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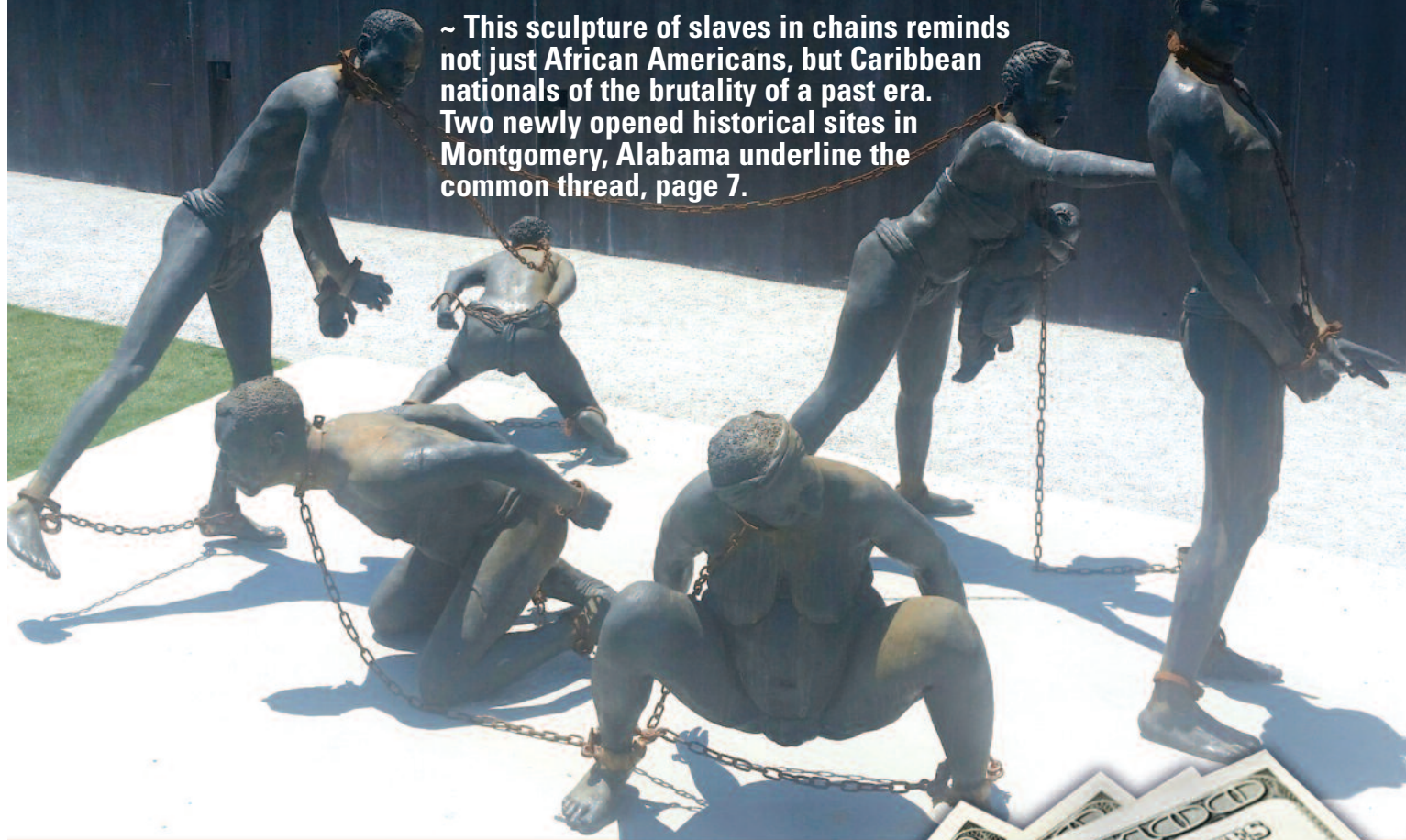


Former Jamaica Prime Minister Bruce Golding calls the contributions made by his country's diaspora "a lifeline ... Jamaica couldn't survive without." He's urging Jamaicans overseas to participate more in the Caribbean nation's development, page 9.



Dejour Russell of Jamaica's Calabar High, and other top junior athletes from the Caribbean, brought an impressive regional flavor and keen competition to the fourth staging of the Atlanta Georgia Relays, page 13.

BOUND BY BRUTALITY



~ This sculpture of slaves in chains reminds not just African Americans, but Caribbean nationals of the brutality of a past era. Two newly opened historical sites in Montgomery, Alabama underline the common thread, page 7.

DEEPEST CUT

~ Caribbean nations face crippling financial punishment from the United States if a plan by President Donald Trump, to partially cut or eliminate foreign aid to countries whose citizens enter the U.S. illegally or become undocumented residents, becomes policy, page 2.



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NEWS



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Trump vows to slash aid to Caribbean nations allowing undocumented into U.S.

GORDON WILLIAMS

Caribbean nations face possibly crippling financial punishment from the United States if a plan announced last month by President Donald Trump becomes full-fledged policy.

Trump wants to partially cut or eliminate foreign aid to countries whose citizens enter the U.S. illegally or become undocumented U.S. residents, especially if those immigrants become violent criminals in the U.S.

He has ordered his administration to work on such a plan, although he did not provide specific details at the time of his announcement on May 23 in New York.

"Many of these countries we give tremendous amounts of aid to," Trump said during a roundtable discussion.

"Tens of millions of dollars. And we're working on a plan to deduct a lot of the aid because I happen to believe that it's not so hard.

"So we're going to work out something where every time somebody comes in from that country, we're going to deduct a rather large amount

of money from what we give them in aid - if we give them aid at all, which we may not just give them aid at all."

RELIANCE

Caribbean nations rely heavily on aid from the U.S., which is the largest foreign aid



The president is planning a crackdown.

donor nation in the world. Billions of dollars in economic and security aid are given to Caribbean nations each year. Some \$45 billion was sent the low and middle income countries by the U.S. in 2015, according to sources.

While no Caribbean nation is believed to be in the top 15 nations receiving aid from the U.S., a few still collect substantial amounts. Haiti, for example, received almost \$380 million in economic and military aid from the U.S. in fiscal year 2016, according to USAID. Jamaica

received \$29 million, the same year Trinidad and Tobago received \$1.3 million. Guyana got \$9.7 million.

Those nations are among several from the Caribbean with large immigrant populations in the U.S. Thousands of those are believed to be undocumented.

'NOT ENOUGH'

Trump has argued that many nations, including some from the Caribbean, are not doing enough to prevent their citizens from entering and staying in the U.S. illegally.

"They'll let you think that they're trying to stop this," the president said. "They're not trying to stop it. I think they encourage people.

"They don't want the people. They don't want the people that we're getting in that country.

"Despite all the reports I hear, I don't believe they're helping us one bit," Trump added.

Some 11 million undocumented immigrants are believed to be living in the U.S.

Some nations have argued against the U.S. sending undocumented immigrants back to the Caribbean. They claim they should not have to accept them since many had moved to the U.S., lived almost their entire lives there

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

P.M. asks Jamaican diaspora to help build new Parliament

Jamaica will be approaching members of the country's diaspora for contributions needed to construct a new Parliament building in the capital Kingston.

According to Prime Minister Andrew Holness, for the new building, to be constructed at National Heroes Circle, soliciting support from overseas Jamaicans would incorporate them in the nation building process.

"When we think about Jamaica now, we must think about Jamaicans living everywhere," Holness said last month.

"We have to find a way to finance it (new Parliament building) and I believe that is a way in which we could incorporate the diaspora."



Holness

The designer of the new building will be selected from a competition. The prime minister believes it will inspire "national pride among the architects."



Bermuda's ban on same-sex weddings in effect, for now

HAMILTON, Bermuda – A controversial new law which bans same-sex marriage in Bermuda, but gives gay and straight couples the chance to enter into civil unions, is now in effect.

The Domestic Partnership Act 2018 (DPA) became law June 1 as marriage-equality campaigners await a ruling from the Supreme Court on their attempt to have part of the legislation struck out on constitutional grounds.

The DPA was approved by the British Overseas Territory's Parliament last December, sparking criticism from human rights activists and members of Parliament in the United Kingdom, including Prime Minister Theresa May, who said she was "seriously disappointed."

Opposition British Labour Party MP Chris Bryant, a former Overseas Territories Minister who forced a debate on the bill in the House of Commons in London, said the law reversal would make Britain a "laughing stock in the human rights field."

ASSENT

Governor John Rankin gave the legislation royal assent on Feb. 7, but Home Affairs Minister Walton Brown, who tabled the legislation, deferred its implementation until June 1 to give gay couples who had already made wedding plans extra time to tie the knot.

The DPA reversed a Supreme Court ruling in May last year - two months before the ruling One Bermuda Alliance lost the general elections to the Progressive Labour Party - that paved the way for gay couples to get married in Bermuda and on ships registered in the island.

The Supreme Court deci-



Same sex couples still have hope.

sion came in a judgment by Justice Charles-Etta Simmons after Bermudian Winston Godwin and Greg DeRoche, his Canadian partner, litigated against the registrar general for refusing to post their wedding banns.

Despite their landmark victory, Godwin and DeRoche chose to marry in Canada. However, there were 10 same-sex marriages on the Caribbean island up to the middle of February, plus four at sea on Bermuda-flagged ships.

Banns were also posted for two more maritime marriages.

LATEST

The latest civil proceedings in Supreme Court were brought against Attorney General Kathy Lynn Simmons by gay Bermudians Rod Ferguson and Maryellen Jackson and the charity OutBermuda. The plaintiffs claimed the part of the DPA that reaffirmed that a marriage is void unless the parties are male and female was unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Ian Kawaley reserved judgment in the case until a later date.

Bermuda is the only country in the world to reverse its position on marriage equality. The Netherlands was the first country to legalize same-sex marriage in 2001.

- Edited from CMC.



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SHE'S BOSS: Mia Mottley sworn in as Barbados's first female P.M.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Less than 24 hours after she led her Barbados Labour



Mottley takes oath of office.

Party (BLP) to victory in the May 24 general elections, Mia Amor Mottley, 52, was sworn in as the country's eighth prime minister, joining a handful of Caribbean women who have led governments.

Mottley, who first entered local politics in 1991, when she lost the St. Michael North East constituency to Leroy Brathwaite, took the oath of office before Governor General Sandra Mason and in the presence of family, friends and party supporters.

Attorney Dale Marshall also took the oath of office as attorney general.

JA introduces 10-digit dialing

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Jamaica has become the first country in the Caribbean to introduce 10-digit telephone dialing.

According to the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), the country's move from the seven digit dialing was implemented as the current 876 area code is nearing exhaustion and, as a result, a new 658 area code will be added.

The new area code will not take effect until the 876 area code is exhausted.

The OUR said that in Dec. 2009, 6.25 million of the assumed capacity of 7.73 million numbers had been assigned to telecommunications service providers and their projected five-year demand for numbers indicated a need for 1.31 million new numbers over the next three years.

On May 30, the OUR reminded customers to update contact lists. However, customers will be allowed to continue dialing seven digits until Oct. 30.

- Edited from CMC.



Mottley, who between 1994 and 2008 held a succession of ministerial portfolios, led the BLP to a whitewash of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), led by Freundel Stuart, winning all 30 seats in Parliament.

FIRST

She was the first female to

be appointed attorney general and minister of home affairs in 2001 and is also the youngest ever queen's counsel in Barbados.

Two years later, she served as the island's second female deputy prime minister and, following the BLP's defeat in the 2008 election and Owen Arthur's resignation as

party leader, Mottley was chosen as BLP party leader on Jan., 19, 2008. She also served as the first female Opposition leader when she was sworn in on Feb., 7, 2008.

Mottley joins the late Dame Eugenia Charles of Dominica, Janet Jagan of Guyana, Jamaica's Portia Simpson Miller and Kamla

Persad Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago as women who have led governments in their respective Caribbean countries.

(Mia Mottley lays out plans for Barbados, Freundel Stuart concedes, steps aside, in Feature, pages 7 and 8.)



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'Slightly above average' 2018 Caribbean hurricane season looms

NEW YORK - Researchers at Colorado State University are predicting "slightly above average activity" for the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins on June 1.

"The current weak La Niña event appears likely to transition to neutral ENSO over the next several months; but, at this point, we do not anticipate a significant El Niño event this summer/fall," said researchers Philip J. Klotzbach and Michael M. Bell, in a recent statement.

They said the western tropical Atlantic is anomalously warm, while portions of the eastern tropical Atlantic and far North Atlantic are anomalously cool.

"Consequently, our Atlantic Multi-decadal

Oscillation index is near its long-term average. We anticipate a slightly above-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the continental United States coastline and in the Caribbean," they said.

WARNING

As is the case with all hurricane seasons, they warned coastal residents that "it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them.

"They should prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted," the researchers said.

Recently, a cross-section of 350 representatives from

government, private sector, non-profit and civil organizations gathered at the University of Miami (UM) to explore partnerships to "build back a better" the Caribbean that was ravaged by the two "horrific hurricanes" last year.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused widespread destruction when they passed through the Lesser Antilles last September, particularly in the Caribbean islands of Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

- Edited from CMC. Prepare for the hurricane season, turn to page 16.



U.S. proclaims 'National Caribbean American Heritage Month' touting 'long-shared history'

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Donald Trump has proclaimed June as "National Caribbean American Heritage Month", saying the United States honors its "long-shared history with our neighbors in the Caribbean and celebrate the Caribbean Americans who have enriched our nation."

In a White House proclamation, Trump said "Caribbean Americans embody the American spirit, with their talents and hard work contributing greatly to America's economy.

"They protect our citizens as law enforcement officers, serve our communities as public officials, and mentor our country's young people as educators.

"Through their tremendous athleticism and determination, they have brought pride

to the hearts of the American people as members of numerous U.S. Olympic teams. Their leadership and resolve have made incredible contributions to our society," he added.

TRAILBLAZERS

As trailblazers, Trump said Americans with Caribbean roots have "sewn their own unique thread into the fabric of our nation," noting that Dr. William Thornton, a native of the British Virgin Islands, designed the U.S. Capitol and is generally considered the first "Architect of the Capitol".

Trump also noted that Jean Baptiste du Sable, the first permanent resident of Chicago, was born in Haiti. Widely recognized as the "Founder of Chicago," Trump said du Sable's "prosperous trade settlement has become

one of the most iconic cities in the world.

"This month, we acknowledge the numerous contributions of Caribbean Americans to our nation, including those of the more than four million Caribbean Americans who live in the United States today," Trump said.

"We are also deeply grateful to the many Caribbean Americans who have served or are currently serving our country as members of our Armed Forces," he added, urging all Americans to join in celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Caribbean Americans "with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

For more on Caribbean American Heritage Month, turn to page 17.



Trump vows to slash aid to Caribbean nations allowing undocumented into U.S.

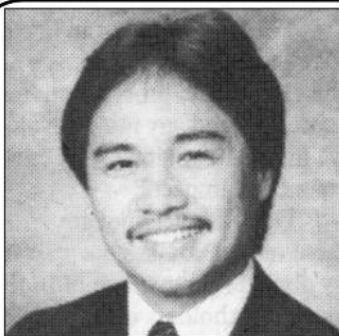
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

and would not fit in if returned to the Caribbean.

Regional governments have also argued that undocu-

mented residents in the U.S. who commit crimes, after living in the U.S. for lengthy periods, should not be returned to the Caribbean,

since their link to criminal activities was most likely developed in the U.S.

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GraceKennedy CEO receives key to Broward County

One of the Caribbean's major corporations was honored in South Florida last month.

Don Wehby, group chief executive officer of GraceKennedy Limited, was presented with a key to Broward County by Jamaican-born Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness.

The presentation was made at the GraceKennedy Money Services/Western Union Town Hall meeting held at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center.

Awarding a key is a symbol of goodwill from the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (BCBCC) and is given to visiting dignitaries, esteemed visitors or valued

members of the community who have contributed to the county by way of public service or charity.

CONTRIBUTION

Holness lauded GraceKennedy for its business and social contributions to Broward County over the years.

"GraceKennedy has been a vital part of the fabric of Broward County for decades and have demonstrated their commitment to building this community," he said. "As a successful Jamaican company, they have set a strong example of social responsibility from the top down."

Wehby, expressing surprise at the honor, thanked the county on behalf of his company.

"I'm really honored to accept this recognition," he said. "The ties between Jamaica and Florida are deep and

GraceKennedy continues to work hard at expanding our business in the state of Florida and our services to the Caribbean diaspora in the U.S."

THEME

This year, two town hall meetings were held in Florida and in New York under the theme: "The Caribbean Diaspora: In Pursuit of a Better Tomorrow ... Today". The keynote speaker was former Jamaica Prime Minister Bruce Golding.

Also present at the Florida event were: State Representative for District 95 Barrington Russell; Lauderhill Vice Mayor Howard Berger; Miramar Vice Mayor Yvette Colbourne; Sunrise Deputy Mayor Mark Douglas; and Miramar commissioners Winston Barnes and Maxwell Chambers.



Wehby

Gala dinner in Fort Lauderdale

The "Protect The Children" gala dinner will be held **June 28** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

This year's honorary host committee includes Caribbean Americans Dale Holness, Broward County commissioner, and Miramar Mayor Wayne Messam.

Also on the committee are Howard Berger, vice mayor, Lauderhill; Lauderhill Commissioner Ken Thurston;

Tamarac Commissioner Julie Fishman; Stacey Mirander, chief executive officer of The Etiquette Consultant; and Peter Mason, president of the Tamarac Chamber of Commerce.

The gala starts at **7:30 p.m.** at The Venue, 2345 Wilton Dr.

For more information, call **754-715-3223**.



Calabar stages 'Dancehall Cares'

Supporters of Jamaica's Calabar High School will present "Dancehall Cares" on **June 16** in South Florida.

The event, set to begin at 10 p.m., will be held in the Grand Ballroom, located at

901 N.W. 183rd St., Miami Gardens.

Organizers said proceeds from the event will be donated to Calabar High School.



New age guidelines for colorectal cancer testing ~ ACS

Caribbean nationals are being urged to get their colon checked, especially if they are in their mid-40s.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) has issued new guidelines for screening for colon and rectal cancer, which recommends tests at age 45, not 50, as the organization previously advised.

Black people, along with natives of Alaska and those with a personal or family history of the disease, are viewed as being in the higher risk category to contract it.

According to the ACS,

there has been a rise in colorectal cancer among young adults.

According to the World Health Organization, it is the third most common cause of cancer-related deaths. It is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S., among cancers which affect both women and men, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Information for this story obtained from CNN.



Catch World Cup soccer fever, not diseases, warns PAHO/WHO

Caribbean nationals traveling to Russia for the 2018 World Cup soccer tournament are being warned by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) to get vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella before they go.

The World Cup runs June 14 to July 15.

According to the PAHO/WHO, the mass movement of people during the World Cup increases the risk

of transmission of diseases and the likelihood of travelers returning to their countries with diseases such as measles.

"We recommend that people get vaccinated at least 15 days prior to travel," Cuauhtémoc Ruiz Matus, head of the Comprehensive Family Immunization Unit at PAHO, noted in a recent press release.

Of the 32 countries that will participate in the World Cup, 28 have reported cases of measles this year.



Free workshop on digital public relations, marketing

Caribbean American media entrepreneur Felicia J. Persaud will partner with The Broward County Main Library this month for a workshop on public relations and marketing in the digital era this month in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The workshop will be held from **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. June 12** at 100 S. Andrews Ave.

Persaud is founder of Hard Beat Communication, a public relations and advertising agency

specializing in the Caribbean and the African American markets, and CaribPR Wire, Invest Caribbean Now and the News Americas News network.

The free course is designed to help entrepreneurs, non-profit heads, communications representatives and public relations professionals adapt to the digital world while understanding the keys to identifying what is newsworthy.



Monestime receives M. Athalie Range Pioneer for Progress Award

Haitian American Jean Monestime, a Miami-Dade County commissioner, has been selected this year's recipient of the M. Athalie Range Pioneer for Progress Award in recognition of his work to bring economic prosperity and jobs to the community.

Monestime was scheduled

to receive the award late last month during the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's IMPACT Conference in Miami, Florida.

The chamber annually presents the award to individuals who have been pioneers in demonstrating innovation and leadership in the community.

Previous winners have included Urban League President T. Willard Fair, philanthropist Adrienne Arsht, Miami Herald Publisher David Lawrence Jr., Sant La President Gepsie Metellus and former County Commissioner Ruth Shack.



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BINDING TIES: New exhibits offer Afro American-Caribbean connection

GORDON WILLIAMS

MONTGOMERY, Alabama - A delicate thread, binding the roots of African Americans and Caribbean nationals of color in the United States may just have become stronger with the recent opening of two sites here which reflect history more similar than different.

The decidedly varied paths that led them to the present, starting with slaves brought from Africa to the U.S. and the Caribbean, and the brutal experiences they endured, merge on somewhat common ground in themes displayed by the "The National Memorial for Peace and Justice" and "The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration", located in downtown Montgomery.

"Absolutely," explained Tom Paine, an American from the state of Washington as he visited both sites last month.

"It wasn't just an individual who was bad. There was an entire system to be able to be multi-national like that. Many companies involved, many individuals involved in slavery. All these people."

The end result, Paine



- Photograph by Gordon Williams

Visitors take the journey through the memorial.

added, was that people of color in the U.S. and Caribbean suffered similar horrific fates.

"It was just terrible," he said.

REMINDER

That haunting reminder is provided in graphic detail at both sites. Visitors entering the memorial are greeted by a statue of slaves bound in chains, including a mother with a young child. The art is stunning, with the anguish and fear etched on their faces. On

the nearby wall, the history of slavery and post-slavery life is documented.

"In the 17th and 18th century, 12 million African people were kidnapped, chained, and brought to the Americas after a torturous journey across the Atlantic Ocean," it states. "Nearly two million people died during the voyage."

It was chilling, but only the beginning. Over six acres of land, the memorial, like the museum built by the Montgomery-based non-profit organization Equal Justice

Initiative (EJI) through private contributions, offer a shocking reminder that the horrors didn't end with the

of color were lynched, rams home that point. Photographs and samplings of the reasons for those lynchings, framed with timelines indicating it wasn't so long ago, are detailed on plaques hoisted on the memorial's walls.

"Lacy Mitchell was lynched in Thomasville, Georgia in 1930 for testifying against a white man accused of raping a black woman."

"Henry Patterson was lynched in Labelle, Florida, in 1926 for asking a white woman for a drink of water."

"Mack Brown was lynched in Fulton County, Georgia, in 1936 for kissing white woman on the hand."

"Otis Price was lynched in Perry, Florida, in 1938 for walking past a window while a white woman was inside bathing."

BRUTALITY

It's a stunning reminder of the brutality and the acceptance - even normalcy - of that brutality. The numbers are staggering. More than 4,300 lynchings were documented in the U.S. between 1877 and 1950. They occurred mostly in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



- Photograph by Gordon Williams

A steel slate lists lynching victims.

abolition of slavery. The sea of huge rust-colored steel blocks or plates - some rooted to the ground, others hanging from the ceiling - with names, places and dates when people

B'dos elects first woman P.M., Opposition wins in landslide

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados - Barbadians dumped their frustration with the Freundel Stuart administration into the ballot box and elected the first woman to head their government in a historic victory in last month's general elections.

Preliminary results showed the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) swept all 30 seats in Parliament.

BLP Leader Mia Mottley, the prime minister-elect, said she wanted to thank Barbadians for doing "what is best for Barbados." The 52-year-old also thanked outgoing Prime Minister Stuart "for his service to Barbados," but reminded the nation that "the people have spoken."

"The victory is not mine, not the Barbados Labour Party, this victory is the people of Barbados victory," Mottley said.

'PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN'

She said she wanted the victory to be recognized also as "a people's campaign" and welcomed the new legislators who had embarked on "this special journey."

"Leading this team has been the privilege of my life," Mottley said. "It is now for us to move forward because the



Mottley

electioneering has stopped."

She also thanked those who had offered themselves and had not been successful.

"I urge them to continue in the spirit of service and ... in building this country," Mottley said, adding that she would begin the task of rebuilding the country "immediately."

"There can be no time for gloating ... moaning," Mottley said. "We are one people, we are Barbadians and this should come as no surprise to you because ... there is a time for healing because if we are to move forward and face the challenges before us we have to be prepared to heal and allow many hands to make light work."

"As for the mandate you have given us ... each of us

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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Stuart concedes after massive defeat, bows out of electoral politics

Fruendel Stuart has accepted “full responsibility” for his party’s general elections defeat in Barbados and announced his retirement from electoral politics.

The former prime minister, 66, made his declaration on election night May 24 after his Democratic Labour Party suffered a landslide defeat to the Barbados Labour Party led by Mia Mottley.

“Let me unhesitatingly and unequivocally and frankly accept full responsibility for the defeat of the Democratic Labour Party in the election



Stuart

and let me assure all the party members that we govern in

very challenging circumstances no previous government in Barbados has had to govern in circumstances quite like the circumstances that we have had to govern,” Stuart said in a concession speech.

Stuart, who entered elective politics in 1994, said that the elections would have been his last regardless of the results and that he would

assist the party as it moves to name a replacement for him.

‘OUR BEST’

Speaking at the party’s headquarters, Stuart said his administration “did the best we could according to our likeness and according to our judgement over the very difficult and challenging decade in which we had to administer the affairs of Barbados.”

He acknowledged the government had to take some “tough and sometimes unpalatable decisions” but he remained confident that “in

the fullness of time the wisdom of our actions be vindicated.

“As far as the Democratic Labour Party is concerned, I think we have to when the dust has settled reflect on what has happened, try to determine why it has happened and take what corrective steps we deem necessary to ensure we start that process of necessary rebuilding and I am confident we have the human resources in this party to do it,” Stuart added.



B'dos elects first woman P.M., Opposition wins in landslide

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

will have a role to play,” she said, adding “we have no time but to get to the task.”

BACKDROP

The elections were fought against the backdrop of a worsening economic situation in Barbados and Mottley said that in order to move forward her administration planned to release the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF) report so Barbadians will know what is expected going forward.

“We have also committed to releasing the noose of taxes around our necks,” she added. “... If this economy is

to grow again, then ... that will be business number one for us.

“My friend, the task before us will not be easy. There is no elixir, there is no magical remedy, there is no single shock solution, but if we do not move with alacrity we will not succeed and what we have promised you is to stop the bleeding, but at the same time lay the platform for the transformation of our nation.

“As it relates to the mandate you have given us, I am deeply conscious that in the absence of an official Opposition in the House of Assembly we will have to

evolve institutional arrangements to be able to allow Barbadians to have a greater say in the governance of this country,” she told the nation.

Mottley said that the Cabinet will remind the country that “all ideas must contend.”

She said even before the government has a right to take a decision “all ideas must contend and we have already committed in our manifesto to putting in place a framework for people’s initiatives that come from you and are not started with us.

“We have committed to referenda because we believe there are certain fundamental

issues that we must consult with you on. Some will be binding and some will be advisory.”

PLEDGE

But Mottley pledged “that there will be no gloating, that there is no way there will be a mistrust of the absolute mandate that you have given us, the people of the Barbados Labour Party.”

She also pledged that her administration “would be your stewards at all times.

“Let us move forward recognizing that this truly is a defining moment in our history,” Mottley said. “Not for what people will immediately

assume about me being a woman, but more so it is about people claiming their future and the people of Barbados ... have claimed their future with a new interactive mode of governance.”

- Edited from CMC.



BINDING TIES: New exhibits offer Afro American-Caribbean connection

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

a dozen states in the American South, but were also known to happen elsewhere. Many went unreported.

Lynchings were the way for whites to exert dominance over blacks, through fear and terror, especially post-slavery. Yet in the memorial the victims are honored. The names, dates and places elevate them from the ranks of mere numbers.

The message is not lost on Caribbean nationals. They agree the horrors of slavery have left a significant mark on people of African descent. It’s that common ground. However, the degree of impact is still being debated. Some argue the experiences were not the same for slavery’s victims in the U.S. and the Caribbean. Yet no one doubts the horrors suffered by both.

“It’s difficult to put into words,” said Heather, a Barbadian who visited the memorial and museum last month. “Because their (African American) experience is not our (Caribbean) experience. But it still touches you. It saddens you, what has

happened and continues to happen to this day.

“But it’s a very emotional kind of feeling to go through and see what they have gone through over the years.”

JOURNEY

That feeling intensifies with the journey from the memorial to the museum, a few blocks away. It is a different experience. The raw charge of the memorial gives way to the museum’s more modernized look.

Sophisticated graphics, videos, soundtracks, photographs and interactive displays highlight the continuous arduous journey of colored people in America.

However, the message appears the same: Incarceration is another way for blacks to be subjugated.

The U.S. has locked up more people than any other nation. An overwhelming number of those are of color and poor. Since 1972, the jailed or imprisoned have moved from less than 200,000 to more than two million, with the surge occurring right around the time the U.S. declared a war on crime, which coincidentally - many

say not - meant more people of color were locked up.

The Caribbean population is made up overwhelmingly of people of color. Therefore, they would make up the majority of those incarcerated as well. But the stunning parallel is that it’s the poor that usually get locked up. That’s not gone unnoticed, even as the differences still linger.

“Yeah, right,” said Heather, who acknowledged that Barbados was largely spared the same slavery experience as other Caribbean nations.

“... After slavery we (Caribbean people) were more on our own. But for the American, it was different after slavery, because, I mean, to this day they (African Americans) don’t consider themselves as free and I know a lot of American people who tell me that, personally. They don’t feel a part of this country.”

IRONY

Ironically, that may be the strongest thread that binds African Americans with Caribbean nationals. An increasing number people

now question the wisdom of leaving the region for the U.S. in the current political climate. That thread, underlined in two new exhibits here, may be getting even stronger.

Still, many whites, including Paine, showed up at the memorial and museum. It’s an indication that more people are open to the discussion. The brutality of slavery and its aftermath left an indelible mark on people of color. The sites here are exposing it to others.

Meanwhile, some visitors, while understanding the sites’ revelations are mostly from the past, are nervously witnessing signs that indicate the past has not been buried with the dead. Newnan, for example, a town just over 120 miles from Montgomery, in 2018 hosted a rally by the Ku Klux Klan, the group responsible for untold numbers of lynchings.

“It is just shocking, what human beings are capable of,” said Paine, a chaplain.

“It’s horrible and I don’t just think this is in our past. I think we are capable of it in the present and we have to be very mindful.”



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Trump inspiring crazies in U.S.

By now, millions have viewed the anti-immigrant racist tirade of New York City lawyer Aaron Schlossberg at a Manhattan restaurant.

If you have not seen the video, the man later identified as Schlossberg is seen angrily complaining to a restaurant employee at Fresh Kitchen that “it’s America” and that “staff should be speaking English.”

He then goes on to question the immigration status of workers and threatened to call ICE (the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agency to have the workers “kicked out of my country.”

“They have the balls to come here and live off of my money I pay for their welfare,” the man says on the video. “The least they could do is speak English.”

Rightfully so, many have protested Schlossberg, naming him and shaming him, getting him kicked out of his midtown-office, holding a Latin party complete with Mariachi band in front of his apartment building and now calling for his disbarment.

REAL CULPRIT

But the real culprit, who has emboldened the racists to come out from under their rocks and feel emboldened to voice what’s truly in their hearts, is boldly getting away with making similar pronouncements from the White House.

Last month, the U.S. Hater-In-Chief lashed out at undocumented immigrants during a White House meeting, branding them “animals.” The president of the United States of America had the audacity to boldly make the pronouncements as the cameras rolled in the Cabinet Room meeting that reporters were allowed to document.

Of course, it is hardly the first time that Trump has used such racist rhetoric to scapegoat immigrants and fan the flames of bigotry. Remember he began his campaign for the office on this platform.

Is it little wonder that there has been a rash in anti-immigrant and racial profiling across the country, with so many racists now empowered and emboldened to call 911 on people of color for doing nothing but going about their daily lives?

Take the incident in California, where Bob Marley’s

granddaughter and her friends had the police called on them simply because they did not wave back to a white woman living next to the AirBnB they were staying, which led her to assume they were thieves. Or the latest Starbucks incident in Los Angeles, where a barista wrote the racist term “beaner” on the coffee cup of a Hispanic immigrant.

NUTS

And then there are the Republican nuts running for office across the U.S. who are taking the Donald Trump model and barefacedly attacking immigrants in ads and on the campaign trail. Take Michael Williams, who is running for governor of Georgia and is doing so with a “Deportation Bus” with the words: “FOLLOW ME TO MEXICO”.

In a campaign advertisement and a press release unveiling the bus, Williams said he aims to have every city in Georgia participate in 287(g), the federal program that allows local police and sheriffs to co-operate with federal agencies on immigration enforcement.

“We are going to implement my 287(g) deportation plan,” Williams says. “That’s going to fill this bus with illegals, to send them back to where they came from.”

Little wonder that the Southern Poverty Law Center has documented 954 hate groups in the U.S. so far and reiterated that Trump’s tweets correlate with the spike in hate crimes.

UNLEASHED

The crazy has been unleashed and what we are seeing is many trying to out-crazy each other in their bid to “Make America White Again”.

Immigrants and all people of color must combine their energies, issues and resources in a necessary bid to save this country from racists, xenophobes and zealots.

The same way we have shamed and humiliated Schlossberg, is the way we must fight back against the racists raising their heads, including the top dog in the White House.

But, most importantly, help elect a tsunami of liberal, like-minded representatives countrywide come November.

Felicia J. Persaud is CMO at Hard Beat Communications, Inc., which owns the brands NewsAmericasNow, CaribPRWire and InvestCaribbeanNow.



Ex-Jamaica P.M. lauds diaspora, urges investment

LAUDERHILL, Florida – Money sent to their homeland by Jamaicans living overseas, particularly in the United States, is being viewed as a “lifeline” which the Caribbean nation “couldn’t do without.”

Former Prime Minister Bruce Golding underlined the vital importance of contributions made by the Jamaican diaspora during a forum, themed “Caribbean Diaspora: In Pursuit of a Better Tomorrow... Today”, held here last month.

According to Golding, “Jamaica couldn’t survive without,” the contributions of those living overseas, which went beyond macro-economics.

“The value of the Jamaican diaspora is much more than remittances,” he explained. “Many are involved in a variety of efforts to assist charitable endeavors in Jamaica. And many of you do it without any fanfare, without any publicity.”

Jamaicans living abroad, mainly in the U.S., sent \$2.3 billion to their homeland last year. That was 17 percent of Jamaica’s gross domestic product, according to Golding.

BRAND

Golding said the contribution of the diaspora went beyond remittances and assistance with schools, charities and community projects.

“Members of the Jamaican diaspora are the essence of brand Jamaica,” he explained. “... Iconic figures like Usain Bolt, Bob Marley and others have internationalized Jamaica’s image. They were able to bring the spotlight of the entire world on Jamaica.”

“But that doesn’t sustain itself. What has sustained Jamaica’s image across the world, what has popularized our image and our culture, is the Jamaicans living abroad.”

“The role you play as ambassadors for your country, helping to build brand Jamaica, has an immense value that is impossible to quantify.”

LEFT OUT

Golding said the potential of the diaspora to contribute to socio-economic development in Jamaica is nowhere near being maximized. He said people in the diaspora often felt left out, that the political leaders in Jamaica were not reaching out to them. Successive governments have struggled with this challenge of creating new opportunities to engage the diaspora in the Jamaica’s development efforts, he added.



Golding, left, is greeted by Cecile Christie, Jamaica’s acting consul general for the southeast U.S.

- Photograph by Patrick Smikle

The creation of the Diaspora Foundation, which Golding described as “a work in progress,” was an effort to institutionalize the channels for greater involvement. He believes this effort could benefit from greater use of technology to make it “more robust and effective.”

Efforts to deepen and institutionalize links between the diaspora and Jamaica were being impacted negatively by a lack of demographic information, Golding added.

“We don’t know enough about our diaspora and therefore we depend on others to tell us about our people,” he said.

REMEDY

To remedy this problem, he said, the Diaspora Mapping Project (DMP) was launched in 2014 to provide a virtual network that would enable the governmental authorities in Kingston to know where members of the diaspora are located, skills and experience they have, and which aspects of Jamaica’s developmental efforts they wanted to be engaged in.

However, Golding added,

the response to this project has been disappointing, with only about 2,000 logging in since the DMP was launched.

Golding didn’t think the project should be abandoned and proposed it be redesigned to be more user-friendly, to require the input of less personal information and provide a menu of constantly updated information about projects and opportunities with which members of the diaspora could become engaged.

BOND

Golding was enthusiastic about the prospect for the launching of a diaspora bond. He said successive governments had looked into the possibility of such a financial instrument, to provide Jamaicans living abroad with a safe and profitable means of saving, while at the same time investing in Jamaica’s development by providing a pool of funds.

He pointed to a World Bank study, which showed that Jamaicans living abroad had combined accumulated savings of \$5.5-billion.

“Jamaicans abroad have demonstrated a huge capacity to save and invest,” Golding said.

The prospects for launching and sustaining the bond are better now than in the recent past, he explained, because the Jamaican economy had stabilized.

“We are not experiencing the pace of economic growth that we long for,” Golding acknowledged, “but the economy is in much better shape. I believe that the time for the bond is coming closer.”

Patrick Smikle is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



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VIEWPOINT



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Crosses, cursed and salt: Some people just cannot buy any luck

Some people suffer and appear to be always burdened by the yoke of bad luck, leading one singer to pen: "If it wasn't for bad luck, I wouldn't have any luck at all."

Jamaicans have another word for it - salt. I don't know what the origin is, but salt is ascribed to someone who has bad luck, is jinxed, has ill workings foisted on him. There are those who fervently believe that not only individuals, but entire families can be salt, as they seem to suffer from maladies for generations.

Science may not be able to put a handle on it, but there are many folks who are convinced, with good reason, that curses do exist. You will hear them wail: "Oh Lord, take this



TONY ROBINSON



curse away from me, I beg you."

HEX

Not only do these curses afflict the hapless souls, but their entire generation would

be stricken by the hex. No wonder witches were feared, avoided, hunted down and burned at the stake. Hence the term witch-hunt.

But belief kills and belief cures, and the fact is, some people do appear to be salt all their lives. Many times when someone is afflicted with an ailment that medical science cannot diagnose, the whisper-

ings are that he or she is cursed.

What is true, is that there are people who do seem to be salt, and no matter what they touch or any endeavor that they embark on, it's doomed to failure. There have been documented cases of families that suffer misfortune after misfortune for decades. Usually there is an eerie similarity that haunts them, such as the firstborn child suffering some horrible tragedy.

It is said that a famous political family in the United States is cursed, salt, as they were beset with assassinations, amputations, accidental deaths, small plane crashes, imprisonment and other misfortunes that seem inordinate in proportion.

BAD TOUCH

I also know people who are salt with equipment. No matter what car they touch, brand new or second hand, new television, fridge, camera, as soon as they lay their hands on the device, it breaks down.

So much so that there are persons I would not lend my

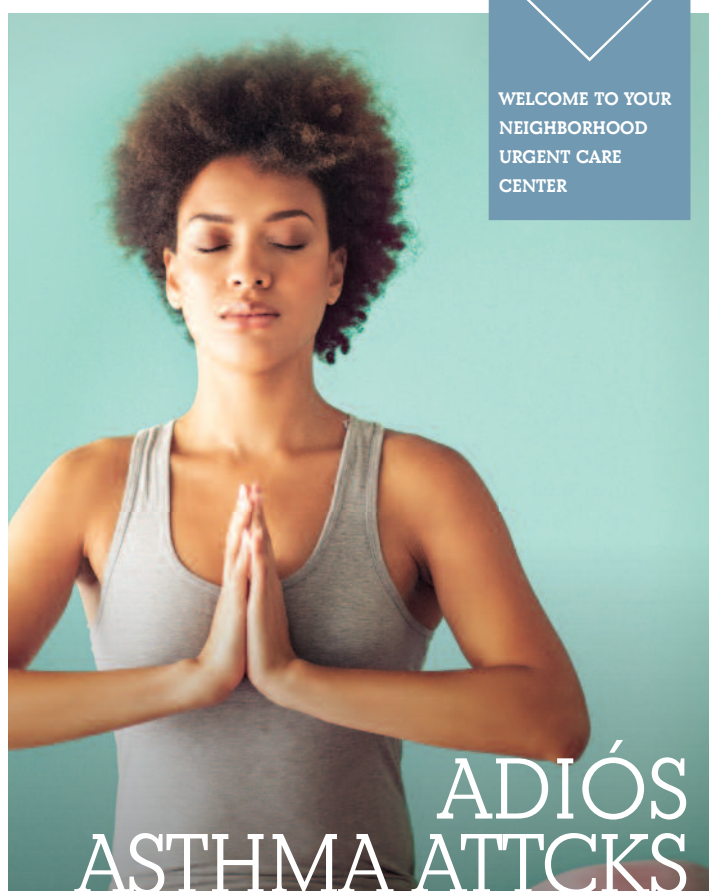
vehicle to, or fly on an aircraft with. Dem too salt. Everything they touch mash up.

Some women are destined never to have children, making others cruelly and snidely say that they are salt. Then there are women who are cursed never to have a man, in spite of them being blessed with great beauty.

Some men are salt to always end up with horrible women, no matter how hard they try, they always pair up with a witch. But can this saltiness be broken or are victims destined to live out their days under the yoke of the hex, and worse, pass it down to their descendants?

Just make sure that you don't mess with the wrong person. For if he or she sprinkles powder on you, waves a fowl feather in your face, throws a bullfrog through your window and recites words in an ancient language, flee like a bat out of hell. For come hell or high water, you'll be salt.

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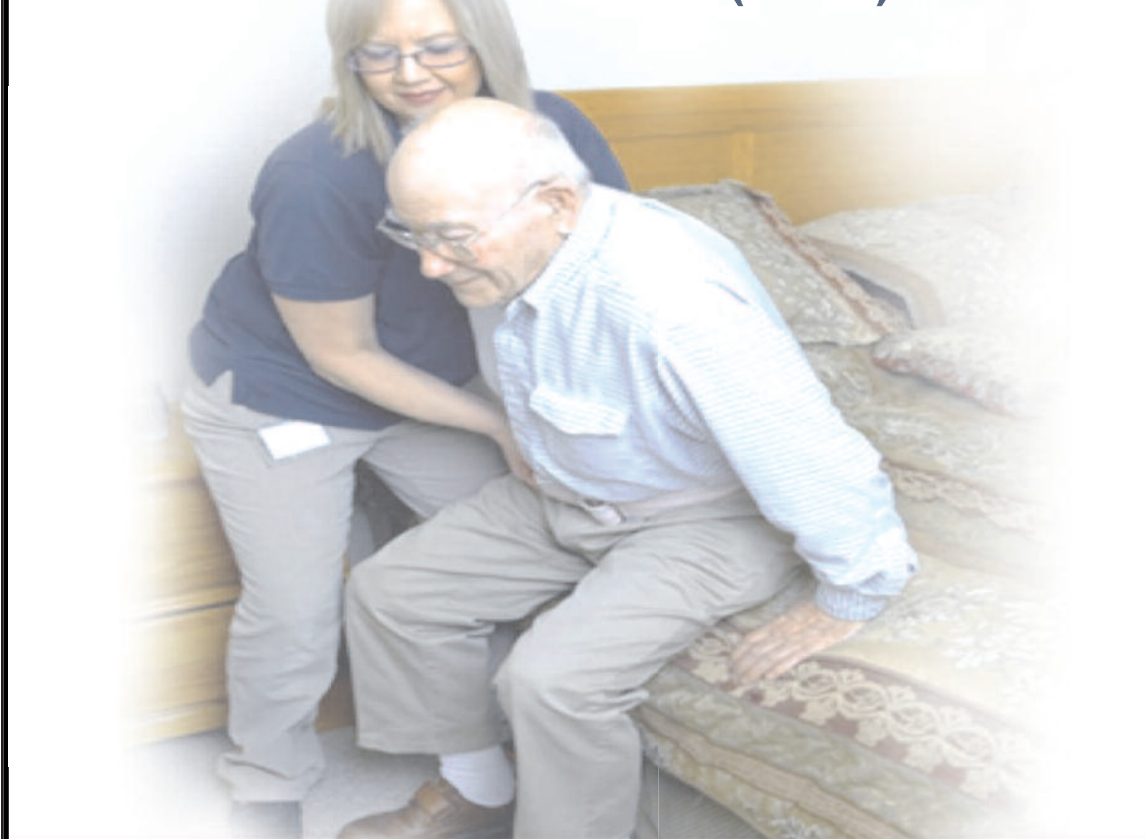
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ONE PLUS ONE: Coconut-shrimp combo offers a Caribbean treat

Mix Caribbean food from sea and land and the outcome can be a fabulous combo.

Here's a seafood recipe from Grace Foods, using the delicious Caribbean ingredient coconut milk to add to your dining experience.

Preparation time 10 minutes. Cooking time 10 minutes. Serves four.

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons margarine
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 small sweet pepper, julienne
- 1 medium tomatoes, diced
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper



Shrimp in coconut sauce

- 1 sprig thyme
- 1 can coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- 24 large shrimps, peeled and deveined
- 2 teaspoons chives

Method

In a large skillet, melt mar-

garine, add chopped onion, julienne sweet pepper and saute for two minutes.

Add diced tomatoes, cook for an additional minute. Add black pepper and thyme.

Cook until vegetables are clear and flavors are fully developed, for approximately

three minutes.

Add can of coconut milk and stir. Add brown sugar and stir until granules are dissolved. Lower flame and allow to reduce by half.

Remove thyme sprigs. Add shrimp, cook for three minutes or until shrimp tails

curl and turn pink.

Serve hot with favorite pasta or starch of your choice, garnished with chives.

- Edited from News Americas.



Grenada's 'oil down', the one pot national dish

In Grenada, ask anyone what the national dish is and if the answer is not "oil down" then they are not really Grenadian.

Here is the recipe for this simple, delicious, one-pot dish:

Ingredients

- 8-10 young dasheen or taro root
- 1 sprig celery, chive and thyme
- 2 medium carrots chopped
- 2 chili peppers chopped
- 1/2 lb flour for dumplings
- 4 green bananas
- 1 cup of salt fish, cooked and flaked
- 1 bunch of callaloo or spinach leaves, with stalks - chopped
- Salt to taste
- 2 teaspoons turmeric (saffron)
- 1/2 lb salted meat such as salt beef, salted pigtail or salted pigs snout, or a mixture of all three (pre-soaked overnight)
- 1 large breadfruit peeled
- 2 cups coconut milk
- 1 medium onion chopped

Method

Wash and peel breadfruit cutting into eight sections and cut into half crosswise.

Wash meat and cut into

pieces and rinse with lime juice and water.

Remove skins of onions, rinse and chop. Remove seeds of peppers and chop. Chop chives into small pieces.

Put salted meat(s) into cold water. Bring to boil and drain. Repeat three times to remove preserving salt, then cook until just tender and drain.

Sauté onions and garlic in hot oil until onions are translucent. Add chive, thyme, flavoring pepper, salted meat to taste.

Pour in two cups of coconut milk.

Add wedges of breadfruit, sugar, green hot pepper, green banana and cook until breadfruit absorbs liquid.

In a separate bowl, add flour, a pinch of salt and water and make a dough. Add remaining coconut milk and turn dough into small dumplings and add to the pot. Add callaloo and salt fish.

Stir to blend well and cook at a reduced heat. There should be no remaining liquid.

Serve hot.

- Edited from News Americas.



Jamaica at 56

On August 6, 2018, the island of Jamaica marks the 56th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

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Caribbean films take spotlight at China festival

BEIJING, China – The Caribbean region was selected guest of honor at this year's Beijing College Student Film Festival.

Four countries from the Caribbean Caucus of Embassies in Beijing – Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, The Bahamas and Jamaica – recently partnered the School of Arts and Communication of Beijing Normal University to screen eight Caribbean films.

"The Beijing Caribbean Film Festival gives Chinese viewers a unique opportunity to experience the Caribbean on screen in a way they never have before," said Ayesha Wharton, charge d'affairs from the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago, who served as the coordinator of the series on behalf of the Caribbean Caucus.

"Through this festival, we hope to redefine the Caribbean in the eyes of Chinese viewers and introduce them to the authentic Caribbean experience."

REALITY

"Finding Samuel Lowe: From Harlem to China", conceptualized and produced by former NBC Universal executive Paula Williams, was scheduled to be shown at the opening ceremony. The film documents aspects of the childhood of Williams and her brothers, all born in Jamaica but migrated to Harlem, United States with their Chinese Jamaican mother Nell Vera Lowe.

The documentary features Williams's plight to reunite with her mother's remaining family in China. It was produced by Jeanette Kong.

The first of two Bahamian films, entitled "Passage", was directed by Kareem Mortimer. It documents the smuggling of



Haitian immigrants through The Bahamas to the U.S. and the challenges encountered.

Tyler Johnstone, executive producer of the second film, captures the life of a Haitian gardener in "My Father's Land". It describes a Caribbean narrative that addresses immigration, culture and identity and details the advantages and disadvantages of moving from one's homeland to improve quality of life. In this case, his destination of choice was The Bahamas.

The program also highlighted Trinidad and Tobago's "Salty Dog", directed by Oliver Milne. The film focuses on the notion of placing elderly parents in retirement homes, which remains unpopular in the Caribbean.

HARDSHIPS

"The Fortitude", another film from T&T, was details some of the hardships faced by the early Chinese settlers in the Caribbean. Directed by Judy Chong Dennison and Anthony Dennison, the film includes interviews from renowned Chinese Trinbagonians and others of Chinese descent, including Larry Howai, a former finance minister; Derek Chin, founder of Movie Towne; and Richard Young, former managing

director of the local branch of the Scotia Bank.

The culmination of the three-day Caribbean film festival was scheduled to include the screening of a Barbadian film entitled "Auntie". Written and directed by Lisa Harewood, "Auntie" showcases the life of a seamstress and a matriarch of a local Bajan community.

EDUCATIONAL

The second Barbadian documentary/film to be shown was an educational work of art, titled "H2O", which aims to create more awareness of the importance of water management, preservation and environmental impact should immediate action not be taken to maintain the natural beauty of our Caribbean waters. "H2O" was filmed both in Barbados and other islands of the eastern Caribbean.

The festival's scheduled end included the showing of another Jamaican film, titled "Bad Friday", a documentary by Dr. Deborah Thomas that seeks to shed light on the hardships of Rastafarians in the 1970s, including the attack on the Rastafarian community in Coral Gardens western Jamaica.

- Edited from CMC.



Guyanese calypsonian 'The Mighty Rebel' dies

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Well known Guyanese calypsonian Godfrey "The Mighty Rebel" Phillips died late last month following illness.

Phillips, 72, whose hits included "Desi yo wrong", "Ask de President" and "Is we put you deh", was reportedly ailing for some time.

His hits remain popular in calypso circles even after he retired from competitive singing in 2011.

Phillips, the holder of several calypso titles, once said that he loved entertaining

and simply loved music, especially calypso. He was crowned Calypso Champion of Guyana six times, but captured the second spot nine times. He once joked that his career had been a six to nine.



The Mighty Rebel

- Edited from CMC.



Jamaican DJ Capleton on bail after being charged with rape

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Popular Jamaican entertainer Capleton was offered bail when he appeared in a Corporate Area court here after being arrested and charged with rape.

Capleton, whose real name is Clifton Bailey, was arrested last month by detectives assigned to the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offence and Child Abuse (CISOCA).

It was reported that Capleton hired a female hairdresser who met him at a hotel in the business district of New Kingston. The police reported that while at the hotel he forcibly had sexual intercourse with the woman.

When Capleton appeared in court, the judge who offered bail amounting to J\$200,000 (one Jamaica dollar = US\$0.008 cents) ordered the entertainer to refrain from contacting the complainant.

Meanwhile, Capleton's attorney, Christopher Townsend has been critical of the police in their handling of the matter. In an interview with **Radio Jamaica** last month, Townsend said there are also issues involving the complainant.

"I can also confirm that there is also a dual investigations because the young lady who made the report is also being investigated for extortion so that investigation is ongoing," Townsend said.

"We anticipate that she will also be in custody shortly. I am quite concerned because it certainly demonstrates that there is one side of the police force that is blind to what the other side is doing."

Capleton is known for songs such as "Jah Jah City", "The Day Will Come" and "Good In Her Clothes".

- Edited from CMC.



Capleton

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H.S. stars bring Caribbean spice to Atlanta Georgia Relays

DOUGLASVILLE, Georgia – Top junior athletes from Jamaica brought an impressive Caribbean flavor to the fourth staging of the Atlanta Georgia Relays here late last month.

High school stars with big reputations, earned at the island's prestigious Boys and Girls High School Championships ("Champs") and globally, journeyed to the southern United States to test their talent with mostly successful results at the fledgling track and field meet.

The Caribbean was represented by athletes from several countries, with at least five high schools from Jamaica alone sending teams. The marquee events showcased some of the region's brightest track prospects.

Among them were Calabar High's outstanding sprint duo of Christopher Taylor and Dujour Russell, who stamped their class with multiple wins at the two-day event held at New Manchester High School. Both Taylor and Russell have started to make their mark at track's senior level and here they smartly showed they were ahead of the competition.

NO SURPRISE

Taylor's 200 meters win



- Photograph by Gordon Williams

Russell

was hardly a surprise after he had beaten an experienced senior field in the same event, including American World and Olympic star Lashawn Merritt, the previous week in Jamaica. The 2017 Under-20 Pan Am Games champion, romped to victory in 20.72 seconds.

Russell, who represented Jamaica at the Commonwealth Games, won the 110 hurdles in 13.75 seconds, just outside the meet record of 13.73 he set last year.

The two teenagers, Taylor on the backstretch and Russell anchoring, returned to lead Calabar to win the 4x100 meters Relay Showcase Invitational in 40.63 seconds. Russell said he was satisfied with his performance and the development of the meet, despite its youthful status.

"It's a pretty good meet," he said. "I've been here from the first one and it's been developing magnificently and I'm glad for that. It's not every track meet is gonna be like a Penn Relays (the annual event in Philadelphia), but it's building to be like a Penn Relays."

UPSTAGED

However, Jamaicans were upstaged in other feature races. Edwin Allen High School's champion sprinter Kevona Davis was handed a rare defeat in the girl's 200 meters invitational. Tamari Davis, from Gainesville High School in Florida, who also won the 100 meters here, blew by her in the home stretch to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Lewis shines again as Windies win hurricane relief T20

LONDON, England – The West Indies emerged victorious in a Twenty/20 cricket match staged here to provide relief for hurricane victims in the Caribbean.

Explosive opener Evin Lewis stroked his third T20 international half-century to headline a feisty batting effort as West Indies brushed aside the ICC World XI by 72 runs in the high profile fundraiser here on May 31.

Sent in at historic Lord's ground, the Caribbean side piled up 199 runs for four wickets from their 20 overs. The left-handed Lewis top-scored with 58 from 26 deliveries. Wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin stroked an unbeaten 44, Marlon Samuels an up tempo 32 and all-rounder Andre Russell lashed 21 not out.

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan took two wickets for 48 runs for the ICC World XI.

REPLY

When its opponents replied, West Indies bowlers led by legspinner Samuel Badree (2-24) and seamer Russell (2-25) wrecked the top order as the World XI



Lewis

slumped to eight runs for four wickets in the fourth over.

Sri Lankan Thisara Perera then belted 61 from 37 balls, but the damage had already been done and the World XI was all out for 127, with 20

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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SPORTS



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Jamaican teammate loses doping appeal, costs Bolt Olympic gold medal

Jamaica's retired sprint sensation Usain Bolt will have to make do with just eight Olympic gold medals.

An international Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) panel last month dismissed an appeal filed by Nesta Carter who, along with Bolt, was part of Jamaica's winning 2008 Olympic Games 4x100 relay in Beijing, China.

Carter, who started Jamaica's then world record relay run of 37.10 seconds, had been disqualified for testing positive for a banned substance. Bolt ran the third leg. Michael Frater and Asafa Powell also ran on Jamaica's team in Beijing.

Carter was found guilty of the doping violation when his sample was re-analyzed in 2016. He tested positive for methylhexanamine, a stimulant. As a result, Jamaica was disqualified and stripped of the relay gold medal.

UNACCEPTABLE

According to a report by the **Associated Press**, the CAS panel said it "could not accept any of the arguments raised by Nesta Carter contending that the test results should be ignored or the IOC (disciplinary) decision should otherwise be overturned for certain alleged failures."

Before the panel's verdict,



- File photograph

Carter and Bolt at the 2013 IAAF World Championships.

Bolt had established a perfect Olympic record, winning gold medals in the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 meters at three consecutive games -

2008, 2012 and 2016.

Following Jamaica's disqualification, Trinidad and Tobago will receive the 4x100 gold medal. The T&T team included Keston Bledman, Marc Burns, Emmanuel Callender, Richard Thompson and Aaron

Armstrong. Japan

was awarded silver and Brazil bronze.

Carter, 32, was also on Bolt's team for three straight

World Championship relay gold medals, in 2011, 2013 and 2015. They were also teammates when Jamaica set another 4x100 world record in 2012 at the London Olympics, in a time of 36.84 seconds.

Dozens of athletes tested positive for banned drugs in an IOC-ordered reanalysis program using new and more accurate tests on samples stored since the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2012 London Olympics. Carter's case was the only one involving Jamaica.

- Edited from the **Associated Press**.



Teenage sprinter steals show at international track meet in Caribbean

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica - A man-child led them.

Brimming with talent and stacked with belief, high school teenager Christopher Taylor stunned a field which included a World and Olympic champion to win the men's 200 meters and conquer the hearts of home fans at last month's Jamaica International Invitational (JII) track and field meet here.

Taylor, an 18-year-old student at Calabar High, burst from the blocks in outside lane eight to lead home LaShawn Merritt of the United States and claim the loudest applause at the JII's 15th staging at the National Stadium.

His winning time of 20.49



Taylor

seconds didn't beat his personal best of 20.35 set in March at the same venue. However, the manner in which Taylor left behind the veteran Merritt, who has a personal best 19.74 and has won the 400 meters at the Olympics Games and World

Championships, offered a clear glimpse of what he could bring to a sport desperate for stars following the retirement of global icon Usain Bolt of Jamaica.

"I came out here confident," Taylor said after the race, dismissing any thought that his step up in competitive class after dominating Jamaica's youth level could have been a deterrent.

REGION RUN

Taylor wasn't the only Caribbean athlete unfazed on a night when the expected rains stayed away to let the athletes claim the spotlight. Jamaican female stars Elaine Thompson and Shericka Jackson also grabbed wins. Olympic champion Thompson powered to the women's 100 meters title in 11.06 seconds, leading Jamaica's claim to the top five places. Jackson took the 200 meters in 22.55.

Fellow Jamaican Janieve Russell continued the form which won her gold at the recent Commonwealth Games, clocking 54.26 seconds to win the 400 meters hurdles. For Russell, winning before the home crowd was a special treat.

"I wanted to give Jamaicans a show," she said. "I

think I did that."

Puerto Rico pleased as well. Alfredo Santana also won the men's 3000 meters in eight minutes 01.52 seconds, while Puerto Rico snapped up the first three spots in the men's 800 meters. Ryan Sanchez won in one minute, 46.60 seconds. Compatriots Wesley Vasquez and Andres Arroyo finished second and third, respectively.

The Bahamas did the same in the men's high jump. Jamal Wilson won with a leap 2.28 meters, followed by Trevor Barry and Donald Thomas.

U.S. SUCCESS

Several Americans also made the top awards podium. DeAnna Price broke the meet record to win the women's hammer throw with 76.27 meters, as the U.S. swept the first three places in the event.

U.S. women also took first, second and third in the 100 meters hurdles, with Jasmin Stowers emerging the winner in 12.83 seconds.

American Jeneva Stevens won the women's shot put with 18.17 meters. In the men's 400 meters hurdles, T.J. Holmes of the U.S. won in 48.67 seconds.

H.S. stars bring Caribbean spice to...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

win in 23.01. The Jamaican, who finished third in the 100 meters at last year's World Under-18 Championships, was second in 23.79.

In another stunning result, American high school sophomore Kimberly Harris beat

Jamaica senior representative Dominique Blake in the women's 400 Meters Dash Showcase Invitational. Harris clocked her personal best 52.33, while Blake finished second in 52.75.

- G. Williams



Lewis shines again as Windies...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

balls remaining in the innings. West Indies fast-medium bowler Kesrick Williams took three for 41 from 3.4 overs.

The contest, watched by several legendary former West

Indies players including Sir Vivian Richards, featured an array of world stars but was played in a spirit of goodwill.

- Edited from **CMC**.



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Peter A. Webley,
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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Britain offers naval support to Caribbean in hurricane season

MICHELLE CAWLEY DRESERIS

The British are armed and ready to provide help to the Caribbean during the 2018 hurricane season.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Mounts Bay was scheduled to embark from Port Miami in Florida late last month for the start of the season on June 1, with the ship expected in Grand Cayman for training exercises.

“(RFA Mounts Bay) will then be operating between the Leeward Islands and the Bahamas,” said Captain David J. Buck last month. “Our duty is also to protect and provide humanitarian support for our British Overseas Territories during the 2018 hurricane season.”

According to Buck, RFA Mounts Bay “was the first on the scene 10 months ago” when hurricanes ravaged the Caribbean. The ship is expected to be available in the region through 2020.

ROLES

Many Caribbean nations have not yet fully recovered from the devastation caused by a trio of hurricanes in 2017, including Irma, Jose and Maria, which hit the region between August and September.

However, British territo-

ries, including the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands and Dominica, are benefiting from the British government’s support. This includes military and naval help, plus increased budgets, according to David Prodger, Britain’s consul general in Miami.

“You can’t really plan for three major hurricanes in a row, but after last year, we have increased budgets for 2018,” said Prodger. “The U.K. has also sent 60 million pounds (approximately \$80 million) to help with their post-hurricane recovery.”

British territories in the Caribbean are mostly self-governing, but the United Kingdom is responsible for their security, defense and foreign relations.

PROTECTION

Following the devastation of last year’s hurricanes, the U.K.’s armed forces and RFA



Prodger, left, with Captain Buck.

- Photograph by Michelle Cawley Dreseris

Mounts Bay’s crews moved in to provide food and building supplies. They also worked to restore communications, law and order, power and water supply and provided medical care, cleared debris, repaired roofs and supplied tarpaulins and temporary shelters to residents left homeless by the hurricanes.

Engineers reportedly stopped a potentially dangerous fuel leak at Anguilla’s main petrol dump. They also restored power to the island’s sole hospital and cleared the runway to make it safe for relief flights.

Mounts Bay rescued a mother and her sons from a capsized boat off Puerto Rico and flagship HMS Ocean was diverted from her NATO mission in the Mediterranean to the Caribbean as part of Operation RUMAN.

Michelle Cawley Dreseris is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Florida offers tax-free holiday on storm purchases June 1-7

Residents of Florida will benefit from a tax-free holiday on storm supplies June 1-7. Portable generators and fuel containers qualify for tax-free purchases.

The following are tips from the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute to help consumers:

- When purchasing a generator, consider the types of items for which you will need power. Determine how many kilowatts needed for essential items (charging family cell phones, a refrigerator, etc.) during an emergency.
- Research generators online before you buy. Identify safety features and ask about manufacturer fueling and care instructions.
- If you are planning to use a generator, having a carbon monoxide detector installed in your home would be smart.
- Identify the generator’s placement. Give portable generators plenty of room for ventilation. Place the generator outside and away

from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.

- Keep generators dry. Before a storm hits, identify how to cover and vent the generator.
- Have the right fuel in an appropriate container before a storm hits. Select containers that seal well, store fuel in a safe place, away from heat sources and out of the reach of children.

Label the can with the date of purchase and the ethanol content. Check filled cans regularly and replenish them if needed.

Fuel more than 30 days old should not be used in any outdoor power equipment. Use the type of fuel recommended by the generator manufacturer. It is illegal to use any fuel with more than 10 percent ethanol in outdoor power equipment.

For more information on proper fueling for outdoor power equipment visit www.LookBeforeYouPump.com.



Getting ready for hurricanes

The hurricane season is here and the City of Miami Division of Emergency Management is offering resi-

dents advice on how to be prepared.

“Residents should take note of how the city is taking a proactive approach and do the same,” Pete Gomez, assistant fire chief and emergency manager said in a recent release. “Preparation is key to preventing panic.”

Among the steps residents are advised to take in preparation for hurricane season are:

- Trim trees on private property; call 311 for trees on public property
- Gather important documents for safe-keeping
- Check insurance policies for adequate coverage
- Consider flood insurance (policy becomes effective 30 days from purchase)
- Meet neighbors (you may need to help each other in an emergency)
- Create or review your family plan, including contact information.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLORIDA LOTTERY CELEBRATES LATEST MILESTONE OF \$33 BILLION IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION OVER 30 YEARS

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Lottery announced today it has reached the \$33 billion mark in total contributions to the state’s Educational Enhancement Trust Fund over the past 30 years. Since the Lottery’s inception, Florida’s public schools have received more than \$11.6 billion, colleges and universities have received a combined total of more than \$8.4 billion, and more than \$5 billion has been used to fund the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, sending over 775,000 students to college since 1997.

Governor Rick Scott said, “Today’s news that the Lottery has reached \$33 billion in total contributions to education means that more Florida students will have the opportunity to get a great education in our state. The success of the Florida Lottery has a direct connection to the continued success of Florida’s scholarship programs and world-class education system. Just this month, U.S. News & World Report again ranked Florida as the best state in the nation for higher education and this latest milestone achievement will help us continue the important work of making sure that every student has access to a great education in Florida.” “As the Lottery celebrates its 30 years in operation, we are especially proud of this milestone moment in education funding,” said Secretary Jim Poppell.

“We are thankful to Governor Scott for his leadership, our loyal players, hardworking retailers and dedicated employees who allow us to help Florida students achieve their dreams of a brighter future.”

The Lottery has established itself as a committed and dependable funding source for public education; contributing more than \$1 billion annually for the past sixteen consecutive years, while remaining one of the most efficiently operated lotteries in the country. The benefits continue to be felt in communities across the state.

ABOUT THE FLORIDA LOTTERY

The Florida Lottery is responsible for contributing more than \$33 billion to education and sending more than 775,000 students to college through the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The Florida Lottery reinvests 98 percent of its revenue back into Florida’s economy through prize payouts, commissions to more than 13,000 Florida retailers and contributions to education. Since 1988, Florida Lottery games have paid more than \$56.3 billion in prizes and made more than 2,000 people millionaires. For more information, please visit www.flalottery.com

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

'Caribbean Village Festival' June 24 in Lauderhill

The diverse cultural flavor of the region, including music and food, will be on tap at this year's "Caribbean Village Festival" in South Florida.

The **June 24** event will be staged at the Lauderhill Sports Complex.

Among the scheduled performers are Kymani Marley,

Alison Hinds, Kevin Lyttle, Shurwayne Winchester, Julien Believe, Mika Ben and headliner Maxi Priest. Comedian Majah Hype will be the host.

The event is being sponsored by several entities, including supermarket chain Publix, The Galleon Foundation, LDA Wealth

Management, Wells Fargo Bank, Grace Foods, NBC6, Coral Spring Auto Mall, YellowCab Broward and the Lauderhill Mall.

For more information, visit www.caribbeanvillage.net.

**Exhibition, festival in Pembroke Pines**

Island food and music will highlight this month's Caribbean American Exhibition and Festival in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

The event, being staged in recognition of Caribbean Heritage Month, will be held

from **4 p.m. to 10 p.m. June 30** at The Campus & Hall - Holy Sacrament, 2801 N. University Dr.

Scheduled attractions include exhibits, arts and crafts, health and wellness fair and a kids zone. Other entertainment

will be provided by Roger George, Ian Sweetness, Novel-T, Michael Schloss, Hal Anthony, Kate Vargas, Tropical Vibes and Mark Swaby.

For more information, call **954-292-6848**.

**'Taste the Islands' comes to South Florida**

Caribbean cuisine and culture will be showcased during the 2018 "Taste the Islands Experience" **June 2** in South Florida.

The event, to be staged from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, is aimed at food and spirits enthusiasts with a taste for island indulgences. It will feature celebrity cooking demonstrations, an artisan

shopping village and live music on the Riverfront on the lawn of the New River Inn, 231 S.W. Second Ave.

Celebrity chefs, including "Taste the Islands" television show hosts Cynthia "Chef Thia" Verna of Haiti, Hugh "Chef Irie" Sinclair of Jamaica and Chef Amit Raval, head chef of Amtar Fine Foods in Trinidad, are scheduled to make appearances. They will

sample Caribbean creations in the "Taste the Islands" Pavilion and present demonstrations on the event's main stage.

Restaurant Row will host 15 local cafes and caterers representing multiple islands, each offering different menu selections. An open bar will serve island specialties.

For more information, visit www.ttiexperience.com.

**Caribbean American Heritage Awards set for June 9**

Nearly a dozen individuals will be recognized at the 2018 Caribbean American Heritage Awards this month in South Florida.

The function will be staged **7 p.m. June 9** at Doubletree by Hilton hotel in Sunrise.

The 2018 honorees are Sandra Richards, supervisor, Vitas Healthcare; Dr. Alina Valdes; Jennifer S. Carroll, former lieutenant governor of

Florida; Professor Nathan Charles; Darlene B. Riggs, City of Miramar commissioner; Micaelle Guirand Titus, founder, C.H.E. Network; Wilma Mulcare, president, Mulcare Inc.; and Rupert Rhodd, professor and associate dean at Florida Atlantic University.

Three will receive the Friend of the Caribbean Award. They are: Rodney

Baltimore, Hot 105 Cox Media Group; United States Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz; and Howard Berger, vice mayor, City of Lauderhill.

For more information, call **954-292-6848** or **954-435-4717** or visit www.CAHMUSA.com.

The Doubletree by Hilton is located at 13400 W. Sunrise Blvd.

**Philadelphia honors Caribbean son for philanthropy, business leadership**

Vincent HoSang, Jamaican-born president and chairman of Caribbean Food Delights, was honored by Philadelphia recently.

The Pennsylvania city awarded HoSang its highest citation in recognition of his business leadership and philanthropy.

HoSang was also recognized for founding Caribbean Food Delights 40 years ago and his contribution and support to Caribbean athletes who compete at the Penn Relays for the past 24 years.

Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, hailed HoSang as a model business leader. She described him as one who epitomizes the essentials of entrepreneurship, vision, courage, commitment and risk-taking and lauded him for

his outstanding contribution to the Caribbean diaspora, his home country Jamaica and his contributions at the "Penns".

PRAISE

Allie McNab, special advisor to Jamaica's Minister of Sports Olivia Grange, also praised HoSang for his Penn Relays contribution.

"The support of Mr. Hosang's company and his voluntarism speaks volume," McNab said

"What he has done for the athletes has given them a home away from home and has extended this hospitality to include other Caribbean athletes. The schoolboy athletic fraternity – and indeed Jamaica – is indebted to you for your selfless service."

Jamaica's Consul General

to New York Trudy Deans said HoSang's generosity knows no bounds. She also recognized him and his foundation for supporting and contributing to numerous projects in Jamaica, hailing his deep, abiding commitment to his homeland.

"On behalf of the government, the people of Jamaica and members of the diaspora, I want to salute you," Deans said.

GRATEFUL

HoSang said he was gratified that God had blessed him and his family so they are able to give back to their country and support athletes. He explained that he came to the United States with nothing, worked hard and started his

MUSIC MAESTRO

Steelpan jazz musician Othello Molineaux, right, a Trinidad and Tobago national who lives in South Florida, soaks up the applause while bringing a distinct Caribbean flavor to the recent "Music in the Park" concert held in Miami Gardens. Molineaux is credited with introducing steel drum jazz to a wider audience and is considered the first steel drum player to be featured on a jazz recording. The next "Music in the Park" concert is scheduled for Dec. 7.

'Caribbean Wellness' aims to wake up New York ~ CTO

NEW YORK – The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) says New York will wake up to "Caribbean Wellness" during Caribbean Week 2018.

CTO said Caribbean Week New York (#CWN18) will have "a special feel this year as the city of over 8.5 million people gets a taste of the re-energizing and rejuvenating power of Caribbean wellness."

During the weeklong event, **June 2-8**, the CTO said "the wellness theme will be incorporated into many of the bespoke activities, including a trade show and educational forum for travel agents on June 5 to better prepare them to sell the Caribbean as a wellness and rejuvenation destination."

CTO said artistes, performers, celebrity chefs, investors and other strategic partners will join government officials and

the media "as all converge on the 'Big Apple' for a week of festivities designed to raise awareness for the Caribbean's diverse tourism industry and provide opportunities for member destinations to promote their individual products and services."

CTO said ministers, directors of tourism, national tourist office representatives and other tourism and hospitality officials are also scheduled to participate. The week culminates with a cultural celebration at the Capitale in New York City, where the region's food and beverage talents will serve as flavor ambassadors for Caribbean gastronomy and mixology on June 8, CTO added.

- Edited from CMC.



Blackwell, left, presents the citation to HoSang. Others are, from left, Deans, Sabrina HoSang-Jodan, and McNab.

business.

If it were not for the support from the diaspora and his adopted home, HoSang added, the business would not have flourished.

He also described the cita-

tion as a great honor and thanked Philadelphia for the recognition.

- Contributed



TOURISM/TRAVEL



www.caribbeantoday.com

Spirit opens door to St. Croix, where it's 'nice, real nice'

There was a carnival atmosphere at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) on May 24 when Spirit Airlines launched its inaugural flight to St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands (USVI).

The route is the 65th destination for the airline and the only non-stop flight from FLL to the paradise-like islands.

With dancing girls in carnival outfits, moko jumbies, pan artistes and singer Pressure, whose song "Virgin Island nice, real nice" rocked the departure terminal, Spirit set the tone for the flight.

The flight was captained by Theodore Prince, the first person born in St. Croix to land a major airline in the USVI.

"Today marks another great day for Spirit Airlines," President Ted Christie said at the send-off. "We are starting our first nonstop service to the island of St. Croix ... This shows our ongoing commitment to expand and support the Caribbean. St. Croix is our 13th destination in the Caribbean. It complements our existing daily service to St. Thomas and the USVI. We also recently launched service to Cap Haitian and resumed our service to the island of St. Maarten."



It was a carnival atmosphere at Spirit's FLL-to-St. Croix launch.

60 MILLION

Mark Dale, manager at FLL, estimated that more than 60 million Spirit passengers have passed through FLL in the 25-year time frame the airline has been in Fort Lauderdale.

"Now that is something special," said Dale, before adding, "our partnership with Spirit seems to be getting stronger and stronger."

Beverly Nicholson-Doty, commissioner of the USVI Department of Tourism said: "Today you are going to feel

the spirit of St. Croix. We really believe in this partnership and we intend for this service to go from three days a week to seven days a week, because we know that we are going to make sure that this is a successful partnership for both Spirit and the USVI."

Kurt Vialet, a member of the USVI legislature, said the citizens "were excited" because the captain on the inaugural flight to St. Croix is a Virgin Islander.

"I know that everybody that comes to St. Croix will fall in love with our island," Vialet added. "We are a friendly people. We love to have fun and love to eat and drink."

WELCOME

The festivities continued on the flight and upon arrival at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport. There was an official ribbon cutting and passengers were given a real Crucian welcome, with more moko jumbies, singing groups and a live band.

With the introduction of the direct flight, Spirit adds an additional 1,740 seats per month and complements the daily flights already established to St. Thomas.

In St. Croix, a press conference was held where Deputy

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Jamaica in top 25

Jamaica was the only Caribbean nation listed on TripAdvisor's "Top 25 Destinations - World" released recently.

Jamaica placed 14th on the list, which was led by Paris, France. The top five also included London, United Kingdom (2), Rome, Italy (3), Bali, Indonesia (4) and Crete, Greece (5).

New York City, New York, at 10th, was the only destination in the U.S. on the list.

TripAdvisor described Jamaica this way: "Is there anything better than stretching out like a cat in a warm patch of Jamaican sun? Only if you sprinkle your island vacation with a dash of adventure ... Jamaica's forests feature prime hiking and bird watching. History buffs can the heritage sites of Trelawny, while reggae and dancehall fans will love the authentic music clubs of Kingston. Montego Bay is perfect for snorkeling and shopping, while the spas of Ocho Rios can make any stresses melt away."

Jamaica was also recognized as the overall winner in the 2018 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice awards for Caribbean destinations.



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AA to begin Georgetown-Miami route mid-November

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – United States-based American Airlines (AA) is aiming to start its Georgetown-to-Miami route by mid-November – a month earlier than previously planned.

Earlier this year, the Fort Worth, Texas-based carrier announced it would start offering seats on the route from Dec. 20, with tickets going on sale from April 2. That was before permission had been sought by the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA).

However, last month GCAA Director General Egbert Field told the media that AA has since submitted the relevant documents to the authority and plans are moving ahead for flights to commence by mid-November.

TIMING

AA's announced arrival came at an opportune moment as the Cheddi Jagan



American Airlines

International Airport (CJIA) recorded its highest passenger movement in the first quarter of 2018.

According to Field, the carrier has indicated its Guyana plan is for the long term and will ply the Georgetown-Miami route before possibly extending to

other destinations.

The airline will use an Airbus 319 with capacity for 120 passengers to fly to Georgetown from Miami four times per week.

- Edited from CMC.



Miami to host Caribbean hospitality forum June 22-24

MIAMI, Florida - Three days of hospitality education and networking will be the focus of the fourth Caribbean Hospitality Industry Exchange Forum (CHIEF) for tourism industry stakeholders here this month.

The event will be staged at the Hyatt Regency Miami hotel from June 22 to 24.

Produced by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), CHIEF is expected to offer interactive workshops, panel discussions and sharing of best practices.

"CHIEF has established itself as the preeminent forum for the region's hospitality professionals to share ideas and learn from each other, and we look forward to another weekend of stimulating presentations and discussions to help our industry," CHTA President Karolin

Troubetzkoy noted in a recent press release promoting the event.

General sessions will focus on the importance of having a proactive communications strategy during crises; promoting a culture of inclusion, focusing on women in leadership positions; and how the traditional hotel sector can best cope with the transformative nature of the accommodations industry.

The breakout sessions will J 1J10deal with operations, sales and marketing and other aspects of industry sustainability.



Troubetzkoy

Spirit opens door to St. Croix, where it's 'nice, real nice'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

Tourism Commissioner Neelia Ross provided the official introduction and welcome to "the big island where it still nice."

Mark Kopczak, Spirit's vice president of network planning, thanked the St. Croix administration for its effort to get the airline there. Kopczak also singled out Nicholson-Doty's efforts.

"(She) has worked tirelessly for many years to increase the amount of service that

comes to the territory," he said.

Laurie Villa, Spirit's human resources officer, said Spirit would be adding 25 new team members to the group.

FRIENDS

"Today we are friends flying friends to St. Croix," Villa said.

President of the Hotel and Tourism Association Suzanne Rosbach, welcomed the airline, stating it would be a big boost for St. Croix and the USVI.

David Mapp, executive director for the Virgin Islands

Port Authority, announced plans for "massive expansion" at the airport.

Governor Kenneth Mapp also praised Nicholson-Doty's efforts in bringing Spirit to St. Croix.

"She is a Virgin Islands treasure in my heart," he said.

Nicholson-Doty said Spirit flights will have a major impact on St. Croix.

"I think this is wonderful," she said. "With its attractive fare it will make way for a lot of opportunities for St. Croix."



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