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With all the challenges facing Caribbean nationals in the United States, two young students with deep roots in the region - Rhobie Toussaint, left, and Ilija Wan-Simm - are excelling in and out of the classroom, pages 7A and 8A.

It's election season and Caribbean nationals are again engaged in politics, in the region and the United States. Caribbean Today focuses on points of interest as important polls are looming, Section B.

STAY AWAY!

~ Some Caribbean nations are reluctantly moving to bar United States tourists in an attempt to stave off the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). But others hesitate because the absence of visitors could wreck the region's economy, [page 7A](#).

DREAMERS' NIGHTMARE

~ Thousands of Caribbean "Dreamers" should have been happy after a United States court ordered processing resumption for their Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals applications. But the Trump administration is continuing its assault against DACA, plunging applicants into a nightmare of uncertainty, [page 3A](#).

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NEWS



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'Major victory' for Caribbean nationals seeking U.S. entry; defying Trump rules

NEW YORK – An effort by the administration of President Donald Trump to restrict approval for Caribbean and other immigrants' entry into the United States has been blocked.

New York Attorney General Letitia James claimed "a major victory" against the Trump administration after a U.S. federal court late last month halted rules aiming to deny permanent residence or "green cards" and visas to Caribbean and other immigrants who are likely to use government assistance programs in the future.

In February, a James co-led coalition of 22 attorneys general across the U.S., plus some local municipalities, filed an amicus brief in federal court supporting the request for an immediate halt to the implementation of the new Trump administration rules.

"Despite the Trump administration's repeated attempts to discriminate against those who don't have the financial means to buy their



James

"Immigrants of all financial backgrounds make great contributions to this nation, and despite the president's continued assaults on these groups, we will never stop fighting to protect them"

- James

way into this country, the court ... came down on the side of justice and equality," James said on July 29.

"Immigrants of all financial backgrounds make great contributions to this nation,

and despite the president's continued assaults on these groups, we will never stop fighting to protect them," she added.

DENIAL

The administration's rules, among other restrictions, would deny green cards and visas to those who cannot guarantee that they will either have certain types of private health insurance within 30 days of arriving in the U.S. or, alternatively, have the means to pay for any foreseeable medical costs that may arise during their time in the country.

The district court also halted other rules that would have changed the established meaning of public charge for immigrants seeking to enter the U.S.

According to James, U.S. federal law allows lawful Caribbean and other immigrants to apply for certain supplemental health and nutritional public benefits if they have been in the country for at least five years.

- Edited from CMC.



Ex-Barbados gov't minister to be sentenced in U.S.

NEW YORK – Former Barbados government minister Donville Inniss will be sentenced on Nov. 11 in the United States after he lost an appeal against his conviction on a charge of conspiracy to commit money laundering and two counts of substantive money laundering.

Inniss, who served as the minister of international business, commerce and small business in the last Democratic Labor Party (DLP)

government, Inniss had been found guilty on Jan. 16 in a New York court.

U.S. District Judge Kiyo Matsumoto threw out the appeal after Inniss challenged the sufficiency of the evidence on all three counts of conviction regarding whether he was part



Inniss

of a scheme to induce a bribe and whether the payments to him were corrupt or represented payments for a favorable vote.

The judge said both grounds essentially argue that there was insufficient evidence at trial for the jury to conclude that Inniss intended to promote a violation of the Prevention of Corruption Act of Barbados.

DENIED

The court also found that there was sufficient evidence for a jury to convict him beyond a reasonable doubt and Matsumoto said "consequently, the court respectfully denies Mr. Inniss' motion for a judgment of acquittal.

"Although defense counsel acknowledges "there were text messages and emails ... and clear evidence of the money transfers from Barbados to a third party in the United States and back into Donville Inniss' (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4A)

U.S. seizes millions in drugs during Caribbean Sea ops

United States law enforcement last month seized illegal drugs worth millions of dollars during operations conducted in the Caribbean Sea.

U.S. Coast Guard said it secured an estimated 1,375 kilograms of cocaine, with a wholesale value of more than \$38.5 million, which was offloaded in the U.S. on July 22.

The haul was the result of multi-agency efforts in support of U.S. Southern Command's enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the Western Hemisphere. It came during Operation CASTNET II, in coordination with Joint Task Force East (JTF-E). The U.S. Coast Guard said the seizure occurred during a patrol, when its ship Heriberto Hernandez came upon

go-fast vessel.

GANJA HAUL

U.S. law enforcement agencies also combined to seize more than 3,900 pounds of marijuana.

The Southern Command said the U.S. Navy's ship USS Shamal, along with U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET), recovered the weed while on routine patrol on July 24. Crew from USS Shamal spotted the go-fast vessel with the contraband.

The operation recovered a total of 708 bales of suspected marijuana, totaling more than 3,940 pounds, with a wholesale value of \$6.9 million.



Deported Jamaican jailed for illegally re-entering U.S.

ORLANDO, Florida – A Jamaican national was sentenced to prison last month for re-entering the United States illegally after being previously deported.

Conrad Paul Golding, 49, had pleaded guilty April 15, 2019 in a case that was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO). He was sentenced to three years and a month in a U.S. federal prison on July 21.

"ICE is focused on smart, effective immigration enforcement that prioritizes the removal of aliens (immigrants) like in this case," said Miami

Field Office Director Michael W. Meade.

According to court documents, after having pleading guilty to the offense, Golding was placed under house arrest and given a bond that was co-signed by family members.

ICE said Golding's sentencing hearing was scheduled for June 17, 2019, but he removed his electronic monitoring equipment and fled from law enforcement. A bench warrant was issued and Golding was arrested in New Jersey on Jan. 31.

- Edited from CMC.



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NIGHTMARE: Caribbean 'Dreamers' feel hope, despair over DACA status

GORDON WILLIAMS

Caribbean "Dreamers" should have been basking in good news after a United States court ordered the government to resume processing their applications for its Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

However, the administration of President Donald Trump continued its brutal assault against the program last month, despite the court's ruling, halting the resumption of processing and plunging DACA applicants into a nightmare of uncertainty.

Thousands of Caribbean nationals are among DACA recipients, also known as "Dreamers". They came to the U.S. as undocumented children but, under the administration of former President Barack Obama, were allowed to stay, providing they met certain criteria. In return, they were allowed benefits such as having a work permit and driver's license, and spared deportation.

However, Trump, after first expressing support for DACA, has turned relentlessly against the program. His administration's attempts suffered a major setback last month when the U.S. District Court in the District of Maryland ruled it must again accept new DACA applications as it did before Sept. 5, 2017, when the Trump administration tried to end it.

SECOND WIN

Last month's decision in Maryland followed another favorable ruling for DACA made in June by the Supreme Court. The highest judicial body in the U.S. said recipients could continue to receive benefits that come with the program, including education and employment, and cannot be immediately sent back to their country of birth.

The U.S. government was not accepting new DACA applications, even after the Supreme Court ruling.

The Maryland court ruling meant those eligible for DACA could still apply for renewal every two years under the terms of the program and DACA supporters appeared elated by the recent decision.

"This (decision by the Maryland court) means that the (Trump) administration not only must continue protections for current recipients, but that that it must also accept new applications," Ali Noorani, president and chief executive officer of the National Immigration Forum, stated on the NIF's website.

"Ignoring this decision puts the administration directly at odds with the rule of law, and leaves DREAMers steeped in even more uncertainty about

their futures."

RESTRICTIONS

Yet, on July 28, the Trump administration again moved to restrict DACA, announcing it would not accept new applications as it reviewed the program. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security also said

it would reduce - from two years to one - the amount of time renewed DACA applications would be allowed.

To be eligible for DACA, applicants must have arrived in the U.S. before reaching age 16 and have resided in the country since June 15, 2007. None could be older than 30

when the Obama administration introduced the policy in 2012.

No pathway to U.S. permanent residence or citizenship is currently provided by DACA. However, the U.S. Congress could also pass legislation making DACA legal. It is unlikely Republicans, who currently make up the majority

in the U.S. Senate, or the Republican president, would approve such legislation.

Despite the recent court losses, the Trump administration had pushed hard against DACA. U.S. Justice Department officials revealed at a July 24

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4A)



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NEWS



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Lawsuit challenges Jamaican's appointment to Florida Supreme Court

The eligibility of a Jamaican recently appointed judge on the Florida Supreme Court is being challenged.

Geraldine Thompson, a Democratic state representative, Windermere, does not believe Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Renatha Francis, who was picked for the Supreme Court by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, has met all the criteria to hold the post and, on July 13, filed a lawsuit to challenge her appointment.

DeSantis named Francis

in May, along with Miami attorney John Couriel, to replace former justices Barbara Lagoa and Robert Luck, who left the Supreme Court after being named by President Donald Trump to the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

'INELIGIBLE'

Couriel has since joined the Florida Supreme Court, but Francis will not be eligible to take up that post until Sept. 24. By that time Francis will mark her 10th year as a member of

The Florida Bar, which is a requirement for members of the Florida Supreme Court.

"The plain and unambiguous language of the Florida Constitution requires that an individual satisfy that requirement prior to being eligible for appointment," Thompson's lawsuit claims.

The lawsuit does not question Francis's ability or qualifications to serve as a Florida Supreme Court justice. However, it alleges that the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission "exceeded the limits of its



Francis

authority" by including Francis's name on a list of nine

nominees sent to DeSantis in January.

Under the Supreme Court's rules, the nominating commission cannot recommend appointees to the governor "unless the commission finds that the nominee meets all constitutional and statutory requirements" to serve as a justice.

Edited from a story written by Dara Kam, who writes for the News Service of Florida.



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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Owen Arthur, former Barbados P.M., dies at age 71

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados - Former Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur, and the longest serving head of government for the Caribbean nation, died on July 27.

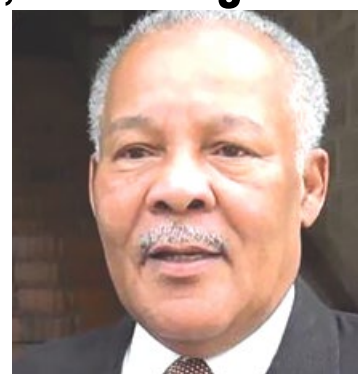
He was 71.

Arthur, an economist, was admitted last month at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital after suffering heart related complications. The nation mourned his loss.

"The government of

Barbados extends sincerest condolences to his wife, Julie, his daughters Leah and Sabrina and his extended family," a government statement noted.

Arthur served as prime minister on three occasions, between Sept. 1994 to Jan. 2008. He was leader of the Opposition in Barbados from Aug. 1, 1993 to Sep. 6, 1994; and from Oct. 23, 2010 to Feb. 21, 2013.



Arthur

Ex-Barbados gov't minister to be sentenced in U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2A)

bank account," defense counsel contends that "there was no trial testimony upon which the jury could properly infer that the conduct of Donville Inniss was part of a scheme to induce a bribe, an essential element of

each count," the judge said.

He said the government presented substantial evidence at trial that both bribe payments to Inniss were made to secure the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd.'s (ICBL) contracts with the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation

(BIDC), a Barbadian government agency that Inniss oversaw in his position as the former minister of industry and a member of the Barbados Parliament.

- Edited from CMC.



NIGHTMARE: Caribbean 'Dreamers' feel hope, despair over DACA status

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3A)

federal court hearing that they had not "granted nor rejected" DACA applications. Instead, the officials explained, the applications were put "on hold" pending government discussions on DACA's future.

Earlier reports indicated that the Department of Homeland Security, in defiance of the Supreme Court ruling and an order by a federal judge, had not re-started accepting DACA

applications.

FAVOR

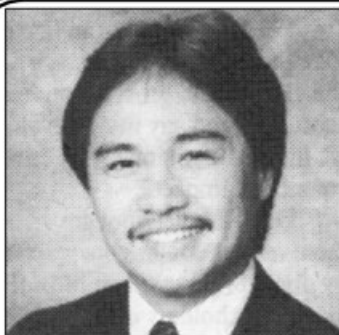
Public opinion polls generally show the majority of Americans favor keeping DACA recipients from deportation. It is estimated it would cost more than \$6 billion to replace deported DACA recipients in the U.S. workforce.

The program's popularity could be the reason behind Trump's recent attempt to sound public support for DACA, even

as his administration tries to shut it down.

"We're going to work on DACA because we want to make people happy," the president said during a press conference last month.

Nearly 700,000 immigrants currently benefit from DACA, among them close to 10,000 who were born in the Caribbean. Another 300,000 are reportedly eligible and waiting to apply.



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STOP ORDER: ICE can no longer arrest Caribbean immigrants at N.Y. courthouses

NEW YORK – United States law enforcement can no longer arrest Caribbean and other immigrants at New York's courthouses without proper permission.

The New York State Legislature last month passed a bill prohibiting U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents from making arrests without a judicial warrant or court order.

The measure was passed in the State Assembly on July 20 and in the Senate on July 22. It was expected to be signed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to become law.

"We have seen federal ICE agents make a concerted effort to use courthouses as a means of entrapment, which in turn has created a hostile environment for individuals seeking recourse from New York courts," said Haitian

American Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages, who was recently elected to serve as the chair of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus (BPHA) for a two-year term starting on Jan. 1, 2021.

"We have fought tirelessly to protect New Yorkers from the unjust federal policies that target our immigrant communities. This legislation will protect all New Yorkers' access to the justice system, to ensure public safety."

Solages, a third-term legislator, is the first person of Haitian descent to be elected into the New York State Legislature.

'HUNTING GROUND'

New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, who sponsored the legislation in the State Senate, said: "We cannot allow our courthouses to become

a hunting ground for federal agents attempting to round up immigrant New Yorkers."

The legislation would prohibit immigration-related courthouse arrest, which is an arrest while on the way to or returning from a court proceeding.

It is expected to promote public safety and ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the justice system and can attend court without fear of immigration consequences.

According to New York's Immigrant Defense Project, between 2016 and 2017 arrests by ICE agents at courthouses in New York increased by 1,200



Solages

percent. The Project said that fear of being targeted, either due to a lack of documented immigration status or concern about the uncertain status of a family member, have dissuaded many individuals from contacting law enforcement or following through with necessary court proceedings.

VICTORY

Last month, New York Attorney General Letitia James and Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez won a major victory against the administration of President Donald Trump that prevents the administration's practice of arresting Caribbean and other immigrants in and around New York state courthouses in a manner that interferes with the state's administration of justice.

James said the suit sought to halt a three-year pattern of civil immigration arrests by federal ICE agents in and around state courts, "which have caused a major disruption to state court

operations."

By targeting witnesses and victims for arrests, she said non-citizens and immigrants are deterred from assisting in state and local law enforcement efforts or protecting their own rights in court. As a result, the New York Attorney General said valid prosecutions have been "abandoned — or never pursued — making communities less safe."

After James and Gonzalez filed their lawsuit, the Trump administration immediately filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. In December, a judge denied the motion.

Since Trump took office, James said ICE courthouse arrests have skyrocketed in New York, "leading to a widespread, chilling effect on noncitizens' willingness to initiate and participate in the judicial system."

- Edited from CMC.



U.S. restricts visas for persons 'undermining' Guyana democracy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States government last month implemented visa restrictions on persons in Guyana it believes are "undermining democracy" in that Caribbean community (CARICOM) country, when official results of the Mar. 2 regional and general elections were still being awaited.

"Today I am announcing visa restrictions on individuals responsible for or complicit in undermining democracy in Guyana," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said July 15.

"Immediate family members of such persons may also be subject to such restrictions.

"The (David) Granger government must respect the result of democratic elections and step aside," Pompeo said.

The Guyana government said it regretted the decision taken by the U.S. to implement visa restrictions. However, the



Pompeo

Granger government said "the matter affecting the outcome of Guyana's elections is still before courts, which is entirely the responsibility of the judiciary. No declaration has been made."

WARNING

Last month, Pompeo warned about possible sanctions as Guyana awaited the official results of the elections that

the main Opposition People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) said it had won by more than 15,000 votes, based on a national recount that had been observed by a three-member team from CARICOM.

"It's now been four months since Guyana's election is long past due for a peaceful transition," Pompeo said then.

"CARICOM and the OAS (Organization of American States) has certified the recount results and (they) should get on with it."

The ruling coalition, A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) had claimed there were several irregularities anomalies during the elections and had called for its annulment.

- Edited from CMC.
Read about the election results, page 6A.



Controversial businessman is new U.S. consul general to Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda — Businessman Lee Rizzuto Jr. has taken up his post as the new United States consul general to Bermuda without fanfare.

The choice of Rizzuto was controversial, sparking protests on the Caribbean island. He succeeds Constance Dierman, a professional diplomat, who left Bermuda in June after only two years of a three-year appointment. No reason was given for her early departure.

The U.S. Consulate said 58-year-old Rizzuto would lead a team with a mission to protect U.S. citizens in Bermuda and deepen the strong economic and cultural ties between the U.S. and Bermuda.

However, more than 93,000 people signed a petition in June protesting the appointment of Rizzuto, a controversial contributor to Donald Trump's presidential campaign. Campaign group Social Justice Bermuda also organized two demonstrations against the move outside the U.S. Consulate in Devonshire parish.

U.S. CALL

Bermuda's British Governor John Rankin, who received the



Rizzuto

petition, tried to ease rising tensions.

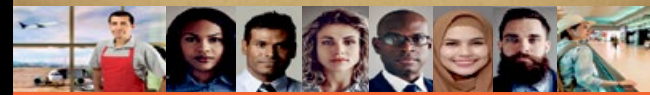
"So the decision to appoint Mr. Rizzuto as U.S. consul general is one that is made by the United States government," Rankin said.

Rizzuto, who gave \$449,000 to Trump's presidential campaign political action committee, made headlines in the U.S. after he shared "conspiracy theories and unfounded attacks" about the president's political opponents on Twitter in the run-in to the 2016 election.

The fallout resulted in Trump not gaining U.S. Senate confirmation when he nominated Rizzuto as ambassador to Barbados in 2018.



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NEWS



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FINALLY: Guyana declares new president, government after lengthy wait

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Dr. Irfaan Ali was on Aug. 2 sworn in as the ninth president of Guyana, promising a government “that is accessible” and transparent and urging Guyanese to put aside their differences for the betterment of the country.

Ali, 40, took the oath of office at the Arthur Chung Conference Center before acting Chancellor of the Judiciary Justice Yonette Cummings Edwards, less than three hours after the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) declared him the winner of the disputed Mar. 2 regional and general elections.

GECOM also declared that the main Opposition People’s Progressive Party /Civic (PPP/C) had won the most seats –32 in the 65-member Parliament, with the outgoing coalition, A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) receiving 31 seats and the other political parties, one seat, under Guyana’s proportional representation electoral system.

PROMISE

Ali, promised Guyana that his administration would not “disappoint you” and thanked the



Ali is sworn in as Guyana’s new leader.

population “sincerely for your confidence and your trust but you will know that in voting for the PPP you’ve elected a government to serve all the people of Guyana and that is what we will be doing.

“We are in this together, we are not separated,” he said, adding that he was now looking forward to a smooth transmission from the David Granger administration.

Granger said he would respect GECOM’s decision on the election results.

“You will have a government that is accessible and one that will be more than willing to share

with you information as we work on building our Guyana in the interest of all,” Ali said.

ATTENDANCE

Senior PPP/C officials, including former President Bharrat Jagdeo, who was named vice-president, Gail Teixeira, minister of parliamentary affairs, Anil Nandlall, attorney general and Mark Phillips, as the prime minister, also attended the swearing-in ceremony. Heads of the Guyana Defense Force, Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Fire Service, as well as several heads of overseas missions, attended the event. However, Ali said Granger had been invited but stayed away.

Ali, a former housing minister in the last PPP/C administration, is married to Arya Ali and is the father of a son.

However, he also faces legal challenges arising out of his tenure as a minister of housing.

- Edited from CMC. U.S., Commonwealth send congratulations, page 4B.



JA school bars dreadlocked 7-y-o, sparking debate

A seven-year-old female student was barred from attending a primary school in Jamaica, allegedly because she wore dreadlocks.

The decision, which was upheld by the nation’s highest court, set off a firestorm of debate on the Caribbean island and in the diaspora, although the written judgement of the court was unavailable up to press time. It also prompted response from political leaders, including Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness, and calls for a review of the nation’s laws.

On July 31, the Supreme Court ruled the constitutional rights of the girl were not breached in 2018 when she was denied access to the Kensington Primary School because of her dreadlocked hair. The ruling ended a two-year fight that began when local human rights watchdog Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ), on behalf of the girl’s parents, obtained an order preventing the board of management from blocking the girl’s admission.

CHALLENGE

JFJ challenged the school’s position on the basis that enforcement of the rule would violate the constitutionally

protected human rights of the child and her family and that no other remedy existed to prevent the threat of that violation, given the school’s demand.

The girl and her parents, Dale and Sherine Virgo, who both wear dreadlocks, planned to appeal the court’s ruling, according to their lawyer Isat Buchanan.

“I will not be cutting my daughter’s hair,” Sherine Virgo said after the ruling. “If they give me that ultimatum again, I will be moving her.”

The court’s decision sparked widespread debate, including an online petition calling for a change in the high court’s ruling. Holness chimed in, saying he was concerned around the developments surrounding the case.

“While we await the written judgement to determine the basis of the ruling issued by our Supreme Court, which by media reports, have suggested that the child’s constitutional rights were not breached,” Holness said, “this government does not believe that there should be any law, which could be interpreted to deny access to a citizen merely on the basis of their hairstyle.”



BRIEFS

U.S. attorneys general fight push to exclude Caribbean immigrants from census

New York Attorney General Letitia James is leading a coalition of 21 attorneys general across the United States in filing a lawsuit against President Donald Trump for attempting to - once again - leave millions of Caribbean and other immigrants out of the apportionment base from the 2020 Census that establishes the number of members in the U.S. House of Representatives that each state receives.

Barbados defies U.S. threat

Barbados says it has no intention of ending a program through which Cuban nurses are engaged in the fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the Caribbean island, despite a threat by the United States to target countries benefiting from the “medical missions” from Havana.

“Barbados is a sovereign country and we make decisions in the interest of the country just like other countries large and small,” said Health Minister Jeffrey Bostic.

Caribbean marks slavery’s abolition

The Caribbean community observed the 186th anniversary of the abolition of slavery on Aug. 1, with chairman of the regional

integration movement, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, saying this year’s observance is taking on a greater international significance, especially with the Black Lives Matter movement’s rising prominence in the United States.

Jamaican appoint to top U.N. trade post

Jamaican Pamela Coke-Hamilton has been appointed executive director of the International Trade Center (ITC) at the United Nations, a joint agency of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization for trade and international business development.

Barbadian heads new Caribbean lawyers group

Barbadian-born Judge Sylvia Hinds-Radix has been elected president of the first Caribbean American Lawyers Association in New York. CALA was formed by Caribbean attorneys who wanted to see the formation of a bar association that reflected the Caribbean diaspora.

- Compiled from various sources.



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STAY AWAY!: Caribbean nations bar U.S. tourists to stave off COVID-19

GORDON WILLIAMS

In a drastic move to stem a resurgence of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections and deaths, some Caribbean nations have announced plans to bar tourists from the United States.

The decision is expected to levy additional hurt on the region's tourism industry, which depends heavily on American visitors and had already suffered from earlier lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, more than 90,000 cases of COVID-19 infections had been recorded in the Caribbean through the end of July. The dramatic rise in virus infections and deaths in the U.S. has forced the consideration by some Caribbean nations to bar Americans, while others remain fixed on re-opening plans during the pandemic.

Last month, The Bahamas said it would no longer allow American visitors starting July 22. After that date those already in the Caribbean nation would be allowed to leave. The U.S., by that time, had recorded a massive spike in COVID-19, with more than 4.5 million testing positive and over 150,000 dying from the virus. At least one report, however, indicated the statistics could be up to 10 times higher and other nations, particularly in Europe had already limited the

number of Americans who could travel there.

NEXT MOVE

Several nations in the Caribbean were considering similar action.

Last month, St. Vincent and the Grenadines also indicated it could suspend tourist arrivals from the U.S. due to the COVID-19 pandemic after reporting multiple cases of infections since re-opening its borders. Eleven cases of virus infections were reported among passengers aboard an American Airlines flight, which arrived in SVG on July 11 from Miami, Florida. On July 18, another AA flight, also from Miami, reportedly carried four persons who tested positive for COVID-19 when they arrived in SVG.

Other Caribbean nations made similar adjustments, some couched in language which appeared to avoid offending the U.S. directly, but offered the same effect. The government of Anguilla, for example, suspended arrivals of nationals from countries which had more than 0.2 percent of their population infected with COVID-19. That ban was effective up to July 25, but subject to review. At least 1.2 percent of U.S. nationals are reportedly infected with COVID-19.



- File photograph
Dr. Minnis has witnessed a spike virus infections since re-opening.

Grenada, up to press time, had not announced a date to resume commercial flights to and from the U.S. Americans arriving by via "pleasure craft" or through other countries were required to take a COVID-19 test and could be quarantined.

RISING RATE

Meanwhile, Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Minnis, in an address to the nation on July 19, explained that the COVID-19 pandemic had escalated "at an exponential rate" since the country again allowed visitors starting July 1.

"Regrettably, the situation here at home has already

deteriorated since we began the re-opening of our domestic economy," Dr. Minnis said.

With the U.S. being about 50 miles away and seemingly floundering to arrest the COVID-19 crisis, Dr. Minnis said it was time for The Bahamas to implement new policies.

"In neighboring countries, hospitals are overwhelmed and deaths are increasing," he explained. "For some places it is unclear when or how they will get this virus under control."

From the time of the re-opening to the date of his speech, Dr. Minnis said The Bahamas had recorded 49 new cases of COVID-19, 153 overall. By then Florida had become the epicenter for the virus in the U.S.

SHUT DOWN

As part of his announcement to stop visitors from entering, Bahamasair, the national airline, shut down operations from the U.S. Commercial flights and vessels like cruise ships from the U.S. were not allowed in The Bahamas until further notice.

The policy to stop travelers from the U.S. did not apply to other nations which help bolster

The Bahamas' tourism, including the United Kingdom, European Union and U.S. neighbor Canada. The U.S., however, provides the most tourists to The Bahamas which, Dr. Minnis said, was a major worry that needed to be addressed quickly.

"Our current situation demands decisive action, if we are to avoid being overrun and defeated by this virus," said Dr. Minnis, the acting minister of health.

"We cannot allow our hospitals to be overrun. Many priorities must be balanced, be they health, social and economic. Chief amongst these though is the health."

TIGHTEN

Meanwhile, SVG Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves warned his country will continue to tighten protocols for travel to SVG if COVID-19 cases in the U.S. continued to spike. His nation reported multiple cases of infections since re-opening its borders.

"What has happened is this: In the United States of America and particularly in Florida and other places, there is a big flare up (of COVID-19) and we tightened the protocols," said Gonsalves last month on a radio

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A)

Haitian American teen leads push for change in U.S.

DAWN A. DAVIS

Rhobie Toussaint is starting to look like a shining example of young leaders ready to take charge in the United States.

The 17-year-old daughter of Haitian American parents is one of five high school students selected for the Bank of America Student Leadership Program (SLP) in Miami, Florida.

Toussaint has been recognized for stellar academic achievement, civic engagement around climate change and giving voice to underserved communities. She and fellow awardees are now participating in a virtual National Leaders Internship program aimed at honing their skills and offering crucial life and business experience.

Toussaint is on track to be part of the 2021 graduating class at Miami Lakes Educational Center. She plans to attend college and major in psychology with minor in English or creative writing. Toussaint also has bigger goals outside of school.

"I would also like to start my own non-profit," she told **Caribbean Today**, "something along the lines of mentoring and representing people from underrepresented and underserved communities.



Toussaint

"I want to help them do more in their communities. Quite often, these are the groups that are overlooked. So, if I have the resources and the power to do something about that I will."

COMPETITIVE

According to Vania LaGuerre, market manager for Bank of America (BoA) in Miami, the SLP is national initiative which has been in place for years. Each year, she explained, BoA selects high school students based on their community commitment.

"The program is very competitive," LaGuerre told **Caribbean Today**.

The five Miami students were selected from more than 200 applicants who have demonstrated

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A)

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FEATURE



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'I want to lift communities up,' says Jamaican American Ivy League student

DAWN A. DAVIS

Ilija Wan-Simm has had his sights on Harvard University since he was in middle school.

The son of Jamaican roots was awarded the Paul C. Ransom prize while at Ransom Everglades Middle School in Florida, cementing his trajectory towards college; and it had to be Harvard.

Wan-Simm was wooed by prestigious institutions such as the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University and Stanford University. But today he is a sophomore at Harvard, majoring in applied mathematics, with a specialization in economics.

Wan-Simm is proud of his heritage and credits his Caribbean background for his motivation.

"I'm Chinese Jamaican and my Caribbean culture is something I hold dear in my heart," he told **Caribbean Today**.

"It has been ingrained in me from a very young age. Reggae music is always playing in my house. The house is constantly bustling with patois and bubbling

with aromas of curry goat or oxtail

"I used to travel to Jamaica frequently in my youth, and I feel a connection to the Jamaican people unlike any other. I feel an overwhelming sense of pride to be Jamaican and I always want Jamaica to be a part of my success story."

BUSY

Wan-Simm grew up in a single parent household. He calls his mother his greatest inspiration because she made it easy for him to excel.

He was among the top of his school class graduating from Ransom Institution. He also led an active extracurricular life, serving as president of the speech and debate team, president of Mu Alpha Theta, president of the Health Information Project and co-founder of the Miami Venturing Entrepreneurs Club.

He also was an actor/director for the school's drama department, an admissions ambassador, member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Cum Laude Society.

At Harvard, Wan-Simm is busy in and out of the classroom as well.

"I'm the type of person



Wan-Simm

who thrives when their day is jam-packed with things to do," he explained. "That is when my efficiency is the highest and I'm the most productive."

"I would go hour by hour and block out exactly what I was doing each day of the week. Sometimes I'd stick to it exactly and feel extra proud, but most times I was not perfect. But by planning out my day in detail, I would set myself up for success."

CARIBBEAN

At Harvard, Wan-Simm is involved in investment research for the Harvard Financial Analysts Club, the career director for the Applied Math Society, a model/dancer for the Eleganza

Show, part of the media team for the Institute of Politics JFK Jr. Forum, part of the Crimson Key Society and a member of the Caribbean Club.

"The Caribbean Club is one of the most amazing communities at Harvard," said Wan-Simm. "Activities include mixers with Caribbean food, Big/Little Sibling matchups and even an annual celebration of Caribbean culture called the Jubilee."

"This year at the Jubilee, the club presented the 'Caribbean Entertainer of the Year Award' to the performer Spice. The club also creates online spaces to discuss the Black Lives Matter movement."

The global coronavirus pandemic has changed how people interact, including the way classes are delivered. Wan-Simm is concerned.

"It has become a lot harder to feel the sense of community, but we manage to make it work," he said. "Some of the events that have taken place over the virtual platform for my activities have been speaker-based and more informative than participant-oriented."

"I'm looking forward to when things get back to being

in-person because college is all about being with friends, connecting with professors and doing meaningful work with organizations."

Creating and teaching purposeful skills is Wan-Simm's goal when he leaves Harvard, including financial literacy to disadvantaged communities. He believes that will create more equity and is essential for survival in a capitalist economy like the United States. So Wan-Simm wants to establish his own private investment firm which will become known for its philanthropy.

"One that has the social capital to establish a meaningful and widespread program to educate lower and middle income families on how to properly save and invest their money," he explained.

"I want to lift communities up. My one goal in life is to bring light in the world."

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



Haitian American teen leads push for change in U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7A)

or engaged in some type of mentoring. However, there are other requirements.

"We look at their leadership skills as well," LaGuerre said. "And we also look at how they are building their financial know-how."

Once selected students, who receive a stipend, have the opportunity of engaging with local and national leaders. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, projects, meetings and connections are completely virtual. BoA has donated computers to each student leader. According to LaGuerre, the virtual delivery has helped to broaden students' experiences. Toussaint agrees.

"For example, one of the workshops we participated in was public speaking. That's something I can use in virtually anything in my life," the teen said.

"The different competitions I have been involved in, and just studying and preparing, that's going to help me. And being president of the school's chapter



LaGuerre

of Future Business Leaders of America has taught me a lot about being a leader. It's taught me a lot about working with one another."

INJUSTICE

As a community activist, Toussaint said she is concerned about injustices people of color face in the U.S. She has used her time and talent to highlight these troubling issues.

"More and more we are seeing just how impactful the youth can be when they take action," said Toussaint.

"Recently I wrote about

three young people in the black community who are using their voices and platforms to make a change and speak for the Black Lives Matter movement. If anyone has any opportunity to be more involved in their community, they should take it."

LaGuerre said BoA believes it's important to highlight these issues with student leaders.

"We asked our student leaders to watch the movie 'Just Mercy' and, we engaged and hosted a virtual conversation around race in America as well as other topics of diversity and inclusion," she said.

VARIETY

BoA, according to LaGuerre, deliberately selected students representative of the Miami community. The group included candidates from various socio-economic backgrounds, educational levels and races. Their civic mindedness and aptitude are also taken into consideration. From the beginning of the process, LaGuerre explained, Toussaint stood out.

"We took the student leaders

through a mock process of some of our past grant awardees. When they gave us their feedback I was tremendously impressed with her insights," LaGuerre said. "There were certain nuances that she brought up demonstrating that she gets it."

Toussaint said she is grateful for the program and the skills she has developed. She encourages other students to seek the same experience.

"I think that this program is really providing us with the resources that we need to be better leaders, to improve, to connect, to network, to think about the problems in our communities and what we can do to solve them," she said.

"Therefore, I think that anyone that has that drive, and has that passion and really wants to make a difference in their community, should apply."

"It's honestly so amazing!"

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



STAY AWAY!: Caribbean nations bar U.S. tourists to stave off COVID-19

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7A)

program.

"... If persons who return choose not to pay attention to the quarantine, you may push the government to suspending the flights from the United States of America until things improve there."

He promised more stringent anti-COVID-19 measures in

SVG by late July.

"The protocol is going to be strengthened," said Gonsalves.

However, some Caribbean nations have so far rejected the notion of barring U.S. visitors, claiming it would destroy tourism. They do not plan to immediately follow the route taken by The Bahamas.

"For the moment for sure we are not there at all yet,"

Jamaica's Tourism Minister Ed Bartlett said in a recent radio interview.

Jamaica re-opened its borders in June. Through July 26, the government said it had recorded 842 COVID-19 infections.

Other Caribbean nations have also opened and some plan to re-open this month. Some are looking to a later date.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department on July 22 issued its own health advisory for travel to the Caribbean, asking citizens to avoid going to parts of the region due to COVID-19. The department also asked citizens in the region to "arrange for immediate return" to the U.S.



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When the dream turns to a never ending nightmare

They are fondly referred to as “Dreamers”, the young immigrants brought into the United States by their parents and who, after much lobbying, were able to obtain temporary legal immigration status under the administration of former President Barack Obama.

Of course, just when the some 700,000 young immigrants thought they could finally breathe a little easier, along comes the Donald Trump administration, which promptly rescinds the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and, just like that, turned the dream back into a running nightmare for these young “Dreamers”.

Almost four years later, and despite a Supreme Court ruling in June that reinstated DACA, it looks like The Donald and his cronies are not done being the nightmare to these immigrants. Now, some lawyers say, the administration, in clear defiance of the Supreme Court ruling, is rejecting new DACA applications. This after the justices clearly ruled that the Trump administration hadn't followed federal procedural law or justified terminating DACA in 2017. They even went a step further to dub the rescission: “arbitrary and capricious.”

SPIN

Immediately after the ruling, Trump took to his favorite communication platform to frame the loss with his usual Squealer Spin.

“The Supreme Court asked us to resubmit on DACA, nothing was lost or won,” Trump tweeted falsely.

A day later, Joseph Edlow, deputy director for policy at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, issued a statement that stated, again falsely, that the decision “merely delays the President’s lawful ability to end the illegal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals amnesty program.”

Still Monday, July 15, 2020, marked 25 days after the ruling and the deadline for the administration’s Justice Department to file for a re-hearing. It did not. But neither have officials at the DHS and U.S. CIS moved to restore the program.

Lawyers like Jaclyn Kelley-Widmer, associate clinical professor at Cornell Law School, told the LA Times the U.S. CIS is still rejecting first-time



Trump looking to shatter the dream.

applications or is confirming receipt of the new applications but then not acting on them.

VIOLATION

It is a clear violation of the court’s order. Throw in confusion from the top as Trump, in an interview with Telemundo on July 12, 2020, a day after his meeting with the Mexican president, contradicted himself, saying he would be issuing an executive order on DACA, and also sign a bill that would “give (Dreamers) a road to citizenship.”

The White House followed up with a statement saying Trump supports a legislative solution for DACA, potentially including citizenship, but not “amnesty.”

Then on Tuesday, July 16, 2020, in a Rose Garden news conference, Trump said he’s working on DACA “because we want to make people happy.”

On that same day, Democratic senators Kamala Harris of California and Dick Durbin of Illinois, as well as 31 others, wrote to the acting Homeland Security secretary demanding the department “immediately comply” with the court’s ruling and “fully reinstate DACA protections, as the Court’s decision unequivocally requires.”

As of July 17, 2020, there has been no move forward for Dreamers as the nightmare goes on.

STORIES

Among those living the nightmare according to Mother Jones, is Carlos Martinez who was brought by his parents to the U.S. at age eight from Mexico. He was one of the first people in Arizona to get DACA back in 2012 and became a poster child for the program.

In 2012, and again in 2015, Durbin brought a large poster board portrait of Martinez to the Senate floor to help illustrate the need to protect DACA from Republicans and their continuous efforts to kill it without proffering a real solution. But for the last 11 months, Martinez, now 38, has been locked up in a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10A)

CARIB Comments

Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene pays tribute to the late civil rights icon and United States Congressman John Lewis, who died last month at age 80.

• “What we see is worrisome”

- Dr. Carissa Etienne, Dominican-born director of the Pan American Health Organization, warns about the severe health fallout from COVID-19.

• “As someone who was born and raised in Haiti, and the first Haitian American elected to the government in New York, I stand on the shoulders of John Lewis, because of his unrelenting determination to end discrimination and injustice”
- Haitian American Democratic



• “You cannot commit a crime; profit from that crime; cause immense damage to a people as a result of that crime; and simply walk away from the scene of the crime with your ill-gotten gain!” - David Commissong, Barbados ambassador to the Caribbean community, doesn’t believe it is enough to simply have good intentions as the Caribbean seeks reparations from Europe for the slave trade.

• “We will not bend” - Joseph

Harmon, campaign co-manager of the APNU+AFC Coalition, vows his party and the government of President David Granger will continue to stand firm against forces he believes are trying to violate Guyana’s rule of law regarding the outcome of the country’s elections on Mar. 2.



• “Many who died were my friends” - Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest expresses remorse at the unveiling of a monument last month in The Bahamas which will serve as a memorial to lives lost in the Caribbean nation during Hurricane Dorian in 2019.

- Compiled from multiple sources.



Trump doesn't want some Caribbean nationals counted during 2020 census

NEW YORK – Caribbean American Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has strongly condemned United States President Donald J. Trump’s executive order directing the federal government not to count undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants when allocating congressional districts based on the 2020 Census.

“In a desperate attempt to further stack the electoral deck in his favor in blatant disregard of our Constitutional history, 45 has made yet another naked attempt to suppress the response rate for the census,” Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** last month.

“The Constitution clearly states that the enumeration process must include ‘the whole number of free persons’, meaning all people within the country must be counted,” added Clarke, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York.

“Instead of following the dictates of our foundational legal document, this administration has instead chosen to rely upon the judgement of an impeached president, who has already been credibly accused of violating the law in order to secure his hold on power.

“The executive order in question holds no real legal weight, as it completely flies in the face of centuries of practice and jurisprudence mandating that all people be counted.

“Unless they plan on



Will all Caribbean nationals be counted in census?

arguing that the undocumented fall into the category of ‘all other persons’ worthy of a 3/5th count – a similarly reprehensible and callously racist position in line with their past actions – they do not have a leg to stand on in any court of law,” Clarke said.

‘STUNT’

The congresswoman said “we should see this powerless piece of paper for what it is: a campaign stunt aimed directly at his base of deplorables clinging to the last vestiges of white supremacy in America.”

In the executive order,

Trump wrote: “I have accordingly determined that respect for the law and protection of the integrity of the democratic process warrant the exclusion of illegal aliens (immigrants) from the apportionment base, to the extent feasible and to the maximum extent of the president’s discretion under the law.”

A subsequent White House “Fact Sheet”, noted that Trump is “issuing a memorandum clarifying that illegal aliens are not to be included for the purpose of apportionment of representatives following the 2020 Census.

“This follows the president’s order directing the federal government to collect the information needed to ensure that accurate citizenship data is compiled in connection with the census,” it added, noting that “giving congressional representation and political influence to illegal aliens – people who have blatantly disregarded our laws – would be a perversion of our democratic principles.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10A)

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BABY BUMP: Some women are well bred, others just breed

Many parents hope their first born is a male so he can carry on the family name.

But male or female, it takes a pregnancy to bring forth a baby, and when a woman gets pregnant, she basically breeds.

We talk about thoroughbred racehorses breeding and being of good stock, breeding of pet fish, different breeds of dogs, and even the term, breeding as fast as rabbits, is accepted. Well, like it or not, humans breed too. That's why people often say, "That gentleman is of good breeding" or "She's well bred."

AMUSING

People make so much of a woman when she gets pregnant. They will admire her baby bump, even touching it. On the other hand, no one looks at the father and touches his scrotum.

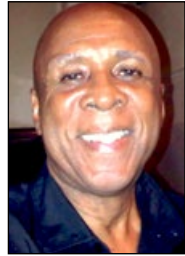
Is this because women obviously display their enlarged belly before them, whereas the man has nothing to show?

It is advised not to ever ask a woman if she's pregnant or

refer to her pregnancy unless you are an obstetrician, midwife or prophet. Many a mistake has been made.

I have seen women who were eight months pregnant, but you could hardly tell, as the weight gain was minimal. Yet there are others who are barely four months pregnant, but look as if they were carrying triplets.

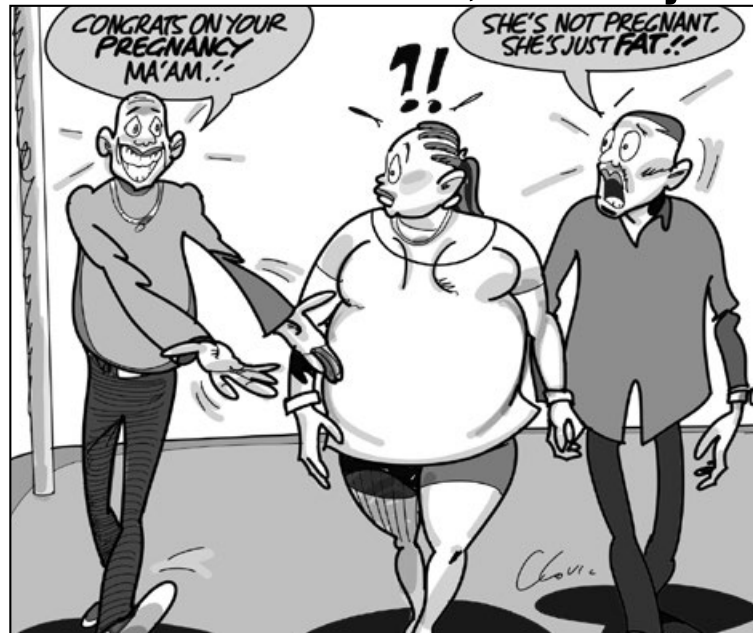
Some young women, girls really, seem to breed frequently. We often see them on the streets walking with one child in the hand, one on the ground and one in the belly.



TONY
ROBINSON

NO SHAME

There was a time when if a young girl got pregnant, she and her parents were so washed with shame that she was whisked off



to the country to have her baby. Now young mothers are filled with pride to have babies, and in a hurry too.

There was a huge debate going on regarding abortion. Some are for it, others against. Some states in the United

States have made it illegal, with sentences of 99 years for any doctor who performs that surgery.

It threatens to unravel the fabric of American society, as both sides feel strongly about their case. Putting that aside though, many young mothers are

content to breed to their heart's content with many not even knowing or caring who the father is. Many have multiple baby fathers.

Meanwhile, some women have great difficulty getting pregnant. Those who can afford it will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to breed. Yes, wealthy people breed too, but they call it in vitro fertilization. Some will even utilize the services of a surrogate mother to breed for them.

But some women who cannot breed for themselves will go to great lengths to appear to have bred, like stealing babies.

Long maternity leave does not exist in some countries, and some women have to go back to work shortly after giving birth. Now even men are jumping on the breeders bandwagon and asking for paternity leave.

Some are well bred, while others just breed.

seido1yard@gmail.com.



Trump doesn't want some Caribbean nationals counted during 2020 census

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A)

"Allowing illegal aliens to be counted for the purpose of apportionment could also create

perverse incentives – such as potentially rewarding states that encourage violations of federal immigration law – that would undermine our system

of government," the statement noted, adding "President Trump will never allow our democracy to be eroded by giving congressional representation

to illegal aliens when the Constitution does not require it."

PLOY

Political pundits and legal analysts have characterized Trump's latest move as a clear political ploy aimed at aiding Republicans in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

They said that the executive order would prevent millions of residents from being counted when allocating the number of congressional seats each state would receive based on the census.

New York Attorney General Letitia James vowed to sue the president again if he does not rescind his "illegal presidential memorandum.

"No one ceases to be a person because they lack documentation," James explained in a statement shortly after Trump issued the executive order.

"Under the law, every

person residing in the U.S. during the census, regardless of status, must be counted.

"We beat the president before in court, and we'll challenge him once again on the census," James added. "We will continue to lead this fight, because we will not allow the Trump administration's anti-immigrant policies to tip the balance of power in the nation."

A year ago, in light of a joint lawsuit by James and other states' attorneys general, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Trump in prohibiting him from adding a citizenship question to the census on the grounds that its apparent reasoning "seems to have been contrived."

Since then, the Trump administration has been seeking to gather information on illegal immigrants via different ways, such as driver's licenses files.



When the dream turns to a never ending nightmare

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A)

for-profit immigration detention center in Arizona, has lost his DACA status and fallen ill with COVID-19.

Why? Simply because he decided to visit his grandmother in Sonora, Mexico as a DACA immigrant.

He tried to re-enter the U.S. 45 minutes after leaving and realizing he may have made a mistake in leaving. But when he showed his DACA permit to U.S. Customs and Border agents, they did not let him back into the country he has known most of his life. Instead, he was taken

into custody, classified as an "arriving alien," and sent to the Eloy Detention Center.

Martinez told Mother Jones of his dream that has become a nightmare: "I've given so much to this country that still doesn't want me here ... I'm not here because of a DUI or because of domestic violence. I'm not here because I'm a criminal. I'm here because I crossed the border for 45 minutes."

Edited from News Americas. Felicia J. Persaud is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.



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ELECTION FEVER

It's election season and Caribbean nationals are again engaged in politics, in the region and the United States. In Section B, Caribbean Today focuses on points of interest in the region and the U.S., where important polls are looming.

Caribbean  day



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Sheriff Gregory Tony



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Sheriff
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ELECTION FEVER

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Early Miami-Dade County voting Aug. 3-16 at 23 sites

Early voting in Miami-Dade County, Florida, home to a large Caribbean American community, runs Aug. 3-16.

Voters can go to any of 23 sites throughout the early voting period, unlike Election Day when they must go to their assigned precinct.

The full list of early voting sites, including hours of operation and addresses, can be found on the 2020 Elections Early Voting page.

The county is urging voters not to wait until Election Day to cast their ballot since they can go to any of the 23 sites throughout the early voting period. Wait times for all 23 sites will be posted on the Elections Department's website and will be updated throughout the day, to help voters make an informed decision as to when and where it is most convenient for them to vote.

Voters are also encouraged to review their customized sample ballot to prepare in advance before heading to the polls. Additionally, voters can drop off their vote-by-mail ballot at any early voting site without having to go inside the polling place.

Voters can drive up to the



The option to vote early is available.

official ballot drop box, located outside all 23 early voting locations, and drop their vote-by-mail ballot into the ballot box.

HEALTH

To ensure the health and safety of voters and poll workers during in-person voting for 2020 amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Miami-Dade County Elections Department is following the Florida Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

The department said it will

provide poll workers with face shields, masks and disposable gloves and will regularly wipe down common touch points with disinfectant, offer hand sanitizer to voters upon entering and exiting the voting location, and mark the ground with stickers to ensure voters can adhere to social distancing protocols.

Additionally, the department said it will provide access to bathrooms that have soap and water available for hand washing.

Voters are required to wear facial covering over their noses and mouths when entering and while they are inside the voting location. They must also use the hand sanitizer, that is provided, upon entering and exiting.

For more information, visit www.iamelectionready.org or call 311.



OAS launches organizing guide for Caribbean polls



alternatives must be analyzed that do not damage the legitimacy of origin of those elected, democratic transitions, the alternation of authorities and the length of the terms of government," writes OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro in the prologue.

The guide aims to protect voters.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Organization of American States (OAS) has launched a guide for organizing elections during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, saying that it is intended to contribute to the strengthening of political processes in member states.

The OAS said the "Guide to Organizing Elections in Times of Pandemic" aims particularly in addressing the maintenance of democracy as "the best option to guarantee peace, security and development."

"The consequences of the pandemic, the high possibilities of contagion through human interaction, the risk of death, the application of restrictive measures, pose serious difficulties to the organization of electoral processes, so democratic

PROTECTION

The OAS said its General Secretariat, with the collaboration of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), compiled a series of measures for the holding of "safe, clean, and transparent elections, while contributing to reduce the risks of transmission of COVID-19."

The OAS said the guide offers "elements to take into account when deciding whether to hold elections or postpone them, and proposes measures that can be adopted."

These include organization and electoral administration; use of technology; participation and inclusion; campaigns; communication; and voting and vote counting.

- Edited from CMC.



ALEX PENELAS

Proven leadership & experience needed to rebuild Miami-Dade from Day One

I am running for Miami-Dade County Mayor to return the focus of the job on addressing the big issues of our time: building public transportation, housing affordability, countywide response and recovery to COVID-19, and getting our small businesses back on their feet. In considering these issues, it is abundantly clear to me that we must also uproot the systemic racial inequality that continues to plague Miami-Dade's Black community. Racial inequality harms our Black residents, diminishes our entire community, and undermines the power of Miami-Dade's diversity. We must face the hard truths and change for the better.

I HAVE A BOLD AND COMPREHENSIVE AGENDA TO FOSTER ENGAGEMENT, INCLUSIVITY, TRANSFORMATION, AND SUCCESS FOR MIAMI-DADE'S BLACK RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND THEIR HISTORIC COMMUNITIES



The focal points of this effort will include:

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- ★ County Contracting and Hiring
- ★ Access to Healthcare
- ★ Policing and Gun Violence
- ★ Gentrification and Housing
- ★ Commission on the Status of Black Men and Boys
- ★ Diversity, Hope, and Leadership

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ELECTION FEVER

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

POWER NUMBERS: Caribbean Americans stock South Florida ballots

Caribbean American candidates are again flexing their political power in South Florida by staking a significant claim on the ballot for upcoming elections, including the Aug. 18 primaries.

More than 30 candidates, who trace their roots to the Caribbean, are listed on ballots for offices ranging from the United States Congress to school boards. Even more are set to contest seats on city councils and commissions in the November general elections.

Several Caribbean Americans already hold influential political office in South Florida. Among those scheduled to be on the ballot this month are:

• **Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick** - Incumbent Alcee Hastings is facing a primary challenge from Cherfilus-McCormick for District 20, U.S. Congress.

• **Carla Spalding** - Republican is challenging Democrat Debbie Wasserman Schultz for the U.S. congressional seat, Florida's 23rd district.

• **Andrew Smalling** -

The former police chief of Lauderdale Lakes and Lauderhill is running to become Broward County sheriff.

• **Gordon Weekes** - One of several candidates vying to

become public defender, Broward County, District 17.

• **Anika Omphroy** - She seeks re-election to represent District 95, Broward County in the Florida House of Representatives.

• **Dale Holness** -

The mayor of Broward County is also Omphroy incumbent Broward County commissioner for District 9, a seat for which he's seeking re-election.

• **Marlon Hill** - The attorney is a candidate for District 9, Miami-Dade County Commission.

• **Ann Marie Sorrell** - The author wants to write her own script for Group 2 on Palm Beach County's Soil and Water Conservation Board.

• **Lavern Deer** - She is trying to become the mayor of Miami Gardens.

• **Daphne Campbell** - She was once Florida state senator and representative for District 38, but now wants the seat for District 35, State Senate.

• **Dennis Hinds** - He wants to represent District 102 in the Florida House.



Weekes



• **Ian Richards** - He's seeking election as a Broward County judge.

• **Joan Anthony** - This attorney wants to be a Circuit



Hinds

Court judge in the 7th Judicial Circuit.

• **Elizabeth Burns** - She is running for a seat on the City of Pembroke Pines Commission.

• **Jeff Holness** - He wants a seat on the Broward County School Board.

• **Georges Bossous Jr. and Dotie Joseph** - They are rivals

to represent District 108 in the Florida House.

• **Marie Woodson** - Candidate for Florida House, District 101.

• **Jessica Laguerre Hylton** - Candidate for Florida House District 117.

• **Phoebe Francois** - The

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B)

Caribbean American candidate wants black history education

NEW YORK - A Caribbean American candidate for New York City Council is calling for the teaching of black history in New York City's public schools.

Anthony Beckford, son of Jamaican immigrants, who is vying for the 45th Council seat in 2021 in Brooklyn, said the signing into law of New York State Senate and Assembly African American History and Achievement bill, also known as the Black History Education Bill, "will help bring about the empowerment of our children and our communities."

"The bill will provide the opportunity for the children to realize the greatness and truth of their history and to teach them that their existence did not start and will not stop with slavery," Beckford, president of Black Lives Matter Brooklyn, told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) on July 27.



Beckford

IDENTITY

The United States Marine Corps veteran and community leader said he "strongly believes in the greatness of Black culture" and that "our children need to identify with that."

"History books have taught our children many lies and watered-down facts. These books have taught them that their history starts from bondage, which then conditions them to accept the continuous systemic oppression and bondage in society."

Beckford, an affiliate member of the More Caucus UFT (United Federation of Teachers), said he has started a petition to support the passing of the bill.

"The Black History Education Bill would have a huge impact on our youth and our communities," he explained. "The bill would include the indigenous history of Afro Americans, Afro Caribbeans, Afro Latinos and the African diaspora as a whole. This taps into the true indigenous history of many other ethnicities."

"The teaching of black

Daniella Levine Cava

IS FIGHTING FOR

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Daniella Levine Cava
FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR

Because Everyone is Essential

Daniella Levine Cava's Plan to

EMPOWER Black Communities

- E** Expand Entrepreneurship & Black-Owned Small Businesses
- M** Major Investments in Underserved Neighborhoods
- P** Police Accountability, Reforms & Public Safety
- O** Opportunities for Collaboration with Community Organizations
- W** Wage Growth and Youth Employment Programs
- E** Establish the Mayor's Office of Equity & Inclusion
- R** Reinvest in Homeownership Programs



ELECTION DAY IS
Tuesday,
August 18th

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- ✓ Fully fund the Independent Community Panel
- ✓ Ban Chokeholds by Officers
- ✓ Return to Community Policing Model
- ✓ Reprioritize Public Safety Budgets to Support Social Programs

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Miami Herald

Paid by Daniella Levine Cava for Miami-Dade Mayor, nonpartisan.

ELECTION FEVER

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

U.S., Commonwealth welcome Guyana's new president, government

The United States and Commonwealth nations have welcomed the election of Dr. Irfaan Ali as Guyana's new president, following the declaration of long awaited election results in the Caribbean community nation.

Michael Kozak, acting assistant secretary of the Bureau of Western Affairs at the U.S. State Department, in a **Twitter** message, acknowledged "democracy rules in Guyana" and that Ali's swearing into office reflected "the will of the Guyanese people."

"We congratulate President Ali & look forward to working with all to support Guyana's development for the benefit of all its people," Kozak's message noted in his tweet.

The U.S. had threatened to impose visa restrictions on members of the last Guyana administration as the country spent months awaiting the outcome of the Mar. 2 polls, which was marred by voting recounts and court challenges.



Kozak

COMMENDATION

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland welcomed Ali's election as the new head of state, thanking his predecessor David Granger for his "stewardship" of the country.

In her congratulatory message, Scotland said retired Justice Claudette Singh, GECOM chairman, had "through challenging times ... exemplified the courage, fortitude and grace required to uphold the constitution and the rule of law."

She said on behalf of the 54-member Commonwealth grouping "I commend the people of Guyana for your continued patience and peace."

Scotland said that she was heartened by the remarks made by Ali during the swearing in ceremony that he and his government intend to "work in the interest of every Guyanese."

Ali, 40, was sworn into office on Aug. 2, a few hours after GECOM declared him the elections victor.



Scotland

Candidates nominated to contest T&T elections Aug. 10

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – More than 90 persons were nominated last month to contest Trinidad and Tobago's general elections Aug. 10.

The nominations came amid allegations of racism, the return of a prominent political name and the re-appearance of the disgraced global soccer administrator Austin "Jack" Warner.

The ruling People's National Movement (PNM) is the only party contesting all 41 seats in the elections. The main Opposition



Rowley

United National Congress (UNC) is contesting 39 seats. Several small Opposition parties, as well as a few independent candidates, have thrown their hats in the ring as well.

Opposition Leader Kamla Persad Bissessar allegedly was heard referring to Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley "as the black man over there," which led to denials from the country's first ever woman prime minister that she was engaged in race baiting in multi-ethnic T&T.

"I am not a racist," she



Persad Bissessar

maintained after filing her nomination papers, insisting the words she used on July 16 was "blank man."

Meanwhile, Brian Manning, son of the late Prime Minister Patrick Manning who attended university in the United States, has filed nomination papers to contest the San Fernando East seat that had been held by his father for more than two decades.

Warner, 77, who is facing possible extradition to the U.S. on fraud, racketeering and money laundering-related charges arising from his tenure as the vice president of the International Football Federation (FIFA), soccer's world governing body, will contest the Lopinot Bon Air, which is held by the PNM.



BRIEFS

Jamaican in Miami Gardens mayor's race

Jamaican-born Lavern Deer will be on the ballot for the post of mayor of Miami Gardens.

The election will be held Aug. 18.

Deer is a 30-year resident of the South Florida city after moving from Kingston at age nine and then from Nassau in The Bahamas.

Hill competes for Miami commissioner

Jamaican-born attorney Marlon Hill is running for commissioner for District 9 in Miami-Dade County.

Hill, a resident of the country since 1985, is on the ballot for the Aug. 18 primary.

Belize elections Nov. 1

The Caribbean community nation of Belize is scheduled to hold

its general elections Nov. 1.

Dean Barrow, who led the United Democratic Party (UDP) to a third consecutive victory in the last elections in 2015 and has been prime minister since 2008, has already announced his intention to quit elective politics.

- *Compiled from various sources.*



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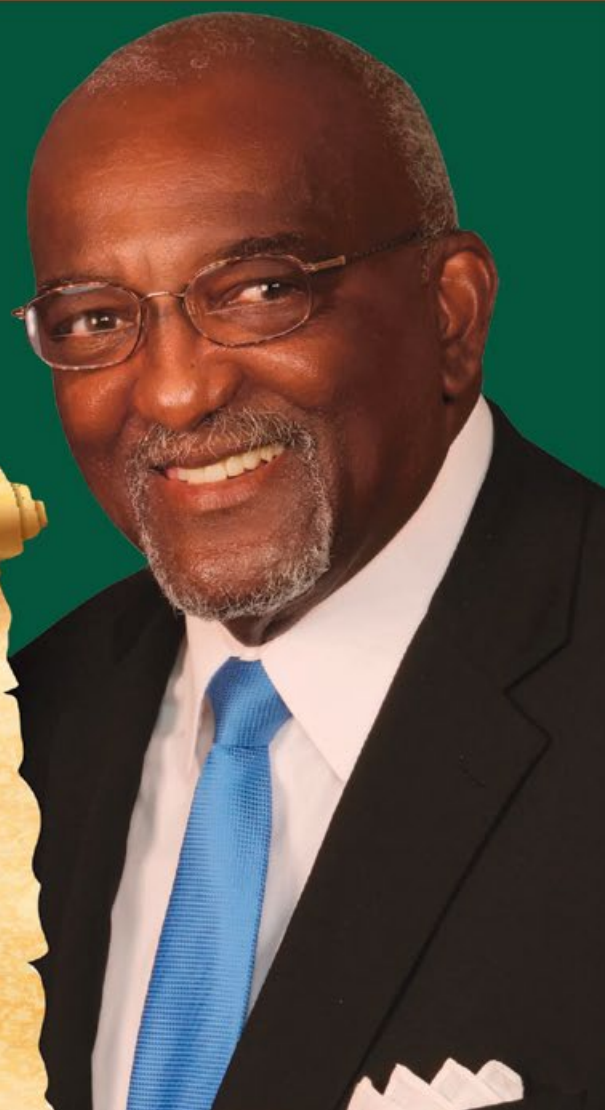
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ELECTION FEVER

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

INTRO: Candidates offer a bite-sized look at themselves

It's election season and Caribbean Americans are again showing growth in participation in United States politics.

This year, **Caribbean Today** asked candidates from various races in South Florida to submit a biography, written by them, to tell our readers a little bit about themselves.

The following are the responses from some of those candidates, which Caribbean Today hopes will offer a bit more insight into the candidates seeking our votes:

Haitian American challenges incumbent for U.S. Congress

Haitian American Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick will challenge incumbent Alcee Hastings in the Aug. 18 Democratic primary for Florida's 20th Congressional District.

Cherfilus-McCormick is a lawyer, wife and mother. The healthcare executive said she has spent the last decade lobbying on Capitol Hill to drive positive change in health care reform.

Cherfilus-McCormick, a founding member of the Cherfilus & McCormick Foundation, is a graduate of Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory, Howard University and St. Thomas University School of Law.

She said she has been committed to serving the community for over 25 years.

Jamaican American in Pembroke Pines commission race

Elizabeth Burns, who was born in Jamaica but has made south Broward County her home for about four decades, is facing three challengers in the Aug. 18 special election to fill the vacancy in Pembroke Pines Commission, District 4.



Burns

Burns said she began her career in South Florida as an account analyst and later became the data processing manager and computer systems security officer for banks in the area. She started her own business as an event planner/producer, helping to put on annual community events in recognition of Caribbean American Heritage Month. She also produces "Expressions", a Caribbean American magazine.

Burns is a former vice president and member of the Jamaica United Relief Association and is currently a board member of Lauderhill Sister Cities International. She is also a member of the Jamaica USA Chamber of Commerce.

Haitian-born educator seeks

Miami-Dade School Board seat

Haitian American Dr. Marie Flore Lindor-Latortue is running for the Miami Dade County School Board District 7 seat.



Lindor-Latortue

Lindor-Latortue was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, leaving the French-speaking Caribbean nation at age 18 for Puerto Rico, where she obtained a double major in elementary education and psychology.

She has been a resident of Miami Dade for more than 28 years and has worked as an elementary school teacher. Lindor-Latortue holds a master's degree in health services administration, which she says goes hand-in-hand with education.

Lindor-Latortue, who has worked at Jackson Memorial Hospital for about 20 years, said she wants to change status quo of Miami Dade County Public Schools. She proposes that school board members should have term limits. She also introduced the integration of Pre-K to 12 instead of K-12 and is interested in developing cost saving measures.

The election is on Aug. 18.

McGhee in line to replace Edmonson in District 3

Tisa McGhee will be among six candidates trying to replace Audrey Edmonson as representative for District 3, Miami-Dade County.



McGhee

Edmonson is leaving office after serving 14 years. McGhee, a wife, mother, grandmother, social service advocate, educator and a small business owner wants to be the one who replaces her.

According to McGhee, she has devoted her "life to making a positive impact in our community. Coupled with my academic and professional background as a social

worker who believes in fighting for the rights of others, I am someone with integrity, a planner and coalition builder who knows how to work collaboratively with multiple stakeholders, and I am solution-oriented."

McGhee believes she has a unique skill set which can be applied to Miami-Dade County government and address the economic, social and diverse needs of District 3 residents and all Miami-Dade County.

Gilbert looks to return as Miami Gardens mayor

Oliver Gilbert will be seeking re-election as mayor of Miami Gardens, Florida on Aug. 18.



Gilbert

Among his challengers on Aug. 18 is Jamaican-born Lavern Deer.

However, Gilbert is banking on his homegrown roots.

"I grew up in this area," Gilbert said in a profile submitted to **Caribbean Today**. "I went to church in this area. I played on the parks in this area. I went to school in this community."

Gilbert attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B)

VOTE
for
JENNIFER ANDREU

Plantation City Council
GROUP 3
November 3rd

"Focused on Our Future"

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Marie Woodson

As your next Democratic State Representative, **Marie Woodson** is ready to fight for District 101 and the People of Florida. With over 35 years of government experience, Marie can hit the ground running in Tallahassee to advocate for the district residents and provide leadership on issues that touch our lives.

She has won numerous awards for her community leadership and proudly serves our community on different boards and associations. She has a record of helping people, not special interests. She will be your caring champion on issues including public safety, education, job creation, healthcare, senior services, public transportation, our environment and more...

This campaign is for **YOU!** She can't do this alone. We are in this together. We need **YOUR** vote August 18th in the Democratic Primary to represent the people of District 101. Let's make sure **NO ONE** gets left behind and that we have a champion **FOR THE PEOPLE!**

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August 18, 2020

Marie Flore Lindor-Latortue
for Miami Dade School Board | District 7

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2020
FOR MIAMI DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

ON AUGUST 18

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ELECTION FEVER

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

POWER NUMBERS: Caribbean Americans...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B)

incumbent judge is again seeking the job in Broward County Court, Group 27.

• **Gepsie Metellus** - Miami-Dade Commission, District 3 is Metellus's target.

• **Stephanie Thomas** - She is seeking to represent District 5, the City of Miami Commission.

• **Alexandria Ayala** - She wants to represent District 2 on the Palm Beach School Board.

• **Linda Julien** - She has her eyes on Seat 5, City of Miami Gardens Council.

• **Marie Flore Lindor-Latortue** - Candidate for Miami-Dade School Board.

• **Melba Pearson** - She is seeking election as Florida state attorney, Circuit 11, Miami-Dade.

• **Christopher Benjamin** - Vying for District 107, Florida House.

• **Elvis "Austin" Caines** - Seat 1 on the Miami Gardens City Council is his target.

• **Ashira Mohammad** - She is seeking the District 101 seat in the Florida House.

• **Tisa McGhee** - The District 3 seat, Miami-Dade Commission, is her goal.

• **Francis Ragoo** - He wants Seat 5 on the City of Miami Gardens Council.

• **Shevrin Jones** - He is a candidate for District 35, Florida Senate.

• **Alexandria Ayala** - She wants to represent District 2 on the Palm Beach School Board.



INTRO: Candidates offer a bite-sized look at themselves

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B)

University as an undergraduate and graduated from the University of Miami School of Law. He began his career in government, serving as a legislative aide, deputy of policy for a former gubernatorial candidate and assistant state attorney in Broward County State Attorney's Office, before being elected mayor of Miami Gardens in 2012.

Holness seeks re-election as county commissioner

Jamaican-born Dale V.C. Holness is mayor of Broward County and incumbent candidate for Broward County county commissioner, District 9 in Florida.



Holness

Holness, from the parish of Hanover, was selected mayor in November by a nine-member board of commissioners. The 63-year-old Democrat, represents a South Florida district which includes several cities heavily occupied by Caribbean nationals.

Holness told the Sun Sentinel recently he is again running "To continue serving the people of Broward County, especially residents who have been underserved and left out of opportunities." He said he believes

in empowering people and providing opportunities for all. He also said he supports small business and is a founding member of the Lauderhill Chamber of Commerce and the Black Chamber of Commerce.

Democrat Garrington A. Essue and write-in candidate Joseph Foster are set to challenge Holness in the Aug. 18 primary.

'Chef' Jones eyes Tamarac City Commission seat

Jamaican-born Michelle Jones wants to sit on the City of Tamarac Commission and will make a bid for the District 1 seat.



Jones

She holds a degree in culinary arts/education, which is why residents know her as "Chef" Jones, and is a teacher. She also holds a master's degree in psychology and is a chaplain.

Jones serves on Broward County's School Diversity Board and Tamarac Shareholder's Board. She was recognized by the Boys and Girls Club with its "Outstanding Woman of Her Community" award and inducted into the Tamarac Historical Society's Hall of Fame.

She outlined her goals as working with the school board on issues relating to learning disabilities and mental health, creating more

affordable homes for seniors and working with community leaders and the police to build community trust.

Caribbean American takes aim at state attorney's office

Melba Pearson wants to be the next state attorney of Miami-Dade.



Pearson

Born in New York to a Jamaican father and a Trinidadian mother, Pearson came to Miami in 1997 and spent 16 years working as a prosecutor.

Her cases ranged from misdemeanors to double homicides. Pearson spent three years as deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida.

She worked on Amendment 4, which expanded voting rights in Florida, and the case of the four Jamaican fisherman that were held captive on a United States Coast Guard vessel.

According to Pearson, she is running for office to bring common sense reforms to the justice system, hold bad police officers and corrupt elected officials accountable, and curb gun violence.

Election day is Aug. 18.



Caribbean American candidate wants...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B)

history will also help to counter many of the bias and racist teachings and conditions that many non-Black children are subjected to within their homes," he added.

Beckford said the bill aims to create a mandatory year-round curriculum of black history.

"The purpose of this bill is to highlight and acknowledge the inventions by black inventors, anti-slavery movements, black heroes and leaders,

contributions and achievements made by African Americans as part of New York's education curriculum, including but not limited to the women's abolitionist movement, the Harlem Renaissance, the Buffalo anti-slavery movement, and the suffrage movement for African American Long Islanders and much more," he said.

- Edited from CMC.



JAVIER FERNANDEZ

For State Senate Florida Dist. 39

@ElectJavier

PUNCH #35



Primary Election: August 18

Guns Off Our Streets

Representative Fernández has been a staunch advocate for commonsense gun safety for Florida during his time representing South Florida. He even recently called for a special session of the legislature in order to reduce gun violence.

Affordable Housing

Javier Fernández supports investing in affordable housing to strengthen our community so that families don't have to choose between putting food on the table and paying their bills.

Fix Transit

Javier Fernández has always fought for investment in public transportation. In the State Senate, he will lead the fight for continued investment in our infrastructure and light rail.

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COMMISSIONER
Barbara Jordan



MAYOR
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ELECTION FEVER

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

N.Y. community center honors late Caribbean American congresswoman

NEW YORK – A community center has been established in New York in honor of late Caribbean American United States Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm.

The center is in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn.

Chisholm, the daughter of a Barbadian mother and a Guyanese father, was the first black woman elected to the U.S. Congress. She was born on Nov. 30, 1924 and died on Jan. 1, 2005.

In 1968, she was elected to the U.S. Congress, representing New York's then 12th District, and served seven consecutive terms.

In the 1972, Chisholm became the first black candidate for a major party's nomination for U.S. president, and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

'LONG EFFORT'

Caribbean American New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams, son of Grenadian immigrants and a key player in getting the center established, said the

Shirley Chisholm Community Center, in the heart of the Caribbean community in Flatbush, follows his "long effort" to bring a community center to the area.

"The plague of gun violence is rooted in systemic issues and driven by a lack of resources, opportunity, and investment in communities," he told **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)**. "As a council member, with that guiding principle, I worked with multiple administrations, over many years, to secure funding, and with the community, to secure support for the Shirley A. Chisholm Community Center in Flatbush. Each instance of gun violence, each life lost, demonstrated the need for a space in the community promoting youth development, not destruction."

After years of groundwork,



Chisholm

Williams said he hopes that, with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's announcement, "we can finally break ground on a new site with the same purpose – honoring the same visionary leader, Shirley Chisholm."

THANKS

Williams thanked and congratulated New York Council Member Haitian American Farah N. Louis, who succeeded him as representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn,

for the inclusion of the Dr. Roy A. Hastick business incubator, and for "continuing to invest in this critical community infrastructure."

The late Grenadian-born Dr. Hastick was the founder and president of the Brooklyn-based Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI). He died in May amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Haitian American legislators,

Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte and Louis, applauded de Blasio's announcement that the Shirley Chisholm Community Center will be built at the Nostrand Playground in Flatbush.

"For the people of Flatbush, the new community recreation center at the Nostrand Playground will serve as a center for economic growth and youth development," Bichotte, the daughter of Haitian immigrants,

who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn, told CMC.

STEP FORWARD

Louis, also the daughter of Haitian immigrants, said "our youth, families and seniors have waited with much anticipation for a safe space that they can call their own – a hub for learning, recreation, community and civic engagement."

"This state-of-the-art recreation center will be a beacon of inspiration and innovation, where people of all ages and backgrounds can connect and prosper with expanded access to much-needed resources in a centralized location," she said.

"Our youth have been met with extraordinary challenges, life-altering and traumatic experiences that no child should ever have to encounter."

"This center is how we occupy the block, this is how we stop the shooting and save lives, by taking this critical step forward."

- Edited from CMC.



Belize general elections will go on in November ~ P.M.

BELMOPAN, Belize – Dean Barrow, prime minister of Caribbean community nation Belize, said his ruling United Democratic Party (UDP) has no intention of postponing general elections scheduled for November, even as the government has been taken to court by several parties, including the main Opposition People's United Party (PUP).



Barrow

The parties, including Lord Ashcroft, and the Belize Peace Movement filed a claim, in respect of an urgent need for a redistricting exercise to be undertaken prior to the next general elections.

The claim was filed prior to the retirement of former Chief Justice Kenneth Benjamin, on the grounds there is huge disparity in the number of voters in the different constituencies. Political observers said the matter of the timing is critical since national elections are due in November.

NO WISH

But Prime Minister Barrow told reporters that re-districting is not the wish of his party.

"What I find peculiar, an extremely intriguing feature

of all this is that part of the relief that the parties, including Lord Ashcroft are asking in consequence of their challenge is that elections be postponed."

He said the lawyer representing Lord Ashcroft in the petition is Andrew Marshall, adding "is he not either the, or one of the official lawyers for the People's United Party?"

"The People's United Party wants the elections postponed. Sir, I don't know whether there is time enough for this case to be heard and determined before what continues, in my mind to be the due date for elections."

"But people must know that if the claimants succeed then there will, as a matter of what's practical, have to be a postponement of the elections so that the redistricting exercise which doesn't take a week or two weeks or three weeks or a month so that that exercise can be finished. It is not the wish of the United Democratic Party, the current administration to postpone elections," the prime minister added.

Barrow, 68, won a record third term in snap general elections after his party gained a clear majority in Parliament. He has since said he will not contest the upcoming general elections.

- Edited from CMC.



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T&T Opposition blames EBC for party symbol error

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – The Opposition Progressive Party (Progressive) party said the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) has failed to properly represent the party's symbol on the ballot for the Aug. 10 general elections.

In a statement, the party,

which is contesting one seat in the elections, said the symbol approved by the EBC "was not what was placed on the ballot and to date the EBC has offer no explanation for this.

"The Progressives believe this can confuse San Fernando West electors where the party has

offered its sole candidate, Political leader Nikoli Edwards," the statement noted.

It said that throughout the campaign the party has been using its complete symbol and advised its supporters to "look for that on the ballot paper.

"On the ballot the words

"Progressive Party" was left out of the symbol alongside the Guiding Flame. This latest error by the EBC has the potential to confuse electors ..."

However, Corporate Communications Manager Bobbi Lee Rogers said the party had two opportunities, including on Nomination Day on July 17, to ensure their documents were in

order. She said the "window is closed" and that there's nothing more that the EBC could do.

The San Fernando seat is being contested by at least five candidates, including the incumbent Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi.

- Edited from CMC.



INTRO: Candidates offer a bite-sized look at themselves

It's election season and Caribbean Americans are again showing growth in participation in United States politics.

This year, Caribbean Today asked candidates from various races in South Florida to submit a biography, written by them, to tell our readers a little bit about themselves.

The following are the edited responses from some of those candidates, which Caribbean Today hopes will offer a bit more insight into the candidates seeking our votes:

Andreu eyes Plantation City Council seat Nov. 3

Education is Jennifer Andreu's calling card. She has served as an educator and administrator for Miami-Dade County Public Schools since 1993.

She has also been a Plantation, Florida resident since 1980 and she believes her "demonstrated experience in community development, infrastructure improvements and transparency in funding" will be needed as the Group 3 representative of the Plantation City Council. She faces the voters on Nov. 3.

For more information, visit Andreu's website at www.electjenniferandreu.com.



for Florida state representative, House District 117 in the Aug. 18 Democratic primary.

Chambliss attended Jackson State University and began his political career while in graduate school at Northern Illinois University (NIU). In 2010, his first professional political experience kicked off by joining Joe Garcia's 2010 congressional campaign as field organizer in South Dade, Florida.

Chambliss later worked for Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, Congressman Carlos Curbelo, Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell and Congresswoman Donna Shalala, as a South Dade community liaison.



Chambliss

Chambliss in primary for District 117, Florida House

Kevin Chambliss is a candidate

Gonsalves vows ULP wins again

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent – Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has dismissed a suggestion by former Prime Minister Sir James Mitchell that his ruling Unity Labor Party (ULP) will be voted out of office at the next general elections in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG).

Gonsalves, speaking on the state-owned NBC Radio last month, said there is "no such swing" against his party, as it seeks a fifth consecutive term in office.

"Sir James said the same thing in 2001, 2005, 2010, 2015," Gonsalves explained, "and he was wrong in each of them and he would be wrong in this one."

Elections are constitutionally

due in SVG by Mar. 2021.

According to Sir James, a poll by the main Opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) had shown that Opposition Leader Dr. Godwin Friday had outstripped the prime minister and his son, Finance Minister Camillo Gonsalves, on "likeability and integrity."

"They always talk about polls," the prime minister said. "We do our polls too."

- Edited from CMC.



Gonsalves



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- ✓ Prosecuted over 500 police and correctional officers for misconduct
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- ✓ Created the Justice Project, a conviction integrity unit, to overturn wrongful convictions.

Reducing Incarceration

- ✓ Helped more than 60,000 Miami-Dade residents avoid arrest through her support of civil citations
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- ✓ Recommended the elimination of cash bonds on numerous non-violent offenses absent aggravating circumstances and reduced the bond amount on many others

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- ✓ Helped create and implement Miami-Dade's Treatment Courts, which now serve as a national model for compassionate justice by helping those with mental health and substance abuse problems access services instead of spending time in jail
- ✓ Created the Second Chance Program, a monthly "One Stop Shop" to facilitate the sealing and expunging of criminal records, helping thousands of people rebuild their lives

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Bob Marley's 'One Love' to be re-released to help children affected by COVID

UNITED NATIONS – “One Love”, the iconic song by the late Jamaican reggae superstar Bob Marley, is to be re-released with the blessing of the musician's family to support children whose lives have been upended by coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Last month, the United Nations said the fundraising initiative came as the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned that an additional 6,000 children could die every day from preventable causes in the next six months.

Issued in 1977 by Marley and his band the Wailers, the song is a call for unity and to tackle the suffering of children. A new version of the much-loved reggae anthem went on sale last month. It members of the Marley family, world-renowned musicians, artistes from conflict zones and children from vulnerable communities.

MESSAGE

“Over 40 years ago, my father wrote ‘One Love’ about unity, peace and universal love during a time when there was much trouble in the world”, said Bob's daughter Cedella Marley.



Marley

“Even in a time when we aren't able to ‘get together’, his message remains true today: We can get through this global crisis if we come together through one love and one heart.”

The U.N. said the project also has the support of jewelry brand Pandora, which has pledged to match every dollar raised to purchase “One Love”, up to the value of \$1 million.

All proceeds will be expected to support Reimagine, UNICEF's global campaign to prevent the COVID-19 emergency from becoming a

lasting crisis for children.

KEY TRUTH

“One Love speaks directly to one key truth about this pandemic: our best hope to defeat COVID-19 and to re-imagine a more equal, less discriminatory world for children is through global solidarity and co-operation,” said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

UNICEF said it intends to use the money raised from “One Love” to

respond to immediate needs, which include soap, face masks, gloves, hygiene kits, protective equipment and lifesaving information for children and families.

Support for youngsters' education, protection and healthcare systems will also be possible.

Internet platform TikTok will promote the song launch with a special event and public challenge for fans who want to get involved.

- Edited from CMC.



N.Y. cancels Caribbean carnival parade due to Pandemic

NEW YORK – The New York-based West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) has cancelled this year's carnival parade on Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway amid concerns over the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The cancellation came after New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio said last month that large events requiring a city events permit will be cancelled through Sept. 30, “as the city

works to prioritize open spaces for public use.”

The Caribbean carnival is usually held on Labor Day, the first Monday in September. In past years, millions have attended the celebration, which features numerous cultural events and culminating in the color parade featuring Caribbean-themed costumes and music.

In light of New York City's decision, WIADCA said it will

offer an alternative spectacle, including focusing on social consciousness and justice.

“In lieu of carnival parade, we will be holding solidarity march to acknowledge the barriers that we (have) taken down and the distance we must still travel,” WIADCA explained in a statement. “... We do not want the carnival to be a memory.”



Buju Banton's 'I Am A Jamaican' wins 2020 festival song contest

Dancehall star Buju Banton, with his entry “I Am A Jamaican”, defeated nine other finalists to win the Jamaica Festival Song Competition last month.

In addition to the title, Banton also won the J\$3 million first prize, which he hinted will benefit the Sunbeam Boys' Home.

The winning song, served up over a steady reggae beat, offered a call for Jamaicans to be proud of who they are and the accomplishments of the Caribbean nation. A sample of the lyrics includes:

“No matter where in this world I go, I am a Jamaican.

No birth papers I have to show, 'cause I am a Jamaican”

The competition originally



Buju Banton

featured more than 250 entrants. Runner-up was Papa Michigan, with his entry “Jamaica Dance”. Sakina Deer finished third, singing “We are Jamaica”.

Winners were chosen via a vote by the public. Due to the

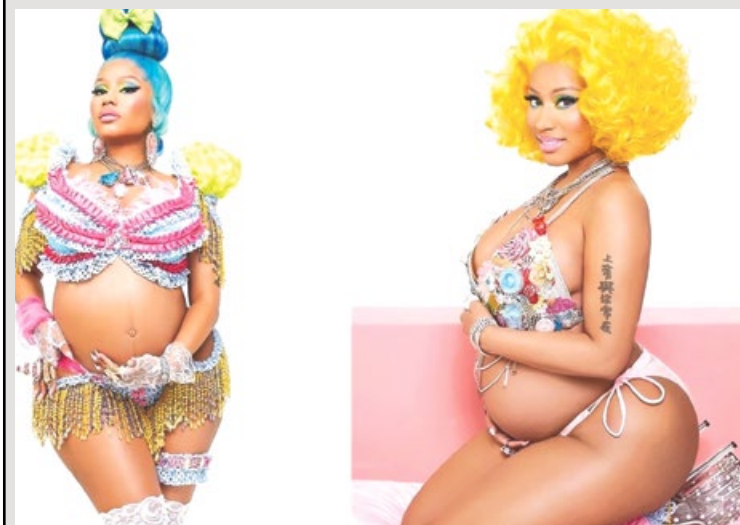
COVID-19 pandemic, the finals of the competition was staged online.

The festival song contest is staged annually, starting in 1966. The competition aims to raise the spirit of Jamaicans around Independence, which Jamaica received from Britain in Aug. 1962.

The other finalists in this year's competition were Toots & The Metals (“Raise Up Jamaicans”), Nazzle Man (“Jamaica Nice”), Shuga (“One People”), L.U.S.T. (“Wave Di Flag”), Radix OD (“The Place To Be”), Freddie McGregor (“Tun Up Di Sound”) and Xtra Bigg (“Jamaica A Paradise”).



NICKI IS 'PREGGERS'



Trinidad and Tobago rap star Nicki Minaj is having a baby. She made the announcement last month on Instagram. It will be Minaj's first child with husband Kenneth Petty. The photographs above were among those posted on the social media platform. She wrote #Preggers, in the caption. Minaj also wrote “Love. Marriage. Baby carriage. Overflowing with excitement & gratitude. Thank you all for the well wishes”. She appears to embrace the role of motherhood.

BRIEFS

Inner Circle up for 'Launch Music Awards'

Legendary Jamaican band Inner Circle will be among the honorees at the first virtual “2020 Launch Music Awards”, scheduled to air online next month.

Inner Circle, along with American artistes The 2 Live Crew and the late Betty Wright, will receive the Iconic Award.

No 'Spicemas' in Grenada

The Grenada government called off this year's “Spicemas” carnival celebrations, due to coronavirus pandemic, and followed up last month by cancelling two days observed as public holidays due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“We can't have it because if we do, if you have a holiday what are you going to do, just sit home?” Prime Minister Dr. Keith

Mitchell said as he confirmed that Aug. 10 and 11 were no longer public holidays. “... We better be safe than sorry.”

Antigua commits to CARIFESTA

Antigua and Barbuda has given assurance it is still committed to hosting the 15th edition of the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) in 2021, despite the current threat of the coronavirus.

St. Lucia vows carnival return

St. Lucia Prime Minister Allen Chastanet vows the carnival celebration, which should have taken place last month, will return better in the future.

“We know that we will touch the road again,” he said.

- Compiled from various sources.



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PANDEMIC: COVID-19 infections, deaths rise in Caribbean; Haiti leads count

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Several Caribbean community (CARICOM) nations recorded significant increases in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases by the end of last month.

Haiti logged 34 new COVID-19 cases. The country's Ministry of Public Health said the new cases brought the total to 7,412 cases since the first case was reported on Mar. 19. Two new deaths were also recorded in the West and North Departments, bringing the national total to 161.

Haiti has 2,784 active cases and the health authorities are investigating 18,174 other suspected cases.

Guyana's Ministry of Public Health reported 401 positive COVID-19 cases as of July 30.

In The Bahamas, authorities confirmed 508 cases. Three deaths were confirmed on July 30, bringing the death toll to 14.

WARNING

That day, Suriname reported 39 positive cases, and official data indicated total infections was 1,650.

Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Health said there had been 169 positive cases with eight deaths since the start of the pandemic.

As of July 30, Jamaica had 824 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infections. Some 324 were imported and 246 were contacts of imported cases. Another 44 were local transmissions. The authorities

said 236 cases came from the Alorica call center, referred to by the health authorities as a workplace cluster.

Late last month, Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness warned that the government would shut down places of amusement and establishments within the entertainment sector and other industries, if a certain level of adherence to the established coronavirus protocols is not maintained.

There are 20,784 people in quarantine across Jamaica, the majority (20,749) are in home quarantine.

- Edited from CMC.



U.S. states offer guide to intimacy during pandemic

New York City's health department recently updated its recommendations (June 8) about sex during the time of COVID-19.

"Make it a little kinky," one suggestion begins. "Be creative with sexual positions and physical barriers ... that allow sexual contact while preventing close face to face contact."

It isn't the only tip on the advisory that some may find hard to swallow.

"Wear a face covering or mask," another suggestions reads. "Maybe it's your thing, maybe it's not, but during COVID-19 wearing a face covering that covers your nose and mouth is a good way to add a layer of protection during sex. Heavy breathing and panting can spread the virus further, and if you or your partner have COVID-19 and don't know it, a mask can help stop that spread."

ALL KINDS

The advisory caters to all kinds of sexual appetites. For those who enjoy hooking up with people they meet online, city health officials suggest keeping things virtual.

New York City also wants to remind you "large gatherings of any type are not safe during COVID-19." But, if "you decide to find a crowd," the advisory



Coronavirus brings new rules for making out.

does offer guidance.

"Limit the size of your guest list. Keep it intimate," it suggests while urging people to "pick larger, more open, and well-ventilated spaces" for any group sex. It also suggests participants bring "an alcohol-based hand sanitizer" to the orgy.

Health officials also encourage New Yorkers to master the art of masturbation by stressing that solo sex will not spread COVID-19. Experts would also like city residents to stop "rimming" for the time being because the "virus has been found in the semen and feces (poop) of people with COVID-19."

However, health officials also admit they "still have a lot to learn about COVID-19 and sex."

- Edited from an article published in HuffPost.



Skin 'bleaching' items linked to toxic mercury levels ~ UWI

Popular skin lightening products - known in Jamaica as "bleaching" - have been found to contain "alarmingly high levels of mercury," according to a recent study done by the University of the West Indies (UWI).

UWI's Faculty of Science and Technology also warned that mercury is a toxic substance which can cause damage to the human gastrointestinal tract, nervous system and kidneys.

Many Jamaican women engage in the practice of using products to lighten their skin.

The study was conducted by Phylcia Ricketts, Andre Gordon and Mitko Voutchkov, from the Medical Physics Research Group in the UWI Department of Physics, along with collaborators Christopher Knight of the Jamaica government's Mines and Geology Division, and Ana Boischio, of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which supported the study.

ANALYSIS

The researchers analyzed 60 skin lightening products available on the Jamaican market for their mercury content using



Many Jamaicans engage in skin lightening.

X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) and Cold Vapor Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (CVAAS). The results were published in the June edition of the Journal of Health and Pollution.

The study found the mercury content in the products ranged from 0.05 ppm to 17,547 ppm, with six products containing levels above the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allowable limit of one ppm of mercury for skin lightening products.

The UWI said results of the study are to be used in the design of public education initiatives about the risks involved with skin bleaching.



Free immunization for South Florida children in August

Broward Health Community Health Services is offering free immunizations for children this month in South Florida.

Immunization is being offered for diseases such as chickenpox, measles, pneumonia, diphtheria, mumps,

polio, Hepatitis B, pertussis, rubella, tetanus and HPV.

The schedule for all sessions is **8:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Aug. 3-7, Aug. 10-14 and Aug. 17-21.**

The venues are:

• Cora E. Braynon Family

Health Center, 200 N.W. 7th Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

• Pompano Pediatric Center, 601 W. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach.

For more information, call **954-759-7500.**



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BREADFRUIT BASH: A Caribbean recipe dating to slavery



Breadfruit rundown

Several Caribbean recipes date back to slavery. One fruit that was brought to the region, and then became adopted by slaves, is the breadfruit, which today is served in many forms.

Here's a vegan recipe for a breadfruit rundown from Michelle of Healthier Steps:

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large breadfruit – available in Asian and Caribbean markets in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.
- 1 large onion, cleaned and chopped

- 3 cloves garlic, cleaned and finely diced
- 1 scotch bonnet pepper, diced
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 2 sprigs of thyme, washed
- 1 tomato, diced
- 1 scallion, chopped
- 1 tbs. creole seasoning
- 1 tsp. ground all spice
- 1 tsp. turmeric
- 1 can coconut milk
- Salt to taste
- Water for boiling

METHOD

Wash green breadfruit, cut in half vertically going

through the stem. Cut in quarters using a sharp knife.

Cut out the core of the breadfruit and discard, peel the skin and cut the white flesh into chunks. Place breadfruit chunks into a large pot, add cold water and bring to a boil on medium-high heat.

Reduce heat to simmer for 15 to 20 minutes or until breadfruit is fork tender.

While breadfruit chunks are boiling, prepare the seasonings, heat oil on medium heat. Add onion and cook until soft, about three minutes.

Add garlic, bell pepper, green onions, thyme, tomatoes, creole seasoning, all spice and scotch bonnet pepper cook until fragrant – about two minutes.

Add coconut milk, salt, cooked breadfruit, and stir. Bring to a boil, reduce to simmer and cook until sauce thickens, about seven to 10 minutes.

Serve hot with rice and peas, dumplings, yam, etc.

- Edited from News Americas.



Go flourless, go for some Caribbean bojo cake

If you are looking for a flourless cake that is still a great dessert or snack option, try the unique Caribbean recipe, the Bojo cake, from the CARICOM nation of Suriname. Here's how to make it according to The SpruceEats:

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 1/3 cup rum
- 1/2 pound cassava (peeled with woody center removed)
- 2 cups coconut (grated; fresh or dried)
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup coconut milk
- 1 tbs. vanilla
- 2 teaspoons almond extract
- 4 tbs. butter (melted)
- 1 tsp. salt
- Optional: graham cracker pie crust

METHOD

Soak the raisins in rum (overnight if possible)

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.

Butter a nine-inch round cake pan or nine-inch square brownie pan and line bottom of the pan with wax paper or parchment.

Finely grate the manioc root (easily done in a food processor). Stir the coconut and grated cassava



Bojo cake

together with the cinnamon and sugar in a large bowl.

In a small bowl, whisk together eggs, coconut milk, vanilla, almond extract and salt. Stir liquid ingredients into the coconut mixture. Stir in melted butter. Stir in raisins and the rum.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan (or graham cracker crust if using).

Bake for an hour, until golden brown on top. Run a knife around the edge of the pan while the cake is still warm, then let it cool in the pan.

Cut into small squares or slices and serve. This cake is delicious warm or cold, with a dollop of whipped cream.

- Edited from News Americas.



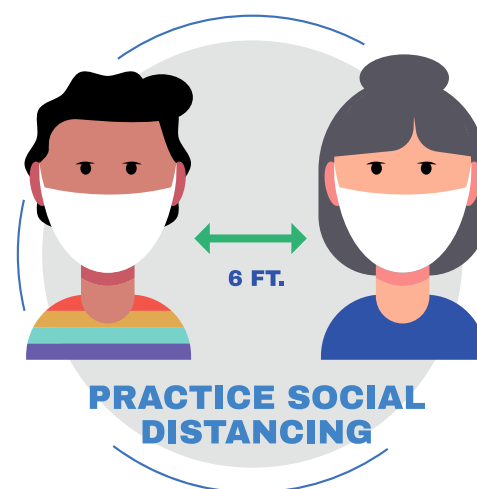
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Jamaican opts out of NFL season due to COVID-19

Jamaican-born Patrick Chung, a multiple Super Bowl winner with the New England Patriots, has decided not to play this year in the National Football League over concerns for the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Chung, the son of former Jamaican reggae singer Sophia George and record producer Ronald Chung, is one of at least half dozen Patriots who have decided to skip the 2020 season, choosing not to risk being infected with the virus.

Chung, a defensive back, moved to the United States when he was about age 10. He attended high school in California before

going to the University of Oregon.

In 2009 he was drafted in the second round of the NFL by the Patriots, where he played his entire professional career, except for a stint in 2013 season when he represented Philadelphia Eagles. Chung was part of three Super Bowl winning teams in New England.



Chung

Caribbean nations get fresh chance to qualify for soccer World Cup in 2022

Caribbean nations will have a fresh opportunity to play in soccer's biggest showcase - the FIFA men's World Cup in 2022 - following the re-organization of qualification due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Caribbean nations are among the 35 nations in the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) which will aim at 3.5 qualification spots in the World Cup, to be staged in Qatar.

The new CONCACAF qualifiers comprise three rounds. The first round will feature 30 teams. Games will be played between the CONCACAF member associations ranked between sixth and 35th based on the FIFA rankings as of July 16.

GROUPS

The 30 nations will be drawn into six groups of five in a seeded draw. The six highest ranked teams, El Salvador, Canada, Curacao, Panama, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago will be pre-seeded into groups A to F, respectively.

Each team will play every other team in its group once - four matches total - two home and two away. These games will be played in the FIFA match windows of Oct. 2020 and Nov. 2020.

The six group winners will progress to the second round, during which the teams will play each other a single elimination - two matches, home and away - according to the following



- File photograph

Jamaica and U.S. get spots in final round qualifiers.

schedule: Group A winner vs. Group F winner; Group B winner vs. Group E winner; and Group C winner vs. Group D winner.

The three winners will progress to the CONCACAF final round.

FINAL ROUND

The final round will feature eight teams, the three group qualifiers plus the top five teams ranked in CONCACAF as of July 16: 1. Mexico, 2. United States, 3. Costa Rica, 4. Jamaica, and 5. Honduras.

Final round play will begin in

the double FIFA match window in June 2021 and continue in FIFA match windows of September, October and November 2021, and January and March 2022.

The eight teams will play each other home and away, with each team playing 14 matches.

The top three finishers in the final round will qualify directly to the 2022 World Cup.

The fourth placed team will qualify for the FIFA intercontinental playoff, scheduled to be played in June 2022.



Roach joins 200-wicket club, but Windies loses Test series

MANCHESTER, England - New ball bowler Kemar Roach of Barbados became the ninth West Indies bowler to take 200 wickets in Test cricket during last month's series against England.

However, the Caribbean ambassadors lost the three match series 1-2 after

winning the opening game.

The 32-year-old Roach reached his landmark in the third Test when he bowled Chris Woakes for one, becoming the first West Indian in 26 years to achieve



Roach celebrates reaching the milestone.

the milestone. He ended England's first innings with four wickets for 72 runs to move his career tally to 201 wickets, just one behind legendary pacer Sir Andy Roberts of Antigua and Barbuda.

The series was played under less-than-traditional conditions due to the coronavirus pandemic. The players were kept away from the public throughout the series and no spectators were allowed to attend games.

However, the West Indies drew first blood, winning the first Test. England took the second. A 1-1 draw of the series would have ensured the Caribbean team retained the Wisden Trophy. But the West Indies was beaten again in the third Test to surrender the trophy.



Lewis, Butterfield are Bermuda's athletes of the year for 2019

HAMILTON, Bermuda - Wheelchair sprinter Jessica Lewis was last month named Bermuda's "Female Athlete of the Year" for 2019.

With the win, Lewis ended the five-year reign of triathlete Flora Duffy.

However, triathlete Tyler Butterfield won his sixth straight "Male Athlete of the Year" title.

Lewis, 27, said winning her first athlete of the year award was a "dream come true."

Bermuda's top athletes of 2019 were honored for their achievements at a behind-closed-doors sports awards ceremony at the Berkeley Institute after the annual glitzy affair, scheduled for March at the Fairmont Southampton resort, was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

SUPERB YEAR

Lewis enjoyed a superb year in 2019, winning three of her events at the Parapan American Games in Lima, Peru, claiming gold in the T53 100 meters and 400 meters, and silver in the 800 meters.



Lewis

She also broke her previous Parapan 100 meters record of 17.67 seconds, set at the Toronto Games in 2015, when she crossed the line in 17.36.

Lewis told the ceremony, which included a handful of winners and their families, as well as Premier David Burt: "I've dedicated my life to being an athlete and growing into a strong and capable person who will stop at nothing until my dreams are complete."

"Receiving this award has always been at the top of my

list. Being able to create a life that allows me to represent our beautiful island has truly been a great gift."

IMPRESSIVE

Butterfield, 37, also enjoyed an impressive season, winning the Mazda Ironman 70.3 Cozumel in Mexico, clocking an overall time of seven hours, 44:01 minutes to join a handful of triathletes to break the 7:45 barrier for the four kilometer swim, 180 kilometer bike and 42 kilometer run.

His time was the second fastest in history over that distance in an Ironman-branded race.

Butterfield also shattered his own national marathon record at the Lake Biwa Marathon in Otsu, Shiga, Japan, finishing in 2:21:47 to finish in 60th position, bettering his previous best of 2:26:29.

Jim Butterfield, an Olympic rower and former triathlete, accepted the award on his son's behalf.

Duffy, 32, who missed the first eight months of the

2019 season because of a foot injury, was honored with a Senior Achievement award in recognition of her fifth Xterra World Championship title in Kapalua, Hawaii, in October.

Golfer Kenny Leseur was voted "Male Junior Athlete of the Year", while swimmer Elan Daley claimed the women's award.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

ABOUT-FACE: Trump targets Caribbean students in U.S., then backpedals

GORDON WILLIAMS

Hundreds of Caribbean nationals studying in the United States were last month spared removal from the country when the administration of President Donald Trump - buckling under mounting criticism - abruptly reversed an earlier decision requiring international students to personally attend classes during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

However, new international students hoping to start college will not be allowed in the U.S. if all their courses are to be taken online, according to the government.

On July 6, the Trump administration issued a directive through the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency which prevented international students from taking online courses only or face possible deportation if they did.

By July 14, however, the administration did a complete about-face, rescinding the policy following widespread public backlash, including multiple lawsuits, from colleges and



Clarke

attorneys general, protesting its decision.

"Schools should never have to choose between enrolling international students in in-person classes and maintaining public health," said New York Attorney General Letitia James after filing one of the lawsuits.

Yvette Clarke, a U.S. congresswoman from New York and daughter of Caribbean immigrants, also blasted Trump for his administration's original decision, calling it "another naked attempt to callously force students to return to campuses in the fall, despite unsafe conditions."

The government's original

policy also sparked outrage and worry among Caribbean nationals.

CONCERN

"I was concerned (about the original decision)," said Jamaican P. Young, whose son is a third year international student at a U.S. university.

"What they were doing was taking an opportunity from a youngster. If they had enforced it he would have had to go back home and start over. For a normal international student that is a headache."

The Trump administration's reversal, however, brought a sense of relief.

"Now the child can focus on studying again, whether he has to do all online courses or attend classes," said Young, whose son had been taking online classes.

Potential new students planning to enroll will not have the same chance. On July 24 the administration said they must have in-person classes, though some online courses will be allowed.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18A)

Mixed messages mar COVID-19 response to re-opening schools

Caribbean nationals, like other students in the United States, have been bombarded with mixed messages about returning to school during the time of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

There is no national policy for when students can return to the classroom for in-person lessons, but there has been plenty of debate across the country about if or when they should do so.

The political pressure has mounted considerably, with President Donald Trump insisting that schools re-open and students admitted. When asked, Trump said his own teenaged son will be returning to the classroom, but news reports indicated that the boy's private institution will not be re-opening anytime soon.

Meanwhile, schools have already re-opened in parts of the U.S. - some with disastrous results. A junior high school in Indiana recorded a case of COVID-19 infection the first day it re-opened late last month.

CONCERNS

In Georgia, hundreds of children attending a summer camp were infected with the virus, raising significant concerns

among not just students and teachers, but also those who these two groups must live with at home.

In Florida, home to a significant Caribbean American community and which has become a COVID-19 hotspot with hundreds being infected and killed each day, the concern is particularly high. To compound the problem, the state has been confronted by the hurricane season. Already at least one storm - Isaias - has brushed by the state, stretching already limited resources.

Meanwhile, many schools across the U.S. have adapted policies to combat the spread of COVID-19, including guidelines provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Those include quarantine protocols and contact tracing. Some have also instituted social distancing guidelines and require students to wear masks and/or face shields while attending classes.

Some schools have not re-opened full time and others have closed down shortly after re-opening as COVID-19 infection cases spiked in their area. Most

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18A)

Re-thinking screen time for kids during COVID-19 pandemic

As families try to establish a new normal during the coronavirus pandemic, balancing screen time for kids has become not only especially challenging, but more important than ever.

"It's only natural that children will be spending more time on digital devices than usual these days in order complete school work, attend remote classes and communicate with friends and loved ones," says Michele Havner, director of marketing at Eturi Corp., a company with a declared mission to empower parents to guide their children through a balanced use of technology.

"Restrictions about screen may need to be re-thought in

many cases, but they should not be completely eliminated."

INSIGHTS

Here are a few insights and tips that can help parents create sensible, effective screen use guidelines for their children during the COVID-19 outbreak:

• Re-think leisure time -

According to ReelGood.com data, the month of March saw a whopping 70 percent jump in weekday streaming of kids' movies and television shows. While there may be more time on kids hands and fewer options of what to do with it, it's important to emphasize alternative ways to relax and have fun so that kids are not spending

all their waking hours looking at screens.


Leisure time will ideally include a mix of physical activity, creative projects, board games, reading and more. All that extra down time around the house may also present some good opportunities to teach kids some practical life skills, like cooking, cleaning and budgeting.

• Prioritize online safety -

Unfettered access to the Internet and social media sites can put children at risk for a number of online threats.

Parents should continue to ensure kids practice safe online

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18A)



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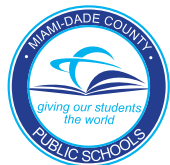
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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

FACE UP: CDC recommends masks for students in school

Using a face covering is recognized among the strongest measures to avoid contracting the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), especially in crowded surroundings like school.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing face coverings. Below are a few CDC's guidelines:

- Wearing cloth face coverings should be a priority when it is difficult for students to



Face mask and sanitizing are ways to avoid infection.

stay six feet apart from each other.

- Cloth face coverings should not be worn by children younger than two years old,

anyone who has trouble breathing or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

- Choose cloth face coverings that fit snugly, but comfortably against the side of the face, completely cover the nose and mouth and are secured with ties or ear loops.

- Practice with your child putting on and taking off cloth face coverings without touching the cloth.

**Mixed messages mar COVID-19 response to re-opening schools**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17A)

students have been taking classes online and some colleges have juggled their classroom schedule

specifically to reduce the amount of personal student traffic.

Through the end of July more than 155,000 people

had been killed by the virus in the U.S. and over five million infected, according to reports.

**Re-thinking screen time for kids during COVID-19 pandemic**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17A)

habits, even as they begin to use their digital devices for more tasks throughout the day.

- **Striking the balance** - Many parents are struggling to balance their own work with homeschooling and online safety. Luckily, there are tools that can offer assistance, such as OurPact, a screen time monitoring and scheduling app for parents from Eturi Corp.

Among the app's many capabilities is the ability for parents to monitor and manage what kids are doing online, create daily screen time allowances, set filters on browsers and block certain applications at certain times of day.

- **Check in** - During your own free hours, spend some time checking in with your kids to see how they are coping with the current situation, how they

are spending their free time and whether they are facing any struggles with remote learning.

Life has changed rapidly and significantly for families. And while this new normal includes a greater reliance on digital devices, parents can take steps to continue to ensure kids are striking a healthy balance.

- Edited from StatePoint.

**ABOUT-FACE: Trump targets Caribbean students in U.S., then backpedals**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17A)

CHUNK

Although studies show Caribbean nationals are not among the top 10 international students by numbers, a sizable chunk attend schools across the U.S., mostly colleges and universities.

Usually, they are not financially dependent on the U.S. government, but get support from family in the region and elsewhere. Some get help through academic or athletic scholarships offered by U.S. institutions.

Students from the Caribbean, who generally perform well academically in the U.S., are, like other international students, also valued for enriching the cultural diversity on American campuses.

Post-school, many Caribbean nationals receive job offers because their academic accomplishments and diversity are valued by U.S. firms.

DEBUNKED

Those reasons, plus debunking of the theory international students were an additional threat to transmit the virus, helped sparked the backlash aimed at the Trump administration's initial decision.

Some 5.5 percent of the U.S. college student population was threatened with deportation if the administration's original decision had been allowed to stand.

Instead, it was met with blunt defiance and viewed as a way the Trump administration was using the COVID-19 crisis to advance its political agenda.

"International students should never be used as political fodder to force colleges to re-open their doors," said James. "But the president's inability to remove politics from public health decisions endangers us all."

Some believe the government's original decision is part of Trump's anti-immigration push.

"It is the direction the U.S. was going re international students and immigrants," said Young. "They just want to get rid of them."

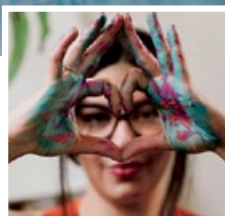
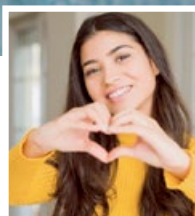
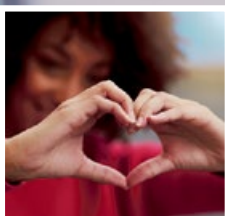
It is estimated that China sends the most international students to the U.S. - more than 360,000 - each year. India is next with more than 200,000, according to statistics provided by the 2019 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange.

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

‘GLOBAL GIVING’: UWI campaigns to help students affected by COVID-19

The University of the West Indies has launched a campaign aimed at assisting students affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, adding it will use August as “Global Giving” month at the Caribbean tertiary institution.

The UWI, which has

campuses in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago, is also calling on its alumni, partners and friends regionally and internationally to support students whose finances have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It said “UWI Global Giving”, the crowd funding campaign, encourages persons to give as little as \$10 online and that “the collective proceeds will fund scholarships and bursaries for the students in need as The UWI’s new academic year and classes are set to resume at the

end of the month.

“One step back is to place their future, and that of their family, community and nation on the back burner,” said UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles. “We cannot allow that to happen.”

UWI estimates at least

10,000 of its current 50,000 students have been functioning in difficult social circumstances because of the COVID-19.

- Edited from CMC.

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