

Caribbean Today

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Jamaican actress, playwright and poet Jozanne Marie lived with a secret from she was six years old, one that brought fear and shame. In her book "Beautiful: Unashamed and Unafraid" she takes a journey to forgiveness, page 14.



The United States Virgin Islands has come a long way since Sept. 2017, when two hurricanes devastated the territory. Now Joseph Boschulte, USVI commissioner of tourism, is telling everyone "we are ready" to welcome you back, page 18.

PAY TO STAY



~ A new policy by President Donald Trump could affect Caribbean immigrants as it proposes a 'wealth test' to determine who gets United States permanent residence and citizenship based on how much they have, **page 2.**

DEVASTATION



~ Hurricane Dorian smashed into The Bahamas, causing multiple loss of life and widespread damage to property. It was the most powerful storm to ever hit the Caribbean nation, **page 6.**

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PAY TO STAY: New Trump policy threatens Caribbean immigrants

~ 'Wealth test' to determine who gets 'green card', U.S. citizenship

GORDON WILLIAMS

Opportunity for millions of lower income immigrants to live legally in the United States, including thousands from the Caribbean, is facing a fresh threat from the administration of President Donald Trump.

However, Caribbean nationals are already meeting many of the so-called "wealth test" standards the U.S. government plans to implement next month, if they want to become citizens or permanent residents, according to a recent study.

Meanwhile, the new rule is facing public backlash, with local government and civil rights organizations lining up to contest it in U.S. courts, lawmakers with Caribbean roots bashing it as another attack by Trump on immigrants, particularly those of color, and even Caribbean nations expressing concern.

Ken Cuccinelli, acting director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), announced last month that the financial status of immigrants will become a key component to

help determine if they receive permanent residence or "green cards" and American citizenship, even if they already live in the U.S.

The "public charge" clause, according to Cuccinelli, is to ensure immigrants are not a burden on the government. Among the requirements are that immigrants speak English proficiently and don't seek government assistance, including food stamps, housing subsidies and health care help.

"We certainly expect people of any income to stand on their own two feet," Cuccinelli told the media in announcing the policy.

"And so, if people are not able to be self sufficient, then this negative factor is gonna bear very heavily against them in a decision about whether they'll be able to become a legal permanent resident."

BACKLASH

Undocumented immigrants are not eligible to access federal benefits, but the Trump administration insisted the new rule will "promote immigrant success," according to Cuccinelli.

The rule has Trump's full backing.



The bar has been raised again for Caribbean nationals wishing to become American citizens

"I don't think it is fair to have the American taxpayer pay for people who come into the United States," the president told reporters.

However, Cuccinelli's announcement drew immediate criticism, including from the Caribbean American community. U.S. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, whose parents are from Jamaica, told **Caribbean Media Corporation** that "the public charge rule means lawabiding immigrants will be put in an impossible position, having to forfeit

health care, nutrition and housing programs in order to get a green card or receive other lawful status."

U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, whose father is from Jamaica, also condemned the rule as another in Trump's series of attacks on immigrants.

"It's just an ongoing campaign of his (Trump's) to vilify a whole group of people," Harris said on CNN. "He is criminalizing innocent people, he is locking babies up in cages, he has a policy of sepa-

rating children from their parents in the name of border security."

DEROGATORY

In the past Trump has made derogatory remarks about nations with populations dominated by people of color. He reportedly called Haiti, for example, a "shit hole" country. He promoted a ban against nationals from certain Muslim-majority countries and called Mexicans "rapists" and "criminals." Trump also told four U.S. congresswomen of color to "go back" to where they came from although all are American citizens and three were born in the U.S.

Several states challenged the new public charge rule in court within days of its announcement. Other agencies have expressed interest in doing so as well.

Caribbean nations have also chimed in, claiming the new rule could have adverse effects for the region. EP Chet Greene, Antigua and Barbuda's immigration and foreign affairs minister, warned that his nation is bracing for possible negative fall-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

They did their time. Why pay twice?

For returning citizens, a fresh start also means being empowered to shape the future.

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FINGERPOINTING: Trump names Caribbean nations among illicit drugs producers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States has named four Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries as major drug transit or illicit drug producing countries.



President Donald Trump in his “Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2020”, named The Bahamas, Belize, Haiti and Jamaica.

The other countries

named by Trump are Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

In his statement, Trump

noted that a country’s presence on the foregoing list is not necessarily a reflection of its government’s counter narcotics efforts or level of cooperation with the U.S.

He said his administration has devoted unprecedented resources to combating the scourge of illicit drugs in the

U.S., which includes strengthening the U.S. borders and expanding programs to prevent illicit drug use and aid the recovery and treatment of those who need it.

“We are making steady progress to turn the tide of our country’s drug epidemic, but more needs to be accom-

plished,” the president’s declaration stated.

“This includes further efforts beyond our nation’s borders, by governments of countries where dangerous illegal drugs originate.”

- Edited from CMC.

Caribbean American candidate for U.S. president falls in polls

After a promising start to her campaign for president of the United States, Caribbean American candidate Kamala Harris has seen her public support erode significantly.



Several polls conducted last month showed Harris, whose father is Jamaican, losing a dozen percentage points.

In a CNN/SSRS poll conducted in late May, Harris polled eight percent. But that number spiked to 17 percent following a June debate for Democratic presidential candidates.

Last month her CNN/SSRS poll number dropped to five percent.

LEADER

Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden maintained his lead in most polls last month, ending with 29 percent in the latest CNN/SSRS. He’s followed by Bernie Sanders (15 percent) and Elizabeth Warren (14 percent). Pete Buttigieg is tied with Harris at five percent.

Harris is currently a senator from California. She has already qualified for the next Democratic debate.

Wayne Messam, a second Caribbean American trying to win the Democratic nomination to challenge Republican President Donald Trump, has not made a significant impact on the polls. The mayor of Miramar, Florida, home to a large Caribbean American community, was not invited for the two recent Democratic

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U.S. ends program for Haitians awaiting 'green card'

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – A program that allowed Haitians to remain in the United States while waiting for approval of permanent residence or “green cards” has been scrapped.

On Aug. 2, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the end of the “Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program”, launched in 2016, under the administration of former President Barack Obama, which allowed thou-

sands of Haitians who had already obtained an immigrant visa based on family reunification, to wait in the country with their family for their green card to be available.

The USCIS said the decision is in line with the 2017 Decree 13767 on improvements to border security and immigration enforcement.

“Family reunification must be used on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit,” said USCIS Acting

Director Ken Cuccinelli.

“Many of these individuals are eligible to apply to adjust status to lawful permanent resident (LPR) and have already done so, in which case this termination will not affect those individuals with LPR status,” said Ana Santiago, a USCIS spokeswoman.

She added that, as of June 21, over 8,000 Haitians had received documents under this program.



Lawmakers reject plan to impeach Haiti's president

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – Haiti's legislators have rejected an Opposition-inspired motion aimed at impeaching President Jovenel Moise, whom they had accused of high treason and leading the country to “the edge of the social explosion.”

Following a third attempt to debate the motion in as many weeks last month, the legislators voted overwhelmingly to defeat the move with 53 deputies voting against the measure, three in favor and five abstaining.

Like in the previous attempts, the Chamber of Deputies had difficulties in getting the necessary quorum, and when the



Moise

chamber was called to order on the afternoon of Aug. 21 only 64 deputies were present resulting in Speaker Gary Bodeau announcing a 30-minute sus-

pension. As the debate continued on the night of Aug. 22, legislator Wilson Hyppolite called on the speaker to put to the vote the approach concerning the request of indictment. Bodeau ruled “the proposal of the majority is rejected and considered inadmissible.”

The majority of the deputies, most of whom are aligned to Moise's party, rejected the motion and voted against it.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean American candidate for U.S. president falls in polls

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3) debates after failing to meet the criteria for qualification, but is still listed among the

candidates.

Meanwhile, several candidates have withdrawn from the race for the Democratic

nomination. At one point more than 20 candidates were in the field.



PAY TO STAY: New Trump policy threatens Caribbean immigrants

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2) out, including criminals being sent back to the country.

“If (the rule) goes forward, I mean you could be surprised to see the wave of returnees to these parts, as persons are forced out, because that's the effect of it,” Greene told state-owned **ABS Television** and Radio. “... It forces you out of the system.”

IN POSITION

Yet, according to a study published in February by the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Migration Policy Institute (MPI), Caribbean nationals

may be among the best placed immigrants capable of meeting the public charge standards.

MPI reported that, as of 2017, some 4.4 million Caribbean nationals were living in the U.S., 10 percent of the 44.5 million total immigrants. However, MPI added: “Compared to the total foreignborn population, Caribbean immigrants are less likely to be Limited English Proficient (LEP), have lower educational attainment and income, and have higher poverty rates.”

Caribbean nationals have also shown they are willing to work to support themselves as

much as people from any region, including those born in the U.S.

“Caribbean immigrants participate in the labor force at the same rate as the overall foreign-born population,” MPI noted, although the compensation they receive has fallen behind other immigrants.

Meanwhile, Caribbean immigrants in the U.S. are also “much more likely to be (health) insured than the overall foreign-born population,” another indication they are less likely to be a burden to the U.S. government.



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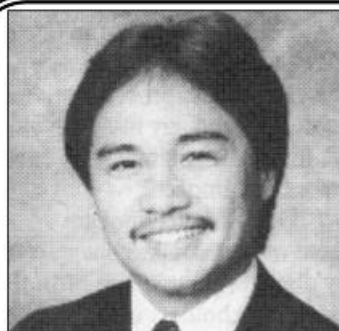
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HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL: Report traces illegal weapons from U.S. to Caribbean



Violence has spiked in Jamaica and illegally imported guns are part of that.

More than 50 years ago the hit television series “Have Gun Will Travel” tracked the life of a “gentleman gunfighter” in the American West. Last month, an in-depth investigative report by the **New York Times** showed that title has taken on a far more ominous meaning today, with deadly effects for one Caribbean nation.

The newspaper’s story tracked the path of guns from the United States to Jamaica, documenting the lethal damage the weapons have caused and the difficulties law enforcement agencies - in both

countries - have in trying to track them and stem the tide of brutal violence they and their users have left in their wake.

In one case, according to the Times, a single weapon, a 9-millimeter Browning handgun which the police called “Briana”, had been linked to at least nine murders in just a few years, “including a double homicide outside a bar, the killing of a father at a wake and the murder of a single mother of three”.

FUEL

The flood of illegal guns

into Jamaica has helped fuel violence of epic proportions in the Caribbean island, forcing the government to announce a state of emergency.

In Jamaica, the Times reported, “Guns like Briana reside at the epicenter of the crisis. Worldwide, 32 percent of homicides are committed with firearms ... In Jamaica, the figure is higher than 80 percent. And most of those guns come

from the United States, amassed by exploiting loose American gun laws that facilitate the carnage.”

The Times reported that it government “restrictions ... make it difficult, or sometimes nearly impossible, to track the weapons and interrupt smuggling networks.” The result is a death rate in Jamaica “nine times the global average.”

The story traced Briana to its original owner, Johnnie Ray Dunn, who bought the gun in 1991 in Greenville, North Carolina. Then it “vanished from the public record for

nearly 24 years,” the Times reported, “until it suddenly started wreaking havoc in Jamaica.” It was finally recovered when a man using Briana in a robbery was gunned down. It is not known how the gun reached Jamaica in the first place, leaving law enforcement unsure how they can stop another Briana from entering the country.

OVERWHELMED

Meanwhile, the Times reported, Briana “is just one of the hundreds of thousands of guns that leak out of the United States and overwhelm countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Authorities believe they enter Jamaica via ships, sometimes disassembled with parts scattered so as to avoid detection. The illegal weapons range from handguns to assault rifles. Some 200 illegal guns enter Jamaica from the U.S. each month, authorities believe. It is difficult to defend against them. Jamaica has less than 45,000 legal guns.

However, while illegal guns are usually acquired by drug-smuggling operations, or those linked to political differences, the Times reported that, in Jamaica, they “are often used in petty feuds, neighborhood beefs and turf wars that

go back decades.

“Because guns are so plentiful, small insults and old vendettas that might otherwise leave few casualties grow much more dangerous — not just for the combatants, but also for anyone who happens to be in the way.”

Illegal guns are bought and rented in Jamaica. That means someone can just pay the fee, use the weapon and then return it to its owner. But sometimes the user is not proficient and many innocent bystanders, including children, have been killed by the illegal guns.

The Times also reported guns smuggled into Jamaica from the U.S. being used in various crimes, including the country’s “multimillion-dollar scamming industry,” where the fight for control help escalate the violence. With plenty cash to spare, scammers have also bought guns from the U.S., where the sellers may or may not know what the guns are being used for.

It’s a complicated web and Caribbean nations get caught in it, as the Times showed. The gun, it seems, travels as easily as humans and is just as deadly.



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Hurricane smashes The Bahamas

A powerful hurricane smashed into The Bahamas earlier this month, causing multiple deaths and devastating damage to the chain of Caribbean islands before roaring off towards the United States.

Hurricane Dorian, which at some point was classified as a Category 5 storm, hit land in The Bahamas around midday Sept. 1 over Marsh Harbor on Great Abaco, where it caused severe damage to parts of the island's chain. It hovered over The Bahamas for 24 hours.

The hurricane also damaged Grand Bahama Island with winds clocking up to 107 miles per hour and storm surges.

Severe and widespread flooding was reported in parts of the northwest and central Bahamas. Islands in the southeastern and central Bahamas were unaffected, including The Exumas, Cat Island, San Salvador, Long Island, Acklins/Crooked Island, Mayaguana and Inagua.

DEATHS

Up to press time, at least five deaths were attributed to Hurricane Dorian, which was called the most powerful in the

history of The Bahamas.

Dorian reportedly caused "severe and wide-spread flooding in parts of the northwest and central Bahamas," according to authorities in the Caribbean nation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with our neighbors in two of our northern islands, Abaco and Grand Bahama Island, which have been directly impacted by Hurricane Dorian," said Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation Director General Joy Jibrilu.

"At this time we are doing everything we can to support these islands ... and continue to be grateful that the majority of our 700 islands and cays have been unaffected."

Hurricane Dorian reportedly generated maximum sustained winds of up to 155 miles per hour with higher gusts. Hurricane Dorian was reportedly on a path to hit the east coast of the United States, including the states of Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas.

Compiled from various sources, including the government of The Bahamas.



CHANGING OF THE GUARD



- Photograph by Derrick Scott

United States Vice President Mike Pence, center, greets Audrey Marks, Jamaica's ambassador to the U.S., as she arrives for the swearing in ceremony of Donald Tapia, left, as the new U.S. ambassador to Jamaica last month at the White House in Washington, D.C. Pence underscored that the U.S. and Jamaica are natural partners, noting that both countries share cultural and economic ties as well as core beliefs in free government and the rule of law. Tapia was scheduled to take up his appointment at the end of August.

Caribbean braces for Brexit, urged to make new deals

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Dr. Patrick I Gomes, secretary general of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, says it will be in the Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries' favor to quickly negotiate new trade agreements with the United Kingdom as it moves to leave the European Union.

The U.K. is due to leave the European Union on Oct. 31 with or without any Brexit deal and Gomes told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** he believes the Caribbean would need to have relations with both U.K. and wider Europe in the post-Brexit era. The relationship with Europe, he added, whether it is one without the U.K., will still be important in terms of "our political ties and also our combination of resources in the international arena like in climate change overall."

"But also in terms of investment and access to technology. But also there will be a substantial amount of development finance to continue under new terms of course and we know these terms will be important."

LINK

"But along with the U.K. there will be of course a link of the Caribbean and U.K. post-Brexit," Gomes explained, "and we are putting on the

table there should be no less than the duty free quota free provided now by our access to the European Union as a whole."

He said the work is being prepared and that "the benefit of that work is also seeing how we prepare the Caribbean pillar, which in the post Cotonou Agreement with Europe would see certain areas that we would also want to address in dealing with the Caribbean-U.K. alone."

"So rather than the EU-Caribbean as a pillar, you will have the Caribbean-U.K."

He said with Brexit and the termination of the contribution of development finance from the U.K. to the European pool as a whole, "we will have to negotiate as part of a relationship between the CARICOM and the U.K.-post Brexit, how we will have trade, how we will link with development finance and what will be the other conditions."

Guyanese-born Gomes said that the roll-over of the trade agreement is already being considered through CARICOM "so that duty free, quota free and all the phytosanitary regulations that are applicable in Europe will not be punitive on the Caribbean, but will be along the same lines."

- Edited from CMC.



Fall Cargo & Shipping



October is the start of the Fall shipping season. More than 500,000 Floridians identify their primary ancestry as West Indians, that is a 117% increase from 1990. Florida's black household income for 2000 was a whopping \$32 Billion, that has continued to increase healthily over the subsequent 16 years. C.T will spotlight the various shipping services available to them via Land, Air, and Sea to get their goods safely home in time for the season.

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CROOKENDALE'S LAW: 'Immigrant status is not a barrier, but an opportunity'

NEW YORK – When Barbadian-born academic Humphrey A. Crookendale graduated from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. in 1981, he never in his wildest dreams believed he would play a leading role in a major academic institution here.

For more than 30 years, Crookendale, who migrated from Barbados in 1971, says he has served in a number of important academic leadership roles at Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY), including associate dean and acting dean of the Audrey Cohen School for Human Services and Education (ACSHSE).

In addition, he served as the dean of the college's School of Management and helped found the college's first graduate program in public administration.

Crookendale, a long-time Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn resident, currently serves as dean of MCNY's School for Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA), encompassing the college's undergraduate and graduate programs in both emergency

management and public administration, where he's making a major difference.

Dean Crookendale, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** he was a key architect of the college's master of science in administration degree program, the college's first graduate program. He said it was also his vision to develop a curriculum for a master of public administration (MPA) degree in emergency and disaster management, one of few such programs in the United States.

In addition to leading the day-to-day activities of the SPAA, Crookendale also teaches in the MPA programme. His areas of interest are public policy and policy analysis.

A CHANCE

After graduating from Howard, Crookendale said he was attracted by an advertisement in the New York Times that called for a faculty member who had experience in political science and law.

"That sounded like me," said Crookendale, who holds a bachelor's degree in political



Crookendale

science and communications from Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY).

"Never would I have imagined that my qualifications would land the job, and more that the job would instantly catapult me into a key role in the design of a master's degree and the application for its approval by New York State. With its approval, I was hooked on the idea of a career in academia."

Over the years, Crookendale said he has fielded applications from many candidates with law degrees, reinforcing and reaffirming that his decision was "not an aberrant one but, indeed, a wise choice."

Crookendale, who teaches

a class in public policy grounded in political science and law, said his legal training has served as "a foundation" for much of what he does.

"I use the Socratic method in my classroom to challenge students to think out of the box, and use a range of practical and current events as the basis for discussion and learning," he said, noting that public affairs and public policy is "a disciplinary area that calls into question such other disciplines as political science, economics and law, just to name a few."

'EQUIPPED'

He said students who graduate with a MPA in public affairs and administration are "equipped to be public servants and policy makers."

"They are uniquely positioned to be change agents in their communities, and the many governmental and non-governmental agencies in which they work. To this end, public affairs and administration is very important to me."

He said the MPA in public affairs and administration is 30 years old, the oldest graduate program at MCNY. New York State gave permission to offer it in 1988.

Crookendale said the inaugural enrollment saw a total of six students register, with only two graduating. Since then, he said there have been times in which over 120 full-time students registered in the program.

"By the standards of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), we would be a medium to large program," he said. "This is a remarkable feat, given our very humble beginnings."

Crookendale said the challenges of the MPA program are numerous, including attracting the right kind of student; ensuring that students graduate on time (the program's graduation rate is close to 90 percent); insuring that the curriculum is current and relevant to the needs of students; and insuring that students gain meaningful employment consistent with anticipated intellectual vigor.

SUCCESS

The dean said his greatest success is in witnessing graduates of the school go on to occupy significant roles of responsibility in New York City and its metropolitan area. He

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Jamaica's music - an odd recipe for fighting inflation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last December, Jamaica's central bank posted a reggae music video on its Twitter account. Since then, more than 240,000 people have watched the video, prompting the bank to release a second video, which has already been viewed 180,000 times.

The bank's reggae songs don't contain typical reggae lyrics. Instead, the songs tackle a subject that is central to monetary policy: Inflation.

The subject is familiar to many in Jamaica, which for decades suffered from high inflation. The worst bout occurred in the early 1990s, when prices soared 80 percent annually. Since then, the government has pursued a series of economic reforms, including inflation targeting, which entails setting a goal for the maximum inflation rate and telling the public about it.

The aim of inflation targeting is to contain rising prices and promote stable economic growth. In 2017, the central bank, formally known as the Bank of Jamaica (BOJ), set an annual inflation target of between four percent and six percent.

CONFIDENCE

But for inflation targeting to work, people have to be confident that the government will be able to keep inflation



Music Bob Marley helped make popular is being put to many uses.

within the target range. It is critical for central banks to foster confidence in their policies. Consequently, central banks need to be good at communicating their policy initiatives and objectives.

To do this, head of communications at Jamaica's central bank Tony Morrison decided to try something unusual – he turned to reggae to help the bank get its message across.

"I used to use music in my work as a reporter on T.V. and as an entertainment manager I used to work with entertainers and manage bands," Morrison said. "Music is a part of me."

Morrison said his idea was to create a catchy song that would help people think about monetary policy. He thought the best way to do this would be to write "one of those

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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N.Y. honors late Caribbean American congresswoman with state park

NEW YORK – Governor Andrew Cuomo has opened the largest state park in New York City in honor of the late, trailblazing Caribbean American Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

The park honors Chisholm, the first African American congresswoman and first African American woman to run for president of the United States.

Chisholm, whose mother was Barbadian and father Guyanese, was an educator and former representative of the 12th Congressional district in Brooklyn for seven, two-year terms. New York's governor said the 407-acre, \$20 million state park on Jamaica Bay in Brooklyn offers hiking, biking, fishing and picnicking.

Cuomo said it is a signature project of his Vital Brooklyn Initiative, which calls for 34 new or improved pocket parks, community gardens, playgrounds and recreation centers "within a 10-minute walk of every Central Brooklyn resident."

PLACE TO GO

"Shirley Chisholm grew up in Brownsville (Brooklyn). When the family wanted a place to relax, you know where they had to go? Jones Beach (on Long Island)," Cuomo said at a recent ceremony opening the park, which was also attended by Chisholm family members and local elected officials.

"They had to drive all the way out to Jones Beach from



Chisholm was a trailblazer.

Brownsville. Can you imagine that ride all the way out on a Saturday just to get a little space and a little peace of mind? Not anymore."

Cuomo said the Shirley Chisholm State Park comprises 10 miles of trails and three-and-a-half miles of waterfront.

"You can fish. There will

be programs to teach children about the environment, there will be picnic areas, there will be bike trails, beautiful mural honoring Shirley Chisholm done by Danielle Mastrion," Cuomo said.

"... And, as we open this beautiful park and open a whole new area of interest to generations of young people, right here in the back yard of Brooklyn, let us also remember the lesson and the moral of Shirley Chisholm and fight the good fight. And you work even when it's hard to bring real change to people who really need it ... The important things in life don't come easy.

"And that's why I think the dedication to Shirley Chisholm is so important. Here, you have a family that

immigrated to the United States and showed how possible, and the potential of what immigration can do for this country and how it makes it a stronger country."

In 1965, Chisholm became the second African American to become a member of the New York State Assembly. Three years later, she was elected as the first African American female in the U.S. Congress.

In 1972, Chisholm became the first woman to appear in a presidential debate running for president of the U.S.

The Shirley Chisholm State Park is the second state park in Brooklyn.

- Edited from CMC.



Jamaica's music - an odd recipe for fighting inflation

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

annoying songs that you hear in the morning and then you find yourself singing it in the evening."

When Morrison pitched the idea to his boss, the bank's deputy governor, he "burst out laughing," Morrison told NPR. But Morrison and his boss soon began working on the idea, which was eventually approved by Jamaica's finance minister.

Morrison and his team partnered with reggae artistes to produce the music. The songs then became part of a broader communications strategy that included an advertising campaign on social media platforms and billboards, as well as in newspapers and on local radio. The campaign even included an advertisement in a children's publication distrib-

uted in Jamaican schools. A comic-strip on the economic program is also coming soon.

SENSE

Morrison's approach may not have worked in another country, but it made sense in Jamaica. In other markets, where the population may be more financially literate, traditional approaches to financial communication can be effective.

But Jamaica hasn't yet reached that level of financial sophistication, said Henry Mooney, the Inter-American Development Bank's lead economist for Jamaica.

"Jamaica is one of the poorest countries in the world to ever have adopted inflation targeting," Mooney explained. "In more advanced countries - for example the United States or Canada - people are gener-

ally able to understand the implications of central bank economic and financial data releases for their mortgages and investment portfolios.

"In Jamaica, this is much less certain."

By tailoring the bank's messages and communication channels to local culture and circumstances, monetary authorities were able to roll out a state-of-the-art policy framework in a country that some skeptics had deemed unready for it.

Though unusual, the communications campaign helped increase the public's understanding of monetary policy and its goals, boosting confidence in the bank's ability to fight inflation.

"Jamaica is proving that nearly anything is possible, if you are committed and innova-

tive enough," said Mooney.

Morrison also believes a similarly novel approach could work in other countries.

"I think every country ... should have some element of their culture that can be used as a communication agent," he said.

"Ways can be found for other central banks to enhance their communication, maybe not the exact same way, but using similar techniques."

So far, the Jamaican central bank's success with inflation targeting has been working. Inflation has been kept within the targeted range since mid-2017.

Meanwhile, the bank has used its traditional array of policy tools - including overnight interest rates and reserve requirements - to curb inflation.

CROOKENDALE'S LAW: 'Immigrant status is not a barrier, but an opportunity'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

said there are alumni who are deputy commissioners of city agencies. An alumna currently serves as a deputy borough president and alumni are managers in a host of city and not-for-profit agencies in the tri-state area.

"There can be no greater sense of affirmation than to see and witness graduates who have taken the mantle of leadership and done so with skill and professionalism," Crookendale said.

In the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) community, he said he is one of a few persons of color who are in positions of leadership.

"That there would be a distinct few deans of color speaks volumes to the entrenched forces of race, even within academic institutions," Crookendale said.

On a more positive note, however, he said he has used his status as "a beacon" both to his students and the larger community "to encourage and remind students who look like me that anything is possible."

"I stand as a role model and as a symbol of the old adage 'keep hope alive'," Crookendale said, adding that his vision is to make MCNY's public affairs and administration program one that is known for academic integrity and vigor.

"My vision is that when it comes to matters of emergency and disaster management, the School for Public Affairs and Administration will be the go-to place for academics, government officials and other interested persons to be informed, and to elicit current information and knowledge on these subjects.

"I want to be able to say when my association with

MCNY comes to an end that I fought well, prepared students to be meaningful change agents, and will be remembered for stewarding a fledgling program to renown and distinction," he added.

GOAL

Crookendale said one of his goals in succession planning is to ensure that academic integrity and commitment to the school is maintained. In this regard, he said recruiting faculty with a vision and a passion for growing the school is his ultimate goal.

"I have spent the last 34 years in academia," said Crookendale. "I am not sure how much longer, but long enough to know that I have made a difference in the way that students and the larger community see and know the academic reputation of the program."

He said he is "excited"

about the prospect of sharing some of his accumulated knowledge with institutions of higher learning in the Eastern Caribbean and that he is "actively in discussion" with colleagues in St. Kitts to see if his dream can become reality.

Crookendale, who was this year's keynote speaker at the annual Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebrations at Kings County Courts in Brooklyn, said he was "impressed by the sheer number of lawyers, judges and other personnel who had their roots in the Caribbean.

"This served as an inspiration to remind others from the diaspora that our immigrant status is not a barrier but an opportunity to influence the magnificent city in which we live," he said.

- Edited from CMC.



- Edited from story by the Inter-American Development Bank.



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We're trying to find W.I. winning formula again ~ Robert Haynes

LAUDERHILL, Florida - Robert Haynes is interim chairman of selectors for the West Indies men's cricket team and the Caribbean ambassadors are struggling. Last month, following a Twenty20 series loss to India in South Florida, Haynes discussed the West Indies with **Caribbean Today's Gordon Williams**. The following is a version of that interview, edited for space and other considerations:

QUESTION: The West Indies has not been winning for a long time, including a disappointing World Cup 2019. What is your role?

ANSWER: Basically, what we have to do now is to try and get some players, in terms of identifying the talent to move forward. We have the T20 World Cup next year and these games (in South Florida) are part of the preparation for that and then we have the (50 overs) World Cup in four years.

Q: In terms of the cricket that is being played now ... do you think the West Indies has settled on a formula to win?

A: I think we're trying to find that formula. We're trying a few things ... We have to make sure that we have the right formula, the right combination in terms of winning.

Q: You played cricket for the West Indies. You came from an era when the West Indies was successful, when it was more competitive to get into the West Indies team and the West Indies won a lot. Do you sense there is now some problem with the culture of the cricket in the Caribbean?

A: A lot of people will mention about the culture, which is probably right. But I think, first of all, we have to fix the first class level. If we can get the regional cricket to be at a very high standard we will have to turn out better players.

We have a lot of talented youngsters who we will have to find programs for them to work very hard and over the next couple of years we are hoping that these youngsters will mature into world class cricketers and also not to compete, but to win, because it is important that we get back the culture of winning ...

So we also have to look at the coaching level around the region, make sure that all the coaches are qualified and make sure that all the players are fit enough to represent the West Indies. That was a big part of our winning in the years gone by ...



Williams - Photograph by Gordon

Q: ... You talk about the talent level. There is more money in cricket now. The players are being paid much better and facilities are much improved, but the (West Indies) team is not winning. How do you explain that?

A: Well, the players will have to understand that, for you to earn and earn a lot of money, you have to be consistent. Because you will get a contract on natural talent, but if you don't produce, you will lose your job.

Q: Where do you think the players fall down in West Indies cricket now? ... Is there a specific area, probably the mental side of the game, where do you think the West Indies players are failing now?

A: Well, you just hit the nail on the head. Mentally, they have to prepare themselves better.

Q: What is it that they are not doing?

A: I really don't know and I'm trying to find out, but, at the end of the day, they have to start playing more situation. You are in a game and the situation dictates that you play this way, they have to try and do that ... We need to go out there and play good cricket and win.

Q: Do you think they understand that?

A: I think they're learning. A lot of them (are) raw to international cricket, but what they have to do is to learn real fast.

Q: ... The T20 captain, (Carlos) Brathwaite said that (the West Indies) can no longer say it is a young team, it's simply not playing good cricket. Do you agree with that?

A: Totally. People have used the word young quite ... often, but when you look at it ... you have young CEOs over 25 who are making millions. These youngsters have to understand that they need to play good cricket.



REPARATIONS: Black people, you're either African or not

RAS DON RICO
RICKETTS

A number of black people born in the United States of America - many of whom not only simultaneously insist they are not Africans, but also ironically and simultaneously insist on being referred to as African Americans - have begun to insist they are the only people who deserve reparations in America.

This despite all the uncounted millions of Africans enslaved in the Americas, from the North Pole to the South Pole, since the early 1500s.

Complicating matters, some advocates for post-1619 American descendants of slavery citizenship and reparations (ADOS) insist that, especially because they (post-1619 Africans in the 1776 U.S.) are the biblical children of Israel. Therefore, the God of the Bible was speaking of them (the post-1619 ADOS), and only them, in the Genesis story of the 400-year captivity of ... well ... someone.

According to this line of argument, the post-1619 ADOS - or more accurately only blacks in the U.S.A. (OBITUSA) having been enslaved in America and who thereby are supposedly the biblical Israelites - are therefore singularly qualified for reparations for slavery in

America. Because, according to ADOS-OBITUSA, they are the only real African Americans.

But, they will quickly remind you, they are decidedly and definitely not African.

The bizarre theo-political, socio-political and ultimately economic-political semantic contortions, twists and spins being engaged in by the advocates of post-1619 ADOS-OBITUSA challenge even the stellar athletic gymnastics of a Simone Biles.

However, one obvious difference between the stunning athleticism of gymnast Biles and the bizarre display by the advocates for ADOS-OBITUSA is that the former is clearly much more informed, studied, and certainly more disciplined than the entirely self-referential, unthinking and miseducated idiocy of the latter.

CONFUSION

The obvious confusion in the thinking of the ADOS-OBITUSA leadership, advocates and follow-ers is evident from their first steps - in their choice of name. The simple fact they could not bring themselves to put the word "African" in front of the word "American" in ADOS points directly to their anti-Africa and anti-African make America great again (MAGA) agenda.

To declare themselves and

their agenda as "Af-rican American" immediately puts them among the deliberately-miseducated and nativist "Americans" who still cannot handle the fact that the designation "America" applies from the North Pole to the South Pole. This makes all African-descended people born or living in - or even migrated to - the Western Hemisphere already literally African Americans. Or, as many of my progressive black friends insist is more strategic and accurate, Africans-in-the-Americas.

That kind of internationally strategic thinking is precisely what the divide-and-rule-Africa agents of all colors are extremely hostile towards. And how are those who were slaves in pre-United States of "America" - some of whom were non-African, not to mention the original inhabitants of "America", along with already too many pre-1916 Africans, whose owners were sometimes black - to be treated

Those are issues which, in themselves, beg the question: Was "America" America before 1776, when the U.S. gained Independence from Britain? It is at that juncture of rational enquiry that the ADOS-OBITUSA position, and the 'applicable-only-to-Americans-400-year-(1619-2019) prophesy' become con-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Trump, Republicans sound alarm over black, brown people

What is causing this resurgence in hate and making so many white nationalists and supremacists so mad at immigrants and people of color in the United States that they are ready to kill again?

The reasons is that the black and brown population of the U.S., which many of these hate-filled beings believe strongly is "their country", is growing much faster than their own white population. Donald Trump's mainstreaming of such xenophobia has only emboldened the supremacists and nationalists to take matters in their own hands.



FELICIA J.
PERSAUD

FACTS

Here are 10 facts from the U.S. Census that are fueling this fear and hate:

1: The U.S. has more immigrants than any other country in the world. Today, about one in four children born in the U.S. under 18 have at least one foreign-born parent, primarily from Asia and Latin America.

2: The foreign-born popu-

lation currently stands at over 13.7 percent as of the latest data from 2017. That's 44.5 million people, which represents a more than four-fold increase since 1960, when only 9.7 million immigrants lived in the U.S.

Between 1991 and 2000, over nine million immigrants entered the country legally.

3: Since 2010, the increase in the number of people from Asia - 2.6 million - was more than double the 1.2 million who came from Latin America.

4: The U.S.-born children of immigrants or the second-generation Americans make up another estimated 12 percent of the nation's population. By 2050, these two groups could account for 19 percent and 18 percent of the population,

respectively, according to Pew Research Center projections.

WHO VOTES?

5: There are some 20.7 million naturalized immigrants in the U.S. who have the right to vote and decide elections. This does not include the second or third generation immigrants. By 2020, that figure is projected to rise to 21.2 million.

About 29 million of them are Latinos - foreign and second and third generation - who were eligible to vote in 2018, up from approximately 25 million in 2014. In 2018 alone, Hispanic and Asian voter turnout rates increased to about 40 percent, a 13-percentage point increase over 2014.

Meanwhile, voter turnout

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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VIEWPOINT



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No matter how small, abuse is always wrong

Back in the days when a man beat his wife and the wife beat the children and the children beat the dog, was that considered abuse, or mere punishment, the administering of justice?

Is it just now politically correct to label those actions as abuse?

Interestingly, the abuser

does not see his actions as being wrong. After all, he's merely exercising his rights to control his so-called property.

Abuse can be as silent and innocuous as hypertension. Often the victims aren't even aware that they have the problem, until it's too late. That's why it's so difficult to detect.

The irony is, there are men

who suffer from this type of abuse too, and are so downtrodden and emasculated that they often lose their identity. Sadly this is rarely reported, for who's going to believe it? Plus the shame is just too much to bear. Men who are abused emotionally, mentally or physically are victims 10 times over, as they are also ridiculed and vilified by



TONY ROBINSON



Trump, Republicans sound alarm...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

rates for whites (57.5 percent) and blacks (51.4 percent) have increased by just 11.7 and 10.8 percentage points, respectively, since 2014.

And while whites continue to make up the vast majority of voters (72.8 percent) and their overall numbers continue to grow as a share of U.S. voters, there has been a 3.5 percentage point drop among white voters since 2014.

In some states, foreign-born voters are already capable of deciding elections.

6: Although the white working class played a significant role in the 2016 election, demographic trends mean they will see their influence decline in future electoral contests.

Through 2024, the share of the electorate that is white is projected to decline by 4.4 percent.

7: Immigrants are projected to drive future growth in the U.S. working-age population through at least 2035.

8: Lawful immigrants made up the majority of the immigrant workforce, at 21.2 million.

9: Of the 15 states with the

highest concentration of immigrants, all but three - Florida, Texas and Arizona - voted for Clinton in the 2016 presidential race while many of the states with low and moderate concentrations of foreign-born people voted for Trump.

10: The number of immigrants living in the U.S. is projected to almost double by 2065, causing Trump and many Republicans to sound alarms about immigration.

Felicia J. Persuad is publisher at NewsAmericasNow.



society, which is in itself abuse.

When does a man decide to get up one day and slap, punch or kick his woman? And why does she remain in the situation? Plus, why doesn't she retaliate?

The women live in abject fear and often cut themselves off from family and friends. That's what abuse does to the

human psyche.

So who is the abuser? He's usually the man with low self esteem, so he bolsters his ego by beating down and beating up someone whom he deems to be weaker than him. Rarely will those men fight or even confront other men.

- seido1yard@gmail



REPARATIONS: Black people, you're either African or not

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

flated into a mess of subjective religionism, confusing political

expedience and opportunistic socio-cultural cynicism.

DAY ONE

African enslavement was in existence in the Americas from the day Christopher Columbus's enterprise entered the Western Hemisphere in 1492. African enslavement in the West was simply an extension of the trade in Africans-as-slaves by the Portuguese, in Europe, since the early 1400s.

By 1562, slaving ships from the England, such as the SS Jesus owned by Queen Elizabeth I, were trading Africans with the Spanish who controlled not only the Caribbean, but large parts of what is now called America - North, Central and South.

If the leaders and advocates of ADOS-OBITUSA want to be taken seriously, for example in any conversation about reparations - and in order to not so easily blow their cover as merely nativistic black MAGA agents - they will have to do much better than make proposals (allegedly in support of reparations) that include such hilariously absurd and contradictory thinking as advocating guaranteeing "...small business administration loans" to people demanding ... ahem ... reparations!

Apparently ADOS has a dream, an Americans-only dream - to which they are entitled - of being exceptional exceptionalists and compliant pet tokens, in an American World of increasingly open and desperate white supremacy.

The above is an article contributed by freelance writer Ras Don Rico Ricketts, <https://yaadbwoyintergalactica.wordpress.com>. His views do not necessarily reflect those of Carib-bean Today.



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NURTURING: Broward County offers free help to nursing mothers, infants

So, you just found out you're pregnant and you're wondering if you need to change your diet.

You'd also like information on breastfeeding and you're worried about the additional costs associated with newborns.

The Women Infants & Children program (WIC) may not completely eliminate the stress and uncertainty associated with having a baby, but it offers nutritional guidance from dietitians, breastfeeding support from lactation consultants, referrals to other programs and an electronic benefits card to buy food and artificial baby milk, if necessary.

There's no waiting for a pregnancy confirmation or waiting for the birth of the baby.

"Once you find out you're pregnant, you can apply," said

Reginald Shagoury, public health nutrition program director.

"We help families ensure a healthy beginning for their baby from pregnancy until the child is five years old. We want families to receive the benefits and services WIC provides."

FREE

WIC is free.

"WIC helps mothers, babies and young children stay healthier," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of the Florida Department of Health in Broward County, which operates WIC locally.

"Families may be missing out on valuable nutrition benefits because they delay signing up.

In Broward County, 59,221 residents are estimated to be eligible for the program but only 73 percent of those



WIC is helping to ease stress on moms.

deemed eligible actually apply, Reginald noted.

"It's a missed opportunity," he said.

WIC serves pregnant women, mothers for six months after delivery, breastfeeding women and children under age five.

"Some women do not

enroll early," Dr. Thaqi said. "We want women to sign up when they learn they are pregnant so they can receive WIC benefits right away."

Families are eligible if household income is below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. That means monthly income under \$1,926 for one person, \$2,607 for two, \$3,289 for a family of four, etc. Florida Medicaid recipients qualify automatically.

Foods covered include cereal, whole grains (bread, rice, tortillas, pasta), canned tuna and salmon, fruits and

vegetables, baby foods, eggs, milk, yogurt, cheese, peanut butter, beans and fruit juice.

In addition to nutrition services, DOH-Broward offers free dental fluoride varnish to children up to age 20 in WIC-eligible families. The treatment prevents cavities.

WIC services are available at the seven Broward County offices in the cities of Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Sunrise, Pompano Beach, Coral Springs, Pembroke Pines and Lauderdale Lakes.

For more information, call 954-767-5111 or visit <http://broward.floridahealth.gov>. Appointments are available.

- Edited from article submitted by Florida Department of Health in Broward County.

Cancer among leading Caribbean death causes, small islands struggle

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados - Cancer is now among the leading causes of death in the Caribbean and, despite this growing burden, many small island nations in the region have health systems that struggle to provide optimal cancer care for their populations.

In a paper published in the Lancet, one of the world's leading general medical journals, Dr. Glennis Andall-Brereton, senior technical officer for non-communicable diseases at the Trinidad-based Caribbean Publish health Agency (CARPHA), noted "cancer causes a fifth of deaths in the Caribbean region and its incidence is increasing".

In the paper, titled "Cancer Control in the Caribbean island countries and territories: some progress but the journey continues", which Dr. Andall-Brereton coauthored, it is noted that the incidence and mortality patterns of cancer in the Caribbean reflect globally

widespread epidemiological transitions and show cancer profiles that are unique to the region.

UPHILL

But there appears an uphill climb to any solution.

"Providing comprehensive and locally responsive cancer care is particularly challenging in the Caribbean because of the geographical spread of the islands", the paper noted, "the frequently under-resourced health-care systems, and the absence of a cohesive approach to cancer control.

"In many Caribbean countries and territories, cancer surveillance systems are poorly developed, advanced disease presentations are commonplace, and access to cancer screening, diagnostics, and treatment is often suboptimal, with many patients with cancer seeking treatment abroad".

The third paper is part of a five-part series titled "Cancer Control in Small

Island Nations" and places emphasis on the crucial role of collaborative approaches, including through funding and investment opportunities with more developed countries, to create comprehensive cancer control programs to improve

cancer planning, prevention, and treatment in these under-resourced small island nations.

The fourth paper is titled "Advancing cancer care and prevention in the Caribbean: a survey of strategies for the region". It identifies promising

initiatives to improve cancer prevention and treatment that have emerged across CARICOM countries.

- Edited from CMC.

Belize P.M. gets treatment in Cuba

BELMOPAN, Belize - Belize Prime Minister Dean Barrow last month sought medical treatment in Cuba.

According to an official statement issued by the government here, Barrow went to the Caribbean nation for "a followup medical appointment." The statement did not elaborate.

Last year, Barrow told the nation he was traveling to Havana, Cuba for "spinal sur-



Barrow

gery".

"This is a two-level fusion surgery with spinal correction because I also have a misalignment apart from the discs," he explained.

"So it is a serious surgery and the recovery time is expected to be relatively long. However, once I come through the surgery okay ... I should be able to operate initially by phone and perhaps signing what I need to sign with stuff being brought to my home until I am able to actually go back into the office and put in a full day's work."



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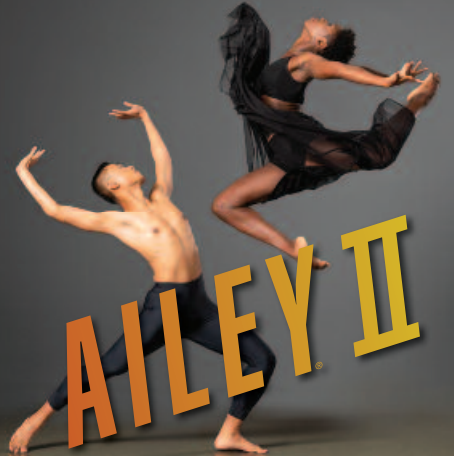


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Caribbean stars on Obama's summer musical playlist

Multiple Caribbean artistes - old school and current stars - have made it onto the summer musical playlist of former United States President Barack Obama.

"With summer winding down, here's a sampling of what Michelle and I have been listening to — some new, some old, some fast, some slow. Hope you enjoy" Obama noted on the social media platform Twitter late last month.

Obama listed 44 tracks, including "54-46 Was My Number", a bouncy, decades-

old hit by Jamaican reggae group Toots & The Maytals at number 37. The song talks about a life of crime and being incarcerated.

At 28 is "Toast" by rising Jamaican teenage deejay/singer Koffee.

Topping the Obamas' list was "Too Good", a hip hop selection by Canadian Drake and featuring Barbadian star Rihanna.

Others on the list include current day stars Beyonce, Jay Z and Lil Nas, plus hits that date to Frank Sinatra.



Lauderhill to host multiple Caribbean carnival events

Revelers young and old will have plenty of parties to dive into during the 2019 Miami Broward Carnival season which begins next month in South Florida.



Kids enjoy carnival too.

All events will feature Caribbean food, beverage-s, arts and crafts. The following events on Oct. 5, 11 and 12 will be staged at Central Broward Regional Park.

• **Oct. 5, noon to 10 p.m.** - "Junior Carnival". For children ages 14 and under. More than 10 junior masquerade bands, featuring costumes and music.

Includes competitions for "Junior Band of the Year", "Junior Queen and King of

Carnival", and "Junior Female and Male Individuals of the Year".

There's also competition for "Junior Steel Pan Soloist" and "Junior Soca/Calypto Monarch".

• **Oct. 11, 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.** - "Panorama".

• **Oct. 12, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.** - "J'Ouvert".

Central Broward Regional Park is located at 3700 N.W. 11th Place, Lauderhill.

• **Oct. 13, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.** - "Miami Carnival" at Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds, 10901 S.W. 24th St. Miami.

Children under age 12 admitted to all Miami Broward Carnival events.

For more information, call 305-853-1877 or visit www.miamibrowardcarnival.com.



'The Harder They Come' resurfaces in New York

"The Harder They Come", an iconic movie made decades ago in Jamaica, by Jamaicans and featuring Jamaican cast and crew, was revived last month in the United States.

The film, which has been credited with introducing reggae music to the U.S., first opened in the early 1970s. It stars legendary Jamaican singer Jimmy Cliff and features some of the Caribbean island's most talented performers.

Last month "Harder" returned to the movie theaters - at BAM Rose Cinemas and Metrograph - in New York. It was shown in conjunction with the release of director Perry Henzell's "No Place Like Home" at BAM.

The movie tells the story of Ivanhoe "Rhygin" Martin,



Harder

who moves from rural Jamaica to the capital Kingston. Life is rough as Martin, played by Cliff, struggles to survive. He tries music, but that too turns into a disappointment.

Eventually, Martin becomes one of the most notorious and hunted criminals in Jamaica.



Jamaican company lands deal with 'Sesame Street'

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The Jamaica-based film company "Listen Mi Caribbean" says it has landed a deal with Sesame Workshop, best known for the United States television production "Sesame Street", to produce a live action short film to be aired as part of Sesame Street's Season 50.

The linkage was made at the KingstOOon Animation Festival held earlier this year, where local film producers were invited to submit concepts and pitch to Sesame Street producer Kimberly Wright at the event.

The Sesame Workshop's New York production team selected Listen Mi Caribbean's concept "D is for Dress Up" from the submissions received.

OPPORTUNITY

Listen Mi Caribbean's Chief Executive Officer, Kenia Mattis, said "this is an amazing opportunity for Listen Mi and for Jamaica because it demonstrates we can develop global creative concepts locally.

"Many of us grew up with Sesame Street. I'm so excited

that our Jamaican animation and design studio will contribute to its 50th season," she added.

Wright said Mattis and her team "really made quite an impression during the pitch session. Their idea and musical approach to the concept was fun, unique and something we really feel our young viewers will find engaging and fun to watch! We are excited about working with Listen Mi as they bring their 'D is for Dress Up' pitch to life as one of our Season 50 letter films."

EXPERIENCE

Sesame Workshop was one of several international companies invited to share their experience and expertise at the April event, hosted by



Caribbean flavor coming to one of television's favorite shows.

the Office of The Prime Minister in its effort to build momentum for the development of the local animation industry.

Project Manager Margery Newland explained that, "through KingstOOon and other initiatives, the authorities here have established

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



Fall Health

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Jamaican actress takes 'Beautiful' journey from fear, shame to forgiveness

- **TITLE:** *Beautiful: Unashamed and Unafraid*
- **AUTHOR:** Jozanne Marie
- **REVIEWED BY:** Dawn A. Davis
- **PUBLISHER:** Savio Republic/Post Hill Press

Jamaican-born actress, playwright and poet Jozanne Marie lived with a secret from she was six years old, one that brought fear and shame.

It wasn't until decades later, when she gathered the courage to break her silence, that she found the path to healing. Marie's autobiography "Beautiful: Unashamed and Unafraid" chronicles her turbulent yet inspiring journey through love, fear, shame, rape, and forgiveness.

Abuse takes many forms — emotional, verbal, physical, and sexual. Yet in today's society, particularly in the Caribbean, it is a taboo topic few dare speak about. Unfortunately, this attitude towards "telling" is passed down through the generations, causing a vicious cycle of reticence.

In her book, Marie

explains that sexual abuse is deceptive and manipulative. It conquers its victims, effectively silencing them. Statistics also show that the abuser is often someone the victim knows, according to studies that the author quotes.

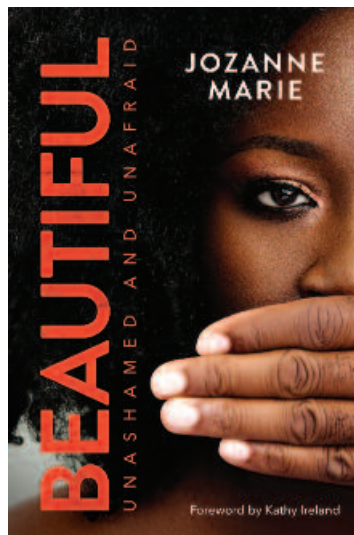
TRAUMA

Six year-old Marie was sexually abused by someone she knew, leading to years of confusion, pain and trauma.

"Many times children are not conscious of their abuse; especially if it was done in a subtle way," she explained. "They might feel uncomfortable, but don't know how to articulate it. Silence is always the result."

Victims also see abuse as a normal part of life, especially if they are surrounded by it. Marie grew up with her maternal grandmother whose partner was emotionally unavailable and verbally abusive. She saw her "Mummy" as subservient and spiritless, which taught her abuse was acceptable. The result? Her teenage years into adulthood would be marked by all forms of abuse.

"As human beings, we can



be comfortable in any situation we allow ourselves to be in," she told Caribbean Today in a telephone conversation. "I've been in relationships that's been abusive, but you make excuses.

"Somewhere in our minds a lot of responsibility has fallen upon us where we have to keep the man. You have to dress a certain way and look a certain way, and be the superwoman. It goes back through several generations where our parents and grandparents have taught us that a woman has her place.

"So, when the woman has been abused, it's not just her body, but her mind has also been abused and taken advantage of. The mind is where the attack comes first. What you think love looks like is what you're gonna tolerate. But, I must say this: Change your mind, you change your future. We feel like life happens to us. But, I do believe that God allows us to happen to life."

CATHARTIC

Accompanying the book is a one-woman stage play created by the actress, and currently touring the country, that unapologetically shares the life she endured under the burden of abuse. A discussion follows. Dramatic and raw, Marie bares her soul. It is her intention to help abuse victims speak out.

"I think it begins with sharing your story," Marie explained. "I believe that when you speak out about anything, you give others the permission to speak.

"I think in transparency, people you are being open with helps them talk about their own traumas. It's such a personal thing, you have to be ready for that moment. The minute you talk about it you can't take it back. So, you want to be gentle with people; that's their right and their freedom to take their

time for healing."

Emerging out of these talk-back sessions is the "Beautiful Campaign" with its mission "to break down the culture of silence and give women, and men, a voice to express themselves freely without feeling ashamed and afraid, and to know that they are beautiful regardless of whatever happened to them," said an impassioned Marie.

How does one move on from such trauma?

"If you continue to say you are a victim, you'll always be victimized," Marie said after a pause, followed by a deep breath.

"A victim is always on the offensive, at the mercy of someone. But, when we know that God has given us the power, we know that the human body has a way of curing itself if we give ourselves the opportunity to do that and believe it and believe that by faith.

"Forgiveness was one of the hardest things to do. But, when I finally forgave I realized I took my power back and that I had freedom.

"Forgiveness is one of the greatest spiritual components to healing and recovery."

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



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BRIEFS

'Miss Lou Full Hundred' in South Florida

A two performance tribute to late Jamaican folk icon Louise Bennett will be staged this month in South Florida.

"Miss Lou Full Hundred" will feature The Jamaica Folk Singers and poet Joan Andrea Hutchinson. The first show will be held **7 p.m. Sept. 6** at the Royal Palm Beach Community High School, and **7 p.m. Sept. 7** at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts.

For more information, visit www.louisebennettheritage.com.

Caribbean carnival kicks off in New York

The Brooklyn-based West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) late last month kicked off its 2019 Caribbean Carnival with performances and displays by dance

troupe, stilt dancers, a steel pan ensemble, soca artistes and costume bands.

The five-day spectacle culminated with the grand carnival parade on Labor Day, **Sept. 2** on Eastern Parkway, one of Brooklyn's major thoroughfares.

Jamaican composer dies

Composer Noel Dexter, the former director of music at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica, is dead.

Dexter, best known for being the director of the University Singers, died on Aug. 18 at age 80. He penned popular Caribbean hymns including "The Right Hand of God" and "Sing De Chorus".

- *Compiled from various sources.*



Jamaican company lands deal with 'Sesame Street'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

relationships with important industry players such as Sesame Workshop, Bento Box, Mattel, Mercury Film works, Pip-squeak Animation, Toon Boom, TV Paint, Wacom, as well as with U.S. and Canadian universities.

"The nurturing and maintenance of these relationships

and the establishment of new ones, is critical to the success of our efforts on two fronts 1) continued improvement in the quality of training programs and opportunities for professional animators and 2) raising the visibility of Jamaica in the international arena."

- *Edited from CMC.*



SWEET SURRENDER: Delicious potato pudding is a treat

An unusual dessert in some Caribbean islands is sweet potato pudding.

Not only is it sweet, but it's also considered healthy. Sweet potatoes are considered good carb and a power food. The addition of cinnamon and nutmeg also makes the pudding good for the

immune system. Here's the recipe:

Ingredients

- 2 cups grated sweet potatoes
- 1 cup grated coconut
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tbsp. margarine
- Milk to moisten
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- ¼ tsp. cloves
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1½ cups sugar (or sugar to taste)

Method

Mix all the ingredients in a bowl. Beat together. Grease a pie dish. Pour

mixture into greased dish. Dot with margarine.

Bake until cooked through. Insert a toothpick to ensure it comes back clean.

Serve with whipped cream.

- Edited from News Americas.



Sweet potato pudding

Sample Suriname's saoto soup



Saoto soup

Let's take you on a culinary tour to Suriname, where saoto soup is popular in the CARICOM nation, located on the tip of South America. Here's the recipe:

Ingredients

- 2 quarts water
- 1 lb. chicken breast, washed and cleaned with vinegar and lime
- 9 ounces white vermicelli.
- 2 cloves of garlic, chopped
- 2 Irish potatoes diced into bite-sized pieces.
- 2 dry bay leaves.
- 1 whole chile pepper or scotch bonnet
- 1 ounce of Laos Powder
- 9 ounces bean sprouts
- .07 ounce black or white pepper
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 grain pimento seeds
- 4 eggs
- 1 fresh or dry lemon grass leaf
- Six callaloo or spinach leaves chopped
- 0.35 oz. ketchup and soy sauce.
- 4 chicken bouillon cubes.
- Salt
- Vegetable or corn oil

Method

Start with boiling the water. Add the cleaned whole chicken breast, Laos Powder, pimento, black or white pepper, chopped garlic, chopped onion, bay leaf, lemon grass, pepper and chicken bouillon cube. Add additional salt if needed.

Boil for about 30 minutes or until the chicken breast is tender. Remove from mixture and set aside to shred. Cook the eggs hard boiled in a separate pot and keep them whole. Cut the white vermicelli in pieces of four inches. Chop the callaloo and spinach and bean sprouts and add to the pot.

Fry the rest of the sliced onion and garlic in a separate pan with oil until they are brown and set aside. Add the potatoes and the white vermicelli and fry as well.

Place the chicken breast in

the same oil and when this is light brown, take it out and also set aside. Add the potatoes and white vermicelli to into a big soup bowl. Then add the bean sprouts, the shredded and fried chicken breast, the mixed fried onion and garlic and the spinach/callaloo.

Place the cooked eggs on top. Scoop the boiling liquid into the bowls. You can also add a touch of soy sauce or ketchup into the bowl.

- Edited from News Americas.



Keep your heart healthy with keto-friendly foods

The low-carb, high-fat diet known as keto has consumers looking at healthy food consumption in a whole new light.

To get you started, representatives at South Beach Diet recommend these five keto-friendly, heart-healthy foods:

Full-fat dairy - With zero net carbs, items such as butter and cream are rich in healthy fats. Stick to recommended serving sizes of rich keto foods, such as sour cream, cream cheese and yogurt.

Eggs - Eggs are low in carbs and high in protein and amino acids. According to the Mayo Clinic, the effect of egg

consumption on blood cholesterol is minimal when compared with the effect of trans fats and saturated fats, and their high protein content helps stabilize blood sugar levels.

Shrimp - Shrimp is a versatile superfood, high in protein and contains more than 20 vitamins and minerals, including selenium, which reduces inflammation and promotes heart health.

Flaxseeds - Flaxseeds are high in omega-3 fatty acids and have been proven to lower the risk of heart attack and heart disease.

Flaxseed also contains 800 times more of a cancer-fighting phytochemical called lignan than any other food.

Olive-oil or avocado-oil based mayonnaise - This often-maligned condiment is high in heart-healthy, monounsaturated fats, and is a keto staple with its zero grams of net carbs.

When adopting a keto-style diet, think beyond weight loss. Be sure to include a range of foods that are great for heart health.

- Edited from StatePoint.



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'Continue to rally', West Indies captain urges Caribbean cricket fans

GORDON WILLIAMS

LAUDERHILL, Florida - The West Indies men's teams are struggling in all forms of cricket, but the players are urging fans of the Caribbean ambassadors to remain loyal and patient, vowing to propel the former kingpins back to the pinnacle of the global game.

The latest results have been disappointing. The West Indies lost two series in the shortest formats of the game to India last month. India was dominant in a 3-0 whitewash of a Twenty20 series, which featured two games here. The visitors then blanked West Indies 2-0 in a three-match one-day international series (ODI) in the Caribbean. The other game was rained out.

Those results continued a disappointing run, which also included a loss in the first Test against India last month and the West Indies' early elimination from the World Cup in England this summer. Yet the West Indies players insist they are proud to represent the Caribbean and are doing all they can to win for its people.

"The players love the badge," West Indies Twenty20 captain Carlos Brathwaite told *Caribbean Today* last month.

"They want to play for the West Indies. We understand the responsibility that we have to the people in the region and, as such, every time we go out there we try to give our best."

NOT GOOD

It's just not been good enough lately. Despite being the reigning world champion for T20 - 20 overs - cricket, the West Indies is currently ranked well outside the world's top five in the shortest form of the game. Same is also true for ODIs - 50 overs - and Test cricket, the longest format. The players said they understand the fans' frustration and willingly accept blame, although it can hurt.

"When we don't perform, we expect the criticism and we expect the backlash," Brathwaite said.

"I guess sometimes it's painful to hear that the guys don't give their all or they're not interested in playing for the West Indies or they don't work hard."

Brathwaite urged fans to be patient, despite being long separated from a past when West Indies ruled world cricket.

"I fully understand how the cricket fans of the West

Indies feel," he said. "But it's a long process."

"You've probably heard we're turning the corner for about 20 years now. So instead of saying we're turning the corner, it's about making sure that we do what we need to do."

Brathwaite was adamant the players are putting in the work needed to succeed, despite reports that players have failed fitness tests.

"I can vouch for the players that we are working hard ... players do work hard," he said. "... However, we don't always see it materialize on the field and it can be disheartening for fans."

"But I just want to say to the fans, continue to rally. The players are trying and we have full confidence that we'll get back to where we need to be."

CATCH-22

Brathwaite admitted the West Indies has underperformed, despite players' being paid better than the past, hav-



Brathwaite, right, has a talk with Rowe in Florida.

- Photograph by Gordon Williams

ing access to improved training facilities and being able to play more cricket. Those factors, he explained, can prove a double-edged sword.

"The opposition is also playing more cricket," Brathwaite said. "They're also earning a lot more than we're earning ... It's probably a Catch-22. The more cricket you play the better you should be."

"But it also means that if you get in a rut, the longer your bad patch is ... So that's not an excuse ... The schedule being as hectic as it is, it can

be a positive, but more often than not it can be a negative as well."

He claimed the West Indies teams are trying everything possible to win consistently. That includes consulting past players. Brathwaite met with former West Indies batting star Lawrence Rowe while here. He later offered that the problems of West Indies' cricket are multi-layered and can only be solved with a collective effort.

"It needs to be a system-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

Jamaican Super Bowl winner indicted for cocaine possession

Jamaican-born Patrick Chung, a member of multiple Super Bowl winning teams and son of Jamaican parents, has been indicted on a felony cocaine possession charge.

The 32-year-old New England Patriot defensive back was indicted on Aug. 8 and was scheduled to be arraigned later in the month, according to the at-torney's office in Belknap County, New Hampshire. The charge reportedly stemmed from a June 25 incident.

Chung has played 11 seasons in the National Football League and was part of three



Chung

Super Bowl winning teams with the Patriots. In 140 NFL games, Chung recorded 110 starts, 708 tackles and 11 interceptions.

However, up to press time Chung had not played in 2019 NFL preseason games. He suffered a broken arm in Super Bowl LIII played in February, but has been practicing with the team.

In a statement issued by the Patriots, the club declined to comment on Chung's legal matter.

Chung played college football at the University of Oregon. He was drafted in the second round by the Patriots in 2009, but has also played for the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFL.



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BRIEFS

Jamaica's ice hockey team to play in South Florida

Jamaica's men's ice hockey team is scheduled to play in the AmeriGol-Latem Cup at the Florida Panther's Ice Den Florida this month.

The tournament will be played Sept. 6-8 in Coral Springs. Jamaica is scheduled to play in a division which includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela.

The Ice Den is located at 3299 Sportsplex Dr.

Reggae Boy scores 11th goal of USL season

Jamaican striker Junior Flemmings netted his 11th goal of the United Soccer League campaign as Phoenix Rising FC extended its winning streak to 16 games with a 4-2 victory over Tacoma Defiance late last month.

The 23-year-old struck late to cap off a dominant performance by the visitors at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma, Washington, after scores were locked 1-1 at the half. With the victory, Phoenix moved 12 points clear at the top of the Western Conference on 59 points.

Bermudian wheelchair sprinter wins at Parapan Games

Top Bermudian wheelchair sprinter Jessica Lewis added silver to the gold medal she won earlier when she finished second in the women's T53 800 meters final at the Parapan American Games late last month.

The 26-year-old said she was "thrilled" with the result, having been guaranteed a medal before the starting pistol sounded as only three athletes entered the race.

Former Windies cricketer dies

Former Jamaica and West Indies legspinner Reg Scarlett died last month in England after battling illness.

Scarlett played three Test matches for the West Indies on England's tour of the Caribbean in 1960. He died one day short of his 85th birthday.

Following his playing career, which included 17 first class matches for Jamaica, Scarlett spent 15 years coaching in England where he settled, while also playing minor league cricket.

- Compiled from various sources.



Jamaican gets MLS manager's job

Jamaican-born Robin Fraser, a former United States international player, is the new manager of the Major League Soccer (MLS) team Colorado Rapids.

Fraser, 52, takes over from Anthony Hudson, who was fired in May. Conor Casey had acted as interim manager.

Colorado is not doing well this season. Late last month the team was in 12th place in the MLS Western Conference, 10 points from a playoff spot.

Prior to his appointment, Fraser served as manager of Chivas USA, a former MLS franchise (2011 to 2012). He was also an assistant at MLS clubs Real Salt Lake, New York Red Bulls and Toronto F.C., which won the league in 2009 and 2017, respectively.

Fraser, primarily a defend-



Fraser

er, played professionally from 1988, including in MLS for clubs such as L.A. Galaxy, Colorado and Columbus Crew. He earned MLS "Defender of the Year" twice and played a total of 290 MLS games.

He became a U.S. citizen in 1986 and played 27 times for the U.S.



Jamaican sprint star tests positive for banned substance

Florida-based Jamaican teenage sprint star Brianna Williams has tested positive for a banned substance.

Williams, who won the 100 and 200 meters the world under-20 championships and placed third in the women's 100 at Jamaica's 2019 senior national trials, to earn a place in this year's IAAF World Championships starting later this month, tested positive for hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ), a diuretic.

Jamaica is expected to announced the nation's team on Sept. 6. Up to press time it was not clear if Williams will compete at the World Championships.

According to **The Star** newspaper in Jamaica, the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association



Williams

(JAAA), which governs the sport on the Caribbean island, "will be seeking an expedited hearing and will be contesting that the 17-year-old had no fault in the circumstances and therefore, should not face any

sanctions."

The positive test result for the banned substance is believed to have come from a sample Williams gave at Jamaica's trials in June.

According to **The Star**, "Diuretics are often abused by athletes to excrete water for rapid weight loss and to mask the presence of other banned substances."

The **Star** reported that Williams took "contaminated cold and flu medication, which ... she had declared on her testing protocol form, as the source of the banned substance."



TOP HONORS: Dottin, Holder dominate West Indies cricket awards

Jason Holder, captain of the West Indies' Test and one-day international teams, captured the top two awards in the men's category, while Deandra Dottin dominated the women's segment to highlight the West Indies Players Association/Cricket West Indies Awards ceremony last month in Antigua.

Holder was named the Caribbean team's "Player-of-the-Year" and "Test Player-of-the-Year", while Dottin was named "Women's Player-of-the-Year", "Player-of-the-Year" for Twenty/20 (T20) and one-day international (ODI) cricket.



Dottin, right, receives one of her awards from WIPA President Wavell Hinds.

The 27-year-old Holder made 565 runs in eight Tests

during the period under consideration – April 2018 to

Mar. 2019 – including a maiden Test double century against England in the first Test in his home country Barbados. During the same period, he also captured 40 wickets with his medium pace bowling and last February was installed as the number one Test all-rounder in the International Cricket Council's player rankings.

Dottin, who is also from Barbados, swept the women's category after averaging 41 runs in six ODIs. She picked up 15 wickets at 13 runs apiece with her medium pace. The 28-year-old also averaged nearly 33 runs per inning and took 14 wickets in T20s.

The following is a list of the other awards presented on

Aug. 19:

- ODI Player-of-the-Year - Shai Hope
- T20 Player-of-the-Year - Keemo Paul
- Emerging Player-of-the-Year - Oshane Thomas
- First-class Team-of-the-Year - Guyana
- Championship Player-of-the-Year - Rahkeem Cornwall
- Super 50 Player-of-the-Year - Yanick Ottley
- Caribbean T20 Player-of-the-Year - Andre Russell
- Under-19 Player-of-the-Year - Joshua Bishop
- Under-19 Team-of-the-Year - Trinidad and Tobago
- Umpire-of-the-Year - Joel Wilson



'Continue to rally', West Indies captain urges Caribbean cricket fans

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

atic acceptance that where we're at is a reflection of how we've been doing on and off the field and for the players to come together on the field

and do it and for administrators and management to come together off the field and also do their part to make sure we get back to number one," Brathwaite said.

He wants Caribbean fans to believe a West Indies resurgence is not far away and to continue to support the teams.

"We can't tell the fans to come out," Brathwaite said.

"But we can encourage the fans to trust our preparation, trust our hard work and to believe that we'll get back to where we want to be, which is the top of world cricket in all

three formats, preferably, and that they should join us on that journey."



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'PLEASE COME!': USVI says its open for business af-ter hurricane disasters

DAWN A. DAVIS

The United States Virgin Islands (USVI) has come a long way since Sept. 2017, when two hurricanes devastated the territory.

Located in the Caribbean, USVI is still recovering from billions of dollars in infra-structural and housing damage caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria, which swept through the three major islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix.

But today, the islands are open and ready for business, according to Joseph Boschulte, USVI commissioner of tourism.

"We are ready," Boschulte told *Caribbean Today* during a recent trip to Miami, Florida to promote the USVI.

"... What we've been trying to do is say please come, we want you to come, we know you'll enjoy yourself when you get here."

"But, we also have to be very cautious about it. We need more hotel rooms. As we continue to move away from where we were in Sept. 2017, we have to manage the growth."

REBUILDING

With more than \$1.4 billion of public assistance funding from the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), earmarked for rebuilding roads, bridges, utilities, schools and other critical infrastructural systems, the USVI has taken a giant step towards rebuilding. This is reflected in the types of passengers on flights to the islands, according to Boschulte.

"Right after the storms, 10 to 12 months, 90 percent of the travelers were contract workers," he explained. "Now it's about 70 percent leisure/business travel and 30 percent contract workers. So,

"We are ready ... What we've been trying to do is say please come, we want you to come, we know you'll enjoy yourself when you get here."

we always try to look at this to find out if our messages are working."

Boschulte said that through the Department of Tourism's marketing push, there are now direct flights from U.S. destinations including Boston, Newark, New York, Charlotte, Philadelphia, Dallas, Atlanta, Miami and the U.S. west coast. But, with many large hotels still undergoing renovations, including branded resort properties, caution is necessary.



Boschulte

"From a tactical standpoint, as destination marketers, we're not just out everywhere," said Boschulte.

"We are very segmented as to who we are targeting so that we can manage what we have. When we get the Ritz back in November we'll have a big marketing plan going from November to February."

OPENINGS

According to the latest update from the tourism sector, at least 80 percent of USVI's accommodations have reopened and accepting guests. The lion's share of rooms (1,050) are on St. Thomas, while 600 are avail-

able on St. Croix, and 150 on St. John.

In addition, the loss of large properties stimulated another market — Airbnb. Boschulte said residents who sustained little to no damage, driven by demand since the hurricanes, have converted their properties into villas or rented through the popular Airbnb system. This has eased tourism room shortage a bit. There are close to 1,500 Airbnb listings across the three islands.

These and other indicators color Boschulte's upbeat attitude towards the USVI's tourism potential. He said less than two years after the hurricanes, St. Thomas will see almost 1.6 million cruise ship passengers passing through the island over that period.

In addition, a new edict by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, issued in June, restricts cruise ship travelers and other recreational vessels from stopping in Cuba. That could boost cruise ship visits to the USVI and other Caribbean islands. The USVI government has already reached out to cruise ship companies pitching the

port of St. Croix. Part of its pitch is to sell the island as a perfect alternative, different from other destinations, and steeped in rich culture and heritage.

"Sometimes we get lost in the sea of sameness," said Boschulte. "One of the things we did when we had our team huddle and reintroduced the U.S. Virgin Islands to the world post-hurricane was to figure out why visitors should come to the USVI. Part of what we are telling them is, it is our people."

"We are trying to focus on arts and culture. I think that's the connectivity that keeps us grounded in who we are. And I think we have to make sure that we who live in the territory make sure we don't forget that."

"And, when we travel, we want to make sure we travel with pieces of the culture so we can share, so that people will come back," Boschulte added.

Story and photograph by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Barbados to abolish immigration/customs forms effective Sept. 1

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — Starting Sept. 1, passengers arriving at the Grantley Adams International Airport here will no longer be required to fill out immigration/customs forms, also known as ED forms.

According to Minister of Home Affairs Edmund Hinkson on Aug. 21, there will be a full transition to the use of the 48 kiosks at the airport.

Hinkson said the kiosk system had been tested for almost a year and has been fine-tuned to ensure the passenger information gathering system meets all the markers for Customs, Immigration and the Statistical Services.

"We have eliminated the ED cards from September 1," he explained. "Cabinet made that decision ... We have 48 kiosks now; there were 16 and we got another 32 and they



were installed last month and are working effectively."

QUESTIONS

Hinkson also disclosed that Cabinet has decided to put more questions in the system.

"Right now, on the ED card, persons are asked to put in their address, length of stay in Barbados, type of accommodation, zip code," he said.

"We are going to add some questions to the kiosks that will still allow for the acquisition of that information."

Hinkson added that while speed of the process may vary based on the size of a traveling party, as well as an individual's technical proficiencies, the digital systems have significantly cut the time it takes for passengers to get through the airport.

However, he stressed that while government was focused on improving efficiency and ease getting into the country, measures were being taken to ensure that national security was not compromised. He said the government has reserved the right to add more questions if international or local developments demand it.

- Edited from CMC.



IN YOUR HONOR



Marcia Sinclair, right, Jamaica Tourist Board's district sales manager for north-east United States, presents an award to U.S. Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke during the recent Jamaican Independence Celebration Foundation Inc. 57th anniversary gala in New York. Clarke is the daughter of Jamaican immigrants. Six awards overall were presented. The other recipients were former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, Judge Silvia Hinds-Radix, Hettie Powell, Justine Skye and Gregory Smiley.

Bahamas suspends visas to Haitian nationals for now

NASSAU, Bahamas — The government of The Bahamas has suspended issuing visas to Haitian nationals until further notice.

In a short statement issued Aug. 21, the government said its action is due to "current technical and other challenges," but did not elaborate.

However, the statement added that the suspension does

not include Haitian nationals who are officials, diplomats or holders of a United States, United Kingdom, Canadian or Schengen visa.

The statement was published days after Haiti's Foreign Affairs Minister Bocchit Edmond said a corruption probe revealed "unacceptable situations" and "wrongdoing" at Haiti's local embassy.

However, The Tribune newspaper quoted: Foreign Affairs Minister Darren Henfield as saying that the suspension of visas is not connected to that issue.

Edmond said his ministry discovered problems after reviewing how visas are issued.



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CITY OF MIRAMAR NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND PURCHASE ASSISTANCE

HOUSING REHABILITATION FUNDS The City of Miramar announces the availability of approximately \$(1,060,047) in Housing Rehabilitation. The source of this funding is \$400,000 in State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funding, approximately \$211,000 in HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funding, and approximately \$449,047 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Housing rehabilitation funds will be used for the City of Miramar's housing initiatives for very-low, and low income households, with priority given to special needs households.

Pre-screening forms will be distributed to ALL Miramar residents via U.S. mail for the Minor Home Repair Program.

Residents interested in the Housing Rehabilitation Program MUST return their completed form to Community Redevelopment Associates of Florida (CRA) by certified mail or in person by 4:30 p.m. on October 31, 2019. No forms will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on October 31, 2019.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES OF FL, INC. 8569 PINES BLVD, SUITE 207, PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33024

BETWEEN THE HOURS OF: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday (The office is closed for lunch 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.) For questions regarding the pre-screening form, please call Virginia Bermudez, Senior Program Specialist at 954-431-7866 Ext. 125 (ONLY)

No pre-screening forms will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2019. The pre-screening form is NOT an application.

CRA will review all pre-screening forms to determine applicant eligibility. Those who qualify will receive a letter, email or phone call stating the specific date, time and location application will be distributed. Those who do not qualify will receive a letter stating they do not qualify for the program.

If you have received assistance from the City of Miramar previously you may not be eligible for additional assistance.

If you are a person with special needs/disabled and need assistance, you MUST call Virginia Bermudez Senior Program Specialist at (954) 431-7866 Ext. 125 (ONLY) no later than Thursday, October 31st by 4:30 p.m.

HOUSING REHABILITATION FUNDS

Table with 2 columns: Program Description and Amount. Program Description: Housing Rehabilitation Program - Provides assistance to approximately 12 households to correct code violations, make barrier-free modifications, install hurricane protection, address weatherization improvements, promote energy efficiency/conservation and address other minor home repairs to owner-occupied properties in the City. Available to very low and low income households up to 80% AMI. Priorities given to households with special needs and very low to low income.

Table with 2 columns: Household Size and Maximum Income Limit - Minor Home Repair (up to 80% AMI). Rows 1-8 showing income limits ranging from \$47,200 to \$88,960.

PURCHASE ASSISTANCE FUNDS

There is approximately \$40,000 available in Purchase Assistance in State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funding. Purchase Assistance funds will be used for the City of Miramar's housing initiatives for low income households, with priority given to special needs households. Applications will be processed on a first come, first qualified, first served basis in the order the applications are received and funds are encumbered.

Purchase Assistance Applications will be available ONLINE and for PICKUP beginning Monday, October 28, 2019 AT

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES OF FL, INC. 8569 PINES BLVD, SUITE 207, PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33024

BETWEEN THE HOURS OF: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday (The office is closed for lunch 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

Purchase Assistance Applicants MUST attend a MANDATORY "Homeownership Counseling Workshop" prior to receiving assistance.

Table with 2 columns: Program Description and Amount. Program Description: First-Time Homebuyer Program - Provides down payment and closing cost assistance to approximately (1) low income applicant. The amount of assistance per household will vary with income level. Priority will be given to households with special needs.

Table with 3 columns: Household Size, Very Low Income 31%-50% AMI and Lower, Low Income 51% to 80% AMI. Rows 1-8 showing income limits ranging from \$29,600 to \$55,600.

Effective April 24, 2019, the Median Family Income for Ft. Lauderdale HMFA (Broward) is \$68,600. Maximum Housing Value - \$320,855

Information on the programs may be obtained by visiting www.crafla.com or by calling Virginia Bermudez, Senior Program Specialist at (954) 431-7866 Ext. 125 (ONLY) for more information.

ART SO SWEET: Barbadian's creativity inspires visitors to explore Caribbean

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A lonely girl in Barbados needed to draw. It was an “urgency,” she says.

Starting with one simple notebook, Sheena Rose would eventually turn her house into an art-filled exhibition space, attracting hundreds of visitors and international attention.

That was only the beginning. In a country without a modern art museum, Rose took her creations to city streets, saw them featured on book covers and travelled south to create billboards in Suriname.

She exploded on social media, and her work eventually reached international collections and art biennales. Rose believes that the region's talent can spur economic growth.

“I've been doing this for years to prove what creativity can do, to show how to be successful,” she says. “Dream, don't give up and keep working. People are listening right now.”

CREATIVE

The Caribbean has already distinguished itself on the international scene for its creative flair, from festivals to food to music. It is the birth-

place of reggae and the source of inspiration for award-winning writers such as Derek Walcott and Junot Díaz.

According to UNESCO data, cultural goods amounted to more than 16 percent of Barbados's total exports in 2016 – the highest percentage among all countries analyzed. Behind that figure is a steady trend of growth in recent years. Other Caribbean nations, such as St. Lucia and the Dominican Republic, also posted strong numbers.

Still, the business potential of the region's creative industries has not been fully realized. According to Launching an Orange Future, an indepth IDB study about creative entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean, nearly 40 percent of business failure among those surveyed was due to lack of financing and strategic planning.

REALITY

It's a reality that Rose has had to contend with, too. She says she had to learn from friends about how to register her business, handle taxes and build a solid foundation for her creative work.

“Artists don't see them-



Rose

selves as business, we just see self-expression,” she says. “You need to understand the nature of the business and make the right decisions for your career ... Artists need to promote themselves and get more critical. We need to be educated, to have workshops and advisors.”

Alongside its industry studies, the IDB has supported initiatives to enable creative entrepreneurship and growth. Caribbean musicians have learned how to play to the tune of innovation with blockchain

technology, and startups have found an innovation hub at TEN Habitat in Barbados.

Tourism is also a bedrock industry in the Caribbean, accounting for more than 10 percent of the region's gross domestic product in 2018, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. For Barbados,

tourism is even more important, representing nearly 35 percent of the national economy.

INTERSECT

Tourism and the creative industries are increasingly

intersecting.

The cuisine scene in Barbados made it the first Caribbean country to earn a Zagat rating from the influential restaurant rating system. The island nation has also marketed the star-power of its most famous singer to attract further visitors. The campaign has been dubbed “the Rihanna effect.”

For Rose, part of the effort to rewire the local art scene is to accept the island's potent touristic lure, but to not have it condition the country's creative products. She argues that tourism could be used to show Barbados and the Caribbean beyond just leisure, and instead expose people to an alluring creative and cultural landscape.

The story was reproduced from the website of the Inter-American Development Bank.



MICE lures visitors to Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Jamaica is embarking on new campaign to promote the nation in North America.

The Jamaica Tourist Board's (JTB) “Meetings, Incentives, Conventions & Exhibitions” (MICE) department is engaging North American vacation planners, aiming to present the destination as the ideal Caribbean location.

“We at the Jamaica Tourist Board realize that MICE travel is a tremendous opportunity for international groups to experience the destination,” John Woolcock, JTB's groups and conventions manager, was quoted in a recent press release as saying.

“To showcase our competitive offerings, our MICE team will be traveling throughout Canada and the U.S. to educate meeting and incentive planners on the benefits of selecting Jamaica for their next

trip.

“This campaign will establish the foundation for long-term growth within Jamaica's MICE market and solidify the island as a top choice for groups.”

Last month, JTB team launched “Spirit of Jamaica” roadshow series in Toronto and Montreal in Canada. The presentation will also be staged Oct. 21-23 in Washington, D.C., New Jersey and New York.

This month, Sept. 10-12, a team from Jamaica is scheduled to attend IMEX America in Las Vegas, the largest hosted buyer program in North America for the global MICE market.

To learn more about groups and meetings in Jamaica, visit www.visitjamaica.com/conventions/meetings.



BRIEFS

Caribbean Airlines opens Cayman route

Caribbean Airlines is scheduled to offer additional flights to the region, beginning next month.

The airline announced last month that, beginning Oct. 29, it will operate service between Kingston, Jamaica and Grand Cayman from Norman Manley International Airport. This will enable travelers to connect to Grand Cayman from Caribbean Airlines' other destinations, including Trinidad, Barbados and St. Maarten, via Kingston.

Tourism minister gets N.Y. welcome

Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica's minister

of tourism, recently received a Big Apple welcome to Time Square, New York City.

An electronic billboard, located on Broadway and 43rd Street, featured the message for five minutes, exposing the message to an international audience. Bartlett was in New York to meet United Nations' division of partners, potential tourism investors and media partners. He also celebrated Jamaica's Independence at a New York gala where he was a special guest.

- Compiled from various sources.



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- Compiled from various sources.

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Happy 57th Independence

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Trinidad and Tobago celebrated its 57th anniversary of political Independence from Britain on Aug. 31.

The occasion promised the traditional military parade. It also featured contrasting statements about the country's future from its main political actors, especially as the country gears up for a general elections next year.

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley said while there were positives to be proud of in recent times, such as the staging of CARIFESTA, there have also been "lows" on the national landscape.

"Some persons – rather 'doomsters' look at our daily lives, never citing our great international achievements, the beauties of life in Trinidad and Tobago or the daily struggles

against our inevitable national challenges," he said.

"Instead, they choose to purvey only stories of unnecessary bitterness, manufactured social con-flict, racial tension, even gleefully predicting our col-lective failure."

Rowley reiterated his administration would con-tinue to embrace the vision of striving towards "fixing and maintaining our institutions ... and (making) improvements in the quality of life, overall."

However, Opposition Leader Kamla Persad Bissessar, who served as prime minister from 2010 to 2015, said the present administration was using the same policies as "our colonial oppressors by using the archaic charge of sedition to torment a political opponent."



CARIFESTA T&T a success

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – The 14th edition of the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) ended here late last month with the country's culture minister saying there had been significant achievements during the 11-day event.

According to Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, the festival, which attracted participants from Caribbean countries, as well as Canada, had achieved the mission "to take our Caribbean film, dance, music, theatre, vision arts, food and fashion and to meticulously devise an impactful master plan to present these offerings to the people of the region and diaspora with a world class finish."

As had been the situation at the opening ceremony, the closure allowed for the exposure of Caribbean talent in song, dance and visual arts. Dr. Douglas Slater, assistant secretary general of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) called CARIFESTA "another exciting experience and a platform for regional integration."

RECORD

At least 10 culture minis-

Thanksgiving mass, healing service Sept. 15-16 in Miami

A thanksgiving mass and healing service to commemorate Trinidad and Tobago's 57th anniversary of Independence will be held over two days this month in South Florida.

The annual mass of thanksgiving for T&T's Independence will be held at **10 a.m. Sept. 15**. Father Matthew D'Hereau, from St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church in Trinidad, will be the officiating priest. Also partici-

pating will be musical director Kay Pierre, musicians Kevin Millien and Curt Millien, plus lay minister Janet Chinnia.

A healing service will be held at **7:30 p.m. Sept. 16**.

Both events are scheduled for Christ the King Catholic Church, 16000 S.W. 112th Ave., Miami.

For more information, call or text **305-898-7682** or e-mail ttcommunity@hotmail.com.



P.M. urges university to fight 'current challenges'

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has called on the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) to develop research and programs that will help the oil rich twin-island republic deal with "current challenges" in an evolving and changing global environment.

Addressing the UTT's "Second Annual Research Symposium" recently, Rowley said it was important to critically examine the contributions being made by the university in areas of research, such as climate change and renewable energy, food security and nutrition, crime, well-being and society, "all of which are key areas aligned to the nation's long-term growth and prosperity."

Rowley said that as the national university established in 2004, the contribution of UTT to the realization of that the government's vision for socio-economic development "is significant and cannot be underestimated" and that there must be a categorical alignment of UTT-led research for the enhancement of the lives of every citizen and the benefit of national interests.

"UTT, as a premier tertiary-level institution designed to create a knowledge-based economy, must seek to address the gaps in national development through its program offerings and impactful research," said Rowley.

"This should be done through the provision of graduates, who are ready for the job market, who will be contributors to the body of existing knowledge - and, as citizens, well-equipped to help build our institutions and add value in other key areas of development and, particularly, in the diversification of Trinidad and Tobago's economy."

PLEASED

Rowley said he was also pleased that T&T had been ranked 35 out of 134 countries last year in tertiary education enrollment rate of the Global Competitiveness Index.

"This is certainly a laudable achievement and is a measurable indicator of the



Rowley

government's thrust to create a highly-educated citizenry, as Trinidad and Tobago seeks to establish itself as a major, regional Centre for innovation. In so doing, we shall continue to increase our level of competitiveness on the global market," he said.

"A notable achievement such as this, was due in part to a number of strategic interventions and financial investments initiated by the government, thus ensuring that students of higher learning are equipped with the requisite skills and knowledge to operate in a rapidly changing environment."

But Rowley told the ceremony that it is important for the UTT to respond to the demands emerging in the tertiary education sector, and the 21st century inclusive of incorporating and embracing digital transformation in an era of modernity.

"To the degree that current challenges keep evolving, institutions, like UTT, must also evolve to assist in providing practical solutions to these problems. Today's Research Symposium is, therefore, not only relevant but timely," Rowley said, adding that he was looking forward to this current research platform being used, in the near future, as an aid in informing and shaping the direction of national policy.

SCIENTIFIC

Rowley, a volcanologist by training, said as the prime minister he has chosen to apply a "data-based, scientific, holistic

and evidence-driven approach to governance" and that he believes this approach to governance will not be lost on current audience.

"Likewise, your approach to research is built on the premise of rigorous and thorough investigation of a hypothesis supported by meticulous

methodology," he said, noting that he was particularly pleased that several areas identified for national development are being addressed via abstracts and poster presentations.

"In today's global village, a country's prosperity depends on its social capital, its people's ability to generate new ideas and convert knowledge into their socio-economic benefits. This can only be achieved by fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, and a relationship between the public sector, the private sector, civil society and academia."

Rowley said he considers the symposium another attempt in the shaping of a better future, adding "although we are living in seemingly perilous times, world-wide, do not be daunted.

"As today's researchers and possibly tomorrow's entrepreneurs, you are expected to rise to these challenges, which not only require creativity and ingenuity, but also focused application," Rowley said, adding "it is my expectation that from those deliberations will come a greater understanding of the game-changing trends of the 21st century.

"It is my charge here today that as participants your discussions will enable the University of Trinidad and Tobago, to become, eventually, an institution, endorsed internationally as a major game-changer of the future."

- Edited from CMC.



FACTS ON T&T

The following are important facts about the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago.

Independence Day

The National Day is celebrated Aug. 31, a national holiday. It marks T&T's Independence from the United Kingdom in 1962.

Foreign rule

T&T was once ruled by foreign countries, including Spain, France and United Kingdom.

Leadership

Eric Williams became T&T's first prime minister in pre-Independence 1956, through 1981, when he died. In 1976 T&T became a republic.

Location

T&T is an archipelagic state in the southern Caribbean, northeast of Venezuela and south of Grenada. It shares maritime boundaries with Barbados to the northeast and Guyana to the southeast. T&T covers 5,128 square kilometers and consists of two

main islands and 21 smaller islands.

Population

Trinidad is the larger and more populous of the two main islands. Tobago comprises about six percent of the total area of T&T and has roughly four percent of the republic's population.

Capital

The capital of T&T is Port of Spain.

- Compiled from various sources.



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

HOME AGAIN: Rowley restores P.M.'s office, moves in this month

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has defended the TT\$32 million (one TT dollar = US\$0.16 cents) spent on restoring the Office of the Prime Minister, which he is scheduled to occupy starting this month.

“Symbolism is important. History is important because it connects you to who you are,” Rowley said during a ceremony late last month, even as he acknowledged that getting the funds to complete the project on the 115-year-old building, described as one of the “Seven Magnificent Buildings”, had been tough.

Whitehall, originally called Rosenweg, was a private residence until it was purchased by the government in 1954. Built in 1904, it had served as the Office of the Prime Minister dating back to the country’s first head of government Dr. Eric Williams. It was last occupied by the late Patrick Manning when he served as prime minister until 2010.

The only prime minister who did not occupy the building was Kamla Persad Bissessar, the country’s first woman head of government, who served from 2010-15.

The restoration work was undertaken by the Urban

Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT).

“Today we accept from the contractors and the UDeCOTT staff, Whitehall, which the staff is beginning to move into and over the weekend they will continue and the prime minister will work here for the first time next week,” Rowley said on Aug. 29. “Next Monday, the prime minister will come here to work for the first time in a very long, long time.”

RELOCATED

It was during Manning’s tenure that the Office of the Prime Minister was relocated after the building was found to have had leaking roofs and fragile floors.

In his address, Rowley also disclosed that the restoration work on the official residence of the president was nearing completion and that “in the not too distant future I trust that her excellency, would invite some of us to the



Whitehall is once again ready to accommodate the prime minister.

re-occupancy to another building, President House, which is to be re-opened and made available for the occupancy in the very near future.”

Rowley also disclosed that the chambers and floors which now house the Parliamentary chamber will be converted to

civil court rooms and the restoration work on the Parliament building, known as the Red House, would be completed later this year.

“These civil courts will allow the Hall of Justice to be used solely for criminal matters,” Rowley said adding that the country would save mil-

lions of dollars by that move.

Rowley said that there are also plans to restore the buildings that previously housed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture.



PRIDE OF PLACE: Getting to know T&T’s national symbols



National flag

Trinidad and Tobago’s national flag was selected from a series of designs created by the Independence Committee in 1962.

The colors of red, white and black reflect the philosophy of a new nation, its principles, hopes and aspirations. It also reflects T&T’s determination to preserve harmony and unity of spirit which underlie the cultural diversity of its people.

The flag’s colors also represent the elements of earth, water and fire, which are embodied in T&T’s past, present and future. Black represents the dedication of the people joined together by a strong bond. It is the color of strength, unity of purpose and wealth of the land.

Red represents the fire

element, the color most expressive of T&T - the vitality of the land and people, warmth and energy of the sun, courage and friendliness of the people.

White is the sea by which these lands are bound; the cradle of the nation’s heritage; purity of aspirations; and equality of all people.

Coat of Arms



T&T’s coat of arms was designed in 1962. It incorporates important historical and indigenous elements of the twin-island republic, including The shield, the helm of special design, the mantle which covers the helm, the wreath to hold the mantle in place, the crest, the supports and the motto.

Inscribed on the motto scroll are the words “Together we aspire; together we achieve”, which promotes har-

mony in diversity for national achievement.

National flower



The national flower, the chaconia, called “wild poinsettia” or “pride of Trinidad and Tobago”, is a flaming red forest flower of the family rubianaceae. This flower, known by its long sprays of vermillion, blooms on every anniversary of T&T’s Independence.

National birds

The national birds of T&T are the scarlet ibis and the cocrico.

The largest habitat of the scarlet ibis is the Caroni Swamp in central Trinidad. The bird is brown when young, but its color changes to red when it is mature.

The cocrico is a native of Tobago and Venezuela, but is



not found in Trinidad. It is about the size of a common fowl, brownish in color with a long tail.

National Anthem

Patrick S. Castagne composed the words and music of the National Anthem in 1962.

*Forged from the love of liberty,
In the fires of hope and prayer,
With boundless faith in our destiny
We solemnly declare.
Side by side we stand
Islands of the blue Caribbean Sea,
This our native land
We pledge our lives to thee.
Here every creed and race,
Find an equal place,
And may God bless our nation.
Here every creed and race,
Find an equal place,
And may God bless our nation.*

National instrument

The steelpan is the

national instrument of T&T. It’s indigenous to T&T, dating to the 1930s and 1940s.



Traditionally made from a steel drum or container, the playing surface of the percussion musical instrument is divided into convex sections by channels, grooves and/or bores. Each convex section is a note tuned to a definite pitch.

- Edited from T&T government agencies.

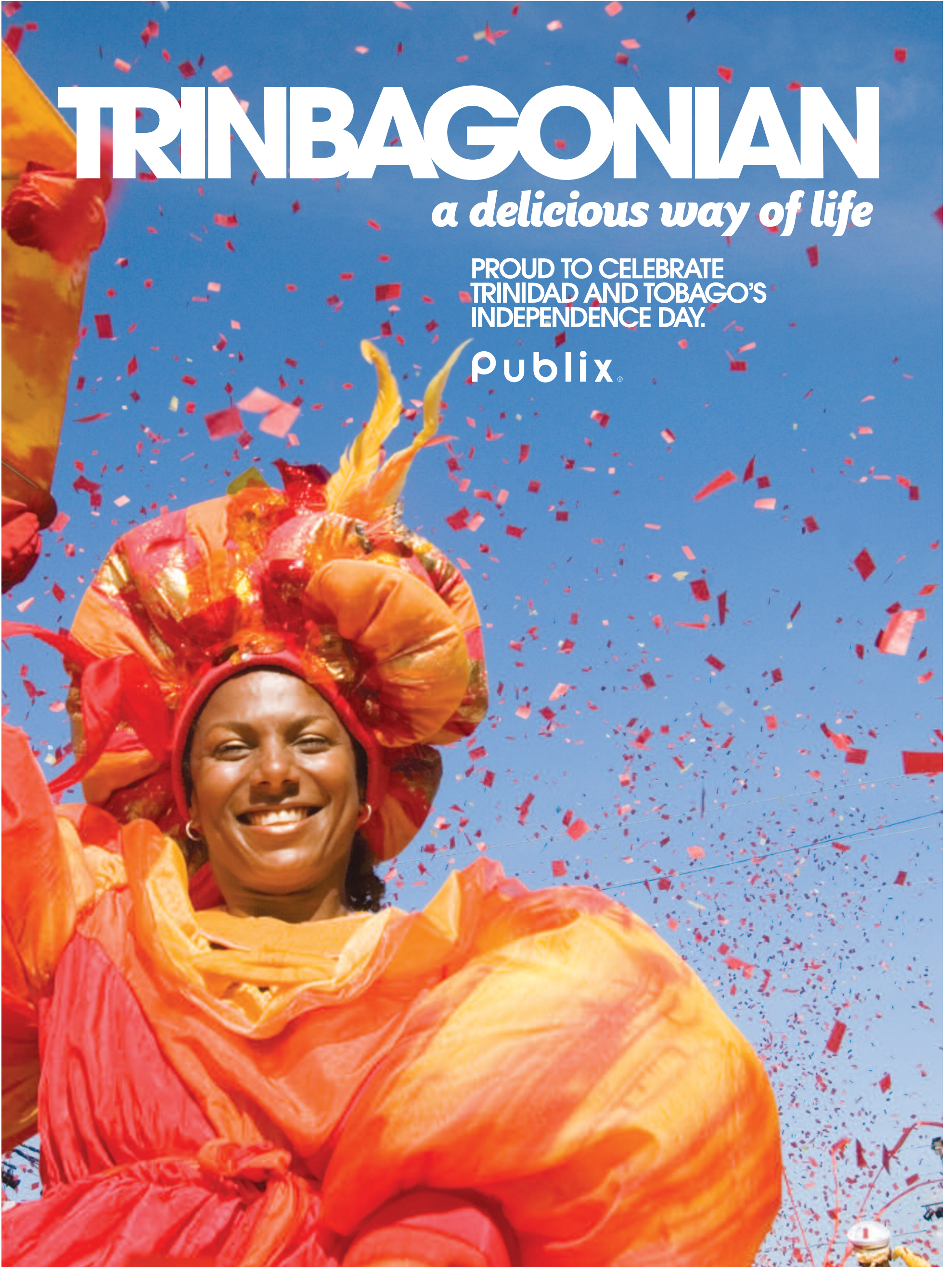


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