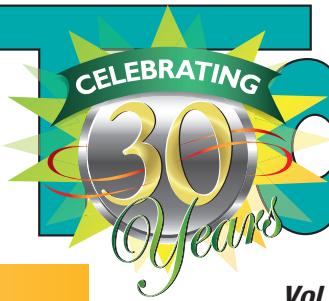


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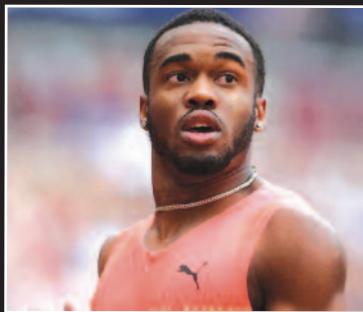
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With Usain Bolt retired, Caribbean track and field is eagerly awaiting the arrival of its next superstar. Jamaica's Akeem Bloomfield is looming large as one to watch in the future. For him, there are no limits, page 7.



Jamaican reggae/dancehall star Buju Banton had another showdown with law enforcement, after police raided his hotel room in Trinidad and Tobago. They found nothing illegal and Police Commissioner Gary Griffith later apologized, page 11.



GOOD, BAD, UGLY

~ Donald Trump's promises to "fix" America have not stopped Caribbean nationals in the United States from getting jittery over the prospects he could be re-elected president in 2020, despite a favorable economy in the country, page 3.

POWER AT 'PENNS'

Shillonie Calvert-Powell, left, helps Jamaica win the women's 4x100 meters in the "USA v. the World" series at the Penn Relays. The 125th staging of the meet again featured outstanding performances by Caribbean athletes, despite inconsistent weather over the three days in Philadelphia, page 2.



INSIDE

News2	Arts/Entertainment11	Sports.....	.16
FYI/Local6	Food13	Haitian Heritage Month17
Feature.....	.7	Health14		
Viewpoint9	Classifieds15		



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NEWS**BRILLIANT: Caribbean stars shine through gloomy Penn Relays****GORDON WILLIAMS**

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - Gloomy weather failed to put a damper on Caribbean brilliance at the annual Penn Relays here April 25-27.

With intermittent rain drenching chunks of the first two days at the 125th staging of the track and field meet, coupled with stoppages due to lightning and a threatening storm which forced spectators to evacuate their seats on the second day, the region's athletes brightened up Franklin Field stadium with outstanding performances.

Led by Jamaica's high schoolers and the nation's senior women, Caribbean athletes defied the inconsistent weather to carve out memorable moments.

"It would have been an outstanding Penn Relays," Michael Dyke, coach of Jamaica's Edwin Allen's girls team which won multiple events, told Caribbean Today.

"... (We are) shining in the sun."

When blue skies appeared on the final day, Caribbean athletes reveled in glory.



Holmwood's team, left, braved a storm to win the high school girls' 4x400.

Jamaica's women roared to victory in the "USA v the World" 4x100 meters relay. World and Olympic gold medalist Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce led Natasha Morrison, Sashalee Forbes and Shillonne Calvert to the win in 43.19 seconds. Jamaica's women returned to take the top two places in the 4x400. Jamaica Yellow, featuring Shericka Jackson, Janieve Russell, Christine Day and Stephenie McPherson, won in three min-

utes, 28.94 seconds. Jamaica also finished second to the United States in the women's sprint medley relay.

FUEL

The massive Caribbean segment of the crowd was given added fuel for celebration when six teams from Jamaica lined up for the high



Edwin Allen's winning 4x100 relay team.

school boys 4x100 championship. St. Jago won in 40.83 as Jamaican schools claimed the top four places.

Edwin Allen was the

Caribbean's most prolific high school, their girls winning multiple championships in individual and team events. Lashanna Graham snatched the 400 meters hurdles in 58.02 seconds on day one. Schoolmates Ackelia Smith and Lotavia Brown finished first and second in the triple jump. Smith's winning leap was 13.02 meters.

Adrienne Adams of Excelsior High won the girls' discus throw with 48.91 meters, leading Jamaican schools to the top four places. The high school girls' shot put was won by compatriot Danielle Solely of Immaculate Conception with 14.38 meters.

Edwin Allen's brilliance spilled over into the second day, winning the 4x100 in a new "Penns" record. Serena

Cole and Kevona Davis joined twins Tina and Tia Clayton to clock 43.62 as Jamaican schools swept the first six places.

In the high school girls 4x400, Holmwood Tech-nical's team of Danaille Brissett, Daniella Deer, Rickiann Russell and Kavia Francia romped to victory in 3:37.20, beating fellow Jamaicans Hydel and Spalding into second and third, respectively.

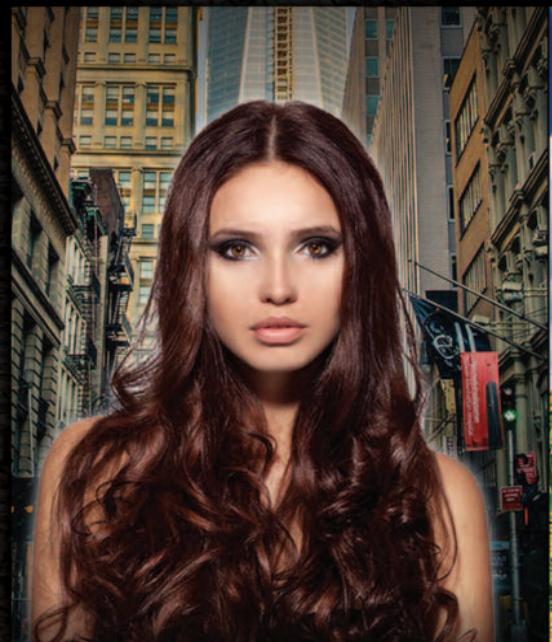
Edwin Allen also secured the 4x800 title, with Jessica McLean, Kayan Green, Nadine Rose and Rushana Dwyer clocking 8:54.02.

BOYS BRIGADE

Caribbean high school boys blossomed too. Calabar's Kai Chang of Jamaica won the discus with a throw of 66.42. Calabar also won the 4x400 and 4x800 championships. The team of Nile McLaymont, Romario Northover, Shevoir Reid and Evaldo Whitehorn clocked 3:12.66 in the shorter event to beat Jamaican rival Kingston College. In the 4x800, Devannah Gayle, Kevroy Venson, Rivaldo Marshall and Kimar Farquharson recorded 7:36.61.

Shaun Miller Jr., from the Queens College in The Bahamas, cleared 2.12 meters to take the high jump for high school boys, while. Petersfield's Courtney

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



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Caribbean nationals worry as Trump seeks second term

GORDON WILLIAMS

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - Caribbean nationals in the United States are getting jittery over the prospects that Donald Trump is less than two years away from a possible second term as president.

However, the uncertainty that has dogged immigrants in the U.S. overall during Trump's presidency could become an opportunity for them to shift into a more active political mode.

According to Irvine Clare, a Jamaican-born immigration advocate from New York, 27 months into Trump's tenure has been enough to cause worry in the Caribbean American community.

"Major concern," Clare said here while attending last month's Penn Relays, among the largest gatherings of Caribbean nationals in the U.S. each year.

"Concern because the

changes, especially immigration climate is not something that they believe will be beneficial to them."

Caribbean nationals here praised the positive economic trends that began under former President Barack Obama and continues with Trump. However, a myriad of Trump policies make them uneasy. They aren't pleased, for example, Trump called Haiti a "shit hole country" and the president's relentless attacks on undocumented immigrants.

"Every single thing he is advocating for in regards to (immigration) is going to affect us tremendously and therefore is a concern," explained Richard Campbell, a Jamaican American commissioner for Lauderhill, a South Florida city with a huge Caribbean community.

"(Undocumented) people are now going underground because of (Trump) openly pushing to go up against undocumented immigrants."

Caribbean nationals have also been offended by what they regard as the president's lying and divisive rhetoric concerning race, which they believe specifically target non-whites, which most Caribbean nationals are.

"Many Jamaicans and Caribbean nationals could find themselves in serious challenges," said Clare.

With U.S. unemployment at near record lows and business booming, it's not the economy, but other issues which make them rate Trump negatively. Instead of worrying, however, Caribbean nationals could fight back politically by seeking electoral representation which supports their beliefs or else can be held accountable.

"We (Caribbean nationals) still have this thing that politics is for other folks and we should not get involved," said Campbell, "but we should."



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Lawrence secured another victory for Jamaica, with a distance of 20.21 in the boys' high school shot put.

Jamaican Shannon

BRILLIANT: Caribbean stars shine through gloomy Penn Relays

Kalawan, competing for St. Augustine's University, won the college women's 400 meters hurdles in 57.37. Compatriot Shanice Love, representing Florida State, secured the college women's

discus title with a throw of 58.25.

Jamaican athletes also earned special honors at Penns. Whitehorse received the Bill Miller Memorial Award as the high school boys

Extradited Guyanese murder suspect arraigned in U.S.

NEW YORK – A Guyanese national, who escaped to his country after allegedly killing another man in the United States, was arraigned late last month in Queens Criminal Court in New York.

Troy Thomas, 33, who was charged with the shooting death of Keith Frank in Dec. 11, 2011 in the Richmond Hill section of Queens, was arraigned after he was extradited from Guyana. Thomas was indicted in 2012 by the Queens

District Attorney's Office.

"The defendant has been on the run for seven years, but, today, he is in our custody and will answer for the senseless killing of a 20-year-old man," John M. Ryan, chief assistant district attorney in Queens, told reporters after Thomas's arraignment on April 25.

Thomas, was arrested by Guyanese police in Mar. 2018.

- Edited from CMC.



Jamaican American gets life in prison for sexual assault, murder

NEW YORK – A judge here has sentenced a 22-year-old Jamaican American to life imprisonment without parole after he was found guilty of sexually assaulting and murdering a woman in Queens three years ago.

Queens Criminal Court Judge Michael Aloise sentenced

Chanel Lewis, whose parents are immigrants from Jamaica, for sexually assaulting and murdering Karina Vetrano near her home in the Howard Beach section of Queens in 2016.

- Edited from CMC.



Cover photograph of Jamaica's win in the women's 4x100 courtesy of Track Alerts.



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Reprise for Caribbean immigrants in N.Y. ~ 'No arrest in courthouses without warrant'



instilling fear in immigrant communities, preventing victims and survivors of abuse from getting the legal help they need to keep themselves and their families safe," said Terry Lawson, director of the Family and Immigration Unit at Bronx Legal Services, the Bronx office of Legal Services NYC.

"When people cannot access the judiciary, when they cannot pursue or defend their rights, when they must choose to stay home rather than seek access to justice, then a crucial branch of our functioning society is in peril, and it is up to all of us to protect it," he added. "We must safeguard our courts."

HAVOC

Mizue Aizeki, acting executive director of the Immigrant Defense Project, another New York-based non-profit organization, said the different perspectives offered in the report "highlight the havoc that ICE's practices are wreaking on the court system in New York State."

"Judges, public defenders, district attorneys, anti-violence advocates, elected officials and (CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Antiguan cops face larceny charges in U.S.

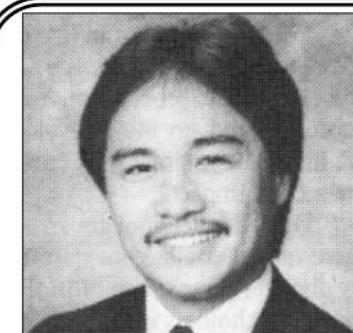
ST. JOHN'S, Antigua — Antigua and Barbuda police have confirmed that two of its members have been arrested in the United States for alleged larceny.

A statement from the Office of Strategic Communication (STRAT-COM) last month noted that the Office of the Commissioner of Police had received confirmation from U.S. law enforcement authori-

ties on April 23 regarding the arrest of the two constables.

According to the statement, the two constables, who were reportedly on holidays, were taken into custody between April 13 and 14 and local authorities are in contact with their U.S. counterparts on the matter.

Up to press time no date had been set for a court hearing, but reports indicated that the two constables had been



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'ANDREW HOLNESS DAY'



- Photograph by Derrick Scott

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness, left, accepts a proclamation issued by Brian Kemp, governor of Georgia, declaring April 20 "Andrew Holness Day" in Georgia, United States in recognition of his official visit to the state. The presentation of the proclamation was presented to the prime minister by Daryl Moody, economic development representative for Georgia, during the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce of Atlanta's Inaugural Awards last month in Atlanta.

BRIEFS

T&T national arrested in U.S. terror plot

A Trinidadian national was last month arrested by federal authorities in the United States for allegedly plotting to kill Americans using a truck. Rondell Henry was apprehended in Maryland.

U.S. moves to end 'Cuba's influence on Venezuela'

The United States Department of State says the administration of President Donald Trump has taken action to end "Cuba's influence on Venezuela."

"Today, the United States sanctioned four companies for operating in the oil sector of the Venezuelan economy and identified nine vessels as blocked property, pursuant to Executive Order 13850," the State Department noted in a statement issued on April 12.

Boat carrying Venezuelans sinks near T&T

The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard late last month reported that a boat carrying more than two dozen Venezuelans sank off the coast of the twin island Caribbean republic.

Up to press time at least 25 people were believed to be missing. The boat reportedly left Venezuela and encountered rough seas. Several passengers were taken from the sea alive, some who had drifted over 30 miles from where the boat sank.

The boat's passengers were believed to be fleeing Venezuela, which has been in a state of political unrest.

- Compiled from various sources.



Rerieve for Caribbean immigrants in N.Y.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

others have all repeatedly called on ICE to stop courthouse arrests," he said. "Yet ICE continues to refuse, instead escalating courthouse arrests and spreading its disruptive and harmful tactics throughout New York State."

New York State Attorney General Letitia James, a former New York City public advocate, also weighed in on the crisis.

"Safe and universal access to the court of law are key to a fair, democratic society and a basic requirement in the vindication of individual rights," she noted in a statement. "ICE's indiscriminate campaign of courthouse arrests puts all New Yorkers at risk and goes against everything we stand for."

The Immigrant Defense Project said last month that it has documented a 1,700 percent increase in ICE arrests and attempted arrests across New York State under the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

The Immigrant Defense Project said the new court rule came after a two-year community campaign by "The ICE Out of Courts Coalition" pushing for court rules and legislation to keep ICE from "laying in wait" for immigrant survivors of violence, witnesses, defendants and family members in and around courthouses across New York.

- Edited from CMC



U.S., Guyana working to deport convicted drug lord

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – The governments of Guyana and the United States are working to prepare for the release and deportation of convicted Guyanese drug lord Shaheed Roger Khan.

Khan, who is scheduled to be released from a U.S. prison in July, has been serving a 10-year sentence for narcotics trafficking and conspiracy.

"We are working very closely with the Guyanese authorities on making sure that the arrival is as smooth as possible and so the best thing we can do is continue to collaborate and share information and work together," said U.S.

Ambassador to Guyana Sarah-Ann Lynch during an interview on local radio last month.

PLEA

The convicted drug pusher, before his arrest in Suriname and extradition from Trinidad and Tobago, had admitted to leading a death squad enterprise in Guyana that is believed to be responsible for the murders of several persons and the execution of suspected criminals. He also admitted he offered security support to the then People's Progressive Party (PPP) civic government.

Khan was slapped with the prison sentence after he opted

to take a plea deal rather than face a trial. However, the terms of that plea deal are not known.

Khan recently filed a petition with a U.S. Court seeking an early release. Up to press time the matter had not been heard.

On his return to Guyana, it is likely that Khan could face a wide range of criminal charges.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean nations protest Venezuelan rep's OAS appointment

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Eight Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries have written to the chair of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) protesting the decision of the council to accept, by simple majority, the appointment of Gustavo Tarre as the new permanent representative of Venezuela to the hemispheric body.

In the April 22 joint letter, a copy of which has been obtained by the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)**, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, said they had also taken note that on April 10, Secretary General Luis Almagro accepted the credentials of Tarre as the permanent representative of Venezuela.

The Caribbean countries said they also "endorse" the position of Mexico on the situation.

Last month Tarre presented his credentials to Almagro, who had promised to work with him "to deepen the path

to democratization, peace and justice for Venezuela." Almagro also said the "voices in favor of democracy in the hemisphere" voted for the resolution that accepted Tarre's appointment.

SUPPORT

CARICOM, with 14 votes in the OAS, was divided on the issue. St. Lucia, Jamaica, Haiti and The Bahamas voted in favor of accepting Tarre "as the National Assembly's designated permanent representative, pending new elections and the appointment of a democratically elected government," in the South American country.

But Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, joined Venezuela in voting against the measure, while Barbados, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago abstained. Belize was the only CARICOM



Almagro

country absent when the vote was taken.

The OAS Permanent Council is chaired by the United States, which is at the forefront of efforts to remove Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who was sworn into office for a second consecutive term earlier this year, from power.

Washington wants him replaced by Juan Guaido, the Opposition leader, who has already declared himself interim president.

CARICOM adopted a united position on the Venezuelan matter and, in February, the regional leaders reiterated their position of noninterference in the internal affairs of Venezuela.

However, St. Lucia, The Bahamas, Haiti and Jamaica have supported the so-called Lima Group that is seeking Maduro's removal. This is the third occasion so far this year they have broken ranks within CARICOM on the Venezuelan issue.

- Edited from CMC.



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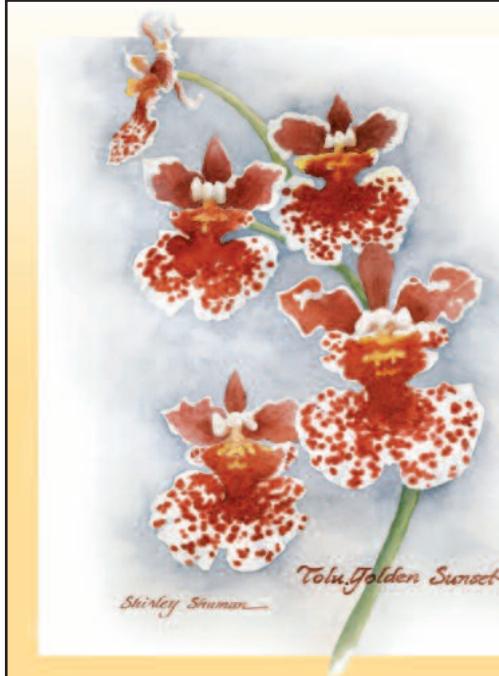
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FYI LOCAL**Consulate General of Jamaica in Miami moves to new location**

Effective May 1, the offices of the Consulate General of Jamaica in Miami, Florida will be relocated to The Courthouse Towers, 44 W. Flagler St., Suite 400.

Other contact information for the consulate will remain unchanged as follows:

Telephone: 305-374-8431; Fax: 305-577-4970; e-mail: contactus@jamaicacgmiami.org

rg; website: www.jamaicacgmiami.org.

The consulate's opening hours are **9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday.**

The consular, visa and passport sections are open to the public 9 a.m. to noon, Monday to Friday.

**'Building pathways' is theme of Jamaica diaspora confab**

The Jamaica Diaspora Conference, held every two years in the Caribbean nation to welcome contributions by nationals living abroad, including the United States, will this year be held under the theme "Jamaica and the Diaspora: Building Pathways for Sustainable Development".

That announcement was made recently by Professor Neville Ying, chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Conference Program and Content Subcommittee. He said the

theme of the conference is in keeping with Jamaica Vision 2030 goals and will also focus on people, partnership and prosperity.

Prof. Ying made the disclosure while giving an overview at the launch of the conference, which will take place at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston **June 16 to 20**.

"The theme of the conference is an invitation to Jamaica and its diaspora to work together for the world of the future," he said.

The purpose of the conference is to reignite and reenergize Jamaica's diaspora partnership, to support the country's quest for sustainable economic and social development, he added.

**Sir Alister McIntyre, influential Caribbean voice, dies**

Grenadian-born Sir Alister McIntyre, a former secretary general of the 15-member Caribbean community (CARICOM) grouping and University of the West Indies vice chancellor, has died.

He was 87.

Caribbean leaders praised McIntyre's influential role in the region's development. Grenada's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell, in a statement released after McIntyre's death, said Sir Alister's legacy is characterized by profound knowledge and unwavering commitment to regionalism.

"Grenada was his homeland and Jamaica was where he lived but much of his life was spent in service to the people of the region," Mitchell noted.

"He helped to mold the minds of many brilliant persons who have had the benefit of his teaching, some of whom have since earned acclaim in their respective countries and also at the regional level.



McIntyre

Later, as vice chancellor of UWI, he contributed to shaping the strategic direction of this noble regional institution."

PRAISE

Mitchell also praised Sir Alister's role in the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery, adding that the "early successes of that body in negotiations with the World Trade Organization and the European Union spoke volumes of the technical capacity of individuals like Sir Alister."

Mitchell said in addition

to his academic and international achievements, Sir Alister also left an imprint of his valuable contribution to the sport of cricket.

"During a period of crisis in our beloved sport, he was among distinguished persons given a mandate to examine the structure of West Indies cricket," he explained.

"Having had the opportunity to review that report, I was compelled to command the panel for coming up with recommendations which I believe provided a pathway to the improvements we so desperately sought to regain the supremacy that once came so effortlessly.

"In so many capacities, Sir Alister provided irrefutable proof that he was the epitome of a Caribbean man, one who was a genuine proponent of national and regional developments that sought to improve the stature of the Caribbean."

**Jamaica writing competition extends deadline**

The deadline for entries in the 2019 Jamaica Creative Writing Competition and Exhibition, in the writing areas of essay, novel, play, poetry and short story, has been extended to **May 10**.

The competition is run by the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport.

According to organizers, entries may fall under the National Water Commission's sponsored theme "Water is Life, do the right thing: Conserve Water and Save" for a chance to win special prizes. However, entrants may write on the topic of their choosing.

Former SVG minister dies

The competition is divided into three levels: junior, intermediate and adult.

To access entry forms, rules and competition guidelines, visit the JCDC website: www.jcdc.gov.jm.



John Horne, a former education and trade minister in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, died last month after a battle with prostate cancer and other complications. He was 76.

Horne, who was a member of the government of then Prime Minister Sir James Mitchell, represented the West Kingstown constituency from 1984-2001 before he was defeated by Rene Baptiste of the Unity Labour Party (ULP) that ended the National Democratic Party's (NDP) 17-year term in office.

NDP Vice President St.

Clair Leacock said Horne died at his home early April 22.

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Please note the office will be closed in observance of the legal holiday, Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2019.

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NO LIMITS: Bloomfield bides his time in race to track's top rung

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica - High in the grandstand of the National Stadium here, Akeem Bloomfield is near-giddy with euphoria.

It's the last Saturday in March and Kingston College, Bloomfield's former high school, is surging towards breaking a long losing streak at Jamaica's ISSA Boys and Girls Championships.

Each K.C. triumph on the track or in the field draws a fist pump, furious hand clapping or a primal scream. Bloomfield is so amped watching, it appears he could burst from the white T-shirt with his alma mater's name stylishly scrawled across the front.

He's a few years separated from his last "Champs" competition, when Bloomfield was among the main attractions at arguably the biggest high school meet in the world. Yet school camaraderie and the thrill of competition in front of a stadium of more than 30,000 raucous fans still gets him to occasionally catapult his huge frame from his seat.

"O.K., to be honest, watching my school at Champs is like

watching the Olympic Games," a calmer, smiling Bloomfield said during a break in the competition.

"Even when I was competing at Champs I never felt so excited as watching the guys from my school run. It's a wonderful feeling ... I'm just so happy that I took the time out to be here to see the guys pull it off."

BLOWN AWAY

Yet even as Bloomfield submerged himself in the boiling cauldron that is the Champs spirit, he knew it would soon be back to business. The first Jamaican to break 45 seconds in the 400 meters in high school and officially run under 44 seconds in the 400 and 20 seconds in the 200 meters is now a full fledged professional. He's no longer a student, not at K.C nor Auburn University, where he spent two years before departing last year. Now 21, Bloomfield is aiming to establish a legacy of his own at track's ultimate level.

So he headed back to the United States. Back to training. Back to work. There's plenty to do. While 2018 proved a breakout season, 2019 is even more



- Photograph by Gordon Williams
Bloomfield

crucial. The Jamaica national trials and, hopefully, the IAAF World Championships await Bloomfield.

Track is begging for new, extraordinary talent following the retirement of its global face Usain Bolt, Bloomfield's compatriot. Every time he approaches the grandstand here, looming statues of Bolt and other Jamaican greats, like Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Merlene Ottey and Donald Quarrie, remind him of the huge shoes to fill.

EXPECTATIONS

Observers share a curiosity about Bloomfield's future

reserved for a select few pegged for greatness.

"Going forward I see him as Jamaica's best prospect for the 400 meters because of his speed," explained Raymond "K.C." Graham, who was a coach at Kingston College when Bloomfield attended.

Bloomfield doesn't undersell himself. But he's cautious not to get tangled in the hype, which has strangled so many "potentially great" Jamaican school stars before.

"My first goal is to stay healthy," he said with some assurance. "I know that once I'm healthy amazing things are going to happen ... My goals are to make the (World Championship) team and make the final and then go from there."

With his unique combination of speed and size - his stride length gobble up ground in Bolt-like fashion - Bloomfield's "from there" could make for a magnificent revelation. However, injury is a major concern. Jamaicans at home remember Bloomfield's no-show for the 4x400 relay final at Champs. Sources told Caribbean Today he was cautioned not to run after breaking

the quarter mile record. Those in the U.S. recalled Bloomfield pulling up hurt at the Penn Relays weeks later. In his final year at Auburn, an assistant coach described how the school had carefully managed his competition to avoid breakdown.

"We had to make sure he was fit on the biggest days," the coach said at "Penns".

DOUBTERS

Last month, Bloomfield fueled the doubters by failing to finish the 200 at the Grenada Invitational. Outsiders are concerned he may be too fragile for big time stardom. Those closer seem sure any problems can be fixed.

"When I first met him he was like a baby giant," explained Neil Harrison, who coached Bloomfield at K.C. "Big, talented, but not strong. So he was susceptible to injury. But he's smart and knows what he wants and how to get it. He will get stronger and he will be very dangerous."

Pro should mean better management, resulting in a fitter, more durable Bloomfield.

Still, observers drool over what Bloomfield's "biggest

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Bahamian American judge finds 'rewarding' times in New York

NEW YORK – After sitting on a Civil Court bench in New York for almost five years, a Bahamian American jurist said she has found her experience "rewarding".

"I am grateful to be entrusted with the responsibility of making well-reasoned, thoughtful and fair decisions that impact the lives of the people who appear before me," said Judge J. Machelle Sweeting, the only African American woman jurist currently assigned to the New York County Family Court, told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC).

Judge Sweeting presides over cases involving intimate disputes about child custody, visitation, guardianship and domestic violence between family members. Many cases have a positive ending.

"One of the greatest rewards as a judge are the success stories from people who report that their interaction with the court was a transformative and positive experience that empowered them with information, about unforeseen options, and that gave them the courage to change direction and make better choices," she explained.

"As a judge, I have the unique opportunity to unleash someone's potential."



Sweeting

ROOTS

Sweeting, who received her legal training at Rutgers University School of Law in Newark, New Jersey, said although she was born in Harlem, New York, she frequently visits The Bahamas, where her late father, William Sweeting was born. Her mother Mary is from Harlem. Yet she has her own route planned.

"I remain committed to being a positive role model and to inspiring others in my neighborhood to pursue a career in law," said Judge Sweeting.

"... Thus, I continue to reside in the beloved Village of Harlem, which is where I grew up. I also visit The Bahamas to remind Caribbean

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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'WE'RE SORRY': British apologize - again - to Caribbean's 'Windrush' generation

LONDON, England – The British government was forced to issue yet another apology to the so-called "Windrush" generation after it was discovered that more than 500 private e-mail addresses were mistakenly shared with recipients of a mailing list for a compensation scheme announced by London recently.

The Windrush generation are the estimated half a million people, who between 1948 and 1970 moved from the Caribbean to Britain, which in 1948 faced severe labor short-

ages in the wake of the Second World War.

The British government agreed to pay up to £200 million (one British pound = US\$1.30 cents) in compensation to people whose lives were damaged by the Home Office's mistaken classification of them as illegal immigrants.

In a statement, Immigration Minister Caroline Nokes explained that an e-mail sent to people



Caribbean nationals who went to England on the ship were called the "Windrush" generation.

and organizations who had

registered an interest in the compensation scheme included details of other recipients' e-mail addresses, which amounted to a breach of data protection requirements.

REGRET

"Regrettably, in promoting the scheme via e-mail to interested parties, an administrative error was made, which has meant data protection requirements have not been met, for which the Home Office apologizes unreservedly," Nokes stated.

"This occurred in e-mails sent to some of the individuals and organizations who had registered an interest in being kept informed about the launch of the compensation scheme, which included other recipients' e-mail addresses. Five batches of e-mails, each with 100 recipients, were affected. No other personal data was included."

"A recall was commenced as soon as the problem had been identified."

- Edited from CMC.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)
nationals that the opportunities are endless."

Before Sweeting, there had never been an African American women jurist assigned to the New York County Family Court since Judge Jane Bolin in 1939. Bolin served for 40 years.

START

Like Bolin, Sweeting began her career as an assistant corporation counsel in the New York City Law Department as a founding attorney of the Special Federal Litigation Unit. Recently, Sweeting said, she had "the esteemed privilege" to speak at Yale Law School

in New Haven, Connecticut in celebration of the life and legacy of Bolin.

The 10th Municipal Court District in Harlem, was "specifically created in 1939 to provide a pathway for talented legal professionals to become judges," Sweeting said. Prior to that, she said the possibility of black lawyers becoming judges in New York had been "nearly impossible."

CHALLENGE

In New York County Family Court, Sweeting said she has continuously served as an active member of the court's strategic planning committee that is charged with the responsibility of developing ways to improve court opera-

tions and facilities to promote access to justice in the court system. She said initiatives that have been implemented include allowing litigants to file cases electronically and to have scheduled case "appointments" rather than being subject to long wait times in court.

Sweeting said to ensure the timely disposition of cases, she has been appointed to preside over a newly-created "trial part" and a "remote access part," which allow litigants to appear before her by video, from a secure location, when appearing in person poses a harm or undue hardship.

OPPORTUNITY

Nicknamed "Sweet

Justice", Sweeting said she loves being a judge. In addition to her work in the U.S., Sweeting said she studied law in The Bahamas, the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe and Botswana. She has also been admitted to practice law in state and federal courts in New York, The Bahamas; Washington, D.C. and the Second Circuit of Virginia.

Prior to being elected a judge, she served as an assistant district attorney, assistant corporation counsel, law clerk to a Supreme Court judge, administrative law judge and an adjunct law professor.

"As a Caribbean American woman, the lens by which I see cases are broadened to include the collateral

NO LIMITS: Bloomfield bides his time in race to track's top rung

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

days" could look like. His ability to sprint at his size - 6' 4" - was obvious at school in Jamaica, where he once anchored K.C.'s formidable 4x100 meters team. It draws inevitable comparisons with Bolt, another tall man who wasn't immediately tabbed as "fast" yet became the best sprinter of all. That's one reason, despite his immense promise in the 400, Bloomfield is eyeing the 200 as well. The final decision, he said late March, was still being calculated.

"I'm doing both the 200 and the 400," he explained. "The 400 for strength, 200 for speed and then I decide where I go from there, in terms of which I will be going to the (national) trials for."

The trials will decide who represents Jamaica at this year's IAAF World Championships. If Bloomfield survives, Doha will be his first major senior international test for Jamaica. It's a stage where reputations can take off ... or crash.

TRADITION

Despite the favorable projections, Bloomfield isn't about to compare himself to multiple time Olympic and World Championship gold medalist

Bolt. Not now, he said. Never.

"I don't think anyone can ever surpass Usain Bolt and I don't think he should be compared with mere mortals like me," Bloomfield told reporters after knocking off a quality 200 meters field in London last year to establish a new personal best. "If I accomplish even half of what he did it would be an amazing achievement."

Yet he isn't backing from the challenge.

"Whatever event I compete in, I shall be giving my best and I do think I have the potential to be among world beaters as anybody else," said Bloomfield. "... Once I'm healthy big things are going to happen."

No matter which route he chooses - 200, 400 or both - Bloomfield is certain to encounter fierce competition, starting at trials. Jamaica is still blessed with immense talent in both events, despite Bolt's

retirement in 2017. Bloomfield is certainly faster than the 10.42 seconds he clocked as a high schooler in 2014, which the track's governing body IAAF lists as his personal best in the 100. More accurate readings on his potential show in the 19.81 for the 200 meters run last July and the 43.94 in the 400 meters the month before.

Harrison believes Bloomfield could elevate to rarified status.

"He can easily become a sub-10 seconds (100), sub-20 (200) and low 43 (400)," said the coach. "That's his potential."

HEIR

Track is not yet ready, for example, to anoint Bloomfield heir apparent to Wayde Van Niekerk, who stunned everyone with a 43.03 world record in the 400 at the 2016 Olympics. The South African has clocked 9.94 in the 100 and 19.84 in the 200, which earned him second place at the 2017 World Championships.

Bloomfield's former college 400 rivals, Americans Michael Norman and Fred Kerley, are also threats. Last month, Norman, 21, ran 43.45, the fourth fastest ever 400. Kerley's best is 43.70.

Challengers also loom closer to home. Several Jamaicans, like Nathon Allen, a former Auburn teammate with a personal best 44.19, have no intention of meekly surrendering a national 400 crown to Bloomfield. Meanwhile, Steven Gardiner of The Bahamas, for example, has run 19.75 in the half lap and

43.87 in the quarter mile, an event in which he picked up silver at the 2017 World Championships behind Van Niekerk. Grenada's Kirani James has won 400 gold at both Olympics and World Championships.

As he rises, Bloomfield shouldn't expect any of those stars to fade from the world stage anytime soon. Van Niekerk and James are 26. So too is Rusheen McDonald, Jamaica's 400 national record holder with 43.93. Gardiner and Allen are 23.

Time, a great Jamaican once sang, alone will tell. K.C. broke a seven-year Champs drought. Bloomfield, too, is bidding his run to the top. He, and track fans, are anxious to see what's next. They once told another tall, big striding Jamaican that sprinting would never be his thing. Until he owned it.

"I think with potential, good training that anything is possible," said Bloomfield, who opened 2019 with a brisk 20.24 in the 200 at a Florida meet in Florida.

"It's just for us to not think limits ... It's just to wait and see what happens."

consequences and its impact on immigration, housing, families, employment and education," said Sweeting.

"As a judge, I am able to mete out justice, with a passion for law and compassion for people."

- Edited from CMC.

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Trump spreads U.S. divide and rule virus to Caribbean

Let's face it: Donald Trump is the most xenophobic United States president of our lifetime.

If you don't agree, just look at the anti-immigrant venom he has spewed since launching his campaign, his immigration policy changes since winning the office and the thousands of immigrants he has deported since and of course the rise in hate globally by white supremacists who feel emboldened by his election and rhetoric.

In the Caribbean diaspora in the U.S., according to News Americas analysis, some 12,517

Caribbean immigrants were deported between fiscal years 2017 and 2018. The majority have been sent back to four Caribbean nations – The Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Cuba.

Yet, the leaders of three of those four nations choose to meet with Trump at his private resort at Mara-Lago, Palm Beach, Florida on Mar. 22 and were effusive in their praise.

It is not sure what their agenda coming in was or how much silver they hope to sell their souls for. But from the Trump and U.S. standpoint, the meeting with the hand-picked five Caribbean leaders – Prime Minister of St. Lucia Allen Michael Chastanet; Prime Minister of The Bahamas Hubert A. Minnis; Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness; President of the Dominican Republic Danilo Medina Sánchez; and President of Haiti Jovenel Moïse – was largely all about boosting coalition support in the Americas against the current Venezuelan leadership.

WHY?

Of course, it was promoted under the guise of a discussion on "trade, energy and security issues." But if the Trump administration has suddenly woken up two years into its rule to the "importance" of the Caribbean, why was the entire Caribbean community (CARICOM) leadership not invited to a formal meeting at the White House?

Why was this meeting extended only to four of the five invited Caribbean states that voted in January in favor of a U.S.-backed resolution at the Organization of American States (OAS) to not recognize the elected Venezuelan government of President Nicolas Maduro?



FELICIA J.
PERSAUD

St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris is the current chair of CARICOM, but was not invited to the meeting. Why?

Simple. In Trump's vacuous mind, if you are not in favor of him and his self-serving policies you are against him.

This is much the same way he uses the old divide and rule tactic to slam those who criticize him, including the media, as "enemies," versus celebrating his "base" and "his voters."

AT ODDS

As the five leaders met with Trump, the U.S. Treasury Department announced it was slapping sanctions on the Banco de Desarrollo Económico y Social de Venezuela, including its subsidiaries in Uruguay and Bolivia. This now puts four of the five at odds with the entire CARICOM, and for what? A mere promise of U.S. investment in destinations Trump considers largely "s...hole" nations?

From all indication, not one bothered to speak to Trump's atrocious immigration policy that affects many in their diaspora and which has seen thousands from their region and countries deported; or, God forbid, address his reported "s...hole" comments.

For these five, it was all about giving anyone who could see a lesson in obsequiousness, while spewing drivel like "... the United States wants to encourage and promote a stronger relationship with the region" and "... it's been a really long time since leaders of the region have been invited to meet with the president of the United States of America."

Spare us this global humiliation and kowtowing of 45, who has now spread his divide and rule virus to the Caribbean. Your nationals and Caribbean immigrants in the U.S. diaspora deserve leaders who demand respect and represent the interests of all of their nationals – regionally and abroad - not just their own self-interest or the need to curry favor at the expense of loyalty and regional unity.

As the saying goes: "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything."

On Friday, Mar. 22, five Caribbean leaders proved they will fall for anything, Donald Trump's "fake" promises.

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



FALLOUT: Mixed feelings 40 years after Grenada Revolution

On Mar. 13, 1979, Maurice Bishop led his New Jewel Movement (NJM) in the overthrow of the Sir Eric Gairy government in Grenada.

But the first ever coup in the English-speaking Caribbean came to an end in 1983, when the United States led a military invasion of the island, following a palace coup that resulted in the death of Bishop and several of his ministers.

Time has marched on, but the memory of actions led by Bishop remains fresh to some.

"I am reminded that the Grenada revolution was, by and large, a uniquely 'youthful' revolution, having been largely masterminded by a relatively young, idealistic, courageous and ideologically grounded leadership," said former St. Lucia Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Bishop Anthony during a recent lecture marking the 40th anniversary of the Grenada Revolution.

Anthony described the revolution as "a truly remarkable event in the political life of the people of Grenada and indeed, the wider Caribbean and the world." However, he said the burden of dealing with the "inconvenient truths" of the revolution is not just that of the Grenadian people, but the entire region.

"For my part, the revolution did not die on that fateful day in 1983," said Anthony. "It may have suffered the loss of its own soul, but 'The Revo' did not die – certainly, not in the hearts and minds of those who lived through it and those who struggled to keep it alive.

"Either way, whether as witnesses or participants both knew that a unique experiment was underway in Grenada to construct a new society, economy and polity.

"It is an unfinished business left now to the new generations that will soon replace us."

IMPRESSION

Anthony said the coup in a small three-island nation left an immediate and indelible impression on the hemisphere and the world and that the revolution and its demise have attracted a voluminous number of books, articles and commentary. Anthony argued if it is accurate to say that the transfer of power was to a "Marxist-Leninist Movement" it is, in itself, a healthy subject for debate. But he acknowledged that all accounts are important and all versions



A banner depicting the revolution.

have a place in Grenada's still continuing story and in the politics of the wider Caribbean.

'MYSTERY'

"Nevertheless," said Anthony, "too many issues continue to be shrouded in mystery" and there are other aspects of the revolution yet to be explored.

One example is the matter of the "remarkable ability" of the leadership of the Grenada Revolution to have safely steered through the turbulent political waters in the region at the Caribbean community (CARICOM) and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) levels.

"The political dexterity of Maurice and Bernard (Coard) to navigate those waters was truly remarkable," Anthony explained. "... Arguably, the legal arrangements which underpinned the revolution, pragmatic as they may have been, may well have helped to suffocate it."

MOMENTOUS

Anthony believes 1979 was a momentous year in world history. Yet the stage for the events of that year had been set decades earlier. The

liberation struggles in southern Africa had gained new momentum. The struggle to dismantle apartheid had become unstoppable. The Middle East was in ferment.

Grenada joined Iran as the second nation in early 1979 to present the world with another classic

example of revolutionary change. Its revolution sent shock waves through the U.S. State Department, unleashing paranoia, fear and concern among policymakers in Washington and, to some extent, London.

"Then, while the Americans were preoccupied with the implications of the Iranian Revolution for U.S. policy and hegemony in the Middle East and of the Grenada Revolution in its own hemisphere, there came the third major political upheaval, again even closer to the U.S. mainland than Grenada: The Nica-ragua Revolution led by the Sandinistas," said Anthony.

Anthony said those three revolutions would fundamentally change the course of political events in the respective regions. Before Mar. 13, 1979, he said, the stage for the Grenada Revolution had been set. The region was just emerging from what some have described as its "Black Nationalist" phase, influenced by the Black Power Movement in the U.S. and in the United Kingdom and the events in Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

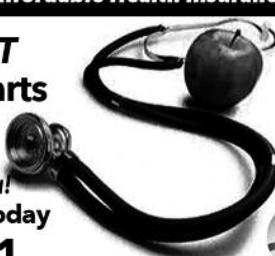
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Now you're going to say: "But I am honest, I would never knowingly do anything wrong or accept a bribe from anyone."

But that's where you're wrong, for it has been said that every man has a number that he will accept. Yours may just be high, that's all, but in for a penny, in for a pound, the crime is just the same.

Sometimes honesty isn't only the act of commission, but also the act of omission. If you were asked to go to the bathroom, look the other way while an illegal act is being done, you're still as guilty as if you took it yourself.

"Listen man, a million dollars will be deposited to your account if you're just absent from your post at midnight."

Now you may say that you didn't really do anything, but even by omission and not



**TONY
ROBINSON**



commission, it makes you dishonest. You may also refuse that million dollars, but if they upped it to 10 million dollars, hmmm.

DEFINITION

What is honesty? I guess it's doing the right thing, telling the truth, not stealing, not ripping off anybody, and a few other intangible acts that weave into our moral fibre. But is it relevant in today's society? Does honesty really pay, or is it simply something of the past that has been swept under the carpet along with morality, integrity, chivalry and

loyalty?

I have asked this question of many people: "If you were driving along and saw a bag of cash fall out of an armored truck, would you pick it up and not report it?" Well almost everyone said they would keep the cash and, when I pointed out that it was wrong, I was ridiculed and even chastised by some folks.

"You wouldn't take the money? You're a fool, that money insured."

If you were walking along and saw someone drop money without knowing, would you pick it up and give it back to

them? Finders keepers losers weepers?

Then there is also the argument that honesty doesn't pay.

"Imagine, the little boy returned a bag full of money, over a million, and all the man gave him as reward is one thousand dollars ... wicked."

INTANGIBLES

Honesty isn't only about not stealing tangible goods, but also the intangibles. Stories are rife about people who cheat on exams or to get into top schools. These acts have been done by persons who don't necessarily see themselves as being dishonest, but rather just smart enough to beat the system.

So they cheat on the exam, pass with flying colors, get a great job, then go about life teaching others about honesty, moral fiber and integrity. Even at the workplace honesty takes a beating, as employers shortchange workers, and conversely workers often rip off employers.

They arrive late, do little work, leave early, yet demand a full day's pay. They say they replaced the old car parts with new, but really did nothing. They recalibrate the scales to show that the goods weigh more.

Telling lies on your resume to get that job is dishonest. Plagiarism is also dishonest. And yet, those persons who do those transgressions don't see themselves as being dishonest.

The fact is, honesty is absolute, not relative, there are no degrees of honesty. If you find a dollar and not return it, or find 10 million and keep it, it's still the same. As for cheating on your spouse, is that dishonest?

I ask again, would you turn a blind eye to a transgression if offered 10 million dollars, just to go to the bathroom while someone hacks into the company computer? Hmm, honestly now?

seido1yard@gmail.com

**FALLOUT: Mixed feelings 40 years after...**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Anthony said this period helped to excite and "radicalize our generation. What, until then, had been a complacent and dormant political culture, suddenly came alive," he added.

"... We discovered our 'blackness' and what it meant.

"To crown it, the music of the times echoed our rebellion and resistance, gave us new rhythms and lyrics and played to our consciousness."

EFFECT

Anthony said nearly every Caribbean island was affected.

"No other period has shaped Caribbean consciousness as the decade of the seventies," Anthony explained.

Anthony said Grenada provided a natural opportunity for the region's progressive parties and movements to gather annually to express political support and solidarity and share experiences. However, the "regional left" was also sharply divided over what these parties of a new type should look like."

The issue was, by then, reduced to two choices. Some argued for "vanguard parties" in the Leninist mode purely based on the stereotypes from Eastern European experiences 60 years earlier. Others wanted mass-based parties with broader-minded home-grown Caribbean leaders committed to a politics of a new type, adopting, where appropriate, a version of Jamaica's Alternative Path.

"Grenada also provided a canvas for the regional progressive movements in the region to review their strategies and tactics," said Anthony.

SPLINTERED

However, with the demise of the Grenada Revolution, the Caribbean was left disintegrated and splintered into different directions.

"What is often not realized is that the events in Grenada were as deeply troubling, hurtful and traumatic experience for us as it was for the people of Grenada," said Anthony.

"How we felt about the Grenadian events have never been understood, explored or measured. True, there have been personal statements, but I doubt the full story has been told."

He said in nearly every Caribbean territory, the radical left renounced its left-wing credentials and aspirations and joined the mainstream political parties, albeit in different directions. Many also quickly embraced the trappings of Westminster democracy.

Anthony said the truths from Grenada over the past 40 years are both comfortable and uncomfortable, but there should be no doubt about its heroes.

"What I do know is that the time has come to elevate Maurice Bishop to the pantheon of revered revolutionaries," he said.

- Edited from CMC.

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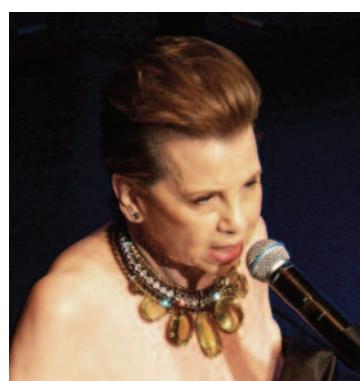
Caribbean vibes spice up Arsht Center's 13th anniversary celebration

DAWN A. DAVIS

A Caribbean-themed party capped last month's 13th anniversary celebration of Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County.

Hosted by Jamaican American attorney Marlon Hill and his wife Carla, the party featured the latest reggae and soca musical hits, plus appearances by Latino crooner Juan Esteban, also known as Juanes, and Broadway/television star Brian Stokes Mitchell.

Honorary Chair Adrienne Arsht welcomed the audience, who packed the Ziff Ballet Opera House, and honored those who have supported the institution, including



Arsht

Arnold W. Donald, president and chief executive officer of Carnival Corporation & plc. Arsht credited corporate support, which she said allowed the center to offer free educational and cultural program to the Miami community.

"It is vital that our com-

munity have a vested interest in the continued success of the Arsht Center," she explained. "Thought leaders and philanthropists who are deeply committed to the arts play a key role in the cultural future of Miami." Arsht called Donald "an outstanding leader ... who shares our belief in the power of the arts."

RISE

Donald had a career at Monsanto, then became chief executive of his own company until he retired. He was then hired by Carnival Cruise Lines. Since 2013 Donald has headed the company. He's also supported the community and Carnival Corporation's Arsht Center sponsorship reflects his love for the arts.

Since opening in 2006, the



Donald

Arsht Centre has successfully presented a diverse array of culturally innovative performances, reflecting Miami's multi-cultural population. The cultural institution has charted partnerships with Miami-Dade Public Schools to provide free arts programming for students.

The Arsht Center offers a six-week summer dance program for middle schoolers called "Ailey Camp Miami". It features African dance, jazz, drumming, poetry and personal development through encouragement, training and discipline. Some alumni have been accepted into noted dance schools and started their own foundations. Others have returned to the Arsht Center as group leaders during the summer program.

"This is what the arts can do," said Arsht.

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. Arnold Donald photograph courtesy of Carnival Corporation.



NOT AN EASY ROAD: Cops raid Buju Banton's hotel room in T&T, later apologize

Jamaican reggae and dance-hall star Buju Banton had another showdown with law enforcement last month after police raided his hotel room in Trinidad and Tobago's capital.

However, T&T Police Commissioner Gary Griffith later apologized for the action of his charges on April 20 after nothing illegal was found in Banton's room.

Banton, who in December was released from a United States prison after serving years on charges connected to illegal drugs, was in T&T to perform on his "Long Walk To Freedom" tour. In a post on the social media site Instagram, Banton was defiant that his efforts to regenerate his career following the prison term would not be thwarted by the incident. In a thinly veiled response, he also questioned the motives and procedures of T&T's law enforce-



Buju Banton

ment.

"No matter what, they can't break us," Banton said. "We see what's going on. We just want you to know what's going on. We see what your plan is. How can you obtain a search warrant, for a hotel room, on a Saturday (April 20)."

SORRY

Griffith said he was sorry

for the incident and tried to smooth it over by meeting with the artiste.

"Strange enough, that is not the focus of the commissioner of police, but I saw it fit to meet Mr Buju Banton personally to look at the situation, and I think the situation was

resolved," he said.

Banton, who arrived in T&T on April 19, reportedly to a warm public reception, explained that the incident with the police did not affect his feelings for T&T nationals.

"Still got love for you Trinidad," he said. "They can't

distract us. That's why we're here, for you, not them. Peace."

Meanwhile, the T&T government tried to diffuse the public backlash which followed the raid.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Caribbean Jerk Fest

The Clermont Caribbean Jerk Festival will be held from noon to 10 p.m. May 4 at the Waterfront Park in Clermont, Florida.

This year's festival is expected to feature musical performances by Jamaican band FAB 5, plus Guyanese Terry Gajraj and a Jamaican Tory Wynter.

For more information, call 352-978-0813.

Reggae Girlz World Cup send-off

A send-off celebration will be held this month in South Florida for Jamaica's senior women's soccer team, which is bound for the World Cup starting next month in France.

The celebration is being organized by the Reggae Girlz Foundation in collaboration with the City of

Miramar under the mandate of the Jamaica Football Federation and patronage of Jamaica's Consulate General in Miami and The Jamaica Tourist Board.

It will feature a series of events, including a re-ception and fun day, featuring two matches and a halftime concert, on May 22 and 23.

Caribbean Village Festival' in Miramar

Caribbean stars Kevin Lyttle and Alison Hinds have been listed among the scheduled performers for next month's "Caribbean Village Festival" in Miramar, Florida.

The festival will be held June 23 at the Miramar Regional Park Amphitheater. For more information, call 754-209-9928.

- Compiled from various sources.

Jamaica at 57

On August 6, 2019, the island of Jamaica marks the 57th 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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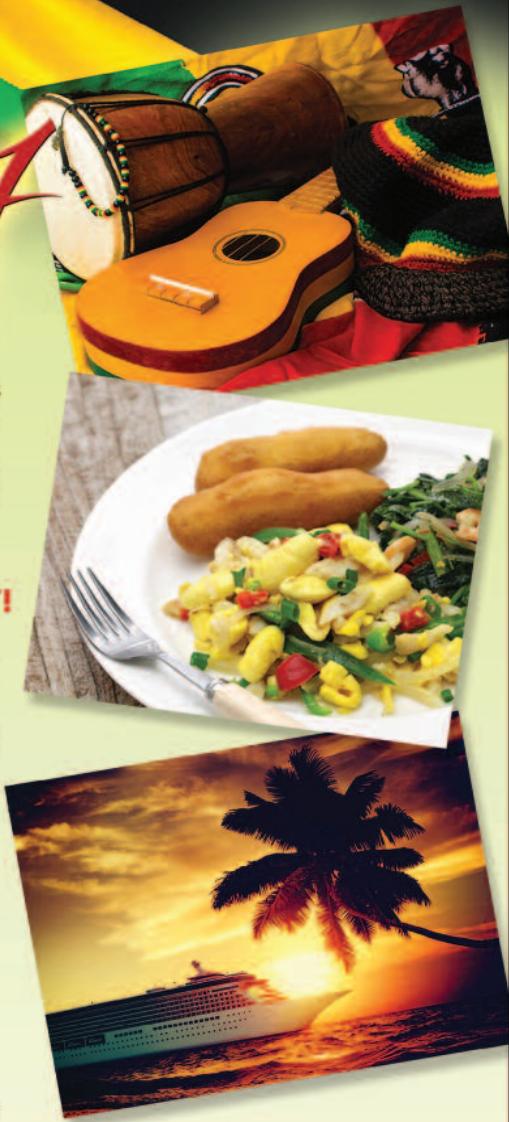
to be published in July 2019, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people. Promote your products and services in this 28-page keepsake edition, to be distributed widely throughout Florida, New York, Atlanta, and the Caribbean.

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Jamaican dancehall veteran Spragga Benz, center, is joined by Christopher Dobson, left, Jamaica Tourist Board district sales manager for the midwest United States, and Phillip Rose, JTB's regional director for the northeast, during last month's New York launch of Reggae Sumfest. Reggae aficionados, industry icons, tastemakers, the diaspora community and sponsors also attended the launch. Spragga Benz is among the featured artistes for this year's Sumfest, which will be staged **July 14-20** at the Catherine Hall Entertainment Complex in Montego Bay.

Grenada senator blames songs, carnival, as contributing factors in sexual offenses

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada – Senate President Chester Humphrey believes the lyrics in certain genre of music are contributing to the growing cases of sexually related offenses in Grenada.

He also blames carnival activities and radio stations for contributing to the situation.

"They promote the sexual objectification of women," Humphrey told legislators last month. "The lyrics are essentially an instruct in sexual anatomy and it's played openly."

He said the music played on radio stations prepare

young men to see women for only one thing.

"There is little wonder that we have this explosion of sexual crimes, because people are conditioned," Humphrey said, noting that Grenada does not have any enforcement of decency laws.

INDECENCY

He said the state, through carnival, encourages and promotes public indecency.

"We take state funds and give it to something called a mas band that violates all our public decency laws and we

award them band of the year with taxpayers money to be indecent," said Humphrey.

He said it was unfortunate that Grenada's Culture and Art Minister Norland Cox was not present at the sitting.

Humphrey, who has continuously raised concerns about the breakdown of social and moral traditions, described the island's sexual related crimes statistics as an epidemic.

- Edited from CMC.

**SVG jails soca artiste for Christmas Day robbery**

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent – A High Court judge has sentenced soca artiste Bradley "Party Dawg" Huggins to more than nine years in jail after he was found guilty of robbing a security guard of more than EC\$1,000 (one EC dollar = US\$0.37 cents) in 2015.

The 28 year-old singer was locked up along with his

two accomplices, Osborne Brudie, 28, and Terron Prince, 33, after they too were found guilty of robbing security guard Kevorn Skinner of cash and personal items, totaling EC\$1,100 on Christmas Day.

They were also charged with abduction of the security guard, but the jury returned a not guilty verdict on that charge.

Huggins urged Justice Brian Cottle not to be too harsh on him, saying he wished he could apologize to the victim.

"I'm really sorry," he said, adding that he felt he had disappointed his fans.

- Edited from CMC.

**NOT AN EASY ROAD: Cops raid Buju Banton's hotel room in T&T, later apologize**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

"I have noted that the (police) commissioner gave assurances that the police service will do all that it can to ensure that the remainder of Buju's visit is peaceful and incident free," a statement from T&T National Security Minister Stuart Young noted. "I welcome this assurance by the commissioner and the men and women of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service."

PERMIT

Banton, along with other reggae stars Luciano and Wayne Wonder, were granted government permission to perform in T&T.

"This permission was granted after due consideration and also an appreciation for our CARICOM stance and commitments," Young added

in his statement.

However, T&T police appears to accept that the incident has been an embarrassment to the country and could possibly set off tensions between T&T and Jamaica.

"Someone obviously dropped the ball," said Griffith. "It could have caused a major rift between Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica."

He said the Organized Crime and Intelligence Unit, which carried out the raid, would be investigated, overhauled and possibly disbanded.

The incident allegedly drew backlash from others in the entertainment industry, including T&T's Nicky Minaj.

"What they (the police) did is disgusting," the website 18 Karat Reggae quoted the rapper as saying.

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SWEET SIP: Celebrating Caribbean-inspired cocktails

- TITLE: TIKI: MODERN TROPICAL COCKTAILS
- AUTHOR: SHANNON MUSTIPHER
- PUBLISHER: RIZZOLI INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.
- REVIEWED BY: DAWN A. DAVIS

"Tiki: Modern Tropical Cocktails" is a celebration of Caribbean rums.

Author Shannon Mustipher explores the flavors, unique characteristics and personalities of sugar cane-based spirits and reveals the secrets to making creative drinks.

Embellished with colorful photographs, readers are inspired to create the presented tipples that grace the pages of this 192-page hardcover book. Indeed, crafting drinks as an art form is the thread that unifies this publication.

In the first chapter readers are introduced to the "Theatre of the Senses", where Mustipher emphasizes that "mixing a fantastic cocktail requires a balance of art and science ..." It is this balancing of the right ingredients, flavors and technique that transforms the cocktail into something special, stimulating

the senses into a unique sensory experience, the mixologist says.



From simple to elaborate, "Tiki" cocktails started around the 1930s with growing curiosity and interest in exotic tropical cultures. Mustipher shows you the secrets to blending rums with sakes, mezcals and even vodka to create signature drinks. But, she warns, the best cocktails must start with fresh ingredients and plenty of imagination.

What makes "Tiki" differ-

ent from other cocktail tomes is the history lessons behind the recipes. Did you know that by 1750 the British Navy had become the largest rum consumers in the world? Or that English-style rums, for example, were crafted in the former British colonies, including Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia and Jamaica and are known for their bold flavors?

LINGO

Readers also learn the rum lingo, which is necessary to be able to choose the right rum base, mix and create unique drinks. Perhaps two of the most important elements to master is the alcohol by volume (ABV) and the aging process. Depending on the event, drinkers and time of day, ABV will be critical. For example, serving overproof rum which contains more esters and is more intense than other styles probably wouldn't be wise at a day party.

The age of the rum and fermentation too will determine its strength and the all important notes it picks up from the container it was aged

in — oak barrel, other types of wood or stainless steel.

Once you've determined the kind of rum you'll use, the other ingredients better be high quality. Even the ice must be considered, according to Mustipher. Ice can be either a coolant or act as a diluting element. It all depends on the size - cubed, crushed, nugget, shaved. Also, ice picks up the flavors of items in the freezer.

UNEXPECTED

Creating the right atmosphere is key in crafting a fabulous rum cocktail. Music is important. Mustipher notes that hosts can play music, as long as it comes from a "place that has palm trees."

The author also explains that proper tools are critical in mixing great drinks. Investing

in quality jiggers and measures, shakers, bar spoons, strainers, mixing glasses, pitchers and drinking glasses is the mark of a thoughtful mixologist. A proper swizzle stick (used to stir) is essential in creating a finished drink. Interestingly, the funny looking sticks are cut from a Caribbean evergreen tree (*Quararibea turbinata*), or the swizzle stick tree, which naturally produces spiky-looking sticks.

"Tiki" is more than a book on how to make Caribbean-inspired cocktails. Mustipher adds history, anecdotes and fun.

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

BRIEFS

Clermont Caribbean Jerk Fest May 4

The Clermont Caribbean Jerk Festival will be held noon to **10 p.m. May 4** in Florida.

The event will highlight food and music from the Caribbean. Jamaican band Fab 5 is scheduled to perform, along with Guyanese Terry Gajraj and

Jamaican Tory Wynter.

The Caribbean Jerk Festival is billed as a fundraiser for the Caribbean American Association of Lake County's scholarship program that supports youngsters going off to vocational, technical and community colleges, as well as universities.

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HEALTH**CHILD'S PLAY: WHO urges activity for young Caribbean kids**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging Caribbean parents not to allow their toddlers to spend more than 60 minutes passively watching a screen every day, while babies under 12 months should have none.

WHO, the international organization which is launching a campaign to tackle the global obesity crisis, believes doing that will ensure Caribbean children grow up fit and well.

The health agency, which has made recommendations specifically aimed at children under age five for the first time, said an estimated 40 million children around the globe are overweight.

The guidelines, which refer to passive activities such as watching cartoons, for example, as opposed to going online to talk to a grandparent, build on data gathered in countries in several countries which show that as many as 75 percent of children do not have healthy lifestyles.

"That takes a moment to think about," said Dr. Fiona Bull, a program manager at WHO's Department of Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases.

"Children under five, who seem to be running around and busy all day and certainly tiring their parents, may not be as



Less television and more physical activity is good, says WHO.

active as we think."

'MORE IS BETTER'

In addition to screen time recommendations for young children the WHO said they should be physically active several times a day and get lots of sleep.

"More is better," the WHO report maintains, suggesting that carers should engage in interactive floor-based play and ensure that babies who are not yet walking spend at least 30 minutes on their stomach, rather than sitting in a chair.

"The advice is where possible, to move from sedentary, passive screen time to more physical activity while at the same time protecting that very important quality sleep," said Dr. Juana Willumsen, WHO focal point for childhood obesity and physical activity.

"And what's particularly important is that quality interactive play with a caregiver that's so important for early childhood development...that sedentary time should also be protected."

ACTIVE

The WHO said children ages one to four years old should be active for at least 180 minutes throughout the day and cites walking, crawling, running, jumping, balancing, climbing, dancing, riding wheeled toys, cycling and jumping rope as suitable pastimes.

It said for three to four-year-olds, moreover, 60 minutes of this activity should be of "moderate-to-vigorous intensity", noting that around the world, five million people die annually because they are not active enough.

"Sedentary behaviors, whether riding motorized transport rather than walking or cycling, sitting at a desk in school, watching TV or playing inactive screen-based games are increasingly prevalent and associated with poor health outcomes," noted the WHO's guidelines on physical activity, sedentary behavior and sleep recommends for children under five years old.

- Edited from CMC.



the growth of mold and dust mites in your home, visit lung.org/asthma-triggers.

Be forewarned, cleaning supplies that have odors and fragrances can cause asthma symptoms to flare. Check the label and stick to safe, asthma-friendly products.

2. Avoid smoke and tobacco - Any kind of smoke, including tobacco smoke, as well as smoke from e-cigarettes or "vaping", are known to irritate the airways of the lung.

If you have asthma, don't

exercise and emotions - as well as better understand what causes your symptoms.

The American Lung Association is offering the following tips:

1. Combat indoor allergens - Animal dander, dust mites and mold are common allergens found indoors that can cause asthma symptoms.

Keeping a clean home can help keep the presence of such allergens in check. For allergen-specific cleaning tips, as well as strategies for reducing

progress in health, which is reflected in the 16-year increase in life expectancy over the past 45 years, as well as in a reduction in infant mortality. However, challenges still remain as these gains have not been equitable," PAHO said.

This year's World Health Day campaign also focused on solidarity and equity, "core values of universal health," according to PAHO, adding that these values emphasize the need for society as a whole to contribute to the promotion of health for all people, particularly the most disadvantaged.

"Health care expenses are a major barrier to access for people in poverty and discourage many from seeking care, putting their lives at risk," said Dr. James Fitzgerald, director of the Department of Health Systems and Services at PAHO.

In most countries in the region, PAHO said the levels of out-of-pocket spending on health account for over 25 percent of total household expenditure, a figure that puts people at risk of facing catastrophic expenses.

- Edited from CMC.

**Tips to manage asthma, avoid your triggers, live healthy lifestyle**

More than 26 million Americans are living with asthma, including 6.2 million children.

While there is no cure, asthma can be managed and treated so that those with the condition can live normal, healthy lives - indoors as well as outdoors.

May is "Asthma Awareness Month" and a great opportunity to learn more about common triggers - which include respiratory infections, allergens, irritants,

Be forewarned, cleaning supplies that have odors and fragrances can cause asthma symptoms to flare. Check the label and stick to safe, asthma-friendly products.

2. Avoid smoke and tobacco - Any kind of smoke, including tobacco smoke, as well as smoke from e-cigarettes or "vaping", are known to irritate the airways of the lung.

If you have asthma, don't

PAHO wants equitable access to health care in the Caribbean

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is calling for equitable access to health care in the Caribbean, saying that millions of people in the world still lack access to care and many are forced to choose between spending on health and other daily expenses.

PAHO estimated that, in the Caribbean and the wider Americas, around a third of the population lacks access to health care.

"Our main objective is that all people, no matter where they live, can access health care without restrictions and without serious financial difficulties," said Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, the Dominican-born director of PAHO and regional director for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO).

THEME

PAHO said access and universal health coverage was the theme of World Health Day, observed last month with the slogan "Universal Health: everyone, everywhere" and focusing on primary health care (PHC), equity and solidarity.

"The countries of the region have made important

People with asthma will want to avoid being outside on days when the air quality index value is above 100, or in the orange, red, purple or maroon categories.

4. Know your own triggers

- Avoiding and controlling your asthma triggers all begins with identifying them. Work with your doctor to find out what allergens or irritants may be causing your asthma symptoms; an allergy test can help.

Together you and your doctor can create an asthma action plan that includes finding simple solutions to reduce your exposure to your asthma triggers and make breathing easier.

You can learn more about your asthma and how to manage triggers at Lung.org/asthma and through a free one-hour, interactive online course at lung.org/asthma-basics.

If you suffer from asthma or love someone who does, take steps to better understand the condition and reduce the presence of common triggers in your everyday life.

- Edited from StatePoint.



~ ©FatCamera / Getty Images

There's no cure, but treatment is available for asthma.

smoke and avoid being around people who do. If you need help quitting, visit Lung.org/ffs or call 1-800-LUNGUSA.

3. Stay weather-aware

Climate change increases the risk that air pollution will worsen. Be aware that extreme weather events, such as drought, floods, wildfires and tornados, can create airborne irritants and allergens for individuals with asthma.

Use the air quality index found on the American Lung Association site to stay aware of current conditions and help protect yourself from outdoor air pollution.

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PROPOSED 2019 PROGRAM YEAR ACTION PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD and PRE-ADOPTION PUBLIC HEARING for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) and HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (HOME) PROGRAMS

April 28, 2019

The City of Miramar is an entitlement recipient of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and anticipates receiving an estimated \$860,071 in PY 2019-2020 funds. The City of Miramar also anticipates receiving an estimated \$206,619.90 in PY 2019-2020 federal funds from Broward County under the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. The City will use these funds to address community development and housing needs in Miramar. In order to receive these funds, the City must develop and adopt a One-Year Action Plan that is consistent with the City's Five-Year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan. The City of Miramar will adjust its Annual Action Plan to match its actual allocation amounts if needed.

Action Plan Summary

The draft Program Year 2019-2020 Action Plan, which begins October 1, 2019, describes the proposed use of funds and how these project/activities will help achieve the overall goal and objectives outlined in the City of Miramar's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

1) CDBG Rehabilitation (Minor Home Repair)

Provide minor home repairs to eligible City of Miramar homeowners. These projects will be carried out on a City wide basis. This activity is eligible under 24 CFR §570.202(a), and Part 92.251 and will directly benefit low and moderate income persons as qualified under 570.208 (a)(3) Housing Activities.

2) CDBG Community Outreach Center Services

Provide community outreach as well as information and education programs for all residents, with the priority target population of those persons who are living below poverty and of those persons who are low and moderate income. The personnel necessary for this program will consist of two Community Outreach Specialists to operate the center five days per week. This activity is eligible under 570.201(e), and will benefit low and moderate-income persons as qualified under 570.208(a)(2) Limited Clientele Activities.

3) CDBG Commercial Rehabilitation

Provide commercial facade rehabilitation and/or code compliance improvements to commercial establishment owners located in areas of low and moderate income concentration. The activity is eligible as a commercial rehabilitation project under 570.202(a)(3), and will benefit low and moderate-income persons as qualified under 570.208(a)(1) Area Benefit Activities.

4) CDBG Micro-Enterprise

This project is scheduled to provide an economic development program that offers financial assistance, goods and/or services to small businesses that will create or retain jobs for lower-income persons. This activity is eligible as an economic development activity under 24 CFR, Section 570.201(o)(1) and will benefit low and moderate income persons as qualified under 570.208(a)(2) Limited Clientele Activities.

5) CDBG Program Administration

Administrative duties relative to the overall grant programs and fair housing activities. This activity is assumed to benefit low and moderate income persons and is eligible under 24 CFR section 570.206.

6) HOME Purchase Assistance/First-Time Homebuyer

Provide purchase assistance to eligible first time homebuyers to purchase their primary residence in the City of Miramar. This direct homeownership assistance is eligible under 24 CFR §92.254 (a)(1)(2) and will directly benefit low-to-moderate income persons.

All of the activities identified above will principally benefit lower income residents of the City of Miramar and no displacement or relocation of Miramar residents or businesses is anticipated.

Public Comment

Citizens are encouraged to review the 2019-2020 Program Year Draft Action Plan and provide written comment. Copies of the documents are available for review and comment during the 30-day period commencing April 29, 2019 and ending May 28, 2019 at the Office of the City Clerk located at Miramar City Hall, 2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar, Florida 33025 and the Community & Economic Development Department located at 2200 Civic Center Place Miramar, Florida 33025 between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., Monday – Thursday.

The City of Miramar will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Program Year 2019-2020 Action Plan on Wednesday, June 19th, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Commission Chamber at City Hall, located at 2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar, Florida 33025. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate.

For additional information regarding the proposed activities, please contact the Community & Economic Development Department at (954) 602-3265 or Marilyn Callwood, Community and Economic Development Manager at Community Redevelopment Associates of Florida, Inc. (954) 431-7866, Ext 126.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statutes 286.26, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk at least 48-hours prior to the hearing at (954) 602-3011 for assistance.

City of Miramar
Denise A. Gibbs, CMC
City Clerk

SPORTSCIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCILwww.caribbeantoday.com**GOLDEN GIRL**

- Photograph by Track Alerts

South Florida-based sprinter Briana Williams was among the stars that helped Jamaica to again dominate the Carifta Games held last month in the Cayman Islands. Williams, a student at Oakland Park Northeast high school who is coached by former Trinidad and Tobago sprint great Ato Boldon, won the 100 and 200 meters in the girls Under-20. She won the 100 in 11.25 seconds and the 200 in a world leading age group time of 22.89.

Williams was also a member of Jamaica's victorious U-20 4x100 meters relay team, which helped her win the Austin Sealy Award, a trophy given to the meet's most outstanding athlete, for the second year in a row.

Jamaica finished with 85 medals overall - 36 gold, 33 silver and 16 bronze.

Windies name World Cup cricket squad

The West Indies has named a 15-man squad for cricket's World Cup in England this summer.

Barbadian Jason Holder will captain the Caribbean team for the tournament,

which runs from May 30 to July 14.

The full squad is Holder, Fabian Allen, Carlos Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Sheldon Cottrell, Shannon Gabriel, Chris Gayle, Shimron

Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Evin Lewis, Ashley Nurse, Nicholas Pooran, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell and Oshane Thomas.

**West Indies names Reifer coach, Haynes chairman of selection panel**

New Cricket West Indies President Ricky Skerritt last month made two significant announcements involving key roles in the Caribbean region's team.

Floyd Reifer has been appointed interim head coach of the West Indies men's team and Robert Haynes will chair the selection panel.

Reifer, a former West Indies batsman, replaces Richard Pybus. He will serve as coach until the conclusion of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup in England



Haynes
Cricket World Cup in England

and Wales May 30 to July 14. Haynes, who represented the West Indies as an all rounder, steps in for Courtney Browne.

Skerritt took over as president from Dave Cameron following CWI elections in March.

**Jamaica, U.S. to play soccer friendly in D.C.**

Jamaica will play the United States in a friendly soccer international match next month in Washington, D.C.

Both teams are using the game, to be played on June 5 at Audi Field, as part of their preparation for the CONCACAF Gold Cup in the U.S. Jamaica has reached the

past two Gold Cup finals, losing to 3-1 to Mexico in 2015, after defeating the U.S. in the semi-final, and going down to the U.S. 2-1 in 2017.

The U.S. capital is a familiar battle ground for both nations. They drew 1-1 in 1997, a World Cup qualifier. The Americans also beat

Jamaica 2-0 in a 2011 Gold Cup quarterfinal match-up.

The Gold Cup, contested between teams in the Caribbean, North and Central America, will be played in June. Jamaica will play in Group C, alongside Honduras, El Salvador and Curaçao.

**Caribbean nations line up for beach soccer champs**

Several Caribbean nations are scheduled to participate in the CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship May 13 to 19 in Mexico.

CONCACAF represents countries from the Caribbean, North America and Central

America. The championship is held every two years.

This year's event, featuring 16 teams, will qualify two nations for the 2019 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Paraguay.

Among the Caribbean

nations to play in the CONCACAF round are Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Bonaire, Jamaica, Belize and Guyana.

**Jamaica becomes first Caribbean nation to host Gold Cup soccer**

Jamaica will next month become the first Caribbean nation to host Gold Cup soccer games.

The National Stadium in the Caribbean nation's capital Kingston will, on June 17, be the venue for a doubleheader – Curacao against El Salvador and Jamaica versus Honduras.

The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF), which governs soccer in the region, last month announced the expansion of its Gold Cup tournament, which is usually played every two years in North America, mainly the United States.

CONCACAF said it is working to increase access to the game and develop soccer, while ensuring fans experience the highest quality of soccer in the region.

"Bringing the CONCACAF Gold Cup to Jamaica is a watershed moment for our confederation and Caribbean (soccer)," said CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani.

"Hosting our premier competition in Jamaica for the first time is an extraordinary opportunity to promote the very best of the game in the Caribbean, while raising standards and improving access to the sport across our confederation."

The matches in Jamaica,

which will kick off Group C play, will feature the group's top seeded team Honduras.

EXPANSION

This summer's Gold Cup will be the first to feature an expanded version, with 16 countries vying for continental glory in what is set to be the largest Gold Cup in history. The teams qualified via the 2018 FIFA World Cup hexagonal qualifier round and the CONCACAF Nations League qualifiers.

"(It) is a historic day for football in Jamaica, bringing the CONCACAF Gold Cup to our country," said Jamaica Football Federation President Michael Ricketts.

"(It) will change the entire landscape of the game in this country. The competition will inspire the growth of the sport and youngsters to play football. We are delighted at the prospects of hosting this CONCACAF Gold Cup."

The 2019 Gold Cup will be the biggest-ever edition of the event, with more participating nations (16 up from 12 in 2017), more host countries (three, including first-time matches in Costa Rica) and more stadiums (17 up from 14 in 2017, eight of which are in contention to become a 2026 FIFA World Cup venue).

**Caribbean nations seek men's U-17 World Cup qualification**

Several Caribbean nations will try to earn places in the 2019 Under-17 men's soccer World Cup by participating in the final qualifying tournament this month in Bradenton, Florida.

Barbados, Bermuda, Curacao, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname will represent the region in four groups of four teams each. Kick-off in that round begins May 1,

The top three teams from each group will advance to a final round of 16, where they will be joined by three other Caribbean teams - Dominican

Republic, Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico - which advanced from an earlier qualifying competition.

A single elimination tournament will reduce the field to four nations, all which will qualify for the World Cup in October in Peru.

All matches will be played at the IMG Academy.

For more information, including a full list of teams and match schedule, visit www.concacaf.com.

**SPORT BRIEFS****Atlanta Georgia Relays**

Athletes from the Caribbean are again expected to participate in this year's Atlanta Georgia Relays this month.

The international track meet will be held **May 25 and 26** at West Lake High School, 2400 Union Rd., S.W. Atlanta.

For more information, call **404-808-1852**.

Ex-Windies captain retires

Former West Indies women's captain

Merissa Aguilleira has announced her retirement from international cricket. The decision came after the 33-year-old Trinidadian was dropped for the upcoming tour of Ireland and England following a poor domestic championship.

Aguilleira played 112 one-day internationals and 95 Twenty20 internationals.

- Compiled from various sources.



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

COUNTDOWN: Haiti stands 'at the crossroads' ~ U.N. human rights chief

The United Nation's human rights chief Michelle Bachelet says Haiti now stands at the crossroads between peacekeeping and development as the U.N.'s peacekeeping presence winds down.

Bachelet, in an address to the Security Council in New York last month, urged all concerned parties to continue building on progress made or "risk losing it" altogether.

While encouraged by civil society's engagement in promoting and protecting human rights, along with the victims of human rights violations, Bachelet acknowledged that "it has not been able to fully assume monitoring and advocacy role." Bachelet noted that some civil society organizations in Haiti continue to be targeted

by acts of intimidation, saying that it "must stop."

She urged everyone with a stake in the French-speaking Caribbean nation's future to "work together to strengthen the human rights protection system."

ORDER

Calling Haiti's return to constitutional order, following presidential, legislative and local elections in 2017, "a significant achievement," Bachelet said that while standing "at the crossroads" between peace-keeping and development, "we must recognize the progress accomplished" and "also continue building on it, or risk losing it."

The U.N. high commissioner urged the U.N. Security Council to provide Haitians



Bachelet

with "the necessary support to strengthen institutions, fight against impunity and promote and protect human rights as a foundation to stability and development."

Bachelet said that February's protests – "the

longest and most violent" in years, had "almost entirely paralyzed the country." Despite significant improvements in the professionalism of the U.N.-supported National Police, incidents of serious human rights violations, including cases of summary executions, continue to be reported with limited accountability.

"Perpetrators are consequently emboldened and silenced victims may develop grievances," Bachelet said.

WEAKNESS

She said the weakness of the judicial system also has a negative impact on the prisons system, stating that over 75 percent of inmates are estimated to be in a pre-trial detention — on

average for 1,100 days — "well over the limit set by national law."

Bachelet also informed the Security Council that, after the current Mission for Justice Support (MINUJUSTH) concludes, her office intends to pursue its work in the country and, eventually, with the support of the council and member states, provide "a stand-alone presence."

"We want to remain engaged and to support Haiti's commitment to achieving democratic and economic development so that the rights of all people in Haiti are upheld," she said.

- Edited from CMC.



Judge clears President Moïse in money laundering probe

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – An investigating judge has cleared President Jovenel Moïse of any involvement in a money laundering case the authorities have been probing for the past two years.

Judge Brédy Fabien said there was no evidence to prosecute Moïse and last week ordered the dismissal of any money laundering charge against Moïse.

Prior to his election in 2017, the Central Unit of Financial Intelligence (UCREF), a government institution, concluded in a

report there were indications Moïse had laundered money through a personal account he held with his wife. After analyzing Moïse's bank accounts UCREF concluded "It is possible that Mr. Jovenel Moïse manipulated funds that have nothing to do with his companies".

Moïse denied the allegation.



Moïse

In 2017, UCREF said it received its first tip against Moïse in 2013, under the Michel Martelly presidency. The information in the report came directly from Haiti's financial institutions, UCREF's head Sonel Jean-Francois told journalists then.

The case resurfaced in Jan. 2017 after police arrested Guy Philippe, an ally and senator-elect, who was extradited to the United States to face charges of money laundering and drug trafficking.

- Edited from CMC.



U.N. extends peacekeeping mission in Haiti

UNITED NATIONS – The United Nations Security Council has voted overwhelming to extend, by a further six months, its justice-support peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

The U.N. voted by a 13 to zero margin in favor of the final six-month renewal. Russia and the Dominican Republic abstained.

According to the U.N. resolution, the mission will maintain only a special political mission in the country after Oct. 15.

The U.N. first deployed the peace keepers in Haiti in 2004 and 13 years later it began the withdrawal of the military soldiers but left foreign police officers to continue to provide sup-

port to the National Police (HNP).

The peacekeeping mission focused on justice, human rights and police development.

In a brief statement recently, Jonathan Cohen, the United States acting permanent representative, said Washington welcomes the final renewal of the peacekeeping mandate, even as it was mindful of the challenges ahead for Haiti. He said political actors in the country need to engage in dialogue to find a lasting solution to the ongoing economic and political challenges.

- Edited from CMC.



Flag Day Festival May 18

A parade, featuring music, food and artifacts from Haiti, will highlight the "Haitian Flag Day Festival" this month in Lake Worth, Florida.

The event will be held 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 18 at

Howard Park, 1699 Wingfield St. Mayor Pam Triolo is the chairperson of the celebration.

Admission is free. For more information, call 561-541-6833.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

FRONTRUNNER: Haitian American among favorites for N.Y. political office

NEW YORK – Farah Louis is among the front-runners to replace fellow Caribbean American Jumaane Williams as representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn when the election is held here this month.

Williams, son of Grenadian immigrants, was recently elected public advocate of New York City. Haitian American Louis believes she will succeed Williams.

"I am confident that the unwavering and growing support, our campaign efforts and our momentum will lead us to victory on May 14," Louis told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** last month.

"New York City, in particular the 45th Council District, is currently facing crucial

changes that will affect the overall landscape of our community," added the daughter of Haitian immigrants, who had also served as Williams's former deputy chief-of-staff and budget director.

"We need a staunch advocate that will fight against systemic inequality affecting our housing, education, businesses and healthcare. I believe I am the best person to lead my district in the right direction. I am seeking to ensure progressive leadership for the city that has come from central Brooklyn remains."

CARIBBEAN

The 10 candidates contesting this month's election include several Caribbean-born and Caribbean Americans, all claiming they



Louis

are best suited to represent the district that comprises East Flatbush, Flatbush, Flatlands, Marine Park and Midwood. More than 188,000 people live in the district, of which about 61 percent are either Caribbean American or African American.

In addition to Louis, the candidates are: Jamaican-born Rickie Tulloch; Trinidad and Tobago-born Anthony Alexis; Monique Chandler-Waterman,

daughter of Jamaican and Barbadian immigrants; Jovia Radix, daughter of Barbadian and Grenadian immigrants; Louis Cespedes Fernandez, son of Cuban immigrants; Anthony Beckford; Xamayla Rose and Adina Sash.

In Sept. 2018, Louis said she ran for judicial delegate in the 42nd Assembly District and won with over 8,000 votes. Rodneyse Bichotte, another Haitian American, is the incumbent state assembly member for the 42nd District. Bichotte is supporting Louis's campaign.

SUPPORT

Support has come from other areas as well, including two of the city's most prominent lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer voices.

"In backing Farah," said Allen Roskoff, president of the Jim Owles Democratic Club.

"We have been at the fore-

front of the fight for basic human rights for the LGBT community and have only supported candidates who were willing to do the same.

"We're endorsing Farah Louis for the 45th City Council District because she has shown that she will stand with us on the struggle for equality for the LGBTQ community, immigrants, people of color, the disabled and other marginalized people," Roskoff added.

Louis regards herself as "an esteemed community organizer and publicist with over 15 years of experience and dedication to advocacy and public service.

"I look forward to being the next city council member for the 45th District, connecting and working with all communities within the district," she said.

- Edited from CMC.



Haiti signs MOU with USAID to preserve natural resources

PORTE AU PRINCE, Haiti – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Haiti, which underlines the need to preserve the country's forests, resources and soils and defines mutual commitments for the improvement of the environment and for the conservation of natural resources.

USAID also supported an initiative by the Ministry of Environment to reduce the use of plastic bags and distributed 500 reusable bags to students and all those who participated in a recent event to celebrate International Earth Day.

An additional 4,500 bags will be distributed at local schools and grocery stores in Port-au-Prince – the bags are produced by a local Haitian company and are made of poplin, a weaving of wool, cotton, silk, rayon, polyester or a

mixture of these fibers.

POLLUTION

"Things like polystyrene boxes and plastic bags are not biodegradable," said USAID Acting Ad Director Gary Just. "They clog the canals and create a source of visual pollution, taking generations to decompose."

"I am convinced that these conservation measures will improve the environmental landscape in Haiti."

USAID has a long partnership with the Ministry of the Environment in various reforestation and conservation initiatives aimed at preserving natural resources for economic growth and resilience.

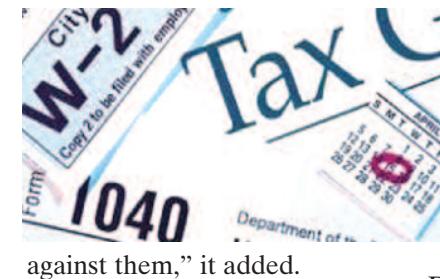
Since 2013, the U.S. government has planted over six million fruit and forest plants across the French Speaking Caribbean country.



LAUDERDALE LAKES, Florida – The United States Department of Justice late last month said that the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida has entered a permanent injunction against Haitian nationals Guary Louima and Guy Telfort and their Tax Houses and Accounting Services, Inc., barring them from preparing U.S. federal tax returns for others and owning or operating a tax preparation business.

The court also ordered that Louima, Telfort and the business "disgorge US\$150,000, representing the ill-gotten gains they received for the preparation of tax returns," the U.S. Justice Department said.

"The defendants agreed to entry of the injunction and disgorgement judgment



against them," it added.

COMPLAINT

In its complaint, the U.S. government alleged that Louima and Telfort own and operate Tax Houses and Accounting Services Inc. in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida. The government alleged that the defendants "prepared tax returns making false or fraudulent claims for the Earned Income Tax Credit by claiming bogus business losses for non-existent businesses, misrepresenting the filing status of their customers, and inflating the number of dependents

claimed on their return."

The defendants also allegedly prepared returns that "improperly lowered their customers' reported taxable income by falsely claiming deductions for the personal use of their vehicles," the Justice Department said.

It said return preparer fraud is one of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) "Dirty Dozen Tax Scams", warning that taxpay- ers seeking a return preparer should "remain vigilant."

In the past decade, the U.S. Justice Department said its Tax Division has obtained injunctions against "hundreds of unscrupulous tax preparers."

- Edited from CMC.



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Please join us for our **Visioning Session**
where we will present

**The City of Miramar
RECAPTURING THE VISION:
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019
6PM – 9PM**

Miramar Multi-Service Complex
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FUTURE TOGETHER!**

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