



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo who is seeking re-election gets support from some Caribbean faith leaders.

Associated Press / Seth Wenig

## Caribbean faith leaders endorse Cuomo

By Nelson A. King

More than 20 Caribbean faith leaders in Brooklyn have endorsed Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo for re-election, his campaign office said on Wednesday.

"The group cited the governor's record of progressive accomplishments in delivering critical social and economic justice reform – from raising the age of criminal responsibility, establishing the nation's first and only special

prosecutor in the deaths of unarmed civilians, enacting a \$15 minimum wage, passing paid family leave and more," the statement said.

"Leaders also hailed the governor's past efforts to help Caribbean immigrants, who have had their rights threatened by the Trump administration," it added.

Bishop Orlando Findlayter of New Hope Christian Fellowship said: "We are excited to stand with Gov. Andrew

Cuomo because, over the last four years, we have seen our K-12 schools funded with a record \$27 billion, we've made unprecedented investments in full-day pre-K, boosted funding for our community schools to provide wrap-around services and expanded after school programs to equip students with the tools they need to succeed.

"At a time of much uncertainty in the nation, we need a

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# RASTAS SEEK JUSTICE

## Pay reparations for marijuana convictions

By Bert Wilkinson

It has barely been two weeks since Caribbean leaders held their summit in Jamaica and accepted a report from a marijuana commission, recommending that the classification of the drug be regulated similarly to that of alcohol, but various groups in the region are upping the pressure on governments to act and even to pay reparations to people who have been jailed for consuming or possessing small amounts of weed.

Leading the way are Rastafarian groups in Antigua, which earlier this year allowed a national to have up to 15 grams in his or her possession and for a family to cultivate up to four cannabis plants per household for personal uses. Convictions for persons who at the time of arrest had less than 15 will be scrubbed from personal records.

In the past week, the man considered as one of the elders of the Caribbean Rastafari movement supported recent calls from Antigua Prime Min-

ister Gaston Browne for reparations to be paid to Rastafarians and others who were wronged by previous policies and laws that made criminals of people using small amounts of weed for personal, religious or medicinal purposes.

Antigua Franklyn King, regionally known as Ras Frank-I, contends that Rastafarians and other CARICOM nationals have been unfairly maligned over the decades for their advocacy to decriminalize marijuana use and possession of reasonable amounts, saying the time has come to find some form of reparations. Frank-I was a key member of the regional marijuana commission which handed in its report to governments in Jamaica earlier this month.

Earlier this year, PM Browne in an extraordinary moment of political contrition had formally apologized to Antiguanians who were jailed and had their lives shredded by protracted court cases and eventual convictions. He said moves will be made to

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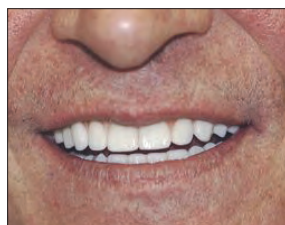
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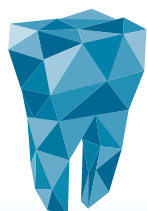
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Jumaane Williams speaks outside the New York State Board of Elections as he files nearly 70,000 petition signatures.

Jumaane Williams Campaign

## Williams submits nearly 70,000 ballot petition signatures

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Councilman Jumaane Williams, who is running for New York Lieutenant Governor, joined dozens of advocates outside State Board of Elections offices in Albany last Thursday to announce that his campaign has collected more than 68,000 petition signatures backing his effort to secure ballot access for his candidacy.

"I'd like to thank Gov. [Andrew] Cuomo and his Lt. Gov. [Kathy Hochul] for blocking our nomination during May's [state] Democratic Convention," Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants, told reporters. "Because of their incumbent protection politics, our team has quickly built out a highly functioning campaign that has allowed us to engage with countless voters across New York by gathered a historic number of petition signatures.

"I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all of the dedicated volunteers who have helped our grassroots campaign to achieve such strong momentum toward my becoming the people's Lt. Gov.," added the New York City Council, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

Advocates from the Working Families Party, Citizen Action, the New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN) and other progressive organizations joined Williams to celebrate as the historic number of petitions were submitted Thursday afternoon.

In addressing the gathering, Williams called on Hochul to accept his request to "debate the issues" and the role of the Lieutenant Governor position itself "to give the voters an opportunity to determine who they believe would be the best Democratic nominee and representative of the people."

# Assemblywoman Bichotte celebrates Nelson Mandela Day

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte on Wednesday joined many around the world in celebrating Nelson Mandela Day.

July 18 is an international holiday aimed at recognizing the life and legacy of the late South African President Nelson Mandela.

The international community first celebrated the holiday in 2009 on Mandela's 91st birthday.

"The Mandela Day campaign message is 'Nelson Mandela has fought for social justice for 67 years. We're asking you to start with 67 minutes,'" said Bichotte, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn, New York.

"We would be honored if such a day can serve to bring together people around the world to fight poverty and promote peace, reconciliation and cultural diversity," added Bichotte, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, the first ever Haitian American from New York City to be elected to the New York State Assembly.

Bichotte, chair of the Assembly's Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBs), noted that Mandela led the battle against Apartheid in South Africa, a system of racial segregation and discrimination, which remained in place until 1994.

During the early 1960's, she said Mandela worked with the African National Congress "in an effort to resist the draconian Apartheid laws.

"Eventually he, and several other freedom fighters, went on the run," Bichotte said. "In 1962, the South African security forces finally located Mandela and arrested him. He was subsequently sentenced to a life term of imprisonment on Robben Island Prison in 1964."

In 1990, after 26 years in prison, Bichotte said Mandela "walked out to the streets of South Africa a free man."

"Four short years later, Mandela became the President of the country that had imprisoned him for all those years," she said.

"Until his death in 2013, Mandela dedicated his life to the pursuit of social justice and equality for all," Bichotte added. "Nelson Mandela Day celebrates the legacy of this man's extraordinary life and calls upon the international community to dedicate itself to a day of service."

In also paying tribute to the first



Brooklyn Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte.

Photo by Tequila Minsky, File

democratically-elected President of South Africa and iconic civil rights leader, the United Nations on Wednesday celebrated Nelson Mandela's legacy for humanity and reflected on the lessons he left behind.

"He stands today as a beacon for universal values — peace, forgiveness, humility, integrity, passion, respect and service," said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. "Madiba showed us that these are not just words or vague ideals but concrete actions that we can all take."

In his tribute, the UN chief quoted the anti-Apartheid leader's declaration that "overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life."

"Let us act on Madiba's words," Guterres said. "Let us recall all the promises we have made — in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda — and let us commit to honor our pledges.

"Let us work for the better world we

know can exist," he added, calling on the world to "persevere with commitment and conviction."

The UN said the President of the General Assembly, Miroslav Laják, focused on the lessons that Madiba — as Mandela was affectionately called in South Africa — taught the world on the importance of dialogue, peace and tolerance.

"He showed us that dialogue and negotiation should be pursued relentlessly — no matter how deep the divides, or strong the hurt," he said, regretting that "too often we have let peace slip through our fingers. And we have waited until it was gone, to act."

"The prophet is no longer with us, but his teachings are," Laják said. "And we need them — now, more than ever."

He denounced the current global rise in intolerance, hate, inhumanity, racism, prejudice and discrimination, according to the UN.

"We cannot be silent in the face of them," Laják said. "We need to push back harder — and to speak out louder than ever."

Go to [www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com](http://www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com) for the latest in Caribbean news, entertainment, sports, business, viewpoints and more.



### Barbados

Public servants in Barbados will receive a five percent salary next month.

Director of Finance and Economic Affairs Ian Carrington in making the announcement said the paper work for salaries was completed in advance, therefore the increase could not be added to July's salary.

He said the government is hoping to have the back pay, which will be due for the April to July period, paid by September, so public servants can use that money for back to school expenses.



Prime Minister Mia Mottley promised the increase in the mini-budgetary proposals and financial statement that was delivered in Parliament recently.

She said the agreement reached between the Ministry of the Civil Service and the Public Service Unions of Barbados of five percent across the board, would become applicable for the period April, 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

The prime minister said the agreement would cost the government Bds\$60 million.



## Improving Barbados water supply

Dr. Donnell Cain (right), the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre's (CCCCC) project development specialist who worked with the BWA on the Barbados Water Resilience Nexus for Sustainability Project, in discussion with Dr. Adrian Cashman from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill on the educational institutions that assisted with the project's development. See story on Page 22.

Inter Press Service / Zandie Neufville

### Guyana

The United States has urged Guyana to fund specialized victim services as the fight continues against trafficking in people.

The State Department also wants those services to be unveiled for child victims and adult male victims of human trafficking.

This was one of the recommendations made in the United States State Department's 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report.

The United States government also said that it would like to see Guyana vigorously investigating and prosecuting sex and labor trafficking cases and arrest traffickers, including complicit public officials, accountable by imposing strong sentences.



According to the report, while Guyana increased efforts to identify and protect trafficking victims, victims assistance remained insufficient, especially in areas outside of Georgetown and for child and male victims.

The report found that the government fully meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking resulting in the South American country remaining on Tier 1 list.

### Haiti

Haitian Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant has suspended the controversial fuel price hike that triggered

protest in the French-speaking Caribbean island recently.

The decision to suspend the steep increase in the price of gasoline came following fiery protests, burning of tires, and mounting roadblocks, which left three people dead.

According to reports, the fuel price rise is in compliance with an agreement made with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Just before the suspension was announced, the leader of Haitian's lower house of parliament had threatened a government takeover if the fuel price increases were not reversed.



Police said that two of the protesters were fatally shot when they clashed with police in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The third person killed was a security guard for a former political candidate who was stopped at a barricade.

The IMF had suggested ending of subsidies for petroleum products, which are a major source of the budget deficit.

### Jamaica

Jamaica and Guyana have agreed to strengthen bilateral relations in the areas of trade, investment and agriculture.

Both leaders will reactivate the Guyana- Jamaica Joint Commission

that was set up under the Agreement on Economic, Technical and Cultural Cooperation which was signed by both countries on June 1, 1995.

This followed discussions between Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness and Guyana Prime Minister David Granger where they recently attended the 39th Regular Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government at Montego, Bay Jamaica.



Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, said the partnership is about building strong relations in the region.

### St. Lucia

St. Lucia's Prime Minister Allen Chastanet said his government has taken no decision to subsidize regional airline LIAT.

He was responding to reports carried by local and regional media that St. Lucia will subsidize the airline.

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne was quoted as saying that the governments of St. Lucia and Grenada have agreed to subsidize the operations of the Antigua-based regional carrier.

He did not reveal details of the contribution but said they had agreed to put some money into LIAT at the

just concluded Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Authority meeting in Castries.

In a statement Chastanet said his government had not yet made a decision on subsidizing LIAT.

He said he had agreed to a meeting to discuss some of the issues relevant to the airline.

The prime minister also stressed that his government has been consistent in its position of LIAT that the airline operate on a strictly commercial basis.



### Trinidad

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is predicting that Trinidad and Tobago will return to positive growth this year following two years of recession.

In a statement following its latest Article IV Mission recently, the IMF said the signs of improvement were driven by energy sector growth from the second half of 2017 and a return to positive growth is expected as the recovery takes hold in the non-energy sector.

The IMF noted that while headline inflation fell to historic lows of 1.9 percent last year, then dropped further to 1.1 percent year-on-year in



Continued on Page 16



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# IMF likes Barbados' plans

By George Alleyne

Based on an International Monetary Fund's preliminary assessment, Barbados appears to be moving correctly along the path towards securing refinancing of its debt obligations and for national economic restructuring.

One week after winning the May 24 elections, the Mia Mottley administration responded to being confronted with a national debt, that has more than doubled in the 10 years of the last government, by suspending liability payments and calling in the IMF for assistance with the aim of getting soft loans to help Barbados meet its obligations while righting a declining economy.

Following Mottley's meeting with IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, an IMF team visited Barbados from July 02 to July 12 for talks with private and public officials and before leaving the island, declared the visit a success.

"Significant progress has been made during this IMF staff visit on the plan that could underpin financial support from the IMF. On its return to

Washington the team will continue to analyze the government's comprehensive reform program. We will remain closely engaged with the authorities in the coming weeks," stated IMF mission leader, Bert van Selm.

The IMF visit is seen as a country assessment, which will lay the basis for the organisation's talks with the island's government that should lead to the release of hundreds of millions of dollars in loans at the concessionary interest rate of one per cent in a few months.

That rate conflicts drastically with the 7.5 to 8.5 percent interest condition under which the previous government borrowed US\$225 million from Credit Suisse in 2013, and for which a payment of a reported US\$60 million is now past due and falls under the list of debt obligations for which Barbados is seeking refinancing.

So far Bert van Selm appears pleased with what his team has found and will be reporting to the Fund's Washington headquarters.

"The Barbadian authori-

ties, in close consultation with their social partners, are taking effective steps to address current economic vulnerabilities," he said, adding, "progress being made by the authorities in furthering good-faith discussions with domestic and external creditors is welcome. Continuing open dialogue and sharing information, will remain important in concluding an orderly debt restructuring process."

When Mottley had announced suspension of payments due on debts owed to external commercial creditors and requested local creditors to roll over principal maturities until government strikes a restructuring agreement with them, she said "our debt has been unsustainable territory for some time. The arrears represent an effective default by the previous government to Barbadians."

She said her administration had developed an 'Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan' intended to initially provide balance of payments support through IMF soft loans.

If words of the IMF mis-



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley. Photo by George Alleyne

sion leader are an indication of the intent of the Fund, then Barbados is well underway towards securing that balance of payments support.

"The IMF stands ready

to partner with Barbados to restore macroeconomic stability in order to secure strong, durable and inclusive growth in the years ahead," Bert van Selm stated.

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# Marijuana

Continued from Page 1

expunge the criminal blemishes on their records as convictions had prevented people from securing jobs and accessing loans among other basic services.

Browne said that once Antigua gets over the hurdles of starting up a production and export sector, “Rastafari be given a stake in production and benefits to be derived from the medicinal and other uses going forward. Let us regard this as reparations for Rastafari, for the wrongs inflicted on this significant minority group in our countries, through the so called ‘war on drugs’ which evidently was prompted by pernicious prohibition.

But as debate on the issue is ramped up in the wake of the Jamaica summit, Trinidadian Prime Minister Keith Rowley and Guyanese counterpart David Granger are still giving strong hints of a conservative approach to the issue, perhaps fearing that authorities could lose control if cannabis is legalized.

Rowley told reporters a week ago that “we have priorities and decriminalizing marijuana is not one of them. There are now discussions of marijuana as an economic entity. There are those who are arguing about marijuana as a harmless substance, marijuana as a medicinal breakthrough and so on. For the government of T&T, the jury is still out on the science. Therefore we will be guided as it evolves,” he said, explain-



A Jamaican Rastafarian known as Nature smokes marijuana for spiritual purposes outside the Trench Town Culture Yard Museum in downtown Kingston, Jamaica, where he works as a tour guide.

Associated Press / David McFadden

ing that cabinet is not running away from the issue. It is just low priority he said.

Down south in Guyana, President Granger says that laws regarding small amounts could soon be changed, but cabinet will have to find the time to deliberate on the issue.

“What I will say is that we are moving towards the removal of custodial sentences for the possession of small amounts of marijuana. The commission is unanimous in its view that the current classification for cannabis / marijuana as a ‘dangerous drug’ with ‘no value’ or narcotic should be changed to a classification of legal cannabis as a ‘controlled substance,’” he said.

# Cuomo gets support

Continued from Page 1

leader who is brave and committed to ensuring that New York continues to be the progressive beacon on immigration, civil rights, criminal justice reform and fighting for women’s equality,” he added. “That leader is Gov. Cuomo, and we endorse his candidacy for re-election.”

Rev. Al Cockfield, the Guyanese-born pastor of God’s Battalion of Prayer Church said: “These troubled times require a true leader, and that’s Andrew Cuomo.

“For years, we’ve seen Gov. Cuomo’s commitment to underserved communities,” he said. “He’s put action behind his words and proven that he will fight for our rights.

“He’s leading the lawsuit against the Trump administration’s inhumane and illegal policy of separating immigrant children from their families, he’s pressing to close Rikers Island and improve our criminal justice system, and he’s working with educators and parents to make our children safe by enacting common sense gun reforms,” Rev. Cockfield added.

“I’m proud of the work he’s done, and I’m proud to endorse him for another term as New York’s governor,” he continued.

The Rev. Dr. Karen Champion of the Kingdom Dominion Empowerment Center said: “No other governor has

helped so many in so many ways.

“Gov. Cuomo is helping our communities fight injustice with policies like raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18, establishing the first ever special prosecutor to investigate deaths of unarmed civilians at the hands of police, and vowing to close Rikers Island ahead of Mayor Bill de Blasio’s plan,” she said.

“As Trump pushes his anti-immigrant agenda across the country, we in the Caribbean community see so clearly how Gov. Cuomo’s leadership is more important than ever,” she added.

Champion said the governor provided legal services for Haitians after Trump ended temporary protected status.

She also noted that Cuomo has “taken on the administration’s illegal policy of separating children from parents and denying due process to migrant families.”

He’s stood by our community since he first took office and we know he will continue to be there for us for the next four years. Speaking on behalf of my colleagues, we proudly endorse Governor Cuomo for reelection.”

Cuomo said he was “honored to receive the endorsement from the faith leaders of our Caribbean community.

“As New Yorkers, we know the power of our diverse viewpoints is what has made us stronger, not weaker,” he said.



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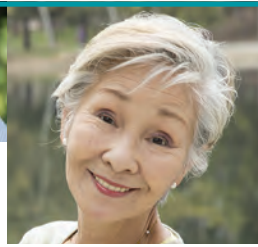
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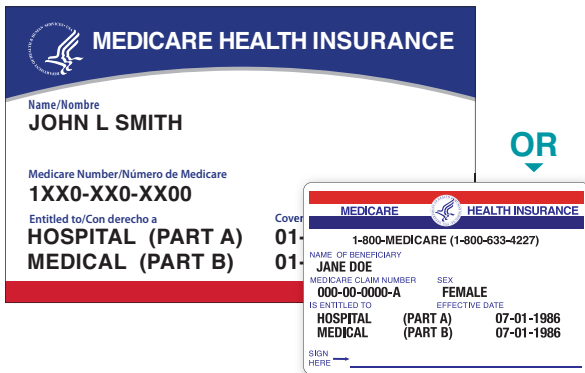


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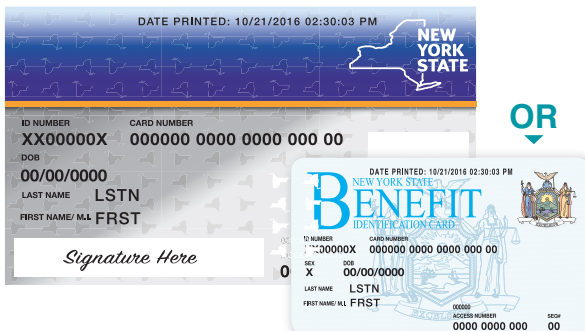
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# Will Trump's trade war make America great again?

By Anis Chowdhury and Jomo Kwame Sundaram

SYDNEY & KUALALUMPUR, July 16, 2018 (IPS) — The United States has had the world's largest trade deficit for almost half a century. In 2017, the US trade deficit in goods and services was \$566 billion; without services, the merchandise account deficit was \$810 billion.

The largest US trade deficit is with China, amounting to \$375 billion, rising dramatically from an average of \$34 billion in the 1990s. In 2017, its trade deficit with Japan was \$69 billion, and with Germany, \$65 billion. The US also has trade deficits with both its NAFTA partners, including \$71 billion with Mexico.

President Trump wants to reduce these deficits with protectionist measures. In March 2018, he imposed a 25 percent tariff on steel imports and a 10 percent tariff on aluminium, a month after imposing tariffs and quotas on imported solar panels and washing machines. On July 10, the US listed Chinese imports worth \$200 billion annually that will face 10 percent tariffs, probably from

September, following 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion of such imports from July 7.

## Do US trade deficits reflect weakness?

The usual explanation for bilateral trade deficits is price differentials. However, the US accuses such countries of 'unfair' trade practices, such as currency manipulation, wage suppression and government subsidies to boost exports, besides blocking US imports.

Trump views most trade deals such as NAFTA as unfair. His team insists that renegotiating trade deals, 'buying American', a strong dollar and confronting China will shrink US trade deficits.

But the country's overall trade deficit, offset by capital inflows, is related to the gap between its savings and investments. The US spends more than it produces, thus importing foreign goods and services. Cheap credit fuels debt-financed consumption, increasing the trade deficit.

Total US household debt rose to \$13.2 trillion in the first quarter of 2018, the 15th consecutive quarter of growth

in the mortgage, student, auto and credit card loan categories. American consumer debt was more than double GDP in 2017.

US government budget deficits have also been growing. From 67.7 percent of GDP in 2008, US government debt rose to 105.4 percent in 2017. The federal budget deficit was \$665 billion in FY2017, rising 14 percent from \$585 billion in FY2016.

The US budget deficit was 3.5 percent of GDP in 2017. According to the US Congressional Budget Office, it will surpass \$1 trillion by 2020, two years sooner than previously projected, due to Trump tax cuts and spending increases.

The growing US economy may also increase the trade deficit, as consumers spend more on imported goods and services. The stronger dollar has made foreign products cheaper for American consumers while making US exports more expensive for foreigners.

These underlying economic forces have become more important than policies in raising the overall trade deficit, while bilateral deficits reflect specific commercial relations with particular countries. Thus, disrupting bilateral trade relations may only shift the trade deficit to others.

## Have the cake and eat it?

So, why does the US have a structural trade deficit? As the de facto international 'reserve currency' after the Second

World War, the US has provided the rest of the world with liquidity. Its perceived military strength means it is seen as a safe place to keep financial assets. Of about \$10 trillion in global reserves in 2016, for example, around three fifths were held in US dollars.

US supply of international liquidity by issuing the global reserve currency offers several economic advantages. It also earns seigniorage from issuing the main currency used around the world, due to the difference between the face value of a currency note and the cost of issuing it.

With growing foreign demand for dollars, the US can run deficits almost indefinitely by creating more debt or selling assets. Demand for dollar-denominated assets, e.g., US Treasury bonds, raises their prices, lowering interest rates, to finance both consumption and investment.

While foreign investors buy low-yielding, short-term US assets, Americans can invest abroad in higher-yielding, long-term assets. The US usually reaps higher returns on such investments than it pays for debt, labelled America's 'exorbitant privilege.'

Thus, for the US to enjoy the 'exorbitant privilege' of the dollar's role as the major reserve currency, it must run a chronic trade deficit. Therefore, giving up the dollar's global reserve currency status will have major implications for the US economy, finances and living standards.

## Can the US win Trump's trade war?

Barry Eichengreen noted that countries in military alliances with reserve-currency issuing countries hold about 30% more of the partner's currency in their foreign-exchange reserves than countries not in such alliances. Instead, Trump has prioritized reducing trade deficits to strengthen the US dollar and dominance while disrupting some old political alliances.

As the US retreats from the global diplomatic stage, use of other reserve currencies, including China's renminbi, has been growing, especially in Europe and Africa. Thus, ironically, as Trump wages trade wars on both foes and friends, China will probably gain, both geopolitically and economically.

The resulting global economic shift will not only hurt the US dollar and economy through the exchange rate and borrowing costs, but also its geopolitical dominance.

Anis Chowdhury, adjunct professor at Western Sydney University (Australia), held senior United Nations positions in New York and Bangkok.

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

## Caribbean Life

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# Panamanian founder of Black Solidarity Day transitions

Another Black giant fell on July 10 when Dr. Carlos Russell succumbed at Maimonides Hospital.

The visionary author, playwright, educator, ambassador, and historian, acclaimed for establishing a Black Solidarity Day in 1969, died in his sleep at age 84. He was born in the Republic of Panama on Aug. 6, 1934.

"It is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of Dr. Carlos Enrique Codington Russell. He was a beloved son, father, brother, uncle, cousin, teacher, and best friend to us and many in our community," a family statement said.

"He is now at peace with our ancestors. His fervent desire was for us, the community, to continue the fight for social justice and equality for all. His intelligence, passion, wit and love for all mankind will be missed."

News of his passing sent shockwaves throughout the Caribbean community with many individuals reprocessing an assumption that he had returned to the homeland he left in 1955 and, although ailing, would survive his ailment.



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

"I am shocked," Imhotep Gary Byrd said on hearing the news. Informed of the transition while broadcasting his weekly Global Black Experience on WBAI-FM he expressed sorrow and reflections about the individual he often consulted with on matters related to sociology.

Byrd and Russell were fellows who shared the same broadcast chair at WLIB-AM, a station that formerly programmed an all-Caribbean news, information and entertainment format.

Together they also shared similar perspective on politics, government, social issues and a myriad of other culturally enlightening topics.

John Crow, a former actor recalls working under Dr. Russell's direction when he presented "Monkeyshines and Pappysows," a Caribbean comedy.

"He was very precise," Crow recalled "He knew exactly how and where he wanted the play to go."

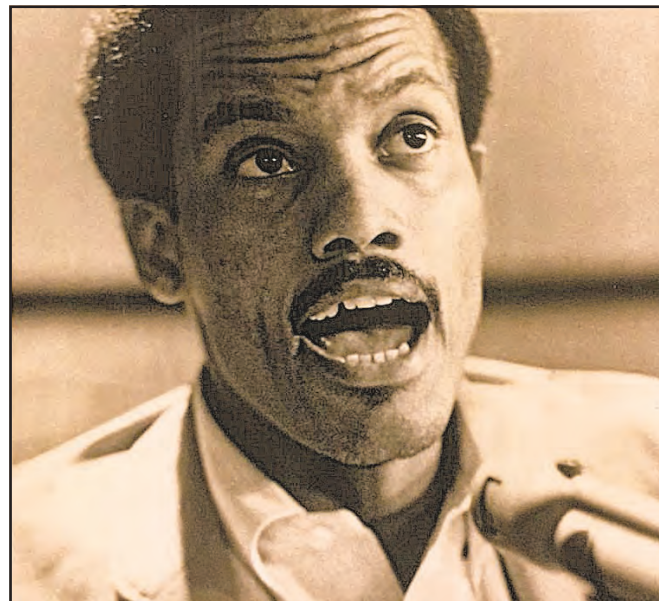
Staged in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn, the play previewed a Caribbean dinner theater presentation which combined an entertaining showcase with fine dining.

Featuring a cast consisting of thespians representing many Caribbean islands, the play — with a cuisine sampling delights from an amalgam of islands — provided weekend outings to residents of the borough.

The immigrant multi-talented educator hoped the unique concept would take root and flourish allowing theater lovers to enjoy Caribbean productions in Brooklyn.

His "Ode to Panama" was also staged at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Dr. Russell was also a published author. He penned "Miss Anna's Son Remembers," a book acclaimed for being the first book of Panamanian-West Indian poems published outside of Panama.



Dr. Carlos Russell. Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College

He was also one of the creators of "Bahiano," the first Black newspaper and Panamanian newspaper here in the USA written in both English and Spanish.

His credentials also include the establishment of the Panamanian-West Indian Heritage Association which was inspired by one of the first oral history

conferences held here.

The intellectual and activist also served as Panama's ambassador to the United Nations. However, the Latin American-Caribbean native will be best remembered for his call to action after seeing the Douglas Turner Ward fictional play titled "Day of Absence," which

Continued on Page 16



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# Amnesty in Barbados

By George Alleyne

Barbados is introducing for all public officers an anti-corruption law aimed at halting the sleaze that apparently existed in the immediate past, and government is offering an amnesty as a chance for some to come clean before the hammer of justice falls.

The Integrity in Public Life Bill that is currently being discussed in the island's Parliament is the first piece of new legislation introduced by the young government of Prime Minister Mia Mottley based on a campaign promise to stamp out what appeared to be many instances of misappropriation of public money and misuse of government resources for personal gain.

An introductory note to this proposed legislation explains, "this Bill would establish a regime, including an integrity commission, to promote the integrity of persons in public life and strengthen measures for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption."

"What this legislation seeks simply to do is to create an

institution that will hold each and every member of this parliament, the executive [cabinet], permanent secretaries or head of departments, chairmen of boards, judges, magistrates ... who assume a fiduciary leadership position, accountable," Mottley said in Parliament Tuesday.

"The wholesale plundering that took place with the fiat of a government must never happen in this country again."

Pointing out that for each corrupt public official there must be at least one collaborator "because it takes two hands to clap" Mottley appealed to such persons to "examine their conscience and recognise that this government is prepared to give people the opportunity to come forward, ask for forgiveness and let us move forward... It's almost a truth and reconciliation moment as happened in South Africa."

At the same time she warned, "if there are others who are part of the same transaction who chose not to come forward and they are found out, they would feel the full weight of the law as the law is to be deter-

mined because there is one law in the country."

The prime minister's plea to persons who participated in past corrupt acts to use the Whistle-Blower clause of the coming legislation to confess and protect themselves is not directed to those who continue or repeat corrupt activities.

She said whistle-blowers will be protected for "things in the past, not ongoing, transgressions because immunity does not extend to today's transgressions or tomorrow's. Recidivists are not treated in the same way as a first-time offender".

Mottley's statement comes one week after Attorney General Dale Marshall vowed to prosecute all high-ranking officials of past governments suspected of misappropriation of the island's money or misuse of its resources.

Nonetheless, the Prime Minister Tuesday said that her government of almost two months will not use millions in state funds to go on a witch hunt. "We're not about that, but we will deal with the evidence that is before us ... through nothing more than a



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley.

Photo by George Alleyne

forensic audit in dealing with some of these institutions and some of these people who have taken this country for a ride," she said.

The proposed law has been

subject to discussion in Parliament since last week and will soon go to the stage of inviting public comment before being refined for enactment into legislation.



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*Taíno: Native Heritage and Identity in the Caribbean* is a collaboration of the National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Latino Center. This exhibition and related programming are made possible through the support of the Ralph Lauren Corporation and INICIA of the Dominican Republic. Federal support is provided by the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

A Native woman (thought to be Luisa Gainsa) and child near Baracoa, Cuba, 1919. Photo by Mark Raymond Harrington. NMAI No4469



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# PAHO hails Guyana Tobacco Control Act

By Nelson A. King

The Washington, D.C.-based Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has lauded the implementation of Guyana's Tobacco Control Act, saying that ensuring the protection of a country's population from the adverse effects of tobacco is a "marathon process."

PAHO said last Wednesday that the process requires "stamina, coordination, perseverance, dedication and support," but added that "the payoff is huge — the improved health and wellbeing of citizens."

"Guyana is one of the latest countries in the region to run this marathon," said PAHO, stating that "these efforts culminated in the passage of the National Tobacco Act, one of the most complete tobacco control laws in the Americas."

But PAHO said "this outstanding success brings a new set of challenges," adding that "the race continues to ensure the right to health of the citizens of Guyana with the enforcement of these measures to protect the population from the dangers of tobacco smoke."

"It is critical to ensure that

the measures outlined in the Act are implemented immediately, while, at the same time, countering the threats posed by interference from the local tobacco industry, aimed at reversing these public health gains," it said.

PAHO said tobacco is responsible for 7 million deaths per year worldwide, including 900,000 persons who die from diseases related to exposure to tobacco smoke.

If current trends continue, tobacco use will kill 10 million people per year by 2020, said PAHO, pointing out that 70 percent of these fatalities will occur in less-developed and emerging nations.

PAHO said Guyana is a developing nation, where 78 percent of all deaths are caused by noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), strongly related to tobacco use.

It said over 15 percent of the adult population in Guyana currently smokes, adding that, "more worryingly, the results of a Global Youth Tobacco Survey conducted in 2015 revealed that 14.8 percent of adolescents aged between 13 and 15 years also use tobacco."

"We want our children to inherit Guyana," said the Minister of Public Health, Volda Lawrence. "And in order for us to do that, we must ensure that as parents of this nation, we protect them at all times."

PAHO said Guyana has been a party, since 2005, to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), an international public health treaty and a guiding framework for the global fight against the tobacco epidemic.

The FCTC requires countries to apply a series of policies and measures aimed at reducing the global tobacco epidemic, PAHO said.

It said the National Tobacco Act enacted in Guyana follows several of the articles of this Convention, "and mandates the adoption and implementation of a series of tobacco control policies that make it one of the most complete tobacco control laws."

PAHO said these include 100 percent smoke-free environments in all indoor public spaces, indoor work spaces, public transportation and specified outdoor spaces to



PAHO Director Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, second from left, with Guyanese public health officials. Pan American Health Organization

protect people from exposure to tobacco smoke.

It also included a ban on all forms of advertising, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products.

In addition, PAHO said Guyana's tobacco control policies include health warnings featured on 60 percent of tobacco product packaging, including images, and a ban on the sale of tobacco products to and by minors, prohibition on vending machines sales, and a

ban on the manufacture and sales of toys and candies, and any other good in the form of tobacco products.

"The adoption of this bill is not only a milestone for public health in Guyana, it is a tremendous advance for CARICOM (Caribbean Community) and the entire Region of the Americas," said Dr. Anselm Hennis, director of PAHO's Department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health.

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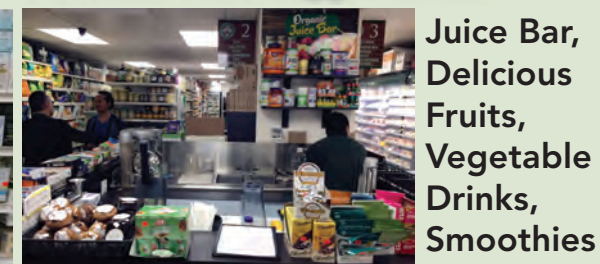


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## CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

April, the unemployment rate rose to 5.3 percent in the second quarter of 2017, with youth unemployment at an estimated 12 percent last year, compared to 7.9 percent in 2014.

However, according to the IMF, fiscal performance improved as the deficit reversed its rising trend of the past seven years,



registering a slightly lower overall deficit last year.

The statement noted that the economy is projected to grow at a modest pace as energy projects come on stream and the recovery takes hold in the non-energy sector.

"Gradual recovery in non-energy growth would help stabilize growth at 1.5 percent over the medium term," it stated.

-Compiled by Azad Ali

## Black Solidarity Day

Continued from Page 11

supposes the plight of residents of a southern town when the black population leaves.

Imagining that the absence of labor in that area caused a downward spiral prompted Dr. Russell to declare a Black Solidarity Day on the eve of every November elections.

On that Monday, the annual event encouraged Blacks to refrain from working, abstain from shopping in white establishments and instead participate in enlightenment of the populace.

Since its 1969 inception, Black students on college campuses have used the day before elections to convene panel discussions, empowerment rallies and other

culturally enlightening forums.

Some Blacks who shop on that day remember the embarrassment and shame they felt after realizing they spent money on that Monday.

"I used to always go to Alexanders department store," an individual who requests anonymity recalls, "and I went as usual on my spree. As I was at the cashier someone mentioned Black Solidarity Day and as much as I wanted those sale items, I left them right there and raced home."

Initially, the day was endorsed by Black elected officials and respected by progressives who refused to work or enhance businesses owned or operated by whites.

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# Guyana president urged to review minister's alleged parking lot actions

By Nelson A. King

The president of the Brooklyn-based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) is urging Guyana's President David Granger to review the alleged actions of Minister Simona Broomes and "repudiate them if deemed inappropriate."

CGID president Rickford Burke told Caribbean Life on Sunday that Broomes, Minister within Guyana's Ministry of Natural Resources, "has acknowledged to a media publication her involvement in an incident in New Thriving Restaurant parking lot at Providence Village, Guyana."

Burke said that, allegedly, on arrival at the restaurant, Broomes's driver pulled up in what the business proprietor alleged is a no parking zone.

"Without authorization, he removed the barricades or signs and attempted to drive into the restricted area," Burke said. "Video footage shows a security guard approached and stopped the vehicle, and then replaced the signs or barricades."

As a second guard arrived, the

CGID president said the driver again exited the vehicle, confronted the guards and removed the signs a second time.

"Subsequently, Minister Broomes exited her vehicle, tossed the sign to the ground," Burke said. "A confrontation between the minister and security guards ensued."

"During this time, her driver drove in the direction of the guards, forced them out of the path of the vehicle and proceeded into the restricted area," he added.

Burke said Broomes acknowledged to the media publication that the guards advised her that the area was a no parking zone.

"She claimed that she identified herself as a government minister, but the guards were belligerent," he said.

"Ms. Broomes also alleged to police that a guard threatened her or pointed his weapon at her," he added. "The guards denied threatening the minister or her driver, and alleged that the driver brandished a weapon."

Burke said the soundless,

surveillance video ends when the parties moved outside of the range of security cameras.

"What happened thereafter is unverifiable by the video that was released to the public," Burke said, adding that "the said footage does not show a gun being pointed at the minister or the driver brandishing a firearm."

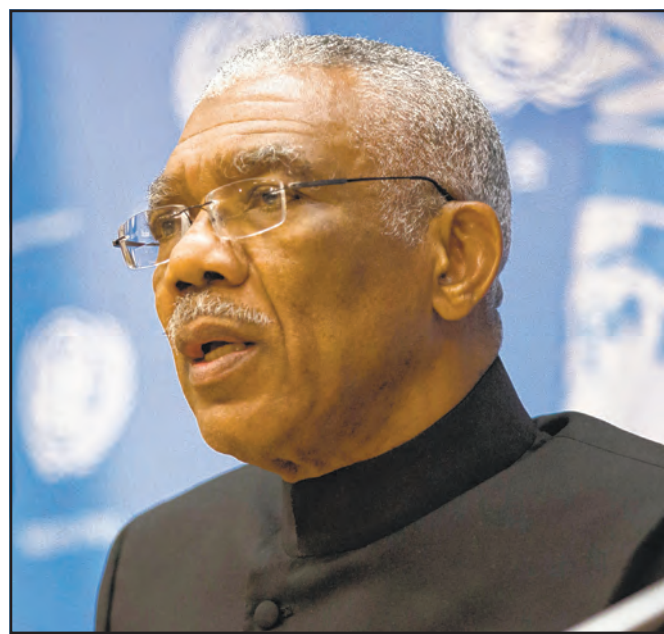
He, however, said "this does not prove that either alleged act did not occur."

Burke said a number of eyewitnesses were present who will be able to corroborate the guards or minister's account.

"Although their words are inaudible, nothing in the video footage shows the guards' comportment to be inappropriate," he said. "Nonetheless, police arrested the security guards."

Burke said if the guards verbally threatened to shoot and / or pointed a gun at the minister, "that action creates an aggravated circumstance that is potentially a criminal act that might [have] warranted their arrest."

"Given the obvious inconsistencies and in the interest of



Guyana's President David A. Granger.

Associated Press / Kevin Hagen, File

total transparency, it is imperative for the police to explain what evidence provided probable cause for the guards' arrest and who gave such instruction," he said.

"No security guard or minister of government is above the law," Burke added. "However, like all other customers, the minister is entitled to professional treatment, as well as a safe and secure environment

while conducting business on the premises."

But he said Broomes is "not entitled to special treatment at the facility, unless the proprietors, exercising discretion, so offers or instructs."

Burke said President Granger should, therefore, "request a full review of the incident, and, based on the findings, repudiate her conduct, if the facts and circumstances so warrant."

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# Guyana to get American Chamber of Commerce

By Bert Wilkinson

With the country racing towards becoming an oil producer by 2020, the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) is moving to setup a branch here to cater for a growing number of United States companies investing in oil and gas, related and other services in the largest of the Caribbean Community group of nations.

Ambassador Perry Holloway announced plans for the establishment of the umbrella business body at a mid week American independence anniversary celebrations, saying that the AMCHAM will open its Guyana office by early August.

United States companies including Chevron, Hallibur-

ton, ExxonMobil, Anadarko Oil and American Airlines among others have all set up shop in the country in the wake of ExxonMobil's "world class" 2015 oil and gas find that has set the stage for most of the world's oil majors to invest in Guyana's now proven offshore oil sector. American is set to begin a Georgetown-Miami run from early December, the first time that it will fly to Guyana.

"The first ever official American Chamber of Commerce will begin operations in Guyana. This is a great initiative that will help our two countries," Holloway said, noting at 120,000 barrels per day from March 2020, Guyana will immediately be producing more oil than neighboring



United States Ambassador to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana Perry Holloway. <https://gy.usembassy.gov/embassy/georgetown/>

Trinidad which struggling to make 80,000 daily.

Exxon is planning to drill 17 wells in its first phase of production and up to 40 more in phase two around 2022 the company has said.

The ambassador urged Guyanese government officials, the private sector and locals in Guyana to put the impending oil sector in proper context, saying it could transform the country by leaps and bounds once production starts.

"This discovery of oil offshore is a really big, big, big deal and everyone needs to take it seriously. With a couple of more discoveries, Guyana will pass Norway. This is serious business. When Liza 1 begins producing in early 2020, it will produce 120,000 barrels a day. That is more than all 100

oil wells in Trinidad produce in a day. One well in Guyana will produce more oil in one day than 100 wells in Trinidad and Tobago," he said.

Other nations in the grouping producing oil include Suriname at about 16,000 barrels per daily from onshore wells in the west of the country and Barbados tallying about 1,600 bpd also from onshore wells in the center of the island.

When up and running, the American Chamber will now have branches in Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica and Haiti among the Caribbean trade bloc nations and will become the key lobbying body for American enterprises in Guyana as well as serving and an information clearing house.

## CARICOM leaders urged to fast-track CSME

By Azad Ali

Regional leaders must put measures in place to fast-track the full implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness said that the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on the CSME will start holding quarterly meetings starting in September in Barbados, which will be hosted by Prime Minister Mia Mottley "to give urgency to the implantation process."

He further noted that gov-

ernment leaders must also put greater focus on advancing those areas that would help to create those areas that would help to create support measures for a competitive Single Market.

These include an investment policy and investment code, an incentive regime, and integrated capital market and securities legislation.

Holness is hoping that these matters will be ready for full adoption at the 40th meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government in July 2020.

These mechanisms, he said, will enable strong support measures for a successful CSME.

The Jamaican prime minister also stressed the Heads' commitment to making the mechanisms within CARICOM work, by taking decisive action.

The CSME is built on five core regimes- free movement of capital, free movement of goods, free movement of skills, the provision of services and the right of establishment. The CSME facilitates hassle-free travel for all CARICOM nationals.



Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

Daniel Leal-Olivas / Pool via Associated Press

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### Small Business - Business First - New York State

[www.nyfirst.ny.gov/ResourceCenter/SmallBizMenu.html](http://www.nyfirst.ny.gov/ResourceCenter/SmallBizMenu.html)

### 2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

[www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/resourceguide\\_3135.pdf](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.yourmoneynewyork.com/help-resource/smallbusiness/index.php)  
This section of Your Money New York is designed to help small business owners – and New Yorkers interested in starting a small business.

### Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

[www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm](http://www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm)

Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

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100+ items – to assist the small business community in the State of New York.



# TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

## Using mobile phones

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

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

## Daydreaming

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

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

## Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

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

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

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

## Reading

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

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# Bahamas wants no part of CSME

By Azad Ali

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis said that The Bahamas will not be part of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

He made his country's position clear when he spoke to journalist after his arrival from the recent CARICOM Heads of Government 39th Annual Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Bahamas, the only full member of CARICOM, was not among the six countries that adopted the Protocol on Contingent Rights- which provides a framework for the free movement of skilled laborers and their families between member states.

Dr. Minnis said the Bahamas is not and will not be a part of the CSME, adding that his country will not allow free movement of people within the island's boundaries.

He said that Caribbean nationals would be allowed into The Bahamas quite readily as long as they abide by the rules and the laws of the country.

Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, St. Lucia and Grenada signed the Protocol on Contingent Rights which relates to spouses and dependents of CARICOM nationals who relocate to other member



Bahamas's Prime Minister Hubert Minnis gives a speech during Americas Economics Summit in Lima, Peru, Friday, April 13, 2018.

Associated Press / Martin Mejia, File

states being entitled to access benefits, such as healthcare and education, services which were not previously afforded to them.

The protocol applies to individuals and their families, who move across the region to work, provide services and establish companies within the framework of the free movement under the CSME.

# GCF project for water-scarce Barbados

By Desmond Brown

BRIDGETOWN, (IPS) — At the start of 2017, the Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network (CDPN) warned eastern Caribbean countries that they were facing "abnormal climate conditions" and possibly another full-blown drought.

For Barbados, it was dire news. Previous drought conditions impacted every sphere and sector of life of this historically water-scarce country. But a new project promises a new water future for Barbadians by increasing the awareness of islanders to the water cycle and the likely impacts of climate change on the island's drinking water supply.

The Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability Project for Barbados (WSRN S-Barbados) is expected to build resilience in the sector by reducing the vulnerability to severe weather impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce consumption, promote appropriate uses of diverse water sources and build the legislative safeguards to support climate smart development in water sector.

The project is being funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and is a collaborative effort between the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) with assistance from University of West Indies, Cave Hill Campus (UWI-CHC), and University of South Florida (USF).

WSRN-Barbados was one of several Caribbean funding commitments announced at the GCF 19th Board meeting in Korea in February to the tune of 45.2 million dollars (including 27.6 million in GCF funds and counterpart fund-

ing of 17.6 million from the BWA).

"To quantify the impact, there will be over 190,000 persons directly benefitting from this project and over 280,000 persons indirectly benefitting," said Dr. Elon Cadogan, project manager at the BWA.

He explains that within the project, there are provisions for collaboration among academic partners like UWI-CHC and USF. The aim is to develop a sharing platform that will serve as an incubator for novel ideas that will boost efforts to combat the impact of climate change and propel the discussion on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

"This project proposes to gather the relevant human resources from these institutions and form a team of scientists and engineers to drive the in-depth operational research to build capacity," Dr. Cadogan explained.

The WSRN S-Barbados project will replace 16 kilometres (about 10 miles) of existing mains to reduce leakage by 0.03 MGD per km. This is expected to result in greater availability of water, which when valued at current costs, is an avoided expense to society of 1.3 million dollars.

"Increased availability of water will reduce the instances of water outages currently being experienced by many customers," Dr. Cadogan explained.

"Previous instances of outages have had the adverse effects of persons reporting for work late or absent from work and businesses closing. Schools have had to close due to lack of water and the potential unsanitary conditions are likely to increase health treatment costs. In addition, there have been some cancellations of tourist stays and bookings," he continued.



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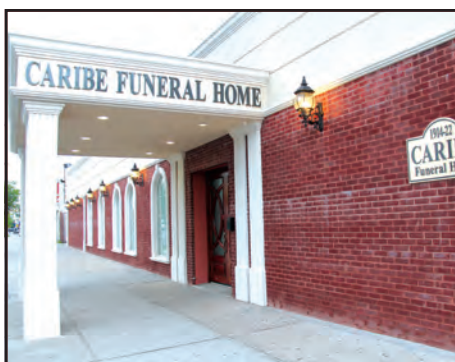


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# Bahamian author promotes country's literature

By Alexandra Simon

In celebration of Bahamas' 45th year of independence, a Bahamian-American publishing house has released three books celebrating the nation's culture and history. Brooklyn-born Bahamian author Wendy Coakley-Thompson, is on a mission to revive and restore her country's literary scene. She founded the publishing company Duho Books, to introduce texts that highlight not only the beauty of Bahamas, but its people and their experiences and traditions — because many stories were not being told.

"It came from my place of getting tired of explaining to people about the Bahamas and where it was because people immediately think of Sandals or other tourist resorts," said Coakley-Thompson. "And I was growing tired of the myopia, being unable to find fictional stories that spotlighted the full-spectrum of the country and its citizens.

"I was a successful writer but I was not seeing myself and my



In Coakley-Thompson's book "What You Won't Do For Love," the author follows the dating life of a young professional of Bahamian descent navigating life.

life in current fiction," she said. "But being American of Bahamian descent — I felt I could best writer about my culture."

She then began a quest to write her book, "What You Won't Do For Love," and find other

authors that emphasized the country in some way. DuhoBooks recently released three books by Coakley-Thompson, and two other Bahamian authors — S. L. Sheppard and N.A. Cash.

In her book she follows the dating life a young professional woman of Bahamian descent living in Washington, D.C., and while its not set in the country, the book highlights certain aspects of Bahamian culture such as slang, lingo, food, and references to the country itself, according to Coakley-Thompson.

She says the popularity of tourism and advertisements promoting Bahamas as a getaway destination created a one-dimensional narrative of the country, ignoring the multi-island nation's culture and heritage.

"Our tourism ministry plays a role, but I would like them to broaden that," she said. "I want to counter the programming that says, 'Come to Atlantis or enjoy a Bahama mama on the beach' —



Bahamian-American author Wendy Coakley-Thompson created her own publishing house Duho Books to increase and promote literature about Bahamas and its diaspora.

we are more than that. We are a people with rich history," added Coakley-Thompson.

With Duho Books, she searched for other authors who focused their fiction on Bahamas in general.

"I want to counter what people

are seeing about Bahamas, so when I tell people any aspect of it in fiction of non-presented view of Bahamas doesn't have to be positive, but anything that shows we here. Anything that shows that we have agency and stories to tell," said Coakley-Thompson.

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# Blueprint for those concerned about race

"What Truth Sounds Like" by Michael Eric Dyson  
c.2018, St. Martin's Press  
\$23.99 / \$32.50 Canada  
294 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"We have to talk."

It's never good when someone tells you that. Even if it's said with a smile and a pat on the back, you can feel doom in those words. "We have to talk" never helps anyone except when, as in "What Truth Sounds Like" by Michael Eric Dyson, it does.

In late May of 1963, Robert "Bobby" Kennedy, attorney general for President John Kennedy, did something remarkable enough to make the front page of The New York Times: he had a "secret" meeting with a group of Black leaders to discuss "an 'explosive situation'" that could impact the nation.

For many reasons, Civil Rights among them, 1963 was a "landmark." Since taking the



"What Truth Sounds Like" author Michael Eric Dyson.  
Nina Subin

oath of office, Jack Kennedy had walked a fine line between politics and social justice. He and Bobby were "villains in the eyes of... white bigots" for their support for African Americans and Martin Luther King, Jr., in particular, though Jack really only "tiptoed around the prospect of equal rights for Negroes." Still, in Dyson's telling, Bobby almost seemed smug in what he thought he

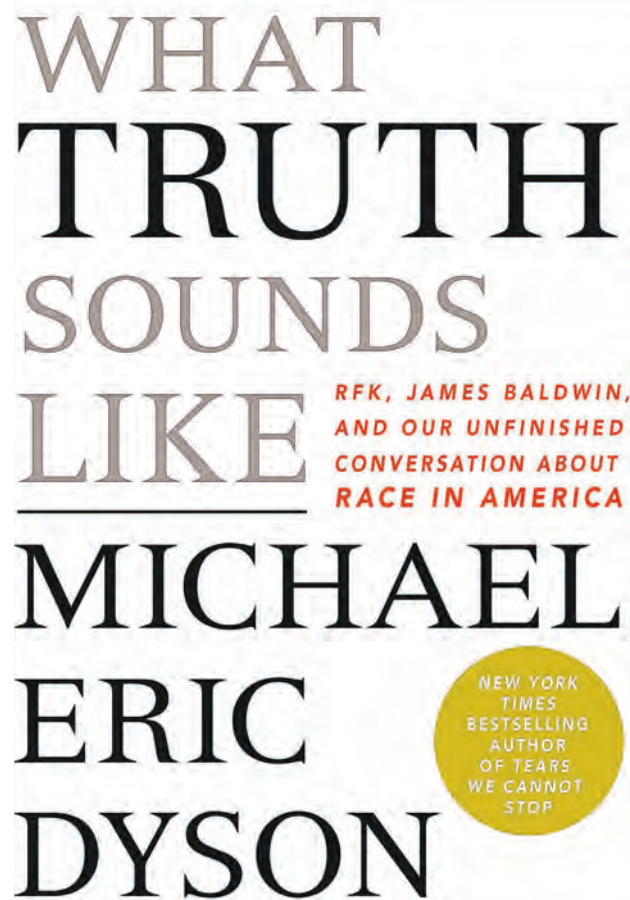
knew about 1963's simmering atmosphere when he met with James Baldwin, Harry Belafonte, Lena Horne, playwright Lorraine Hansberry, and activist Jerome Smith.

He wanted acknowledgment and gratitude for what was being done on behalf of Black Americans. Instead, the "Negroes" gave Kennedy a verbal trouncing.

Smith said Kennedy "... don't have no idea what trouble is..."

Hansberry threatened to give guns to people on the street ("poetic license," Dyson muses). Baldwin fanned the flames, Smith dismissed the meeting as "cocktail-party patter," and Kennedy fumed before Hansberry dropped a final bombshell and Kennedy's guests stalked out.

In the days after this seminal meeting, Kennedy had chance to ruminate. He'd heard "unvarnished truths in ways white ears... were unaccustomed to." It changed his



Book cover of "What Truth Sounds Like" by Michael Eric Dyson.

life and altered his political career with a lesson that still resonates, especially for liberals and those who are trying this year to capture Congressional seats.



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# Queens Tribune Press honors Caribbean nationals

By Tangerine Clarke

The Queens Tribune Press honored Caribbean nationals and an organization, on June 28, for stellar contributions to their community, during the 2nd Annual Caribbean Legacy Awards at Douglaston Manor, in Queens, to celebrate Heritage Month.

The common thread of commitment to family, education and achieving the American dream, connected these professionals from Trinidad & Tobago, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados, Haiti, and Antigua & Barbuda, who spoke of working tirelessly, to make their parents, many who worked two jobs, proud.

Ronda Benda is the co-founder and VP of policy for Venture Smarter and the executive director of the company Regional Smart Cities Initiative.

Rhonda, a Guyanese American, has focused much of her work in recent years on the re-development of downtown Jamaica, Queens, where she was raised.

Horace David is the general manager of Quality Assurance engineering and Program support at Con Edison. David, a

Jamaican-born engineer, founded the Caribbean American Society of New York (CASONY), an organization dedicated to working with children from age five to eighth grade, to increase their exposure to the STEM field.

Grenada-born Gregg Bishop is the commissioner for the city's Department of Small Business Services (SBS). Bishop spoke passionately about being raised by his mother and grandmother who inspired him to help provide equal opportunity for all business owners and set a platform for future minority business owners to obtain economic self-sufficiency and mobility.

Dr. Fritz Francois, a chief medical officer at NYU Langone Hospitals grew up in Port Au Prince, Haiti, and stays connected to his roots through his commitment to educating immigrant community on myths and misinformation they harbor about healthcare.

His niece, Natalie C. Nazon, nurse manager at NYU Langone, accepted his award.

Proud Guyanese-American Tessa Hackett-Vieira is the third vice chair on the Board of the



Shanie Persaud, assistant publisher of the Queens Tribune Press, extreme left, new publisher of the Southeast Queens, Jasmin Freeman, and publisher of Queens Tribune Press, Michael Nussbaum, extreme right, join honorees for a photo-op. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Municipal Credit Union and a social worker at DC37.

The community activist works alongside 72 attorneys, and helps union members suffering from depression, domestic violence and other issues.

Like his fellow honoree, Dennis Ifill is a Guyanese American, and is the president of Local 1357, representing approxi-

mately 126,000 employees and approximately 60,000 retirees in DC 32 union members.

Jennifer Maharajh is the senior manager of marketing and communications at Age Well New York. The Trinidad and Tobago born professional is also the founder of a marketing company, a blogger, insurance broker, and occasionally, a film-

maker.

Moya O'Connor is the founder of the Caribbean Attorney's Network and a senior trial attorney at MetLife. O'Connor has made it her life's mission to help aspiring attorneys find opportunities to make it in today's competitive world, and that passion is what drove her to launch the Caribbean Attorney's Network.

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# Bikini Under the Bridge fashions with a cause

By Tangerine Clarke

A cutting edge collection of swimwear lit up the runway at the 10th Annual Bikini Under The Bridge fashion event in Dumbo, Brooklyn, and raked in much needed funds for breast cancer awareness programs to benefit survivors, and themed: "To Brooklyn With Love."

This year, the show presented a Teen Swim line for boys and girls 13-16, and featured son, Jordan and daughter, Jada of Junior Giddings, and late wife Karen Pompey Giddings, a cancer victim.

The popular promoter of JRG Entertainment, featured a Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Carpet Show, on July 8, followed by a runway show where models sizzled on the catwalk, in brilliant hues, and sexy designers to draw attention to breast cancer.

Giddings, a Guyanese-American who has been promoting beauty and fashion in the community, will donate part of the proceeds to the Health & Education Relief Organization for Can-



Jada Giddings, daughter of Junior Giddings, and late cancer victim, Karen Pompey Giddings, lead models in creations from the Teen Swim line.

JRG Entertainment

cer (HEROC), headed by President Lorna Welshman-Neblett, who help hundreds of survivors during yearly medical missions to the republic.

JRG, creator of the decades long fashion event calls his com-

pany a fashion powerhouse, and aims to deliver upscale entertainment while providing networking and recreational opportunity with a focus on the multicultural community at large.

His company has partnered



A model in a stunning creation at Bikini Under The Bridge fashion event to benefit breast cancer awareness.

JRG Entertainment

with both, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in New York City for over a decade to provide diverse forums for

models, designers, make-up artists, hairstylist, and musical artists of all ethnicities, to showcase their talents.

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# Caribbean Impact Awards

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

At a gala November 15, 2018, Caribbean Life will present its 4th annual Caribbean Life Impact Awards which will recognize outstanding New Yorkers of Caribbean Heritage. These individuals will represent the best of the Caribbean diaspora working in a diversity of fields: from education, finance, and non-profit to manufacturing, media, and retail and everything in between.

We will honor Caribbean Americans who, through perseverance and hard work, have realized the American dream and who have brought a sense of Caribbean pride along with them.

If you wish to nominate a Caribbean American who has shown outstanding achievements in his or her field, and who resides and works in New York City, please fill out the form & mail it to us.

You can also submit your nomination online at [www.CaribbeanLifeNews.com/nominate](http://www.CaribbeanLifeNews.com/nominate).

**Deadline  
August  
28<sup>th</sup>**

## Nominate an outstanding Caribbean American who has made an impact in New York

Your name: **(Please print clearly)** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of nominee:\_\_\_\_\_Nominee's Country of origin:\_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee's occupation/profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Where does your nominee currently work? \_\_\_\_\_

Previous awards or professional recognition (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

What makes your nominee outstanding? (100 word minimum): \_\_\_\_\_

## How can we reach you?

*Please use additional paper, if necessary.*

Daytime phone                  Cell phone                  Home phone                  Email

### How can we reach your nominee?

Daytime phone      Cell phone      Home phone      Email

**Please include a copy of your nominee's bio & resume if available.**

**Mail to: Caribbean Life, Impact Awards Attn: Jennifer Stern  
One MetroTech Center North, 10th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201**

**(718) 260-8302**

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# Vincentian artist impresses with 'Pontillism'

By Nelson A. King

Vincenian artist Lennox Commissiong continues to impress with his diversified collection, displaying "Pontillism" over the weekend at the Wizardhands exhibition at the Dwyer Cultural Center in Harlem.

According to the center, Pontillism is a technique of neo-impressionist painting, using tiny dots of various pure colors, "which become blended in the viewer's eye."

"It was developed by Georges Seurat with the aim of producing a greater degree of luminosity and brilliance of color," the center said. "Lennox Commissiong has mastered this technique using small pieces of color-aid paper, instead of paint."

The Dwyer Cultural Center said Commissiong's subjects range from cultural and political figures to Jazz musicians.

"His homage in small dots of color, and pointillistic approach represents the many lives they have touched across various

racess and cultures, as well as their political legacies," it said.

"His abstract works explore shape and spatial relationships intending the viewer to experience the sensation of a visual 'treasure hunt,'" it added.

"The collection of work is diversified utilizing various media consisting of color-aid paper, acrylics, pastels, charcoal, and pencils," the Dwyer Cultural Center continued. "A blank page is also his inspiration."

Commissiong's journey in the last decade has evolved to, among other places, private showings in the New York Metro area, the Harlem Fine Arts Show, the Foundation venue and the Thelonious Monk Centennial Exhibition.

Born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 1958, Commissiong migrated to the United States in 1972. He resides in Hicksville, New York.

Commissiong is renowned for his work in various media — pencil, color pencil, acrylic,

pastel and color aid paper.

He is known for intricate abstracts, depicting carefully-placed images that make up an overall theme.

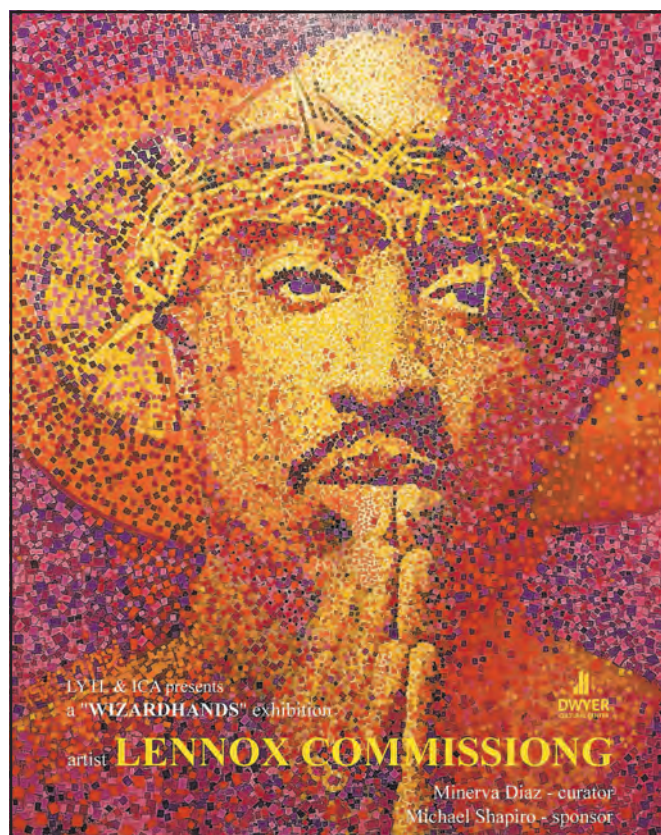
Commissiong also places strong emphasis on ultra, close-up portraits of iconic cultural figures, as well as Jazz greats.

He said he is "greatly influenced" by masters, Vincent Van Gogh and M.C Escher.

His portraits are considered unique in that they are rendered in a "Pointillist" style, employing pixel-sized squares of color-aid paper attached to illustration board to create the images.

Commissiong said he is self-taught, drawing from his life's experiences, which includes a stint in the United States Marine Corps, which, he said, afforded him "the opportunity to travel and absorb varying cultures in places, such as Hawaii, The Philippines, Africa, Australia, Korea, Singapore, Thailand Hong Kong and Sri Lanka."

Commission also writes poetry and has had a poem adapted



Vincenian artist Lennox Commissiong's "Pointillism."

Lennox Commissiong

to song, "Visions of Doom," by C-posse, available on iTunes.

He is also a board certified licensed massage therapist.

The artist said his greatest asset is his "fearless experimen-

tation in different media and techniques."

"I loved drawing as a child," he said, adding that he is "fascinated by being able to transform one dimension into three.








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# ENTERTAINMENT

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Okai plays the conch, a traditional addition to Haitian music.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

## Haitian rhythms

By Tequila Minsky

Haitian-American musician Okai Fleurimond will introduce the traditional drum rhythms of Haiti on July 29 at the Pelham Art Center in Pelham, New York. Open to all ages, the free performance starts at 1:30 pm at the center, a mere eight miles north of the Bronx.

After the music performance there will be a workshop on making your own personal flag or bandana led by Rebecca Mills who teaches regularly at the center “We

Continued on Page 36

## ‘Antigone’ on uptown stage

By Vinette K. Pryce

When it comes to presenting free cultural entertainment during the summer, the unrivalled champion city in America is New York.

For all its repute for being expensive and unaffordable, city parks throughout the boroughs provide dance, music, spoken word, films and theater free of charge or at a premium low to anyone willing to put a pause on air-conditioners and television sets and stepping out into breezy, tree-lined outdoor spaces.

Daily until July 29, at the Richard Rodgers Amphitheater inside Harlem’s Marcus Garvey Park, The Classical Theatre of Harlem adds to a long list of contributors willing to respond to the yearning of audiences longing for

Continued on Page 36



# ANCESTRAL TRIBUTE

Musician Wilbord “Saxie” James performs his saxophone at Guyana heritage event at Crystal Manor in Flatbush on July 14.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

## Celebrating Guyana’s African heritage

By Alexandra Simon

“A Taste of Hometown” soiree marked the celebration of Guyana’s African history at Crystal Manor in Flatbush on July 14. Afro-Guyanese culture was on full display at the ancestral event from music to attire. Hundreds of partygoers attended the event, which was a shining presentation of what the country’s music scene can be and the artists, said the event’s co-organizer.

“It was spectacular and beyond perfect,” said Stacey Hamilton. “It

went smooth, and it’s amazing to see how we use drums and keyboards.”

The inspiration behind the soiree was Hamilton’s childhood of going to the annual emancipation celebration in Hometown, Guyana. Every year it is observed in the town in a celebratory fashion honoring the festive origins in which formerly enslaved Afro-Guyanese marked their freedom from the British with music and dance. And after a considerable time, Hamilton missed out on several soirees, but wanted to find a way to

observe it.

“This is something that was celebrated back home, and my cousins and I used to attend with my grandfather,” he said. “He would take us a lot and once he passed we never went anymore, but it was always something always wanted to do.”

So he brought it stateside for Guyanese who also could not make it home to celebrate. And guests were more than happy to participate in the festivities, that Hamilton says

Continued on Page 36



## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES

- I Like It**  
Cardi B, Bad Bunny & J Balvin
- Delicate**  
Taylor Swift
- The Middle**  
Zedd, Maren Morris & Grey
- No Tears Left To Cry**  
Ariana Grande
- Nice For What**  
Drake
- Psycho**  
Post Malone Feat. Ty Dolla \$ign
- Girls Like You**  
Maroon 5 Feat. Cardi B
- In My Blood**  
Shawn Mendes
- Mine**  
Bazzi
- Friends**  
Marshmello & Anne-Marie

### TOP 10 ALBUMS

- Scorpion**  
Drake
- The Greatest Showman**  
Soundtrack
- Legends Of The Summer (EP)**  
Meek Mill
- Pray For The Wicked**  
Panic! At The Disco
- beerbongs & bentleys**  
Post Malone
- EVERYTHING IS LOVE**  
The Carters
- Palo Santo**  
Years & Years
- ?**  
XXXTENTACION
- Evolve**  
Imagine Dragons
- High As Hope**  
Florence + The Machine

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# Guyanese pay tribute to ancestors

Continued from Page 35

he was touched by their jovial reactions and fulfilling the event's African attire recommendation.

"They had a lot of fun, and it felt good see the older folks out and dancing," said Hamilton. "But what really moved me was seeing how they adhered to the dress code. People wrapped their hair and wore traditional African garments and sandals that I never saw before — it was beautiful."

Hamilton said one of the things he loved most about his event was performing a time-honored Hopetown tradition prior to the musical entertainment.

"Besides being a cultural celebration, getting in touch with our ancestors was our main thing," he said. "We do a libation to try to connect with ancestors to get into the spirit of the music, and in doing so one of the things I see is the rich energy to get into the soirée spirit."



Consul General of Guyana Barbara Atherly at the Guyanese heritage event at Crystal Manor Banquet Hall in Flatbush on July 14.  
Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Ava McCoy as Ismene and Alexandria King as Antigone.  
Richard Termine

## Free Afropunk classic

Continued from Page 35

classic theatrical productions.

Reputed for telling stories "as seen through the lens of the African diaspora and does work that honors the cultural legacy of the neighborhood in which it was founded: Harlem. CTH combines original adaptations, music and dance to present great classics of world literature as well as contemporary works that will stand the test of time while being truly reflective of the diversity of ideas and racial tapestry that is America."

By staging "Antigone," a 2500-year-old Greek classic by Sophocles, CTH returns for a sixth season with a presentation that "captures the resoluteness of a woman who

refuses to back down, despite what is at stake in a patriarchal society."

The musical "showcases the strength and voices of audacious women responding to rigid societal inequities."

Inspired by Paul Roche's adaptation of a 2018 Afropunk version, the defiance of a woman named Antigone challenges a society much like the one Democrats allegedly mean to defy.

"After 2500 years, 'Antigone' still asks of us - are we all players on an odyssey to find our shared humanity or are we in a perpetual state of ideological warfare that will always end in inhumane violence?" — Ty Jones, producing artistic director of The Classical Theatre of Harlem queried.

## Okai to perform drums

Continued from Page 35

will be using colors and markers to create our own personal flags or bandannas as cultures have applied symbolism to create theirs," she said.

Brooklyn-born Okai discovered drumming at the age of five with two kitchen knives and a bucket; his Haitian immigrant parents exposed him to a variety of rhythms. A musician of this generation, he found musical influences from hip-hop, pop music and beat boxing as well as his singing in the church choir and his being the official conga player for the Carnarise High School band.

Okai developed an intimate connection with the djembe (a rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands, originally from West Africa) because of its variety of tones and introduced this instrument to the hip-hop community.

Representing the music of the African Diaspora, Okai drums and is the vocalist and rapper in several bands based in Brooklyn, performing nationally and internationally as well as locally.

He is the lead vocalist and percussionist—and you can see these engaging multi-cultural bands around town — Brown Rice Family — a multi-cultural

world music band encompassing reggae, hip-hop, dancehall, afro beat, jazz stylings, rock, Brazilian, and Latin; String-sNskins — classical sound of the violin and the rhythmic pulse of the djembe, which combines the fusions of classical, pop, traditional and urban; and Underground Horns — an audio gumbo Brooklyn-based brass band specializing in Afro-funk-New Orleans grooves.

The Pelham Art Center has evolved since its founding in 1970, embracing new media while continuing to provide instruction in traditional art techniques. Its aim is to make art accessible to everyone through a range of programs including art education, affordable art classes, and need-based scholarships.

Beginners to accomplished artists and students, from age three to over 90, who want to explore their creative potential have flourished by working with their teaching artists.

Ten free folk arts programs throughout the year honor world culture and arts traditions. Okai Fleurimond's presentation is part of this program. Other programming has celebrated the cultural folk arts of Brazil, Mexico, China, Japan, Argentina, Hawaii, and Haiti.



# Ambitious telemarketer joins the 1 percent

"Sorry To Bother You"

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated R for sexuality, graphic nudity, ethnic slurs, violence, pervasive profanity and drug use

Running time: 105 minutes

Production

Studios: Cinereach / Forest Whitaker's Significant Productions / Macro / MNM Creative / The Space Program

Distributor: Annapurna Pictures

By Kam Williams

To describe Cassius Green (Lakeith Stanfield) as struggling would be a major understatement. He and his girlfriend Detroit (Tessa Thompson) are four months behind in their rent on an unfinished garage apartment in inner-city Oakland. The only reason they haven't been evicted is that their landlord is Cash's compassionate Uncle Sergio (Terry Crews). He's been willing to wait to be paid, and even gave his nephew a car for free.



Tessa Thompson, left, and Lakeith Stanfield star as girlfriend and boyfriend in "Sorry to Bother You," a social satire that tweaks the 1 percent.

Annapurna Pictures

Cash has been unemployed, but it isn't for a lack of trying. His luck changes when, despite being caught lying on his resume' dur-

ing a job interview, he's hired anyway because the interviewer admired his ingenuity. The hope is that he'd bring the same ambi-

tion to his entry level gig as a telemarketer.

It's impressed upon Cash during his training to "Stick to

the Script," if he wants to succeed. Plus, he gets a valuable tip from an African-American colleague (Danny Glover) in the neighboring cubicle, namely, "Use your white voice."

Between dropping his black accent and following the company's guidelines, Cash earns a coveted promotion to power-caller. Suddenly, he's making enough money to pay off Uncle Sergio, buy a new car and move into a fancy flat in an upscale neighborhood.

Unfortunately, the raise proves to be a mixed blessing for Cash. First, it creates tension between him and the buddies he left behind on the floor of the crowded call center, since they're still making minimum wage and are in the midst of organizing a union over the objections of management. And then his politically-active, performance artist girlfriend is disappointed when he crosses the picket line and dubs him a "scab."

Thus unfolds "Sorry to Bother You," a thought-provoking social satire marking the script-writing and directorial debut of Boots Riley.

## Independent & Foreign Films

Damascus Cover (R for profanity and violence) Espionage thriller, based on Howard Kaplan's best seller of the same name, about an Israeli spy (Jonathan Rhys Meyers)

sent on a dangerous mission to smuggle a chemical weapons scientist and his family out of Syria. With Olivia Thirlby, Jurgen Prochnow and the late John Hurt.

Generation Wealth (R for nudity, graphic sexuality, disturbing images and drug use) Spoiled rotten documentary indicting the children of the rich and famous for their unchecked greed, materialism and conspicuous consumption. Featuring Limo Bob, Florian Homm and Tiffany Masters.

McQueen (R for nudity and profanity) Reverential retrospective chronicling the rise and untimely demise of British fashion designer Alexander McQueen (1969-2010), a revealing rags-to-riches story recounted by his close friends and relatives.

The Rise of Eve (Unrated) Feminist documentary chronicling the oppression of women around the world over the ages, touching on issues ranging from sexual harassment to misogyny in music to honor killings.

Teefa in Trouble (Unrated) Ali Zafar plays the title character in this romantic comedy as a mob enforcer who travels



### Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

from Pakistan to Poland to kidnap a crime boss' (Javed Sheikh) daughter (Maya Ali) for another gangster (Mehmood Aslam) only to fall head-over-heels in love with her. With Nayyar Ejaz, Asma Abbas and Tom Coulston. (In Urdu with subtitles)

The Third Murder (Unrated) Courtroom drama revolving around a prominent lawyer's (Masaharu Fukuyama) defense of a convicted murderer (Koji Yakusho) accused of another homicide. Cast includes Suzu Hirose, Mikako Ichikawa and Izumi Matsuoka. (In Japanese with subtitles)

### WIDE RELEASES

Blindspotting (R for sexual references, drug use, brutal violence and pervasive profanity) Buddy dramedy set in a rapidly-gentrifying, San Francisco Bay Area where a couple of lifelong BFFs', one black (Daveed Diggs), one white Rafael Casal), friendship is tested after the former sees a Caucasian cop (Ethan Embry) gun down an unarmed African-American on the street. Cast includes Nyambi Nyambi, Tisha Campbell-Martin and Wayne Knight.

## Dinner Menu

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Soup Du Jour  
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House Salad

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Baked Clams  
Shrimp Cocktail

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BURGER DELUXE, Fresh Cut Fries, Bacon, Choice of Cheese  
BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST, Parmigiana or Francaise  
FRENCH CUT ROASTED CHICKEN, Over Sautéed Broccoli Rabe and Roasted Chick Peas  
SHRIMP SCAMPI, Sautéed with White Wine, Lemon, Garlic, Butter  
SALMON FILET, Cold Water Farm Raised, Broiled or Grilled  
PENNE ALA VODKA, With Grilled Chicken or Shrimp  
LASAGNA BOLOGNESE, Crumbled Sausage with Three Cheeses, Marinara Sauce  
RIGATONI BROCCOLI RABE, With Roasted Red Pepper, Parmesan and Grilled Chicken  
BONELESS SHELL STEAK 14oz. Topped with Garlic Herb Butter  
FILET MIGNON, Grilled 10oz.  
RACK OF LAMB, Grilled Dijon Crusted  
LOBSTER TAILS, Twin 5oz. Served With Drawn Butter  
ROASTED LONG ISLAND DUCK, Orange or Strawberry Sauce  
SURF N' TURF, 5oz. Filet Mignon, 5oz. Lobster Tail with Drawn Butter  
SEAFOOD LINGUINI, Clams - Mussels - Shrimp - Calamari, Red or White Sauce  
BROILED TILAPIA OREGANATA, Topped with Seasoned Panko

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Chocolate Cheesecake  
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## Have a party to remember at Sirico's

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

When you've got 90 years of experience, you know how to throw awesome parties.

Their grandparents may have started Sirico's Catering, but two cousins, Hercules and Jim Sirico, are the ones that keep these parties going every night.

### Weddings

A bit overwhelmed with all to be done? Your life just got easier because everything you need is coordinated by Sirico's in-house wedding planner who directs the process.

**Ceremony:** Want to get married here? Say the word, and the planner will say, "I do."

**Food:** They get it. It's got to be good. With customized menus for every taste and budget, it will be. Guests enjoy drinks and food in a separate room for the cocktail hour, then make their way to another for dinner and dancing. Of course, there's a lovely bridal suite for the bridal party.

**Music:** The house DJ is young, hip, gets the party started, and keeps it moving all night long.

**Pictures:** Photos and videos will be treasured for a lifetime, so Sirico's works with proven photographers and videographers who make sure special moments are captured. The beautiful gardens and active fireplace in the lobby make perfect backdrops.

**Decorations:** Lighting sets the mood and atmosphere, so color-coordinate your event with an LED lighting package. It can match your wedding colors. Or, reach for the stars with specialized effects that include an image of a bright blue

sky. Sirico's has it all covered with chair draperies and sashes, too.

### Sweet 16s

Busy moms can relax because Sirico's party planner has your back.

Your daughter's party starts in the Entourage Room where the guest of honor can wait with friends before the introductions begin.

**Tropical Bar:** Say aloha to the place where teens enjoy drinks that include virgin pina colodas, strawberry daiquiris, and frozen sensations.

**Food:** A buffet loaded with fun food, customize designed to taste. Among the offerings: taco stations, a mashed potato bar, and sliders. For dessert, there's an ice cream sundae bar, candy tables, and Sirico's famous chocolate fountain.

**Decorations:** Select from in-house designs and decorations, tailored to teens. Balloon center pieces are always a hit.

### Other parties

Every special occasion calls for unique needs, and Sirico's accommodates them all. Whether it's an anniversary, retirement, Communion, Confirmation, corporate event, or other special occasion, Sirico's is the place to be.

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## SPORTS

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West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle to play in Abu Dhabi tournament.

Associated Press / Ross Setford

## Abu Dhabi T20 tourney

By Azad Ali

West Indies batting superstar Chris Gayle is set to play in the inaugural Abu Dhabi T20 Trophy to be staged in October.

Gayle, the most successful Twenty20 batsman of all time, will play for Afghan side Boost Defenders, which will be one of six teams contesting the tournament at the Zayed Cricket Stadium.

English side Yorkshire Vikings, Big Bash franchise Hobart Hurricanes, Lahore Qalanders of Pakistan Super League and South Africa's Multiply

Continued on Page 40

## CPL playoff matches

By Azad Ali

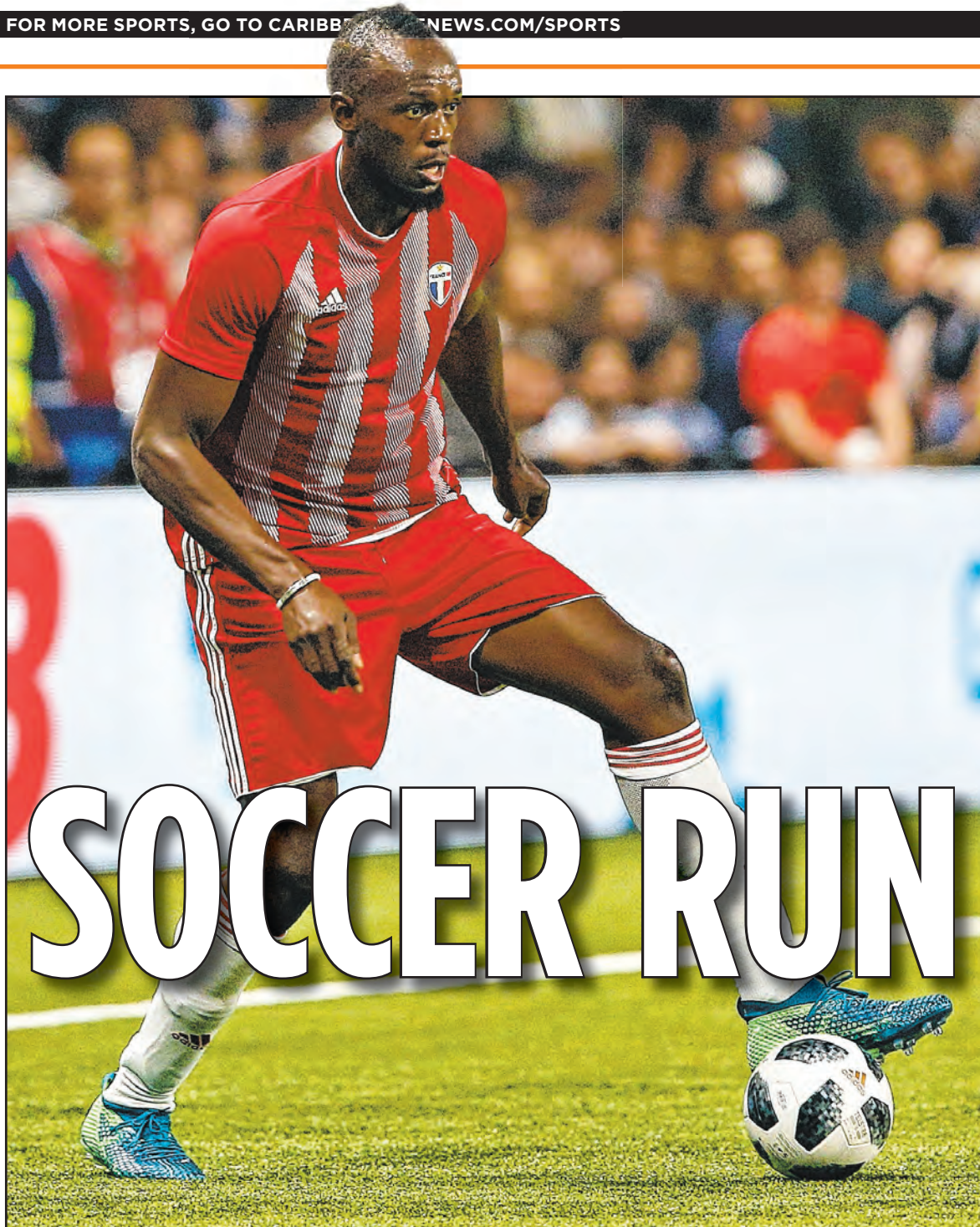
This year's Hero Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will have playoff matches to be held in Guyana for the first time.

The matches, which will see the top four teams from group stages battle it out, will take place at the Providence Stadium from Sept. 11 and Sept. 12.

There will be seven Hero CPL matches in Guyana this year, including five group games also taking place at Providence.

The Guyana Amazon Warriors have made the playoffs stages of the Hero CPL every season and will be looking to make it into the latter stages for a sixth succes-

Continued on Page 40



In this Tuesday, June 12, 2018, photo, former Olympic and Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt controls the ball during a charity soccer match between members of the 1998 World Cup winning French team and a team of international veteran players who were also involved in the same tournament, at the U Arena in Nanterre, north of Paris, France.

Associated Press / Thibault Camus, File

## Usain Bolt to try pro soccer in Australia

SYDNEY (AP) — Usain Bolt is making a run at professional soccer in Australia.

The Olympic sprint great has long expressed his love of the game. Since his retirement from track, he has tested himself with Germany's Borussia Dortmund and the Norwe-

gian club Stromsgodset.

Now, at 31, he will try out for six weeks with the Central Coast Mariners starting next month. If all goes well, he could play for a season in Australia's A-League.

Australian agent Tony Rallis said Monday the Mariners and Bolt have a

deal in principle, "subject to a couple of benchmarks."

Rallis said the eight-time Olympic gold medalist would have to go through a tryout, and the Football Federation Australia would have to support his salary.

Continued on Page 40



# Usain Bolt

Continued from Page 39

"Once the FFA comes back and says that they'll be part of the process, we're going to the trial," Rallis said.

The agent said the Mariners would guarantee 70 percent of his salary and the FFA would be expected to pay the rest.

"If he's competitive, he will lift our A-League profile," Rallis said. "He will create dreams for young people and he will give the A-League a profile no amount of money can buy. This bloke's

an ambitious athlete. The A-League needed a hero and we got superman."

Mariners chief executive Shaun Mielekamp said there is still a lot of work to do, and the tryout is essential in determining the skill of the 6-foot-5 Jamaican.

"It would only be big if he can play and if he can go really, really well," he said. "Because if he comes and he's not up to the level then it actually has a detrimental effect."

"But if he comes and he's as good as our reports are saying that he can be, then that would be very exciting and I'm sure that this stadium would be pretty full every time he put the boots on."

## Gayle heads to Abu Dhabi T20

Continued from Page 39

Titans will join Boost Defenders, with the final team yet to be announced.

The tournament will be staged by Abu Dhabi Cricket, under the umbrella of Abu Dhabi Sports Council and has gained the support of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Emirates Cricket Board.

Over 20,000 spectators are expected daily to watch the array of stars which include England's Tymal Mills and Gary Balance, Pakistan's leg spinner Yaris Shah, and South Africa fast bowler Albie Morkel.

The organizers say that 38-year-old Gayle is expected to be the biggest drawing card.

## CPL matches

Continued from Page 39

sive season when the match gets underway against last year's losing finalist, St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots.

Speaking about the historic Hero CPL Playoffs coming to Guyana, Hero CPL's CEO, Pete Russell said, "we have always been blessed with fantastic support in Guyana where the passion for cricket amongst the local population is second to none."

# Fans watch the World Cup final



Game on: Dozens of football fans watch the FIFA World Cup final at Kings Theatre's courtyard in Flatbush on July 15. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

By Alexandra Simon

And the world's game came to an end!

More than a hundred football fans and enthusiasts turned out for a watch party of the FIFA World Cup final match at Kings Theatre on July 15. The game between France and Croatia entertained dozens of hardcore lovers of the sport, and while France would claim the victory, not too many were pleased with their win, said a deejay at the viewing.

"It seems that everyone in the crowd was for Croatia — because when I played sound effects when France scored a goal everyone was quiet," said DJ Moonface. "But when I did it for Croatia, everyone was happy."

The outdoor viewing organized by Flatbush Caton Market and the venue


was held in the theatre's courtyard, and featured music and gaming activities.

As a self-proclaimed non-watcher of sports, DJ Moonface says he opted to root for France since the country's squad scored the first goal of the game, and says the exciting match kept his attention.

"I'm not into sports much but I was definitely into it and I had all my focus on the game," he said.

And when the match was over, the mostly team Croatia crowd cleared out pretty quickly, he added.

"A lot of people were ready to go after that, but the screens were still on to show the ceremony and a lot of people stuck around and stayed to party and mingle, and talk about the game," he said.



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# Wales once more Barbados football champs

By George Alleyne

They were champions last year and just to prove that getting to the top was no fluke, Weymouth Wales emerged out of its zone and won the playoff match to become the Barbados Football Association Premier League champions again.

The Weymouth boys scored twice to beat the Barbados Defence Force 2-1 at the Wilkey, St Michael AstroTurf in a thrilling encounter that saw all three of the goals netted in first half of the game, played earlier this month.

The Barbados Premier League format this year saw the island's 12 top teams being split into two six-team zones, and Wales sailed through Zone One with no losses in their 16 games, winning 14, drawing two and registering 50 goals for, and six against, to earn 44 points.

This meant that when Wales won the playoff match-up of zone winners they completed the Barbados Premier League season unbeaten.

BDF topped Zone Two with 35 points from their 16 games, winning 11, drawing two and losing three with 39 goals for and 10 against.

A delighted Weymouth Wales coach, David Ward, said the victory was owed to "good work from the entire management team. As I said last year, it is like a family and we are still keeping it that way."

He indicated that the 2017 and 2018 victories were not without major obstacles.

"We always have challenges," Ward said, adding that on a number occasions the team's practice ground was used for public events, so many days, "we don't have any place to train. We have to come out early and sometimes go on the [nearby] field. And our field is very poor. It needs a work-over and that is what we are looking at."

Nonetheless, he said that the Weymouth boys were undaunted, "we might not be professional, but we have that professionalism within our minds... We constantly work on the mental aspect of the game."

"This final was a tough fight. But we are always up for that fight and I always tell these men from the sweat of a man's brow, so shall he eat. We are dedicated, we are determined and we acquired the expected results," he said.



Romario Harewood of Wales (left) chases down Rahiem Sargeant of Barbados Defence Force for the ball.

Photo by George Alleyne





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**ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, you might feel like you do not measure up to others this week. How others see you is completely different from your perception. Don't be too hard on yourself.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, letting go is a hard lesson to learn this week. You may have to retire a plan that just can't come to fruition. But don't worry, new ideas are in the works.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, try not to hold onto negative emotions. Focus on all of the happy memories you have made with others and your mood will instantly brighten.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Honesty is the best policy, Cancer. So have that frank conversation with someone even if full disclosure can be a bit uncomfortable. Afterward, you'll be glad you did.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Don't underestimate your abilities, Leo. You are imaginative and creative when the mood suits you, as it will this week. Look for your muse and get started.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, stay open to external influences and you may be able to infer some things about the future that can guide you in the days ahead. It's good to stay ahead of the curve.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, this is a good week to take stock of the people who mean the most to you. Express your feelings to these people and spend some time with them.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
A little dose of being naughty might do you some good this week, Scorpio. Call in sick from work and enjoy a day shopping or simply indulging in a little entertainment.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
You have basic needs that have to be met, and a strong network of friends and coworkers can get you through any rough patch, Sagittarius.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, although you can't narrow it down just yet, something doesn't feel right in your world. Keep investigating and trust your instincts.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, you have reached a crossroads where everything you have dreamed and worked for has finally converged. This is the time to enjoy the fruits of all your labor.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, rather than looking at the differences between you and someone else, look at the similarities. This is a great way to begin a friendship.



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**This building is anticipated to receive a Tax Exemption through the 421-a Tax Incentive Program of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.**

#### Who Should Apply?

Individuals or households who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. Applicants who live in New York City receive a general preference for apartments.

Preference for a percentage of units goes to:

- Mobility-disabled applicants (5%)
- Vision or hearing-disabled applicants (2%)

### AVAILABLE UNITS AND INCOME REQUIREMENTS

| Unit Size  | 130% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS | Monthly Rent <sup>1</sup> | Units Available |   | Household Size <sup>2</sup> | Annual Household Income <sup>3</sup><br>Minimum – Maximum <sup>4</sup> |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| studio     |                                     | \$2,013 <sup>††</sup>     | 2               | → | 1 person                    | \$69,018 - \$95,030  |
| 1 bedroom  |                                     | \$1,997 <sup>†</sup>      | 3               | → | 1 person                    | \$68,469 - \$95,030  |
|            |                                     |                           |                 |   | 2 people                    | \$68,469 - \$108,550   |
| 1 bedroom  |                                     | \$1,997 <sup>†††</sup>    | 1               | → | 1 person                    | \$68,469 - \$95,030  |
|            |                                     |                           |                 |   | 2 people                    | \$68,469 - \$108,550   |
| 1 bedroom  |                                     | \$2,128 <sup>††</sup>     | 12              | → | 1 person                    | \$72,960 - \$95,030  |
|            |                                     |                           |                 |   | 2 people                    | \$72,960 - \$108,550   |
| 2 bedrooms |                                     | \$2,400 <sup>†</sup>      | 5               | → | 2 people                    | \$82,286 - \$108,550   |
|            |                                     |                           |                 |   | 3 people                    | \$82,286 - \$122,070   |
|            |                                     | \$2,564 <sup>††</sup>     | 7               | → | 4 people                    | \$82,286 - \$135,590   |
|            |                                     |                           |                 |   | 2 people                    | \$87,909 - \$108,550   |
|            |                                     |                           |                 |   | 3 people                    | \$87,909 - \$122,070   |
|            |                                     |                           |                 |   | 4 people                    | \$87,909 - \$135,590   |

<sup>1</sup> Tenant responsible for electric, electric hot water and cooking gas\*

<sup>†</sup>eight (8) apartments have an electric heating system ("Electric")

<sup>†††</sup>one (1) apartment has 2 separate heating systems for different areas within the apartment (one gas, one electric).

<sup>††</sup>twenty-one (21) apartments have a gas heating system ("Gas")

<sup>2</sup> Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.

<sup>3</sup> Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change.

<sup>4</sup> Minimum income listed may not apply to applicants with Section 8 or other qualifying rental subsidies. Asset limits also apply.

#### How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to [nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect). To request an application **by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: 618 Bushwick Avenue Apartments c/o Wavecrest Consulting LLC, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

#### When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **September 5, 2018**. Late applications will not be considered.

#### What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an appointment to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Appointments are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

#### Español

Presente una solicitud en línea en [nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect). Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a: **618 Bushwick Avenue Apartments c/o Wavecrest Consulting LLC, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH." Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes de 5 de septiembre 2018.

#### 简体中文

访问 [nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect) 在线申请。如要获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版，请将您的回邮信封寄送至：**618 Bushwick Avenue Apartments c/o Wavecrest Consulting LLC, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**。信封背面请用英语注明“CHINESE”。必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或邮寄书面申请 2018年9月5日。

#### Русский

Чтобы подать заявление через интернет, зайдите на сайт: [nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect). Для получения данного объявления и заявления на русском языке отправьте конверт с обратным адресом по адресу **618 Bushwick Avenue Apartments c/o Wavecrest Consulting LLC, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. На задней стороне конверта напишите слово "RUSSIAN" на английском языке. Заявки должны быть поданы онлайн или отправлены по почте (согласно дате на почтовом штемпеле) не позднее 5 сентября 2018.

#### 한국어

[nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect) 에서 온라인으로 신청하십시오. 이 광고문과 신청서에 대한 한국어 번역본을 받아보시려면 발송용 봉투를 **618 Bushwick Avenue Apartments c/o Wavecrest Consulting LLC, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**으로 보내주십시오. 봉투 뒷면에 "KOREAN" 이라고 영어로 적어주십시오. 2018년9월5일까지 온라인 신청서를 제출하거나 소인이 찍힌 신청서를 보내야 합니다.

#### Kreyòl Ayisyen

Aplike sou entènèt sou sitwèb [nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect). Pou resevwa yon tradiksyon anons sa a nan lang Kreyòl Ayisyen ak aplikasyon an sou papye, voye anvlòp ki gen adrès pou retounen li nan: **618 Bushwick Avenue Apartments c/o Wavecrest Consulting LLC, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. Nan dèyè anvlòp la, ekri mo "HATIAN CREOLE" an Anglè. Ou dwe remèt aplikasyon yo sou entènèt oswa ou dwe tenbre yo anvan dat septanm 5, 2018.

#### العربية

تقدم بطلب عن طريق الإنترنت على الموقع الإلكتروني [nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect) للحصول على ترجمة باللغة العربية لهذا الإعلان ولنموذج الطلب الورقي، أرسل مظاريف يحمل اسمك وعنوانك إلى: **618 Bushwick Avenue Apartments c/o Wavecrest Consulting LLC, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. على الجهة الخلفية للمظاريف، اكتب باللغة الإنجليزية كلمة "ARABIC". يجب إرسال نماذج الطلبات عن طريق الإنترنت أو ختمها بختم البريد قبل 5 سبتمبر، 2018.





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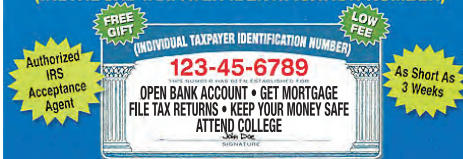
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