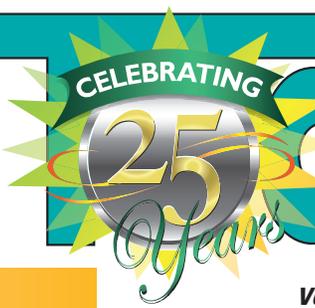


# Caribbean Today

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# POWER POINT

~ United States President Barack Obama has proclaimed June 2014 National Caribbean American Heritage Month, pointing out Caribbean Americans' history, culture and "essential role in the American narrative," page 11.



The Bahamas government has described as "startling" reports that the United States had been spying and the collecting the audio of mobile phone calls made by residents of the Caribbean nation, page 7.



The United States has extended to July 22 the re-registration deadline for Haitian nationals who have already been granted Temporary Protected Status and are seeking to maintain that status for an additional 18 months, page 8.

## Phenomenal Woman

~ Many knew Maya Angelou as the poet extraordinaire who gave the world the classic "Phenomenal Woman". But the roots that nurtured that voice stretched to the Caribbean twin island republic of Trinidad and Tobago, page 9.



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# NEWS



## Former T&T president, P.M. dies

Former Trinidad and Tobago President ANR Robinson has died after a prolonged illness. He was 87.

Robinson, a former prime minister, died at the private St. Clair Medical Hospital, where he had been a patient since Mar. 8.

Robinson, who was shot in the leg and beaten during the attempt by members of the radical Jamaat Al Muslimeen group to overthrow his government in July 1990, had been confined to a wheelchair for several years. In 2010 he suffered a convulsive seizure.

Robinson is the only per-



Robinson

son to serve as prime minister (1986-1991) and president (1997-2003) of T&T.



## Overdue Antigua and Barbuda general elections set for June 12, UWP seeks third term

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua - Voters in Antigua and Barbuda will go to the polls on June 12 to choose a new government for this Leeward Island nation of 89,000 people.

The incumbent United Progressive Party (UWP), led by Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, is seeking a third term in office. They are being challenged by the Opposition Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), led by Gaston Browne.

Last month's election announcement ended weeks of speculation and debate as elections have been constitutionally due since March. Spencer announced the date to UPP supporters at a mass rally in the village of Potters, east of the capital.



Spencer

About 48,000 people have been registered to vote after a registration exercise in Nov. 2013, according to the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC).

The last general elections were held in Mar. 2009 and

UPP, which has been in power since 2004, is hoping to improve on its slender victory when it won nine of the 16 seats at stake in the House of Representatives.

The ABLP suffered its first electoral defeat in 2004 after nearly 30 years in power led by the iconic and controversial Bird family. Lester Bird, 76, who succeeded his father and ALP founder Vere Bird Snr. as prime minister from 1994 until 2004, lost the ABLP's leadership race to Browne in 2012. Elder brother Vere Jr., who held several Cabinet posts from 1984 to 2004, died in Mar. 2013, aged 76.

- Edited from CMC.



## U.S. Treasury warns St. Kitts about citizenship abuse

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States Treasury Department has warned financial institutions to be on the lookout for "certain foreign individuals" abusing the Citizenship by Investment (CIP) program being undertaken by the St. Kitts and Nevis government.

An advisory issued by the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) said those individuals were seeking to obtain St. Kitts and Nevis passports under the program "for the



Douglas

purpose of engaging in illicit financial activity.

"Financial institutions can

mitigate exposure to such risk through customer due diligence, including risk-based identity verification consistent with existing customer identification programme requirements," it said.

FinCEN said the CIP program offers citizenship to a non-citizen who either invests in designated real estate with a value of at least \$400,000 or contributes \$250,000 to the St. Kitts and Nevis Sugar Industry Diversification

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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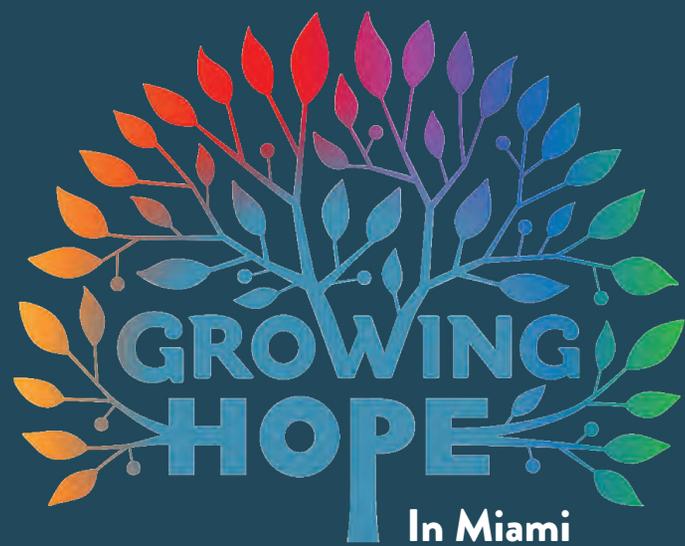
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## Haitian American mayor suspended after \$8M fraud charges in N. Miami

MIAMI, Florida - The mayor of North Miami, Florida, was suspended from office by Florida Governor Rick Scott last month after she was charged as part of an alleged \$8 million mortgage fraud scheme, according to Reuters.



Tondreau

Marie Lucie Tondreau faces up to 30 years in prison for six counts of wire fraud, federal officials said in an unsealed indictment, the news agency reported. She turned herself in to the FBI and a judge later ordered her release on \$50,000 bail.

"It's a lie," Tondreau told the local ABC TV affiliate in Miami when asked about the allegations.

Tondreau, Reuters reported, is the fourth Miami area mayor to be indicted in the

last year, and the first woman. Prosecutors allege the 54-year-old, who last year was elected North Miami's first female Haitian American mayor, used her weekly radio show and illegal cash payments to recruit buyers to lie on mortgage applications to obtain loans that were never used to buy homes.

Three others, including a mortgage company owner, a radio show host and a former attorney, were also charged in the indictment. Manuel Maroño, a former mayor of Sweetwater, another Miami suburb, began serving a 40-month sentence in February after pleading guilty to accepting thousands of dollars of kickbacks for signing off on bogus government grant applications. He was indicted along with Miami Lakes Mayor Michael Pizzi, who has pleaded not guilty to the charges, Reuters reported.



## 'One Love' dispute with Bob Marley estate settled

The Bob Marley estate and the United States-based fried chicken chain Raising Cane's have reportedly reached an out of court settlement in their legal dispute over the chain's use of the slogan "One Love".

That slogan is widely associated with the reggae icon because it happens to the title of one of his biggest hits.

Last month's online edition of The Advocate - the Louisiana, U.S. based newspaper - quoted Todd Graves, founder and chief executive officer of Cane's, said a "mutually beneficial agreement" was reached.

The story also quoted Timothy Ervin attorney for Fifty-Six Hope Road Music Ltd., owned by Marley's

widow and children, as reporting that "mutually agreeable terms" led to a settlement.

### LAWSUIT

It was in Dec. 2013 that Fifty-Six Hope Road sued for alleged trademark infringement. The estate claimed Cane's never sought or obtained a license or permission to use the Marley One Love trademark.



Marley

Cane's then sued Fifty-Six Hope Road seeking a court judgment that it is not infringing on any of the estate's rights.

Cane's has used the "One

Love" trademark since 2001 with no conflict and registered it with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2005.

U.S. District Judge James Brady, at the request of both sides, dismissed Fifty-Six Hope Road's lawsuit on May 13. The same day, Chief U.S. District Judge Brian Jackson dismissed Cane's suit at the request of the parties.

"Hope Road is glad the matters have been settled upon mutually agreeable terms," Ervin is reported to have said in a written statement last month.

Neither side provided further details.

- Edited from CMC.



## U.S. Treasury warns St. Kitts about citizenship abuse

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)  
Foundation.

"FinCEN believes that illicit actors are abusing this program to acquire St. Kitts-Nevis citizenship in order to mask their identity and geographic background for the purpose of evading U.S. or international sanctions or engaging in other financial crime," said the advisory dated May 20.

It said, for example, FinCEN believes that several Iranian nationals designated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) have obtained passports issued through the CIP program.

### ATTRACTION

"While many countries offer programs similar to the St. Kitts-Nevis Citizenship-by-Investment program, the St. Kitts-Nevis program is attractive to illicit actors because the program, as administered, maintains lax controls as to who may be granted citizenship.

"While the St. Kitts-Nevis government has publicly pledged to improve these controls, FinCEN believes that they remain ineffective.

For example, in 2013 the St. Kitts-Nevis government announced that all Iranian nationals were suspended from participating in the St. Kitts-Nevis Citizenship-by-Investment program.

"Despite this public assurance, FinCEN believes that Iranian nationals continue to obtain passports issued through the program. As a result of these lax controls, illicit actors, including individuals intending to use the secondary citizenship to evade sanctions, can obtain Kitts-Nevis passport with relative ease."

### NO WORRY

In April, the St. Kitts and Nevis government said while it had not been officially informed by the U.S. of an investigation into how three Iranians had passports of the twin island federation, it was not worried over the probe.

"We haven't been informed officially that this is happening and we don't see anything unusual about this. Several persons, several citizens from several countries across the world occasionally are the subjects of investigations. So there is nothing

unusual here," Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas said.

Opposition politicians claim that the investigations are threatening the CIP, but Douglas said "it does not damage our program at all.

"If that person or those persons were already on a watch list and they were able to obtain our citizenship then that is something you question ... or if they are subject to an investigation without necessarily an offence being committed then we consider that to be quite normal and that in anyway should not hurt our citizenship by investment program."

Dr. Douglas said he wanted to emphasize that the CIP is "one of the oldest in the world, it is the most credible to date in the world, it is the leading program globally and we could not have attracted these accolades if there wasn't something that we were doing that wasn't right.

"And so from time to time you do have these situations where a citizen of St. Kitts-Nevis is being investigated," Dr. Douglas said.

- Edited from CMC.





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## U.S. jails businessman for hiding Caribbean bank account in tax evasion scheme

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An American businessman was locked up last month following charges by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) that he had used a concealed Caribbean bank account in a tax evasion scheme.

According to the DOJ, Robert C. Sathre was sentenced to 36 months in a U.S. federal prison for tax evasion by U.S. District Judge Alan B. Johnson in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Sathre was also ordered to pay more than \$3.1 million in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and to serve three years of supervised release.

The DOJ said Sathre pleaded guilty on Feb. 26, to "willfully evading the payment of his 1995 and 1996 tax liability".

According to court documents and proceedings, Sathre sold a Minnesota business and

received installment payments in 1995 and 1996 of more than \$3 million. Sathre concealed his income by filing a 1995 tax return in which he reported only \$64,928 in total income, according to the documents.

### BUSINESS BUY

The documents noted that Sathre then purchased land and set up another business, a gas station and convenience store in Sheridan, Wyoming, known as the Rock Stop.

The court documents and proceedings reveal that Sathre concealed assets by opening a foreign bank account in Nevis and by using purported trusts. In a 10-month period, spanning from 2005 through 2006, the records show that Sathre sent over \$500,000 to the account in Nevis to keep the funds out of reach of the IRS.

When Sathre sold the

Rock Stop in 2007, he wired over \$1,250,000 from the sale proceeds to the trust account of a Wyoming law firm, according to the court records. He later directed the law firm to wire \$900,000 from the trust account to his account at the Bank of Nevis, the documents reveal.

Sathre also provided a false declaration and false promissory note to the Bank of Nevis to conceal the source of this transfer and obtained a debit card linked to the foreign account to access funds locally.

In addition, the court document and proceedings indicate that Sathre provided the Bank of Sheridan with an IRS form on which he falsely claimed that he was neither a citizen nor a resident of the U.S.

- Edited from CMC.



## Caribbean pressures U.S. on Antigua gambling spat

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Caribbean community (CARICOM) has again appealed to the United States to honor the first ruling issued by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in favor of Antigua and Barbuda in relation to American legislation on online gambling, according to reports here.

CARICOM's Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) said the U.S. risks undermining the credibility of the WTO's dispute settlement process by failing to comply with the organization's decision on its gambling laws, according to the Washington-based Tax-News.com.

It noted that the statement was issued during COTED's recent meeting in Georgetown, Guyana.

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer of Antigua and Barbuda, said the Caribbean



Dispute between U.S. and Antigua heats up.

territory has lost more than \$1 billion in online gaming earnings annually as a result of the U.S. laws.

In 2004, the WTO ruled that the U.S. had violated its commitments as a WTO member, specifically the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), by enacting laws blocking foreign-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

## Bermuda swears in new premier as Cannonier resigns in wake of 'Jetgate' scandal

Michael Dunkley took over as premier of Bermuda following the resignation last month of Craig Cannonier in the wake of the "Jetgate" controversy.

Dunkley was sworn in on May 20, less than 24 hours after 51-year-old Cannonier

stepped down.

"I am humbled by the responsibility I have now been given," said Dunkley, the national security minister said at the ceremony.

"Let me first, however, thank former Premier Craig

Cannonier. We worked together first in Opposition and as his deputy I was grateful for the opportunity he gave to me to serve in Cabinet. I always enjoyed his support as a minister and it cannot be forgotten that he led our party to a significant election victory."

### SHORTEST

Cannonier's 17 months as premier were the shortest in Bermuda's history, coming after his One Bermuda Alliance (OBA) ended 14 years of Progressive Labour Party (PLP) rule in the Dec. 2012 general elections. The OBA inherited a ballooning national debt of \$1.4 billion in the midst of a recession, which has stretched to five years.

Dunkley said the foundation for Bermuda's economic recovery had been set since the elections by a "hard-working team of men and women.

"Now I have the honor to lead that team and our mission remains the same — we must renew the promise of this country, we must create jobs for our people, we must educate our children and we must keep Bermuda safe. These are the expectations of the people and we must meet and exceed those expectations each and every day."

Dunkley added that he had no immediate plans to shuffle his Cabinet or Senate (Upper House) teams.

### EMBARRASSMENT

Cannonier's resignation

was the culmination of a whirlwind 48 hours in which the OBA held several emergency meetings in a bid to stave off an embarrassing departure.

Ultimately, the Jetgate row and his alleged dealings with wealthy American developer Nathan Landow proved his undoing, and on May 19 he



Cannonier

asked that the public do the same. He also pledged to return to the backbenches as member of Parliament for Devonshire South Central and to continue to support the OBA administration.

### SCANDAL

The Jetgate blew up after Cannonier and two of his Cabinet colleagues - Tourism Minister Shawn Crockwell and Attorney General Mark Pettingill - flew to Washington, D.C. on Landow's private jet

last year. Landow, who had once been keen to secure a casino license in Bermuda, and a group of businessmen wired \$300,000 to Bermuda for the OBA's election campaign coffers.

Landow told the **Bermuda Sun** last month that he was no longer interested in investing in Bermuda and denied Cannonier had asked for money. Cannonier said he made the trip hoping to provide more jobs at home where unemployment is running at around eight percent.

But the PLP put Cannonier under intense pressure over the junket, maintaining he had not told the whole truth about the trip.

The OBA won the last elections by 19 seats to 17 in the House of Assembly. The next elections are due in 2017.

- Edited from CMC.



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Dunkley, left, signs the book after being sworn in as Bermuda's premier. At right is Governor George Fergusson.

left Cabinet office for the last time as premier to tender his resignation to the governor.

Cannonier thanked his wife Antoinette and his family for their support during his 17 months as leader of the country.

"It has been a privilege to have been your premier," he said. "You have my best wishes."

Cannonier threw his support behind Dunkley and

# STARTLING REVELATION: Bahamas demands explanation for U.S. spying

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The Bahamas government has described as “startling” reports that the United States had been spying and the collecting the audio of mobile phone calls of Bahamians.

Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Mitchell in a statement said that the Bahamian charge in Washington D.C. had contacted the U.S. Foreign Office for an explanation.

“We expect that Ambassador Eugene Newry will meet with the U.S. Foreign Office,” Mitchell said last month, noting that the charge of the U.S. government’s interest in The Bahamas had been summoned to the Foreign Minister.

“We have demanded an explanation,” he said, adding “we shall continue to keep the Bahamian people informed as we seek to discover what this is about and what it means”.

Mitchell said that last

**“We have demanded an explanation. We shall continue to keep the Bahamian people informed as we seek to discover what this is about and what it means”**

- Mitchell

month, at “routine” lunch with the U.S. Charge d’Affairs John Dinkelman, where he

“flagged the possibility of a story being released based on the leaks of the former U.S. government employee Edward Snowden and that they would involve The Bahamas and the use of monitoring apparatus in The Bahamas.” Mitchell said the statement was a more specific warning than two warnings that had been earlier given by senior personnel at the U.S. Embassy here, including one by Dinkelman. He said the story became widely available sometime around “midday on 19th May and is penned by amongst others Glenn Greenwald, a journalist reportedly based in Brazil who has penned previous works sourced from documents leaked by Mr. Snowden.

“The Snowden allegations are believed to relate to a period in and around 2011,” Mitchell said, quoting from the article that indicated the “surveillance is part of a top-secret system – code-named



Mitchell

country’s cellular telephone network, enabling it to covertly record and store the ‘full-take audio’ of every mobile call made to, from and within the Bahamas – and to replay those calls for up to a month,” the article noted.

Mitchell said news that there is spying and collection of audio from mobile phone calls of Bahamians, by agencies of another country, is clearly startling.

“The facts must be determined. Otherwise, the behavior described would be clearly illegal and on the face of it an abuse of powers. It would also represent a great moral failing on the part of its perpetrators, in addition to illegality which challenges the founding principles of the rule of law.

“It would also be an invasion of the privacy of the individual, a cherished democratic value and a legal right,” he said, adding “some explanation is required formally to confirm or deny the truth and authenticity of these allegations.”

- Edited from CMC.

## No spy swapping with Cuba ~ U.S. president

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The administration of United States President Barack Obama said it will not swap five Cuban spies held in the U.S. for American Alan Gross, who is serving a 15-year jail sentence on the Caribbean island.

Gross and his family have been pushing to win his

whether there is a humanitarian capacity or not” in Cuba to free Gross, a subcontractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Without giving details, Kerry, a former chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, said he tried to help Gross before he became secretary

of state in February.

Recently, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, visited Cuba, met with Gross, “and talked to the government.”

### STUMBLING BLOCK

Observers say Gross’s imprisonment in

Havana since Dec. 3, 2009 has become the key stumbling block in efforts to improve U.S.-Cuba relations.

The 63-year-old Maryland man was sentenced to 15 years in prison for delivering communications equipment, paid for by USAID’s pro-democracy programs, which Cuba has outlawed, saying they are part of a “subversive” attempt to topple the government. The equipment, would have given recipients access to the Internet without passing through government censors.

The alleged five Cuban spies were convicted in a U.S. federal trial in Miami, Florida in 2001.

- Edited from CMC.



Kerry

release from Cuba as a “humanitarian gesture.

“They were and have been attempting to trade Alan Gross for the five spies that are in prison here in the U.S., and we’ve refused to do that because there’s no equivalency,” U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry recently testified before the U.S. House of Representatives’ Foreign Affairs Committee.

### NO TRADE

“Alan Gross is wrongly imprisoned, and we’re not going to trade as if it’s spy for spy,” Kerry added in response to a question from Congressman Albio Sires, a Cuban American Democrat from New Jersey.

Kerry, however, said that the U.S. is “trying to find

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# Prominent radio jock dies in jail awaiting sex charge trial

NEW YORK - Legendary New York radio personality, Dave Herman died in jail while awaiting United States federal trial on charges of trying to seduce a six-year-old girl in the Caribbean, his lawyer has confirmed.



Herman

Attorney Marc Agnifilo told reporters that Herman, 78, a former announcer at WNEW-FM died on May 28 after suffering an aneurysm inside the Essex County Jail in Newark, New Jersey.

Herman had been in custody following his arrest last year in the Virgin Islands in an undercover sting operation conducted by Bergen County prosecutors. He was charged with attempting to transport a minor to engage in sexual activity, a U.S. federal charge. Court documents indicated the two sides were in plea

negotiations in the case.

**DEAL**

Herman was arrested Oct. 24 at the St. Croix airport, where he planned to meet the grammar school girl and her mom, U.S. authorities said.

But, in a complaint, prosecutors charged that Herman cut an Internet deal with a 36-year-old woman to have sex with her daughter at his island vacation home. He was extradited to New Jersey in November and held without bail.

Prosecutors said Herman was facing up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted.

He was one of New York City's more prominent radio voices from 1972 to 1998, and spent 40 years on the air before his retirement. During his long local radio stint, Herman's on-air guests included rock Hall of Famers John Lennon, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan and the Eagles.



# U.S. extends TPS for Haitians additional 18 months



WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States has extended the re-registration deadline for Haitian nationals who have already been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and are seeking to maintain that status for an additional 18 months.

The Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is extending the deadline to July 22, and that it "strongly encourages Haitian TPS beneficiaries to apply as soon as possible".

USCIS said about 51,000 TPS Haiti beneficiaries are expected to file for re-registration.

It said TPS is not avail-

able to Haitian nationals who have not continuously resided in the U.S. since Jan. 12, 2011.

**TERMS**

USCIS said individuals seeking to re-register do not need to pay the Form I-821 application fee. However, all re-registrants 14 years of age and older must pay a biometric services fee or submit a fee waiver request, USCIS said. It said all re-registrants seeking employment authorization through Jan. 22, 2016, must also submit the Form I-765 fee (or a fee-waiver request).

"Failure to submit the required filing fees or a properly documented fee-waiver request will result in the rejection of the re-registration

application", it warned.

The U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely or, in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately.

The U.S. first granted TPS to undocumented Haitians living in the U.S. shortly after the Jan. 12, 2010 massive earthquake in Haiti.

- Edited from CMC.



# Caribbean pressures U.S. on Antigua gambling spat

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

based operators from offering cross-border gambling and betting services to U.S. consumers.

CARICOM has appealed to the U.S. to remove the barriers to overseas gambling

operators.

Last year, Antigua and Barbuda was permitted by the WTO to monetize \$21 million worth of U.S. intellectual property rights each year as compensation for the U.S. measures. The WTO decided that it would have been impos-

sible to meaningfully compensate Antigua and Barbuda through trade sanctions.

**WARNING**

But Tax-News.com said the U.S. has warned Antigua and Barbuda that enforcing the compensation ruling

would have severely damaging consequences for the territory and its reputation.

In October last year, frustrated with lack of progress in talks with the U.S., the government of Antigua and Barbuda decided to launch discussions on "harvesting benefits" from the suspension of U.S. intellectual property rights as per the WTO ruling. Following consideration of potential measures, Antigua and Barbuda has said it remains hopeful that the U.S. will return to the negotiating table with an alternative settlement that will not require Antigua and Barbuda to deploy the controversial IP measures agreed by the WTO.

- Edited from CMC.



**Thank You!**

**Transportation Summit Community Forum**

*An Opportunity for Public Input*

Thank you to the more than 100 citizens who attended the Transportation Summit Community Forum – An Opportunity for Public Input. The purpose of this event was to update the community on the main themes discussed during last year's Transportation Summit on "Visioning the Future of Miami-Dade County's Public Transportation".

Special thanks to our transportation partners at Miami-Dade Transit, Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade Public Works and Waste Management, Tri Rail/South Florida Regional Transportation Authority and Miami-Dade Expressway Authority for their support.

Let's keep moving forward, together!

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## Maya Angelou, author, poet with Trinidadian roots, dies

Many knew her as the poet extraordinaire who gave the world the classic "Phenomenal Woman". But few knew the roots that had nurtured that voice stretched to the Caribbean twin island republic of Trinidad and Tobago.



Angelou

On May 28 that voice was lost to the world forever, as author and poet Maya Angelou died at age 86.

Angelou had been suffering from heart problems in recent years. She passed away at her North Carolina home in Winston-Salem, Angelou's family said in a statement.

Born Marguerite Johnson, Angelou was the second child of Vivian (Baxter) Johnson, a Trinidadian American nurse whose father and grandfather both migrated to the United States from T&T on a banana boat and jumped off in Tampa, Florida. There her grandfather learned to roll cigars and took care of his family even though he was an undocumented immigrant. He managed to evade immigration agents successfully all his life as Angelou wrote in "Mom & Me & Mom" and "spoke often and loudly with pride at being an American citizen.

"No one explained to him that simply wanting to be a citizen was not enough to make him one," she added.

A 2008 PBS documentary found that Angelou was partially descended from the Mende people of West Africa. Again as Angelou told it: "The family became known as the 'Bad Baxters'. If someone angered any of them, they would track the offender to his street or to his saloon. The brothers (armed) would enter the bar. They would station themselves at the door, at the ends of the bar, and at the toilets. Uncle Cladwell would grab a wooden chair and break it, handing Vivian a piece of the chair.

He would say, "Vivian, go kick that bastard's ass."

Vivian would ask, "Which one?"

"Then she would take the wooden weapon and use it to beat the offender."

### EARLY LIFE

Her mother met and married Bailey Johnson, a doorman and a navy dietitian and Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928. Her mother, as Angelou has said in life, was devoted to a great number of causes - from union rights to civil rights to feminism. She worked as a nurse, a real estate agent and, almost unbelievably, as a merchant marine.

The marriage ended after three years. Angelou's young life was marked by trauma. At age eight she was raped by her mother's boyfriend. She told her brother, who told the rest of their family. The man was found guilty, but was jailed for only a day. Four days after his release, he was murdered. Angelou became mute for almost five years, believing, as she stated in her autobiography, "I thought, my voice killed him; I killed that man, because I told his name. And then I thought I would never speak again, because my voice would kill anyone ..."

She worked in a series of occupations as a young adult, including fry cook, prostitute, night-club dancer and performer. In 1957, riding on the popularity of Caribbean calypso, Angelou recorded her first album, titled "Miss Calypso", which was reissued as a CD in 1996. She appeared in an off-Broadway review that inspired the film "Calypso Heat Wave", in which Angelou sang and performed her own compositions.

In "Mom & Me & Mom" she gives more insight into her maternal grandfather and her uncles as singers: "The Baxters were proud of their ability to sing. Uncle Tommy and Uncle Tootie had bass voices; Uncle Cladwell, Uncle Ira, and Uncle Billy were tenors; Vivian sang alto; and Aunt Leah sang a high soprano (the family said she also had a sweet trem-olo). Many years later, I heard them often, when my father, Bailey Johnson Sr., took me and my brother, called Junior, to stay with the Baxters in St. Louis. They were proud to be loud and on key. Neighbors often dropped in and joined the songfest, each trying to sing loudest."

### THE WRITER

After meeting novelist  
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

## When hell's fury meets men scorned

Hell hath no fury like a woman spurned, rejected. But men who are spurned have great fury too.

Remember the movie "Fatal Attraction", where the spurned lover went on a rampage and set out to destroy the man's life? "You think that you can just use me then discard me like an orange?" That movie made many men think twice about having a mistress and then dumping her. She sure gave him hell.

But few movies have been made about men who have been rejected by women and who reacted in the same way that the woman in "Fatal Attraction" did. We see movies of men abusing women, like "Sleeping with the Enemy" and such. But I think that more men react badly to being spurned than women.

A young lady told me recently that a guy who she rejected really cursed her, abused her, called her vile names. I told her that she was lucky that at least he showed his true colors early. Just imagine, the night before he was telling her how wonderful she was, whispering sweet nothings in her ear, and the very next day he was cussing her.

So many men call to women on the street, and when they either ignore them, rebuke them, or flat out reject them, the men fly into a tirade that would make even a sailor blush.

### EGO

Back in my high school days I would see guys approach girls for a dance. If he was turned down, he would hiss his teeth and ask, "Why you botha come to party fah, if you don't want to dance?" Oh, she wanted to dance, all right, but just not with him. His being rebuffed by that girl was a bitter pill to swallow.

It's a long walk back across that floor if you're rejected. But let's get physical now, for that's where the fury from being rejected shows its ugly face. Many guys feel that if they have a few dances with a woman then they're betrothed for life. He first starts to hold her a little closer, then he may try for a kiss and a tighter hug. When he gets no response, the once calm passive man then shows his true self and heaps abuse on her.

The danger lies though, in the sex department, for that's when a rejected man really gets angry and lashes out. After all, he's all pumped up and ready for action, a night



of bliss, only to be stopped cold in his tracks. He's put in all the hard work, took her out to a movie, spent a lot of money, behaved the perfect gentleman. Then when they got back to her place and started to kiss and make out, she suddenly stops and says that they shouldn't go any further because she's a Christian. Then and only then



TONY ROBINSON

will you see the fury of a man spurned as all hell breaks loose.

### COPING

Many men do not handle rejection well. Maybe it stemmed from their childhood where they were denied affection, or perhaps their overblown egos just won't allow them to accept that they are not really God's gift to women.

This also applies to the man who is already involved with the woman, but

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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## TIME TO ACT: Wake-up call for U.S. politicians on immigration reform

The following is one in a series of 'letters' written to United States President Barack Obama.

Dear Mr. President,

You should send a congratulatory note to U.S. Chamber of Commerce Chamber President Tom Donohue. In fact, so should all Democrats.

Donohue is right on the money. His advice to the Republican Party last month is something they should pay attention to.

"If the Republicans don't do it (immigration reform) they shouldn't bother to run a candidate in 2016. I mean, think about that. Think about who

the voters are," Donohue said.

It's a wake-up call to party members who don't get the bigger picture, including House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio). If the GOP fails to pass immigration reform it should give up on its dream of ever winning back the White House.

Still, instead of listening to Donohue, Boehner put the blame on you; saying your appointments to the National Labor Relations Board and delays to the Affordable Care Act's implementation breached trust with House Republicans.

"We're at a point where my colleagues don't trust that the president will implement

the law the way we would see it passed. So I put the ball back in the president's court. He's going to have to do something to demonstrate his trustworthiness," Boehner was quoted as saying.

### NONSENSE

Of course it is complete nonsense. But since he has put the ball back in your court, I think you should show the speaker you're willing to take it and run to the touchdown zone. Deliver an unequivocally clear message that all children have a right to enroll in public schools regardless of their citizenship or immigration status is a great first start. Additionally,

changing the policies at the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services to allow spouses of certain H-1B visa holders to work in the U.S. will be good for this country and for thousands who will be working in the U.S. tech sector under the program.

Now many are looking forward to the Department of Homeland Security's expected memo outlining new policies aimed at slowing deportations of undocumented immigrants. We need this to happen by Congressman's Luis Guterrez's deadline of July. The GOP has made it clear they will do nothing under your administration. Now it's time for your administration to

use its executive power and act on behalf of the 11-plus million, but mostly for the future of the Democratic Party.

Your decision this summer will impact generations to come. Mr. President. You must act now. Stop deportations now and make deferred departure a reality for the undocumented who continue to live in fear with no hope.

Respectfully,  
Felicia Persaud.

The writer is CMO of *Hard Beat Communications*, which owns the brands *News Americas Now*, *CaribPR Wire* and *Invest Caribbean Now*.



## When hell's fury meets men scorned

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

gets turned down by her in the sex department.

Men have destroyed furniture and even physically abused women after being spurned like this. Denial of sex is the ultimate rejection in some men's minds, and they

do not handle it very well.

Men who are denied love often fly into a rage. They will love the woman from a distance, befriend her, and then express feelings for her. She likes him as a friend and tells him so, but doesn't want to take it any further. Big mistake, for he wants more. He

then resorts to violence because he can't have the object of his desire.

### BITTER END

But often the worst case of fury, after being spurned, is when the man is involved with the woman and she wants to end the relationship.

That's right, many women sign their death warrant the moment they decide to break up with the man.

So with all this talk about hell hath no fury like a woman spurned, I think that it should be revisited. Based on the sta-

tistics, it really should be, "Hell hath no fury like rejected men."

seido1@hotmail.com



## Maya Angelou, author, poet with Trinidadian roots, dies

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

James O. Killens in 1959, Angelou began to focus on a career as a writer and joined the Harlem Writers Guild, where she met several major African American authors, including John Henrik Clarke. In 1960, after meeting civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. and hearing him speak, she and Killens organized "the legendary" Cabaret for Freedom to benefit the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and she was named SCLC's northern coordinator.

Angelou also began her pro-Castro and anti-apartheid activism during this time. She would go on to write a total of seven autobiographies including: "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings", "Gather Together in My Name", "Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas", "The Heart of a Woman", "All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes", "A Song Flung Up to Heaven" and "Mom & Me & Mom". Overview Angelou's long and extensive career also includes poetry, plays, screenplays for television and film, directing, acting and public speaking.

### REMEMBERING

Many Caribbean Americans took to social media to comment on Angelou's passing, few realiz-

ing that Angelou was of Caribbean heritage.

Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, for her part called Angelou, "a woman of conviction, dedicated to her belief in the capacity of her words to transcend boundaries." Clarke, in a statement also described Angelou "as a woman of courage, whose acts defined her character, and whose leadership on civil rights inspired activists around the world."

"Let us remember Dr. Maya Angelou with her own words: 'Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope,'" the congresswoman said.

U.S. President Barack Obama also praised Angelou, calling her "one of the brightest lights of our time - a brilliant writer, a fierce friend, and a truly phenomenal woman."

Bill Clinton, who invited Angelou to recite a poem at his presidential inauguration in 1993, issued a statement saying, "America has lost a national treasure; and Hillary and I, a beloved friend."

In her last tweet on May 23, Angelou said: "Listen to yourself and in that quietude you might hear the voice of God."

- Edited from *News Americas*.



**Jamaica at 52**

On August 6, 2014, the island of Jamaica marks the 52nd Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

OUR INDEPENDENCE SUPPLEMENT! *Jamaica at 52* ~ to be published in July 2014, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people.

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Caribbean Today

# Obama hails Caribbean Americans as 'part of great tradition' in U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States President Barack Obama has proclaimed June 2014 National Caribbean American Heritage month, stating that the U.S. is expanding co-operation with its Caribbean partners in promoting social justice and prosperity throughout the Americas.

Obama said during National Caribbean American Heritage Month the U.S. will honor Caribbean Americans' history, culture, and "essential role in the American narrative." He said

the U.S. is seeking to "create new educational opportunities for young people across the Caribbean basin, as well as for Caribbean Americans in our own communities.

"We are also working to advance commonsense immigration reform that will allow



Obama

future generations of Caribbean Americans to share their talents with our nation," he said in a White House proclamation.

## TRADITION

"Caribbean Americans are part of a great national tradition," Obama added, "descendants of hopeful, striving people who journeyed to our lands in search of a better life."

He stated that they were "drawn by a belief in the power of opportunity, a belief that, through hard work and

sacrifice, they could provide their children with chances they had never known.

"Thanks to these opportunities and their talent and perseverance, Caribbean Americans have contributed to every aspect of our society – from science and medicine to business and the arts," Obama continued.

"As America celebrates our Caribbean heritage, let us hold fast to the spirit that makes our country a beacon to the world," the U.S. president

said. "This month, let us remember that we are always at our best when we focus not on what we can tear down, but on what we can build up.

"I encourage all Americans to celebrate the history and culture of Caribbean Americans with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

*For more on Caribbean American Heritage Month, see pages 19 and 20.*

## Sweet clue to island chicken stew

If the way to a Caribbean person's heart is through his or her stomach, then an island chicken stew, is the probably the best route to take.

So this month **Caribbean Today** offers a recipe, courtesy of **Publix Apron Recipes**, that is sure to make the journey tasty and pleasant. Enjoy.

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup roasted red peppers, coarsely chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh cilantro, coarsely chopped
- 2 lb boneless skinless chicken thighs
- 1 tablespoon dry mojo seasoning

- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 can chick peas (garbanzos), 15-16 oz, drained
- 1 (5-oz) package yellow rice mix
- 2 tablespoons sofrito
- 4 cups unsalted chicken stock

### Prep

Chop peppers and cilantro.

### Steps

Preheat large stock pot on medium-high two to three minutes.

Season chicken on both sides with seasoning (wash hands). Place oil in pan, then add chicken. Cook two to three minutes on each side



or until golden.

Add chickpeas, rice mix, sofrito, stock and peppers. Bring to a boil.

Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer 20 to 25 minutes (uncovered), stirring occasionally or until rice is tender and chicken pulls apart easily. Top with cilantro. Serve.

## Morris is Jamaica's poet laureate

Professor Mervyn Morris, a poet and academic, was officially invested as poet laureate of Jamaica last month during a ceremony at King's House - the official residence of the governor general.

Morris received the insignia of the poet laureate, becoming the first person to hold this title in more than 60 years and the third poet laureate to be appointed in Jamaica. The others who previously held this position were Thomas MacDermot, commonly known as Tom Redcam (posthumously in 1933), and John Ebenezer Clare McFarlane (in 1953).

"My dream is that

Professor Morris will not only help our people to understand and appreciate the work of existing poets, but he will also encourage that spark of creativity which bubbles in so many of our young people," Governor General Sir Patrick Allen said as he lauded the re-institution of the office of poet laureate.

The Poet Laureate Program is a joint initiative of the National Library of Jamaica, the Ministry of Youth and Culture and the Entertainment Advisory Board of the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment.

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# CARIBBEAN ANTHEM: Dominican 'Celebrating' victory in CARICOM song contest

Dominican, jazz, fusion singer Michele Henderson recently won the Caribbean community (CARICOM) song competition, and her winning entry "Celebrating CARICOM" is now the regional body's official anthem.

Henderson, who said she was "happy and proud" of the accomplishment, beat 57 semi-

finalists and 10 finalists to emerge winner in the competition.

"I want to thank CARICOM for the honor," she said. "I want to thank my husband (Roland Delsol Jr.) from the bottom of my heart for believing I could do it and for producing the song; Earlson Mathew for his arrangement;

Michael Ferrol for his drumming skills and the St. Alphonsus Choir for their choral input."

According to competition rules, the song should reflect a strong Caribbean cultural identity, have versatility and lend itself to be played by various instruments, have a strong Caribbean cultural fla-

vor and rhythm, and inspire a sense of regional pride and unity.

## CULTURE

Irwin Laroque, general secretary of CARICOM and a Dominican, said the regional panel of judges considered Henderson's composition "an excellent reflection of the culture, identity and aspiration of the Caribbean community engendering regional unity and pride and a fitting tribute to the 40th anniversary of CARICOM."

Next year will mark 20 years since Henderson burst onto the music scene with her winning composition "My Pride"- a song she penned for the 1995 DOMFESTA (Dominica Festival of Arts) song competition. Like that song, "Celebrating CARICOM" is a rallying cry for unity.

"In addition to its use at official functions, it's my hope that Celebrating CARICOM will cause people from member islands to come together and build on our strengths," Henderson said. "Regular rotation on local radio and a corresponding video on T.V. would go even further to encourage persons from all over the region to see that we really are more similar than we are different."

## MULTI-TALENTED

Henderson hails from Grand Bay, a community often referred to as the cultural capital of Dominica. She sings in English, French and French creole. She has performed at the CBU Song competition in Barbados,



Henderson

Trinidad's Jazz Artists on the Green, St. Lucia Jazz Festival, Carifesta in St. Kitts and Trinidad, St. Bart's Music Festival, Spice Jazz in Grenada, the World Creole Music Festival in Dominica and concerts in the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. A seasoned flutist, she has six albums to her credit, including her most recent "Home (Chez Moi)".

Dominica's Minister of Culture Justina Charles shared the government's pride at her most recent achievement.

"I must say that I am extremely elated about her win," said Charles, who represents Grand Bay. "Michele has been doing wonderfully well nationally, regionally, internationally ... Her example confirms to us her potential."

Henderson's first official performance of "Celebrating CARICOM" will be at the opening ceremony for the 35th regional meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government to be held July 1. There she will also be presented with the winning check of \$10,000.



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Ebony G. Patterson, *Untitled Species* (detail), 2010-11. Collection of Betzel Fine Arts. Image courtesy of artist and Monique Melchior Gallery, Chicago. Caribbean: Crossroads of the World was originally organized by El Museo del Barrio in conjunction with the Queens Museum and The Studio Museum in Harlem. The Miami exhibition is presented by J.P. Morgan. Support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor, and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners. This project has received additional funding through a grant from the Netherland-America Foundation, and additional support is provided by Nedra and Mark Oren, Pitt Pappas, Darlene and Jorge Pérez, and Dorothy and Aaron Podhurst.

J.P. Morgan



## BRIEFS

### Inner Circle in Boca Raton

Top reggae band Inner Circle is scheduled to perform at **8 p.m. June 14** at the Funky Biscuit in Boca Raton, Florida.

The Funky Biscuit is located at 303 S.E. Mizner Boulevard.

### Tessanne Chin returns to 'The Voice'

Jamaican singer Tessanne Chin last month returned to perform on NBC's "The Voice", the show which launched her into the international spotlight.

Chin performed her new single "Everything Reminds Me of You" during the competition's semi-final. She is scheduled to launch her "Count On My Love" album on **June 24** and tour with "The Voice" favorites and season six winner. Chin is also scheduled to perform at the St. Kitts Music Festival **June 26-28**.

### Ex-beauty queen freed of husband's murder

A Guyana magistrate last month freed a former beauty queen charged with murdering her wealthy husband seven years ago.

Chief Magistrate Priya Sewnarine-Beharry said there was insufficient evidence to link Carol Ann Lynch to the murder of her 44-year-old Farouk Razac on May 7, 2007.

Lynch was first charged in May 2007 with killing her husband at their upscale Bel Air Park residence, but the case against her collapsed in 2008 due to an absence of sufficient evidence. In 2010, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Shalimar Hack recommended that the charge be re-instated.

Compiled from various sources.



# 'KICK 'EM JENNY': U.S. scientists explore Grenada's underwater volcano

NEW YORK - A team of scientists from the United States has travelled to Grenada to explore the darkest corners of a huge underwater volcano off the island's coast, hoping to better understand the mysteries of earthquakes and tsunamis, and ultimately saving lives.

President of U.S. Ocean Exploration Trust Robert Ballard, famous for discovering the Titanic 12,000 feet below the surface of the icy North Atlantic in 1985, has set his sights on exploring the volcano "Kick'em Jenny", studying its eruption history and learn more about how underwater volcanoes can pose a threat.

Ballard, who is also director of the Center for Ocean Exploration at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, said the volcano "Jenny" has a history of explosive eruptions, which could have the potential to trigger tsunamis, the effects from which could be felt as far away as the northeastern U.S. According to the U.S.

Geological Survey (USGS), "Jenny" has erupted 10 times since 1939, with the most recent eruption in 1990.

"This is the most hazardous part of our planet, where (tectonic) plates are head-on," said Ballard, noting that the devastating 2011 Japanese earthquake and the 2004 Indian Ocean earth-

**"It means that places that we thought there was very little life existing on our planet, we've just opened up a whole other area where life seems to be thriving. A lot of the deep sea is sort of like you know you can think of it as a desert. We just found an oasis in that desert"**

- U.S. scientist Robert Ballard.

quake and tsunami were both underwater earthquakes.

**DEADLY**

ABC, the American television network, said reporters



Explorers have stepped up interest in "Kick 'em Jenny".

from its "Nightline" program accompanied Ballard and his team of 40 explorers aboard their exploration vessel Nautilus during the final 48 hours of their 90-day voyage, which was documented for an upcoming National Geographic special "Caribbean's Deadly Underworld", which premiered last month on the U.S. network, Nat Geo WILD.

The conditions around "Jenny" are so dangerous to humans that Ballard and his

team relied on the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) "Hercules," a 5,000-pound submersible, to be their "eyes and ears" inside the volcano, ABC TV reported. It said as Hercules descended into the volcano, Ballard and his team watch the robot's live cameras from a control room aboard the Nautilus. After hours of searching, the team made a startling discovery.

**'OASIS'**

"It means that places that

we thought there was very little life existing on our planet, we've just opened up a whole other area where life seems to be thriving," Ballard said, adding "a lot of the deep sea is sort of like you know you can think of it as a desert. We just found an oasis in that desert."

On its journey, Hercules took pictures of its surroundings, made maps and collected samples, including organisms living inside the volcano and even reaching inside the volcano's bubbling plume to gather materials, ABC said.

It said such discoveries on Ballard's trip could allow scientists to better understand the threats posed by underwater volcanic eruptions.

"And there's no reason to stop, there's 72 percent of the planet hardly explored," Ballard said. "I like to tell children that their generation is the generation that will explore more of earth than all previous generations combined."

- Edited from CMC.



## ISLAND AWARENESS: Caribbean biodiversity takes center stage

PIETRA BROWN

KINGSTON, Jamaica - "Island Biodiversity" was the theme for this year's International Day of Biodiversity, observed annually on May 22.

For 2014 the aim was to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity for islands and the need for island states to sustainably manage their resources.

"Islands are home for more than six hundred million people around the world and are rich in biological diversity", according to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The wider Caribbean region, which includes the Caribbean and Latin American countries with Caribbean coastlines, is listed as one of four biodiversity hot spots in the world with over 50 percent of species listed as endemic or unique to the region.

Biodiversity contributes significantly to food security, livelihoods and economies of these islands, many of which are Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Data from the United Nations SIDS website confirms that healthy coral reefs generate an estimated \$375 billion in goods and services annually.

**DECLINE**

However, globally, natural



Protecting the ecological health of marine and coastal resources must become top priority.

resources on islands are being reduced at alarming rates due to pollution, climate change and unsustainable practices including overfishing, unsustainable farming and uncontrolled coastal development.

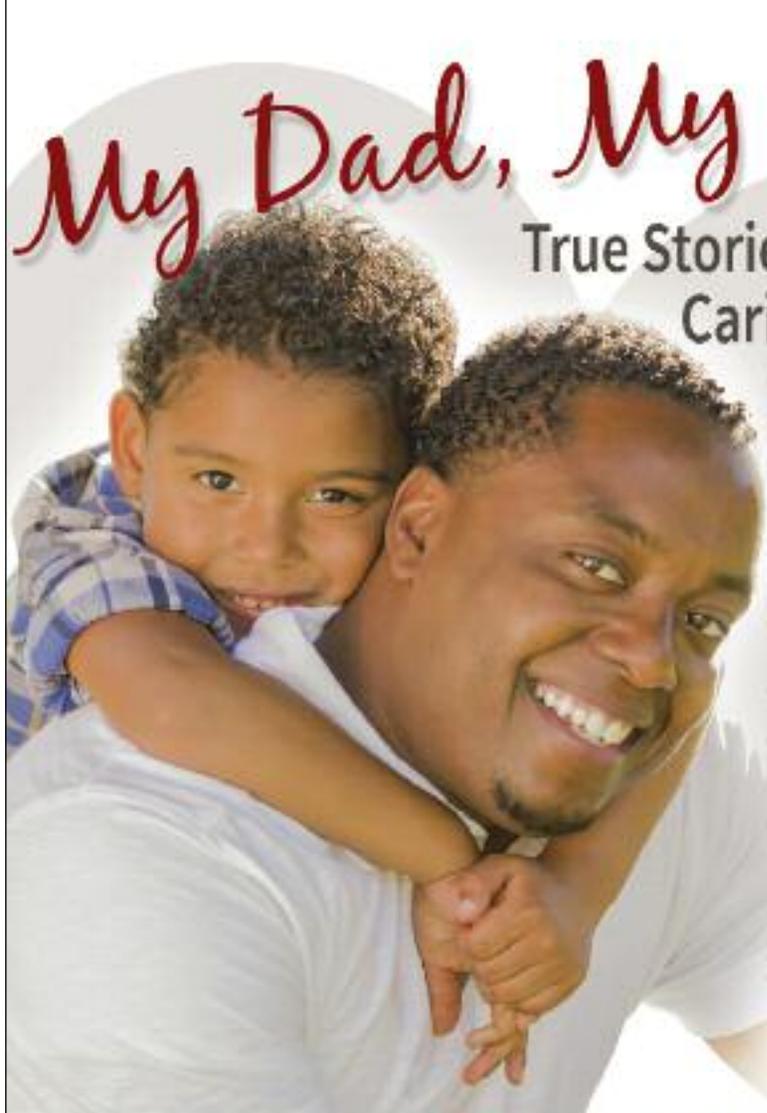
Islands in the Caribbean are no exception. Given their geographic isolation and, in some cases, remoteness from larger land masses, millions of islanders are particularly dependent on their natural resources, for food and livelihoods. Increasing threats to the natural resources of the world's islands, especially SIDS, as a result, contributes to food insecurity and a decrease in viable employment.

Alessandra Vanzella-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

# My Dad, My Hero

## True Stories of Loving Caribbean Fathers



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

We want to hear from you. Share your story and honor Caribbean American dads who inspire and uplift. Help us to help others by showing what good fathers are doing and why we love them.

Father's Day is June 15

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**DEADLINE FOR STORIES IS JUNE 12TH.**

## MOSQUITO STING: Dengue case jump five-fold in Caribbean

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says the number of dengue cases in the Americas, including the Caribbean, increased five-fold between 2003 and 2013.

According to data presented late last month at a high-level regional meeting on dengue hosted by PAHO, between 2009 and 2012, over a million cases were reported annually, on average, with more than 33,900 severe cases and 835 deaths.

PAHO said last year was one of the worst years for dengue in the hemisphere's history, with 2.3 million cases, including 37,705 severe cases and 1,289 deaths. By comparison, the number of cases reported region-wide in 2003 was 517,617, PAHO said.

Despite countries' efforts to control the disease, PAHO warned that dengue continues to spread due to, among other reasons, uncontrolled,

unplanned urbanization, lack of basic services in communities, poor environmental management and climate change. In the Americas, nearly 500 million people are at risk of contracting the disease, PAHO said.

### CHALLENGE

"Controlling the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which transmits the disease, is a great regional and global challenge," said Marcos Espinal, PAHO's director of the Department of Communicable Diseases and Health Analysis.

"All government sectors, communities, and families have to work together to fight the vector and control this disease, which knows no borders, discriminates against no one, and is everyone's problem, not just the health sector's," he added.

Espinal said Canada, continental Chile and Uruguay



Mosquitoes are spreading dengue in the region.

are the only countries in the region that have reported no dengue cases to date, despite the presence of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in Uruguay. He said the United States detected dengue for the first time in 2007 and, by 2013 had registered 1,292 cases, although none were severe or resulted in death.

### DECLINE

But despite the increasing

incidence of dengue, PAHO said the trend in case-fatality rates has been downward. It said case fatality from dengue in the Americas fell from 0.07 percent to 0.05 percent in the last three years - a reduction attributed to better clinical management of patients since implementation of new PAHO guidelines began in 2010.

PAHO estimates that improvements in care prevented about 1,500 deaths last year, equivalent to over 25 percent of all deaths from the virus over the previous decade.

"Recognizing the lack of a vaccine or specific drugs for this health problem, countries have made major efforts to prevent deaths from dengue through timely treatment, following the new WHO recommendations," said Luis Gerardo Castellanos, head of the PAHO's Neglected, Tropical and Vector-borne

Diseases Unit.

"*Aedes aegypti* is an urban mosquito that lives in our homes, which means we have to eliminate its breeding sites to prevent it from reproducing," said José Luis San Martín, PAHO regional advisor on dengue.

He emphasized that "the fewer infected *Aedes* mosquitoes there are circulating, the fewer people will be at risk of being bitten and contracting the disease."

In addition to dengue, PAHO said *Aedes aegypti* also transmits the chikungunya and yellow fever viruses.

The World Health Organization chose vector-borne diseases, including dengue, as the theme of this year's World Health Day, calling attention to these diseases as a global public health problem.

- Edited from CMC.



## ISLAND AWARENESS: Caribbean biodiversity takes center stage

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Khouri, program officer for the Specially Protected Areas

and Wildlife (SPAW) sub-program at UNEP-CEP, noted that SPAW remains committed to helping countries

across the wider Caribbean region to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity, which is the backbone of

the region's economies.

### PARTNERSHIP

SPAW meets its conservation objectives by partnering with governments, multilateral organizations, civil society and other stakeholder groups on several projects and activities which invest in the management of marine protected areas, build local and national capacities to support sustainable management, and protect vulnerable marine mammals, threatened and endangered species such as sea turtles, the West Indian manatee and Caribbean birds.

Caribbean governments that are a part of the regional Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) partner with UNEP-CEP, The Nature Conservancy, the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) and other stakeholders including the private sector to protect and sustainably manage 20 percent of their marine environment by 2020, which is one of the two overarching goals of the CCI. Island Bright Spot is an effort that works to showcase effective conservation and island biodiversity across the globe.

In a publication released last month by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to celebrate the International Day of Biological Diversity, the CCI was highlighted as an Island Bright Spot for the great work it has done so far in supporting marine and coastal conservation through collaborative action and the creation of sustainable financing mechanisms in the Caribbean. UNEP-CEP's Christopher Corbin

noted that, within the Caribbean, the main sources of marine pollution are sewage, oil, sediments, nutrients, pesticides, solid waste, marine debris and toxic substances. The ecological health of marine and coastal resources, as well as people's ability to use areas for cultural, economic and recreational purposes, in particular for SIDS, are restricted by polluting impacts.

Regional projects and activities taking place within the framework of UNEP-CEP legal agreements on Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution and Oil Spills support the SPAW sub-program in maintaining the value of biodiversity in Caribbean SIDS.

Nelson Andrade Colmenares, coordinator for UNEP-CEP, said he was happy that "Island Biodiversity" was chosen as the theme for this year as it will bring the world's attention to the importance of these fragile and increasingly threatened ecosystems and will hopefully galvanize international support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in protecting them.

The celebration of "Island Biodiversity" is also timely as the U.N. has declared 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States to celebrate the contributions that this group of countries makes to the world.

Edited from CMC. Pietra Brown is the United Nations volunteer communications officer at UNEP-CEP.



# BAHAMAS BLISS: 16 islands, 16 couples, one 'Priceless' wedding day contest

**MICHELLE CAWLEY  
DRESERIS**

Attention loving couples who are not married but want to be: You can win one of 16 exotic, expenses-paid, romantic "destination dream weddings" and say "I do!" on one of 16 beautiful islands in The Bahamas.

But, you must reside in the continental United States and enter before 11:59 p.m. ET on June 13 at [www.Bahamas16islandsweddings.com](http://www.Bahamas16islandsweddings.com) or on Facebook.

The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism joined with MasterCard's Priceless Cities Bahamas program – on Valentine's Day 2014 – to create a "Wedding Invitation: 16 Islands, 16 Couples, One Priceless Day" social media contest. If your ideal expenses-paid wedding and honeymoon includes swimming and relaxing in turquoise waters of The Bahamas, sailing and other activities, or just sinking your toes into soft white and pink sand beaches, enter online and choose from 16 dream weddings.

The 16 islands include The Abacos, Acklins and Crooked Island, Andros, The Berry Islands, Bimini, Cat Island, Eleuthera and Harbour Island,

The Exumas, Grand Bahama Island, Inagua, Long Island, Mayaguana, Nassau and Paradise Island, Ragged Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador.

"More than 2,300 couples from 50 U.S. states had entered as of May 21, and many more enter daily," said Ellison "Tommy" Thompson, the ministry's deputy director general for global marketing. "We invite everyone to enjoy the beauty and variety of our islands, and to bring their MasterCard."

"The Wedding Invitation 16 Islands is one of our MasterCard Priceless Cities events. Winning couples will also receive a MasterCard gift card," said Guillermo Morrone, vice president of MasterCard's Global Consumer and Priceless Cities programs.

"Priceless Cities offers exclusive global experiences for our MasterCard holders in their cities, and when they are traveling. The program began in Oct. 2011

with Priceless New York, Miami, London, Rio and Mexico. Today, we have more than 35 Priceless Cities, including: The Priceless Bahamas, Jamaica, Paris, Aruba, Puerto Rico, Sydney,



Guillermo Morrone, left, vice president of MasterCard Global Consumer and Priceless Cities programs, joins Bahamas Ministry of Tourism staff members, from left, Bridgette King, Ellison "Tommy" Thompson, deputy director general for global marketing, and Freda Madrisotti, director of romance at the Mondrian Hotel in Miami Beach.

Hong Kong, Istanbul, and others."

## LEGAL

"A marriage in The Bahamas is legal anywhere in the world," said Freda Madrisotti, director of romance for ministry.

"Winners must arrive in Nassau on Jan. 13th, 2015 and

be here for a minimum of 24 hours to be legally married here. All 16 couples will get married simultaneously at 1600 hours (4 p.m. ET) on Jan. 16th, 2015, on their chosen islands."

Divorcees and widows/widowers who are re-marrying are eligible, but renewing marriage vows will

not qualify you for the dream.

To enter, upload a one-minute clip/video or images, and 100 words explaining the reason behind choosing the particular island and theme wedding. Then, collect as many "Likes" possible on Facebook at "Bahamas 16

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

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## CONNECT CUBA: Travel to Caribbean island offers promise on the horizon

DAVID JESSOP

LONDON, England – What might improvement in United States-Cuba relations mean for Caribbean tourism?

This, and variations on the same theme, all start from the premise that one day soon the U.S. administration will allow all its citizens to travel freely to Cuba and that the effect will be for visitors to abandon the rest of the region, with disastrous economic consequences for the Caribbean hospitality sector.

Setting aside the oddity that the U.S., the nation that globally does the most to espouse freedom for others, only permits certain categories of its citizens travel to Cuba, it is striking how little is understood about the existing nature of travel to Cuba.

Cuba is already a major Caribbean tourism destination. In 2013 it had a total of 2.8 million foreign visitors, a number up by 0.5 percent on 2012. This did not include an additional 0.1 million U.S. tourists travelling under license on people-to-people and educational programs, or the additional 0.47 million Cuban Americans who visited friends and family, but who Cuba counts as nationals.

This means that in total last year the island attracted some 3.17 million stay over visitors, making it roughly equivalent to Jamaica which reported some two million stop over visitors and 1.3 million cruise passengers in 2013. It also demonstrates that Cuba is, irrespective of U.S. constraints, second only in the region to the Dominican Republic in its number of arrivals. This is despite the fact that Cuba has virtually no cruise visitors because U.S. laws make almost impossible calls by any vessel later wishing to enter a U.S. port.

### GROWTH

What is clear from this is that Cuba has been steadily growing its market without detriment to the rest of the



Havana is a big attraction.



The people and lifestyle of Cuba add to its value.

region and that the slow improvement in relations with the U.S., particularly under the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama, is not a zero sum game as far as the rest of the region is concerned. That said, the reality is that Cuba's offering still has many minuses and the country would be hard pressed logistically to cope with any sudden

upsurge in U.S. visitors. For example, it is apparent to anyone travelling to Cuba's principal cities that some of the island's airports will need significant upgrading if they are to handle many more visitors.

Arriving recently at Havana's Jose Marti Terminal 2, which is largely dedicated to U.S. charters, a long wait for immigration was required, fol-

lowed by a lengthy struggle to find luggage among the chaotic array of cartons, flat screen televisions and almost everything else that filled the floor of the customs hall.

There will also have to be a significant improvement in the quality and range of hotels outside Havana. At present the majority, while of good quality, principally cater for the mass market and it is rare to find anywhere able to reach the U.S. standard of four and five star beach front properties that exist in the rest of the Caribbean.

But even then it is unlikely that Caribbean destinations will suffer. Far more likely is that once Cuba's nationwide program of port improvement is completed, it will be Miami and U.S. cruise companies that will be bypassed in favor of other lines home-ported in Cuba.

No one should be in any doubt that eventually travel to Cuba for U.S. citizens will be much easier. If Cuba is able to improve its mix and the quality of hotels and develop a cruise industry, it could mean that some Caribbean destinations, most likely those furthest from the U.S. mainland in the eastern Caribbean, will have to dramatically improve their competitiveness.

That said, best guess is that the region has at least a decade's head start.

- Edited from News Americas. David Jessop is director of the Caribbean Council.

### WINNING HAND

However, where Cuba wins over all other regional

## BAHAMAS BLISS: 16 islands, 16 couples, one 'Priceless' wedding day contest

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

Islands Wedding Invitation" before June 13. Those not sure which island to choose, can use the online interactive Wedding Tuner at Bahamas.com to view the 16 islands, hotels and activities.

Winning couples each receive a wedding gown, tuxedo, wedding ring for bride and groom, round trip airfares from the continental U.S. to The Bahamas for the couple and two friends or witnesses, a five day, four night expenses-paid stay in The Bahamas for the couple and the two witnesses, three meals daily, a bridal bouquet and arrangement for the bride and maid/matron of honor, bou-

tonnieres for the groom and best man, a wedding cake (for four), champagne, wedding coordinator, welcome cocktail reception for four, the ceremony site, transportation and other prizes.

Winning couples may invite as many guests as they would like to their weddings, but for additional costs.

The 16 Islands wedding prize packages range from \$1,300 to \$5,645. The value for 16 lucky couples? Priceless!

Story and photograph by Michelle Cawley Dreseris, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.

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# SOCA BLUE: T&T becomes 84th destination for jetBlue airline

**PETER WEBLEY**

When jetBlue launched six non-stop daily flights to Trinidad and Tobago on May 1, it became the 84th destination for the airline.

jetBlue is opening new vistas for the twin island republic and paving the way for the expansion of the tourism industry at a time when it is facing monumental challenges.

To document the occasion, **Caribbean Today** and several other media were invited for the inaugural flight from Fort Lauderdale, Florida to Port of Spain, the T&T capital. After a comfortable and entertaining three-and-a-half hour flight, there was a brief function at Piarco International Airport to mark the occasion.

Following speeches by officials of T&T's Ministry of Tourism and Chad Meyerson, jetBlue's director for Latin America and the Caribbean, who also addressed passengers and staff before boarding at Fort Lauderdale, photographs of the plane and delegation were taken. The event was followed by a cocktail reception at the magnificent National Academy For The Performing Arts. Umesh Rampersad, chairman of the Tourism Development

Company Limited, welcomed guests and praised the additional service of jetBlue.

"The demand for international traveling is increasing and it will lead to much more development in Trinidad and Tobago," said Rampersad.

Meyerson jetBlue will provide 600 more seats a day for T&T.

"We thank you for your support," he said, "and we truly love this destination."

"We look forward to a long and fruitful arrangement with jetBlue," said Minister of Tourism Gerald Hadeed.

## 'DOWN THE ISLANDS'

The following morning the media group departed for "down the islands" - The Gasparee Caves and the Bocas. Several rocky islets lie in the channel between Trinidad and Venezuela, separated by the narrow channels called Bocas del Dragon or "Dragon's Mouth". Gaspar Grande, Monos, Huevos and Chacachacare are the islands frequently visited. Scotland Bay, though part of the mainland, is also considered "down the islands" because it can only be reached by boat.

The Gasparee Caves, located below the ground on the Island Of Gaspar Grande

off Trinidad's northwest coast, was once used by pirates and smugglers to secure stolen treasures. These limestone caves feature a crystal clear pool that adds to their mystery.

During our visit, Captain Elton Pouchet piloted his 29-foot boat, owned and operated by In Joy Tours. Elton and Lorraine Pouchet represent a destination management company that is frequently called upon by the Ministry of Tourism to take visitors on sight seeing tours and is second to none.

## INDIAN CULTURE

On the morning of May 3 we headed towards the south of Trinidad, visiting the famous "Temple in the sea at Waterloo". Known as a site of worship for Hindus and a tourist attraction, it was built by Sewdass Sadha, an indentured laborer.

Next up, a visit to Hanuman Murti, a Hindu deity that stands 84 feet. The statue is said to be the largest outside India. Built on the grounds of the Dattatreya Yoga Center and Mandir, it is located in Carapichaima, central Trinidad.

The Indian Caribbean Museum is near the temple. The only one of its kind, it's



Hanuman Murti.

dedicated to the preservation of the material history of the descendants of East Indian/South Asians in the Caribbean who came from India to work as indentured laborers after slavery was abolished during the years 1838 to 1917.

We departed for the Caroni swamps and bird sanctuary, considered Trinidad's largest mangrove wetland. It too is a national treasure. Spanning approximately 20 square miles, it's home to over 200 avian species, the most famous being the Scarlet Ibis,

Trinidad's national bird and main attraction on the trip. A maze of channels and wildlife share the mangrove, including tree boas, fiddler crabs, oysters and mini anteaters.

## SHARK AND BAKE

May 4 found us heading towards the world famous Maracas Bay on the north coast of the island for a day at the beach. Maracas is one of the most beautiful beaches on the island, and a local favorite - about an hour drive from Port of Spain. The many shark and bake huts offer the famous Trinidadian dish.

We were treated to a fabulous array of Indian dishes at the restaurant Sriram Herbals on our final evening.

Media personnel were hosted by Kapok Hotel, located in St. Clair. T&T's Ministry of Tourism and the public relations firm of Cheryl Andrews Marketing arranged the trip.

*Story and photograph by Peter Webley, publisher of Caribbean Today.*

*The full version of this story is available online at www.caribbeantoday.com.*



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# STAYING AFLOAT: Preventing children drowning in summer swim season

PAULA THAQI

Imagine if every single year, a bus full of toddlers died from the same cause. Would you want to do something about it? Well, that's like what happens with drownings.

Last year, 66 Florida children under age five died from drowning. Counting youths through their teens, the tragic total reached 97. Over the past decade, the toll was 1,032 children and teens lost to the water.

The black community is affected especially hard by drownings. At least 372 of the young victims of the past decade were black, including twin two-year-olds Harmony and Harmani West who drowned in the pool at their Deerfield Beach apartment complex in April.

Health officials have estimated that for every drowning death, an estimated five children go to the hospital with

serious injuries that may include neurologic damage. Every one of those tragedies could have been prevented – with simple steps: A repaired lock on the pool gate; a fence around the pool; an alarm on a patio door; swimming lessons. Most importantly, an adult who can swim must attentively supervise the child.

Each county in South Florida has a committee of community agencies that has reduced children drownings through education and other steps. The Florida Department of Health is active in all those groups.

## PROTECTION

But organizations can't do it alone. Broward County has 130,000 pools at homes and multi-family complexes, plus miles of waterways.

Drownings can happen without warning. Parents and guardians should take steps to protect their children. Here's how:



Caution is key for children and parents.

**Recognize it can happen** - Many parents who lost a child never imagined that danger was so close.

**Don't rely on responsible behavior from your child or anyone else** - If you can't watch your child in the water, make sure a responsible adult is there.

**Avoid cell phones and other distractions** - It takes full attention in order to prop-

erly supervise children in the water.

**Create "secondary barriers" in case supervision fails** - A fence around all sides of the pool as well as alarms and locks on doors and windows can be your backstop.

**Learn CPR for drowning victims** - These include breaths and chest compressions.

Check the pool first if a

child is missing - Get the child out of the water fast and start CPR.

**Don't rely solely on your ears** - Children who drown do not scream, splash or struggle, they silently slip beneath the water – often with a caregiver in the home.

Teach children to never go near water without an adult, not to panic if they fall in and how to swim to the side to get help.

Remember that 90 percent of drownings occur when the child goes outside unseen. It doesn't have to happen.

For more information, visit [www.browardchd.org/healths\\_drowning.aspx](http://www.browardchd.org/healths_drowning.aspx) or call 954-213-0712.

- Edited from an article submitted by Dr. Paula Thaqi, a health officer at the Florida Department of Health in Broward County.



## SPIC AND SPAN



A lady wipes a counter, part of commercial-grade kitchen appliances donated by Harvard Business School in the United States to Food For The Poor. The appliances shipped to Jamaica are being used to equip 13 Mustard Seed Communities, which cares for orphaned children living with disabilities. The Institution Recycling Network, which has been in partnership with Food For The Poor for more than a decade, helped to facilitate the donation.

## Comic relief to benefit hunger relief

Comedians from a variety of cultures are scheduled to come together **June 14** in South Florida to celebrate fathers while supporting charity.

An All Laugh Comic Relief Party, combining international food and laughter, will benefit the Joshua Heart Foundation. Joshua Williams, whose name is behind the movement, at age four embarked on a mission to end world hunger.

"We were so impressed by young Joshua's initiative and tenacity, he has accomplished in his short lifetime what many have not even attempted to do in our many years here on this earth", said Jeremy Stennett, brainchild of the show, which is being produced and managed by The Lifestyle Agency of Poughkeepsie, New York.

"The Lifestyle Agency is committed to help get Joshua to the next level of one million pounds of food delivered to those in need," he added.

### T&T STAR

The event, which takes place at Fort Lauderdale's War Memorial Auditorium, 800 N.E. Eighth St., begins at **5 p.m.** with an International Food Festival hosted by Chef Andrew Selz. The festival will showcase cuisines from around the world.

The comedy starts at **9 p.m.**, and features a lineup of Michael Blackson, Trinidadian Marc Theobald, Jason Andors, Sara Contreras, Mike Yard and Larry Dogg.

For more information, visit [www.ifcf.info](http://www.ifcf.info) or call 877-419-0502.



## Caribbean heritage at N.Y. book fest

Brooklyn, New York, one of the largest Caribbean communities outside the actual region, will host "WORD! - A Caribbean Book Fest" on **June 8**.

Three dozen novelists and poets from almost 20 countries and territories in the Caribbean and diaspora are scheduled to attend an afternoon-long carnival of sound and imagery at the Crown Heights campus of Medgar Evers College, 1650 Bedford Avenue.

The festival celebrates the rich and complex literary traditions from the Caribbean's

cultural landscape. Presented by the Caribbean Cultural Theatre, in association with the Caribbean Research Center at Medgar Evers College, this year's program boasts a roster of wordsmiths including Trinidadian poet Mervyn Taylor, plus newer voices such as Idrissa Simmonds, a Canadian national of Haitian and Jamaican parentage, and Joanne Skerrett from Dominica.

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

# HELPING HAND: Jamaican is Orlando's new assistant fire chief

The Orlando Fire Department (OFD) in Florida has promoted Jamaican Hezedeane Smith to assistant fire chief.

Smith was honored during a ceremony last month at Orlando City Hall. He was the final and highest of the ceremony's 10 promotions.

As assistant chief of the District 1 Fire Station in downtown Orlando, Smith's duties include supervising OFD's five district chiefs; managing personnel scheduling, including the proper aggregation of sick leave and leave time; overseeing payroll; and supervising responses.

"A first alarm involves six units," Smith detailed as he explained his new position last month. "The assistant chief is added for anything greater than a first alarm."

He also explained that district chiefs supervise all scene activities until more

resources are needed, at which time the assistant chief assumes command. Smith's administrative roles include policy and personnel development, revisions, exams, and subject matter expert relations.

## EARLY START

Smith, a native of Montego Bay, was 13 when he and his family came from to the United States from Jamaica in 1982. The desire to help people continues to be one of his most defining qualities. The former district chief brings over 26 years of combined emergency medical services and firefighting experience to his new position, including four years as a medic in the U.S. Air Force.



Smith

Smith's drive to help others carved his career. After his

four-year contract ended with the Air Force, he chose to return to Orlando to care for his father who had fallen ill. He worked for Orlando Regional Medical Center for almost 20 years, beginning in the Emergency Room. During his early years there, Smith attended school by day and worked at night, eventually venturing to Lake County for Firefighting School in 1992 after completing emergency training.

"After transitioning into firefighting, I became the training program coordinator for life courses for all the hospitals under the Orlando Regional Health umbrella," Smith recalled.

## FIGHTING FIRES

He spent his first three years as a firefighter with the Apopka Fire Department. Smith then moved to the OFD, where he has worked the last 18 years.

Smith has been training the next generation for over a decade, including as adjunct professor at Valencia College.

"I taught CPR when I was in the Air Force," he explained. "I always had a desire to teach and reinforce knowledge through teaching, and staying current."

He was instrumental in introducing the emergency medical services simulation lab for the school's one-year

paramedic program.

"You remember the old way of doing CPR? 'Annie, are you okay?' Well, the simulation lab now has mannequins that can talk, breathe, and be injected," he said.

Smith explained that students who complete the program go on to become nurses and nurse practitioners. On Mar. 10, 2014, Valencia College reported Smith recently earned the prestigious Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator (CHSE) designation.

Smith is an online adjunct professor in Embry Riddle's management course for its business bachelor of science program and in its fire science bachelor of science program.

In 2012, Smith and Greater Orlando Aviation Authority fireman Roderick Waisome co-founded Unity in Uniform, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization comprised of uniformed professionals (police, firefighters, doctors, nurses, military veterans, and others). It annually raises funds to provide emergency services training to Orlando's underprivileged youth.

Unity in Uniform's flagship fundraiser, the 5th Alarm Fashion Show, is entering its fifth year helping raise money for breast cancer. The organization has received a City of Orlando matching grant two

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

# Steel pan music to highlight Miami show

In honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month in June, and a season at Pérez Art Museum Miami dedicated to Caribbean art, PAMM is teaming up with Caribbean American Heritage Florida and The Rhythm Foundation to present the Lauderhill Steel Ensemble.

The event will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. June 5 at PAMM, 1103 Biscayne Blvd.

in Miami, Florida.

Celebrate Caribbean culture with PAMM's "Caribbean: Crossroads of the World" exhibition and dance to a live steel drum music in a preview to the upcoming "Colors of the Caribbean Festival" performance.

Lauderhill Steel Ensemble originated in 2003 in collaboration with the City of Lauderhill's department of

Parks and Recreation. Its mission is to cultivate cultural awareness in the community by providing musical training on steel pans as a means of fostering the preservation and advancement of Caribbean culture in the community.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 305-375-3000.



# Caribbean 'Taste' at Florida Waterfront Park

The third annual "Taste of the Caribbean and Jerk Festival", presented by the Caribbean American Association of Lake County (CAALC) in Florida, will be held from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. June 14 at Clermont Waterfront Park.

The event will feature a "Jerk Cook-off" competition, Caribbean cuisine, live reggae music, gospel and steel bands,

Afro-Caribbean dancers and Indian dancers. DJ Phayz (Vibrant Soundz WOKB 1680am) is expected to bring music from Latin, chutney, calypso, soca, soul and jazz. There will also be dominoes, face painting, games, Kid's Zone, Bounce House, arts and crafts and free health information.

Sponsors include the

City of Clermont, Advanced Nursing Concepts, Bennett Law Center, Lakeside Entertainment Center, Victoria Mutual and Caribbean Sunshine Bakery & Restaurant.

For more information, e-mail [caalc@live.com](mailto:caalc@live.com), visit [www.caalc.org](http://www.caalc.org) or call 352-978-0813.



# New York hosts 'Caribbean Week'

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the region's tourism development agency, will stage its 41st Annual Caribbean Week in New York this month.

Caribbean Week in New York showcases the sights, sounds, color, culture and unique vacation experiences of the Caribbean, showing New Yorkers and visitors to the Big Apple why the region is a desirable, year-round warm weather destination. The following is a listing of events:

**June 1-7 - Caribbean Celebrity Chefs Program**  
Caribbean chefs are scheduled to prepare authentic dishes at demonstrations, tastings and cooking classes at culinary venues. Free events at Williams-Sonoma, Columbus Circle and Bloomingdales, 59th Street and White Plains. Tickets priced from \$25 to \$135 per person are available for culinary classes and lessons at Haven's Kitchen, 109 W. 17th

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## After 'long, arduous' journey, Guyana celebrates 48th Independence

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Guyana has celebrated its 48th anniversary as an independent country acknowledging that the journey has been “long and arduous” and characterized by “valiant struggles and acts of mass heroism as well as great individual feats”.

In his address to the nation on May 26, President Donald Ramotar said that country is marking the milestone of its political history in a world that has grown more complex, more interconnected, but, unfortunately, one which remains unequal between the developing South and the developed North.

“International relations today are still dominated and determined by a handful of rich countries,” said Ramotar. “Many of the insti-

tutions established, particularly the international financial institutions mostly geared to serve the interest of the most rich and powerful countries.”

He said developing countries have to manage the affairs of their states in a great disadvantageous situation and this is reflected in the growing inequality in relation to access to resources and the huge income gap between the rich and poor countries of the world.

Ramotar said that the richest 85 persons in the world are worth more than the poorest 3.5 billion persons and that almost a half of the world's wealth is owned by just one percent of the population.

### STRUGGLE

“The struggle, therefore,



Ramotar

for socio-economic justice and a more equitable world, continues,” Ramotar. “One of the major issues is the need to democratize international relations. It is patently evident that the vast majority of countries in the world and by extension the peoples of those countries do not have enough influence on international politics and economics.”

Ramotar said that the situation demands that Guyana continues to build greater solidarity among the developing world while it works in alliance with those developed countries interested in genuine partnership. He said the

country must also continue to take the lead in promoting regional unity and pledge to work tirelessly within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to bring stronger bonds and integration of the peoples of the region.

“While I know many have expressed some impatience with the pace at which this process is proceeding, let us not fail to see the gains that we have made as well,” the president explained.

### GROWTH

The president said Guyana has been experiencing economic growth since 2006 noting “this represents the longest period of uninterrupted real economic growth since Independence in 1966.” He said last year the economy grew by five per cent and that the figure would have been greater had it not been for the difficulties being experienced within the sugar industry since the abandonment of the Sugar Protocol by Europe in 2010, resulting in the decline in the sugar price by 36 percent.

But Ramotar said growth has been experienced in almost every sector of the economy and praised the private sector for the “significant achievements in every area of endeavor.”

However, Ramotar said he was disappointed that efforts to bring cheaper electricity to the country have been frustrated by the failure of the opposition legislators to support the Amaila Falls Hydro Project last year.

“It took us four years of negotiations to have reached that stage in 2013 and all of that has been lost. But we are determined to get this project, already we have recommenced the search and opportunities to bring hydropower to our country,” he explained.

Ramotar also expressed his frustration at the failure of the National Assembly to pass legislation to deal with anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism.

- Edited from CMC.

## New York hosts 'Caribbean Week'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

St.; the Whole Foods Culinary Center, Bowery; Brooklyn Kitchen-Manhattan, 600 11th Ave.; and Brooklyn Kitchen, 100 Frost St.

### June 2, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Caribbean Diaspora Forum at Empire Foyer Hilton Times Square, 234 W. 42nd St. Free registration.

This year's forum will explore the business of “voluntourism” and how the Caribbean diaspora can participate.

Scheduled speakers include Heidi Clarke, director of programs, Sandals Foundation; Captain Jagmohan Singh, acting chief executive officer, Caribbean Airlines; and Wilson Jn. Baptiste, chief executive officer, Gems of St. Lucia.

### June 3, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Student Colloquium at Empire Foyer Hilton Times Square. Free registration.

Created by CTO interns to involve youth in Caribbean Week New York, the program challenges students studying at the tertiary level to research and present practical sustainable tourism projects that if implemented, could provide a sustainable source

of income for Caribbean nationals.

Final teams present their projects and compete to win the 2014 Student Colloquium Championship.

### June 4, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Caribbean Romance Pavilion, 404 10th Ave. Free with pre-registration.

For engaged couples seeking a romantic and idyllic setting to get married and honeymoon, and married couples still deciding on that honeymoon getaway, destinations and resorts demonstrate why the Caribbean is the number one resort destination for weddings and honeymoons.

### June 6, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Rum & Rhythm Benefit, Tribeca 360, 10 Desbrosses St.

A fundraiser to benefit CTO Foundation, this event shows off the vibrant cultures, eclectic cuisines, pulsating rhythms and quintessential experiences in the Caribbean. Guests will sample rums and cuisine prepared by Caribbean chefs while listening to Caribbean music.

For more information, call 212-764-0340.



## HELPING HAND: Jamaican is Orlando's new assistant fire chief

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

years in a row, using it to fund programs instrumental in setting a constructive course for children's futures.

Smith said he plans to start consulting, or preferably

have an upper-level management position with firefighters in Caribbean islands.

- Edited from an article submitted by contributor *Mellissa Thomas*.



# Successful Caribbean Women In Business



In September Caribbean Today will spotlight Ten Successful Caribbean Women In Business.

Join Caribbean Today as we showcase these hard working women from the Caribbean who have left their mark on the business community in South Florida.

If you would like to nominate someone please send your nominees to [editor@caribeantoday.com](mailto:editor@caribeantoday.com) or [peter.webley@caribeantoday.com](mailto:peter.webley@caribeantoday.com)

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# SPORTS



## EYE ON THE PRIZE



Yohan "The Beast" Blake, Jamaica's world class sprinter, has his eye on the prize during a press conference in New York to promote his participation in this month's adidas Grand Prix track meet in the Big Apple. The June 13 meet has attracted several Caribbean stars, including Blake's compatriot Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, rated the best female sprinter in the world.

## England selects Jamaican-born Sterling for World Cup

Jamaican-born attacking player Raheem Sterling has been named in England's 23-man squad for this month's FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

The 19-year-old is among five Liverpool players chosen to represent England in football's biggest showpiece. Sterling becomes the second Jamaican-born player, after another former Liverpool legend John Barnes, to be named in an England World Cup squad.

Sterling had an outstanding season for Liverpool in the



Sterling

English Premier League and helped them to second place in the recently concluded sea-

son. He scored 10 goals in 34 appearances.

Sterling, who left Jamaica 14 years ago, represented England at Under-16, Under-17 and Under-21 levels and made his England senior team debut against Sweden in Nov. 2012.

England's squad also includes Liverpool forward Daniel Sturridge, who also has family connections to Jamaica. England begins its World Cup campaign against Italy on June 14.



## T&T, Jamaica tackle World Cup soccer teams

Despite failing to qualify for this month's World Cup, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, the top ranked soccer teams in the English-speaking Caribbean, have been active on the pitch leading up to the game's showpiece event in Brazil.

T&T is set to tackle Argentina on June 4 and Iran four days later. The Soca Warriors have been engaged in an intense training camp leading up to the matches.

"Generally it's been a good camp for us," said head coach Stephen Hart. "I'm pleased the mindset among the players and I've seen some good things.

Both Argentina and Iran are using the friendly internationals as preparation for the FIFA World Cup, which kicks off in on June 12. Both teams play in Group F.



Jamaica's captain Rodolph Austin, left, tussles with a Swiss opponent in their friendly international.

### QUALITY

Meanwhile, Jamaica lined up four friendly games against quality competition, including two versus World Cup-bound teams. On May 26 the Reggae Boyz went down 2-1 to Serbia in New Jersey. They then traveled to Europe, where they lost 1-0 to Switzerland.

Jamaica faces Egypt on June 4

and France on June 8.

Switzerland and France both qualified for the World Cup.

Jamaica made it to the

1998 World Cup finals. T&T qualified in 2006 World Cup. Both countries have failed to return to the big stage since.



## Sammy out, Ramdin in as Windies Test cricket captain

West Indies cricket selectors last month dumped Darren Sammy as Test captain and appointed wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin in his place for the upcoming New Zealand

series.

The announcement was made by the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) via the online social network Twitter.

"Denesh Ramdin, the Wicket-keeper/Batsman, has been named new Test Match Captain of the West Indies Team. Congrats to him on the appointment", the WICB tweet read.

"The WICB also thanks Darren Sammy for his time at the helm as Test Match

Captain from November 2010. He will remain as T20 Captain," the WICB added in another tweet.

Sammy later announced his retirement from Test cricket. The St. Lucian all-rounder, however, will remain as the Twenty20 captain will be available for selection for other formats of the game. Sammy served as Test captain from Oct. 2010.



Sammy



Ramdin

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Red Cross safety tips

The American Red Cross is urging residents to prepare ahead of the Atlantic and Caribbean Hurricane season that runs **June 1 to Nov. 30**.

A 2013 survey by the American Red Cross and The Weather Channel found few Americans living in coastal counties have taken necessary action to prepare for severe tropical storms and hurricanes. It's important to know the difference between the threat levels.

### Hurricane watch -

Conditions are a threat within 48 hours, time to review hurricane plans. Get ready to act if a warning is issued and stay informed.

### Hurricane warning -

Conditions are expected within 36 hours. Time to complete storm preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by authorities.



## Florida offers sales tax holiday

Floridians are being urged to review, re-stock, and replace items in their disaster supply kit for the start of the 2014 Atlantic Hurricane Season on **June 1**.

Florida will offer a sales tax holiday for hurricane preparedness supply items through June 8. Specific items included in the sales tax holiday include:

- A portable self-powered light source selling for \$20 or less;
- A portable self-powered radio, two-way radio, or weather band radio selling for \$50 or less;
- A tarpaulin or other flexible waterproof sheeting selling for \$50 or less;
- A self-contained first-aid kit selling for \$30 or less;
- A ground anchor system or tie-down kit selling for \$50 or less;
- A gas or diesel fuel tank selling for \$25 or less;
- A package of AA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, or 9-volt batteries, excluding automobile and boat batteries, selling for \$30 or less;
- A nonelectric food storage cooler selling for \$30 or less;
- A portable generator that is used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage selling for \$750 or less; and
- Reusable ice selling for \$10 or less.



## 'Near-normal' prediction for 2014 hurricane season

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In its 2014 Atlantic hurricane season outlook, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is forecasting a near-normal or below-normal season.

Hurricane season begins **June 1**.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center said the main driver of this year's outlook is the anticipated development of El Niño this summer. El Niño causes stronger wind shear, which reduces the number and intensity of tropical storms and hurricanes.

NOAA said El Niño can also strengthen the trade winds and increase the atmospheric stability across the tropical Atlantic, making it more difficult for cloud systems coming off of Africa to intensify into tropical storms.



The Caribbean and United States should expect multiple storms this year.

### OUTLOOK

The outlook calls for a 50 percent chance of a below-

normal season, a 40 percent chance of a near-normal season, and only a 10 percent

chance of an above-normal season. For the six-month hurricane season, NOAA predicts a 70 percent likelihood of eight to 13 named storms (winds of 39 miles per hour or higher), of which three to six could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1-2 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher).

NOAA said these numbers are near or below the seasonal averages of 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major hurricanes, based on the average from 1981 to 2010.

The Atlantic hurricane region includes the North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

- Edited from CMC.



# Help Us to Help Them

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

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

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

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

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

**Remember no money's comes to Caribbean Today, it all goes to your children's future education.**

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

THE MIAMI FOUNDATION IS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA UNDER THE SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT, 1991. A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE: 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2001, THE SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT, CHAPTER 496, FLORIDA STATUTES, REQUIRES US TO STATE OUR FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES REGISTRATION NUMBER SC-04939, THE PERCENTAGE OF EACH CONTRIBUTION RETAINED BY ANY PROFESSIONAL SOLICITOR IS ZERO, AND THE PERCENTAGE OF EACH CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED BY THE MIAMI FOUNDATION IS 100%.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS'

# FIT2PLAY<sup>®</sup>

## SUMMER CAMPS 2014

Fun, affordable, safe and conveniently located at multiple locations throughout Miami-Dade County, Fit2Play<sup>®</sup> is nationally-recognized and among the best summer camps in town.



### MIAMI-DADE PARKS GENERAL CAMPS

- Fitness Activities
- Sports
- Arts & Crafts
- Nature Encounters
- Field Trips: Zoo Miami, Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, Deering Estate at Cutler, Pelican Island
- Quiet Games
- End-of-Summer Bash: Tropical Park Equestrian Center

Cost: \$40-\$90/wk, plus one-time annual registration fee of \$12\*\*

### MIAMI-DADE PARKS SPECIALIZED CAMPS

- Nature-Science
- EcoAdventures
- Sports
- Cultural Arts
- Zoo Miami
- Children with Disabilities

Cost: \$100-\$255/wk.

Register at the park or visit [www.miamidade.gov](http://www.miamidade.gov). Families in need of financial assistance must apply in person at their selected park. For more information, call your local park or dial 3-1-1.



### A NATIONAL MODEL

Lauded by First Lady Michelle Obama during her February visit to Miami to celebrate the 4th anniversary of her "Let's Move" initiative, Fit2Play<sup>®</sup> is recognized by the National Recreation & Parks Association and the University of Miami as a national model that makes fitness and nutrition fun for kids. It is managed and supervised by recreation professionals.

### FAST FACTS ABOUT SUMMER CAMPS:

#### REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

##### Camp Dates:

Monday, June 9th to Friday, August 15th

##### Daily Schedule:

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

##### Drop-Off and Pick-Up Options:

Early Drop-Off Option: 7:30 a.m.

Late Pick-Up Option: 6:00 p.m.

##### Weekly Costs:

General Camps \$40-\$90

Specialized Camps \$100-\$255

\*All camps include Learn-to-Swim Programs.

\*\*Financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

