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# WONDER WOMEN



~ Women with Caribbean heritage are increasingly becoming successful stakeholders in business, especially in South Florida. This month, Caribbean Today spotlights a few of them in a special feature, pages 17-19.



Dino Bouterse, son of Suriname President Desi Bouterse, has pleaded guilty to charges of attempting to aid the Lebanese paramilitary group Hezbollah and conspiring to import cocaine into the United States, page 2.



Before the 2014 athletics season, Jamaica's Jaheel Hyde posted a picture on a social media outlet with the words "look out, greatness is coming." The gifted and versatile hurdler has more than lived up to his claim, page 8.

# MAXI'S MELLOW MOOD

~ Reggae crooner Maxi Priest has seen the ins and outs of the music business for decades. Now he's promoting a new album, "Easy to Love", which he says shows how age and maturity has made him so much better, page 13.



## INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE

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# NEWS



## Bahamas warns citizens about South Florida crime

NASSAU, Bahamas – The Bahamas government is warning nationals visiting the United States to be exercise caution and care in light of criminal acts being committed against Bahamians, especially in South Florida.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a brief statement recently, gave no details of the acts against Bahamians, but advised them that they should always seek to “travel around in groups and void remote and dimly lit areas.”

The ministry also urged against leaving valuables in vehicles, since the “break-ins have been of valuables left in the trunks of cars.

“Additionally, travelers are advised to leave all travel documents including airline tickets, police certificates and passports in a secured place such as a safety deposit box at the hotel.”

- Edited from CMC.



## Suriname president's son admits aiding terrorists

NEW YORK – Dino Bouterse, the 41-year old son of Suriname President



Bouterse

Desi Bouterse, has pleaded guilty to charges of attempting to aid the Lebanese paramilitary group Hezbollah and conspiring to import cocaine into the United States.

Bouterse, who once held a senior counter-terrorism post in the Dutch-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country, admit-

ted in a New York federal court on Aug. 29 that he had tried to provide material support to Hezbollah, which the U.S. has deemed a terrorist group.

“In 2013, I knowingly provided a false Surinamese passport to a person I believed to be associated with Hezbollah, an organization I knew to be designated a terrorist organization by the United States,” Bouterse told the court.

### CONSPIRACY

He also pleaded guilty to conspiring to import narcotics and carrying a firearm during a drug-trafficking crime.

Bouterse, who faces a sentence of between 15 years and life in prison, was accused of inviting people he believed to be from Hezbollah to establish a base in Suriname to attack Americans, in exchange for an initial \$2 million payment.

His plea came a year after

he was arrested in Panama and extradited to the U.S. on charges that he conspired to import cocaine into the U.S. The charge relating to Hezbollah was added in November.

The court was told that Bouterse met in 2013 with people who claimed to work for Mexican drug traffickers, but were actually confidential informants with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The U.S. indictment said that he discussed helping them transport cocaine and obtain weapons and, in July 2013, met with a DEA source to discuss opening Suriname to the informant's purported Hezbollah associates.

The indictment said he later met in Europe with the source and two other men claiming to belong to Hezbollah.

- Edited from CMC.



## Jamaica's agriculture minister dies at Florida airport

Jamaica's Minister of Agriculture Roger Clarke, died in the United States late last month.

Clarke, 74, had been at South Florida's Jackson Memorial Hospital since mid-July, where he had undergone surgery for a back problem, and was returning to Jamaica when he died at the airport, reportedly from a suspected heart attack.

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller led the tributes to Clarke, describing him as “one of a kind.” Simpson Miller said that his passing has created a tremendous void in the government as well as the ruling People's National Party (PNP).

“Roger was a one of a kind politician,” she said. “A

son of the soil, a humble man and I will always remember him for his generosity of spirit, but also for his contribution to Jamaica as councilor, mayor, Member of Parliament, and minister of government.”

### REPLACEMENT

Simpson Miller said a decision on Clarke's replacement in his government portfolio will be decided soon.

“I'm looking at whom I will keep there and perhaps use one of the ministers of state as assistant, so that we can get the job done,” she explained.

“We are all saddened and shocked by his passing, because he called a number of us and said he would be coming home ... He was very



Clarke

excited about returning to Jamaica.”

Simpson Miller also expressed condolences to Clarke's widow Sonia, members of his family, and his constituents of Central Westmoreland. She said the residents of Central Westmoreland “will indicate the best person to fill the big shoes of Roger Clarke” as MP.

### 'SADDENED'

The United States Embassy in Jamaica said it was “deeply saddened” at the death of Clarke, noting that he had led Jamaica's agricultural sector “with experience, deep knowledge and awareness of a field that he loved.

“He demonstrated leadership in many trade and development agreements between Jamaica and the United States, proving his passion for the sector and Jamaica as a whole. We are thankful for the opportunity to have worked closely with Minister Clarke”, the embassy noted.

- Edited from CMC.



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## Online Citizens Police Reporting Program

The online citizen police report system allows you to submit a non-emergency report immediately and print a copy of the police report for free. Currently, only certain non-emergency crimes are available for online reporting, as they usually do not require the response of a police officer. You can utilize this system at any time and anywhere. Upon receiving a copy of your approved report, you can provide it to your insurance company, or for court related matters. The Miami-Dade Police Department is pleased in providing online access to file a non-emergency police report in the comfort of your home or office. To file an online report please visit <http://www.miamidade.gov/police/> or <http://www.miamidade.gov/police/coplogic.asp>.

## Mom, kids among five Haitians killed in N.Y. car crash

NEW YORK – Five Haitians were killed when the car they were travelling in crashed in Long Island here last month.

On Aug. 23, Myriam Lebrun 37, a Haitian-born resident of East Flatbush, Brooklyn, was heading west on the Southern State Parkway in Babylon, Long Island with her three children and their grandmother, when the car veered off the highway, crashed in to a tree and burst into flames.

Lebrun, her children Marcus Jeanty, 14, Marcel

Jeanty, nine, and Kayla Jeanty, eight, and their grandmother Moise Yolande, 68, were all pronounced dead at the scene.

Dr. Mathieu Eugene, a Haitian American legislator here, expressed sadness over the death of the five Haitians.

“My deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers go out to the relatives and loved ones of the five people who lost their lives in (the) ... tragic car crash,” said Eugene, who represents the 40th Council District in Brooklyn and is the first Haitian to hold elective

office in New York City.

At a press conference on the steps of City Hall in lower Manhattan on Aug. 29, Eugene, was joined by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, and local community and religious leaders. It was announced that donations to the Lebrun family were being accepted to help alleviate the cost of funeral and burial expenses.

- Edited from CMC.



## Jamaica names panel to probe W. Kingston killings

KINGSTON, Jamaica –The commissioners to preside over the West Kingston Commission of Enquiry were sworn in here late last month before former Jamaican Chief Justice Lensley Wolfe.

The commissioners are Chairman Sir David Simmons, a retired chief justice and former attorney general of Barbados; retired Justice Hazel Harris, formerly of Jamaica’s Court of Appeal of Jamaica; and Professor Anthony Harriott, director of the Institute of Criminal Justice and Security at the University of the West Indies.

Following the swearing-in, the commissioners and the support team convened a preliminary meeting to chart the way forward for the enquiry, which is expected to get

underway shortly. They have been asked to conclude the enquiry within three months after commencement.

The commissioners will compile a report and recommendations concerning the events surrounding the May 2010 West Kingston incursion and submit them to the governor general within two months after concluding the enquiry.

In 2013, the government announced that it had accepted a recommendation to establish a commission of enquiry into the conduct of the 2010 operation, during which more than 70 people died. The May operation was launched to capture the fugitive Christopher “Dudus” Coke, who was wanted in the United States on an extradition request.

Weeks after the Tivoli operation, Coke was captured and sent to the U.S. where he is now serving a lengthy prison sentence.

- Edited from CMC.



Simmons

## ‘Major ganja trafficker’ nabbed in Philadelphia

BOSTON, Massachusetts - A Jamaican national, described by law enforcement authorities as a major marijuana or ganja trafficker, was arrested in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania last month.

Dwight Langley, 49, was taken into custody outside his house in the community of Stonehurst. Law enforcement officials said that several barrels filled with 83 pounds of

marijuana, with a street value of \$360,000, were seized. They said they also confiscated just over \$8,000 in cash and drug paraphernalia.

Investigators believe Langley is a major drug trafficker with international connections, and Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood said Langley was being investigated for months.

A judge arraigned Langley on charges of violation of the Health and Safety Act for possession of marijuana, possession with intent to deliver, as well as possession of drug paraphernalia.

Bail was set at \$250,000 pending his court appearance last month.

- Edited from CMC.



## 105-y-o among Caribbean nationals honored at ‘Harlem Week’ in New York City

NEW YORK – A 105-year-old Belizean-born woman and a prominent Caribbean community advocate were among honorees during “Harlem Week” here last month.

The Board of Directors of Harlem Week and the New York City Senior Citizen’s Committee, bestowed the honor on Caroline Lightburn and Vincentian-born Verna Arthur, Manhattan Community Outreach director and senior advisory council liaison with the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA).

They received the awards during the “Elders Jubilee” Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at the Adam

Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building in Harlem.

“Harlem Week” celebrated its 40th anniversary, while the Elder’s Jubilee celebrated its 37th anniversary.

### ICONS

Lightburn, the oldest female honored at the event, was born on Jan. 12, 1909 in St. Ignace, formerly Cayo District, in Belize, and grew up in Belize City. She told the Caribbean Media Corporation that she never drank nor

smoked, and was a baseball player and a member of the Belize All Stars team. As a housewife, who later became a domestic worker, Lightburn said she raised nine children, four of whom are still alive. She has 21 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren.

Arthur is also considered a cultural icon in the Vincentian community in New York. She received the Public Service Award for her “many contributions to the success of Harlem Week, especially her commitment to the seniors,” organizers said.

“I am truly humbled and honored to receive this presti-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



Lightburn



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# DAVID V. GOLIATH: St. Lucia wins arbitration round against U.S. oil giant

CASTRIES, St. Lucia – The St. Lucia government said it won the latest round of ongoing arbitration with the United States-based oil and gas exploration and production company RSM Production Corporation.

A statement from the Office of the Prime Minister late last month stated that on Aug. 13 the Arbitral Tribunal ordered RSM to post a guarantee of \$750,000 to ensure that it will pay St. Lucia's legal costs if it is ordered to do so at the end of the case.

"This is St. Lucia's second major success, following the Tribunal's order on December 12, 2013, for RSM to pay all of the advances towards the administrative costs of the arbitration – which in all previous known cases have been paid 50 per cent by each party.

"Both of these orders are the first of their kinds in the history of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), which is administering the

arbitration. The three arbitrators are independent of ICSID but are deciding the case under the ICSID Arbitration Rules, which are designed for disputes between host states and foreign investors. The Government is pleased to have achieved these unique successes," the statement from the Office of the Prime Minister added.

## FIRST ACTION

The Colorado-based RSM Production Corporation, owned by U.S.-based oil magnate, Jack Grynberg, had initiated the arbitration for breach of a multi-million dollar contract. The company took the action against the St. Lucia government in respect of the exploration license, which it was granted several years ago to undertake exploration for oil over a specified area of water offshore of the coast of St Lucia.

The main Opposition United Workers Party (UWP) claimed that the government



Grynberg, left, and St. Lucia Prime Minister Kenny Anthony.

had announced in May 2012 that Grynberg had filed a \$500 million claim against St. Lucia.

The statement from the Office of the Prime Minister noted that RSM must now post security because of the concern that, if the tribunal later orders RSM to reim-

burse St. Lucia, RSM will fail to do so.

RSM also claims that former prime minister Stephenson King signed a three-year extension to the contract, but then retrieved the document before it could be delivered to RSM.

RSM claims that the extension is valid, even though RSM never received it. RSM has asked the tribunal to declare that the exploration contract is still in full force and effect.

In reply, St. Lucia maintains that the agreement "has expired or is at least not enforceable and therefore Saint Lucia has no obligation (to RSM)".

The St. Lucia government said the latest order does not determine which party is correct on these matters. It relates only to the costs of the proceeding.

The hearing on the merits of the case is scheduled for Feb. 2015.

- Edited from CMC.



# U.S. lawyers back family of JA man killed in custody

KINGSTON, Jamaica - The Florida-based attorney who represented the family of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, who was shot and killed in the United States by a neighborhood watch volunteer in 2012, is providing support to the family of a Jamaica



Deane

national who died in police custody earlier this month.

Jasmine Rand will join prominent U.S. civil rights lawyer Benjamin Crump in providing support to the legal team representing the family of Mario Deane, 31, who died in hospital in the western city of Montego after being beaten at the Barnett Street police station where he was being held for possession of marijuana.



Crump

"I'm going to bring any support, resources and help develop legal strategies as best I can," said Rand.

"This is a signature case, this will put the face to police brutality and misconduct in Jamaica by using this case we can look at the greater systemic issue.

"I noticed that the prime minister made a statement that she won't see human rights violated. So I'm hoping that the government will stay true to its word and put all of its resources to providing transparency for the people."

Crump currently represents the family of Michael Brown, 18, whose fatal shooting by a Missouri police officer has ignited violent protests in the town of Ferguson and controversy across U.S.



Rand

Six police officers have been interdicted and suspended with immediate effect following a probe by the Inspectorate of Constabulary (IOC) into the circumstances surrounding Deane's death on Aug. 3. Acting Commissioner of Police, Glenmore Hinds, has since urged for patience while the investigations continue.

Two men, Adrian Morgan, 25, and Marvin Orr, 35, have appeared in court charged with the murder of Deane, whose death has sparked widespread criticisms and several protests.



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## Jamaica names new Atlanta consul general

Attorney Jewel Scott was last month named Jamaica's new honorary consul at Atlanta.

Scott, whose appointment became effective Aug. 26, replaces Vin Martin, who served as Jamaica's consular representative in the Georgia, United States city for many years. Martin died in July after retiring in 2013.

As honorary consul, Scott will provide consular services to Jamaicans and persons wishing to visit Jamaica, and promote the development of social, cultural and commercial relationships between Jamaica and Atlanta.

### EXPERIENCE

She has over 30 years of experience in the legal profession and has served in many capacities in Jamaica, the Caribbean and the U.S. In 2004, Scott made history when she was elected the first black female district attorney for the



Scott

Clayton Judicial Circuit in Georgia.

In 2008, Scott returned to private practice where she focuses on family law, criminal law and mediation in civil matters.

Scott was born in Manchester and grew up in Hanover. She attended the University of the West Indies, Norman Manley Law School and Mercer University School of Law.

- Edited from CMC.

## FOOD FIGHT: 'Golden' sues 'Silver' over use of 'Krust'

NEW YORK – The owners of the popular Golden Krust food chain here have filed a lawsuit to stop a rival Jamaican food company Silver Krust from use of part of its name.

In papers filed in Manhattan Federal Court Aug. 29, Golden Krust says it's been "among the most successful minority owned businesses in the country," since opening in the 1990s, and the knockoff is hurting its reputation.

"Without plaintiffs' knowledge or approval, defendants set up a competing Caribbean food restaurant they, not coincidentally, called Silver Krust," the suit says.

"Defendants use the distinctive K in misspelling KRUST, and have merely substituted Golden with Silver in coming up with" their name, the suit adds.

Golden Krust claims that Silver Krust sells some of Golden Krust products, and "have gradually expanded



A Golden Krust restaurant in New York.

their Silver Krust restaurant locations so they have become closer and closer to genuine Golden Krust restaurants," according to the lawsuit.

### 'CONFUSION'

There are currently six Silver Krust restaurants in

Brooklyn and Queens, and that there's been "actual confusion about the relationship" between the two chains.

The suit claims that when Golden Krust communicated with Silver Krust about the problem, a representative for Silver Krust "readily apologized" for the name, but has failed to change it. Golden Krust wants a court order forcing Silver Krust to change its name and to grant unspecified money damages for the "blatant infringement of their trademarks."

Up to press time, Silver Krust lawyer Bruce Colfin said he'd yet to see the lawsuit, adding that the dispute is "more complicated than it sounds." He told the **New York Daily News** newspaper that Silver Krust has "been in business for several years," and that Golden Krust should have spoken up earlier.

- Edited from CMC.

## CORRECTIONS

Dale Foti, executive producer of the movie "Jamaican Mafia", is female. In addition, the movie will not be available for downloads as was also reported. We apologize for the errors made in Caribbean Today's August

2014 issue.

Also in Caribbean Today's August 2014 issue, the wrong date was reported for a job fair in our "FYI" section. We apologize for that error as well.



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## IN GARVEY'S HONOR



- Photograph by Derrick Scott.

Shirley Natham-Pulliam, second left, Maryland House of Delegates representative and founding member of the Jamaica Association of Maryland (JAM), presents the 2014 Marcus Garvey UNIA award to Jamaican-born Dr. Basil Morgan, assistant professor of ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins University, during JAM's ball commemorating the Caribbean nation's 52nd year of Independence last month in Baltimore, Maryland. At left is Rick Nugent, president of the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organization. Noel Godfrey, president of JAM, is at right. "Dr. Morgan has given much to Jamaica and the Caribbean diaspora in the areas of general health and eye care," said Natham-Pulliam. The award is presented annually by JAM to a Jamaican who has distinguished him/herself in a chosen career.

## 105-y-o among Caribbean nationals honored at 'Harlem Week'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)  
gious award," Arthur told the reception. "Never in my 13½ years as a member of the Harlem Week Senior Citizens Committee has the thought crossed my mind that, one day, I will be standing before

you as an honoree of this distinguished culture event. Arthur's role with DFTA involves advocacy initiatives and community outreach on aging-related issues.

Arthur is a past president of the Brooklyn-based Club St. Vincent, Inc., one of the

leading Vincentian educational and cultural groups in the United States. She currently serves as the group's public relations officer.

- Edited from CMC.

# BUILDING BLOCKS: 'Mrs. West Indies International' raising minds, homes

**MICHELLE CAWLEY  
DRESERIS**

Natacha Sarthou Kalicharan, "Mrs. West Indies International 2014", is on a mission - and it's not to build a collection of pageant sashes, crowns, or titles.

Kalicharan's goal - along with serving God, family and community - is to help impoverished families living in the slums of her birthplace Haiti and the world.

"My goal is to build homes for the poorest of the poor and to eradicate poverty and mortality among infants," says Kalicharan, who graduated Miami Killian Senior High in 1988 and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration finance from Florida International University (FIU) in 1994.

Kalicharan - who is of Haitian, French, English, Syrian and Lebanese heritage - said she left a well-paid career in banking, when she and her Trinidadian husband Sean had children, to become a stay-at-home mother and wife.

"I worked in banking for several years until I became the CEO of my home," she explained.

Energetic and devoted, Kalicharan home schools her three young sons. She is the author of two books, runs an online business and is a community volunteer for Food for the Poor, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity. She is also an official pageant judge for two South Florida beauty pageants and uses her success in pageants to build houses for poor people in the Caribbean.

"My platform is 'From Huts to Houses: Building homes for the less fortunate'," she said.

Kalicharan's desire to help began when she was a little girl. She said she would give food to the poor and later donated money to build wells which provide clean water in poor countries.

"My mission is to shelter the poor and to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to them," she explained. "I spend a lot of time fundraising for this passion of mine."

Her immediate goal is to build two houses in different islands.



- Photograph by Vladimir Dorsainvil

Kalicharan

"Ultimately, I want to build an entire village for extremely poor families," said Kalicharan.

"In 2009, I started a shoe-box savings with my little sons to build homes for the poor in the Dominican Republic. We were living in Oklahoma while my husband went to college.

We put a picture of the house we wanted to build on a shoe-box, and made it into a piggy-bank. Then, we began collecting money from family and friends. But, most of the money came from change I

found in my husband's pockets when I did the laundry.

"But, that \$120 wasn't enough to build a house. When the massive earthquake hit my homeland of Haiti, I knew I had to do much more to help them rebuild from the devastation.

"When we moved back to Miami in 2012, I used my 1990 title as Miami Orange Bowl Princess to take my cause to the public."

This year, Kalicharan became "Mrs. West Indies International 2014" and second runner-up in "Mrs. Haiti International". She is also "Mrs. Port-au-Prince International" 2014 and 2013. But it takes more than titles to keep her goals on track.

"It takes \$3,200 to purchase a house for a family," Kalicharan said. "I cannot do it without other people, so I'm raising awareness and funds. It takes \$44 to feed one child for one year, \$205 to provide a water pump, and \$3,200 to build a house for a poor family.

"I dedicate my time and effort to collecting money for Shelter the Poor. We do it one home at a time, for one family at a time, so we can build

homes, and restore families and lives!"

Kalicharan has partnered with Food for The Poor, Inc. to raise money to build homes in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Guyana, Nicaragua, Honduras, and other Caribbean countries. Food For The Poor, Inc. is the largest international relief and development organization in the United States, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy. Since its inception in 1982, Food For The Poor, Inc. has provided over \$11 billion in aid, and built more than 91,000 housing units for the destitute, according to the website.

"Donate at Food For The Poor, Inc., and use the Source Code 86574/Natacha, if you are mailing a check to them," said Kalicharan. "Your donation is fully tax-deductible and 100 percent of your donation will be applied towards the building of the homes, and relocating families from slum housing to a sanitary living environment."

Kalicharan is the author of two books based on the Bible: "Married, but Still a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

## The promising business of America's ganja revolution

By all accounts, America's emerging ganja (cannabis) industry is looking promising and is shaping up to be the country's biggest business experiment of the 21st century.

But the mushrooming niche sector could quickly prove to be the proverbial bull in a china shop, with contradicting state and federal laws, the resulting apprehension of banks to touch the industry's abundance of money, and the precarious lack of cohesion as dozens of states continue to rethink their laws on the substance.

While many entrepreneurs are eager to put business plans into action if and when legalization occurs in their state, "the patchwork nature of marijuana legalization on the local, state and federal level creates problems for buyers, sellers and users," says Steve Janjic, Wall Street commodities expert and chief executive officer of Amercanex, a fully electronic marketplace exchange for the cannabis industry.

"We will soon hit the tipping point at which state after

state will legalize cannabis like falling dominos."

What is the best way to insure a legal, fair and accountable business model for the young industry?

The solution is a Wall Street-like model to allow the



- File photograph

A cohesive model is needed for emerging industry to succeed in U.S.

young industry to participate in exchanges to buy, sell or trade inventories in a fully-disclosed and transparent marketplace, Janjic says.

### BENEFITS

He outlines the various benefits, such a system would have on the cannabis industry.

- Ensures regulatory and tax-agency accountability and reporting: One of the benefits touted by cannabis legaliza-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

# MAMMO PALOOZA

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## RISING STAR: Jamaica's Jaheel Hyde making mark in world athletics

Before the 2014 athletics season, Jaheel Hyde posted a picture on the social media outlet Instagram with the words "look out, greatness is coming."

It was a bold statement to make, but one the gifted and versatile Jamaican has more than lived up to in a remarkable year in which he landed the 400 meters hurdles title at the IAAF World Junior Championships in Eugene, Oregon, United States in July, and who on Aug. 23 posted a stunning world youth best time of 12.96 seconds en route to 110 meters gold at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China.

"I planned out my season and achieved everything that I wanted to accomplish," said Hyde. "It was the complete season for me. I now plan on going home (to Jamaica) and getting some rest."

He deserves it.

Born into a sports crazy family – his father Lenworth was a former Jamaican soccer international – Hyde has been immersed in sport for as long as he can remember. Of his three brothers, and Hyde also has two sisters, two have played representative age group soccer for Jamaica and the other has been ranked in the top three in Jamaica in equestrian events.

### 'CALLING'

Hyde himself excels at both soccer and athletics. It

was the former sport which held the greater appeal for Hyde up until discovering hurdling aged "13 or 14" in what he terms "his calling."

"I saw the hurdles were out one day in training and I thought I can do this," explained Hyde, who hails from St. Catherine, just outside of the capital of Kingston.

"I like the hurdles because it demands a lot of focus and I am the sort of person who loves to focus. I just kept going back each year to hurdles training and slowly improved."

Starring in soccer concurrently with athletics, Hyde featured as a left winger for the Jamaica national under-17 team, scoring a hat-trick for his country in a 5-0 mauling of Bermuda to help his nation advance to the area CONCACAF qualification phase of the under-17 World Cup. Yet to pursue his soccer ambitions would have compromised his goals at the 2013 IAAF World Youth Championships and he decided to forego his international career in The Beautiful Game to focus on his track ambitions.

"I guess I saw the light, followed my heart and I went with track and field," says Hyde, a passionate fan of the English Premier League side Arsenal.

### 'PROBLEMS'

Hyde admitted it was a decision which caused "a lot



- Photograph by Getty Images.

Hyde claims top prize at Youth Olympics.

of problems" at home as his father was keen for his son to pursue his soccer career, but the decision was made and it proved the right one. Last July, Hyde, then aged just 16, secured the world youth title in the 110 meters hurdles in a blistering time of 13.13 seconds, just 0.01 outside the world youth best of France's Wilhem Belocian. It was a performance which convinced his father of his son's track ability and he returned to training last winter, finally with his dad's wholehearted support.

It was a winter which would see a change in emphasis as his coach Christopher Harley – the coach at Wolmer's Boys High School – asked his talented young charge to target the 400 meters hurdles at the World Junior Championships. Hyde, who ran 46.93 seconds for the flat 400 meters in Mar. 2013, which remains his per-

sonal best, agreed and quickly adapted to the fresh training demands. Once again, he spectacularly rose to the challenge.

In Eugene, at this year's World Junior Championships, the rookie one-lap hurdler trimmed 0.20 from his life-time best to strike gold in 49.29 seconds with his parents in attendance. Which brought us to Nanjing and the Youth Olympic Games where, after a long campaign this summer, Hyde and his coach opted to reset their focus to the 110 meters hurdles. The target was to lower Belocian's world youth best and on a hot, humid night at the Nanjing Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, Hyde delivered again, the first boy to run faster than 13 seconds over the youth barriers of 91.4 centimeters.

### NO SURPRISE

Recording 12.96, to the uber-talented Hyde, was all in a day's work.

"I wasn't surprised as the times I was producing in training showed that I could dip under 13 seconds," said Hyde, who has had cause for double celebration in Nanjing after receiving the news when he first arrived in China that he had successfully passed the CSEC school exams, which included four grade-one marks and a distinction in mathematics.

After taking a well-earned rest for the next couple of weeks before the new school year starts, with his coach's blessing, Hyde is likely to re-start playing high school soccer again. However, his main priority in the future is athletics and he is already eyeing a quick return to China next year for the IAAF World Championships.

"Next year I would like to make the (Jamaican) team to come back here to Beijing and then I would like to be in Rio (for the Olympics) in 2016," he said.

If his stunning success in 2014 is anything to go by, these both seem plausible goals, despite the fact that he will have to cope with senior hurdles and still be in the junior ranks.

- Edited from an article written by Steve Landells for the IAAF. For more sports, turn to page 11.



## The promising business of America's ganja revolution

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

tion is radically increased tax revenue, but could an understaffed Internal Revenue Service really track the unknown volumes of money in this embryonic market?

A digital commodities exchange system would monitor, track and audit orders, activities and transactions of all market participants in a jurisdiction from a simple online user-interface or automated reporting formats complete with e-mail capability. Growers and retailers could calculate, apply, debit and credit taxes and related fees in real-time at the point of transaction and have revenues

accrued.

- Helps cultivators, distributors and retailers stay connected to market trends, insuring a fair and open market and business success: A Wall Street-like model would offer cultivators and vendors a central electronic platform to sell/buy their inventories anonymously, so that only product, quantity and best-available pricing are shown, enabling a completely transparent, neutral and non-manipulated free market.

Under such anonymous conditions, supply and demand are the only factors affecting price discovery.

- Forces the industry to self-regulate: The more states

that allow for cannabis usage, whether for medical or recreational purposes, the bigger the industry will get. The longer the industry endures without a unifying and orderly structure like a commodities exchange, the more exposure to scrutiny it's likely to receive.

An automated system could avert unnecessary criticism by allowing all parties to monitor, track, account and audit every aspect of every transaction for every participant within the intra-state network.

- Ensures fair and orderly transactions, efficient dissemination of pricing, market trends and more: A Wall

Street-like model should display the full depth of market with live, executable prices and associated quantities per a given product or strain.

A real-time interface would provide market access to participants using prevalent best sell/buy prices. Goals of such a model should include a diverse base of clients within the market, true price competition, tailored solutions to suit the needs of all participants and 24/7 access over the Internet.

- Edited from News and Experts.



## BUILDING BLOCKS: 'Mrs. West Indies International' raising minds, homes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Virgin" and "BEFORE Boy meets Girl, & AFTER". In the latter, she encourages men to be financially successful so that their wives can stay at home with the children, if they wish.

"My motto is: 'A better society begins at home: Building a solid foundation for our future generation'," she said. "My books are based on the Bible because I am a Christian, and I use principles from the Bible to support what I'm saying,"

said Kalicharan, who is writing a third book.

"My next book will be about parents teaching their children the importance of obeying. I'm striving to bring back the traditional home where values mean something."

Michelle Cawley Dreser is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. For more stories on Caribbean women in business, turn to page 17.



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# CaribChat

## Women Golding is new Jamaica diaspora rep in southern U.S.

The Jamaican diaspora is estimated to be considerably larger than the population inside the Caribbean island. In 2004, the country's government convened the Jamaica diaspora conference to strengthen the links and support systems between Jamaicans residing abroad and those at home; deepen collaboration and co-operation between the stakeholder groups that serve them; and facilitate and increase the scope and impact of the contribution of the diaspora to the development of Jamaicans.

Attorney Wayne Golding was recently elected to represent the southern United States region, which comprises 13 states. Golding won the office with an overwhelming vote, 77 percent. His closest rival Alexander A. Williams received 17 percent.

Caribbean Today's freelance writer Jason Walker spoke with Golding recently.

**Jason Walker: Tell us a little about your background?**

**Wayne Golding:** I have been a



Golding

Jamaican diasporian since 1981, when I moved to New York at the age of 17 after graduation from Kingston College. I worked fulltime and went to undergraduate school where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics.

While in New York I participated in many Jamaican diasporic groups and activities. I moved with my family to Orlando, Florida in 1987 where I ran several Jamaican-oriented business enterprises.

During this time I returned to law school and have been a practicing attorney in the areas of immigra-

tion, criminal law and government litigation. During these years I have participated in numerous diaspora organization and activities. You can read more about me at [www.waynegolding.com](http://www.waynegolding.com).

**J.W.: What qualifies you for this position?**

**W.G.:** I know that I have the verifiable drive, dedication, commitment and professional experience and track record.

**J.W.: Tell us about your past work with the Jamaican community?**

**W.G.:** The many things which I have accomplished includes pro bono legal work for the last 12 years, facilitated numerous outreach programs within my local community with the Consul General of Jamaica.

**J.W.: What do you think accounted for the margin of victory that you had?**

**W.G.:** I think my track record is well established and we able to galvanize and have an

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

## Summer of immigration discontent

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

Dear Mr. President,

It's amazing to me that both chambers of the United States House cannot agree on major issues of interest to Americans who elect them – including immigration reform – but they did manage to pass legislation providing financing for Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system before they left Washington, D.C. for the summer break.

Israel's lobbying power is strong – so strong that it does not matter what the United Nations or the world thinks. U.S. lawmakers will always race to pass anything Israel put before them. Screw immigrants. Who cares about immigration reform? Let's finance more anti-missile systems to bomb and kill thousands of innocents.

This as we're hearing

from White House Senior Adviser Dan Pfeiffer that the departments of Justice and Homeland Security have as yet failed to present you with recommendations on how to move forward administratively on a plan that would help the 11 plus million immigrants who are in limbo and face the daily threat of deportation.

### COUNTDOWN

The countdown to the end of summer, the much touted deadline tossed around for executive action on the heels of congressional inaction, is almost here. So what will you do or not do?

As a lame duck president, you certainly should make some bold moves to again show us the "Yes We Can" president we elected.

The White House, according to many legal experts, almost certainly could delay indefinitely efforts to deport millions of immigrants already in the U.S. without working papers, and it can give them official work permits that would allow them to legally find jobs, obtain driver's licenses and pay income taxes. As Leon Rodriguez, a former

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



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## When in doubt – deny, deny, deny

Shaggy sings, “It wasn’t me,” as he denies, denies, denies. And guess what, the woman believes him too, as she’s in denial.

The same applies to other people who are in denial. They see all the evidence around them, feel it breathing down their neck, hear it, can almost touch and taste its bitterness, and yet choose to deny its very existence.

Some bury their heads in the sand and think that if they don’t see the problem, then it will go away. Is this what they call a fool’s paradise, or is it just that ignorance is bliss?

Whichever way you cut it, whether you are ignorant to the facts, or shown the facts but deny their existence, the result is the same ... you are cursed with the folly of your ways.

So many people live in denial, especially from actions of those close to them. Every mother thinks that her son or daughter is the best, even when she’s faced with the hard evidence that the child is worthless. Remember also, every mother thinks that it’s the other members of the marching band in the parade who are out of step and not her son. That’s denial.

### ‘DRUG’

They say that denial is the most potent drug in the world, and I really have to think that there is some truth to that statement. Denial will engage, take over, consume some people until they are overwhelmed by its narcotic powers. So much so,

that just like drugs, many people thrive on it as they live their lives in complete denial, feed on it, and exhibit the same symptoms as a junkie who is hooked on crack or heroin.

*“How come she so happy and flighty and her husband has other women?”*

*“Oh, she’s high on denial, that’s why.”*

And isn’t that true of so many people who live with their head in the clouds, even as their feet are stuck in the mud?

Denial mostly affects people who are deeply embedded in a relationship, but their partner has decided to venture out and graze in greener pastures.

### SIGNS

The telltale cliché signs are always there, and the denial follows right after. The man starts to come home late at night, or he may come home early, take a shower, dresses and hits the streets to attend a “lodge meeting”, “service club meeting” or “just hang out with the guys”. These are things that he never used to do before, but suddenly he takes up these interests. To make it worse, they are always late night activities and he’s always dressed to the nines and reeking of cologne when he attends.

It’s as plain as day and the writing is on the wall for all and sundry to see ... except for the wife of course, for she’s living in the euphoric state of denial.

She refuses to see, she cannot see, she is unable to see, because her vision is blocked by

the shroud of denial. If you ask her how things are, she’ll say that they are great, that the marriage is perfect and that hubby is hardly home because he’s so busy at night at his service club.

Oh, he’s at the club all right, and he’s being serviced marvelously, or maybe he’s doing the servicing, but the wife would never admit to any wrongdoing on his part. She has to deny; it’s what keeps her sane and it’s what keeps her life together and her lifestyle intact.

### PRIDE

Men go into denial too, and pride is what feeds this denial. Mark you, it’s not as common as with the women, and it can also lead to violence on the man’s part, but if his wife stops showing him affection, always avoids spending time with him, stays late at the office many evenings, joins late night prayer meetings, he too may live in denial. Instead, he’ll tell people that she’s just busy, having the change of life, and not admit that she stopped loving him.

There are other subtle signs that women choose to ignore but are as plain as the sun to other folks looking on. Remember that they always say that the spouse is the last to know? Well, they know, but are just the last to admit to it ... if they ever do. Example: When a man who was away for a long time, maybe months, returns home, and doesn’t even go and visit his woman. Or when it’s her birthday and he forgets



TONY  
ROBINSON

again, just like last year, or he makes up some lame excuse that he’s tired and can’t take her out. Or when it’s New Year’s Eve and he’s disappeared from the face of the Earth.

Not to mention Valentine’s Day and he spends the evening with his mother.

The woman is aware of these things, yet she still clings to the belief that the man loves her and will ask her to marry him one day.

### WAKE UP

Wake up girl, stop snorting the denial as it has addled your brain. The clouds of denial are blocking your vision.

Denial affects more women than men. Is it because more women have a desire to belong to a man and to be loved by him, rather than the other way around? So much so that they

will blind their eyes to all the wrongdoings of the man and deny that he’s doing them.

*“Can’t you see that the man is married and not leaving his wife?”*

*“Oh no, he WILL leave her, for he told me so up to last night.”*

He’s been telling her so for the past five years - a classic case of denial that is as old as time itself.

Denial, just like drugs, runs riot through mankind, and it comes in many forms: Parents who turn a blind eye to their children who are alcoholics or on drugs; mothers who know that their daughters are involved with older men, sometimes even their stepfathers, but refuse to see it, for the money’s running good.

The list is endless.

There is nothing as powerful as denial. It does have a positive side though, as it keeps many people sane, for denial, like ignorance can be bliss.

seido1@hotmail.com



## Summer of immigration discontent

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Justice Department lawyer and the newly confirmed director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said recently on Capitol Hill during an oversight hearing for the House Judiciary Committee: “There is prosecutorial discretion which can be exercised in these sorts of situations. In most enforcement realms, generally there is pretty broad discretion.”

### TOUGH CHOICES

Rodriguez also reiterated the arguments many have made before him to those lawmakers who prefer to vote for Israel over immigration. The reality is that the U.S. government does not have the resources to deport the more than 11 million immigrants living “illegally” in the U.S.

“So, the question is, are we going to let them persist in the shadow economy or are

we going to have them work and pay taxes?” asked Rodriguez.

Mr. President, you know what the answer is and what those billions in taxes can mean to the U.S. coffers. Most of all, we hold you to your word. You “have to make some tough choices to meet the challenge, with or without Congress.”

Let’s not let the summer pass by without making those tough choices for the immigrants who desperately need your help within the borders of this country.

Respectfully,  
Felicia Persaud

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



## Golding is new Jamaica diaspora rep in southern U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

effective outreach. However, I must recognize the overwhelming support from Central Florida.

**J.W.:** Considering how many Jamaicans could have voted why was there such a low turnout?

**W.G.:** This was a first time process of an open election in the region. There was definitely a concerted effort of outreach to the region through the available media outlet and other sources during the two-week election period.

The process may have been better served with more lead-time, but the process was easily accessible. The participation level was lower than I personally expected.

However, this indicates that there is definitely a need to concentrate on improving outreach and providing information to the entire region.

**J.W.:** What have you been doing since being put in

office?

**W.G.:** I have been just collecting information and consulting with those we have on record as being involved in the region. I have already started my outreach to the new individuals and diasporic organizations that I have discovered during this process. I have also been in communications with the Minister of State – Honorable Arnoldo Brown.

**J.W.:** What is your vision for the Jamaica Diaspora Conference?

**W.G.:** Access to the conference for all interested Jamaicans in the southern region.

**J.W.:** How do you see your position facilitating that?

**W.G.:** I have recently been provided with a draft agenda, which I will be advising within that context after I have had the chance to fully review.

**J.W.:** What are some of the main issues that you see for the diaspora conference?

**W.G.:** Availability of partnership between the diaspora and the local governments of the 14 parishes (of Jamaica).

**J.W.:** How will you get more people in the diaspora to be engaged in your vision and the conference?

**W.G.:** Through technology and direct points of contact whether businesses or diasporic organizations.

**J.W.:** What is the best way for persons to get engaged?

**W.G.:** Identify your area of concern either as an individual or organization, develop a practical solution and source the resources to implement it either in your own community or in Jamaica.

**J.W.:** What message do you wish to send to persons in the diaspora?

**W.G.:** Get yourself organized properly to be able to access resources that are already available.



## Golden show by Caribbean athletes at Youth Olympics

Caribbean community nations once again made their mark in a prestigious international sporting competition, earning four gold medals at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China last month.

The region showed its quality in the competition, geared for athletes ages 15 to 18, led by Jamaica's three wins and one by Suriname.



Whyte

Jaheel Hyde landed Jamaica's first gold, winning the men's 110 meters hurdles in a games record time of 12.96 seconds, 0.16 seconds better than the old mark. Hyde, who won the 400 meters hurdles crown at the IAAF World Junior Championships in July, said he expected to do something special in the shorter event.

"I am not surprised (by the time)," Hyde explained in Nanjing. "My times in training

suggested I would run this fast. I was a bit nervous beforehand. That is just racing. I knew I had to follow my coach's instructions, keep a cool head and win that gold medal.

"To come here and win means the world to me because it now means I've won all the major gold medals in my age group; World Youth, World Junior and now Youth Olympics. What more can I ask for?"

### MORE WINS

Hyde's compatriot Martin Manley also won gold, in the men's 400 meters, clocking 46.31 seconds.

"It means so much (to win)," said Manley. "It takes a heavy burden off me."

Henri Delauze of The Bahamas earned bronze in the event.

Jamaica's Natalliah Whyte, in the women's 200 meters, and Suriname's

Miquel van Assen, in the men's triple jump, also earned gold for the region. Van Assen's jump of 16.15 meters in the finals was not as good as his 16.29 qualification effort, but it was good enough to win.

"I am so proud to win a gold medal for Suriname. It was not easy, but I got it," he told

reporters after the event.

Jamaica's Obrien Wasome earned silver in the men's long jump and Melenie Rodney of Grenada finished third in the women's 400 meters to round out the Caribbean's haul.

Jamaica was the highest Caribbean country on the medal table, finishing sixth behind first place winners China, but ahead of the United States (ninth), Suriname (12th), and The Bahamas and Grenada (tied for 32nd).



Manley



van Assen

## Mixed bag for Caribbean clubs in Champions League

Jamaican club Waterhouse F.C. produced a convincing performance to earn victory at home, but Guyana's Alpha United suffered elimination with their third straight loss, as the two English-speaking Caribbean sides experienced contrasting fortunes in the group stage of the CONCACAF Champions League last month.

In a Group 4 encounter at the National Stadium in Kingston, Waterhouse brushed aside Panamanian side Tauro F.C. 4-1, while in Group 5 at the Estadio Tiburcio Carías Andino in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Alpha were crushed 6-0 by host Olimpia.

The result propelled Waterhouse to the top of the



Anderson

group with six points and kept it unbeaten. But Alpha's loss cemented the club at the bottom of the group and sent it crashing out of the competition with a game still to play.

Waterhouse was carried

by striker Jermaine Anderson's two goals as the club surged to victory in its first ever CCL fixture at home.

Waterhouse will play its final group game when it hosts Major League Soccer team D.C. United on Sept. 16. The Jamaican club lost to the MLS team 1-0 in the first meeting on Aug. 20 in Washington, D.C.

There was no such good fortune for Alpha, meanwhile, as it was blitzed by Fredixon Elvir's hat-trick and never in contention.

- Edited from CMC.

## Caribbean women hunt World Cup soccer spots

Four Caribbean nations will journey to the United States next month in search of places in the 2015 Women's World Cup finals to be staged in Canada.

Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Martinique, will join four other nations from North and Central America for the CONCACAF round of qualifiers Oct. 15-26 after they advanced from the Caribbean Football Union Women's Caribbean Cup last month.

That quartet earned the top four spots in the tournament. T&T won the championship after defeating Jamaica 1-0 in the final. Haiti beat Martinique 5-1 to secure third place.

The Caribbean nations will be joined in the CONCACAF round by the host U.S., plus Mexico, Costa Rica and Guatemala. The teams will be placed into two groups, with matches to be staged in the American cities of Chicago, Kansas City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

The top teams will advance to the semi-final and the winners there will receive automatic places in the World Cup. A third place game will decide a third automatic qualifier. The team that finishes fourth will play-off with a country from another region for a chance to play in Canada next year.

## Ex-Grenada soccer star faces conspiracy charges in England

LONDON, England – Former Grenada international Delroy Facey has been charged with conspiracy to commit bribery, media reports here have said.

The 34-year-old, who was arrested last November over his involvement in a match-fixing scandal, was scheduled to appear in the Cannock Magistrates Court on Sept 2.

"The Crown Prosecution Service's Organized Crime Division authorized the charges on the basis that there is a realistic prospect of conviction and that a prosecution is in the public interest," an NCA spokesman was quoted as saying.

### ONGOING PROBE

Facey's charge followed the National Crime Agency's ongoing investigation into the scandal, which has already

seen footballer Michael Boateng and businessmen Chann Sankaran and Krishna Ganeshan, convicted and jailed on the same charge.

Sankaran and Ganeshan were hit with five-year sentences, while Boateng received a 16-month term.

Facey played for 14 different clubs in a 16-year career, including Hull City, West Bromwich Albion and Bolton Wanderers, for whom he made 10 premier league appearances.

Facey was born in Huddersfield, but qualified to play for Grenada because his mother was Grenadian.

He made his debut for the Spice Boys in 2009 and made 15 appearances.

- Edited from CMC.

## Windies cricketers become stakeholders in T20 league

Four of the biggest names from the West Indies international cricket team have signed a deal that will make them co-owners in the new Canadian Premier League T20.

West Indies one-day international captain Dwayne Bravo, Test captain Denesh Ramdin, batsman Kieran Powell and former captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul have signed on to become stakeholders of the forthcoming a North American T20 cricket league.

The inaugural tournament, according to officials, will commence on Aug. 1, 2015.

Roy Singh is chief executive officer and chairman of the Canadian Premier League T20. The 10-team league will

consist of professional cricketers from Canada, alongside global cricketing stars, league officials said in a press release issued last month.

## BRIEFS

### Jamaican soccer player killed in Florida

Rollin Francis, a Jamaican-born soccer player, died last month from injuries suffered when he was hit by a car in South Florida.

The 37-year-old Francis, who represented several clubs in the Caribbean island, was reportedly crossing Oakland Park Boulevard on Aug. 10 when he was hit.

### New West Indies selectors

Former captain Clive Lloyd of Guyana has been named head of

the selection panel for West Indies' senior men's cricket team.

Lloyd has been joined by another former captain, Courtney Walsh of Jamaica. The selection panel is completed by ex-wicket-keeper Courtney Browne and former fast bowler Eldine Baptiste, both of Barbados.

### Miami Soccer Festival

The Miami Soccer Festival returns to Kendall Soccer Park in South Florida, Nov. 1-2.

This two-day event features

back-to-back FYSA-sanctioned tournaments for boys and girls ages 12 and under, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission for spectators is free.

For more information, visit [www.miamisoccerfestival.org](http://www.miamisoccerfestival.org) or contact Scott Georgeson, at 305-965-9855 or [scott.georgeson@soccer5usa.com](mailto:scott.georgeson@soccer5usa.com).

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## Tips on 'Becoming Supermarket Savvy'

Jennifer Ortegon, a dietician at Florida Medical Center, will discuss recognizing foods that benefit a healthy lifestyle during a presentation titled "Becoming Supermarket Savvy" this month in South Florida.

Ortegon will offer tips on

how to make good decisions at the grocery store and provide nutritional information on popular foods.

The lecture will be held from noon to **1 p.m. Sept. 18** at the Florida Medical Center auditorium, 5000 W. Oakland Park Blvd. in Lauderdale

Lakes.

To make a reservation or get more information, call **1-866-498-5433**.

Florida Medical Center is an acute care hospital and home of The Heart Institute of Florida.



## Caribbean broccoli chicken salad and golden fruit bread

Salad season is year round, but September is the ideal time to sample a Caribbean broccoli chicken version and golden fruit bread compliments of **Publix Aprons Recipes**.

### CARIBBEAN BROCCOLI CHICKEN SALAD

#### Ingredients

- 3-4 deli chicken tenders (.75 lb)
- 1 mango
- Juice of a lime
- 1 head bibb (or iceberg) lettuce
- 3 tablespoons mango chutney
- 2 tablespoons peach preserves
- 3 tablespoons plain low-fat yogurt
- 2 tablespoons light mayonnaise
- 1 (12-oz) bag broccoli slaw
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 2 tablespoons sunflower seeds

#### Preparation

Cut chicken tenders into thin slices. Peel and slice



Broccoli chicken salad.

mango (1 1/2 cups). Squeeze lime for juice (1 tablespoon). Remove lettuce core; separate individual leaves.

#### Steps

Prepare dressing in medium bowl by whisking chutney, preserves and lime juice until smooth. Stir in yogurt and mayonnaise until blended.

Add slaw, chicken, mango, and raisins; toss to coat.

Arrange lettuce leaves on serving plates and top with

salad; sprinkle with sunflower seeds. Serve.

### GOLDEN FRUIT BREAD

#### Ingredients

- 2 naan or flat breads (regular or whole grain)
- 1/4 cup peach preserves, divided
- 1/4 cup golden raisins, divided
- Cooking spray

#### Steps

Preheat large nonstick sauté pan on medium two to three minutes. Place two tablespoons peach preserves and two tablespoons raisins on one-half of each bread; fold over.

Coat bread with cooking spray and place in pan; cover and cook two to three minutes each side or until golden. Let stand three to five minutes to cool. Cut in half and serve.



## Papaya mango shrimp with palm heart sauté

#### Ingredients

- \* 1/2 cup tropical fruit salad in juice (papaya, pineapple), drained
- \* 1/2 cup mango nectar
- \* 1/4 cup ketchup
- \* 1/4 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
- \* 1 tablespoon fish sauce (optional)
- \* 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- \* 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- \* 1 lb large peeled/deveined shrimp, thawed
- \* 2 oz crispy plantain strips (or chips)

#### Steps

Place fruit in food processor; process 20 to 30 seconds or until smooth. Add mango nectar, ketchup, soy sauce, and fish sauce; process 10 to 15 seconds or until well blended.

Preheat large sauté pan on medium-high for three minutes. Place olive oil in pan, then add garlic and shrimp; cook and stir three to five minutes or just until shrimp are pink.

Add mango/papaya mixture; cook two to three minutes or just until sauce begins

to boil. Serve shrimp and sauce over palm heart sauté. Top with plantain strips.

### PALM HEART SAUTÉ

#### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro, finely chopped
- 1 medium red bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 (14-oz) can cut hearts of palm (drained)
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

#### Steps

Chop cilantro; set aside. Cut pepper into quarter-inch-wide strips. Preheat large sauté pan on medium-high two to three minutes.

Place oil in pan, then add bell pepper, hearts of palm, and red pepper flakes; cook and stir five to six minutes or until peppers are tender.

Stir in cilantro, salt, and pepper; cook and stir two to three minutes for flavors to blend. Serve.



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## 'Wiser' Maxi Priest launches smoothie 'Easy to Love' album

DAWN A. DAVIS

After an eight-year hiatus, Maxi Priest is back in the rhythmic saddle with a new album titled "Easy to Love".

Influenced by the likes of Marvin Gaye, Frank Sinatra, Phil Collins, John Holt, Gregory Isaacs and Dennis Brown, the British-born singer of Jamaican descent is noted for smooth vocals that redefine reggae with an R&B flair. His 11-track CD won't disappoint fans who crave Maxi Priest's signature style.

On tour throughout the United States, Priest made a stop in South Florida last month to promote "Easy to Love" at the Stache bar in downtown Fort Lauderdale. With distributor VP Records on hand, guests got a chance to purchase autographed copies, listen to a live sample of some of his early songs accompanied by a young guitarist, and receive insights into the cre-



Maxi Priest

ation of the album and the music business.

Priest said the new album was written in collaboration with others, although he wrote several tracks, among the most popular of the night, "Holiday". Beres Hammond, Assassin and DeLaRose are also featured on three tracks, which should increase cross

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

## Guyanese shines in N.Y. one-woman stage show



Griffith

NEW YORK - A Guyanese national recently wrapped up a one-woman show here which put the spotlight on the land she once called home.

Ingrid Griffith's "Demerara Gold", which ended its scheduled run played at the June Havoc Theatre last month, is the story behind the headlines about immigration to the United States.

The play focuses on a seven-year old girl who is left behind in Guyana when her parents get visas for the U.S. and forces her to tap into her rebellious spirit to break free of her two grandmothers - one a rigid recluse, the other a religious fanatic.

When she finally arrives in America to reunite with her parents, she finds a family torn apart by bitterness and violence. That's when she discovers her true birthright is bravery.

Griffith plays 18 characters in "Demerara Gold". She

explores farce and confrontation and with adjustments of voice and bearing, transforming herself from an arthritic grandmother to a swashbuckling gold prospector.

### BUSY RIDE

The classically trained Griffith has had a busy 18 months. In May, 2013 she entertained audiences at the Southampton Cultural Center in a supporting role in "Buckingham", a period piece by Tina Andrews about slavery and African bloodlines in British royalty. In June 2013, she performed excerpts from "Demerara Gold" at Soho Playhouse as an opening act for Debra Erhardt's "Jamaica Farewell".

In April, Griffith performed at the John Jay Black Box Theater as "Mama Nadi", the lead character in "Ruined", a play by Lynn Nottage about brothel women in war-torn Congo.

Yet Griffith shines as she tells her own story through the words of a range of characters on a bare stage in "Demerara Gold". With the help of her director Margit Edwards, she sheds light on the personal price of assimilation. Her agility and artistry brings the play to hilarious and dramatic heights and its heart-pounding conclusion.

- Edited from News Americas.



## Carnival in Miami, Broward counties revs up for 30th year

JASON WALKER

Three decades is a long time for any non-Caribbean area to host the largest physical manifestation of the region's culture - carnival.

Miami Broward Carnival reflects the historic unification of two carnivals that were staged for several years in close proximity in South Florida. The vision of carnival 30 years ago has manifested into one of the most popular Caribbean events in North America. The carnival even has hit songs about that carnival, such as Alison Hind's



Kia Hidspire, representing Grenada and St. Lucia, along with Nicole Williams, representing Jamaica, in Tribal Mas Band at the 2013 Miami Broward Carnival.

"Never Too Late For Carnival" featuring Trevor Offkey.

Kathryn D'aryc, corporate secretary for the organizing committee, said this year the "theme is a celebration of the 30th annual Miami Carnival. The first Miami Carnival was in 1985 in what is now the City of Miami Gardens."

### JUMP OFF

The carnival has become one of the most recognized in the world. Its organizing committee has to make sure there

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

## 1 killed at West Indian American Carnival Parade~cops

NEW YORK - At least one person was shot and killed and four others were injured during the West Indian American Carnival Parade on Labor Day, Sept. 1, police said.

They said 55-year-old Michael Sampson was shot in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn and that a suspect had been taken into custody. The suspect is also linked to shooting and wounding two

other people.

However, other media reports have questioned the police's link of the shootings to the carnival, including the time and location of the tragic incident.

New York Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner William Bratton said he had deployed more than 4,000 police officers to keep the peace along the two and a half mile parade

route.

The parade was attended by hundreds of Caribbean nationals residing in the United States, who despite the sweltering heat and humidity, converged on Eastern Parkway for what is considered the largest carnival parade in North America.

- Edited from CMC and other sources.



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## 'Our Lens, Our Perspective' focus at CaribbeanTales Film Festival in Canada

Teams of Caribbean filmmakers are scheduled to participate in the ninth annual CaribbeanTales International Film Festival (CTFF) to be staged this month in Toronto, Canada under the theme "Our Lens, Our Perspective".

The event takes place from **Sept. 3-13**. Through Sept. 7, the festival will host a "Market Incubator", which gives selected Caribbean filmmakers an opportunity to hone their creative and business skills through workshops and one-on-one mentoring by specialists.

Eight teams of filmmakers of Caribbean descent will be participating. This year focuses on series development

for television and the web and is aimed directly at audiences in the African and Caribbean diaspora.

The incubator features CTFF events at the University of Toronto, which will present opportunities for participants to network with international industry representatives. It culminates in a pitching session in front of international funders and buyers at the TIFF Bell Lightbox.

Participants in CTFF 2014 will be mentored by a panel of filmmaking professionals from the Caribbean/African diaspora. These include Nicole Brooks (producer, director, playwright); Dr. Rita Shelton Deverell (television, theater, academia); Rodney V. Smith

(director, producer, author), Christopher Laird (Banyan Ltd, Gayelle: The Channel) and Nick Davis (director, program development CBC).

Incubator 2014 participants are: Peyi Guzman (Dominican Republic), Camille Selvon Abrahams (Trinidad and Tobago), Melissa Gomez (Antigua), Rene Holder, (Trinidad and Tobago), and from Canada: Faisal Lutchmedial, Stephen Young-Chin, Jelani Nias, Chartrisse Dolabaille, Kerron Schullere and Hannah Yohannes.

For more information on CTFF, visit [caribbeantales-events.com](http://caribbeantales-events.com).



## Holy Family music fest in Miami Gardens

Vocalists and musicians from the Caribbean are scheduled to headline the Holy Family Church's Annual Music Festival in Miami Gardens, Florida this month.

The event, now marking its fourth year, is scheduled

for **7 p.m. Sept. 13 and 4 p.m. on Sept. 14** at the church, 18501 N.W. 7th Ave.

Among the scheduled performers are vocalists Carole Reid, Rory Baugh and Reverend Grace Jervis, plus vocalist Harold Davis on key-

board, and vocalist Andre Shepherd on guitar.

For ticket information, visit the church, call **305-652-6797** or go online at <http://www.holyfamilyevents.com/>.



## Carnival in Miami, Broward counties revs up for 30th year

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

is buy-in from the non-Caribbean community, the governing municipalities in South Florida and other carnivals to avoid conflicting schedules. It's not been easy for those involved.

"I was not there in 1985, but I was in 1986 and every year since," said D'aryc. "I've been a bandleader, a mas player, a competitor, an onlooker and an organizer of Miami Carnival. I have seen and been a part of different facets of Carnival and from an organizational perspective I've seen every problem, every triumph over adversity - and there have been a lot of them."

Director of Marketing

John Beckford (formerly part of the Broward Carnival organizing committee) said carnival means "embracing heritage and celebration of Caribbean arts and culture.

"It means food, drinks and music indigenous to the Caribbean," declared Beckford. "It means, getting together with friends and family if not for this one time each year ... It means old man winter is about to set in."

### PLUG

Carnival brings thousands of persons to South Florida consistently - from North America, the Caribbean, Africa and even Europe. It's a huge boost to the South Florida economy, a great plug

for Florida tourism and a fantastic display of Caribbean culture.

People get engaged in the carnival in diverse ways. They are not just standing and grooving to music anymore, but becoming part of the show - joining bands and wearing costumes. Caribbean and non-Caribbean people volunteer to help organize carnival. Fan support is catching on.

"Some embrace carnival and are curious of the diversity," said Beckford. "Thanks to T.V., Internet and world travel, more non-Caribbean folks explore and embrace carnival. Each year I see non-Caribbean numbers grow in attendance."

Miami Broward Carnival will be staged in two parts.

## Minaj passes Jackson for most Billboard Hot 100 hits

Trinidadian-born rap star Nicki Minaj has surpassed the late Michael Jackson for recording the most hits on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

According to a story published by News Americas last



Minaj

month, which quoted a Yahoo! Music report, Minaj's latest single "Anaconda" debuted at number 19, giving the rapper her 51st Hot 100 hit, beating Jackson's

previous record of 50.

Minaj made her chart debut in Feb. 2010 when she featured on Lil Wayne's "Knockout". Her first as a lead artiste came four months later with "Your Love".

"Made history today," Minaj, 31, reportedly announced on her Instagram account last month. "I didn't even know I was tied with Michael Jackson with 50 Hot 100 entries on Billboard. Anaconda makes 51 and now I'm tied with Rod Stewart.

God bless, and thank you."

Jackson's posthumous releases "Slave to the Rhythm" and "Love Never Felt So Good" became his 49th and 50th Hot 100 hits earlier this year.

### ... Shows off 'twerking' skills at VMA show

Trinidadian-born Nicki Minaj showed the MTV Video Music Awards audience her version of the art of "twerking" last month.

The rapper from the land of soca and carnival threw down at the VMA during a performance of her new song "Anaconda".

Minaj, wearing a shimmering green top and sequined shorts, later had to hold the front of her outfit together after a long split appeared. Ariana Grande, Minaj and Jessie J kicked off the 2014 VMA with a medley of their summer hits "Break Free," "Anaconda" and "Bang Bang".

- Edited from News Americas.



## Maxi Priest launches 'Easy to Love' album

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

section appeal.

### BACKSEAT

Asked why reggae music is not more in the mainstream, why it usually takes a backseat to other music such as R&B that is widely aired on radio and television, Priest's answer took some by surprise.

"Those that are in the media have to also take some responsibility because we have to make our people understand that if we don't support it, it will fail," he explained. "We cannot sit aside and wait on other people to support our music. It's as simple as that. The problem lies in the lack of support."

"What's the difference between Maxi's first album and this one?" a patron asked.

"Age and maturity," he replied. "We get wiser, we get sure, we get comfortable in understanding who we are. It has taken some time for me to understand and get comfortable with myself and say this is

Fairgrounds, 10901 Coral Way, Miami.

For more information visit [www.miamibrowardcarnival.com](http://www.miamibrowardcarnival.com).

Jason Walker is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



the position where I am in this life. Make use of it.

"I love what I do," Priest added. "I am blessed to be doing what I do. Because there are so many people out there that do things that is not their first choice. So, I don't take it for granted that what I do is what I am supposed to do."

The reggae crooner talked about his humble beginnings - growing up with nine brothers and sisters, having to share a bed with four siblings.

"I don't want this for my kids," he said. "I don't want this for you. That is why I do what I do and push the way I push."

With this, Maxi Priest showed the stimulated audience just how much he pushed to create this long-awaited album and his special class of music with guitar-accompanied versions of songs old and new.

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



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**CITIZENSHIP PREP**

Help in preparing for the United States citizenship test, including information on civics, government and the interview/test process, will be offered from **12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays during September** at the Miramar Library.

The library is located at 2050 Civic Center Place in Miramar, Florida.

For more information, call **954-357-8090**.

**VOTER RALLY**

To celebrate National Voter Registration Day, Miami-Dade College (MDC) will join several local and national partners to host a rally encouraging voter registration and participation from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 23** at its Wolfson Campus.

For more information, to register to vote and to receive updates, visit <https://mdc.turbovote.org/register>.

**'DREAMERS' SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applications are currently being accepted for "TheDream.US" scholarships at Miami-Dade College.

Applications for the scholarships, created specifically for DREAMer students, will be open through **Oct. 12**.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, visit [www.TheDream.US](http://www.TheDream.US).

To apply for the scholarship, visit [www.scholarshipsapply.org/thedreamus](http://www.scholarshipsapply.org/thedreamus).

**BIRTHRIGHT PROGRAM**

Applications are being accepted, through **Nov. 30**, for the GraceKennedy Jamaican Birthright internship program.

Applicants must be between ages 18 and 25, currently enrolled in university and born in the United States, Canada or the United Kingdom with Jamaican parents or grandparents.

For more information, visit [www.gracekennedy.com](http://www.gracekennedy.com) or e-mail [gkfoundation@gkco.com](mailto:gkfoundation@gkco.com).

**ALUMNI BALL**

Montego Bay High School Alumnae Association-New York Chapter will present its inaugural ball at **8 p.m. Sept. 13** at Maestro's Caterers, 1703 Bronxdale Avenue Bronx, N.Y.

**BANQUET**

The Jamaican American Connection's fourth annual Trailblazer Scholarship banquet will be held at **7 p.m. Sept. 20** at Amarante's Sea Cliff, 62 Cove St. in New Haven, Connecticut.

**DINNER DANCE**

The New York chapter of the Glenmuir Alumni Association will present its fifth annual dinner and dance at **9 p.m. Oct. 11**.

For more information, call **917-593-9918** or **646-496-6868**.

**ERIC WILLIAMS LECTURE**

St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Davis Anthony has been selected to give the 16th Annual Eric Williams Memorial Lecture on "Slave Trade Reparations: The Political Implications of Caricom's Stance" at **6:30 p.m. Oct. 17**.

The lecture will be held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center on Florida International University's Modesto Maidique Campus in Miami. Admission is free and open to the public.

**MEDWEEK REGISTRATION**

Registrations are being accepted for the MEDWeek Business Matchmaker Conference and Award Gala to be held **Oct. 16 and 17** in South Florida.

Visit [www.medweekflorida.org](http://www.medweekflorida.org) or call **305-576-7888** for more information.

**CIBC SCHOLARSHIPS**

CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank has awarded \$10,000 for two new scholarships for Caribbean nationals.

Scholarship recipients are pursuing a higher education or professional development in the hospitality and tourism industries.

The 2014 FirstCaribbean scholarship winners are:

Kirvez E. Ferguson (The Bahamas) - Culinary arts and food service management, Johnson and Wales.

Domonique Sturup (The Bahamas) - Baking and pastry arts, Johnson and Wales.

**REGION**

- The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) has adopted a declaration calling on the three branches of government in Haiti to comply with an agreement to hold legislative and municipal elections by the end of this year.

- Montserrat's two main political parties have nominated candidates in all nine constituencies for the Sept. 11 general elections.

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has announced a minor Cabinet re-shuffle, shifting the Ministry of Works to the Office of the Prime Minister. Minister of Works Julian Francis will become a minister of state in that ministry.

- Senators late last month passed a controversial bill to amend Trinidad and Tobago's constitution, by 18 votes to 12, giving voters here power unprecedented among Commonwealth Caribbean countries to recall their elected representative.

- Legal Affairs Minister Elvin Nimrod says the referendum on Grenada's constitutional reform will be held in Mar. 2015 and not on Feb. 10, as previously announced.

- *Compiled from various sources.*

**Sluggish voter turnout marks Florida primaries**

The Aug. 26 Florida primary elections captured the dire political health of Florida voters. Only 17 percent - even less in South Florida - ventured to the polls.

More Democrats are registered statewide than Republicans. However, Republicans cast more votes in their primaries due to the additional 19 races for party races across Florida.

The increasing numbers in the Caribbean American population across the state were not reflected in the voter turnout. Most candidates running in highly populated Caribbean American districts did not benefit from the paltry turnout.

Former state Senator Nan Rich could not overcome the clear name recognition of Charlie Crist, the former GOP governor-turned-independent-turned Democrat, for the chance to challenge incumbent Republican Governor Rick Scott. Crist received the endorsement of Democrats at a three to one margin, including in Broward County - home of Rich.

In the race for attorney general, George Sheldon outlasted former Democratic Leader Perry Thurston. In

Thurston's open seat, Democrats sent Bobby DuBose, a Fort Lauderdale city commissioner to represent House District 94 in central Broward County over fellow Democrat Levoyd Williams, a city commissioner in Lauderdale Lakes.

In northern Miami-Dade County, incumbents state Representative Barbara Watson of District 107 and state Senator Oscar Braynon of District 36 assumed second terms. Both Watson and Braynon fended off challenges from Haitian Americans Re Phillip Brutus and Anis Auguste Blemur. In addition, incumbent and Haitian American Rep. Daphne Campbell of Miami warded off competition to retain her seat to face elections in November.

**NATIONAL**

On the national front, incumbent Congressman Alcee Hastings handily defeated his primary challenger and will again face the general electorate in November.

A packed roster of GOP candidates, including the embattled former Congressman David Rivera, scrapped at each other for the

chance to challenge Rep. Joe Garcia in the general elections. Carlos Curbelo, a long-time political insider and former aide to a United States senator, led the pack with over 47 percent of the vote.

The Caribbean American community showed feeble signs of collective impact on Florida commission and countywide races. In the race between incumbent District 8 Broward County Commissioner Barbara Sharief and City of Miramar Commissioner Alexandra Davis, voters decided to retain the current Sharief by a two to one margin.

Jamaican-born incumbent Broward County Judge Ian Richards survived the primary and is expected to face a challenge in November from attorney Claudia Robinson. However, Dominican-born attorney Jahra McLawrence could not beat Circuit Court Judge Lynn Rosenthal.

In Miami Dade County, Caribbean Americans showed some force in lending support to challenger Danielle Levine Cava, who defeated incumbent District 8 Commissioner Lynda Bell.

Voters now turn their attention to the general elections on Nov. 4. They must be registered to vote on or before Oct. 6. Early voting is scheduled to begin on Oct. 20.

- *Contributed.*



Sharief won.



Davis lost.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## GROWTH SPURT: Love of horticulture germinates success for Patsy Lee

DAWN A. DAVIS

Talking about horticulture and her love of plants, Patricia "Patsy" Lee's passion is obvious. She blooms like her beloved anthurium with its kaleidoscope of intense colors and signature spadix reaching for the heavens.

"I was always a lover of plants and, as a teenager I used to go to Woolworth's on King Street (in Jamaica) and buy imported rose plants," Lee gushed. "I also had a garden of rose bush and a few other plants like crotons and diffenbachias, which I now produce commercially today."

Jamaican-born Lee owns and operates Florida Tropiculture, Inc., a successful foliage enterprise in Homestead, the heart of Miami's green belt. Established in 1987, the wholesale grower ships throughout the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

Although communing with and nurturing plants is her passion, Lee didn't start out as a horticulturalist. She owned a thriving bakery in Jamaica's Liguanea Plaza in the 1980s, making cakes and other goods for weddings and

special occasions. Among her noted clients was then Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga and Mayor of Mandeville Cecil Charlton.

### FLY

But, the growing violence and political strife on the island led Lee and her family to flee.

"My decision to leave Jamaica was filled with mixed emotions," she explained.

"It was a difficult choice. I was troubled by the crime scene in Jamaica and was frustrated with having to alter our life's plan every time there was a change in the government. The fierce political upheavals were very disturbing, especially for a mother with young children. Migrating to the U.S. was extremely emotional and took its toll for a while, but today I have no regrets."

In Miami she was determined to continue in the entrepreneurial spirit, but wasn't sure where to start. A chance visit to an uncle's plant nursery re-ignited her senses and love of plants. A seed was planted and she began thinking about opening a nursery herself.



Lee feels at home at Florida Tropiculture, Inc.

"I thought it would be great to use my time to do something that I loved and which gave me much pleasure - my hobby on a grand scale with income as a bonus!"

"With my husband's encouragement, we purchased ten acres of land and Florida Tropiculture Inc, Producers and Distributors of Indoor Foliage and Tropicals became a reality in 1987."

### DISASTER

Lee noted that this type

of business, at least in the U.S., was male dominated. Going in as a woman and minority put her at a disadvantage, but she was up to the challenge, dealing with difficulties that usually define start-ups. Excavating the land and building greenhouses was just the beginning. Her hobby had now taken on reality that pushed her to the physical and mental limit. But early success buoyed Lee's spirit when a big buyer took the entire production of the company's first

crop of plants.

Yet just five years into the business, a devastating disaster brought Florida Tropiculture, Inc. to its knees. Hurricane Andrew hit Florida in 1992, destroying Lee's entire investment and her dream. But Lee could not be knocked out. She rebuilt and was one of the first plant nurseries to start shipping flowers after the hurricane that ravaged virtually all of Homestead.

Business picked up and for the next 12 years the company enjoyed success, until the infamously unlucky 13th year - when Hurricane Wilma hit Florida. Again the company was devastated. Again, Lee the fighter rebuilt.

"One would think that after these two devastations, the human spirit would be diminished, but the grace of God prevailed and we rebuilt our business for the third time," she said.

"We enjoy the support of many big distributors and our plants can be found in the stores of Home Depot, Costco, Lowes and many wholesalers, garden centers (CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

## Dr. Susana Mauri leads push for career education in South Florida

MICHELLE CAWLEY  
DRESERIS

On Aug. 18, several exciting new career programs opened for high school students in Homestead and Florida City, about 30 miles south of Miami, Florida.

In Jan. 2015, new and additional programs will also be offered for adults who want to start a new career or upgrade job skills for today's marketplace.

South Dade Educational Center (SDEC) and Homestead Senior High (HSH) - two Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) - have partnered to provide high school and adult education students with job skills classes and certifications that are in high demand.

"We are building new career programs to encompass the unique needs of our South Dade community and to provide a highly skilled workforce," says Dr. Susana Mauri, SDEC's principal. "At the same time, we will be positively affecting the economic viability of our area."

### EXPANSION

Dr. Mauri has been the

principal for SDEC's two Homestead campuses for about eight months. She has partnered with Guillermo Muñoz, principal of Homestead Senior High, to expand HSH's programs.

"We will offer courses that are comparable to those at a technical college," says Dr. Mauri.

Students will have the choice of career technical education certificate programs, including air conditioning (HVAC) repair (1,350 hours); animation and applied cyber security (1,350 hours); electricity (1,200 hours); 3-D web development (600 hours); licensed practical nursing (1,350 hours); medical assisting (1,300 hours); and pharmacy technician (1,100 hours).

After successfully completing certain programs, students will be awarded industry certifications in their chosen field. Classes will also be offered in business technology, gaming, graphic arts and heating ventilation.

### OPTION

HSH's students have the option to be dually enrolled in technical courses. They will receive high school credits for courses and credits towards



Dr. Mauri

technical certificates - at no cost.

"Tuition is a fraction of the cost for students in our adult education classes," says Dr. Mauri. "They can also apply for district financial aid at HSH after December 1, 2014, when registration begins for January 2015."

To be eligible for In-state tuition, students must prove they have lived in Florida for at least a year.

"Adult education students should also apply on-line for the FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid, at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>," says Dr. Mauri.

In-state tuition is \$2.56 an hour, while out-of-state tuition

is \$10.25 an hour, according to Dr. Mauri. Adult education tuition costs are significantly less than tuition at most colleges.

"Homestead is mostly a low, socio-economic community with very poor, older areas and more affluent, rapidly growing new areas," she says.

### 'POOR'

"Many of the students at HSH are the children of poor, hard-working, migrant workers who move with their parents to pick crops, or to work in the packing houses," Dr. Mauri adds. "They are transient. Their attendance in school fluctuates during the school year, depending on the crops, and the work their families can get."

"I see many of my students picking crops in the fields in the morning. Then, at night, they're making a concentrated effort to get their education. They value an education. They know it's their way out of poverty. But, they have many challenges, including transportation to get to school."

"We are seeing more migrant adults coming to live in Homestead, and working in

agriculture. They live in South Dade because it's cheaper than living in Miami," Dr. Mauri says. "Many of our migrant students are refugees from Guatemala, Haiti, and Cuba. Some of the Guatemalans speak only their indigenous language. This is neither English nor Spanish."

The school district provides translators for students.

"We have students from Central and South America, Africa, Jamaica and several other countries," says Dr. Mauri.

SDEC also provides other classes for migrants, including adult basic education, English for speakers of other languages, general educational development (GED) prep and commercial foods and culinary arts.

To register for SDEC/HSH Adult Education courses in Jan. 2015, visit South Dade Educational Center, 109 N.E. 8th St., Homestead. Call. 305-247-7839 or visit [Newcareerpreptech.org](http://Newcareerpreptech.org) for more information.

*Michelle Cawley Dreseris is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Liz Burns offers 'Unique Creations' for designs, event planning

**MICHELLE CAWLEY  
DRESERIS**

Jamaican-born entrepreneur, Elizabeth "Liz" Burns began her career in South Florida 36 years ago as a senior account analyst, after studying business in her homeland, moving to New York in 1977 and then Virginia.

"It was too cold and damp," she says of her brief northern United States experience, "so we moved to Miami in February 1978. It's easy to go back to Jamaica when you live in Miami. The climate here is like Jamaica, and we can get all the foods we had back home."

Burns then worked as the

M.I.S. manager and systems security officer at Banco Do Brasil in South Florida – one of the largest international banks – for 10 years.

"I was the first female to hold that position in the banking system," she says.

In 1999, Burns opened her own company, Unique Creations by Liz, Inc., in Broward County, Florida. She is the president. A premier event planner, decorator and caterer, Burns loves her career.

"I have always been business-minded," she says. "I specialize in providing clients with excellent and impeccable service, and the perfect blend of creativity and design. I



Burns

focus on each client's individual style and taste and I pay attention to the smallest of details. I cater, and design backdrops, centerpieces, and entire events and locations for weddings, parties or any event

that needs my creative touch.

"When I've finished designing a location or an event for a client, I love to take a few moments and enjoy the beauty of the scene," she says. "I personally oversee every event, and I especially enjoy designing locations in the colors of Jamaica's national flag: black, green and gold. But, I can design in any colors my client likes."

### 'EXPRESSIONS'

For the past five years, Burns has been the producer and event planner for two annual expositions to highlight small businesses in South Florida.

She held "Expressions

Caribbean-American Exhibition" in recognition of National Caribbean American Heritage Month on June 6 at the Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Hotel.

"On November 16th, businesses and individuals are invited to attend our Annual Expressions Travel and Tourism Expo," says Burns.

"The mission of my expos is to mobilize and bring together people of varying backgrounds, ethnicities and cultures – mostly from the Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties in South Florida. I'm promoting Jamaican, Caribbean and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

## SKIN DEEP: Jamaican sisters create care for African Caribbean type

**DAWN A. DAVIS**

Realizing their dream of giving back to Jamaica in a meaningful way, sisters Felice Campbell and dermatologist Dr. Patricia Yap, a dermatologist, are transforming lives through care products for the African Caribbean skin type.

Balancing the business side with the medical, the pair has created products for common skin problems many caused by the Caribbean environment they've experienced.

AriSulfur Facial & Body Treatment Bar, a leading skin-care soap in Jamaica, was launched in June 2012, while the AriScalp Blend started in 2013.

So, how did a local dermatology practice grow into a successful manufacturer of internationally available skin-care products? According to Campbell, besides wanting to help build Jamaica, it was time to come up with answers for neglected consumers.

"The motivation stems from a very underserved market," she explained. "Our people do not have very effective over-the-counter solutions. So we are just responding to that demand for affordable solutions for them so that they can have healthy scalp, healthy

skin, healthy nails."

### BIRTH OF A LINE

In her private practice, Dr. Yap provides products for patients suffering from acne, seborrheic dermatitis, Keloid scarring, abnormal pigmentation and hair loss, with much success. Affected by severe acne as a teenager, she was determined to help others with similar problems. After graduation from the University of the West Indies (UWI) with honors in applied chemistry, she enrolled in the University of London's prestigious dermatology school, graduating with distinction. Dr. Yap returned to Jamaica in 1993 and opened her practice.

Campbell is the business-minded half of the duo. After graduation from UWI, she went on to Grace Kennedy where she received "true business training." She bought and ran Jamaica Prepack Group, a meat distribution and packaging company, for seven years before migrating to Los Angeles where she did a master's degree in business. She then went on to mergers and acquisitions at fortune 500



Campbell, left, and Dr. Yap

companies Citigroup, First American Corporation and Sage. But, after many years in the American corporate world, Campbell wanted to return to Jamaica.

"I really wanted a reason to come back home and create jobs by getting a manufacturing business going and really contributing to the country again," she explained.

"I knew that my sister had a successful practice and I knew that over the years, a lot of people from our diaspora, from New York, Atlanta, London, Florida, would fly to Jamaica to see her because they couldn't find any dermatologist who could address their very common skin concerns."

It was Campbell who gave birth to the commercial line of products, coming up with the idea of "putting Pat in a box."

"This became the motiva-

tion for creating the over-the-counter products. I really wanted to come back home and create a line of products in Jamaica by Jamaicans for Jamaica," Campbell added.

### BUSINESS MODEL

Campbell's business model was inspired by the Proactiv line of skincare products made famous by developers Rodan and Fields, who leveraged their reputation to create the successful product.

"I think Proactiv is good, and it works for certain skin types," Campbell said. "But, certainly for our diaspora we have not seen the results that we would like to see. Because of the direct sunlight and our particular environment, the issue is not bacteria, it is fungus. And a lot of the ingredients in these products do not address fungus."

The ARI products are developed through AriLabs, the scientific arm of Apex Research Institute (ARI). They also operate Apex Healthcare Associates, the largest medical center in Jamaica, as chief executive and chief financial officer.

AriSulfur Facial & Body Treatment Bar and AriScalp Blend are known for their natural ingredients including volcanic sulfur, Jamaican black

castor oil, Jamaican lemon-grass oil, eucalyptus oil, moringa oil, and willow bark, which are effective in treating acne, liver spots, itchy dry scalp and razor bumps.

"Some of the ingredients we have to import, like sulfur, which is a natural-occurring element," explained Campbell. "Sulfur is said to be God's medicine. In fact, in early times the treatment of choice in Roman days was to soak in a sulfur bath for many skin conditions. What we've done is to bring the sulfur to you in the form of a treatment bar so that you can create a bath for yourself."

Now with United States Food and Drug Administration approval, the skincare products are available in Caribbean beauty and grocery stores in Florida and New York through distributor CariMed.

The sisters are considering a distribution network similar to MaryKay and will test a course in Jamaica in October for hair dressers and cosmetologists in association with the National Association of Hair Dressers and Cosmetologists.

"We are very committed to Jamaica," said Campbell expressed. "We are from that

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

## GROWTH SPURT: Love of horticulture germinates success for Patsy Lee

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

and florists throughout the United States and Canada. We also export to the Caribbean."

### ALPHA'S HELP

The business owner credits her spirit and tenacity to her high school years at Alpha Academy, which she calls an

oasis that nurtured her generosity and willingness to help others.

"I know what it is to need and so I'm very cognizant and sensitive to the needs and struggles of the underserved students," Lee explained.

"I was very happy to have had the opportunity nineteen years ago to help establish the Alpha Alumnae Chapter of

Florida – Convent of Mercy Academy Alpha Association Inc, a 501c(3) charitable organization. From annual fundraisers over the years, we have been generous in our donations in the form of scholarships to the students and have assisted with food and health programs ... We also share our blessings by offering donations to charita-

ble organizations within the wider communities of Florida."

Her generosity is also evident in how she deals with employees and daily operations. Lee sets the pace by example, rolling up her sleeves and taking on the physical work. After all, one can't work with the beauty of nature without communing

with them. And, she certainly can't just walk by her favorite plants - orchids and anthuriums - without touching, pruning, nurturing the plants that flower her success.

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



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

# KIDS CONNECTION: Agency finds new homes for orphans, abandoned children

**DAWN A. DAVIS**

According to the United States Department of State, there were 388 adoptions from Haiti to the U.S. in 2013, a significant increase from the 154 adopted the year before.

That uptick comes from a Caribbean nation that was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010. U.S. parents were moved to adopt the masses of orphans and abandoned children left behind in wake of the most destructive natural disaster in decades. Many new families carried a strong connection with Haiti.

"After the earthquake that destroyed part of Haiti, there was an outpouring of kinship adoption by relatives in the U.S., Canada and Europe who wanted to assume custody of their nieces, nephews, younger siblings and grandchildren that became orphans or abandoned after the earthquake," explained Guilaine Victor-Adam, president and chief executive officer of the Miami, Florida-based Children's Connection, Inc., an adoption service that helps prospective parents with adoptions from the Caribbean, particularly Haiti, but which also services children from Jamaica and locally.

## Liz Burns offers 'Unique Creations'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

American businesses, especially small businesses."

She also produces two print and online magazines annually to complement both expos.

### HELPING OUT

Burns has been a member of the Jamaica United Relief Association (JURA), a non-profit organization in South Florida, for about 23 years, and is on the board of The Lauderhill Sister Cities.

The purpose of the organization is to promote exchange of commerce, culture, education and charity. Burns has served on several community boards and committees, and received multiple proclamations from mayors in South Florida for her community work.

"Making money is important," she says, "but just as

## Jamaican sisters create care...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

Jamaican Chinese tradition that want to give back because we owe Jamaica so much in terms of what the island has

### PRINCIPLE

Founded in 2006, Children's Connection, Inc. is based on the principle of connecting the Haitian community in South Florida with needy children from the Caribbean nation with legal and social services provided by professionals who speak the same language and share the same cultural perspective.

"When language barrier is added to the process, it makes it harder for the family, or it simply precludes a group from adopting altogether," said Victor-Adam.

A native of Haiti, she knows the plight of poor children in her homeland, which drives her to create an avenue to help them.

"I've witnessed first-hand the suffering of Haitian children and their need for safe, loving and permanent homes," she explained.

Victor-Adam said the adoption process, a two-fold procedure, is long and unpredictable at times. In general, adoptive parents must be deemed fit to take a child and are subject to investigations under what is termed a home study. These evaluations, Victor-Adam said, include criminal and child abuse checks, medical and psycho-

important is doing what you love form your heart, with integrity and caring."

Burns is a religious blend of Hinduism and Catholic.

"I meditate often," she says.

"My grandparents were from India and I attended Catholic schools in Jamaica."

Burns's husband was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease about five years ago.

The Burns have two daughters, Michelle and Shelley-Ann, and two granddaughters, Nya and Kayla.

"I love designing and planning unique creations for my clients," says Burns. "I create from my heart, and I love when my clients enjoy what I have designed."

*Michelle Cawley Dreseris is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



given us, and we are doing our part."

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



Victor-Adam

logical evaluations, financial assessment, reference letters, proof of marriage or termination of marriage, and the overall ability to properly care for a vulnerable child.

A favorable adoption is also based on the adoptive environment, said Victor-Adam - how safe is the neighborhood, is the home clean, and how will other family members interact with the

new addition.

Adoptions are finalized in Haiti. Therefore, parents must go to the Caribbean island to receive their child.

The adoption process doesn't stop once the child is placed. Child and family are observed in the new home to ensure the adoptee is adjusting. If there is a problem, Victor-Adam said, therapeutic services are offered to the family.

### WARNING

Adoptees range in ages, from two to 16. On average seven to nine children are placed annually. The process can take up to a year, but Victor-Adam warned that, depending on the circumstances in the adoptive country, it could take longer. In Haiti, for example, political unrest and natural disaster, like the 2010 earthquake,

often impedes the process.

Despite the legal, social and bureaucratic issues involved, Victor-Adam finds motivation to run an adoption agency.

"My greatest reward is when a parent calls to announce that one of 'my' children is attending one of the most prestigious schools in the U.S. or has gotten a scholarship or is about to graduate from college or an Ivy League university, or simply moving on with their lives," she said.

"Looking at a successful adult, and remembering that you have also invested in his/her future and given the world one more productive citizen, is priceless to me."

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



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