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Vol. 27 No. 7

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MO' MONEY

~ Thousands of Caribbean nationals working in the United States are in line to take home bigger checks following a decision by President Barack Obama to change the rules governing overtime pay, page 2.



The sweet, thumping sound of Jamaican-flavored music has long lured revelers to the dance floor. Businesses

are increasingly using it to attract consumers. Reggae/ska/dancehall, done by artistes like Bob Marley, is selling everything from banks, telecommunications, accommodations, drinks and clothing, page 7.



Sanya Richards-Ross, right, migrated to the United States from Jamaica as a child. She became a star track athlete, winning World Championship and Olympic gold representing the U.S. That decision, made with her family, including mom Sharon, proved bittersweet, page 9.



TEARS OF JOY

~ Haitian-born Alix Schoelcher Idrache, center, had plenty to celebrate with classmates after their recent graduation from the United States Army's school for officers at West Point. Idrache's emotional reaction to his accomplishment drew national attention, page 4.

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NEWS



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MO' MONEY: Obama decision set to boost take home pay for Caribbean Americans

GORDON WILLIAMS

Thousands of Caribbean nationals working in the United States are in line to take home more money following a decision by President Barack Obama to change the rules governing overtime pay.

Under Obama's regulatory move announced last month, the overtime salary threshold has been doubled. That means employees in the U.S. making up to \$47,476 annually have the right to time-and-a-half pay if they log more than 40 hours during a regular work week.

The new regulation is expected to go into effect Dec. 1.

The president called it "the single biggest step I can take through executive action to raise wages for the American people."

U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez told reporters the regulation will address underpay and overwork.

"The overtime rule is about making sure middle-class jobs pay middle-class wages," Perez told reporters. "Some will see more money in their pockets ... Some will get more time with their family ... and everybody will receive clarity on where they stand, so that

they can stand up for their rights."

"If you work overtime you should actually get paid for working overtime," added Vice President Joe Biden last month.

SCAM

Some employees have long been accused of scamming salaried workers by "promoting" them into so-called supervisory positions. Because salary for that new posting was just above the former threshold of \$23,660, the employer could therefore avoid paying overtime while requiring the employee to work longer than the 40-hour limit.

The U.S. Labor Department believes under the new regulation \$12 billion will be added to wages over the next decade and at least four million more workers will be able to claim overtime pay than before. The move also raises the total of those eligible to possibly more than 12 million employees overall, which should include a substantial number of Caribbean nationals.

"Any way you slice it," said



- File photograph
President's regulation means more take-home income.

Obama, "it's a win for working families."

Obama's move has earned praise from the Caribbean American community.

"Any initiative that seems to give people protection is welcome," said Irwine Clare, president of the New York-based Caribbean Immigrant Services. "... (The overtime regulation) should be a big boost for Caribbean American workers."

MIXED

Obama's action, one of dozens of regulations he has pushed through during his final year as president which, due to complex legislative rules do not need approval from the U.S. Congress, has met with mixed reaction from the political echo chamber.

Supporters believe the

overtime move will greatly boost the economy by improving the financial wellbeing of employees, especially those who previously couldn't claim time-and-a-half pay because their salary exceeded the previous threshold. Those opposing think the move will hamper business owners willing to create jobs, damage the U.S. economy and possibly hurt salaried workers.

The timing of Obama's move on overtime pay, however, will essentially nullify easy attempts to overturn it by a new U.S. president, who will be known following November's election. Caribbean Americans are cautious about the long-term effectiveness of the regulation, but happy the president is trying to help, despite opposition from the Republican-domi-

nated Congress, which, for example, has blocked efforts to hike the national minimum wage.

"It comes down to enforcement," said Clare. "... (Obama's) using the measures at his disposal."

According to the Labor Department, the \$47,476 threshold was chosen because it represents the 40th percentile earnings of workers in the South, the lowest-income region in the U.S., which is expected to benefit the most from the new regulation. The South includes states like Florida and Georgia, home to thousands of Caribbean American workers.

- Several news sources contributed to this story.



Guyana celebrates 50th Independence anniversary

Guyana late last month celebrated its 50th anniversary of political Independence from Britain.

At a ceremony to mark the milestone, President David Granger also lauded Prime Minister Fruendel Stuart of Barbados for supporting the rights of Small Island and Low Coastal Development states, his advocacy for the Caribbean community's (CARICOM) demand for reparations for Caribbean citizens and his contribution to the reduction of the impact of climate change in the region.

Granger said that the prime minister distinguished himself as, "a doughty defender of the territorial integrity of Guyana and Belize and the maritime space of all Caribbean states."

He said both Guyana and Barbados gained their Independence from Britain in 1966. Barbados will be celebrating its 50th Independence anniversary in November.

Granger, who is chancellor of the Orders of Guyana, conferred Stuart with the insignia of the Order of Roraima, Guyana's second highest national award at an investiture ceremony at the president's official residence.

Speaking about bilateral and trade relations between the two countries, Stuart said concerted efforts are being made by both nations to improve and strengthen the Guyana-Barbados Joint Commission.

- Edited from CMC.



U.S. ambassador designate to The Bahamas dies

NASSAU, The Bahamas -The Bahamas has described as "incredible" and "shocking" the death of Cassandra Butts, the United States ambassador designate to the Caribbean nation.

Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Mitchell described Butts as "thoughtful, organized, helpful and sober" and that "she had a keen sense of judgment on just how to approach the tasks at hand.

"I looked forward to her confirmation and to her working in The Bahamas," he said. "This news is very sad.

The White House, in a statement issued May 28, said Butts was an advisor to President Barack Obama who was nominated to be ambassador to The Bahamas, subject

to ratification by the U.S. Senate. She died on May 24.

"In February 2014, her nomination was welcomed and acknowledged by The Bahamas government," the White House said. "She was re-nominated to the position on Thursday, February 5, 2015."

President Obama, who along with his wife Michelle had met Butts when they were law students, said knowing Butts "was to know someone who made you want to be better.

"... She made so many lives better, including ours. We admired her so much. And we will miss her deeply."

- Edited from CMC.



Jamaica at 54

On August 6, 2016, the island of Jamaica marks the 54th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

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Bahamian admits guilt in hacking scheme to steal celebrities' personal information



Knowles

such as Social Security numbers, and private sexually explicit photographs and videos. Over the course of two weeks in Dec. 2015, Bharara said Knowles and an undercover law enforcement agent communicated about the material Knowles sought to sell to the undercover agent.

Knowles claimed to be

the agent and that he had "exclusive content" that was "really profitable" and worth "hundreds of thousands of dollars," Bharara said.

On Dec. 21, 2015, the U.S. attorney said Knowles met with the undercover agent in New York City where Knowles described two methods he used to hack each victim's e-mail account. The

"easier" method involved sending a virus to the victim's computer that would enable Knowles to access it, Bharara said. He said the more difficult method involved sending a false hacking notification to the victim and asking the victim for his passcodes.

"Knowles attempted to sell numerous movie and television scripts and personal

identifying information that he had unlawfully obtained from the victims to the undercover agent in exchange for thousands of dollars, whereupon Knowles was arrested," Bharara said.

- Edited from CMC.



NEW YORK – A 24-year-old Bahamian national faces up to 10 years in jail after he pleaded guilty to a hacking scheme to steal celebrities' copyrighted and personal information.

Alonzo Knowles of Freeport pleaded guilty last month in a Manhattan, New York federal court to criminal copyright infringement of scripts of movies and television shows that were yet to be

"Knowles attempted to sell numerous movie and television scripts and personal identifying information that he had unlawfully obtained from the victims to the undercover agent in exchange for thousands of dollars ..."

aired.

He is scheduled to be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer on Aug. 25. In addition to the prison term, the Bahamian also faces six years of supervised release.

Preet Bharara, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said Knowles pleaded guilty to collecting personal identification information, "obtained by hacking into the personal e-mail accounts of numerous individuals in the entertainment, sports and media industries.

"Alonzo Knowles targeted and hacked into the private emails of celebrities in entertainment and in professional sports. His crimes did not end with this frightening invasion of privacy, as Knowles then sought to sell what he stole, including unreleased movie and television scripts, to the highest bidder," Bharara said.

UNDERCOVER

According to the indictment and other documents filed in the Manhattan federal court, Knowles obtained the victims' copyrighted and confidential documents, including scripts of movies and television shows that had not yet been publicly released, personal identifying information,

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NEWS



Haitian American's emotional display highlights West Point graduation

Haitian-born Alix Schoelcher Idrache recently graduated from West Point, the school for officers in the United States Army. But it was the reaction of the freshly minted second lieutenant which drew national attention.

A photograph from his graduation, displayed on social media, showed tears streaming down his face.

"At this moment, I was overwhelmed with emotions," Idrache explained on Instagram. "Three things came to mind and led to those

tears," "The first is where I started ... The second is where I am ... The third is my future."

He graduated at the top of his class in physics and said he was inspired after seeing U.S. military on humanitarian missions in Haiti, where he grew up. So Idrache wanted to become a pilot.

"People where I'm from don't grow up to be pilots right? They don't dream of flying a helicopter, that's not something you do," he explained in a recent press

release.

"You don't just say I'm going to be a pilot and make it happen. There're no aviation, there're no helicopters, no flight schools. There're none of that."

START

Idrache came to the U.S. in 2009, after his father migrated. He joined the Maryland National Guard before enrolling at West Point in 2012.

Idrache said the emotion showed at the graduation was a culmination of looking back on his West Point experience.

"Men and women who have preserved the very essence of the human condition stood in that position and took the same oath," he wrote on Instagram.



Idrache breaks into tears.

Idrache plans to attend the Army Aviation Center for Excellence at Fort Rucker, Alabama next month.

"Knowing that one day I will be a pilot is humbling beyond words," he wrote.

"I could not help but be flooded with emotions know-

ing that I will be leading these men and women who are willing to give their all to preserve what we value as the American way of life. To me, that is the greatest honor. Once again, thank you."



Bermuda's same-sex marriage referendum on June 23

HAMILTON, Bermuda – referendum on same-sex marriage and civil unions in Bermuda will be held on June 23, according to officials.

Last month's announcement gave campaigners on both sides six weeks to get their message across to voters.

A formal notice in the Official Gazette confirmed two questions will appear on the ballot paper:

- Are you in favor of same-sex marriage in Bermuda?
- Are you in favor of same-sex civil unions in Bermuda?

Premier Michael Dunkley confirmed that the referendum results would be "non-binding." He told a news conference the vote was "an opportunity for government and for the people of Bermuda to express their opinions on a very important subject."

REJECTION

One supporter of same-sex marriage said he expected



Time to make a choice.

there to be a concerted push in the weeks leading up to the referendum from those encouraging voters to answer "yes" to both questions.

Entertainer Tony Brannon said: "The feeling is that rather than waste any energy in May, the plan was to go hell for leather during the last three weeks. Everyone's attention spans are nanoseconds these days. Three weeks before would be a good time."

Brannon, who launched a petition calling for same-sex marriage last year, said vari-

ous organizations were in talks about coordinating a joint campaign, but nothing had been confirmed at press time.

"I am totally open to being in lockstep with a common effort; I'm waiting to hear if there is a common effort officially," he said.

Among those leading the effort will be members of the Bermuda Bred Company, a group of bi-national couples who won a landmark ruling in the Supreme Court last November, giving same-sex partners of Bermudians the same rights to reside and seek employment as spouses of Bermudians.

The charity Preserve Marriage, which is opposed to same-sex marriage and civil unions, says its campaign will likely encourage voters to answer "no" to both questions.



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ICE nabs Caribbean nationals in immigration sweep

DETROIT, Michigan – Several Caribbean nationals were among 73 persons arrested during a law enforcement operation late last month in the United States.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency said officers from its Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) division, targeting criminals and other immigration violators, carried out the operation in the states of Michigan and Ohio.

ICE said during the four-day enforcement action that concluded on May 26, ERO officers apprehended 70 immigrants with criminal convictions. The remaining three fall under the agency's enforcement priorities as recent immigration violators.

Without identifying the nationals up to press time, ICE said the Caribbean immigrants were from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Guyana and Belize.

The other immigrants arrested were citizens from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Lebanon, Poland, Bosnia, Vietnam, South Korea, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Jordan, New Zealand, Sudan and Lithuania.

CRIMINALS

ICE said those arrested had criminal histories with past



Undocumented aliens were captured in raids.

convictions for drug trafficking, driving under the influence (DUI), weapons violations, child sex offenses, identity theft, child abuse and other serious criminal offenses. Fifteen of those taken into custody were criminal immigrants who now face U.S. federal prosecution for re-entry after deportation, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison, ICE said.

ICE said the unidentified Jamaican was arrested in Toledo, Ohio and will remain in ICE custody pending removal proceedings.

Those who are not being criminally prosecuted will be

processed administratively for deportation, ICE said.

It also said the arrestees who have outstanding orders of deportation, or who returned to the U.S. illegally after being deported, are subject to immediate removal from the country.

PRIORITIES

The remaining individuals are in ICE custody awaiting a hearing

before an immigration judge or, pending travel arrangements, for removal in the near future, ICE said.

It said all of those apprehended during the operation were "immigration enforcement priorities," as outlined in Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson's 2014 memorandum.

ICE said Priority 1 targets include threats to national security, criminal street gang members, convicted felons, and aggravated felons.

Priority 2 targets include individuals with convictions for three or more misdemeanors, or convictions for significant misdemeanors, including DUIs, ICE said.

- Edited from CMC.



St. Lucians set to vote on June 6

CASTRIES, St. Lucia – Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony has announced June 6 as the date for the next general elections in St. Lucia, telling the electorate he had decided to call the polls early in the interest of the country.

Nomination Day was May 27.

In a radio and television broadcast, Anthony, 65, said he had until April 5, 2017 to call the elections under the Constitution.

"However, I have decided in the interest of our country to call the general election several months ahead of its due date to ensure peace, stability and certainty in our country and its affairs," he told the nation.

"The Opposition United Workers Party (UWP) has agitated for elections for months and on our side, the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) says, we are ready."

In the Nov. 2011 general

elections, the SLP won 11 of the 17 seats with the UWP winning six seats.

UWP Leader Allen Chastanet had called on Anthony to stop the "silly games" regarding the date for the elections and said the prime minister was doing so because of his decline in popularity with the electorate.

- Edited from CMC.



Eliminate barriers for LGBTI people in Caribbean ~ PAHO

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has called for the elimination of barriers that increase social exclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in Caribbean and Latin America.

The call came amid the observance of the "International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia", observed each year on May 17. It is aimed at drawing attention to the violence and discrimination LGBTI people experience globally.

"Never before have the concerns of LGBTI communities in Latin America and the Caribbean been so visible," PAHO stated.

"LGBTI people in many countries in the region are increasingly speaking out about their challenges surrounding safety, health, justice, inclusion and human rights."

The health organization noted that "while we celebrate this progress in the region, we call attention to the lack of response in some countries to barriers faced by LGBTI people."

EXCLUSION

It stated that LGBTI people too often are excluded from legal protections, rejected by families and communities and lack equal treatment in schools, workplaces, health care settings and the streets.

PAHO said multiple forms of discrimination increase their social exclusion, affecting their mental health and vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence, HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases "and other violations to their right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, which creates barriers to universal health."

Because of their increased vulnerability to violence and other forms of persecution, PAHO said LGBTI people are at heightened risk of forced displacement.

"When they flee their countries of origin in search of refugee status they are often not recognized as needing international protection, and frequently suffer violent crimes during migration journeys, such as killings, death threats, illegal detentions and sexual and gender-based violence," PAHO noted.

It noted that a 2014 UNAIDS survey of men who have sex with men in the Caribbean revealed that about three of every five respondents had been verbally abused or intimidated.

VULNERABLE

PAHO stated that HIV statistics also tell a story of deep vulnerability. Depending on the country, PAHO said Caribbean men who have sex with men are between six and 20 times more likely to be living with HIV than people in the general population.

PAHO noted the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals provide a roadmap for the community of nations to end poverty, hunger and inequality; improve access to health and education; and achieve peace and justice for all.

"It is impossible to achieve equitable societies if segments of our populations are deprived of their human rights, dignity and opportunities that are to be universally accorded to everyone, and upheld by State and non-State actors," PAHO stated.

- Edited from CMC.



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FEATURE



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SVG government, residents tangle over access to public beaches

KENTON X. CHANCE

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent – A senior government official has told residents of Canouan they are not giving up their rights if they compromise on the beach access issue, even as a community activist on the southern Grenadine island is maintaining that access by land is “a must”.

All beaches in St. Vincent

and the Grenadines are public and residents of Canouan are pushing for access by land to beaches in the north of the island, two-thirds of which were leased to investors almost three decades ago.

Luxury resorts are located in the “developed” area in the north and the “village” is located to the south, where a \$100 million marina is under construction. The manage-

ment of the resort say the only land access to the beaches in the north is through its property and is willing to provide a golf cart or bus to transport people to and from the entrance of the resort to the beach, if they are given prior notice.

RESTRICTIONS

During a government-arranged media tour of tourism projects on the island last month, Director of Grenadines Affairs Edwin Snagg told reporters that there cannot be 24-hour unrestricted access to the beaches where the resorts are located.

“There must be a certain level of control and management and I think it is simple as that,” said Snagg, who is originally from southern Grenadines, and has failed in all five attempts to win that constituency for the ruling Unity Labour Party.

“The investors here have indicated quite clearly that anybody who comes to the gate and wants to have access to go to the beach is brought here by a golf cart,” he said, noting that private vehicles are not allowed inside the resort. Snagg said this rule applies to homeowners within the developed area.

He said if a group larger than 10 people wants to go to the beach, they are required to provide early notice “so that they (resort) can make the necessary arrangement.”

“The whole thing is that there is a system and it has to have certain amount of balance and reasonableness on both sides of the turf,” Snagg told reporters, insisting that a compromise is needed as he made reference to the number of people already employed by the resort and “the overall spill off and the benefit to the country as a whole.”

“And if you compromise, it doesn’t mean that you are giving up your right or you are giving up a privilege. It doesn’t belittle you. It doesn’t do that to you, because you still have access to come.”

“One can say that you can still come by boat and I wouldn’t say that because that is not an issue,” he said, noting that anyone can access the beach by boat.

“You can always come by boat, because nobody can stop you from coming to any beach, go to any beach in St. Vincent and the Grenadines,



The beach in Canouan is at center of debate.

- File photograph

but public access is where the issue is. It is a complicated issue, but things do happen and arrangements are always made. And why can’t we make an arrangement where you can come to the beach by coming to the gate?”

CHALLENGE

Snagg noted that some people have said they don’t want the Italian investors to feel that they are doing beachgoers a favor by transporting them by a golf cart to the beach.

“It’s not a favor, it is your right to go to the beach. All beaches in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are public, but here you have a resort, a five-star resort and you have a certain type of clientele and one has to understand, one, your security issue, which is always a critical element.”

Snagg said he believes that in the initial stages of the multi-million dollar project, which began in the 1990s under the James Mitchell New Democratic Party (NDP) administration, the residents of Canouan did not understand the project.

“I think that the PR (public relations) work that was done then, I mean, probably was not its best,” he explained. “And the project emerged and as it is emerging, you are seeing some of the difficulties that are coming up.”

“In fact, I will call them challenges, because they are not insurmountable. And certainly they can be sorted out by understanding and there must be a certain amount of reasonableness and balance on both sides of the turf.”

OBJECTION

But Canouan resident and community activist Terry Bynoe maintains land access to the beaches “is a must.”

“We cannot continue to go down this road and just look at the investment dollar

without looking for your people’s interest as well. Investment must be for the people first,” he told reporters.

Bynoe said people who wanted to accept the resort’s offer of transportation via golf cart or bus were free to do so.

“Nothing is wrong with going on the golf cart, but what happens if they decide they are not doing it tomorrow? It is a favor. They don’t have to do it. But there must be an access where a man and his wife can walk to the beach if they choose to,” he said, questioning whether the management of the resort would provide transportation if locals wanted to visit the beaches daily.

“It’s a cost and you can chose to stop it at any time,” said Bynoe, calling on the Ralph Gonsalves government to acquire land to provide residents with the option of having access to the beaches. “There must be a public access where people can use.”

Bynoe reminded reporters that the resort had, 16 years ago, secured an injunction preventing him from entering their property.

“What if they take out one on you tomorrow if you choose to advocate the same things that I do?” he asked. “The thing is, public access is a must and it must be put in place that persons, if they don’t want to ride on your golf cart, if I have my uncle on a wheelchair or my wife, I must be able to push her to the beach.”

“Nothing is wrong with who want to go on the golf cart. But there must be a public access that does not deny the people at any moment.”

“Access must be put and the fight will continue until it’s done,” Bynoe said.

- Edited from CMC.



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'BOOMBASTIC': Advertisers draft Jamaican music to boost brands in TV campaigns

GORDON WILLIAMS

The sweet, thumping sound of Jamaican-flavored music has long lured revelers to the dance floor. Businesses are also using it to attract consumers.

While the concept isn't new – for example, years ago Bob Marley's reggae tunes such as "Jammin'", "Three Little Birds" and "One Love" helped sell products ranging from vacation spots to body fragrance – recently advertising campaigns for products ranging from banking, telecommunications, drink and clothing have flooded markets outside the Caribbean, including the United States and Europe.

Heading into the summer, a cute piglet on a leash strutting to the rhythm of Shaggy's seductive mid-1990s hit "Boombastic" has become a mini cult hero while getting prime time television spots in the U.S. promoting Chase bank.

Corona has adapted Hopeton Lewis's 1960s ska/rocksteady hit "Take It Easy/Take Your Time" to sell beer on American T.V., not the first time the Mexican company has used work by a



Shaggy's monster hit has teamed up with a piglet on a leash to promote a bank.

Jamaican artiste to push its brand. Meanwhile, Busy Signal's bubbly dancehall-style cut "Everybody Move" has been used in an on air commercial for LG mobile telephone featuring actor Jason Statham.

NEWS

Even news programs are following the trend. The network CNN is using catchy "Why Can't We Be Friends" to promote its new series "United Shades of America" featuring host W. Kamau Bell.

The seductive rhythm from "yard" is also being used to sell clothing. The Swedish brand H&M has drafted a soulful remake of Inner Circle's global hit "Sweat (A La La La La Long)" by British

star Izzy Bizu to market casual and beach wear. A beautifully shot video shows off the island vibe, complete with rivers, lush greenery and beaches.

The music, however, is what's reeling in consumers.

"It shows the versatility of Inner Circle and longevity of the music," Inner Circle's Ian Lewis told the Jamaica Observer newspaper recently. "'Sweat' is almost 14 or 15 years old and it's still current. It shows a younger audience can relate to our music."

The band's "Bad Boys" is also the theme song for the television series "Cops", another example of the allure of Jamaica's music, which has often featured in feature films as well.



Jamaican tenor to headline QEII's 90th birthday bash

South Florida-based Jamaican tenor Steve Higgins has been invited to headline this month's Commonwealth Cultural Extravaganza in honor of Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday.

The event, to be held June 25, is being organized by the Association of Jamaican Nationals, in collaboration with the Birmingham Commonwealth Association, and will be held at the Birmingham Town Hall, Victoria Square in Birmingham, England.

Artistes from other British Commonwealth countries are scheduled to perform, but Higgins is the headliner. The following day, Higgins is also expected to perform at a London concert in association with the St. Mary-At-Hill Church, before heading to Scotland where he has a scheduled show at the Penicuik Town Hall in Edinburgh. He will wrap up the tour at the United Nations House in Scotland with a workshop on Jamaican folk



Higgins

music and a concert performance.

Higgins, who stages regular "Dem 3 Jamaican Tenors" and "Steve Higgins & Friends" shows, has also scheduled various performances this month in the United States.

For more information, call 954-424-0959 or visit www.stooshproductions.com.



Rihanna launches scholarship



Rihanna

Barbadian pop star Rihanna has announced plans to start a scholarship program to benefit students from the Caribbean, United States and elsewhere.

The need-based global scholarship program, to be started through her organization the Clara Lionel Foundation, is aimed at awarding students attending college in the U.S. Reports indicate that scholarships will range between

\$5,000 and \$50,000. They will be renewable for up to three more years or until they earn the recipient earns a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first.

"To be able to give the gift of an education is actually an honor," the multiple Grammy-winning singer told USA Today College last month. "Higher education will help provide perspective, opportunities and learning to a group of kids who really deserve it. I am thrilled to be able to do this."

Applicants must have been accepted into a bachelor's degree program at an accredited four-year U.S. college or university for the 2016-17 year and are residents of either the U.S., Barbados,

"To be able to give the gift of an education is actually an honor. Higher education will help provide perspective, opportunities and learning to a group of kids who really deserve it. I am thrilled to be able to do this."

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HOT SPOT: Caribbean lures tourists looking for sex

Sex tourism. It's less often talked about, but seen widely in many Caribbean nations. So where are the top places for sex tourism in the Caribbean? Here are the top four:

1: Dominican Republic - The D.R. is seeing a rise in sex tourism, especially female sex tourism. It is estimated that anywhere from 6,000 to 10,000 females work in the sex trade in the country, and many cross over from Haiti as well.

The D.R.'s sex tourism trade may be popular due to its relative accessibility from both the United States and Europe. According to the sex tourism global guide, tourists seeking sex can find it in the following several areas in the D.R.

Both male and female homosexual activity is legal in the D.R. Same-sex couples are not eligible for the same legal protections available to opposite-sex married couples. The age of consent - regardless of sexual orientation - is 18.

2: Cuba - In Cuba, jineterismo is a category of illegal or semi-legal economic activities related to tourism in Cuba.

Prostitution is a way some



- File photograph

Some tourists travel to the region seeking more than sand, sea,

Cubans use to get out of Cuba - having sex with a tourist for help getting off the island. These activities include prostitution and pimping, as well as other forms of hustling, such as selling black-market and counterfeit goods. The term derives from the Spanish jinete ("horserider").

A jinetera is Cuban slang for a female sex-worker.

The U.S. Department of State defines jinetero as: "street 'jockeys', who specialize in swindling tourists. Most jineteros speak English and go out of their way to appear friendly by offering to serve as tour guides or to facilitate the purchase of cheap cigars, for example. However many are professional criminals who will not hesitate to use violence in

their efforts to acquire tourists' money and other valuables.

The justice minister of Cuba reported that the government convicted 224 people for pimping activities in 2012. It was previously reported that many tourists, particularly from Canada and Europe, travel to Cuba in order to have

sex with prostitutes

Prostitution is illegal in Cuba.

3: Jamaica - Prostitution in Jamaica is illegal but widely tolerated. Female prostitutes solicit from their homes or join customers in hotel rooms or private homes.

A number of prostitutes dance in adult night clubs and some are from other countries. These imported prostitutes work in the more sophisticated nightclubs in Kingston, which cater mainly to tourists, foreign workers, diplomats and affluent locals.

Other clubs have mostly local prostitutes, some of whom have regular day jobs.

Massage parlors in Jamaica sometimes operate as fronts for brothels. These are well advertised in local pornographic magazines and in official newspapers.

Gay prostitutes can be found working in hotels as entertainment coordinators. Blatant male prostitution is rare, since the homophobic nature of the country makes male prostitutes generally conduct their business in more subtle ways. Still, male prostitutes have been seen soliciting

in the streets.

In the tourist areas of Montego Bay and Ocho Rios, prostitutes and other citizens sometimes solicit themselves hoping to gain a connection via their client, with whom they will later travel to a developed country.

4: Barbados - Prostitution is illegal in Barbados, but brothels with women from Guyana, D.R. and other Caribbean islands operate in the country.

Barbados, like many other Caribbean nations, is a major stop over for girls traveling from South American and Caribbean nations to Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Barbados is also a destination country for women from Guyana, D.R., and other Caribbean nations. Most will come to Barbados to work in strip clubs and brothels.

Almost 50 percent of sex workers in Barbados are Guyanese.

- Edited from News Americas.



TAKE-OFF: Fanfare marks JetBlue's new route to Barbados

KURT PANTON

At 6 a.m. April 28, with steel pans playing and Elan Trotman's saxophone sound filling JetBlue's terminal at Fort Lauderdale International Airport (FLL), the airline's first direct flight from South Florida to Barbados prepared for take off as carnival performers and Miami Dolphin Cheerleaders added to the festivities.

Among those in attendance were dignitaries from the Caribbean nation and Broward County, including Alvin Jemmott, chairman, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.; Broward County Commissioner Dale Holness; FLL Chief Executive Officer Mark Gale; Robin Hayes, CEO of JetBlue; Florida State Representative Hazelle Rogers; and Barbados Consul General in Miami Colin Mayers. Many took the flight to Barbados.

For Trotman, who said he "left Barbados at the age of 17 to go to school in Boston," the decision to participate in the jubilant send-off of the inaugural flight was easy. He has maintained a relationship with the Barbados Tourist Board, playing in and hosting jazz festivals on the island for the past three years.

Hayes welcomed guests and the media at the gate and,



After landing in Barbados, from left: Broward County, Florida Commissioner Dale Holness; Commissioner Allen Higginbotham, of Tampa, Florida; Linda Swartz Taglialatela, United States ambassador to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean and the OECS; Robin Hayes, JetBlue's chief executive officer; Hazelle Rogers, Florida state representative; Petra Roach, U.S. director, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.; Colin Mayers, consul general of Barbados in Miami and his wife Elicia.

once on board, passengers were greeted by the flight crew, including Barbadian-born pilot Wayne Mayers Jr.

'BLUE ROBIN'

As JetBlue flight 385, pulled away from the gate, the ground crew waved Barbadian flags and the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department blasted water over the Airbus 8320, dubbed "Blue Robin", a ritual for inaugural flights.

During the three hour and one minute flight to the island, Trotman and reggae star Wayne Wonder serenaded passengers. Hayes raffled items, including round trip JetBlue tickets to Barbados.

The party ended as the flight approached Grantley Adams International Airport. Mayers Jr. was the first to exit the plane to greet dignitaries. He later had an emotional reunion with his mother on the tarmac.

After the flight, Holness said JetBlue was the number one carrier from Fort Lauderdale, a city he called a great place to visit, do business and live in. He also pointed to upcoming attractions, including an international cricket tournament to be hosted at "the only ICC sanctioned cricket stadium in North America."

The new JetBlue service

was lauded by U.S. Ambassador to Barbados Linda Tagalialatela.

"Its inclusion is representative of the strong ties between America and Barbados and is a natural partner as it connects more than any other country," she said.

Local officials welcomed the service as well.

"I am very happy to be a part of the inaugural flight as the commitment from the airline has been tangible and meaningful for Barbados," said Minister of Tourism Richard Sealy.



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Holding Trump's feet to the fire

Now that Donald Trump is the presumptive presidential nominee of the Grand Old Party, he suddenly feels he can walk back all of the "disgusting" xenophobic pronouncements he has made about immigrants, blacks, Muslims, women and the disabled. In fact, Trump's new one liner is: "I love Hispanics."

On Cinco De Mayo Day, Trump ate a taco bowl. He then took to his favorite social media platform to Tweet in usual self-promotion mode:



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

"Happy #CincoDeMayo! The best taco bowls are made in Trump Tower Grill." And he added: "I love Hispanics."

Really? What happened to the "Mexicans are rapists and criminals" line? And the use of "the" as the definite article in describing a minority group, as in "the Hispanics," "the Muslims" and "the blacks." Or how about?: "The Mexican government is forcing their most unwanted people into the United States." "We need a wall. The king of building buildings, the king of building walls - none of them can build them like Donald Trump."

Or: "I'm opposed to new people coming in. We will have a wall (on the Mexican border). The wall will be built. The wall will be successful. I'll

get Mexico to pay for it one way or the other. I guarantee you that." "Many killings, murders, crime, drugs are pouring across the border, our money is going out and the drugs coming in." "Sadly, the overwhelming amount of violent crime in our major cities is committed by blacks and Hispanics."

And the classic - saying in a town hall meeting that "women should be punished for having an abortion" and releasing a statement "calling for a total and complete shut-down of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on," while confirming that he would set up a database for Muslim Americans.

Immigrants and black voters cannot forget what Trump has said throughout his campaign to date when he himself insists he is "guided by common sense, by what's right." This was supposed to be the year Republicans made inroads with Hispanics, but instead, according to the Washington Times, it will now be the year when "Hispanics eager to punish Donald Trump, GOP over border wall, immigration rhetoric." This is exactly what will happen come Nov. 5, 2016!

Edited from News Americas. Felicia J. Persaud is CMO of Hard Beat Communications, which owns the brands News Americas Now, CaribPR Wire and Invest Caribbean Now.



Should we pray or be prey for religion?

Why do we pray, and who do we pray to? Do prayers really work, and if two people pray for the same thing, why does one get it and the other doesn't?

Mankind throughout the ages has been religious as people always sought some deity or idol to worship. Such is the force of religion that, clearly, mankind of whatever ilk, stripe, color, race or creed needs to embrace some form of religion to survive.

It is said that two things you should never argue about are politics and religion, as people who belong to those factions will always try to impose their beliefs on you, but refuse to hear what you have to say. No wonder many people think their customs are the laws of nature.

I know this lady who is mortified that a family member of hers has taken up another religion in her old age. They spend hours on the phone trying to convince each other who is right and who is wrong. But it's an exercise in futility as neither side will budge. I also remember by late grandmother, who was a staunch old time Baptist, almost having a convulsion because her sister had converted to another faith.

The worst person to encounter is a new convert, as they are so strident and vocal in their beliefs. Every one is convinced their way is the only true way and all the others are doomed for eternity.

This goes back for centuries. The birth of many religious groups came after certain factions broke away from the Catholic Church in Rome



and were deemed as Protestants. Even among Protestants there was dissent and infighting, as everyone thought that their way was the only way.



TONY ROBINSON

beliefs, the agnostics, the atheists, the ungodly, who do they turn to for strength and salvation?

When faced with extreme challenges and crises, everyone finds religion. Yet there are atheists who scoff with equal derision at those who believe in God's existence.

Sometimes when bad things happen to people, they lose faith and even curse God. They cease believing. Yet, many people do not give thanks when good things happen, but put it down to pure luck or their own ability.

Now religion doesn't mean going to church. Many noble, honorable, truthful, honest persons are outside church. In contrast, some of the most vindictive, bad-minded, judgmental, spiteful, malice bearing persons go to church religiously.

But we're not here to judge. So whatever your beliefs, it's your right to embrace them. But should we pray for religion or are we prey for religion?

seido1@hotmail.com



CaribChat

'I never chose not to be Jamaican' ~ Sanya Richards-Ross

Sanya Richards-Ross migrated to the United States from the land of her birth Jamaica when she was a child. She eventually became a star track athlete, winning Olympic and World Championship gold medals representing the U.S. Her decision to wear red, white and blue, instead of black, green and gold, however, brought some backlash.

Below is an edited version of an interview with Caribbean Today's Gordon Williams at the recent Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Richards-Ross, before her final race there, discussed that decision, its fallout and the 31-year-old's reasons for retiring from the sport after the 2016 season.

Q: You're talking about starting a family?

A: Yes.

Q: Are you enthused by that?

A: I am, I am. I definitely

always wanted to have kids but, as you can imagine, it is virtually impossible to go out to run with a baby or be pregnant. So I put that part off for a while and my husband (former National Football League player Aaron Ross) has been very patient with me. But I definitely feel that it's time now to start a family. So I'm excited for that chapter.

Q: In the beginning, it was a little rough (choosing to compete for the United States instead of Jamaica)?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you feel you made the right decision?

A: Yes, I do ... Unfortunately, I had to make a choice, right. So I guess I did. But I never chose not to be Jamaican. I compete for the United States and I'm an American citizen, but I'm still a Jamaican American.



- Photograph by Gordon Williams
Richards-Ross, right, and her mother Sharon Richards at Penn Relays.

And so I feel like over the years the love has just grown and the respect is there. You know I've been given so many amazing opportunities, being a part of Team USA, which I'm so grateful for. But I know my foundation is from Jamaica - my education, my desire, my drive, they all come from my Jamaican roots.

So, yeah, you know, I

think I made the right choice for me and I love my Jamaican roots and I love the Jamaican people and I love watching (Jamaican sprint stars) Usain (Bolt) and Shelly(-Ann Fraser-Pryce) and Veronica (Campbell-Brown) and everybody compete well. (Former Jamaican sprint star) Merlene (Ottey) was and still is one of my greatest heroes. So,

yeah man, for me it was the right choice.

Q: The reception in the beginning, especially from the Jamaican side, was a bit cool?

A: Yeah.

Q: Have you noticed that over the years they have come to embrace you?

A: Absolutely. You know in

the beginning, it's funny, my first year when I ran for the U.S. I was on the World Junior team that competed in Jamaica. I heard lot of boos and a lot of people were calling me a traitor and that was tough, because I was only 16 when I first experienced that.

Q: Did (that upset you)?

A: Yeah, I cried. I cried a lot, and I wasn't sure if I made the right choice. As I went on with my career I want to say there was a major shift, probably by 2008, 2009...

Q: Anything specifically caused that?

A: I don't know. I don't know if anything ...

Q: Or was it how you reached out to them?

A: You know I've come back to Jamaica and done some

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

VIEWPOINT



www.caribbeantoday.com

Why Trump's use of fear tactics can make him president of America?

ROGER CALDWELL

It does not matter what you believe as an American, because the polls indicate that Donald Trump is virtually tied with Hillary Clinton, and ahead in others.

This is a scary situation, but everyone forgets that Trump started his campaign when he claimed that President Barack Obama was born in Kenya. Not only did he claim the president was born in Africa, but he also claimed secretly that Obama is Muslim.

Many pundits call this kind of campaigning "race baiting" and Trump blames all the problems in America on blacks, Hispanics and Muslims.

Retired ABC News diplomatic correspondent Barrie Dunsmore says: "But there is no secret to Trump's success

so far. In racking up the votes of millions of mostly white males, he has exploited their resentment that for the past seven plus years there has been a black family in the White House."

White men (who think they are superior) are mad. This should not be a surprise with white men, because there is always in America a racial backlash when blacks make a significant achievement in history. As a result of Jim Crow laws, independent black cities were burnt down to the ground and the KKK hung and decimated black men and women when they appeared to organize other blacks to vote.

FORGET

Blacks and minorities tend to forget historically what the American system is capable of doing when its power is chal-

lenged. In 1942 President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order and 110,000 to 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced into incarceration camps. Their only criminal act was their race and they were never a security risk to the country.

Many think that this could never happen again, but Trump has compared Oakland and Ferguson to a war zone during his campaign speech. He has also vowed to ban Muslims from entering the United States within his first 100 days in office. If Trump wins the election, he has the power of the police, military, and federal agencies at his disposal and direction. This is a dangerous situation, because he can operate in a reckless manner and create a dysfunctional system.

As the Trump nightmare continues to grow exponential-

ly, many white folks and conservatives are beginning to attach super powers to his campaign. He has a gift for manipulating their emotional responses, which is tied to their emotional disappointment with America. Finally, they have a leader who is able to articulate what white people have been thinking for the past seven years, without being called a racist.

NO ACCIDENT

It is not an accident that Trump's campaign is structured around racial threats to America from the outside and racial threats from African Americans on the inside. America's problems start with Mexicans and Hispanics taking jobs from white people, and Muslims seeking war. African American men are lazy and don't want to work, and our women are busy making babies,

and on welfare. Even though none of this is true, white people want their country back.

"Still we must brace ourselves for Trump's use of fear tactics on a broad scale – blaming Hispanics, Muslims and African Americans – for most of the nation's ills. It's sad but true that a man with virtually no credibility is believed by so many," says Dunsmore.

Trump is winning in the public court of opinions and he is a hero to more than just white men. The 2016 presidential campaign and election will become a dogfight for the soul and heart of democracy in America.

The edited contents of this article, submitted by Roger Caldwell, do not necessarily represent the views of Caribbean Today.



'I never chose not to be Jamaican' ~ Sanya Richards-Ross

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

things, not because I wanted any love from the Jamaicans, but because my heart has always been there, and I don't know if that's what changed people's heart about me.

I do think that time heals all wounds and I think that over time people were just able to appreciate my talents and not really care about who I was affiliated with. And I always feel like when I won they (Jamaicans) won as well.

... Now I go (to Jamaica) I feel so much love when I'm there and even here when I'm at the Penn Relays and I run around the track the Jamaican crowd goes crazy. In The Bahamas they went crazy. So I really appreciate it.

Q: Is your final Penn Relays appearance extra emotional for you?

A: Yes ... I think a lot of people know it's going to be my last race, because I've made the announcement and I've been getting a lot of feedback on social media and stuff. So it's gonna be bittersweet for me.

... But I guess, when I think about it, that it's my last race, it's gonna be tough because I really do love competing here. So, we'll see. I'm just gonna be in the moment and embrace it. (Richards-Ross anchored the American team to victory in the 4x400 meters "USA vs. The World" event.)

Q: This being your last year, so that includes the Olympic Games (in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)?

A: Yes.

Q: How does that movie actually end for you?

A: Well, I really hope the movie ends with me in Rio on top of the (medal) podium, you know. Since I was seven I dreamt of being an Olympic champion. I achieved it in London (in 2012), but I do feel at my best I'm still the best in the world (over 400 meters) and so I just want to get back to that place one more time. But no matter how the movie ends, I've had a great journey and I'm grateful to God for it.

Q: And track and field has been good to you as well?

A: Yeah.

Q: Since you have the highest profile in track and field, basically as a test case (of a Caribbean-born athlete choosing to compete for another country), kids weighing that

option ... how much do you think you've been able to clarify that for young athletes?

A: You know what, to be very honest, I think the decision of what country you run for is a very personal decision. I think for me, I made it with my mom and dad and I don't think anyone can go off anyone else's history. Because there are lots of athletes who are American and who go and run for Great Britain and different countries. And it's their own personal experience. And so, I was able to embrace my experience and for an athlete who may be going through the same thing, who wants to run for the United States, who is Jamaican, they'll see it's possible. But at the same time there are many Jamaican athletes who live here (in the U.S.) who run for Jamaica and have had a great reception and great career. So, I think it's a personal choice, one that you should make with people who love you the most and will help you to make the right decision. And, at the end of the day you have to be able to live with it and be proud of the decision.

Q: You believe you have had some part in knocking down the stigma, barriers and negative thoughts about making that particular decision?

A: I don't know.

Q: Have you tried to do that consciously?

A: No, not consciously. Not consciously. I've just tried to live out my dreams and be true to myself and, you know, whatever that leaves behind, whatever legacy that leaves, I'm grateful for that.



My Dad, My Hero
True Stories of Loving Caribbean Fathers

Caribbean Today invites the public to share positive stories of Caribbean American fathers who are answering the call of duty. Fathers who, like mothers, are involved with their family and setting high standards and principles for young men and women to follow.

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

BLAST OFF: Kevin Lyttle to headline 'Caribbean Village' in Lauderdale

Singer Kevin Lyttle, a son of St. Vincent who has a Billboard top five hit recording to his name, is scheduled to headline this month's "The Caribbean Village" in South Florida.

The second installment of "The Caribbean Village", a family-friendly music, arts, food and wellness festival celebrating Caribbean American Heritage Month, is set for June 26 at the Lauderdale Sports Park.

Among the attractions will be complimentary welcome refreshments and greetings by the entrants in the "Miss Jamaica Diaspora" pag-



Lyttle

ent. Activities for children will include rock wall climbing, bounce houses and donkey rides. Adults will be able to participate in team sports,

including sack races, eating competitions, ludo and dominoes.

There will also be cooking demonstrations and competitions, arts and crafts, wellness services and giveaways.

The "Miss Jamaica Diaspora" swimwear competi-

tion will kick off the evening's performances, followed by comedy and music sets. Singer Bridget Belcher will headline the gospel segment, featuring performers from local churches. Emprezz Mullings from Jamaica, will host the line-up of performers, including Lyttle

and Leon Coldero. Lyttle is scheduled to close the show. His hits include "Turn Me On" and "Drive Me Crazy".

Attendees are welcome to bring personal sized tents and lawn chairs, but no food and drinks.



'Colors' to paint Hollywood June 18

An entertainment package reflecting the variety of the region's culture will highlight this year's "Colors of the Caribbean" festival in South Florida.

Scheduled performers for the June 18 event include soca queen Alison Hinds, Haitian



Hinds

groups T-Vice and Jahnesta, Trinidadian reggae singer Queen Omega and Jamaican deejay Red Rat. Other acts include local-based Sizwe-C and deejays Majestic and LLCoolBlaze.

Produced by Aifos Agency for CAHFI, the festival will run from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Hollywood ArtsPark at Young Circle in downtown Hollywood.

This year's festival, presented by the Caribbean American Heritage Florida, Inc (CAHFI) and celebrating Caribbean American Heritage Month 2016, will be hosted by

ABC's Local 10 news anchor, Neki Mohan.

In addition to music in the amphitheater, the ArtsPark at Young Circle will also highlight the Caribbean. A Caribbean Travel Expo; YMCA Kids Zone powered by CSC of Broward County, a Caribbean Food Village, Caribbean arts and craft vendors, and smaller stages featuring folk dance and culture performances, including Bahamian Junkanoo, tassa and the popular steel band, will also be showcased.



Red Rat

Admission to "Colors of the Caribbean" is free until 5 p.m. for those who register online. After 5 p.m. there will be an admission fee.

For more information, including registering online for complimentary admission, visit www.colorsofthecaribbean.com.



BRIEFS

Miss Lou pantomime in Fort Lauderdale

"Ms. Lou in color", a pantomime focused on late Jamaican cultural icon Louise Bennett" will be staged on **June 11** at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) in South Florida this month.

Door open at 5 p.m. Showtime is 5:30 p.m.

The event is being presented by Déjà vu Theatre Productions in association with the Jamaican Folk Revue and AARLCC, which is located at 2650 Sistrunk Blvd.

For more information, call **954-557-7491**.

Caribbean American Heritage Awards

Caribbean American Heritage and Culture (CAHMUSA) will host its second annual "Caribbean American Heritage Awards" this month in South Florida.

The event will be held on **June 18** at the Lauderdale Performing Arts Center, 3800 N.W. 11th Place in Lauderdale.

Cocktail reception is 7 p.m. Dinner and entertainment begin at 8 p.m.

For more information, call **954-292-6848** or **954-435-4717**.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

SMART CLASS: Young Caribbean minds find big success as entrepreneurs

Forbes magazine recently introduced readers to its 30 Under 30 class of 2016. Among the 600 of the brightest young entrepreneurs, breakout talents and change agents in 20 different sectors chosen, at least seven of those in the under 30 age group were born in the Caribbean or are of Caribbean roots. Meet them:

Azede Jean-Pierre

Womenswear designer Azede Jean-Pierre made Arts & Style List. Jean-Pierre, 27, was born in Pastel, Haiti, but raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She attended Savannah College of Art and Design and, in her third year, decided to pursue the launch of her own label. Jean-Pierre honed her skills interning at Ralph Rucci and Ohne Titel before branching out on her own and debuting her New York City-based label at the fall/winter collection in Feb. 2012.



Jean-Pierre

The collection, which utilized high-end luxurious fabrics, was well received by the press and was immediately photographed by some of the industry's leading publications; landing the cover of Women's Wear Daily after N.Y. fashion week. Since then, Jean-Pierre's collection has been picked up by Moda. She says her label is "committed to celebrating the sensual femininity of its customer and dedicated to pushing the boundaries of functionality and innovation through exploring technique and achieving balance in wearability and design." The label has also become a red carpet favorite for influential celebrities like Solange Knowles, Lady Gaga and United States First Lady Michelle Obama.

Jason Derulo

Making the music list is singer, songwriter, and dancer Jason Derulo, who was born in Miramar, Florida to Haitian parents. He started singing at a young age and attended performing arts schools in Florida. The 26-year-old has sold over 50 million singles since his 2009 breakout and has achieved 11 career plat-

inum singles, including "Wiggle", "Talk Dirty", "In My Head" and "Whatcha Say". In 2015, Derulo released the single "Want to Want Me" and studio album "Everything Is 4".



Derulo

Shameik Moore

American rapper, singer, actor and dancer Shameik Moore made the Hollywood and entertainment list. Moore, 21, was born to Jamaican parents in Atlanta. His mother worked in orthopedics and his father is a reggae musician who has travelled with Maxi Priest and Inner Circle. Moore's ability to mimic musical patterns at an early age prompted his parents to enroll him into the Dekalb Elementary School of The Arts in Atlanta to study



Moore

acting. He also studied dance, modelling and acting at Chyme's Dance Studio. Similar to Canadian popstar Justin Bieber's journey to stardom, Moore showcased his talents on YouTube in a web series he created - "Meaksworld". He was later given his break out moment as Malcolm in the 2015 film "Dope", which premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival. Indiewire included Moore on its list of "The 12 Major Breakouts of the 2015 Sundance Film Festival" for his performance in the movie. He is also cast as one of the five male leads in the Netflix series "The Get Down", scheduled to premier this year.

Christine Souffrant

Haitian American, Dubai-based businesswoman Christine Souffrant, born to Haitian street vendors, made the top 30 list for Retail/e-commerce. Souffrant founded and owns Vended International and the platform Vendedy, a platform for street vendors across the world to sell handicrafts using the digital economy. To fund her venture, Souffrant received support from the Clinton Global Initiative. She also reached out to her professional business network in an e-mail, asking investors to come forward.



Souffrant

"Vendedy," she says, "aims to digitize the \$10 trillion dollar street market economy and make it accessible to all. With over 200,000 street markets globally, there is no limit to what you will find and the stories you will share!"

Nedgine Paul

Nedgine Paul made the list for education. Nedgine-Paul, 29, is the Haitian-born co-founder and chief executive officer of Anseye Pou Ayiti, which seeks to raise education

outcomes in rural Haiti by promoting teacher excellence and student success-rooted in Haitian culture, customs, and community.

Nedgine moved to the U.S. at a young age and maintained ongoing leadership roles in community service and youth development programs, particularly within the Haitian communities of Stamford and Norwalk in Connecticut.



Paul

She has a bachelor of arts in history from Yale College and a master's degree in international education policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In 2014, she was named among the top global social innovators by Echoing Green. She is passionate about joining forces with others to continue pursuing her commitment to the expansion of high-quality educational opportunity in Haiti.

Gil Addo

The roots of Gil Addo, founder of RubiconMD, stretch to Barbados. He's moved from young soccer player to chief executive officer. Addo's father is from Ghana and his mother is from Barbados. He has a biomedical engineering degree from Yale and an MBA from Harvard.



Addo

Addo 29 says his inspiration for the health startup, that offers on-demand e-consults with medical specialists, goes back to his Barbadian maternal grandmother, who developed a brain tumor when he was younger. At the time there was no appropriate treatment

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)



In June, Caribbean Today will spotlight *The Bahamas* - over 3,000 islands, cays and inlets located in the Atlantic Ocean. With a population of just 354,000 people, this nation continues to influence its Caribbean cousins and the United States mainland, Florida in particular. *The Bahamas* is located in the same island chain as Cuba, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti) and is one of the richest countries in the Americas per capita. Come with Caribbean Today as we focus on the great people of *The Bahamas* and learn of their contributions to the Caribbean region and the U.S. Let us show you why the land of the conch thinks life is better in *The Bahamas*.

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Atlanta to host multiple CAHM events

The city of Atlanta, Georgia will host a series of events coinciding with Caribbean American Heritage Month.

The following are some of those events:

JUNE 4

Integrity Children's Fund annual Evening of Elegance, featuring Karen Smith at Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel, 2450 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta.

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. – St.

Andrew's High School Past Students "Cocktails and Tea" at the Clubhouse in Waters Edge.

JUNE 11-19

Caribbean Film Festival at Atlanta Fulton Public Library.

JUNE 18, 8:30 P.M.

Kingston College Old Boys Association annual "Purple Fest" at the JVC Event Hall, 4515 Stone Mountain Hwy.



Island fashion, food to highlight Westfield Carib Style Week

Fashion fused with food will highlight the annual "Westfield Carib Style Week" to be presented this month in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Presented by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau in conjunction with the Aifos Agency, the event will begin June 19. According to organizers, it will showcase the richness of Caribbean culture.

In addition, from June 19-30, Westfield Broward, located in Plantation, Florida, will host the "Westfield Fashion Pop-Up Experience". Shoppers will be able to browse selections created by Caribbean designers. Confirmed designers include swim and active wear designer Chandra Maharaj

Designs from Trinidad and Brazil, Trinidadian resort wear designer Homanic Designs, JA Sandal Company from Jamaica, Jamaica men's and women's wear designer Franz Christie, Guyana designer Sonia Noel and Carib Style Activewear from Trinidad.

CARNIVAL

The excitement will continue on June 24 with "Carnival Rocks the Runway", a pop-up fashion event from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. at Revolution LIVE in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Bands and designers from One Carnival, an annual bi-county event in Broward and Miami-Dade counties, will hit the runway.

June 25 will mark a full day of "Carib Style Week" programming, starting with the "Westfield Carib Style Week Showcase" that includes a Carib Style Beauty Bar at 11 a.m. featuring hair, make up and skin products. Later that evening, from 8 p.m. to midnight, an "Epicurean By Design" from the Warehouse in Fort Lauderdale will meld fashion and food.

On June 26, Caribbean swimwear will be on show at the "Bikinis and Brunch" from noon to 6 p.m. at The W Fort Lauderdale Beach.

For more information, visit <http://www.caribstyleweek.com>.



SMART CLASS: Young Caribbean minds find big success as entrepreneurs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

on the island, so she traveled from Barbados to Boston for the surgery and again for multiple post-op appointments.

The long and expensive journeys were difficult for his grandmother and this was the impetus for Addo to want to solve the problem of limited access to health care.

"I wanted to build something that helps people, regardless of socioeconomic background, geography or type of insurance," says Addo.

One in every three consults can be done remotely, he says, and that saves \$400.

Andrew Yakub

Yakub, 28, is the founder

of Rayton Solar and he made the Forbes energy list. Yakub was born to Guyanese parents who are members of Guyana Medical



Yakub

Relief.

Yakub is a two-time Clean Tech Entrepreneur who worked at UCLA's Particle Beam Physics Lab and NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and managed commercial solar projects. He has a bachelor's degree in physics from U.C. Santa Barbara. Rayton Solar Inc. is a solar manufac-

turing company whose proprietary manufacturing process makes solar panels 60 percent cheaper and 25 percent more efficient than the market standard. To date, Rayton has raised over \$1 million in seed funding.

- Edited from News Americas.



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TASTE TEST: How safe to drink is your water?

Although many Americans are aware of the water crises taking place in different parts of the country, such as Flint, Michigan and New Jersey, most believe themselves to be far removed from these situations.

Experts caution, however, that what's happening there could happen anywhere, anytime to whole neighborhoods, individual streets or even just to a specific house.

Indeed, plumbing components still could legally contain up to eight percent lead as recently as Jan. 2014. The good news is there are steps you can take to protect your family.

"The most important thing individual families can do to improve water quality is to filter it at home," says Joseph Harrison, former chief of the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Branch.

FILTERS

Harrison says there are filters that require installation, but the easiest option is to purchase a filtering system available at a local retailer



- Photograph © pingpao - Fotolia.com

that you fill with water and put in your fridge. Such systems come in various shapes and sizes, making them a good option for any size family or fridge.

For example, ZeroWater offers portable gravity-fed pour through filtration device that reduces the total dissolved solids (TDS) measurement down to virtually zero and is certified by the NSF for lead reduction and other heavy metals to a safe level.

By removing 99.6 percent of all total dissolved solids, the filters get a 000 measurement on the digital water meter, which is equivalent to purified bottled water. They also

remove more pharmaceuticals and chemicals than other leading two-stage filter brands, according to Good Housekeeping Research.

'ON THEIR OWN'

"Until all lead pipes in the water infrastructure system are safely replaced, consumers are largely on their own when it comes to protecting their families from lead," says Harrison. "That's why it's so important to treat your water with a filter certified to reduce lead content."

While all families should take steps to protect their health, proactive measures are especially crucial for families with pregnant women and children under six years old. This is because lead toxin exposure primarily affects developing brains and causes reduced intelligence, learning disabilities, developmental delays and fetal deaths.

To learn more about water filtration and how to test your water for lead, visit ZeroWater.com.

- Edited from *StatePoint*.



TOASTING HAITI



- Photograph by Gregory F. Reed

Haiti was the toast of South Florida when the City of Miramar hosted a reception in recognition of May as Haitian Heritage Month. Among those present were, from left, Mayor Wayne Messam, Commissioner Darline B. Riggs and Consul General of Haiti Guy Francois, Jr. The event also featured Twoubadou Mania with Yvon "Kapi" Andre of the Haitian band Tabou Combo, the Nancy St. Leger dangers, singer Saskya Sky, poets Marnino Toussaint and Hillary Nomes, Miramar High School's honor guar and artwork by David Beaubrun and Jocelyn Telson. Former Miss Haiti Sandra Justice was also present. During the first week of May, Messam presented a proclamation recognizing Haitian Heritage Month in Miramar.

Caribbean diabetes cases rise

Sir Hilary Beckles, vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies, recently put the spotlight on the rising incidence of diabetes in the Caribbean while officially opening the second staging of the World Family Doctor Day Conference.

According to the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), one adult in eight has diabetes in the North America and Caribbean region. The Caribbean nations with the most diabetes cases in 2015 were:

- Cuba - One million cases.
- Dominican Republic - 505,700.
- Puerto Rico - 365,100.
- Haiti - 332,200.
- Jamaica - 202,600.
- Trinidad and Tobago - 140,300.
- Guyana - 49,800.
- Barbados - 34,100.

- Belize - 28,700.
- Curacao - 18,300.

Globally, it is estimated that almost 382 million people suffer from diabetes. North America and the Caribbean have 37 million inflicted.

There are an estimated 107,300 children living with Type 1 diabetes in the North America and Caribbean region, with 16,500 children newly diagnosed each year.

The total number of diabetes-attributable deaths was 324,000 in the region.

Diabetes-related mortality in the North America and Caribbean region was not limited to older age groups, with over one third (38.3 percent) of deaths occurring in adults under the age of 60.

- Edited from *News Americas*.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The Jamaican Association of Miami-Dade Educators (JADE) recently announced its 22nd annual scholarship award recipients. The winners are, from left, Justin Lee, Andoni Asencor, Ashley Kirk, Nikita Morrison and Toussaint Lewis.

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'Men's Health Month'

Free health screenings, entertainment and refreshments will be available during a program to mark June as "Men's Health Month" in Miami, Florida.

The event, which will include free colorectal cancer screenings for eligible men, will be held from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 14** at the Doris Ison Health Center, 10300 S.W. 216th St.

For more information, call **786-272-2100**.

Grants for South Florida filmmakers

Miami Film Development Project (MFDP), which sup-

ports homegrown South Florida filmmakers, is extending its film grant deadline to June 30.

Grants, available for several initiatives, amount to over \$10,000. They support the South Florida Film Fund, Afro-Diasporic Film Fund, Women's Film Fund, the Filmmaker Fellowship Program and the AIR (Artist-In-Residence) Program.

For more information on individual initiatives, as well as the program's grant details, visit www.filmprojectmiami.com/grants-2.



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GETTING READY: FDH offers tips to prepare for 2016 hurricane season

South Florida will be visited by another hurricane. Count on it.

The region is overdue since Wilma arrived as a Category 3 storm in Oct. 2005.

As Hurricane season starts on June 1 and ends Nov. 30, now is the time to get ready. Nothing eases stress during an emergency like having many of the details and decisions resolved in advance.

Here are some tips for getting prepared from the Florida Department of Health (FDH):

Make an emergency plan - It should include: a) all members of your household b) special medical conditions, c) when and to where you would evacuate d) special transportation needs e) emergency meeting place f) an out-

of-town contact who everyone can call to stay in touch, and g) pet plan.

Gather emergency supplies - a) A gallon of water per person for seven days, b) non-perishable foods such as canned meat, fish, veggies, fruits and nuts c) can opener, disposable plates and utensils, and d) matches and cooking gel.

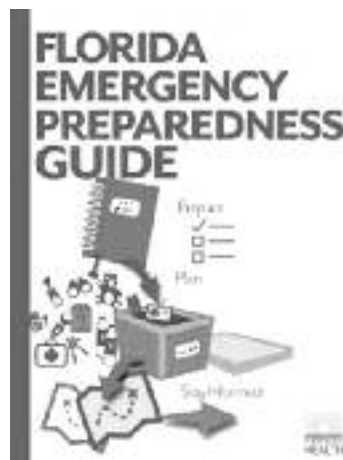
STOCK UP

Stock up on medical needs - a) 30-day supply of prescription medications from your doctor, b) over the counter pain reliever, antacids, anti-diarrheal medicine and children's medicine, c) list of all medications and essential medical devices, e) physician contact number, and f) blood

type and allergies for all household members.

Assemble a first-aid kit with sterile bandages, cleansing agent, safety pins, gauze pads, scissors, sewing needle, moist towelettes and tape.

Collect essential data in a waterproof container: a) contact information for property insurer, official emergency agencies, family and friends, b) credit card and bank information, c) portable computer storage device with electronic copies of mortgage, home deed, car title, etc. c) instruc-



tions for shutting off utilities, and d) pet health records.

List your major home belongings and back it up with photos.

2016 special consideration - mosquito protection: To prevent the spread of Zika

virus and other diseases passed by mosquito bites, follow the practice of "drain and cover." Get rid of all standing water in and around your house, use repellent with DEET or other effective substance, wear long pants and

sleeves when outdoors, and repair broken screens on windows and doors.

More emergency information: See Florida Emergency Preparedness Guide in English, Spanish, creole and large print at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/prepare-yourself/current-hazards/hurricane-info.html>

More mosquito protection information is available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/fldoh/videos>.

Edited from article submitted by Florida Department of Health.

**Regular home inspections ward off unintended climate change effects**

Climate change may have unintended consequences for your home. Certain natural disasters are becoming a more regular occurrence and shifts in weather patterns could result in increased energy use.

While you can't single-handedly stop global climate change, you can do your part to improve energy efficiency at home and prepare for natural disaster.

Natural disaster tips

- Remove unnecessary debris. Dispose of branches, dead trees or anything around the house that can be hazardous in high winds.
- Board windows. Keep these supplies on hand.
- Immediately following a dis-



Ensure everything is working properly.

- aster, it is smart to turn off all your utilities. Gas leaks and electrical fires are easily avoided if the power is shut off.
- Have a home inspector or someone check the foundation of your home if you live in an area prone to earthquakes.
- Have an emergency plan. An

emergency kit should contain a three-day supply of bottled water, flashlight, first aid supplies, spare keys, cash, a change of clothing, sleeping bag and copies of important documents, as well as a form of identification.

- Keep gutters clean so they can do their job of directing rainwater away from your home's foundation and basement.
- Raise electrical components such as sockets, wiring and circuits above anticipated flood levels to prevent damage to your electrical system and avoid potential short circuit fires.
- The process of recovery from

property damage can be complex. Consider streamlining the hassle by hiring one contractor who specializes in disaster recovery.

Energy tips

- Your thermostat accounts for almost half of a home's energy bill. A programmable thermostat can help optimize heating and cooling.
- Change air filters regularly.
- Air seal and insulate your home. Reduce air leaks and stop drafts by using sealant, weather stripping, and insulation.
- Check ductwork to ensure proper sealing.
- Have heating and cooling equipment maintained annually by a licensed contractor.

Home inspection

As the climate changes, more homes are experiencing negative wear and tear. This hastens the need for a home inspection at least every five to 10 years.

"Home inspections are not just for people buying and selling homes," says Dan Steward, president of Pillar To Post Home Inspectors, a franchised company. "Periodic inspections ensure everything is operating efficiently and there are no major structural weaknesses."

The effects of climate change are a reality homeowners will increasingly face in the coming years. Take steps to prepare your home and family.

- Edited from StatePoint.

**Caribbean urged to brace for more hurricane activity this year**

ROSEAU, Dominica – A two-day Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) began here late last month with the region being told to brace for a wetter than usual season and possibly more hurricane activity in 2016 than the past five years.

Climatologist with the Dominica Meteorologist Service (DMS) Annie Carrette-Joseph, who presented the Wet/Hurricane Season Outlook for 2016, said between June to August there would also be gradual drought alleviation

across the region and that "surface water reservoirs will recharge. There will be soil moisture replenishment and an increased in river flow."

She predicted water shortage-related problems in agriculture will disappear in many places and that "where it has not already started, the wet season may start abruptly in June."

OUTLOOK

The outlook noted that the second half of the wet season will be wetter or usual in countries like Belize and the Leeward Islands with Carrette-Joseph warning that "moist conditions may favor mosquito breeding."

The outlook, which was prepared by the DMS in collaboration with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), also warned of extremely wet spells occurring with "serious poten-

tial for flash flooding and landslides."

In addition, September to November will be wetter than usual and there will also be chances of more hurricane activity than in the past five years.

There are predictions for 12 named storms this year, with United States-based scientists Klotzbach and Gray indicating the region having to deal with at least one major storm in the category of either three, four or five.

There is also the forecast that the temperature during the next six months will be above to normal and that "both nights and days will be warm." The implications, as a result, will be enhanced health risk from heat exposure and higher than usual energy costs for cooling.

- Edited from CMC.



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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

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Chefs set to battle at 'Taste of the Caribbean' in Miami

About a dozen culinary teams from the Caribbean are set to compete for honors in cuisine and beverage preparation next month in Miami, Florida.

"Taste of the Caribbean", presented by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), will take place June 6-10 at the Hyatt Regency.

The annual event brings together food and beverage specialists to share, learn and network about the latest techniques and trends impacting the industry. During a series of competitions, chefs and bartenders from participating countries will present Caribbean entrees and cocktails. Among the honors up for grabs are: "Caribbean Culinary Team of the Year", "Caribbean Chef of the Year",

"Caribbean Pastry Chef of the Year", "Caribbean Bartender of the Year" and "Caribbean Junior Chef of the Year".

COMPETITORS

This year The Bahamas will defend its 2015 Caribbean National Team of the Year, Caribbean Bartender of the Year and Pastry Chef of the Year titles. The Bahamas' Tracey Sheldon Sweeting has been named Pastry Chef of the Year four times.

Trinidad and Tobago is scheduled to return to the competition after a two-year hiatus. T&T will look to expand on its five previous team of the year wins, most by any country.

Puerto Rico holds the record with the highest number of Chef of the Year titles

with four and will defend its 2015 title. St. Lucia will defend its 2015 Caribbean Junior Chef of the Year crown.

Other nations scheduled to participate include, St. Maarten, Anguilla, Barbados, Bonaire, Curacao, Jamaica and United States Virgin Islands. CARICOM nation Suriname is also entered.

During Taste of the Caribbean, chefs and bartenders are able to meet peers from the industry to discuss trends through a series of educational and professional development sessions.

For more information, e-mail events@caribbeanhotelandtourism.com or visit <http://www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com>.



U.N. backs Haiti's cholera vaccination campaign

UNITED NATIONS – Two United Nations agencies say they are supporting the government of Haiti in a vaccination campaign against cholera that aims to reach 400,000 people during this year.

Last month, the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) said the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population is being supported by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), as well as by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The U.N. said the first phase of the campaign was launched on May 11 in the town of Arcahaie, about 30 minutes north of the capital city of Port-au-Prince. That phase aims to provide two

doses of oral vaccine to 118,000 people through June.

According to PAHO/WHO, the vaccine provides warranty protection ranging from three to five years.

A second phase of the vaccination campaign is planned for the second half of the year. To be successful, it said nearly 563,785 additional doses are required.

For both phases of the campaign, the U.N. said an initial budget of about \$3.6 million has been provided.

The U.N. said previous campaigns of vaccination against cholera reached 285,534 people – 102,250 in 2013 and 183,284 in 2014.

- Edited from CMC.



INSIDE JOB



Lowell Hawthorne, left, president and chief executive officer of Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery and Grill, gets a lesson in how the business is run on the ground level from an employee at one of the franchises in New York. Hawthorne, disguised as trainee "Mark", was featured during a recent episode of "Undercover Boss" on CBS television network. The "boss" visited multiple Golden Krust franchises, interacting with employees.

U.S. capital to host 'Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival'

Caribbean food lovers in America's capital will have the chance to sample some of the region's favorite dishes at this month's Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival in Washington, D.C.

The family event will be held from noon to 9 p.m. June 19 on Pennsylvania Avenue between 12th and 14th streets downtown.

Since June is being celebrated as Caribbean American Heritage Month, the festival is expected to highlight food and culture of the region.

Food vendors will offer a variety of jerk dishes, including chicken, pork, fish, lobster, ice cream and popcorn. Celebrity chefs will demonstrate how to make dishes and

compete in a jerk cook-off for the Dutch Pot Trophy.

The entertainment package will feature performers Freddie McGregor, Christopher Martin, Ikaya, Edwin Yearwood, No-Maddz band and D.C.'s Image Band, along with DJ G-Nice. A cultural stage will showcase artistic and literary performances celebrating folk traditions. Performers include the group Sounds of Culture, Pan Lara Youth Steel Orchestra, Malcolm X Drummers and Dancers, author and playwright Judith Falloon-Reid, Richards Carnival with masqueraders, plus comedian Michael Campbell.

An interactive Kidz Zone

will offer interactive activities and a special children's menu will be available.

For more information, visit www.DCJerkFestival.com.



Understanding cervical cancer

More than 12,000 women in the United States are diagnosed annually with cervical cancer and 4,000 die each year.

However, innovations in diagnostics and prevention could help reduce that number, while also giving women a better understanding of their health.

- The basics: Women 21-65 years old should have a Pap smear every three years, according to new health guidelines, along with a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) test in some cases - not annually as most women were taught. The Pap smear detects changes in cervical cells caused by persistent HPV infections and the HPV test improves detection. After an abnormal result, doctors may perform a colposcopy exam by applying a solution to the cervix and watching for areas that turn white (acetowhitening), which can indicate abnormal cells. Certain women may need more frequent screening or treatment to remove pre-cancerous areas.

- Computer-aided detection: Accurately identifying biopsy sites is a challenging task. DySIS colposcopy, a clinically-proven, FDA-cleared device, adds Dynamic Spectral Imaging to objectively quantify acetowhitening and displays the results in a color-coded map.

- Reduced anxiety: Receiving news from your doctor that your Pap smear result is abnormal is frightening for any woman. However, the new computer-enhanced imaging offers more clarity for both the clinician and the patient.

"It was really good to be able to see the screen and feel a little more in control and understand what was happening," says Heather Holyoak, who had three colposcopy procedures and a biopsy over the past three years. "For me, it wasn't remotely painful or uncomfortable, and it could be something that puts your mind at ease."

- Prevention: Two FDA-approved vaccines are highly effective in preventing infections of high-risk HPV types that cause the majority of cervical cancers. The HPV vaccine is recommended to be given to pre-teen girls and boys at 11-12 years old before they are sexually active, but can be given up to age 26 for women and 21 for men.

For more information on screening, diagnosis and prevention, visit cancer.org/cancer/cervicalcancer and www.DySISMedical.com.

- Edited from StatePoint.



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SPORTS



Caribbean nationals cash in on MLS compensation

GORDON WILLIAMS

The ball of money is bouncing more favorably in the direction of Major League Soccer (MLS) players, and some Caribbean nationals are cashing in.

Players with connections to the region are set to receive significant salary increases this season, according to figures released recently by the MLS Players Union.

"Things are looking up for the Caribbean player," said Jamaican-born agent Damani Ralph.

Of roughly two dozen Caribbean nationals scattered across rosters of the 20-team league, North America's top professional competition, several have received sizeable raises since 2015. Giles Barnes, the Jamaica and Houston Dynamo attacker, is set to receive \$756,250 in guaranteed compensation this season, compared to \$275,658.33 in 2015.

Barnes's international teammate Simon Dawkins will also fare well. Dawkins played in MLS a few years ago, then returned to England, where he started his pro career. However, San Jose Earthquakes re-signed the midfielder as a designated player. For that he will receive a hefty raise to \$800,000, the second highest guar-



Barnes

anteed compensation any Caribbean player will get in 2016.

The top paid Caribbean national will be Cuban-born Osvaldo Alonso, a midfielder with Seattle Sounders. He is guaranteed \$941,667 in 2016, up from \$789,667 last season.

MO' MONEY

Also cashing decidedly bigger checks this season is Kemar Lawrence, another Jamaican, who plays for New York Red Bulls. Lawrence was guaranteed \$60,000 in 2015, but following an impressive campaign at club and international levels that

amount has been more than tripled – to \$196,000 for 2016.

Other Caribbean nationals receiving guaranteed increases since last season are Jamaica's Alvas Powell, a defender who won MLS 2015 with Portland Timbers (from \$68,700 to \$103,700).

Defender/midfielder Atiba Harris of St. Kitts and



Alonso

Nevis and F.C. Dallas will also get a raise (from \$130,000 to \$143,000), along with Trinidad and Tobago defender Jevin Jones of Seattle (from \$66,166.67 to \$76,166.67). Jones's compatri-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Ex-Caribbean soccer boss is being sued for \$50M

MIAMI, Florida - Trinidad and Tobago's Austin "Jack" Warner, former vice president of soccer's world governing body FIFA, is being sued for more than \$50 million by the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association (CONCACAF).

The suit centers around a lavish soccer facility built in Trinidad with millions of dollars in funding from FIFA. It accuses Warner, who served as CONCACAF president for 20 years before resigning in 2011 and was head of the Caribbean Football Union, of fraudulently securing FIFA and CONCACAF funding to

develop the property.

The site now includes a hotel and banqueting facilities, and is said to be built on lands belonging to Warner. His wife, his accountant and two companies linked to the 73-year-old are also named as defendants.

Warner, who has, in the past, denied wrongdoing, is also facing corruption charges in the United States. He remains in Trinidad where he is fighting extradition. Warner was banned from soccer by FIFA in September.

- Edited from CMC.



Ex-NFL player wants to run for St. Lucia

A former National Football League running back, whose roots run to St. Lucia, now wants to earn a spot on the Caribbean island's team to this year's Olympic Games as a sprinter.

Former Detroit Lions first-round pick Jahvid Best is hoping that because his father and six brothers and sisters were born on the island, he will be able to qualify for the country's track and field squad.

"I just want to bring pride to St. Lucia, to the Olympic team, to the sport of athletics," Best told St. Lucia News last month.

Best was born in Vallejo, California, but is hoping to get citizenship in St. Lucia shortly and make the country's Olympic squad.

- Edited from News Americas.



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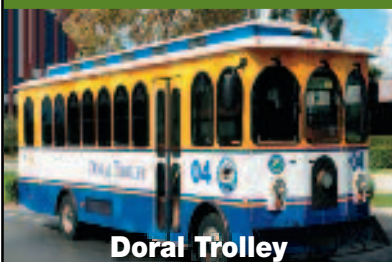
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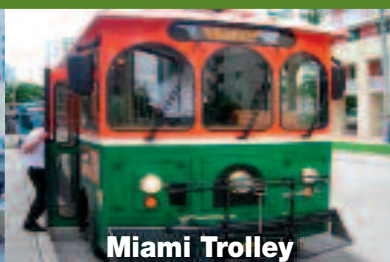
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Haiti, Jamaica tackle soccer's elite at Copa America Centenario in U.S.

GORDON WILLIAMS

The Caribbean gets to match skills with some of the world's biggest soccer powers when Haiti and Jamaica compete in the 2016 Copa America Centenario this month across the United States.

The two Caribbean teams qualified for the June 3-26 tournament, which also features 10 nations from South America, three from Central America, plus one from North America. It's the first time the tournament is being staged outside South America. For the region, getting to Copa is a major accomplishment.

"Our participation in any tournament of the magnitude of Copa Centenario would be a very huge step in our soccer



Players from Haiti and Jamaica will be in action at Copa America Centenario. - File photograph

development as we get to play against the best players in the world on that stage," said Roy Simpson, manager of Jamaica's team. "... A true

evaluation of where we are in world soccer."

According to Simpson, the reputation of the Caribbean's game will be under heavy scrutiny during the tournament.

"It's critical," he said. "We're looked at as minnows in world soccer, but we produce quality players.

We understand it's credibility and respect we are fighting for."

CHALLENGE

Haiti has been placed in Group B, alongside five time World Cup champions Brazil, Ecuador and Peru. Jamaica is in Group C, with two-time World Cup winner Uruguay, Mexico and Venezuela.

Host U.S. is in Group A with Colombia, Costa Rica and Paraguay, while Group D features two-time World Cup winner Argentina, current South America champion

Chile, Panama and Bolivia.

Haiti, which qualified for the tournament by winning a Copa America Centenario playoff, will kick off the Caribbean bid on June 4 versus Peru at CenturyLink Field in Seattle, Washington. Its other group games are against Brazil on June 8 at the Orlando Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Florida and June 12 against Ecuador at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Jamaica got into the tournament after victory at the 2014 Caribbean Cup. The Reggae Boyz begin their tournament run on June 5 versus Venezuela at Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois. That will be followed by matches against Mexico on June 9, at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, and Uruguay on June 13 at Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, California.

The top two finishers in each group will advance to the quarterfinals June 16-18. The semi-finals are scheduled for June 21 and 22, with the final to be played on June 26 at MetLife Stadium. A third place game is scheduled for the day before the final in

Arizona.

BOOST

Haiti and Jamaica need a boost from Copa Centenario. They have not performed well in the semi-final round of World Cup qualifiers for teams in the Caribbean, North and Central America (CONCACAF).

Jamaica and Haiti are competing in the same qualifying group. With two games remaining in September, including one against each other, Haiti has been virtually eliminated from the World Cup and Jamaica needs to win its final two games to have any chance of advancing to the final qualifying stage. Costa Rica leads the group, followed by Panama.

As warm up, both Caribbean teams will be in South Florida close to Copa. Jamaica arrives in South Florida for a five-day training camp and possible friendly game before leaving for Chicago. Haiti was also scheduled to play at least one friendly international.



Caribbean nationals cash in on MLS compensation

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

ot Cordell Cato, a midfielder at San Jose will watch his guaranteed money move from \$60,000 to \$114,166.67; Jamaican goalkeeper Andre Blake of Philadelphia Union (from \$123,000 to \$138,000); and Blake's compatriot Shaun Francis, a defender with San Jose (from \$62,940.32 to \$103,333.33).

CUT

Yet compensation for other Caribbean players have barely budged this season and several will get a pay cut.

Marginal increases - \$10,000 or under - in pay will go to Jamaica's Oniel Fisher of Seattle, whose guaranteed compensation in 2016 is \$62,500, an uptick from \$60,000, and T&T's midfielder Kevin Molino of Orlando City S.C. (from \$111,400 to \$121,400).

However, take home pay for some Caribbean players in MLS will be lower this season than 2015. Striker Darren Mattocks, a Jamaican with Portland, is guaranteed \$231,666.67 in 2016, down from \$272,000.

Mattocks's club and international teammate Jermaine Taylor, a defender, is guaranteed \$150,000 this season, a significant drop-off from at

least \$213,000 he earned in 2015 while playing for Houston.

Two other Jamaicans taking a pay cut are midfielder/defender Je-Vaughn Watson, who was guaranteed \$180,000 in 2015 while at F.C. Dallas but will get \$115,837.33 at New England Revolution, and Demar Phillips, who earned \$149,666.67 last season at RSL, but is due to be compensated \$135,333.33 in 2016.

Yet no Caribbean national's compensation comes close to other big name stars in MLS. Brazilian Kaka, who plays for Orlando City S.C., is the guaranteed \$7,167,500 this season. Sebastian Giovinco, an Italian playing with Toronto F.C. is guaranteed \$7,115,555.67, while several Americans and British-born players will take home at least \$4.5 million this season.

The Caribbean players, according to Ralph may have a long way to go before earning those hefty sums, but the possibility for headway is real. It will all be based on performance.

"As the teams and league continue to grow, we as Caribbean players need to grow as well," he said. "... It always comes back to the individual."



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