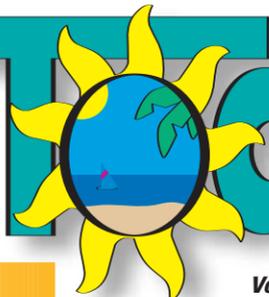




Caribbean Today

DECEMBER 2009



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT NO. 7315

Tel: (305) 238-2868
1-800-605-7516
editor@caribbeantoday.com
ct_ads@bellsouth.net
Jamaica: 655-1479

We cover your world

Vol. 21 No. 1

THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



A federal filing error on the part of Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office mistakenly landed her among the top 25 richest

United States congresspersons, [page 2](#).



America's federal government is pulling out all the stops to ensure more citizens and residents participate in the 2010 Census. The big marketing push is to reach immigrant populations and undocumented residents, groups that historically have not responded well to the census, [page 11](#).



Veteran Jamaica international player Andy Williams ended a roller coaster season on a triumphant note

last month by helping his team Real Salt Lake capture its first Major League Soccer (MLS) title, the sport's biggest prize in North America, [page 18](#).

JUSTICE DENIED

~ Caribbean nationals, including those who enter the United States legally, are held unnecessarily and transferred needlessly within an expensive immigration detention system that denies many of them basic fairness, according to three new U.S. reports, [page 4](#).



DRUMMING UP SUPPORT



William "Willie" Stewart, of Third World fame, has taken his distinct style of drumming into South Florida's schools, sharing his knowledge and experience with the students and motivating, uplifting and empowering them, [page 13](#).

INSIDE

News2	Feature11	Health/Environment16	Region/Politics21
Local7	Arts/Entertainment.....13	Sport18	Books/Education22
Viewpoint9	Food15	Tourism/Travel20	Classified.....23

CALL CARIBBEAN TODAY DIRECT FROM JAMAICA 655-1479



SAVE YOUR BUSINESS IN 2010

Advertise for free in the Classified section and the Biz Directory of **CARIBBEANTODAY.COM**
Just register & place your ads, as many as you want.

THAT'S RIGHT IT'S FREE. WE ARE DOING OUR PART THE REST IS UP TO YOU!!

CaribbeanToday.com "We cover your world"

Check Us Out & Call Now To Reserve your Space **305-238-2868, 1-800-605-7516**. Jamaica Call **655-1479**
OR e-mail us at sales@caribbeantoday.com

Federal filing error places Caribbean American congresswoman among richest U.S. lawmakers

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A federal filing error on the part of Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office mistakenly landed her among the top 25 richest United States congresspersons, a **CaribWorldNews** exclusive investigation revealed.

CaribWorldNews last month noted that the Center for Responsive Politics (CRP) listed Clarke with an average net worth of some \$30 million obtained in 2008 alone. According to the group's website, which analyses the top wealthiest U.S. lawmakers, Clarke ranked at 24 out of the top 25 with assets in two investment funds totaling \$10,000,002 to \$50,000,000, respectively.

But the congresswoman's office later clarified that it was a huge error, based on her office filling out the federal paperwork erroneously by ticking the wrong income bracket.

CRP's Communications Director Dave Levinthal admitted by e-mail that it was an error and the group had subsequently received the congresswoman's amended fil-



Clarke

ing, which reflected a substantially lower net worth, closer to around \$100,000, excluding

liabilities.

Guyanese-born N.Y. cop jailed for 2007 murder of ex-fiancée

QUEENS, New York - A Guyanese-born, New York City cop, who killed the woman he was once engaged to marry, will have to spend the next 25 years to life in prison.

Harry Rupnarine, 39, was last month given the maximum sentence for the May 10, 2007 murder. His sentencing came just two months after a Queens Supreme Court jury found him guilty of killing Guiatree Hardat, 22, on Atlantic Avenue in Woodhaven, Queens.

The shooting was a deadly end to the couple's tumultuous two-year relationship,

Hardat's friends and relatives had said.

Rupnarine, in his defense, had claimed he had accidentally killed Hardat with his 9 mm service Glock while trying to shoot two knife-wielding thugs.

Rupnarine was a former Brooklyn Transit Task Force cop who took the post after graduating from the Police Academy in July 2005. He had met Hardat while patrolling the Crescent Street subway station in Brooklyn, shortly after becoming a cop.

- **CaribWorldNews**



Bankrollers are Obama's Caribbean ambassadors

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Two confirmed picks by the administration of United States President Barack Obama, for ambassadorial posts in the Caribbean, plus a recent nominee, raised more than \$1.4 million for the 2008 presidential campaign committee, according to a watchdog group here.

Research from the Center for Responsive Politics (CPR) reveals that Nicole Avant, the new U.S. ambassador to The Bahamas, raised \$800,000 for Team Obama in his bid for president. She is at the top of the list of donors-turned-ambassadors.

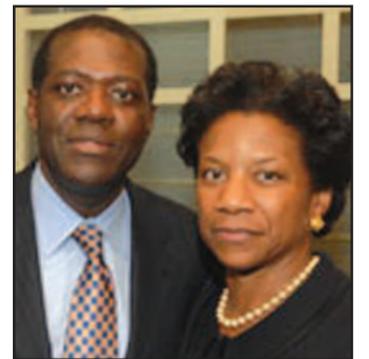
Michael Beckel, writing for CRP's site OpenSecrets, noted that most of Obama's top donors are now being rewarded with cushy ambassadorial posts. Avant, who took up post as the 13th U.S. ambassador to The Bahamas on Oct. 22, has no foreign policy experience, but worked largely in the entertainment field.

She is the daughter of entertainment industry legend Clarence Avant and philanthropist Jacqueline Avant. Prior to her appointment, she was vice president of Interior Music Publishing and Avant Garde Music Publishing (1998-2009) and was the Southern California finance co-chairwoman of the Barack Obama Presidential Campaign.

T&T'S GAIN

Beatrice Wilkinson Welters, Obama's current pick for ambassador to the oil rich nation of Trinidad and Tobago, raised \$500,000 for the campaign, according to CRP, and ranks fifth among

the top givers to date who have been tapped by Obama to serve as U.S. ambassadors overseas. She, along with her family, contributed \$28,400 to Obama's campaign, while her husband contributed the legal maximum of \$4,600 to Obama during the 2008 presidential campaign. Her sons, Bryant, a college student at Notre Dame, and Andrew, a high school student here, also gave the maximum amount, according to records filed with the Federal Election



Beatrice Wilkinson Welters, the new U.S. ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, and husband Anthony.

Commission, even though both were classified as "not employed/student".

Wilkinson Welters, who now faces a Senate confirmation, also has no foreign service experience, but is a former IBM engineer turned non-profit chair.

Vinai Thummalapally, the current U.S. ambassador to Belize, raised \$100,000 for the campaign and ranks in the bottom five of fundraisers-turned-ambassadors. Thummalapally, who was confirmed as U.S. ambassador to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

NEED A NEW HIP?



You Have a Choice-

Anterior Hip Replacement

Using the state-of-the-art Hana table

No muscles cut

Less pain

Faster recovery

No Standard precautions

Why wait to get back to
being you again!

The surgeons at Broward Health North Broward Medical Center have performed more anterior hip replacements using the Hana table than any other area surgeons.



BROWARD HEALTH
North Broward Medical Center
POWERFUL ORTHOPEDICS

For more information about Anterior Hip Replacement visit BrowardHealth.org or for a physician referral call the Broward Health Line at 954-759-7400.

“It wasn’t hard for Kamilah to choose her Medicare plan.”

“It became easy when I learned about Jackson’s plan.”

Introducing JacksonHealth for Life, the new Medicare HMO health plan from Jackson Health System. It brings you the same coverage as Medicare, plus it offers benefits that Medicare does not cover, such as annual physicals and routine vision and hearing exams. All without monthly premiums and with access to one of the most comprehensive health care networks in the country.

Just look at how many benefits you get with JacksonHealth for Life:

- ▶ \$0 co-payments in a hospital within our network
- ▶ \$0 co-payments for visits to your primary doctor within our network
- ▶ \$0 deductible for prescription coverage
- ▶ Co-payments for prescription drugs starting at \$0
- ▶ \$25 monthly allowance for over the counter medicines
- ▶ Dental coverage in a network provider
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Meals at home service for 20 days after being released from the hospital
- ▶ Membership in a gym/health club

But the biggest advantage of JacksonHealth for Life is the medical prestige behind the name Jackson...Jackson Memorial Hospital has been named among the country’s best hospitals by US News & World Report.

So do like Kamilah and choose Jackson...JacksonHealth for Life, the new Medicare HMO plan backed by 90 years of experience and live with peace of mind.



1-877-547-2279

TTY users 1-800-955-8770

www.jmhhp.com/medicare

JacksonHealth is a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) with a Medicare contract that is renewed annually, and the availability of coverage beyond the end of the current year is not guaranteed. The information offered herein about benefits is not complete. Additional information should be requested before making a decision regarding your coverage. You should continue paying your Medicare part B premium if it's not being yet paid by Medicaid or a third entity.

www.caribbeantoday.com

NEWS

Haiti's new P.M. sets job creation, investment among main priorities

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, CMC - Jean-Max Bellerive, who was sworn-in as prime minister last month, has listed job creation and developing a better investment climate among the priorities for the government of this Caribbean community (CARICOM) nation.

"Haiti will continue to work with all the partners and all the people who believe in stability and who believe the only way we are going to change Haiti is through private investment and through creating jobs in Haiti," said Bellerive, 51, the sixth person to hold the post since 2004.

He also pledged to foster better relations with legislators.

Bellerive, who previously served as planning and external cooperation minister and had held several positions under at least six different prime ministers in the past two decades, succeeds Michele Pierre-Louis, who was ousted by the Haitian Senate on Oct. 30.

"We will take care of putting (Members of Parliament) more in accordance with what we are doing," the economist said.

"It's the same program, basically. We have the same priorities (as the previous government)."

CO-OPERATION

In addition, he said he will continue working with the United Nations special envoy to Haiti, former United States President Bill Clinton, "in the

same manner, in the same commitment that he has with the former government and with President (Réné) Préval. "The only way that we are



Bellerive

going to change Haiti is through private investment, through creating jobs in Haiti," he said.

Earlier this year, the international community, at a donor's conference on Haiti in Washington, pledged \$324 million to help improve the impoverished country's economy. Bellerive's approach has already been lauded by the newly-formed Haitian Economic Development Foundation.

"Our business community is pleased to see that Mr. Bellerive's focus will be to continue furthering the pro-business direction encouraged by President Réné Préval," said Youri Mevs, the group's president.



Caribbean nationals held unnecessarily in U.S. detention ~ reports

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Caribbean nationals, including those who enter the United States legally, are held unnecessarily and transferred needlessly within an expensive immigration detention system that denies many of them basic fairness in the U.S., according to three new reports issued here.

In the first report, the inspector general of the Homeland Security Department found that detainee transfers by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were so haphazard that some of them arrived at a new detention center without having been served a notice of why they were being held.

The Washington-based Constitution Project called for sweeping changes in agency policies and amendments to immigration law, including new access to government-appointed counsel for many of those facing deportation to the Caribbean and elsewhere.

'CHAOTIC GAME'

In its report, the human rights organization, Human Rights Watch, said that government data showed transfers were accelerating, with many long time residents of cities like New York, Philadelphia and Los Angeles, being sent to remote immigration jails in Texas and Louisiana, far from legal counsel and the evidence that might help them win release.

"ICE is increasingly subjecting detainees to a chaotic game of musical chairs, and

it's a game with dire consequences," said Alison Parker, deputy director in the U.S. for the human rights group, and the author of the report.

The inspector general's investigation found that the consequences of haphazard transfers include a loss of access to legal counsel and relevant evidence; additional time in detention; and "errors, delays and confusion for detainees, their families, legal representatives" and the immigration courts.

FLAWED PLANS

In August, the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama announced ambitious plans to overhaul immigration detention, a disjointed network that relies heavily on private prisons and county jails. But taken together, the three reports underscore the gap between the plans and the problems on the ground in a system that, according to the inspector general, is estimated to be detaining more than 442,000 people a year.

The reports cited a Jamaican, who was transferred to Texas after three months in detention in New York and New Jersey. Immigration authorities con-



- Photograph by ICE.gov

Reports raise questions about U.S. detention strategies.

tended that he should be deported based on two prior convictions for drug possession. In New York, his drug misdemeanors were not considered an "aggravated felony", and based on his 22 years of legal residency and strong family relationships in the U.S., he would have been eligible for "cancellation of removal", a form of relief from deportation.

However, in Texas, he was barred from relief based on Fifth Circuit rulings, and deported to his native Jamaica.

The bipartisan group said the agency makes it too hard for people to avoid detention while challenging deportation and recommended a significant easing in the burden of proof, and a waiver from mandatory detention for lawful permanent residents.

- CMC



Jamaican killed during Florida shooting rampage

ORLANDO, Florida - A Jamaican man has been identified as the lone fatality during a shooting rampage at an office building here last month.

Police said Otis Beckford, 26, was one of six people shot, but the only one killed, by a disgruntled former employee at an engineering and construction firm.

The authorities have

charged Jason Rodriguez, 40, with first-degree murder in connection with the shooting spree after an extensive search.

"Obviously we have a tragic incident here in the city of Orlando," said Mayor Buddy Dyer. "...The gunman has been apprehended."

Rodriguez surrendered to police at his mother's home after he was spotted by offi-

cers.

A family member said Beckford, an architect at the firm, was the father of a seven-month-old and was due to get married soon.

"You couldn't ask for a better nephew or a son," said Evelyn Cole, Beckford's aunt. "He was just quiet, and he never troubled anyone or got into trouble," she added.



Bankrollers are Obama's Caribbean ambassadors

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Belize by the U.S. Senate on July 24, 2009, also has no background in the foreign service, but was president of MAM-A Inc., formerly Mitsui Advanced Media, the nation's leading manufacturer and distributor of archival recordable optical discs.

Only 35 of the ambassadors nominated globally so far by Obama are career members of the U.S. Foreign Service. Forty-six of the president's ambassador picks personally donated to Obama, CRP found, giving him a combined \$306,700, while seven of the ambassadors who were

politically appointed have never personally contributed to federal politicians above the FEC's \$200 reporting threshold.

- *CaribWorldNews*



Health Opportunity Technical Center, Inc.

Fast track programs!!!



Home Health Aide?

Nursing Assistant?

Phlebotomy?

Electrocardiograph Technician?

Patient Care Assistant?

Stop thinking about it and get on the right track to a career in Allied Health!

Affordable tuition - Get your diploma in 6 weeks or less!

Call Now for more information!

(305) 249-2275

18441 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite 300,
Miami, FL 33169 (Lincoln Square Building)



Haitian gets 13 years in prison for link to Chicago terror plot

MIAMI – The Haitian-born ringleader of a group accused of plotting terror attacks on Chicago's Sears Tower and Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) offices has been sentenced to 13 years in prison.

Untied States District Judge Joan Lenard imposed the sentence on Narseal Batiste, 35, who prosecutors said had hoped to spark an anti-government insurrection by seeking support from al-Qaeda for his alleged terrorism plans.

"You've done great harm to yourself, your family, the young men who were your followers, and you've violated the trust of your country," Judge Lenard said.

Batiste, who had faced a maximum of 70 years in prison, was convicted in May of conspiracy to provide material support to al-Qaeda, plotting to blow up buildings and conspiracy to wage war against the U.S. Four other Haitian men, described as Batiste's soldiers in his paramilitary group, were also convicted and sentenced to between six and 10 years in jail.

CULMINATION

The sentencing last month marked the culmination of a

case that began with an FBI raid in June 2006 on the group's warehouse, known as the "Embassy", in Miami's impoverished Liberty City neighborhood. Top U.S. officials acknowledged at the time that the 100-storey skyscraper, Sears Tower, and FBI plots never got past the discussion stage and that the group never acquired the means to carry out such audacious attacks.

But prosecutors said the case was a prime example of the post Sept. 11, 2001 strategy of stopping terror plots in the earliest possible stages before they ignite.

There were two previous mistrials in the case, and two men were acquitted before prosecutors finally won the case. Batiste testified at all three trials that he never aspired to be a terrorist and only went along in hopes of scamming the FBI informant out of \$50,000.

At the sentencing hearing on Nov. 20, he apologized to his family and the young men who became his followers, blaming his "arrogance and pride" for leading him down the wrong road.

"I wanted respect," he said. "I wanted to be this person that I really wasn't. I've never been a violent person."



Wyclef Jean receives Kennedy 'Hope' award

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Grammy Award-winning Haitian singer, songwriter and producer Wyclef Jean has earned more recognition for his contribution to human rights.

Jean, along with Bono of musical group U2, was presented with Ripple of Hope Award at Chelsea Pier in New York City last month by The Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

The Haitian ambassador at large was honored for his work to strengthen and inspire change in his native country of Haiti through his Yéle Haiti organization.

"As champions of justice, Bono and Wyclef have brought the national spotlight to human rights violations, empowered local activists, and transformed the lives of millions of people living in poverty from Port-Au-Prince to Darfur," said Kerry Kennedy, founder of the RFK Center. "Their efforts evoke the spirit of my father and we are honored to recognize them."



- File photograph
U2's Bono, left, and Wyclef Jean performing together.

Jean also performed at the ceremony. The award came on the heels of several other human rights awards presented to the singer this year, including by ASCAP and BET in June 2009.

The RFK Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the human rights movement through innovative support to human rights defenders around the world.

- CaribWorldNews



Key Congressional leaders in New York call for U.S. action on immigration reform

NEW YORK - Several members of the New York Congressional delegation last month continued the call for comprehensive immigration reform.

At a pre-Thanksgiving event that recognized New York's immigrant history, several congressional lawmakers admitted the need for immediate progress on immigration reform legislation.

Representative Yvette Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrant parents, told the audience that the current set of immigration laws must change now.

"Our immigration laws are inconsistent and inefficient and place an undue burden on

native-born Americans, documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants alike," said Clarke. "This system is ineffective and unsustainable. We must never forget that this debate is critical to improving the lives of all American citizens, American businesses, and the lives of those who seek to be Americans."

"New Yorkers stand proudly with the majority of Americans in their support of comprehensive immigration

reform," said U.S.

Representative Charles B. Rangel. "Too many families are being kept apart by the hypocrisy of a system that encourages people to come and work, then tries to criminalize them when they want to stay. We have an obligation - a moral obligation - to see that these laws are changed."

The event was co-hosted by the American Jewish Committee, the New York Immigration Coalition and the New York Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform at the New York Historical Society.

- CaribWorldNews



Rangel

Happy Holidays

At Air Jamaica we are proud to bring families and friends together especially during the holidays. We appreciate your support throughout the year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

WORLD LEADER AWARDS
1998-2009
Outstanding In The Caribbean

airJamaica®
www.AirJamaica.com

Few Caribbean students choose U.S. schools

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Few Caribbean students are studying in the United States, according to the latest Open Doors survey, which analyses foreign students in the U.S.

The survey, which is published by the Institute of International Education with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, found that while Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela made the top 25 list, not a single Caribbean country managed to make the cut.

By contrast, students from India, China and South Korea continue to dominate the top three spots in the ranking with students from those nations accounting for a large percent of the number of foreign students in the U.S.

India had 94,563 students out of 623,805 globally for the 2007/2008 period while Chinese students accounted for 81,127 of that number.

Meanwhile, while a record number of U.S. students are studying abroad, the Caribbean region did not make the cut either for the top 25 places where the American students are turning for education. According to the Open Doors 2009 survey, the number of Americans studying abroad increased by 8.5 percent to 262,416 in the 2007/08 academic year, with most choosing the U.K., Italy, Spain and France.

- *CaribWorldNews*



Wee Tom crowned 'Miss Florida Caribbean'

Lesaya-gaye Wee Tom, wearing the sash "Miss Donna's Restaurant", was last month crowned "Miss Florida Caribbean" 2009.

Wee Tom is no stranger to pageants. She is a former first runner up "Miss Hollywood Teen", second runner up "Miss Jamaica Florida" and second runner up "Miss Miami Tropic" and a contestant in "Miss Jamaica World" 2009. She is a student at Florida Atlantic University and hopes to earn a degree in broadcast journalism.

According to organizers, the "Miss Florida Caribbean" pageant offers personal development opportunity for young Caribbean American females ages 18-25, who live in the U.S. state of Florida. The pageant also includes divisions for "teen" and "junior" contestants between ages nine and 17.

The winner of "Miss Florida Caribbean" is eligible to represent the "Sunshine State" at the 2010 Miss Caribbean United States pageant in New York. The winner of that competition will move on to the "Miss Caribes Hibiscus International" pageant in St. Maarten.

The winner of that competition will move on to the "Miss Caribes Hibiscus International" pageant in St. Maarten.



Wee Tom

Ja's finance minister woos investors

MIAMI - Finance Minister Audley Shaw is confident there are many investment opportunities in Jamaica.

Addressing the 33rd annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Central America, recently, Shaw outlined the strategies being undertaken by the Bruce Golding administration to attract investors. He spoke of the development of the agro-

industry, with its array of sub-sectors, including food processing, organic farming and green house production.

Regarding tourism, Shaw said the island had recorded a five percent increase in visitor arrivals and a two percent increase in spending recorded in the industry, despite the downturn in the regio, caused by the global economic recession. He said with the devel-

opment of the industry, value-added linkages to support the sector, such as the construction of houses for hotel workers, could be explored for investment.

Shaw said there are also opportunities to develop attractions, to provide exotic cuisine, as well as to get involved in the fashion and music industries.



Florida prosecution seeks death penalty for Haitian accused of murdering family

NAPLES, Florida - The prosecution is seeking the death penalty for Haitian Mesac Damas, 33, who is charged with murdering his wife and five children in September.

The State Attorney's Office said that prosecutors will seek the death penalty for Damas, who has confessed to

the killings. The notice of intent to seek the death penalty was filed in Collier County court recently.

Damas remains on suicide watch in the Collier County jail and has not been allowed any visitors other than his attorney since his September arrest, the Collier County

Sheriff's Office reported.

Collier County Deputy Public Defender Mike Orlando, who represents Damas, filed a not-guilty plea in September and said at the time that he had concerns about his client's mental state.



CYBERKNIFE® RADIOSURGERY

CYBERKNIFE TREATMENT FOR PROSTATE CANCER

IMAGE GUIDED
ROBOTIC RADIOSURGERY

- SHORT TREATMENT COURSE
- PRECISELY TARGETS
- NO SEVERE OR DEBILITATING SIDE EFFECTS

WWW.MORSECYBERKNIFE.COM
1-800-204-0455

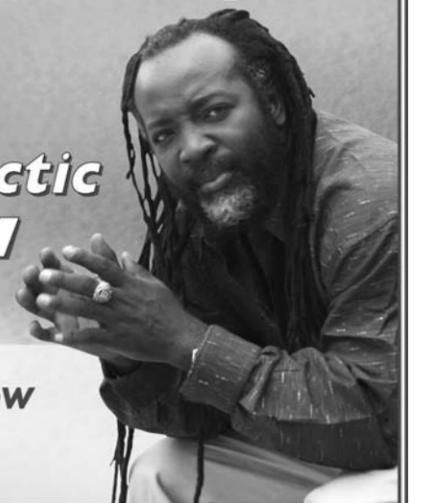
C | Y | B | E | R
K | N | I | F | E
C E N T E R O F M I A M I

CyberKnife Center of Miami
7867 North Kendall Drive, Suite 105
Miami, FL 33156
Phone: (305) 279-2900

- Have you been in an accident?
- Have you suffered a slip and fall?
- Do you have neck and back pain?

If you answered yes
to any of these, call
County Line Chiropractic
1-800-811-1231
for an appointment.

Freddie McGregor did ... and now
he is asking you to do the same!



Don't pay for the holidays all year long, shoppers warned

~ E-layaway among new budgeting tips

SUNRISE, Florida – Sixty percent of Americans confess to not having a holiday budget so it is no surprise the American Bankers Association estimates it takes the average consumer six months to pay off seasonal debt.

“Everyone is caught up with the usual holiday questions of what presents to buy, who to invite to parties and where to go, yet the big question you should ask is ‘where is the money going to come from to pay for it all?’” says

seling and debt management services across the nation.

Stark cautions that the cost of the holidays can derail the steps people have already taken to reduce debt by discouraging them with new debt that takes them back to square one or sets them back even further.

“On average consumers spend \$1,220 on holiday gifts,” she explains. “If that went on credit cards with an interest rate of 18 percent and only a monthly minimum payment

back, enabling consumers to purchase within a budget and not incur interest fees. Online layaway sites are a new way for people who like to shop from their computers to gain the advantages of layaway, but shoppers should read the

terms to understand if there are additional fees involved.

Pad your pockets: Sometimes, all you need to bridge a budget gap is a few extra dollars a month. For example, put your photos to work for you by submitting

them to stock photo agencies. Anyone can do it, and if your photos are accepted you'll earn money each time your photo is uploaded.

Party like it's 1929: Even during the Great Depression

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



The effects of holiday shopping can linger.

Barbara J. Stark, director of community development and education for American Debt Counseling, Inc., www.americandebt counseling.org, a Sunrise, Florida-based non-profit organization that provides financial education programs as well as confidential and professional credit coun-

was made it would take 22 years to pay off, and would cost \$2,600.”

TIPS

Stark offers the following tips for avoiding bills that come back to haunt you like the ghost of Christmas past:

Pay it forward: Layaway is

Givers, beware holiday scam artists

“With the holiday season upon us, many good-willed individuals express their generosity by giving to those less fortunate,” says Lawrence Loesch, former New York Police Department Deputy Chief and Vice President/General Manager for AlliedBarton Security Services. “Unfortunately, that can also create an opportunity for scam artists to take advantage of the kindness of others. It is important to make certain your generosity is received by those who need it most.”

So when giving this holiday season remember to use your head, as well as your heart. The following tips by Loesch to Caribbean Today's readers can help:

Look-alike charities -

Watch out for charities with similar names to well-known organizations. Some scam artists try to trick people by using names that make them appear to be the same as or comparable to valid charities. Always investigate the organization prior to making a donation. Look at their websites. Many non-profit web addresses end in .org instead of .com.

Phone scams - Be cautious of charities that contact you over the phone. In New York City, for example, there's a popular scam from solicitors who claim to represent the NYPD and related police fundraising organizations. Only the New York Police Foundation can accept such donations and they do not

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Make This Holiday Season The Best One Ever!

The holidays are around the corner and Miami-Dade County is here to help you make the most of them with these **Holiday Survival Tips:**

Do use a secure network to shop online

Don't let your holiday feast become a health hazard; never leave your cooking food unattended, it can cause a fire

Don't wrap your gifts when traveling for the holidays since they'll need to be checked at security

Go to **miamidade.gov** for the “Ultimate Holiday Survival Guide.” You'll find suggestions on an array of holiday topics, including finding the perfect gift, ways to make the season safer, and fun activities for the whole family!

MAMIAMIDADE COUNTY

www.caribbeantoday.com

LOCAL

Direct deposit improves Social Security service

Hurricane season ended recently in the United States. But in some areas, it's wildfire season.

As you prepare for the threat of a natural disaster in your community, put signing up for direct deposit at the top of your "to do" list. Doing so can eliminate the delay or non-delivery of your monthly payment if a disaster forces you from your home. It is still the best way to get benefit payments for people who have a bank account. Here's why:

Safe - Your money is deposited directly into your account at your bank or other financial institution. Because it's transferred electronically, there's no risk of your check being lost or stolen.

Quick - You'll get your payment faster when it's deposited directly and it is immediately available to you once it's deposited.

Convenient - No more standing in line at the bank to cash your check, or leaving your house when the weather is bad.

For those who don't have a bank account, there's Direct Express. With Direct Express, we automatically deposit benefit payments to a person's Direct Express card account. The card can be used to make purchases, pay bills or get cash at thousands of locations, and most services are free. To learn more or to sign up for Direct Express, visit www.fms.treas.gov/direct-expresscard.

To learn more about Direct Deposit of your benefit payments, and to sign up, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/deposit. You also can call us at **1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)**.

To learn more information about Direct Express, visit www.fms.treas.gov/direct-expresscard.

In the unfortunate event that you are displaced by a natural disaster, your benefits do not have to be. Your payments will be safe and secure, and arrive on time to your account with Direct Deposit or Direct Express.

- **Social Security Administration**



Students get 'Miss Lou' scholarship from Florida

Over \$5,000 was raised from the fourth annual tribute and scholarship fundraiser held last month at the Holy Family Episcopal Church in North Miami, Florida to honor the life and legacy of the late Jamaican cultural icon Louise "Miss Lou" Bennett-Coverley.

Proceeds from this event will be used to support the Louise Bennett-Coverley Scholarship Fund that was started following Miss Lou's death in July 2006. The scholarship is tenable at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts in Kingston, Jamaica. So far, the scholarship has benefited four

students pursuing studies in song, dance and drama at the institution.

Two students – Sodanne Brown and Omar Forbes – both pursuing studies in performing arts at Edna Manley were selected as recipients of the 2009-2010 scholarships.

This year, a decision was made to award an additional scholarship to a student of Jamaican descent pursuing studies in performing arts at the New World School of the Arts in Miami. Details are currently being finalized with the school's administration, according to Norma Darby, founder of the scholarship fund.

In an effort to continue Miss Lou's legacy, the scholarship was extended to Jamaican diaspora in the United States to give those students an opportunity to engage their culture and heritage.

- **JIS**



Don't pay for the holidays all year long, shoppers warned

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

people knew how to party on a budget. Consider a pot-luck party this year where guests each bring a dish. Or cut your tab at the grocery store by signing up to receive online newsletters from brands you like, buy store brands that are often made by name brand companies, and combine coupons with buy-one-get-one and sale offers.

It's in the cards: People spend up to 30 percent more when paying with credit cards rather than cash. Pay with cash, debit cards or checks

whenever possible. If you use credit cards, chose a low rate credit card instead of high interest rate department store cards, and avoid department store credit cards offering a one-time discount.

Protect your identity: Crowded stores increase the risk of pickpockets and purse snatchers. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or purse but do keep copies (both front and back) of all of the credit cards and ID (including your driver's license) that you carry with you to enable swift action in the event of loss or theft.

The art of re-gifting: It's important to remember giving a gift that you received but never used is still a gift, and there is no reason to spoil the moment by confessing you didn't buy it. Be sure the gift is clean and presentable, change the wrapping paper and, most importantly, keep track of who gave the gift to you originally.

The tipping point: Many workers rely on receiving tips in order to pay for their holiday season. As always, tipping is a personal issue and dependent on the service received. Several online resources offer a

guide to what is appropriate. If you can't find the extra money in your budget this year, show your appreciation with a homemade gift or baked good.

Don't take a financial holiday: Open your credit card bills as soon as they arrive and verify all the transactions are correct. You have 60 days to challenge errors, and be sure to keep copies of all the correspondence. Most importantly, if you are faced with overwhelming debt, seek professional advice from an accredited credit counselor who can help get you back on track.



Givers, beware holiday scam artists

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

solicit via the telephone. Ask the solicitor for the charity's mailing address so that you can send them a check directly. When in doubt, call the charity yourself and ask them if they're aware of the solicitations being done in their name.

Know your charity - Many more organizations push for donations during the holidays. Research your charity before making the decision to donate. If they offer you very little information, they may not be legitimate. A legitimate charity will give you information describing its mission, how donations are distributed and proof that your contribution is tax deductible.

DONATION USE

How is your donation used? One of the most important things to consider when making a charitable contribution is how much of your money actually goes to the charitable cause. Most

charities are required to register and file annual reports showing how donations are used. You can ask how to find this information at your state or local consumer protection agency.

Contribution collectors - Individuals who go door-to-door or position themselves in high traffic areas should be carrying proper credentials and identification. These individuals should be knowledgeable about the organization and be able to provide you with informative materials about the charity. Ask for written information and the solicitor's identification to validate the organization. For security and tax record purposes, it's important to pay by check when giving a contribution and write the charity's official name on the check.

Mail scams - Holiday greetings may not be the only thing crowding your mailbox. This time of year, watch for appeals for donations. If you do not recognize the name of a particular charity, you can

check out their legitimacy as well as their efficiency with your money at the BBB Wise Giving Alliance website, www.give.org.

Email scams - Be skeptical of emails seeking charitable contributions. Many unsolicited messages received through email are fraudulent. Do not respond to these emails as many of them ask you to send money to an off-shore bank account.

Additionally, a fraudulent charity email may have an attachment, offering you more information. Be aware, as many times these attachments contain viruses. It is always important that any charity-related email include a link to an authorized website. You should also be skeptical of any charity email or website that requires you to enter your social security number.

Promised prizes - Be cautious of guaranteed sweepstakes winnings in exchange for your contribution. This may not be the type of holiday gift you are looking for.

Fraudulent sweepstake mailers encourage consumers to return the apparent 'winning' entry along with a donation to the charity named in the promotion. The wording in the mailer makes it seem like the recipient is already a winner. Be skeptical if a solicitor thanks you for a contribution you don't remember giving.

Other options - Instead of donating money to a charity, consider volunteering your time. Contributing your personal time to help others can mean much more than simply writing a check. You can also donate toys, clothing or non-perishable food and make it part of your holiday tradition.

Adamant demands - Refuse any high-pressure requests for your contribution. Legitimate charities usually don't require people to give at a moment's notice. An established charity will still be willing to accept your donation, even if you take some time to research first.



Caribbean Today

Street Address:
9020 SW 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33157
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6010
Miami, FL 33116-6010
Telephone: (305) 238-2868
(305) 253-6029 • Fax: (305) 252-7843
Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-290-4550
1-800-605-7516 • Jamaica: 654-7282
E-mail: editor@caribbeantoday.com
Send ads to: ct_ads@bellsouth.net
Vol. 20, Number 12 • NOV. 2009

PETER A WEBLEY
Publisher

GORDON WILLIAMS
Managing Editor

SABRINA HOPKINS
Graphic Artist

DOROTHY CHIN
Account Executive

SHARON LEE
Account Executive

CARMEN CHANG
Account Executive

JACQUELINE RUBIANO
Accounting Manager

Caribbean Media Source
Media Representatives

Opinions expressed by editors and writers are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Caribbean Today, an independent news magazine, is published every month by **Caribbean Publishing & Services, Inc.** **Caribbean Today** is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photos. To guarantee return, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Articles appearing in **Caribbean Today** may not be reproduced without written permission of the editor.

VIEWPOINT

www.caribbeantoday.com

We are the T&T gov't in Miami ~ CG

Laura Marie West, newly appointed Trinidad and Tobago consul general in Miami, is still settling into South Florida life. But she has been making the rounds at events hosted by nationals of the twin island republic, reaching out to the diaspora. *Caribbean Today's* freelance writer Dawn A. Davis caught up with her at a recent leadership seminar hosted by Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora, Inc.

activities and we have priorities to accomplish the vision. We want to be resilient, productive, innovative, and prosperous. We want our citizens to have a high quality of healthcare, safe communities, and sound and relevant education. We would like our people to progress in ways that could take the good out of developed countries and leave the negatives where they are, and hope that we can contribute to a global community that will be more positive. We are a diverse nation; in Trinidad we are a rainbow of colors. The diversity and creativity of all our citizens is key to getting our vision on the way.



West

Question: What is the consulate's mission? How do you see your role?

Answer: We have defined four missions: An economic mission, a security mission, a consular mission and a political mission. But, I will focus on the consular mission. The level of service afforded to nationals traveling and living abroad, in addition to seeking to maximize the exported skills and investment potential of the diaspora, that's why I am here. At the consulate, we have the responsibility for promotion, pursuit, protection of the national interest. We promote trade and investment. We try to establish two-way business relationships with companies here and in Trinidad and Tobago. We develop bilateral relations with the United States. We provide national assistance. We notarize and authenticate documents like restoration of citizenship, certificates for pensioners. We are also effective for students who want scholarships. If somebody dies here, you have to get documents prepared in order to take that body back to Trinidad, so you have to come to the consulate to get it done. In other words, we are the government of Trinidad and Tobago in Miami.

Q: The Trinidad and Tobago government has developed a long-range development strategy dubbed Vision 2020. Can you expand on it?

A: Vision 2020 is based on five key pillars. It's really about how you get to where you want to get to. We are on a journey to make our vision real, and so we are involved in

Q: How do you market the twin island republic as a safe and attractive destination?

A: Because we are a nation, we are governed by laws. So, we want to make sure there is respect for law, for the law guides the principles of democracy...We are committed to good governance; we are a principled member of the global community, we are an effective regional leader. We want to nurture a caring society. You know when we were children and we did something wrong, you could get 'licks' from your aunt, your mother's friend, your grandmother. We want to go back to those days where it takes a village.

Q: The perception is that Trinidad and Tobago is far ahead of the rest of the Caribbean in relation to manufacturing and industry. Is this true?

A: Trinidad and Tobago is a model for other developing states. We were one of the first countries to move from oil into natural gas. Right now we are the world's largest producer of methanol and ammonium. We export 70 percent of the U.S. requirement for natu-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Those dreaded words: It's over

People, who for some reason have reason to cut the ties that bind, shake off the shackles of matrimony, cut loose from the tethers that tie, and separate from the person whom they once loved. Yes, I'm talking about that final split as you leave your spouse.

I have been privy to the insight of the minds of people and why they call it quits, and why they decide to take that plunge into the unknown. But the option of leaving is often far better than staying. And yet, some will still stay and wallow in the misery, despair and loss of self, preferring to tell their tales of woe to whoever will listen.

It's suggested that the number one reason why people part ways is because of money. Yes, money, the love of it, or the lack of it, is the root of all problems, and is enough to make couples go their separate ways. So many couples, married or not, have suffered and split because of financial folly.

In some cases they foolishly enter into the union and have a joint bank account only. Oops, big mistake, as money and love don't mix, and even though they think that they're in love and what's mine is thine, usually it ends up being all mine and not thine. So I advise you, keep a little mine for yourself, stashed away somewhere.

'BIGGER EYE'

In many cases, one party in the relationship has a bigger eye for spending than the other, resulting in resentment, as the imbalance is too much to bear. Sometimes the wife likes to keep up with the Joneses and spends far more than they earn, or perhaps he has a deficit problem and loves to gamble, buy liquor, spend on wine women and song.

Or perhaps it's just a matter of priorities.

"How can you want to



buy a plasma T.V. and we don't own a washing machine?" she cries, and so the quarrel begins until it's splitsville.



TONY ROBINSON

For whatever reason, this one pot to serve two, is a recipe for disaster, for invariably one will dip more often than the other.

In other cases, it's the borrowing syndrome, where either the man or the woman constantly 'borrows' from the other without having any intention of paying back. Usually it's a one-way street, with one always borrowing and never paying back, resulting in resentment and seething anger that can fester for years.

It's usually hardly ever mentioned, but sex, the love of it, or the lack of it, is also included in the reasons why couples call it quits. Oh sure, many people will outwardly say that it does not matter and will stick it out or take a lover on the side. But the long-term effects can be devastating, and they leave because of the sliding scale of sexual desire. As one man told me, "It's not that she stopped having sex with me, but that she no

longer desired me enough to want to have sex with me."

It wasn't only the physical act that he missed, but he was hurt that his woman no longer wanted him.

SPIN-OFFS

Oh yes, women have expressed the same sentiments too, but for some reason do not place as big a premium on it as do men. But you know that there are spin-offs and sub plots to this sex thing that all lead to the inevitable breakup, with the main one being infidelity.

A man will endure almost anything, but if his woman is unfaithful to him, then he's leaving the scene of her crime. Most men just can't handle it, to know that their woman lay with another man.

The info shows that fewer women will leave a man for this reason than the other way around, but she will leave if he takes her for granted or stops showing her attention.

So even when women will leave because they're taken for granted, men will leave because they're taken for a fool. It's said that hell hath no fury like a women spurned, but there's also much fury and rage in a man who's taken for a fool. Just check out those stories of murder/suicides and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

DR. LENWARD McCALLA

Practice of Optometry

- Comprehensive Eye Exams • Contact Lens fits
- Diabetic Retinopathy • Evaluations
- Glaucoma Treatment and Management
- Children's Examinations • Cataract Evaluations
- Post Lasik Care.

11417 S. Dixie Highway • Miami, FL 33156
(305) 378-1915

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS

PAUL W. MOO YOUNG, D.D.S.
FAMILY DENTISTRY

EMERGENCY WALK-IN SERVICE

- Cosmetic
- Restorative
- Preventive
- Oral Surgery
- Oral Cancer Screening
- Root Canal Treatment
- Orthodontics

Member American Dental Association
 Most Insurance Accepted

6701 Sunset Drive, Suite 114
 South Miami, FL 33143

(305) 666-4334

We are the T&T gov't in Miami ~ CG

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

ral gas on the Eastern seaboard. We are expanding exports to Chile and Peru, and other places. In addition, we are focusing on non-oil manufacturing systems. We are going into downstream industries from the oil, such as plastics and polyethylene.

Q: One of the keys to becoming a developed nation and attracting investment is good infrastructure. How is the government addressing that issue?

A: If you look at the last budget, you will see where the minister of finance mentioned that as the developed countries, we are now trying to make sure that you can cover the island in two-and-a-half hours. And so, the government proposes to build highways around the island that will facilitate ease of movement. The minister pointed out very clearly that it has taken the concept from developed countries. That is the kind of thing we do at the consulate. We look at scientific and technological advancement; we bring them to the attention of the government

and when it is feasible, they will in turn implement our recommendations.

Q: Where does the government, and the diaspora, stand on the Caribbean as one common market?

A: We were out front in pushing for the CARICOM Single Market; the economy comes on stream hopefully by 2014. The reason we did that is because CARICOM is our biggest trading partner. So, if the CARICOM is prosperous, we are prosperous. There are plans afoot now to help countries like Grenada and St. Vincent to train people so they can function in critical areas...The Summit of the Americas, attended by American President Barack Obama and held in Trinidad and Tobago, was very successful. The highlight really, was the fact that we were the first CARICOM country to host the Summit of the Americas. And we did it, not only for us, but also for the CARICOM.

Q: How strong is the relationship between the Trinidad and

Tobago government and the diaspora?

A: Our nationals know the businesses out there; they now know the services that we offer. So, the diaspora can contribute to making us more effective by their networking efforts and sharing that benefit with us. Of course, we do it on our own as well. We make business contacts. We put companies in Trinidad and Tobago in touch with companies in Miami and vice versa. But, we want our nationals also (to) be part of that process so that we might stay connected with them.

Q: Caribbean culture is well represented in South Florida. How do we make sure Trinidadian culture maintains its presence?

A: In addition to attending many of the events, we make contact with schools and universities to encourage them to teach "pan" (music). We encourage the transfer of knowledge to support innovation and creativity.



CARIB Comments

• **"Are we satisfied as a region, that our obligation and responsibility to create an environment and to provide an infrastructure which cater for the rights of all our people have been met? These are critical questions in need of urgent answers"** - St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas, who holds responsibility for health within the Caribbean community (CARICOM) quasi Cabinet, asks an important question in his message to mark World AIDS Day 2009, Dec. 1.

• **"A dark pall hangs over our country; a shroud over our women. Their freedom, their rights, their very lives sees no sun shine in the darkness of organized assault on their person, their dignity,**



their humanity" - Opposition Leader Lester Bird last month calling on the Antigua and Barbuda government to do more to safeguard women from rape.

• **"Ralph would like to entrench himself in power"** - Former St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Sir James Mitchell last month accusing the country's current P.M. Ralph Gonsalves of being power hungry.

• **"Wounded my (behind)! He just applied a plaster to those wounds, got right back on his horse and carried on riding all the way to yet another two world records"** - British sprinter Dwain Chambers admitting last month that any weakness Jamaican star Usain Bolt appeared to have had before this summer's World Championships in Athletics were figments of his competitors' imagination.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



Those dreaded words: It's over

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

you'll see that in most cases the man was a simple, quiet, humble man who just lost it because his woman took him for a fool.

I spoke to various men about this, and there was one common factor - they felt hurt by being taken for a fool.

"How could she really expect me to believe that management meetings would be held every Friday and Saturday until 3 a.m.? Better she tell me a decent lie, like her sister sick or something, but don't take big man for idiot," this guy told me.

POWER TRIP

The need for power is also a factor, and in these modern times, with so many women having big jobs and earning far more than their partners, it often leads to a shift in the balance of power. It often happens when the wife lands a great new high paying job, then suddenly she's aware that her net worth is great, she has money in the bank, has a platinum credit card, can buy stuff and doesn't really need her man for anything financial. She's now worth more than him and will let him know it.

One day he wakes up and he's wearing the skirt and she's wearing the pants.

Or it may happen suddenly if he loses his job and now has to depend on her income to support them both. She

calls the shots, she makes the plans, she pays the bills. It also happens if he doesn't own a place and moves into hers, marries into her family and has to live in her daddy's house. Then there's also the need for space which some couples never seem to understand. One party always seems to think that being intertwined like vines or snakes is healthy, and living like conjoined twins is the way to be. All that does is smother the relationship.

But if one dares to mention that they want space, it's instant grounds for breakup. And don't believe that it's only women either, for many men want their women to account for each hour of the day. "It's work then home to me, nowhere else, no gym, no karate class, no bible study, no girls night out, just me, yu hear?!"

The data is there, people break up for different reasons, while some remain and endure the misery.

But all is not lost, as some couples are happy together, they respect each other, respect each other's money, don't take each other for granted, respect each other's sexual needs, have no power struggle and communicate. They may be few and far between and may also fall in the older folks category, but they do exist.

seido1@hotmail.com



Love Lines for Your Valentine...

If you love them, tell them and win great prizes too!

Caribbean Today's "Love Lines for Your Valentine" contest offers you a chance to thrill the one you love with words.

Just write to us, in **NO MORE THAN 100 WORDS**, expressing the sweetest thoughts you can think of for your special Valentine.

You could win a trip for two on Air Jamaica to anywhere that they fly to in the Caribbean !!!



Entries must include the writer's full name, address and telephone number. Each writer is allowed one entry. Look out for the name of the winner and the winning composition, which will be published in the **March 2010** issue of Caribbean Today.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS **FEB. 15, 2010**

Send entries via email to:
ct_ads@bellsouth.net or address them to:

Caribbean Today

9020 S.W. 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33157, USA

FEATURE

www.caribbeantoday.com

U.S. Census 2010 holds key to welfare of Caribbean Americans

DAWN A. DAVIS

Are Caribbean-born immigrants moving out of Dade and Broward, the two South Florida counties with traditionally the highest concentration of those from the region? According to the latest United States Census Bureau estimates, this seems to be the trend.

A three-year comparison of social characteristics of Miami-Dade County shows a slight decline in residents with West Indian ancestry. Specifically, out of an estimated total population of 2.4 million for 2006, 2007, and 2008, West Indians accounted for 7.3 percent of the total for 2006 and 2007. However, by 2008 that number declined to 7.1 percent.

More significantly, however, the Caribbean population in Broward County shows the higher downward trend. Over the three years (2006-2008) the numbers have dropped steadily. Of the total 1.8 million residents in the county, the Caribbean population was estimated at 12.8 percent for 2006, 12.6 percent for 2007 and 12 percent for 2008. These numbers reflect a notable drop for a population that had been on the rise for the past 10 years.

However, this trend does

not only apply to West Indian residents, but foreign immigrants in general. The data also show some decline in foreign residents across the country.

It appears foreigners are either returning home or moving to other parts of the U.S. And, while there is speculation as to why, there are no definitive answers. A casual survey of several Caribbean-born South Florida residents revealed that some have relocated to, or are in the process of, moving to areas such as Atlanta, New York and the Carolinas in search of cheaper housing, higher paying jobs and lower cost of living. Others are returning to the Caribbean for various reasons, including economic hardships.

MARKETING

But, no matter where ethnic populations reside, the U.S. federal government is pulling out all the stops to ensure more citizens and residents participate in the 2010 Census. Besides being much shorter than past surveys, there is a big marketing push to reach immigrant popula-

tions and undocumented residents, groups that historically have not responded well to the census.

With hundreds of billions of dollars at stake, and congressional representation for states with residents correctly documented through the census, local and national officials are partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to get their residents counted.



- File photograph
The Statue of Liberty is a symbol of the freedom in the U.S. Caribbean immigrants have learned to embrace.

The U.S. Census 2010 website makes it clear.

"Census data directly affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more", the website explains. "That's more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period.

Spending just a few minutes to fill out your census form will help ensure your community gets its fair share of federal and state funding".

A voice for immigrant rights, Cao Anh Quan, chairman of the Refugee Advisory Council in the State of Florida, in a recent address to the Census 2010 Refugee & Immigrant Committee put it this way:

"Now more than ever, our

go count our people. Let's commit to each other to begin this journey as a part of the Brotherhood of all nations".

FEDERAL AID

Florida, with its large ethnic population, including Caribbean nationals and Latinos, could pick up much needed federal funding if all its residents are included in next year's census. Aware of this, the Census Bureau has already started its push. Bureau personnel met with ethnic media recently in a bid to reach those with historically low response rates. As such, readers, bloggers, viewers of media such as El Nuevo Herald, El Sentinel, Caribbean Today, Telemundo, Facebook and Twitter are expected to reflect information about the census.

With only 10 questions, and thus more "user-friendly", the census appears less intimidating than in the past. And, immigrant advocacy groups are pleased that Question 9 allows individuals to specify nationality. Specifically, race must be selected, but there is also room to include nationality, for example Jamaican, Trinidadian or Guyanese.

But New York-based immigration attorney Joan Pinnock, in her presentation to delegates at the recent

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)



- File photograph
The 2010 census offers Caribbean immigrants a chance to stand and be counted in the U.S.

country needs us. Now more than ever, we the people are its government. Now more than ever, we have traveled too far not to overcome. Let's

Ex-commissioner joins Bermuda's ruling party, hopes to break color barrier

IVAN CLIFFORD

HAMILTON, Bermuda, - Saying it is time for Bermudians to play their part in breaking down racial barriers, former Police Commissioner Jonathan Smith has joined the predominantly black Progressive Labour Party (PLP) that has been in power for 11 years.

Smith, who is white and the brother of former Education Minister Tim Smith, said he refuses to be corralled "into a political camp because of the legacy Bermuda has had."

The former education minister in the United Bermuda Party (UBP) government, in reacting to his brother's decision to joining the ruling party, said "sadly, we have historically defined people by which political party they join. This is as much the fault of individual biases as it is legacy of both the UBP and PLP.

"It will be refreshing when we can define political parties around how we expect them to govern. If he can help

by making the PLP government more accountable, transparent and responsive, then Bermuda should be the better for it.

"While I might not share the same political affiliation, I



Smith

am hopeful he can have a positive impact. It will certainly make for more interesting political debates around the family dinner table," he added.

BERMUDA'S WALL

Smith joined the PLP in August after previously turning down requests to join both the ruling party and the main opposition United Bermuda

Party (UBP).

"Bermuda is a better place when the status quo is challenged," he said. "Race has been Bermuda's Berlin Wall. Some choose to sit on the wall; some cower behind it; some hold it up. I'm convinced that the majority of

Bermudians have chosen to knock it down.

"In knocking it down, all must play a part in building the foundation for the future. We simply cannot keep doing things the way we have always done."

The former top policeman

said that he believes future generations of black and white Bermudians "deserve so much more than the legacy of what we've been left.

"It's up to all of us to play our part, to forge that way for-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

Sounds of the Caribbean

You can take a vacation in the islands overnight courtesy of *Sounds of the Caribbean*. You'll hear every variety of Caribbean music from Reggae and Calypso to Soca, Dance Hall, Steel Pan and more, from its earliest roots to the most contemporary hits. So, tune in with your favorite hosts "Rass" David Reuter, Jeanette "the Dutchess" Drew and Richard "Richie Rich" Davis.

Tuesdays through Fridays, 1am – 5am
Saturdays, 1am – 7am
Sundays, midnight – 6am

wlrn.org

Caribbean joins in observing World AIDS Day

The Caribbean joined the rest of the international community in observing World AIDS Day 2009 – Dec. 1 – with a recognition that much more needs to be done to provide the framework and infrastructure to ensure that the interventions by health authorities reach all people infected in the region.

St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas, who holds responsibility for health within the Caribbean community (CARICOM) quasi Cabinet, said that while the interventions in the past have contributed to the overall stabilization of the epidemic, there were still areas to be covered in order to effectively deal with the pandemic.

He said there have been important gains and advances in the Caribbean's response, and great strides have been made to meet the needs of the generalized epidemic. But the problem is still large.

"The evidence also shows, among other things, that in a comparatively small region, in 2007 an estimated 38 persons

died of AIDS each day and 20,000 persons became infected," Douglas said.

"It shows further that stigma and discrimination remain a barrier to scaling up prevention and treatment programs; and there continues to be considerable gaps (in some cases) in policies and legislation with respect to the inclusion and protection of the most at risk populations."

FRAMEWORK

Douglas said that the region must therefore provide the framework and infrastructure that are necessary to ensure that the interventions reach all populations, and that the supremacy of the human rights cannot be over emphasized.

A new report by UNAIDS shows that the HIV virus is now infecting Caribbean men

and women at an equal rate.

According to the UNAIDS-WHO AIDS Epidemic Update for 2009, released last month, the total number of people living with HIV globally is now 33.4 million. Of these, adults comprise 31.3 million; women 15.7 million; and children under 15 years, 2.1 million.

The report noted that Caribbean men and women were contracting the deadly HIV virus in equal numbers and that there has been a nine percent increase in the number of persons living with the virus in the region. It also stated that after 28 years, the HIV epidemic is now "evenly distributed between males and females".

"With a total number of 240,000 people living with HIV in the Caribbean," said Arkadiusz Majszyk, director of the UNAIDS Caribbean Regional Support Team. "This is an increase of nine percent between 2001 and 2008."

- CMC



Douglas

U.S. Census 2010 holds key to welfare of Caribbean Americans

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

Jamaican Diaspora Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, explained at least one drawback.

"One of the fears of whether or not you should complete the census form is that people that are undocumented are scared," she said. "...Many of us come from Jamaica; we come here in visitors visas and we don't go back...So, my advice would be if you are undocumented or in a situation where you have family members who are undocumented, do not fill that information out."

Pinnock added that there is some talk of a new immigration bill coming out of Washington that she hopes will include amnesty for undocumented immigrants in the U.S. and allow them to get "green cards" or permanent

residence and not be penalized for being out of status. She urged the Jamaican diaspora to lobby representatives and let their voices be heard.

Jamaica's Ambassador to the U.S. Anthony Johnson, who also addressed conference attendees, urged Jamaicans to go even further.

"Become American citizens," Johnson said. "We would not regard it as disloyalty to Jamaica because with our constitution you cannot lose your Jamaican citizenship...If you become an American citizen you are entitled to all the rights and entitlements of Americans, which means you can go stand up with your placards...We must stand together."

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Ex-commissioner joins Bermuda's ruling party, hopes to break color barrier

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

ward. When history looks back we'll take great comfort if it describes that we paved the way that we put Bermuda first."

Traditionally, the overwhelming majority of whites, who account for 40 percent of the island's 65,000 population, have backed the UBP, which ran the country for 30 years until it was ousted from power by the PLP in 1998. The PLP has since won two more general elections and the UBP is facing a crisis after five of its 14 parliamentarians quit the party in the past 12 months.

Three former UBP legislators have since launched the Bermuda Democratic Alliance (BDA).

The ruling party's only white legislator, Zane DeSilva, was recently sworn in as minister without portfolio in Premier Ewart Brown's 11-strong Cabinet. Prior to her appointment, the only other white member of the government was Tourism Minister David Allen, who died of cancer in 1999.

SAME GOAL

Smith, who served as police commissioner until 2005, said all three political parties aspire towards the same goal: a successful economy, improved public safety and jobs for Bermudians.

"Several things are clear to me in making this decision: Bermuda must come first. I'm committed to a path of reform, modernization, social justice and expansion of the

economic opportunities for all Bermudians laid out by the Progressive Labour Party," he said in explaining why he joined the ruling party.

"Politics must be about the people. Politics also presents choices for us as voters and as citizens of the country we love. We need to refuse to be corralled by the politics of the past, which virtually determined where the 'X' in the ballot box would go.

"There is so much more which binds us together than keeps us apart. In making this choice, I'm very optimistic about the journey we face," he said, noting that the journey is "more than just race." "We stand at particularly difficult crossroads in time and to the extent that any Bermudian can help - all Bermudians should help and choose the vehicle they believe best enables them or empowers them to contribute to Bermuda's future.

"We have much work to do together on the many strategic issues facing the country and I'm pleased to lend my support to that effort."

Smith said he had enjoyed a good working relationship with the government while he served as the island's top cop, even though then, he had no political ambitions. He insists that he is merely a member of the PLP and has made no formal steps to become anything more at this stage.

- CMC



Within Your Reach

GREAT RATES*

We're reaching out to you with great rates.
Now spending less on fees could mean sending more.
MoneyGram rates... makes it money well sent.

THE POWER IS IN YOUR HANDS.

MoneyGram
International Money Transfer

*Lower standard fees to send money.

Many convenient agent locations across Jamaica provided by:

SUPREME VENTURES FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
A member of the Supreme Ventures Group

ALLIANCE
A member of the Alliance Group

JN

REMITTANCE SERVICES

LASCO
Remittance Services

Ex-Fugees Wyclef, Lauryn Hill set for reunion on stage in N.Z.

NEW YORK - It will be a reunion of sorts in New Zealand early in the New Year for former Fugees members Wyclef Jean and Lauryn Hill.

Jean and Hill are slated to perform on Jan. 23 at the Ragamuffin Music Festival, in Rotorua, according to organizers. It will be the first time in years that the two will share a stage.

The Ragamuffin Festival will be Hill's first performance since she canceled her 2009 tour in June, citing health reasons.

Though the Fugees only released two albums, their second, "The Score", has sold over 20 million copies worldwide, and a follow-up has been highly-anticipated/ allegedly in the works for years.

The Ragamuffin Festival will also feature some of reggae's top performers, including Julian Marley, Sly and Robbie, Sean Kingston and Shaggy.

- *CaribWorldNews*



'Catch A Fire' for Grammy Hall of Fame

Bob Marley & The Wailers' "Catch A Fire" album is among several recordings set to be inducted in the 2010 Grammy Hall of Fame.

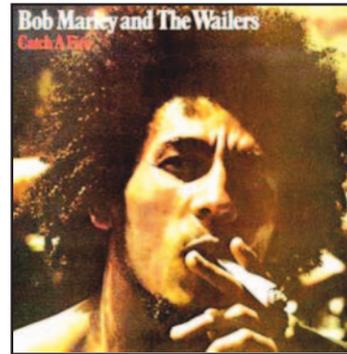
The album was recorded by Island Records in 1973. It established the band as international superstars, leader Bob Marley in particular. The socially aware lyrics and militant tone surprised many listeners, but others were attracted to songwriters Marley and Peter Tosh's confrontational subjects and optimistic view of a future free from oppression.

"Catch a Fire" peaked at #171 and #51 on Billboard's (North America) Pop Albums and Black Albums charts, respectively. It is number #123 on Rolling Stone's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time, the second highest placement of the four Bob Marley albums on the list.

Other selections include songs from Bo Diddley, Judy Garland, Harry James & His Orchestra, the Isley Brothers, Mahalia Jackson, Janis Joplin, Gene Kelly, Johnny Mercer,

Jelly Roll Morton and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

"This year's Grammy Hall of Fame inductees highlight a diverse array of masterpiece recordings that have had a profound impact on our musical



history," Neil Portnow, president/chief executive officer of The Recording Academy, was quoted as saying recently.

The Recording Academy's National Trustees established the Grammy Hall Of Fame in 1973 to honor recordings of lasting qualitative or historical significance that are at least 25 years old.

- *CaribWorldNews*



Deported rapper Shyne visits prison

BELMOPAN, Belize - Moses Michael Levivy, better known as the Shyne, is sharing his experience in a New York prison with prisoners in Belize.

The rapper, Belize's most famous deportee, visited the Hattieville Prison on Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day in the U.S., where he spoke to about 400 inmates.



Shyne

His visit was planned to inspire the inmates. He told them that he never thought that a "young

dude" who had a hard life in Curassow Street would reach the highest level in America culture. He said that he made \$30 million, and said he did records with Usher and Justin Timberlake among others while shooting a video while in jail.

"Anything is possible," Levivy said.

The son of Belize Prime Minister Dean Barrow urged the prisoners not to sit in prison and cry, but plan their lives out as he did.

- *Oscar Ramjeet/Special to CaribWorldNews.*



Jamaican drums up solutions in music at South Florida schools

Jamaican, William "Willie" Stewart has taken his distinct style of drumming into South Florida's schools.

For the last eight years he has been teaching the into Broward County institutions, sharing his knowledge and experience with the students. Working with young persons, motivating, uplifting and empowering them led to the creation of his company Solutions in Music.

After 23 years with the international reggae band Third World, Stewart has become a drum instructor and drum therapist, while pursuing his passion of teaching. Today, he continues to work with youth, teaching them the history and art of drumming, as well as the ability to focus and communicate using their creative talents.

Recently, Stewart took his technique center stage, working with students from two South Florida schools during a drumming workshop staged at the Broward Center Performing Arts (BCPA) in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The students were scheduled to come from Parkway Middle School and Winston Park Elementary.

FUSION

Through the educational interactive program "Art Inspires", the BCPA has fused education with the arts, giving students the opportunity to interact and work with world-renowned practitioners in tra-



- Photographs by dianeschafer photography

Stewart works with participants at a recent interactive workshop.

ditional art forms. For three years, the BCPA and Broward County Public schools have presented "Arts Inspires..." a workshop that introduces students to South Florida's multicultural community. It features well-known teaching and performing guest artists who are passionate about their art form and willing to share with the students, particularly those who are interested in pursuing the arts.

"We are excited about

this session. This program will further enhance and continue to nurture our cultural relationship with Jamaica," said Jan Goodheart, BCPA's public affairs director.

In 2006, the BCPA forged an alliance with the Consulate General of Jamaica, resulting in a range of successful performances including the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica (NDTC), Dem Three Jamaican Tenors,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

VISIONS ON 'CARIBBEAN CANVAS'



Caribbean artists attempt to come to terms with a variety of issues, ranging from self, identity and community, migration, national politics, hope and disillusionment about older models of organization of art and society, and art and the making of history, through their work which will be on display at an

exhibition opening this month in South Florida.

"Caribbean Canvas: Identity in an Era of Globalization" officially opens Dec. 5 and runs through January at Multitudes art gallery, Contemporary Art Center @TeleAmerica in Miami.

Among the artists whose work

will be on display are Edouard Dubal Carrie, Maritou, Alejandro Mendoza, Turgo Bastien, Genevieve Lahens, Philippe Dodard, Franklin Sinanan, Guy Syllien, Francesca Lalanne, Kristo Nicholas and Peter Wayne Lewis.



Reggae meets rap for National Geographic discussion

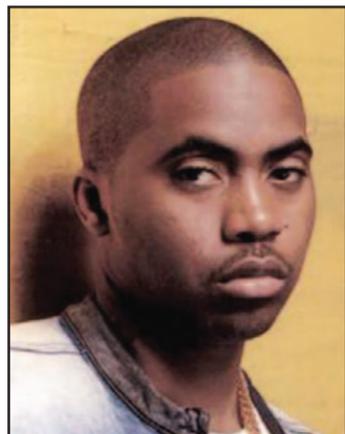
WASHINGTON, D.C. - Grammy-winning singer Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley and Nas are set to come together this month for a National Geographic discussion on the cultural links of hip hop and reggae.

The National Geographic's Grosvenor Auditorium here will be the location for the Dec. 12 discussion that will see Marley and Nas focusing on the Caribbean and African links of the musical genres. The discussion will travel the journey from Africa through the slave trade to the American and Caribbean colonies, spawning both the dancehall parties of Jamaica and the park jams of The Bronx, said a statement released last month.

Titled "Distant Relatives", the event will also include DJ Kool Herc, Rakim, Daddy U-Roy, King Jammy,

Jeff Chang and Moussa Lo and DJ Red Alert.

DJ Kool Herc is often seen as the "Godfather" of



Nas

hip hop who brought about the music elements of the culture to The Bronx as early as 1973. U-Roy is a rarely-credited rap pioneer for his 1969 hit "Wake The Town", recorded



Damian Marley

in Jamaica the same year Herc moved to the United States.

It will also be streamed live at www.natgeomusic.net. For more information, visit www.nglive.org.

- *CaribWorldNews*



Jamaican drums up solutions in music at South Florida schools

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Jamaica Farewell and Reggae Symphony.

LEARNING

The students participating in the workshop with Stewart were scheduled to share a two-hour session in drumming techniques, coordination and creativity, the role of percussive music forms in ritual and culture, and team building. Stewart calls this technique "liberating learning through rhythm." Through his demonstrations, Stewart intends to expose students to the history of Jamaican music, tracing the

genres from slavery through modern day popular culture.

Following the practice sessions, the students will be allowed to perform with their drumming instructor to soundtracks from international reggae artists Bob Marley, to an invited audience of educators, art enthusiasts, patrons of the BCPA, media and friends.

Through his passion, Stewart expresses his love for his homeland as a reggae "ambassador" and would also like to introduce his drumming techniques as part of the curriculum in Jamaican schools. He boasts of his worldwide

collection of nearly 100 drums of all sizes and designs. Each one, he says, signifies a different rhythm and sound, creating a distinctive, grating sound unique to the ear.

Drumming originated in West Africa and was transported across the world during the slave trade. This sound was a distinct form of communication to the slaves during rituals.

While he continues his program with schools, Stewart's goal is to educate the young ones about the drumming history, as a communication tool, leadership qualities, team building, and for those who want to pursue career goals in music specifically with an interest in percussions.

"I want to empower and inspire the young people," he said. "We all have rhythm and this kind of involvement teaches history, culture, and helps us to find an inner self."

Through his Solutions in Music teaching company, he has also done workshops with small groups, corporations, universities and community



- Photographs by dianaschafer photography

Stewart in action around his drum set.

groups around the globe.

Along with other band members, Stewart began working with students in Jamaica during his time as the drummer with Third World. He has also worked in the music industry as a songwriter, music technologist, programmer, instructor/facilitator and director.

During that time, Third

World produced 13 record albums. The band has shared stage performances worldwide with stars like Marley, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder.

Stewart feels blessed with the ability to communicate through drumming and is interested in sharing this experience.

"I am now focusing on sharing my talent with others - young persons interested in the developing leadership qualities and self empowerment and personal development," he said.

Stewart also expresses contentment and a deep sense of spirit as he has blended his passion of teaching, service to the community and his talent of communicating through music, specifically drumming.

- *Information obtained from the JIS.*





Office of Chairman Dennis C. Moss
Board of County Commissioners-District 9



"...Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant"

Congratulations!!!
to Caribbean Today on your
21st Anniversary

<p>Downtown Office 111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 320 Miami, Florida 33128 Phone: (305) 375-4832 Fax: (305) 372-6011</p>	<p>District North 10710 S.W. 211 Street, Suite 206 Miami, Florida 33189 Phone: (305) 234-4938 Fax: (305) 232-2892</p>	<p>District South 1634 N.W. 6th Avenue Florida City, Florida 33034 Phone: (305) 245-4420 Fax: (305) 245-5008</p>
---	---	---

Wawman G. Bannerman, M.B.A Chief of Staff <http://www.miamidade.gov/District09>

"Oh...Delicious!!"



OCHO RIOS

Email: info@ochoriosfoods.com • www.ochoriosfoods.com

Miami • Ocho Rios Miami, Inc. • 3675 NW 71 Street • Miami, FL 33147-6525
Tel: (305) 696-1237 • Fax (305) 691-0911

Atlanta • Ocho Rios Atlanta, Inc. • 1989 Tucker Ind. Road • Tucker, GA 30084
Tel: (770) 908-8866 • Fax: (770) 908-8845



FOOD

www.caribbeantoday.com



'Tis the season for a Christmas/wedding cake...Caribbean style

Christmas comes this month and Caribbean people are often in the baking mood during that season.

Here's one version of a Christmas/wedding cake obtained from the online site Caribbean Recipes:

Ingredients

- 12 eggs
- 1 pound of butter
- 2 cups of currants
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 2 1/4 cups of sugar
- 1 cup of strawberry jam
- 2 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon of allspice
- 2 cups of seeded raisins
- 2 cups of seedless raisins
- 2 1/2 cups of chopped dates
- 4 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon of ground cloves
- 1 1/2 teaspoons of baking soda
- 1 3/4 cups of slivered almonds
- 1/2 cup of brandy or pineapple juice
- 1 (10 ounce) can of crushed pineapple
- 1 (12 ounces) bottle maraschino cherries
- 2 cups of citrus peels or mixed glace fruit
- 2 cups of sugar (additional sugar listed below)

Method

Day 1

In a large size bowl, meas-

ure the raisins, nuts, currants along with the citron peel. Drain the cherries and reserve the juice.

Chop cherries. They should measure about one and a quarter cups. Then add to the fruit mixture. Stir in the brandy and soak it overnight

Note: You can also do this a few weeks in advance and let it sit in the refrigerator and let the fruit soak right in the brandy for more flavor if you like.

If you decide to do it the day before baking, cover it with the plastic wrap and then leave on top of the counter at room temperature.

In a large size sauce pan or a heavy dutch oven, simmer the entire contents of can of pineapple with two cups of sugar and cook it uncovered for at least 30 minutes until it thickened.

Frequently stir and make sure the heat is not too high. When cooled off, stir juice from the jar of maraschino cherries. Note: It should not be more than a half-cup and the strawberry jam.

This mixture doesn't have to be done the day before baking, but it does have to be cool before you add it to the cake.

Note: It is recommend that you do this step on the day of baking.

Now prepare the cake pans by greasing and lining with wax double thickness of heavy brown paper. Brown shopping bags do well or use aluminum foil with dull side out. Grease paper or aluminum foil well. Use any size pans you wish, but leave an inch space at the top of pan. The total weight is 11.5 pounds.

Preheat the oven to 275 degrees Fahrenheit.

Sift or stir the flour with the spices, salt and soda until its well mixed.

Use a cup of flour mixture and sprinkle over fruits and nuts then toss it until they are well coated with the flour. Set the remaining three cups of flour aside.

In a large measuring bowl, cream two and a quarter cups of sugar with the butter. Beat in eggs one at a time. Stir in dry ingredients, alternating with pineapple mixture.

You must make about three dry and two liquid additions, combining lightly after each addition.

Pour over flour-coated fruits and nuts and mix until well combined. Turn into the prepared pans, fill them to about an inch from the top.

Bake in a preheated oven for about three to three and a half hours depending on pan



- File photograph

A beautifully decorated Christmas cake can add cheer to the holidays.

size. Place in a shallow pan of water on the lower rack for added moisture if you'd like.

The cake should be fairly firm in the center and a skewer inserted right in the center should come out clean.

Remove from the oven and allow to cool in pan for five minutes. Remove from pan then peel off paper and then let it cool on a rack.

When cooled off, wrap it in cheesecloth that has been soaked in the brandy, rum, black wine along with liquor, or either fruit juice. Then wrap the cake in tin foil (leaving the cheesecloth on the cake). Freeze if not being used right away.

Note: you can soak fruits around the end of October for a couple of weeks in the refriger-

ator, then in mid-November, bake the cake and freeze it. Every couple of weeks, take the fruit out and re-soak the cheesecloth in the liquor and wrap it back up and re-freeze.

OPTIONS

By the time Christmas comes back around you will have a moist cake. Note: You can use fruit juice if you do not want any alcohol.

You can also decorate the cake with almond paste or your favorite icing or just serve it plain.

Note: You can substitute strawberry jam with marmalade or any flavor jam. You can use alcohol to flavor it or not.

You can also serve it as a Christmas fruit cake or use it to make a wedding cake.

This recipe makes enough cake to fill a set of three graduated wedding cake pans (7.5 inches, 5.5 inches, and a four-inch pan).

The cakes are about two inches high and the total weight is about 11.5 pounds.

If you were to cut the cake up for a wedding, it would serve at least 100 to 150 people, depending on how small you want pieces to be.



From our Aisle to your Isle, Merry Christmas

Along with the freshest produce and finest meats, you'll find a large selection of affordable island spices and specialty ingredients in our aisles at Publix. So, to make your favorite Caribbean Christmas dishes with all the flavor of back home, come to Publix!

Enjoy Caribbean specialties like these this holiday: Black Cake (Jamaica), Conch Lambi (Haiti), Jug Jug (Barbados), Guava Duff (Bahamas), Sorrel (Trinidad and Tobago), and everybody's favorite, Glazed Baked Ham.

Publix.

Forecaster closes book on 'very inactive' hurricane season

COLORADO, United States – Colorado State University hurricane forecaster William Gray has closed the book on the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season that officially ended on Nov. 30.

Because El Niño has created strong wind shear over the tropics, "the odds of a storm are very, very small from this point on," said Gray late last month.

But the Florida-based United States National Hurricane Center (NHC) said it's possible that the wind shear could relax over the coming weeks, with the waters in the Caribbean still warm enough to support storm formation.

NHC spokesman Dennis Feltgen warned not to "raid the hurricane kit yet." Feltgen said that the hurricane season looked like it was over in mid-November, but, then, Ida formed in the western Caribbean. He said it wouldn't be unusual for a storm to develop in the Caribbean this month.

"Tropical cyclones have

been recorded in every month outside of the standard June-through-November period," Feltgen said.

LOW NUMBERS

But Jeff Masters, chief meteorologist of the Weather Underground, said that since 1950, in the years that El Niño has emerged, only three named storms have developed in the Atlantic after Nov. 15. El Niño is created by a warming of the equatorial eastern Pacific Ocean. It generates wind shear – a change in wind speed or direction – and instability in the atmosphere, which acts to disrupt storms before they can build and strengthen.

Gray said there have only been nine named storms so far this year, including three hurricanes. He said the average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes.

"It was a very inactive season," Gray said.



FIGHTING FOR CANCER CURE

Sandra Griffiths, second left, Jamaica's consul general in Miami, accepts checks on behalf of the Jamaica Cancer Society from Florida-based Dr. Wentworth Jarrett, right, who spearheaded a series of yoga salutations in October which raised over \$5,000 to fight breast cancer. The funds were given to the JCS and the Vitas Hospice Charitable Fund. Marion Robinson, left, of Inochi Incorporated, and Sandra Jarrett, the doctor's wife, also attended the presentation.



U.S gives HIV/AIDS help commitment to Guyana

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - The United States says it will continue to support the programs that have led to a reduction in the spread of the deadly HIV virus in Guyana, even as it warned that there are likely to be "obstacles that threaten the success of our future HIV prevention, treatment and care efforts."

In a statement marking World AIDS Day 2009, on Dec. 1, Karen Williams Washington, charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy here, said Guyana cannot succeed in the fight against HIV/AIDS alone, and the U.S. is committed to working with its global partners to support Guyana's leadership in this effort. She said that over the next five years, the U.S. will place renewed emphasis on partnering with Guyana to build the country's national HIV/AIDS response.

"We will continue to work together with all sectors of Guyana as they craft strategies and programs to combat HIV/AIDS and support the Government of Guyana as it engages international partners, civil society and non-governmental organizations," Williams Washington said.

She noted that as part of the U.S. Global Health Initiative announced by



Williams Washington

President Barack Obama, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) will support Guyana as it works to further integrate and expand access to other health care services, such as those that address tuberculosis, malaria, maternal and child health and family planning with HIV/AIDS programs.

UNWAVERING

PEPFAR is the largest commitment in history by any nation to combat a single disease and the U.S. is unwavering in its commitment to its partner nations.

"On World AIDS Day 2009, we recommit ourselves

to furthering our achievements and look forward to continuing the battle against this global epidemic," she said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than four million individuals in low and middle income countries currently have access to anti-retroviral treatment.

"Thanks to our many partners, the American people, through the United States support more than half of those men, women and children on treatment," Williams Washington said.

"In Guyana, PEPFAR has allocated more than US\$100 million to the HIV/AIDS epidemic over a six-year period. At the end of September 2009, the national program, with the support of PEPFAR, had provided life-saving anti-retroviral therapy to 2,737 people and HIV care and support services to 5,399 persons infected with and affected by HIV."



CARICOM releases song on climate change

The Caribbean community (CARICOM) Secretariat has released a song outlining the region's position on the impact climate change is having on small island development states (SIDS).

The song, "1.5 to Stay Alive", written and performed by the Barbadian poet Adisa "AJA" Andwele, combines the "rapso" tradition, which is poetry performed to calypso and other rhythms from the Caribbean, and also features the voice of Barbadian singer Indrani.

The song was commissioned by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the CARICOM Secretariat and was released as the region finalizes its position ahead of the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) to be held in Denmark this month. The venture has also received support from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC).

"The theme of the song refers to the Centigrade degree limit to which global surface temperatures can rise before...SIDS are severely compromised in their ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change", the CARICOM Secretariat noted in a statement.



Trevor L. Salmon, D.D.S.
Family Dentist

- Tooth Whitening & Other Aesthetic Services
- Crown & Bridges
- Implant Services
- Braces for Adults & Children
- Root Canal Treatment
- Dentures-Full & Partial-Repairs
- Extractions
- Gum Treatment

(954)735-3846 • (954)735-3326
Fax 954.735.1528
World Executive Building • 3500 N. State Rd. 7 • Ste. 150
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319

respected.

Stacy-Ann Frater, Esq.

The Firm is a full service law practice, with experience in commercial, family, probate, criminal defense, and administrative litigation, as well as, general corporate, international business, intellectual property, immigration, and government transactions.

Our dedication to quality, understanding of the law, trust, and respect all form the foundation for our long-standing relationships with clients and the community.

Practice Areas
Commercial Litigation
Criminal Defense

dh delancyhill
TRUSTED. RESPECTED. DEDICATED.
WE ARE YOUR LAWYERS.

phone: 786-777-0184
954-874-1736
web: www.delancyhill.com

Funding approved for Caribbean HIV/AIDS fight

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, CMC – The Global Fund to fight HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) will provide \$34.5 million to the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) to support the HIV response in the Caribbean.

The approval was made during the board meeting of the Global Fund last month.

Carl Browne, director of the PANCAP Coordinating Unit (PCU), who attended the meeting, said he was thankful to the entire PANCAP fraternity, including the UNAIDS Caribbean Regional Support Team, for

its hard work which “has borne wonderful fruit for the people of the Caribbean whom we serve.

“...I have no doubt that the same spirit of collaboration that brought us this far will see us through to the end,” he added.

PRAISE

Browne also praised UNAIDS and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for providing much of the funding to allow PANCAP to submit “a top notch” proposal to the meeting. Officials said the proposal received a Category 2 rating, which means that PANCAP can begin making

arrangements to access the funds almost immediately after the completion of certain procedural requirements and the signing of the grant.

PANCAP, established in 2001, is a regional umbrella organization which brings together national HIV programs partnering with regional and international organizations involved in the Caribbean’s response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

The Global Fund was created in 2002 with a mandate to dramatically increase resources to fight three of the world’s most devastating diseases - HIV, TB and malaria, and to direct resources to areas of

greatest need. It has since approved funding totaling

\$18.4 billion for 144 countries.



Olive Chung-James, M.D.

Olive Chung-James, M.D.

Board Certified Family Physician

children • adults • gynecology
• weight management

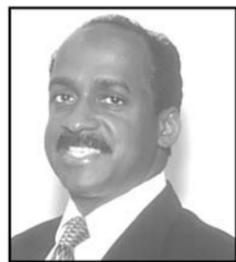
▲ Dr. Chung-James, practicing in Miami since 1983, well-known in the Caribbean community.

Conveniently Located Across From Jackson South E.R. at:

9275 SW 152 Street, Suite 204 • Miami, Florida 33157

Phone: 305-251-3975 • Fax: 305-251-9839

GENTLE FAMILY DENTISTRY



IAN C. JONES, D.D.S.

- Preventive Dentistry
- Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry
- Crowns, Bridges, Dentures
- Oral Surgery & Root Canals
- Bleaching of Teeth

6300 W. Atlantic Blvd. • Margate, FL 33063

(954) 956-9500



Caribbean launches public climate change campaign

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – The 15-member Caribbean community (CARICOM) grouping has launched a public campaign ahead of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Denmark.

The initiative is designed to promote the region’s unified position on climate change ahead of the Dec. 7-18 meeting.

The campaign under the theme “1.5 °C to Stay Alive”, is intended to support and “dramatize a common regional approach for mitigating the effects of climate change on the region”, which will be articulated at Copenhagen.

The CARICOM Secretariat said that the plan includes a digital display on the harmful effects of rising green house gases on the small island states (SIDS) and several video presentations on the how climate change is affecting human, animal and plant life in the Caribbean.



Carrington

COMMON APPROACH

Secretary-General Edwin Carrington said the common regional approach to mitigate

the “unmanageable consequences” of climate change was based on studies by the Belize-based Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). He said the study concluded that global average temperatures which exceeded 1.5 degrees centigrade would have devastating effects on the region including significant destruction of coral reefs, coastal barriers, and marine ecosystems, as well as excessive flooding and more intense hurricanes.

“It will erode much of the foundation of our tourism, our agriculture and our fisheries industry; it will wreak havoc on our plant-life, our forests and most of all dislocate our people. Immediate corrective action must therefore be taken if we are to avoid this widespread destruction,” Carrington said.



Ex-U.S. president expands malaria fight in Haiti, Dominican Republic

PORT OF PRINCE, Haiti, CMC — Former United States President Jimmy Carter has announced plans to expand a \$200,000 pilot project in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to curb the spread of malaria.

“One of the most important developments has been the new co-operation between the two countries,” said Carter while touring a Haitian hospital that treats malaria victims recently.



Carter

“And, for the first time in history, they are targeting the complete elimination of the disease, instead of just treating sick people.”

Carter said he was determined to travel to “the most distant and small and isolated and poverty-stricken villages in the deserts, in the jungles and in the poorest countries on earth” to wipe out diseases

that have long been distant memories in richer countries.

“It’s a very different kind of life than any person could sort of do while still in the White House,” he said.

U.S. health officials say about 30,000 Haitians and several thousand people across the border in the Dominican Republic are infected annually with the mosquito-borne illness. They say Hispaniola, the island that comprises Haiti and the Dominican Republic, is malaria’s last Caribbean outpost.

Carter said his pilot project, established by his non-profit Carter Center, has helped curb the spread of the disease in two towns about 10 miles apart on opposite sides of the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The former U.S. president said his program has funded nets treated with insecticide for residents to use, microscopes for lab technicians and motorbikes for field workers.



“Holistic Health Care”

Dr. Jarrett's
WELLNESS CENTER

for the whole Family.”

12955 Sw 132 St. 3B Suite 104
Office: 305-520-5750
Spa: 305-520-5699

www.drwjarett.com
www.miamiwellnesspa.com

www.caribbeantoday.com

SPORT

Jamaican leads team to first MLS title

Veteran Jamaica international player Andy Williams ended a roller coaster season on a high note last month by helping his team Real Salt Lake capture the Major League Soccer (MLS) title.

RSL defeated the Los Angeles Galaxy on penalty kicks to win the MLS Cup, symbol of North American champions, to bring a major professional sports title for the state of Utah.

Williams, who completed the 2009 season under the cloud of his wife Marcia's illness – she suffered from cancer, but is reportedly recovering and attended the game – played the full 90 minutes of regulation and additional 30

minutes of extra time which ended with both teams locked at 1-1. And despite Williams's own miss in the penalty shootout, RSL eventually prevailed 5-4.

Fellow Jamaica international Donovan Ricketts, the starting goalkeeper for the Galaxy, was forced to leave the game in the second half



Williams - File photograph

with an injured right hand suffered in a collision.

While most of the attention in the final appeared to focus on the Galaxy, with MLS regular season Most Valuable Player Landon Donovan and England international David Beckham, it was RSL which appeared the better team on Nov. 22. The Galaxy scored first, when Mike Magee finished off a good build-up involving Beckham and Donovan.

RSL equalized in the 64th through Robbie Findley and eventually took charge of the game.

Still, the score remained tied at the end of 120 minutes before the Galaxy missed three penalties to RSL's two. A clearly exhausted Williams broke into tears as his team celebrated the win and embraced several RSL and Galaxy team members and coaches.



Cricket Hall of Fame brings back memories of Caribbean legends

GORDON WILLIAMS

HARTFORD, Connecticut – Some of the greatest names in Caribbean cricket history are being immortalized in this northeastern United States city.

Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Vivian Richards, Michael Holding, Clive Lloyd and George Headley are among more than a dozen legends from the region who have earned induction into the Cricket Hall of Fame (CHF).

The CHF, which was established nearly three decades ago by the Sportsmen's Athletic Club (SAC) here, is designed to pay tribute to the game's best, especially those who have represented the region with distinction.

"It has dawned on us that everybody has recorded their own history except us West Indians," said CHF's Director Michael Chambers.

"What convinced us that we needed a hall of fame was when we met (Alf) Valentine and (Lance) Gibbs at the first induction ceremony, when they expressed their appreciation that nothing like this had happened to them; you know that you had to do it."

The two great spinners were inducted in 1981. Since then some 28 more "international" inductees have been selected. Among them are cricketers from non-West Indian countries, like

Australia's Greg Chappell, England's Tony Greig, Sunil Gavaskar of India and Pakistan's Mushtaq Mohammed. Jamaican cricket writer Tony Becca and the late



A photograph of West Indies legends Sir Garfield Sobers, left, and George Headley is part of the CHF.

Australian businessman Kerry Packer are also in the international wing of the CHF.

The "local" inductees are honored for their contribution to cricket in the U.S. and Canada.

The original idea for the CHF came from Jamaican-born Ken Wallace, who had a plan to set up a cricket museum. Trinidad native Errol Housain then took that concept a step further to include the hall of fame, which was established in 1980, with the first induction held the following year.

Chambers explained that most of the international inductees earn their spots for "accomplishments playing the

game." For the local group, the CHF looks "more to what they've done to move the game forward." In the future, he said, when there is better recordkeeping for competitions in the U.S. and Canada, players from those leagues could also be inducted.

"As of yet we can't really base it on a player's ability," said the director.

The CHF, located on Main Street, next door the SAC, features a variety of memorabilia, including signed



A sweater with shirt tucked inside, worn by Alf Valentine during his playing days, is on display at the CHF.

playing gear, books, printed articles, photographs, trophies and statues. Most of the inductees, including some of the biggest names in cricket, have journeyed here to attend the ceremony. The most recent was held early October,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Bolt, Richards win world athlete-of-the-year awards

Two Caribbean-born athletes were named world athletes of the year last month. Sprint megastar Usain Bolt of Jamaica and Jamaican-born American quarter-miler Sanya Richards both won the award for a second time. The 23-year-old Bolt collected the award for another sensa-



- Photograph by Getty Images

tional season of sprinting, which included world record times in the 100 and 200 meters at the World Championships in Athletics in Berlin last August, as well as a gold medal for Jamaica in the 4x100 relay.

The 24-year-old Richards, who was born in Trelawny before moving to the U.S. with her parents while a teenager, captured an elusive

maiden, global gold medal in her pet event in Berlin, and earned a second gold as part of the American team in the women's 4x400 relay.

Photograph shows Prince Albert II of Monaco, left, and IAAF President Lamine Diack, right, with Richards and Bolt at the IAAF World Athletics Gala in Monaco last month.



halfway tree
caribbean restaurant

	Small	Large
Jerk Chicken	\$7	\$9
Jerk Pork	\$7	\$9
Curry Chicken	\$7	\$9
Curry Goat	\$8	\$10
Brown Stew Chicken	\$7	\$9
Oxtail	\$8	\$10
Escovitched Fish	Market	
Brown Stew Fish	Market	
Ackee & CodFish	\$10	

	Small	Large
Callaloo	\$7	\$8
Liver	\$7	\$8
Ackee	\$7	\$8
Codfish	\$10	
Johnny Cake	\$7	
Fritters	40c	
Bammy	\$1.50 each	
Porridge	78c	
Roti	\$4	\$9

...and much, much, more!

Lunch Specials from \$3.99

Patties: Mild & Spicy Beef, Chicken and Veggie, Puddings and Jamaican Rum Cakes Available!

786-262-0469
NEW LOCATION!!!
18710 SW 107 Ave., Miami, FL 33157

USA TO JAMAICA & THE CARIBBEAN

"Your Cargo in good hands!"

**COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS/
PERSONAL EFFECTS**

- LCL (Less than Container Load) or Full Load Consolidation
- Weekly sailings to the Caribbean
- Immediate cargo arrival notification

We also offer:

- Pick-Up of cargo from anywhere in the U.S.
- Packing, Crating and Marine Insurance

MIAMI FREIGHT & SHIPPING CO. LTD.
(305) 885-0558
Fax: (305) 887-6684
7790 NW 46th Street • Unit 18 • Miami, Florida 33166 • email: xjohnston@miamifreight.net

SPORT

www.caribbeantoday.com

Caribbean American boxer loses unanimous decision, world title hopes

GORDON WILLIAMS

HARTFORD, Connecticut – A Caribbean American's dream of returning to the pinnacle of boxing took a big hit here last month.

Jamaican-born Glen Johnson, a resident of Miami, Florida, was defeated by Chad Dawson and in the process lost the chance to claim the American's International Boxing Organization (IBO) title, plus the interim World Boxing Council (WBC) belt in the light heavyweight division.

It was the second time in 18 months that Johnson found himself on the wrong side of a unanimous decision to Dawson. The two fought for Dawson's WBC title in April 2008 in Tampa, Florida. Last month's defeat, however, threatened to spell the end of the chase for a world title for the aging former champion known as the "Road Warrior".

"You know, he's 40 years old, still beats most guys," said Leon Margules of Seminole Warriors Boxing, which promotes some of Johnson's fights. "On the other hand, I don't know if he has the speed to beat a young, quick guy."

It was Dawson's speed of hands, feet and mind that caused Johnson's downfall in their 12-round contest at the XL Center on Nov. 7. The American constantly slipped out of the Jamaican's reach, keeping him at bay with sharp jabs.

Cricket Hall of Fame brings back memories of Caribbean legends

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

when India's Farokh Engineer was inducted, alongside locals Lesly Lowe, Austin Hutchinson, Lloyd George Dixon and Joslyn Chance Sr.

The majority of the international inductees are from the Caribbean.

"We justify it by saying that the era those guys played in, they were considered champions or number one performers at the time," said Chambers.



Johnson, left, and Dawson square off at the weigh-in before last month's fight.

"He was getting away from me," Johnson said while in his dressing room immediately after the bout. "He fought a good fight. He fought the way how he can be most successful."

That also included cleverly avoiding a brawl, which got him hurt in the first fight.

"I didn't want to go through hell again," Dawson admitted.

"I used my jab, I used my speed, outclassed him," he added. "I made him miss. He was too slow."

The judges agreed. Two

According to the director, the CHF offers a fitting salute to their efforts.

"What we do is give the players one last hurrah," said Chambers. "They come to the end of their playing career and they can now carry their induction honor into the hall of fame to their graves."

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



wider margin, 117 to 111.

CompuBox, which tracked the punches thrown in the fight, also gave Dawson a significant edge. The American threw more punches (756 to 688) and landed more (246 to 167), including jabs (104 to 77) and power shots (142 to 90).

Johnson, who before the fight believed that he needed to knock out the undefeated Dawson (29-0) to win in the American's home state, conceded that, unlike the controversial first fight, the judges' decision in the rematch didn't warrant much complaint.

"When it's that close it's

scored it 115 to 113 in Dawson's favor. The third had the American ahead by a

Windies suffer 'embarrassing' loss

The West Indies slumped to an "embarrassing" innings and 65 runs defeat to Australia in the first match in a three Test cricket series Down Under last month, despite a brilliant century from teenaged Trinidadian Adrian Barath.

Barath, 19 and making his Test debut, became the youngest West Indian to score a hundred after he blasted 104 runs in the second innings at The Gabba.

Australia batted first and

scored 408 for eight wickets declared. The visitors replied with 228 all out, fuelled by half centuries from Guyana's Travis Dowlin (62) and vice-captain Dinesh Ramdin (54). Forced to follow-on, the West Indies was bowled out for 187. The visitors lost 15 wickets for 280 runs in 76.1 overs on the final day of the match. West Indies captain Chris Gayle called the loss "downright embarrassing."

The West Indies will face Australia in two more Test

matches this month, followed by several limited overs games.



Palmer's
Restaurant

James Palmer

For Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

Lunch Buffet from 11:30am - 2:00pm
Monday-Friday
Closed on Sunday
See us for all your catering needs.

19501 NE 10th Avenue
Miami, FL 33179
305.655.1822
www.palmersteakhouse.com

SUPREME

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPERS & MOVERS INC.

Forwarders - Consolidators
Import & Export Services

<p>JOHN A. CLEMETSON DIRECTOR, NOTARY PUBLIC Tel: (786)336-0644</p>	<p>6921 N.W. 87TH Avenue Miami, Florida 33178 Fax: (786)336-0664 supremintern342@bellsouth.net</p>
--	---

Savings insured by the Jamaica Deposit Insurance Corporation

Make your financial vision a reality

CALL OR VISIT A VMBS BRANCH TODAY and start making your vision a reality.

...VM MONEY MAKER

Long-term Savings Account

- Minimum deposit J\$25,000
- Deposit a lump sum of up to \$1 Million per year
- Earn attractive TAX FREE interest on funds held for 5 years
- Interest calculated daily to maximize your returns
- Access up to 75% of the interest earned each year

* Conditions apply


The VICTORIA MUTUAL
Building Society
Florida Representative Office

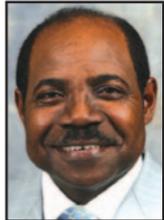
County Square Shopping Center
21461 NW 2nd Avenue
Miami Gardens, FL 33169
Tel: 305-770-2622 / 2643 / 2654
Toll-Free (FL): 1-877-770-VMBS (8627)
TeleCare (JA): 1-866-967-VMBS (8627)
Fax: 305-770-2656
Email: manager@vmbs.com
Website: www.vmbs.com

Time to upgrade product, market aggressively ~ Jamaica's minister

LONDON, England - Jamaica's Tourism Minister Ed Bartlett believes Caribbean countries should do whatever they can to upgrade their product and attract visitors in order to keep their economies afloat despite the global downturn.

Speaking at the World Travel Market (WTM) trade show here last month, Bartlett said his country has been able to maintain its position as a leading destination through an aggressive drive to upgrade its product and to market Jamaica as a place tourists want to visit.

"Well, we have had to be...we went out there and refurbished and refreshed ourselves in terms of our product offerings," he explained. "We added 5,000 to 6,000 new rooms, we added attractions and we improved our infrastructure. We had big investments in our airports and our highway systems...we recognized that if you have more rooms in a recession, you have to be aggressive, you have to go out there and market."



Bartlett

Jamaica has recorded a six percent increase in stay-over visitors this year.

"Those countries that have remained aggressive during this recession, the rewards have been in terms of increased arrivals in some cases and in other cases it is both an increase in arrivals as well as increased market share," Bartlett said.

'OPTIMAL'

But Bartlett described the latter as being the "optimal" way to go.

"It is, in fact, what you must do because when you're out of the recession that market share now is going to reflect itself in volumes - higher numbers which will give you the arrival explosion that you will need to drive your industry," he explained.

Bartlett said Caribbean countries have been using more aggressive marketing approaches to respond to the challenges posed by the recession, but that now is not the time to lax.

"If we don't quickly respond, we are going to be the region that is left out," the minister warned.



Haitian American moves up at Choice Hotels

NEW YORK - Haitian American travel executive Caroline Racine has been promoted to director of diversity sales within the global sales division at Choice Hotels International.

Racine, who ran the company's Caribbean Franchise Development efforts for two and a half years, has been given the responsibility for the growing multicultural markets segment.

Diversity and multicultural sales is a new division within the company's global sales department and in the newly established role Racine will be responsible for developing strategic direct sales, marketing and e-commerce solutions to help propel Choice as a leader in what is becoming a competitive market segment.

Jose Salvador Icaza, who previously assumed responsibility for franchise sales and development positions for the



Racine

Cambria Suites and Sleep Inn brands, has been appointed director of emerging markets and Caribbean Franchise Development, and will be aiming to build on the groundwork made by Racine in the region.

Launched about a year ago, Ascend Collection includes more than two-dozen upscale properties. With Ascend, Choice Hotels aims to lend marketing and operational support to drive business directly to smaller, one-of-a-kind Caribbean properties.

Racine has remained connected to the Caribbean region, assisting Icaza with his transition into his new role. She was recently in Haiti with Icaza to help establish relationships with key tourism and hotel stakeholders. Before joining Choice 11 years ago, Racine was lead account executive for America Online's interactive partnership marketing initiatives. She has also served in various sales and marketing positions in organizations such as The Discovery Channel.



St. Lucia ramps up courting of Asian American market

CASTRIES, St. Lucia - St. Lucia's tourism authorities are ramping up efforts targeting the Asian American market, with special welcome to Taiwanese Americans.

Louis Lewis, St. Lucia's director of tourism, said that on the heels of a recent familiarization visit of Taiwanese Americans, spearheaded by Bay Gardens Resorts, the island is anticipating the arrival of leading civil society activist Iris Ho, who is scheduled to participate in this month's Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Tourism (CMEx) at Coco

Palm's Conference Centre.

St. Lucia has explored the potential for "ethnic" tourism in the Caribbean and the tourism authorities are assessing the potential to market the island to Taiwanese Americans. CMEx was scheduled to meet under a theme which examines multicultural tourism markets, as well as climate change.



Ho

St. Lucia is one of a hand-

ful of nations in the Caribbean that recognizes the Taiwanese government.

"It's a long way from Taiwan, but we have hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese in America who remain attached to their home country," said Ho. "They are now a prosperous community and include many professionals and business people. Like most middle class Americans, they like vacations and we think they might like to show their appreciation to St. Lucia."



British travel duty to Caribbean destinations unjust ~ Chastanet

LONDON, England - St. Lucia's Tourism Minister Allen Chastanet, has blasted the recently imposed British Air Passenger Duty (APD) as "catastrophic" and "unjust," and strongly urged the United Kingdom to scrap it.

"First of all, it's a catastrophic tax and it's going to be immediately catastrophic to us in the region, particularly to the Caribbean where we're so dependent on tourism, it's not like we have something else to go to," Chastanet said of the APD, which was introduced on Nov. 1 and adds extra

charges for passengers flying from the U.K.

The Caribbean has been placed in a higher band than the United States, although some U.S. destinations are further away. As a result, passengers will pay a higher levy to fly to the Caribbean than places like Los Angeles and Hawaii.

The St. Lucian tourism minister, who was named "Caribbean Travel Personality of the Year" at the event, said the tax has come at a bad time for the Caribbean's bread and butter industry, which is

already reeling from the impact of the global recession. He further contended that the APD is illegal, a point the region has raised at the level of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Meanwhile, British lawmaker Sarah Teather has vowed to keep pressure on the Gordon Brown administration to revoke its "ridiculous" APD on passengers flying to the Caribbean.



AIR JAMAICA TO THE WORLD



Bruce R. Nobles, right, Air Jamaica's president and chief executive officer, is joined by Miss Jamaica World 2009 Kerrie Baylis and George W. DeMercado, the airline's senior director for global sales, to celebrate the honor of "The Caribbean's Leading Airline" received at the 2009 World Travel Awards in London, England last month. This is the 12th consecutive year Air Jamaica has received the award. The World Travel Awards celebrate the achievements in all sectors of the global travel industry. Voting is cast by travel agents in more than 190 countries.

Jamaica earned 16 awards at the event. Among them, "Leading Caribbean Destination", "World's Leading Cruise Destination" and "Caribbean's Leading Cruise Destination". Jamaica was also honored for its "Once you go, you know" advertising campaign, in a new category, "Caribbean's Leading Marketing Campaign". The Jamaica Tourist Board was recognized as the "Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board".

Dominicans vote for a new government on Dec. 18

ROSEAU, Dominica, CMC - Dominicans go to the polls on Dec. 18, with Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit confident that his ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) will be returned to power for a new five-year term.

"I am tonight ringing the bell...ladies and gentlemen, the day we shall choose between going forward and going backward...that day is Friday the 18th day of December 2009," Skerrit, 37, said while addressing a political meeting in the western community of Mahaut last month, urging supporters to give his party an overwhelming mandate.

The prime minister said 2010 would usher in a new era in Dominican politics, and called on supporters to "approach the new year with renewed vigor and enthusiasm."

"We need to clean the slate and start a fresh we need

to rally around a common cause to take the beautiful country of ours to the next level," he said.

The DLP won 12 seats in the last general elections, held



on May 5, 2005, while the main Opposition United Workers Party (UWP) won eight seats. The other seat was won by an independent candidate.

OPPOSITION

Meanwhile, in an immediate response to the announcement by the prime minister,

the UWP Leader Ron Green, on a privately-owned radio station, appealed to voters to "build a new way forward" by removing the Skerrit administration from office.

The UWP said it was preparing to contest all 21 seats at stake.

Apart from the UWP, the governing party is expected to face a revitalized DFP, which controlled the government of this mountainous Caribbean island from 1980 until 1995, but failed to win a single seat in the last elections. The DLP and the DFP formed a coalition government after the 2000 general elections.

Hotelier Judith Pestina, a former career local and international public servant, is heading the party that was once led by the late Dame Eugenia Charles. She said the party would soon announce candidates for the elections.

POLITICS BRIEFS

• Vincentians say no to new constitution

The government of Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves suffered a major setback after voters in St. Vincent and the Grenadines overwhelmingly rejected a new constitution in an historic referendum late last month.

Preliminary figures released by the Elections Office showed the "No" vote totaled 29,019, compared to 22,493 people casting ballots in support of changing the 30-year old constitution.

• Ruling party distances itself from 'Jagdeo Third Term'

The ruling People's Progressive

Party/Civic (PPP/C) has distanced itself from a campaign to get President Bharrat Jagdeo elected for a third consecutive term in Guyana.

The campaign is being led by a group calling itself the "Guyanese Coalition for Jagdeo Third Term" (GCFJTT) and is urging citizens to support a referendum that would allow the president to stand for a third term when Guyanese go to the polls in 2011. Under the Guyana Constitution, presidents are limited to two-five year terms.

• P.M. predicts 'clean sweep' in St. Kitts elections

Prime Minister Dr. Denzil

Douglas is predicting a "clean sweep" of the seats up for grabs when voters in St. Kitts and Nevis go to the polls to elect a new government.

In the last general elections, held Oct. 24, 2005, the St. Kitts Labour Party (SKNLP) won seven of the 15 seats in the Parliament. The main Opposition People's Action Movement (PAM) won a single seat. The prime minister, however, gave no indication as to when he would call the general elections due in 2010.

- Compiled from CMC

ROYAL WELCOME



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, right, stands with Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning, center, and India's P.M. Dr. Manmohan Singh during the opening of the 21st Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad last month.



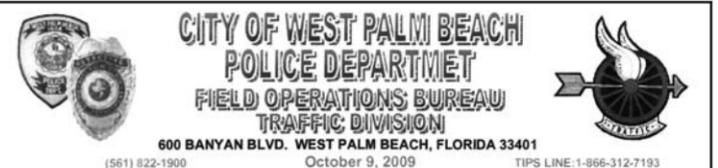
OWEN TAYLOR
Principal Agent

18001 Old Cutler Road, Suite 648
Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157
305.232.8222
Fax: 305.232.9334
Cell: 786.512.0174
otaylor@bellsouth.net

SERENA STROKE



American star Serena Williams, the world's top female tennis player, tries her stroke with a cricket bat during a visit late last month to Barbados to play in an exhibition series with the world's fourth ranked Caroline Wozniacki. Williams, a right-handed tennis player, shows a left-handed batting stance. She received a commemorative bat from ICC World Twenty20 West Indies 2010 Corporate Communications Manager Gayle Alleyne at the Sugar Hill Tennis Resort. It features the tournament logo and an image of a batsman on the blade, plus the tournament tagline "Captivating, Contagious Cricket" along with her name "Serena" on the back. The ICC WT20 West Indies 2010 championship takes place in four Caribbean countries - Barbados, Guyana, St. Kitts and St. Lucia - from April 30 to May 16.



INFORMATION NEEDED : HIT & RUN FATALITY



Geraldine Lauraine Haber
DOB- 11/24/1980
5'8" 130 lbs.
LSW- white tank top w/ pink poka dots & blue jeans

On Saturday, June 6th, 2009 at approximately 5:45 a.m. West Palm Beach Police received a report of a deceased white female in the westbound lanes of traffic of 45th St. at the intersection of Corporate Way. The female was later identified as Geraldine Lauraine Haber. Haber appears to have been struck by a vehicle.

At this time, the Traffic Homicide Unit is requesting any person with information concerning the accident or may have seen Haber prior to the accident is asked to contact the investigators below. Those wishing remain anonymous may call Palm Beach Co. Crimestoppers @ 1-866-458-TIPS.

Officer Karl Seifel
(561) 822-1630

Detective Dennis Hardiman
(561) 822-1666



Caribbean students likely to benefit from regional net of universities

CARACAS, Venezuela, CMC – Caribbean students are likely to benefit from a decision by the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) to establish a regional net of universities for member countries.

Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Honduras, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nicaragua and Venezuela are members of ALBA, which Caracas has been promoting as the alternative to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

A report in the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina stated that experts from

Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela have endorsed the constitution for the proposed network.

It said that the regional project was ratified at the first meeting of the ALBA-Education Training Groups and that the meeting here revised the agreements reached during the sixth Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State in Venezuela and of the second ALBA Education Workshop in Nicaragua. The projection includes the creation of a common program for the teaching of community integral medicine, education and energy.

“The idea is that the member countries incorporate to the development of the programs permitting the academic mobility and the development of common curricula for the countries, among other actions”, the report stated. It quoted Edgardo Ramirez, director of International Cooperation, as saying that the meeting considered that UNIALBA should be a net for the participation of students, educational, investigators, workers and productive sectors in the design of investigation lines.



Fishing to raise ‘The Village Curtain’

MARIE GREGORY

When Kingstonian Tony Tame began to write “The Village Curtain” he had specific ideas as to what he hoped to achieve.

The first aim was “to examine a specific segment of West Indian - and in particular Jamaican - society’s use of culturally unique survival techniques and the private atmosphere which tends to be produced within small Caribbean fishing communities”.

The second intention was “that readers will enjoy experiencing the sharp contrast between appearance and reality in what seems so picturesque and idyllic a place as the West Indies where the outcome of the best charitable, official and bureaucratic efforts is always uncertain at best”.

“The Village Curtain” is described on the cover as “A Jamaican Collection”. That is, perhaps, somewhat misleading. I expected a collection of short stories. True, the stories are there, full of interesting vignettes and characters who appear and reappear. Yet the framework is more that of a novel. The action needs to be followed chronologically.

There is no obvious human hero. The story deals with the sea, survival and the village culture. Tame has spent a lifetime in the marine industry. He admits that he has never earned a cent that has not come from his dealings with the sea. The first chapter and references throughout point to fishing - reading the weather, even dynamiting the coral reefs - testimony to his intimate knowledge. He is fascinated by the various methods used in fishing, sympathetic to the plight of those who eke out survival in that uncertain environment.

UNDERSTANDING

Characters in the book are treated with understanding. The human spirit is strong, as illustrated over and over whether through Sonia, the visiting American who falls in love with the Black River area and wants to develop tourism; Mikey, who survives a Florida prison and almost loses his life at sea; or Leo, who dynamites the reef and loses an arm yet is able to continue with an adapted method.

The hardships bind communities together, watched over by village elder “Mr. James”, a ganja grower, who dispenses white rum liberally, yet sticks to coconut water himself. The homespun wisdom of the man allows him to deal with people at all levels - politicians, charity workers, visitors and police - advising quietly, carrying on his own activities, ever hospitable yet never lifting the village curtain more than a few inches.

COMMENTARY

Social commentary is scattered throughout. We hear of the young officer from Kingston explaining basic seamanship to the men of the village who had fished the Pedro Banks since they

were 10 years old, and the Englishman who comes to the Police Force as deputy commissioner telling the press that he has not come to solve crime. Finally, there is the “Charity Man”, so called by “Mr. James”. Here is the disillusioned do-gooder who

sees his projects diverted from their original intent.

Tame is a master of understatement.

We are allowed glimpses of lives in the community. The curtain is never lifted completely.

The final vignette is of the dog, “a formal sort of dog”, passing to other owners after the death of Myra, the love of his life. Nameless, loyal, knowing, the dog becomes an alcoholic after being given rum in the local bar. The chapter, which deals with the death and burial of the animal, is touching.

As the story closes and “Sonia”, about to return to her homeland, looks at “Mr. James” and sees the veil of his eyes, the moment of truth teaches her “it’s not a veil, it’s a curtain. Curtain, hell. It’s a wall”.

Tame says: “I hope that I have been at least partially successful at bringing the smell of the salt spray at daybreak and rage of the hurricane into the general atmosphere of this book as well as the tranquil sound of a quiet, rainy night”.

Mission accomplished.

Marie Gregory is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. The book is available through Amazon.com.



Keeping Christmas Traditions Alive

CHRISTMAS CAKE

Ingredients

8oz Butter/Margarine	1/4 tsp Salt
8oz Brown Sugar	1 tsp Baking Powder
6oz Flour	1tsp Benjamins Vanilla
2oz Bread Crumbs	2 tsp Benjamins Browning
4 Eggs	1/2 Benjamins Rosewater
1 1/2 lbs Mixed Fruits	1/4 tsp Benjamins Almond
1 tsp Benjamins Cinnamon	Rum & Wine to taste
1/4 tsp Benjamins Mixed Spice	Grated rind of lime

Method

Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time to butter and sugar mixture, beating well after each addition. Sieve dry ingredients into the butter and cream mixture, alternatively with the wine, rum and fruits as well as the grated rind of lime. Add Benjamins Browning, Vanilla, Almond, Cinnamon, Mixed Spice and Rosewater to this mixture. Pour mixture into greased and lined baking tin and bake at 300 F for 1 hours and then at 275 F for another 1 hours.

BENJAMINS
A name you can trust

C L A S S I F I E D A D S

MISCELLANEOUS

DECLINED FOR HEALTH INSURANCE? We'll get you covered! Real Major Medical PPO Plan. Choose Your Own Doctor! Dental, Vision Included. Guaranteed Approval. Call 1-866-760-2564 www.newhealthppo.com

DISH Network. \$19.99/mo, Why Pay More For TV? 100+ Channels. FREE 4-Room Install. FREE HD-DVR. Plus \$650 Sign-up BONUS. Call Now! 1-866-573-3640

Fly at jet speeds, altitudes and comfort for piston twin cost in this pristine 2007 Eclipse 500, SN 60. This Eclipse Jet is in perfect condition. Always professionally flown and maintained by a corporate flight department. Always hangared. It has never been used for charter or flight instruction. Options include LX interior/exterior package, sixth forward facing seat and plated metals. RVSM certified. Absolutely no damage history. Logbooks are complete and all ADs are complied with. View details at: http://sites.google.com/site/precisiondynamic-saviation/for-sale/2007-Eclipse-500

FREE GPS! FREE Printer! FREE MP3! With Purchase of New computer. Payments Starting at Only \$29.99/week. No Credit Check! Call GCF Today. 1-877-212-9978

PROFLOWERS - Christmas Decor and Holiday Flowers & Other Gifts starting at \$19.99. Go To www.proflowers.com/Elf to get an EXTRA 15% OFF Or Call 1-877-697-7697!

Smoke HEALTH-E Cigarettes. Kick The Habit But Still "Smoke." Nicotine Free, Looks & Feels Like A Real Cigarette. Complete Kit, Only \$49.99 Go To WWW.PTVDEALS.COM/167

SWIM SPA Loaded, new. List \$18,000, sacrifice \$8,995. HOTTUB, deluxe, lounger, seats 5. Retail \$4,995, Buy Now \$2,195. Call 727-851-3217

You're Family's Best Benefit... Safety! Let ADT help protect your family and get \$100 Visa Gift Card! Hurry, offer ends soon. Call Now! 1-866-265-4139

SERVICES/ MISCELLANEOUS

Abortion Not an Option? Consider Adoption. It's a Wonderful Choice for an Unplanned Pregnancy. Living/Medical Expenses Paid. Loving, Financially Secure Families Await. 1-877-341-1309 Atty Ellen Kaplan (#0875228)

ADOPTION Financially secure couple looking to adopt newborn. Loving home, doting big sister, great education, family vacations, beaches, skiing, parks. Expenses paid. Call Karen or Stan 800-362-9660 FLBAR#260101

ADOPTION Give Your Baby The Best In Life! Living Expenses Paid. Many Loving, Financially Secure Couples Waiting. Call Jodi Rutstein, an Attorney/Social Worker who truly cares about you. 1-800-852-0041 #133050

ADOPTION 866-633-0397 Unplanned Pregnancy? Provide your baby with a loving, financially secure family. Living/Medical/Counseling expenses paid. Social worker on staff. Call compassionate attorney Lauren Feingold (FL Bar#0958107) 24/7

ADOPTION 866-633-0397 Unplanned Pregnancy? Provide your baby with a loving, financially secure family. Living/Medical/Counseling expenses paid. Social worker on staff. Call compassionate

attorney Lauren Feingold (FL Bar#0958107) 24/7

ADOPTION 888-812-3678 Living Expenses Paid. Choose a Loving, Financially Secure family for your child. Caring & confidential. (24 hours / 7 days), Attorney Amy Hickman. (Lic. #832340) (Place Under Attorneys -

ARRESTED? NEED A CRIMINAL LAWYER? Felonies, misdemeanors, DUI, traffic. Don't be fooled. Use a reliable source. AAA Attorney Referral Service, 1-800-733-5342 Florida Bar compliant since 1996. aaaattorneyreferralservice.com

DIVORCE BANKRUPTCY Starting at \$65 *1 Signature Divorce *Missing Spouse Divorce *We Cometo you!" 1-888-705-7221 Since1992

MOBILE HOME ROOF EXPERTS 100% Financing, Free Estimates We Finance Almost Everyone Reroof, Repairs, 40yrs Experience Home Improvement Services Toll-FREE 1-877-845-6660 State Certified (Lic.#CCC058227)

Pregnant? Considering Adoption? A childless, successful woman seeks to adopt & needs your help! Financially secure. Expenses Paid. Call Margie (ask for Michelle/Adam). 1-800-790-5260 FL Bar #0150789

SURROGATE MOMS NEEDED! \$18,000 Compensation. Healthy, non-smoking females, 21-37, height/ weight proportionate, gave birth w/no complications, no criminal background, w/private health insurance. Confidential. 941-741-4994; www.openarm-consultants.com (PLACE IN BOLD)

\$99.95 FLORIDA CORP. \$154.95 FLORIDA LLC Complete & Includes State Fees, Company Book & Seal. Free information packet: www.amerilawyer.com or call Miami-Dade . . . (305) 854-6000 Broward . . . (954) 630-9800 Tampa . . . (813) 871-5400 St. Pete . . . (727) 442-5300 Orlando . . . (407) 898-5500 Toll Free . . . (800) 603-3900. Spiegel & Utrera. PA. L. Spiegel, Esq., Miami.

Force Protection Security Details. \$73K - \$220K Paid Training! Military/Police Exp. Not Required. Kidnapping Prevention \$250-\$1,000/ day. Paid Expenses. Call 1-615-891-1163 Ext. 963 www.rlcenterprises.net

LUMBER LIQUIDATORS Hardwood Flooring, from \$.99/Sq.Ft. Exotics, Oak, Bamboo, Prefinished & Unfinished. Bellwood w/50 year prefinish, plus A Lot More! We Deliver Anywhere, 5 Florida Locations, 1-800-FLOORING (1-800-356-6746) (PLACE IN BOLD)

WANTED 20 Homes To showcase our Solar Products and Lifetime Exterior Paint.. Call to see if your home qualifies. CCC058227 1-877-834-SUN8 (7868)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ALL CASH VENDING!! Do You Earn \$800 in a Day? 25 Local Machines and Candy All For \$9,995. Call 1-888-753-3430 AIN#B02000033 Call Us: We Will Not Be Undersold!

ATTENTION READERS: Earn money from home processing mortgage assistance postcards. No advertising. Direct deposit available. References available. No gimmicks. 800-650-2090.

EDUCATION/ INSTRUCTION

Attend College Online from Home. *Medical,

*Business, *Paralegal, *Accounting, *Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. Call 800-443-5186 www.CenturaOnline.com

AVIATION MAINTENANCE / AVIONICS Graduate in 14 Months. FAA Approved; financial aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call National Aviation Academy Today! 1-800-659-2080 or NAA.edu

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA! Fast Affordable & Accredited Free Brochure. Call Now! 1-800-532-6546 ext. 16 www.continentalacademy.com

NEED YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA? Finish from home Fast for \$399! Nationally accredited. EZ pay. Free brochure. www.diplomaathome.com Call 800-470-4723

FINANCIAL

BURIED IN CREDIT CARD DEBT Over \$10,000. We can save you thousands of dollars. Call Credit Card Relief for your Free Consultation: 1-866-640-3315

LAWSUIT LOANS? Cash before your case settles. Auto, workers comp. All cases accepted. Fast approval. \$500 to \$50,000. 866-709-1100. www.glofin.com

Personal Loans up to \$2,500! 98% Approval Rate! Must have checking or savings account to qualify. Approval within 24 hours. Call 1-800-607-2890

FOR SALE

Boats; 1000's of boats for sale www.floridamariner.com reaching 6 million homes weekly throughout Florida. 800-388-9307, tide charts, broker profiles, fishing captains, dock-side dining and more.

METAL ROOFING TAX CREDIT! 40 yr Warranty. Direct from manufacturer. 30 colors in stock Quick turnaround. Delivery available. Gulf Coast Supply & Manufacturing, 1-888-393-0335 www.gulfcoastsupply.com

HELP WANTED

BECOME a successful Commercial Model/Actor. All ages, sizes and races. Earn \$500-\$1,000/mo. Let us show you how. 1-800-483-0996

Drivers - Immediate Need! Regional & OTR positions available Now! CDL-A w/Tanker Req'd. Outstanding pay & Benefits! Call a recruiter Today! 877-484-3042 www.oakleytransport.com

FEDERAL POSTAL JOBS! Earn \$12 - \$48 per hour / No Experience Full Benefits / Paid Training 1-800-370-0146 ext. 23 Now Hiring!!

LOSE WEIGHT & MAKE MONEY - Clip on how to make \$10K in 30Days: www.123MySystemPays.com Minimal investment, includes training & keys to success! Serious Inquiries Only. Dona 206-984-4639

Mystery Shoppers Earn up to \$150 per day. Under cover Shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments EXP. Not RE. Call 1-888-601-4861

REAL ESTATE

A Bank Repo for Sale! 4Br 3Ba \$21,900! Only \$215/Mo! 3Br \$12,500! Only \$199/Mo! 5% down 15 years @ 8% apr. For listings

1-800-366-9783 Ext 5597

erentals.com

A Bank Repo for Sale! 4Br \$12,600! Only \$217/Mo! 3Br \$10,500! Only \$199/Mo! 5% down 15 years @ 8% apr. For listings 1-800-366-9783 Ext 5460

A Bank Repo for Sale! 5Br \$13,400! Only \$225/Mo! 3Br \$10,000! Only \$199/Mo! 5% down 15 years @ 8% apr. For listings 1-800-366-9783 Ext 5197

A Bank Repo! 6Br \$26,900! Only \$238/Mo! 3Br \$10,500! Only \$199/Mo! 5% down 15 years @ 8% apr. For listings 1-800-366-9783 Ext 5493

Bank Foreclosure for Sale! 7 Br 3 Ba \$19,900 \$238/Mo! 5% down 15 years 8%. 4 Br \$10,000! \$199/Mo! For listings 800-366-9783 ext 5461.

Bank Owned! Foreclosures! 4bed 3ba \$225/mo! 3bed 2ba only \$199/mo! 5% dw, 15yrs @ 8% For Listings 800-366-9783 ext 5558

Bank Owned! 4bed 3ba \$199/mo! Only \$14,900! 5% dw, 15yrs @ 8% apr 5 Br \$38,900 or \$320/mo! For Listings 800-366-9783 ext 5466

Foreclosures From \$10,000!! 1-4 Bedrooms Available From \$199/mo!! For Listings 800-350-4142

Good Investment! Holly Hill, Near River! House/double detached garage plus garage Apartment Each; 2-Bedrooms 1-Bath Living/Dining Rooms, Large Sun Porches. \$220,000 386-615-0901 386-212-2562.

HUD HOMES! 3bd 2ba only \$199/mo! 4bdr 3ba \$215/mo! Stop Renting! 5% dw, 15 yrs @ 8% apr For Listings 800-366-9783 ext 5638 (Place Under Apartments For Rent)

LAND SALE NOTICE: VIRGINIA MTNS Closeout Sale! - 2.5 acres with pond near stocked trout stream, near state park, \$29,500, must sell. Bank financing. 1-866-789-8535

NORTH CAROLINA Holiday in the mountains. Make your family memories today; even the family pet is welcome! Call Foscoe Rentals 1-800-723-7341 book online www.fosco-

Stuart, Florida Waterfront Condo 2/2 ground floor end unit. Deep water dock, North Fork, St. Lucie River, heated pool, covered parking, quiet neighborhood, close to downtown. Estate sale, price just reduced \$224,000 772-692-9017

NORTH CAROLINA SKI BEECH Discount Ski packages, Discounts on Lodging, Lift Tickets & Ski Rentals 1-6 Bedrooms, fully equipped chalets & townhomes. Chalet Rentals 1-800-368-7404 www.skibeecomountainnc.com

HEALTH & BEAUTY

WEIGHTLOSS? PAIN? CAN'T SLEEP? Men's Health Flexeril, Tramadol, Soma, Viagra, Cialis, Levitra and Many More!!! Low Prices!!! Free Shipping Pharmacy Connection USA 1-800-453-1448

AUTOMOBILES

Acura Integra 00 \$500! Nissan Altima 01 \$350! Honda Civic 00 \$800! Police Impounds! For listings Call 800-366-9813 ext N580

Donate Vehicle Receive \$1000 Grocery Coupon Noah's Arc Support No Kill Shelters, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatments Free Towing, Tax Deductible, Non-Runners Accepted 1-866-912-GIVE

Donate your Car Truck or Boat to HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 1-866-905-3801

Honda Civic 00 \$800! Police Impounds for Sale! Many Makes and Models Priced to Sell! For listings call 800-366-9813 ext 9480.

Police Impounds for Sale! Honda Accord LX 98 \$800! Nissan Altima 01 \$350! Hondas Chevys Jeeps and More from \$500! For listings Call 800-366-9813 ext N581

\$500! Police Impounds for Sale! Cars/Trucks/SUVs from \$500! Many Makes and Models, Must See! For listings call 800-366-9813 ext 9482

Go first class with C.T.

Yes, send me 1 year (12 issues) of Caribbean Today for: \$35(US) First Class \$20(US) Bulk Rate Payment Enclosed

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
 Country: _____ Telephone: _____

Please make check or Money Order payable to Caribbean Today, and mail to:
 9020 S.W. 152nd Street • Miami, Florida 33157
 or call: (305) 238-2868

Caribbean Today

New
ANGUS
THIRD POUNDERS*

DELUXIOUS.



ANGUS *Bacon & Cheese*

ANGUS *Mushroom & Swiss*

ANGUS *Deluxe*

It's the taste almost too good for words. McDonald's® new Angus Third Pounders* – thick, juicy Angus beef on a toasted sesame seed roll. With three great options to choose from, you're bound to find your own personal favorite. So come on in today for the Angus Deluxe, the Bacon & Cheese or the Mushroom & Swiss Angus Third Pounder at McDonald's.



i'm lovin' it®

*Weight before cooking at least 5.33 oz. (151.1 gms).
 At participating McDonald's. ©2009 McDonald's