

Caribbean Today

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Vol. 29 No. 12

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Fast food coupons used as prizes, candy sale fundraisers, vending machine exteriors - these are just a few examples of the kinds of junk food marketing that regularly takes place in United States schools and such advertising is taking a toll on children's health, experts claim, page 16.

The Caribbean is a hotspot for tourists. Barbados is hoping American Airlines will increase its airlift from the United States. AA and Air Canada have already added new flights to the "Spice Isle" of Grenada to meet travel demand. Caribbean Today's special "Fall Travel" section starts on page 19.

STEP UP, OR SHUT UP
TIME TO VOTE

~ Mid-term elections in the United States are on **Nov. 6** with thousands of Caribbean Americans eligible to vote. It's time to decide.
Caribbean Today:
• Reviews worry over Caribbean American voter turnout and efforts to suppress voting, **page 3**
• Checks the high stakes in Florida - who's eligible to vote and how, **page 7**
• Offers an 'Election Watch' special feature, **pages 13 and 14**

GIRLZ POWER

~ Jamaica's Reggae Girlz erupt in celebration after defeating Panama in the United States to earn a place in next year's women's soccer World Cup, **page 22.**

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NEWS



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U.S. judge grants reprieve to Haitians with TPS

SAN FRANCISCO, California – A federal district judge has granted reprieve to tens of thousands of Haitians on temporary protected status (TPS) in the United States.

Judge Edward M. Chen ruled that the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump could not immediately end special protections for undocumented immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Sudan, whose countries have been ravaged by wars and natural disasters.

About 59,000 Haitians have been granted TPS, which does not offer them a path to permanent residency in the U.S.

Early last month, Chen said the preliminary injunction would “take effect immediately and shall remain in effect pending resolution of this case on the merits or further order of this court.”

A case management conference was scheduled for Oct. 26. Chen ordered the parties to file a joint case management conference statement by Oct. 19.

‘HARDSHIP’

Chen noted that Haiti was originally designed for TPS on Jan. 21, 2010 based on the 7.0-magnitude earthquake on Jan.



Relief for Haitians.

12, 2010 that prevented Haitians from returning home safely. He said the Haiti designation was subsequently “extended and re-designated four times by the administration of former President Barack Obama and once by the Trump administration.”

The judge noted that, although the Trump administration extended Haiti’s TPS designation one time, the extension was for six months only, in contrast to the customary 12 months. He ruled that TPS beneficiaries and their children “indisputably will suffer irreparable harm and great hardship.”

“TPS beneficiaries who have lived, worked, and raised

families in the United States, many for more than a decade, will be subject to removal,” Chen said.

“Many have U.S.-born children; those may be faced with the Hobson’s choice of bringing their children with them and tearing them away from the only country and community they have known or splitting their families apart.”

In contrast, the judge said the Trump administration “failed to establish any real harm were the status quo, which has been in existence for as long as two decades, is maintained during the pendency of this litigation.”

On Jan. 18, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that current beneficiaries of TPS under Haiti’s designation, who wanted to maintain that status through the program’s termination date of July 22, 2019, must re-register before Mar. 19 this year.

- Edited from CMC.



Social Security announces 2.8% benefit increase

Caribbean Americans who benefit from Social Security in the United States can look forward to some good news.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 67 million Americans will increase 2.8 percent in 2019, the Social Security Administration has announced.

The 2.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 62 million Social Security beneficiar-

ies in Jan. 2019.

Increased payments to more than eight million SSI beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 31, 2018. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits).

The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the consumer price index as determined by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages.

Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$132,900 from \$128,400.

Information about Medicare changes for 2019, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.



T&T ‘spiritual leader’ indicted for raping incapacitated women

NEW YORK – A self-proclaimed Trinidadian spiritual leader has been indicted in Brooklyn, New York for allegedly raping two women after incapacitating them.

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said Nigel Kennedy, 51, of East Flatbush, Brooklyn, has been indicted on rape and related charges for allegedly incapacitating two women during religious ceremonies on two separate occasions, causing them to lose consciousness and then having intercourse without their consent.

“We allege that this defendant is a sexual predator who used his religious stature to lure women, then drugged and raped them,” Gonzalez said in a statement.

“We will now seek to hold him accountable for these despicable alleged acts,” he added, urging anyone else who may have been allegedly victimized by Kennedy to call the District Attorney’s Action Center.

CHARGES

Gonzalez said Kennedy was arraigned before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice William Miller on a 13-count indictment, in which he is charged with first- and third-degree rape, first- and second-degree sexual abuse and other related charges.

He was ordered held on \$35,000 bail and to return to court on Dec. 11.

Kennedy faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted of the top count, Gonzalez said.

The district attorney said that, according to the investigation, Kennedy had owned a religious goods store and held himself “out as a religious and spiritual leader.”

“He allegedly met the victims in this case at the store,” Gonzalez said, noting that on

Aug. 30, 2016, a 42-year-old woman accompanied the defendant to an apartment on East 52nd Street in East Flatbush for the purpose of a church ceremony. Kennedy allegedly started chanting and poured a clear liquid that tasted like alcohol into the victim’s mouth.

“The victim lost consciousness and, when she came to, felt a person on top of her but was unable to move,” Gonzalez said.

“She lost consciousness again and woke up at 5 a.m. the next day, naked on a bed, the evidence shows. The defendant allegedly told her he didn’t know how she got naked, and the victim left, suffering from nausea, vomiting and dizziness throughout the day,” Gonzalez said.

‘SPIRITUAL READING’

He said on May 16 this year a 28-year-old woman went to the defendant’s home for a “spiritual reading.”

“The defendant allegedly blew smoke in her face and poured a substance that tasted like alcohol into her mouth. The victim threw up and became dizzy as the defendant poured more liquid into her mouth, according to the evidence.”

“She eventually lost consciousness and, when she woke up, her pants were off and the defendant was having intercourse with her,” Gonzalez said.

“She tried to push him off but could not. The victim told him to stop, but the defendant allegedly refused, telling her, ‘Relax, it’s part of the ritual’. When he got off of her, the victim left.”

Gonzalez said both victims went to the hospital after they were raped and sexual assault evidence collection kits were

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



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POLL PUSH: Worry over Caribbean Americans vote raises alarm

GORDON WILLIAMS

There is mounting worry that Caribbean Americans eligible to cast a ballot in the crucial



Caribbean nationals are being urged to participate in U.S. mid-term elections.

Nov. 6 mid-term elections in the United States may be ignoring their civic duty, despite stepped up efforts by various interests urging them to vote.

With the elections just days away and emerging public reports of efforts to block or slow down voting in areas noted for their heavy concentration of people of color, including Caribbean Americans, long time observers are becoming

increasingly concerned that the mid-terms could fizzle into a wasted opportunity.

"They (Caribbean Americans) find that it (election) is not important," said Olivia Mills, a Jamaican-born resident of Georgia who has lived in the U.S. for 50 years. "(They say) it doesn't affect them, because what it has to do for them, which is so ignorant."

TRUMP FACTOR

According to observers, the lack of enthusiasm shown by some in the Caribbean American community, combined with publicized efforts to deprive people of their right to vote could eventually come back to haunt them. This is especially so when viewed against the backdrop of the current U.S. political climate. President Donald Trump, for example, has expressed anti-immigration sentiments in the past.

"It is concerning," Mills said, "because we are dealing with a government who believes that he (Trump) should diminish a lot of the activities where people are coming in (the U.S.), immigrants are coming in to this country. Where he doesn't understand it's the immigrants that build this country."

Asked if Caribbean Americans generally take the

American electoral process seriously, Mills was blunt.

"No," she said. "Not at all."

REASONS

Trump has repeatedly made statements that denigrate immigrants from countries with predominantly non-white populations, which is

typical of Caribbean nations. Haiti, for example, was reportedly listed among "shit hole" countries by the president.

He has sought to end programs which benefit Caribbean American nationals, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and temporary protected status (TPS).

Recent reports have also surfaced that the Trump administration is seeking to deny citizenship applications from people who have received welfare benefits in the U.S. Significant numbers of Caribbean immigrants have received such benefits.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Promising Caribbean American student athlete dies at 22 in U.S.

Jamaican track athlete Daeshon Gordon, a 22-year-old university student in the United States, died last month.

Gordon, an undergraduate at Northwestern State (NSU) whose parents Miranda and Deron Gordon live in Pompano Beach, Florida, died Oct. 21.

Up to press time the exact cause her death was still unknown.

Gordon formerly attended Louisiana State University, where she twice earned All-America honors as a hurdler. She competed for Northwestern State the last two seasons, where she won Southland Conference hurdles titles four times and ran on the school's winning 4x100 meters conference relay team.

In June, Gordon, an education major, was named honorable mention All-America for her performances at the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

'FIERCE'

"Our hearts go out to Daeshon's family, and to our track and field family, at this



Gordon

extremely difficult time," Greg Burke, NSU's director of athletics, was quoted as saying on the school's website.


"There are no words to express the feelings that so many have when a young life ends abruptly and much before its time.

"Daeshon was a fierce competitor and a great teammate."

Gordon won a bronze medal in the 100 meters hurdles for Jamaica at the 2015 Pan Am Junior Games.

For more sports, turn to page 22.





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U.S. Coast Guard offloads 3,000-plus pounds of cocaine, marijuana seized in Caribbean Sea



A Coast Guard Cutter crewmember carries a bale of cocaine during a drug offload at Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, Florida.

MIAMI, Florida – Over 3,000 pounds of cocaine and 50 pounds of marijuana seized in the Caribbean Sea, worth an estimated wholesale value of over \$47 million, was recently offloaded by the United States

Coast Guard Cutter Bernard C. Webber. The Coast Guard said the drugs were seized during the interdictions of three suspected smuggling vessels off the coasts of the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Aruba by the Coast Guard cutters Donald Horsley, Vigilant and Charles Sexton.

The cutter Sexton was responsible for one case on Oct. 10, seizing an estimated 2,700 pounds of cocaine. The Donald Horsley was responsible for another case on Oct. 4, seizing an estimated 816 pounds of cocaine.

The cutter Vigilant was

responsible for the Sept. 30 seizing of an estimated 50 pounds of marijuana.

CO-OPERATION

The Coast Guard said numerous U.S. agencies from the departments of Defense, Justice and Homeland Security “cooperated in the effort to combat transnational organized crime.

“... The fight against transnational organized crime networks in the Caribbean Basin requires unity of effort in all phases from detection, monitoring and interdictions, to criminal prosecutions by U.S. attorneys in districts across the nation,” it added.



POLL PUSH: Worry over Caribbean Americans' vote raises alarm

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Consensus among observers is that the only way to support or prevent some of Trump's anti-immigrant policies is to elect candidates who back their views on each policy. That means voting.

HICCUPS

Yet even those willing to vote could face additional hiccups. There have been multiple cases where voting rights activists have raised alarm over efforts they believe are designed to stop people from voting, especially in places where people of color are residing in large numbers.

In Georgia, for example, which is known for a significant concentration of Caribbean Americans, Secretary of State Brian Kemp reportedly blocked 53,000 voter registrations. Although 32 percent of Georgia's population is black, 70 percent of the reported blocked voter registrations are from African Americans.

Kemp is a Republican candidate for governor of the state. His main rival is Democrat Stacey Abrams, an African American.

In Gwinnett County, Georgia, where large chunks of Caribbean Americans live, hundreds of mail-in absentee ballots were reportedly thrown out before the mid-terms.

FLORIDA

In Florida, another state with a huge Caribbean American population, the governor's race has also been tinged by racial overtones. African American candidate Andrew Gillum, a Democrat who has heavily courted the Caribbean American community and received favorable response, has become a target. As a scheduled debate with Republican opponent Ron DeSantis approached on Oct. 22, Gillum told reporters he was ready for any attack, including disguised racial ones.

“(DeSantis) is going to call me a socialist,” Gillum said at a campaign rally. “He's going to call me corrupt. He's going to throw his covered-up versions of racial epithets.”

With the political discourse heating up, it is time, observers believe, for Caribbean Americans to step up to the polling booth. Organizations, such as Caribbean American

Politically Active Citizens (CAPAC), are making concerted efforts to get them there. CAPAC has published a voter's guide to facilitate the process.

Caribbean celebrities have also chimed in.

“I don't care what responsibilities you have today, there's no greater responsibility than being in control of your future and the future starts NOW!,” declared Barbadian pop star Rihanna in urging voter turnout.

“It is important to me that we understand this and we go out to vote to change this type of thing,” said Mills.

“It is a serious situation,” she added. “... Everybody's vote is important and if we as Caribbean people come together - we're very strong - and (can) go out and change the whole electoral view of this country, where we are concerned. Caribbean people, we can change things.”

High stakes in Florida's mid-terms - who's eligible to vote and how, page 7.

For Caribbean Today's “Election Watch” special feature, turn to pages 13 and 14.

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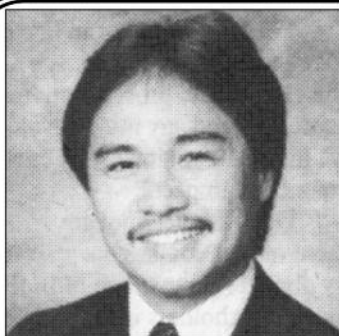
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HAITI UNREST: President escapes unhurt, but security detail injured in ceremony shooting

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti –Two members of President Jovenel Moise's security team were wounded as they exchanged gunfire with unidentified gunmen in Pont-Rouge last month while he attended a ceremony commemorating the 212th anniversary of the assassination of Emperor Jean-Jacques Dessalines.

The incident occurred on Oct. 17 while President Moise was laying a floral wreath in memory of the father of the French-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country. He was whisked away unharmed from the area by air to another destination.

During the shooting, two



Blood runs down the head of an injured member of Moise's security team.

of the security officers of the National Palace General Security Unit (USGPN) were wounded. Unconfirmed reports up to press time noted that at

least three other people were injured.

"He (Moise) escaped unscathed from the shooting which took place in the first part of the ceremony," said sociologist Gilbert Mervellus.

BAN

Earlier, the authorities had announced a temporary ban on carrying of firearms throughout the country. Justice and Public Security Minister Jean Roody Aly said the ban would remain in effect until midnight Oct. 19. He said law enforcement and judicial authorities were the only ones allowed to travel during that period with their regulatory and service



- Photograph courtesy HaitiLibre
Moise is assisted in laying a wreath at the ceremony.

weapons. The authorities also called on private security agencies to adopt the temporary in order to prevent their

staff from traveling with service weapons.

The move came as Haitians took to the streets Oct. 17 to protest several issues such as the PetroCaribe funds, the cost of living, the minimum wage, the reform of the Constitution as well as frequent overseas visits by Moise.

Aly said the National Police of Haiti and the Public Prosecutor's Offices of the republic were instructed to crack down with the utmost rigor against anyone violating the laws.

- Edited from CMC.



Antigua referendum to decide London-based Privy Council

Voters in Antigua and Barbuda will go to the polls on Nov. 6 to decide whether or not to replace the London-based Privy Council as the nation's final court. However, they will have an updated question to answer on the issue.

Last month, the Antigua and Barbuda Election Commission (ABEC) issued a statement indicating that voters would be asked "if they approved the Constitutional Referendum Amendment Bill 2018 for an act to alter the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda". The question has been criticized by some sections of the population which indicate it makes no reference to the Privy Council or the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), which voters are being asked to accept as a replacement of the London-based final court.

minate her Majesty In Council, also known as Privy Council, as the final court of appeal for Antigua and Barbuda and to replace it with the Caribbean Court of Justice also known as the CCJ?"

Meanwhile, ABEC has issued a statement calling on community organizations to nominate persons for the role of "referendum monitors" on Nov. 6.

The commission said the name of one referendum monitor should be named for the appointment as the chief referendum monitor to oversee the operation of the conduct of the referendum in the constituency.

- Edited from CMC.
Grenada, too, must decide on U.K. Privy Council, page 6.



CONCERNS

Speaking on a radio program here last month, Supervisor of Elections Lorna Simon said the commission had taken note of the concerns raised that the question did not mention the CCJ or the Privy Council.

"That has since been amended (so) we will have to re-do the specimen ballot," said Simon. "I am guided by the Ministry of Legal Affairs ... and so the sample ballot that was not released would have been as it is in the act.

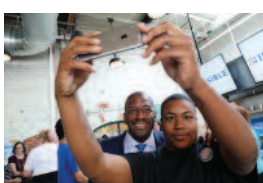
"So based on concerns raised, the amended question would be 'Do you approve the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda Amendment Bill 2018, which is a bill for an act to alter the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda to ter-

LASCO FOR LEARNING



The LASCO Chin Foundation was recently launched in Jamaica. It is scheduled to hold its first fundraisers in Florida this month, including benefit galas in Miramar, Nov. 16 and Orlando, Nov. 18. The galas are being hosted with the support of the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force (JDETF). Among those attending the launch were, from left, JDETF Chairman Leo Gilling; Jamaica's Minister of Education Ruel Reid; Professor Rosalea Hamilton, chief executive officer of LASCO Chin Foundation; Lascelles A. Chin, chairman of the foundation; and Parnell P. Charles Jr., Jamaica's minister of state in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. According to Chin: "This foundation will create a legacy greater than all my business achievements combined ... In business life, it is important to recognize the ills of the society in which we operate, and work at being a part of the solution."

ANDREW GILLUM FOR GOVERNOR



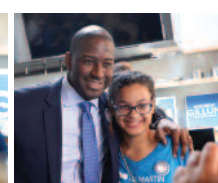
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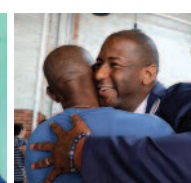
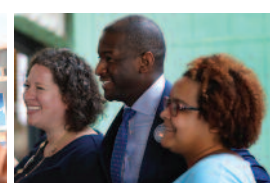
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NEWS



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Bahamas awards P.M. Minnis 'Order of the Nation'

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis became the first head of government to receive the "Order of the Nation" as The Bahamas observed National Heroes Day last month.

Minnis, 64, who led his Free National Movement (FNM) to victory in the May 2017 general elections, will now be addressed officially as Dr. the Most Honorable Hubert Alexander Minnis, O.N., M.P. in keeping with the National Honors Act 2016.

The Order of The Nation has also been bestowed on former governors-general Dame Ivy Dumont, Sir Arthur Foulkes and posthumously on Sir Milo Butler, who was also awarded the Order of National Hero. Other former heads of state who received Order of the Nation include



Minnis, right, and Pindling

Sir Gerald Cash, Sir Henry Taylor, Sir Clifford Darling

and former Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling, also a recipient of the Order of National Hero.

'WORTHY'

Governor General Dame Marguerite Pindling said the honorees were "worthy of adulation" for their "loyalty to country and contribution to this land of peace."

Minnis, known as "Doc", is a medical doctor by profession, a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology.

He was first elected to Parliament in May 2007 for the Killarney Constituency and was appointed to the Cabinet as minister of health, serving from 2007 to 2012. In Nov. 2014 he was re-elected leader of the party.



Grenada to decide Privy Council's fate

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada – Electoral officials here said an estimated 80,000 people have registered to vote in this month's referendum as Grenadians decide whether or not to replace the London-based Privy Council as their final court.

The Nov. 6 referendum will decide whether to replace the Privy Council with the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

The list released here on Oct. 8 contains 79,397 names. According to the Parliamentary Elections Office, voters will be required to answer "yes" to "no" to the question: "Do you approve the bill for an act proposing to alter the constitution of Grenada cited as constitution of Grenada (Caribbean Court of Justice and renaming of Supreme Court) (Amendment) Bill, 2018?"

Two thirds of the voters need to answer "yes" for the necessary amendment to be made to the Grenada Constitution, allowing for the CCJ, which also functions as an

international tribunal interpreting the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas that governs the regional integration movement CARICOM, to replace the Privy Council as Grenada's final appellate court.

APPROVAL

On Oct. 8, the Senate approved amendments to the People's Representation Act, the legislation that governs the operations of the Parliamentary Elections Office during an election. The amendment also criminalizes the use of cellular phones, digital cameras and other electronic devices inside of polling booths.

The House of Representatives approved the amendments on Oct. 5 during a special sitting.

The bill had to go through the final stage of accession by the governor general, published in the Gazette and given a date of effect, for it to become law.

- Edited from CMC.



T&T 'spiritual leader' indicted for raping incapacitated women

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

conducted. He said the same male DNA was recovered from both victims.

Gonzalez said the second victim identified Kennedy, who was arrested on Sept. 7 after arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New

York on a flight from Trinidad and Tobago.

"The defendant's DNA came back as a match to the DNA recovered from each of

the victims," Gonzalez said.

- Edited from CMC.



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HIGH STAKES: Florida's mid-terms - who's eligible to vote and how

PATRICK SMIKLE

On Nov. 6, voters across the United States will be making decisions, which could impact their lives for the foreseeable future.

Florida voters, for example, will choose a new governor, a U.S. senator, three members of the U.S. House of

To be eligible to vote in Florida, persons must meet a few basic requirements.

Representatives, plus state, county and municipal leaders. They'll also decide on proposed changes to Florida's constitution.

At the county level, voters in Florida will decide on charter changes, which will impact how local governments function. For example, Miami-Dade County citizens will vote on issues ranging from designating the city clerk, a non-partisan office for the purpose of elections, to permitting a modest property tax increase to fund salary increases for teachers and pay for additional school safety measures. There

are similar issues in other counties.

Also on the ballot are more narrowly focused issues, which affect only specific communities. For example, voters in the City of Miami will decide whether to allow the city commission to negotiate a deal, with a group led by retired British soccer star David Beckham and local businessman Jorge Mas, to develop a soccer stadium on city owned land.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to vote in Florida, persons must meet a few basic requirements. To register to vote, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be a Florida resident.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Not have been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state without having had your voting rights restored.
- Not have been convicted of a felony in Florida, or any other U.S. state, without your civil rights having been restored.
- Provide a valid Florida driver's license number or Florida identification card number.

If you do not have a current and valid Florida driver's license number or Florida identification card, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have any of the above, check the appropriate box provided on the voter registration application.

PLAN

Make a plan to vote. As a

Make a plan to vote. As a first step, you should download a sample ballot from the website of your county supervisor of elections and study it carefully to determine the issues and candidates.

first step, you should download a sample ballot from the website of your county supervisor



It's important to vote, to make your 'voice' heard.

of elections and study it carefully to determine the issues and candidates.

Decide whether you will vote by mail, cast your ballot at an early voting site or will vote on Election Day. To vote by mail you must request a "mail-in ballot" from the Supervisor of Elections by Oct. 31. The advantage of voting by mail is that you can more carefully study the positions of the candidates and research the various issues.

Mail-in ballots must be returned to the county elections office by 7 p.m. Election Day.

State regulations allow counties some flexibility in determining the number of early voting sites and their hours of operation. In Miami-Dade, for example, early voting will be conducted at various sites Oct. 22 to Nov. 4. Visit your supervisor of elections to website for details.

In person voting is 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 6. If you are in line at 7 p.m. you must be allowed to vote.

Whether you are voting

Whether you are voting early, or on Election Day, be sure to carry government issued photo identification with a signature to the polls.

early, or on Election Day, be sure to carry government issued photo identification with a signature to the polls.

Patrick Smikle is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. For more on Caribbean Today's mid-term elections coverage, turn to pages 13 and 14.



Caribbean rues world's lack of support for small islands

UNITED NATIONS – In a week of marathon speeches at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), no theme was unequivocally more worrisome for Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries than the lack of support – financial and otherwise – for small island developing states (SIDS).

Caribbean leaders, therefore, continued to lament this paucity, saying that global policies, programs and strategies remain "unfairly unaccommodating" to the "very real and true challenges" facing SIDS.

St. Lucia Prime Minister Allen Chastanet said that while the halls of the U.N. General Assembly year after year echo with the words of SIDS and MIC (middle income countries) leaders, who make it clear the challenges they face, "little or nothing changes."

According to Chastanet, his country remains economically vulnerable to de-risking and the loss of correspondent

banking relations, and regional countries remain out of reach of any access to concessionary

finance, adding that their reputations are "unfairly tarnished by tax labels."

STRUGGLE

Chastanet's St. Vincent and the Grenadines counterpart Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves said, like other Caribbean SIDS, his country faces challenges to sustainable development, limited

resources, and susceptibility to natural disasters and climate change. Gonsalves urged "solidarity and equality" from U.N. member-states to deal with these challenges by invoking a "recommitment to the bedrock foundations of our (U.N.) Charter."

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne called for inclusion of all member-states of the U.N. in the discussions of global financial reforms, saying there can be no real comprehension of the grave vulnerability of SIDS to external shocks, high

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



Chastanet

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FAMILY FEUD: Former SVG political allies engage in heated public spat

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent – Former Prime Minister Sir James Mitchell has described his former Finance Minister Arnhim Eustace as his “biggest error” as yet another public spat between the two former leaders of the main Opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) has spilled out into the public domain.

Sir James, 87, served as prime minister from 1984 to 2000. When he stepped down, he handed the baton to Eustace, who lost the 2001 general election.

Speaking on a radio program early last month, Sir James told listeners that Eustace was his biggest error. Eustace responded by telling the island's second prime minister: “I fear that despite your overall good record of governance, your post-service contribution would be remembered for its toxicity and self-praise.”

Sir James has been repeatedly and harshly critical of the 74-year-old Eustace, who replaced him as leader of the NDP and prime minister in Oct. 2000 – 16 years after the NDP came to power and five months after it was booted out of office.

Over the years, the relationship has gotten increasingly worse, with both men using the public media to criticize each other.

When he called for Eustace to demit office as head of the NDP after the party's third electoral defeat in 2015, Sir James said that when there is a death in a house, people usually open the win-

dows to let in fresh air.

For his part, Eustace has accused Sir James of being an acolyte of the ruling Unity Labour Party (ULP).

REBUILDING

Political observers say Eustace was instrumental in rebuilding the NDP, which Sir James left in shambles ahead of the Mar. 2001 elections. The NDP lost the 2001 elections by a 12 to three margin to Ralph Gonsalves's ULP, which has been in office since then.

Last month, Eustace read what he said was a letter sent to Sir James later that day in response to his Sept. 11 comments on radio. Eustace noted that in the radio comments, Sir James had said he apologized to St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) for the error he made in Eustace succeeding him.

“I am unsurprised, quite frankly, that you would be venomous towards me,” said Eustace, who served as finance minister between 1998-2001.

“Your public praise of me as a minister of finance, and that was often, an economist, and leader, and as the fiscal advisor and director of finance, you said was responsible for some of the most progressive gains while you were prime minister.”

Eustace said that when he became prime minister, Sir James's praise of him changed when he reduced the former prime minister's salary. While Sir James had demitted office as prime minister, he remained a Member of Parliament for the Northern Grenadines until



Mitchell, left, and Eustace

the Mar. 2001 elections.

NO REGRETS

“I was of the view that the country could not afford, neither was it fair to pay two prime ministers' salaries,” Eustace said, noting that he was “surprised and encouraged” that Sir James had decided to take responsibility for “the error you have described, by apologizing to the people of this nation.”

“I will never regret that decision.

“The unmistakable scope of that apology, I hope, (should include) your acknowledgement that you were forced to hand over leadership by your depleted popularity, public disaffection with you and the consequent rise of the worse prime minister and administration that this country has ever seen: Ralph Gonsalves and the ULP,” Eustace said.

He said he inherited from Sir James “a skeletal party” a couple of months after early elections were agreed.

“That 12 to three loss was

a referendum on your leadership. And for the years I led the NDP, I battled the Gonsalves administration who we moved from 12 to three to seven to eight, then election petitions which may prove to have been won by the NDP,” said Eustace who stepped down as leader of the NDP in Nov. 2017, less than

one year after the party suffered its fourth consecutive electoral defeat.

“You spent those years, Sir James, undermining the party you co-founded, publicly insulting and tearing down many of the NDP's candidates and me and cozying up and praising Gonsalves. But that is, apparently, the past. You have returned to the NDP. Should I say welcome back? Rest assured, Sir James, my period as immediate past president of the NDP would be spent very differently from yours.”

CHANGE

Eustace listed for Sir James four things that he has done and will do differently now that he is no longer leader of the NDP.

“I resigned early enough as leader in this administration to give my successor years, rather than mere months, to stamp his leadership and prepare for elections,” he said.

Eustace said he would “never, ever, be so presumptuous, self-serving and destructive as to present my opinion

on any NDP policy as that of the party; who are you to state NDP's position on China?”

“That is the province of the leader, Dr. Friday, not its past-president. I will always endeavor to encourage Dr. Godwin Friday, my capable successor, a man of integrity. If he needs me, I will avail myself of him. If he does not need me, I will take no offence, for such is his right.

“I will never pass off a glowing homage to my greatness as a funeral tribute to any stalwart of the party and great nation builder. Going forward, Sir James, I ask that you dwell on the ways you can interrogate without disparaging. I fear that despite your overall good record of governance, your post-service contribution would be remembered for its toxicity and self-praise,” Eustace wrote in his lengthy letter.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean rues world's lack of support for small islands

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

levels of poverty and high debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratios without inclusion of all UN member-states.

“A few privileged nations are making decisions that impact the livelihood of billions,” Browne said.

Browne said arbitrary rules, set by unrepresentative bodies, for their own narrow purposes, have no legitimacy in the world.

PARTNERSHIPS

Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness called for partnerships in tackling climate change impacts and economic fragility in SIDS.

Holness said galvanizing an effective global fundraising campaign to address climate change and achieve sustainable economic growth is key for SIDS, expressing deep concerns over his country's vulnerability to what he described as “a raft of social, economic, environmental, financial and



Browne

trade-related hazards.”

Holness underscored that many SIDS are extremely indebted and vulnerable.

In her maiden address to the U.N. General Assembly, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley said the sovereignty of SIDS and other vulnerable countries must be respected and advanced, adding that “the meek have no less a right to exist in dignity than do the mighty.

“... Today's leaders are again fighting battles for non-

interference, respect, recognition and rights that many of us thought had long been won by



Mottley

a previous generation. Economic colonization is replacing physical colonization,” Mottley said.

COMMITMENT

Noting that 2019 will mark 25 years of the United Nations' support to the SIDS Agenda, Belize's Foreign Affairs Minister Wilfred P. Elrington said his country

joins in the call for a renewed commitment to the special case of SIDS and for “systematically targeted support” to respond to the particular needs of SIDS, such as those identified by the Caribbean SIDS in the San Pedro Declaration adopted in Belize in August.

Elrington said the destructive hurricanes and storms, “which ravage the Caribbean year-on-year, are a constant reminder of the true scale of vulnerability facing SIDS in the Caribbean.

St. Kitts and Nevis said while it welcomes funding mechanisms established to assist countries, particularly highly vulnerable SIDS, “the process must be transparent, easily accessible and, most importantly, the commitments from donor countries must bear fruit,” Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris said.

- Edited from CMC.



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Time to show up and vote

Like millions across the United States, I felt I too was the victim of a Devil's Triangle on Oct. 6 with the lifetime confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the people's court – the Supreme Court.

The range of emotions – from absolute violation, anger, sadness and disappointment – were akin to when Donald

Trump was shockingly declared U.S. president in Nov. 2016.

But while that was largely unexpected, we cannot say the same for this confirmation. We knew it was coming as the Republican Party is at a sad point in its history, where the Republicans will do anything to ensure they control all levels of government and push their ultra-conservative agenda.

However, as much as I raged, I took comfort in knowing that there is a silver lining in this dark, funnel cloud and it is Nov. 6, 2018 - Election Day!

All of the anger, rage, remonstrations and unhappiness of the past few weeks, along with the disappointment and outrage from the Kavanaugh vote, must now be turned into fuel to power a blue tsunami this Nov. 6 that must stop the red tide of destruction.

POWER

We still have power, power in our vote, and we use it to urgently put some checks and balances back into the branches of government and ensure our democracy is not turned into a dictatorship that will run roughshod over the rights of immigrants, people of color, women, LGBTQ individuals and the poor.

We must use our vote to take back control of the people's House and the people's court.

All of us, especially black and brown immigrants who have earned the right to vote through naturalization, must use that right come Nov. 6 or risk losing it forever. We cannot afford for one single Democratic or independent voter to sit this one off on the sidelines. Every single vote count, and we must make all count this Nov. 6.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

All of the anger, rage, remonstrations and unhappiness of the past few weeks, along with the disappointment and outrage from the Kavanaugh vote, must now be turned into fuel to power a blue tsunami this Nov. 6 that must stop the red tide of destruction.

If you have not registered to vote, make sure you do. This is the most critical election of our lifetime and it feels like the one lifeline we have left before we are all pushed out into the ocean without a life raft.

SHOW UP

Caribbean immigrant voters, who have been known to sit on the sidelines too often and only show up for parties, carnivals and fetes are especially urged to ensure they use this franchise.

It is why CaribPR Wire has launched a carnival-themed voter education program with creative social media targeted Caribbean-centric messages like: "Lime, Wine, Vote", "Vote Or Your Lime Is History" and "Jam Up The Polls This Nov. 6th".

There are also culturally specific messages, including: "Jab Jab To The Polls This Nov. 6th", "Hot Gyal A Vote",

"Dutty Wine To The Polls This Nov. 6th" and "Ride De Riddim and Vote This

Nov. 6th".

There is also a unique message for Haitian voters – "Bondye Fe San Di" or "God Acts And Doesn't Talk". The messages can be accessed on CaribPR's Facebook page.

This is the most critical election of our lifetime as immigrants in this country, especially given the anti-immigrant policies being put in place by this administration.

With the Supreme Court now tilted completely in favor of the current ruling party, every single anti-immigration program that has been overturned by federal court judges at the state level could be appealed at the Supreme Court and reinstituted.

That includes DACA, the Flores amendment and even the recent provisional TPS victory for Haitians, Sudanese and some Central Americans from last month. And that's just barely scratching the surface on the immigration front.

This Nov. 6 is D-Day for us as immigrants and people of color in the U.S. Let's vote blue like our lives depended on it because it does!

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



'Ludicrous' to deny Caribbean immigrants 'green cards'



Adams

NEW YORK – Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams has described as "ludicrous" a proposal by the administration of President Donald Trump to deny permanent residency status or re-entry to the United States to Caribbean and other immigrants who receive some form of public assistance – including food stamps, Medicaid, public housing or rent vouchers.

"The rule change is draconian, stigmatizing hundreds of thousands of hard-working immigrant New Yorkers who support their families through low-wage jobs," Adams said last month.

"I know from personal experience the heart-wrenching challenges of poverty, both psychologically and economically," he added. "There is no humanity to be found in this 'public charge' plan, and the fear surrounding its announcement may threaten the safety and welfare of vulnerable children and families, including reduced access to vital health care, housing support and nutrition assistance."

tance.

"I encourage my fellow concerned Brooklynites to join me in submitting public comment to this federal rule change," Adams continued. "The strength of our voices united will hopefully be strong enough to push back against this plan."

CRITICISM

Late last month, the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) strongly criticized the Trump administration's latest attack on low-income immigrants of color, urging that it desists from moving forward with plans to publish the rule that the CBC said would "drastically expand the definition of public charge" when determining whether immigrants can adjust their status or remain in the country.

In a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, the CBC wrote that a proposal to restrict permanent residence or "green cards" for immigrants who are likely to use public assistance programs, is "impossible to divorce from the administration's ongoing attack against immigrants of color" and should be rescinded.

The letter was led by CBC Chairman Cedric L. Richmond and Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke.

Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, is the chair of the CBC's Immigration Task Force.

The CBC noted that extant

law and regulations permit an immigrant to be deemed a public charge if he/she is likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence, as demonstrated by either the receipt of public cash assistance for income maintenance or institutionalization for long-term care at government expense.

DISTRACTION

But the CBC wrote that the proposed rule that Nielsen authorized on Sept. 21 would expand the list of government programs to include, among others, Medicaid.

"Such a change would wrongfully force immigrants to give up essential services and would have a disproportionate impact on immigrants from the developing world (such as countries in the Caribbean)," the CBC wrote.

"This is yet another attempt by this administration to distract Americans from the onerous policies that are really undermining economic mobility for a large majority of the country in the midst of an election year," it added.

The CBC said while it has not always lived up to its ideals, the U.S. strives to reward people, based on the merit of their actions rather than the circumstances of their birth.

However, it said "needlessly expanding the list of public assistance programs subjected to public charge analysis unfairly discriminates against immi-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Delicate dance between me too and you too

Every story has three sides – her side, your side and the real truth.

Men have been accused of all sorts of indiscretions against women for centuries, with the most egregious being rape.

Now all that has evolved and it's no longer only rape, but anything that even hints at sexual impropriety.

Did I say hint? Ha, even a whiff, a slight brush, a raised eyebrow, an innocuous whisper, a blown kiss, is now a cause of great concern, and every woman and her granny are now "victims".

They all shout with one voice, "Me too. I was a victim of sexual shenanigans. See me here, me too."

Shaggy did this song titled "It Wasn't Me", but little did



TONY ROBINSON



he know that thousands of women would be singing their own chorus, me too. That movement is in reference to the countless women who are accusing men of inappropriate behavior.

These accusers are so numerous and emboldened that they've formed a movement called the "MeToo Movement".

Now if those things and more happened to those

women, I am all for them getting justice and the guilty men dealt with by the law. We know these things do happen.

QUESTIONS

But I have some questions. Why is there such a tidal wave, a tsunami if you will, of women accusing men of sexual impropriety, and for Heaven's sake, why did it take them so long to complain?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

VIEWPOINT



www.caribbeantoday.com

'Ludicrous' to deny Caribbean immigrants 'green cards'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

grants," especially those from Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean, by "discouraging immigrants from these countries from receiving any public assistance.

"This would leave such immigrants with fewer resources at the outset of their experiences and make it harder for them to achieve the American dream," the CBC said. "As a result, this proposed rule would make America less diverse and run afoul of our founding principles."

Additionally, the CBC said it is impossible to divorce these

efforts from the Trump administration's "ongoing attack against immigrants of color."

BAN

Over the past 20 months, the CBC noted that Trump has banned immigrants from Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S. and attempted to terminated temporary protected status for thousands of immigrants from Sudan, Nicaragua, Nepal, Haiti, El Salvador and Honduras.

The CBC said the U.S. president has also "eliminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

program, attacked the Diversity Visa Lottery Program, severely curtailed the number of refugees admitted to the United States and issued far fewer visas than previous administrations.

"These actions send a clear message of hostility toward immigrants across the nation and convey to the rest of the world that America is no longer committed to serving as a beacon of freedom and tolerance," the CBC said.

- Edited from CMC.



Delicate dance between me too and you too

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Many say that they were too afraid to speak up. Why wait for 30 years or more then shed copious tears that Mr. X touched your behind when you were at the water cooler? Why wait for 35 years and then cry that Mr. Y had sex with you after you both got drunk, then took you home safely after? Shouldn't there be a statute of limitations on these accusations?

Women can now say anything and get away with it and the man has no recourse. Even if he is proven innocent,

that stain, that blot, that scar and stigma, will still live with him for the rest of his life. Meanwhile, the woman walks away free as a bird.

Shouldn't there be punitive action taken against women who falsely accuse men?

After a while we may be reduced to just being mindless zombies who dare not touch a woman even on her shoulder or even compliment her for fear of being accused of impropriety.

But what about the men who have been wrongly accused? How can they be

compensated? Also, have you noticed that many of those accused men are filthy rich? Is that a coincidence? How come only few poor men are targeted by the "Me Too Movement"?

I have seen some of these women. Many are beautiful, but for some I find it difficult to believe a big powerful man, who could have his pick of pretty women, would choose them.

And what about the men who women sexually assault? You too?

seido1@hotmail.com



CARIB Comments

• "We have a moral, ethical obligation to vote. In times like these, we have to vote. You have to unleash your power" – Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

• "Make no mistake, the Trump administration's decision to terminate TPS was based on racism and xenophobia" – Haitian American activist Marleine Bastien commends a United States district judge's decision to issue an injunction blocking U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to end temporary protected status for people from several nations, including Haiti.

"As if the accusations weren't enough, he demonstrated the most egregious lack of judicial temperament, or even basic impartiality, ever before witnessed. This confirmation was about power and privilege, and the



perverse desire to maintain those at all costs" – New York City Councilman Jumaane Williams, son of Grenadian immigrants, blasts recent confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh as a United States Supreme Court justice.

"(We) became convinced that Botham was a victim of the epidemic of white law enforcement officers killing innocent blacks" – New York-based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy urges Prime Minister Allen Chastanet to name St. Lucian national Botham Shem Jean a national hero. Jean, 26, was shot and killed by white female police officer Amber Guyger on Sept. 6 in his Dallas, Texas home.

"For too long, Vincentians at home and abroad have been pulled apart by the politics of pull-down and hate. The divide-and-conquer politics practiced by those now in power in SVG can only lead to chaos and hardship" – St. Vincent and the Grenadines Opposition Leader Dr. Goodwin Friday addressing an audience in New York recently.

- Compiled from various sources.

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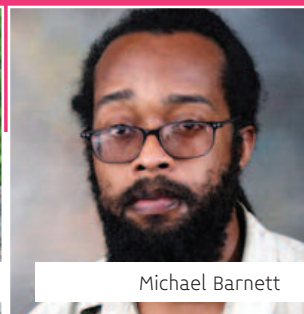
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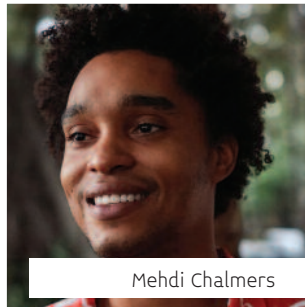
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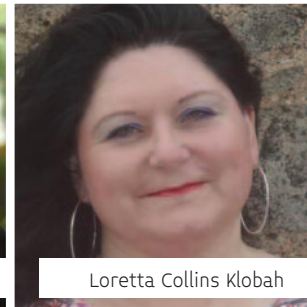
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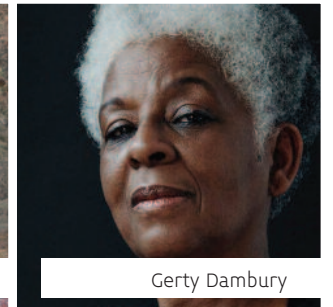
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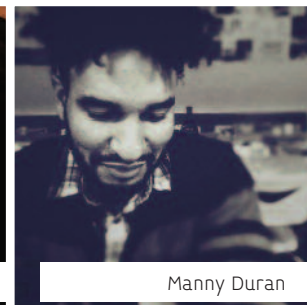
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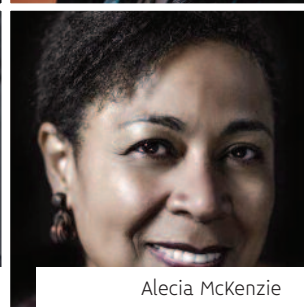
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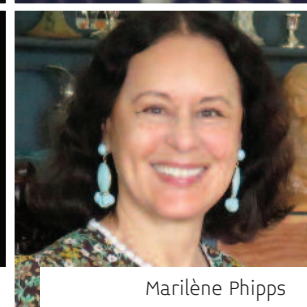
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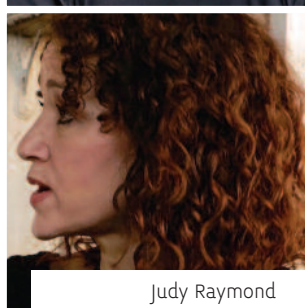
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Marilène Phipps



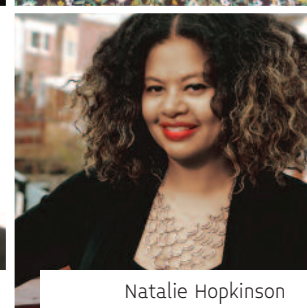
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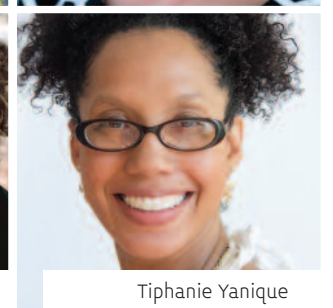
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Philanthropist among first recipients of University of Guyana honorary doctorate

NEW YORK – A Guyanese-born philanthropist and entrepreneur here is reportedly among the first recipients of an honorary doctorate from University of Guyana.

In a statement issued last month, Jay Sobhraj said he will be recognized on Nov. 10 in a ceremony at the University of Guyana for his “long dedication to philanthropy and record of success in business.

“The honor recognizes his work in founding the Jay and Sylvia Sobhraj Foundation, which, this year, helped create the nation of Guyana’s first degree program in psychology, as well as a new building and resources to house mental health services at the university,” the statement noted.

“It further recognizes the foundation’s work in creating scholarships for students to attend the university, its purchase of equipment for the Guyana police force, as well as for the specialized high school preparatory classes it runs for hundreds of public school students in Queens.”

GENEROSITY

In bestowing the honor on Sobhraj, the University of

Guyana cited his “combination of business acumen, personal distinction in the field of real estate development, connection to The University of Guyana, through generous philanthropy, as well as exceptional service to the Guyanese community in Guyana and in the United States of America.”

The other three recipients are musician and singer Eddy Grant, renowned for the hit song “Electric Avenue”; indigenous rights activist Laura George; and Yesu Persaud, a leading Guyanese business figure and philanthropist and past president of the Guyana Manufacturers Association.

CONTRIBUTION

Born in Guyana in 1948, Sobhraj said he was one of 10 children and the son of a rice farmer. He earned a degree in engineering from Middlesex Polytechnic in London, England and became a member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers in 1984.

After working in the oil industry in the United Arab Emirates, Sobhraj said he and two of his brothers, George and Ken, co-founded



Sobhraj

Zara Realty in 1982 in Jamaica, Queens.

In 2007, Sobhraj said he officially founded the Jay and Sylvia Sobhraj Foundation with his wife.

He said the foundation has donated more than \$2 million to various causes over the years in the U.S. and Guyana.

- Edited from CMC.



JN launches ‘moneyonline’ website

JN Money Services (JNMS), owners of the JN Money brand, has launched its website www.jnmoneyonline.com in the United States.

The online service is now available in the U.S., United Kingdom and Canada.

“The United States is our largest market for remittances to Jamaica, accounting for more than 60 percent of the approximately US\$2 billion sent back annually,” explained Horace Hines, JNMS general manager.

During the launch, Gabriel Heron, JNMS business development manager,

Members of Jamaica’s diaspora in the United States will have the opportunity to discuss issues of concern during a three-day summit this month in Georgia.

The Jamaica Diaspora USA Leadership Summit 2018 is scheduled for Nov. 16-18 at the Morrow Center in Morrow.

Diaspora representatives Dr. Rupert Francis (west/mid-west), Wayne Golding (south-east) and Akelia Maitland (northeast) will host the event.

According to organizers, the “need for a leadership summit came out of the recognition that sources and conduits for our Jamaican diaspora community in the United States are lacking in cohesiveness and are in dire need for Jamaicans as a group to be involved in the critical efforts targeted at shaping policy where we live, on several levels.

FOCUS

“Often times our focus is on what is happening in our

homeland of Jamaica while it remains clear that as Jamaican diasporans we are not organized enough where we live to exercise any significant power of influence over our future



Southeast’s Golding is one of the scheduled hosts.

here,” a press release issued by the organization added.

“This unified leadership summit serves as a kick-off event towards creating a process for a singular action that can be taken towards a diaspora development plan that will have the widest and most sustainable impact.

“This will ultimately determine our success as a group in this country.”

The summit’s itinerary includes a reception on Nov. 16, Summit Day, Nov. 17, and interfaith service on Nov. 18.

For more information, call 347-868-0276 or 516-713-8270.



Jamaican Bar Association grand gala, awards Nov. 17

The Jamaica Bar Association will hold its annual grand gala and awards ceremony Nov. 17 in South Florida.

Reception begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner and awards are at 7:30 p.m.

The event, which is being staged to honor dignitaries of

the judicial bench and the Jamaican American legal professional community, will take place at the Miramar Cultural Center, 2400 Civic Center Place, Miramar.

For more information, call 305-510-3870.



CBA honors students, installs executive at annual gala

The Caribbean Bar Association (CBA) last month awarded scholarships to three South Florida-based law students at the CBA’s annual gala held recently in Fort Lauderdale.

Loune-Djenia Askew and Blairr Miller of Florida International University’s College of Law, and Daren Hooper of the University of Miami Law School were recognized as scholarship winners.

The CBA also honored persons and entities who helped make a difference in the Caribbean American community. Those honorees were: John W. Kozyak, co-founder of the Kozyak Minority Mentorship Fellowship; White & Case, LLP; Broward County Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness; and Nadege Green, a journalist with South Florida’s NPR affiliate WLRN.

The event was also used to swear in the CBA’s executive board for 2018-19: Charise A. Morgan, president; Tricia-Gaye Cotterell, president-elect; Hilary Creary, vice president; Dominique Burkhardt, treasurer; and Sasha Francis, secretary; plus board members Laselve Harrison, Nikeisha Pryor and Tanya Williams. Niyala A. Harrison is the CBA’s immediate past president.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

BALLOT CHOICES: Who's running for office in Florida

Be prepared to vote on Nov. 6



Gillum, left, and DeSantis are candidates for governor.

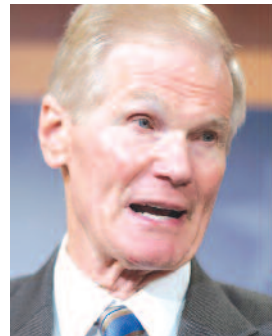
Ron DeSantis and Jeanette Nuñez (R); Andrew Gillum and Chris King (D); Darcy G. Richardson and Nancy Argenziano; Kyle "KC" Gibson and Ellen Wilds;

Caribbean Today is offering a listing of candidates running for main offices in Florida. Where there is an incumbent, that candidate's name is listed first, regardless of party affiliation. The letter "D" indicates Democrat, "R" is for Republican. All other candidates are listed alphabetically:

- **United States senator:** Bill Nelson (D); Rick Scott (R)
- **Representative in Congress-District 23:** Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D); Joseph "Joe" (R); Don Endriss; Timothy A. "Tim" Canova
- **Representative in Congress-District 25:** Mario Diaz-Balart (R); Mary Barzee Flores (D)
- **Representative in Congress-District 26:** Carlos Curbelo (R); Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D)
- **Representative in Congress, District 27:** Mayra Joli; Maria Elvira Salazar (R); Donna Shalala (D)
- **Governor and lieutenant governor:**

Ryan Christopher Foley and John Tutton Jr.; Bruce Stanley and Ryan Howard McJury

- **Attorney general:** Ashley Moody (R); Sean Shaw (D); Jeffrey Marc Siskind
- **Chief financial officer:** Jimmy Patronis (R); Jeremy Ring (D)
- **Commissioner of agriculture:** Matt Caldwell (R); Nicole "Nikki" Fried Pérez (D)
- **State senator - District 36:** Manny Diaz Jr. (R); David Pérez (D)
- **State senator - District 40:** Annette Taddeo (D); Marili Cancio (R)
- **State representative - District 103:** Frank Mingo (R); Cindy Polo (D)
- **State representative - District 105:** Javier Estevez (D); Ana Maria Rodriguez (R)
- **State representative - District 108:** Riquet Caballero (Libertarian); Dotie Joseph (D)
- **State representative - District**



Nelson, left, and Scott locked in senator's race.

- 111: Bryan Avila (R); Rizwan Ahmed (D)
- **State representative - District 112:** Nicholas Xavier Duran (D); Rosa Maria "Rosy" Palomino
- **State representative - District 113:** Jonathan "J.P." Parker (R); Michael Grieco (D)
- **State representative - District 114:** Javier Fernandez (D); Javier Enriquez (R)

- **State representative - District 115:** Vance Aloupis (R); Jeffrey Solomon (D)
- **State representative - District 116:** Daniel Anthony Perez (R); James Alexander Harden (D)
- **State representative - District 118:** Robert Asencio (D); Anthony Rodriguez (R)
- **State representative - District 119:** Juan Fernandez-Barquin (R); Heath Rassner (D); Daniel E. Sotelo (D)
- **State representative - District 120:** Holly Raschein (R); Steve Friedman (D)



Broward County Supervisor of Elections Dr. Brenda Snipes is offering the following reminders on how to be prepared for Election Day, Nov. 6.

- Florida law requires voters to present identification card with photograph and signature at the polling place. Acceptable forms of identification are:
 - Florida driver's license
 - Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
 - United States passport
 - Debit or credit card
 - Military identification
 - Student identification
 - Retirement center identification
 - Neighborhood association identification
 - Public assistance identification
 - Veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
 - License to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to s. 790.06
 - Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the federal government, the state, a county or a municipality.
- Please note: Identification must have current signature. Any combination of picture and signature is accepted.

- Your voter information card is not necessary to vote. It is a helpful tool for you to know your districts and polling location.

Know where your polling place is before Election Day by



Get ready for the polls.

checking your voter information card or by going to our website and clicking on "precinct finder". If you have moved, you are required to vote in your new home precinct.

- A voter can take with them a marked sample ballot or other helpful information into the polling place so that they may remember their choices. Read all sides of the ballot to ensure you see all ballot information.

- You will be asked for identification. If you do not have identification, by law you must vote on a provisional ballot.

A provisional ballot is always counted when the voter is shown to be registered and eligible, regardless of the closeness of the outcome of the election. A person who votes provisionally simply because he or she forgot identification at the polls will not have to do anything else.

If the signatures on that ballot certificate and the voter roll match, the provisional ballot is counted.

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Broward County offers early voting

BROWARD COUNTY, Florida - The Broward County Supervisor of Elections Office here is offering voters a chance to cast their ballots for the 2018 general elections early at 22 sites.

Instead of voting at their assigned polling place or voting by mail, voters may take advantage of early voting, which will take place 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Nov. 4.

Visit www.browardsoe.org for a list of the early voting sites.

Broward County has expanded the early voting sites, dates, and times in an effort to

better serve voters. Voters may go to any of the early voting sites to cast a vote.

Voters with disabilities will be able to vote using a touch screen machine located at each early voting site.

Florida law requires voters to present picture identification with signature. Acceptable forms of identification are listed at www.browardsoe.org.

The tabulation and results of votes cast during early voting will be released after the polls close on Election Day, Nov. 6. Results will be reported by precinct.



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ELECTION WATCH



www.caribbeantoday.com

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

'You cannot be a spectator' ~ Hill

Activists in the Caribbean American community and organizations such as the Caribbean Politically Active Citizens (CAPAC) are urging Caribbean nationals, who are citizens in the United States, to vote in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

Like the recent primary elections, voting offers an opportunity to express views and determine policy that will affect their future.

"Caribbean voters definitely had an effect in the pri-

mary vote," said attorney Marlon Hill, pointing to the South Florida cities of Lauderhill, Miramar and Miami Gardens

where he said the Caribbean American voter turnout was significant.

Hill said his analysis of the primaries showed a need for more voter education. An



Hill

example, he said, is the number of people registered as NPA (no party affiliation) who didn't realize this limited their choices in the primaries. He urged Caribbean Americans to participate in the electoral process.

"If you want make sure that history is made on November 6, you cannot be a spectator," Hill said.

- P. Smikle



Congresswoman urges Caribbean nationals to ensure they can vote

NEW YORK – Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke is urging Caribbean nationals not to hesitate in obtaining United States citizenship so they can vote in elections.

"If you are living here for 55 years, and you're not a (U.S.) citizen, I encourage you to get U.S. citizenship," Clarke, daughter of Jamaican immigrants, told the 35th Annual Gala Awards Ceremony of the Brooklyn, New York-based group Vincentian-American Independent National Charities, Inc. (VINCI).

Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, preceded her remarks by telling a story of an immigrant who has been living in the U.S. for 55 years and now faces deportation.

"As citizens, you get to vote for the leader of the free world," she explained. "So,

when your diplomats go to the White House, they don't have to do 'hat-in-hand.'

"We have a moral, ethical obligation to vote. In times like these, we have to vote. You have to unleash your power, because 45 (45th U.S. President Donald J. Trump) is not playing games. He's doing what he said he would do."



Clark

'POWER'

"Let us not underestimate our power. Let us go out and (vote). Let us make noise. Let us go out and vote November 6," Clarke said in reference to the mid-term elections, where her party of Democrats is hoping to win control of the Senate and the Congress.

Since Trump was inaugurated

in Jan. 20, 2017, an increasing number of Caribbean and other immigrants have been deported. In September, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agency reported that the number of families arrested for illegally entering the U.S. increased 38 percent in August.

Immigration advocacy groups have strongly criticized Trump's policy as illegal and violation of the U.S. Constitution for declaring that undocumented immigrants entering the U.S. should be immediately deported without due process.

"We cannot allow all of these people to invade our country," Trump wrote on Twitter in June. "When somebody comes in, we must immediately, with no judges or court cases, bring them back from where they came."

- Edited from CMC.



Rihanna urges fans to vote Nov. 6

Caribbean-born pop star Rihanna is urging United States citizens to vote in the Nov. 6 U.S. mid-term elections.

Rihanna joined a chorus of celebrities who have called on Americans to register to vote and vote in recent times, including Taylor Swift, John Legend, Chance the Rapper and Common.

Rihanna reached out to her 65 million Instagram followers last month:

"Good Morning America. Who is awake this morning? And who's woke?," she wrote. "... I don't care what responsibilities you have today, there's no greater responsibility than being in control of your future and the

future starts NOW!! We don't have time, no procrastinating, don't let the discouragement take you off course, that's not how my people or my generation will go down...this is the loudest way to make your voice heard! REGISTER TODAY! Let's go!!!"

The Barbadian attached to her Instagram post a photograph indicating voter registration deadlines and called on eligible voters to visit Vote.org.



Rihanna

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Florida Department of State

The Florida Department of State's Division of Elections, has overall responsibility for elections in Florida. It consists of three bureaus:

- Bureau of Election Records
- Bureau of Voter Registration Services, and
- Bureau of Voting Systems Certification

The division provides administrative and technical support to Secretary of State Ken Detzner, who is Florida's chief election officer and has responsibility to ensure that Florida has fair and accurate elections.

Type myflorida.com/elections into your browser to access the Division of Elections' online resources.

Supervisors of elections

The Florida Department of State's Division of Elections, also provides administrative and technical support of the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) in each of Florida's 67 counties.

The Office of the Supervisor of Elections in each county provides information about races and candidates, deadlines and early voting sites. For example, voters can download a sample ballot from their SOE's website. Just type the name of your county (e.g. Palm Beach) followed by Supervisor of Elections and election related material will be available.

The telephone numbers

for the SOE's in the Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties area are:

- Miami Dade Supervisor of Elections: **305-499-8683**
- Broward Supervisor of Elections: **954-357-7070**
- Palm Beach Supervisor of Elections: **561-656-6200**.

Media

Caribbean Today does not endorse candidates, nor does our publication make recommendations on specific issues. However, several other media houses do so.

For example, in the lead up to the August primaries, the major daily newspapers in the tri-county area; the Palm Beach Post, South Florida Sun-Sentinel and Miami Herald conducted joint interviews with the candidates for governor and individual interviews with the candidates in many of the other races. On the basis of those interviews, the newspapers endorsed candidates in the primaries. They have done the same for the same for the November mid-term elections. That information is available from their websites.

While they have not endorsed candidates or ballot issues, the local television news stations, especially on their Sunday morning talk-shows, have been conducting interviews with candidates and hosting panel discussions on the various issues.



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Lips to the street for enjoyable, spicy phoulourie

Another Labor Day weekend has come and gone in the United States, but there's a Caribbean street dish that is popular year-round, especially in countries like Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad.

It's phoulourie, also spelled phulourie, and consists of fried, spiced dough balls mixed with ground split peas that are served with hot pepper or a spicy chutney. Give it a try.

Ingredients

- 1 tsp. crushed garlic
- 2 scallions
- 1 hot red pepper
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup yellow split peas flour or 1/2 cup yellow split peas soaked overnight
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/2 tsp. turmeric
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup water
- 2 tsps. yeast

Method

If using split pea flour, in either a mortar and pestle or food processor, grind scallion, pepper and garlic into a fine paste. Set aside.

Mix in flours, cumin, turmeric and salt.

In a separate bowl, mix a cup warm water with yeast and leave for 10 minutes.



Phoulourie

Mix yeast, crushed garlic/scallion/pepper paste into dry ingredients. Allow mixture to rise for 40 minutes.

Heat enough canola oil in a pan to allow deep frying, about three inches of oil. When oil is hot, drop table-spoon amounts into hot oil, turn when edges are brown.

Fry for about two to three minutes. Remove from oil and drain on a plate with paper towel.

Serve with hot sauce of a spicy mango chutney.

If using fresh split peas, place split peas that's been soaked overnight in a blender with half-cup water, garlic, pepper and scallion and puree. Mix all-purpose flour,

cumin, turmeric and salt.

In a separate bowl mix half cup water with yeast. Let proof for 10 minutes.

Place split pea mixture in a bowl and stir in the yeast. Next stir in the dry ingredients and let it rise in a warm place for 40 minutes.

Drop small spoonfuls into hot oil and fry until golden brown.

Fry for about two to three minutes, remove from oil and drain on a plate with paper towel.

Serve with hot sauce of a spicy mango chutney.

- Edited from News Americas.



Come to Barbados for cou-cou

Cou-cou, served with flying fish, is the national dish of Barbados.

Somewhat similar to polenta or grits, cou-cou is made with cornmeal and okra. Here's the recipe:

Ingredients

- 8 ozs. cornmeal
- 3 ozs. Okras
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 3 tbsp. butter
- Water
- Salt to taste

Method

In a bowl, combine the cornmeal with enough water to cover the meal. Set aside.

Cut the tops and bottoms off the okras and slice into rings. Place the sliced okras in a saucepan with water along with the chopped onion and salt.

Bring to a boil on medium heat for a few minutes until the okras soften. Strain the okras into a bowl, setting aside the liquid.

Add about a quarter of the okra liquid back into the saucepan and add the soaked meal.

Using a whisk or wooden



Cou-cou

stick, stir the mixture as it cooks. In Barbados, many use a flat wooden spoon known as a "cou-cou stick". Stir constantly to avoid lumping.

Add more of the okra liquid gradually. You can tell you're nearly finished when the cou-cou starts to bubble gently at the surface. At this point add in the cooked okra slices and continue stirring for another two to three minutes.

Remove from the heat and stir in the butter.

This meal is best served with fish and lots of gravy.

- Edited from News Americas.

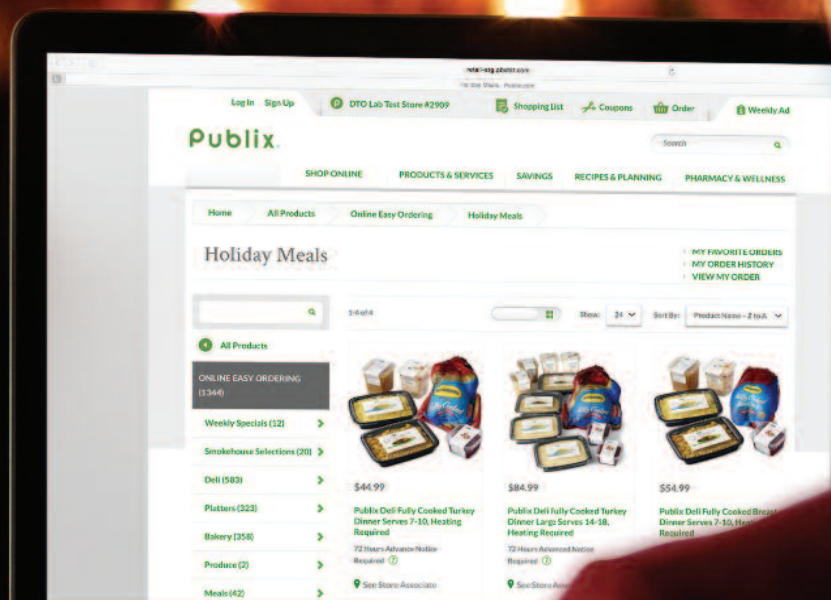


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HEALTH



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Are schools promoting healthy snacks or junk food?

Fast food coupons used as prizes, candy sale fundraisers, vending machine exteriors - these are just a few examples of the kinds of junk food marketing that regularly takes place in United States schools and such advertising is taking a toll on children's health, say experts.

"Fortunately, significant progress has been made nationwide to provide nutritious meals and snacks in cafeterias, vending machines and school stores," says Dr. Cheryl Anderson, nutrition chair, American Heart Association. "However, continued marketing of junk food at school can undermine these improvements. Over time, those messages being marketed shape children's food preferences, purchase requests, diets and overall health."

To help make the schools in your community a place where children can thrive, consider these suggestions from The Voices for Healthy Kids Action Center, a project of the American Heart Association.

• Healthier fundraising -



Be careful of advertising which promotes unhealthy foods.

Is your child's school hosting a fundraiser? Get involved and help organize fundraising efforts that don't involve the sale of junk food. Instead, focus on selling fruit, plants, jewelry or gift items. You could even help organize an event like a walk-a-thon or dance-a-thon that raises money while getting the community moving.

• Learning life skills -

Some schools have classroom units on nutrition and critical thinking. Talk to your school's administration about implementing educational programming to help students identify junk food marketing in their own school and community and discuss how it impacts

them.

• Advertising

audit - Despite its prevalence, commercial advertising is usually not a substantial source of revenue for schools.

Ninety percent of school officials note that school programs and activities would not be reduced if advertisements of unhealthy food ceased, according to Voices for Healthy

Kids.

Find out if the junk food marketing taking place in your school district directly contributes to educational programming. If so, ask for healthier food and beverage products to be marketed instead.

• **Speaking out** - Get involved by calling school board members and school administrators, or by organizing other members of your community. Tips, resources and information for getting started can be found at voices-forhealthykids.org.

- Edited from StatePoint.



U.S. medical college defends move to Barbados

NEW YORK - Lisa Wardell, chief executive officer at Ross University School of Medicine (RUSM), has defended the decision of the United States-owned tertiary institution to leave Dominica and relocate to Barbados after 40 years on that Caribbean island.

Wardell, who is also president of Adtalem Global Education, said the decision to relocate was taken "after considerable deliberations, including a review of our academic and infrastructural requirement and future plan."

"We were fortunate to maintain the quality and continuity ... of the education pro-

gram at our temporary location in St. Kitts while we were unable to use our Dominica campus," she told the Securities and Exchange Commission and their investors on Wall Street recently, as she discussed Adtalem Global Education's fourth quarter and full year fiscal 2018 results.

Earlier, Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrett announced that Ross University, which had been forced to relocate its operations to St. Kitts and the state of Tennessee in the U.S. following the passage of Hurricane Maria last year, would be leaving the eastern

Caribbean nation after 40 years.

Shortly after, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley and Wardell held a press conference in Bridgetown indicating that Barbados would be the new home of the American university by Jan. 5, 2019.

The Skerrett administration said it had informed the Ross University School of Medicine that it could have resumed its operations on the hurricane struck island even before the start of the January semester in 2019.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean ministers to step up vector-borne disease protection

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Caribbean health ministers have joined their counterparts from the Americas in agreeing to implement a series of actions over the next five years to more effectively control the vectors that transmit diseases such as malaria, dengue, Zika and Chagas disease.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which organized the meeting here recently, said that the aim of the plan is to prevent communicable diseases of this type and reduce their spread.

The Plan of Action on Entomology and Vector Control - presented at PAHO's 56th Directing Council - focused on prevention, surveillance and integrated control of the vectors that transmit arboviruses, malaria and certain neglected infectious diseases, "through effective, sustainable, low-cost, evidence-based interventions".

VULNERABLE

PAHO's Dominican-born Director Dr. Carissa F. Etienne said the populations most affected by vector-borne diseases are those living in conditions of vulnerability and far from health services.

"It is these populations that most frequently suffer health consequences and harm due to lack of sanitary and vector control measures," said Dr. Etienne.

"These are the populations where PAHO concentrates its efforts and where it is necessary for governments and communities to take an active role in vector prevention and control, so that, together, we can reduce the burden of these infectious diseases."

PAHO said infectious diseases have a significant impact on public health in the region



Etienne

of the Americas and throughout the world.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that vector-borne diseases, such as dengue, yellow fever, malaria, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, Chagas disease, and plague account for over 17 percent of infectious diseases globally, causing more than 700,000 deaths per year.

OUTBREAKS

PAHO said since 2010, several major outbreaks of dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika virus, as well as local outbreaks of malaria, leishmaniasis, Chagas disease, leptospirosis, and plague, have taken lives and strained the region's health systems.

PAHO said the Plan of Action on Entomology and Vector Control includes five lines of action for the countries, including: Strengthening multi-sector work in various programs and sectors, in order to increase collaborative vector prevention and control efforts; and engaging and mobilizing local governments and communities, including health services.

The plan of action also includes enhancing entomological surveillance and vector control monitoring and evaluation.

- Edited from CMC.



... Reduce health worker shortage

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says health authorities from the countries and territories of the region of the Americas, including the Caribbean, have agreed on a new plan to reduce a shortfall of 800,000 health workers needed to meet the current needs of the region's health systems.

PAHO said the agreement was reached during its 56th Directing Council in late September. The Plan of Action on Human Resources for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage 2018-2023 marks the path for the countries to have the human resources they need in order to meet the

worldwide goal of universal health by 2030.

The plan also aims to improve the geographical distribution and skills of human resources to reach everyone, everywhere

"Health workers are the cornerstone of health systems and this shortfall is one of the main obstacles to making strides forward in health," said PAHO Director Carissa F. Etienne, a Caribbean native.

"The plan approved ... offers a road map to combat the scarcity of health workers and also to achieve their equitable distribution and improve their professional quality."



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	BW030	FLL 11:30a.m.	MBJ 12:10p.m.	Mon, Thu, Sat
4 NOV – 14 DEC	BW039	MBJ 1:00p.m.	FLL 3:40p.m.	Mon, Thu, Sat
	BW036	FLL 4:20p.m.	KIN 6:00p.m.	Daily
	BW031	KIN 7:00a.m.	FLL 8:50a.m.	Mon, Thu, Sat
	BW033	KIN 12:30p.m.	FLL 2:20p.m.	Sun, Tue, Wed, Fri
15 DEC 18 – 7 JAN 19	BW036	FLL 4:20p.m.	KIN 6:00p.m.	Daily
	BW031	KIN 7:00a.m.	FLL 8:50a.m.	Daily
	BW030	FLL 10:30a.m.	MBJ 12:10p.m.	Daily
	BW039	MBJ 1:00p.m.	FLL 2:40p.m.	Daily
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'Taste of Lauderdale Lakes' Nov. 17

Organizers are promising a variety of food, music, art and culture at the "Taste of Lauderdale Lakes" festival this month in South Florida.

The event, set for **11 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Nov. 17, will be held at the Lauderdale Lakes Waterfront.

Radio personality Jill Tracey, of HOT 105, will host the festival, which will feature R&B, rap, reggae and country music, plus comedy, spoken word



Rogers

and dance. Among the scheduled performers are The Valerie Tyson Band, Paul Anthony and The Reggae Souljahs, and Sheena O. Murray. Niki Lopez, Lauderdale Lakes' "Art In The Round"

coordinator is the "visionary" behind the festival's Arts and Culture Village, according to organizers.

"Come experience the best of Lauderdale Lakes on the Green, our destination event created with you in mind," Mayor Hazelle P. Rogers was quoted as saying in a press release promoting the event.

General admission to the festival is free. The Lauderdale Lakes Waterfront is located at 3900 North SR 7.



Singer, model, actress Grace Jones gets Jamaica national honor

Jamaican-born singer, model, author and actress Grace Jones, who once played a leading role in a James Bond movie, has been awarded a national honor in recognition of her work.

Jones was given the Order of Jamaica by Governor General Sir Patrick Allen during a ceremony last month at Kings House in the Caribbean nation.

The honor, conferred at the 2018 National Honors and Awards Ceremony, was awarded in recognition of Jones's contribution to entertainment. It is the fifth highest honor bestowed by Jamaica.

"I am excited," Jones was quoted as saying by **JIS News**, Jamaica government's news agency.

'HONOR'

"It is a great honor," she added. "I love Jamaica so much, which makes it even better. This award is very special."

Jones was born in Spanish Town and left Jamaica before she became a teenager. She eventually gained fame as a model for brands such as Yves St. Laurent and Kenzo and was featured in a variety of popular fashion magazines, such as *Vogue* and *Elle*.

She also made music, charting hits with songs such as "Slave to the Rhythm", and played a leading role in movies such as the James



- Photograph by JIS News

Jones poses with her national award.

Bond thriller "A View to a Kill", alongside Roger Moore, and "Boomerang", which

starred Eddie Murphy and Halle Berry.



Talk show host 'Gladiator' shot dead

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Former radio talk show host Ricardo "Gladiator" Welch was shot dead by three gunmen as he left his home in Santa Cruz, north of here last month.

Up to press time police were searching for who shot Welch as he pulled out of his driveway in the company of a relative, who was not injured

during the attack.

The police said the suspects escaped in a waiting vehicle.

Last year Welch, 54, was awarded TT\$700,000 (one TT dollar = US\$0.16 cents) plus interest in damages, after a High Court judge ruled three of his colleagues had defamed his name when they accused him on their radio shows of

being a homosexual, along with other derogatory comments.

The three had also accused him of stealing public funds by extorting money from the People's National Movement (PNM). One of the three appealed the judgment.



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Barbados aims to increase airlift out of U.S.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados - Barbados is hoping for increased airlift from the United States with American Airlines indicating it will be providing a daily service to the Caribbean island from Charlotte, North Carolina and twice daily from Miami, Florida.

Tourism and International Transport Minister, Kerrie Symmonds, speaking at the 2018 Annual Convention for the Society of American Travel Writers here recently, said that the new flights should allow Barbados to capture "the tremendous power" of those gateways.

He said the aim is to increase capacity year round.

"The process again is one of development,"

Symmonds explained. "We are looking at maintaining those flights that we now have ... I am confident that if we do the right things, we can maintain the level of interest in Barbados year round and keep those extended flights that we now have in winter on the table as we go



Symmonds

into the future."

NO RISK

Symmonds added it was critical that airlines did not see Barbados as a risk because of down or slow periods.

"What we have to do is make destination Barbados a hive of activity that there is a year-round demand that would satisfy the supply of seats coming into the island, so you don't get into an issue of having to subsidize them [the airlines]," he said.

Symmonds said this gives Barbados the opportunity to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

AA, Air Canada add flights to meet Grenada travel demand

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada - The Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA) says Air Canada and American Airlines have added new flights to the "Spice Isle" to meet the increasing demand of travel.

"With the winter season around the corner, it's easier to escape the cold weather to visit Pure Grenada, the Spice of the Caribbean, with its newly announced flights," the GTA noted in recent a state-

ment.

"With record visitor arrival numbers logged for 2018, the continued demand for Grenada has positively impacted airlines such as Air Canada and American Airlines, who have announced additional flights in December to bring vacationers to the three-island destination," it added.

From Dec. 22 through Mar. 30, GTA said American Airlines will add an another

flight to its schedule, departing Miami International Airport on Saturdays at 9:40 a.m. and arriving at Grenada's Maurice Bishop International Airport at 2:23 p.m.

ADDITION

GTA said this new flight will be in addition to the later flight that departs Miami at 10:40 a.m., "which will allow seamless connections from

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

New U.S. visa rule doesn't benefit SVG ~ Gonsalves

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent - Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves believes not many nationals from St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) would have benefitted from a United States decision to have people from some Caribbean countries renew their U.S. visas without having to travel to that country's embassy in Barbados.

Washington recently announced nationals from SVG, Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda would not benefit from the new initiative.

The Antigua and Barbuda government has already indicated that "the exclusion is connected to the friendship which the three states have developed with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela."

Gonsalves told a news conference early last month that he has not raised the issue with U.S. officials in Bridgetown.



Gonsalves

"I haven't discussed that with the U.S. authorities," he said of the policy that will benefit nationals of St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis, the other member countries of the sub-regional organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Jamaica looks to boost visitor arrivals through 'gastronomy tourism'

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Jamaica is taking strategic steps to ensure that the island capitalizes on its potential and benefits in a more significant way from gastronomy tourism.

According to Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett, the Gastronomy Network, which is spearheading the process, "has been working assiduously to craft innovative plans.

"Their main strategies

include creating a gastronomy mapping platform with easily accessible information on the island's best food offerings; collaborating with tourism partners to boost the number of quality food festivals, providing



Bartlett

capacity-building support for established gastronomy/food tour operators, and working with tour operators to develop enticing food tours across the length and breadth of the island," he explained.

BOOST

Bartlett said that with a "mouth-watering cuisine that is second to none," Jamaica stands to benefit significantly

from an industry that the World Food Travel Association has estimated to be worth over J\$150 billion (one Jamaican dollar = US\$0.008 cents) annually.

Bartlett also cited information from the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), which indicates that over a third of tourist

spending is devoted to food.

Bartlett said the Global Food Tourism Report by Mintel indicates that the main driver for 27.3 million American tourists in choosing their travel destinations was gastronomic activities.

- Edited from CMC.



Barbados aims to increase airlift out of U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

focus on the quality of its attractions by "fleshing out" old ones and building on new ones.

However, Symmonds said Barbados seems to be on the right path as the island recorded its highest number of visitor arrivals from the U.S. in 30 years and attributed this suc-

cess to the U.S. Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. team.

Barbados, the minister said, has "seen arrivals from the U.S. reach a 30-year high of 189,000 visitors last year, and with our current trajectories, there is every suggestion and reason to believe that we can increase that by about six per cent.

"That tells us we are doing some things right, that we are building out a product and a relationship that has value on both sides and we want to expand on that," Symmonds said.

- Edited from CMC.



AA, Air Canada add flights to meet Grenada travel demand

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

other cities.

"With this new frequency to Grenada, we further strengthen our Caribbean route network, which today includes more than 900 weekly flights to 36 destinations in the region," said Alfredo

Gonzalez, American Airline's Managing Director for the Caribbean.

Starting Dec. 18, GTA said Grenada will have three direct flights per week from Canada's Toronto Pearson International Airport on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

It said JetBlue also continues its daily flights from John F. Kennedy International Airport and will be offering its premium Mint service on Saturdays from Dec. 1.

- Edited from CMC.



New U.S. visa rule doesn't benefit SVG ~ Gonsalves

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

Gonsalves said he read reports that St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the other countries are being punished for not supporting U.S. policy.

"... If it is punishment, it's a kind of a quote-unquote punishment which is really of little or no moment," he said, dismissing the idea that nationals had been placed at a disadvantage as a result of the move by Washington.

"I really don't know what are all the factors which went into the decision of the U.S. authorities. I am not going to presume that I know the reason. I am not going to speculate what is the reason ... If it is a punishment, it is of such a type and nature that I can't see it being logical."

The U.S. embassy in

Barbados said applicants may have their interview waived if their previous visa expired within the last 12 months and they are applying for the same visa category as their previous visa.

Applicants must be physically in their home country or within the consular district of the U.S. Embassy in order to avail themselves of this option.

Additionally, the previous U.S. visa must be in the applicant's possession and the applicant must have submitted a 10-fingerprint scan in conjunction with the previous visa application. The courtesy is not extended to beneficiaries of the citizen by investment program.

- Edited from CMC.



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GIRLZ POWER: Jamaica's women gain historic berth at soccer's World Cup

GORDON WILLIAMS

Jamaica scored a dramatic penalty shootout win over Panama last month in the United States to secure a historic berth in soccer's women senior World Cup.

Playing in the third place match of the final qualifying tournament in the CONCACAF Championships, which covers nations in North America, Central America and the Caribbean, Jamaica and Panama were tied 2-2 after regulation and extra time at the Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas. Khadija Shaw and Jody Brown scored for Jamaica's Reggae Girlz. Penalties were used to decide which team would advance to next year's World Cup in France.

Panama failed to make two of its first four shots, due to saves made by Jamaica's substitute goalkeeper Nicole McClure, who had replaced starter Sydney Schneider late in the game. Deneisha Blackwood, Ashleigh Shim, Christina Chang and Dominique Bond-Flasza made their shots to win the tie-breaker 4-2 for Jamaica.

FIRST

Jamaica's feat means it's the first time a women's senior team from the Caribbean has qualified for a FIFA World Cup. Added to the country's qualification for the men's World Cup in 1998, Jamaica also became the first



Teenager Brown was outstanding for Jamaica.



Goalkeeper McClure, number 13, is embraced by teammate Bond-Flasza after Jamaica's win.



Blackwood, left, and Khadija Shaw celebrate a goal by Jamaica.

Caribbean nation to qualify both senior men's and women's team to the game's biggest tournament.

"What the country wit-

nessed ... was a united, focused and determined set of players who knew exactly what they needed to do to make themselves and the country proud," Michael Ricketts, president of the Jamaica Football Federation, noted in a press release after Jamaica's game.

Brown, a 16-year-old forward for Jamaica, was named the tournament's most outstanding young player.

SETBACKS

Despite Jamaica's success, it wasn't all smooth sailing for Caribbean teams during the

play.

In Group A, T&T lost 3-0 to Panama, 4-1 to Mexico and 7-0 to the U.S. In Group B, Cuba was beaten 8-0 by Costa Rica, 12-0 by Canada and 9-0 by Jamaica.

Jamaica had an early hiccup as well, losing its first game 2-0 to eventual group winner Canada. But the Girlz bounced back strongly with a 1-0 win over Costa Rica, before trouncing Cuba. That was good enough for the runner-up spot in the group.

However, Jamaica was no match for Group A winner the U.S., losing 6-0 to the world's top ranked nation in the semi-final. Panama was beaten 7-0 by Canada in the other semi-final.

By reaching the CONCACAF final, the U.S. and Canada received automatic World Cup places. The U.S. beat Canada 2-0 to win the championships.



ANDY MAN



Former West Indies fast bowling great Sir Andy Roberts, left, lends his support to promote the ICC Women's Twenty20 World Cup, which bowls off in the Caribbean this month. The two-time 50-overs World Cup winner, who was recently unveiled as an ambassador for Cricket West Indies interacted with fans and handed out event memorabilia. He also posed for photographs and presented match tickets to a few lucky prize winners. "I was asked and I graciously accepted the invitation to join the CWI program because of my love for cricket," Roberts said. "I will do whatever I can for West Indies cricket and this is my small contribution to the women's game, which we can all see is growing all around the world and we are seeing evidence of and that growth here in our region."

Windies women pick squad for world T20 title defense

Stafanie Taylor will captain a 15-member West Indies squad to contest the ICC Twenty20 World Cup cricket this month in the Caribbean.



Taylor

The squad includes members of the 2016 championship side, like Merissa Aguilera, Deandra Dottin and Hayley

Matthews, plus uncapped 20-year-old Sheneta Grimmond and recalled Chinelle Henry and Britney Cooper.

The full squad is: Taylor, Aguilera, Dottin, Matthews, Grimmond, Henry, Cooper, Afy Fletcher, Anisa Mohammed, Chedean Nation, Kycia Knight, Natasha McLean, Shakera Selman, Shamilia Connell and Shemaine Campbelle.



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READING RITUAL: MDC's Miami Book Fair set for Nov. 11-18

Three days of non-stop author events, including an appearance by United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, are set to highlight this year's Miami Book Fair (MBF) at Miami Dade College in South Florida.

MBF will be held

Nov. 11-18.

However, Children's Alley will offer storytelling and readings, arts and crafts during Street Fair weekend, **Nov. 16-18.**

Most events are being held at the MDC campus in downtown Miami, Florida.

The MBF is regarded as possibly the largest and most comprehensive community-rooted literary gathering in the U.S. It aims to foster literacy and learning, while nurturing the next generation of engaged world citizens.

During the MBF, U.S. poet laureate Juan Felipe Herrera will engage in a con-

versation for children with Sotomayor about her life, her autobiography for middle-schoolers titled "The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor", and the picture-book version "Turning Pages: My Life Story", which is available in Spanish as "Pasando Paginas".

Herrera and Sotomayor are expected to discuss their journeys to become the first Latinos to hold their respective positions. That conversation is scheduled for **1 p.m. Nov. 17** at MDC's Chapman Conference Center (Building 3, second floor). Admission is free, but tickets are required. This event is for children.

Organizers said Sotomayor will not be covering topics of a political nature.

GENIUS

MBF's "Generation Genius" will gather the fair's literacy and learning programs for children and teens and



Sotomayor

presents them under one banner. Children of all ages can enjoy:

- **Generation Genius Authors Field Trips** - It will bring nearly 10,000 students from all over Miami-Dade County to MBF to meet their favorite authors and receive free books.

- Children will find an author line-up of fantasy, adventure, and thriller books, as well as graphic novels.

- Mr. Wembly Wordsmith will return to his Author Tent in Children's Alley to present readings with writers in children's literature.

CHILDREN'S ALLEY

There will be seven fun rooms at Children's Alley: Royal Caribbean's Ocean of Adventures; Tot Time Play and Learn; Tinker, Make, Innovate!; The Rhythm Factory; Healthy Bodies, Happy Kids; The Paintbox; and One World Many Stories.

Children will get an opportunity to explore digital worlds through virtual reality, sing-a-long, dance, play instruments, make healthy choices, enjoy interactive story readings and performances, explore diverse cultures, and much more. Every child that explores all the Fun Rooms in Children's Alley will have the opportunity to take home a free book.

Ongoing roving and pop-up performances will take place throughout Children's Alley.

Rainbow Circus's troupe will offer performances with an aerialist/dancer, a juggler as P.T. Barnum/ringmaster and Zuzka, a contortionist/singer.

Fairgoers of all ages can also enjoy PATH (Preserving, Archiving, and Teaching Hip Hop, Inc.), which is centered around the five main creative elements of hip hop – Bboy/Bgirl dance, DJ, graffiti art, MC/rap, and knowledge.

Children's Alley will kick off at 9 a.m. Nov. 16 and continue through Nov. 18. Children up to age 12 will be admitted free all weekend. Teens ages 13-18 will be admitted for \$5.

For more information, including a schedule of events, visit MiamiBookFair.com.



Writers explore Miami, unofficial crossroads of the Caribbean

Miami is the unofficial crossroads of the Caribbean and Miami Book Fair usually includes prominent writers from the region.

This year, the fair is scheduled to run **Nov. 11-18** on the Wolfson Campus of Miami Dade College in downtown Miami. Weekend readings and discussions will feature more than 500 authors for a variety of ages and interests, including programs in English, Spanish, French, and Haitian creole.

On **Nov. 17 and 18**, there will be ReadCaribbean programs at the fair, featuring panel discussions, storytelling for children, music and more. Visitors will be able to meet authors from Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands.

Simultaneous interpretation into English will be provided.

Panels are scheduled to cover important topics, such as literature and identity, visibility and erasure, aesthetics and imagination, religion and culture, race and gender, #MeToo and justice. The following is a listing of ReadCaribbean programs:

Nov. 17: Presentations in

English

- **"After Irma, After Maria: Caribbean Women Writing the Storms"** – Writers from Haiti, Puerto-Rico and the Virgin Islands explore the catastrophic natural history of the Caribbean.

- **"Unknown Histories of the Caribbean"** – Writers from Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad discuss the balance between tales of imagination and scrupulous research in Caribbean literature.

- **"Murder and Mayhem in the Caribbean"** – Writers from Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Trinidad present literary crime fiction and transgressive noir from the Caribbean.

- **"Reading Jamaica"** – Writers explore the richness and diversity of Jamaican literature.

- **"ReadCaribbean Presents Adventures for Kids"**

Nov. 18: Presentations in English, French, and Haitian Creole (with simultaneous interpretation available)

- **"Haitian Identities and Caribbean Aesthetics"** – Haitian writers address the ways they navigate (hyper)visibility and erasure to honor Caribbean aesthetics.

- **"Compelling Stories from the French Caribbean"** – Narratives from Guadeloupe, Haiti and

Martinique.

- **"The Realities of Haitian Migrations"** – Writers discuss Haitian migration, racial, gender and national identity.

- **"#MeToo Movement in the Afro-Caribbean Communities"**

– Writers and scholars address the blurry lines between abuse and culture.

- **"ReadCaribbean Presents Three Groundbreaking Poets"**

For a complete list of authors of Caribbean heritage,

visit www.miamibookfair.com, call 305-237-3528 or e-mail wbookfair@mdc.edu.

- Contributed



Caribbean authors join fair

Dozens of Caribbean authors have been scheduled to appear at the 2018 Miami Book Fair this month in South Florida.

Among those with Caribbean roots are Alexia Arthurs, Michael Barnett, Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, Serge Bile, Mehdi Chalmers, Monique Clesca, Loretta

Collins Klobah, Gerty Dambury, Edwidge Danticat, Marica Douglas, Manny Duran, Kevin Jared Hosein, Nicholas Laughlin, Alecia McKenzie, Marlene Phipps, Jessica Pabon-Colon, Judy Raymond, Jacob Ross, Natalie Hopkinson and Tiphany Yanique.



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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2018

6:00 p.m. - 11 p.m.

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