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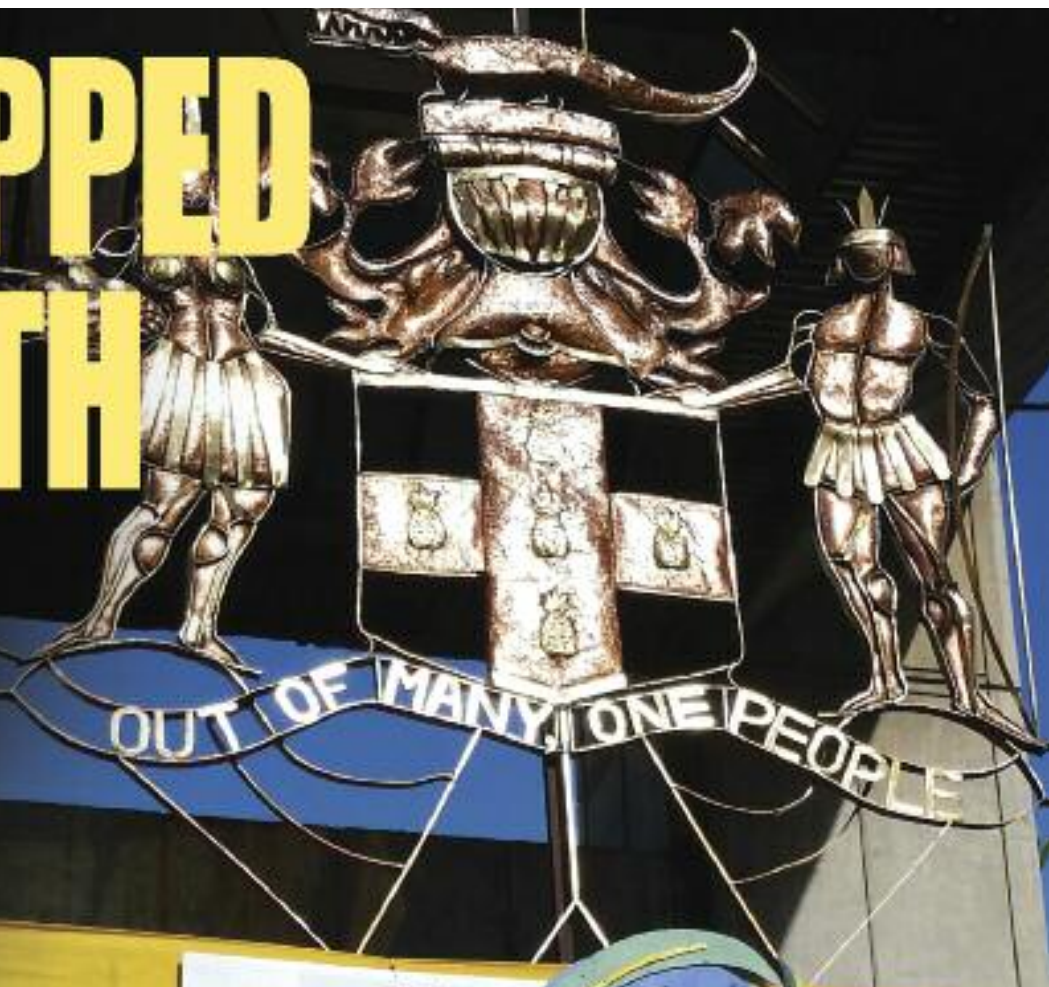
Haitian immigrants with Temporary Protected Status are expressing increasing fear as the Donald Trump administration monitors earthquake recovery efforts in the French-speaking Caribbean country to determine whether 58,000 Haitians will be sent home in six months, page 5.



Jamaica's legendary sprinter Usain Bolt will be among several athletes from the Caribbean favored to win gold medals at this month's IAAF World Championships in Athletics in London, England. It's a chance for the region to once again shine on the global stage, page 18.

UNTAPPED WEALTH

~ Jamaica has yet to fully understand the true worth of its diaspora's massive potential. But emerging evidence indicates nationals living overseas are making a greater contribution to the Caribbean nation's welfare than previously believed, with promise to deliver much more, page 3.



COMMON GROUND

~ Audrey Marks is in her second stint as Jamaica's ambassador to the United States. The first time Barack Obama was president, now it's Donald Trump. Two completely different personalities. But Marks's job remains the same - find common ground between the U.S. and Jamaica, page 9.

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NEWS



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Rise in Caribbean immigrant crime victims seeking special 'U visa'

NEW YORK – New York City's Department of Investigation (DOI) says the New York Police Department (NYPD) has seen a dramatic increase in the number of undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants seeking its help in obtaining a special visa meant to protect victims of crimes.

In detailing its analysis of the NYPD "U visa" certification program, the DOI said in a report on July 28 that the number of immigrants seeking these visas soared from 87 in 2011 to 713 in 2016.

The U visa, also known as U nonimmigrant status, is a special visa granted to undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants who are victims of crimes and who help law enforcement investigate and prosecute those crimes, the DOI said.

"A U visa provides undocumented crime victims with a pathway to legal permanent resident status, employment authorization, and other benefits," the DOI said.

"Although the U visa is provided by the federal government, a law enforcement agency, like NYPD, must first certify that the applicant was helpful in the investigation of a qualifying crime."

Law enforcement agencies, like DOI, regularly rely on victim co-operation to identify suspects, investigate illegal activity and prosecute criminals.

"The U visa program, encourages members of this vulnerable community to bring perpetrators to justice, while helping to build community trust with the police," the DOI said.

FEAR

In light of recent U.S. federal policy shifts in immigration enforcement that have amplified fear in the immigrant community, the DOI said public safety value of the U visa program has taken added importance. In the past several years, the DOI said the NYPD has taken steps to improve its handling of the U visa process, as well as other actions to protect this community.

The report found NYPD has made positive changes to the administrative management of the U visa program, but needs to strengthen certain aspects of the certification process.

"Victim cooperation is critical to all law enforcement work," said DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters.



Trump, left, and Sessions

"In the current environment, where the immigrant community has been the target of fear mongering and attacks, all of us in local law enforcement have been working to ensure that immigrants – documented or undocumented – are protected and feel safe stepping forward to report crimes. Strengthening NYPD's U visa program helps New York City achieve that goal."

FEAR

Philip K. Eure, DOI's inspector general for the NYPD, said: "For undocumented people who are victims of crimes, fear of deportation often stands in the way of cooperation with law enforcement – a fact their abusers readily exploit."

"This report demonstrates

that NYPD's U visa program has taken steps to improve and needs to go further, specifically strengthening its internal standards when reviewing these certifications," he said.

"By making the NYPD's U visa program more consistent and transparent, the department can help protect immigrant communities and make the city safer."

Carmen Maria Rey, the deputy director of the Immigration Intervention Project at advocacy group Sanctuary for Families, said the visa program emboldens immigrants to come forward about domestic abuse, acts of violence and human trafficking.

"It's a really valuable law enforcement tool," she told the **New York Daily News**. "We think it would increase safety not only for immigrants but all New Yorkers."

Rey said that increased awareness about the program accounts for the rise in the

number of immigrants seeking the certifications from the NYPD.

"There has been a lot more outreach into immigrant communities, given the climate in the country and the fear," she said, adding, however, that the number of the applicants is still very small considering the number of immigrants who are crime victims.

TRUMP EFFECT

There has been increased fear in the Caribbean and other immigrant communities in the U.S. since Donald Trump's inauguration in January as president. Making good on a campaign pledge, Trump has followed through with increased deportation of undocumented immigrants.

Last month, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions toughened the Trump administration's crackdown on so-called "sanctuary cities", like New York, announcing that certain grant programs for cities and states would be conditional on whether local officials allow immigration agents access to local jails.

Starting in the fiscal year 2017, jurisdictions must allow immigration officers into

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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CLUELESS: Jamaica still in dark over diaspora's huge potential



- Photograph by Gordon Williams

Smart

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica - Jamaica has no precise understanding of its diaspora's massive potential, although emerging evidence indicates nationals living overseas are making a far greater contribution to the Caribbean nation's welfare than previously believed.

Preliminary findings from a study, conducted by the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI) and revealed at last month's "Jamaica 55 Diaspora 2017 Conference" here, showed the country relies heavily on contributions from an estimated three million nationals living in places like the United States, United Kingdom and Canada.

According to research officer Shanike Smart, CAPRI's study, sponsored by Jamaica National, was aimed at taking the guess work out of the diaspora's influence, which would then lead to a better grasp of its value and enhance the relationship with Jamaica.

"We wanted to find out how significant are their (diaspora's) contributions, because we think this can advance the conversation," Smart explained following her conference presentation.

So far, she has already dismantled some long-held perceptions. For example, the diaspora's contribution has mainly been identified with remittances. Jamaica benefits greatly from money sent from overseas - an estimated \$2.2 billion a year. But that may be just the tip of the diaspora's clout.

"It turned out to be much more than that," Smart said.

IGNORANCE

Diaspora investments in Jamaica also make up a huge chunk of benefits for the island as well. The World

Bank reportedly stated that \$500 million in investments had come to Jamaica. That figure, may be more like \$12.8 billion.

Also gone underestimated has been the contributions in several other areas, including export of goods and services from Jamaica to the diaspora.

"I speak about companies

launching businesses overseas, not thinking that maybe it's the diaspora, not understanding that without (the diaspora) they might not been able to even prosper in that environment," Smart explained.

The educational and professional qualifications of Jamaicans overseas have been downplayed as well, a reason

many in the diaspora believe causes them to be overlooked for jobs in the island.

Diaspora tourists, are also now being viewed differently. According to statistics gathered by Smart, the Jamaica Tourist Board believes diaspora visitors' spending accounts for four percent of general expenditure. She

thinks it's much higher.

"I estimated that it was seven percent of the expenditure," Smart said. "(It's) \$180 something million U.S. dollars that they're spending overall."

MISLED

It comes down to misin-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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NEWS



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BUSTED: Ex-Cayman premier arrested in U.S. after casino incident

MIAMI, Florida – Speaker of the House in the Cayman Islands and former Premier McKeeva Bush was arrested last month in the United States following an incident at a casino.

According to Broward County, Florida court records, Bush, 62, was arrested by the Seminole police late July 17 on a misdemeanor offense.

“William McKeeva Bush was arrested by Seminole Police on Monday at 11:02 p.m. (local time) at the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek and

charged with simple battery or misdemeanor battery,” Gary Bitner, a spokesman for Seminole Police department, noted in statement to the **Cayman Compass**.

The police records indicate that Bush was offered bail with a cash bond of \$1,000.

VIDEO EVIDENCE

The arrest followed an interview with Bush and a sworn statement by the alleged female employee victim and a review of surveil-

lance video.

According to the arresting officer, the surveillance video showed Bush allegedly wrapped his arm around the victim's lower back and forcefully pulled the victim towards his direction.

“According to the arrest-



Bush

ing officer, the victim alleged (Bush) grabbed her buttocks while pulling her with his right arm,” the officer noted.

Bush denied he has done anything wrong.

“I regret the attention and concern that my wrongful arrest has caused to all concerned overseas, my constituents and the great citizens of Cayman,” Bush said.

“I am certain that once my attorney and the prosecu-

tor have an opportunity to review the evidence, the only conclusion that will be reached is that I committed no crime.”

Up to press time a court date had not been set as Bush had not been formally charged.

- Edited from CMC.



Jamaicans in top three of world's coolest nationalities ~ CNN

ave always known they are cool. Now CNN is confirming it.

According to an article written by Barry Neild and published on the United States-based cable news network's website last month, Jamaican is the third coolest nationality on earth.

Jamaican is the only Caribbean nationality which made Neild's top 14 list. The top two are Brazilians, followed by Singaporeans. Americans were fifth, behind Mongolians.

While Neild didn't offer much in terms of how he came to his conclusion of cool, he didn't find Jamaicans “high murder rate and widespread homophobia” cool. But he was

enamored by the island natives' charm.

“There's more to Jamaican than reggae, including Rastafarian (the most kick-back religion religion ever invented),” Neild wrote, “an accent that is the envy of the English-speaking world and the planet's most distinctive and recognizable hairstyle.”

Legendary sprinter Usain Bolt, the “fastest human ever timed and nine-time Olympic Gold medal winner” was saluted by Neild as “Icon of cool”.

He also took a gentle jab at “backpackers” who believe Jamaican is encompassed in fake dreadlocks.

“... dreadlocks only cool on actual Jamaicans,” wrote

Neild.

The full list of “coolest nationality”, according to Neild, is:

1. Brazilians
2. Singaporeans
3. Jamaicans
4. Mongolians
5. Americans
6. Koreans
7. Spanish
8. Japanese
9. Botswana
10. Chinese
11. Australians
12. Nepalese
13. Belgians
14. Turks



Rise in Caribbean immigrant crime victims seeking special ‘U visa’

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

detention facilities and provide 48-hours' notice before releasing an inmate who is wanted by immigration agents in order to be eligible for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, reported the Business Insider.

“So-called ‘sanctuary’ policies make all of us less safe because they intentionally undermine our laws and protect illegal aliens who have committed crimes,” said Sessions in a statement on Tuesday. “These policies also encourage illegal immigration and even human trafficking by perpetuating the lie that in certain cities, illegal aliens can live outside the law.”

Sessions's announcement marked a significant escalation in the Trump administration's approach to “sanctuary” jurisdictions, which implement a variety of policies that limit their police departments and jails' cooperation with US federal immigration authorities, the reported.

DENY

For instance, it said many cities opt not to honor U.S. federal requests to detain immigrants in jails unless the requests are accompanied by judge-signed warrants.

Previously, Sessions had only required that localities abide by the federal statute 8

USC 1373, which requires local officials not to interfere with the exchange of information regarding people's citizenship or immigration status. But many “sanctuary cities” had argued that they already complied with that statute.

Sessions's critics have argued that his crusade against “sanctuary” policies will push undocumented communities further into the shadows, discouraging immigrants from reporting crimes committed against them out of fear they will be deported, according to the Business Insider.

- Edited from CMC.



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Haitian TPS immigrants fear Trump's next move

NEW YORK – Haitian immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) are expressing increasing fear as the administration of United States President Donald Trump monitors earthquake recovery efforts in the French-speaking Caribbean country to determine whether TPS for 58,000 Haitians should be terminated in January when its recent six month extension ends.

In May, then U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly said Haiti has been making significant progress, advising TPS holders to begin to “prepare for and arrange their departure” should the special designation end in January.

According to the **New York Times** newspaper, that advice has left Haitian TPS holders, with 20,000 in New York, “mired in fear.”

“Some, who have established lives here, said they feared losing their dreams,” the Times reported. “Others, who have lived in the United States for many years, may find it difficult to adjust to life in Haiti, the Western Hemisphere’s poorest country. And those with American-born children could be parted from them.”

NERVE-RACKING

“It’s very nerve-racking in a way,” said Bianca, 22, a sen-



Haitians worrying.

ior at Queens College, part of the City University of New York, who asked to be identified by her middle name because of her uncertain immigration status.

“It’s very unsettling to know that you’re here, and you don’t know what tomorrow is going to bring, or what is going to happen in the next couple of months.”

The U.S. Congress created the TPS program in 1990 to aid countries ravaged by war, natural disasters or catastrophic events that make it too dangerous for citizens to return. Under the administration of former U.S. President Barack Obama, Haiti’s TPS permits were reviewed every 18 months.

- Edited from CMC.



U.S. sues P.R. business for violating soldier's rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has filed a complaint alleging that Farmacia Lugo, Inc. (Farmacia Lugo), a business based in Puerto Rico, violated the employment rights of U.S. Army Reservist Anna J. Santiago under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

The DOJ said Private Santiago has served her country since 2012.

According to the complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, Santiago’s military service was a motivating factor in Farmacia Lugo’s decision to terminate her employment. The DOJ claims that in 2014 and 2015 Santiago served multiple periods of military duty, which caused her to be absent from her job as a pharmacy technician.

COMPLAINT

The complaint alleges

that, during and after Santiago’s periods of military service, the owner of Farmacia Lugo began making negative statements about Santiago and her military obligations.

The complaint further alleges that, on Nov. 11, 2015, the owner of Farmacia Lugo terminated Santiago and old Santiago that it was appropriate that it occurred on Veterans Day, “because her military service was the cause of her termination.”

The lawsuit seeks damages equal to the amount of Santiago’s lost wages and benefits caused by Farmacia Lugo’s failure to comply with USERRA, as well as liquidated damages (in an amount equal to lost wages) for what the DOJ alleges is Farmacia Lugo’s reckless disregard for USERRA.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean nationals among 114 nabbed in N.Y. sting targeting criminal immigrants

NEW YORK – The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency says its Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) arm has arrested Caribbean immigrants among 114 foreigners during an 11-day operation in New York late last month.

The operation targeted at-large criminal immigrants, illegal re-entrants and immigration fugitives.

Those arrested included one person from Barbados, 15 from the Dominica Republic, one from Grenada, five from Haiti, eight from Jamaica and three from Trinidad and Tobago.

ICE said of those arrested during the enforcement action, which ended July 29, 82 had criminal histories, including prior convictions for sex crimes, drug offenses and fraud. Fifteen have pending criminal charges, including assault, larceny and sexual exploitation of a minor; and 37 individuals have final orders of removal.



Cops make arrests in New York.

TARGETS

Others taken into custody included an unidentified Jamaican national with a prior conviction of forcible touching, robbery in the first degree and act in manner to injure a child less than 17.

ICE said the operation “targeted criminal aliens who pose a public safety threat and individuals who have violated our nation’s immigration laws, including those who re-entered the country after being deported and immigration fugitives ordered removed by federal immigration judges.”

Thomas Decker, field office director for ERO New

York, said “our nation has a proud history of immigration, but we are also a nation governed by laws specifically designed to protect its citizens and residents.”

PUNISHMENT

ICE said 11 of those arrested will be presented for U.S. federal prosecution for re-entry after deportation, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Those not being criminally prosecuted will be processed for removal from the country, ICE said, adding that individuals who have outstanding orders of removal, or who returned to the U.S. illegally after being deported, are subject to immediate removal from the country.

ICE said while Queens and Manhattan accounted for the largest number of arrests during the operation, ERO personnel conducted enforcement actions in a total of 12 communities.

- Edited from CMC.



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Caribbean American legislator denounces Trump's transgender ban

NEW YORK – Caribbean American legislator Jumaane Williams has denounced President Donald Trump's abrupt ban on transgender people serving in the United States military.

"This is yet another instance of Number 45 (45th U.S. president) moving the country not only in the wrong direction, but also in a regressive one," Williams, a New York City councilman, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 45th Council District in Brooklyn, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)**.

"An American's personal identity should not be one that disqualifies him or her from service to their country," added Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants.

"This discriminatory line of thinking and action has been a constant throughout Number 45's presidency. Truth be told, this open prejudice against our transgender brothers and sisters is one

part of a much larger problem that few are focusing on.

"This year alone, 15 transgender women of color have been murdered and no one is talking about this," said Williams, deputy leader of New York City Council.

HOSTILITY

According to Williams, under the current administration in the U.S., "the climate is one that encourages hostility against not only transgender Americans, but also Muslims, women and immigrants.

"For those who want to sit on the sidelines when it comes to transgender discrimination, I say emphatically that we cannot sit idly by as Number 45 attacks Americans," he said.

"If we do, it is only a matter of time until someone you care for becomes Trump's next target. You cannot hate neatly. This type of discrimination against one group of human beings paves the way

for discrimination against all groups. Stand and resist even when it's not your group. Stand and resist especially when it's not your group."

BLINDSIDED

In his announcement last month via Twitter, Trump blindsided his defense secretary and Republican congressional leaders with a snap decision that reversed a year-old policy reviled by social conservatives.

Trump made the declaration on Twitter, saying that American forces could not afford the "tremendous medical costs and disruption" of transgender service members. He claimed he had consulted



Williams

generals and military experts. However, Jim Mattis, the defense secretary, was given only a day's notice about the decision.

The **New York Times** newspaper said the president elected to announce the ban

in order to resolve a quietly brewing fight on Capitol Hill over whether taxpayer money should pay for gender transition and hormone therapy for transgender service members.

A RAND Corporation commissioned study by the Pentagon said 2,000 to 11,000 active-duty troops are transgender, although estimates of the number of transgender service members have varied widely, and are sometimes as high as 15,000.

The study found that allowing transgender people to serve openly in the military would "have minimal impact on readiness and health care costs" for the Pentagon.

- Edited from CMC.



CLUELESS: Jamaica still in dark over diaspora's huge potential

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

formation, Smart explained, which may or may not be deliberate.

"Normally in the literature, we're finding that the diaspora tourist tends to spend less (in Jamaica) than a foreign national. However, they stay longer," she said. "... When we're looking at the numbers we're saying this

is suggesting otherwise, and then I was saying 'can this be true?'"

"I saw that the Jamaican tourist was almost spending more than, in a lot of cases was spending more than what the estimate was for the foreign national."

BLAME

The misunderstanding has been blamed on several factors, including lack of information, reluctance to seek it, unwillingness to provide it on request and preference to rely on old myths. Some Jamaicans deliberately hesitate to reveal information.

"A lot of people think that's just our culture," said Smart, who led CAPRI's research team, "but I'm not sure what the reason is. And, again, even to this day we're having some pushback."

NO IDEA

In 2004 Jamaica held its first Diaspora Conference. But few had a full idea of the diaspora's actual impact. Thirteen years, and a planned average of one conference every two years, later not much has changed.

However, through CAPRI's early findings, a different picture is emerging. The study, which began about two months ago and is expected to have more concrete data by next month, has shown startling information.

Currently, the diaspora is estimated to contribute 23 percent of Jamaica's gross

domestic product (GDP). Smart suspects the potential is closer to 35 percent. However, she argued, more digging is needed to confirm her suspicions and guide future policy on the diaspora.

"We need research to back that up before we even start making any move," she said.

What's evident is the diaspora is offering much more than its been credited for and poised to make an even larger impact.

"When I look at the gap, when we look at what we're currently doing and what the potential gap that's left, it was 12 percent of GDP, over a billion (U.S.) dollars," said Smart.

"I think it highlights how significant the diaspora is for Jamaica, which is currently under appreciated because the numbers aren't existing," she added.

It should be enough incentive for Jamaica to embrace its diaspora more tightly.

"It is also showing that it is an opportunity to show the diaspora and for persons to now recognize the diaspora, which should bring them onboard," said Smart.

"And if they do come onboard some more, I mean, it's unimaginable the value that will present."

More from the "Jamaica 55 Diaspora 2017 Conference" on pages 7, 8, 9 and 10.



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Jamaicans laud diaspora's input, but some lament slow progress

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica - Jamaicans living in far away lands - United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Asia, Africa, Middle East and the Caribbean - returned home last month to better understand what the government here wants from them, plans to address their needs and what they can contribute to the nation's development.

Some 1,200 reportedly registered as participants for the "Jamaica 55 Diaspora 2017 Conference" here July 23-26. It focused on a variety of issues - under the theme "Partnering For Growth" - aimed at bettering the relationship between the place they call home and where they now reside.

The movement towards collaboration, which began in earnest in 2004 with the first conference here, has been embraced by successive governing political parties which have declared the need to harness the potential of an estimated three million people overseas who identify themselves as Jamaican.

"Essentially it started with recognition that we need a structure to deal with the issue of the diaspora," explained Franz Hall, Jamaica's consul general in Miami, who attended the conference.

EXPANDED

More than a decade later, the movement has expanded as Jamaica attempts to woo investors, make doing business in the country easier, smooth the path for those who want to contribute to social causes such as education and health, fight crime and promote the nation's culture. The government said it welcomes the input.

"(The diaspora) are among our best assets," said Prime Minister Andrew Holness while addressing the conference opening.

"... We need the participation of all our citizens, whether at home or abroad ... We are serious about strengthening the relationship between Jamaica and the diaspora. Our diaspora must be increasingly engaged ... Let us continue to connect and partner for growth."



- Photograph by Gordon Williams

Attendees at the "Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference 2017" are entertained by a traditional mento band last month at the Jamaica Conference Center in downtown Kingston.

Estimates show Jamaica's diaspora makes a massive contribution. More than \$2 billion in remittances reportedly comes to the Caribbean island from the diaspora each year. In health care, for example, more than 200 medical missions visit Jamaica each year from the diaspora.

SLOW

But some observers who

have charted the growth of Jamaica's diaspora courtship lamented the slow progress of the movement. The partnership, they claim, should have more concrete accomplishments to show since 2004. Among the problems, advocates claim, is that follow-up collaboration to the conference, held once every two years, has not generated the same enthusiasm. Many in

diaspora do not even know the movement exists.

"For me, the most important thing is consistency," said South Florida-based attorney Marlon Hill, a former member of the Diaspora Advisory Board. "We haven't done well in terms of the marketing."

Translated, that means getting all Jamaicans in the diaspora - not just a selected few - involved in the movement. Even among some who are aware, the conference is seen as a merely a "talk shop".

DIFFICULT

Frustrations hit peak here when local news reports pointed to a revelation raised at the conference involving a diaspora ambulance donation sent to Jamaica 10 months ago, but had still not cleared customs. The public outrage prompted the government, through an announcement on conference day two by Daryl Vaz, minister without portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, that "a moratorium of the (customs) duty" had been issued. That news was warmly received by

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Cuban-born IT expert scores big with NFL's Miami Dolphins

DAWN A. DAVIS

Cuban-born Tery Howard has shattered the glass ceiling.

As senior vice president chief technology officer for the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League (NFL), she is one of few women in the information technology (IT) and sports fields to have reached the senior executive level.

"When I go to the NFL or IT meetings and we sit around the table, there is not a lot of us (women)," Howard told Caribbean Today recently.

"So, how did I get here? Hard work, perseverance, knowing that if you fail, it's O.K.," she added.

"It's how you deal with failure that really differentiates you. The other thing I did was volunteer for whatever I could ... That allowed me to learn the business, make sure that people trusted me and I made sure I delivered. So, I grew with the company."

Howard started as IT director with the Dolphins and quickly rose to her current position. Owner Stephen Ross recognized her talent and dedication, became her mentor and challenged her to create advanced technology that fans could easily tap into.

In her role, Howard, now in her 18th season with the team, manages and directs all



Howard

technology strategies for its business operations. She focuses on infrastructure, telecommunications, business systems and broadcast media to position the Dolphins and Hard Rock Stadium (the Dolphins home venue) as industry leaders.

START

Howard honed her skills at Carnival Cruise Lines where she worked for 15 years automating all the company's ships.

"It was a fascinating journey at Carnival," she said. "When I started with them they were building their first ship, so they grew exponentially. The scope of my responsibility included automating the ships. So, I was tasked to build a team, identify the technology

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Fall Cargo & Shipping

October is the start of the Fall shipping season. More than 500,000 Floridians identify their primary ancestry as West Indians, that is a 117% increase from 1990. Florida's black household income for 2000 was a whopping \$32 Billion, that has continued to increase healthily over the subsequent 16 years. C.T will spotlight the various shipping services available to them via Land, Air, and Sea to get their goods safely home in time for the season.

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Caribbean Today

Outstanding diaspora activists win 2017 GG Achievement Award

KINGSTON, Jamaica - Six members of the Jamaican diaspora were last month honored with the 2017 Governor-General's Achievement Award.

Erin A. Lue-Hing and Joan O. Pinnock of the United States; Donika A. Jones and Bishop Glenroy G. Duffus of Canada; and Tanesha Avagaye Westcar and Vendrys D. Henry of the United Kingdom were recognized for outstanding contributions on behalf of Jamaica and its diaspora and their communities.

The awards were presented at last month's opening of the "Jamaica 55 Diaspora 2017 Conference" with the nation's 55th anniversary of Independence - and its theme "Celebrating Jamaicans At Home And Abroad" - just days away.

"Their lives mirror what is dear about our country," Jamaica's Governor-General Sir Patrick Allen said of the award winners.

The following is a profile of

the winners:

Pinnock - This United States attorney is a graduate of Excelsior High School. Pinnock has been president of the Jamaican American Bar Association since 2010 and is a member of the Northeast Diaspora Advisory Board.

In Nov. 2016 she convened the Jamaica Diaspora Immigration and Deportation Prevention Task Force to assist Jamaicans resolve immigration issues. She was also influential in the launch of the Trail Blazer Award, which honors Jamaicans in the diaspora, and the Tallawah Awards Gala, which recognizes Jamaican for excellence in politics and sports.

Jones - Based in Canada, Jones has volunteered in various activities to promote Jamaica. She is an executive member and communications chair of the Jamaican Diaspora-Canada Foundation Future Leaders Chapter and a board member and secretary of the Nunavut Black History Month



- Photograph by JIS

Six Jamaican nationals received the Governor General Achievement Award last month for service to the country and its diaspora. The winners received their award from Governor-General Sir Patrick Allen, third left, accompanied by his wife Patricia to his left. Also present were Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness, center, and Audrey Marks, extreme right, Jamaica's ambassador to the United States. The winners are, from left, Donika A. Jones, Tanesha Avagaye Westcar, Vendrys D. Henry, Erin A. Lue-Hing and Joan O. Pinnock. Honoree Glenroy G. Duffus did not attend the ceremony.

Society.

Westcar - A former student of Wolmer's High School for Girls, United Kingdom-based Westcar is involved in supporting educational and school refurbishing projects in Jamaica, raising money for schools with assistance from the Jamaica Education Task Force.

Lue-Hing - In 2015 she received the Jamaica Independence Celebration

Foundation Leader

Achievement Award. U.S.-based Lue-Hing has worked to assist the homeless and promote health care.

Henry - A former assistant to Clerk of the Courts in Jamaica, he migrated to the U.S. and conducts immigration seminars hosted by the Jamaican High Commission in London, England. Henry also promotes the rights and entitle-

ments of immigrants.

Duffus - Was not able to attend the awards ceremony, but was recognized for leading outreach programs. A trained teacher, Canada-based Duffus is superintendent of education in the Toronto District School Board and directs educational initiatives of the Jamaican and Canadian Clergy Alliance.

- G. Williams



Cuban-born IT expert scores big with NFL's Miami Dolphins

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

and services."

When Carnival went public its portfolio grew tremendously. Howard, with two young children at the time, made the choice to leave the job, which required constant traveling.

Her job with the Dolphins is not stress-free, but requires far less travel. The culture allows for a balanced work/life existence - a perfect work environment for Howard. Still, there are challenges. So, Howard said, she makes she empowers her "team with the tools that they need to be able to get the job done; mentoring them and encouraging them to be continuous learners, to have confidence, and making sure that we are servicing our

users."

MOBILE APP

To keep the Miami Dolphins users/fans engaged and energized, Howard and her team came up with creative IT strategies and solutions.

"Working with the marketing team we've developed a mobile app that enables all our fans from all age groups to look at and experience all of our content and our brands," she explained.

"Everything from parking to mobile wallet to beacon technology for finding seating, restaurants. They will also be able to tap into certain services that we'll have in the parking lot. So the mobile app becomes the centre of our communications and our face to the fans.

"We are a community-based franchise. We care about our fans because they are committing to us for the experience. And most importantly, we are committed to our players and coaches who really give everything they have."

Hard Rock International won the naming rights for the stadium last year. So Howard must incorporate the brand's global standing in her technology initiatives. She noted that blending the two recognized brands - Dolphins and Hard Rock - means understanding Hard Rock's key values and how the company wants to be represented in the industry, as well as maintaining the Dolphins' international presence.

"It's a really good complementary relationship for both,"

she said.

Howard credits her Caribbean heritage and value system for her attitude toward hard work, accomplishment and balance.

"As an immigrant to this country I remember my parents working very hard," she said.

"We lived with very little for a long time. I saw the hard work, I saw the sacrifices that they made, learning the language, going back to school ...

"That has always remained with me. If you work hard and you persevere and you have integrity you can do it."

Story and photograph by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Jamaicans laud diaspora's input, but some lament slow progress

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

diaspora delegates.

However, participation in diaspora endeavors, including the conference, can be difficult. Conference participants do not get financial backing to come to Jamaica. They bear the expenses. That has displeased some diaspora members who believe Jamaica's government is banking on their undying love of country, yet unwilling to reciprocate.

"Jamaica knows what it wants from the diaspora," said New York-based Irwine Claire, also a former Diaspora Advisory Board member who did not attend this year's conference. "I'm not sure if the diaspora knows what it wants from Jamaica.

"If the diaspora is so important - Jamaica wants us, they want to partner with us - then how come we have to pay to go, pay for accommodation and conference fees?"

To underline that point, South Florida attorney Dahlia Walker-Huntington questioned why Jamaica hardly looks to woo professional talent in the diaspora to fill employment vacancies in Jamaica.

"When there's money for paid opportunities you have look to us," Walker-Huntington told a panel at the conferences "Diaspora Growth Forum".

They were not alone. One conference delegate called some of Jamaica's leadership "arrogant." There was also a

call for a shift in parts of Jamaica's culture, which was believed to hamper progress.

"We have a cultural issue that we have to deal with," admitted presenter Michael Lee-Chin, billionaire business and chairman of Jamaica's Economic Growth Council (EGC). "We have to re-set, recalibrate standards."

FRUITFUL

Overall, however, Jamaica's effort to generate diaspora interest in the nation's development has borne some fruit. The conference has grown to include a "Diaspora Marketplace", showcasing products and services from government and private sector, plus workshops,

planning sessions and presentations from a variety of public and private sector leaders.

However, stories from individual diaspora conference participants showed a mixture of reactions ranging from keen interest in the movement, frustration with meager progress and hope for the future. Some accept success has come in increments.

"Meaningful connections are being made," explained Winston Barnes, commissioner for the City of Miramar, Florida who has been involved since 2004.

"A lot of people believe you have to do these humongous things, but the small things matter."



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Trump's Jamaica, world view different from Obama's ~ Amb. Audrey Marks

Audrey Marks is in her second stint as Jamaica's ambassador to the United States. She served during the presidency of Barack Obama and now the early stages of President Donald Trump's term. **Caribbean Today's Gordon Williams** spoke with Ambassador Marks during last month's "Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference" in Kingston. The following is that interview, edited for space and clarity:

QUESTION: Is there any significant difference between the first time you were ambassador (five years ago) and now?

ANSWER: ... Well clearly the major difference is the change of (U.S.) administration and with that a complete change of the bilateral relationship.

So, it's many ways like starting over or starting afresh in terms of those fundamental relationships you have to build with a new administration as now there's a Republican majority Senate, Republican majority Congress. So you're re-establishing quite a few of the relationships that will aid the continuing development of our bi-lateral push.

Other than that, it is good to have had the experience before, because you are not starting from scratch. You have a running start in terms of understanding what are the

priorities and being able to focus on a one-two-three that you must get done in the shortest period of time to get maximum impact for your country.

Q: Have you noticed any distinct differences between the way the U.S. now approaches Jamaica under the Trump administration as opposed to the Obama administration?

A: What has happened is that the president (Trump), the new administration, they are in office since Jan. 20, roughly seven months. But during that time they've been having a number of changes even within their own administration. So it hasn't settled down.

So there are no major policy shifts per se. But one thing that is affecting Jamaicans in the diaspora is the more focused approach on implementing certain laws as it relates to immigration. You find there is now a bit of a higher proportion of Jamaicans that maybe, or in fact are, affected by the push to crack down on any sort of offenses ... So, even offenses that you would not realize are deportable can impact to being deported, are now affecting those persons. So big push that we are trying at the (Jamaican) embassy and consulates is to say 'become a citizen', so that you can get maximum rights under the consti-



Marks

tution of the United States ...

Q: There was a suggestion, a discussion, regarding the taxation of remittances to build the (U.S.-Mexico) wall. What is the reaction from Jamaica, in terms of policy, when you hear something like that?

A: ... While we have to be careful and monitor the situation, the reality is a congressman, Mike Rodgers from Alabama, put this bill on the table. It has gone to the first committee. It hasn't moved. This has been since February. It is not a popular bill. It's not a bill that has been taken up by any committee.

So we're not going to be putting all our energies in opposing something is not yet reality. But what we're doing is that we're monitoring it, to see if it's ever taken up, and two, we're negotiating and advocating to our friends in Congress the immense dam-

age that that bill could do to our economy in the Caribbean so that it won't move.

So we're doing both - we're monitoring it and we're also building a defense against this movement.

Q: What does that (bill introduction) tell you about how the Caribbean or Jamaica specifically is being viewed and will be treated by the new administration?

A: Well, that bill can't give you an indication because there are 21 countries that are listed in that bill. So there is no indication about a relationship with Jamaica per se and you have both Congress and the Senate and the White House as the different branches of the government. This bill is proposed by one congressman from one state. So you can't use that as an indication of a relationship. It has to become many more activities

Q: I saw a photograph of you and President Donald Trump, which means obviously you have met him.

A: We've had occasion to meet. We've met on three occasions.

Q: You've also met former President Barack Obama.

A: On about five occasions.

Q: ... They have political philosophies, obviously, but

just the personality of the man, of the different presidents, how does that affect policy?

A: Well they are completely different personalities. President Obama has a more global perspective. President Trump is much more about focusing on strengthening America for Americans. So he's more looking at relationships that are both win-win for America and the country that he's dealing with. While President Obama, it would be more, almost paternalistic view that America, as the most developed country in the world, has a role to play in developing others, regardless of whether they can have a mutual benefit immediately on the economy of America.

There are just different approaches. I don't think any is really right or wrong. It's a different approach. But with President (Trump), if we really find win-win common ground, and can show him and the members of his administration that it's important for you that this relationship with Jamaica, for example, is important in your objectives, their reactions will be positive.

So far their reactions are positive because they recognize that in order to achieve some of their objectives, it is important to work with oth-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

ROOTS OF ANARCHY: Uncivilized behavior now rules our society

Throughout history, man has achieved more than a modicum of civility, honor, integrity, moral values and laws and, in essence, became civilized.

Mark those words.

There was a time when Egypt with its pharaohs was the civilization of the era. It was feared, admired and revered as it ruled supreme.

Then there was Rome, which was the central hub of the then modern world and was a model of civilization. There were the Incas of Peru, the Mayans of Mexico and, let's not forget, Britain, that once ruled the world.

All had their glory days.

But some have slipped from glory while others have vanished into obscurity with nothing to show but ancient ruins and decay.

All this does not happen overnight. The people lose discipline, leaders become arrogant and believe they are appointed to rule forever. Anarchy takes root. Civilization crumbles.

These civilizations come in different forms, ranging from dictatorships, where one man rules supreme, kingdoms



where the king's rule is the law of the land, communism where it's supposed to be equality for all the people, and democracy, where leaders are elected by the people, for the people, to serve the people. All are flawed.

ANARCHY

We see the roots of anar-



TONY
ROBINSON

chy taking hold in our so-called civilization. This is reflected on our roads, where it's every man for himself and devil takes the hindmost. There are no rules and civilized drivers traverse the streets at their peril.

We see it in our schools, where children are a law unto themselves and adults cower in fear as no one dares put them in check. The inmates have taken over the asylum. All forms of discipline have been taken away, so the children are accountable to no one. Crimes have reached a level of

depravity never seen before.

ENTITLEMENT

Some people think they are entitled and just do what they want and no one dare tell them otherwise, for, "Is hustle me a hustle boss, me haffie live somewhey and me haffie eat a food."

There was a time when a youngster would give up his seat to a pregnant woman on a bus. Now he'll ram jostle and push her out of his way to grab the seat. Either that, or he'll sit in his seat while she suffers before him. The sad truth is, he knows no better or that he's being uncivilized.

The same goes for the treatment of the disabled, as the young and hearty show no compassion or charity towards them. The authorities have taken away most of the methods of discipline for our children, as they take "the modern approach to discipline". And then they wonder why the children behave the way that they do.

Many are so uncivilized and many are blinded, refusing to acknowledge it, or are in denial of their uncivilized behavior.

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VIEWPOINT



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Delegates praise diaspora's impact, eager to support Jamaica

Jamaicans living overseas journeyed home last month to attend the "Jamaica 55 Diaspora 2017 Conference" in Kingston. **Gordon Williams of Caribbean Today** asked some of the delegates about the impact of the diaspora on Jamaica and to assess how the nation has responded to the diaspora. The following is a sampling of their responses, edited for space and clarity:

Michelle Brown, Orlando, Florida - I

come from a social, activist perspective. So, I don't have the finances to necessarily engage in Jamaica, but I can give service, and I don't think there's an embracing ... So I think for me there is a disconnect, real disconnect, from the service aspect where a lot of us have talent and skills that we can give to



Brown

help build the country versus money ...

(In terms of the diaspora's impact), it's very limited. There needs to be a flip in perspective on that, how the diaspora conference operates. Maybe in more so of the diaspora showcasing what we can give to Jamaica and then finding connections to us.

Angela Dorman, London, England - The impact on diaspora has been to see the enthusiasm of the people, especially those overseas and what they're bringing to the table. Even though we're talking, we need to make sure the stuff that we've discussed is implemented and we just don't talk, we do action ... That's the biggest fear.

... The government is doing quite well at (embracing the



Dorman

diaspora) ... They're a little bit limited financial-wise and we the diaspora can offer our services ... We can do a lot, because we have access to a lot of infrastructure.

Dr. Julius Garvey, New York -

The impact is enormous ... And we do all kind of other things, like medical missions, supporting schools, communities etc. So we're of extreme importance to the economy and people of Jamaica.

The government is trying, but, you know, the relationship is not optimal, but it has improved, and based on what has been taking place at the conference the effort has been made and I think we'll continue to improve.



Garvey

Kevin Junor, Ontario, Canada - The primary impact of the diaspora is to assist in building capacity in Jamaica. We've lost a lot of talent over the years and those people can come back and rebuild that capacity within Jamaica.

The way that the diaspora is responding right now ... I'm seeing it's a very positive response from Jamaica ... The way that we've been treated has been very, very well.

Akelia Lawrence-Maitland, Diaspora Advisory Board member for northeast United States -

Our community is diverse in our interests and our needs and I think that's part of the challenge in how do you respond to these varying interests from



Lawrence-Maitland

our diaspora community.

Generally though, I'll say we do know the value of the diaspora. They (Jamaica) have been trying to respond to it, but I think there seems to be a need to go within the diaspora space and hear more from the diaspora how they want to engage with Jamaica and design a conference around that.

Nadine Williams, Toronto, Canada - The diaspora is a tremendous asset to the Jamaican people and the economy. The Jamaican diaspora, we come with a bevy of wealth, not just financially, (but) different resources, talents and so forth.



Williams

Photographs by Gordon Williams.



Trump's Jamaica, world view different from Obama's ~ Amb. Audrey Marks

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

ers. So you have to get in the ring to put yourself at the

table and show how you are important ...

Q: ... If you had to look down

the road, based on what you've seen so far, what would you say is the expectation from the Trump administration re: relations with Jamaica?

A: ... If you can show where you can fit in with the objectives of the Trump administration, in terms of helping to create more employment in the U.S., building the trade relationship with the U.S., any of their major objectives; making the country more secure, then you will have a positive relationship.

So you have to be able to craft your argument to show that win-win is the bottom line. (Trump) is a businessman. He wants wherever he's putting his resources to be able to give a return on that investment. You have to show him that and show it very early so you can be made in a position of interest. Or else you're going to be left, put aside.

Q: How has having more experience in the job as ambassador affected how you have approached your job in terms of this new (U.S.) administration as well?

A: Well, the good thing about this is that I didn't have to spend time trying to figure out, just figuring out Washington. I knew the territory. So it was much easier to focus on the priorities.

The priorities is ensuring that we have a strong relationship with the United States government and, especially with a new administration, making sure that we can show how Jamaica is important and aligned to their (U.S.) objectives.

Secondly, making sure that we reach out to the diaspora and continue to build that relationship in a way that they can become a bigger part of Jamaica's development process outside of remittances and the missions that they do to Jamaica for health and education.

And thirdly, to bring a focus on investments from the U.S. to increase our United States foreign direct investments.

So those are the kind of three priorities that I've been running with right away.

Q: On the issue of deportations, the Trump administration has indicated its willingness to step up that. How do you view that, in terms of where Jamaica stands in all of this, where it's always been contention over the issue of deportations? What is your view on what the current (U.S.) administration is doing?

A: Every country, they have the right to really implement the laws on their books. And so, what we have to do, we need to focus on two things in Jamaica. One, ensure that we really drive the growth agenda to provide more opportunities for our people so they don't have to think of running off or being in any other country illegally and being treated like second class citizens.

And secondly, we have to ensure that they know their rights and that we put in place a system that, if they are deported, they can re-settle in society in a way that is not a total problem for them or the society.



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AMBUSH: Bob Marley hired Italian mafia for protection in U.S. ~ book

A new book is claiming late legendary Jamaican reggae music star Bob Marley hired the Italian mafia to protect him in the United States.

According to “So Much Things to Say – The Oral History of Bob Marley”, compiled by noted reggae historian Roger Steffens, Marley employed soldiers from the Gambino crime family to guard him while he performed in Sept. 1980 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Marley feared he would be assassinated after he was shot in Jamaica years before. He reportedly still had a bullet lodged in his arm during the New York performance.

In the book, Steffens recalled that Marley was in New York as part of his “Uprising” tour, a gig which helped make the Jamaican a global superstar although it was headlined by the U.S. group Commodores with Lionel Richie as lead singer.

According to the book, Marley was observed in the presence of Vivian Blake, who was allegedly the head of the Shower Posse, a violent gang made up primarily of Jamaicans which was linked to over 1,400 murders. The book claims Marley decided to go with protection by the Gambino family.

FALLOUT

However, it wasn't gun-toting assassins who eventually took Marley's life. The reggae master died from cancer. Ironically, according to the book, the day following his Garden performance, Marley was hit by a seizure in New York's Central Park while jogging to a soccer game. It was later discovered that his cancer had reached an incurable stage.

Still, on Dec. 3 1976, while at his Tuff Gong house rehearsing “I Shot the Sheriff”, Marley was shot after gunmen stormed the St.



to his scheduled performance at a concert in Kingston which was linked to violent tribal politics which ruled Jamaica in the 1970s. However, to observers, the intent of the attackers was clear.

EVIL INTENT

“The firepower these guys apparently brought was immense,” Jeff Walker, Marley's publicist turned up at Tuff Gong after the incident, was quoted as saying. “There were bullet holes everywhere.”

Marley, who later wrote the song “Ambush In The Night”, was taken to the hospital for treatment for wounds to his arm and chest. He still performed for more than 10,000 at the Race Course concert three days later.

Marley was quoted saying: “They shot me here and they shot me here and they grazed me here. But they can't stop me.”

Still, Marley left Jamaica shortly after. He died of cancer in a South Florida hospital on May 11, 1981 at age 36.

Today, Marley has attained legendary status globally.

Hundreds of books have been written about him. His songs have sold millions. Marley is among the top five the Forbes list of top-earning dead celebrities.

- Compiled from various sources.



Marley sits wounded after ambush.

Andrew premises. He never found out who shot him, according to the book, although the names of several suspects were circulated and political motives were attached to the incident.

The reason for the home invasion and shooting, in which Marley's wife Rita, manager Don Taylor and others were wounded, was linked

Fresh Kid Ice, 2 Live Crew's T&T-born rapper, dies at 53

Trinidadian-born Chris Wong Won, better known as Fresh Kid Ice of the rap group 2 Live Crew, died last month in a Miami, Florida hospital. He was 53.

2 Live Crew shot to fame with the provocative sexual themes in their work in the 1980s.

Fresh Kid Ice, also known as The Chinaman, was a founding member of the group. He was born in Port-of-Spain. He moved from T&T to Brooklyn, New York at age and graduated from Samuel J. Tilden High School in 1982.

He joined the United States Air Force for a four-year stint. In 1984, while stationed at March Air Force Base in Riverside, California, he met fellow musicians Amazing Vee and DJ Mr. Mixx. They form the hip-hop group 2 Live Crew.

STAR START

The group released its first single “Revelation” in 1985. “Revelation” became popular in Florida, so The 2 Live Crew, without Amazing Vee, relocated to Miami. Rapper Brother Marquis (Mark Ross) joined The 2 Live Crew for its next single “What I Like”. Local rapper Luther Campbell, also known as Luke Skyywalker, gave group a record deal and worked as the group's manager and then lead vocalist.

2 Live Crew's debut album, titled “The 2 Live Crew Is What We Are”, was released in 1986 with sexually explicit tracks. It reached gold certified status by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). The group's second album, “Move Somethin'”, was released in 1988 and was also certified gold, with the singles “Move Somethin'” and “Do Wah Diddy Diddy”.

However, shortly before the release of “Move Somethin'” Fresh Kid Ice was



Fresh Kid Ice

in a near fatal car crash. He injured his brachial plexus, which resulted in a loss of mobility in his left arm.

'STILL NASTY'

In 1989 the group released its third album, “As Nasty As They Wanna Be. It became successful, especially due to the single “Me So Horny”, and sold over two million copies, peaking at number 29 on the Billboard 200 and number three on the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart.

2 Live Crew released four other albums, but Fresh Kid Ice left the group after “Shake a Lil' Somethin'” and recorded “The Chinaman”, his first solo album. It is noted for being the first hip hop album embracing Asian heritage.

“Still Nasty” was released in 2000 under Fresh Kid Ice's own label Chinaman Records, with the main single being “I Wanna Dance Yall”.

Fresh Kid Ice suffered his first stroke in late 2009. A second followed early 2010. That forced him to re-train himself to walk and correct his speech. However, earlier this year, he released a mixed tape on his label with artistes like Chilly Chill and JT Money.

Following his death, Luther Campbell saluted Fresh Kid Ice on Twitter, noting: “...we lost a legend.”

- Edited from News Americas.



Jamaica picks France Christie for December's 'Mister Supranational' contest in Poland



Christie

Fashion designer Franz Christie will represent Jamaica at the second edition of Mister Supranational to be held Dec. 2 in Poland.

The announcement was made during the recent United Nations Pageants held in Kingston.

Jamaica joins Venezuela as the first countries to announce their representa-

tives for the second staging of Mister Supranational, which has as its mission to discover new talents for the modeling and television industries.

Christie is expected to compete against representatives from 36 countries. All will be vying for prizes including the title, a modeling contract and cash.



Montreal reggae fest lines up vintage acts Aug. 18-20

Some of the top vintage acts in the genre have been billed to perform at this year's “Montreal International Reggae Festival (MIRF) to be staged Aug. 18-20 in the Canadian city.

The 14th annual edition of MIRF is being held under the banner “United Against Violence”. The following artistes are scheduled to per-

form at the festival: Sanchez, Inner Circle group, Ultimate Rejects, Ricky T, Linky First, the Main Street Crew (Red Rat, General Degree, Buccaneer, Hawkeye and Goofy), Ding Dong, Konshens, Charly Black, Etana and Stitchie, plus comedian Majah Hype.



REGIONAL



www.caribbeantoday.com

LANDSLIDE: Bermuda elects new gov't, 38-y-o premier

HAMILTON, Bermuda – David Burt has been sworn in as Bermuda's youngest ever premier.

Burt promised to work hard for "every single Bermudian in this country" after his Progressive Labour Party (PLP) stormed to power in last month's general elections.

The 38-year-old father of two succeeded Michael Dunkley as premier. Dunkley resigned as leader of the now Opposition One Bermuda Alliance (OBA) following his party's crushing 24 seats to 12 defeat in the elections in which the PLP garnered almost 60 percent of the vote with a turnout of just below 73 percent.

Dunkley, 59, who replaced Craig Cannonier as premier in May 2014 after he stepped down in the wake of the so-

called Jetgate scandal involving a wealthy American businessman, barely retained his House of Assembly seat as seven of his colleagues lost theirs as the PLP was returned to power four and a half years after it had been narrowly defeated by the OBA.



Burt

POWER

The PLP was previously in power for 14 years after ending the 30-year reign of the now defunct United Bermuda Party (UBP) in 1998.

Political commentator Phil Perinchief, a former PLP attorney general, laid the OBA's failure squarely on its

inability to communicate.

"The OBA had great ideas but did an extremely bad job of communicating those ideas to the people," Perinchief said, describing the message as "paternalistic - it felt like it was being rammed down their throats."

As he was sworn in at Government House, watched by family members and party colleagues, Burt delivered a unifying message in his first speech to the nation as premier.

"Our aim is simple," he said, "to be a government for all of Bermuda, whether it be the haves or have-nots, whether it is Front Street or North Village."

- Edited from CMC.



T&T leads Caribbean in ISIS suspects

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Trinidad and Tobago, a Caribbean country of 1.3 million people, had the highest rate of ISIS recruitment in the Western Hemisphere last year.

That's according to the latest United States State Department's "Country Reports on Terrorism" released last month.

According to the report, more than 70 nationals from T&T are believed to be fighting with ISIS in Syria. The State Department added that while there are "no known indigenous or foreign terrorist groups operating" in the country, its own government reported in 2015 that more than 100 Trinidadian nationals, including women and

minors, had traveled to Syria and Iraq.

A handful have reportedly returned to the twin-island republic, including foreign terrorist fighters, whom the U.S. said are being monitored. A list of nationals who traveled to Syria or Iraq to fight with ISIS is also being maintained.

CONCERN

Still, the U.S. expressed concern "over the limited inter-agency cooperation and coordination, and limited information sharing due to allegations of corruption among different law enforcement units" in T&T. The U.S. also pointed to the limited biographic and biometric screening capabilities at ports

of entry in the Caribbean nation and said the defense and police forces of the islands are limited in human and material resources to meet strategic security challenges.

The U.S. said T&T designated 80 international and local entities as terrorist organizations, including ISIS. Of the 80 listed, only one - Kareem Ibrahim - was local.

Meanwhile, a separate report from T&T cited 182 suspicious transactions involving possible terrorist financing in 2016.

- Edited from News Americas.



U.S. supports Guyana's money laundering fight

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – The United States has agreed to support the Guyana's anti-money laundering regime by covering the cost of the initial training and support service required to implement an "ibase software program".

The U.S. decision is in recognition of the role played by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in the fight against money laundering.

The training and support service will be facilitated by the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) at a cost of just over \$30 million.

According Guyana's Finance Minister Winston Jordan, the ibase software will enhance the ongoing fight against money laundering and terrorist financing locally.

Jordan said the scale of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing has risen globally and this has led to an increased national security risk in countries where these illicit activities are prevalent.

AWARE

Jordan said Guyana is aware of the need for improved data collection and management from an array of pertinent sources.

"(The software) will allow the intelligent financial unit to more easily map and import data and information from both structured and unstructured sources into the centralized repository," he explained. "It will also help to hasten the pace at which data and information are analyzed, connections are found and actionable

results are generated."

Jordan said it will also facilitate comprehensive searches for intelligence in records, run complex queries on the data and offer access capabilities that will improve the data security integrity and access.

He described the assistance as timely, noting that "it underscores the value of meaningful partnerships in a collective fight, to rid the two countries of contaminated activities and transactions."

"Already, Guyana is suffering the effects of disquiets by several U.S.-based banks. We are therefore comforted by gestures of this kind."

- Edited from CMC.



U.S. extradites Jamaican linked to lottery scam

KINGSTON, Jamaica – An alleged member of a lottery scam network was extradited to the United States last month to face charges related to the international scheme.

Gregory Gooden is one of 14 defendants charged by the U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota in connection with an FBI and U.S. Postal Service investigation of alleged conspiracy to defraud tens of millions of dollars from a group of victims, primarily elderly people living on fixed incomes.

The extradition order was handed down when Gordon waived his right to challenge his extradition after he appeared in a Corporate Area court her last month.

On July 27, Gooden was transferred by members of the police force to the custody of U.S. Marshals Service at the Norman Manley International Airport, where he was escorted out of

Jamaica to face trial in North Dakota.

LATEST

Gooden is the latest lotto scammer to be extradited to North Dakota. Eight others were extradited on April 26.

The U.S. Embassy, in a press release, said it "appreciates the efforts of our Jamaican partners, particularly the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of National Security for facilitating the extraditions and the JCF's Counter-terrorism Organised Crime Branch, the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency, and the Jamaica Fugitive Apprehension Team, whose investigations helped the U.S. Attorney build the indictments."

Gooden faces up to 40 years in prison.

- Edited from CMC.



More American support for top OECS initiatives

ST. LUCIA - The United States government has signaled its intention to continue financial support for two major initiatives in the areas of juvenile justice reform and education for six member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The plan was discussed last month when Linda Taglialatela, U.S. ambassador to the OECS and Barbados, paid a courtesy visit to the Director General of the OECS Dr. Didicus Jules. They also discussed several co-operation matters and ways to strengthen the common bond between the U.S. and OECS.

The Juvenile Justice Reform Project 2 (JJRP2) supported by USAID aims at encouraging social reintegration of young people involved in conflict with the law through alternative sentencing program.

COLLABORATION

"The United States of America and OECS have enjoyed a strong collaboration in part facilitated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which is one of the major partners of the organization," Jules told reporters.

The Early Learners Education Program is one of the major OECS/USAID initiatives. It aims at improving the level of literacy of young learners (Grade K to Grade 3) in six member states: Antigua



Taglialatela

and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The program is being implemented by the Education Development Management Unit of the commission, Jules said.

The OECS, USAID and UNICEF have also collaborated on the development of a regional database program "OECS Info 2.0" launched in June.

The OECS director general explained that this centralized database facilitates public access to social and economic statistics of Member States and serves as an important tool for students and the media in this regard.

"OECS Info 2.0 also has a strategic dimension in that it provides accurate statistics to enhance decision making at the policy level in respect of national and regional development initiatives," he said.

- Edited from CMC.



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Jamaican is new exec at Howard University

Jamaican Tashni-Ann Dubroy is expected to take up the post of executive vice president and chief operating officer at Howard University, Washington, D.C., in October.

The 36-year-old attended Glenmuir, Holy Childhood and Wolmer's high schools in Jamaica. She completed her tertiary education at community and four-year colleges in the United States, where she earned a doctorate in physical organic chemistry from North Carolina State University and a master's degree in business administration from Rutgers University.

She also served as president of Shaw University, widely known as the mother of all historically black universities in the U.S. south.

Dubroy credited a confident approach for her advancement.

"I always say to young people that there is relentless power in having a positive spirit," she reportedly told Jamaica's

Gleaner newspaper recently.

"I make very bold decisions and I do not listen to the naysayers."

"Even at this stage in my career when there are a lot of people who operate with a lot of timidity and they try to lend their timid advice to my bold vision that just does not align. I realized at a very young age that if you wanted to have high rewards, you needed to take high risks and high-risk actions."



Dubroy

Caribbean innovators earn high IDB ratings

The Caribbean makes up a creative region full of talent and imagination which, according to a new e-book from the Inter-American Development Bank, are the region's most valuable assets.

Among them, according to "Orange Economy: Innovations you may not know were from Latin America and the Caribbean", are:

Dwayne Campbell – The Jamaican is a software engineer. Campbell is among 50 outstanding innovators in the cultural and creative industries featured in the book.

He launched BookFusion in 2013. The goal was to create a platform for digital books that make it possible for its users to read, share, organize, mark and synchronize books in an online library.

The platform creates and distributes e-books that seek to redefine the reading experience, integrating audiovisual elements and multimedia tools for emerging markets. BookFusion also offers students access to a form of reading that facilitates interactive learning with the purpose of retaining information.

Users can access more than 30,000 books, navigate by title and libraries, share books they have read or take out texts on loan.

The business was selected in 2016 as one of the most innovative startups by Demand Solutions Ideas for Improving Lives.



Campbell

Ricardo Ariel Toribio and Natalia Ortega Gámez – The Dominican Republic duo are the founders of Los Tejedores, a line of hats and design products made using artisan weaving techniques.

The company was launched in 2015 and combines the tradition of weaving with natural materials and the novelty of modern design. Groups of Dominican and Haitian artisans work together to create weaving and local designs at Los Tejedores, which seeks to broaden the context and visibility of artisanal work in Santo Domingo and Haiti.

Toribio is a musician and actor while Gámez is a designer and artist.

- Edited from *News Americas*.



VIP Attractions appoints Shelly Ann Fung CEO

VIP Attractions, which operates Club Mobay and Club Kingston airport lounges in Jamaica, the travel portal Jamaica Experiences and Stay Connected communication services, has appointed Shelly Ann Fung chief executive officer.

Fung has been in the hospitality, customer service and sales business for more than 21 years. She has worked at Sandals Resorts and The Ritz Carlton hotels and previously as director of international sales before being promoted to commercial director of VIP Attractions.

In addition, Sean Latty joins VIP Attractions as chief operating officer. He has more than 22 years of experience having worked in the airline and telecommunications industries. Most recently, he served as the chief operating officer of Digicel Jamaica and chief executive officer of Digicel St. Kitts and Nevis.

Rounding out VIP Attractions' senior management team are: Jullian Henry, director of airport operations Club Mobay; Nicholas Watson, head of international sales; and Allison Callam, head of sales, Jamaica.



Fung

Help Us to Help Them



Help Caribbean Today to educate our children, and thereby providing a leg up for all.

Caribbean Today has established "The Caribbean Today Foundation for Journalistic and Healthcare Excellence" which will provide scholarships to students attending Miami Dade College. Donations can be made in the following way:

- Via Check: Make checks payable to "The Miami Foundation" and include the Fund name "The Caribbean Today Foundation for Journalistic and Healthcare Excellence" in the memo line of the

check. Mail checks to, The Miami Foundation, 200 South Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 505, Miami, FL 33131

- Via Credit Card: miamifoundation.org/givenow. Choose the Fund from the dropdown menu and submit payment. Please look for the Fund name Caribbean Today Foundation.
- Please contact the Miami Foundation directly for cash wiring or stock transfer instructions if needed.

Remember no monies come to Caribbean Today, it all goes to your children's future education.

The Miami Foundation allows Caribbean Today to achieve its philanthropic mission and provides strict oversight and accountability of the Fund by the Board of Trustees of the Miami Foundation. For more information on The Miami Foundation, please visit miamifoundation.org.

Caribbean Today

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HEALTH



www.caribbeantoday.com

CHECK-UP: CHI lines up free events in 'National Health Center Week'



- Photograph from CHI

Kids will get free medical exams.

MIAMI, Florida – Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI) will celebrate “National Health Center Week” with several free events **Aug. 12-19** in Florida.

The events are aimed at highlighting the resources provided by community health centers like CHI and help get children physically and emotionally ready for the start of school.

This year the theme is “Celebrating America’s Health Centers: The Key to Healthier Communities”.

In addition to health fairs

that offer free medical, dental and behavioral health screenings, this year CHI will also host two new events to honor law enforcement officials and religious leaders.

“We want to highlight these critical partnerships and express our gratitude,” Brodes H. Hartley Jr., CHI president and chief executive officer explained in a recent press release to promote the program.

“Law enforcement officers help keep our communities safe and they also help bridge the healthcare gap by bringing the mentally ill to care at our facilities and much more. We also know that religious leaders help with the spiritual aspects of health and lead the way to positive health outcomes for our population.”

One in every 15 Americans reportedly depend on community health centers for high quality cost effective accessible health care. CHI provides care to more than 75,000 people in South

Florida, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status.

EVENTS

Scheduled CHI “National Health Center Week” free events include:

Aug. 12

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., “Back to School Health Fair” — To be held at CHI’s Doris Ison Health Center, 10300 S.W. 216th St., Miami.

There will be free health screenings, entertainment, lunch, backpacks, school supplies and educational resources for the entire family.

For more information, call **305-252-4853**.

“School Physical Day” - In Monroe County CHI will offer free immunizations and school physicals for \$30 at its Marathon Health Center, 2855 Overseas Highway, Marathon from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** and at its Tavernier Health Center, 91200 Overseas Highway #17 Tavernier, from **8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Attendees should bring each child’s immunization records.

Aug 16

Migrant Health Fair -

Everglades Housing Community Center, 19308 S.W. 380th St., Homestead. Health care and dental screenings, educational resources, food and fun for the family. Geared to seasonal farm workers and migrants.

For more information, call **305-252-4853**.

Aug. 19

School Physical Day for Miami-Dade County, 8:30 a.m. to noon

- At all nine Miami Dade County CHI

health centers. School physicals for \$30 and free immunizations. Attendees must bring each child’s immunization records.

For more information, call **305-252-4853** or visit www.chisouthfl.org for a list of locations.

Community Health of South Florida Inc. is a non-profit health center with 11 health centers and 34 school-based health centers.



Simple tips for coping with cold sore outbreaks

It’s winter, which means it’s also the season for colds, the flu and stress, all of which can trigger fever blister and cold sore outbreaks, which may make many people feel embarrassed.

The reality is that this mild affliction is prevalent. Fifty percent of people will experience cold sores by the time they are 20 years old.

Moreover, eight out of 10 people carry the (HSV-1) virus that causes the sores, so people that have fever blisters aren’t alone.

The Herpes Simplex Virus lives deep within nerve tissue. While “dormant”, the virus does not replicate, but when the virus becomes active it starts producing symptoms like a tingling or burning sensation around the affected area that lets one know a cold sore is on the way. Unfortunately, fever blisters can be painful, itchy and unattractive. While there is no cure for them there are ways to manage symptoms.

TIPS

Consider these tips from Carmex, makers of lip balms and Carmex Cold Sore Treatment and Dr. Neil Sadick, a New York City-based dermatologist.

- During the duration of a cold sore outbreak, avoid foods and beverages that contain acid, such as citrus fruits, red wine, coffee and tomatoes.

“The acid in these foods could irritate the skin, slowing the healing process and increasing pain,” says Dr. Sadick.

- Keep the cold sore moist. Apply a cool, clean, wet towel directly to the cold sore for about five to 10 minutes a few times each day to help reduce redness and irritation.



- Photograph © NinaMalyna - Fotolia.com

Proper treatment can ease cold sore frustration.

“You will also want to apply a cold sore treatment under your lipstick or concealer to prevent the cold sore from becoming dry and cracked,” recommends Dr. Sadick.

- Use a topical treatment, such as Carmex Cold Sore Treatment at the first sign of an outbreak. It works on contact to block pain and itch with 10 percent Benzocaine, while also minimizing the appearance of a sore.

It features TriPLEX Advanced Technology, which combines three different masking technologies that help to minimize the appearance of cold sores, so you can feel more comfortable and confident while experiencing symptoms.

- Be patient. Even if properly treated, you will need to have patience and let the cold sore run its course. A cold sore outbreak can often last from seven to 10 days, so during this time, avoid squeezing, touching or picking at a sore, as this will only delay healing.

- If symptoms do not improve, or you develop a fever, rash or swelling, it’s time to consult your physician.

More tips to cope with cold sores can be found at www.mycarmex.com.



- Edited from StatePoint.

Fall Health

The October issue of Caribbean Today will feature a comprehensive examination of how the healthcare industry serves the Caribbean community. With a proven track record now in our 28th year of service to readers in the United States and the Caribbean Basin, Caribbean Today reaches an audience of over 112,000 highly qualified readers.

They have median household income of \$183,000 and enjoy a higher disposable income. 10% have a college degree, 22% have some college. In today's economy, our readers are highly educated, 50.6% own their own homes. 70% are between 25-54 years of age (readership study conducted by Circulation Verification Council). Caribbean Today is uniquely positioned to deliver product, retail and services messages to a community with which it is identified. Miami Dade Communications Department ranks Caribbean Today sixth overall out of the 72 publications that it does business with, and number one, as a Black publication.

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HAMBURGER: A Caribbean twist to an American fast food treat



Caribbean Hamburger

- 2 whole avocados
- 1 head of lettuce
- slices of tomatoes
- fresh onion rings
- 2 nearly ripe plantains
- 2 cups of coconut oil

METHOD

Season chopped meat with salt and onion powder. Allow to marinate overnight. Using an ice cream scoop, shape one and-a-half scoop of chopped meat into a hamburger patty. Put patties to rest, covering with foil or greased paper.

Light charcoal grill. When the charcoal is fully lit, put hamburger patties on grill. Cook each side for 10 to 12 minutes until to your likeness. Do not burn.

When hamburger meat is cooked, toast hamburger buns.

Compile hamburger as follows: Place cooked hamburger meat on toasted bun. Add onion rings, tomatoes and lettuce. Add one to two slices of avocados.

TOSTONES

Peel the two plantains. Cut in round pieces about half inch thick.

Heat the oil in a heavy Dutch pot. Add the plantain pieces and fry until nearly cook.

Remove and mash the plantains pieces on a cutting board. Put the mash pieces of

plantains back into heated oil and continue to cook until golden brown.

Remove from oil and place on paper towels – to absorb the excess oil.

Serve with hamburgers.

Edited from News Americas. Minna LaFortune is a trained Caribbean caterer.



Easter bun, delicious all year

Enjoy Easter bun year round, especially if it's made with Guinness stout. Here's the recipe:

INGREDIENTS

- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons yeast
- 8 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons nutmeg
- 3 tablespoons vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 to 2 cups warm water
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 2 cups raisins
- 1 cup candied cherries
- 1 cup candid mixed peel
- 1/2 cup melted butter for greasing etc.

METHOD

In large bowl, stir one-and-a-half cups of the flour, the sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and yeast until well mixed.

Add vanilla, butter,

molasses and warm water. Beat with electric mixer on low speed for a minute, scraping bowl frequently. Beat on medium speed one minute, scraping bowl frequently.

Stir in the remaining flour, half cup at a time, to make dough easy to handle. Fold in candied fruits.

Place dough on lightly floured surface. Knead about 10 minutes or until dough is smooth and springy. Grease large bowl with melted butter.

Place dough in bowl, turning dough to grease all sides. Cover bowl loosely with plastic wrap and let rise in warm place 40 to 60 minutes or until dough has doubled in size. Dough is ready if indentation remains when touched.

Grease bottoms and sides of two 8x4-inch or 9x5-inch loaf pans with melted butter.

Gently push fist into dough to deflate. Divide dough in half. Flatten each half with hands or rolling pin into 18x9-

inch rectangle on lightly floured surface.

Roll dough up tightly, beginning at nine-inch side. Press with thumbs to seal after each turn. Pinch edge of dough into roll to seal. Pinch each end of roll to seal. Fold ends under loaf.

Place seam side down in pan. Brush loaves lightly with melted butter. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and let rise in warm place 35 to 50 minutes or until dough has doubled in size.

Move oven rack to low position so that tops of pans will be in center of oven. Heat oven to 425°F.

Bake buns for 25 to 30 minutes or until loaves are deep golden brown and sound hollow when tapped. Remove from pans to wire rack. Brush loaves with honey. Cool and serve with cheddar cheese.

- Minna LaFortune



Publix Super Markets founder George Jenkins was once asked how much he thought he'd be worth, had he not given so much away. He responded without hesitation,

“PROBABLY
NOTHING.”

Why do we support those dedicated to our children's futures, or those who provide meals or shelter for our neighbors in need? Because it is, as George Jenkins believed long before and long after he established Publix Charities, a privilege. It has been our privilege to touch so many lives over the past 50 years, and we are committed to moving forward with the same vital purpose: to nourish our communities. Learn more at publixcharities.org/50years.



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NEGRIL: Jamaica's laid back capital of casual fun

~ A peek inside where to stay, what to do

Set along the western tip of Jamaica is the beach resort town of Negril.

Known for its natural beauty, travelers can embrace landscape awash in crystal clear warm waters and miles of sandy white beaches. Among Negril's novel features are sunsets that light up the sky in orange and purple hues.

Accommodation options in Negril range from large all-inclusive resorts, typically situated in the north end, to smaller boutique properties in the south. The area has many activities as well. There's horseback riding to the romantic ruins of Whitehall Great House or boat rides to Booby Cay, a remote island just off Negril where the rare blue-footed booby bird breeds and scenes from the Walt Disney movie "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" were filmed.

For visitors in search of adventure, there's sea kayaking, parasailing and mountain biking along the coast. The following is a sampling of places to stay and dine, sites to see and notable upcoming events in Negril:

WHERE TO STAY

Azul Sensatori Jamaica -

Located on Negril's world famous Seven Mile Beach, it offers 285 ocean view suites, seven pools, nine restaurants and bars and one spa.

The Cliff - A panoramic vista of private tropical gardens, azure waters, coral bluffs and limestone cliffs, nestled on five acres overlooking the Caribbean Sea, this hotel offers 22 suites and four private villas.

Royalton Negril Resort & Spa - Opened in March after renovations, the property offers 407 suites.

The Caves - One of Island Outpost's properties, The Caves is an oceanfront sanctuary with 12 cliff-side accommodations.

Sunset at the Palms Resort - Offering 85 "tree-house-style" guestrooms and suites, Sunset at the Palms Resort is an adult only retreat.

WHERE TO EAT

Murphy's West End Restaurant - This family-run jerk hut is a brightly painted wooden shack located on West End Road. Murphy's also provides tours of the property.

Pushcart Restaurant & Rum Bar - Located on West End Road, Pushcart offers the



Visitors will love Negril's beach.

island's traditional fare in Jamaican street food experience in a music-filled "outdoor kitchen" atmosphere.

Ciao Jamaica - Located on the famous Negril Cliffs' West End Road, Ciao Jamaica offers Caribbean Sea views with a fusion of Italian and Jamaican cuisine.

Zimbali Retreat - Located in Caanan Mountain in Westmoreland, the restaurant uses locally grown items combined with cultural experiences.

WHAT TO DO

Rick's Café - Voted by

Travel Channel as one of the best bars in the Caribbean, this cliff-side spot offers visitors a chance to plunge into the waters or partake in Jamaican libations while watching the sunset.

Blue Hole Mineral Spring - Sitting beneath a cavernous opening in Jamaica's terrain and completely encased by Karst limestone, Blue Hole Mineral Spring offers a mineral bath.

Mayfield Falls - Caves, 44 mineral pools and 21 natural Jacuzzis make up Mayfield Falls, located in the heart of Westmoreland.

Rhodes Hall Plantation - Located eight miles east of Negril on a private beach, Rhodes Hall Plantation is a 500-acre historical Jamaican property.

UPCOMING EVENT

Dec. 2, Reggae Marathon

- Now in its 17th year, the marathon, half marathon and 10K together form Jamaica's premier international marathon event in Negril.

HOW TO GO

Visitors can fly into Montego Bay's Sangster International Airport and take an hour and half transfer to Negril.

Transportation providers include the Jamaica Union of Travellers Association (JUTA), Paradise Travels or Jamaica Co-operative Automobile Limousine Tours (JACAL). Some hotels offer airport transfers.

Edited from an article submitted by the Jamaica Tourist Board. To learn more about Negril or book a vacation, visit www.visitjamaica.com.



Holywell Park offers glorious alternative to sun, sand, sea

KINGSTON, Jamaica - An hour's drive past New Kingston, up winding mountain roads rough in spots, leads past coffee plantations, small road side cafes, mountain side

mansions and exclusive resorts like Strawberry Hill.

At the top is Jamaica's only UNESCO Heritage site - The Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park.

Looking down causes head-spin. Instead, visitors soak in the green beauty interspersed with purple hues of flowers that glisten in the morning sun.

Here's Holywell Park (pronounced Hollywell), one of Jamaica's premier attractions accessible in the island's magnificent mountains. It's the other side of Jamaica few bother to see - way beyond the sun, sea and sand, jerk cuisine, fried fish and festival, ganja smoke, reggae music, sex tourism and, of athletics and Usain Bolt.

ATTRACTION

This park, with a peak that rises 1,400 meters above sea level, towers over all those



Holywell

attractions. It's growing into an attraction for local and foreign visitors alike looking to experience the eco-tourism element rarely typified as brand Jamaica.

There are three rustic cabins on site, which offer a spectacular view of Kingston and parts of St. Andrew.

A stay at Holywell puts visitors smack dab in the middle of a natural world. The cabins, with dreamy names like Hotlips, Mountain Yacca and Cupressus - named from trees in the park - include basic but modern amenities. They offer a real bed, gas lit stove, a fireplace in the bigger cabin, seating area, small refrigerator, shower and inside toilet and running water, as well as electricity and wi fi.

Visitors also have the option to camp out privately under the stars or cook on an open fire.

In this park, there is main-

ly silence all around, except for the occasional slight rustle of the wind in the 50 or so species of trees and shrubs, a ranger or birds.

ACCESS

From any cabin, visitors can trek to several of the park's accessible attractions via mountain trails, including the waterfall. Past Blue Mahoe, Caribbean Pine, Milkwood and other trees and ferns - including some invasive species - visitors can meander their way along the dirt track and down a slope.

The waterfall cascades from some unknown location in the mountains, down the volcanic rocks, into a pool below.

There are 10 gazebos on site, each named after a plant or bird found in the park, plus barbecue pits and additional benches.

In these mountains, there is a past of Maroons, slavery and the strength of a people whose will could not be broken.

Edited from a story written by Felicia J. Persaud, CMO at Hard Beat Communications, Inc. which owns the brands NewsAmericasNow, CaribPRWire and InvestCaribbeanNow.



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Anguilla takes top spot Caribbean island ~ T&L

The Best Caribbean islands for 2017 were announced recently by "Travel & Leisure" based on a global reader survey of activities and sights, natural attractions and beaches, food, friendliness and overall value. Below is the top 10:

1: Anguilla - Known for its amazing beaches, Anguilla scored 86.87.

2: Culebra, Puerto Rico - A small, sparsely populated island and surrounding group of cays. Score - 86.03.

3: Vieques, Puerto Rico - Known for its wild life and beaches. It scored 85.06.

4: Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands - Popular for baths, a labyrinth of beachside boulders forming a series of pools and seawater-flooded grottoes, it scored 85.

5: St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands - Smallest of the three U.S. Virgin Islands. Virgin Islands

National Park occupies more than half the island. It scored 84.38.

6: Harbour Island, The Bahamas - It is known for long pink sand beaches. Scored 83.36.

7: Bermuda - The British island territory is also known for its pink-sand beaches, such as Elbow Beach and Horseshoe Bay. It scored 84.10.

8: Exuma - A district of The Bahamas, Exuma scored 84.08.

9: Turks and Caicos - An archipelago of 40 low-lying coral islands in the Atlantic Ocean and a British Overseas Territory, T&C scored of 83.96.

10: Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin Islands - Measures four miles by three miles and has fewer than 300 inhabitants. It scored 83.44.

- Edited from News Americas.



U.S., St. Maarten sign open skies agreement

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States has signed a "modernized" bilateral open skies agreement with the Dutch Caribbean island of St. Maarten that they hope will "continue to foster opportunities for air travel and commerce between both countries."

"This modernizes the U.S.-St. Maarten relationship by reducing the administrative burden on carriers and governments, clarifying route rights and reaffirming mutual adherence to international safety and security standards," the U.S. Department of State noted in a statement last month.

The agreement will come into force after the two countries exchange diplomatic notes

to confirm that they have completed all necessary domestic procedures to adopt it.

"The modernized open skies agreement strengthens the partnership and economic ties between the United States and St. Maarten," the State Department noted.

"It continues to preserve commercial opportunities and travel options for airlines, travelers, businesses, airports and localities, with unrestricted market access for passenger and cargo flights between our two countries and beyond," it added.

- Edited from CMC.



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Jamaica's Dunn's River Falls gets new water attraction

ST. ANN, Jamaica - One of Jamaica's biggest tourist attractions is getting a major upgrade and already visitors are bathing in the improvements.

Dunn's River Falls and Park has added a "splash pad", a water playground seemingly aimed at the younger generation but which has managed to delight adults as well.

In addition, a series of shops are being built on the compound and construction has started on a zip-line ride as well.

The \$2 million renovation, features the water playground, slide and sprinklers, completed a few months

ago. According to the facility representatives, attendance has received a significant boost since, especially from Jamaicans at home.

"Since the renovation the traffic for locals has increased 50 percent," explained Ann Marie Campbell, acting customer supervisor at Dunn's River. "Since then we have a lot of schools coming in."

EASE

The new attractions are



Visitors enjoy Dunn's River Falls and Park's latest jewel.

- Photograph by Gordon Williams

expected to ease crowd congestion at the popular attraction which, it is believed, was the site of famous 17th century battle between the English and Spanish to see which country could claim Jamaica.

Now Dunn's River Falls and Park only brings joy.

It is hoped that instead of focusing solely on climbing the world famous falls, leading to long waiting lines, visitors will have multiple attractions they can enjoy in between.

"They can do other stuff,"

said Campbell.

Park officials have already started to notice locals are spending more time at Dunn's River Falls and Park, paying increasing attention to the "splash pad", at times ignoring the beach and falls.

"Most times they come to the splash pad and slides," said Campbell. "Some don't bother to go to the beach or falls."

- Gordon Williams



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SPORTS



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Jamaica finishes second again in Gold Cup soccer

GORDON WILLIAMS

Jamaica's fairytale ride, through the most prestigious international soccer tournament in the Caribbean, Central and North America, ended with a 2-1 Gold Cup final loss to the United States late last month in California.

After waltzing through the group, quarter-final and semi-final stages of the 12-nation tournament undefeated, Jamaica failed to repeat its stunning 2015 semi-final win over the U.S. and once again settled for second place.

A goal in each half final by tournament favorite U.S., courtesy of strikers Jozy Altidore and Jordan Morris cancelled a second half equalizer by Je-Vaughn Watson to secure the \$1 million winners purse and the trophy.

Jamaica collected the \$500,000 consolation prize. But the post-game emotional outpouring of the Boyz showed they expected far more despite conceding U.S. quality.

"Tough loss," said Jamaica defender Kemar Lawrence. "... We played a good team and they had the better of us on the day."

Head coach Theodore Whitmore said Jamaica put on an "overall great (Gold Cup) performance," but was beaten by a better rested U.S. team,

which brought in six fresh players after the group stage as allowed by tournament rules.

"We are really at a disadvantage," explained Whitmore, who chose to stick with his

who conceded both goals but could hardly be blamed for either. Still, the captain's loss possibly impacted the game.

"Maybe it affected the guys psychologically when I had to come out," Blake reasoned. "... But I can't stand here and say if I was there we would have won ... Everyone gave it their best shot."

SURVIVOR

Jamaica was the only Caribbean team to advance beyond the group stage. Curacao, French Guiana and Martinique all made early exits. But the Boyz were made to battle early and often. Jamaica first beat Curacao 2-0 before drawing 0-0 with Mexico and 1-1 with El Salvador.

In the quarter-final, Jamaica clipped Canada 2-1 to set up a return match with Mexico. A late Lawrence free kick knocked out "El Tri"

and vaulted Jamaica into the final. There, the Gold Cup dream ended.

However, Jamaica earned added respect when Blake, Lawrence and Jermaine Taylor were named to the all-Gold Cup team. Blake also won the Golden Gloves, symbol of the tournament's best goalkeeper.



Je-Vaughn Watson, left, celebrates with teammates after scoring against U.S. It wasn't enough.

original squad.

BIG BLOW

Another big blow for the Boyz came a little over 20 minutes into the July 26 final. Inspirational captain Andre Blake suffered a serious finger cut in a collision with a U.S. player while executing a fantastic double save. He was replaced by Dwayne Miller,

T&T clings to World Cup qualifying hopes

The fate of Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean's lone chance of reaching next year's World Cup soccer finals, could be decided early next month.

The Soca Warriors, currently sitting at the bottom of the table in the hexagonal or final round of qualifiers for countries in the Caribbean, Central and North America

(CONCACAF) region, will play Honduras at home on Sept. 1 and then travel to tackle Panama on Sept. 5.

T&T, currently with three points from six games, cannot afford to drop many more. Only the top three teams in the hexagonal get an automatic place in the World Cup to be played in Russia. The

fourth place team will play a country from another region to qualify.

The group is currently led by Mexico on 14 points, followed by Costa Rica (11), United States (eight), Panama (seven) and Honduras (five). All six teams have four games to play.



Baseball clubs sign Caribbean players to big deals

Eleven talented young Caribbean-born players were recently signed to million dollar contracts by Major League Baseball (MLB) clubs in North America.

Nine of the players are from the Dominican Republic and two from The Bahamas. According to Baseball America they are:

Wander Franco - The Tampa Bay Rays signed the 16-year-old switch-hitting Dominican Republic native to a \$3.825 million deal, the highest among the 2017 signings

from the Caribbean or internationally.

Jeffrey Marte - Another Dominican, this 15-year-old slugger and shortstop was signed to a \$3 million contract by the Minnesota Twins.

Luis Garcia - The Philadelphia Phillies signed Garcia, a 16-year-old shortstop from the Dominican Republic, to a \$2.5 million deal.

Kristian Robinson - The Bahamian teenager signed with the Arizona Diamondbacks for \$2.5 mil-

lion.

Ronny Mauricio - The 15-year-old switch-hitting shortstop from the Dominican Republic was signed to a \$2.1 million contract by the New York Mets.

Others in the top 10 are Julio Rodriguez, Larry Ernesto, Ynmanol Martinez, Adrian Hernandez, George Valera and Trent Deveaux.

- Edited from News Americas.



Caribbean eyes gold rush at IAAF World Champs

The global track and field stage will once again offer the Caribbean a glorious chance to showcase its sporting brilliance, with this month's IAAF World Championships in Athletics (WCA) presenting the opportunity for a massive gold medal haul.

The region is set to send national teams featuring multiple gold medal hopefuls to the Aug. 4-13 meet in London, England. Among the individual event contenders are reigning 2016 Olympic champions Usain Bolt, Elaine Thompson and Omar McLeod of Jamaica, plus The Bahamas's Shaunae Miller-Uibo.

As defending WCA champion in the 100 and 200 meters, Bolt has a confirmed place in both events. However, he is expected to tackle only the shorter sprint, aiming to cement his legacy as the greatest track athlete of all time.

So far this season his 100 meters form has been lukewarm. Bolt hasn't approached the 9.79 seconds he used to win at WCA 2015, not to mention his stunning 9.58 world record.

Still, no one underestimates Bolt's appetite - and talent - to shine on the biggest stages. Added incentive is that he announced WCA 2017 will also be his last international competitive race.

RIVALS

Bolt is expected to face stiff competition as well. Compatriot and former world champion Yohan Blake, the apparent heir to Bolt's throne as sprint king, will also compete in London. Blake has been impressive this season, despite pulling out of a recent event as a precaution against an injury scare.

Barring injury or execution mishap, the presence of Bolt and Blake in the 4x100 makes Jamaica favorite to win the sprint relay as well.

Meanwhile, double 2016 Olympic sprint champ Elaine Thompson will also be restricted to the 100 meters. Thompson has been in super form this season and is arguably the Caribbean's most clear cut chance at gold. Her



Bolt

role in the 4x100 team gives Jamaica a huge chance to repeat as champion as well, despite the absence of big names like Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Veronica Campbell-Brown. The United States is the top threat.

THREAT

Jamaica's women are also in contention to repeat as champions in the 4x400 meters. Their male counterparts will have a much tougher road to claim gold. So too Trinidad and Tobago's men, who finished second in 2015. The U.S. is again favored in both races.

The Caribbean also faces a major U.S. threat in the 400 meters for women. Miller-Uibo's 2017 form positions her firmly as gold medal favorite, despite a tumbling finish to narrowly beat American Alyson Felix at the 2016 Olympics. Both are set to tangle again, with The Bahamian, second to Felix in 2015, aiming to prove the Olympics was no fluke.

Nothing is guaranteed at the WCA, however. Jamaica's Danielle Williams, for example, won the 100 meters hurdles in 2015. Based on times clocked this season, especially by several U.S. athletes, her path to repeating will be tough.

Still, in the men's 110 meters hurdles, the Caribbean holds a strong hand. Olympic champion Omar McLeod of Jamaica is in top form and heavy favorite to win in London. Current form dictates McLeod's compatriots Ronald Levy and Hansel Parchment, second in 2015, are also serious gold medal threats.

Cuban women were gold medal winners in 2015 and, depending on team selection, could be in the hunt again. In WCA 2015 Yarisley Silva won the pole vault and Denia Caballero topped the discus.

In the 400 meters hurdles for men, The Bahamas's Jeffrey Gibson could improve his third place showing in 2015.

In the field events, apart from the talented Cubans, the Caribbean's gold medal prospects appear slim. However, O'Dayne Richards of Jamaica finished third in 2015 and is in the hunt.

- Gordon Williams



Thompson

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Thanksgiving service to mark Jamaica's 55th Independence

An ecumenical service in recognition of Jamaica's 55th anniversary of Independence will be held **4 p.m. Aug. 6** at The Faith Center, 5555 N.W. 95th Ave. in Sunrise, Florida.

The service is being held by the Consulate General of Jamaica in Miami. The sermon will be delivered by Reverend Charles H. Dufour, archbishop emeritus in Kingston, Jamaica. The officiating clergy will be Bishop Henry Fernandez, senior pastor of the Faith Center Ministries.

Other clergy scheduled to participate include Rev.

Jeremy Froyen, associate to the rector, Holy Sacrament Church, Pembroke Pines; and Michael Maragh, of the Power of Faith Ministries International in Portmore, St. Catherine, Jamaica.

This year, cultural presentations are scheduled to precede the worship. They include performances by the South Florida Caribbean Chorale, Tallawah Mento Band and the Jamaica Folk Revue, and the Sierra Norwood Youth Voice Ensemble. *

Independence gala, scholarship awards

The Consulate General of Jamaica in Miami, in association with Jamaica United Relief Association, Inc., will celebrate Jamaica's 55th anniversary of Independence with a gala at **7 p.m. Aug. 5** in South Florida.

The "Jamaica

Independence Premier Gala, Scholarship and Community Award" will be held at the Signature Grand, 6900 W. State Rd. 84, Davie.

For more information, call **954-394-2483** or **954-240-6448**. *

Multiple ways to U.S. special immigrant 'green card'

FELICIA J. PERSAUD

NEW YORK - There are four categories of immigrants whom the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services dubs "special" who can also qualify to get permanent residence or "green card".

They are religious workers, a special immigrant juvenile, an Afghanistan or Iraq national who served as a translator for the U.S. government and an international broadcaster.

To be eligible for a green card as a religious worker, applicants must have been a member of a bona fide non-profit religious denomination for at least two years as a religious minister or a professional or non-professional religious worker.

To qualify as a special immigrant juvenile (SIJ), the applicant must show her or she has been abused, abandoned or neglected by his or her parent. The purpose of the SIJ program is to help foreign children in the U.S. who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. Persons who receive a green card



under this program can never petition for a green card for their parents and cannot petition for a green card for brothers and sisters until they become a U.S. citizen.

BROADCASTER

To qualify as an international broadcaster, the applicant must be coming to work in the U.S. as a broadcaster for the International Broadcasting Bureau of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) or for a grantee of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The term "broadcaster" may include a reporter, writer, translator, editor, producer, announcer, news broadcast host, news analysis, editorial and other broadcasting features or a news analysis specialist. It does not include individuals performing purely technical or support services or working in the entertainment field.

There is an annual limit of 100 visas in this category. Spouses and children are not counted towards this yearly

limit.

All applying as a special immigrant must file Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or special immigrant and get approved before filing Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status.

This form must be submitted along with photographs, birth certificate or other records of your birth, copies of all passport pages with non-immigrant visas, copy of current passport if applicable, arrest and criminal history, an employment verification letter from the petitioner and Form I-797, approval notice of approval of the Amerasian, widow(er), or special immigrant petition.

Edited from News Americas. Felicia J. Persaud is CMO at Hard Beat Communications, Inc. which owns the brands: NewsAmericasNow, CaribPRWire and InvestCaribbeanNow. *

New York City to host grand gala marking Jamaica's Independence



Estelle

A grand gala to celebrate Jamaica's 55th year of Independence will be held this month in New York City.

Grammy Award winner, Estelle and actor and singer Leon will join the Jamaica Independence Foundation and the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) under the distinguished patronage of Jamaica's Consul General to

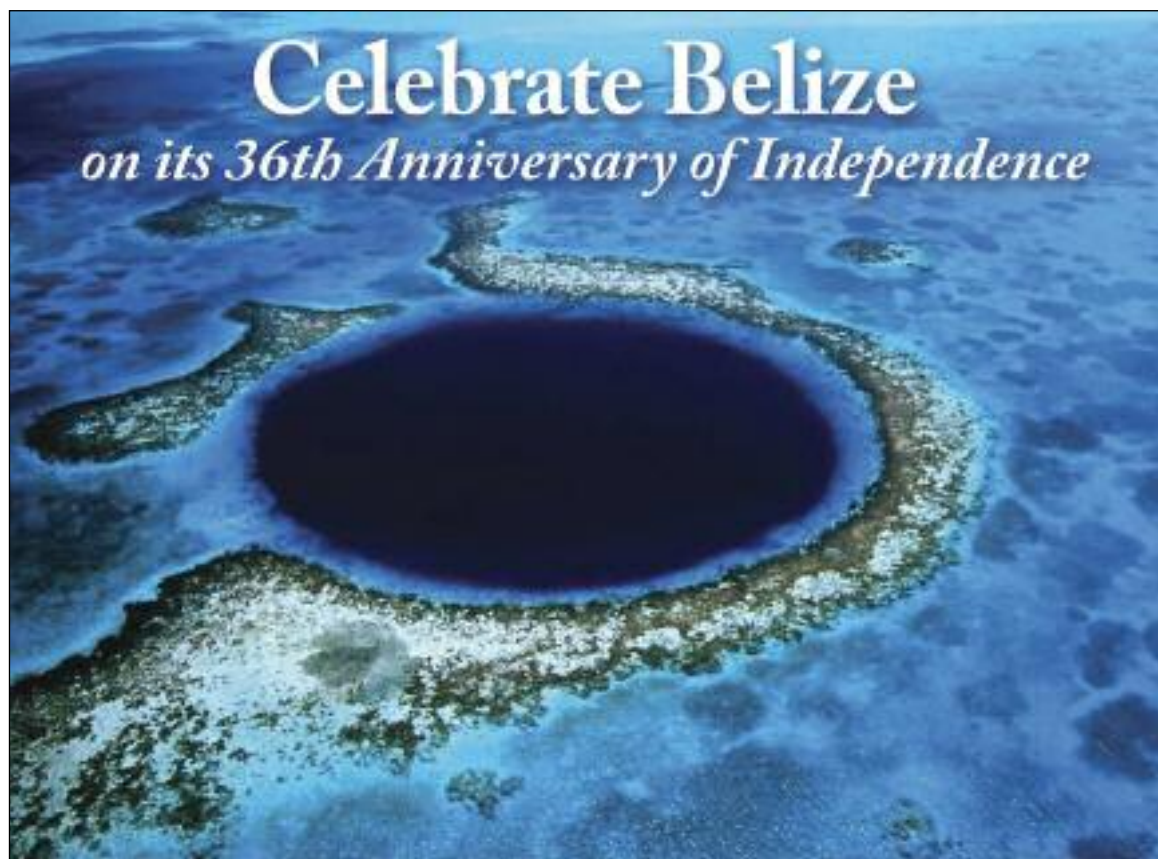
New York Trudy Deans in hosting the event on **Aug. 26** at Hilton Hotel's Grand Ball Room in midtown Manhattan.

Current Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness, identified as the guest of honor, and former Prime Minister Edward Seaga have been invited to the gala. Seaga will be recognized for his contribution to Jamaica.

Jamaican-born former basketball star Patrick Ewing will be among the honorees. He is expected to receive the Son of the Soil Award.

"Jamaicans are a proud people and this event will represent our collective euphoria surrounding this momentous occasion," Deans was quoted as saying in a press release promoting the event.

For more information, visit www.jifinyc.org. *



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Florida's health department offers free back-to-school immunizations

Getting children ready for school means immunizations.

The best choice is to have the children vaccinated by your family doctor. If that's not possible, county offices of the Florida Department of Health (DOH) are offering free immunizations over the summer.

DOH-Broward will offer immunizations during a campaign **Aug. 7-22** at Lauderhill Mall in Lauderhill.

"Vaccines are safe and have helped us wipe out many communicable diseases," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of DOH-Broward. "Parents who want to fully protect their children should have them immunized."

In the United States some unvaccinated children have come down with diseases that previously were virtually eradicated, including measles, chickenpox and whooping cough.

THE LAW

Florida law states children cannot start school unless they have received all vaccinations against nine contagious and potentially fatal childhood diseases.

Back-to-school shots are



Some vaccinations are required by law.

- **Hepatitis B**

Parents are encouraged to consider additional vaccinations not required for school, but recommended by federal health officials. These include vaccines against flu (yearly starting at age six months), rotavirus, haemophilus influenzae B, pneumococcal disease, hepatitis A, human papilloma virus and meningococcal disease.

For back-to-school needs, DOH offers free shots provided through the federal Vaccines for Children program:

Call DOH-Broward for more information on the free school shots, including making appointments, at **954-467-4705**. Information is also available at

<http://broward.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/immunizations/index.html>.

Edited from article submitted by Florida Department of Health in Broward County.



especially important for children entering kindergarten and seventh grade, because different requirements begin at those grade levels.

Vaccinations required for school include:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough)
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, rubella (German measles)
- Varicella (chickenpox)

STOCK UP: Shopping tips on a tight budget

Between new clothes and new school supplies, back-to-school season can put a strain on household budgets.

In 2015, families planned to spend \$630 on back-to-school items, according to the National Retail Federation, and this year's numbers are also expected to be pricey.

With a little planning, your family can get the most out of your school shopping budget - by taking advantage of sales, comparison shopping, buying in bulk and simply by making sure you don't buy things you already own.

Here are some smart ways families can reduce costs as students head back to class this fall.

End-of-season sales -

Take advantage of end-of-season sales to stock up. This concept may not help you this fall, but it's a great habit to adopt now for long-term savings. You can stock up on summer clothes now and great fall items once the weather gets chillier.



Back to school shopping can be expensive.

Stores will be offering deep discounts and clearance prices on items that eventually will come in handy for next back-to-school season. Remember to take into account that kids grow quickly!

Add it up - Bigger ticket school supply items can cost you a pretty penny if you don't comparison shop.

For example, required tools, like a high-quality

graphing calculator, can come with a price tag of \$75 or more. Get more for your money with an affordable model, such as Casio's fx-9750GII, which retails for under \$50. It offers useful features like a high resolution screen and compatibility with a personal computer. It is also permitted to be used major tests such as the ACT and SAT.

Take stock, buy in bulk -

Don't buy things you already own, and take advantage of bulk discounts for the stuff you need.

Before making your shopping list, take stock of what school supplies you already have in your closets - and your child's backpack - from the last school year. From scissors

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

Florida's tax-free weekend Aug. 4-6

Florida shoppers will again have a three-day "tax-free holiday" weekend in anticipation of the new school year.

This year's sales tax holiday will run from **12:01 a.m. Aug. 4 to 11:59 p.m. Aug. 6**.

On this year's tax-exempt list are computers and computer accessories.

No Florida sales tax or local option tax will be collected during this time on the following:

Clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less per item

Certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item

Personal computers and certain computer-related accessories, selling for \$750 or less per item, when purchased for non-commercial home or personal use.

Among the allowed school supplies are the following: binders, calculators, cello-

phane (transparent) tape, colored pencils, crayons, construction paper, lunch boxes, notebook filler paper, poster paper and scissors.

NOT EXEMPT

School supply items that are not exempt from sales taxes include: books that are not otherwise exempt; correction tape - fluid - pens; masking tape; printer paper; staplers and staples.

The allowed computer equipment includes laptops and tablets; data storage, such as jump, flash and thumb drives; e-book readers; printers and headphones.

For more information about the sales tax holiday and for lists of specific items and their taxable status during the tax-free period, visit <https://revenue.law.floridarevenue.com>.



Getting around high cost of college textbooks

A recent study by the United States Government Accountability office showed that the average prices for college textbooks have risen 82 percent in just 10 years.

The college textbook industry also appears to be keeping students from saving money by using such tactics as college specific books, book bundling and eTextbooks, all of which raise prices.

However, there are options, ways you can save that the college textbook industry doesn't want you to know about, including price comparison websites CheapestTextbooks.com and TextbookRentals.com. Both free services help students locate the cheapest prices for books.

Here's his list of the ways the college textbook industry gets you to pay more, and some tips for paying less:

• College specific books -

Colleges have started asking students to buy college specific books. They take a commonly used textbook and have it printed with the college name and course number on the cover. This gives the book a new ISBN (international standard book number) that is typically only available at the college it was made for.

The workaround - Ask the professor if it's O.K. to use the book's common version.



College textbooks can be expensive.

It'll be the exact same. When you rent or buy it online, you'll be able to rent or buy it used from anybody.

• Book bundling -

Students are sometimes required to buy a "book bundle" with extra class materials that add to the cost. These bundles often include items the professors aren't even using.

The workaround - E-mail the professor or wait until the class starts and ask if the professor will be using the supplemental material. If the answer is no, then buy just the textbook online.

• New Editions -

Publishers release new versions of books every few years, even though little changes. Usually, buying an older edition gives you the information you need. Older editions often cost less than \$25.

• eTextbooks -

eTextbooks are usually more expensive than buying a book used or renting it, and they

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

COST CONSCIOUS: Making a plan so paying for college is easier

When it comes to planning for college, it can be easy to thumb through glossy brochures while ignoring one important reality: cost.

The average tuition and fees at private four-year colleges and universities increased by 11 percent (in 2015) over the five years from 2010-11 to 2015-16, according to the College Board.

With this figure in mind, John Rasmussen, head of Wells Fargo's Personal Lending Group, and other analysts are offering tips to help families make a financial plan for college:

Get a ballpark figure -

College costs can vary widely, depending on the institution. Will your student be attending a private or public college? Will you be paying in-state tuition? Will you be factoring in housing costs or commuting costs?

"Having answers to these questions can help you avoid sticker shock down the line," says Rasmussen.



Discussing college costs should be discussed.

Check out a specific institution's published college costs for an accurate number that takes into consideration different factors. Many schools offer a cost calculator on their site to help you do the math.

Outside funding - Explore every avenue for supplementing college costs. All families

should start by completing the FAFSA, which is a free application for federal student aid, to determine your eligibility.

Next, investigate merit-based scholarships. From small grants to full rides, a scholarship of any size can reduce costs without the stress of payments or interest. A

database of scholarships can be found online at tuitionfundingsources.com.

Private student loans can expand possibilities for many families, fully funding most college expenses. To learn more about how private student loans work, visit wellsfargo.com/student.

Look ahead - Four years goes by more quickly than you think. Have a loan repayment plan in place.

While many responsible lenders defer repayment on loans until

after school is over, and some even allow graduates to postpone payments for a number of reasons, being prepared is essential. Students should spend time before graduation on a job search to help ensure they have income when loan payments start becoming due.

While students are in

school, they should consider part-time work in order to earmark earnings for loan repayment. Also, being mindful of spending and maintaining great credit will help students avoid significant credit card debt on top of student loan debt.

Get savvy - There are plenty of free resources available to prospective students and their families. For information on scholarships, student loans, federal and state aid, building credit, as well as money management tips and tools, visit Wells Fargo's "Get College Ready" website at wellsfargo.com/getcollegeready.

College-bound families should make financial plans as soon as possible. From identifying and securing funding to amassing adequate savings, the sooner you get the discussion started, the better.

- Photograph and story edited from StatePoint.



STAYING ORGANIZED: Early preparation helps kids rediscover reading

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

made throughout the school year.

Many classrooms are

improving the way reading is taught in order to make it fun, modern and interactive, while ensuring students meet state

and national standards.

To help improve grades across the board, make reading a priority in your home.

For greater success this school year and beyond, find opportunities to read that are fun, stress-free and engaging.

- Edited from StatePoint.



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