

Caribbean Today

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In the wake of the shooting death of two people during last month's Caribbean j'ouvert celebrations, a new report claims that the pre-dawn event is a battleground for New York gangs warring over territory to sell drugs, page 3.



The taste of big time cricket in the United States is becoming more appetizing for international teams, especially from the Caribbean. Local administrators and players are salivating about future prospects in South Florida, page 16.

Did Obama Deliver?

~ The choice of Barack Obama as president of the United States excited Caribbean nationals, especially those living in the U.S. After two terms in the White House, did he meet their expectations? page 7.

THE RETURN OF SIZZLA

~ Sizzla Kalonji, center, returned to the United States following an eight-year absence. The Jamaican reggae/dancehall star delivered a clear message to his loyal fans in the U.S., page 9.

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Caribbean American star pitcher dies in South Florida boat incident

Caribbean American Jose Fernandez, an all-star Major League Baseball (MLB) pitcher, was killed in a boat incident last month. He was 24

According to news reports, the bodies of Fernandez and two men, identified as his friends, were found after their boat was discovered at the entrance of the Miami Harbor on Sept. 25. Two bodies were found under the boat. The third body was found on the rocks.

Fernandez, who played for the Miami Marlins, was born in Cuba, but defected to the United States in 2008 at age 15. He was named National League "Rookie of the Year" in 2013 and became a standout pitcher over four MLB seasons, when he chalked up 38 wins against 17 losses with a 2.58 earned run



Fernandez

average.

Following his death, one South Florida newspaper declared in a front-page headline: "Goodbye to the idol". According to veteran ESPN television network reporter Pedro Gomez, Fernandez will be remembered as a kind man who willingly assisted his community.

"He always, always took time for everybody here," Gomez said.



U.S. to set up FBI, ATF branches in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) are to set up offices in Jamaica as part of measures to help fight crime and violence.

A Jamaica Information Service (JIS) statement reporting on the Jamaica-U.S. forum held here last month, quoted U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica Luis G. Moreno as saying that officers from the agencies will help to train local personnel.

The forum focused on a report from the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CaPRI) entitled "Dialogues between Democracies: The Future of U.S.-Jamaica Bilateral Relations".

The report focused on areas such as enhancing security; emboldening democratic governance; increasing trade and investment; enabling health and prosperity; endorsing full and equal citizenship; and strengthening the partnership.

Moreno said that over the past year, 16 courses have been conducted in areas such



Moreno

as forensics, investigating terror networks, investigating cyber crimes and spotting false documents.

"Having the FBI means that if there is a federal crime committed here which affects both Jamaica and the United States I don't have to wait for the office in Miami for international affairs to send me agents," he said. "Once we have an office here full-time, that guy will go out, train people, and will liaise and exchange information."

- Edited from CMC.



Suspects charged in 2015 murder of N.Y. governor's Jamaican legal aide

NEW YORK – A New York grand jury has indicted a fifth person in connection with last year's murder of Carey Gabay,

the Jamaican-born legal aide to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Gabay was hit by a stray



Gabay

bullet during the Caribbean j'ouvert celebrations here.

The authorities said that Kenny Bazille was arrested last month in California and extradited to New York to face charges for the Sept. 7, 2015 shooting death of Gabay.

Gabay was with his brother on Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn during the pre-dawn festivities when he was caught in a gang shootout and shot in the head. Bazille, 31, along with alleged rival gang members Micah Alleyne, 24, Tyshawn Crawford, 21, and Keith Luncheon, 24, each faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted of the second-degree murder charges.

CONSOLIDATION

Gabay, a Harvard-educated attorney, who became first deputy counsel to Cuomo's Empire State Development Corporation, died several days after the shooting.

Bazille's case is expected to get consolidated with other co-defendants, including Stanley Elianor, 25, who was indicted on weapons charges.

Last month, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio ruled out cancelling j'ouvert activities in the Caribbean community in Brooklyn because of shootings, saying that it is an event that's "important to the community." Police said four people were shot, two of them fatally, during this year's j'ouvert.

- Edited from CMC.



St. Kitts and Nevis celebrates 33rd Independence anniversary

BAS-SETTERRE, St. Kitts – St. Kitts and Nevis last month celebrated its 33rd anniversary of political Independence



Harris

from Britain with Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris warning that only a stable nation in unity can thrive and prosper.

The occasion was marked on Sept. 19 by the traditional military parade, a public holiday plus other activities. Harris, in his Independence Day message, said while the twin island federation has seen struggles, hardships and battles for power going over many centuries, it has done "reasonably well over the last 33 years of our Independence journey.

"Our economy today is stable. We are among the best performing economies in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our fiscal house is in a very good shape – better than most. While others suffer from negligible economic growth rates, ours is projected to be above average for the Eastern Caribbean Currency

Union (ECCU), the borrowing member states of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)," he said.

'PROSPERITY'

Independence activities were celebrated under the theme "Promoting Prosperity through Sustainability and National Unity" and Harris said it was chosen "specifically to encapsulate how only a stable nation in unity can thrive and prosper, for the betterment of all of its citizens and residents."

Caribbean community (CARICOM) Secretary General Irwin La Rocque, in a congratulatory message, said the twin island federation has much to be proud.

"The substantial progress that the country has made in its quest for sustainable development is testimony to the commitment, dedication and resilience of its citizens and the wisdom of its leaders," La Rocque noted.

- Edited from CMC.



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*Source: White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/marijuanainfo

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Caribbean j'ouvert is battleground for gangs ~ report

NEW YORK – In the wake of the shooting death of two people during last month's Caribbean j'ouvert celebrations here, a new report claims that the pre-dawn event is a battleground for gangs warring over territory to sell drugs.

"At the heart of this underworld battle is j'ouvert, the Labor Day street party that's a magnet for gang violence," the **New York Daily News** reported. "The conflict, these gang members said, is the primary reason for bloodshed at the annual festival."

New York police said that Tiarah Poyau, 22, and Trinidadian Tyreke Borel, 17, were fatally shot in separate incidents at the Sept. 5 celebration in Brooklyn. No arrests have been made in the Borel shooting.

Police also said a 72-year-old woman was among five other people wounded in non-fatal shootings and stabbings surrounding the event.

Two gang members, according to the Daily News, claimed warring sets of gangs carried out gun or knife attacks during the festival. The paper said j'ouvert traverses drug-dealing turf in the Crown Heights and Flatbush sections of Brooklyn that are "controlled by various gangs" -



A popular Caribbean celebration is being marred by violence.

including FolkNation, an offshoot of the original Chicago-based gang of the same name.

FIGHT

The newspaper noted that this year's shootings and stabbings at j'ouvert occurred in spite of beefed-up police presence prompted by the slaying at j'ouvert last year of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's Jamaican-born legal aide Carey Gabay.

As a result of its location, the Daily News said the festival has become a proving ground for gun-toting drug dealers and gangland enforcers.

The turf being fought over by the gangs is extremely valuable, according to several Folk Nation members, who estimate their gang's drug-dealing operation alone earns up to \$2,000 a day, the Daily News reported.

RIFT

It noted that a disagreement over how to share those proceeds inside the Ebbets Field Apartments in Crown Heights led to a rift between Folk Nation and the Eight-Trey Crips, once allies, a little over six years ago.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

U.S. wants diaspora to aid Caribbean foreign policy

NEW YORK – A top United States official is calling on Caribbean nationals in the U.S. to help shape Washington's foreign policy.

"Our diversity is our strength, and it needs to move faster," said Juan Gonzalez, deputy assistant secretary for Central America and the Caribbean at the U.S. Department of State, as he addressed a panel discussion on the Caribbean diaspora last month at Medgar Evers College here.

The event, which examined the social and economic problems facing Caribbean nations, was organized by the college and the State Department. It represented the first-ever partnership between the college in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn and the State Department to "underscore the deep connections between the U.S. and the Caribbean," according to the school.

"I would encourage you to join us and to help show how our foreign policy is designed," said Gonzalez, one of the three panelists.

The other panelists were Lowell Hawthorne, Jamaican-born president and chief executive officer of Golden Krust

Caribbean Bakery and Grill; and Dr. Sheilah Paul, associate dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Education at Medgar Evers College, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago. The discussion was moderated by Tony Best, the Barbadian-born senior editor at New York's Carib News newspaper.

Gonzalez said the goal is to have 100,000 students study in the Caribbean, stating that U.S. President Barack Obama earlier this year launched the Young Future Leaders initiative to aid, among others, Caribbean young scholars.

"The Caribbean diaspora is an incredible force," Gonzalez said, adding "the community here can have an impact on the Caribbean."

Gonzalez said the Caribbean diaspora can influence U.S. foreign policy in much the same way as the Colombian American community.

-- Edited from CMC.



Gonzalez

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have the answer,
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Obama proposes help for immigrants starting businesses in U.S.

FELICIA J. PERSAUD

The administration of United States President Barack Obama is proposing a startup rule - the International Entrepreneur Rule - which would allow foreign-born entrepreneurs to stay in the country and grow their busi-

nesses.

The rule, announced last month and now in the 45-day formal comment period through the Department of Homeland Security, is meant to help foreign-born entrepreneurs living in the U.S. If approved, it would allow non-native business owners who found companies in the U.S. to

stay in the country for an initial period of two years to build their startups.

To qualify, immigrant entrepreneurs must have at least a 15 percent ownership stake in a startup, where they have a central role in operations, and have raised either \$345,000 from private investors, or \$100,000 from



Obama

federal, state or local government agencies. There's no cap on the number of people who would be admitted to the country under this rule.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services says upwards of 2,100 entrepreneurs could be eligible under the rule to stay annually.

LIMIT

The rule takes advantage of the existing Immigration and Nationality Act, which permits the government to grant people temporary entry into the country on a case-by-case basis for "urgent humani-

tarian reasons" or "significant public benefit."

The White House is arguing that entrepreneurs who create jobs in the U.S. and contribute to gross domestic product are providing a significant public benefit. After the initial two year window, entrepreneurs can stay an additional three years if they meet a new set of criteria, including double-digit annual revenue growth, revenues of at least \$500,000, and the creation of at least 10 full-time jobs.

After that, entrepreneurs looking to stay in the U.S. could apply for other existing visas, like the EB-2 visa, which is employment based.

However, the move will leave many qualified entrepreneurs out if they are unable to meet the capital raise guidelines.

- Edited from News Americas.



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Caribbean j'ouvert is battleground for gangs ~ report

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

In 2015, the Franklin Avenue Family Crew and the Bloods joined the conflict, hoping to exploit the Folk Nation/Eight-Trey split, gang members told the Daily News, with retaliatory shootings becoming commonplace and leading all four gangs to declare war on one another.

On the eve of this year's Caribbean j'ouvert, the Daily News said cops swept in and busted 35 alleged "gang-bangers" and confiscated 10 guns in an effort to tamp down on the violence. However, gang members or their associates are believed responsible for at least some of the violence at j'ouvert this year.

In the meantime, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has ruled out cancelling j'ouvert activities in the Caribbean community in Brooklyn because of shootings, saying that it is an event that's "important to the community." The mayor, however, said, a day after the grand West Indian American Day Carnival, on Sept. 5 on Eastern Parkway, that the city would consider changing the hours of the pre-dawn event.

- Edited from CMC.



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Marks gets historic second appointment as Jamaica's U.S. ambassador

The recent re-appointment of Audrey Marks as Jamaica's ambassador to the United States has created diplomatic history. It's the first time an individual will serve the Caribbean nation twice as the top diplomat in Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Marks previously served as Jamaica's envoy to the U.S. for two years - May 2010 to June 2012. In her second stint, she succeeds Ambassador Ralph Thomas, who



Marks

had served for seven months before he demitted office in June 2016 to return to academia in Jamaica.

The announcement of Marks's appointment was made on Aug. 29. Marks is Jamaica's 12th ambassador to the U.S. She is also permanent representative to the Organization of American States.

"We look forward to working with the ambassador to advance the common interests of Jamaicans in the diaspora and commit ourselves wholeheartedly to assisting her in transitioning into her role," Jewel Scott, Jamaica's honorary consul in Atlanta,

Georgia, stated in a press release announcing Marks's appointment.

- Edited from JIS.
★

GraceKennedy Birthright Program application deadline is Nov. 30

Deadline to apply for an internship under the GraceKennedy Jamaican Birthright Program is Nov. 30.

The opportunity is open to university students living in North America or the United Kingdom who are second or third generation Jamaican - meaning of Jamaican parentage or grand parentage.

Applicants must be between ages 18 and 25, pursuing either an undergraduate or post-graduate degree and maintain a grade "B" or higher. They must not have lived in

Jamaica for more than six months.

The program, which runs from **July 1 to Aug. 8**, aims to expose the students to a diversified Jamaican experience through cultural activities and professional tutelage at a GraceKennedy operation in Jamaica.

Application forms are available at www.gracekennedy.com/birthright. For more information, call 876-932-3541 or e-mail gkfoundation@gkco.com.

★

Petition to pardon Marcus Garvey launched

Supporters of Marcus Garvey have started a petition which they hope will help secure a posthumous presidential pardon for the Jamaica National Hero in the United States.

Garvey was an influential civil rights and anti-colonial leader of the early 20th century in the U.S. His movement, which espoused black pride and black self reliance, eco-

nomie independence and black unity, garnered support around the world.

In May 1923, Garvey was convicted of mail fraud in relation to the operation of the Black Star Line, his signature program for black economic independence. He was sent to prison and later deported to Jamaica.

Garvey supporters have

created a website, <http://justice4garvey.org>, that provides details about the petition campaign. Obtaining 100,000 signatures on their online petition ensures the request for a Garvey pardon be acknowledged and reviewed by President Barack Obama.

★

Former Grenada ambassador dies after getting U.S. honor

NEW YORK – Just five months after he was recognized by United States President Barack Obama as "a part of our great American story," Dr. Lamuel Stanislaus, former Grenada ambassador to the United Nations, has died.

Stanislaus, 95, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, died last month at a hospice in Brooklyn, New York. Shortly after celebrating his 95th birthday on April 22, Sir Lamuel told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** that he was "suffering with the ravages of cancer of the prostate and cancer of the

bones." Stanislaus told CMC he was "humbled" that the president had noted his contribution "and took the time to let you know."

The former dentist served twice as Grenada's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary representative to the U.N.

- Edited from CMC.
★



Stanislaus

FYI

Mannings reunion ball

Alumni of Mannings High School in Jamaica will hold a 28th anniversary reunion ball on **Oct. 15** at the Eastwood Manor, the Bronx, New York.

Jamaica's Attorney General Marlene Malahoo Forte is the scheduled guest of honor. Music will be provided by Jugglaz

International with DJ Andrew.

For more information, call **914-325-4064, 914-668-1876, 718-322-1929 or 718-515-2098.**

Hispanic heritage festival

The 10th annual Hispanic Heritage Festival will be held from **1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 15** at Country Village Park, 6550 N.W. 188th Terr. in

Miami, Florida.

The event celebrates Hispanic influence in the northwest corridor of Miami-Dade County. It will feature free activities for the entire family, including live entertainment, face painting, bounce houses, rock climbing, pony rides, food, and a petting zoo.

★

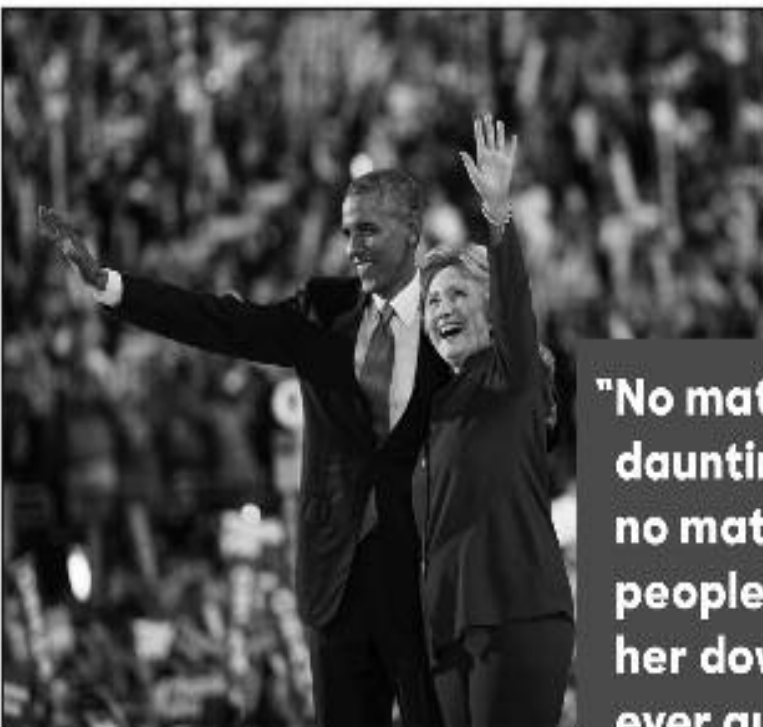
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President Barack Obama

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"Yes, we can."

ELECTION WRAP-UP



www.caribbeantoday.com

Caribbean Americans score victories in Florida election primaries

DAWN A. DAVIS

Some candidates in Broward and Miami-Dade counties are breathing a sign of relief after narrowly winning their seat in the Aug. 30 primary elections in Florida.

In perhaps one of the most watched races in Broward, incumbent Jamaican-born Dale V.C. Holness defeated Chris Smith for county commissioner District 9. Holness won with 50.96 percent of the votes, while Smith, who com-

pletes his term limit as a state senator next year, received 49.04 percent.

Although surprised by the close margin, Holness was confident he would win.

“Sure, we campaigned hard, but at the end of the day I think the edge was the fact that I have a body of work that I can demonstrate that I was



Holness

responsible for, getting results to the community, ensuring that there is full inclusion for all the people,” he told **Caribbean Today**.

UNOPPOSED

Come November’s general elections, Holness, a Democrat, would have faced three write-in candidates. But they have since dropped out of the race. Holness will, therefore, have no further opposition.

Another tight race was for the Democratic Party’s state representative District 95. That was won by Jamaican-born Barrington A. Russell with 26.76 percent, beating Robert Lynch, 25.23 percent, and Anika Omphroy, who is of Haitian descent, with 24.48 percent.

Russell will take the state seat vacated by another Jamaican American, Hazelle

Rogers, who will run for mayor of Lauderdale Lakes, the job held by Russell. He is also expected to run unopposed in the November elections.

Meanwhile, Bahamian American Democrat Frederica Wilson easily won back her seat in the United States Congress, earning 68.83 percent of the primary votes to represent the 24th Congressional District. She too will face no opposition in November.

JUDGES

In the race for Broward County judges, 34-year-old Haitian American Florence Taylor Barner won the Group 3 seat by two percent. Jamaican American Ian Richards won Group 7 comfortably.

In the Miami-Dade County races for Circuit Court judges neither of the two black candidates, Haitian-born Yolly

Roberson and Renee Gordon, got enough votes to win. For County Court Judge in Group 5 Haitian American Fred Saraphin narrowly retained his seat - 50.16 percent to 49.84 percent - over Milena Abreu, who was born to Cuban parents.

Wendell Graham, who was endorsed in the Caribbean American Voters’ Guide, easily won the County Court seat in Group 35.

However, voter turnout in primaries for both counties was poor. Only 16.57 percent of registered voters in Broward County and 20.48 percent in Miami-Dade showed to the polls.

National elections, including United States president, are set for Nov. 8.

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



Obama administration pushes for ‘citizen voters’ ~ report

A major news network in the United States has reported that an internal e-mail from the administration of President Barack Obama shows a major push to swear in new “citizen voters” for the Nov. 8 presidential election.

According to the story, the e-mail “shows immigration officials may be literally working overtime” to establish new voters, according to a U.S. lawmaker last month.

The e-mail is reportedly “from a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field office chief and part of a chain

of correspondence within the agency, urges the unnamed recipient to swear in as many citizens as possible ‘due to the election year’.

“The Field Office due to the election year needs to process as many of their N-400 cases as possible between now and FY 2016,” the story claims the e-mail, which was disclosed to **FoxNews.com** by Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., who chairs the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

“If you have cases in this category or other pending, you

are encouraged to take advantage of the OT if you can,” the e-mail reportedly continues. “This will be an opportunity to move your pending naturalization cases. If you have not volunteered for OT, please consider and let me know if you are interested.”

Parts of the e-mail were redacted before it was disclosed to FoxNews.com, but it was sent by the branch chief of the Houston Field Office District 17. It was not clear to whom it was addressed.



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3:00 PM	AT 4 Nurseries available for questions during the sale. Bring a Sample!	at MOTES ORCHIDS "Growing Phalaenopsis"	at WHIMSY ORCHIDS "Growing Cattleyas, in English y en Español"

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The Consulate General of Barbados
invites Barbadians and Friends of Barbados to the Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, 6 November 2016 at 4.00 p.m. at St Benedict's Church, 7801 NW 5th Street, Plantation, FL-33324, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Independence of Barbados.

The Very Reverend Peter Eaton, Bishop of Miami, will officiate at the Service.

JUDGEMENT: Did President Obama deliver for Caribbean Americans?

GORDON WILLIAMS

Nearly eight years ago, hundreds of Caribbean Americans joined the biggest crowd ever to attend an event in the Washington, D.C. – the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States.

Jan. 20, 2009 was cold. Wind chill plunged temperatures into the teens. Yet Caribbean Americans' hearts warmed to the first African American commander in chief as he took the oath of office.

"We were part of history, being there," recalled a Caribbean American woman from South Florida, who arrived at the U.S. Capitol around 4 a.m. "It was euphoric. Unbelievable. We cried."

Four years later, many Caribbean Americans rallied to the same spot as Obama was sworn in a second time. An overwhelming number had again voted for him. Both times they gravitated to the man with the flavorful name and fascinating rise-to-power story. They swooned over Obama's looks and intelligence. They admired his cool swag. They prayed he could deliver his vision of "hope and change," especially for Caribbean immigrants as many, despite overwhelmingly positive contributions to America, still believed they were only allowed crumbs from the buffet in the land of opportunity.

JURY'S OUT

Today, as Obama's presidency winds down, there are multiple interpretations of those inauguration day tears – ranging from unbridled joy to bitter disappointment – in the Caribbean American community.

Obama's approval rating as president is a healthy 58 percent, according to a mid-September Washington Post/ABC News poll. Most Caribbean nationals still love him. They have solid reasons. Massive unemployment and economic uncertainty, which piggy-backed his elevation to the White House, have largely been rolled back. Millions more have health insurance and the percentage of those without is at its lowest. The U.S. Census Bureau recorded a poverty rate of 13.5 percent in 2015, significantly less than the year before. The median household income, according to the USCB, has risen by 5.2 percent – to \$56,500 – up from \$53,700.

Women feel more empowered by Obama, who has fought their battles for equality at home, on the job and in the doctor's office. He appointed a couple women to

the U.S. Supreme Court and Eric Holder, an American with Caribbean roots, as the nation's first black attorney general. Since 2009, more Caribbean nationals feel emboldened to step into the American political arena.

Meanwhile, Obama has been graceful under unprecedented and withering attacks – personal and political. From the outset, opposition Republicans vowed to make him a "one term president." Yet even adversaries concede Obama is a smart, decent family man. No Clintonian sex scandal has surfaced. No Nixonian criminal shade either. Fewer American soldiers are dying in fewer wars.

The president's rising popularity has made him a top surrogate for fellow Democrat Hillary Clinton, once his fierce rival. If she wins the Nov. 8 presidential election, many claim it will be the start of "Obama's third term".

RACE

Yet not all is perfect. Racial discord has spiked to a prominent place on America's national agenda in the midst of Obama's presidential terms. Ironically, some believe his election ripped the scab off the thinly concealed, festering sore. Even as a U.S. Supreme Court justice downplayed racism in the country, a black man in the White House ignited heated emotions on one of America's darkest stains.

"The state of the country is polarizing," said a Caribbean American woman from Maryland.

"We are definitely not worse off since he has become president, but his time as president has given rise to the flipping over of the racial underbelly of the country. When he became president we saw more people being more vocal about their racist feelings."

A disproportionate number of young men of color are being killed by law enforcement – and their own – sparking violent protests. A huge chunk of Republicans polled claim Obama is not Christian. Many, including that party's current presidential candidate, repeatedly proclaimed Obama wasn't even born in the U.S. in a perceived racist campaign to de-legitimize Obama's presidency. It continued long after Obama debunked the theory. Still, long-quiet bigots found new voice.

Meanwhile, the world stumbled from one international crisis to another. Terrorism is now an everyday fear – in the U.S. and abroad. Obama's administration has also piled up a record of massive deportations, including Caribbean



Obama, left, has engaged the Caribbean, including Bahamas Prime Minister Perry Christie.

nationalists, although his policies, such as the DREAM Act, have sought to protect immigrants in the U.S.

NO SHELTER

Criticism of Obama has come from corners where once he was assured shelter. Some Caribbean Americans, like the woman in South Florida, believe he could have done more. They list, for example, getting a better health insurance law passed, along with comprehensive immigration reform and creating more jobs for people of color, especially when Democrats controlled the U.S. House and Senate. Blacks in the U.S. have fallen further behind whites, a recent study has shown, on the pay scale. Instead, the woman believes,

Obama meekly buckled to a political system that has long catered for the rich and powerful and sidelined immigrants, including those from the Caribbean.

"I understand all that has happened," she explained. "But I didn't vote in the second election (2012) because I was truly disillusioned by him. I didn't think he's been vocal enough for black people. In the second term he had nothing to lose."

Haitian Americans scheduled a Sept. 22 press conference in Miami to express "displeasure" with the Obama administration for what they claimed as the "completely inappropriate resumption of deportations ("removals") to Haiti of persons with no criminal record."

Marleine Bastien, executive director of the Haitian Women of Miami, claimed Obama's decision was ill-timed.

"Haiti is still reeling from the earthquake, cholera epidemic, and political instability; it has yet to recover," she was quoted as saying. "Nothing has changed on the ground; it is inhumane to resume deportations now, injurious to Haiti's people and recovery, and a blemish on the Obama administration."

MIDDLE GROUND

Yet there are those who believe Obama has blossomed in a flawed system. His election, they claim, gave Caribbean nationals plenty to lean on.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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FEATURE



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Jamaican women tackle Caribbean attitudes to mental health

DAWN A. DAVIS

There is a stigma attached to mental health within the Caribbean community.

Whispers follow the mentally ill: “She mad yuh nuh” or “Him a sleep pan de street an ah even eat outa gyabage pan.”

The Jamaican Women of Florida (JWOF), a non-profit organization, has taken on the challenge to change attitudes. JWOF’s “Health & Wellness Conversation & Forum” recently brought together specialists at the South Regional Broward College Library to discuss mental health and resources available to deal with it.

Panelists included Dr. Stacey Brodie Walker, a licensed counseling psychologist with a focus on adolescents and eating disorders; Dr. Karen Carpenter, educational psychologist and Florida certified sex therapist; Paul Jaquith, clinical mental health



Carpenter

social worker; and attorney Georgia Robinson, specialist in mediation, dispute resolution guardianship and other legal aspects of mental health. Moderator Dr. Stephanie Azan, who specializes in child and adolescent psychiatry, explained the hesitation to tackle mental illness.

“We speak openly about cancer, high blood pressure, and heart disease, but once we are talking about depression or other mental issues it suddenly becomes an issue that ‘I



Brodie Walker

don’t believe,’” said Dr. Azan.

She stressed that being compliant when medication is prescribed for forms of mental illness is critical to controlling these conditions.

COSTLY

Dr. Brodie Walker underlined the magnitude of the problem, explaining that children and adolescents suffer from mental health issues that can be costly, especially if not recognized and addressed quickly.

“The number of families that are affected with emotional and behavioral disturbances in young people are overwhelming,” Dr. Brodie Walker said.

“The statistics show us that one in five children or adolescents may have a mental health problem that can be identified and treated. And more severely, one in 10 children may have a serious diagnostic emotional disturbance that may not be diagnosed.”

Mental health causes include genetics, chemical imbalances, head injury and damage to the central nervous

system. Environmental factors include a child’s surroundings.

“If a child is living with or close to violence or dysfunctional families, this can cause mental health issues,” Dr. Brodie Walker said. “(Also) if a child loses someone that is important to them, for example through death or divorce.”

DISORDERS

Disorders, like panic attacks, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), eating disorders like anorexia or bulimia are all manifestations of mental illness, Dr. Brodie Walker explained.

Everyone faces mental health challenges at some stage said Dr. Carpenter, adding that mental health challenges don’t mean a person has long-term pathology that will need medication. It may mean the person is going through a crisis. Dr. Carpenter, a sexologist, said one of the challenges adults face is selecting the right partner.

“Too much of what we’re doing in choosing a life partner is based on fantasy,” she said.

When people start having children the relationship changes as each child takes away time parents usually spend with their partner, Dr. Carpenter added. She chided couples for living in the past.

“We are using 18th century ideals to deal with 21st century situations,” Dr. Carpenter said. “... Marriages are lasting about 10 to 15 years. Plan on divorce when you plan for marriage and think about

what it will take (to) keep a marriage together.”

Several women in the audience disclosed their personal experiences with mental issues and family members suffering from mental illness. The stories visibly moved many.

LAW

Robinson, meanwhile, explained legal statutes created to protect people’s rights when facing mental illness. The Baker Act, for example, helps with emergency services and temporary detention, which can also be done voluntarily.

Robinson also explained that the Marchman Act deals with substance abusers who are involuntarily detained for treatment. She stressed the importance of giving power of attorney to children in case it becomes necessary because of parents’ mental incapacity.

Jaquith underscored the importance of acceptance.

“It’s incumbent on all of us to be able to understand that anyone, when dealing with these issues, really need someone to reach out to them and say ‘I’m here to help you,’” he explained.

“People need to understand that it’s O.K. to talk about it. You can’t be afraid.”

Photographs and story submitted by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.

Turn to pages 16 and 17 for our Fall Health feature.



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JUDGEMENT: Did President Obama deliver for Caribbean Americans?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

“It delivered home that I too and my children could become president of the United States,” explained Jamaican-born Irwine Clare, chief executive officer of Caribbean Immigrant Services in New York. “It opened the floodgates of opportunity.”

“(Obama) inspired a group of people to continue to fight and recognize their growth,” reasoned Holbert James, who was born in the U.S. Virgin Islands and has been a political activist for Democratic candidates dating to the 1960s. “We have a whole slew of (Caribbean Americans) energized.”

Obama has expressed love for the Caribbean and its people. He’s engaged regional leaders and visited nations like Trinidad, Jamaica and Cuba. He personally request-

ed a meeting with track superstar Usain Bolt and paid respect to late reggae icon Bob Marley. Music by Marley’s offspring are on Obama’s play list.

Lofty expectations some Caribbean Americans had following Obama’s election should have been tempered, his supporters claim, when the realities – meaning obstacles - of his job are considered.

“This man spent eight years fighting a (Republican) machine trying to destroy his presidency,” said James.

There was no magic wand to erase all America’s problems.

“By himself, he could have delivered,” said Clare, “but he has to work within a democratic framework.”

DEMAND

Caribbean Americans

who believe Obama should have focused more on their specific needs, may simply have demanded too much.

“He had a responsibility to look out for the interests of all Americans,” Clare explained, “not just blacks.”

In the end, supporters believe, Obama has lifted Caribbean Americans to a better place.

“His moment in office has not only given us the audacity to hope, but audacity to do,” Clare said. “It was motivation for the Caribbean American community to be part of the movement.”

“It’s clear that this president is gonna be missed,” added James. “So many things he’s done that people have not given him credit for.”

History, it appears, will decide Obama’s true legacy.



Where Clinton, Trump stand on the issue of immigration

The countdown is on to the United States presidential election. On Nov. 8 U.S.

nationals will know who their new leader for the next four years will be. A scary thought indeed!

For immigrants concerned about the issue of immigration in a campaign that has been marked by anti-immigrant rhetoric from the Republican presidential candidate, here's a summary of exactly how both candidates feel on the issue as outlined on their websites.

Voters can make their own informed decision.

Democrat Hillary Clinton on immigration promises:

- To introduce comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to full and equal citizenship within her first 100 days in office.
- To protect U.S. borders and national security, and bring millions of hardworking people into the formal economy.
- To defend President Barack Obama's executive actions - known as DACA and DAPA - against partisan attacks. The estimated five million people eligible for DAPA, including DREAMers and parents of Americans and lawful residents, should be protected under the executive actions, she says.
- To enforce immigration laws humanely. Enforcement must be targeted and effective, she says, adding that the focus of resources will be on detaining and deporting those individuals who pose a violent threat to public safety, and ensure refugees who seek asylum in the U.S. have a fair chance to tell their stories.
- To end family detention for parents and children who arrive at the U.S. border in desperate situations and close private immigrant detention centers.
- To allow families, regardless of immigration status, buy into the Affordable Care Act exchanges.
- To promote naturalization and expand fee waivers to alleviate naturalization costs, increase access to language programs to encourage



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

English proficiency, and increase outreach and education to help more people navigate the process.

- To create a national Office of Immigrant Affairs and significantly increase federal resources for adult English language education and citizenship education.

TRUMP

Republican Donald Trump on immigration:

Trump's three core principles regarding his immigration agenda are:

1. There must be a wall across the southern border.
2. Laws passed must be in accordance with the U.S. constitutional system of government and must be enforced.
3. Any immigration plan



Trump, left and Clinton

must improve jobs, wages and security for all Americans.

In detail he promises:

- To triple the number of ICE officers. This, he says, will be funded by accepting the recommendation of the inspector general for tax administration and eliminating tax credit payments to illegal immigrants.
- Nationwide e-verify, a measure which he says will protect jobs for unemployed Americans.
- Mandatory return of all "criminal aliens". Trump says the process can be aided by canceling any visas to foreign countries that will not accept their own criminals, and making it a separate and additional crime to commit an offense while here illegally.
- Detention - not catch-and-release. He says "illegal aliens" apprehended crossing the border must be detained until they are sent home.
- To defund sanctuary cities by cutting off federal grants to any city that refuses to cooperate with federal law enforcement.
- To enhance penalties for overstaying a visa. He says this is a threat to national security and individuals who refuse to leave at the time their visa expires should be subject to criminal penalties.
- To cooperate with local gang task forces. Trump says

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

SIZZLA: Reggae/dancehall star's triumphant U.S. return

Sizzla Kalonji returned to the United States after an eight-year absence when the American government revoked his visa. He gave his first performance Aug. 24 in Fort Lauderdale, after which he spoke to *Caribbean Today's* Gordon Williams. The following is that interview, edited for space.

QUESTION: Coming to the U.S. what were your thoughts?

ANSWER: To make sure I'm well rehearsed and make sure I'm well prepared, basically, wholeheartedly. Just get myself ready and stay in tuned to meet the people because I knew the level where I had left off ever since that eight long years.

So I just got to catch up. I've got eight long years to catch up. So I just made sure I'm coming out with a bang, you know. Just like that. So it's beautiful coming back here and it really helps even building my career again, because working on the road, being on tour, delivering what you've promised, what you've sung for the people, it's really good to deliver to the people, because they've high expectations and they want to see their favorite artiste. So coming back to the States was just awesome.

Q: (Fans) seemed anxious to welcome you.

A: Great reception. It was a vivid experience. After eight years and the people, they're still with that high energy. Very high-spirited set of people towards reggae music, dancehall music.

I can see where the minds of the people (are).

So you just gotta come and just set a foundation as you did before ... Without the fans, you're nothing.

Q: What was the specific message you had in mind when you came here?

A: I look to tell them just to continue to be strong, because we've left you. That's where you've been, despite a lot of crisis been happening in the United States of America. If the people are not united and, like, seek the Most High and work assiduously and be conscientious of the fact that it's just one country and we all help to make it beautiful, we're not gonna reach anywhere ...

... Because the time is now. Don't sit and wait until you're gray and old. Just get up and do it now and be happy yourself and you can make the nation happy.



Sizzla

Q: You were not the only big time reggae artiste, not allowed to come to the United States for a while. How has that affected the music in terms of the message?

A: It affects the music tremendously. We're incensed that the artistes have provided all these songs for the people and they really can't get to deliver the message to the people, who are like yearning and wanting this message like they're starving for the message. You're keeping back artistes from doing such. And, again, these artistes have high expectations they have to live up to.

So sometimes what you're keeping an artiste out for doesn't really make any sense ... They knew us for the roots and culture, bashing out against corruption, because that's what the music was about and music is righteousness and we use the music to sing and give praise unto the Most High.

... So, all these artistes not coming to the States, it affects the music really ... Because without the music the people are gonna plunge downhill ...

Q: The (charts are) just filled with people from outside the country for a music that Jamaica created. How do you feel about that?

A: Well, music is music, you know. You've got the music industry and you got the people in the music ... And sometimes people are not being lifted on that pedestal based upon their belief or say their religious culture or their background.

But at the end of the day we still pay respect and we congratulate all those who have won all those great accolades ... Same people support you on the Billboard, is the same people supporting Sizzla in the dancehall and the reggae music. So we have no bad vibes against them. We're happy for them. Just continue to make good music ... Because is not vanity, you know. It's just Rastafari we

praise. Just do the work ...

I didn't really come into this music to like get anything out of the music, because if you're a prophet for the people you should just go and do the work for the Most High Jah ... Nuh badda gwaan like you want people pay you fi spread the message of the Almighty ...

Q: Towards the end of Bob Marley's time on this earth, he talked about reaching out specifically to the African American population in the U.S. Do you see that as part of your mission, in terms of bringing the reggae music to them?

A: Yes. This mission links us perennially and we should really see with the third eye that we were all taken here against our will as black people, through the Trans Atlantic slave (trade) ... So it's always our duty in our songs to sing about Africa and keep reminding the people to return to Africa.

... All these people, they're real struggling, hustling people, black people. So you can't hold them down ... You've just got to lead them to the Almighty and just give them the righteousness and they'll take care of themselves.

So it is always our duty to remind the people of the Almighty, Rastafari and where they're coming from - Africa. Because if we should be black people here in America and we don't stand for our culture, our roots, the same white people gonna look at us and say 'hey, what's up? We're coming to the Caribbean to get culture. You're not doing anything'. So we've got to maintain ourselves. We can't be prejudiced. We can't be racist ... We just got to go out there just spread the message of His Majesty. Keep reminding the people about themselves. Africa. Black people ...

Q: Your music talks about righteousness, but you have some other aspects of reggae music, which doesn't focus on that righteousness. Does it send a mixed message about the music and get the public confused?

A: No. I don't see it like that ... You must know the dancehall music is just an up tempered beat and a bit more lyrics ... Sometimes the tempo and the whole energy of the music brings out a lot of stuff. So they sing about girls and ... sex and those stuff. But sex is nothing bad. We wouldn't have been here if it wasn't for sexual intercourse between

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

VIEWPOINT



SOCIETY TUMBLING: Lack of discipline is the root of all evil

Some say love of money is the root of all evil. For others, it's lack of money. I believe it's absence of discipline.

Discipline has served mankind for centuries. So even though it may have been diluted, or even eliminated somewhat, it still has merit.

Discipline even exists in nature. Without it, there would be chaos, anarchy and failure. Even ants walk in a straight line and not chaotic like how some human beings assemble at but stops. And, imagine, we call them lowly animals? Ever so slowly we see the erosion of discipline in societies, including ours.

They say that an army marches on its stomach, meaning that it has to be fed or it will not perform. But what is not often expressed, is that an army succeeds on discipline. The term spit and polish is attributed to armies, and they take great pride in this. You can spot a military man even when he's not in uniform, as his demeanor, mannerisms and approach to life all exude discipline.

With all the skills and talent in the world, without discipline there is no success. The

Germany soccer team has proven this over the years. With all the individual flair and fancy ball play of the Caribbean teams, we cannot match them.

NO EXCUSE

Even the way you eat should be disciplined. So many people eat like shrews, constantly, whenever they feel like and then cry that they gain weight. A disciplined approach to eating will solve that problem.

People in the media have discipline. It takes great discipline to produce and get that show on the air. It takes discipline to get that newspaper out on time. People in theater know. The show must go on. Discipline.

So I bemoan the fact that there is a dearth, paucity, a scarcity of discipline that has crept into our society, so imperceptibly, silently, that we never even noticed its movement. It was glacial in its approach, slow, creeping, silent.

Now it's accepted as the norm.

Lack of discipline manifests itself on our roads, where it's every man for himself and



the devil takes the hindmost. Taxi drivers, buses, trucks, cyclists, motorbikes and pedestrians exhibit a lack of discipline that jackals would be ashamed of. It's road hog heaven and we all get splashed in the wallow as we take it for granted most of the time.

Taxi drivers rule supreme and know not that they know not the tenets of discipline.



TONY ROBINSON

Most of them really do not know that they are doing the wrong thing, as they entered the system seeing it and just followed suit. There will be two lanes across from them, yet they cut across those two lines of traffic, right before they try to make a turn or even a U-turn.

They do so with impunity. To them it's the norm and discipline is not only a foreign concept, but does not exist in their anarchical world. Ask them about it and they'll say:

"Is hustle me a hustle boss. Is wurk me a wurk fi eat a food."

When did we get this way, and why is it allowed to happen? Is it that the lawmakers lack discipline too and, therefore, accept and allow this anarchy?

I remember being in Japan and grudgingly admiring the discipline of that society. Even at midnight, when the streets are devoid of traffic, pedestrians will not cross the street if the lights show red. It's discipline forged over centuries. This approach has done them well in all other areas.

Productivity high, crime low, murder almost nonexistent.

This lack of discipline on our roads seeps into other areas. We see it on our streets, we see it in our schools, sports, music and culture.

A society without discipline is a society in disarray. And yet, there are some who take great pride in it. Have we become hogs?

seido1@hotmail.com



SIZZLA: Reggae/dancehall star's triumphant U.S. return

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

the male and the female counterpart. So it's just we've got to let the kids know, don't be too rude and stuff, but enjoy yourself and keep the reggae music clean.

So we can't be bashing against the kids and killing

something that really helps them to highlight themselves

Q: What would be the measure of success for Sizzla Kalonji returning to the U.S.?

A: That I spread the message to the people and that they become comfortable with the

word of the Almighty, because all is vanity. Let the people be comfortable in their soul. Jah, Rastafari.

- Photographs of Sizzla on page 1 and 9 by Gordon Williams.



Where Clinton, Trump stand on the issue of immigration

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

ICE officers should accompany local police departments conducting raids of violent street gangs which have terrorized the country.

"All illegal aliens in gangs should be apprehended and deported," he says.

- To end birthright citizenship, which he says remains the biggest magnet for illegal

immigration.

- To increase prevailing wage for H-1Bs to force companies to give these coveted entry-level jobs to the existing domestic pool of unemployed native and immigrant workers in the U.S., instead of flying in cheaper workers from overseas.

- To hire American workers first. "Too many visas have no such requirement. We need companies to hire from the domestic pool of unemployed. Petitions for workers should be mailed to the unemployment office, not to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services," Trump says.

- To require that applicants for entry to the U.S. certify that they can pay for their own housing, health care and other needs before coming to the U.S.

- To increase standards for the admission of refugees and asylum-seekers to crack down on abuses.

- That before any new permanent residency or "green cards" are issued to foreign workers abroad, there will be a pause where employers will have to hire from the domestic pool of unemployed immigrant and native workers.

Edited from News Americas. Felicia J. Persaud is CMO of Hard Beat Communications, which owns the brands News Americas Now, CaribPR Wire and Invest Caribbean Now.



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Jamaican actor takes one-man play to Broadway

A Jamaican-born actor is winning acclaim for “becoming” the late athlete, singer, actor and civil rights activist Paul Robeson when he steps on stage.

Stogie Kenyatta, who grew up in Brooklyn, New York, is being praised for his one-man Broadway show “The World is My Home – The Life of Paul Robeson”, which he wrote. It covers the life and friendships of Robeson.

On stage, Kenyatta takes the audience through the life of the African American icon who was later inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame and also played in the



Kenyatta

National Football League.

Kenyatta was trained at the Afro American Studio in Harlem, Henry St. Settlement and Al Fann Theatrical Ensemble. He was a finalist in

the New York State Theatre competition with artistic director John Houseman.

Kenyatta also studied screenwriting and political science at the University of California and later with Ivan Markota at the Van Mar Academy for Television and Film Acting. He has accumulated over 30 television credits from sit-coms and film to soap operas. He began performing at comedy clubs around the country in 1994 and has written several screenplays.

- Edited from *News Americas*.



Caribbean talent shines at Toronto film festival

Regional talent excelled at last month's Caribbean Tales International Film Festival in Toronto, Canada. The following is a list of selected winners:

Best Feature: “Diary of a Badman” - Diemiruaya Deniran, Jamaica/United States.

Best Documentary: “Si Bondye Vle Yuli (God Wiling, Yuli)” - Jean Jean, Dominican Republic.

Caribbean Spirit Feature: “Battledream Chronicle” - Alain Bidard, Martinique.

Best Actor/Actress: Jacinth Sutphin as Simone Williams in “Diary of a Badman”.

Best Short: “Ti Coq” - Nadia Charlery, Martinique.

Caribbean Spirit Short: “Dreams in Transit” - Karen Martinez, Trinidad and Tobago/United Kingdom.

INCUBATOR AWARDS

The 7th Annual

CaribbeanTales Market Incubator (CTI) is a development and production hub for Caribbean and diaspora producers, whose aim is to increase the volume of content from the Caribbean region. The following is a selected list of jury prize winners:

1st - Alain Bidard, Martinique, for “Battledream Chronicles”, an animated science fiction fantasy adapted series and the first feature-length animation from the Francophone Caribbean.

2nd - Kafi Kareem Farrell, T&T, screenwriter and multi-platform media producer for “Big Man Dan”, an animation series.

3rd - Juliette McCawley, T&T (sponsored by the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company), for “Bitter Fruit”.

Blockchain Revolution Audience Choice Award – Alain Bidard.



‘BRIGHT LIKE A DIAMOND’



Barbadian star Rihanna closed the show with glittering performance at the “Global Citizens Festival” last month in Central Park, New York. Rihanna reeled off several popular hits in a lively set in front of a huge audience. The event was staged to assist education in developing countries and those affected by war and natural disasters.

Legendary Jamaican singer Prince Buster dies in U.S.

MIAMI, Florida – Prince Buster, the Jamaican ska singer, songwriter and producer died here last month of health complications. He was 78.

Buster, whose real name was Cecil Campbell, had numerous hits, including “Little Honey”, “Humpty Dumpty”, “They Got to Go” and “Thirty Pieces of Silver”.

In 2001 he was awarded the Order of Distinction in Jamaica for his contribution to the development of the country's music industry.

Buster operated the Voice

of the People sound system and was the producer of the Folkes Brothers' 1960 hit “Oh Carolina”.

SWITCH

But as ska music slowed down in the mid-1960s and Jamaicans turned to the rock steady beat, a transition which he did not really support, Prince Buster set Jamaica alight with a series of records featuring his mythical character Judge Dread, a super-tough magistrate who handed out ridiculously long sentences

to recalcitrant rude boys.

Prince Buster was the first Jamaican to have a top 20 hit in Britain, with “Al Capone” in 1965, and toured the country regularly to sell-out crowds.

While in Britain he converted to Islam and changed his name to Mohammed Yusef Ali after a meeting with former world heavyweight boxer Muhammad Ali.

- Edited from *CMC*.



BRIEFS

Carnival time

The Miami-Broward Carnival will take place **Oct. 9** in South Florida.

Creole festival

Roseau will host Dominica's 19th “World Creole Music Festival” this month. The festival will run from **Oct. 28-30** at Windsor Park Sports Stadium.

For more information, call **767-448-4833** or visit DominicaFestivals.com.

Dominican calypsonian dies

Dominican calypsonian Leandra Cuffy died last month after complaining of a headache while going to her job.

Cuffy's death came two months after the calypso fraternity bade farewell to Michael LaFleur, known as “Boople”.

Jamaican artist, musician dies

Cecil Harvey Cooper, a prominent Jamaican artist, musician and art edu-

cator, died last month. He was 70.

Cooper was awarded a scholarship by the Jamaica government to study music in the United States. His death came a week after he was conferred with Jamaica's fifth highest honor, the Order of Distinction (Commander Class).

- Compiled from *multiple sources*.



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TOURISM/TRAVEL



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U.S. approves more flights to Havana

The United States has finalized a selection of eight U.S. airlines to begin flights to Havana, Cuba – some as early as this fall.

“(Last month’s) actions are the result of months of work by airlines, cities, the U.S. government, and many others toward delivering on President (Barack) Obama’s promise to re-engage with Cuba,” U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx stated in a recent press release from his agency.

“Transportation has a unique role in this historic initiative and we look forward to the benefits these new services will provide to those eligible for Cuba travel.”

Earlier this summer, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the approval of six U.S. passenger airlines and one all-cargo airline to serve cities in Cuba other than Havana. The additional carriers are expected to begin flights to those cities shortly.

Airlines receiving the Havana awards include network, low-cost, and ultra low



Foxx

cost carriers – Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Southwest Airlines, Spirit Airlines, and United Airlines.

The flights will provide service to Havana from Atlanta, Charlotte, Fort Lauderdale, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York City, Orlando, and Tampa.

OBJECTIVE

According to the DOT, its principal objective in making its selections was to maximize public benefits, including choosing airlines that offered

and could maintain the best service between the U.S. and Havana. DOT’s decision allocates nonstop Havana service to areas with substantial Cuban American populations, as well as to several aviation hub cities.

On Feb. 16, Foxx signed an arrangement with the Cuban government opening the way for scheduled air service between the two countries to resume after more than 50 years. This new arrangement will facilitate visits for travelers that fall under one of 12 categories authorized by the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Under the arrangement, each country’s airlines may operate up to 20 daily roundtrip flights between the U.S. and Havana. The arrangement also provides each country’s airlines with the opportunity to operate up to 10 daily roundtrip flights between the U.S. and each of Cuba’s nine international airports, other than Havana, for a total of 90 daily roundtrips.



Suriname demands visa for visiting Haitians

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – Haitians wishing to visit Suriname must be in possession of a visa, as the Dutch Caribbean community (CARICOM) country

clamps down on criminal activities, including illegal migration.

According to the Haitian authorities, Suriname has made it mandatory for nationals from Haiti, a CARICOM member state, to be in possession of a visa from Sept. 15 to enter the Dutch-speaking country.

Media reports here said that the French government, through its embassy in Suriname, had complained that Haitian migrants passed through Suriname to enter French Guiana in large numbers seeking asylum. Figures released here show that more than half of the passengers on the airline Insel Air, which serves the French side of the Caribbean island, were of

Haitian origin.

FRAUD

A Mar. 2016 report had noted that more illegal Haitian migrants had entered French Guiana and that many had used Suriname’s international airport.

The report noted

that most of the Haitians did not speak English and, for the most part, could neither read nor write. Some were also unable to provide the authorization documents for children who accompanied them or held false documents.

The report noted that airlines now had to file their full lists of passengers to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Suriname and that while a tourist card was given to the travelers from Sept. 15, all Haitian nationals with a ticket for a trip to Suriname would have to be in possession of a visa.

- Edited from CMC.



Jamaica racking up massive murder rate in 2016; U.S., Canada, U.K. warns nationals about travel

A popular Caribbean tourist destination has seen close to 900 murders this year.

Police data published by the Jamaica Gleaner newspaper noted that Jamaica has recorded 894 murders from Jan. 1 to Sept. 21 across the 19 police divisions in the country.

That means Jamaica is averaging almost 100 murders each month, or just over three per day, the newspaper reported last month.

The news came as Jamaica’s Prime Minister Andrew Holness met with nationals in the New York diaspora claiming he wants to take a more enlightened perspective towards the development of Jamaica beyond crime and poverty. He reportedly told Bloomberg Radio that Jamaica is open for business and has only exploited 40 percent of its tourism potential to date.

Of the total murders so far in Jamaica, 184 were recorded in the parish of St. James, putting the area on the brink of recording more than 200 murders in a calendar year for a second straight year.

CAUTION

With three months to go, the murder rate is already more than the 882 killings recorded for the same period last year.

The Canadian government urges nationals to exercise a high degree of caution when



- File photograph

Holness is seeking to calm the fear of Jamaicans at home and abroad.

traveling to Jamaica, warning of violent crime, including armed robbery and murder, particularly in Kingston, Spanish Town and Montego Bay.

The travel advice also warns against visiting Tivoli Gardens, Whitfield Town, Payne Land, West Kingston, Grant’s Pen, August Town, Denham Town, Hannah Town, Arnett Gardens, Olympic Gardens, Harbour View, Central Village, Spanish Town, Mountain View, Trench Town, Cassava Piece, Canterbury, Norwood and Rose Heights. Some parts of Montego Bay, namely St. Clavers Avenue and Hart Street, Flankers, Canterbury, Norwood, Rose Heights and Mount Salem are also on the list.

The United Kingdom government has warned its nationals of high crime levels particu-

larly in Kingston. The while the United States has urged its embassy personnel to restrict travel to downtown Kingston, as well as Spanish Town and Flankers, Canterbury, Norwood, Rose Heights, Clavers Street, and Hart Street in Montego Bay.

“Violent crime is a serious problem throughout Jamaica, particularly in Kingston and Montego Bay,” the U.S. State Department notes on its website.

“Violence and shootings occur regularly in certain areas of Kingston and Montego Bay. Jamaica’s police force is understaffed and has limited resources.”

- Edited from News Americas.



T&T offers fall celebrations

Trinidad and Tobago is welcoming travelers to sample a variety of offerings this fall. Attractions include the following:

Oct. 16, Tobago Blue Food Festival- Tobago’s distinctive “blue food” cuisine is celebrated at the festival, a culinary showcase featuring dasheen, the Caribbean root vegetable that turns blue when cooked.

The annual festival brings together creative, indigenous chefs to share their knowledge, cooking secrets and creations using dasheen. Guests are treated to cooking demonstrations, competitions, dish samples and entertainment by local performers.

For more information, visit <http://www.visittobago.gov.tt/>.

Nov. 3, Diwali - In T&T, where the population is approximately 40 percent Indian, Diwali - the Hindu festival of lights - is celebrated with colorful events, including extravagant light displays. Marked as a national holiday in T&T since 1966, Diwali celebrations begin nine days before the actual event. During those days there are performances by East Indian cultural practitioners, a folk theater, an



Diwali is the festival of lights.

exhibition of Hinduism, nightly worship of Mother Lakshmi (goddess of wealth), lighting of myriad deyas, and a food court featuring Indian and non-Indian vegetarian delicacies.

The festival culminates with fireworks complemented by the thunder of bamboo cannons and the sparkle of “star-lights” in villages across the country.

For more information, visit www.gotrinidadandtobago.com.





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FOOD & DINING



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

MIX 'N' MASH: Extra food means time for tasty 'chop up'

MINNA LA FORTUNE

As chefs, sometimes we are blessed with such abundance of foods that we do not have the storage space to store all of it.

I try to find new recipes that I am inspired by utilizing the extra foods. Depending on the ingredients, I will bake a cake or make a stew or a soup.

For example, if I have extra ripe bananas or carrots, I will make a cake. If I have extra meat bones, I will make



a soup or a broth and store some for sauces. Recently, I found myself with lots of freshly grown veg-

etables from my summer garden - lots of eggplants, tomatoes, sweet peppers, hot peppers and callaloo. I decided to make a new dish. I recalled the Antiguan recipe for "chop up", a soft vegetable mash of okra, pumpkin, eggplant and spinach. I will share my version of chop-up.

Ingredients

- 1 large onion chopped
- 1 lb. ripe tomatoes
- 2 lbs. eggplant

- 1 lb. sweet pepper
- 1 small hot pepper
- 1 lb. callaloo (chopped)
- 3 sprigs thyme
- 1/2 cup chopped scallion
- 2 cloves of garlic (minced)
- 1/4 cup coconut oil
- Salt
- 2 tsp. black pepper
- 2 tsp. cumin

Method

Sauté onions, scallion, sweet peppers, hot pepper and garlic. Add eggplant, callaloo and tomatoes. Allow all to steam until cooked then add

black pepper, cumin and salt. Cook for 10 more minutes, stirring all the ingredients together until any excess sauce is reduced. Serve as a side dish or with rice, pasta, polenta and garlic bread as a main course.

Edited from News Americas. Minna LaFortune is a Caribbean caterer and also president of the Society for the Advancement of the Caribbean Diaspora.



'50 Favorites' offers delicious samples of Jamaican cuisine

DAWN A. DAVIS

Remember the sweet, nostalgic taste of ackee and saltfish, the ackee freshly picked from grandma's overloaded backyard tree?

And, what breakfast would be complete without a side of ripe banana fritters. Then topping off the day with your favorite curried goat.

These dishes are among 50 all-time Jamaican favorites featured in a new book series "50

Favorite Jamaican Recipes: Taste the Islands Essentials".

From the creators of "Taste the Islands" television show, with executive producer and editor Calibe Thompson, this colorful book features the gamut of food groups, including breakfasts and appetizers; soups, stews and sauces; poultry, meats and seafood; sides; drinks and desserts. The food artistry of Chef Irie (Hugh Sinclair) bubbles over on each page with its detailed recipes,

vibrant photography, and tips.

This 71-page cookbook covers a wide variety of the 50 most popular dishes, according to Jamaicans polled, all made in the simple, old-fashioned and healthy way our grandmothers did it.

MORE

Indeed, "50 Favorite Jamaican Recipes" is much more than a cookbook. It could easily take pride of place on your living room coffee

table, with its gorgeous pictures and graphic design elements. If you're a traveling foodie, you'll also appreciate the list of annual Jamaican culinary events, complete with websites, to help you plan your yearly gastronomic trek.

What makes this book different are the tips offered by the chef. For example, "Handling Scotch Bonnet Peppers". Jamaicans know this is not a pepper to be toyed with. Scotch Bonnet is fiery hot, especially the seeds. So advice about avoiding eye contact and being extra careful is a welcome addition, particularly for non-Caribbean foodies who want to try their hand at these exotic dishes. The proper way to handle green bananas and yams to avoid staining clothes, is discussed as well.

APPEAL

The tidbits of history, along with the mesmerizing images, will definitely appeal to cooks and non-cooks. Inviting pictures of pristine waterfalls, a raft on a meandering river, and cows along a sparkling beach tell as much



the story of Jamaican food as does the descriptive labels.

Whether beef patty, oxtail or mackerel run down, the recipes are clear, concise, and easy to follow, even for the first-time cook.

Ever tried making Jamaican black cake? The recipe in this book offers an alternative to soaking the dried fruits for three months, perfect for the last-minute surprise birthday cake.

The book also includes drinks loved by Jamaicans. While no dinner table is complete without rich, creamy carrot juice, Christmas is not Christmas without sorrel. They're included here. There are also recipes for Irish moss and peanut punch. Most of the recipes have accompanying picture so you know what they should look like.

For more information, visit www.tastetheislandstv.com or www.islandprinthouse.com.

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



Caribbean today will be spotlighting local and state-wide elections in an early printing of our November issue. (Print date is October 27) Come with Caribbean Today as we enter the last lap of this most intriguing election cycle. Candidates, you need to earn the people's vote. This has been a cycle like no other.

**The voting public must be ready to pick the best candidates.
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Candidates, this is the time and Caribbean Today is the vehicle you need to make your final pitch to the public. Your information will be presented in print and at www.caribbeantoday.com.

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Election Day is November 8. Early voting has already started.

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

SWEET SURRENDER: No churn ice cream with a Caribbean twist

MINNA LA FORTUNE

I love ice cream – all flavors – and especially tropical fruit flavors.

I also love making ice cream because I can add the flavors I like and add as much of these flavors I choose. For example, I love mango ice cream, rum and raisins, sour sop and banana.

Because I am always researching recipes for various dishes to add to my repertoire as a caterer, I recently came across a “no churn homemade ice cream”. The recipe is simple and easy, requiring only two to four ingredients to produce a delicious dessert.

This ice cream requires no stove top cooking and can be made with a hand mixer or, if you're industrious, a whisk and some upper-arm strength. No ice cream machine needed. And it tastes just as decadent and silky-smooth as any store-bought ice cream.

The following is my version of the “No Churn Homemade Ice Cream” with a Caribbean touch.



Mango ice cream

Ingredients

- 1 can condensed milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla essence
- 1 pint heavy cream (cold)

Equipment

- Measuring cups and spoon
- Spatula
- 2 large mixing bowls
- Hand mixer, stand mixer or immersion blender
- 8-inch loaf pan, 8x8-inch pan, pint containers, or other freezer container
- Wax paper

Method

Pour the sweetened condensed milk into a large bowl.

Mix the vanilla extract, or other flavoring extract, into the condensed milk.

Add pureed or pieces of tropical Caribbean fruits, for example mangoes, sour sop, papaya.

In a separate bowl – whip the heavy cream until it holds stiff, billowy peaks or for about three minutes.

Gently fold in the whipped cream into the condensed milk. Continue to fold. The mixture will smooth out and become soft and silky. Note: Do not deflate the mixture too much or over-mix.

Scrape ice cream mixture into your freezer container. Smooth the top, then press a piece of wax paper against the surface to prevent ice crystals from forming.

Freeze for at least six hours or up to two weeks.

Edited from News Americas. Minna LaFortune is a Caribbean caterer and also president of the Society for the Advancement of the Caribbean Diaspora.



Shaggy, chef Eddie Jackson to headline jerk festival

Food and entertainment will be the main attractions at this year's Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival in South Florida.



Shaggy

The 15th staging of the event will be held **Nov. 13** at Markham Park in Sunrise.

Reggae star Shaggy is among the scheduled headliners at the event, which will also include games and cooking contests. Chef Eddie

Jackson, “Next Food Network Star” winner, and Andre Fowles, the Food Network’s two-time “Chopped” champion, are scheduled to make an appearance at the Publix Cook-Off Pavilion.



Jackson

Gates open at 10 a.m. For ticket information, visit www.jerkfestival.com or call **754-273-9166**.



Orlando to host food festival

Some of the biggest names in Caribbean reggae/dancehall music have been listed to perform at this year's “Orlando Jerk & Caribbean Cultural Festival”.

The fifth staging of the festival, set for Oct. 16 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, is scheduled to feature Maxi Priest, Marcia Griffiths,

Elephant Man and Lyrikal. There will also be a jerk cook-off competition, plus a kids zone, face painting and bounce house.

The fairgrounds is located at 4603 W. Colonial Dr. in Orlando, Florida. For more information, call **866-232-0001**.



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SPORTS



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BAT MEETS BALL: International cricket builds South Florida home

GORDON WILLIAMS

LAUDERHILL, Florida – The taste of big time cricket in the United States is becoming more appetizing for international teams, especially from the Caribbean.

Following recent Twenty20 matches at the Central Broward Regional Park (CBRP) here, including Caribbean Premier League (CPL) fixtures and a two match series between the West Indies and India, players, local administrators and fans are salivating about future prospects, especially in South Florida.

“It feels like home here,” said new West Indies T20 captain Carlos Braithwaite after his team beat India 1-0 in the series, with the second game abandoned midway as a no result because of rain. “And it’s something we want to feel like home ... Everything is here.”

The CBRP’s facilities, although some minor improvements short of perfect, received high praise from the West Indies captain. He and Indian counterpart M.S. Dhoni, pointed to the favor-

able conditions South Florida offers, including warm, sunny climate, relaxing atmosphere and even shopping.

“It suits cricket,” said Dhoni.

FAN FAVE

Fans seemed to agree. A huge colorful and lively crowd – organizers said some 12,000-plus – paid up to \$250 a day to watch the first India v. West Indies game on Aug. 27 in an ultra-festive atmosphere. Even after India lost, failing by three runs to overhaul the West Indies’ imposing total of 245 runs made off 20 overs, few seemed overly disappointed.

“It was a really good game for both teams,” a father was heard telling his young son.

Administrators believe Broward County profited too. According to Jamaican-born Commissioner Dale Holness, the county stood to absorb “about a \$6 million economic impact” from hosting the series.

“I think the future is bright ... for international



West Indies captain Carlos Braithwaite shows off the Paytm T20 Trophy following his team’s series win over India in South Florida.

cricket in South Florida,” said Holness, a main force behind bringing the game to South Florida and who claimed the county invested “\$80 something million” in the CBRP.

However, regular international fixtures will depend on a myriad of factors. When the West Indies played matches against New Zealand in 2012

at the CBRP, similar enthusiasm indicated a steady diet of matches to come. It didn’t quite materialize. But the outlook is different now.

“I think it’s something that will blossom,” said Braithwaite. “(...The recent games are) the basis of something positive” for cricket in the U.S.

Prospects of further financial profit remain a big draw.

“I’m big into economic development and job creation,” said Holness, “and that’s why I’m interested in international cricket.”

‘CRAMP’

According to Dhoni, the crowded international cricket calendar could, however, hamper future games in the U.S., especially causing a possible

“cramp” to India’s schedule. However, he noted the players appeared willing to give the game in the U.S. a real shot.

“I feel like it’s a good venue to come back and play cricket,” India’s captain said.

Dhoni, like Braithwaite, pointed to the large Caribbean and Indian diaspora in the U.S., which makes fan support almost guaranteed. The West Indies captain said his team embraces the idea of coming to South Florida to play, which should boost the game’s profile in America.

“We’re looking forward to it,” Braithwaite said. “It bodes well for cricket in the United States.”

Holness is banking on it. He said in the past the Caribbean had been reluctant to respond to South Florida’s willingness to host more West Indies games, fearing that would negatively impact its tourism industry. However, the region may be “finally getting there,” the commissioner added. And South Florida is waiting with a warm embrace.

“Now we are ready,” said Holness.



T&T lone Caribbean nation to advance in World Cup soccer

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Trinidad and Tobago emerged the lone Caribbean nation still with a chance to play in soccer’s biggest showcase after Haiti, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) crashed out of World Cup qualifiers (WCQ) last month.

The Soca Warriors finished second in Group 3 behind the United States in the semi-final round for teams in North and Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF). That result booked T&T’s place in the final CONCACAF round of six countries, from which the top three senior men’s teams will advance to the 2018 World Cup in Russia and a fourth place nation will get an additional chance to qualify via playoff.

The fate of the Caribbean was decided early. While winless SVG’s bottom finish in Group 3 was no surprise, the failure of Jamaica and to a lesser extent Haiti – both which have qualified for the World Cup finals in the past – to advance from Group 2 to the hexagonal round was a major letdown.

“It’s very disappointing. We haven’t been consistent,” Jamaica’s assistant coach Miguel Coley lamented shortly after the Reggae Boyz were beaten 2-0 here in their final qualifying fixture on Sept. 6, just four days after losing by

the same score away to Panama.

REVIEW

Coley acknowledged his country’s flagging international soccer fortunes and pointed to the need for an urgent review to revive it.

“We need to have some discussions on the way forward,” he admitted.

Haiti also finished Group



Hart

2 on four points equal with Jamaica, a healthy distance behind winner Costa Rica (16) and runner-up Panama (10), which both advanced to the “hex”, scheduled to kick off next month. For the French-speaking nation, the WCQ was a tough road.

“It’s been very difficult for a while, though it was good to finish on a good note, especially against Jamaica,” explained Haiti’s goalkeeper Johny

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TRI v CRC	MEX v USA	HON v TRI	USA v CRC	HON v USA	USA v PAN	CRC v HON	USA v PAN	TRI v USA	PAN v CRC
MEX v USA	PAN v HON	USA v CRC	MEX v PAN	PAN v TRI	CRC v HON	PAN v TRI	CRC v HON	TRI v USA	PAN v CRC
PAN v HON	CRC v TRI	TRI v HON	TRI v HON	CRC v MEX	MEX v TRI	CRC v MEX	MEX v TRI	HON v MEX	HON v MEX

Placide after the Jamaica game.

Placide, however, appeared optimistic for the future.

“This result will allow us to move forward on a positive note,” he said.

SHAKE-UP

His teammate Jean Vorbe, however, anticipated a shake-up of the national program as well.

“It’s a big setback,” Vorbe said. “There’s no question now who must now go and others have to come in.”

Like Haiti, elimination from WCQ could be devastating for Jamaica’s national program. No WCQ mean loss of a substantial income stream,

especially from home games.

“It’s a major setback even from an economic standpoint,” explained Roy Simpson, Jamaica’s team manager.

He too called for an in-depth review of his country’s national soccer program, which has failed make the senior men’s World Cup finals since a historic run to France in 1998 and was troubled by various controversies, including the suspension of head coach Winfried Schafer for the final Haiti game.

“Now is the time to look seriously at what has been affecting our program the last five World Cup cycles,” Simpson added.

Mexico and Honduras qualified for the “hex” from

Group 1. But T&T lost 4-0 to the U.S. in its last group game in Florida, a result which upset head coach Stephen Hart, despite overall WCQ success. He promised in-depth evaluation of his team ahead of the regional championship.

“I think I have to look very closely at the selection going into the Caribbean Cup and we have to realize that we have some soul searching to do,” Hart told reporters. “(In the U.S. game) some of the big players would have to answer for it because our leaders ... far too many of them disappeared.”

- Gordon Williams



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Clear vision empowers students to learn more

Every child deserves the opportunity to excel in the classroom and clear vision empowers students to perform up to twice as well in school, according to research from the Rural Education Action Program.

Experts at The Vision Council confirm that 80 percent of children's learning occurs through visual processing. Unfortunately, many kids are missing out by not getting proper eye care.

Thirty-five percent of children have never seen a vision care professional, according to The Vision Care Institute. And of those that do take and fail a vision screening, a large portion don't receive follow-up from an eye care professional.

"An eye exam should be part of every family's back-to-school check list to help ensure children reach their full potential in the classroom," says Lisa Curcuruto, Focus on Sight program manager at OneSight, an independent nonprofit that provides underserved students and communi-



-Photograph by OneSight

Kids can reach their full potential after receiving glasses.

ties worldwide with comprehensive eye exams and glasses.

Throughout the school year, parents should also periodically check in with children to ask how school is going and if they are having any trouble seeing the board. Many kids don't share their vision struggles with parents or teachers and lose interest in the classroom.

EYE CARE

Families can also help all students see better and succeed in school by providing eye care to children in need.

OneSight works with local

communities to provide vision care to students during their school day. Consider making a donation to OneSight, which works with school-based health centers to integrate vision care into their healthcare offerings.

The OneSight school-based vision centers provide students in need and their families access to comprehensive eye exams, quality

glasses and repair of glasses. In addition, the vision centers can provide referrals to ophthalmologists for complicated eye issues and education on the importance of eye health and wellness. To learn more, visit onesight.org.

The importance of clear vision can't be overstated. Help kids make the most of school by ensuring they are headed back to the classroom with the vision care they need to succeed.

- Edited from *StatePoint*.



Caribbean outlines public health challenges at meeting with U.S.

Government ministers and other officials from the Caribbean last month met in the United States to discuss ways to tackle public health challenges facing the region.

The discussions were held at a meeting of the Council on Human and Social Development (COHSOD) Health in Washington, D.C.

Matters such as infectious diseases, chemical risk and thermonuclear risk management were placed on the table, as well as talks on Caribbean co-operation in health, priorities and regional public goods, management and governance, resourcing and the way forward.

In relation to HIV/AIDS, the Caribbean's achievements in relation to the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV was scheduled to be addressed.

NCD

Following the recently commemorated "Caribbean Wellness Week", where the matter of non-communicable

diseases (NCD) has been topical over the past few years, the matter was once again scheduled to be raised and new initiatives for preventing NCDs, as well as treatment methods, explored.

Officials and ministers were also scheduled to hear a proposal from the Bjorn Steiger Foundation on a measure that can help to strengthen the Caribbean's response to health emergencies. The system is expected to help the region to develop responses to emergency situations such as national disasters and accidents that are more comprehensive and competent.

A report on Zika, yellow fever vaccination requirements, as well as regional food security challenges, were also on the agenda for the meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization.

- Edited from *CMC*.



EATING EPIDEMIC: Barbados moves to tackle obesity in primary school children

JOY SPRINGER

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – More than 900 primary school children are currently participating in an intervention program aimed at combatting childhood obesity in Barbados.

The program, mounted by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Barbados Drug Service and the Ministry of Education, features a series of interactive mini-lectures on the topic "Smart Eating – Children Making Healthy Food Choices".

The sessions, which are geared towards children ages 10 and 11, are aimed at educating them about the negative effects of unhealthy diets high in calories, sodium and fat, and the benefits to be gained by eating more fruits, vegetables, ground provisions and legumes, and drinking more water.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has warned that the region is in the midst of a childhood obesity epidemic. According to Dr. Audrey Morris, the advisor on food and nutrition at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the number of obese and overweight children in the Caribbean has doubled in the

last decade.

In Barbados, the Global School Health Survey revealed that 31.9 percent of students were overweight and 14.4 percent obese. The study found that 18.5 percent of students surveyed consumed fast food three or more days per week and 73.3 percent drank one or more carbonated beverages every day. Only 12.7 percent reported eating five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day over a 30-day period, and 15 percent reported eating no fruit or vegetables during the same period.

'WORRISOME'

Additionally, while the recommended amount of exercise for children was at least 60 minutes a day, the survey found that only 28 percent of Barbadian children met that criteria, with more than 70 percent considered physically inactive. It further found that students engaged in at least three hours of sedentary activity each day centered on electronic media, television and video games.

Acting Chief Medical



Children are proving most vulnerable.

Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kenneth George, during a recent public lecture, described childhood obesity as "a worrisome public health development."

Officer of Health, Dr. Kenneth George, during a recent public lecture, described childhood obesity as "a worrisome public health development." He pointed to the link between childhood obesity and the increased risk of non-communicable diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, elevated blood pressure, early atherosclerosis and asthma. He said other areas of concern included psychological and

psychosocial problems, joint and bone disease, sleep apnea, endocrine disorders and even some cancers.

Dr. George maintained that obese children were more likely to be ill and have increased sick days from school; and they were also at higher risk of becoming obese adults.

One of the challenges of the Ministry of Health, therefore, he said, was to reverse

the increased consumption of foods prepared outside the home which were often highly refined and processed; and to increase the consumption of traditional and locally sourced foods. The Ministry was further challenged, he said, by the limited enforcement of the policy of physical education in schools where students frequently "opted out", and where time allotted for physical education had been reduced, in many cases, to one session per week, particularly during the "exam term". Physical education, he maintained, was a very important part of the school curriculum and must be enforced in all primary and secondary schools.

Dr. George stressed the importance of engaging all stakeholders to provide solutions to the public health challenge of childhood obesity.

"This calls for the involvement of children through focus groups and other for a," he said. "It must involve Parent Teacher Associations, school boards and the Ministry of Education. We must collaborate with the Schools Meals Program, canteen and cafeteria operators and itinerant vendors."

Dr. George further recommended the formation of strategic alliances with farmers, manufacturers and the fast food industry, as well as with international organizations such as PAHO, the Food and Agricultural Organization, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and the United Nations Population Fund.

The current initiative targeted at primary school students islandwide is viewed as one step in the Ministry of Health's mission to make all schools in Barbados "health promoting schools" by the year 2020.

- Edited from *CMC*.





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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

University of Florida identifies new mosquito-borne virus in Haiti

FLORIDA – University of Florida (UF) researchers have identified a patient in Haiti with a serious mosquito-borne illness that has never before been reported in the French-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country.

Known as “Mayaro virus”, it is closely related to chikungunya virus and was first isolated in Trinidad in 1954.

The symptoms of Mayaro fever are similar to those of

chikungunya, meaning fever, joint pain, muscle pain and rashes. Abdominal pain is also a feature of Mayaro fever, however, and joint pain can last longer.

CONCERN

Most reported cases, however, have been confined to small outbreaks in the Amazon and the researchers question whether this case signals the start of a new outbreak in the Caribbean region

is currently unknown.

“While current attention has been focused on the Zika virus, the finding of yet another mosquito-borne virus which may be starting to circulate in the Caribbean is of concern,” said Dr. Glenn Morris, director of the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute.

“Hopefully we will not see the same massive epidemics that we saw with chikungunya, dengue and now Zika. However, these findings underscore the fact that there are additional viruses ‘waiting in the wings’ that may pose threats in the future, and for which we need to be watching.”

DETECTION

The case was identified from a blood sample taken in Jan. 2015 from an eight-year-old boy in rural Haiti. The patient had a fever and



abdominal pain, but no rash or conjunctivitis.

Because faculty from the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute were in the region during and after the 2014 chikungunya outbreak, plasma samples were obtained from febrile children and analyzed for the presence of chikungunya virus RNA using a genetic identification technique known as reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction.

“The virus we detected is genetically different from the ones that have been described recently in Brazil, and we don’t know yet if it is unique to Haiti or if it is a recombinant strain from different types of Mayaro viruses,” said Dr. John Lednicky, an associate professor in the environmental and global health department at the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions and the study’s lead author.

Last month, the head of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Dr. James Hosepdales, predicted “with some degree of certainty” that regional countries will have a dengue type three epidemic to deal with next year.

- Edited from CMC.





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Can disclosing cancer on social media impact your life, professional career?

Social media has changed the rules of privacy for almost everyone. But for people diagnosed with cancer, social media use comes with the additional complications of online disclosure, which can have unintended consequences.

As part of their annual survey, Cancer and Careers, a national non-profit that empowers and educates people with cancer to thrive in their workplaces, polled survivors on their experiences with disclosing their cancer online.



- Photograph (c) UBER IMAGES - Fotolia.com

Support can come from online, but there are drawbacks.

Nearly one in five cancer survivors polled said that revealing their cancer diagnosis on social media negatively impacted their careers, and one in 10 said they experienced repercussions at work

because of their disclosure.

However, 77 percent of respondents who posted about cancer or disclosed their diagnosis online felt supported by friends and family or found a support group as a result.

PERSONAL


As with any aspect of the cancer journey, the decision to disclose, whether online or in-person, is a personal one based on a variety of factors.

For more information on Cancer and Careers’ expert resources, interactive tools and educational events visit CancerandCareers.org.

If you have cancer or are a cancer survivor, learning more about the possible consequences of online disclosure can help you make decisions that are right for you.

- Edited from StatePoint.





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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

BEWARE: High breast cancer rates in parts of Broward County

BOB LAMENDOLA

When breast cancer goes undetected, the tumor becomes bigger, more invasive and far more dangerous to the afflicted woman or man.

That's why the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward) has noted a few areas of the county with high numbers of late-stage breast cancer cases. DOH-Broward has targeted women from eight ZIP codes with the highest rates of breast tumors that go undetected until they reach serious status (stages three and four).

Breast tumors detected before they spread (stages one and two) are easier to treat and far less likely to be fatal. But late-stage tumors more often claim the patient's life within a few months or years.

TOP 8

On average, 36 percent of breast tumors in Broward are diagnosed as late-stage cancer,



Early detection is key to fighting cancer.

about the same as in the state and nation. But university researchers identified eight Broward ZIP codes as having high rates of late-stage tumors, up to 53 percent of total cases.

ZIP codes with high numbers of late-stage cases were:

- 33004 (Dania Beach)
- 33023 (Miramar, West Park, Pembroke Park, Pembroke Pines)
- 33028 (Pembroke Pines)
- 33068 (Margate, North Lauderdale)

- 33309 (Fort Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Lauderdale Lakes, Tamarac)
- 33311 (Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderdale Hill, Wilton Manors, Oakland Park)
- 33317 (Plantation)
- 33332 (Weston, Pembroke Pines)

EARLY

Families with little or no health coverage or access to health care make up many of the late-stage cases, but not all, according to Trivel McKire, health educator in DOH-Broward's Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

"Mammograms can find breast cancer early, before it spreads and becomes more serious," McKire explained. "We encourage all women over age 40 to be screened. Early detection is the best protection."

DOH-Broward offers free mammograms to qualified, underinsured women ages 50 to 64. The program schedules the tests and arranges follow-up care if abnormal results are

found. Screenings are available for qualified, underinsured women.

For more information, call 954-762-3649.

Story and photograph submitted by Bob LaMendola, Florida Department of Health in Broward County.

**George F. Battle, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.**

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WHO urges Caribbean use of new guides to cut STIs

GENEVA, Switzerland – The World Health Organization (WHO) is calling on Caribbean and other countries to start using immediately the updated guidelines to reduce sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in response to the growing threat of antibiotic resistance.

In issuing the new guidelines last month, WHO said chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis are all caused by bacteria, adding that they are generally curable with antibiotics. However, WHO said these STIs often go undiagnosed, "and they are becoming more difficult to treat, with some antibiotics now failing as a result of misuse and overuse."

It is estimated that, each year, 131 million people are infected with chlamydia, 78 million with gonorrhoea and 5.6 million with syphilis.

COMPLICATIONS

WHO said strains of multidrug-resistant gonorrhoea that do not respond to any available antibiotics have already been detected. It said antibiotic resistance in chlamydia and syphilis, though less common, also exists, making prevention and prompt treatment critical.

When left undiagnosed and untreated, WHO said these STIs can result in serious complications and long-term health problems for

women, such as pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage, and untreated gonorrhoea and chlamydia can cause infertility in both men and women.

Infection with chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis can also increase a person's risk of being infected with HIV two to three fold. Untreated STI in a pregnant woman increases the chances of stillbirth and newborn death.

"The new WHO guidelines reinforce the need to treat these STIs with the right antibiotic, at the right dose, and the right time to reduce their spread and improve sexual and reproductive health," said Ian Askew, WHO's director of reproductive health and research.

DANGER

The new WHO guidelines do not recommend quinolones, a class of antibiotic, for the treatment of gonorrhoea due to widespread high levels of resistance.

To cure syphilis, the guideline strongly recommends a single dose of Benzadrine penicillin - a form of the antibiotic that is injected by a doctor or nurse into the infected patient's buttock or thigh muscle.

- Edited from CMC.



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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month - a great time to schedule your annual screening mammogram. Once you have your prescription, please call for an appointment at **954.759.7500**.

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

INSURANCE NEED: Beware pitfalls of shipping liability limitation**DANIEL W. RAAB**

The \$500 per package limitation has been litigated numerous times.

What is sometimes overlooked by practitioners in the maritime field is that the issue of limitation of liability is an issue in cases involving ocean freight forwarders and customs brokers, who are not ocean carriers or non-vessel operating common carriers and, therefore, not governed by the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act.

Be careful when you ship cargo and be aware that there can be a limitation of liability at \$500 per package with an opportunity to declare a higher value. This is one of several reasons why it is a good idea to get marine cargo insurance.

The shipper can purchase this through an ocean freight forwarder, non-vessel operating common carrier and even through an ocean carrier. The

cost is usually less than declaring a higher value.

PACKAGE

There are many cases on what is and is not a package. Buses have even been held to be a package. Even pallets under certain circumstances have been held to be packages. A lot of this will depend on the description in the bill of lading. The shipper needs to be careful when it books cargo and fills out information to go into a bill of lading.

Also be aware that others in the industry will seek to limit their damages. The National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America, Inc. has approved a standard contractual provision that limits customs broker's and freight forwarder's liability for damaged goods to \$50 per shipment or entry.

In the 1993 court case *General Elec. Co. v. Harper Robinson & Co.*, the defen-



- File photograph

Shippers must be concerned that their packages are protected.

dant included a \$50 limitation of liability in its contract with the plaintiff. The court held that the customs broker was permitted to limit liability by the terms of the contract, especially where the parties established a prior course of dealing.

BOUND

The court also noted that the plaintiff was aware of the terms of the limitation clause and was free to adjust the limitation, but failed to do so. Therefore, because the plaintiff failed to pay increased

compensation to cover the full value of the shipment, it was bound by the \$50 limitation on liability in the contract.

Warehouses in the United States can also limit their damages. These need to be reviewed carefully as well. There should be the ability to declare a higher value.

The best way for a shipper to protect itself is with the right insurance coverage. If the shipper is utilizing an ocean freight forwarder or a non-vessel operating common carrier, it can be a good source of information for booking and a means to purchase insurance.

Edited from an article submitted by Daniel W. Raab, an attorney in Miami, Florida and contributing author to "Goods In Transit".

**Caribbean ports need more investment, fast-track modernization ~ study**

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica – Member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have been urged to examine and explore a regional port strategy given the limited volumes being handled in some ports in the nine-member sub-regional grouping.

A recent study on maritime ports in the region, undertaken on behalf of the

Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), is also recommending a major overhaul in policies; significant increase in investments to fast-track modernization; more private sector leadership, and greater focus among the bank's borrowing member countries (BMCs) on improving efficiency.

"Investments should be made under prudent guidance

and with an awareness of the regional developments. It would be a waste of public resources for all the OECS countries to invest in deep-sea facilities," the study noted.

The CDB said that the proposals come against the background of varying degrees of efficiency and productivity among the 12 ports examined in the study.

AIM

The main aim of the study was to stimulate new perspectives on policies, practices and institutions to improve efficiency and viability of the regional port industry," the CDB added

"Maritime transport in the Caribbean was found to be challenged by inadequate infrastructure provision and inefficient port operations. These lead to delays and addi-



The Port of Nassau was the most efficient in the sample.

tional transport costs.

"The study notes that the level of efficiency of the ports has an impact on import and exports costs, with a resultant effect on the competitiveness of national economies. Port efficiency also affects growth in price levels and hence the level of poverty. Port efficiency was therefore a major focus of the study."

The study, entitled "Towards the Efficiency Frontier: Study on the Transformation of the Caribbean Maritime Port Services Industry", was undertaken by the Netherlands-based Maritime & Transport Business Solution BV (MTBS). The countries that participated in the study were Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, The Bahamas, and Trinidad

and Tobago.

The CDB said that the indicators used in the port efficiency measure were berth productivity; labor productivity measured by TEUs per employee; quality of infrastructure; nautical accessibility measured by the maximum vessel draught; type of equipment used for stevedoring operations; type of IT systems used in port operations; and the level of autonomy of the port operator.

BEST

The Port of Nassau, in The Bahamas, was the most efficient in the sample. According to MTBS, this was not surprising given the port's newness and its joint public/private sector leadership.

The second most efficient port was the port of Port of Spain, Trinidad, which enjoys economies of scale, has the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

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St. Lucia implements open ship registry, expects big benefits



Chastanet

CASTRIES, St. Lucia – The St. Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA) says the island is expected to gain several benefits after a decision earlier this year to implement an open ship registry, which allows for companies or people from other countries to register their vessels under that nation's flag.

Meanwhile, the St. Lucia government says it is undertaking initiatives to encourage an open sky policy and introduce competition.

“Our government is in discussion with Seaborne Airlines with the hope of attracting a

Puerto Rico flight here,” Prime Minister Allen Chastanet, a critic of the cash-strapped regional airline, LIAT, said here last month. “We are also having discussions with Caribbean Airlines.”

The SALSIPA said the open ship registry decision followed a review of the Shipping Amendment Act and that “registering a ship gives nationality to the ship and similar to nationality, allows the ship to travel internationally wherever that country's citizens are authorized to travel and thus are bound by the country's laws”.

It said every vessel that wants to travel internationally and cross international borders must be registered.

BENEFITS

“The process has not been an easy one, and although the decision has been made to implement the open ship registry, changes have to be made to our current legislation to ensure that the full benefits of the open ship reg-

istry are realized,” said the Director of Maritime Affairs Christopher Alexander.

The authorities here said the island is expected to gain several benefits from the implementation of an open ship registry.

“These are and not limit-

ed to employment of seafarers, increased revenue from taxes and fees, provision of legal services, and expansion and growth of maritime services,” a government statement noted.

In addition, St. Lucia is expected to have greater

prominence and representation internationally, particularly at meetings of the International Maritime Organization.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean ports need more investment, fast-track modernization ~ study

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

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Among CDB's recommendations, based on the findings, are that BMCs should combine funding with port reform, where applicable.

The CDB said that, as a development bank, it will exert its influence in order to realize port and/or labor reform, and work towards more efficient port operations.

The bank said it would also explore a regional port strategy for the OECS.

“Given the limited volumes being handled in the ports, port investments are often not financially feasible. Investments should be made under prudent guidance and with an awareness of the

regional developments. It would be a waste of public resources for all the OECS countries to invest in deep-sea facilities,” the study added.

The bank is also recommending the allocation of funds to finance port labor training.

The study recommended that specific attention should be paid to training of operational staff managed by the public sector, which have been deficient with respect to the use of IT and equipment operation and maintenance.

The study also recommended that policymakers take into consideration the regional and competitive environment.

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