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Donald Trump's volatile election campaign concerned Caribbean nationals in the United

States. Now, 15 months after he was sworn in as president, they're really scared, page 3.



Prime Minister Theresa May publicly apologized to the Caribbean for her country's clampdown on people from the region who went to the United Kingdom by making them undocumented immigrants, page 8.

## LIFESAVER



~ A program, which protects young, undocumented Caribbean nationals in the United States from deportation, gets a crucial lifeline from a federal judge and deals a massive blow to President Donald Trump's bid to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), page 2.

### NEXT UP



For a decade Usain Bolt dominated track and field with brilliant performances and a magnetic personality. The world lapped it up. The Jamaican then retired, leaving a huge gap to fill in the sport, page 7.

### 'PENNS' PEAK



Calabar High of Jamaica led the Caribbean's charge at Penn Relays in Philadelphia, winning three titles on the track, two in record-breaking times, page 16.

### KICK START



Michelle Ahye of Trinidad and Tobago won the 100 meters crown at the Commonwealth Games in Australia as the Caribbean once again made its mark in major competition, page 17.

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## NEWS



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## DREAM ON: Caribbean DACA recipients get U.S. lifeline

**GORDON WILLIAMS**

A program, which protects young, undocumented Caribbean nationals in the United States from deportation, was granted a crucial lifeline last month.

The April 24 decision by U.S. Federal Judge John D. Bates also inflicted another massive blow to an order by President Donald Trump to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which offers protection to some

800,000 young undocumented immigrants, many from the Caribbean.

Judge Bates has given the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which administers DACA, 90 days to justify canceling program. If the DHS cannot do so then, according to the judge, it “must accept and process new as well as renew DACA applications” for the so-called “Dreamers”.

### ‘FAILED’

Bates ruled that Trump’s

decision to end DACA was “arbitrary and capricious because the Department (of Homeland Security - DHS) failed adequately to explain its conclusion that the program



- File photograph

Supporters of DACA scored another win.

was unlawful.”

He added that the DHS did not offer adequate legal reasons “sufficient to sustain termination of the DACA program.”

An earlier federal court ruling had forced DHS to resume processing DACA renewal applications.

Caribbean American legislators applauded Bates’s decision.

“Even though the federal administration is shamefully targeting Dreamers by

attempting to dismantle the DACA, this ruling makes it clear that DACA recipients have worked hard, and they deserve every chance to soar and make this nation stronger, despite the desperate partisan and baseless threats from the White House,” New York State Assemblyman Nick Perry told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)**.

### TRUMP’S END

DACA recipients were brought to the U.S. as children. Former President Barack Obama issued an executive order which prevented them from becoming a top priority for deportation, as long as they followed strict guidelines, such as attending school and not committing crimes.

In return, the children became eligible to receive benefits, including work permits. DACA recipients must apply for renewals every two years. Each must be age 15 to apply.

However, in Sept. 2017 Trump, using his own executive order, announced DACA would end on Mar. 5. He urged the U.S. Congress to find a permanent legislative

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## Barbados votes May 24

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Barbadians will hold general elections on May 24.

The date was announced last month by Prime Minister Freuendel Stuart, who said he had officially notified Governor General Dame Sandra Mason.

Nomination Day is set for May 7.

The Barbados Parliament was dissolved several weeks ago and Stuart said his Democratic Labour Party (DLP) will not be easily removed from power.

“It takes a lot of work than that to unearth us,” he said in response to a planned rally by the main Opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP).

BLP Leader Mia Mottley



Mottley, left, Stuart

welcomed the announcement of the election date.

“At last there is light at the end of the tunnel,” Mottley said. “The Barbados Labour Party is ready and the country is ready.”

In the last general elections of 2013, the ruling DLP won 16 of the 30 seats, with the remainder going to the BLP.



## Cuba names new leader to replace Raul Castro



Díaz-Canel, right, and Raul Castro

someone without the name Castro.

Cuba’s National Assembly, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean nation’s legislative body, last month nominated Miguel Díaz-Canel to succeed Raúl Castro as president. He was selected unopposed.

In 2006 Raúl Castro suc-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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# JITTERS: Caribbean Americans more nervous over Trump's presidency

**GORDON WILLIAMS**

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - If Donald Trump's volatile election campaign concerned Caribbean nationals in the United States, 15 months into his presidency has really started to scare them.

Trump's frequent social media outbursts, passion for lying and preoccupation with erasing the legacy of his predecessor Barack Obama has plunged the majority of Caribbean nationals into a pool of worry.

The president's threatening tone, especially when he lashes out at certain immigrants, attacks those investigating his behavior or belittles certain countries, including Haiti, has only made many more edgy.



"A lot of people in the Caribbean community are nervous," Errol Anderson, who moved to the U.S. from Jamaica in 1969, said here during the Penn Relays, a sporting event which doubles as possibly the largest single gathering of Caribbean nationals in the U.S.

"They don't know what's going to happen - especially on immigration."

While fans with Caribbean roots vociferously support "Penns" annually, this year many were even more passionate about the political direction of the U.S. under Trump's leadership. For them, the president languishes somewhere between a buffoon and a psychopath. Few tempered their bitter criticism.

"I think Trump is an imbecile," Mike, a native of Trinidad and Tobago who has lived in the U.S. for 40 years said while declining to give his last name, claiming he feared political repercussions.

"He's under educated, unprofessional and unfit and unqualified to represent America as president."

## CONCLUSION

No matter what route they took, most Caribbean Americans here arrived at the same conclusion: Trump is endangering their status in the U.S. The president has clearly unsettled them.

"I have significant fears of my existence," said New York resident Irwine Clare while at Penns.

Clare, the Jamaican-born managing director of Caribbean Immigrant Services, Inc., an organization which champions immigrant rights, is

concerned not just about Trump's style, but the effect it will have on future generations of Caribbean nationals.

"I'm worried about my son in this toxic environment as a young black man," Clare explained. "There's no longer any hypocrisy. The racism is wide open. It's frightening."

Trump's administration

has clamped down on immigration, stepped up deportations and carved into protections Caribbean nationals usually embrace, such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program implemented by Obama to make deportation of young, undocumented immigrants less of a priority. In September, Trump

announced the end of the program, although several subsequent court rulings have preserved it.

## UNNERVED

Trump reportedly lumped Haiti among "shit hole" countries. His tendency of making rash policy announcements, without consulting his senior

advisors, make Caribbean nationals worry about irreparable damage he could do.

"Trump exists in the management of chaos," said Clare. "What he's showing you is how bigots in corporate America exist."



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## NEWS



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## ICE arrests Caribbean nationals in 'public safety operation'

NEWARK, New Jersey – Caribbean nationals were among dozens of people detained by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during a five-day "public safety operation" last month.

ICE said members of its Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) arrested 60 people, including nationals from Cuba, Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

ICE said a 38-year-old

Jamaican national, whose name was not disclosed, had been convicted of child abuse and domestic violence assault.

The agency said the operation focused on individuals illegally present in the U.S. who had been convicted of serious criminal activity, including sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence and driving under the influence.

Of those arrested, ICE said 80 percent were convicted criminals, more than 20 had

been issued a final order of removal and failed to depart the U.S. or had been previously removed from the U.S. and returned illegally.

ICE said those who have outstanding orders of deportation or who returned to the U.S. illegally after being deported are subject to immediate removal from the country.

- Edited from CMC.



## Jamaican killed by U.S. cops, lawmaker wants probe

NEW YORK – Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has welcomed the announcement by New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman that he will conduct an investigation into the police killing of an emotionally disturbed Jamaican national last month.

Responding to 911 calls that a black man was pointing what appeared to be a silver

gun at passers-by in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, officers from the New York City Police Department (NYPD) shot dead 34-year-old Saheed Vassell.

The NYPD said Vassell, who migrated from Jamaica when he was six years old, had pointed the instrument at five police officers, who responded to the 911 calls, before he was shot dead. Police later said the

instrument was a metal pipe with a knob on it.

"We must not accept the criminalization of men and women suffering from mental illness as the status quo," said Clarke, daughter of Jamaican immigrants who represents Crown Heights, among other neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

- Edited from CMC.



## Cuba names new leader to replace Raul Castro

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

ceeded his brother Fidel as president. Fidel died in Nov. 2016. Raúl, 86, recently announced he would step down as the country's leader.

However, according to some political observers, it is not clear how much longer Castro will wield his immense power in Cuba. He is still expected to exert great influence over the island's government and sign off on major decisions. Following the decision by the National Assembly, Díaz-Canel said

Castro would still lead Cuba's armed forces, which controls Cuba's economy and tourism.

Castro, according to reports, will still be first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and a member of the National Assembly, even if he is not president. It could stay on as the head of the Communist Party until its next congress in 2021.

## CHALLENGES

Díaz-Canel is a 57-year-old electrical engineer. In 2013, he was regarded as Castro's right-

hand man. For the past five years he has been groomed for the presidency and the handover of power.

Díaz-Canel began his political career in his early 20s as a member of the Young Communist League (YCL) in Santa Clara. While teaching engineering at the local university, he worked his way up the ranks of the YCL, becoming its second secretary at age 33.

- Compiled from multiple sources.



## DREAM ON: Caribbean DACA recipients get U.S. lifeline

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

solution for the "Dreamers".

However, in January, a federal court blocked Trump's bid to end DACA. Judge William Alsup's ruling allowed the U.S. government to continue receiving DACA renewal applications.

The Trump administration took the matter before the U.S. Supreme Court, which, in late February, declined to rule on the president's Mar. 5 deadline to end DACA. The U.S. Congress failed to pass law addressing DACA, leaving the matter in limbo and hundreds of thousands of "Dreamers"

fearing deportation.

Bates's decision has brought more relief for "Dreamers".

However, the U.S. Department of Justice has vowed to continue its fight to end DACA.



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# Belize blasts U.S. over Caribbean drugs report

BELMOPAN, Belize – A top Caribbean community law enforcement official is advising the United States to focus on curtailing the widespread demand for illegal drugs at home rather than blaming other nations for supplying them.

“The U.S. also needs to work on their demand,” Michael Peyrefitte, Belize’s attorney general, told a television audience last month. “Maybe if they will stop using so much drugs, we wouldn’t be selling any.”

Peyrefitte said he read the 2018 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report recently released by the U.S. State Department, in which the U.S. named four Caribbean community countries as major illicit drug-producing countries. The Bahamas, Belize, Haiti and Jamaica were also listed as major drug-transit countries.

## NO ‘EVIDENCE’

But Peyrefitte said the U.S. has “not presented to us any evidence why is it they believe that.”

“It’s based on what?” he

asked. “Based on what they are saying we are a major transshipment point of drugs? We don’t have any information from them as to what is the foundation of that analysis.



Peyrefitte

They don’t share any information with us. “If they know, if the U.S. knows who is bringing drugs into Belize, then let us know and we will arrest those people because drugs are illegal. So, what information do they have that they are not telling us about? We don’t know.

“... I think it is very unfair and very cowardly that you would pass a judgment like that on Belize without any evidence to show on what based that opinion on,” the attorney general said.

Several other Caribbean countries have also disputed the U.S. report.

- Edited from CMC.



## BRIEFS

### U.S. bank offers saving for Caribbean retirement

The Inter-American Development Bank has launched the Retirement Savings Laboratory, a project that seeks to increase the number of people saving for retirement in the Caribbean and Latin America.

The financial institution said most workers in the Caribbean and Latin America – about 130 million people – are not saving for retirement, “which will make it difficult for them to have a good life when they reach old age, especially for low-income and independent workers.”

### T&T's gay community scores big win

The High Court in Trinidad and Tobago last month ruled it unconstitutional to impede on the rights of homosexual men and anal sex.

The challenge against the state

was brought by gay rights activist Jason Jones in 2017. However, a final ruling will be handed down in three months.

### Growth in remittances to Caribbean

According to the World Bank, remittance flows into the Caribbean and Latin America grew 8.7 percent in 2017, reaching another record high of nearly \$80 billion.

The financial institution said the main factors for the increase were stronger growth in the United States and tighter enforcement of U.S. immigration rules, “which may have impacted remittances as migrants remitted savings in anticipation of shorter stays in the United States.”

Compiled from various sources.



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## FYI LOCAL



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## St. Kitts and Nevis to hold first diaspora confab in June

St. Kitts and Nevis will hold its first conference to galvanize support from nationals living outside the Caribbean country next month.

The St. Kitts and Nevis Diaspora Conference is scheduled for June 26-28 at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort.

The theme of the event is

“Building Partnership Towards Sustainable Development”.

In Nov. 2017, the country’s Cabinet discussed and approved the submission for the staging of the conference, a move designed to maximize the contributions by diaspora members in nation-building.

Kaye Bass, permanent secre-

tary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, prepared and sent to Cabinet the submission for the holding of the conference.

To register for the conference, visit [www.diaspora.gov.kn](http://www.diaspora.gov.kn). Registration ends midnight June 3.



## Long serving JNMS employee in South Florida retires

When JN Money Services (JNMS) USA Southeast Region celebrated its 20th anniversary of operating in Florida, Jamaican-born Carmen Bartlett, the regional manager, was happy to share one of the pivotal moments of her career.

Bartlett, who joined the JNMS team in 1997, retired at the end of March after 21 years service. She was instrumental in establishing JN-owned JN Money locations and a network of some 30 agents and played a pivotal role in establishing the JN Overseas Representative Office in Florida.

Speaking at the JNMS 20th Anniversary Dinner in South Florida, last year, Leon Mitchell, chief marketing sales officer for the JN Group, com-

mended Bartlett and her team for “capturing a share of the remittance market from the ‘Goliaths’ of the remittance industry.” He also quoted JN Group Chief Executive Officer Earl Jarrett, who once told the JNMS team members: “You can do well in any market, if you approach it with pride.”

### EARLY YEARS

Prior to joining JNMS, Bartlett was employed to the then Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) as



Bartlett

an assistant manager. However, her initial engagement with JNBS started some 25 years earlier, when she was employed as a teller in JNBS’s branch office in Westmoreland, the Jamaican parish where she was born. She became assistant manager there.

JNMS General Manager Horace Hines praised Bartlett for her commitment.

“Mrs. Bartlett’s has been instrumental in helping us establish a foothold with JN Money USA South East Region,” Hines stated in a recent press release featuring Bartlett.



## DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMAT



- Photograph by Derrick Scott

Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks, right, accepts the Howard University Women Ambassadors 2018 Distinguished Diplomat Award from lecturer Dr. Marie-Line Sephocle during the 23rd Women Ambassadors Conference last month at the school in Washington, D.C. Marks was recognized for being the first female ambassador from Jamaica to the U.S.

## J’can nurses get P.M.’s award

The Jamaica Nurses’ Association of Florida (JNAF), a charitable organization, was recently awarded the Jamaica Prime Minister’s Medal of Appreciation for community service in nation building.

The JNAF was founded in

1983 and 2018 commemorates 35 years of service in Florida and the Caribbean.

For more information about the JNAF, visit @ [jamaicanursesoffl.org](http://jamaicanursesoffl.org) or [jamaicanursesflorida@gmail.com](mailto:jamaicanursesflorida@gmail.com).



## U.S. wants Caribbean visa applicants’ social media info

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The United States Embassy here has defended the decision to collect social media identities from nearly everyone seeking entry into the North American country, saying Caribbean people should not fear the new rule.

“Social media wasn’t so prevalent back when these documents were created ... so now the government wants to update and include additional information to be with the times,” said Jeremiah Knight, counselor for public affairs at the U.S. Embassy, adding that the aim is to have the visa forms align with technological advances.

The proposal, if approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), would require most immigrant and non-immigrant visa applicants to list all social media identities they have used in the past five years. It will be used to vet and identify them and could affect an estimated 15 million people yearly.

### ‘EXTREME VETTING’

Immigration officials said the proposals support U.S. President Donald Trump’s promise to institute “extreme vetting” of foreigners entering

the U.S. to prevent terrorism.

U.S. citizens will have 60 days from Mar. 30 to comment on the proposal and Knight said following that period, the comments or recommendations will be submitted to OMB for issues to be addressed, with another 30 days being allocated to deal with those issues.

Knight, speaking on a television program here, said Washington is also increasing its security checks. He said the processing time of visa applications will not be affected due to the increased information required and urged applicants to “be honest and complete” with the document.

Previously, under rules instituted last May, consular officials were instructed to collect social media identifiers only when they determined that such information is required to confirm identity or conduct more rigorous national security vetting.

The American Civil Liberties Union expressed concern, saying the move would have a “chilling” effect on freedom of speech and association.

- Edited from CMC.



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# Bolt gone, track ponders impact of Jamaican superstar's retirement

**GORDON WILLIAMS**

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - The last time the world saw Usain Bolt in competition, it wasn't pretty. The Jamaican pulled up injured and limped off the track in the 4x100 meters final at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in London, England.

It was a bittersweet ending to a brilliant, colorful career splashed with gold medals, world records and swag, which planted the Caribbean brand firmly into the global psyche. Not since music legend Bob Marley had anyone from the region commanded so much attention worldwide.

But Bolt's departure last year blasted a gaping hole in track and field no one knows - even as the 2018 track season gets going - how it will be filled. He was that special.

"You look at Usain, you know he's one in a million, what he's brought to the sport," American Justin Gatlin, the last man to beat the Jamaican in an individual race when he won the 100 meters in London, admitted while here to compete in the Penn Relays. "... He's brought people from the outside who never really focus on track and field and it gave attention here."

For a decade Bolt was at once track's champion, piper, master of ceremonies and main act. He was its Einstein and P.T. Barnum, reinventing and rejuvenating a sport that was being drowned in doubt.

"While Bolt was there he was massive, large," Raymond "K.C." Graham, a veteran Jamaican track coach, explained at "Penns". "Because of his personality his impact was huge. The sport was on a down end from multiple drug cheating scandals when he came, and he brought it back up."

## SPOTLIGHT

Bolt hasn't totally vanished from global view. He was back in the spotlight recently and the world lapped it up. But the latest round of hysteria had little to do with what made the Jamaican famous. Instead of looking to smash more world sprint records, he was trying to break into a different line of work - professional soccer.

What's becoming ominously clear, is that Bolt's absence from track, which he dominated at the highest level with performance and personality for a decade, is already making the sport's observers

nervous. Many believe no one will duplicate his act. Some say it maybe wiser to look elsewhere.

"In some ways Bolt did take the oxygen out of the room," said former American athlete-turned broadcaster Craig Masback. "It would be hard to be a sprinter to achieve that level, but you could be another type of athlete."

Some are eager to move on from the revolution Bolt ignited, anxious to shrug off the narrative that the sport may never again enjoy the popularity it did with Bolt, whose name became synonymous with speed. It is time, they claim, for a new revolution.

"Nothing's off the table now," Sebastian Coe, president of the IAAF, track and field's world governing body, told the media late last year. "Let our imagination run wild ... We are in the entertainment business and we have to look at it in that way."

## NEW BLOOD

According to observers, including Gatlin, it's time for other athletes to rise up and embrace the post-Bolt challenge. Fans, he argued, are eager to see fresh talent.

"You know, track and field goes on," Gatlin explained. "That's what it always does."

At worst, Bolt's absence will give other nations a chance to claim the spotlight. At the recent Commonwealth Games Akani Samba of South Africa won the 100 meters, beating teammate Henricho Bruinjies and Jamaican Yohan Blake, a former world champion touted amongst Bolt's likely successors. Despite that setback, Turner believes, the Caribbean will produce more stars.

"We do have everything in Jamaica to do it," she said, citing performances in the recent CARIFTA and Commonwealth games.

Either that or risk the demise of the sport, which dangled precariously over a pre-Bolt precipice as illegal drug violations grabbed more headlines than performances. According to Coe, a former Olympic middle distance gold medalist, his sport must look in the huge fan base Bolt helped to create. The IAAF is tinkering with street racing, pop-up tracks and franchising athletes, among other ideas. To



Not just for kicks, Bolt is taking up soccer.

some, it sounds like desperation.

"Now Bolt's not there, there is nobody to take up the mantle," said Graham. "They don't have the brilliance on

the track and the personality."

Yet it's possible Bolt's retirement couldn't have been better timed. Neither of track's two biggest drawing cards - the Olympics or World Championships - is on the sport's 2018 calendar. There's hope a new superstar - or few - can develop in time for the 2019 Worlds in Qatar.

Yet Bolt's huge shadow still cloaks track and field. When he showed up for the recent Commonwealth Games to, among other things, present medals, people noticed. When he challenged Blake to take over the role of world's top sprinter it resonated. But

Blake floundered to a disappointing third place finish in final and the sport's observers concede difficult times are ahead.

"I don't know how track

and field can compensate for Bolt not being there," said Graham. "That's a hard one."

Bolt said Blake "panicked" at the Commonwealth Games after stumbling at the start. Panic may be setting in on the sport overall after his departure. Although Bolt was not a regular performer at track's marquee European circuit, many spectators attended meets because Bolt had made the sport more popular. Whenever he did show up, his presence was intoxicating and he knew exactly how to generate excitement.

"He would play up to the cameras," said Errol Anderson, a Jamaican-born photographer who has worked global track meets for 35 years. "He's always thanking the crowd."

Bolt's replacement may come, Anderson argued, but it won't be soon.

"It's gonna take some time to do that," he said, "if it ever happens."

In the meantime, the Caribbean is still producing promising prospects. Florida-based Briana Williams domi-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

## Reach Your Heart's Potential

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## FEATURE



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# WE'RE SORRY: Britain P.M. apologizes to Caribbean immigrants

## ~ U.K. vows to speedily rectify unfair treatment

LONDON, England – Prime Minister Theresa May last month publicly apologized to Caribbean countries as she met Caribbean community (CARICOM) leaders to discuss the situation of pre-1971 Caribbean undocumented immigrants in the United Kingdom.

"I want to apologize to you," May told a meeting of Caribbean immigrants last month. "... Because we are genuinely sorry for any anxiety that has been caused.

"I want to dispel any impression that my government is in some sense clamping down on Commonwealth citizens, particularly those from the Caribbean.

"Those who arrived from the Caribbean before 1973 and lived here permanently without significant periods of time away in the last 30 years have the right to remain in the U.K.," she added. "As do the vast majority of long-term residents who arrived later, and I don't want anybody to be in any doubt about their right to remain here in the United Kingdom."



May

meeting with Prime Minister May at 10 Downing Street, said he wanted a "speedy" response to the situation, indicating that those people being threatened with deportation had "significantly contributed to the building and enrichment of the country.

"Now these persons are not able to claim their place as citizens," Holness said, telling May "prime minister, we welcome your response and we

"Many of these individuals do not have any connection with the country of their birth, would have lived in the U.K. their entire lives and worked very hard towards the advancement of the U.K.," he said.

Britain is reported to have written to each of the governments involved, setting out how it intends to rectify the situation, notably by helping anyone affected to find the necessary paperwork to

regularize their immigration status.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd told Parliament that she is "very concerned" about the way in which the Windrush generation have been treated and acknowledged the Home Office had become "too concerned with policy and strategy and sometimes loses sight of the individual" in the recent past.

Rudd said a new taskforce with the aim of ensuring the Windrush generation

receive the paperwork they need to confirm their immigration status within two weeks had been established. She also told legislators that the fees involved in going through the process would be waived.

### DIFFICULTY

Under the 1971 Immigration Act, all Commonwealth citizens already living in the U.K. were given indefinite leave to remain.

However, the Home Office did not keep a record of

those granted leave to remain or issue any paperwork confirming it, meaning it is difficult for the individuals to now prove they are in the U.K. legally.

Under the 2012 new policy, extra documentation is demanded from people who arrived in the U.K. many decades ago, and consider themselves British.

Some people have been threatened with deportation to countries they left as children 50 years ago. Others have been denied access to healthcare, lost jobs, or been made homeless as they do not have sufficient paperwork to prove they have the right to be in the U.K.

The British government later said Caribbean nationals who came to Britain between 1948 and 1973 would have their status formalized.

- Edited from CMC.



Thousands of Caribbean nationals came to England on the "Windrush".

### CONTROVERSY

May said the current controversy had arisen because of new rules, introduced by her as home secretary, designed to make sure only those with the right to remain in the U.K. could access the welfare system and the National Health Service (NHS).

"This has resulted in some people, through no fault of their own, now needing to be able to evidence their immigration status," she said, adding that "the overwhelming majority of the Windrush generation do have the documents that they need, but we are working hard to help those who do

not."

Many Caribbean nationals came to Britain starting in 1948, when the ship "Windrush" brought over the first group of West Indian immigrants. The Barbados Government Information Service (BGIS) said an action plan to secure a permanent solution to the situation was on the agenda for last month's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness, who was among the CARICOM leaders

look forward to a speedy implementation of your proposed solution.

"It will lead to security, certainly for those who have been affected ... It is time for the inclusive prosperity for which we stand as Commonwealth people."

### 'PLEASED'

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne had indicated that an apology from May "would be welcome," but he was "pleased" the British government had stepped in.

## Bolt gone, track ponders impact of Jamaican superstar's retirement

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

nated the Under-17 sprints at this year's CARIFTA for Jamaica. Trinidad and Tobago's Michelle Ayhe won the 100 meters at the Commonwealth Games. Jamaica's Elaine Thompson is the reigning Olympic sprint champion and her main rival Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, another Jamaican, is returning to competition. This year's Penn Relays, like it did for Bolt, again offered a showcase for the region's rich potential.

But no athlete has come close to Bolt's 9.58 seconds in the 100 meters or 19.19 in the



The big man with the big personality has left the track.

200. Both world records seem set to stand for a long time.

Yet track and field observers still hope. The survival of the sport leans heavily on what comes after next. Fans who love track are more desperate, even relying on divine intervention.

"Are we gonna see that again?" Turner asked, referring to Bolt's astonishing career. "I believe we will. God gave it to us before, He will give it to us again."

Track can only hope - and pray.



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## Caribbean nationals must fight citizenship question

It is a known fact that a major concern in every decennial census is getting immigrants and populations of color across the United States to fill out and return the form.

In immigrant and black communities, census officials often spend a lot of time and effort on forming partnerships with community groups to garner trust to ensure immigrants and African Americans especially understand the importance of the census and the need for them to respond.

In the 2010 census, a lot of the messaging surrounded the fact that the information collected had nothing to do with immigration status and would not be shared with any immigration agencies. As someone who worked closely with the 2010 census, including advocating as founder of CaribID from 2009 to ensure Caribbean immigrants had a way to count on the form through a write-in campaign and through an educational media campaign to push many to fill out and return the form, I know firsthand how difficult the task of boosting the response rate is.

### DEATH BLOW

As we count down to the 2020 census, the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has dealt a death blow to the future census count, with the addition of a citizenship question to the digital form.

Dr. Sunshine Hillygus, a professor at Duke University who serves on the Census Scientific Advisory Committee, is absolutely right to respond to this bold face, political move to – wink, wink – “Make America Great Again” – by exclaiming: “What the hell?”

In an immigrant community already existing in an era of heightened fear of being rounded up and deported for minor infractions, including driving under the influence, I know this blatantly racist and political move will definitely impact the 2020 census tally, leading to redistricting, fewer immigrant representatives,



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

less funding in immigrant communities and a host of other issues that we will only see after the count.

It is why immigrant associations, especially legal ones like the Caribbean Bar associations, must join the NAACP and attorneys general across the U.S. in suing the federal government to stop this xenophobic outrage.

### THREAT

As the NAACP lawsuit states, our immigrant community groups must also sue to combat the imminent threat that the 2020 census will substantially undercount immigrant and other people of color in communities throughout the U.S.

Not since before the Civil Rights Act of 1965 has the citizenship question been asked of all respondents; that is not since 1950 to be exact.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, in allowing the new question, claims riotously that it will help enforce the Voting Rights Act, which is supposed to prohibit racial discrimination in voting. He knows it will have the opposite effect because it is a clearly orchestrated political move aimed at stymieing the rising black and immigrant voting bloc.

Add to that is the fact that the 2020 census questionnaire will be digital and only available online, which will help boost low response rates as well, leading to incomplete and inaccurate data that could impact congressional districts and the allocation of federal funding, particularly in immigrant populated districts.

We as immigrant community organizations and immigrant elected officials must fight now for all of our futures in this country, because this marks another brazen attempt to roll back our civil rights. It is time to stand up and fight like our futures depended on it – because it does!

*The writer is CMO at Hard Beat Communications, Inc. which owns the brands: NewsAmericasNow, CaribPRWire and InvestCaribbeanNow.*



## Caribbean apologizes for abusing Rastas over weed

GORDON WILLIAMS

It was always a horrific sight in the Kingston, Jamaica community I was born and raised.

One early 1970s incident, involving Rastas gathered in a tenement yard, remains branded into my memory more than 40 years later. Their deeply religious practice of smoking marijuana – also called ganja or weed – offended no one, except those bothered by the unmistakable smell of the smoke, the sight of dreadlocked men and women who generated it or Rastas' rebellion against the pretentious scraps left behind by British rule.

So maybe someone called the cops. A vehicle pulled up and armed police officers kicked open the gate and stormed the yard, barking threats. One Rasta yelled: “Run iyah, run, the Philistines are upon us!” Too late. They were battered with guns, boots, fists and batons then herded – bruised, broken and bloodied – into the vehicle and taken to jail.

People stood and stared. Stunned. Helpless. They realized the Rastas were people they knew, who never hurt anyone. Like me, they had seen – and would continue to witness for years – many similar incidents. “Dutty Rastas”, as some cops called them, were regular targets of harassment and abuse because they had “violated the law” by smoking weed. Many in the Rastafari community were seriously injured, permanently scarred – physically and mentally – by the brutality. Some died.

“Baldheads” suffered too. It’s hard to forget being pushed against the wall by cops as a child, cold steel of guns pressed against your back or neck, for a “search” and threatened with jail if they found “even a seed” of weed.

### SHIFT

Today, people with no serious connection to Rastafari have made wearing dreadlocks fashionable. The faithful, however, remain strong. Smoking marijuana – their holy sacrament – is still vital.

Influential Rastafari, like late entertainers Bob Marley and Peter Tosh, helped Caribbean people understand the sheer wickedness of abuse against marijuana users. Marley and Tosh long suspected the crackdown on weed and its users was part of a plot by corrupt people determined to keep poor people marginalized and oppressed. In his song “Wanted Dread and Alive”, Tosh called them “evil forces.”



The region is re-thinking weed debate.

The Caribbean, over decades before and since that ‘70s incident, punished its people for marijuana use. It was easier to be beaten and jailed for a spliff than embezzling funds. Rastas bore the brunt of the brutality.

All types of reasons, furnished mainly by the same oppressors, are still being used to abuse marijuana users. Health is one, although the general medical community has long accepted the benefits of weed.

### NEW LOBBY

Last month Dr. Faud Khan, former Trinidad and Tobago health minister, called for the decriminalization of marijuana for medical purposes. Dr. Sanja Gupta, medical correspondent for American television network CNN, in a letter last month to United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions, backed marijuana’s benefits and effectiveness in fighting the opioid crisis.

“Not only can cannabis work for a variety of conditions such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and pain, sometimes, it is the only thing that works,” Dr. Gupta explained.

He also highlighted that the negative stigma shadowing marijuana was linked to early research, “96 percent” of which, he told CNN, “looked for harm” rather than benefits in weed.

Yet the Caribbean – home some say to the

world’s best ganja – has slow-walked its cultural shift while others quickened their pace. In the U.S., marijuana possession and use is illegal in many places. People like Sessions appear intent on eradicating its use. In others, however, ganja use is being allowed, even encouraged. Some say the same oppressors are finally seeing the light – and shiny profits – of liberating the weed.

### STUNNING

So it was a stunning when Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne last month told the Rastafari community he was sorry for the abuse it suffered over marijuana.

“The prohibition and demonization have led to Rastafari being brutalized and castigated by police and other government authorities, because of the utilization of the plant cannabis sativa,” Browne declared ahead of April 20, “International Day of Cannabis”.

“... I have issued a genuine apology to the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



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## Lauderhill to host 'Caribbean Village Festival'

The diverse cultural flavor of the region, including music and food, will be on tap at this year's "Caribbean Village Festival" in South Florida.

The **June 24** event will be staged at the Lauderhill Sports Complex.

Among the scheduled performers are Kymani Marley, Alison Hinds, Kevin Lyttle, Shurwayne Winchester, Julien Believe, Mika Ben and headliner Maxi Priest. Comedian Majah Hype will be the host.

The event is being sponsored by several entities, including supermarket chain



Maxi Priest will be the headliner.

Publix, The Galleon Foundation, LDA Wealth Management, Wells Fargo Bank, Grace Foods, NBC6, Coral Spring Auto Mall,

YellowCab Broward and the Lauderhill Mall.

"Publix Supermarkets has served our community for a while now," Lindell Douglas, the festival's chief executive officer, explained in a recent press release promoting the event. "Our products are on their shelves, and if it's not, they're ordering it. This was important for us to forged a relationship to celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month."

For more information, visit [www.caribbeanvillage.net](http://www.caribbeanvillage.net).



## 'Best of the Best Music Fest' set for Miami

Some of the biggest performers from the Caribbean have been confirmed to perform at the 12th staging of "Best of the Best Music Fest" this month in South Florida.

The show will be held **May 27** at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami.

Jamaican deejay Mavado



From left, Mavado, Aidonia and Capleton

returns for this year's show. He will be accompanied by fellow dancehall stars Aidonia, Capleton and Ding Dong. Reggae crooners Richie Stephens, Ghost and Romain

Virgo are also on the performers list, plus soca standouts Fayann Lyons, Kerwin Dubois and Bunji Garlin. Stone Bwoy from Ghana is also scheduled to perform.

"This year we have some of the hottest talents right now," promoter Steve "Jabba" Beckford noted in a recent press release.

For more information, call **305-438-9488** or **954-470-7666**.



## World awaits Buju's release

Jamaican reggae/dancehall star Buju Banton is expected to be released from prison in the United States later this year.

Banton, who is serving time on a drug-related conviction, is currently locked up in the McRae Correctional Facility in Georgia. He has served nine years so far. He could get out by December.

However, anticipation is reportedly building for the star's release. Noted entertainment publication **Billboard Magazine** recently ran a feature story on Banton, whose last album "Before the Dawn" was released in 2010 and won a Grammy Award for best reggae album.

A few Banton songs have been released since, including a solo tune plus collaborations with the likes of Marley brothers Stephen and Damian, Freddie McGregor and Agent Sasco.

## DEMAND

According to Billboard, "Demand for Buju Banton's music remains high despite his prolonged absence from the recording studio." Various entertainers have praised Banton's music and noted the impact his absence has had on the business.

"There is a big void without Buju Banton in the music," reggae singer Cocoa Tea was quoted in Billboard as saying.

"We would like to see Buju free because Buju is one of I and I soldier. People make mistakes along the way and no man is perfect, but I and I love Buju Banton... So we would love to see Buju Banton on the street."

But according to Billboard, "Buju will return to a music scene that has changed dramatically since the time he was first taken into custody." The article cited reggae and dancehall being more popular than when he left for prison. It noted that top international artistes like Drake



Incarceration kept Banton off stage.

and Major Lazer, have tapped into the music.

## CHANGE

However, Billboard also explained that Banton's homeland of Jamaica appears to have "drifted" away from roots reggae towards more "hardcore dancehall" and "fusion pop", an ironic reversal since the artiste started out with dancehall and gravitated towards roots reggae.

Blacker Dread Records in the United Kingdom, which produced the Banton-McGregor collaboration on the track "Stumbling Block", is reportedly putting together a 13-track album of Banton's music set for release when the artiste is set free. The songs, Blacker Dread told Billboard, were "recorded just before he (Banton) was incarcerated."

However, music enthusiasts such as Blacker Dread are sure Banton has written numerous songs while incarcerated. Many believe the Jamaican could spark a new revolution in music when he gets out of prison.

"Buju's probably written about 10,000 songs while in prison," Blacker Dread told Billboard. "I can imagine what it's gonna do for the music industry."

"I think when he takes up the mantle again, he will be unstoppable. He probably won't have to write songs again for the rest of his life."



## BRIEFS

## Ziggy shines on solar power

Reggae star Ziggy Marley was the big attraction at "Beer Bash" put out on by Apple to celebrate Earth Day, April 20.

The event also capped a week of environmental announcements from the iPhone company, including that all Apple facilities now run off of renewable energy. According to Ziggy, son of late reggae legend Bob Marley, it was his first solar-powered concert.

## 'Startime's' last stand

The curtain comes down on Jamaica's longest running "oldies" music show this month when "Startime - Final Chapter" is staged on **May 5**.

Startime was launched in 1988. More than 150 shows have been staged.

## Beres Hammond in Florida

Top reggae singer Beres Hammond and friends will be in concert early July at two Florida venues.

Hammond will perform July 3 at the Port St. Lucie City Center, 9221 S.E. Civic Center Place, and **July 5** at Jannus Live, 200 1st Ave., St. Petersburg.

For more information, call **954-274-5312**.

Compiled from various sources.



**Jamaica at 56**

On August 6, 2018, the island of Jamaica marks the 56th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

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## Fort Lauderdale to host 'Taste the Islands' June 2

Caribbean cuisine and culture will be showcased during the 2018 "Taste the Islands Experience" June 2 in South Florida.

The event, to be staged from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, is aimed at food and spirits enthusiasts with a taste for island indulgences. It will feature celebrity cooking demonstrations, an artisan shopping village and live music on the Riverfront on the lawn of the New River Inn, 231 S.W. Second Ave.

"The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society is thrilled to present this tasteful celebration of all things Caribbean to residents and visitors in Downtown Fort Lauderdale," Patricia Zeiler, executive director of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, noted in a recent press release to promote the event.

"Our diverse community continues to be shaped by the many cultures, flavors and influences to our south and we are proud to showcase them together at the festive 'Taste the Islands Experience'."

### COOKING

Celebrity chefs, including "Taste the Islands" television show hosts Cynthia "Chef



Verna

Thia" Verna of Haiti, Hugh "Chef Irie" Sinclair of Jamaica and Chef Amit Raval, head chef of Amtar Fine Foods in Trinidad, are scheduled to make appearances. They will sample Caribbean creations in the "Taste the Islands" Pavilion and present demonstrations on the event's main stage.

Restaurant Row will host 15 local cafes and caterers representing multiple islands, each offering different menu selections. An open bar will serve island specialties.

Other features will

include a tropical drink and ice-cream bar and a Caribbean Culinary Museum and Culinary Theater, where guests can enjoy Caribbean history.

Musical entertainment will be provided by deejays Nickymix and Richie D. Steve "Sir Rockwell" Warner will emcee the event. A steel drum band and costumed carnival players will also perform.

For more information about "Taste the Islands Experience", visit [www.ttiexperience.com](http://www.ttiexperience.com).



## Step into some cow foot and broad beans

For something different, try this Caribbean recipe for cow foot and broad beans.

### Ingredients

- 4 pounds cow heel/foot
- 8 cups water
- 1 cup Grace White Vinegar
- 6 cloves garlic, chopped
- 3 large onions, chopped
- 10 whole pimento berries
- 3 sprigs thyme
- 1 teaspoon ginger, chopped
- 3 stalks scallion, crushed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon Grace Caribbean Traditions All Purpose Seasoning
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup Grace Vegetable Oil
- 10 cups beef stock
- 3 medium carrots cut diagonally
- 1 large green pepper, cut in strips
- 1 teaspoon scotch bonnet pepper, finely chopped
- 2 cans broad beans
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch, dissolved in two tablespoons of water

### Method

Wash cow foot in a mixture of four cups water and vinegar. Scald cow foot in four cups boiling water for five minutes then drain.

Season with garlic, onion,



Cow foot and broad beans.

pimento, thyme, ginger, scallion and salt. Rub in the seasoning well. Add soy sauce, all purpose seasoning and black pepper. Marinate for an hour.

Heat pressure cooker and pour in vegetable oil. Add marinated cow foot and brown lightly, stirring constantly.

Add beef stock and fasten pressure cooker lid. Pressure cook for 20 minutes. Cool pressure cooker thoroughly before opening.

Add carrots, green peppers and scotch bonnet pepper. Stir lightly and allow vegetables to cook until tender. Add broad beans and cornstarch and allow to simmer for another five minutes.

Serve with white rice and tomato slices.

- Edited from News Americas. Recipe courtesy of Grace Foods.



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## TOURISM/HEALTH



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## CTO wants removal of entry barriers across Caribbean

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Hugh Riley, secretary general of the Barbados-based Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), says barriers to entry around the Caribbean need to be removed to improve connectivity.

“Intra Caribbean tourism is critical, but that has to work hand-in-glove with connecting people who want to come into a particular catchment area of the Caribbean and enjoy the benefits of intra-Caribbean tourism,” Riley said while attending the recent 24th Inter-American Congress of

Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Tourism (CITUR).

“So, the whole business of twin destination or multi-destination tourism has to be properly explored and has to be properly implemented. This means we have to fix the connectivity.”

Earlier, a senior official of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Airlines (CAL) said the Americas remains challenged



Riley

by the misuse of connectivity to support sustainable tourism. Captain Jagmohan Singh told delegates to the congress that he “hopes that through the discussions and many strategizing meetings to come, that we might overcome the scourge as I do believe aviation is indispensable to Caribbean tourism.”

Singh said air travel to and from the Caribbean is expected to double over the next 20 years, with the market growing from 43 million passengers per annum in 2015 to 86 million in 2035.



## U.S. to process visas for Cubans in Guyana

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Department of State says it will begin processing visas for Cuban nationals at its Georgetown, Guyana, embassy.

The State Department said that as of April 1, it “will begin transferring current immigrant visa applications and scheduling immigrant visa interviews for Cuban nationals at U.S. Embassy Georgetown, Guyana.

“Guyana will then be the primary site for processing immigrant visa applications for Cubans,” it said.

The first interviews are scheduled for June.

“As we transition immigrant visa operations for Cuban nationals to Guyana, we will continue to communicate with applicants, so they have current information,” the State Department noted. “No applicants should make

travel plans until they have a scheduled visa interview appointment.”

Since January, the State Department said immigrant visa interview appointments for Cuban nationals had been scheduled at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia. Cuban nationals do not need a visa to travel to Guyana.



## New airline targets Caribbean

CASTRIES, St. Lucia – A new airline, offering direct service between St. Lucia and Dominica three times a week, has started operations here.

InterCaribbean Airways made its inaugural flight into the George FL Charles Airport on Mar. 29 from Dominica.

Lyndon Gardiner, chairman of the new airline, said it is hoped the carrier will be able to connect the entire Caribbean in the future.

The airline uses the 30-seater Embraer EMB120 aircraft for the St. Lucia-Dominica route on Sunday, Monday and Thursday from the Douglas-Charles Airport,

while departing from St. Lucia on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

The service provides onward connections to the northern Caribbean, including the British Virgin Islands and Cuba, with an additional direct service to St. Croix.

Jamaica, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic are scheduled to be added to the roster.

The new InterCaribbean Airways flights allow travelers to make two-stop connections to Kingston, Jamaica and Nassau, The Bahamas.

- Edited from CMC.



## Spirit offers more service to Haiti, St. Maarten, St. Croix

MIRAMAR, Florida – Starting last month, Spirit is offering more services from the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) to the Caribbean.

Spirit will now connect FLL to Cap-Haïtien International Airport (CAP) in Haiti's second largest city. The already serves to Port-au-Prince (PAP).

In addition, flights to St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) are scheduled to resume on

May 5 following the impact of last year's hurricanes. Spirit will also connect South Florida to St. Croix's Henry E. Rohlsen Airport (STX), the airline's second destination in the United States Virgin Islands, starting May 24.

Spirit routes to the Caribbean also include expanded seasonal daily service from FLL to Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, Jamaica.



## Caribbean nationals among 70M vaccinated against various diseases

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said Caribbean nationals were among more than 70 million people vaccinated against a variety of dangerous preventable diseases last month.

PAHO said the initiative was part of activities marking the 16th annual “Vaccination Week” in the Americas from April 21-28. It was aimed at promoting the vital role of vaccination in saving lives.

PAHO said the theme for the campaign was “Strengthen your defense! #GetVax #VaccinesWork”. It was chosen in honor of the 2018 soccer World Cup this summer in Russia.

PAHO said it also “seeks to encourage the population in general, and particularly those planning a trip abroad, to get vaccinated in order to strengthen their immune systems and avoid disease.”

## IMMUNIZATION

As part of the Vaccination Week in the Americas celebrations, PAHO said 11 countries announced their intention to strengthen measles immunization through the vaccination of six million people.

PAHO said the endemic



PAHO's focus is on prevention.

measles virus was eliminated in the Americas, but continues to circulate in other parts of the world.

“Vaccination Week is a great opportunity to unite efforts in protecting the health of the population,” said Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, PAHO's Dominican-born director.

As part of the “Vaccination Week” campaign, PAHO said 14 countries were scheduled to be vaccinated against influenza, 16 against polio, 13 against the human papilloma virus (HPV), and five will against yellow fever. Sixteen countries also planned a series of other public health actions, such as the distribution of Vitamin A and deworming initiatives, in addition to vaccinating, PAHO said.

- Edited from CMC.



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## SPORTS

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## BATON BLITZ: Caribbean high schools shine again at 2018 Penn Relays

GORDON WILLIAMS

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - Schools once again elevated the Caribbean's brand, while the region's senior national teams flattered early then fizzled at the 124th staging of the prestigious Penn Relays meet at Franklin Field here last month.

Jamaican student athletes led the Caribbean charge over three days - April 26-28 - gobbling up numerous Championship of America (CoA) titles on the track and in field events, once again bolstering the region's claim to a deep pool of young talent.

Meanwhile, the seniors from the Caribbean mustered a single win in the challenge series against the United States. Jamaica struck first, winning the "USA v. World" 4x100 meters for women with Gayon Evans, Kerron Stewart, Schillone Calvert-Powell and Jura Levy. The team held off a strong challenge from USA Red and USA Blue to win in 43.14 sec-



Taylor was among the meet's top performers.

onds.

But for the large and loud flag-waving Caribbean contingent in the crowd, that was the last international team victory they could claim on the meet's final day, as the U.S. dominated the series, winning the remaining five challenge races.

The bulk of the region's glory was earned by its youth-

ful competitors, mainly high school and college athletes, led by Calabar High of Jamaica. Calabar shattered the high school boys (HSB) 4x800 "Penns" record, clocking seven minutes, 26.09 seconds to win the CoA title. Jamaica's St. Elizabeth Technical High finished second in 7:27.54, also beating the old mark of 7:30.67 set in 2009. Jamaica College was third.

Calabar returned to smash another meet record in the 4x400 meters CoA, clocking 3:03.79, eclipsing the former standard of 3:08.59 the school set last year. Petersfield High was second with Kingston College third. The top six places were occupied by Jamaican schools.

In between, Calabar (39.51) also won the 4x100, beating arch rival Kingston College (40.13) into second, with Jamaica College (40.47) third. The HSB 4x100 CoA featured all but one team from the Caribbean.

Christopher Taylor, who was a member of Calabar's winning 4x100 and 4x400 teams, was named HSB Athlete of the Meet for Relay Events.

## GIRLS TIME

Caribbean females were not to be outdone. In the high



Pinnock broke the long jump record.

school girls (HSG) 4x100, Jamaica took the first three spots, with Edwin Allen (44.79), Holmwood Tech (45.05) and Hydel (45.38) dominating. Only two of the nine finalists in the CoA were not from the Caribbean.

In the HSG 4x400, Hydel won in 3:36.38, leading home Holmwood (3:38.14).

Holmwood romped to victory in the HSG 4x800 CoA, clocking 8:48.33. But Holmwood had to settle for second in the 4x100 for HSG, beaten by Edwin Allen. Hydel, finished third.

However, Hydel had its turn on the winner's podium, beating Holmwood into second in the HSG 4x400 CoA. The team was timed in 3:36.38.

Caribbean athletes also excelled in field events. Edwin

Allen took the top two places in the HSG triple jump, with Lotavia Brown winning, followed by teammate Ackelia Smith. Holmwood's Keneva Headley was third.

Jamaican girls also snapped up the top three spots in the HSG high jump. Janique Burgher of Edwin Allen won. Second went to Lamara Distin of Vere Technical, with Excelsior High's Shantae Foreman third.

Tissanna Hickling, of Jamaica's G.C. Foster College, won the college women's long jump. Countrywoman Shanice Love, representing Florida State University, won the college women's discus championship. University of the West Indies' (UWI) Isheka Binns was second.

## BOYS

Caribbean HSB took the top three places in the discus. Kia Chang of Calabar won with 64.79 meters. Second was Roje Stone of St. Jago, with Phillipe Barnett of Excelsior third. St. Jago's Lushane Wilson cleared the bar at 2.16 meters to take the HSB high jump championship.

Rasheeda Downer of Kingston College won the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

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## Windies batting star Shai Hope among Wisden's 2017 'Cricketers-of-the-Year'

LONDON, England - West Indies batting star Shai Hope has been named by prestigious Wisden as one of its five "Cricketers-of-the-Year".

The 24-year-old Barbadian was joined by England Women's World Cup-winning trio of Heather Knight, Anya Shrubsole and Nat Sciver, along with Essex fast bowler Jamie Porter.

Hope enjoyed a breakthrough year in international cricket last year, scoring cen-



Hope

turies in both innings of the second Test against England as West Indies famously beat the hosts by five wickets after chasing 322 runs on the final day at Leeds.

"Shai Hope produced one of the individual performances of the year," said Almanack Editor Lawrence Booth.

"After West Indies had been thrashed in the first Test at Edgbaston, Hope made 147 and 118 not out to inspire them to a famous win in the second at Headingley.

"He was the first player in 534 first-class matches to score two hundreds in a game there, instantly making him the West

Indian wicket all opposition attacks craved most."

## FIRST

He was also the first player in 127 years of first class cricket at Headingley to achieve the feat.

Until that Test, the right-handed Hope had made one half-century in 21 innings and was averaging just 18 runs per inning overall.

He finished the series with 375 runs at an average of 75 and has lifted his career average to 33 runs per inning from 17 Tests. Hope is the first West Indies player since Marlon Samuels in 2013 to be named to the honor roll.

Meanwhile, India captain Virat Kohli was named Wisden's "Leading Cricketer-in-the-World". His compatriot Mithali Raj was chosen the "Leading Women's Cricketer-in-the-World". Pakistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan was adjudged "Leading Twenty20 Cricketer-in-the-World".

- Edited from CMC.



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Peter A. Webber,  
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## GOLDMINE: Caribbean earns rich Commonwealth Games medal haul

The Caribbean secured an impressive medal haul at the 2018 Commonwealth Games held in Australia last month.

The region claimed 42 medals, including 15 gold, 14 silver and 13 bronze. Jamaica led the charge with 27, including seven gold, nine silver and 11 bronze.

Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas, Grenada, Bermuda, Guyana, British Virgin Islands (BVI) and St. Lucia also won at least one gold medal, while five Caribbean nations claimed multiple medals.

Bermuda's Flora Duffy won gold in the triathlon, which includes swimming, bike riding and running. But it was in track and field where the Caribbean made its biggest impression. T&T's Michelle-Lee Ahye captured gold in the women's 100 meters, clocking 11.14 seconds in the final. Christania Williams clinched silver, while her Jamaican teammate Gayon Evans took bronze.

In the men's 100 meters, Yohan Blake of Jamaica finished third.



Ahye wins ahead of Williams.

### SWEEP

Caribbean women swept the triple jump, with Jamaica's Kimberley Williams repeating as champion with a personal best leap of 14.64 meters. Teammate Shanicka Ricketts was second and

Dominica's Thea LaFond third.

In the men's triple jump, Guyana's Troy Doris won gold. Dominica's Yordanys Duranona Garcia was second.

The Caribbean also took the top two places in the men's 110 meters hurdles. Jamaica's Ronald Levy won gold in 13.19 seconds, edging compatriot Hansle Parchment by 0.03 seconds.

onds.

In the women's 100 meters hurdles, Danielle Williams of Jamaica earned silver, with teammate Yanique Thompson



Victor went decathlon gold.

third.

Grenada's Lindon Victor proved he was the best all round male athlete at the meet, winning gold in the 10-event decathlon, amassing 8,303 points.

### CONTROVERSY

The Caribbean found itself in the midst of one of the meet's biggest controversies. Zharnel Hughes, who is from Anguilla but competes for England, finished first in the

men's 200 meters final.

However, Hughes was disqualified after it was ruled he obstructed T&T's Jereem Richards. Richards was awarded the gold medal. Both sprinters clocked 20.12 seconds.

In the women's 200 meters, Shaunae Miller-Uibo of The Bahamas broke the 16-year-old meet record to win in 22.09 ahead of Jamaica's Shericka Jackson.

Caribbean athletes won gold in both men's and women's 400 meters hurdles. Jamaica's Janieve Russell was victorious for the women, while Kyron McMaster of BVI snatched the men's title.

Russell clocked 54.33 seconds. McMaster was timed at 48.25 to win ahead of The Bahamas's Jeffery Gibson and Jamaica's Jaheel Hyde bronze.

### HISTORIC

Aisha Praught won the women's 3,000 meters steeplechase, clocking nine minutes, 21 seconds. Fellow Jamaicans Anastasia Le-Roy and Stephenie McPherson were runners-up in the women's 400 meters. Le-Roy captured silver, while McPherson took bronze.

Le-Roy and McPherson later teamed up with Russell

and Christine Day to win gold for Jamaica in the 4x400 meters relay. The Bahamas's men won silver in the same event, followed by Jamaica. Jamaica also won silver in the women's 4x100. Its men's team finished third.

In the men's 400, Jamaica's Javon Francis earned bronze. His teammate Natoya Goule finished third in the women's 800 meters.

St. Lucia's Lavern Spencer won gold in the women's high jump. In the men's event, Jamal Wilson of The Bahamas earned silver.

Jamaica's Danniell Thomas-Dodd won the women's shot put. Her compatriot Fedrick Dacres earned gold in the men's discus with teammate Traves Smikle second.

In swimming, Dylan Carter won silver in the men's 50 meters butterfly for T&T. So too did Jamaica's Alia Atkinson in the women's 50 meters breaststroke.

Anderson Peters of Grenada earned bronze in the men's javelin, while Jamaica's women also picked up bronze in netball.



## Safety worry force Caribbean out of girls soccer tourney

Soccer teams from three Caribbean nations were forced to abandon the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Women's Under-17 Championship last month after the tournament was cancelled due to safety concerns in the host nation Nicaragua.

Bermuda, Haiti and Puerto Rico returned home after CONCACAF announced the tournament's cancellation due to force majeure of the remainder of the championship.

All three Caribbean nations had started play in the tournament, with Haiti registering wins over Puerto Rico (4-1) and Nicaragua (2-0) in Group A. Puerto also lost to

Mexico 8-0. Bermuda lost its only game in Group B 3-0 to Canada. Defending champion the United States and Costa Rica were the other Group B teams.

According to a press release from CONCACAF, the organization "determined that to guarantee the safety of the delegations, and all participants and fans", the event would be scrapped immediately.

Up to press time it was not clear what CONCACAF would do regarding the championship, which should have served as the qualifying process for confederation teams for the 2018 FIFA Women's World Under-17 Cup in Uruguay.



## BATON BLITZ: Caribbean high schools...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

HSB shot put with 19.27 meters. Downer's teammate Wayne Pinnock broke the long jump record with a leap of 7.88 meters, which topped the old mark of 7.69 set in 1994 by Calabar's Maurice Wignall. Pinnock's performance earned him HSB Athlete of the Meet for Individual Events. In the HSB triple jump, Owayne Owens of Cornwall College in Jamaica won, with Jamaica College's Safin Willis second.

Meanwhile, several colleges from the Caribbean earned respect by finishing in the top three in team and individual events throughout the meet. Many U.S. college teams also featured athletes from the Caribbean. Among them was Jamaican-born Shannon Kalawan of St. Augustine's, who won the college women's 400 meters hurdles in 57.30. Second was Candice McLeod of UWI.



## CHAMPION GIRL



Florida-based Briana Williams was the star of this year's CARIFTA Games. The meet, which showcases the best young track and field talent in the Caribbean, was held in The Bahamas. Williams, representing Jamaica, was brilliant. She won gold in the Under-17 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 meters relay and was named Austin Sealy Award winner, symbol of the meet's most outstanding athlete. Jamaica earned 82 medals to top the table.

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Cabinet re-shuffle installs five new Haitian ministers

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – Haiti last month re-shuffled its Cabinet, with Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant naming five new ministers.

Among the new appointees is Guyler C. Delva, a prominent Haitian journalist, who has been named minister of culture and communication. Delva, who writes for regional and international media outlets, replaces Limond Toussaint.



Delva

The other new appointees are Jean-Marie Reynaldo Brunet, minister of the interior and territorial communities; and Jean Roody Aly, minister of justice and public security. Joubert C. Angrand is minister of agriculture, natural resources and development, replacing Carmel André Belliard. Guy André Junior François is now the minister of Haitians living abroad. He replaces

Stéphanie Auguste.

The Cabinet re-shuffle came amid reports that the majority members of President Jovenel Moise's party in Parliament had given the head of state an ultimatum to make changes. Political observers said that it is the first time since Moise came to office on Feb. 7, 2016 that the majority of his own party had given him a 72-hour ultimatum to change several ministers.

The disgruntled legislators said they had held talks with Moise about the re-shuffle and had expressed disappointment at the slow pace of implementing measures agreed on. The legislators argue that the government is not working in the interest of Haitians.

- Edited from CMC.



## MOISE ON THE MOVE



Haiti's President Jovenel Moise visited South Florida last month seeking to update the diaspora on the French-speaking Caribbean nation's progress since he was elected to office more than a year ago.

Moise, who was accompanied to the event at Miramar Cultural Center in Miramar by his wife Martine Moise and several members of his government, addressed an audience which included several local officials, such as the host city's Caribbean American Mayor Wayne Messam.

The event included a presentation of a video titled "Yon Lane Pouvwa, Yon Lane Travay", which is translated to mean "One Year in Power, One Year of Work". Moise touted his government's accomplishments, especially improvements in areas such as health, education and infrastructure. He also emphasized the importance of the diaspora's contribution to Haiti's development.

## Top U.S. official meets Haiti's president

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Department of State says acting Secretary of State John J. Sullivan met with Haitian President Jovenel Moise last month, on the margins of the Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru.

The State Department said Sullivan and Moise on April 13 discussed security and economic growth in Haiti, "as well as democracy in the region."

"Acting Secretary Sullivan thanked President Moise for his leadership as Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and urged consensus within the organization to promote and defend democracy," the statement read.

It stated that both men also discussed the importance

of continued support for the Haitian National Police.

"The two leaders agreed that Haiti and its partners should increase efforts to improve the investment climate in Haiti to create jobs for Haitians and increase economic prosperity," the State Department noted.

### CANCELLATION

In February, Sullivan abruptly cancelled a planned trip to Haiti. At the time, he was expected to hold talks with CARICOM leaders during



Sullivan

their three-day inter-session summit in the French-speaking Caribbean country.

The State Department had said then that Sullivan would "focus discussions on issues of mutual interest to the United States and the Caribbean, including energy diversification, regional security and economic development."

Sullivan's proposed visit would have come as U.S. lawmakers, Haitians and other Caribbean nationals in the U.S. had expressed profound outrage over American President Donald J. Trump's alleged disparaging remarks about Haitians and Africans.

- Edited from CMC.



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### FLORIDA LOTTERY CELEBRATES LATEST MILESTONE OF \$33 BILLION IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION OVER 30 YEARS

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Lottery announced today it has reached the \$33 billion mark in total contributions to the state's Educational Enhancement Trust Fund over the past 30 years. Since the Lottery's inception, Florida's public schools have received more than \$11.6 billion, colleges and universities have received a combined total of more than \$8.4 billion, and more than \$5 billion has been used to fund the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, sending over 775,000 students to college since 1997.

Governor Rick Scott said, "Today's news that the Lottery has reached \$33 billion in total contributions to education means that more Florida students will have the opportunity to get a great education in our state. The success of the Florida Lottery has a direct connection to the continued success of Florida's scholarship programs and world-class education system. Just this month, U.S. News & World Report again ranked Florida as the best state in the nation for higher education and this latest milestone achievement will help us continue the important work of making sure that every student has access to a great education in Florida." "As the Lottery celebrates its 30 years in operation, we are especially proud of this milestone moment in education funding," said Secretary Jim Poppell.

"We are thankful to Governor Scott for his leadership, our loyal players, hardworking retailers and dedicated employees who allow us to help Florida students achieve their dreams of a brighter future."

The Lottery has established itself as a committed and dependable funding source for public education; contributing more than \$1 billion annually for the past sixteen consecutive years, while remaining one of the most efficiently operated lotteries in the country. The benefits continue to be felt in communities across the state.

#### ABOUT THE FLORIDA LOTTERY

The Florida Lottery is responsible for contributing more than \$33 billion to education and sending more than 775,000 students to college through the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The Florida Lottery reinvests 98 percent of its revenue back into Florida's economy through prize payouts, commissions to more than 13,000 Florida retailers and contributions to education. Since 1988, Florida Lottery games have paid more than \$56.3 billion in prizes and made more than 2,000 people millionaires. For more information, please visit [www.flalottery.com](http://www.flalottery.com)

CONTACT: LOTTERY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE  
(850) 487-7727



## Hotel worker gets training, experience in Barbados

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – A hospitality professional from Haiti has learned new skills for the job following a two week training program courtesy of Caribbean co-operation.

Melicienne Drouillard, a long-serving member of the housekeeping team at Le Plaza Hotel in Haiti, recently benefited from a free internship at the Sandpiper boutique resort in Barbados.

When Drouillard landed in Bridgetown she received a warm welcome.

"They treated me as if I was a princess from the moment I arrived to the time I left," said Drouillard.

Training was offered by the resort's Rooms Division Manager Henderson Wallace and Yvette Clarke, head housekeeper. Drouillard learned about product safety and was impressed with The Sandpiper's approach to ensure visitors feel welcome.

"Madame Yvette was so kind to show me around the island - in fact, everyone in Barbados was so welcoming,"

said Drouillard.

She was hosted on tours of Southern Palms, Courtyard by Marriott and Ocean Two hotels.

"This really was an eye-opener to see different styles of housekeeping in action," Drouillard said.

She put herself through several Haitian housekeeping courses and gained a diploma from the Hotel School of Haiti.

- Contributed





~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## 'LITTLE HAITI': Legislator wants special N.Y. district

NEW YORK – A Haitian American legislator is pushing for a special Haitian district in Brooklyn, New York to be dubbed "Little Haiti".

"Little Haiti is much more than a project," New York State Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, Bichotte told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** last month.

"It is the recognition of the value of a people who have historically been great contributors to this country.

"The revolutionary efforts of Jean Jacques Dessalines not only led to Haiti's Independence, but also led to the expansion of U.S. territory in what we know now as the Louisiana Purchase.

"The concentration of Haitians in Flatbush, Brooklyn is amongst the highest outside of the country of Haiti, if not the highest. This will be an economic boon for the community as well," said

Bichotte, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn.

### 'BENEFITS'

Bichotte, the first Haitian American from New York City to be elected to the New York State Assembly, said there are "plenty of benefits" to establishing Little Haiti in Flatbush, "especially during a time where the president of the United States, Donald Trump, uses his platform to blatantly disrespect Haitians and other African associated nations.

"He has removed TPS (Temporary Protected Status) for Haitians," she said, adding "this a great way for the New York City to show the world and the nation that Haitians add a cultural, educational



Bichotte

and economic significance to this country that cannot be ignored."

A non-profit group in Brooklyn, Little Haiti BK, which is working with Bichotte for the special designation, said it would be "a recognition of the cultural role that Haitians have played in the city and the country, and a sign that the area's Haitian community is coming-of-age."

The group explained, in a letter to members of New York City Council, that the designation would also "foster a strong sense of belonging, security, and pride among residents, businesses, non-profits and community groups in Flatbush."

According to the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, over 90,000 Haitian Americans reside in Brooklyn, the third highest concentration of Haitians in the U.S.



## Haiti has 'come a long way' on road to stability ~ U.N.

UNITED NATIONS – A senior United Nations official says the global body has started to prepare for a post-peacekeeping presence in Haiti, stressing there reasons to be optimistic the French-speaking Caribbean country's progress towards stability is now irreversible.

"While achieving results should remain our common priority, we have already started to prepare for a transition to a non-peacekeeping presence, based on lessons learned in Haiti and in other contexts," Jean-Pierre Lacroix, under-secretary-general for peacekeeping operations, told the U.N.'s Security Council recently.

Lacroix said that, in the coming months, his office will provide progress assessments to allow the 15-member body to take "well-informed decisions for the drawdown and eventual withdrawal of the UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)."

### ASSISTANCE

Established in Oct. 2017, the U.N. said MINUJUSTH replaced the U.N. Stabilization Mission, which operated in Haiti for 13 years. Much smaller than its



Lacroix

predecessor, which had more than 4,000 military and police personnel, MINUJUSTH assists Haiti to further develop national police, strengthen rule of law institutions, and promote and protect human

rights, the UN said.

While the Security Council is expected to renew MINUJUSTH, whose initial mandate was due to expire on April 15, Lacroix said the U.N. is determined to ensure it be the last peacekeeping operation deployed to Haiti.

In March, the U.N. released a strategic assessment of MINUJUSTH, including 11 benchmarks for a smooth transition to a non-peacekeeping presence by the last quarter of 2019.

"Haiti has come a long way to achieve the relative political and security stability it is now enjoying, but persistent economic uncertainties, which can result in social exclusion, particularly of youth and the most vulnerable, may undermine this progress," Lacroix said.

- Edited from CMC.



## 'Matriarch' rules art exhibition at Haitian Heritage Museum

Works by Haitian American artists Tracey Guiteau and Moise Dorcelin will be on display throughout May at the Haitian Heritage Museum in South Florida.

The exhibition, entitled "Matriarch", presents an artistic exploration into the contemporary spectrum of the attributes of matriarchs. It is part of the museum's celebration of Haitian Heritage Month and Miami Museum Month.

The opening of the exhibition is scheduled for **6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. May 5**. The museum is located at 4141 N.E. Second Ave. in the Miami Design District. To make a reservation attend, visit <https://thehaitianheritagemuseum.eventbrite.com>.

The following events will also take place this month at the museum:

**May 15, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** - Book signing with



The strength of women on display.

"Kreyolios: Haitian History 101".

**May 24, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** - "Arts IT (Arts Innovation Talk) with Genji Jacques & Friends"; and "How to get into the Entertainment Industry".

The Haitian Heritage Museum was founded in 2004 to commemorate Haiti's Bicentennial. It is an organization conceived to highlight and preserve Haiti's culture and heritage globally.

"Our goal is to provide a cultural Mecca for Little Haiti

where individuals outside of our community and within our community boundaries can come to enjoy beautiful Haitian art, historic artifacts, ethnic sounds of Haitian music, view Haitian films and enjoy a collection of Haitian literary works", a press release from the museum stated.



## PAHO launches campaign to rid kids of diphtheria

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has launched a campaign to vaccinate more than two million children in Haiti against diphtheria, a bacterial infection that causes throat inflammation and difficulty breathing. In severe cases it can lead to death.

PAHO said the program, which will target children between ages one and 14, was launched in mid-March by

Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners.

In the first phase, PAHO said campaign activities are being focused on 27 communes in eight departments: Artibonite, Center, Nippes, Nord, Nord-Est, Nord-Ouest, Sud and Sud-Est.



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