

Island appeal

By Alexandra Simon

A Brooklyn state pol is ramping up her campaign to designate an area spanning several neighborhoods as Little Haiti with a weekend's worth of events in the heart of the proposed district.

Haitian-American Assemblywoman Rodney Bichotte (D-Flatbush), who proposes christening parts of East Flatbush, Flatbush, Ditmas Park, and Midwood as the "Little Haiti Cultural and Business District," will kick off the festivities in the area on May 18 — an annual Haitian holiday celebrating the nation's flag — and continue them for two days in an effort to draw attention to her initiative and those Brooklynites it honors, she said.

"For a very long time, this community has been concentrated by Haitians, and it's a place where people can come find the cultural resources other areas lack," the pol said. "We have the people, businesses, language, and institutions here."

Bichotte — an East Flatbush native and the first Haitian-American elected to represent the city in the Assembly — will begin the events with a gathering at the corner of Nostrand and Newkirk Avenues, where she will reiterate her plan to form a Little Haiti before unveiling a sign for the recently designated Toussaint L'Ouverture Boulevard — named for a leader of the Haitian revolution — on Nostrand Avenue between Newkirk and Flatbush avenues.

The newly co-named stretch of Nostrand Avenue would sit within Bichotte's proposed cultural district, which would be generally bounded by E. 16th Street,

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PIRATES ATTACK

16 fishermen, mostly Guyanese killed on high seas

By Bert Wilkinson

Guyana's annual May 1 Labor Day holiday celebrations were marred by news that 16 fishermen, most of them believed to be Guyanese, were missing and feared dead following a horrendous high seas attack off the coast of neighboring Suriname late Friday.

Suriname's relatively large near shore fishing sector is crewed mostly by Guyanese fishermen from villages on

the eastern coast and those from the Corentyne District in southeastern Guyana across the border river with Suriname. Most of them live and work in Suriname for various periods as crew members. Others use

fishing permits owned by Surinamese and ply their trade there rather than at home because there are jobs aplenty. Authorities say four fishermen made it ashore, some with severe chop and other wounds they suffered during the attacks. They are talking with police.

What started out as a routine fishing trip off the coast near Commewijne District across the Paramaribo harbor, ended in tragedy after the first crewman who had managed to reach ashore alerted authorities that several boats with up to 16 men were attacked. Several of the fishermen including captains were either hacked to death with machetes, tied down with batteries as well as anchors and thrown overboard.

This is practically the normal modus operandi of pirates who drive fear into fishing crews working in coastal waters of the two Caribbean Community countries but authorities in both countries say the latest round of attacks which have claimed the largest number of lives in modern memory appear more to be a case of mass murder.

Officials are convinced that the attacks on the boats appear not to involve robbery as the main motive as precious little was taken from the vessels. During regular pirate attacks, fishing nets, glue, the fish and shrimp catch, engines and even anchors are stolen but this appears not to be the case this time.

Police in both countries say they are probing reports in the fishing community about a revenge attacks for the deaths of a pirate gangster in Suriname recently, hence the bru-

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Guyana pride

Guyana coaches from left. Christopher Gaskin, Stanford Fraser, Kariean Aaron and Keisa Burnett showcase the Penn Relay Ceremonial Plaque during a reception at the Oxygen Nation Cocktail Lounge on Flatbush. See story on Page 49.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke



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Brooklyn Democratic Assemblyman Nick Perry Photo by Nelson A. King

Perry applauds court ruling on DACA

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Democratic Assemblyman Nick Perry has applauded the latest ruling by a United States federal district court judge blocking the Trump administration's decision to terminate a program for young, undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants.

The program, known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, was instituted in 2012 by former United States President Barack Obama, but Obama's successor, Donald J. Trump, is determined to end it.

On Thursday, Jamaican-born, Perry lauded Tuesday's ruling by Judge John D. Bates of Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, which stated that the Trump administration could not abolish DACA.

"The ruling of the District Court is very much welcomed by all Americans, who are fully aware that America was built on the dreams of immigrants," said Perry, representative for the 58th Assembly District in Brooklyn, in an exclusive Caribbean Life interview.

"Even though the federal administration is shamefully targeting 'Dreamers' by attempting to dismantling the DACA, this ruling makes it clear that DACA recipients have worked hard, and they deserve every chance to soar and make this nation stronger, despite the desperate partisan and baseless threats from the White House," added Perry, whose Brooklyn district comprises the neighborhoods of East Flatbush, Canarsie and Brownsville.

In what analysts have described as the biggest setback yet for President Trump in his bid to end DACA, the court ruled Tuesday that the program's protections must remain and that new

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Vincentian group empowers community 'through service'



The Friends of Sion Hill present Oxley Lowmans with plaque for his service to the group and community. The group's third annual gala was held at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn.

Photo by Nelson A. King

By Nelson A. King

The president of the Brooklyn-based Vincentian group Friends of Sion Hill, Inc., enthusiastically proclaimed the organization's theme, "Empowering our community through service" at its third annual black tie dinner, held at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center.

At the gala, Oxley Lowmans reeled off a long list of Friends of Sion Hill's accomplishments since it was formed three years ago, saying the group "continues to strive to live out our motto, 'Rebuilding Our Community One Life at a Time.'"

This year's theme, he said, is meant "to encourage our organization to continue to make positive contributions toward the development of our community."

In 2017, Lowmans noted that Friends of Sion Hill continues to contribute to and participate in many charitable events. He said one of the key goals is to provide scholarships to students from the Sion Hill Community in St. Vincent and the Grenadines by assisting with "necessary resources to attend a secondary school."

"We are pleased to say that we have realized that goal," he said.

Last summer, Lowmans said many members were on hand to witness the presentation of the first two five-year scholarships to "lucky students." The scholarships were awarded to Kiara Baptiste and Reanna Jackson, students at the Sion Hill Government School — an

elementary school in St. Vincent and the Grenadines — who were successful at the Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment examination and have gained entrance to the Thomas Saunders Secondary School in Kingstown, the Vincentian capital.

Lowmans said each student will receive EC\$800.

In addition, Lowmans said, two other students, Ronique Gibson and Ronnia Davis, were presented with one-time bursaries of EC\$200. each.

"Being on hand to personally make these presentations was a very fulfilling and rewarding experience," he said. "This act can help build a foundation that could lead one of them to 'rebuild their community.'"

While in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Lowmans said, members of the Brooklyn group interacted with local affiliate members, spent a day touring the Sion Hill Community that overlooks Kingstown and greeted villagers.

"This helped us to see the needs of our community firsthand, which will assist us to develop a more targeted approach to charitable contributions," he said.

Lowmans said Friends of Sion Hill, FOSH SVG (Friends of Sion Hill St. Vincent and the Grenadines), in conjunction with Sion Hill Sports Club and the Sion Hill Euphonium Steel Orchestra, "were able to work in partnership on the annual Christmas food basket distribution."

He said the collaboration "enabled us to put together 150 food bags that were given to residents of the community."

Lowmans said the organizations have pledged to continue this charity event, hoping to expand to other communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The group's president said the organization has already supported the broader community by donating running shoes to athletes at the St. Vincent Grammar School and the Thomas Saunders Secondary School, who participate in the annual Penn Relays Carnival at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

In addition, Lowmans said, Friends of Sion Hill donated food and clothing to Dominica, which was ravaged by Hurricane Maria last September.

He said the group "have and will continue to support" many Vincentian organizations, such as the Brooklyn-based groups Girls High School Alumni; Garifuna Indigenous People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organizations, U.S.A., Inc. (COSAGO); Standard Shippers; and Vincy-Cares "in their various events throughout the year."

"Additionally, our participation in the American Cancer Society Cancer Walk has become a staple on our yearly calendar, where all the proceeds earned are donated directly to the Cancer society," Lowmans said.

Caribbean

Three Caribbean airlines have formed an alliance to make it easier and cheaper for travelers to move between 32 countries.

Antigua-based LIAT, Air Antilles of Guadeloupe and St. Maarten's Winair have come together under the Carib-Sky project, which is co-funded by the European Union's INTERREG Caribbean program to the tune of 4.7 million euros.

Details of the project were revealed recently during a media conference at La Creole Beath Hotel and Spa in Guadeloupe.



Air Antilles chief executive officer Serge Tsygaintzky said CaribSky would allow passengers to travel on any one of the three airlines on one ticket. This, he said, would be facilitated through code-shares and interline agreements.

He said passengers would benefit from more direct flights and connections, low fares, a better airport experience and a loyalty program.

It is projected that the three airlines will operate 25 aircraft and transport 1,400,000 passengers annually on 70,000 flights.

LIAT's Chief Executive Officer Julie Reifer-Jones said inter-regional travel was declining and it was hoped that CaribSky will make it easier for passengers to move through the English, French, Spanish and Dutch-speaking territories.

Barbados

A search for a Bulgarian fugitive, who had been on the run after skipping bail in Antigua and Barbuda, was successfully concluded in Barbados.

Martin Mititrov Dachenski, 39, was wanted on electronic fraud and larceny charges. He was arrested on board the cruise ship MSC Fantasia which was docked in Bridgetown recently.

He was granted bail by an Antigua magistrate after he was charged with electronic fraud and larceny in December 2017.

The Bulgarian allegedly hacked into several ATMs and defrauded a local bank, and faced three additional counts of larceny in February.

Dachenski fled the island and headed to Guadeloupe, before moving to St. Lucia and then to Barbados on board the cruise ship.

Barbados police said the man would be repatriated to authorities in Antigua.

Dominica

A conservation group in Dominica



Guyana gold refinery

Guyana is making moves to modernize its gold refinery. Here workers make repairs to a mill at the Omai Gold Mine in central Guyana.

Associated Press / John McConico, File

is calling for the return of 12 rare parrots which were recently exported to Germany.

BirdsCaribbean has joined several international groups asking the United Nations to investigate the export of the wild parrots and help to return them to their native island.

In a statement BirdsCaribbean said the parrots were taken from an aviary where they were recovering after Hurricane Maria hit Dominica in September 2017.

Both species, the Sisserou and the Jaco, are found only in Dominica. The Sisserou is Dominica's national bird and it appears on the Dominica flag.



However, the group that took the parrots, Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots, claimed it was an emergency measure to start a captive breeding program in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

It said captive breeding program can help some rare species and would be ready for release back into the wild in Dominica soon.

Guyana

Guyana is moving to establish a gold refinery as part of the efforts to modernize the industry.

This was revealed by Natural Resources Minister Raphael Trotman who said

officials of a South African company will soon visit Guyana to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of establishing the refinery.

Trotman said for years the Guyana Gold Board (GGB) has been using the old method of refining gold and believes that the time has come to revolutionize the gold industry.



He said his ministry is looking at the possibility of setting up a public-private partnership or wholly through government.

The minister said the visit of the team from South Africa is being facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the GGB already has several plans for the refinery's establishment.

Trotman said even if Guyana cannot refine all of its gold, it must be in a position to refine a substantial amount.

For years Guyana has used the traditional method of smelting gold.

Jamaica

Representatives from the ruling Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) and the main Opposition People's National Party (PNP) met recently for bipartisan talks on crime, violence, public safety and other issues.

The meeting — dubbed the "Vale Royal Talks" — was the first in a series of meetings held at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies

(UWI).

Prime Minister Andrew Holness and Opposition Leader Dr. Peter Phillips agreed on several important issues of national development and pledged to continue discussions to arrive at unified conclusions on the way forward.

It was agreed that several draft policies and bills would be shared for future discussions.

There was also a decision to consider the inclusion of the private sector, church and civil society groups periodically to participate in the dialogue on crime, violence and public order.



The Vale Royal Talks were initiated in 2002 by former Prime Minister P.J. Patterson.

St. Lucia

St. Lucia's High Commissioner to London Guy Mayers' son has been arrested in Hillsborough County, Fla. on charges of possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, possession of heroin and trafficking in cocaine.

Samuel George Mayers, 30, described as an Uber driver who reportedly lives



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Community event celebrates Bed-Stuy doctor

By Alexandra Simon

A Bedford-Stuyvesant doctor was the guest of honor at the monthly “Conversations in Gallery” at the Richard Beavers Gallery in Bedford-Stuyvesant on April 19. Dr. Robert Gore is a physician at Kings County Hospital, and a community leader who uses his experience in the medical field to give back to his community. The monthly event, which is hosted by C. Zawadi Morris of BK Reader, brings forth local community leaders who work in various professions to the forefront — and spotlights someone once a month to discuss his or her experiences and dedication to community work.

Gore is the founder of the Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI) — a teen intervention program targeting at-risk youth. His commitment to his community makes him a standout member worthy of highlighting, and making others aware of his work, said gallery founder Richard Beavers.

“Because of his profession as a doctor and being from the community, and still working in a capacity to service

that community — he sees the need to use his platform for outreach and to create programs for kids in communities where there is gun violence,” said Beavers. “How many doctors do you see using resources they have to reach back and create something for their communities?”

At the event, the healthcare professional spoke about his work against gun violence, and the necessity of mental health in black communities — a subject that is very much tabooed, he said.

“We talked a lot about everything, but mostly about mental health and wellbeing,” said Gore. “And one thing I spoke about was making sure that people consider their wellness and talk about the signs and symptoms of a mental health problem because it’s such a taboo thing in our community — the African American and Afro-Caribbean communities.”

He said that an emphasis on mental health could help many seek out the assistance of counselors and therapists, and tackle many stresses that come with life, something

Gore is very familiar with. Working full-time in the emergency room, his day-to-day tasks often come with high stress situations, and in order to manage that, it requires quick decision-making and daily stress management.

“A lot of my experience in the emergency room is seeing people who are stressed and sick, and people who are potentially dealing with something life-threatening — so I have to make micro and macro decisions in a short time frame and ensure I’m not missing anything important,” said Gore. “And it can be stressful, but over the years I’ve learned how to manage stress and how to heal from traumatic things.”

Gore said his work was only getting started and he planned on reaching more people with his work and hoped to pass the torch.

“For me, a big thing is capacity-building and anything related to doing community work because I’m also thinking about what’s in it for the long haul, and how the work will continue to evolve,” he said.



From left, Bizzy Amor, host, C. Zawadi Morris, Dr. Robert Gore, and Richard Beavers with his son, Mosiah.

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Fishermen murdered

Continued from Page 1

tality of the attacks and reports about little or nothing being taken. Survivors say their attackers spoke with Guyanese accents.

There have been dozens of similar attacks on crews in recent decades. Three Guyanese pirates are in remand prison awaiting trial for killing three crewmen in Guyanese waters a year ago. Others have received lengthy sentences for similar attacks and are serving time in Surinamese jails.

Surinamese Coastguard Commander Jerry Sliingard said Wednesday that despite the passage of time, search boats and light commercial aircraft are continuing to scour the general area but officials warn that it is now more of a body recovery exercise rather than search and rescue.

He said representatives from the fishing community are both on aircraft and boats involved in the search. The Guyanese coastguard said the area is too far away from its coastal base to make a difference.

Relatives of the missing and or dead, in the meantime, have begun to accept and brace for the worst, posting pictures and trib-

utes on social media sites. One very despondent sister even apologized for all the wrongs she might have done to her brother and mumbled about the initial slow response of authorities to act after they were first alerted, allegations officials deny.

"We've lost hope in getting my brother here alive. Six days to be in the middle of nowhere is a lot of days but we need his body. We need to bury him. He was loved. He has family and friends that loved him. We need to give him a burial," said Jay Jones, sister of rookie crew member Glenroy Jones, 21. "How are we supposed to celebrate mother's day. Our children are missing. They are assumed dead. This didn't just touch my family, it was felt throughout the country. To other family members and friends who're still praying, still hoping n still believing you're not alone, we'll cross this bridge too. God see your son through this one. See him through this, give us a testimony, another reason to praise your name," she said.

Many of the Guyana-based relatives and family members have already crossed over into Suriname but as time goes by, hopes for a miracle are fading.

Surinamese lawmaker Carl Breeveld said the attacks "were indescribably cruel" as he urged that the attackers be brought to justice.



Haiti's champion: Haitian-American Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte is launching a Little Haiti district that will include parts of Flatbush, East Flatbush, Ditmas Park, and Midwood. The designation will be announced on May 18 — Haitian flag day.

Photo by Caroline Ourso

Continued from Page 1

Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn Avenue, and Avenue H — and also include Church Avenue between Brooklyn and Albany avenues — if created.

The pro-Little Haiti programming will continue with a Haitian Flag Day celebration that evening, followed by a showing of paintings by Haitian artist Patricia Brintle at Bichotte's Flatbush Avenue district office on May 19, and a May 20 street fair on Nostrand Avenue between Clarendon Road and Avenue D — all of which the assemblywoman will host along with local Councilman Jumaane Williams (D-Flatbush) and state Sen. Kevin Parker (D-Flatbush).

Last year, Bichotte boycotted the city's official designation of the nearby "Little

Little Haiti

Caribbean" cultural district, arguing officials should first get behind her proposed enclave, plans for which have been in the works for a long time and are modeled after Miami's historic Little Haiti quarter, according to the assemblywoman.

"I went there to get a sense of the neighborhood and what they did," she said. "I saw a cultural center, a marketplace, and public murals, and we want to mimic that."

Many in the borough's Haitian and Caribbean communities endorse her proposal, Bichotte said, and the woman who spearheaded the Little Caribbean designation said she backs the idea, too. The designation also received the support of Community Board 14, whose district incorporates Flatbush and Midwood, as well as local pols including Williams, Haitian-born Flatbush Councilman Mathieu Eugene, and Mayor DeBlasio.

She likened the designation she seeks to that establishing Little Caribbean — which did not name the area as a historic district under the protection of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, but rather as a cultural district in name only that can lure more investment and tourism dollars to the area by championing its heritage, she said.

"It's more of an economic opportunity for our community recognizing the contributions we've made," Bichotte said. "We've been living here for decades, and now that it's being gentrified, we don't want that history to go unknown."



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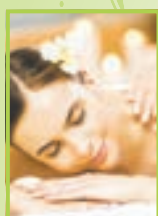


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Shai Hope springs eternal

By Albert Baldeo

Don't get me wrong. I am happy and proud that West Indian Shai Hope has been honored as one of Wisden's five Cricketers-of-the-Year, and I hope he grows from strength to strength (pardon the pun). Like he said, it as "humbling and was a bit of a shock when I got the news and obviously a huge privilege being named among the five."

Many are pleasantly shocked too. Hope was selected on the basis of one test-his outstanding performance at Leeds, when he became the first batsman in 127 years of first class cricket at Headingley to score a century in both innings.

He made 147 in the first innings and an unbeaten 118 in the second, as West Indies chased down 322 to win by five wickets and level the three-match series 1-1.

It was a memorable effort, and one that deserves a place in the history books. But to be named as a Wisden Five? Indeed, prior to the achievement, Hope had only managed a single half-century in 21 previous innings, at an average of 18. His career average is only 33 from 17 Tests and his selection confirms the paucity of talent and class in the present West Indies batting lineup.

Unfortunately, gone are the days when Headley, Worrell, Weekes, Walcott, Sobers, Kanhai, Lloyd, Butcher, Richards, Rowe, Kallicharran, Fredericks, Richardson, Greenidge, Haynes, Lara, Gayle, Chanderpaul, Sarwan, Hooper and company dominated bowlers all around

the world in the hundreds of innings they played. Perhaps selecting Hope was belated largesse for Wisden ignoring many of these Caribbean giants in their heyday, or being too slow to recognize their achievements.

Not only may this premature award lull this young, talented batsman into complacency to the West Indies' detriment, but, by its logic and precedent, Wisden, cricket's Bible, stunned us all. If Hope's lone performance was enough to catapult him to Wisden acclamation, then Lawrence Rowe's 214 and 100* in his first test against New Zealand in 1972 should have spontaneously earned him similar recognition also. Alvin Kallicharran, who scored centuries in his first two test innings in the same series should have been awarded also, and not have to wait until the twilight of his career in 1983 to be thus awarded.

Likewise, Mohammad Azharuddin, who stands alone in making three test hundreds in his first three test matches, should have been thus awarded also, as should batting titans like Kanhai, Sobers, Lara and others who accomplished Hope's feat years before—often referred to in cricket jargon as becoming an immortal. Some have actually performed this feat more than once, notably Headley (at Lord's and Bourda, for good measure), and Walcott for West Indians.

And how should Wisden recognize Sir Everton Weekes, who scored five consecutive test centuries in as many innings —

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'Fake news' a growing new threat to press freedom

By Thalif Deen

UNITED NATIONS, April 26, 2018 (IPS) - When a Malaysian politician of a bygone era was asked about the "leading newspapers" in his country, he shot back: "We don't have any leading newspapers in our country because all our newspapers are misleading."

But that comment, perhaps uttered half-jokingly about two decades ago, underwent a reality check recently when the Malaysian government passed legislation to impose prison sentences up to six years in jail if journalists are found guilty of spreading "fake news."

The bill defines fake news as "any news, information, data and reports which is, or are, wholly or partly false, whether in the form of features, visuals or audio recordings, or in any other form, capable of suggesting words or ideas."

And ever since President Donald Trump repeatedly used the term last year — more so to deny even the most verifiable facts and figures — some of the developing nations have followed in his jackbooted footsteps trying to muzzle the press, primarily on negative stories.

A president in perpetual denial, Trump has been described as a "serial liar" by his former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) James Comey — and some of the lying is meant to denigrate journalists whose stories and exposes are dismissed as "fake news."

Steven Butler, Asia Program Coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) told IPS:

Trump's denunciations of "fake news" amount to a new rhetorical wrinkle in centuries-old techniques of blaming the messengers for unwanted news.

"Many Asian governments — including Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines — have jumped on the "fake news" bandwagon started by President Trump."

But more broadly, he pointed out, the lack of a strong U.S. voice promoting the basic value press freedom at the heart of the U.S. constitution has emboldened governments — from China to Pakistan.

"Governments that wish to suppress freedom of expression know that the U.S. President will give them a free pass, something they could not count on in the past. Citizens of these countries need to find their own way to struggle for press freedom," declared Butler.

In early April, India threatened to penalize journalists for spreading "fake news." But in less than 48 hours the government had second thoughts and annulled the announcement without an explanation.

Norman Solomon, executive director of the Washington-based Institute for Public Accuracy and co-founder and coordinator of RootsAction.org, told IPS powerful demagogues in

many parts of the world hate a free press and want to curb or crush whatever independent media outlets might get in the way of power.

"Trump's denunciations of "fake news" amount to a new rhetorical wrinkle in centuries-old techniques of blaming the messengers for unwanted news," he added.

Governments, like large corporations, are in the business of news management, Solomon said, pointing out that "they use powerful megaphones and an array of leverage to gain favorable media coverage and suppress or discredit unfavorable coverage."

In some societies, he noted, the repression takes the form of threats, raids, prosecution and imprisonment. In more democratic societies, the repression is apt to take the form of "soft power" inducements, economic carrots and sticks, massive public-relations campaigns and nonstop floods of propaganda.

In the midst of all this, journalists constantly face a challenge of pursuing facts and underlying truths no matter where they might lead, he argued.

In some countries, the obstacles induce fear of imprisonment or even death, while in other countries the fears are along the lines of stalled careers and loss of employment, said Solomon, author of "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death."

In an oped piece titled "Mr. Trump's War on the Truth," the New York Times said in early April that when Trump calls every piece of

Continued on Page 12

Caribbean Life

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

A Queens' tribute to Louis 'Satchmo' Armstrong

The most diverse borough of the five that comprise New York City is jazzing up its attractions with a plethora of tributes to Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, one of Queens' most iconic musicians and the song he is acclaimed for gifting in its honor — "What A Wonderful World."

"The 20th century produced no shortage of legendary instrumentalists and vocalists but Louis Armstrong is the only figure who completely changed the way people played music on their instruments and he completely changed the way people sang. Perfecting the concept of the improvised solo, popularizing the use of scat singing, defining the concept of swing — those are just some of the ways Louis Armstrong changed jazz, and American popular music — during his lifetime."

According to statements from curators at his former home, the beloved trumpeter epitomized jazz and defined its uniqueness for the world to appreciate.

Perhaps it is the reason the Queens Public Library recently



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

announced a series of concerts, lecture series, and a six-month exhibition throughout their numerous community libraries that will hail the man and the music that has endured half a century since he recorded it.

With 65 branches located throughout the borough, Dennis Walcott, President and CEO of the Queens Public Library affirmed that "Queens residents live within one mile of a library."

That kind of ready access guarantees a diverse array of support for jazz appreciation and the legacy left by the borough's champion of the genre.

Celebrating the many sounds of the genius' classic recording of "What A Wonderful World" a performance by Grammy award nominee David Ostwald and his ensemble The Louis Armstrong Eternity Band, as well as world musi-

cians including Akoko Nante, Blue Pipa, Prassana and Radio Jarocho is listed at a Queens branch library.

In addition a lecture on the "Life and Times of Louis Armstrong" (in English and Spanish) will feature experts and archivists from the Louis Armstrong House Museum. They will present "a unique, insider's view of the Great Satchmo's life and times; his incredible artistic achievements, his extensive travels around the world, and his undeterred love for Queens and its people will come to life through this multimedia presentation that includes rarely seen archival material, pictures, film, and recordings."

A segment dedicated to questions will follow the presentation at the Glen Oaks library located at 256-04 Union Turnpike.

At the Langston Hughes branch at 100-01 Northern



Backed by a group of professional singers and friends, in background, Louis Armstrong records for a record, June 1970, which was released on his 70th birthday, July 4, 1970.

Associated Press / Eddie Adams, File

Boulevard, Corona, David Ostwald's Louis Armstrong Eternity Band, one of the few traditional New Orleans-style bands on the contemporary jazz scene — promises to "breathe new life into classic works by Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Jelly Roll Morton, and Bix Beiderbecke without missing a beat."

An exhibition titled "Fifty

Years of What a Wonderful World" is on display at the museum now through October and is free with museum admission.

The throaty jazzman said he was inspired to record the song by what he experienced living in the Corona Queens community.

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WIADCA will be opening its vending registration one month earlier this year. Interested vendors have the opportunity to vend along the parade route on Eastern Parkway on Monday September 3rd, 2018.

**EARLY REGISTRATION BEGINS: TUESDAY MAY 1ST
- THURSDAY MAY 31ST 2018**

BOOTH FEES DURING EARLY REGISTRATION:

- Food/Non Alcoholic Drinks: \$400.00 per booth (Individuals without a Business)
- Arts & Craft: \$250.00 per booth (Individuals without a Business)
- Non-profits for distributing information: \$250.00 per booth

**THE ABOVE PRICE APPLIES ONLY DURING THE EARLY
REGISTRATION PERIOD PURCHASING MORE THAN ONE SPACE
DURING EARLY REGISTRATION IS AN ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT.**

**REGULAR REGISTRATION: FRIDAY JUNE 1ST -
FRIDAY AUGUST 17TH 2018**

BOOTH FEES DURING REGULAR REGISTRATION:

- Food /Non Alcoholic Drinks: \$450.00 per booth (Individuals without a business)
- Arts & Craft \$300.00 per booth (Individuals without a Business)
- Non-profit for distributing information: \$300.00 per booth

Vending spots are assigned on a "First Come, First Serve Basis". WIADCA cannot guarantee any Spots, all spaces measure 10' x 10'.
NO EXCEPTIONS

REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- WIADCA'S Office: 325 Rogers Avenue (Bet Montgomery & Sullivan)
- Online- www.wiadcacarnival.org

**WIADCA'S OFFICE IS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION MONDAY -
FRIDAY 11:00 AM- 6:00 PM**

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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- Online Registration: Credit & Debit Cards **ONLY**.
(A Service Fee Applies When Using Credit & Debit Cards During Online & In Office Registration).

A Late Fee of \$50.00 will be applied for any registration submitted from Monday August 20th, 2018

Per the Department Of Health all vendors selling food & beverages MUST obtain A Food Handlers Certificate in order to sell on Eastern Parkway during the parade. Please visit www.nyc.gov/health (Food Safety Certification) for further information. Summons will be issued by the Department of Health to individuals without proper credentials.

INSURANCE:

Vendors are required to purchase general Liability Insurance from a reputable Insurance Company that is licensed to provide insurance coverage. The policy should name the following individuals as additional insured: West Indian American Day Carnival Association, The City of New York, Office of the Mayor Street Activity.

Below are agents where insurance can be purchased for all vendors for Labor Day Monday.

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OP-EDS

Bat on, Shai Hope

Continued from Page 10

141, 128, 194, 162 and 101 back to back, and was then run out for 90 in the sixth? And what do they say about Sir Clyde Walcott, who made centuries in consecutive innings twice in a series, against the mighty Australian side in 1955, becoming the first batsman to score five centuries in a single Test series, and totaling 827 runs from 10 innings before being belatedly honored by Wisden until 1958? Indeed, in the 1951 Wisden edition, which chose Sir Frank Worrell and Sir Everton Weekes, the Editor strangely remarked in his preface: "My only regret was that room could not be found for C. L. Walcott." That sounds like a quota system, considering Adam Lyth, Gary Ballance, both Englishmen, and Jeetan Patel of New Zealand, relatively unknown in comparison, were selected.

The irony increases when one considers that Ronnie Sarwan, and Lawrence Rowe, who made seven test hundreds in 30 tests at an average of 43.55, and is one of the select batsmen to score over 300 runs in a test innings (302 vs England in 1974), never made the Wisden list.

It waxes more inexplicable with Chris Gayle's omission. Even if his incomparable limited overs exploits are somehow omitted, the "Universe Boss" is one of only four players who have scored two triple centuries at Test level in the history of the game: 317 against South Africa in 2005, and 333 against Sri Lanka in 2010. Surely, this is a feat worthy of Wisden recognition?

Bat on, Shai Hope, you have a long way to go, and a point to prove. You said you want to break Brian Lara's 400*, the highest individual test score in a single innings. Your 32 test innings thus far have yielded an aggregate of 996 runs. Do the math, Shai.

NB: Albert Baldeo is a civil rights activist and community advocate. After years of advocacy, he got the MTA to install a subway elevator at the Leferts station in Richmond Hill / Ozone Park. As the president of the Baldeo Foundation and Liberty Justice Center, he has continued the fight for justice, equal rights, dignity and inclusion for all. He can be contacted at the Baldeo Foundation: AlBaldeo@aol.com or (718) 529-2300.

Threats to press freedom

Continued from Page 10

information he does not like "fake news," he also encourages politicians in other countries, who are not constrained by constitutional free speech protections or independent judiciaries, to more aggressively squelch the press.

"They know that there will be little international condemnation of their actions because one of the most important standard bearers for a free press – the American government—is led by a man trying to discredit the free press."

Ian Williams, author of "Untold: The Real Story of the United Nations in Peace and War", told IPS that to some extent all news is "fake" but some are flakier than others. But there are degrees of objectivity.

"Fake News" is a real problem – more as an accusation that kills serious debate than as a category of news in itself. Ideologues of both right and left use it to block acceptance of inconvenient information. The main stream media ("MSM") are particularly reviled, he added.

As Pontius Pilate said, "What is truth?"

"I have a hierarchy of veracity. I would rather believe my own lying eyes than any media source! I watched the planes hit the WTC for example. Do I trust the MSM? Not much, and I would examine its content critically."

In general, Williams said, the MSM

is more conspicuous for what it ignores than for its lies, and it often reveals its biases. In particular the American media depends on government sources and is often naively trusting of them although Trump's behaviour might be altering that.

For all its faults, he said, the MSM has competition and the fear that it might be scooped by rivals. On the other hand that means it has a herd mentality, so it collectively and uncritically bought into the Iraq WMDs and spurious scandal of "Oil for Food," said Williams, a senior analyst who has written for newspapers and magazines around the world, including the Australian, The Independent, New York Observer, The Financial Times and The Guardian.

"But I would trust them before Fox, Murdoch tabloids and Breitbart, and above all before authoritarian state news agencies where an editor would lose his or her job and possibly head for not toeing the line."

He pointed out that the BBC sometimes criticises its government. SANA and Russia Today never!

"And I also mistrust "Independent" journalists, who have permission and help to enter totalitarian states so they can tell the "truth" and expose MSM lies, sometimes at government organised press conferences. I scour their work assiduously but vainly for any hint of criticism of their hosts!"

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Keen contest for new Barbados bishop

DACA ruling

By George Alleyne

Election of a Barbados Anglican bishop ended in a stalemate Wednesday as the last two candidates each earned the backing of only one of the two houses of the Anglican synod, but rules state that the winner must be selected by both.

This has resulted in the process being rescheduled for another meeting of the elective synod, which will convene within the next seven days to have a go again at deciding on a bishop.

Should there be another failure to elect an Anglican leader of Barbados, the matter may be referred to the House of Bishops of the Province of the West Indies, which might select a new bishop for Barbados.

The marathon session of voting began with four candidate priests vying to replace retired Bishop John Holder but the elective synod, comprising Anglican priests who make up the House of Clergy, and members of the congregations who comprise the House of Laity, whittled the contestants down to two following the first two rounds of voting.

This drew battle lines between 45-year-old Rev. John Rogers and Dean Jeffrey Gibson, 61, the two remaining candidates.

In the following two rounds of voting the Clergy favored Gibson with 46 votes, and the Laity sided with Rogers, giving him 55 votes.

Voting began about midday and there



Dean Jeffrey Gibson, one of the priests vying for bishop of Barbados.

Photo by George Alleyne

was a need for repeated rounds because an elected bishop must emerge with at least 51 votes from the Clergy and 53 from the Laity.

Polling went on until close to 11 pm when a halt was called to proceedings and another date set.

The House of Clergy comprises 91 priests from all Anglican churches on the island, and the House of Laity has

84 members, two each drawn from the churches.

John Holder retired as both bishop of Barbados and archbishop of the Church of the Province of the West Indies at the end of February.

This ended his stint of Anglican leader of Barbados from 2000, and eight years of leading eight districts of the church in the Caribbean region.

Continued from Page 3

applications could accepted.

The ruling is stayed for 90 days in order to give the US Department of Homeland Security an opportunity to furnish sufficient reasoning for terminating the program.

"Children should not be punished because their parents brought them here in search of a better life, making sacrifices and experiencing hardships many of us couldn't even imagine," said Perry, who serves as the Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore of the New York State Assembly and chairman of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus.

"True patriots will never turn their backs on these youngsters," Perry added. "Let me be clear, these are children who know no other home, and all Americans should be proud to have them here."

"We will not push them into the shadows," he stressed. "We will fight to give them the chance to follow Lady Liberty out from those shadows."

The Statue of Liberty in the harbor between New York and New Jersey, also known as Lady Liberty, is a symbol of freedom and the dream for new immigrants in America.

In his decision, Judge Bates said Trump's decision to end DACA was based on "virtually unexplained" reasoning that it was "unlawful."

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

in Tampa, Fla., was held recently by police.

High Commissioner Mayers was St. Lucia's minister of home affairs and national security at the time of the so-called Operation Restore Confidence in 2009-2010, which involved 12 alleged extrajudicial killings by local police, resulting in the United States imposing sanctions of the Leahy Law until there is credible evidence of those responsible.

He was appointed high commissioner by the current St. Lucia administration of Allen Chastanet.



Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has expressed concerns that inaccurate international reports on Trinidad and Tobago have adversely affected its ability to stimulate growth

and development.

Speaking at one of the functions leading up to the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, the Office of the Prime Minister said Rowley raised the issue of countries making inaccurate pronouncements on Trinidad and Tobago saying, "this practice has had an adverse effect on the nation's ability to stimulate growth and development."

"The prime minister noted that Trinidad and Tobago pursues tourism as a viable industry for growth and development. However, when some nations issue negative travel advisories on incidents of crime, efforts made in the industry are stymied," the release stated.

Rowley also complained about the categorization of several Caribbean nations — including Trinidad and Tobago — as tax havens.

— Compiled by Azad Ali



InterCaribbean ends flights to US Virgin Islands



The airline announced on April 24 that it is indefinitely ending all flights to the islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

By Alexandra Simon

InterCaribbean Airways announced that they are indefinitely cancelling all flights to two islands that make up the tri-island territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands on April 24. The airline says they are ending all flights to St. Thomas and St. Croix until further notice.

In a statement, the company says that the flight disruption is the result of delayed management and incomplete paperwork with a handling company that would triple and quadruple costs to operate. And without the proper agreements signed, carrier operation cannot proceed out of the two islands.

According to a spokesman, InterCaribbean is already in talks with other companies to facilitate this technical process to possibly resume flights by this winter.

"We expect that with added time we will seek an alternative solution. In the time since the announcement we have heard from a new alternative company, and will engage with them in their interest to work with us," he said.

Ticket-buyers concerned about planned trips have already reached out about refunds, and arrangements are also being made for fliers who are maintaining a portion of their travels.

"Each and every customer who is affected is entitled to a full refund no questions asked, and the refund process is already well underway, with possibly as many as a third of all customers already in contact," he said. "Some customers wish to keep parts of their travel booked with us, so we are working with every customer once we hear from them. Customers are being contacted individually in date order with nearest first and continuing to later dates."

The spokesman for the airline hopes to have flights resumed by the end of this year but says they are working on ensuring and managing a resolution.

"We are hopeful that the impediments can be overcome, and that we can offer the kind of service to the USVI we have become known for," said the spokesman. "Once and if we are clear of these issues then we will determine a time to start the service."

Joint Health Insurance Community Health Plan Expands Services. Help old and disabled people apply for half-price MetroCard tickets.

United Healthcare in an attempt to promote community welfare expanded a joint health insurance and transportation service by expanding MTA services in Flushing, Chinatown and Bujumbura. This program invites MTA passenger service Officials apply for free.

Half Priced Metrocards are available for the buses and representatives will answer related questions. Apply for the program through www.unitedhealthcare.com or speak with a representative. This joint health program is chine friendly while also being available to the general public.

The program helps with consulting, choosing the right health plan and elderly metro card services and one on one membership services.

The program is focusing on people entering the age of 65, low income or who access a blue or red card.

We welcome all applicants to the United Healthcare program and look forward to servicing your needs.

As an applicant you can choose the service center that best suits your needs. The programs will be based on the Joint Health Insurance plan and focus on the community The MRT program will run in May and June.

Free Help for Disabled People will also be available through our half priced MRT cards.

When applying please provide the proper documentation:

- A copy of your social security card



- A Green card
- A Passport
- Electricity Bill or Cable Bil

- Photo License with DOT
- This program will be open to the elderly on May 11th and June 8th respectively from 11

am to 1 pm in Chinatown and Flushing

May 4, 18 (Friday) and June 1 and 15 (Friday) 10 am to next 2pm at 3F, 136-02 Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing (Please contact Daniel Chen, 917-257-1311/ Lisa Lee, 718-757-8652/ Edward Zheng, 917-714-6656/ David Wu, 646-644-8938); April 18, May 16 Day, Wednesday, June 27 from 11am to 1pm in cloth Columbus 86th Street, 2263 (Please contact Nancy Li, 917-749-2107); April 24, May 22 and June 26 (Tuesday) 11am to 1pm on O. 16 Boulevard, Clourum (please contact Sam Chen, 646-520-6274); April 27, May 25, June 22 (Friday) 11am to 1pm It was held at No. 831, 58th Street, Clovelon (please contact April Xu, 347-628-6866).

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Caribbean eyes world's largest climate fund

By **Zadie Neufville**

KINGSTON, Jamaica, April 12 2018 (IPS) — The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) also known as the 5Cs, is looking for ways to boost the region's access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The centre is on the hunt for proposals from the private and public sector organisations around the region that want to work with the Centre to develop their ideas into successful projects that are in line with their country's national priorities to build resilience to climate change.

The 5Cs, the agency with responsibility for coordinating climate action in the Caribbean, has doubled its efforts in wake of the 2017 Hurricane Season which saw the devastation of several islands and which exacerbates the need for climate proofing critical infrastructure a building resilience.

"We welcome proposals from all areas and industries," said, Dr. Kenrick Leslie executive director of the centre, noting that as an accredited entity: "We are able to assist organisations to access Green Climate Fund

(GCF) grants for climate adaptation and mitigation projects of up to 50 million dollars per project".

The GCF has approved a couple hundred million in preparation funding for several countries across the region, but the 5Cs boss is particularly proud of the achievements of his tiny project development team.

On March 13, the Bahamas became the second of the four countries for which the Centre is the Delivery Partner, to launch their GCF readiness programme. In 2017, three countries — the Bahamas, Belize, and Guyana, and more recently St. Lucia — were approved for grants of 300,000 to build in-country capacities to successfully apply for and complete GCF-funded projects that align with their national priorities, while simultaneously advancing their ambitions towards becoming Direct Access Entities (DAEs).

Each 'readiness' project is expected to run for between 18 months and two years and include developing operational procedures for Governments and the private sector to engage effectively with the GCF; provid-



Deputy Director at the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre Dr. Ultic Trotz (left) in conversation with farmers at a unique agroforestry project in Belize, one of many implemented by the Centre to boost the region's resilience to the effects of climate change.

Inter Press Service / Zadie Neufville

ing training about its processes and procedures, how to access grants, loans, equities and guarantees from the GCF; and the development of a pipeline of potential project concepts for submission to the Fund. These activities are not one-off measures, but will form part of an ongoing process to strengthen the country's engagement with the Fund.

Guyana's 'readiness' project

began in October 2016 and is expected to end in April this year; while the Bahamian Ministry of Environment and Housing and the centre's recent hosting of a project inception workshop, marked the start of that programme. The Belize project is expected to begin next month and St. Lucia's will kick-off in May, and run for two years. The readiness projects are being funded by the GCF at a cost of approxi-

mately 300,000 dollars each.

Aside from these readiness grants, the Centre secured 694,000 dollars in project preparation facility (PPF) grants for a public-private partnership between the government of Belize and the Belize Electricity Company.

The project is intended to enable Belize to utilise the indigenous plant locally known as wild cane (scientific name *Arundo donax*) as a sustainable alternative source of energy for electricity generation. The grant will provide the resources needed to conduct the necessary studies to ascertain viability of the plant, with the intention of facilitating large-scale commercial cultivation for energy generation purposes.

In addition, the Centre partnered with the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) to develop the proposal for the Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability Project (WSRN S-Barbados) for which the GCF announced 45.2 million dollars in funding — some of which is in counterpart funding — at the 19th meeting of the Board in Korea in March this year.

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Explore the many hats worn by nurses

Enter a hospital, doctor's office, adult care facility, or medical clinic and you are bound to encounter nurses. Nurse is a broad term used to describe most individuals who perform patient-based care in a variety of settings. A nurse's duties and title will vary depending on his or her educational background and the certifications and licenses he or she has received.

The field of nursing is seemingly recession-proof. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are roughly 2.6 million nurses in the United States. No other career choice within the field of healthcare can claim such strength in numbers, both in the United States and Canada.

There are many advantages to becoming a nurse, including growing employment opportunities. Over the next 20 years, the bureau predicts 800,000 vacancies in the field of nursing in the United States alone. Financial gain is to be had as well. Depending on the type of nurse, he or she has the potential to make anywhere between \$43,000 and \$115,000 a year, according to the bureau's Occupational Employment Statistics Program. Fur-



thermore, because of the wide breadth of nursing services, there is plenty of room for specialty application and advancement.

Here are the common types of nurses and the type of education required to become a nurse:

Nursing aide or orderly: Nursing aides and orderlies help nurses care for patients and perform routine tasks. They spend most of their time with patients, serving meals, keeping patients

comfortable, answering call lights, making beds, and giving baths. Most nursing aides work in a hospital setting or long-term facilities for the elderly. A high school diploma may be all that's needed to become a nursing aide.

Licensed practical nurse: A licensed practical nurse studies for a year after earning a high school diploma and must be licensed in the state in which he or she will work. He or she typically records medical his-

stories, weighs and measures patients, records symptoms, and administers injections.

Registered nurse: A registered nurse typically pursues a two-year Associate's degree in nursing or may receive a Bachelor's degree in the field. Candidates must pass a national exam before they are licensed. The duties of a registered nurse are generally more varied and in-depth than those of a licensed practical nurse and can include helping patients manage treatment plans.

Nurse practitioner: Nurse practitioners are among the most educated hospital employees. In addition to their registered nurse study, they earn a Master's degree and may specialize in one area. Also, they may be able to work outside of the authority of a physician. In such instances, a they can run a medical practice, diagnose, and prescribe medication just as a doctor would.

Although doctors are often thought of as the primary care providers in most healthcare settings, nurses are growing in numbers and have taken on many of the roles once reserved exclusively for doctors.

How to show a nurse you care

Nurses are often the first people patients see when visiting hospitals. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources Services Administration there were 2.8 million registered nurses, including advanced practice registered nurses, and 690,000 licensed practical nurses, in the United States between the years of 2008 and 2010.

Nurses fill many roles in the medical community, assisting doctors and helping to make in-patient stays more comfortable for men and women who are ill or injured. Specialized nurses, such as nurse practitioners, may even serve as the primary healthcare provider.

While there is a specific week set aside to show appreciation to nurses, many people agree that they deserve recognition throughout the year. Any instance is a good time to give back to nurses, and the following are a few ways to honor the nurses in your life:

Play caretaker to him or her. Nurses tend to the needs of others all the time, but some nurses do not get the respite they deserve. Those who want to show appreciation to a nurse who has helped them in their lives can present the nurse with a gift card for a massage and soothing spa treatment.

Cater a meal. Offer to cater a meal at the hospital or medical office so that all nurses on staff can benefit. If there

is one nurse in particular you want to treat, give that nurse a gift card to a nearby restaurant.

Provide foot relief. Nurses spend hours on their feet, and that can cause pain or stiffness throughout the body. Present a gift card to a store that specializes in comfort shoes or custom orthotics. A certificate for a pedicure or foot massage would no doubt be appreciated as well.

Create a charmed existence. Charm bracelets are the rage right now, and nurses may appreciate a bracelet that highlights their career path with specific charms. For something they can wear on the job, treat nurses to a Steth-o-Charm, which is a charm that slides securely onto stethoscopes. These charms come in many designs and can make for a memorable gift.

Give a decorative badge reel. Nurses must wear identification or have swipe cards on them to gain access to areas of hospitals. Many badges are standard items without any flare or style. A colorful or decorative badge reel can be a nice way to brighten up a nurse's day.

Give verbal or handwritten thanks. One of the easiest and most heartfelt ways to show your appreciation to nurses is with a handwritten note. Such a simple gesture does not take much effort, but it is bound to make an impact.

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Barbados fertility clinic sees high demand from US

By Alexandra Simon

A Barbadian fertility clinic is coming stateside to host a conference in Florida due to high demands and interest from Americans seeking affordable solutions.

The Barbados Fertility Centre is a clinic which specializes in providing in-vitro fertilization treatment — a process for women and couples looking to achieve pregnancy. The conference will be held in Miami on May 4. The centre says many of their patients hail from the United States, and a growing number of Americans are seeking the clinic as their alternative option, said the centre's medical director.

"We've seen a steady growth of Americans looking for more cost-effective care in the last four years, but we've recently seen this massive increase as more and more Americans have started to see this as a viable option to them, and share their experiences with other patients," said Dr. Juliet Skinner.

The clinic opened in 2002, but since 2005 they started seeing a rise in American interest. And that uptick has continued to rise as more patients share their success stories. Now more than 50 percent of all the clinics new patients come from the United States, particularly from Florida, according to Skinner.

She said that her patients were usually from vari-



Medical director at the Barbados Fertility Centre, Dr. Juliet Skinner. In the last few years, the clinic has seen an increase in American patients seeking in-vitro fertilization treatment. Skinner and her team will be in Miami on May 4 to provide information about their services.

Barbados Fertility Centre

ous backgrounds, including some Caribbean-Americans who naturally consider the region as an option, as well as patients from Canada and Australia.

"Medical tourism is not new and our patients come from beyond the borders, and

it really takes a big leap of faith for some to see health-care in another country," said Skinner.

At the conference Dr. Skinner and fellow Dr. Roberta Corona, and clinical director Anna Horsford will all be there to explain the clinic's mis-

sion, the process of in-vitro fertilization, and how potential patients can seek their consultation. There will also be a segment dedicated to testimonies.

"We're going to be there to provide resources and explain how individuals can decide

what's best for them and how to approach it," said Skinner. "We will also have patients come and give their feedback and talk about their treatment and experience."

The average costs of in-vitro fertilization in most states can be between \$12,000 to \$18,000. The price for the same treatment at the Barbados Fertility Centre is less than half of that, and can cost \$6,000 American dollars, according to Skinner.

The treatment became popular in the 70s for women struggling to conceive, and is a very popular method couples consider when they want to start families. Skinner said aside from the reproductive concerns, cost was a major factor, and there was also a level of care and understanding that they provide that some of their patients said that do not encounter in the United States.

"One of the biggest things to the process is cost and there's a significant cost savings many patients realize," said Skinner. "And the feedback from a lot of Americans is that at some clinics they feel like a number. But we've always felt strongly about individualized care and we evaluate each case by giving the couple close attention to detail — because this might be the one chance they have to reach this goal and we are going to do it with all that we have."

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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
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Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm

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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.

a drea n

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.

Eat n

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.

Read n

lancing 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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Me Too movement founder to get WOMI Award

By Tangerine Clarke

Founder of the Me Too movement, activist Tarana Burke will be among several Guyanese women, who will receive the Women of Mission International (WOMI) Award for meritorious contributions they have made through their professional duties and service to their community.

WOMI — a Brooklyn-based non-profit that empowers women and girls through education, counseling, support services, scholarships and mentoring, will honor the women of distinction at its Know Your Purpose – Celebrating Phenomenal Women – Annual Honors Gala on Friday, May 18 at the Crystal Manor, 1460 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, at 8 pm.

Guyanese-American, Linda Felix-Johnson, president of WOMI, will present awards to Joy Hamer-Agness, Dr. Sonia Noel, Dianne Dixon, Prof. Verene Shephard, Stacy Mollison, Donette Adams, Sharon Lee-Fraser, Cloyette Harris-Stoute, Feigel Niles, Maura Dougan-Phillip, Bibi Alli and Catherine Sealys during an evening of elegance.

Johnson said Women Of Mis-

sion International, Inc. “advocates and support social, economic and educational development programs for women of all ages, both local and international, adding, women are provided with tools and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency, which will strengthen their communities and their lives one woman, one girl at a time.”

The eight-year-old organization has in the past honored First Lady of Guyana, Mrs. Sandra Granger, Mrs. Sita Nagamootoo, wife of Vice President Moses Nagamootoo, and Minister within the Ministry of Natural Resources, Simona Broomes for her humanitarian service. It is dedicated to making a difference in the community through scholarships, empowerment seminars, and outreach programs.

For more information, visit: Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womi-annual-honors-gala-tickets-45170370795>, or RSVP by calling WOMI 347-362-1362; 347-866-8303; Caribbean Power Jam Radio 347-425-8227.

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Founder of the #MeToo movement, Tarana Burke, speaks at the University of Minnesota at Coffman Memorial Union on Friday, Feb. 16, 2018, in Minneapolis.

Ellen Schmidt / Star Tribune via Associated Press

SOPHIA LORRAINE GREENE



A mother of six, who is a native of Jamaica who works and resides in the New York City area. Sophia is very passionate about writing, and has been using this vehicle as an outlet since she was eleven-years-old. Upon stumbling on twenty-years of writing, Sophia decided to start publishing her journey as a way to remedy the enormous emotions she was going through.

Sophia believes everyone has the ability to make changes in their lives if they are willing to do the work it takes to attract growth. Even though, Sophia is a full-time mom and holds a full-time job, she does not allow that to prevent her from helping out in her community in Brooklyn, nor her native island in Jamaica. Sophia, feels we are all here to make this earth a better place and with all our unique individual gifts, we all can have a positive impact on the world and the next generation to come.



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Bajan relief at election date

By George Alleyne

Though they all welcome Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart's announcement of an elections date the business community wants it over quickly, one politician is concerned about a clash with school examinations, and an academic accused the prime minister of dictatorship.

Following a delay of 50 days since the automatic dissolution of parliament, Stuart on Thursday named May 24 as the date for Barbadians to go to the polls to elect their 11th government since independence in 1966.

This is the first time in an independent Barbados that the entire five-year term of a government was allowed to elapse, and general elections called after the natural dissolution of parliament.

In the 50 days since parliament expired, members of the business community have been the most anxious, claiming that the prime minister's reluctance to call a date has resulted in a slow-down in purchases and investment.

"We welcome it [election date] and we welcome a good process and we welcome getting down to business after it," Barbados

TODAY newspaper reported the Private Sector Association president, Charles Herbert saying. "The sooner the elections are done in the way we are accustomed to in Barbados and are behind us, that would bring the certainty."

President of Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Eddy Abed, told the Nation newspaper, "I sense that most of the business community are elated that an election date has finally been announced as the atmosphere was thick with anticipation."

Both Nomination Day, set for May 07, and the elections date clash with the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations, which runs from May through to June.

The issue here is not only that the same schools used as examinations rooms may function as polling stations, but also that some of the students writing those exams have just past the age of majority, 18, making them eligible to vote.

"We are conscious that there may be some students who are first-time voters who are anxious about two momentous occasions in their life which may

clash. This government therefore needs to explain to this country as soon as possible about what arrangements would be made to minimize this anxiety," Barbados Labour Party leader Mia Mottley said.

She went on to accuse Stuart's administration of being unable to plan an election.

"This is a royal fumble. He had five years to try to choose a date and ended up choosing dates that will cause significant inconvenience to two large sections of the community."

But a governing Democratic Labour Party spokesman, Stephen Lashley, hit back, pointing out that Mottley's BLP had called two elections in May, in 1986 and 2003.

"I have got the assurance from the Ministry of Education [it] has got everything for students that is required to be in place to have those examinations conducted and certainly in relation to the examination centres, there was early consultation with the Electoral Commission," Lashley said.

Regardless of the politics surrounding the date for elections, former dean of the University of the West Indies Faculty of Social



Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart.

Photo by George Alleyne

Sciences George Belle accused Stuart of abusing his power by his delay in naming an election date.

Noting that Stuart waited until deep into the flexible period allowed by the constitution before naming a date for the poll, Belle said. "He abused the period by taking it for no proper

reason," the political scientist said, and went on to describe the prime minister's action as, "a de facto dictatorship, which means by fact and not by law he is engaging in dictatorial behaviour because there is no accountability, no check and balance on what he can do in that period other than the law."

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Workers' Compensation Law

Answers to common questions

What is Workers' Compensation and who is eligible?

Workers' Compensation is a claim filed against the employers insurance. This entitles the injured individual to medical coverage, lost wages, and money for permanent damage. By law, anyone who is injured while working is covered by Workers' Compensation.

I just got injured while at work, what do I do now?

First ensure that you are seen by a proper medical professional right away. Next, make sure your employer is immediately notified about this accident. Different forms will also need to be filled out and submitted to Court in order to protect your rights. It is highly advisable you speak to a Workers' Compensation attorney to ensure your rights are protected.

Do I really need an attorney?

Although, you are not required to obtain an attorney, retaining one is highly recommended. The attorney will ensure all required documents are properly filled out and submitted to Court in a timely manner. Furthermore, the attorney makes certain that you receive all the money you deserve. Since the insurance company has hired attorneys in order to figure out a way to pay you the least amount of money as possible, it is highly advisable for you to retain an attorney to maximize the money due to you.

Who will cover my medical bills if I go to the doctor/emergency room for treatment?

By law the Workers' Compensation insurance carrier must cover all medical bills related to a work related injury.

I got injured last month, can I still file a Workers' Compensation claim?

Technically, you have 2 years to file a Workers' Compensation claim. However, it is highly recommended

to file the claim right away. The longer someone waits to file a claim, the more likely it will be that that claim will be denied. Furthermore, an employer must be notified of the accident within 30 days, otherwise the case will automatically be denied.

Can my employer fire me, or will I lose my job if I file a Workers' Compensation claim?

An employer is not allowed to fire an employee just because a Workers' Compensation claim was filed.

How often do I need to see the doctor?

You are entitled to be seen by your doctor as often as is deemed necessary by your doctor. If you remain out of work, we advise that you be seen at least once every 45 days.

How soon can I go back to work?

As soon as your doctor clears you to go back to work.

Do I pay the attorney any money upfront?

No. The attorney does not get paid unless he is able to recover money for you.

When will I get compensated for the time missed from work?

If you miss time from work due to a work related accident, you could be entitled to money of lost wages. The amount of time it takes to recover this money varies depending on many factors. This could take a couple of months, if the insurance carrier isn't disputing the claim. However, it can take as long as 1 to 2 years, if the case goes to trial and there is an appeal.

I already have an attorney, can I switch attorneys?

An injured person is allowed to choose the attorney of their choice. If not satisfied with their current attorney, you are entitled to change attorneys.

Edmond J. Hakimian, Esq. specializes in Workers' Compensation law. He is the managing attorney at the Law Offices of Edmond J. Hakimian, PC, which serves all of New York City and Long Island. Please send your questions or comments to HakimianESQ@gmail.com or you may call the office at 718-362-3180. No column is a substitute for competent legal advice. Please consult with the attorney of your choice concerning specific legal questions you may have.

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Trini LGBT activists reflect on country's landmark ruling

By Alexandra Simon

Last month in a landmark decision, Trinidad and Tobago's highest court ruled that buggery laws are a violation of constitutional rights. The historic move is a step towards victory for the island nation's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community — which face sexuality-based discrimination and anti-gay sentiment. The surprising judgement was also celebrated among Caribbean-Americans in the LGBT community, who saw the ruling as a sign of progress and the first step in many to come, said the executive director of a Queens-based gay rights organization.

"My immediate reaction was tears of joy," said Mohamed Amin of the Caribbean Equality Project. "I felt a sense of pride, a sense of accomplishment, and a sense of solidarity. But I also felt very hopeful that the country is moving in the right direction by decriminalizing and reversing these laws that are in place."

The case that led to the ruling was a lawsuit brought on by British-based and Trinidadian-born LGBT activist Jason Jones, who challenged the country's centuries old buggery law — laws that criminalized homosexuality and remained on the law books since its establishment during British colonization.

Trinidadian-born queer activist and CEP volunteer Darren Glenn, said his native country's ruling came as a huge shock to him, and said repeated let-downs left him doubtful when the news broke.

"I was in complete disbelief and I didn't believe it right away," he said. "We've been making slow progress but I'm always prepared for disappointment, that it didn't register to me right away when it happened."

Glenn, who lives on Long Island, said he plans to move back to his homeland in a decade or so, regardless of where Trinidad's lawmakers decide to move forth on buggery laws. But he also said that his main concern was continuing to advocate and show solidarity with Trinidad's queer community.

"I'm energized and now I feel a readi-



Caribbean Equality Project's founder and executive director, Mohamed Amin, right, and his partner.

Caribbean Equality Project

ness to move forward to help the people living there, because they're the ones who have to deal with the negative backlash," he said.

Amin said this was only a minor start in the goal for true progress. While there are many bigger rulings to take place, Amin said that Trinidad's highest court was already setting the course for more historic rulings. And he said the people in charge were the main ones who can drive that change.

"It's important for elected officials to acknowledge the laws and also be held accountable for the role that they're playing in uplifting the cycle of in hate in the Caribbean," he said.

Several challenges that the LGBT community in Trinidad and the Caribbean face are equal access to healthcare — specifically hormone treatment for transgender individuals and people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and housing and employment discrimination, according to Amin.

He feels that if Trinidadian politicians make the right steps towards removing or revising section of the Sexual Offences Act, which criminalizes homosexuality, it can send a progressive message to neighboring islands in the Caribbean — which have similar laws.

"The fight will be long but at least queer folks are rising up, being visible, and fighting for our rights," he said. "Being visible comes with challenges and the laws do not protect the LGBT community, and elected officials have the power to change laws and send a message."



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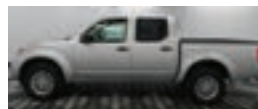
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'No justice' in de-banking Caribbean countries: Antigua PM

By Nelson A. King

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne says there is no justice in the de-banking and barring of small Caribbean states from the international payment system.

"De-banking and de-risking undermines the ability of small countries to meet their development agenda and injures them without any mechanism for remedy," Browne told an audience of fellow Caribbean prime ministers, central bank and financial officials, and private sector representatives in addressing a forum in St. Lucia on Thursday organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Browne's remarks were part of a wide-ranging discourse on the severe challenges that Caribbean countries face in the financial services sector as a consequence of actions of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Financial Action Task Force

(FATF), the European Union Commission and the United States government, according to an Antigua and Barbuda Government statement.

Browne, who has lead responsibility for financial matters in the quasi-Cabinet of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government, said that de-risking, which involves the loss of banking relations between Caribbean banks and international banks, "remains a looming threat that could create financial instability, plunging our countries into poverty, chaos and confusion.

"The consequences of de-risking — intended or unintended — could be more devastating than any natural disaster," said Browne, a former banker and financial manager by training.

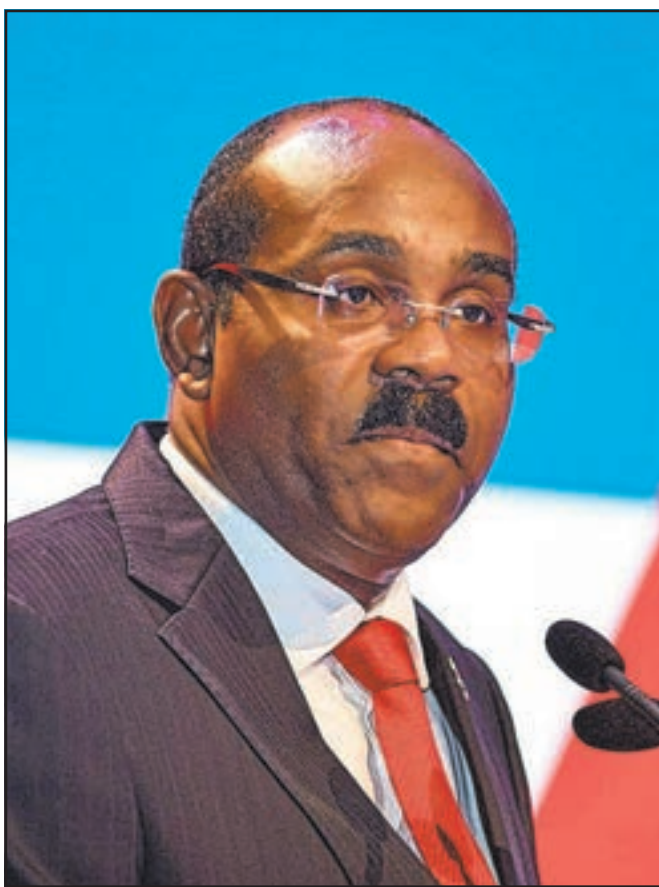
Recalling that "de-risking is utilized as a policy tool of financial warfare, to sanction rogue or uncooperative states," the Antigua and Barbuda leader argued that it

"should never be utilized as a tool to punish innocent people in cooperative and compliant countries in the Caribbean.

"The provision of correspondent banking service is a fundamental human right," he said. "It is just as important as the provision of other basic services, including include water, electricity and broadband services."

Browne set out measures to address the problem of de-risking which, he said, could shut down established and regulated financial systems, and so encourage unregulated methods that would fuel money laundering and other financial crimes.

Among the proposals that the prime minister made are encouraging all banks to focus on managing financial crime risks, instead of risk avoidance, and the utilization of new technology, including block chain, to identify suspicious transactions and to ensure full traceability, according to the statement.



Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne.
Gov't of Antigua and Barbuda

It said Browne has been the lead advocate of the rights of Caribbean countries in this matter since July 2014, taking his mission to international financial institutions, multi-lateral bodies and private sector fora.

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Students gather at UN to 'Remember Slavery'

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations says students from around the world joined the global body and government officials in New York on Friday to celebrate the contributions made by the people of African descent, beginning from the time they were taken from their countries and forced into generations of servitude.

Speaking to UN News prior to the event, Missouri Sherman-Peter, the permanent observer for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the UN, highlighted the importance of recognizing the heritage of those compelled into slavery, and informing the younger generation of what happened centuries ago.

"Knowledge is power, and you can't begin to resolve problems, address them or recognize and be proud of what you are unless you have the knowledge," she said.

"When you bring students to think that way, the problems and differences [among people] become less when everyone understands what happened [...] was horrific," Sherman-Peter added.

"But we are moving on and we can only move on with the young people with us."

For over 400 years, the UN said more than 15 million men, women and children have been victims of the tragic transatlantic slave trade, one of the darkest chapters in human history.

Christian Crouch, an associate professor of history and director of American Studies, Bard College outlined the ordeals they faced, according to the UN.

"Five years is the number of years a slave survived in a sugar plantation that was nothing more than a factory in a field," she told young people at the commemorative event.

Responding to a question from schoolchildren in Tanzania, Ms. Crouch explained that the consequences of the transatlantic slave trade continue to reverberate.

"Slavery still flourishes in many places and not only on the African continent. It exists in different forms on every continent of the world,"



Students attending the commemorative event visit the Ark of Return.

United Nations

she said.

The student conference, held as part of the UN Remember Slavery Program, is organized every year in spring to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

It will be followed by educational activities throughout the year, including roundtable discussions, film screenings, an exhibition and tours, including to the Ark of Return, the Permanent Memorial to Honor the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave

Trade, the UN said.

It said commemorative events are also organized around the world by UN offices and Information Centers to raise awareness on the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade.

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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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Memorable May days ahead

By Vinette K. Pryce

Now that the lingering frost has finally thawed, buds, blossoms and blooms provide irresistibly conspicuous colorful pink and purple pastels that usher an awakening from nature's extended hibernation and a season of prolonged days of intolerable weather conditions.

May has arrived and rain or shine, better days are ahead.

May Day heralded as a public holiday in England each May 1 when it arrives on a Monday, found children dancing around the Maypole.

The tradition prevalent throughout Europe is annually replicated here with celebrations in many public parks.

Cinco de Mayo follows fast offering cultural and national toasts on May 5, the day more than a few will justify for visiting bars in order to imbibe margaritas, tequilas, cervezas and perhaps tacos and enchilladas.

The sanctioned party date celebrates all things Mexican.

The fact the genesis of the revelry commemorates the May 5, 1862 victory of the Latin American country over the

mighty French army during the Battle of Puebla (Batalla de Puebla) barely factors when merry-makers raise their glasses on that date.

Some believe the day also marks Mexico's Independence Day, not so.

History dictates, the revelry is solely associated with concerts, watering holes and food originated with Mexico's war with France and winning.

Mothers Day follows on the second Sunday of the month.

This year, the date is May 13 and already restaurants are taking reservations for brunch and dinner guests planning to dine out with mum.

Along with flowers, gifts and appealing items, some are thinking outside the traditional box by shopping for "a socially good gift for that special mother figure in your life."

According to Spectrum Bakes, a cause-driven company that offers a variety of handmade, customizable products, and employs individuals with developmental disabilities, they are already selling a package lauding mother with a delectable gift box decorated by the

indisputable 'You're the Best' compliment. Inside, six assorted granola bars (2 chocolate chunk, 2 sweet cranberry, 2 pumpkin & sunflower seed), four-piece chocolate granola bites, two chocolate covered pretzels, mints, thematic mug, an eight ounce soy candle plus nicely crafted motivational card.

Less than a week later, the much anticipated royal wedding in England will find television and online viewers wide awake — despite the time difference — to witness the union of the first Black American to a prince and descendant to the British throne.

The fact, Harry will wed a non-royal, foreigner, former actress and divorcee named Meghan Markle probably makes the May 19 nuptials an added alluring aspect than the Westminster Abbey spectacle of 2011 when big brother William wedded his school pal Catherine Middleton. At that time Prince William and his bride invited 1,900 guests to the large venue. The younger coupling will only accommodate a modest 800 choice friends.

They also decided against



Britain's Prince Harry and his fiancée Meghan Markle attend the dawn service at Wellington Arch to commemorate ANZAC Day in London Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

Toby Melville / Pool Photo via Associated Press

inviting political figures and recently revealed a list that did not include any United States president.

Initially there were rumors that former President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle would be among the celebrated guests. Simultaneously it was widely reported that President Donald Trump would not be invited.

The awkward gesture might have been averted by the cou-

ple deciding against inviting any political figures even their own political head British Prime Minister Theresa May.

The wedding will take place at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle where Harry was christened when he was three months old.

The couple has also invited 2,640 members of the public among them 1,200 individuals who have demonstrated strong leadership in their communities.

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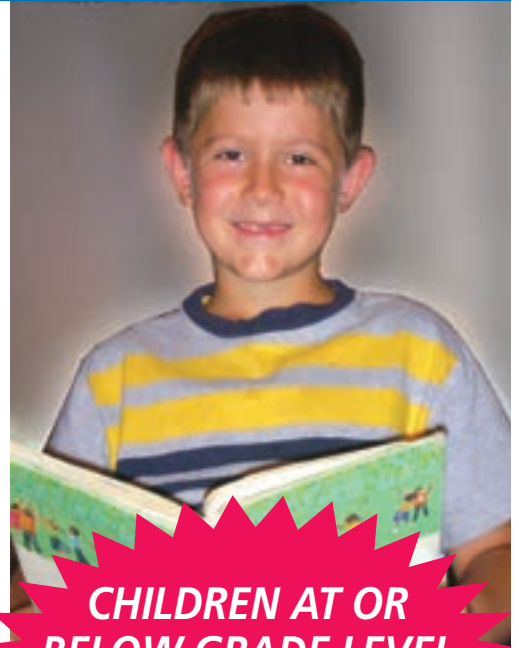


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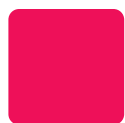
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Beckles supports CARICOM on cricket

By Azad Ali

Renowned University of the West Indies (UWI) Jamaica Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles says he supports current CARICOM views of West Indies cricket.

According to Beckles, the West Indian nation stands proud against the debilitating history from which it has emerged and continues to erupt with the inevitability of its dignified independence.

He noted that the region's political leaders have expressed their right to rise to the responsibility of contributing to the restoration of public decency and sustainability in the affairs of "our proud cricket nation."

Professor Beckles said the leaders are duty-bound by the imperative of political best practice to intervene in the affairs of this heritage with a



Sir Hilary Beckles.

Photo by George Alleyne

view of protecting and promoting it for the benefit of future generations.

He said the governance of West Indian cricket has reached a perilous state, and that the place where there was once universal respect is now riddled with ridicule.

"After two decades of performance decline, efforts to chart a path of resilience and recovery have failed. The evi-

dence of obvious failure emanates from the system of governance and accountability that has let down the community of cricketers and the wider society."

The UWI vice-chancellor said it would be a dereliction of duty if governments were to sit passively and allow the public good that is cricket culture to be further diminished and destroyed.

Trinidad under fire for deporting Venezuelans

By Azad Ali

The Trinidad and Tobago government has come under fire over the deportation of 82 Venezuelans — asylum seekers among them.

The United Nations (UN) and Amnesty International have raised deep concerns over the deportation of the Venezuelans from Trinidad and Tobago, saying they could not verify whether it was a "voluntary repatriation" process, as claimed by Minister of National Security Edmund Dillon.

The United Nations said the Trinidad and Tobago government has failed the deportees and disrespected their human rights as people seeking refugee status and asylum from Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's regime.

In a release, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Richard Blewitt said the body was concerned for the welfare of these people.

Amnesty International's Americas Director Erik Guevara Rosas has written

to Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley criticizing the way in which the 82 Venezuelans were repatriated to their home country.

Rosas' letter came one day after a non-governmental organization in Venezuela said it was going to lodge an official report on behalf of the 82 Venezuelans as international outcry over the act has intensified.

In the letter, Rosas requested information about the procedures followed by the Trinidad and Tobago government in carrying out the deportation.

Amnesty International said, "as part of the Convention relating to the Status of the Refugees (1951) Refugee Convention and its Protocol (1967), Trinidad and Tobago is obliged to fully protect the rights of those in need of international protection."

National Security Minister Dillon remains adamant that the repatriation was done "voluntarily," as none of the Venezuelans expressed fear of, or objection to, returning home.

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Life meets literature in an odd way

"Heads of the Colored People: Stories" by Nafissa Thompson-Spires
c.2018, 37Ink
\$23.00 / \$32.00 Canada
211 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

So what do you think?

For sure, you've got opinions. You know what you like and what you don't like. You have ideas and choices, attractions, and things you'd just as soon avoid. And sometimes, as in "Heads of the Colored People" by Nafissa Thompson-Spires, you just don't know what to think.

For weeks — ever since he found a used paperback by James McCune Smith — Kevan Peterson had been thinking about a project. He was an artist, knew a lot of artists, and he wanted to do a book based on Smith's words. He thought about it when he spent time with his little daughter and again when he saw an online newsfeed, complete with "chalk outlines." But there was more to that story...

Lucinda Johnston hoped her daughter, Fatima, might make friends easier at the private school Lucinda paid for. There was one

other Black girl at the academy, and Lucinda thought friendship might happen naturally, but that girl was a bully whose mother denied her awful misbehavior. In "Belles Lettres," the two women square off in writing, though money talks loud. In "The Body's Defenses Against Itself," there's proof that the girls' friendship wouldn't have happened as their mothers had hoped. In "Fatima, the Biloquist: A Transformation Story," you'll think you know why.

Jilly, on the other hand, couldn't think of anything but herself.

In "Suicide, Watch," she couldn't decide: posting suicidal hints didn't get enough LIKES on social media, so maybe it was time to step up her game. She didn't want to be sick or anything — not like that girl, Fatima, she knew in high school — but she did want more attention. How she was going to get it, well, that was a good question.

And Alma? Alma always thought she'd be a good mother. She was willing to go to great lengths to have a child, but in "Wash Clean the Bones," worry could get the best of her — and

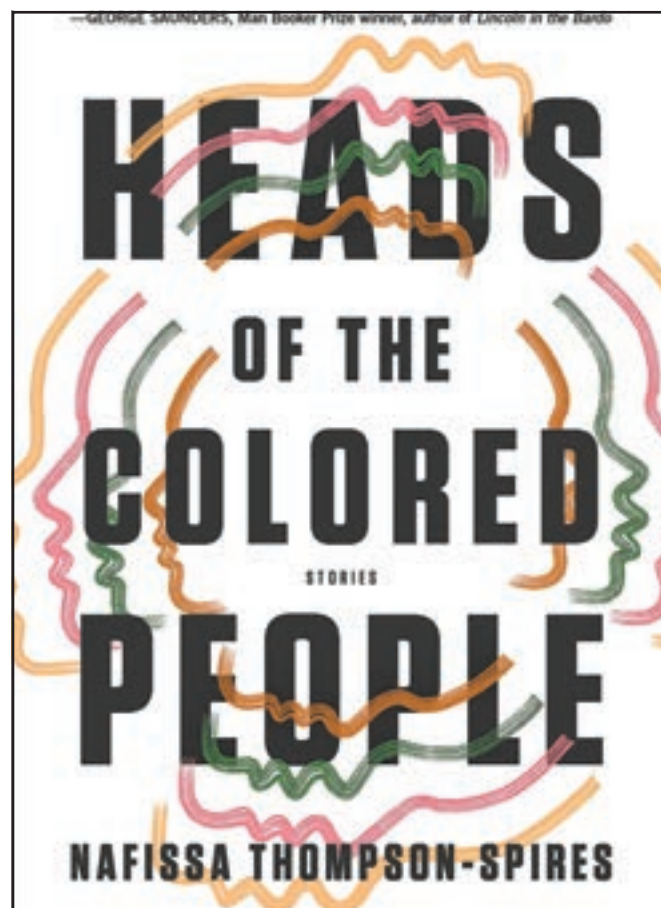
of her son.

You may not know what to think when you first start "Heads of the Colored People." This collection of short stories initially seems a bit odd, as life meets literature in its opening story and author Nafissa Thompson-Spires pays homage to Smith's book from the mid-1800s. Indeed, her overall work here is similarly titled to his but the difference between the two is like earth and sky.

These stories glitter, every one of them.

Granted now, some don't seem to be much more than slice-of-life tales that stop for no apparent reason but that they were done. Fear not: they circle around, and you may meet characters again in a layered manner, like building a sandwich. That'll make you gasp, and put the book down a minute to catch your breath.

Even so, these stories aren't for everybody. If you like your fiction tied up neat with a bow, take a pass on "Heads of the Colored People." If you enjoy tales that play with your head a little bit, though, it's a book you'll think is perfect.



Book cover of "Heads of the Colored People."



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TODAY



Many budding retirees have misconceptions about how much money they will need in retirement. iStock

Successful ways to stretch retirement savings

Many budding retirees plan to travel, relax, and enjoy the company of their spouses when they officially stop working. But such plans only are possible if men and women take steps to secure their financial futures in retirement.

According to a recent survey by the personal finance education site MoneyTips.com, roughly one-third of Baby Boomers have no retirement plan. The reason some may have no plan is they have misconceptions about how much money they will need in retirement. Successful retirees understand the steps to take and how to live on a budget.

Have a plan. Many people sim-

ply fail to plan for retirement. Even men and women who invest in an employer-sponsored retirement program, such as a 401(k), should not make that the only retirement planning they do. Speak with a financial advisor who can help you develop a plan that ensures you don't outlive your assets.

Set reasonable goals. Retirement nest eggs do not need to be enormous. Many retirees have a net worth of less than \$1 million, and many people live comfortably on less than \$100,000 annually. When planning for retirement, don't be dissuaded because you won't be buying a vineyard or villa in Europe. Set reasonable goals for your retirement and make sure you

meet those goals.

Recognize there is no magic wealth-building plan. Saving comes down to formulating a plan specific to your goals, resources, abilities, and skills. Make saving a priority and take advantage of employer-sponsored retirement programs if they are offered.

Don't underestimate spending. You will need money in retirement, and it's best that you don't underestimate just how much you're going to need. No one wants to be stuck at home during retirement, when people typically want to enjoy themselves and the freedom that comes with retirement. Speak to a financial planner to develop a reasonable estimate

of your living expenses when you plan to retire.

Pay down or avoid debt while you can. Retiring with debt is a big risk. Try to eliminate all of your debts before you retire and, once you have, focus your energy on growing your investments and/or saving money for retirement.

Start early on retirement saving. It's never too early to begin saving for retirement. Although few 20-somethings are thinking about retirement, the earlier you begin to invest the more time you have to grow your money. Enroll in a retirement plan now so you have a larger nest egg when you reach retirement age.

Obese seniors challenge long-term care services

BY JOANNA R. LEEFER

The estimated population of seniors age 60 and up exceeds 61 million — and is growing. By 2040, this segment is expected to reach 82 million. This growth is being described as a silver tsunami. And the startling statistic defining this aging population: According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 37 percent of Americans 60 and older are obese. This is changing the face of long-term care in this country.

The needs of obese seniors are more complex than for the rest of the senior population. They require larger, stronger, and more costly medical equipment and more staff to attend to them. A wheelchair for an obese patient needs to be larger to accommodate more heft, shower chairs and bedside commodes must be made of stronger material, and many patients require motorized lifts to assist in moving them.

Routine medical devices must be redesigned in consideration of the physical characteristics of added weight. Medical staff need longer intramuscular needles designed to pierce thicker layers of fat to reach muscles and blood vessels. Blood pressure cuffs must be larger and wider to monitor vital statistics.

All these devices are expensive. An extra-wide walker can cost up to \$350 compared to the cost of an average walker that costs under \$100. A bariatric wheelchair can cost close to \$2,000; an extra wide bed, \$5,000. In fact, the medical costs for people who are obese are at least \$1,429 higher than for those of normal weight.

Equipment is not the only factor in this higher



Obese seniors require larger, stronger, and more costly medical equipment and more staff to attend to them. Fred Froese

cost. While one staff member can usually handle the average-sized patient, an obese person usually requires at least two and sometimes three aides to transfer him. Bed-bound overweight patients might take as long as an hour to dress and bath, and the aides require additional training to operate specialized equipment like motorized Hoyer lifts and other equipment.

Obesity is defined by a person's body mass index, which is a ratio of the body's weight to height. The National Institute of Health considers a person with a body mass index of 30 or more to be obese; if it exceeds 40 (approximately 100 pounds overweight) the person is categorized as morbidly obese.

The growing trend in obesity among seniors is having a large impact on assisted living and nursing homes. Some older nursing homes must widen doorframes to accommodate larger wheelchairs and gurneys, and must add new plumbing to fit extra-strong toilets. Some nursing homes are designing special

bariatric units to accommodate the needs of these patients. And some offer a special rehab program that includes exercise and fitness activities, social work counseling, and special dietary meals.

Families looking for a nursing home or assisted living facility for an excessively overweight parent should carefully research their options. Always ask if the facility supplies special bariatric equipment. This includes larger wheelchairs, wider beds, and electrical Hoyer lifts. Be sure that staff is special trained in transferring obese individuals. This will cut down on possibly dangerous accidents.

Obese seniors need larger living spaces to accommodate their size. Check that the doors on the room and bathrooms are wider, and there is adequate space between beds and other furniture. Ask the staff if they offer modified activities for larger patients. Some facilities include swimming pools where obese patients can move more freely.

Obesity is redrawing the common perception of old age: the image of the slight nursing home resident is being replaced by the obese senior. And this new population trend is impacting the needs of long-term care facilities. These homes must provide special, more expensive equipment, more staff, and additional staff training to accommodate the most overweight residents. All this will tax the already under funded social services and cause greater challenges to care for aging seniors.

Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor, advocate, and founder of ElderCareGiving, a service that helps families make difficult care decision for aging loved ones. For more information, visit www.joannaleefer.com.



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How seniors can preserve their brains

Physical activity and proper diet and nutrition can help people age 50 and older maintain their physical health. But there are also ways aging men and women can preserve brain health in an effort to prevent or delay the cognitive decline that affects millions of seniors across the globe.

It's easy to overlook the importance of keeping the brain healthy. However, a decline in brain function can result in poor concentration, memory loss, and a host of other issues. Sometimes, by the time symptoms present themselves, it may be too late to reverse any damage.

Research suggests that a combination of nutrition and mental, social, and physical activities may have a greater impact with regard to maintaining and improving brain health than any single activity. Harvard Medical School also states that volunteering, caring for others, and pursuing hobbies may benefit the brains of older adults.

A study published in the Archives of General Psychiatry found participants who reported higher levels of purpose in life exhibited superior cognitive function despite the accumulation of abnormal protein depositions (amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles) in the brain, a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease. Having a purpose also may help those who do not have Alzheimer's disease.

In addition to the suggestions mentioned above, those who want to boost brain health can



Doing jigsaw and crossword puzzles can keep the brain sharp.

consider these strategies:

Start exercising the brain early on. A study published in 2012 in the British Medical Journal examined cognitive function in people ages 45 to 70. Researchers found evidence of cognitive decline in the 45-year-old participants as well as

the older participants. It's never too early to put a brain health plan into motion.

Read more books. Reading can open individuals up to new vocabulary and scenarios that promote a stronger brain and recall ability. Enrolling in an education course at a local college, community center, or online also may be beneficial.

Hit the gym. Several studies suggest an association between physical activity and reduced risk of cognitive decline. This could be because exercise elevates heart rate, which pumps more blood to the brain and body.

Supplement with DHA. DHA is an omega-3 fatty acid that is dominant in the brain. Adhere to a Mediterranean diet, which is generally high in natural sources of omega-3, including fish and mono-unsaturated fats from olives, olive oil, nuts, and seeds. Supplements also may help, but individuals should consult their doctors about which products to take.

Challenge the mind. Men and women can engage in challenging activities that stray from their routines. Puzzles, strategic games, jigsaw puzzles, or difficult hobbies can benefit the brain.

Keep a close-knit group of friends. Regular conversation and social interaction is a key component of any brain health wellness plan.

Slowing cognitive decline and promoting greater brain health should be a priority for adults of all ages.

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Accessible Dispatch Article – May 2018



5 Facts You Should Know About the Accessible Dispatch Program

The Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC)'s Accessible Dispatch program is making it easier than ever to connect with wheelchair accessible taxis in all five boroughs. Here are five facts you'll want to know about the program, which helps individuals with disabilities access the city like never before.

1. The TLC first launched the Accessible Dispatch program in 2012 with 233 accessible cabs in Manhattan. There are now more than 2,000 green and yellow wheelchair accessible vehicles taking trips across New York City.

2. Service animals are permitted in all TLC-licensed vehicles. You never have to pay extra for a service animal, or for accessible service in a TLC-licensed vehicle.

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disabilities, and all of our dispatchers are here to help you! If you need a ride, call 646-599-9999, 311, or 711 for NY Relay; visit www.accessibledispatch.com; or download the app: Accessible Dispatch NYC.

4. The Accessible Dispatch NYC app is available on both iOS and Android devices. The app is a great way to book a trip – you can select the right vehicle for you, contact our dispatchers through the app, and even track your taxi when it's on the way to your pickup.

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You can learn more about the Accessible Dispatch program at www.accessibledispatch.com, and we always welcome your feedback! Call us at 646-599-9999 or email us at accessibledispatch@mtm-inc.net to ask questions or give us feedback about your trip.



Advanced healthcare directives can be invaluable resources.

The benefits to establishing advanced healthcare directives

Healthy adults may give little thought to injuries or illnesses. When the going is good, it is easy to forget about the less pleasant side effects of aging. However, putting off these conversations and decisions can lead to unnecessary obstacles in the years to come.

Advanced healthcare directives can be invaluable resources for family members and friends who will be responsible for managing a person's plans should he become unable to make his own decisions. Various organizations, including AARP, offer resources on advanced planning and the options available to adults looking to plan their estates.

The National Healthcare Decisions Day movement, a group dedicated to providing clear, concise, and consistent information on healthcare decision-making, defines advanced directives as establishing:

- A "healthcare power of attorney" (or "proxy," "agent," or "surrogate"), the person you select to be your voice for your healthcare decisions if you cannot speak for yourself.

- A "living will" to document which medical treatments you would or would not want at the end of life.

People often tend to put off these decisions, but it's important to make them as early as possible. Not only will they dictate your wishes, they'll also take the pressure off of loved ones who would otherwise be tasked with making difficult decisions on their own.

Healthcare proxy

Appointing a healthcare proxy ensures that there will be someone there who has the legal authority to make healthcare decisions for you if you are no longer able to speak for yourself. This may be a spouse, child, relative, or close friend. The Mayo Clinic suggests choosing a person who can

be trusted to make decisions that adhere to your wishes and values and to be your advocate if there are disagreements about your care.

Be sure to have a candid discussion with your healthcare proxy in which you go over the types of medical care you wish to receive and any ways you would or would not like your life prolonged. It helps to keep the proxy up-to-date on any medical conditions you may have so that she can make the most informed decisions on your behalf.

Having a healthcare proxy does not mean you are giving up your right to make medical decisions. It's a fail-safe in the event you are unconscious or cannot direct medical care.

Living will

An advanced healthcare directive enables you to create specific written instructions for future care, known as a living will. The living will should include wishes regarding life-sustaining medical treatments and resuscitation if you are no longer able to speak on your own behalf.

It also can spell out whether you want to remain in a hospital or receive palliative care at home for a terminal illness. A living will can be changed if or when your wishes or circumstances change.

Legal and medical advice

Although legal advice is not required for an advanced directive, it can be helpful to iron out the legalities of your directives.

Speak with your doctor about your desires and needs. A physician can help you form a coherent directive that is in line with your wishes.

Remember, an advanced directive is not reserved for the elderly. Any consenting adult 18 or older can benefit from a living will and other documentation.

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Millie R. Fell, MD, FACS
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Protect your eyes from the sun's damaging rays by wearing sunglasses that provide UV protection. Also, wear a visor or a broad rimmed hat to add protection. The sun can cause damage to both the surface of your eyes as well as the delicate retina that lines the back of the eyes.

The sun can also aggravate your eyes if you have a dry eye condition. Dry eye disease is the most common reason patients come to see me complaining of a foreign body feeling in their eyes as well as burning or

other feeling of irritation. Wearing sunglasses helps this condition. Patients are also advised to use artificial tears, preferably without preservatives. These are sold over the counter. Sometimes, you have to try different brands to see which helps your symptoms the most.

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It also can spell out whether you want to remain in a hospital or receive palliative care at home for a terminal illness. A living will can be changed if or when your wishes or circumstances change.

Legal and medical advice

Although legal advice is not required for an advanced directive, it can be helpful to iron out the legalities of your directives.

Speak with your doctor about your desires and needs. A physician can help you form a coherent directive that is in line with your wishes.

Remember, an advanced directive is not reserved for the elderly. Any consenting adult 18 or older can benefit from a living will and other documentation.

ENTERTAINMENT

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Garifuna playing the conch shell trumpet, the only wind instrument used today in Garifuna traditional music. Kike Calvo via Associated Press

Garifuna Arts & Culture

By Nelson A. King

The Bronx-based Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. says it is celebrating Garifuna Arts & Culture Appreciation Month in New York City during the month of May in honor of the 17th anniversary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) proclamation of the Garifuna Language, Dance and Music as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, on May 18, 2001."

Continued on Page 46

Jamaican 'Princess'

By Tangerine Clarke

Actress Parisa Fitz-Henley, who was cast in the role of Meghan Markle in the May 13, Lifetime Television movie "Prince Harry & Meghan: A Royal Romance" has a connection to the Guyanese community.

Guyanese-born fashion designer, Roger Gary at the first Caribbean Fashion Week in 2001, outfitted the 41-year-old Jamaica-born, and former Miss Jamaica Fashion Model winner.

The world renowned, award-winning designer said he met Parisa at the event in Kingston, the first in the region for a fashion event of this magnitude that brought on a buzz of excitement, that everyone heading to Jamaica was feeling.

Gary, who has outfitted beauty

Continued on Page 46



SELEBRASYON!

Mimi "Manze" Beaubrun, singer and co-founder of Haiti's roots band Boukman Eksperyans will perform at the opening benefit concert of Haiti Cultural Exchange's Selebrasyon! at Shapeshifter Lab on May 17. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Six-weeks of Haiti's culture

By Tequila Minsky

Time to mark your calendar! From mid-May through June, Haiti Cultural Exchange (HCX) is presenting its third biennial edition of a veritable feast-of-arts festival: Selebrasyon! Ayiti Angaje (Celebration! Haiti Engages).

This deluge of music, visual arts, dance, film and contemporary photography fills six weeks of programming, interspersed with a good dose of conversation.

Get out your dancing shoes May 17 for the opening benefit concert at Shape Shifter Lab showcasing Haiti's renowned roots band Boukman Eksperyans, whose artistic practice is rooted in social justice. They will be joined by "son of (founders and lead singers) Boukman" Paul Beaubrun who now calls New York home.

"We continue to reach out as much as possible to attract diverse audiences — Haitians and non-Haitians," said the organization's executive

director and festival curator Regine Roumain.

Partnerships help expand the scope, as well as the venues of the festival including five community gardens throughout Brooklyn (second year with Brooklyn Queens Land Trust) and Hudson Guild in Manhattan. "They are vital to our success," Roumain acknowledges.

Storytelling takes place May 6 at the Children's Museum of the Arts,

Continued on Page 46

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 Meant To Be**
Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line
- 2 The Middle**
Zedd, Maren Morris & Grey
- 3 God's Plan**
Drake
- 4 Never Be The Same**
Camila Cabello
- 5 Perfect**
Ed Sheeran
- 6 Pray For Me**
The Weeknd & Kendrick Lamar
- 7 Whatever It Takes**
Imagine Dragons
- 8 Finesse**
Bruno Mars & Cardi B
- 9 New Rules**
Dua Lipa
- 10 Wait**
Maroon 5

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 KOD**
J. Cole
- 2 Eat The Elephant**
A Perfect Circle
- 3 The Greatest Showman**
Soundtrack
- 4 Invasion Of Privacy**
Cardi B
- 5 Creeker**
Upchurch
- 6 Vide Noir**
Lord Huron
- 7 Port Saint Joe**
Brothers Osborne
- 8 Church Of Scars**
Bishop Briggs
- 9 Rearview Town**
Jason Aldean
- 10 44/876**
Sting & Shaggy

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SELEBRASYON!

Continued from Page 45

and following the blast-off May 17 launch, a plethora of events include a presentation of the HCX community engagement model at Queens Museum Theatre on May 17, Haitian Flag Day on May 18 at BKLYN Commons, as well as a Café Conversation — Ann Pale at Westbrook Memorial Garden on Pacific, a painting exhibition and artist conversation at Five Myles Gallery, and a contemporary photography exhibition and conversation at the garden on Veronica Place. That's just May!

Then, from June 1-June 14, Selebrasyon! participates with Hudson Guild's Cultural Kaleidoscope Festival in the heart of Chelsea, in Manhattan. Through collaboration with Sans Limites Dance, HCX will present six dance concerts that feature choreographic works exploring themes of immigration and diasporic experiences.

Each performance will feature one choreographer of Hai-

tian descent, along with additional companies representing cultures from around the globe. Featured groups include Dance Caribbean Collective, Kriyol Dance! Collective, and Renegade Performance Group.

A seventh dance performance, an evening-length work by Haiti-based Compagnie de Danse Jean-René Delsoin will bring the richness of cultural expression and dances in Haiti to the world. Delsoin will also lead a master class June 10 at Mark Morris Dance Center.

"As we mature our emphasis includes bringing more Haiti-based artists to New York through our new initiative — Haiti X NY," says Roumain.

Visual artist Maksaens Denis's with his art installation, emerging vocalist Jehyna Sahyeir, performing in the Haiti Flag Day event, as well as Josué Azor featured at the May 31 opening of the work of seven exhibiting Haitian photographers are among the Haiti-based artists participating in Selebrasyon!



Paul Beaubrun will join his father Lolo and the rest of Boukman Eksperyans at ShapeShifter Lab for the May 17 concert.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

HCX is also partnering with the Caribbean Film Academy (Kafou, June 5, BAM) and The Luminar Theater (June 12-23, Hudson Guild) to present five film screenings that present

diverse narratives.

At home base FiveMyles Gallery on June 29, an evening of live music and food tasting closes the festival. The program: www.haiticulturalx.org/selebrasyon.

'Princess'

Continued from Page 45

queens, first ladies, and top models, including winner of America's next Top Model, Eva Pigford, said he was a featured designer, and part of the production team.

"I also attended art school in Jamaica and it was my first time heading back since I left," said the aqua couture designer, who was featured in Caribbean Life, 'Woman's Wear Daily,' 'New York Daily News,' 'World Bride,' 'Essence Magazine,' 'Unchain Magazine,' 'Gem Magazine,' 'British Pride,' 'Shabeau Magazine,' 'She Caribbean,' and 'The JC Report,' among others.

The production team, he said, had casted many international models for the event, and "the idea was to mix them with the local and regional models," said the couturier, who immediately saw Fitz, as one of the star models.

"The moment I saw Parisa I knew I had to outfit her in one of my signature designs," said Gary, so he chose a Red Indian inspired piece with flowing chiffon veil that framed her head of curls and face beautifully.

"She rocked it," he said, adding that the successful actress had an engaging personality



Jamaican-born actress to play Meghan Markle in Lifetime TV movie.

Associated Press / Mark Avery, File

backstage, and was a 'big hit' with other designers.

The Roger Gary Designs creator of elegant evening wear, day wear and swimwear for both private clientele as well as fashion-forward customers, and who is also a graduate of Parsons School of Design, and the Pratt Institute, is excited that one of his former models has snagged such a significant role, portraying a future princess, and stated that he worked with Parisa on other projects since then.

"I was very happy when I read about her role as the future princess. I think it was a perfect casting by the network to have her as the lead," said the master couturier of elegant cocktail dresses, perfectly tailored blouses, and beautiful gowns.

Garifuna

Continued from Page 45

create this Garifuna Arts & Culture history," said the group in a statement. "Their contributions help illuminate the human experience and spirit, and they help us reflect on our City's ongoing narrative."

It said the Garifuna Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage has "enriched New York City's cultural landscape since 1823, when William Henry Brown recognized as the first American playwright of African descent wrote 'The Drama of King Shotaway' a play which is recognized as the first black drama of the American Theatre."

The play had as its subject the 1795 Black Caribs (Garifunas) defense of the island of St. Vincent against colonization, led by Paramount Garifuna Chief Joseph Chatoyer, the Garifuna Coalition, USA, Inc. said.

"During Garifuna Arts & Culture Appreciation Month we will honor this rich heritage," it said. "This legacy tells a story of ingenuity and faith."

"Amidst the injustice of their forced deportation from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Garifunas lifted their voices

to the heavens through traditional songs, such as 'Yurumein,' which have transmitted the beliefs that have guided the life of the Garifuna for generations," it added.

Throughout the month of May, Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. said it will be exploring Garifuna Arts & Culture from "the legends who set the foundation to the artists of the future."

"We will examine all through articles, photo galleries, timelines, videos and more," it said.

The public is invited to celebrate Garifuna Arts and Culture at the following, among other, events: New York Launch of Vincy Mas 2018 - Saturday, May 5, 10 am - 6 pm, Friends of Crown Heights Day Care Center, 671 Prospect Pl Brooklyn, New York 11216; Abrazo Garifuna Friday May 11; Paranda Concert — Saturday, May 12, 3:00 pm - 7 pm, 977 Fox St., Bronx, New York 10459, information: (646) 714-1222 (757) 701-6940; 8th Annual Garifuna-American Legislative Day in Albany — Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 am - 9 pm; Wananagwa Contest & Festival Saturday, May 26; and Garifuna Cultural Concert Saturday, May 26, featuring Budari Dance Company & Libana Maraza Academia Rafael Hernandez, 977 Fox St., Bronx, New York 10459.

Halle Berry as mom during Rodney King riots

"Kings"

Very Good (3 stars)

Rated R for violence, sexuality, nudity and pervasive profanity

Running time: 92 minutes

Production Studios: Bliss Media / CG Cinema / Maven Pictures

Distributor: The Orchard Company

By Kam Williams

On March 3, 1991, five LAPD officers were caught on camera beating an unarmed black man who had led them on a high-speed chase instead of pulling over as directed. That driver, Rodney King suffered a broken ankle, a broken cheekbone, and numerous skull fractures and chipped teeth in the assault by billy clubs.

A year later, riots broke out all over South Central L.A. after a jury acquitted all the officers involved in the arrest. By the time the dust had settled a half-dozen days later, 63 people had died and thousands of businesses



Halle Berry stars as Millie Dunbar, an overworked single-mom with eight foster kids.

<https://ia.media-imdb.com/>

had been looted and burned to the ground, resulting in over a billion dollars in damages.

What was it like in the midst of the chaos and conflagration? That was the challenge accepted by Deniz Gamze Erguven in mounting "Kings," a surreal saga chronicling a foster-mom's frantic search for her missing kids at the height of the Rodney King riots.

You may remember that the talented Turkish writer / director made a spectacular debut a couple of years ago with "Mustang," a female-centric, coming-of-age adventure, which landed an Oscar nomination in the Best Foreign Film category. So, "Kings" is just Ms. Erguven's second feature-length movie, and her first in English.

While the ambitious offering

earns an A for the convincing way in which it recreates pandemonium, it only gets a C for coherency. For, the film unfolds less like a traditional narrative than a series of loosely-connected, impressionistic vignettes.

It stars Academy Award-winner Halle Berry (for *Monster's Ball*) as Millie Dunbar, an overworked single-mom with eight foster kids. When civil unrest

breaks out, she embarks on a quest to round them up with the help of her agoraphobic next-door neighbor, Obie, the last white guy living in the 'hood. The hunky shut-in, played by Daniel "007" Craig, summons up the courage to get out of the house for the sake of Millie's missing brood.

The plot thickens when the two are mistaken for looters by a gruff cop (Kirk Baltz) too overwhelmed by the situation to listen to any explanations. Millie and Obie end up handcuffed to each other which might not be entirely bad, since the close quarters affords them an opportunity to get better acquainted. So who knows, the old maid might even find a man in the midst of the mayhem.

This otherwise grim period piece arrives blessed with a retro soundtrack featuring James Brown's African-American anthem "Say It Loud, I'm Black & I'm Proud," Bill Withers' haunting, R&B classic "City of the Angels," and Nina Simone's searing rendition of "Ooh Child." Nevertheless, consider "Kings" a harrowing descent into depravity that makes *The Florida Project* look like *Leave It to Beaver*.

Independent & Foreign Films

102 Not Out (PG for mature themes) Bollywood comedy based on a play of the same name about a 102-year-old geezer's (Amitabh Bachchan) attempt to make

it into the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest man alive with the help of his 75 year-old son (Rishi Kapoor). Featuring Jimit Trivedi and Mukesh Hariawala. (In Hindi with subtitles)

The Cleanse (R for profanity and some sexual references) Midlife crisis comedy about an unemployed, heart-broken slacker (Johnny Galecki) who gets a new lease on life when he falls for a fellow lost soul (Anna Friel) at a spiritual retreat with a hidden agenda. With Oliver Platt, Anjelica Huston and Loretta Walsh.

The Con Is On (Unrated) Mob comedy about a couple of con artists (Tim Roth and Uma Thurman) who flee England for L.A. to pull a big jewel heist to repay a debt owed the notorious gangster (Maggie Q) on their tail. Supporting cast includes Sofia Vergara, Parker Posey and Crispin Glover.

The Desert Bride (Unrated) Paulina Garcia plays the title character in this romance drama, set in Buenos Aires, revolving around a 54 year-old housekeeper who falls in love with a



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

traveling salesman (Claudio Rissi) soon after being fired by the family that had employed her for several decades. (In Spanish with subtitles)

The Guardians (R for violence and sexuality) Tale of female empowerment set in rural France during World War I where a matriarch (Nathalie Baye) hires a teenage orphan (Iris Bry) to help her daughter (Laura Smet) work the family farm while the men (Cyril Descours, Nicolas Giraud and Olivier Rabourdin) are fighting on the front lines. Supporting cast includes Glibert Bonneau, Xavier Maly and Mathilde Vieux. (In French with subtitles)

Ray Meets Helen (Unrated) Keith Carradine and Sondra Locke play the title characters in this romantic fantasy about two suddenly-wealthy strangers whose paths cross serendipitously. With Keith David, Jennifer Tilly and Kim Wayans.

RBG (PG for mature themes and mild epithets) Reverential biopic chronicling the career of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Featuring commentary by Gloria Steinem and Nina Totenberg.

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West Indies's Dwayne Bravo watches the flight of one of his deliveries during a T20 cricket match in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Associated Press / Themba Hadebe, file

Trini cricketers

By Azad Ali

Cricket West Indies (CWI) wants to meet with Kieron Pollard, Dwayne Bravo, Sunil Narine and Darren Bravo to ascertain their availability for future tours.

According to an article in the Express newspapers last week, CWI chief executive officer Johnny Grave explained that the four Trinidad and Tobago players were not invited to be part of the squad for the Hurricane Relief T20 against a World XI in London in May.

Grave said the players' West Indies

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Hope receives cricket award

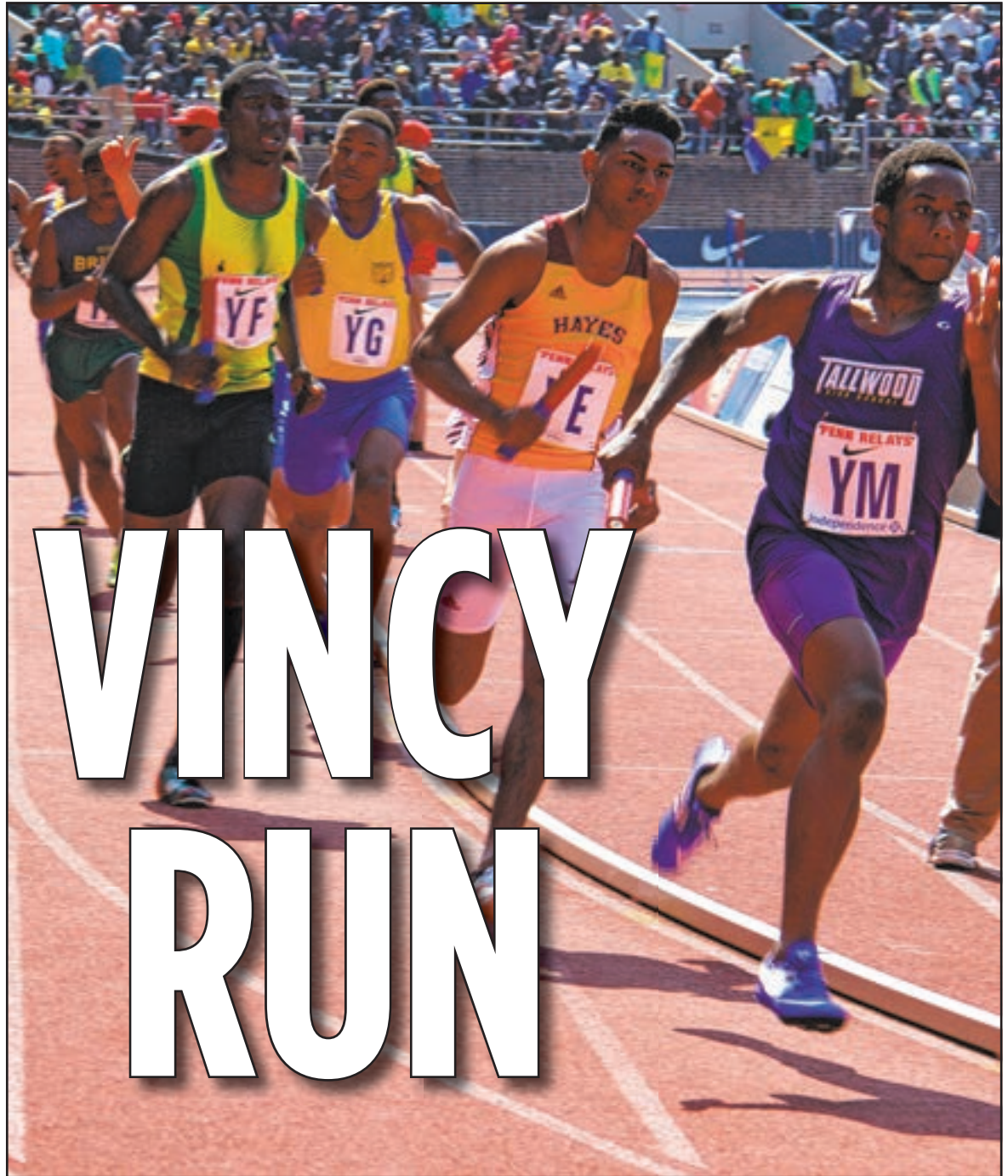
By Azad Ali

Fresh from being named one of Wisden's five Cricketers of the Year recently at Lords in London, Shai Hope has earned another prestigious honor, the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) President's award.

BCA President Conrad Riley made the announcement at the association's annual dinner at Kensington Oval Barbados, attended by several former and current West Indies players, including Sir Charlie Griffith, Desmond Haynes, Cammie Smith, Floyd Reifer, Ryan Hinds, Kraigg Brathwaite and Ashley Nurse.

In making the announcement, Riley — the Cricket West Indies (CWI) director — noted the two great innings Hope played during a Test at Headingley last

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Ethan Myers (in green and yellow top) on second leg for SVG Grammar School in the 4x400m relay race.

Photo by Nelson A. King

SVG Grammar School impresses at Penn Relays

By Nelson A. King

Although it was only the second year competing in the illustrious Penn Relays at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, the St. Vincent Grammar School last weekend impressed athletic fans and supporters with its performance at the

124th staging of the games.

The all-boys teams placed third in the 4x100m and 4x400m on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

"We're very proud of the performance," Head Coach Rawlson Morgan told a reception Saturday night for the athletes at the Vin-

centian-owned Calabash Restaurant and Lounge on Lancaster Avenue in Philadelphia.

"They [the teams] did extremely well, taking into consideration that they were not 100 percent [fit]," he added. "We had couple of injuries. It

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West Indies' cricketer Kieron Pollard. Associated Press / Rajanish Kakade

Continued from Page 49

careers are in their own hands and wants to meet with them to discuss precisely that.

Following the recently-held naming of the squad in January for the ICC World Cup Qualifier, CWI president Dave Cameron was reported as telling TVJ Sports in Jamaica that Pollard, Narine and Bravo — who all opted out of selection — that the board in its wisdom feels that after the World Cup — the qualifiers — “we will probably not invite those players to be a part of Cricket West Indies going forward.”

Bajan award



West Indies' Shai Hope plays a shot off the bowling of England's Stuart Broad on the third day of the third test match between England and the West Indies at Lord's cricket ground in London, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.

Associated Press / Kirsty Wigglesworth, File

Continued from Page 49

year, when the young and brilliant West Indies team beat England.

“It was a memorable and historic occasion and we are pleased to honor him,” he added.

Barbadian Hope, 24, made 147 in the first innings — his first Test century — and returned to post an equally important 118 in the second innings as the West Indies shocked the cricketing world, chasing 322 for victory on the final day to mark one of the most remarkable performances in Test history.



Head Coach Rawlson Morgan (fifth from left) and Head Master Curtis King with SVG Grammar School students at a reception on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

Photo by Nelson A. King

GRAMMAR SCHOOL MAKES ANOTHER RUN

Continued from Page 49

was a concern to us.”

Curtis King, the grammar school head master, later told patrons at the reception which included New York Consul General Howie Prince; members of the Brooklyn-based umbrella Vincentian group, Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organizations, U.S.A., Inc.; the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Association of Washington, D.C.; and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organization of Pennsylvania — that he, too, was very proud of the teams' accomplishment.

“We have set the bar, so we can begin rubbing shoulders with the Jamaicans,” said King about the Caribbean nation that is renowned among the world's top athletic power houses.

In interviews with Caribbean Life the next day, at a brunch, at the same venue, for the athletes, Morgan and King reiterated their impression with the teams' performance.

“When I looked at how they approached the races, I was very happy,” King said. “I was very elated.”

He said, however, that the 4x100 team, in particular, could have done better but for the chilly weather on Friday and an unhealed hamstring injury to Javon Rawlins, who anchored that leg.

“Taking everything into consideration, I'm very proud of the guys and very happy that no major incidents took place,” Morgan chimed in. “I think the guys did extremely well.”

King said the team's performance in the 4x400m — in which it competed



Zwicka Charles poses after the 4X100 relay race at the Penn Relays.

Photo by Nelson A. King

with 12 schools, including two it beat from Jamaica — “put us in a better position to solicit on their behalf to ensure they are present next year.

“The performances have indicated to us that the school has a lot of talent and, once given the opportunity, there's no telling what they can achieve,” he said.

The 4x100 team — Zwicka Charles, Jady Delpesche, Jovanie Lavia and Javon Rawlins, in that order — competed in 44.90 sec. Last year's team had competed in 44.30 sec.

The 4x400 team — Lavia, Ethan Myers, Handel Roban and Charles, also in that order — recorded the best time ever: 3 min., 22 sec. Last year's Penn Relays' effort was 3 min. 27 sec.

Roban had snatched the gold medal in the 800 meters, in 1 min., 56 sec., in the Under 17 Category, at the just-concluded CARIFTA Games in the Bahamas.

“[It was] the first time at the games [Penn Relays], and I enjoyed it a lot,” the soft-spoken Roban told Saturday night's reception.

“I've broken seven or eight records [to date],” he added, using his fingers to count, to huge laughter. “My personal best today was 49.43 sec. in the 4x400 [m].”

In a terse speech that evoked patriotic cheers, screams and goose bumps from patrons, Lavia told his story.

“I got sick after 300 meters; I was down and out,” he said. “Then, I heard the Vincies [in the Franklin Field stadium] screaming, then I ran. It was a great experience.”

Guyana team cops 8 medals at Penn Relays

By Tangerine Clarke

Last Sunday evening, April 29, Team Guyana received a resounding welcome at the Oxygen Nation Cocktail Lounge at 1343 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, where members were congratulated during a reception, on winning four gold, and four bronze medals, at the recent Penn Relays in Philadelphia.

Cassi Small — the anchor leg, of the 4x4 relay race team that won gold, lauded teammates for excelling at the meet and said, "you could do anything you put your mind to."

"We trained hard and finished the race in just four minutes," said the athlete who along with teammates Princess Browne, Joanna Archer, Binka Joseph, Malika Abrams and Thenica Thompson, attend Campbellville High School in Georgetown.

A section of the male team from Forth Wellington High School and Guyana Technical Institute, won bronze. They are Samuel Lynch, Akeem Stewart, Daniel Nicholson, Stayon Wilson, Okemi Porter, Brian Roman, Joseph Rahaman, Titus Webster, Loneil Marks,

Rue Chester, Dave Torrington, Kevin Abbensetts, Stephen Smith, Revon Williams Teron Lucas and Jemaine Simmons.

This fourth year of competition, organized by Tonya Barry and Mark Webster, former Guyanese athletes has yielded much success said Barry, who praised the athletes for being the only team from the region, besides Jamaica, to win medals.

She noted that the students did exceptionally well, with the help of coaches Keisa Burnett, Stanford Fraser, Kariean Aaron and Christopher Gaskin.

The team also took home the prestigious Relay Carnival plaque, competing in track and field, and other events, at the Penn Relays, whose goal is to provide the best track and field competition each spring for the greatest number of participants at all levels.

During the evening's celebration, the students were presented with Certificates from Senator Kevin Parker, on behalf of Miss CARICOM Foundation. They also received athletic shoes, from Mr. Kyte, Mrs. Nadia and Mr. Safran, and financial donations from

guests. Friends of Miss CARICOM Foundation donated food and clothes.

Guyanese-American philanthropist, Edgar Henry partner with Charles Cush of Oxygen Nation Cocktail Lounge, said it was always a pleasure to give back to the community.

The retired president of the Flatbush Improvement District and sports enthusiast, praised the athletes for their exceptional performance, and said he jumped at the opportunity to host the seniors, where people would welcome them.

"They have to look to the future, and blossom from the Penn Relays to the Olympic games, and continue to do tremendously well, this is a start," he said.

"The students have the vision and the talent, we have to nurture them," said Henry, a member of the Guyana Cultural Association, and a cricket sponsor.

Former top athlete, Victor Benjamin, who represented Guyana from 1970 to 1992 a top ranking medalist, told the students to always aim to win with good timings.



Members of the Guyana Team which won four gold and four bronze medals at the Penn Relays pose during a reception at the Oxygen Nation Cocktail Lounge on Flatbush. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

He recalled that Guyana held high records in the 60s, noting that athletes could return Guyana to its glory days of top performance, if the government allocates funds for sports. He

also called on the community to play its part.

The team returned to Guyana on Monday, April 30, compliments of Fly Jamaica Airways.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
You will have plenty of time to devote to your favorite projects, Aries. But right now you need to spend some time with close friends and family.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Relationships are at the forefront of your mind, Taurus. You may have specific criteria you use to assess potential friends or romantic interests, but it could pay to widen your scope.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, your charm might be on overdrive, but you are looking for more than just trivial companionship. Explore activities that will match you with those with the same interests.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Coworkers are expecting much from you, Cancer. Although you want to promise them everything, you have doubts you can deliver. See what you can handle and farm out the rest.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
You have plenty of options in your love life, Leo. Take a step back and carefully assess where you want existing relationships to go. Such a breather will only benefit you.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
It takes more than just a positive attitude to be successful this week - although positivity is a good start. Set goals and aim for doing your fair share of hard work.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, your intuition lets you know when to keep quiet and when to make a stir. Let events unfold around you this week, keeping your thoughts close to the vest.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, in the midst of difficult times, you may find that opportunities abound. Do not let any moment pass you by; embrace the situations and opportunities coming your way.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
An invitation to a special event may be on the horizon, Sagittarius. Be patient and prepare for some excitement. Invite others to join in the festivities.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you may be on the cusp of revealing your plans to others. But a change of heart might be coming, so wait a little bit longer until you're certain.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
You might not be in the mood for small talk this week, Aquarius. But avoid being rude as you try to speak about serious matters. Allow others to express themselves.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
There seems to be no limit to your career possibilities, Pisces. Rather than staying put in your current position, branch out.

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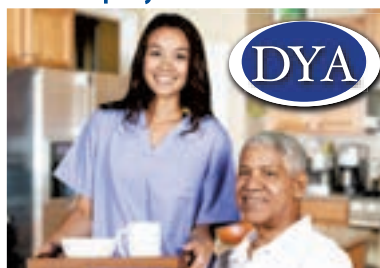
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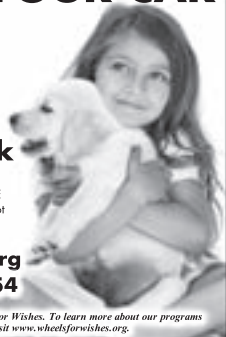
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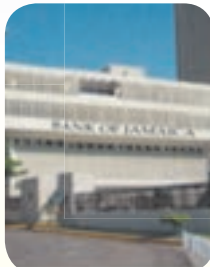
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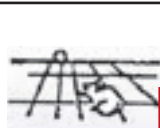
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