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## STATE OF EMERGENCY

~ Caribbean nationals in the United States are growing increasingly worried over the mounting number of killings of unarmed males of color by white law enforcement officers. Some are stepping up efforts to prevent tragedy stemming from what they perceive as lingering racism in America, page 5.



Caribbean nationals better get those citizenship applications in now if they qualify or get ready to shell out more in fees to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Fees for dozens of immigration applications are set to increase again by this fall, page 2.



Election season is steadily building up in the United States. Local ballots are being cast this month in South Florida. The stakes are high for the large Caribbean American community, especially in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, where several prime posts are being contested, pages 17-19.

## SHOW ME THE MONEY!



~ The Antigua and Barbuda government says it has dismissed a proposal by the United States to end their long running dispute over Internet gaming and said Washington now owes the Caribbean nation in excess of \$200 million, page 3.

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**NEWS**



# PRICE HIKE: U.S. eyes fees increase for immigration services in 2016

**FELICIA J. PERSAUD**

Get those citizenship applications in now if you qualify or get ready to shell out more in fees to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Fees for more than three dozen immigration applications are set to go up again by

this fall.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently closed its comment period on the proposed fee changes. The fee increases could be steep in some instance and minimal in others.

For instance, an application for a fiancé visa, could now increase by \$195 and one

new fee of \$3,035 to recover the full cost of processing the Employment Based Immigrant Visa, Fifth Preference (EB-5) Annual Certification of Regional Center, Form I-924A is proposed.

Other proposed fee changes are as follows:

**Citizenship** - Fees for nat-



The cost to become American rising.

learning permit; financial aid; employment; and passport renewal.

**Family-based residency** - The proposed rule also increases the fees for Forms I-130 – Petition for Alien Relative – by 27 percent and I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, by 16 percent.

Under the current fee schedule, the total of filing fees for a one-step, concurrent filing of Form I-130, Form I-485, Form I-765 – Application for Employment Authorization and Form I-131 – Application for Travel Document – is \$1,490. Under the proposed fee schedule, the total fees would be \$1,760.

USCIS also proposes an increased fee of \$750 for a child under age 14 when filing Form I-485 concurrently with the application of a parent seeking classification as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, a family-sponsored preference immigration or a family member accompanying

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

uralization or citizenship applications could also increase. The USCIS has proposed a three-level fee for the Application for Naturalization (N-400). Under the proposed rule, the standard filing fee for Form N-400 would increase by eight percent (from \$595 to \$640).

But for Forms N-600 and N-600K, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, the fee could go up from \$600 to \$1,170 (a 95 percent increase).

While the Certificate of Citizenship may be considered an optional form, it may be required when someone applies for certain other benefits, including, but not limited to: Social Security benefits; state issued identification, including a driver's license or

## BRIEFS

### Caribbean nations observe Emancipation Day, Aug. 1

Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries on Aug. 1 observed Emancipation Day with a national holiday and called for the population of the region to reflect on the social, economic and political progress achieved since slavery had been abolished in 1834.

At least four CARICOM countries in separate messages urged their citizens not to rest on their laurels and continue to work towards the development of their respective countries and the region as a whole.

### 'Miss Cleo', psychic with fake Jamaican accent, dies

A self-proclaimed television psychic, who became famous for her fake Jamaican accent as "Miss Cleo", lost her battle with cancer last month in Florida.

Youree Del Cleomill Harris died July 26 in a hospice in Palm Beach County after a battle with the disease, according to NBC News. She was 53. Harris gained notoriety in the late 1990s as the face of the Psychic Readers Network, wearing colorful headdresses and speaking in a thick - and fake - Jamaican accent.

Harris was born in Los Angeles to Caribbean parents. She was a playwright by profession. On Instagram, she called herself a "seer".

### Bahamians blast legislator's proposal to sterilize unwed women

Citizens for Constitutional

Equality (CCE) has joined in condemning Opposition legislator Richard Lightbourn, who last month proposed a policy of sterilization for unwed mothers after they have given birth to two children.

"Remarkably, Mr. Lightbourn is proposing state enforced violence against women, which is a perverse violation of human rights," the CCE noted in a statement. "This brings to the forefront the immensity of the failure to enshrine the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of sex in our constitution as the most recent referendum initiative sought to do."

### T&T elections judgment due Aug. 19

A High Court judge in Trinidad and Tobago said she will deliver her ruling on Aug. 19 in the election petitions case brought by the main Opposition United National Congress (UNC) challenging the results of six constituencies in the Sept. 7, 2015 general elections.

Justice Mira Dean-Armorer said she did not want the matter to go into the new law term as she heard arguments last month by the UNC attorney that the Elections and Boundaries Commission had no power nor expressed permission to extend the voting time in the elections.

Compiled from various sources, including CMC and News Americas.






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## Antigua makes new moves to secure \$200M U.S. owes in gaming dispute

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua – The Antigua and Barbuda government says it has dismissed a proposal by the United States to end their long running dispute over Internet gaming and said Washington now owes the island in excess of \$200 million.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne in a radio and television broadcast to the nation on July 25, said that the twin island nation cannot be deprived of the money owed to it and is adopting a new strategy in a bid to recover the funds.

He told the nation that since his party was returned to office in June 2014, it has engaged U.S. authorities in discussions, “but the Cabinet has agreed that proposals put to us by the U.S. authorities do not represent a serious commitment to resolve the issue.

“By comparison with the sum of over US\$200 million that our country has lost, and that has been awarded to us by the highest competent international authority, the proposals from the U.S. are regrettably paltry.



Browne

“Therefore, we have not been able to accept them. It is instructive that, while our

country has received nothing so far, the U.S. benefitted by hundreds of millions of dollars from penalties and fines derived from prosecuting Internet gaming operators who were located in Antigua and Barbuda.

“We will make further efforts to negotiate an acceptable solution with the U.S., but, like every other citizen and resident of our nation, our patience is wearing thin,” Browne said.

Antigua and Barbuda has criticized the U.S. since 1998 of breaching its commitments

to members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), by enacting laws that prevented foreign-based operators from offering gambling and betting services to its citizens.

In 2005, the WTO ruled that Washington had violated international trade agreements by prohibiting operation of offshore Internet gambling sites. Antigua claimed that it lost \$3.4 billion a year

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## U.S. marks first year of new relations with Cuba

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States last month marked the completion of the first year of restoring diplomatic relations with Cuba.

“This historic breakthrough has allowed us to more effectively advance U.S. interests and values with our southern neighbor,” a July 20 statement from the U.S. Department of State noted.

Since the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, the department said the United States and Cuba have expanded cooperation in areas such as the environment, transportation, agriculture, health and law enforcement.

The State Department noted that numerous high-level U.S. officials have visited Cuba to deepen relations, including President Barack Obama; five Cabinet secretaries; members of Congress; governors and mayors.

### INTERACTION

Hundreds of representatives of U.S. civil society, business and religious communities have also visited the Spanish-speaking Caribbean country, the State Department added. It also noted that thousands of Americans are interacting with the Cuban people through educational and cultural exchanges for the first time.

It stated other accomplishments and notable events in the past year, including the re-opening of embassies; scheduled air service; regulatory changes; educational, professional and cultural exchange; direct transportation of mail; claims; Internet and telecommunications; health cooperation; agriculture; environment; law enforcement cooperation; and maritime navigation.

### BREAKTHROUGH

On July 20, 2015, the U.S. and Cuba re-opened their respective embassies.

- Edited from CMC.



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# 'WeAreJ'Ouvert': N.Y. unveils new safety efforts for Caribbean Labor Day fest

NEW YORK – New York unveiled new safety measures ahead of the traditional West Indian-American j'ouvert festivities in Brooklyn on Labor Day, the first Monday in September.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams and New York City Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner William J. Bratton were among city officials that unveiled "WeAreJ'Ouvert", a campaign comprising public safety and community outreach efforts to

be undertaken by a coalition of local stakeholders.

Trinidadian Yvette Rennie, the Brooklyn-based J'Ouvert City International president, said "as keepers of a culture that is grounded in artistic expression and national pride that we brought with us from the Caribbean, we must continue to celebrate in a safe environment.

"To gangs in our community, we say 'put down the guns.' Brooklyn comes to life with our culture," Rennie added.

Adams said that the changes prioritize the safety of residents and revelers alike during the popular celebration of Caribbean culture.

"Public safety is an all-in commitment, a partnership between community and police to advance the quality of life in our neighborhoods and ensure we have safe spaces to celebrate our cultural pride," he said.

**COMMITMENT**

Bratton said the "NYPD is committed to ensuring public safety at this very well-attended cultural celebration, which will be reflected in the depart-

mental resources ... that will be deployed," while Mayor Bill deBlasio said the city's West Indian Day celebrations "highlight the rich and historical contributions of Caribbean culture across our five boroughs.

"The community stands united, together with clergy, elected officials, and my administration, in wholly rejecting the small number of individuals who have tried to hijack the spirit of this day with violence," he said.

New York State Senator Jesse Hamilton, representative for the 20th Senatorial District in Brooklyn, said the

"WeAreJ'Ouvert" campaign "represents a critical step forward in bringing the community and police together to host an inclusive celebration of Caribbean heritage.

"We need this kind of cross-community engagement, including outreach, establishing partnerships between anti-violence community groups, neighborhood leaders, clergy, and local police," he said.

*Edited from CMC. For more arts and entertainment, turn to page 12.*



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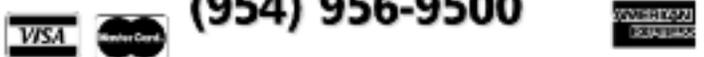


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## Antigua makes new moves to secure \$200M U.S. owes in gaming dispute

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

due to the U.S. action, but the WTO awarded the island \$21 million.

But in its final ruling, the Geneva-based WTO allowed Antigua and Barbuda to suspend certain concessions and obligations it has under international law to the U.S. in respect of intellectual property rights. In Sept. 2014, the Browne administration said that it was seeking \$100 million to settle the dispute, admitting that while the figure represents a reduction on what St. John's had originally been demanding, it is negotiable and could be a mixture of cash and kind.

A notice posted on the WTO's website announced the new proposal from St

John's. But while it gave no details, it said that Antigua and Barbuda had "reiterated its concern that it had not yet received any settlement proposal or other communication from the United States".

In his broadcast, Browne gave a history of the 12-year-old dispute and defended the decision to take the matter to the WTO. He said he is instructing his country's Ambassador in Washington Sir Ronald Sanders, who was the ambassador to the WTO when this case was first won in 2004, to renew negotiations with U.S. agencies as early as possible.

"We are not asking for anything more than that which we have lost, and to which we are entitled in

accordance with the rules of the WTO," the prime minister said.

U.S. President Barack Obama has said repeatedly that, in the conduct of international relations, might is not right and not because countries are small they should be pushed aside. Browne said the matter "has drawn on for too long to the severe disadvantage of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"It must now be resolved and we are prepared to pursue the remedies as authorized by the WTO in the interest of fairness," Browne said.

*- Edited from CMC.*



## PRICE HIKE: U.S. eyes fees increase for immigration services in 2016

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

or following to join a spouse or parent. The current fee is \$635.

**Employment authorization documents** – USCIS proposes to increase the fee for Form I-765 or Application For Employment Authorization, from \$380 to \$410, an eight percent increase. This increase affects applicants for work authorization, including foreign stu-

dents approved for Optional Practical Training, spouses of certain non-immigrant visa holders, recipients of DACA and TPS applicants.

**Replacing permanent resident cards** - The fee for Form I-90 - Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card – is proposed to increase from \$365 to \$455, a 25 percent increase.

USCIS still can waive this fee for those who demonstrate inability to pay. Low-income

applicants who qualify for naturalization and the respective fee waivers may choose to apply for naturalization rather than replace permanent resident cards.

*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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# CONCERN: Caribbean Americans tense over cops killing black males in U.S.

GORDON WILLIAMS

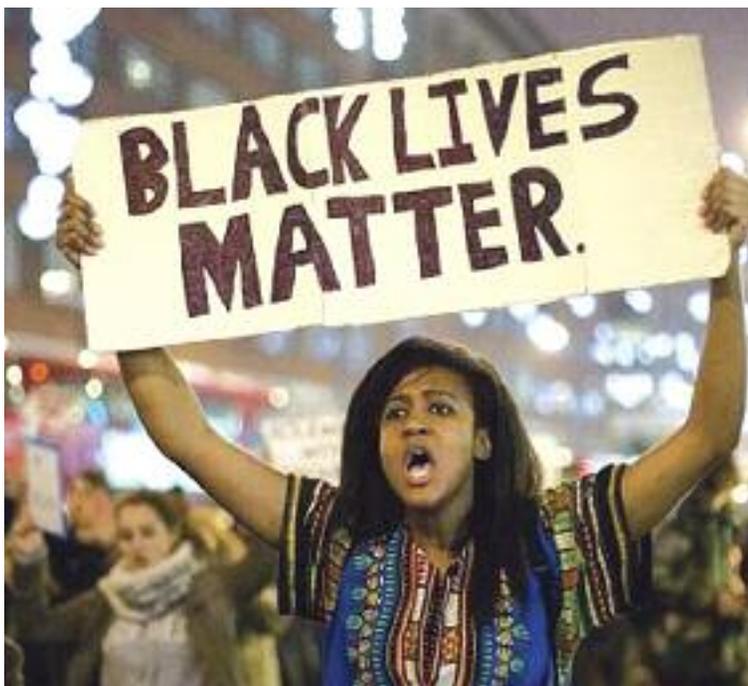
Caribbean nationals in the United States are growing increasingly nervous over the mounting number of killings of unarmed males of color, particularly by white law enforcement officers.

Caribbean American parents are especially worried about the future of their sons. So they are stepping up precautionary measures they hope will prevent tragedy stemming from what they perceive as lingering racism in the U.S.

“I have had several conversations with him,” JamaicaN-born, Georgia resident Paul Young said of his approach with a teenaged son who arrived in the U.S. from the Caribbean island several weeks ago.

“I tell him the situation is set up different here; that the element of racism and color still exists in America. The perception hasn’t changed.”

There are legitimate reasons for concern. Through the first week of July, according to reports, police in the U.S. had shot and killed almost 30 unarmed black or Latino persons in 2016. More than 30 were killed by cops during the same period in 2015. Both



- File photograph

Caribbean American s wonder how much their lives matter too.

numbers are higher than the number of Caucasians - who make up a far greater percentage of the U.S. population - meeting the same fate.

Deborah Cox, a singer who traces her roots to Guyana, tweeted last month: “I can count 5 parents in the last 3 hours who have text me and said my child just asked me ‘AM I GOING TO DIE?’”

According to the U.S.

Census, at least three million Caribbean nationals are in the U.S. The overwhelming majority are people of color. Research has shown that males of color are more likely to feel the brunt of law enforcement in the U.S. One of every three black males are likely to go to prison in the U.S., compared to one in every 17 whites.

“It’s very much a concern,” said Sean Young, a

Florida-based Jamaican father of two teenaged boys. “I speak to them even more often now than before because of what they are seeing.

“The shootings by police of black men really got their attention. They’re asking questions.”

## ANXIETY

The most recent anxiety uptick in the Caribbean American community was sparked by the deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, both shot by police last month in controversial incidents which drew widespread public backlash and the attention of U.S. President Barack Obama, who did not deny racism may have played a role in at least some shootings by cops.

In another incident, this time in Florida, Charles Kinsey was shot three times while laying on his back on the ground holding his arms in the air and telling officers he was unarmed. Although Kinsey didn’t die, that incident stunned Caribbean Americans as well.

“Yes, anything is possible,” said Paul Young, when asked if he was afraid for his son. “Because of the color of skin, that can make it difficult

for them.”

The incidents again left Caribbean Americans wondering if they will be able to get justice in a country they thought would offer a better life, including fair treatment from law enforcement. Police brutality in the Caribbean is not uncommon, but it’s often based on reasons other than skin color.

The upsurge of violence against black males has spawned protests across the U.S. The Black Lives Matter movement rose out of anger and frustration with the current trend of killings.

## NOTICE

The issue has not gone unnoticed in the Caribbean. Last month, The Bahamas warned young males traveling to the U.S.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration has taken a note of the recent tensions in some American cities over shootings of young black males by police officers,” a government advisory noted.

Adding: “In particular young males are asked to exercise extreme caution in affected cities in their interactions with the policed. Do not be confrontational and coop- (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)



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# Celebrities with Caribbean roots speak out on police shootings

While some Caribbean celebrities chose to stay silent on social media on the latest killings of two unarmed African American men and five police officers, others with Caribbean roots are speaking out.

Bahamas-roots singer Lenny Kravitz took to Instagram to post the above photo with the hashtags: “#Enough #AltonSterling #PhilandoCastile #Murder #Justice #LetLoveRule #BadCopsMakingItBadForGoo dCops #ToProtectAndToServe #BlackLivesMatter

#AllLivesMatter” Trinidad-born rapper Nicki Minaj alluded to Caribbean-roots black activist Malcolm X, who had spoken about police brutality, with a simple tweet that stated: “May the spirit of Malcolm X be reborn ... for such a time as this.”

Actor Aldis Hodge, of “Leverage” fame, and whose roots extend to Dominica, tweeted simply: “Nuff said. #altonsterling #blacklivesmatter .”

He then took to Instagram on July 6 to comment on the killing of Sterling

with a strong commentary but has since stayed silent:

“I wasn’t sure I saw what I thought I saw,” he wrote. “And I really hoped I was seeing the wrong thing. But when I realized that I was watching the murder/execution of #altonsterling I got sick. May he rest in peace.”

He also added: “I thought police were supposed to handle these altercations with concern for the preservation of everyone’s life. These days it just seems like the poor examples of officers like these gentlemen just think to attack and shoot before thinking to deescalate the situation. And it leaves me to ask who is policing the police? All I can hope for is that true justice is brought down on these perverters of civility. Wake up #judicialsystem. The ball is in your court, as it always has been. Show us that we, the people, matter. Another innocent American died on your watch and it’s here for the world to see. We are beyond tired of this. What will be done?”

## ‘IGNORANCE’

Actor Lamman Rucker of Tyler Perry’s “Why Did I Get Married?” and “Meet the Browns” fame, and whose roots extend to Barbados,

## ENOUGH!



- Photograph taken from Instagram  
Singer Lenny Kravitz posted this photograph in response to the killings.

tweeted: “Is this #IGNORANCE #DENIAL #INDIFFERENCE – or All Three??? This is #BLASPHEMOUS! #Accountability #BlackLivesMatter”.

Actress Marsha Thomason, of the NBC series “Las Vegas” and whose roots extend to Jamaica, noted: “I can’t find the words to express the sorrow and anger I’m feeling today and every day. #AltonSterling #PhilandoCastile #BlackLivesMatter.”

Actor Laz Alonso, who is of Afro-Cuban descent and of the ‘Fast & Furious’ fame, asked: “How is paid administrative leave acceptable in all these killings??? How is that

any form of punishment? #FalconHeightsShooting”. Guyanese American actor Sean Patrick Thomas took to Twitter with an ironic note: “... If I ever get a gun permit, it permits law enforcement to pump lead into my black body. Got it.”

## HISTORY LESSON

Jamaican American actress Sheryl Lee Ralph took the history lesson route, tweeting: “Like Horses and pigs we have been beaten. The lesson is being repeated. Are we woke yet? #roots”. Singer Deborah Cox, whose roots extend to Guyana tweeted: “I can count 5 parents in the last 3 hours who have text me and said my child just asked me “AM I GOING TO DIE”?”

Guyanese-roots Canadian singer Anjulie choose to stay above the dialogue, instead tweeting a quote from Ghandi following the killing of five Dallas officers which stated: “An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind”. Stacey Dash, whose roots extend to Barbados, took a shot at the Hollywood actors slamming the latest killings with this tweet: “Hollywood, want a gun ban? Put your money where your mouth is; vow never to appear in any film with a gun.”

- Edited from News Americas.



## CONCERN: Caribbean Americans tense over cops killing black males in U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)  
erate.”

The disparity, especially in the number of cop killings of unarmed black males, is causing Caribbean Americans to reinforce instructions they give to their loved ones.

“The parents have to educate the children; not just schoolwork, but having respect for others (including law enforcement officers). I have spoken to them about that,” said Sean Young.

“The color of their skin does not give anyone the right to just shoot them down. But the boys are very much aware and I am very much concerned for them and myself.”

## REPATRIATION?

Other Caribbean nations, Jamaica for example, have been unwilling to go as far as The Bahamas. However, children of Caribbean American parents, who were born in the U.S. or came to America too young to remember what life

was like in the region, are also asking questions about the Caribbean. Many want to know if shootings by police, like those recently seen in the U.S., are common there. Ironically, the situation is bringing some closer to their Caribbean roots.

“Now they’re embracing more their Caribbean heritage and they are asking what we went through growing up in the Caribbean,” Sean Young said of his sons. “It’s re-opened the discussion.”

Still, Caribbean American parents are questioning their choice to raise children – especially males - in the U.S. Even more chilling, some of their children, feeling threatened, are wondering if remaining in the U.S. will be the best choice for them.

“(My sons) even asked that if it continues like this in the U.S. if they can go to Jamaica to live,” Sean Young added.



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## Where does Clinton stand on Caribbean American issues?

PHILADELPHIA - Pennsylvania - Where does United States presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton stand on issues of importance to Caribbean immigrants in America and the Caribbean region?

Here are some things Caribbean American voters should know:

1: In June, Caribbean American Heritage Month in the U.S., Clinton released a statement about this growing voting bloc. It came just three months after the Hillary Clinton campaign announced its "Hillary for Florida" Caribbean Leadership Council - a diverse group of grassroots and community leaders in the Caribbean American community there. It includes Haitian American actress Garcelle Beauvais.

2: In April, her husband, former President Bill Clinton, trekked to a Caribbean American church in Brooklyn, New York to insist that his wife has helped the Caribbean community.

"If the United States is serious, they will do what Hillary started - and the job she wants to finish - liberate (the Caribbean and Americas) from imported oil forever and guarantee them their economic ... future," he said.

### CHALLENGES

3: Hillary Clinton says she recognizes the challenges of the Caribbean American community include "enduring racism, access to quality education and health care, good-paying jobs and retirement security" and insists, "she will fight to break down these barriers so that everyone, regardless of their background has a chance to live up to their potential."

4: On the hot button issue of immigration, Clinton states that she will fight to keep families are together.

"Caribbean immigrants make up 3.2 percent of the undocumented immigrants in this country," her campaign statement noted. "Instead of breaking up law-abiding immigrant families who have enriched America, Hillary will offer them a path to full and equal citizenship. She will also protect and implement the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) programs to keep Caribbean families together."

### CITIZENSHIP

5: Her campaign also

insists that, as president, Clinton will call on Congress to repeal the three and 10-year bars so families don't have to choose between pursuing a permanent residence or "green card" and staying with their families.

6: She also urged Caribbean immigrants who are eligible for citizenship to take that final step and says, as president, she will expand fee-waivers and increase access to language and outreach programs, including to those immigrants living in the U.S. who are still eligible for Temporary Protected Status.

7: Clinton also said she



Clinton

will ensure quality education for Caribbean American youth by increasing investment in Early Head Start and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program.

Additionally, her campaign said, Clinton will fight to ensure that cost is not a barrier for anyone who wants to attend college - and that debt won't hold them back when they do.

8: While the unemployment rate of white Americans is 3.8 percent, it's nearly six percent for Caribbean immigrants. Caribbean Americans also have higher rates of poverty than the overall population.

Clinton said she has a plan to invest \$125 billion to create good-paying jobs, rebuild crumbling infrastructure, and connect housing to opportunity in communities that are being left out and left behind. Her plan includes investing \$20 billion to create youth jobs and another \$25 billion to support entrepreneurship and small business growth in underserved communities.

She said she will pay for the new investments through a tax on Wall Street, ensuring the major financial institutions that contributed to the Great Recession do their part to bring back the communities they hurt the most.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

## When 'Trumpism' made U.S. elections about immigration

FELICIA J. PERSAUD

At a time when the entire United States is looking at the clear lack of diversity in the Republican Party, as the convention wrapped up in Cleveland, Ohio last month - not even the handful of blacks and Latinos brought out to save face could help - the conservative **Washington Times** newspaper decided that it would attack Spanish-language media.

On July 21, 2016, the Times, considered as right wing as Fox TV, published an article with the headline: "Spanish-language media's 'immigration-centric' coverage casts convention in negative light". The article came just three days after the convention opened on July 18 with calls from many speakers, including African American Jamiel Shaw, Sr., for a wall to keep out immigrants at the southern border of the U.S.

Speaker after speaker used the opportunity to slam illegal immigration and immigrants, with some even blurring the lines between terrorists and immigrants.



Trump and the Republicans put immigration in the spotlight.

### NATIVISM

To say it was overt nativism was undeniable.

A significant portion of the evening was dedicated to the "victims of illegal immigrants," featuring grieving speeches from people whose children were killed by undocumented immigrants. They praised Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric and platform. Sabine Durden, whose son was killed by a drunk driver, reiterated a frequent "Trumpism" - that if it weren't for him, no one would be discussing immigration and proposing to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Then there is legendary

former Notre Dame football coach and ESPN commentator Lou Holtz who spoke at the Republican National Coalition for Life and, according to reporter Betsy Woodruff, did not bother couching his beliefs about immigration policy in the language of border security or potential downward pressure on low-skilled wages. Instead, Holtz reportedly stated: "I don't want to become you. I don't want to speak your language, I don't want to celebrate your holidays, I sure as hell don't want to cheer for your soccer team!"

And, of course, on the convention's final night, along came the attacks from Herr Trump himself - the man who once withheld medical care from his own great-nephew. Right at the beginning Trump began his attacks on immigrants: "Nearly 180,000 illegal immigrants with criminal records, ordered deported from our country, are tonight roaming free to threaten peaceful citizens," he stated.

Followed by: "The number of new illegal immigrant families who have crossed the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

# Fall Cargo & Shipping

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

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## FEATURE



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# SOCCER KRAZE: Jamaican coach has a 'Krush' on the beautiful game in U.S.

GORDON WILLIAMS

OVIEDO, Florida – Given the choice to chase a ball of money or follow a ball of dreams, Jamaican Hue Menzies found the latter far more compelling.

After getting a taste of both life as a player and Wall Street financial analyst, Menzies swapped the suit and tie for shorts and jersey in pursuit of soccer. Today, he's assisting those with dreams similar to ones he cherished as a child.

"I wanted to help kids," Menzies said while at the headquarters of Florida Kraze Krush, the Central Florida club where he's executive director. "I always wanted, because I got help. So I always wanted to give back."

Kraze Krush currently lists some 1,300 players split among more than 50 teams. Their ages range from adults to four-year-olds. One – Jada Shockley – is a member of Jamaica's team preparing to play in the CONCACAF Under-15 girls tournament in Orlando this month.

Many are on a journey Menzies once took. He was born in Brixton, England but, after his parents divorced, moved in 1968 to his mother's Caribbean homeland at age four.

## RELISH

In Jamaica, Menzies relished school and club soccer

before migrating to the United States at 16. Playing primarily as a defender, he earned a scholarship to Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, then played two years in the mid-1980s – for the Houston Dynamo and Orlando Lions – in what today would be regarded as the U.S. second tier professional league.

Menzies then earned a MBA from New York University and coached kids while working six years as an analyst at Merrill Lynch. But soccer's pull became irresistible. Menzies was hired as a high school mathematics teacher and coach in Abilene. He became involved in the U.S. Olympic development program and for a time was an assistant women's team coach at the University of Texas in Austin.

"I came back," Menzies said, "decided to go back to (soccer) fully."

He then took a post as director for a small club before kicking off his own venture in 2004 in Austin.

"I realized I wanted to do this on a higher level, start building a club," said Menzies, who holds an "A" license and national youth license from the U.S. Soccer Federation. "So I started Lone Star (Soccer Club)."



— Photograph by Gordon Williams  
Menzies mapping out a future for soccer.

By the time he left for Florida, Menzies said, Lone Star had 5,000 players enrolled.

## IDENTITY

Despite spending his adult life in the U.S. and holding American citizenship, Menzies identifies primarily with the land of his childhood.

"Right now my passport says U.S. passport," he explained laughing. "But culturally-wise I'm Jamaican. Straight. Everybody knows that. Everybody around me knows that."

So he didn't hesitate when approached by businesswoman Cedella Marley, daughter of late reggae icon Bob Marley, ambassador for women's soccer in Jamaica. She invited Menzies to assist the Reggae Girlz' bid for spot in the 2015 Women's World Cup, acting

"more like a go between." Kraze Krush helped with training facilities and technical advice.

The Girlz' bid failed in late 2014, but Menzies was named technical director for Jamaica's women's program. His plan is to help develop talent, including exposing players to opportunities overseas, such as better competition and U.S. college scholarships. It's not easy, as female players have long been neglected.

"It's very tough for them," said Menzies, "because they feel like they don't have an outlet. They feel like you come and you go."

## ASSET

But Jamaicans – male and female – like many in the Caribbean, have plenty to offer the game, according to Menzies.

"The (soccer) needs more structure, needs more work ... Here (in the U.S.) we have that," Menzies explained. "We don't have the athletes like what we have in Jamaica; the natural born athletes."

Lack of proper preparation has hurt Jamaica's soccer. Although the males have been to a senior World Cup and three junior world championships, no Jamaican female team has ever qualified for a global tournament. Menzies believes the country is doing its

best with limited resources and called for ramped up support from the private sector.

Meanwhile, he urges Jamaica to focus on overall development of the game – players, coaches, infrastructure – and less on "looking for that gem, that one player" who may boost the financial fortunes of a local club. Change, he admitted, will be difficult.

"We're kinda hard headed people," said Menzies, "that we kinda stick with what we know."

Still, there's room for optimism.

"I think that there are people being put in place now," said Menzies, "that are a little open minded to things."

"Because obviously things haven't really worked out all these years. Eventually you're gonna need new ideas. So we just have to wait and hope that people have open minds to bring new ideas."

For more sports, turn to page 13.



## When 'Trumpism' made U.S. elections about immigration

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

border so far this year already exceeds the entire total from 2015. They are being released by the tens of thousands into our communities with no regard for the impact on public safety or resources."

## FALSE

None of these statements are true, but that did not stop the immigrant attacks from coming.

"We must immediately suspend immigration from any nation that has been compromised by terrorism until such time as proven vetting mechanisms have been put in place," he continued.

And then came the pièce

de résistance, the red meat thrown to the rabid dogs: "We are going to build a great border wall to stop illegal immigration, to stop the gangs and the violence, and to stop the drugs from pouring into our communities."

Thunderous applause followed!

So if Spanish-language television networks, radio and newspapers reported this – then they were reporting the facts on the main issues of concern to their immigrant audience.

The Washington Times' sudden decision to call this bias is certainly as hypocritical as the GOP saying it's for diversity but then increasing

the vitriol of it verbal attacks on immigrants and dismissing Black Lives Matter as a terror group.

Even the Governor of Ohio John Kasich, Senator Rand Paul and other top Republicans like Mitt Romney, Mia Love and the Bushes – all of whom did not attend the convention – agree that talk about banning all Muslim immigrants from entering the country; building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico and claiming Mexicans are rapists and criminals is completely racist, insane and does nothing to bridge the divide.

So if anyone has put themselves in a bad light with

immigrants it's the anointed Republican nominee, the majority of the party and its base – not Spanish language media.

The Washington Times would be best served to look in its own lily white mirror before it starts throwing stones and make a note that the majority of Americans will soon be brown and black and all shades in between.

Who will it blame then?

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



## Where does Clinton stand on Caribbean American issues?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

9: Clinton has embraced normalization of ties with Cuba. In July 2015 she called for lifting the U.S. economic embargo.

"The Cuba embargo needs to go, once and for all," she said in Miami. "We should replace it with a smarter approach that empowers the Cuban private sector, Cuban civil society, and the Cuban-

American community to spur progress and keep pressure on the regime."

Clinton called the embargo an "albatross" on U.S. diplomacy in Latin America.

10: Clinton points to her record as U.S. secretary of state, of working with the Caribbean region to launch several initiatives aimed at expanding the U.S.-Caribbean relationship, such as the Energy and Climate

Partnership of the Americas and the Caribbean Idea Marketplace.

She also said she increased the U.S. financial commitment to the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, which helped local communities reduce illegal trafficking; announced a Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation Initiative, which awarded six Caribbean countries grants for alternative energy, and spear-

headed the International Diaspora Engagement Alliance, which aimed to bridge the gap between diaspora communities and businesses in their countries of origin. This is the focus she hopes to expand if elected U.S. president.

- Edited from News Americas.



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## Immigrants' positive U.S. mark

NEW YORK, N.Y. - It is sad that when we hear about immigrants, especially out of the mouths of xenophobes and fear mongers like "The Donald", it is usually about the "illegal aliens" and those who are climbing over the borders to take away Americans jobs.

Rarely do we hear of the many immigrants putting their lives on the line for the United States as part of the armed forces or those who have lost their lives in the line of duty or are part of the growing number of the veteran population across the country.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

As we celebrated Memorial Day recently, I wanted to pause and recognize these brave men and women. Latest data shows that there are more than 65,000 immigrants - or five percent of the force - are in active military duty. This includes more than 30,000 lawful permanent residents.

Those numbers are likely to rise as non-citizens account for four percent of all new military recruits. The top two countries of origin for foreign-born military personnel in the U.S. are the Philippines and Mexico. Nearly 11 percent of those serving in the armed forces are of Hispanic origin.

### HONOR

More than 700 Medal of Honor recipients are immigrants. Immigrants and children of immigrants have risen to the highest ranks in the military. They include Polish-born General John Shalikashvili, who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Supreme Allied Commander, as well as General Colin Powell, son of Jamaican immigrants, who

served as national security advisor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and secretary of state.

Since 2002, almost 90,000 men and women have become citizens while wearing the uniform of the U.S. military.

More than 109,000 non-citizen service members have been granted U.S. citizenship between fiscal years 2002-2014, according to U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization data. Since Sept. 2001, USCIS has naturalized nearly 65,000 service men and women, including those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. And in fiscal year 2010 alone, the USCIS says it granted citizenship to 11,146 members of the U.S. armed forces at ceremonies in the United States and 22 countries abroad. This figure represents the highest number of service members naturalized in any year since 1955.

Many more young people who lack immigration status are lining up to enlist. Active and retired high-ranking military officials have endorsed the DREAM Act, which would allow young immigrants to earn permanent residency by completing at least two years in the military or college. But, of course, Republicans continue to block this rational measure.

### REFORM

Further, the broken immigration system also impacts our national security and the lives of those active duty military who have family members under deportation.

Thankfully there are groups like Veterans for Immigration Reform (Vets4Reform), which continue to highlight the many immigrants, past and present, who have served our country and urge for immigration reform.

It is time for those who want to lead our country come 2017, to recognize and remember that immigrants too are part of those who are put-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

## WOMEN IN LOVE: Desperate madness, inseparable?

Is there some possible correlation between desperation and madness?

After all, people who are desperate and people who are insane often end up doing the same things.

In desperate times it's every woman for herself and the devil takes the hindmost. I say this because the more I observe or hear about the things that women do in order to get a man, I come to the conclusion that being so desperate addles their brains or, as Jamaicans say, "Dem lick dem head."

And yet, these women, many of them supposedly intelligent and educated, do things that are so out of the realm of normal behavior that it makes you sit up and wonder.

Most are unaware of their insanity. No wonder Shakespeare penned: "Thou art essentially mad, without seeming so." Here we call it "silent mad".

What is it about some women that makes them desperate to have a man? I'm not picking on women, but men don't seem to share this desperation or have the desire to "must get a woman", whatever the consequences.

### HIGH PROFILE

There have been so many high profile cases of desperate acts done by women, including the escape of those two prisoners from New York some time ago, plus this former astronaut lady who drove miles to con-



front her lover's other lover. She even wore diapers so she wouldn't have to stop for the bathroom.



TONY ROBINSON

In the first scenario, it was discovered that a female employee of the prison was instrumental in getting the men to escape from the maximum security institution. Reports stated that she was involved with at least one of the prisoners and smuggled tools inside frozen hamburger meat.

To add even more madness to the desperation quotient of the sinister and dastardly act was the plan by the trio to kill her husband so that she could live happily ever after with one if not both of

the men.

Remember, desperation and madness are spawned from the same gene pool, and people often do not think of long-term consequences.

I subsequently learned that her situation was not unique. Thousands of female prison officials across America get sexually involved with male prisoners. And while most of these women are single and lonely, others are married, with children, but just desperate to be with a man.

A male ex-prisoner spoke on camera about the rampant sex that goes on behind bars with women officials. I could understand male prison officials preying on female prisoners, but the women seem far more desperate and inventive.

### SENSELESS

Elsewhere it's no different, and even though some women

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



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## VIEWPOINT



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## TIME TO LISTEN: Blacks cannot bring about justice with violence

ROGER CALDWELL

Recently there was a violent and sad period in the American psychosis, when five policemen were ambushed and killed, seven shot and injured, and two black men were senselessly killed by the police.

My heart and prayers go out to the families that are impacted by this senseless violence and tragedy. It is time for America to look in the mirror and establish, "Where is justice?" No one is all right and no one is all wrong.

Police in America must be accountable, responsible, and transparent. Everyone knows that a police officer's job is dangerous, but a cold despicable act with a gun may become the norm with so many individuals with legal permits and mental health problems.

The five police officers killed in Dallas, Texas were Lorne Ahreno 48, Michael Krol 40, Michael Smith 55, Brent Thompson 43, and Patrick Zamarripa 32. These

five courageous officers will not be home to share time with their families as a result of the pervasive violence in our society.

Michael Xavier Johnson 25, a black man, was the shooter in Dallas. He decided that violence and killing was the only way he could make a difference in America. This is a sick commentary on America, but many think violence is the answer.

Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, which represents 330,000 officers said: "We'd like to see the president make one speech that speaks to everyone instead of one speech that speaks to black people as they grieve and one speech that speaks to police officers as they grieve. We don't need two presidents, we only need one. We need one who works to unify the United States."

It is easy for police officers to bury their heads in the sand, but there is a crisis in every



Castile

major city with police killing young black men. When Philando Castile, 32, was killed by police while riding in a car with his girlfriend and a child, the police shot first and asked questions later. When Alton Sterling 37 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana was shot repeatedly by at least one of two white officers while he was on the ground, it showed a fundamental problem with the treatment of young black people.

There is a pattern of police killing poor black men and women, and a broken tail light could be the simple reason you



Sterling

are murdered. Castile made it clear to the policeman who stopped him that he was getting his license and information to prove that he could carry a firearm legally. But cultural misunderstanding or a fear of the black man took over, and he was immediately killed.

Pasco talks about one America, but everyone knows that blacks in the poorer areas of town are treated one way, and people in the nicer parts of town are treated another way. Black on black crime is an epidemic in the poorer sections of town and the police

are aggressive whenever they have to respond to a call in the ghetto.

There is a need for more cultural diversity in the police force in the black community, and a need for more community police review boards. Everyone must work harder to respect each other, but this problem is not going away tomorrow. Blacks are angry and with the proliferation of guns, certain individuals with mental health issues have made the choice to kill police.

Every American wants justice, but many Americans are not willing to do the work, and some think we are already there. In order for there to be justice in America, everyone must have an equal seat at the table and begin to listen to each other.

*Roger Caldwell is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. His views do not necessarily represent those of the news magazine.*



## WOMEN IN LOVE: Desperate madness, inseparable?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

aren't prison officials, they display the same level of desperation. It seems as if Facebook is the new frontier where desperate women seek the men of their dreams. The stories would be comical if they weren't so absurd and sad. There is this commercial on U.S. television where this girl is boasting to her friend that

she met the man of her dreams on the Internet, and that he was French. Up walks this disheveled looking bum who mumbles to her, "Bonjour," to which she then gloats to her girlfriend, "See, I told you he was French."

Yet these gullible women spend their days and nights poring over the Internet pages, desperately seeking a man.

Maybe if they saw that advertisement they would wise up, although I doubt it, for you cannot reason with insanity or desperation.

## LIES

The bottom line is, men tell lies on the Internet and on Facebook. Every man there posts that he is either a wealthy businessman, a high

ranking military officer, an airline pilot, a big wig lawyer, a surgeon, or a big time politician. All are single, and no power on earth can convince these women that these men are frauds.

"No you are wrong, he's for real and I'm going to meet him soon."

That's another thing. Why is it that the women are always asked to fly up to these men? Why can't they ever come to them? Desperation makes not only strange bedfellows, but makes these women believe anything. We often cannot believe the level of gullibility that they have fallen to.

"Do you really believe that man is a prince from Abu Dhabi and wants to marry you ... so why is he asking you for plane fare?"

I remember this teacher who sold her house and flew to meet this man residing in the Middle East. Her dream was shattered when she discovered that he was a fraud, living in something looking like a shack, somewhere in the desert. She came back home with regrets. No one could

convince her before of the error of her ways. But she learnt her lesson well ... until the next time.

Class, color, social standings, do not alter the level of desperation that these women exhibit. Some have even taken to posting their life stories on dating sites, hoping to get a man. I listen when they speak to me, but I have learnt to keep my mouth shut, for desperate women do not want to hear the voice of logic or reason. They will even curse those who try to show them their mistakes, accusing them of jealousy.

"It's because you don't want me to be happy why you telling me this."

Some of them will meet a man on Facebook and start to look at wedding gowns the next day. I tell you, Facebook is the new frontier of folly, foolishness and desperation, and desperate women dot the landscape.

Desperate madness, inseparable.

seido1@hotmail.com



## Immigrants' positive U.S. mark

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

ting their lives on the line daily to protect all of all – white, black and brown America aka – the United States of America and be recognized and celebrated for it instead of being dismissed,

ignored and degraded!

*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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## Florida reduces legal immigrants' wait for KidCare insurance

Legislators have eliminated a five-year waiting period that had been required before the children of certain legal immigrant families could qualify for Florida KidCare health insurance. Now, those families will be able to enroll their kids immediately by showing they are Florida residents.

"We have 48,000 uninsured children in Broward County and thousands of them could benefit," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of the Florida Department of Health in Broward (DOH-Broward), which enrolls children in KidCare. "This will be a great help to families who really need the coverage."

The change started on July 1, but DOH-Broward began enrolling families early.

The new rules affect several categories of legal immigrants, including those holding "green cards" or permanent residency, said Rebecca Miele, manager of KidCare Outreach at DOH-Broward. Even if a family is not sure whether the new rules apply to them, Miele

urges them to call KidCare to find out.

Under the new system, more families will be eligible for Florida Medicaid, part of KidCare. If they earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, they can apply for subsidized coverage in Healthy Kids, which also is part of KidCare. Healthy Kids insurance costs as little as \$15 to \$20 per month for an entire household of children.

Families who earn too much to receive the subsidized rate can still enroll in "full-pay" Healthy Kids coverage, which remains less costly than most insurance on the private market, Miele said.

State officials estimate that over 15,000 more families will become eligible for Medicaid and 17,000 more for Healthy Kids.

For more information, call **954-467-8737**.

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



## HIV infections rising among Caribbean adults

GENEVA, Switzerland – The United Nations says the number of HIV infections among adults in the Caribbean has risen, warning also that the decline globally among adults has stalled for at least five years.

The Joint U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Prevention Gap Report, issued here last month, revealed that "after years of steady decline, the Caribbean saw a nine percent rise among adults."

In launching the report, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé told reporters that, globally, new HIV infections among adults and children have been reduced by 40 percent since the peak in 1997,

but lamented that the decline among adults has stalled for at least five years.

The report revealed that an estimated 1.9 million adults have become infected with HIV every year for at least the past five years and that new HIV infections among adults are rising in some regions.

The U.N. said the Caribbean is second to sub-Saharan Africa for the prevalence of HIV infections.

"We are sounding the alarm," Sidibé said. "The power of prevention is not being realized."

*- Edited from CMC.*



## 'National Health Center Week'

MIAMI, Florida - Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) will mark "National Health Center Week" by offering free events Aug. 6-13. Below are some of those events:

**Aug. 6, Back-to-School Health Fair**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Doris Ison Health Center 10300 S.W. 216 St. Cutler Bay.

**Aug. 10, Migrant and Farm Workers Health Fair**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Everglades Housing Group, 19308 S.W. 380 St., Florida City.

**Aug. 12, Empowering the Homeless Health Fair**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chapman

Partnership for Empowering the Homeless in Homestead. Open only to clients of the Homeless Assistance Center.

**Aug. 20, School Physical and Immunizations Day** – CHI's free back-to-school immunizations and \$30 physicals from **8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at nine of its South Dade locations. Marathon and Tavernier locations will host school physical day from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 13.** Guardians must be present and bring each child's immunization records. To make an appointment, call **305-252-4820**.



## BEWARE: Zika cases found in South Florida

The Florida Department of Health late last month concluded that Zika virus cases in South Florida are the result of local transmission.

Two cases, according to a release from the department, are in Broward County. Other cases have been identified in Miami.

The Broward County Mosquito Control Division is reportedly working with the Florida Department of Health and Code Enforcement partners in Broward's 31 municipalities.

According to the release, the following is being done to protect residents in a 300-yard minimum radius around the home of the first suspected locally acquired cases:

- Door-to-door back pack spraying.
- Draining standing water where possible.
- Treating standing water with long-lasting larvicide.
- Eliminating mosquito habitats.
- Setting up mosquito traps.
- Sampling adult mosquitoes to gauge effectiveness of the above-mentioned treatments.



The mosquito is one way Zika is transmitted.

Residents can help by allowing Mosquito Control officials to enter their property to take preventive steps. Residents can also contact the Mosquito Control Division and request spraying in their

neighborhood, either by calling **954-765-4062** or completing the online Mosquito Spray Request Form.

Residents should drain any container holding standing water and cover themselves when outdoors. Also, wear a mosquito repellent that contains DEET. The mosquito that carries the Zika virus can bite indoors, and during the day, so residents are being advised to keep doors and windows closed.

**The Florida Department of Health has set up a Zika virus information line: 1-855-622-6735.**



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## Carnival season heats up in Caribbean diaspora

NEW YORK – It's summer, which means carnival time in many cities outside the Caribbean where nationals in the diaspora can go to jump and wave.

The biggest Caribbean diaspora carnivals take place in Toronto, Canada – Caribana; the United Kingdom – Nottinghill; and New York City – the West Indian American Day Carnival.

But carnivals also happen in other cities across the U.S., U.K. and Canada. Here is a list of some of the 2016 events:



A New York cop limes with carnival revelers at last year's Labor Day event.

- Aug. 5-7 – Edmonton, Canada** - Cariwest
- Aug 12-14 - Detroit, Michigan** - Caribbean Cultural Festival
- Aug. 20 - Chicago, Illinois** - Windy City Carnival and Virginia - CaribFest Carnival

**Aug 13 - Jacksonville** Carnival

**Aug. 27 - Raleigh, North Carolina** - CaribMask Caribbean Carnival

**Aug. 28 - Worcester, Massachusetts** - Worcester Carnival

**Aug. 28-29 - London, England** - Notting Hill  
**Sept. 5 – Brooklyn, New York** - West Indian American Carnival

**Sept. 11 - Cambridge** Carnival

**Sept. 22-25 - Dallas** Carnival

**Oct. 9 – Florida - Miami** Carnival.

- Edited from News Americas. ✨

## Dominican music pioneer gets 'Lifetime Achievement Award'

ROSEAU, Dominica – Prominent musician Gordon Henderson is scheduled to receive a "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the Caribbean Music Awards to be held Oct. 8 in France.

"It's always a tremendous encouragement to be awarded for one's achievements," Paris-based Henderson told state owned DBS radio last month. "I wish to thank all those who assisted along the way. The journey has never been solo."

Henderson, who along with his group Exile One pioneered the cadance music, said he was delighted in receiving the award. He is also scheduled to be recognized in the United States on Sept. 24.

The Caribbean Music Awards is the Martinique-based P2M Association headed by Mitch Zeline, a radio personality from that French island. The event is in its 10th year. This year it is being presented in a new format with one category, the "Lifetime Achievement Award", being presented to a number of artistes and genres from various countries in the Caribbean.



Henderson

- Edited from CMC. ✨

## Reggae star Sizzla gets new visa to perform in U.S.

It's been a while since Jamaican reggae singer Sizzla Kalonji lost his United States visa amidst claims that he sang anti-gay songs. But Sizzla, born Miguel Orlando Collins, has had his visa reinstated and is scheduled to return to the U.S. for performances beginning this month.

Sizzla will perform at Reggae on the River in California from Aug. 4-7, his first U.S. performance in eight

years. He also has a scheduled performance in New York, at the Irie Jam radio's 23rd anniversary event at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens, on Sept. 4.

Sizzla is one of the most commercially and critically successful contemporary reggae artistes. He is noted for his high number of releases. As of 2014 he had released over 70 solo albums.

However, Sizzla has

received criticism due to anti-gay lyrics in some of his recordings, causing the cancellation of many international concerts, including in the U.S., Canada, Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom.

- Edited from News Americas. ✨

## Afro-Cuban dance fest at MDC

The 18th annual IFE-ILE Afro-Cuban Dance Festival will be staged Aug. 11-13 in South Florida.

The festival is a celebration of Afro-Cuban culture through dance and music, featuring workshops, panel discussion, live performances, after parties, and the premiere of the new choreog-

raphy "Ciudad de Orishas (City of Orishas)".

All events will take place at Miami Dade College's Koubek Center, 2705 S.W. Third St.

To register, or for more information, about call Neri Torres at 786-704-8609 or visit [www.ife-ile.org](http://www.ife-ile.org).

✨

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## DANCE CHAMPIONS



Sixteen groups from Jamaica and across the globe will be hoping to duplicate the efforts of the Str8 Edge Classic Dancers, which won the 2015 World Reggae Dance Championship. The finals of the 2016 competition will be staged this month during Jamaica's Emancipation and Independence celebrations. The competition is organized by the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport.

## BRIEFS

### JA Independence street dance

A street dance to mark Jamaica's 54th anniversary of Independence will be staged on **Aug. 6** at Lockhart Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The event is expected to feature reggae, soca, R&B and "oldies" music, plus a performance by Pluto. For more information, call **305-814-0344**.

### 'CaribbeanTales' film festival

The CaribbeanTales International Film Festival (CTFF), which celebrates the talents of established and emerging filmmak-

ers of Caribbean heritage who practice their art across the diaspora worldwide, will be staged **Sept. 7-17** in Toronto, Canada.

For more information, call **416-554-2637** or e-mail [info@planet3com.net](mailto:info@planet3com.net).

### Terrorism forces Rihanna concert cancellation

Barbadian pop star Rihanna last month cancelled a concert in Nice following a terrorist attack in the French city that killed dozens.

More than 80 died when a truck ploughed into crowds of people on July 14. Rihanna was scheduled to do a show the next day.

### 50 Cent slams St. Kitts

American rapper 50 Cent has slammed St. Kitts, calling the Caribbean island "the murder capital."

Appearing on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" last month, the rapper and entrepreneur, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, criticized the island following his recent arrest and jail stint there after he was accused of using profane language on stage at the St. Kitts Music Festival on June 25.

- Compiled from various sources. ✨

## Possible West Indies v. India T20 cricket in South Florida

FLORIDA, United States - Plans are in the pipeline for Florida to host a T20 international cricket series between world champions West Indies and India this month, according to leading cricket official.

Discussion on the series being planned for the end of August were held last month here between officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCC) and the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB).

Broward Parks and Recreation Manager Duncan Finch said he was approached by WICB officials on his venue's availability to host two or three T20Is after the four-Test series between West Indies and India, scheduled to

end in Trinidad on Aug. 22.

### ENQUIRY

"We had an e-mail inquiring about late-August availability of the stadium by representatives of the WICB last (month)," Finch told ESPNcricinfo.

"We have August 24 to 27, and they were asking about Sunday, August 28, as well. We would have to cancel a small event to give them the Sunday."

The WICB is also reported to have reached out to the ICC for sanctioning permission to host the games in the United States.

- Edited from CMC.



## Zouks cap exciting CPL

LAUDERHILL, Florida - Half-centuries from the dominant opening pair of Andre Fletcher and Johnson Charles powered St. Lucia Zouks to a comfortable 17-run win over Jamaica Tallawahs in the final game of the exciting Caribbean Premier League (CPL) T20 preliminary round at the Central Broward Park Regional Stadium here on July 31.

Fletcher scored 70 and Charles 64 as Zouks made 194 runs for three wickets off 20 overs. In reply, Chris Gayle

struck 30 and Rovman Powell 28, but Tallawahs only 177 for six.

Tallawahs finished the preliminary round on 13 points, one ahead of Zouks and one behind Guyana Amazon Warriors. Trinbago Knight Riders clinched the final playoff spot with 10 points.

The CPL playoffs return to the Caribbean this month.

- Edited from CMC.



## 'Flying Fish' makes U.S. splash

ANDREW TAYLOR

Caribbean influence on swimming is making a splash in South Florida through Flying Fish USA.

Former Jamaica Olympic swimmer Andrew Phillips started the United States branch of the swim club in 2001. The name - Flying Fish - was chosen to pay homage to the late Neville Alexander, a member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame who was instrumental in Phillips's swimming career. Phillips carries the legacy of his mentor by sharing the gift of competitive swimming with South Florida's youth.

"It's all about the children and it's all about them not only being top swimmers, but also top in education," said Phillips, the club's head coach.

Although some members of Flying Fish USA count among the best swimmers in their age groups, Phillips stresses the importance of personal growth over winning for his team.

"We are a family driven team, meaning we really support each other here," he explained.



Phillips

"We're striving to have good sportsmen and sportswomen not only in the pool, but outside of the pool where they are student athletes. That is the most important thing."

### 'CREW MOM'

Niriam Lauzurique, one of the clubs "crew moms", attests to this sentiment. Her 13-year old son Jason has been a member of Flying Fish USA for two and a half years.

"He loves coming here," she said. "He loves the experience. He loves the competition. The coaches are amazing with him. Every coach he's had has been so positive. As a mom, I couldn't ask for anything better."

Phillips and his team are steadfast in their mission to be of the highest integrity while focusing on the betterment of club members.

"If we get Olympians out of this or we get world class swimmers out of this, great," he said. "That's just the icing on the cake."

Flying Fish USA competes each month throughout South Florida. Catch the next meet by visiting the club's schedule [www.fgcswwim.org](http://www.fgcswwim.org).

Andrew Taylor is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



## Cuba, Jamaica lead Caribbean charge at IAAF U-20 Champs

In what could easily be a preview of this month's Olympic Games in Brazil, Jamaica and Cuba led the Caribbean's medal haul in July's IAAF Under 20 Championships in Poland.

The region's junior track and field stars secured 17 medals overall, including five gold and five silver split between Cuba and Jamaica. Seven bronze were spread between Jamaica, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago and British Virgin Islands.

Cuba finished fourth on the official medal table with three gold and two silver, followed by Jamaica in fifth with two gold, three silver and three bronze. The United States led the table with 11 gold, six silver and four bronze, followed by Kenya (5-2-2) and Ethiopia (4-2-4).

Cuba's Maykel Masso won the men's long jump, leaping eight meters. Compatriot Lazaro Martinez won the men's triple jump with 17.06 meters, with teammate Cristian Napoles in second. Luis Enrique Zayas won gold for Cuba in the men's high jump with a mark of 2.27 meters, while Adrianna Rodriguez was second in the heptathlon to complete the



James

nation's tally.

### FIRST

Tiffany James won Jamaica's first gold medal at the championships, beating the field in the women's 400 meters with a world-leading junior time of 51.32 seconds. Compatriot Junelle Bromfield earned bronze behind Lynna Irby of the U.S.

Jamaica's Jaheel Hyde won his country's second gold, successfully defending his 400 meters hurdles title, in 49.03 seconds. Taylor McLaughlin of the U.S. was second, while British Virgin Islands' Kyron McMaster finished third.

Jamaica's Rushelle Burton placed second behind Bulgaria's Elvira Herman in the 100 meters hurdles. Her teammate Shannon Kalawan



Hyde

also earned silver, in the women's 400 meters hurdles.

Jamaica's 4x400 meters women's team also won silver, finishing behind the U.S. The Caribbean country's men's team was third in the event behind the U.S. and Botswana.

Mario Burke earned Barbados's lone medal, finishing third in the men's 100 meters, the same position Jamaica's Nigel Ellis placed in the men's 200 meters. Trinidad and Tobago's Khalifa St. Fort was third in the women's 100 meters to earn bronze, T&T's only medal.

Grenada's Anderson Peters was the only Caribbean athlete to medal in a field event, taking bronze in the men's javelin.



## Jamaica's Andre Blake only Caribbean 2016 MLS All Star player

GORDON WILLIAMS

Just hours before his first Major League Soccer (MLS) All-Star game, an event laced with high priced names from the world's most popular sport, Jamaican Andre Blake wasn't fazed.

For the 25-year-old goalkeeper, there would be no change in his routine. No additional pressure. No overblown expectations.

"The game for me is just another game," Blake told Caribbean Today from San Jose, California. "I'm going to approach it just like that."

The alternative, he admitted, was fraught with danger. "If I approach it any other way," Blake said, "I'll be in trouble."

Calm, consistency and confidence have been keys to Blake's rise to club all-star and Jamaica international. Yet he's seen enough setbacks in his short professional career, after leaving the University of Connecticut early in 2014 as an All-American to join Philadelphia Union as the only keeper ever selected first overall in the MLS SuperDraft. Blake suffered multiple injuries and underwent surgery on each knee, which drastically limited his playing time in Philadelphia. Fully fit in 2016, he started the season brilliantly and fans

voted him onto the all-star team as the starter against English Premier League club Arsenal. The quick ascendancy hardly surprised Blake.

"No, not really," he said. "I started the season good and I could feel the feedback."

Game time allowed Blake to blossom.

"Playing more, learning more," he said. "It's kinda building me, physically and mentally."

### JUSTIFICATION

He's finally justified Philadelphia's faith.

"I always wanted to show Philly they made a good choice in trading up to select me first," Blake said. "... That it was worth it."

He was the only player from the region named a 2016 all-star, from a league that lists more than 20 Caribbean nationals.

"It's a great feeling to go out there and represent Jamaica and the Caribbean," said Blake.

In San Jose, he joined a roster that included Didier Drogba, Andrea Pirlo and David Villa. The opponent was equally stacked, listing names such as Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez. Blake performance was mixed. An early error led to Arsenal's lead. But he rebounded with several saves, including one spectacular div-

ing effort. It showed his appetite for top-level competition and adjustments since UConn.

"I've definitely come a long way," Blake explained. "In college you can get away with little things, but it's different in MLS. The mistakes are highlighted more. You're playing against smarter guys. The pace is quicker."

### COLLEGE

Blake is over a year shy of earning a bachelor's degree in communications. His contract allots money for college. But he has his eyes on bigger leagues.

"Ever since I was younger I always wanted to play in Europe," Blake said.

Still, he's seen others fail when rushed.

"Of course I want to challenge myself," he explained, "but I don't want to just go and get lost in a system."

So MLS it is for now. Blake's international exposure continues with Jamaica's crucial 2018 World Cup qualifiers against Haiti and Panama next month. He refuses to panic. No added pressure. No bloated expectations.

"The guys don't need any more motivation now," he said. "Everybody knows what's at stake."



**LOCAL/FYI**



# SUSIE'S KNEE: South Florida non-profit organization supports Jamaica hospital



Anthony Lee, left, and his brother Justin.

**ANDREW TAYLOR**

Most successful businesses aim to identify a problem and solve it.

Susie's Knee Corporation is no different. Brother's Justin and Anthony Lee, co-founded the non-profit to fulfill a need they experienced while on a trip to Jamaica.

Their mother, Susie, fell and shattered her knee during this trip and they sought medical care at St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital. The Lee family soon realized that although staff members were knowledgeable and attentive, they didn't have enough resources. The experience sparked an innovative thought between the brothers.

The two teenagers started a project to gather as many medical materials, supplies and equipment to donate to the hospital that helped their mother. After receiving donations from family and friends,

Miami-based Susie's Knee Corporation delivered its first shipment -roughly \$2,000 worth of supplies - to the hospital.

"Well, we're just going to go and help this hospital that helped us out," Justin Lee recalled.

**PAY BACK**

Because they were on vacation at the time of their mother's incident, the family did not have much cash. However, the hospital staff treated their mother without hesitation.

"Wow ... we have to at least do something to pay them back," Lee remembers thinking.

Fast forward to a year and a half later and that initial wish to express gratitude has grown into nearly \$10,000 in funds and medical supplies through many charitable donations, an affiliation with TERRA Environmental Research

Institute, and hosting two Susie's Knee Invitational Soccer Tournaments. So far, two shipments have been delivered to St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital.

The now registered non-profit organization has not slowed down their efforts. Susie's Knee Corporation is scheduled to host a third fundraising soccer tournament on Aug. 6, at Kendall Soccer Park in Miami, to help raise money for another shipment of medical supplies.

Following its success in Jamaica, Susie's Knee Corporation has set its sights on helping more hospitals in the future.

"We are working on a contact in a hospital in Venezuela right now," said Justin Lee.

*Andrew Taylor is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



**FYI**

**JAMAICA INDEPENDENCE**

The following is a list of some activities in the United States to mark Jamaica's Independence this month:

**Aug. 6, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.** - Jamaica Flag and Independence Day Celebrations, 7500 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Lauderhill, Florida.

**Aug. 6, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** - Awakening Jamaica exhibit opening reception, HistoryMiami, 101 W. Flagler St., Miami, Florida.

**Aug. 8, 7:30 p.m.** - Jamaica Independence Ball, Lakeland Jamaican American Association, St. Joseph's Academy, Frank Wright Way, Lakeland, Florida.

**Aug. 9, 4 p.m.** - Independence Church Service, Church of Ascension, 11201 S.W. 160th St., Miami.

**Aug. 15, 7 p.m.** - Jamaica Independence Anniversary Ball, Jamaican American Association of Central Florida, Altamonte Hilton Hotel, 350 Northlake Blvd., Altamonte Springs, Florida.

**Aug. 15, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.** - Independence Ball and Scholarship Awards, The Atlanta Jamaican Association, Inc., 2000 Convention Center Concourse, College Park, Georgia.

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

A disaster preparedness webinar with the United States Small Business Administration will be held from **9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Aug. 9.**

The workshop is scheduled to feature the following presentations: "Tips On Improving Business Continuity/Disaster Preparedness"; "Small Business Administration Disaster Loans"; and "Information on Free Mobile Disaster Preparedness Applications".

To register, visit <https://fjupgec.hobsonsradius.com/sscleform/M07026EB070c0x6702ca.n.ssc>.

**CHURCH GUEST DAY**

"Go Light Your World" will be the theme of a community guest day service at the Lauderhill Seventh Day Adventist Church at **11 a.m. Aug. 13.**

The public is invited. Lunch

will be served.

The church is located at 4100 N.W. 11th Court, Lauderhill, Florida.

**'MISS JAMAICA' PAGEANT CALL**

**Aug. 15** is the deadline to submit applications for entry in the "Miss Jamaica Florida 2016" pageant.

The pageant is open to females ages five to 24 years old who are Jamaican born or of Jamaican descent. For more information, call **754-444-1819** or visit [MissJamaicaFlorida.com](http://MissJamaicaFlorida.com).

The competition is scheduled for Oct. 23.

**INDEPENDENCE BALL**

"Linking Cultures Together" is the theme of a ball commemorating the 54th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's Independence to be held in South Florida this month.

The event, being staged by the T&T Independence Ball Committee, is scheduled for **Aug. 20** at the Signature Grand hotel, 6900 W. State Road 84 in Davie.

For more information, call **954-439-5317, 954-243-7748, 954-328-0496, 954-639-5069, 954-610-6292** and **954-557-5703**.

**FEDEX GOES TO CUBA**

Cuba will now have access to cargo services out of the United States as the U.S. Department of Transportation has authorized Federal Express Company (FedEx) to operate in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean island, making it the first entity to carry out such operations.

Starting **Jan. 15**, FedEx will fly to Cuba once a day Monday through Friday, between Miami International Airport and Matanzas, in western section of the island.

The U.S. authorization joins permits to six U.S. airlines to start regular flights to different Cuban provinces.

**JAMAICA ON T.V.**

Island TV has reportedly obtained authorization to air (JIS News) Jamaica Magazine on channel 578 of Comcast week-days at 5 p.m.



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## FIRED UP: Easy grilling ideas for summer

Beyond the standard burgers and hot dogs, there are an array of appetizers, main courses and even desserts that are all grill-friendly and easy to make this summer.

This summer, the experts at Betty Crocker are focused on quick dinners on the grill that require little cleanup. You can cut down on mess, they say, with foil pack recipes that use an indirect-heating method to cook the food.

For instance, this flavorful recipe for green chiles cheddar burgers, brings together classic cheeseburgers, a zip of green chiles and craveable corn salsa.

### Ingredients

- 1 lb extra-lean (at least 90 percent) ground beef
- 2 cans (4.5 oz each) Old El Paso chopped green chiles
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 cups frozen whole kernel sweet corn, thawed
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 4 lime wedges

### Method

Heat gas or charcoal grill. Cut four (18 x 12-inch) sheets of heavy duty foil. Spray with cooking spray.



Tasty foods are easy to make on the grill.

In medium bowl, mix beef, one can green chiles, chili powder, a teaspoon of the cumin, three-quarter teaspoon of the salt and a cup of the cheese until blended. Form into four patties about half-inch thick. In small bowl, mix corn, remaining can of green chiles, remaining half teaspoon cumin and remaining quarter teaspoon salt.

Place beef patty on center of each sheet of foil. Scoop about one third cup of corn mixture on top of each patty.

Bring up two sides of foil so edges meet. Seal edges, making tight half-inch fold; fold again, allowing space for heat circulation and expansion. Fold other sides to seal.

Place packs on grill over medium heat. Cover grill; cook eight minutes. Rotate packs

half turn; cook seven to nine minutes longer or until patties are no longer pink in center and meat thermometer inserted in center of patties reads 160 degrees.

Remove packs from grill. Cut large X across top of each pack. Carefully fold back foil. Top each patty with two tablespoons cheese; garnish with cilantro and a lime wedge.

More great summer recipes and tips can be found at [BettyCrocker.com/SummerGrilling](http://BettyCrocker.com/SummerGrilling).

This summer, go above and beyond by seeking out recipes for the grill that are easy to execute, but full on flavor.

- Edited from StatePoint.



## Caribbean stewed goat

MINNA LA FORTUNE

Caribbean people love “mix up mix up” dishes with a variety of spices. So this recipe for stewed goat meat should suit their taste buds.

### Ingredients

- 1 pound bone-in goat meat, cut into large chunks
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 red bell peppers cut in 1-inch square
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 cups beef stock
- 1 Irish potato, peeled and cut into large chunks
- 4 small carrots, peeled and cut into large chunks
- 2 large Choyote cut in squares
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 tsp Scotch Bonnet pepper
- 2 sprigs of thyme

### Method

Mix goat meat with vinegar, soy sauce, and garlic in a large bowl.

Cover and refrigerate for one to eight hours. (For best flavor, marinate at least six hours ahead of cooking.)

Remove meat from mari-

nade and pat dry with paper towels. Reserve marinade and garlic cloves.

Heat vegetable oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Brown goat meat, working in batches if necessary, 10 to 15 minutes.

Set goat meat aside.

Saute and stir onion, red bell pepper and garlic cloves from the marinade over medium heat until onion is translucent, about five minutes.

Pour in tomato sauce and bring mixture to a simmer. Allow to cook down slightly, about five minutes.

Return goat meat to the sauce and pour in reserved marinade and beef stock. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer covered until goat meat is partially tender, 30 to 40 minutes.

Stir in potato, carrots, and Choyote season with salt, black pepper, thyme and scotch bonnet pepper.

Simmer until goat meat is tender and potato and carrots are cooked through another 20 to 30 minutes.

Adjust seasonings before serving.

Bon appetite!

- Edited from News Americas.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Multiple seats up for grabs as Broward County votes in August

**DAWN A. DAVIS**

It's the season for political posturing, rhetoric and promises.

With Broward County local primary elections scheduled for Aug. 30, political hopefuls and incumbents,



Holness

some who trace their roots to the Caribbean, have been reaching out to constituents - at town hall meetings and other forums - in a push to woo the county's 1,117,388 registered voters.

At a forum held at Merrell United Methodist

Church in Lauderdale Lakes on July 14, candidates pitched their platforms and outlined



Smith

qualifications for office, including Broward County Commission, Broward County and Circuit Court judgeships and Florida State House.

Candidates fielded questions and highlighted their strengths. "I passed the Workforce Investment Program for Broward County where we require contractors, business people who do business with the county that create new jobs, to source half of those

jobs from this community and target the high-unemployment, high-poverty area," declared Jamaican-American Dale Holness, who is fighting to retain his seat as Broward County commissioner for District 9 under a challenge by Florida State Senator Chris Smith.

Highlighting his strategies to tackle the high unemployment and poverty in District 9, Holness emphasized: "We just gave OIC (Opportunities Industrial Center) \$500,000 to reach out to those high-unemployment, high-poverty neighborhoods to hire people from there, and those who are

returning from prisons."

Smith declared that as state senator he introduced a bill - that passed - allowing former felons to apply for occupational licenses that would enable them to work when they returned to their

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

## Obama, Biden endorse Caribbean American in California Senate race

The daughter of a Caribbean immigrant has received the endorsement of United States President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in her bid for the U.S. Senate.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris, whose father Donald Harris is Jamaican American, is running for a seat in California to be vacated by Democrat Barbara Boxer.

Harris is running against another Democrat, Loretta Sanchez. The women were the top two vote getters in California's "jungle" primary system. Since the state adopted the system in 2010, many primaries in the heavily blue-leaning state have resulted in contests pitting one Democrat against another.

### BOOST

The White House endorsements give Harris, a longtime Obama ally, an important boost over Sanchez as the general election approaches.

"Kamala Harris fights for us," Obama, who previously endorsed Harris in her 2010 bid to become California attorney general, said in a statement released on July 19. "That's why I'm so proud to endorse her for United States Senator. And if you send her to the Senate, she'll be a fearless fighter for the people of California all the people of California every single day."

Biden said in his endorsement that he first got to know Harris when his son Beau was serving as Delaware's attorney general.

"I saw them take on big banks, lift up the voices of working people, and protect women and children from



Harris

abuse and violence," he said. "Beau always supported her, and I'm proud to support her candidacy for the United States Senate."

### LEAD

Prominent Democrats including California Governor Jerry Brown, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom have also endorsed Harris.

Sanchez, meanwhile, is looking to build a coalition of Hispanic and Republican voters. Several well-known Republicans have endorsed her.

Regardless of the outcome, the election is poised to be historic. If elected, Harris, whose mother is from India, would be the first South Asian-American in the Senate and the first black woman elected to the chamber in over 20 years, while Sanchez would be the Senate's first Latina.

HuffPost Pollster, which tracks all publicly available opinion polls, shows Harris with a significant lead over Sanchez.

- Edited from a story published on the Huffington Post website.



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# ELECTION FEVER



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Sample ballots available to Broward County voters

Voter households in Broward County, Florida are being advised be on the lookout for a generic Primary Election Sample Ballot.

The ballot is expected to arrive in the mail between Aug. 1-5.

The sample ballot contains information on the candidates

for the primary election and important election information that may help the voter prepare to vote.

One sample ballot will be sent per household, unless all voters in the household requested a vote-by-mail ballot.

For the upcoming election, voters are being reminded that

Florida is a closed primary state and only voters with a major party affiliation are eligible to vote in a primary when electing that party's nominee for the general election.

All voters, regardless of affiliation, may vote for non-partisan races and issues such as: judicial and school board

candidates.

Voters are being asked to cross-reference the sample ballot with their voter information card to identify their precinct's assigned congressional, legislative, county commission and school board district numbers on the ballot in the upcoming election since some numbers

may have changed.

Voters can get a personalized sample ballot on the web at: [www.browardsoe.org](http://www.browardsoe.org) by clicking on "voter information" located on the main page and then clicking on "sample ballot lookup".



## Multiple seats up for grabs as Broward County votes in August

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

communities.

"I will do the same here," he added.

### LANGUISH

Smith railed against the economically depressed state of District 9, which includes Fort Lauderdale, Sunrise, Lauderhill, Tamarac, Oakland Park, North Lauderdale, Lauderdale Lakes, Roosevelt Gardens, Washington Park,

Boulevard Gardens and Franklin Park.

"I've watched our community languish behind other communities," Smith said. "I hear a lot of plans and I hear a lot of what's gonna happen, but I've sat too long, I want the action now.

"I've sent money back down to Broward to get things done, I've sent economic development dollars, but it's not getting done fast enough ... I'm gonna go to

the Broward County Commission and actually get stuff done."

Asked what voters should look for in choosing a county commissioner, attorney Marlon Hill, community activist and partner in the firm Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, explained that voters should feel confident and comfortable they have two competent political candi-



Omphroy

dates that have a solid record to potentially represent them, adding that ultimately voters should be taking a close look at the record of

incumbents.

"The local elections are particularly important outside of the presidential ballot come November because of the services you receive on a daily basis: Police services, economic development, garbage collection, water services," said Hill.

"All of these services directly impact your quality of life. So, voters should judge Commissioner Holness on his record of advocacy on the commission and make a judgment call as to returning him to represent the district."

### DIVERSE

Both candidates also touched on the subject of adding more diverse groups to law enforcement. Holness noted that under his watch the number of black firefighters in the Broward Sheriff's Office has increased from 25 to 52.

"Because of my push, five of those 25 will make lieutenant, and two of those five are now captains," he said.

Smith noted that he started a Criminal Justice Institute at Jacksonville's Edward Waters College that certifies students as police officers upon graduation.

"So now, students are getting a college degree and being certified officers from day one and can walk into any police department within this state and be hired," he

said.

Hill also noted the diversity of district population, emphasizing that the commission should be representative of its constituents.

"The Caribbean population in the district has increased exponentially," he explained. "Irrespective of Dale being of Caribbean descent, he represents all citizens in the district.

"But, it should not be ignored that the County Commission deserves to have diverse and inclusive leadership that's reflective of the increasing changes in the demographics of the county."

### HOPEFULS

Several candidates competing for seats in the Florida State House - representing District 92 and District 95 - also spoke to voters. Five hopefuls will run for District 95, the seat being vacated by Representative Hazelle Rogers due to term limit restrictions and will run for mayor of Lauderdale Lakes.

Youthful Anika Omphroy, running for District 95, declared her economic development focus, announcing she would like to see the district become a technology hub.

Candidate Robert Lynch voiced his plan to "marry schools with vocational training" if elected.

Patrick Jabouin, Sr. said he has lived and worked in the district for 25 years, working in both the private and public sectors. Roxanne Valies emphasized: "I am running for elected office because I am a public servant and a community leader, not a politician."

Missing from the District 95 candidate pool was Barrington Russell, currently Lauderdale Lakes mayor whose term ends this year.

Sajan Kurian, Whitney Rawls and Raymond Hicks, among those running to represent District 92, were also present at the forum. Paulette

Amsted and Patricia Hawkins-Williams were no-shows.

Rawls said he is the only candidate who has lived in five of the eight cities that represent the district. Declaring that experience is key to representation, Sajan Kurian underscored he has worked in Florida's state capital Tallahassee for the past three years.

Hicks, a retired Broward Sheriff's Office law enforcement officer, emphasized commitment: "Whatever I say I will do for the people ... I'm not a yes person.

Circuit and Broward Court judge candidates also jostled for the public's attention. With 19 Broward County Court contestants divided into seven groups, the field is crowded. In addition, 12 Circuit Court hopefuls, including current sitting judges, will be challenging for spots on the bench.

According to Hill, voters will be looking for multiple qualities among potential judges.

"Experience is important, but also connection to the community," he said. "Are they involved in the community in any way? Do they have leadership experience in bar organizations or other community organizations? How much trial experience they may have had? Do they have a diversity of legal engagement within the community? These things can impact how a judge views someone coming before them."

Hill urged voters to update their registration information, especially if addresses or signatures have changed. Districts may have changed due to redistricting from the legislature in the past year, so citizens will need to take note of their voting precinct.

Additionally, voters have three options to vote: early voting, which begins Aug. 20, absentee vote by mail, or Primary Day voting on Aug. 30.

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



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Black candidates contest judges races in Broward, Miami-Dade counties

DAWN A. DAVIS

As voters get ready to cast ballots in South Florida primary races this month, many worry about the state of justice for people of color. That concern has brought contests for Circuit Court and County Court judges, which include candidates with Caribbean roots, into sharp focus.

This month, **Caribbean Today** looks at people of color in races for the bench in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, two municipalities with a large - and growing - black population, including thousands of Caribbean nationals.

Marlon Hill, attorney and partner in the firm Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, put it in perspective:

"Diversity is very important on the bench ... It's a disservice to the community for the increasing people of color to not have a bench that's reflective of the demographics of the community." Below is a profile of black candidates:

### BROWARD COUNTY

Among the 19 candidates running for County Court seats in Broward County, including four sitting judges seeking reelection, there are four black hopefuls.

Kal Le Var Evans (Group 2), appointed to the bench in 2014, is fighting to retain his seat. He's being challenged by Phyllis Pritcher.

A state prosecutor with a focus on juvenile and sexual violence cases before his appointment, Evans remarked at a recent forum: "Although my opponent has had 25 years



Evans

in the building, I submit to you that it's not how long you've held this Florida Bar Card, it's what you've done with it."

A second generation Haitian American, Florence Taylor Barner has worked in the Broward County Attorney's office as a prosecutor, handling both felony and misdemeanor cases. Currently, the 34-year-old works with Fort Lauderdale legal firm Weitz Schwartz, P.A. and is running against three others in Group 3.

Perhaps best known for jumping over the bench in his courtroom to defend a woman standing before him in 2009, Ian Richards (Group 7) presided over domestic violence cases while he sat on the bench for six years. He has served as prosecutor and defense attorney and believes that the courthouse door should be open to everyone.

"Everyone should have an opportunity to be heard, and money should not be a determining factor of justice," he stressed.

The second black female candidate running for County Court judge is Alfreda D. Coward (Group 14), a partner



Richards

in her own firm Coward & Coward, P.A., which specializes in criminal and family law, and municipal representation. She worked as an assistant public defender for eight years before starting her own practice. Coward has 21 years law experience.

"There are a lot of people that have need, but don't have the ability to actually afford lawyers," Coward said, adding "I spent my entire career providing free legal services to those in need."

Out of the 12 candidates running for Broward Circuit Court judge, Haccord James Curry Jr. in Group 15 is the only black. Curry has worked with the State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice for the past 22 years helping troubled youth in addition to giving advice on court administration, police department, and other legal issues. As assistant general counsel and senior attorney, he tackles lawsuits, litigation, employee personnel action, offender rights and contracts.

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

In Miami-Dade, two black



Coward

candidates out of the field of eight are running for County Court seats. Both are sitting judges.

Fred Saraphin was appointed Miami-Dade County Court judge in 2001 by then Governor Jeb Bush, becoming the first Haitian American judge in the county. He retained his seat without opposition in 2004 and 2010.

Prior to his appointment, Saraphin worked as a public defender, focusing on the rights of the indigent. He was also a faculty member at the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies. He is a founding member and past board chair of Sant La, the Haitian Neighborhood Center, Inc. Seraphim is running in Group 5.

Wendell Graham (Group 35) was appointed a Miami-Dade County Court judge by Governor Lawton Chiles in 1994 and has presided over more than 100 jury trials in both civil and criminal cases.

Before his appointment, Graham focused on criminal and administrative law as a sole practitioner attorney. He also served as assistant state attorney in the 11th Judicial

Circuit of Florida from 1983 to 1988.

He is a current member of the Judicial Mentor Program and involved in several local organizations.

There are 13 hopefuls running for Miami-Dade Circuit Court judge seats. Two, both women, are black.

Born in Miami, Renee Gordon is running in Group 34 against three other candidates. Her life mantra is: "Service is the rent you pay for living on earth."

Gordon has been a voice for the rights of children and families for years, serving in the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice in addition to specializing in juvenile cases in her 12-year private law practice. She's a mentor for young attorneys and high school students and is involved in several community organizations.

In 2002, Yolly Roberson became the first Haitian-born black woman to be elected to the Florida Legislature. She is running in Group 66 for Miami-Dade Circuit Court judge.

Starting out as a registered nurse, Roberson worked as a mental health nurse while she pursued a juris doctor from the New England School of Law. She has served as public defender, prosecutor, immigration attorney and child and family advocate.

The primary election takes place on Aug. 30 in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

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



## OPTIMISM: Caribbean joins OAS in calls for free, fair Haiti elections

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries claim they remain optimistic that free and fair elections will be held in Haiti in October, even as strategies are being discussed to strengthen the democratic process in the French-speaking nation.

Ambassador Eliston Rahming of The Bahamas, chairman of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), said he's optimistic the people of Haiti will find ways to strengthen their democracy.

Rahming was speaking at a special sitting of the council last month where Haiti's Foreign Minister Pierrot Delienne outlined the situation in the Caribbean island. Interim Haiti



Delienne

President Jocelerme Privert has issued a decree ordering voters to elect a new head of state on Oct. 9.

"I would like to express our optimism that the Haitian people will find a way to strengthen its democracy and its electoral institutions in accordance with the principles of the international law and the Charter of the OAS," the Bahamian diplomat said.

Hubert Charles, Dominica's ambassador to the OAS, speaking on behalf of the CARICOM caucus, told the Permanent Council that Haiti remains a "legitimate and valued member of our hemispheric family," which is working to ensure political stability in the country.

### CONCERN

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders said the situation in Haiti has been a matter of concern for member states and sup-

ported the statement made by OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro Lemes that every effort should be made to support the elections in the French Caribbean nation without delay and in a calm atmosphere.

Sir Ronald said that St.

John's is pleased to have heard from Delienne that the process for elections "is now solidly on track" and that Privert has issued the decree for the Oct. 9 poll.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ambassador Omari

Williams said he is aware of the "increasingly challenging situation" in Haiti, but remains hopeful.

*- Edited from CMC.*



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

**Free health services for Broward County students**

Several programs offering free immunization and other health services for South Florida students heading back to school will be held this month in Broward County.

Uninsured students ages five to 18 years can receive the service courtesy of Broward Health on two dates – from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Aug. 8 and 15 - at the Margate Health Center, 5109 Coconut Creek Parkway, Margate, Florida.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, Aug. 8-10, 12, 15-17 and 19, plus Aug. 22 and 23

during the same hours, Florida Health will also offer free immunizations inside the Lauderhill Mall, in Lauderhill.

On Aug. 13 a resource fair plus immunization services will also be offered at the mall.

A parent or guardian, with each child's immunization record, must be present.

Also on Aug. 13 a "Back-to-School Health Fair" for Broward County residents only, which will include immunizations, vision and hearing screenings and school physical exams will be offered between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. by the

Memorial Healthcare System at South Broward Community Health Services in Hollywood.

Community Health Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 13 at the Pompano Civic Center in Pompano Beach.

On Aug. 20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the fourth annual "The Children of the Lotus" back to school giveaway will be held at the Multi-Service Complex in Miramar.

Call 954-558-0632 for more information.

**Miami-Dade offers 'tax-free holiday' shopping for supplies**

Florida shoppers will have a three-day tax-free holiday weekend in anticipation of the new school year.

This year's sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. Aug. 5 and ends at 11:59 p.m. Aug. 7.

No Florida sales tax or local option tax will be collected during this time on the following:

Clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less per item

Certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item.

The tax holiday does not

apply to personal computers and computer-related accessories

Among the allowed school supplies are: binders, calculators, cellophane (transparent) tape, blank CDs, construction paper, lunch boxes, notebook filler paper, poster paper and scissors.

School supply items that are not exempt from sales taxes include books that are not otherwise exempt; computer paper; correction tape, fluid or pens; masking tape; printer paper; staplers and staples.

Miami-Dade School Board Chair Perla Tabares Hantman's proposal to promote this holiday to families was unanimously agreed on by her board colleagues at their May 2016 meeting.

For more information about the sales tax holiday, and for lists of specific items and their taxable status during the tax-free period visit [http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/tips/pdf/tip16a01-06\\_2016final06022016.pdf](http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/tips/pdf/tip16a01-06_2016final06022016.pdf).

**BRIEFS**

**Miami-Dade offers tool kit**  
Classes for the 2016-2017 year in Miami-Dade County Public Schools 2016-2017 will open Aug. 22 to approximately 342,000 students.

The school district has created a tool kit with information from registration and vaccination requirements, to school hours, important dates and school safety.

The kit is now available online at <http://news.dadeschools.net/toolkit/toolkit.htm> in English, Spanish and Haitian creole.

Also, Superintendent of Schools Alberto M. Carvalho will host a Twitter chat from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 8. Participants may join by using the hashtag #AskMiamiSup.

**K.C. Old Boys drive**

Students who attend Kingston College in Jamaica are set to benefit from a back to school drive on Aug. 13 in South Florida.

The event will be hosted by radio station WHQT HOT 105 FM, Dutch Pot Jamaican Restaurants and the K.C. Old Boys Association of Florida, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 2484 N. State Rd. 7 in Lauderdale Lakes.

For more information, 954-410-1791.

**Teen social**

Broward County Florida Parks

and Recreation will hold a free back to school teen social from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 19 in the grand ballroom at the Sunrise Civic Center, 10610 W. Oakland Park Blvd. in Sunrise.

For more information on the dance, call 954-747-4600.

**Free career training**

Recruitment of students to participate in a free career program, which offers automotive training for young adults, is currently underway for the fall term, which begins Aug. 22 in South Florida.

Participants must have a high school diploma, be between ages 17 and 25, pass background check and mandatory drug tests before and during the program, be well groomed, mechanically inclined, work well with others and have a clean driving record.

Uniforms and school insurance are provided. The training is approximately 18 months and leads to an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification.

For more information, call 305-558-8000 or visit [www.jobtrainingclasses.net/BATC](http://www.jobtrainingclasses.net/BATC) <<http://www.jobtrainingclasses.net/BATC>>.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Tips to save on back to school necessities

After a relaxing summer, back-to-school worries can be stressful and expensive, from purchasing new school supplies to planning lunches.

The discount experts at Dollar General are sharing tips to help you save time and money when planning for the new school year.

**Stock up on school supplies** - There are plenty of ways to dwindle down your spending as you get your child ready for the first day of school. The best place to start is with the school supply list provided by the teacher.

Go through all of the supplies from last year and determine what is usable and what needs to be replaced.

**Save on snack time** - Simplify lunch preparation by stocking up on essential food items that are easy to grab on-the-go.

One way to limit busy mornings before school is to set aside one afternoon each week to cook food in bulk that can be used during the week. That way, you don't have to worry about cooking from scratch each day and can provide your children with balanced meal options.



- Photograph © somkanokwan - Fotolia.com  
The tale of the tape is cutting cost.

**Take inventory and re-use** - Buying new clothes may be one of the most expensive parts to back-to-school shopping. Just because it's a new school year doesn't mean your child needs an entirely new wardrobe.

For the clothes that do need replacing, considering shopping out-of-season to take advantage of clearance sales.

Make back-to-school shopping easy. Planning ahead can help you save on items to ensure this is the best school year yet. Your wallet will surely thank you.

- Edited from StatePoint.



## Tapping scholarships, grants to pay for college

Families spent less out-of-pocket for college in academic year 2015-16 compared to last year, as they took advantage of more scholarships and grants to foot the bill, according to "How America Pays for College 2016".

Approximately, half of families used a scholarship or grant to help pay for college.

**Making college more affordable** - Nearly all families took at least one cost-saving measure, while most took five or more. These measures include cutting personal spending, working while in school, living at home, and taking accelerated coursework to graduate faster.

Additionally, four in five students attended college in their home state, and one in three started at community college. Eighty-five percent of families completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**Borrowing not a forgone conclusion** - Fewer than half of families borrowed last year. The proportions of funding from family savings and income and scholarships and grants were twice as high as the proportion of funds borrowed.

Student borrowing paid 13

percent of all college costs, down from 16 percent last year.

**Cost important, but not top factor** - Sixty-seven percent of families narrow college choices based on cost, but when it comes to making the final decision, this takes a back seat.

Primary reasons in choosing a college are split evenly between academic program and personal choice, which includes campus culture, extracurricular activities and student population. Cost ranked third at 27 percent.

**Planning still pays off** - Only 40 percent of families have a plan to pay for college - but in families with plans, students are more likely to pursue bachelor's degrees, there is more willingness and ability to spend on college, and students borrow 40 percent less than those from families without plans.

For the complete report, visit [SallieMae.com/HowAmericaPaysForCollege](http://SallieMae.com/HowAmericaPaysForCollege).

To learn more about planning for college, visit [SallieMae.com/PlanforCollege](http://SallieMae.com/PlanforCollege).

- Edited from StatePoint.



## Keep your family healthier this school season

With your kids coming home after being exposed to all the children at school, and the added stress that the school year brings, it could mean more days stuck in bed for your whole family.

Experts say that rather than being reactive, it's important to be proactive by taking steps to keep kids healthy.

"Building and maintaining a strong immune system is key to a long, healthy life," says Larry Robinson, PhD, and vice president of Scientific Affairs, Embria Health Sciences, a manufacturer of ingredients that support wellness.

For a strong and healthy school year ahead, Robinson and Embria are offering some health and wellness tips.

**Great habits** - A healthy lifestyle means developing healthy habits. Perhaps most important is to enforce a consistent bedtime to promote adequate sleep, which is proven in studies to promote good health.

Added bonus: kids will be more alert in their classes after a full night's rest.

Proper nutrition is also key: three solid nutrient-filled meals a day and healthy, non-sugary snacks. Regular, moderate exercise also promotes good health, so encourage them to participate in physical activities like sports teams, dance classes and even just playing in the yard.

**Smart supplements** - Even well balanced diets can use a few more benefits to promote better wellness and good health. The best immune system supplements are well researched and do more than simply boost the immune system.

To help strengthen the immune system another way, think about your gut, which is where 70 percent of your immune system resides.

**Reduce stress** - Too much stress can compromise the immune system. Help kids reduce the stress in their lives by not over-scheduling them.

Ensure that with schoolwork, chores and after school activities, kids still have time to relax, see friends and just be a kid.

For happy, healthy kids, practice wellness habits that promote a strong immune system.



- Photograph © JenkoAtaman - Fotolia.com  
Proper nutrition, rest boost learning.

- Edited from StatePoint.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## MOBILE MARKETING: MDC offers ideas for business enterprise

The Idea Center at Miami Dade College (MDC) will host “Top Tips for Mobile Marketing” at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 9.

Abdul Muhammad II, vice president of Digital Development at rbb Communications, will hold

a practical session on how to unleash the power of mobile for your business or enterprise.

The presentation will



Muhammad ii

be accompanied by an information session about the next MarketHack Fundamentals class, which is scheduled to launch later this month. This 15-week experience offers digital skills needed to grow business or launch a career in marketing.

MarketHack is the digital marketing training program at the Idea Center @MDC. It offers a combination of lectures from professionals, hands-on skills workshops and group projects that teach participants how to influence customers and create connections.

The Idea Center at MDC is located in room 8106, 300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami, Florida.

For more information, call 305-237-7809.



## Miami fun day, health, information fair Aug. 13

MIAMI, Florida – Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson will host the 10th annual “District 3 Back to School Fun Day/Health and Info Fair” from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 13 at Olinda Park, 2101 N.W. 51st St. in Miami.

Commissioner Edmonson is slated to give away free book bags and school supplies to children from pre-Kindergarten to age 16 on a first-come, first-served basis.

There will also be music, refreshments, bounce houses

and other fun activities for children.

The event will also feature free eye exams, provided by Miami Lighthouse, free health screenings and information, voter registration, job assistance by CareerResource, the Miami-Dade Library bookmobile, information on Head Start, County services and other service organizations.

Admission is free. The public is invited.



## Amerijet offers shipping tips for students abroad

University students everywhere are reminiscing about their summer vacation as they pack and ship their personal gear for the fall academic semester.

Getting ready for “Back to School” by assembling clothes and other school necessities for an international college student may seem hard enough and packing may seem more challenging.

Preparing and packing can be easy by coordinating with a cargo shipping company specializing in small package and barrel international shipping services. Amerijet International is a company with experience in student cargo shipping services, allowing them to have comforts from home delivered right to them. Amerijet offers shipping of goods from general dry cargo to large oversized packages.

From study exam snacks, favorite foods, college supplies,

birthday and holiday gifts, cargo shipping from Amerijet allows students to deliver personal and commercial shipments to destinations all across the world.

Amerijet serves a range of university campuses, offering more than 52 all cargo flights per week to college destinations for students in Antigua, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Dominica, St. Martin, St. Lucia, Aruba, St. Vincent, Grenada, Barbados and more. Additionally, Amerijet delivers to destinations in Mexico, South America, Central America, worldwide and major cities in the U.S.

Visit [www.Amerijet.com](http://www.Amerijet.com) to save when student shipments are booked online.

- Edited from information submitted by Amerijet.



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# Fall Health

The October issue of Caribbean Today will feature a comprehensive examination of how the healthcare industry serves the Caribbean community. With a proven track record now in our 28th year of service to readers in the United States and the Caribbean Basin, Caribbean Today reaches an audience of over 112,000 highly qualified readers.

They have median household income of \$63,000 and enjoy a higher disposable income. 19% have a college degree, 32% have some college. In today's economy, our readers are

highly esteemed. 59.6% own their own homes.

76% are between 25-54 years of age (readership study conducted by Circulation Verification Council). Caribbean Today is uniquely positioned to deliver product, retail and services messages to a community with which it is identified. Miami Dade Communications Department ranks Caribbean Today sixth overall out of the 72 publications that it does business with, and number one, as a Black publication.

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