently released a "Main Street Marshall Plan" under the current president and chief executive officer Marc Morial.

Clarke urges Black women to practice 'self-care'

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke wants Black women to make themselves "the priority," urging that they practice "self-care."

"For generations, Black women have been on the frontlines of many battles. From the Civil Rights Movement to the Women's Rights March, we have quite literally put our bodies on the line to protect our men, our families, our communities and one another, and are often taken for granted," said Clarke, representative for the 9th Congressional District in addressing the 5th Annual Shirley Chisholm Women's Empowerment Conference Saturday at Brooklyn's Medgar Evers College.

"But our magic is no longer free," added the daughter of Jamaican immigrants. "Now more than ever, Black women must focus on our selves. We must make ourselves the priority. And, we must practice self-care."

"If we are going to talk about the self-esteem of Black women, we must acknowledge the impact of the daily messages we are bombarded with, that tell us that we are not brilliant, beautiful, powerful and capable," Clarke continued.

She said these messages have left "an imprint on generations of Black women."

"But we are phenomenal women, are we not?" she asked patrons. "For every negative image, there's a Shirley Chisholm, Maya Angelou, Tameka Mal-lory, Maxine Waters, Kamala Harris and Michelle Obama."

"For every culture vulture, for every appropriator, there is a content creator," Clarke added.

The conference, held under the theme, "Women Self-Esteem: A Light Shining in the Dark," was sponsored



From left, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Public Advocate Letitia James, Dr. Una Clarke and Council Member Laurie Cumbo.

Office of Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke

by the Caribbean Research Center at Medgar Evers College and co-sponsored by Black Women for Fairness, Equity and Justice.

According to the objectives, the conference gave the community, among other things an "opportunity to bring to the attention of the Caribbean Research Center at Medgar Evers College major issues that affect the community, so that the center can include those issues in working groups that seek solutions to/or remediation of those issues."

Conference organizers said the center documents and publishes implementation of policies that benefit the community in general, especially women.

Public Advocate Letitia James received this year's Shirley Chisholm Award for a Lifetime of Contributions to Humanity. Clarke was the 2016 honoree.

The late Shirley Anita Chisholm (née St. Hill; Nov. 30, 1924 – Jan. 1, 2005), was born in Brooklyn to a Barbadian mother and a Guyanese father.

Antigua, Romania establish diplomatic relations

By Nelson A. King

Antigua and Barbuda said on Monday, April 9 that it has established diplomatic relations with Romania.

An Antigua and Barbuda government statement said both countries signed a joint communiqué in this regard, on April 5, at the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations.

Dr. Walton Webson, ambassador and permanent representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, and Ion Jinga, ambassador and permanent representative of Romania to the United Nations signed a communiqué.

"The communiqué now provides a

framework for Antigua and Barbuda and Romania to begin exploring areas of mutual interest," the statement said, adding that Webson "expressed his satisfaction with this step taken by the two countries, noting that the communiqué would allow for more bilateral interaction including in areas of agriculture, economic cooperation and education."

Jinga "signaled his government's interest in having a mutually supportive relationship with Antigua and Barbuda," the statement said.

It said the Romanian government will provide scholarships to nationals of Antigua and Barbuda to study in

Romania beginning in fall 2018.

Areas of study include medicine, pharmaceutical studies and public administration, the statement said.

It said the establishment of diplomatic relations with Romania is "part of the wider thrust of the government of Antigua and Barbuda to pursue new partnerships with the aim of advancing the country's economic growth and development."

The statement said Romania is a candidate for a non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the term 2020-2021, with elections to be held at UN headquarters in New York in 2019.

Caribbean

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDM) has announced that it will fund a program to enhance capacity for mental health and psychological support in disaster management in the Caribbean.

CDB Director of Projects Daniel Best said it is critical that a community's response to any disaster includes a targeted psychosocial support and mental health component to rebuild individual and social resilience.

Best said, "we have witnessed first-hand how feelings of anxiety and distress can result from the inability to tolerate and withstand environmental and social threats and lead to behaviors, including substance abuse, child and spouse abuse and gender-based violence."

This, he noted, can potentially have a long term debilitating impact on victims and by extension, the development of Small Island Developing States.

Best said there is need to update action plans and implement a Caribbean awareness and communication campaign in preparing for the 2018 hurricane season.



Tribute to Haitian Dancer

Dancers perform the ceremony of Rada. See story on Page 45.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Antigua

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has revealed that Antigua and Barbuda had paid off the twin-island nation's debt to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He told a press conference recently that his government had given instructions to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) to make the final payment of EC\$12 million (US\$4.4 million) to settle the EC\$30 million loan in its entirety.

Browne said the government will no longer be indebted to the IMF and that would signal to the national community and to investors that the Antigua economy was strong.

The IMF loan was approved back in 2010, under the former Baldwin Spencer administration in which the current United Progressive Party (UPP) leader was finance minister- to support the government's plan to address rising debt, weak economic growth and the effects of the economic crisis.

Browne also announced that Venezuela would be writing off a significant portion of Antigua and Barbuda's PetroCaribe debt, which stands at half a billion dollars.

Barbados

The Barbados government is insisting that there would be no same-sex marriage on the Caribbean island.

This was revealed by Social Care

and Community Development Minister Steve Blackett during a recent address of the ruling Democratic Labor Party.

He complained that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBT) people were "badgering" the government to accept same-sex unions.

But he said that while he was tolerant of the LGBT community, the DLP administration would not cave in to their demands.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch suggested that the time had come for Barbados to recognize same sex marriage and provide the sort of atmosphere in which the LGBT community can live freely and without fear of persecution or victimization.

The organization said that Barbados must "repeal Section 9, Chapter 154 of the Sexual Offense Act of 1992, which criminalizes consensual same-sex conduct."

Guyana

An Italian oil and gas exploration company wants to drill for oil in Guyana if the government gives it permission to carry out exploration offshore.

ENI, which is a multinational oil and gas company headquartered in Rome, is considered one of the world's largest publicly owned oil and gas companies.

It operates in 79 countries and is the

world's 11th largest industrial company with a market capitalization of 68 billion euros.

Minister of Natural Resources, Raphael Trotman, recently met the company's Senior Vice President, Guido Zappala and his team in Guyana where he received a packaged plan of action from the company's representatives.

The minister said that ENI, which is partly owned by the Italian government, has an excellent track record in terms of safety and good environmental practices and the company has been lending its support to other countries to help develop their renewable energy capacity.

Trotman said he will prepare a report to present to President David Granger for his consideration.

Jamaica

The Jamaica government has partnered with the United Nations to launch the Global Blue Heart Campaign Against Human Trafficking.

The campaign is an international awareness initiative by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to fight human trafficking and its impact on society.

It seeks to encourage involvement and inspire action to help stop the crime.

Carol Palmer, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Justice and chair of the National Task Force against Human Trafficking said that Jamaica is the first English-speaking Caribbean country to partner with the UNODC.

She noted that the strong global brand of the UN and the internationally recognized Brand Jamaica will make a compelling partnership in the fight against human trafficking.

Palmer said the combined resources of governments everywhere are more than enough to secure an aggressive and sustained agenda against human trafficking.

The campaign was officially launched last month.

Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has received a "full report on the details of the mishap" that occurred at the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington DC last month.

A short release from the Office of the Prime Minister stated: "Upon his return to Trinidad from Tobago (where he was for the Easter vacation) Dr. Rowley will receive full details of the OAS

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Pay fees says Barbados government minister

By George Alleyne

Amidst controversy swirling around Trinidad and Tobago's refusal to agree to a waiver on hurricane-hit Dominica's fees to the Organisations of American States, Barbados Government Minister, Donville Inniss, said CARICOM members should pay their dues.

Inniss, the commerce and business minister called no names when he said, "I have been a Cabinet minister for 10 years and I have attended many CARICOM meetings and have been involved in some of the most robust debates with other territories only to find out later that the ones keeping the most noise have not paid their dues."

Inniss' midweek statement at the opening ceremony of the 32nd Meeting of the Council of the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality in Barbados, comes in the middle of Trinidad government's efforts to find out why its Ambassador to the OAS, Anthony Phillips-Spencer protested Dominica's

request for a waiver of fees to that body, pleading hardship stemming from Hurricane Maria devastation last year.

Trinidad continues to roll in embarrassment from Phillips-Spencer's response to the Dominica request last week, though the other OAS nations had agreed to the waiver.

The Trinidadian envoy said that instead Dominica should get, "the option for the deferral payments of contributions, and where possible the implementation of a payment plan subject to annual review."

The resulting furore across the Caribbean at Trinidad's rebuff of a sister CARICOM island in need, has seen the Keith Rowley government appoint retired diplomat, Christopher Thomas, to find out how this was allowed to happen.

Dominica's fee waiver request, while the island rebuilds, amounted to a figure between US\$15,000 to US\$20,000.

There is uncertainty on whether it was a case of poor timing by the Barba-

dos government minister, or his remarks were directed to other cases similar to the OAS issue.

Inniss told the CARICOM meeting in Barbados, "we are making too many excuses because we can find the money to pay dues to extra-regional bodies and to go to meetings — half of which sometimes are not necessary — but yet we find all reasons why we can't pay \$5,000 to regional organizations. That must come to an end."

The outspoken senior Barbados government member added, "I have also travelled extensively outside to meetings and I have to be frank. Sometimes you see cabinet ministers and public officers from delinquent islands, sometimes the fees that they owe is sometimes as low as US\$5,000 per year, but yet they fill the front of the aircraft with officers at a rate of almost US\$7,000 per seat, then you add to that accommodation cost and per diems and I say to myself that we got wrong priorities."



Barbados minister Donville Inniss.

Photo by George Alleyne

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Venezuelans flee homeland

Continued from Page 1

also been forced to send extra teams to the area to deal with general security duties as well as heavily armed criminal gangs harassing gold miners, native Amerindians and visitors to the area.

But Trinidad, just seven miles across the border Gulf of Paria from Venezuela, is feeling the brunt of a growing refugee crisis. Immigration and other officials are beginning to complain.

The island's immigration department said in the past week that applications for asylum have increased from five persons a year two years ago to 2,000 so far for the year. Officials say they are also not on top of the tally for those making in into the country illegally. What they know is that up to about 200 land in the country each week, looking for jobs, food and money to help struggling relatives back home.

In some cases like is the situation in Guyana, some of those who arrived illegally are hauled before the courts, tried, convicted and are jailed or deported, a development which has irked rights groups and some local legislators as these often lobby for a more humane approach and understanding of the plight of those arriving in the two countries.

Faud Khan, an opposition parliamentarian in Trinidad, this week urged gov-



In this Feb. 21, 2018 photo, Venezuelan citizens cross the International Simon Bolivar bridge into the Colombia. As Venezuela's economic crisis worsens, rising numbers are fleeing in a burgeoning refugee crisis that could soon match the flight of Syrians from the war-torn Middle East. Associated Press / Fernando Vergara

ernment to relax rules regarding asylum seekers, taking into account the dire situation at home.

"Given the unique situation right next door, I am calling on citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and the government to recognize that our Venezuelan neighbors require special attention, much like the United States and European nations have done for those fleeing persecution. As some of them flee to Trinidad, legally and illegally, we as a people must acknowledge that while their situation might be dire and as they seek refuge here, they must be treated with dignity and respect," said Khan.

DACA protest march

Continued from Page 1

stopping of racial profiling in immigration enforcement, the "April 20 Coalition" brings together immigrant organizations from the African, Haitian, and Latin American communities.

TPS for El Salvadorans terminates Sept. 9, 2018, affecting more than 200,000, and for Haitians, TPS terminates in July 22, 2019, affecting about 60, 000. The Washington Post reported that nearly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants have taken advantage of the deferred deportation program President Barack Obama created in 2012.

At the announcement of the demonstration at City Hall last week, Margaret Tropnas recalled marching with other Haitians over the Brooklyn Bridge, "I remember when were on the bridge, it shook," she said. "The magnitude of that march was incredible."

Twenty-eight years ago on April 20, the Brooklyn Bridge trembled under the feet of 100,000 marchers protesting the Center for Disease Control (CDC) designation that Haitians, were high-risk for HIV and as a nationality could not give blood—with others that came to be known as the 4-Hs along with homosexuals, hemophiliacs, and heroin addicts. As a result of this remarkable demonstration, CDC removed that designation the following year.

"This is a reminder of what can be

done with unity," Tropnas said.

Gerard Cadet, V.P. 1199 SEIU United Heath Care Workers East, spoke at the press conference. "Since the 2017 coronation of that number 45 (referring to the president), we have experienced a time that reflects all the bad memories of the past... We are talking about the events leading to the holocaust in Germany, from 1933 until 1945."

He went on to list previous erosion of civil rights, atrocities, and moral evils perpetrated in the United States: slavery, Japanese internment camps, Bull Connors (Alabama politician opposed to civil rights movement), reconstruction (after the civil war), the rise of KKK, and McCarthyism (use of false accusations).

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte also draws strength from that historic protest, "We are coming together as a community with DACA and TPS no longer being renewed — not just Haitians but Latinos, the Black immigrant community and all those affected by this administration." She said how these are tax payers who add value to the United States and that "this administration wants to rip them apart."

"We're tired of hearing insulting comments against people from countries of color," she added. "We're marching over the Brooklyn Bridge to let the world know that we're going to continue to fight and demand immigration reform."

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Wrapped in a sea of plastic

By Kathleen Rogers

By now most of us have read that plastic, that incredibly useful product that all of us use every day, is fast becoming public enemy number one. We have been using plastics for decades and as a result, plastic is everywhere: in our fish, in our food, in our oceans, in our waste water treatment systems, and in our public spaces. We use plastics in every part of our lives, from single use plastics, such as bags, bottles, and straws, to our babies' toys to our nylon clothes to our paint.

Plastic particles and plastic microbeads are used in our shampoo, toothpaste, soap, and millions of other products, all of which contain different kinds of tiny particles of plastic, all of which come off in our bodies, our mouths, our scalp and our skin as we use them. And plastic use is on the rise, more than 10 percent a year, while industry titans build more and more profitable plastic factories with high priced fossil fuels.

Plastics everywhere was bad enough, but now multiple studies have found that 94 percent of our drinking water and 93 percent of sampled bottled water worldwide are full of plastic particles and chemicals, including BPA, heavy metals, phthalates, pesticides, PCBs and other chemicals, many of which are linked in animal studies as well as some human studies to cancer, premature puberty, reduced immunity, birth defects, endocrine disruption, insulin resistance, and other major diseases. And we

have no idea and neither does the FDA, EPA, or any other federal agency, whether this lethal cocktail, which binds together with other toxins, is having an even more profound impact on our health and that of our kids.

What we get now from those agencies is "conflicting findings" and "uncertainties" about the potential impact of plastics-related chemicals. What we do know is that governments only test or analyze the impacts of individual chemicals to determine the levels of potentially life-threatening exposure, making it impossible to figure out the combined total load of chemicals from plastics our babies can safely absorb.

We, the general public, have unleashed this problem on ourselves without understanding the impacts that fossil-fuel based plastics were having on our environment or our health. Half a century of this "uncontrolled experiment" is fast becoming as serious a problem as climate change because no corner of the earth, no animal, no body of water, no human, is immune from its impacts.

The plastics industry, and our fast food industry which relies on single use plastics, along with others, perhaps taking a page from Big Tobacco, have assured us that everything is perfectly fine. Yet many countries are banning BPA, phthalates, and other chemicals from plastics in some plastic products, and even industry is scouring around for suitable

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Is there data privacy & protection to poor customers?

By Matthew Soursourian and Michael Joyce

*Matthew Soursourian and Michael Joyce, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP)**

WASHINGTON DC, April 9, 2018 (IPS) - Research increasingly demonstrates that poor customers, just like other customers, value their privacy and care deeply about the protection of their personal data. But what do providers think about obtaining, using, storing and sharing personally identifiable information?

Last year, CGAP interviewed 26 innovative and data-centric financial services providers in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, including banks, mobile money providers and companies that provide credit scoring and merchant services.

We asked them what role customer data plays in their businesses and what they are doing to ensure the privacy and security of the data they collect. Here's what we learned.

Data are a guarded asset

Providers often regard their data as a valuable competitive asset, and they take steps to protect it. Data regulations, where they exist, often drive these protective measures. But all providers have reason to invest in security due to the possibility of a data breach and the desire to preserve their competitive advantages.

These drivers of business

Providers often regard their data as a valuable competitive asset, and they take steps to protect it.

practices provide an opportunity for regulators to act because it means that incentives are aligned between providers and their customers. For example, providers might be willing to accept more robust and potentially expensive data governance standards imposed by regulators if the benefits to them — safer digital assets — are emphasized.

Data sharing is not as widespread as often assumed

Despite the hype around big data's potential to transform finance, we found that getting access to transactional, phone use or demographic information held by third parties (especially mobile network operators) remains a frustration for many young businesses.

When mobile network operators do sell access, the prices may not be commercially feasible for start-ups. Some of the providers we spoke with have changed their business models due to pricing issues, decreasing their reliance on third-party data.

Many firms also recognize that relying on a third-party source for data creates a risk

for their business. The rise of smartphones represents an opportunity to bypass reliance on the large datasets of established providers and obtain data directly from consumers.

Communicating about privacy is not a priority

Providers told us that communicating to customers about privacy does not rank highly on their list of priorities. Given customers' limited attention span and the relative importance of communicating product value, instructions and pricing, privacy does not always rise to the top. Moreover, low literacy levels and mobile delivery already make it difficult to explain how a user's data will be used.

These findings support the idea of moving beyond a notice and consent model, which is based on the assumption that users understand how the provider intends to use their data.

Limited data retention is not being considered

Most of the providers we interviewed were not thinking about limiting data retention. In part, this may reflect the fact that many of them are young companies. But it may also be because regulations are not always in place to force providers to develop official policies. Where data regulations do exist, some mandate that data be retained for only as long as

Continued on Page 12

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Latin America's 1st ever black female VP — A Jamaican?

On April 1, when jokesters, pranksters and April fools of the day tricked family and friends with carefully constructed misdeeds, in the Central American nation of Costa Rica, Epsy Alejandra Campbell Barr was elected the very, first of her race to win the second-most sought after seat in government.

Back in the day, on a show dubbed "The A-Team" Mr. T would offer a cautionary response to adversaries saying "Pity the fool," to anyone doubting his mettle and might.

However, the date also marked Easter, the Christian celebration of a resurrection recorded in the Bible as a catalyst to transformation, spiritual reconciliation and atonement.

On the Sunday when all the votes were tallied and the final count were announced in the capital city of San Jose, the conservative, evangelical slate headed by Fabricio Alvarado had to concede the fact that he had been defeated and the results were neither an April fool's joke nor a religious confirmation of his anti-gay stance.

An even bigger concession was that a Black, woman — liberal candidate Campbell-Barr



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

won by a landslide to serve with Carlos Alvarado (no relation), president-elect and strong supporter of same-sex marriage and LGBT rights whipped him despite his right-wing preaching and championing the cause of conservatism.

The loser promised to maintain a status quo with regard to any reforms that would empower the homosexual community there.

He allegedly also feuded with the electoral tribunal, which scolded him for failing to submit financial declarations properly.

It was a divisive and bitter contest and Campbell-Barr and Alvarado ran on a platform promising unity, rebuilding of infrastructure, and parity of the sexes.

Together they swept their opponent's totals capturing 61 percent of the votes.

Campbell-Barr's approach to the campaign was different, she reportedly reached out to Black

Costa Ricans, saying she was "proudly" one of them and urged them to vote "for an inclusive Costa Rica, a Costa Rica where we have a place."

This feminist candidate also reached out to women, informing them they are the "driving force of 21st-century Costa Rica."

She vowed to narrow the gender pay gap.

On the fabled day — this year which marked levity and holiness — news of the election of the vice-president overshadowed that of the youngest elected president ever in its 70-year history as a Democratic nation, another aspect which must have been a sobering reality to the loser.

At age 38, the next leader offers radical changes, the most obvious, a female, Afro-Costa Rican vice president.

Her election sounded like an alarm around the world because in the process of winning she blazed a trail for her



Epsy Campbell Barr, vice president of Costa Rica 2018-2022
www.en.wikipedia.org

gender and birth land becoming the first ever of her race to win the position on the continent.

Many more will wake up to her arrival on May 8 when Campbell-Barr is sworn in as the first person of African descent to serve as Costa Rica vice-president.

"It would not be the first only in Costa Rica, but in Latin America, and eventually, if the president leaves the country, (would be) the first woman of African descent to assume the presidency in the entire American continent. It's a big responsibility," Campbell-Barr stated.
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OP-EDS

Wrapped in a sea of plastic

Continued from Page 10

alternatives to fossil fuel based plastics, although so far many "biodegradable" plastics aren't living up to their reputation. What's the alternative for us, the consumers and multi-decade guinea pigs, while we wait? Getting rid of single use plastics, using less plastic and getting involved in local legislation and regulation to reduce and recycle plastics is a good start.

In the meantime, some countries and some U.S. states are wising up to the problem and the plastics lobby. An

international treaty on plastics is under consideration but that may be a decade away. In the meantime, we know for sure that our plastic bottles, sippy cups, and the water in them are spiked with chemically laced plastic micro-particles that should not be there.

Rogers is president of Earth Day Network, the world's largest recruiter to the environmental movement with thousands of partners in 192 countries. This year's Earth Day (April 22) campaign is to End Plastic Pollution.

Is there data privacy & protection to poor customers?

Continued from Page 10

necessary for the associated service.

At the expiration of the retention period, firms must delete or anonymize the data. With the expansion of increasingly cheap data storage, firms may be less concerned about holding data longer than necessary unless regulations force them to destroy or anonymize. However, retention of data presents privacy and security risks.

Many firms are start-ups and may be angling for acquisition by larger companies. In this case, customer records could be transferred to a separate business entity without the consent or even awareness of customers. Providers may need to think more carefully about data retention and the handling of data throughout the lifecycle of their businesses.

Cross-sector data governance principles could provide value

Although existing principles such as the GSMA Code of Conduct for Mobile Money Providers, the Smart Campaign and the Better Than Cash Alliance's Responsible Digital Payments Guidelines cover elements of privacy, providers said they could benefit from a more focused

set of voluntary standards related to privacy and data protection.

Due to the growing trend of bundling financial services with other products, it may be more effective to develop standards that could apply to and be adopted by all types of data-centric service providers.

These standards could also include principles related to data sharing and data standardization, which would enable new business models based on third-party data to operate responsibly. Some firms also emphasized the need for guidance on best practices in information security and privacy, including data retention.

In sum, we see some disconnects between how strongly customers feel about their data and the way providers weigh privacy and protection concerns against other commercial objectives. At the same time, there are opportunities to improve data security by leveraging the motivation of providers to guard their competitive assets.

As regulators develop stronger data protection frameworks, listening to providers' perspectives can help them to identify potential "win-wins" and areas where stricter rules and principles are necessary to protect consumers.

Jamaica's new cabinet

Continued from Page 1

the new minister of National Security, replacing Robert Montague. Montague has been moved to the Ministry of Transport and Mining.

Former Transport Minister, Mike Henry, is now minister without portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, while Karl Samuda has moved to the Ministry of Economic Growth and

Job Creation.

Prime Minister Holness also announced changes in the junior ministerial ranks, including the appointment of Alando Terrelone as junior minister in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports.

Holness said other members of the cabinet previously appointed remain in their respective portfolios.

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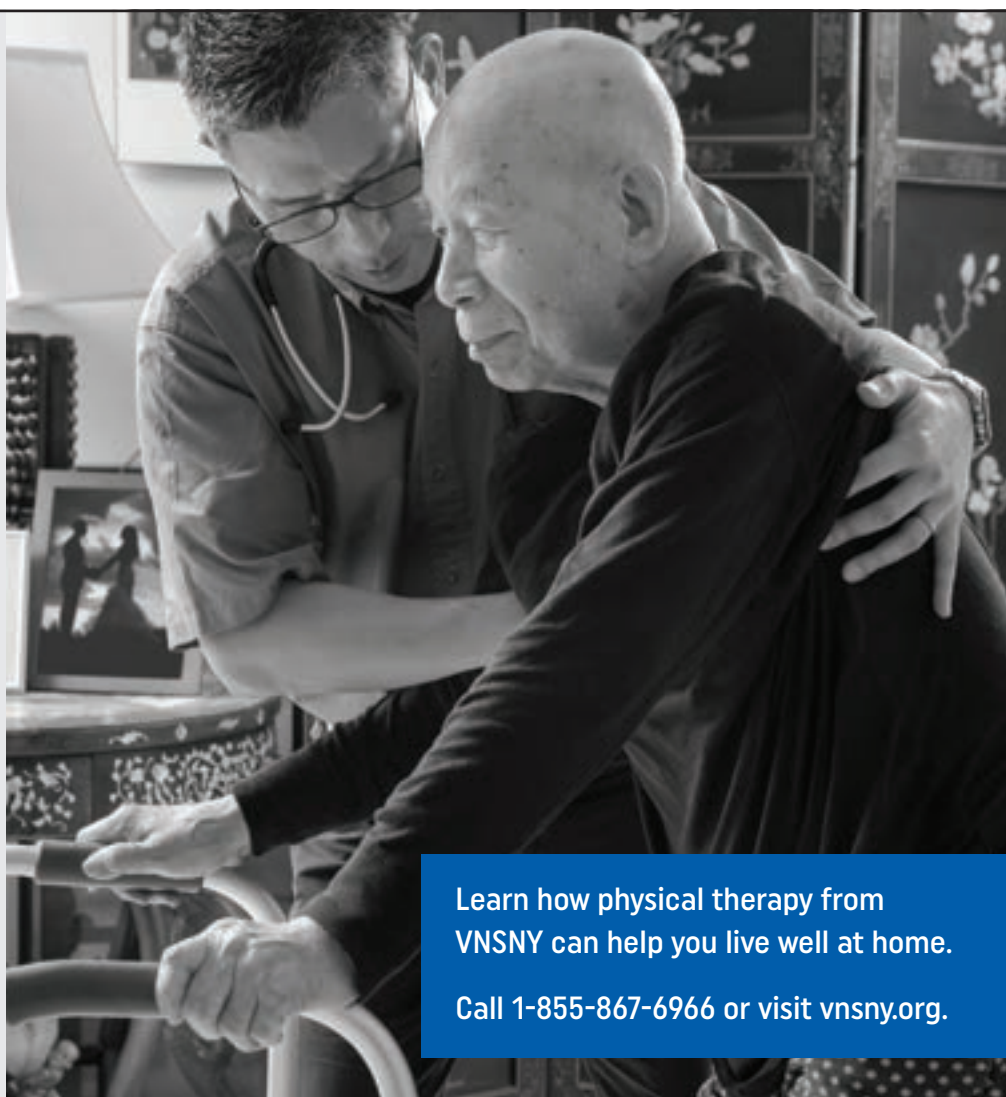
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Antigua to plant marijuana for medicine

By Bert Wilkinson

Just weeks after its parliament had overwhelmingly approved laws allowing for Antiguanians to personally possess up to 15 grams of marijuana legally, authorities are preparing to take it to the next level.

In the coming months, island legislators will again be asked to debate a bill allowing for large scale medical marijuana production—meaning that approved locals will be allowed to grow, harvest, process and sell varying amounts of weed for medicinal use.

The leading Observer Newspaper reported this week that work on the bill is progressing apace and authorities are consulting with experts from countries which already have such industries to ensure government gets it right.

This is even as Caribbean Community governments which are preparing to meet for their main summit in Jamaica in July, are scheduled to have an extensive discussion on the issue of personal possession and medical marijuana use.

Regional governments had back in 2014 established a com-

mission to decide on a way forward as judiciaries, police and civil society groups across the community had complained about courts being forced to jail large groups of youths for possessing small amounts of marijuana.

Antiguan officials recently moved to cancel or wipe away convictions of hundreds of locals who were jailed for personal possession over the decades. Each household is allowed to grow no more than four plants for domestic use.

So far Jamaica, Belize and Antigua have not waited to implement or be part of a regional approach but have decided to act on their own in amending legislation to cater for personal possession.

Lionel Max Hurst, the government's chief of staff said plants would be grown under stipulated conditions and the aim is to allow for the production of medicine for illnesses such as sickle cell anemia, epilepsy, asthma, glaucoma and other diseases, which research has so far shown respond to marijuana-related medicines.

"Although we cannot say at

this moment what exactly that criteria would be, we are in talks with experts from Canada in this area to have the best laws put in place since we will be following their method. After looking at what is being done in Jamaica, we thought that the Canadian model was closer to what we would want to achieve here. In my understanding, after reading reports from cabinet that the Jamaican law was structured for farmers to grow the product on a large scale, but the problem is that they are not aware of what they are growing, the quantity or the substances in the plant itself in regards to its use as a pharmaceutical," Hurst told the publication.

Younger people in Antigua and sister isle, Barbuda, had widely applauded the move to allow for possession of up to 15 grams, but critics had argued that the bill was timed to coincide with the last days of the late March general elections that the incumbent Antigua Labor Party won.

Hurst said that the bill could be on parliament's floor later this year. A governing board will oversee the new sector and will include an inspectorate to ensure compliance with laws.



Lionel Max Hurst, the Antiguan government's chief of staff.
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

mishap."

The Prime Minister had requested a report from Minister of Foreign and Caricom Affairs, Dennis Moses, prior to his visit to Tobago.

In the wake of the diplomatic blunder, the ministry had stated that the vote against Dominica's request for a waiver of its OAS contribution was a "misrepresentation of Trinidad and Tobago position by a public official during the meeting of the OAS."



However, documents showed that T&T's OAS Ambassador Anthony Phillips-Spencer who cast the vote, had sought guidance from the ministry on how Trinidad and Tobago should vote, suggesting support for hurricane-ravaged Dominica's request to a waiver of its contributions for the years 2018 and 2019.

However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave instructions that he should vote against the waiver request and propose a deferral of Dominica's payments.

- Compiled by Azad Ali

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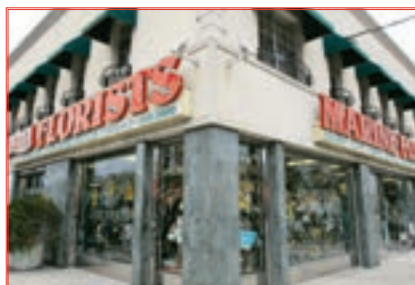


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American Airlines to begin flights to Guyana in December

By Tangerine Clarke

Minister of Public Infrastructure David Patterson, said he is delighted that American Airlines will begin airlifting passengers to Guyana from December of this year.

Patterson who has made a name for himself as one of the hardest working politicians in the Coalition government said the new service will coincide with the launch of the newly expanded Cheddi Jagan International Airport, and demonstrates a confidence in destination Guyana not only as a desirable tourist destination, but as an emerging oil economy as well.

The minister made these comments via the Department of Public Information InfoHub,

after it was announced by the airline giant on its website that the carrier would be adding Georgetown to its South American schedule.

Patterson added, “the government has been working at various levels to provide more options to travelers to and from Guyana to North America with increased airlift, and American Airlines’ commitment to destination Guyana is a recognition of government’s work since coming into office in 2015.”

The Dec. 20 liftoff will fly passengers from Miami International Airport to Cheddi Jagan International Airport, (CJIA) in its initial approach to the Guyana market.

According to AA’s website, the company



Guyana’s Minister of Public Infrastructure, David Patterson.
<https://guyaneseonline.wordpress.com>

announced on Tuesday, March 27, that as part of its expansion to several markets in Latin America and the Caribbean, it plans to begin regular scheduled service to Guyana later this year.

American Airlines said, “next winter, customers looking for history, culture and warm climate will have access to three new cities in South America: Georgetown, Guyana (GEO); Pereira, Colombia (PEI) and Cordoba, Argentina (COR); and one new city in Mexico: Oaxaca (OAX).”

Other American destinations are likely to be examined once the airline settles in, but it will be offering connections from all of its major destinations to Guyana through Miami, according to AA.

The statement said the airline’s ticket sale to its Guyana market will begin on April 2, with the flights beginning on Dec.20.

The airline offers an average of 6,700 flights per day to nearly 350 destinations in more than 50 countries.

“American has hubs in Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas / Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Washington, D.C. American is a founding member of the oneworld alliance, whose members and members-elect serve nearly 1,000 destinations with 14,250 daily flights to 150 countries”.

Delta Airlines was the only other American carrier to ply Guyana’s route. This service lasted, five years.

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Shoe donors give hundreds of pairs to prom drive

By Alexandra Simon

The seventh annual Soul to Sole Shoe Drive Brunch collected hundreds of pairs of donated shoes from donors at the Round2 Cafe in East Flatbush on April 8.

The yearly charity event,

created to provide students with shoes for prom, amassed an estimated 800 pairs of formal footwear for prom-bound teens. The organizer of the event hoped to raise more than double that number, but says the event was still a success.



Adams organizes to the drive to get shoes for students going to prom.



Organizer Chanel Adams embraces a donor who comes in with bags of shoes for the annual Soul to Sole shoe drive on April 8.

Lifeofthecity.com

“It was really good this year — the turnout was good and could’ve been better, but that didn’t put a damper on it,” said Chanel Adams. “Regardless of whether we made our goal or not, we’re still making a difference in the community by providing this small asset that a lot of people overlook when getting ready for their prom.”

Every year Adams organizes a charity brunch to collect the shoes and offer people with shoes they no longer want, a chance to donate them and assist families who cannot afford prom costs.

As a self-proclaimed shoe

lover, Adams said many prom drives often disregard the necessity of shoes at their campaigns. But for her, it is the most vital aspect of a party look and she feels everyone should get to experience that.

“People tend to focus on dresses and they forget about the shoes, and as a lover of shoes, I know the importance of having a good shoe to go with an outfit — it completes it,” she said.

Adams said after seven years of hosting this event, she has received great feedback from many teens and their families, and said lending a hand to those in need was satisfying to

her and she plans to continue as long as she could.

“I was fortunate enough to have parents who could pay for my dress and shoes, but I don’t think anyone’s financial situation should stop kids from experiencing that one moment they get, which is graduating from high school and it can be expensive,” she said. “But the end result is seeing the looks on faces. You won’t know everyone’s situation and we’ve had parents come to us and break down crying because they were thankful. If I can provide that and have a positive end result, there’s no stopping.”

SMALL BUSINESS

RESOURCES

Small Business Energy | SmallBusinessEnergy.com

www.smallbusinessenergy.com/NewYork

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NYC Small Business Resource Center | The New York Public Library

smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

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

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

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm

Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

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

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfandapc.com

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

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

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

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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INSIDE & OUT



With a few modifications, it's possible to transform a room in a home into a teen-friendly hangout

CREATE A TEEN-FRIENDLY *space at home*

Teenagers are busier than ever before. But even the busiest teens need places to unwind and relax with friends. Many parents aspire to create that type of environment in their homes but don't know where to begin.

Having teens close by and interacting with them on a regular basis can benefit families. Data from the National Center for Education Statistics notes that parental involvement correlates to higher grade point averages. Research from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says certain parenting styles, including those that set rules and monitor teens in supportive ways, develop kids who are more likely to wear seat belts while driving, while such support also lowers crash risk. Involved parents also may reduce the chances of teen drug use and promiscuous behavior.

Parents who want to keep teens nearby can create

hangout spaces at home that make it easy for teens to feel comfortable with their friends. These "teen caves" can be private but permit supervision when necessary. With a few modifications, it's possible to transform a room in a home into a teen-friendly hangout space:

Talk to your children. Involve teens in the process of renovating a home to create a spot in which they would like to congregate. Talk about elements they would like to see in the space, whether it be a particular design style, technology, or activity.

Establish a shared budget. Paint is inexpensive and can transform just about any room in a single afternoon. If the room being renovated is the teen's own bedroom, allow him or her to choose the color palette and other accents. Even if it isn't to your taste, he or she will be proud of the results and may want to share it with friends.

Have a snack station. Some teenagers always seem to be hungry, and hanging out with friends while enjoying food is a popular pastime. When renovating a room into a teen cave, find a way to make food a focus. Install a mini-refrigerator and non-alcoholic bar where kids can serve snacks to friends. Think about a space you would like as an adult and modify it to be more accommodating to teenagers.

Add more seating. Having friends over means having enough seating to handle a small crowd. Beanbags, cushioned benches, a daybed, modular seating, and more can ensure everyone has a place to sit.

Make a private outdoor spot. Teen spaces do not need to be restricted to the indoors. Design advice site Houzz says an outdoor escape zone that includes comfortable seating in a private area — particularly a spot that can also be enjoyed into the evening — will be a coveted spot.

Invest in "indestructible" materials. Teenagers are bound to make messes, and having other people over means contending with a certain measure of damage. Design the space with indoor-outdoor carpeting, water-resistant fabrics, distressed wood, and other durable materials.

Adolescents are always looking for spaces to gather without overbearing adult interference. Homeowners can create such spaces for their children in their own homes.

Laundry room renovation ideas

To former apartment dwellers or those who have never enjoyed the benefit of a dedicated laundry area, even the smallest washer and dryer space can seem like a luxury.

The benefits of dedicated laundry rooms abound. However, disorganized laundry rooms can nullify such benefits. Depending on the needs and preferences of each homeowner, laundry room designs can be customized for convenience:

Employ vertical space

Floor space may be at a premium in a laundry room, especially for those who want to devote as much space as possible to bulk-size washer and dryer units. Therefore, utilizing wall space is key.

Use shelving, wire racks, hooks, and other organizational tools to store items on the wall. Shelves can be tucked into just about any space, and there are different options that can fit into corners or shallow areas. These are a great option for keeping detergent or other laundry essentials nearby.

Clean designs reduce clutter

Simple, clean designs can be an asset in a laundry room. If budget and space permits, cabinetry built into the design will help keep items out of sight in the laundry room. Cabinets hung directly above the appliances can store detergent, bleach, and fabric softener. Use cabinets elsewhere in the room as catch-alls for cleaning supplies used in various other rooms around the house.



An organized and efficient laundry room setup can make washing and drying clothes easier.

Incorporate a sink in the design

Some older laundry room setups have a slop sink to drain discharged water from the washing machine. However, newer homes may have plumbing

installed directly through the floor or walls. It is still a worthwhile idea to have a sink in the laundry room for rinsing out stains, handwashing items, and having a go-to sink for messier cleanup.

Utilize a tension rod

A rod installed between two cabinets or across a narrow width of space in the laundry room is a handy spot to hang shirts or pants to prevent wrinkling. Repurposing a ladder and suspending it from the ceiling also creates a spot to hang clothes.

Consider laundry room flooring

It's important to select flooring materials that will not be damaged by contact with moisture or spills. Vinyl, tile, and some composite products often make good laundry room floor materials.

Resilient flooring that mimics the look of hardwood may add a classy touch, and give the appearance of wood without having to worry about damage. To alleviate fatigue while spending long moments in the laundry room, invest in a memory foam mat that can be placed underfoot.

Keep lighting in mind

Lighting can be important in the laundry room. Rely on task lighting, under-cabinet strip lighting, and overhead lights as needed for efficiency.

Laundry room design can maximize the space available and make it more convenient to launder and sort clothes.

Home security for the do-it-yourselfer

Feeling secure at home is a priority for many people. Many people consider installing security systems in their homes to improve their sense of well-being. Whether one owns or rents, individuals may be surprised to learn that do-it-yourself security systems can be savvy investments.

The right system can help people protect their belongings and their families, but sorting through the various security systems on the market can be a daunting task. While full-service setups that include professional installation and monitoring are available, some homeowners may want to investigate the highly customizable DIY kits now available. Some include personal monitoring, while others are self-install technologies with professional monitoring.

Before getting started, homeowners and renters can ask themselves a few questions to help narrow down their options:

- What is your budget? Professional installation and monitoring will likely cost more than DIY kits.
- How large is the home?
- Are you tech-savvy?
- How frequently are you out of the home on vacation or extended trips?



Professional security system installation and monitoring will likely cost more than DIY kits.

•Do you desire emergency response?

•Do you want an entire package or just some deterrent devices?

Once men and women have answered these questions, it's time to start shopping. Here are some DIY security system items that may be of interest:

Smart home security systems. These home security systems connect to a home's wi-fi network so they can be monitored and controlled using a smartphone app.

Others may be accessed through an application on the internet. It is important to look for a system that has the extra security of technology that is not easily hacked.

Security cameras. Some people may only want to watch the inside and outside of their residences. It can take mere minutes to set up wireless security cameras around the house. These devices connect to a wi-fi network and give customers free access to a constant stream of video. Some systems make it easy

for homeowners to listen in on what's going on at home and even talk to anyone within the camera's range. Others can be paired with cloud storage for recording video.

Professionally monitored. Residents who are away from home frequently or are too busy to constantly monitor security systems may like the peace of mind of professionally monitored kits. Services like Frontpoint, Link Interactive, and Scout are just three that have affordable starter kits and video monitoring. Monitored alarm systems can be set to call the police or other emergency services if necessary.

Entry-level or advanced systems. Entry-level systems typically include a few door and window sensors, a motion detector and a hub that communicates with these sensors. This may be enough for someone in an apartment or small house. More extensive systems may include additional sensors, door locks, garage door openers, surveillance cameras, lights, sirens, and even water and smoke detectors.

Do-it-yourself security systems represent a new wave to safeguard one's belongings and family. Kits continue to evolve and have become more seamless than ever.

How to conserve energy throughout summer

Energy bills tend to be high in summertime, when many people crank up their air conditioners in an attempt to combat the heat. For some households, higher energy bills might be stretching their budgets, while others might be looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprints.

Conserving energy can help homeowners save money and help the planet at the same time. And reducing energy consumption in the summer does not require men and women to sacrifice comfort in the name of conservation. In fact, various strategies can help homeowners and apartment dwellers reduce their summertime energy consumption:

Stop cooling an empty home. A cool home might be the ultimate necessity during summer heat waves, but there's no reason to cool a residence when no one is home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, operating thermostats more efficiently can help homeowners trim their cooling costs by as much as 10 percent. One way to be more efficient with thermostats is to keep the house warmer than normal when no one is home. Programmable thermostats can be set so air conditioning units turn on shortly before residents arrive home, ensuring the house is comfortable and no energy is wasted.

Narrow the gap between indoor and outdoor temperatures. The DOE notes that the smaller the difference between the temperature indoors and

outside, the lower cooling costs will be. While it may be tempting to set thermostats to room temperature (68-degrees Fahrenheit) on days when temperatures reach 90 degrees or above, that's an enormous temperature gap that will result in a high energy bill. Instead, the DOE recommends setting thermostats to 78 degrees whenever possible.

Open the windows at night. Daytime temperatures, particularly during the dog days of summer, may necessitate the use of air conditioners. But men and women who live in climates where temperatures drop considerably at night can sleep with their windows open. This reduces energy consumption and saves money, and can be a great way to introduce fresh air into a home during a time of year when air can become stagnant.

Do not set air conditioner thermostats at lower than normal temperatures when turning them on. The DOE notes that setting thermostats at lower than normal temperatures when turning air conditioners on will not cool homes any faster than setting them at typical temperatures. Such a strategy will only lead to excessive energy consumption and higher energy bills.

Install ceiling fans. Ceiling fans can improve cooling efficiency in a home. According to the DOE, ceiling fans allow men and women who use air conditioners to raise the thermostats on their AC units



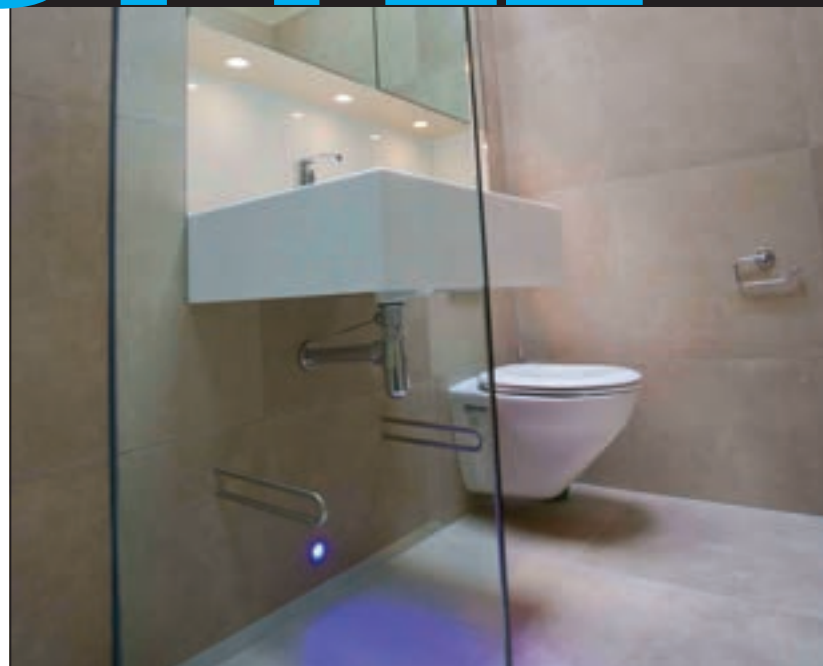
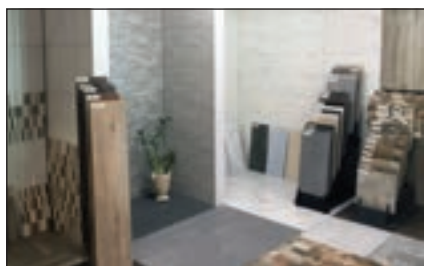
Ceiling fans can reduce reliance on costly air conditioners when cooling homes in summertime.

about 4 degrees without adversely affecting comfort levels. Men and women who live in temperate climates may find that ceiling fans are enough to keep rooms cool without the need for air conditioners.

Homeowners can combat high utility bills and excessive energy consumption during the summer with various eco- and budget-friendly strategies.

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THE BENEFITS OF WATER FEATURES IN *garden landscapes*

Many homeowners aspire to make their homes appear as beautiful and welcoming as possible. Exterior renovations may be high on homeowners' to-do lists, and landscaping is oftentimes a key component of those projects.

When planning gardens, homeowners may benefit by considering more than just flowers and shrubs while giving thought to other elements that can breathe vitality into their landscape designs. Water features can do just that, as such features provide more than just visual appeal:

Aesthetic appeal: Water elements stand out against the greenery and foliage and can be used to create focal points around the garden or yard. A single fountain can draw the eye, while a trickling stream or waterfall can deliver water to various spots in

the landscape.

Soothing sound: Rain drops on a rooftop or waves lapping on a shoreline elicit feelings of harmony and relaxation. Water features can bring that gentle sound close to home, further enhancing the ambiance.

Brings texture: Water has its own unique and fluid texture that can provide stark contrast to blades of grass or the hard lines of architectural elements, such as pergolas or retaining walls. A pond or fountain can soften lines.

Enhance the natural ecosystem: Water features can attract wildlife to a property. Birds may visit to take a quick sip, and dragonflies are sure to dart and hover over the shimmering ripples. Inviting natural wildlife to the yard can add hours of entertainment by enjoying the animals and insects.



Water features, such as ponds or waterfalls, can add a special touch to the landscape.

Remedy problem areas: Rather than fighting with the landscape, homeowners can adapt it. An area of the yard prone to soggy conditions or flooding can be transformed into a pond or waterfall to work with natural surroundings.

Foster a passion: Many people turn to water features so they can explore the hobby of nurturing an outdoor aquarium. Koi ponds are relatively easy to install and maintain, and the vibrant fish add visual appeal.

Add a personal touch: Water features are as unique as the homeowners who create them. To set landscaping apart from neighbors' homes, homeowners can add fountains, ponds, or flowing water elements to their properties. Decorative water features also can be melded with pools and spas to help these man-made recreational areas seem like they were carved right out of the natural landscape.

Water features can take landscapes to the next level with sounds, texture, movement, and beauty.

How to hang photos and artwork with ease

Personal touches turn a house into a home. Hanging pictures, whether they're personal photographs or artwork, can really change the character of a room.

Unfortunately, some people may not know the proper ways to display pictures on a wall. Design maven Martha Stewart advises that the first step is to gather all of the pictures that are in consideration for hanging. This will enable a person to see what is available and edit his selection based on the space available, theme, or color scheme. Having the artwork there enables a person to move it around like a puzzle until the placement feels just right.

Next, plan on hanging artwork at 57 inches on center, according to the renovation experts at Apartment Therapy. "On center" means the middle of the photograph or painting will always be at 57 inches, as this measurement represents the average human eye height. This height is regularly used as a



Hanging pictures, whether they're personal photographs or artwork, can really change the character of a room.

standard in many galleries and museums.

When the goal is to hang multiple pictures, treat the entire grouping as a single

unit. This means creating the layout and finding the center of the middle piece of the grouping. To make picture grouping easier, use pa-

per templates with arrows to indicate whether the artwork will be hung horizontally or vertically. These templates can then be easily taped to the wall and rearranged until the grouping is ideal.

There are no hard-and-fast rules concerning frames, meaning they do not all have to match. But placing framed artwork side-by-side can give a person a feel for whether the images and the frames work together in the space. Some people like to use frames of similar colors and sizes. Others want the eclectic mix-and-match appeal. It's ultimately up to the homeowner.

Measuring is key to hanging a picture correctly on the wall. Take into consideration the type of attachment, whether it's D-rings, sawtooth hangers, wire, or other fasteners on the back. Measure from the top of the frame to the hanger. Measure the wall to achieve the 57-inch on center location, and then calculate where this falls within the height

of the artwork and frame top. Adjust accordingly and mark. Then measure the distance from the frame top to the hanger location on the wall.

Be sure to take the weight of the picture into consideration when selecting hanging hardware. Wall anchors may be needed if measurements determine a wall stud will not help secure the artwork — to keep the frame sturdy in the drywall. Home improvement resource Today's Homeowner also suggests using self-adhesive rubber bumpers to the bottom corners on the back of the frame before hanging so that the picture will not damage the wall and will help it hang level.

It can take a few attempts to hang pictures correctly, but with practice it should come with greater ease. The good news is there are new products constantly being evolved to make picture hanging easier, including those that enable removal and relocation of artwork without damaging walls.

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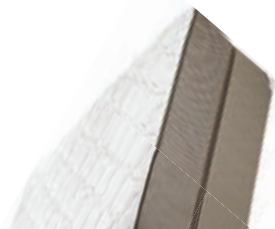
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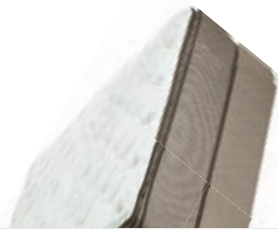
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Awnings can make spaces more comfortable

Many homeowners are eager to step outdoors upon the return of warm weather. Outdoor living spaces have grown in popularity as more and more homeowners embrace opportunities to entertain and lounge around in their yards.

Outdoor entertaining areas can be great, but such spaces may go unused when summer sun makes it uncomfortable to spend time outdoors. But a retractable awning can change all that. Homeowners often find awnings can be worthwhile investments that can be beneficial both inside and outside of the home:

Increase usable yard space

Awnings can create privacy and establish boundaries for outdoor living areas. Place an awning over a deck, tables and chairs, or an entire patio area. Some people like to install awnings over a portion of their pools to provide shade for those who want to escape the sun's rays. Motorized awnings can be retracted with the push of a button, which can help homeowners with physical limitations.

Protect against sun damage

Awnings provide excellent protection against sun damage, as they can shield outdoor furniture from direct sunlight, helping to reduce the chances for discoloration or fading.

Reduce air conditioning costs

In addition to shading outdoor living areas, smaller awnings can be placed over southern- and western-facing windows, shielding interiors



When renovating outdoor areas, homeowners should not overlook awnings that can make outdoor living spaces more livable.

against the sun's rays. In turn, this may reduce reliance on air conditioners.

Expand gardening possibilities

Some plants require very specific light conditions to grow. Awnings can protect shade-loving plants from harsh sunlight and filter the sun for plants that require indirect light. They can be placed over a patio container garden or permanent garden structure.

Add value for buyers

For those who may be selling their homes soon, awning may help them receive top dollar. Today's buyers want houses that have attractive and functional exteriors, and an awning can provide that competitive advantage over similar homes in the neighborhood.

When renovating outdoor areas, homeowners should not overlook awnings that can make outdoor living spaces more livable.

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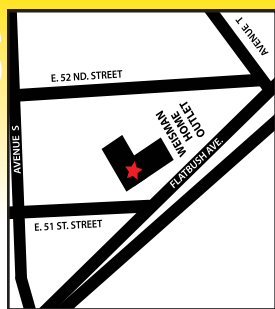
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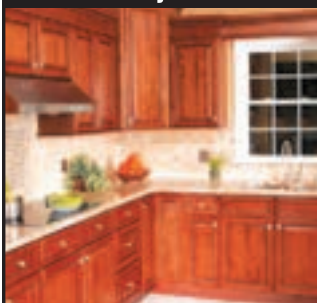
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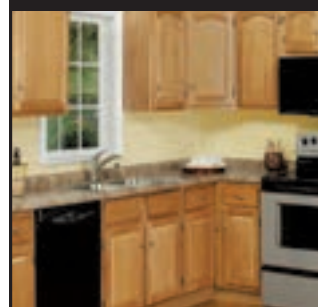


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Tales of inspiration and amazement

"Strange Fruit Volume II" by Joel Christian Gill
c.2018, Fulcrum Books
\$19.95 / \$26.95 Canada
108 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Apples, bananas, cherries, and oranges.

Tasty things, available from an appropriate tree, perhaps even one in your back yard. But what's the story about them? Who was the first brave soul to take a chance and take a bite? In the new book "Strange Fruit Volume II" by Joel Christian Gill, you'll see that some histories remain hidden on the vine.

Throughout history, a lot of untold things happened that deserve to be remembered and retold. That's especially true of Black history and in this book, author Joel Christian Gill offers up a few tales of inspiration and amazement.

Take, for instance, the story of Stagecoach Mary Fields.

At a time when the average man was not quite five-and-a-half-feet tall, Mary stood six feet in height and weighed 200 pounds. It's been said that she never backed down from work nor

gunman, she was brave, she loved baseball, and when the Postal Service needed a stagecoach driver for a dangerous route, Mary literally fought to get the job.

And then there's the tale of Blind Tom Wiggins.

Born into slavery, Tom was without sight from his very first day. He was also autistic and because of that, his master didn't think much about him — until the day that Tom sat down at a piano and played beautiful music without having received any lessons at all. Alas, his owner tricked Tom's mother into signing away his life and though Tom later became famous, he was never given his freedom.

On the other side of the world, Millie and Christine McCoy were perfectly willing to speak up for themselves. Also born into slavery, in 1852, the girls were conjoined at the pelvis and were exhibited in Paris as "freaks" that could sing; their managers, in fact, called them "The Two-Headed Nightingale." They performed beautifully, and at age 15, they used their voices to announce their decision that their performances would no longer include "embarrassing public medical examinations." At

the height of the Civil War, the enslaved girls took complete control of their lives!

Have you ever thought about the parts of history you might have missed? A small story here, a single person there, things you might like to know about? If you've wondered, then you can stop now: "Strange Fruit Volume II" helps fill you in.

With a title based on a Billie Holliday song about lynching, you can bet that the tales inside this book — most of which come from the latter 1800s — are inspirational in the courage shown by their subjects. Author Joel Christian Gill brings eight individuals to light, telling about them with sparse colors, illustrations, and few words; despite that the stories begin awfully abruptly, that irresistible artwork makes this book kid-friendly. A bibliography offers a path toward more information.

While adults can (and will) surely enjoy this book and may learn a thing or two, it's really meant for those 11-and-up. If a quick-to-read curiosity-satisfier is exactly what's needed for home or school, "Strange Fruit Volume II" is peachy.



Book cover of "Strange Fruit Volume II" by Joel Christian Gill.

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How to outsmart prostate cancer!

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in America, ranking only behind skin cancer — and it will affect one out of every nine American men during their lifetime. In fact, research has shown that more than half of all men in the United States over the age of 70 are now living with some form of prostate cancer.

Types and typical victims of prostate cancer

Most forms of the disease progress slowly and are highly treatable. However, prostate cancer is deadly, and it kills quickly. Once a patient's cancer reaches its fourth and final stage, the five-year survival rate is a dismal 29 percent.

Two groups of men are particularly susceptible to prostate cancer: those over the age of 70, and African-American men. The latter are 1.6 times more likely to develop the disease than white men, and 2.6 times more likely to experience prostate cancer than Asian-American men.

Prostate cancer: Symptoms and diagnosis

Most alarming is that many patients with the disease don't experience any symptoms. Experts like Dr. Joshua Halpern of the Accord Physicians Group recommends that all men, especially African Americans, be screened regularly for prostate cancer by a doctor once they reach age 40.

Dr. Halpern is a certified radiation

oncologist who received his oncology training at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and MD Anderson Cancer Center, the nation's leading cancer treatment center. He has treated all forms of cancer for more than 40 years, and has had hands-on experience with thousands of prostate cancer patients. He explains the processes that urologists use to diagnose and confirm the disease.

The first step in the rigorous process of diagnosing prostate cancer is to draw blood and conduct a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test. PSA is a protein naturally produced in men's prostate glands, and abnormally-high PSA levels may indicate the presence of prostate cancer, although they could also be signs of other prostate issues such as inflammation or enlargement.

Normal levels of the protein are usually in the 0.0–4.0 range. But once the PSA levels are greater than 4.0, Dr. Halpern says, the normal procedure is to recommend a biopsy during which a small section of prostate tissue is removed and examined for signs of cancer.

Dr. Halpern explains that if

the biopsy results are positive for prostate cancer, the next step is to consult a radiation oncologist. At Accord Physicians Group, he and his fellow physicians work in close collaboration to decide on a course of action.

Prostate cancer treatment

Dr. Halpern is one of the first oncologists to use a form of treatment called Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT). It is completely non-invasive, and involves 45 10-minute sessions during which a short beam of radiation is targeted directly at the inside of the prostate.

"Published reports on IMRT/IGRT radiation, with careful administration, have shown the best results and the lowest toxicity," says Dr. Halpern. "In our experience, tumor control is very high and tolerance to our treatment is nearly universal."

Excellent results of the cancer control as well as the low side effect profile are due to the fascinating physics of this radiation therapy. The plan that's used to deliver the radiotherapy is individually and specifically designed for each

person. It takes into account the differences that all people have in relation to their size, muscle to body fat ratio, and the physical size of the prostate and the surrounding organs. It also takes into consideration any anatomic changes that may have occurred due to previous pelvic surgeries, trauma, and anatomic abnormalities such as inguinal hernias. After this detailed plan is complete, the treatment therapy begins. On a daily basis during the therapy, the equipment and the technician who delivers the radiation performs a daily minute adjustment to precisely deliver the radiotherapy despite differences such as contents of the colon and the amount of urine in the bladder at the time of treatment.

Once IGRT therapy has been completed, the patient usually exhibits dramatically lower PSA levels, indicating that the cancer is either gone or is fully in remission. In the occasional case when PSA levels remain extremely high, the oncologist will meet regularly with the patient to track progress and discuss options. All medical personnel at Accord Physicians

Group have received special training to ensure the patient's comfort during and after treatment, and to respectfully and compassionately assist him with the emotional effects of a cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Accord Physicians Group and prostate cancer

Dr. Halpern states, "Over the last 10 years we treated hundreds of prostate cancer patients at Accord Physicians." He elaborates, that "Our cure and remission rates are between 93 and 95 percent over this 10-year period, and our side effect profile is well below the national average."

Dr. Halpern urges all men — particularly African-American men over the age of 40 — to be screened regularly for prostate cancer.

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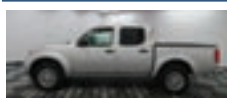
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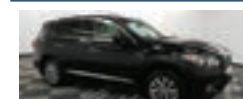
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Keeping traditional kite making alive in Guyana

By Tangerine Clarke

The Easter season got off to a fun start for children of Albouystown, Georgetown, when Guyanese from the diaspora volunteered their skills during a kite-making workshop to keep the cultural tradition alive.

Rotarian Janice Hall, who traveled from New Jersey, made a donation towards the purchase of kite-making material and snacks, while putting a smile on the faces of the children, many who never had the opportunity to participate in the pastime.

Hall said kite making is a wonderful tradition that is dying because there are imported options. Some of the kids, who took part, would not have had a kite to fly otherwise.

"By teaching kids the art of kite making, I am hoping they also learn self reliance. Besides, it was wonderful to see them get excited as their kites take shape from frame, to paper and glue."

"As their kites soar about the ground, I hope they too can rise above their current situations and reach great heights in their lives," said Hall, who was part of the initial kite making session one year ago, in the same village

where she was born.

The kite-making workshop is one of many other initiatives, the newly elected Georgetown City Counsellor, Malcolm Ferriera, has planned to give back to the village where he too was born, and grew up.

A broadcaster, mentor, and politician, Ferriera, who seem to be loved and respected by the children, said the pleasure has always been his to help the community, while keeping certain cultures alive.

"We could have asked for financing to purchase kits but that was not our tradition and custom as children. We cannot make the art and joy of learning to make a kite, and raising a kite in the air to just go away. We chose to do this a second year, to also bring the community together," he added.

One hundred kids were taught to enhance wooden frames donated by joiners in the community. They added paper, and personalized the kites in color and designed, said the dread-locked Ferriera, who dedicates his time to ensure kids in the underprivileged community thrive.

In addition, he heads the "Ambitious Future Leaders" group, that benefit from academics, vocational skills, as well as life skills, proper nutrition, anti-bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, and teenage pregnancy education.

Ferriera, with the help of influential communications professional, Margaret Lawrence, will start an audio engineering program to give youth more options for the future.

He looks forward to expanding future projects, with the help of the community and the Guyanese diaspora, through his WhatsApp platform (011-592-628-8245). Sponsorship of kite making workshops, mentoring program, or financial donations, will be accepted through this medium.

Despite the inclement weather on Easter Monday, April 2, thousands of kids and parents alike littered the busy ocean-front Seawall, and other wide open spaces around the Georgetown environs, where colorful kits were hoisted.

Kite flying is one of the most exciting and cherished festival, celebrated nationwide by fami-



Rotarian Janice Hall from New Jersey, hands over funds to Georgetown City Counsellor, Malcolm Ferriera. The donation went towards kite-making material. The kite frames were donated by local joiners. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

lies. Kites of all color, size and shape, uniquely designed were seen flying in the sky.

The celebration starts weeks before Easter Monday, a sym-

bolic occasion for kite lovers, many who choose plastic imported bird kite, a cheaper version to the traditional wood frame design.



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Keep your teen fueled with these 4 vital tips

High school can be intense, but being a student athlete can intensify expectations.

As the start of spring sports approaches, the stakes are even higher for your student to maintain the success they had first semester. There are practices, matches and conference finals that have to fit in with exams and semester-long projects. Being a standout in the classroom and on the field requires expert-level planning and execution.

That's where parents play a huge role in helping their teen athletes keep it all in balance. Here are four easy tips to help you ensure that your teen is ready for a great season, on and off the field.

Food: Allison Maurer - a sports dietitian and Gatorade consultant who has worked with high school and collegiate athletes - says, "The important thing to remember is that food is fuel. It gives athletes the energy they need to perform and also helps them recover. When planning your athletes' meals, look for whole food sources that provide high-quality fats, lean proteins and complex carbohydrates. Talk to your athlete about his or her fuel strategy before, during and after practices and games, and offer support by providing healthy, energy rich snacks."

Hydration: When exercising hard, the body cools itself through sweat. If body mass is reduced by about 2 percent, which would be 3 pounds of water weight loss in a 150-pound athlete, it can negatively affect performance, according to the National Athletic Trainers' Association's (NATA) Position Statement on Fluid Replacement for Athletes.

"Athletes lose more than water in sweat, so it's important that they take their hydration seriously since it can impact performance," Maurer says. "There are a number of products to meet an athlete's hydration and fueling preferences. For those looking for an organic fueling

option, I recommend G Organic, Gatorade's latest product. It's made with only seven ingredients and provides the same hydration benefits that athletes expect from Gatorade."

Rest: Although teens may seem to bounce back easily from a night with too little rest, the truth is that good sleep helps both learning and athletic performance. Sleep helps athletes recover, especially after they've pushed their limits in an intense workout. Being rested can also improve reaction time, as well as speed and accuracy. In addition, teens with earlier bedtimes had better grades than those who stayed up later and slept less, according to a study of 3,000 subjects cited by the National Sleep Foundation.

Talk about these benefits with your athlete, and encourage them to go to bed and rise at the same time each day. Also, the glowing light of electronic devices can also interfere with sleep. So, help your teen come up with a strategy to power down an hour or so before bedtime in order to prepare their minds for a night of restorative sleep.

Planning: Schedules have a way of colliding, and this especially happens when a huge test and a game are scheduled for the same day. Each week, sit down with your student athlete and walk through that week's schedule. Look at practices, games, homework assignments and tests, and create a calendar. That way, if a midterm and a game take place on the same day, he or she can plan accordingly. This will help avoid a late-night, stress-filled cram session that will steal from their performance in the classroom and on the field.

Life as a student athlete means keeping everything in balance. By focusing on the body - from nutrition to time management - athletes can focus on giving their best performance this upcoming season.

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Vincy cultural group re-elects long-standing prez

By Nelson A. King

One of the few Vincentian cultural groups in Brooklyn has re-elected its long-standing president, Dr. Roxie Irish, for yet another two-year term.

Dr. Irish — a youth minister at the Miracle Temple Ministries, an evangelical church dominated by Jamaicans and Vincentians in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn — was recently re-elected head of the United Vincy Cultural Group of Brooklyn (UVCGB), which she founded in 2003. She has been the group's president from the inception.

"This is not a task that is taken lightly," Dr. Irish told Caribbean Life in an exclusive interview. "The responsibility is a great challenge, and I am humbled by the fact that again I have been elected to continue to serve in this capacity."

Despite many challenges and even some setbacks, Irish said she was "yet grateful to Almighty God for His call on my life."

"I thank the members whom I consider family for their trust in my leadership," she added. "I am striving to lead with a spirit of excellence, which is a reflection of the Excellent God that

we serve."

Irish said she founded UVCGB in 2003 "because of the lack of adequate medical attention in the rural communities (in St. Vincent and the Grenadines), a plight my grandmother and many of her friends were faced with, which was of great concern to us."

"It is now 15 years since we have been serving; and, yes, I use the word 'serve' because that is what we do in an effort to be a blessing to others," the Born-Again Christian added, echoing UVCGB's motto: "We are Blessed to be a Blessing!"

She said members serve on a voluntary basis, stating that "even with their commitments to families, churches, jobs, etc., they are faithful to the mission in planning and preparing for group events and commitments."

"That is so very much appreciated," Irish said. "So, I thank God for His many blessings on this organization."

"We have experienced God in such profound ways through His guidance, His favor, His provisions, and, most important, His constant presence," Irish added.

"Heartfelt thanks to our faithful helpers and supporters. No accomplishment is without your dedication. Our greater is still yet ahead."

She said UVCGB also performs for good causes at many functions organized by other charitable groups in the US.

The group launched its first folk CD in 2017. All folk songs, except one, were composed by UVCGB members.

Irish said the goals of the UVCGB are primarily "to donate medical supplies and equipment to clinics and hospitals in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in order to enhance healthcare in the country," and "to promote Vincy culture throughout North America and elsewhere, via folk songs, chorale speeches, skits, storytelling, plays, poems, dancing, etc."

These events, Irish said, the group performs at, among others, concerts, prayer breakfasts and Christmas Serenades, "and, at the same time, help raise funds for donations."

She said UVCGB goal is "to generally assist Vincentians everywhere, whom are in dire medical or financial need."



Dr. Roxie Irish (far right) performs with the United Vincy Cultural Group of Brooklyn during National Heritage Month celebrations in early March at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn. Photo by Nelson A. King

Two sides of Jamaica: Exhibit analyzes country's perception

By Alexandra Simon

Jamaica through a different lens.

In a new art exhibit titled "By the Rivers of Babylon," visual artist and New York University professor Jacqueline Bishop analyzes her homeland in recent times. The monthlong exhibit, which opens on March 30 at Sro Gallery, was inspired by the aftermath of the infamous international manhunt for gang leader Christopher "Dudus" Coke in 2010, and the decades-old tourist perception of the island nation — two extremes in which outsiders often see Jamaica, said Bishop. And in her search for family during the manhunt she discovered something unsettling.

"My first instinct was to get an idea of what was going on because I still had friends and family in Jamaica, but in trying to get through and find

information online — I kept running into idyllic tourist images," she said. "And this juxtaposition became an arising problem for me."

From that moment on, Bishop began to examine the way Jamaica was seen through the eyes of the world, and challenge how it was seen. Working in France at the time, she felt conflicted on what it personally meant to her. And a few of her first artworks in the 36-piece exhibit highlighted those two extremes.

"I am an American citizen and a Jamaican citizen who ended up in France working for the U.S., so I felt that both parts of myself were at war over this guy," said Bishop. "The Dudus and landscape paintings came out of that, and I started doing a body of work against those typical images because I always felt there were two sides people saw Jamaica

— the tourist side and the gritty images of the inner city."

Some of the art depicts a street vendorship, shantytowns and homes, and some written work.

The artwork stands to be somewhat of a lesson for anyone who categorizes the country in one way, said Bishop. She says her art is a learning opportunity for guests to see the many aspects of Jamaica.

"They can learn that Jamaica is a very complex place and it is not one thing or the other. Dudus will never define Jamaica and tourism will never define it either," said Bishop. "And neither will Babylon or Zion define it because Jamaica is a mixture of all of these things and I hope people take away that Jamaica is a very complicated place, and trying to flatten it into one specific place is not feasible."

Bishop said her mis-



Her artwork depicts various aspect of life in Jamaica — the good and the not so good. Jacqueline Bishop

sion with her artwork was also to foster and build more intra-Caribbean relationships and give light to issues yet to be heard.

"If this exhibit prompts one thing, it's the way in

which we connect with other Caribbean islands and foster dialogue and build bridges," she said. "My work is to be the voice for the voicelessness, tell untold stories, and foster bridges."

"By the Rivers of Babylon" at Sro Gallery [1144 Dean St. between Nosstrand and Rogers avenues in Crown Heights, (347) 489-6189, www.srogallery.com]. March 30–April 22.

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Marcha Tracey.

'Paradise Plum' sweetens festival

By Vinette K. Pryce

The second annual "We Are One" Caribbean Music, Comedy and Theater Festival return this month with a nostalgic, entertaining and inspiring presentation staged in conjunction with Black Spectrum Theater to celebrate 48 years of excellence and stellar showcases at the Queens-based cultural center.

Presented by Carl Clay, "Paradise

Continued on Page 46

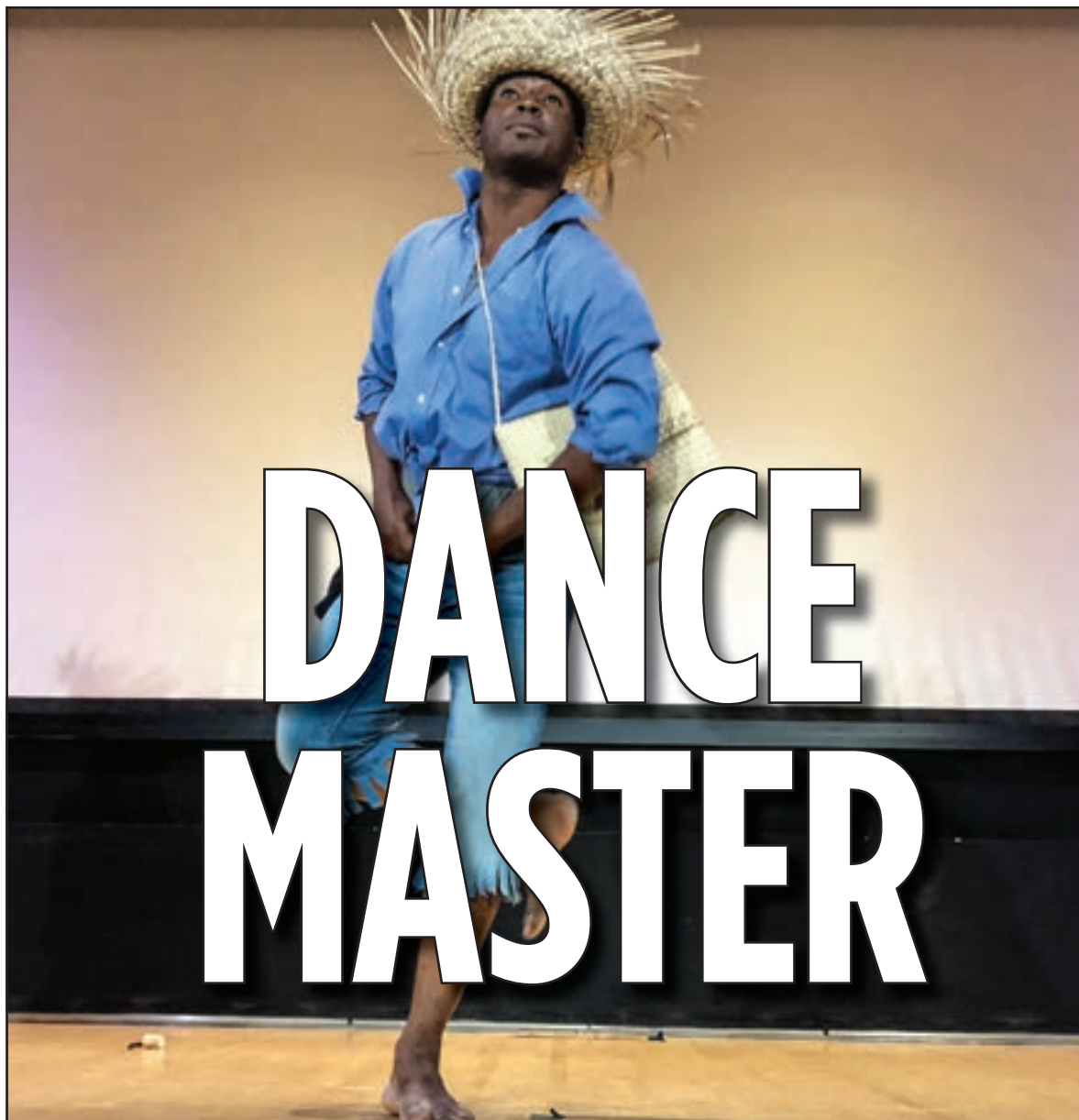
Shaggy and Sting collaborate

By Alexandra Simon

International reggae pop singer Shaggy, and legendary British rocker Sting have collaborated for a new musical project titled "44/486." The singer and the former frontman of the band The Police, are putting out a mostly reggae-inspired and upbeat project.

The lead single of the project, "Don't Make Me Wait," came out earlier this

Continued on Page 46



Jean-Aurel Maurice performing the Zaka dance which depicts the hard labor of field work.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Haitians pay tribute to Jean-Léon Destiné

By Tequila Minsky

Five years ago, the Haitian and the folkloric dance community mourned the death of an icon from their midst, Jean-Léon Destiné. As a dancer and choreographer, he brought Haiti's traditional music and dance onto American stages and international venues. Soon after his death, dancers influenced by this master, talked of having a major tribute to him.

A stellar assembly of dancers and scholars of Destiné formed a com-

mittee this past summer, spearheaded by Valerie Rochon, to plan the celebratory Memories of Destiné: A Centennial Celebration that took place on March 29, 2018 to honor him on what would have been his 100th birthday (March 26).

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center hosted this homage to this man who danced well into his senior years and influenced hundreds of dancers.

After pouring libations, the

evening began with a drum salute from traditional Haitian community drummers — Jean-Guy (Fan-Fan) Rene on Manman Drum, Jean Mary Brignol and Marcus Schwartz on Segon drum and Jude (Yatande) Sanon on Boula Drum.

Archival footage from the Library's Jerome Robbins Dance Division took former students and colleagues far back in time. What a delight for the audience to watch the 33-year-old Destiné

Continued on Page 46

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- Meant To Be**
Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line
- Finesse**
Bruno Mars & Cardi B
- The Middle**
Zedd, Maren Morris & Grey
- God's Plan**
Drake
- Perfect**
Ed Sheeran
- Pray For Me**
The Weeknd & Kendrick Lamar
- Lights Down Low**
MAX Feat. gnash
- Never Be The Same**
Camila Cabello
- New Rules**
Dua Lipa
- Whatever It Takes**
Imagine Dragons

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- My Dear Melancholy**
The Weeknd
- Golden Hour**
Kacey Musgraves
- The Greatest Showman**
Soundtrack
- Expectations**
Hayley Kiyoko
- Blackout**
Steffany Gretzinger
- Girl Going Nowhere**
Ashley McBryde
- The World Is Yours**
Rich The Kid
- Jesus Christ Superstar**
Various Artists
- From The Fires**
Greta Van Fleet
- Face Yourself**
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DANCE MASTER

Continued from Page 45

dance in the 1951 film version of *Witch Doctor* — a dance work inspired by an exorcism ritual.

A film clip of his Harvest Festival Dance from 1954 was also shown.

Jacob's Pillow Archivist Norton Owen spoke of how Destiné came into his own in the years he spent at Jacobs Pillow — a professional connection as performer and teacher that spanned more than 50 years. Soon after his first Pillow appearance in 1949, Destiné hosted Ted Shawn's inaugural and impactful two-week excursion to Haiti.

A panel of scholars and dancers shared a litany of personal memories.

The KaNu Dance Theater troupe performed its dance, *Breaking the Chains*, choreographed by Jessica St. Vil with vocals sung by Riva Nyri Precil and accompanied by the Haitian musicians.

Inspired by Destiné's dance for agriculture and in honor of the vodou god "Cousin Zaca," Jean-Aurel Maurice performed *Dance Zaca*.

Jean-Léon Destiné's youngest son, Carlo, whose striking resemblance definitely made the audience feel that Destiné was in the house, sang, as is his forte, a medley of Haitian creole songs: *Ti moute tetu* (Little Tetu), *Shango*, and *L'artibonite*. Carlo joined his father's dance company as a singer from 1970-1980.

"Destiné was my mentor as an adult dancer," recalls Nadia Dieudonne on this master's impact, (as many others in the audience). Dieudonne started at first with his company. "I then became his legs for master classes at Jacobs Pillow and in California." Nadia Dieudonne choreographed the Nago section of *"Breaking the Chains"*.

She also reconstructed and danced Destiné's "Ceremony of



Haitian drummers providing the rhythms diring the tribute to Jean-Léon Destiné. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Rada"— in which the ancestral spirits are called to ensure the continued powers of the religion. Rada is the first rite to open a vodou ceremony.

"It was humbling and sym-

bolic to work alongside original members of his company," she said, referring to Carolyn Webb, Pat Hall and Jacques Barbot who with others danced the concluding homage of the evening.

'Paradise Plum'

Continued from Page 45

Plum" the weekend performances offer a Jamaican sweetener written by Marcha Tracey, an actress, dancer and playwright.

Described to being "an inspiring Jamaican comedic drama in patois, woven with a tapestry of rhythmic beats, romance, obstacles and conquest," migrates from the Caribbean region and particularly those from the island will identify the title as one associated with "a hard candy with a sweet shell and sour-flavored core."

Neither a fruit nor the ideal utopian delight, the confectionary is a sugar-coated, two-colored treat children of a certain generation identified.

The title of the play teases with the sweet and sour reference but according to Tracey, "explores the divergent dreams within the lives of Lansford Shelby and his love Mazie."

"Lansford is in big trouble. The area Don Bugsy and his lark 'Mad Puss' Llewellyn, threatens to do bodily harm to Lansford and anyone connected to him if he does not come up with what is owed. The tensions Lansford face, and his struggle to retain dignity in a harsh and changing environment, forms this seminal

Jamaican comedic drama."

Delivered raw and real in patois familiar to Caribbean audiences, it comes with a disclaimer giving notice that the two-hour presentation incorporates drug use, violence, and strong language.

Through its storyline and character development, the production offers audiences valuable insight of hope and inspiration into the influences of Jamaican history, politics, art, proverbs and philosophy.

Set in Jamaica, "Paradise Plum" features, Shirley Parkinson-Wright (Shaetta), Swavian Loney (Lansford), Carlene Taylor (Mazie), Dianne Dixon (Madda B), Danny Ferryman (Mas Pepper), Orlando Lawrence (Bugsy), Ronald Millford/Lloyd Crosdale (Llewellyn 'Mad Puss'), Leila Wright (Gladys), and Kaye Neale (Barrister Walsh).

While the comedic drama unfolds, undoubtedly plenty of nostalgia will proliferate through references and dialogue.

Black Spectrum Theatre is located in Roy Wilkins Park, 177th Street & Baisley Blvd., Jamaica, Queens.

Performances are on April 27 & April 28 at 8 pm and on April 29, a 4 pm. matinee.

Music collaboration

Continued from Page 45

year and performed well on the digital reggae chart, scoring a debut number one spot.

The 12-track project comprises of songs written and performed by Shaggy and Sting, and features appearances by Morgan Heritage

and Aidonia.

The pair will be promoting their project on television later this month with scheduled appearances for "Live with Kelly and Ryan" and "The View." And they will go on tour in Europe this summer.



Reggae singer Shaggy and legendary rock star Sting, have collaborated on a new musical project titled "44/876."

Interscope

Grieving diplomat returns to kill zone

"Beirut"

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated R for profanity, violence and a nude image

In English and Arabic with subtitles

Running time: 109 minutes

Production Studios: Radar Pictures / ShivHans Pictures / Kasbah - Film Tanger

Distributor: Bleecker Street Media



Jon Hamm, Dean Norris, and Rosamund Pike in "Beirut" (2018).

Sife Eddine El Amine

By Kam Williams

In 1972, Mason Skiles (Jon Hamm) was a career U.S. diplomat delighted to be serving his country overseas in Lebanon. In fact, he and his wife Nadia (Leila Bekhti) were so comfortable living in the Middle East that they had decided to adopt Karim (Idir Chender), a 13 year-old Palestinian refugee.

This, despite the fact that the destabilized region had a history of easily falling into a state of unrest where warring factions

remained on edge for months, if not years. As a seasoned veteran, Mason had become fast on his feet and knew to keep the lines of communication open because the fighting starts once the talking stops.

However, that philosophy proved futile the fateful day that a colleague, Cal Riley (Mark Pellegrino), arrived with some

shocking news. He announced that Karim could be a security risk since his older brother was Abu Rajal (Hicham Ouraqa), an infamous terrorist who had just taken part in the massacre of 11 Jewish athletes participating in the Summer Olympics staged in Munich.

Before Mason had a chance to react, gunmen burst into the

house and start taking hostages. By the time the dust settled, Karim had disappeared and Nadia lay dead with a bullet in her head. Therefore, Mason never got a chance to discern whether the orphan they had welcomed into the family with open arms was secretly a radical Islamist.

Fast-forward a decade, and

we find the still-grieving Mason addicted to alcohol while pursuing a totally different line of work in Boston. Then, he receives word that his old pal Cal has just been kidnapped in Lebanon. It doesn't take much for the U.S. State Department to coax him out of retirement. But can Mason lay off the booze, and does he still have what it takes to handle such a sensitive assignment?

That is the intriguing premise established at the outset of Beirut, an edge-of-the-seat, political thriller cleverly crafted by Oscar-nominee Tony Gilroy (for Michael Clayton). The picture was directed by Brad Anderson and features a top flight cast that includes Jon Hamm, Rosamund Pike, Dean Norris and Shea Whigham.

The plot thickens upon Mason's landing in Lebanon when he learns that the mastermind he must deal with is none other than the now-grown Karim, who is willing to exchange Cal for his missing brother, rumored to be languishing in an Israeli prison. A raw, super-realistic tale of revenge, set in a godforsaken kill zone not on this critic's bucket list.

Independent & Foreign Films

10x10 (Unrated) Suspense thriller about a young businesswoman (Kelly Reilly) who is kidnapped and locked in a soundproof, concrete cell by a creepy identity thief

(Luke Evans) Supporting cast includes Noel Clarke, Jason Maza and Olivia Chenery.

Beirut (R for profanity, violence and a nude image) Espionage thriller, set in the Eighties during Lebanon's civil war, about a retired U.S. diplomat (Jon Hamm) coaxed back into service by a CIA agent (Rosamund Pike) to negotiate the release of a kidnapped colleague (Mark Pellegrino). With Dean Norris, Shea Whigham and Douglas Hodge.

Bye Bye Germany (Unrated) Post-WWII dramedy, set in Frankfurt in 1946, revolving around the effort of a half-dozen, Jewish Holocaust survivors to raise enough money to move to America. Co-starring Moritz Bleibtreu, Antje Traue, Tim Seyfi, Mark Ivanir, Anatole Taubman and Hans Low. (In German and English with subtitles)

Nana (Unrated) Serena Dykman makes her directorial debut with this poignant biopic recounting her Holocaust survivor grandmother's ordeals in Auschwitz, Ravensbruck and Malchow. (In English and French with subtitles)

The Rider (R for profanity and drug



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

use) Bittersweet biopic about rising rodeo star Brady Blackburn's (Brady Jandreau) search for new meaning in life after suffering a near-fatal kick to the head from a horse. With Tim Jandreau, Lilly Jandreau, Cat Clifford and Lane Scott.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Borg vs. McEnroe (R for nudity and pervasive profanity) Tennis docudrama, set in the summer of 1980, revisiting the fierce rivalry between mild-mannered Bjorn Borg (Sverrir Gudnason) and hot-headed John McEnroe (Shia LaBeouf) leading to their historic showdown at Wimbledon. Featuring Stellan Skarsgard, Tuva Novotny and Scott Arthur.

Isle of Dogs (PG-13 for mature themes and violent images) Stop-motion animated adventure, directed by Wes Anderson and set in Japan, about a boy (Koyu Rankin) who runs away from home and steals a plane in order to find a beloved pooch quarantined on a remote island. Voice cast includes Bryan Cranston, Scarlett Johansson, Bill Murray, Edward Norton, Frances McDormand, Harvey Keitel, Greta Gerwig and Yoko Ono.

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- *Broadway World*

Photo: Carol Rosegg

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SPORTS

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Trinidad and Tobago's Michelle-Lee Ahye, second right, leads the field to win her women's 100m semifinal at the Carrara Stadium during the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia, Sunday, April 8, 2018. Associated Press / Mark Schiefelbein

T&T sprinter cops gold

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago female athlete Michelle-Lee Ayhe created history at the Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast, Australia when she copped Gold in the 100 meters women's final.

Taking silver with a time of 11.21 seconds was Jamaica's Christiana Williams, while Gayon Evans also from Jamaica took bronze in a time of 11.22 seconds.

Sprinter Ahye was named Trinidad

Continued on Page 50

Jason Holder to lead ICC team

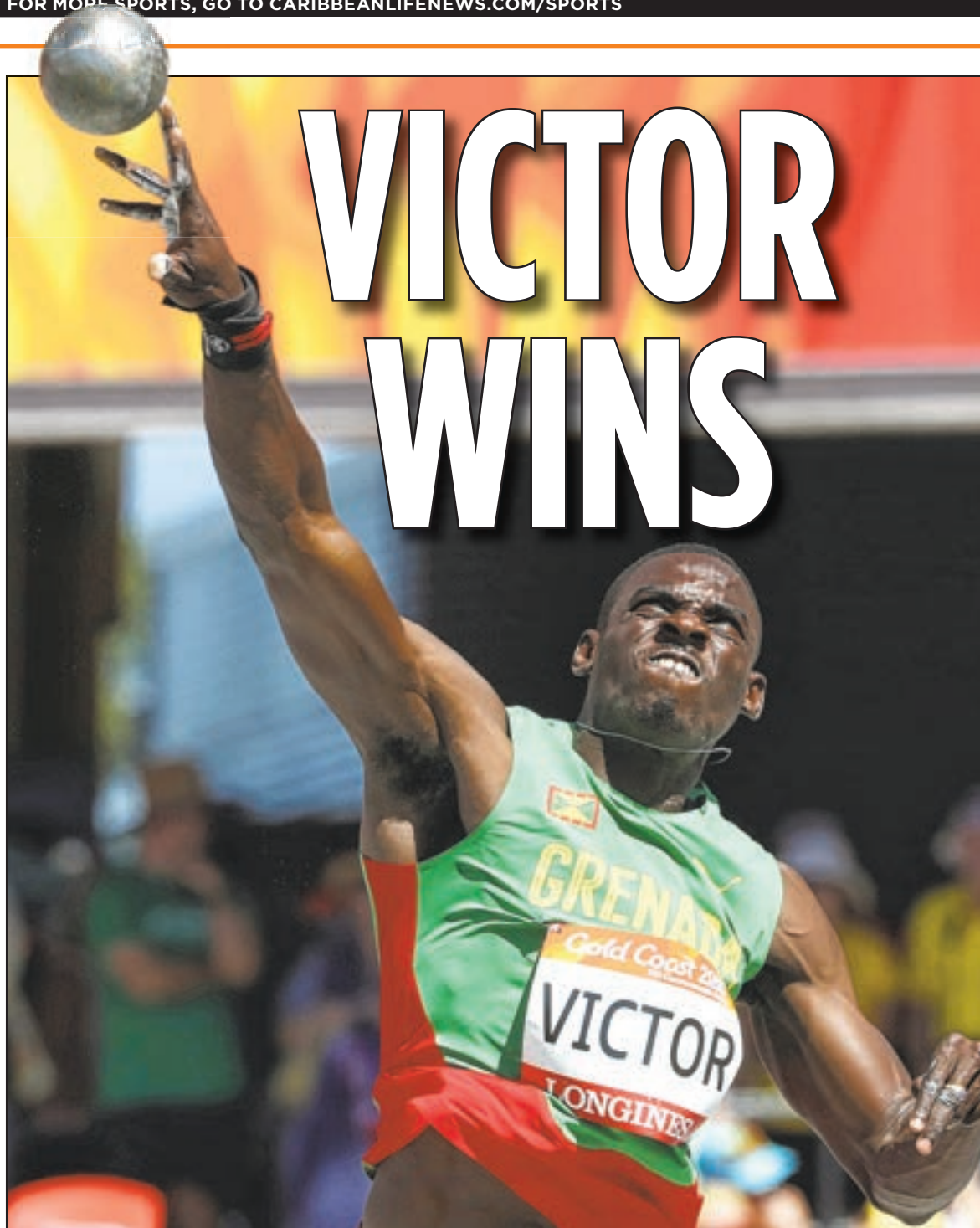
By Azad Ali

West Indies captain Jason Holder, was recently chosen to lead the ICC World Cup Qualifiers team of the tournament.

The team, which consisted of players from the West Indies, Scotland, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Ireland, was chosen by a selected jury of cricket commentators including Ian Bishop, Pommie Mbangwa, Lisa Sathalekar, Ian Callender (correspondent, Belfast Telegraph) and Liam Brickhill (correspondent, ICC Digital)

The "jury" noted that Holder showed

Continued on Page 50



Lindon Victor of Grenada throws the shot put in the decathlon at the Carrara Stadium during the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia, Monday, April 9, 2018. Associated Press / Mark Schiefelbein

Warner's title defense ends in pole vault

By John Pye

GOLD COAST, Australia (AP) — Damian Warner's bid to defend his Commonwealth Games decathlon title ended when he failed to clear a height in the pole vault, leaving the aptly-named Lindon Victor to win his first gold medal at a major meet.

Warner, the Olympic bronze and former world silver medalist, missed all three attempts at 4.50 meters — well short of his personal best of 4.90. After seven events, he was leading with 6,297 points. The 28-year-old Canadian dropped from first to sixth and didn't compete in the javelin or

the 1,500 meters on a wet night at the Carrara Stadium. His officials result: DNF.

Victor won the gold for Grenada with 8,303 points and Warner's Canadian teammate Pierce Lepage took silver at 8,171. Australia's Cedric

Continued on Page 50



Grenadian athlete Lindon Victor, right, celebrates with compatriot Kurt Felix after winning the gold for the men's decathlon, at Carrara Stadium during the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia, Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

Associated Press / Dita Alangkara

VICTORY FOR GRENADA'S VICTOR

Continued from Page 49

Dubler collected bronze in 7,983.

"It's not the way I wanted to win, with Damien having three fouls, but I prayed for the gold medal," Victor said. "It's 10 events, not nine. It's the nature of the decathlon."

Victor was competing at his first major international meet since graduating from Texas A&M, where he set an all-time collegiate record with 8,539 points and was a two-time NCAA decathlon champion.

"I'm looking forward to starting my professional year," he said. "I was a little below my personal record, but it's early in the season."

As far as he was concerned, he felt like a winner when he started the com-

petition with Victor on his singlet.

"I thank my parents for that," he said. "I say I'm already the victor."

Warner started competition on the second day of the event with the leading time in the 110-meter hurdles at 13.89 seconds. He had the fourth-best mark in the discus with a throw of 46.55 meters.

He started the decathlon competition on Monday with his season-best 10.29 seconds in the 100 and also threw a personal best 15:11 meters in the shot put and held a 129-point overnight lead over Lepage.

After surpassing 8,100 points for the first time and experience a major multi-sport competition for the first time, Lepage said he was looking forward to bigger meets.

He said he'd let Warner have time to himself because talking about the pole vault, which is where things can often go wrong in the decathlon.

"I know from experience — I know I've hit the pole — I did it three years in a row," he said. "When something like that happens, you leave them alone. Give him some space. He'll figure it out. He's a world-class athlete — I'm sure he'll come back and score even better."

Dubler, who moved into medal contention by posting the top mark in the pole vault at 5 meters, said Warner's late absence was a blow for the competition.

"Damian is an incredible athlete," Dubler said. "He's so involved and supportive of all the athletes — it's really tough to see him fall back."

ICC team

Continued from Page 49

his class and quality by taking 15 wickets and accumulating 219 runs in the tournament.

He also led the Windies side admirably, steering them to the final of the tournament versus Afghanistan, which won the final recently by seven wickets.

Holder's teammate Evin Lewis (316 runs in the tournament), will open the batting.

Kyle Coetzer (276 runs), the aggressive batsman and Scotland's captain, is the other opener.

Brendon Taylor, the veteran Zimbabwe batsman, led the batting charts with 457 runs and will fit in as the No 3 batsman. He also took 10 catches and will take up the wicket-keeping duties.

Marlon Samuels (304 runs), the bed-rock of Windies' batting will bat in the number four position.

Mohammed Nabi, with 291 runs and 12 catches, takes the No 5 position.

Holder will lead the side and bat at No 8.

The team: Evin Lewis (West Indies), Kyle Coetzer (Scotland), Brendan Taylor (Zimbabwe), Marlon Samuels (Windies), Mohammed Nabi (Afghanistan), Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe), Najibullah (Afghanistan), Jason Holder (Windies captain),



West Indies Jason Holder bowls to New Zealand during their One-Day International cricket match in Hamilton, New Zealand.

Associated Press / New Zealand Herald, Christine Cornege, File

Safyaan Sharif (Scotland), Boyd Rankin (Ireland), Mujeeb Rahman (Afghanistan) and Rashid Khan (Afghanistan) 12th.

Ayhe's gold

Continued from Page 49

and Tobago Sportswoman of the Year (2017) by the First Citizens Sports Foundation Sports Award at Queen's Hall, Port of Spain recently..

It was the second straight year that Ayhe has copped the "Sports-woman of the Year" award.

And in swimming Dylan Carter also created history for T&T by winning Silver in the Men's 50 butterfly final at the Commonwealth Games last Friday. It was the first ever medal for a swimmer at the Commonwealth Games.

Competing in lane six at the Optus Aquatics Center, Carter grabbed silver to finish second in an exciting race that saw first second and third place separated by just .36 of a second.

Carter, 22, who was competing in his first meet since turning professional, had the fastest reaction out of the blocks and touched the wall in 23.67 seconds.

South Africa Chad Le Clos, who was lowly out of the blocks but quickly took control of the race to secure gold in 23.17 second, while his compatriot Ryana Coetzee claimed the bronze in 23.37 second.

West Indies rankings

By Azad Ali

The West Indies is hoping for a positive result in the upcoming home series against Sri Lanka to avoid tumbling to ninth position in the ICC Test Rankings.

In the latest rankings released last week, the regional side was eighth on 72 points but just one point ahead of Bangladesh in ninth position.

The Windies take on Sri Lanka in a three-Test series in June, and will need a positive result if the team is to increase its points tally and make gains on seventh placed Pakistan on 88 points.

West Indies had had a poor record in Tests over the last year, winning just three of 10 matches. The team lost 12 of their last 20 Tests and won four.

Only last December, the West Indies suffered a whitewash in New Zealand, with both Tests ending inside four days.

The Windies will take on Sri Lanka from June 6-27, starting at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain before heading to the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia for the second Test, and ending the series with a historic day and night Test at Kensington Oval, Barbados.

Sri Lanka has never won a series in the Caribbean in three previous attempts, and has won just one Test in six.

Walk for Vincentian athletes going to Penn Relays

By Nelson A. King

Every year, for the past three years, as the Brooklyn-based Vincentian educational and cultural group, Club St. Vincent, Inc., hosts a walk-a-thon to support Vincentian athletes at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, it rained, was bitterly cold and blustery, or there was the threat of snow.

This year, was no exception: There was the imminent threat of snow and rain.

But, despite the ominous weather prediction, about 30 die-hard supporters still journeyed, in the very cold conditions, early Saturday morning to Marine Park in southern Brooklyn, to participate in the annual event.

It turned out, however, that the weather was much better than predicted.

"We had some new faces this year," said Ancilla Friday, the walk-a-thon coordinator and Club St. Vincent, Inc. vice president, in an exclusive Caribbean Life interview. "Some of our

former patrons were hesitant to come out because the weatherman predicted a snow storm for that morning.

"However, some 30 of us braved the weather, which turned out to be sunny and warmer than expected," she added, stating that walkers were "very upbeat and positive."

"There was a sense of 'Vincy' pride flowing through each person's expression and willingness to provide an opportunity for our children back home," Friday continued.

"There was one Vincentian gentleman, invited by one of our members, Frankie George, who came for the first time [and] who never heard of Club St. Vincent, Inc., and was not aware that schools in SVG [St. Vincent and the Grenadines] participate in the Penn Relays," she said.

Friday said staffers at Marine Park were "very accommodating by providing us with tables and chairs, whereas, in the past, we had to take our own."

"They treated us like family,"

she said.

"Our Vincy Saturday morning breakfast of saltfish and bakes, along with hot cocoa, tea and coffee, warmed up the walkers for the five-mile/six laps walk around the park. We also had a warm up exercise session."

The former Club St. Vincent, Inc. president said the walkers were provided with T-shirts and a walk-o-meter "to track their steps as they walked."

"The comradery was there; persons walked in twos, threes, or by themselves," she said.

Members of other organizations, who are part of the Brooklyn-based Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organizations, U.S.A., Inc. (COSAGO), also supported the worthy cause, Friday said.

"Regardless of the weather, our Vincentian patriots came out in support of our teams from home," said COSAGO president Laverne McDowald-Thompson, who participated in the walk-a-thon. "This brings a lot of joy, considering the purpose of the



Supporters of walk-a-thon at the Marine Park pavilion in Brooklyn.
Photo by Nelson A. King

walk.

"The support of our people, regardless of how small, will help us accommodate them [the athletes]," she added. "We are truly proud that schools from SVG will be represented at such a large athletic meet and for the athletes to have such expe-

rience. We can't wait to cheer them on."

As in previous years, McDowald-Thompson said COSAGO will be organizing a busload of Vincentians from Brooklyn to render boisterous support to the Vincentian athletes on the final and biggest day of the relays.



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you may have to admit that the master plan you have set up has a few flaws. You don't have to abandon it, just modify. These modifications may be relatively simple.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Pisces, you may think that you have missed an important opportunity, but don't get too worried just yet. With a few new strategies, you can regain your momentum.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you may be easily swayed this week by someone who is smooth-talking. Figure out if this person can be believed or not, but give them a chance.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
You may find yourself in a position where you can take on a leadership role, Cancer. Do not hesitate to jump onboard because this can be just what's needed for your career.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Responsibilities will soon be easier to handle, Leo. Not because the tasks are less difficult, but because you have more people on your side helping you out.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Planning a vacation can be almost as fun as traveling, Virgo. When someone asks for your help drawing up a travel itinerary, put all of your effort into the task.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Some sort of breakthrough in your life is soon to become a reality, Libra. It may be a financial windfall or a new job opportunity. Keep your eyes open to any and all possibilities.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
You can achieve great things this week, Scorpio. Ultimately, your accomplishments depend on how much you can focus on the tasks at hand. The ball is in your court.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you are on the move this week, but it is best to have a plan and not leave things to chance. Look ahead to all the possible scenarios that have the potential to trip you up.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, it is easy to get carried away with an idea. Just do not mistake obsession for focus. You need to pace yourself if you are going to be effective.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
You may need to postpone something you had hoped to finish this week, Aquarius. As long as it does not get pushed too far onto the back burner you should be fine.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, a setback of some kind may occur this week. Don't get too worried just yet. Adversity can be a learning experience.

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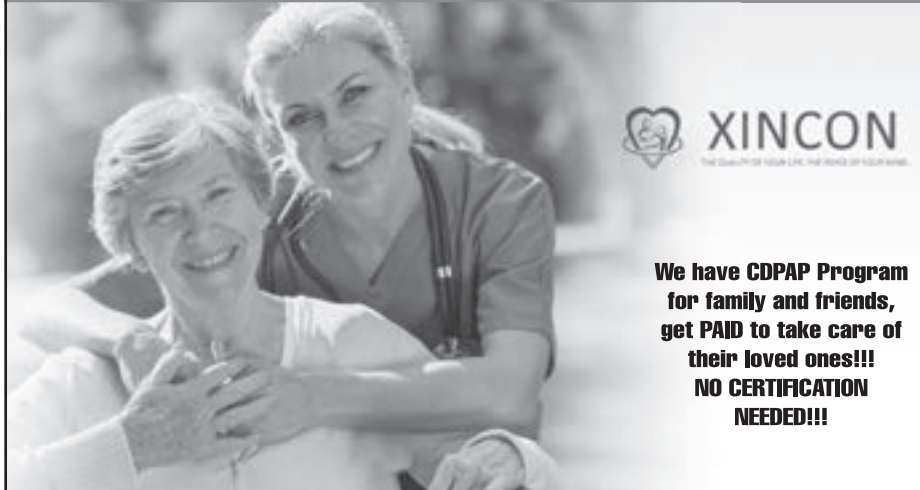
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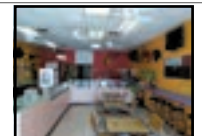
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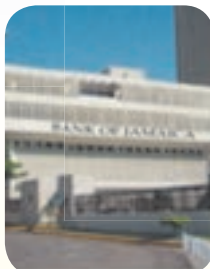
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LEGAL NOTICES

SIDEWALK CAFES

The Department of Consumer Affairs has scheduled a hearing at 2:00 PM on Wednesday April 18 2018 at 42 Broadway 5th Flr for the petition by SOFREH NYC LLC to maintain and operate a sidewalk cafe' at 75 SAINT MARKS AVE

SIDEWALK CAFES

in Brooklyn. Request for copies of the proposed revocable consent agreement may be addressed to: Department of Consumer Affairs, Attn: FOIL Officer 42 Broadway, New York NY 10004

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