

# Caribbean Today

JUNE 2019



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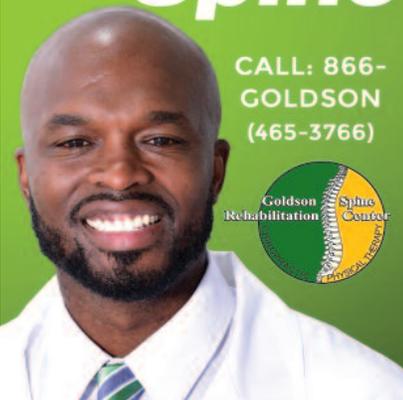
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## 'DEAD ON ARRIVAL'

~ President Donald Trump is pushing to ramp up the entry requirements for Caribbean immigrants who wish to make the United States their home. But his plan received swift backlash, as some believe its "merit" system is just another disguise for preventing certain people from becoming American citizens, page 7.



Calls for the impeachment of President Donald Trump, for allegedly obstructing justice while in the White House, are growing and Wayne Messam, a 2020 presidential candidate with deep Caribbean and Florida roots, is among those joining the chorus, page 3.



When planning a vacation to The Bahamas most holidaymakers think of Nassau, Freeport or Bimini. But, there is much more to The Bahamas and the nation's Ministry of Tourism and Aviation is on a mission to prove it, page 7.

### FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FRANCE 2019 REGGAE GIRLZ SQUAD

 Allyson SWABY	 Ashleigh SHIM	 Chinyelu ASHER	 Chanel HUDSON-MARKS	 Deneisha BLACKWOOD	 Dominique BOND-FLASZA	 Khadija SHAW	 Lauren SILVER
 Marlo SWEATMAN	 Nicole MCCLURE	 Sashana CAMPBELL	 Konya PLUMMER	 Toriana PATTERSON	 Trudi CARTER	 Yazmeen JAMIESON	 Chantel SWABY
 Kayla MCCOY	 Chayna MATTHEWS	 Tiffany CAMERON	 Jody BROWN	 Sydney SCHNEIDER	 Olufolade ADAMI FKIRI		

## READY TO RUMBLE

~ Jamaica will make its historic debut at soccer's Women's World Cup this month. The Reggae Girlz, who swung by South Florida before heading to France, understand the magnitude of the challenge and believe they are prepared to bring glory to the Caribbean, pages 2 and 14.

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# South Florida embraces Jamaica's Reggae Girlz

DAWN A. DAVIS

Pumped and ready for the FIFA Women's World Cup, Jamaica's senior soccer squad, known affectionately as the "Reggae Girlz", were warmly welcomed to South Florida last month on their way to the game's biggest tournament, which kicks off this month in France.

The City of Miramar, led by Vice Mayor Alexandra Davis, Consul General of Jamaica to Miami Oliver Mair and Reggae Girlz Foundation President Michelle Adamolekum, embraced the Girlz, and hundreds more turned out to show support.

The week-long send-off celebrations involved a summit, which brought together athletes and leaders in sports, education and politics who gave advice and encouragement to the Caribbean's lone World Cup representative. Inspiring words came from team members, coaches and other Jamaican athletes as well.

"As far as competing in France, regardless of the results, as a team, as a country, we focus on younger kids in Jamaica getting to this level that we have paved for them," said captain Konya Plummer.

"We want to just give back to our community in whatever way we can to inspire younger kids."

## WORK

Plummer said Jamaica's team has shown its willingness to work hard to ensure quality performances at the World Cup, which runs from June 7 to July 7.

"Everyone on the team make it their job to inspire each other by the work they are putting in on the field and that has become our community," she said.

Former Olympic track gold medalist Sanya Richards-Ross, who was born in Jamaica but competed for the



Menzies

United States, urged the Girlz to keep country first and embrace their responsibility as role models.

"I really believe that kids can't be what they can't dream, what they can't see," said Richards-Ross. "... Remember that to whom much is given much is expected. You guys are crossing barriers and creating history, so many kids are looking up to you."

Head Coach Hue Menzies credited Jamaica's success to placing the team in the right environment, in addition to coaching and training strategies. Some in the squad have played all over the world, including Norway, Italy and the U.S. The key, Menzies explained, was creating cohesion.

"We have to get them acclimated and formulated into one unit," he said. "We purposely handpicked players who have similar tendencies. So it makes it a lot easier to make an adaptation ... It's a process that we've studied and restudied."

## NO FEAR

That strategy included sizing up Jamaica's upcoming opponents - Brazil, Italy and Australia

"All of them have played with the girls they will compete against at the World Cup," said Menzies. "There is

no fear factor ... We feel we have the best players in the world."

Khadijah "Bunny" Shaw scored the most goals for Jamaica in World Cup qualifying. Although her talent has been noticed (recently Shaw signed a sponsorship contract with sportswear company Nike), she credits her teammates and claimed the new attention has not altered her focus.

"This deal won't really change anything that I've been doing all along," Shaw explained. "... Everything I've done and achieved so far, is thanks to my teammates because they've been there for me."

## FUTURE

With an average age of 22, Menzies believes this Jamaica team will be able to compete in at least two more World Cups - 2023 and 2027. But, he explained, his focus is also on the younger players under his tutelage.

"It's not just about the senior team," said Menzies, "it's about the youth at 16, 17."

The Reggae Girlz Foundation, established in 2008, sees its role as promoting the acceptance and sustainability of women's soccer in Jamaica as well.

"Our sole mission is to (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

# Caribbean immigrants prefer Florida

GORDON WILLIAMS

Florida has easily emerged as the area most Caribbean nationals prefer to live when they make the United States their home.

According to the Washington, D.C.-based Migration Policy Institute (MPI), in a study which gathered information through 2017, well over a million people born in the Caribbean currently live in South Florida. Those immigrants are concentrated mostly in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

Miami-Dade, MPI noted in a report published earlier this year, "was home to 862,000 Caribbean immigrants, the highest among all U.S. counties" through 2017. Broward County had 265,000.

Kings County, New York had the second highest number of Caribbean immigrants with 291,000, followed by 277,000 in Bronx County in the same state.

Overall, between 2013 to 2017, MPI reported that Florida was home to 41 percent of all Caribbean immigrants in the U.S., followed by New York with 26 percent.

## 10 PERCENT

Immigrants are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as people not born in the U.S. or have American citizenship at birth.

Up to 2017, MPI noted, "approximately 4.4 million Caribbean immigrants resided in the United States, accounting for 10 percent of the nation's 44.5 million immigrants." The total U.S. population in 2017 was almost 326 million.

According to MPI, 90 percent of Caribbean immigrants in the U.S. have come from five nations - Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago. Immigrants from Cuba accounted for approxi-



Caribbean nationals have a huge stake in the U.S.

mately 1.3 million, D.R. 1.1 million, Jamaica 745,000, Haiti 680,000 and T&T 235,000.

Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, The Bahamas and St. Vincent and the Grenadines also contributed thousands of immigrants to the total from the Caribbean.

## DIASPORA

However, the Caribbean diaspora, meaning people either born in the U.S. with Caribbean ancestry or those from one of the nations in the region, is nearly twice the size of the actual immigrant population. Almost eight million people in the U.S. identify as being part of the Caribbean diaspora.

Yet, despite the huge numbers, the migration of Caribbean nationals to the U.S. has slowed in recent years. According to MPI, "The first wave of large-scale voluntary migration from the Caribbean to the United States began in the first half of the 20th century and consisted mostly of laborers ..." Between 1980 and 2000, MPI noted, "the Caribbean immigrant population increased by more than 50 percent every 10 years (54 percent and 52 percent, respectively) to reach 2.9 million in 2000."

After that, the Caribbean immigration growth rate dropped. MPI reported that "From 2000, the population

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



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# Caribbean American presidential candidates want to impeach Trump

## GORDON WILLIAMS

Two candidates for United States president with deep Caribbean roots have joined the chorus of those calling for the impeachment of Donald Trump, who currently holds the job they're seeking.

Wayne Messam and Kamala

Harris, who have parents from Jamaica, along with several other Democrats running for the highest political office in the U.S., are urging the U.S. Congress to take action against Trump. They claim the president may have committed crimes, including obstruction of justice, while in office.

Impeachment is trial by Congress - House of Representatives and Senate. If the process is carried out successfully against Trump, it could force his removal from office.

Messam, the mayor of the Florida City of Miramar, is convinced findings from the recently concluded report by independent counsel Robert Mueller, who was assigned to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election which Trump won, offer enough evidence to impeach the president.

"Based on what is available I believe the President should be placed under impeachment proceedings and let the weight of the full report carry out the justice the American people deserve," Messam explained in a statement to **The Hill** news outlet recently.

## OBSTRUCTION

Mueller, in his report, pointed to multiple incidents where Trump possibly obstructed justice, including attempts to fire people who could possibly testify to his wrongdoing or those responsible for investigating possible crimes by him. Mueller repeated his claim from the report that he did not exonerate Trump.

"If we had had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so," Mueller explained while addressing the public on May 29.

He said U.S. Justice Department guidelines prevented him from charging a sitting president with a crime, implying that is the job of Congress. Harris, a U.S. senator representing California, demanded Congress move to impeach Trump.

"What Robert Mueller basically did was return an impeachment referral," Harris stated on **Twitter**. "Now it is up to Congress to hold this president accountable."

"We need to start impeachment proceedings. It is our constitutional obligation."

## IN PLAY

Nancy Pelosi, Democratic leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, where impeachment proceedings would need to begin, had not, as of last month, supported that

process.

Up to press time, at least 50 House representatives, including one Republican, supported Trump's impeachment. Far more, however, had not done so publicly up to press time. Pelosi argued she wanted a solid case against Trump before considering impeachment.

"Nothing is off the table," she said late last month, "but we do want to make an iron clad case."

At least 20 Republicans in the U.S. Senate would also need to support a bid to successfully impeach the president and remove him from office. Up to press time no Republican senator had done so.

The latest CNN poll showed 54 percent of people in the U.S. oppose impeaching and removing Trump. Those favoring impeachment, however, have risen from 37 percent to 41 percent since the last poll in late April. The highest pro-impeachment number was 47 percent in Sept. 2018, according

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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**New York man gets 17 years in prison for killing college student at Caribbean j'ouvert in 2016**

NEW YORK – A judge sentenced a Brooklyn man to 17-plus years in prison for killing a 22-year-old college student just before the Caribbean j'ouvert festival in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn began in 2016.

Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Donald Leo imposed the sentence on Regional Moise, 20, for shooting Tiarah Poyau in the head at point-blank range. Poyau was a graduate student in accounting at St. John's University in Jamaica, Queens, New York.

The incident took place on Sept. 5, 2016, Poyau died after she was taken to the nearby Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn.

Police said Moise was intoxicated at the time of the shooting, but jurors found him guilty of criminally negligent homicide, reckless endangerment and weapons possession in Poyau's shooting death. He was acquitted of the more serious charge of murder.



Moise, center, is escorted by police.

ing the sentence on Moise. "In one selfish act of idiocy, you destroyed the incredibly bright future of a promising young woman."

The victim's family had pleaded with Leo to sentence Moise to consecutive – not concurrent – sentences, as Moise's lawyers had requested.

"Criminally negligent homicide is a slap in the face your honor," Poyau's mother Valerie Brown told the court before Moise's sentence.

"It's really an insult, not just to me but to my whole entire family. Please, I beg of you, please see fit to give him the maximum that is allowed for each charge."

Before he was taken away

in handcuffs, Moise apologized to the victim's family.

"I'm sorry to Ms. Brown and the Poyau family for all stuff y'all have been going through," he told the court.

After the sentence, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said in a statement that "this defendant fired four shots during what was a joyous cultural celebration, tragically killing Tiarah Poyau, a completely innocent bystander with a promising life ahead of her.

"It is a miracle that no one else was struck," he added. "(The) sentence delivered a measure of justice for Tiarah's heartbroken mother, family and many friends, and a clear message that gun violence will not be tolerated at j'ouvert."

In recent years, the Caribbean j'ouvert festival – which precedes the annual West Indian Day Carnival Parade on Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway, considered the largest carnival parade in North America – has been plagued with violence.

- Edited from CMC.



**'TRAGIC'**

"This is the most tragic case I've ever come across," said Justice Leo before impos-

**Caribbean American presidential candidates want to impeach Trump**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

to CNN. Some 76 percent of Democrats want Trump impeached, up from 67 percent in April.

Trump called attempts to impeach him "disgusting." He is adamant he's not guilty of wrongdoing.

Trump has claimed there was no collusion with Russians by his campaign and no

obstruction of justice during the subsequent investigation. Following Mueller's May 29 statement, the Republican president stuck to his claim.

"The case is closed! Thank you," tweeted Trump, who has repeatedly called Mueller's investigation a "hoax" and "witch hunt" conducted by "angry Democrats."

Democrats don't agree. "Special counsel Mueller

provided evidence that would determine if impeachment proceedings should take place," Messam told The Hill.

In recent decades the U.S. Congress has moved to impeach two sitting presidents - Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. Nixon resigned. Clinton survived impeachment and remained president.



**South Florida embraces Jamaica's Reggae Girlz**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

work to level the playing field in women's soccer for girls across the world," President Michelle Adamolekum explained.

"... Our strategies are simple; it's really to bring awareness across our global

diaspora about the Reggae Girlz and about the opportunities, the gaps that are currently facing women in (soccer) today."

Jamaica's historic qualification for the World Cup means the women's game is on the rise.

"Everything is coming to fruition now," said Menzies. "We feel confident going into this World Cup."

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



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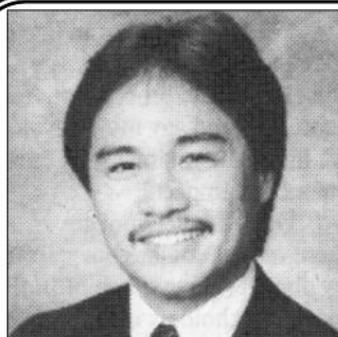
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## Guyana marks 53rd Independence, U.S. pledges continuing partnership

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Guyana last month marked its 53rd anniversary of Independence from Britain with President David Granger saying the future of the nation belongs to young people and the United States reaffirming its partnership with the Caribbean nation.



Granger

Granger, in his message to the nation to mark Independence, observed May 26, said the future of Guyanese is promising.

“The central aspiration of the Independence generation was to secure a better future for their children and grandchildren,” he said.

“Young people, today, can look to a bright future with greater confidence, enthusiasm and hope knowing that their government is laying a stronger foundation for the good life for them and their children.”

Granger said education is being enhanced in Guyana at all levels – nursery, primary, secondary and tertiary - and there is improved access to public services towards ensuring greater equality.

### EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment of young people, he said, became a reality under the Coalition Government led by him.

“Youth today have a

greater say in decision-making,” Granger explained. “Young professionals and entrepreneurs are being consulted in the fashioning of our national budget. Young people’s opinions and interests are taken into consideration in the development of government policies.”

The United States administration of President Donald Trump extended congratulations to the people of Guyana on their anniversary of political Independence.

“The United States and Guyana have been friends and partners for decades, and we commend and encourage Guyana’s continued leadership on matters of regional concern,” U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo noted in a statement.



Pompeo

“... The United States joins you in celebrating Guyana’s diversity, freedom and natural beauty.”

Meanwhile, the Guyana Independence Celebration Committee in New York (GIC-CNY) announced that Guyana’s Prime Minister Moses V. Nagamootoo will be the guest of honor at this year’s New York celebration of Guyana’s of Independence June 2-3 in Brooklyn. The theme is “Fan the Flame of Guyanese Patriotism”.



## CARICOM denounces new U.S. moves against Cuba

ST. GEORGE’S, Grenada – The 15-member Caribbean community (CARICOM) grouping has denounced moves by the United States to strengthen the decades old trade and economic embargo against Cuba.

In a statement issued following the two-day CARICOM Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) meeting here last month, CARICOM said it is “concerned by the new measures under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act announced by the Government of the United States of America which would strengthen the U.S. economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

“The Community denounces the application of laws and measures of an extra-territorial nature that are contrary to international law.”

### SANCTIONS

The Helms-Burton Act seeks to impose international sanctions against the Cuban government, to plan for sup-

port of a transition government leading to a democratically elected government in Cuba, and for other purposes.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump announced in April that it would end the suspension of the law that allows American citizens, including naturalized Cubans, to sue companies and subsidiaries in Cuba that benefited from private properties that were confiscated by the Cuban government.

It said the legislation, which was previously suspended by the administration of former President Barack Obama and by former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, will be fully implemented and enforced.

The move by Washington is seen as retaliation for Havana’s continued support for President Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela, where the U.S. is backing an effort to oust him from power.

-- Edited from CMC.



## U.S. seeks extradition of ex-Guyanese policeman

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – The United States is seeking the extradition of a former police officer wanted on drug-related charges.

Shawn Neblett, the 34-year-old former law enforcement officer, appeared before Magistrate Faith McGusty in the Georgetown Magistrates’ Court last month, where the U.S., through the Director of

Public Prosecution (DPP) chambers, formally requested his extradition.

The details regarding the extradition were not disclosed, but Neblett told the court that he is unaware of any charges that he is facing in the U.S. He said he was arrested and has been in police custody since then.

The judge remanded him to

prison until June 6.

The Guyana Police Force issued a wanted bulletin for the ex-policeman in 2017 in connection with a drug trafficking probe at the Cheddi Jagan Airport.

- Edited from CMC.



## Florida court bans Haitian tax return preparers

MIAMI, Florida – A South Florida-based tax preparing company run by Caribbean nationals has been barred from offering such services.

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) last month said the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida has entered a permanent injunction against Haitian tax return preparers Katusca Rigaud, Andy Jean and their company, Bar Professional Services LLC (Tax Kings & Queens). The injunction stops them from preparing U.S. federal income tax returns for others.

The complaint alleges that

Rigaud, also known as Kathy Leger, Jean, and Tax Kings & Queens, along with another defendant who was not subject to last month’s order, prepared nearly 3,000 tax returns between 2013 and 2018, with the vast majority claiming a refund. According to the complaint, “the defendants did not consistently identify themselves as the preparer on returns they prepared, as required by law.”

### FRAUD

The complaint further alleges that “the defendants’ practices included submitting false Schedules C (Profit or

Loss from Business) for fictitious businesses to secure bogus earned income tax credits for their customers, and claiming false employee business expense deductions on Schedules A.”

The DOJ said Rigaud, Jean, and Tax King & Queens consented to the permanent ban.

The fourth defendant, Janet Morales had, up to press time, not responded to the complaint, the DOJ said.

- Edited from CMC.



## U.S. questions Belize senator in real estate scam

BELMOPAN, Belize – Prime Minister Dean Barrow has confirmed that a Belize government legislator had been questioned by United States officials re-garding the operations of Atlantic International Bank that is now in liquidation.

Senator Aldo Salazar was questioned last month. He was part of a delegation returning from Taiwan, which included Senate President Lee Mark Chang, when he was pulled

aside by authorities in Houston, Texas.

Salazar, who is the attorney for Atlantic International Bank, was questioned about the 2018 Sanctuary Bay real estate scam. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has



Barrow

accused the bank of facilitating a multimillion dollar scheme in which investors lost millions of dollars.

“I gather that he was questioned about Atlantic International Bank,” Barrow told reporters, “but the bank is now in liquidation. The Central Bank has appointed a liquidator.”

- Edited from CMC.



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## Judge orders Spanish ballot information for next Florida election

United States citizens from the Caribbean, who are more comfortable with Spanish, will be able to access voter registration and ballot information in that language in Florida, starting with the 2020 election.

Last month, U.S. District Judge Mark Walker ordered 32 Florida counties to provide ballots in Spanish by next March, claiming it is a “fundamental right” of voters to have access to such information.

In April, Ron DeSantis, governor of Florida, directed officials to make voting booths were more accessible to state residents who speak Spanish.



DeSantis

However, that order was made after a lawsuit, filed by several voting rights groups, was already in the courts. The lawsuit claimed Spanish-speaking former residents of Puerto

Rico, who fled the Caribbean island following a devastating hurricane in 2017, faced difficulty voting because they were not proficient in English.

The groups believe the absence of Spanish-language ballot information is a violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens. Some 30,000 reportedly reside in Florida.

### EQUAL

“(T)he court recognized that Spanish-speaking voters are not second-class citizens and should not have to wait for

their voting rights to be fully protected,” Stuart Naifeh, a senior counsel at Demos, one of the voting rights groups which filed the lawsuit, noted in a statement released following Judge Walker's decision.

“For democratic participation to have any meaning, voters must be able to exercise their right to vote in a language they understand,” he added.

Gov. DeSantis appeared to support Walker's eventual ruling, even before it was announced last month.

“It is critically important that Spanish-speaking

Floridians are able to exercise their right to vote without any language barriers,” he declared in a statement released in April.

“These fellow citizens should be able to fully participate in our democracy.”

Walker, was adamant the court “will not hesitate to use every tool the law provides to enforce” his order, adding that the “case is about the fundamental right to cast an effective ballot.”

- Gordon Williams



## Caribbean immigrants prefer Florida

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

increased 26 percent, to 3.7 million, in 2010, and grew another 18 percent, to 4.4 million, in 2017.”

### DISAPPOINTMENT

However, Caribbean immigrants, most who left the region in search of a more prosperous life, were not faring as well as people who came to the U.S. from other countries. “Approximately 17 percent of Caribbean immigrants were living in poverty, a higher rate than for the native born (13 percent) and for immigrants overall (15 per-

cent),” MPI reported, and “Dominicans were most likely to be in poverty (22 percent).”

In addition, although Caribbean immigrants are more likely than other immigrants to seek U.S. permanent residence or American citizenship, speak English and be insured, they earn less than other immigrants or people born in the U.S.

“On average,” MPI reported, “household incomes of Caribbean immigrants are lower than the overall foreign and native-born populations.

“In 2017, households headed by a Caribbean immi-

grant had a median income of \$47,000, compared to \$56,700 and \$60,800 for all immigrant and U.S.-born households, respectively.”

Immigrants from T&T (\$61,300) tend to have households with the highest income of Caribbean nationals. The lowest are Cubans (\$41,800) and Dominican (\$41,200), MPI noted.

### UNDOCUMENTED

Meanwhile, MPI “estimates that as of 2012-16, approximately 351,000 (three percent) of the estimated 11.3 million unauthorized immi-

grants in the United States were from the Caribbean.”

Thousands of those undocumented Caribbean immigrants were, however, granted a reprieve by former U.S. President Barack Obama. According to MPI, 8,140 were registered in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which prevented them from being deported. Current President Donald Trump, after initially supporting DACA, has spearheaded efforts to dismantle the program, stopped only by the courts.

Also, under the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program instituted by Obama, more than 58,500 Haitians were allowed to stay in the U.S. legally after an earthquake caused massive damage to the French-speaking Caribbean nation.

Overall, the U.S. remains the preferred destination for Caribbean nationals leaving the region to live abroad, according to the United Nations Population Division. Canada was next, followed by Spain and the United Kingdom.



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# 'DEAD ON ARRIVAL': Backlash greets Trump's 'merit' immigration plan

## ~ Caribbean nationals face tougher U.S. entry path if president's plan becomes law

### GORDON WILLIAMS

President Donald Trump is pushing to raise the entry requirements for Caribbean nationals and other immigrants who wish to make the United States their permanent home.

However, Caribbean nationals in the U.S. are already reaching some of the more rigid targets the president is proposing at a better rate than immigrants from many other nations, according to at least one study.

Trump's plan to "modernize" the U.S. immigration system, announced in mid-May, calls for granting permanent residence - and eventual American citizenship - based primarily on "skill and merit." His proposal woos people with higher education and those financially self-sufficient.

The president said the proposal also aims to make the U.S. safer from illegal immigration, protect the nation's borders and the American worker, and rid the country of undocumented immigrants who break the law.

"For criminals here we will ensure their swift deportation," Trump declared.

### BACKLASH

However, the plan faced immediate backlash from senior members of both major political parties in the U.S., including Trump's own.

Caribbean American Senator Kamala Harris, a Democrat campaigning for the president's job, called the plan "shortsighted" because it would place heightened emphasis on educational standards of applicants, a points rating system and language and civics testing for permanent residence or "green card".

"We cannot allow people to start parsing and pointing fingers and creating hierarchies among immigrants," Harris, whose father is Jamaican, told an audience in Nevada.

"The beauty of the tradi-

tion of our country has been to say, when you walk through the door, you are equal. We spoke those words in 1776, 'we are all equal' and should be treated that way. Not, 'oh well, if you come from this place, you might only have a certain number of points, and if you come from that place you might have a different number of points'."

Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, a Democrat whose parents are from Jamaica, also blasted the president's proposal as "yet another attack on immigrant families."

"America has a long history of welcoming loved ones of those already here," Clarke told **Caribbean Media Corporation**. "But the White House wants to end that practice, while also eliminating the diversity lottery."

"He (Trump) calls it a 'merit-based' approach, but we can see past the legalese. It's another attempt to keep immigrant families, and especially those from places like the Caribbean, separated."

U.S. Senator Chuck

Schumer, a Democrat, called Trump's proposal "cruel and inhumane" and fellow Democrat, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, said Trump's plan was "dead on arrival."

### NO PLAN

Some of Trump's fellow Republicans also viewed the president's plan with skepticism. U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, said it failed to address undocumented immigrants currently in the U.S. Migration Policy Institute (MPI), a Washington, D.C.-based nonpartisan think tank, estimated that more than 351,000 Caribbean nationals are among the estimated 11.3 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. up to 2016.

"I can't imagine an immigration proposal that does not include a plan for the 11 million," said Graham.

Yet Trump has made clear

he's against more undocumented immigrants entering the U.S., and has disparaged some nations, including Haiti, as "shit hole".

"Our country is full," Trump told a campaign rally audience in Pennsylvania last month. "We don't want people coming up here."

However, MPI indicated Caribbean nationals are better equipped than immigrants from many other nations to meet Trump's proposed criteria. Although "most Caribbean immigrants obtain lawful permanent residence in the United States ... through family-sponsored preferences, or as refugees and asylums ... Caribbean immigrants are less likely to be Limited English Proficient (LEP), have lower educational attainment and income, and have higher poverty rates," MPI reported.

According to MPI, "approximately 4.4 Caribbean nationals resided in the United States" in 2017, "accounting for 10 percent of the nation's 44.5 million immigrants."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



Trump



Harris

## Bahamas makes big push to lure visitors to islands

### DAWN A. DAVIS

When planning a vacation to The Bahamas most holiday makers automatically think of Nassau, the bustling modern capital, Freeport, the second city on Grand Bahama island or Bimini, known for its pristine beaches.

But, there is much more to The Bahamas and the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation is on a mission to prove it.

"We are promoting The Bahamas with a 16-island strategy," Ellison "Tommy" Thompson, the ministry's deputy director general, told **Caribbean Today** at a Bahamas marketing event held on the Seafair mega yacht in the Miami bay.

"We are introducing the individual names of the islands of The Bahamas, with each island being branded according to what the island can deliver."

The Bahamas, an archipelago of islands that stretches over 100,000 miles of the Atlantic Ocean, is about an hour's flying time from Miami, Florida. It's dotted with large and small islands, all with varying characteristics. It's these differences Thompson is promoting.

"If you go to Crooked island, that's a bone fishing paradise," he explained.

"And the neighboring island,



Thompson

Acklins, least known of all the islands and a pristine natural wonder, will showcase its unique beauty with the first annual Cascarilla Festival this June."

The Cascarilla herb, known for its powers of protection and cleansing, is also a major ingredient in the Italian liqueur Campari.

"Cascarilla is a huge business," Thompson said. "So, we're trying to make it as sustainable as possible. The aim of the festival is to get the younger people involved in it, so we're working with the schools."

"We have acres of farmland, and we will give some of that to the schools so that they can get students involved in sustainability of the crop and also teaching them the financial benefits of the business."

### BENEFITS

Another Bahamas event,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



**SALUTE TO THE BAHAMAS**

In June, Caribbean Today will spotlight the Bahamas-3000 islands, cays and inlets located in the Atlantic Ocean. With a population of over 385,000 people, this nation continues to influence its Caribbean cousins and The United States mainland, Florida in particular. The Bahamas is located in the same island chain as Cuba, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti) and is one of the richest countries in the Americas per capita. Come with Caribbean Today as we focus on the great people of The Bahamas and learn of their contributions to the Caribbean region and the U.S.

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**ADVERTISING DEADLINE: June 25, 2019**

## Grenada's names new U.S. ambassador

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Grenada's Ambassador to the United States Yolande Smith has presented her credentials to U.S. President Donald Trump.

In discussion with Trump, Amb. Smith, who is also Grenada's ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), said "Grenada continues to enjoy steady progress in human and economic development," according to a statement from the Embassy of Grenada here.

Citing the "long, friendly

and harmonious ties" between Grenada and the U.S. as the platform for mutually-beneficial bilateral relations, Smith expressed optimism for expanded engagement between the two countries. She also conveyed Grenada's gratitude for past and ongoing U.S. assistance.

"As a developing country, and one which sits on the shores of a vulnerable Caribbean region, that is susceptible to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, droughts and climate change, Grenada

continues to be grateful to its partners," Smith said.

"Accordingly, we welcome and appreciate the U.S. Southern Command's most recent initiative to help in the building of a headquarters for our National Disaster Management Agency," added Smith, who returns here from a three-and a-half-year assignment as the deputy consul general in Miami, Florida.

- Edited from CMC.



## Caribbean American enters race for Miami-Dade commissioner

Jamaican-born attorney Marlon Hill has entered the race to become the next commissioner for Miami-Dade County District 9 in Florida.

The election to replace long time Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, who is leaving the post due to term limits, will be held Aug. 25, 2020.

Hill launched his campaign last month urging constituents to unite as a family to address issues such as traffic congestion, environment and access to public parks. He also promised to use his entrepreneurial skills to promote

business and work towards making the district safer for residents.

"So, we're here," Hill told the audience in a Jamaican accent after he took center stage at the South Florida campaign launch. "We reach!"

A former president of the Caribbean Bar Association and partner in the law firm of Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, Hill called his venture into the race a "new day," claiming he is counting on the community to help him make a successful bid for the seat held by Moss since 1993.

Hill, who said he arrived in South Florida from the Caribbean more than three decades ago as a teenager, attended high school, college and law school in the state.

Now, Hill said, he wants to continue to give back, adding to his involvement in community work, such voter registration and citizenship drives, youth college mentorship, small business advocacy, financial management and campaigns promoting health, including breast cancer awareness.



## Bahamas makes big push to lure visitors to islands

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

which takes place in March, is the Mutton Festival on Long Island. The two days of festivities highlight the creativity of residents in creating mutton dishes. Matching destinations with their outstanding qualities is part of the Bahamas promotion playbook.

"Part of what we're doing is to look at how do we create economic benefits from tourism," Thompson said. "Our branded festivals are a great way to draw attention to these islands and also to bring business to the islands."

To boost its marketing strategy, the ministry has partnered with rockstar Lenny Kravitz to bring a dash of celebrity status to the islands of The Bahamas. The hope is that the singer/songwriter's Bahamian heritage and his occasional presence on the islands, even before he became a household name, will lend authenticity to the advertising and marketing rollout.

A television commercial featuring Kravitz walking on an expansive beach, talking to locals and driving along the coastline, with his hit song "Fly

Away" playing in the background, beckons visitors to The Bahamas.

"So, we have superstar Lenny, but also you have the nice, real authentic, unfiltered Bahamian telling the story of their particular island," explained Thompson. "We try to infuse more of the culture of The Bahamas in a very authentic way."

Kravitz isn't the only one with island roots being wooed for the promotion.

"We've created a Tourism Development Corporation that is looking at ways to get

Bahamians involved in the ownership of tourism," Thompson added. "If you have a bed and breakfast, give tours, or sell souvenirs, we are trying to get more diversification in tourism."

According to Thompson, 2018 was a record breaking year for The Bahamas, with more than 6.6 million visitors, a 486,176 increase over 2017.

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



## 'DEAD ON ARRIVAL': Backlash greets Trump's 'merit' immigration plan

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Trump claimed 56 percent of those entered the U.S. "solely because they have a relative" in the country, not because there's evidence they can contribute to nation building. He added that another 21 percent was granted "green cards" based on a random lottery system for "humanitarian relief."

Trump called the current system, which he said forces some foreigners who receive higher education to leave the U.S., a "senseless rule.



Schumer

"We discriminate against genius," the president said. "We discriminate against brilliance."

In addition, he claimed, many of those currently entering the U.S. as permanent residents are competing with Americans for low paying jobs, adding that "only 12 percent" of immigrants are selected on skill. That, he vows, will change.

"(Immigrants) must come through merit and skill," said Trump while proposing a "Build America Visa" to replace the current "green card" system.

Priority, he explained, would be given to permanent residence applicants capable of becoming higher wage earners.

### MISSING

However, the president's proposal is unlikely to become law anytime soon, especially since Democrats control the U.S. House of Representatives. It doesn't address so-called "Dreamers", meaning those benefiting from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. DACA, which is heavily favored by Democrats but opposed by Republicans, was implemented by former President Barack Obama. It allows undocumented immi-



Graham

grants, who were brought to the U.S. as children, to stay in the country legally, without fear of deportation, providing they abide by certain regulations, including attending school. DACA beneficiaries are allowed to work and obtain driver's license.

At least 6,700 Caribbean nationals are believed to be DACA recipients, according to MPI.

Trump's proposal also doesn't address temporary protected status. More than 58,000 Haitians, who fled the French-speaking Caribbean nation after a massive earthquake years ago, are in the U.S. under TPS.



## Former Jamaica P.M. dies in Florida hospital on birthday

Former Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga died last month in Florida. He was 89.

Seaga had been admitted to a Miami hospital, where he was reportedly treated for cancer.

Earlier in the month family members sounded positive in describing Seaga's condition.

"He is receiving excellent medical care and is sustained too by the love of his family and friends," his wife Carla noted in a statement. "We continue to pray for him and support him in his present stable environment."

However Seaga, who reportedly became ill while traveling overseas, eventually succumbed to complications from his illness on May 28, his birthday.

### CONDOLENCES

In a statement, Oliver Mair, Jamaica's consul general in Miami, said Seaga "contributed immensely to independent Jamaica" and "expressed condolences to his wife, Carla and children, Christopher, Annabella,

Andrew and Gabrielle, and other family members."

Tributes also came from various Caribbean leaders. Seaga is a former Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) leader (1974-2005) and member



Seaga

of Parliament for the West Kingston constituency. He served as prime minister from 1980-89. He retired from active politics in 2005, but remained involved in other ventures, including sports.

Seaga was appointed honorary distinguished fellow at the professorial level at The University of the West Indies. He also served as chancellor of the University of Technology, Jamaica.

Seaga was married twice and had four children.



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## Immigrants find refuge in U.S. courts as 'Trumpism' reigns

It's unfortunate but somewhat reassuring that the only real balm most immigrants have found as they fight against the dictator in The White House flying the fake flag of democracy is in the courts.

As the Trumpeto administration and his own "counsel", aka the United States attorney general, continues in the dead of night to think up more and more ways to deport and scapegoat immigrants to ensure the browning of America is stopped dead in its tracks, the only real recourse immigrants are finding nationally is in the courts.

Thank God for real justices who are not afraid to uphold the United States Constitution and the laws of this land. Otherwise we would still have a Muslim travel ban, "Dreamers" would be out and so too would many Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Departure immigrants, including Haitians.

On the heels of rulings from two federal judges recently, that have blocked the government from ending Temporary Protected Status for Haitians after finding that revoking TPS was improper, several rights organizations, including The American Immigration Council, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and the American Civil Liberties Union, have again taken the fight for more immigrants to the courts.

### 'MINI-ME'

All three filed a complaint in federal court last month challenging the Trump administration's new policy that categorically denies bond hearings to asylum seekers. This relates to the April 16 policy change by Attorney General William Barr, Trump's new "Mini-Me", which targets asylum seekers whom immigration officers previously determined have a "credible fear" of persecution or torture if returned to the places they fled.

Many such people currently have the right to a bond hearing where an immigration judge will decide if they should be held or released from custody as their asylum case proceeds. If the new policy from Barr goes into effect unchallenged, these immigrants could be jailed indefinitely without a hearing.

Can you imagine that?



The president is thinking up more ways to scare immigrants.

The so-called democracy and greatest country in the world, a country that is quick to call out Nicholas Maduro in Venezuela and the Cuban government for perceived rights violation has no problem violating the human rights of immigrants by jailing them indefinitely without so much as a court hearing.

These are no criminals but people seeking asylum and refuge, but no, no innocent until proven guilty scenario here. That only applies in the Trump World to "true Americans."

Barr, aka Trump's Dark Angel, cites violations of the Due Process Clause, the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Administrative Procedure Act as reasons for the changes. In other words, find anything to please the boss and carry out his fascist agenda.

And you thought Jeff Sessions was bad?

### PUNISHMENT

Michael Tan, senior staff attorney of the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, summed it up best as he said: "Trump's true motives are clear — to deter asylum seekers and punish people who apply for protection under our laws."

And this is just one of many lawsuits across the country as more and more people stand up to Trump by putting the courts and the country's laws to the test on behalf of poor brown and black immigrants.

Last month also, in Middlesex County, MA, District Attorney Marian Ryan, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), and the Chelsea Collaborative, filed a groundbreaking lawsuit demanding an end to federal immigration enforcement in and around Massachusetts courthouses.

The lawsuit came as over the last two years, officers

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

## BREAK-UP: It may be hard to do, but so easy to spot

Weeping often follows a breakup.

Women shed copious tears when they realize the relationship has come to an end and the dream is over.

Men may exercise a modicum of decorum, remain stoic and maintain a stiff upper lip, as they remain resolute. That is until they crawl off into a corner and bawl their eyeballs out.

"Stella, Stella, why did you leave me and gone Stella?"

For many couples, it may come as a surprise.



TONY ROBINSON



But should it really?

How can you be involved with someone for many years and not see the writing on the wall, the tide going out, the dark storm clouds on the hori-

zon, the approaching goodbye indicators? That's the fate of many couples who refuse to acknowledge the goodbye indicators in their lives.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

## CARIB Comments

• "There was strong sentiment among regional leaders that the U.S. had not been paying enough attention to the Caribbean as the third border of the United States" -



Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness discusses a recent meeting he and other Caribbean leaders had with United States President Donald Trump.

• "Fortunately, this plan to deny green cards will meet a red light in Congress, and I'll be proud to lead the charge against it" - Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke denounces Donald Trump's new immigration proposal.

• "For the young female footballers, this shows what can be done with belief, hard work, talent and support. You can get there. For the pioneers, this achievement vindicates you" -



Michael Ricketts, president of the Jamaica Football Federation, underlines the importance of Jamaica's qualification for soccer's Women's World Cup, which kicks off this month in France.

• "There can be no tolerance in this country for any child to believe that they are in a position to threaten or attack any teacher or their parents or any adult in this country. If we allow this to happen we will be surrendering our country to lawlessness and to young people who will not come to appreciate that their behavior is unaccept-

able in every form. We have a duty as a nation to condition violence out of the next generation" - Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley pledges to address violence in schools.

• "During the last 20-odd years, we lost so many good cricketers. I think the good cricketers have again come up with the intention of doing good" - former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd expresses hope the team from the Caribbean can perform well at the World Cup, which continues this month in England.



• "The special election race wasn't easy ... When the journey got rough, you all stuck by my side, did not get discouraged and uplifted me in ways that words cannot define" - Farah Louis, daughter of Haitian immi-

grants, in an e-mail message to supporters after won the special election to replace former New York City Councilmember Jumaane Williams, another Caribbean American, as representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn. Louis is campaigning, urging voters to re-elect her in the Democratic primary on June 25 for the district seat.

"We have seen very little change over 15 years. Despite clear commitments, our estimates indicate that national governments are doing too little to reduce low birth weight" - Hannah Blencowe, lead author of a new United Nations-backed report, sounds the alarm to Caribbean and other countries to invest more and take greater action to reduce the number of babies born with low birth weights that put their health at risk.

- Compiled from various sources.

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## VIEWPOINT



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## TRICK OR TREAT: The biggest loser may be the best con man alive

ROGER CALDWELL

President Donald Trump must be the biggest and best con man alive.

He seems to be a Teflon individual, who has the ability to talk you out of your money, even though you know he is lying.

Not only does he have the ability to talk you out of the money in your pocket, but he can fool you to take more money out of your bank account.

“Since he launched his improbable but ludicrously successful foray into presidential politics, Trump has sold himself, in part, as a wildly successful businessman whose perspicacity about money making would serve him well in making deals on behalf of the

United States and the American people. Trump sat atop a business empire, with properties around the world claiming to be a billionaire and refusing to release tax returns that could either confirm or expose his big talk as much nonsense,” says Damon Linker, reporter of the *Week*.

When it came to Trump and his businesses, no one knew what to believe. Everyone in the country is well aware that the president had filed bankruptcy during many different periods in his life and maybe too many times to count. But somehow he always came out on top, and he still bragged about being a billionaire.

## UNCOVERED

Thanks to the New York

*Times*, after reviewing Trump’s tax returns from 1985 to 1994, it has been discovered that year after year he appears to have lost more money than nearly any other individual American taxpayer.

This is an amazing achievement considering everyone thought the president was making billions, while telling everyone in the country how they could be successful like him.

“You heard that right: Of all the tens of millions of taxpayers in America during those nine years, the man who a little more than two decades later would go onto to become the 45th president of the United States was quite possibly the country’s biggest loser. Which, given his 2016 election pitch, has to made him one of

America’s all-time greatest con men as well,” explains Linker.

Once the president decided he could fool white Americans that he could make America white again, he had a winning formula.

“His supporters just don’t care. He’s been metaphorically shooting people on Fifth Ave. for years now and getting away with it. And it really isn’t clear what, if anything could alter this reality,” says Linker.

## DON’T CARE

After the release of the Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s report, it clearly demonstrated in detail that members of the campaign tried to get help from the Russians. Many of the Trump supporters don’t appear to care nor do they want to hear about it.

This report also demonstrated numerous acts of suspected criminality, more examples of unethical behavior and still the president has hit a six-month high in his approval rating. Ninety percent of the Republican Party and half of the independents across the country approve of Trump’s job performance. It does not matter what Trump says nor does.

Racism has raised its ugly head with no apologies and it is pervasive and blatant. The responsibility of all Americans is to uproot this sickness and disease, and call it out on all levels of human activity.

*Roger Caldwell is a freelance contributor. His views may not reflect that of Caribbean Today.*

## BREAK-UP: It may be hard to do, but so easy to spot

Sometimes one person just wants out, as the relationship has run its course. Perhaps both parties want to separate, but are afraid to say so and instead live in misery and rancor for the rest of their miserable lives. At times it’s to escape an abusive relationship or maybe he simply got tired

of loving the same person, over and over and over with no variation at all. Maybe another person entered the picture. We all know what effect that can have on a relationship.

## INDICATORS

Whatever the reasons are, they do not matter. Instead,

we’re going to examine the indicators.

One sure goodbye indicator is when the talking stops. Now not everybody is talkative, but when you have a couple that chats incessantly about any and everything, and then the verbiage peters out to a mere piddling trickling stream,

that’s a sure goodbye indicator.

The biggest goodbye indicator, though, looms large. Affection. Or at least no affection. When it wanes or stops completely, that’s a signal. The irony is, if the woman doesn’t want to anymore, it’s often accepted. After all, it’s the woman’s prerogative to refuse. But if the man loses interest and can’t be bothered, all hell erupts.

Usually, when the man loses interest in his woman, her first instinct will be to say: “Oh, you must be attracted to somebody else!” That may be true, but whether he’s getting affection elsewhere or just doesn’t want it anymore from his woman, it’s a sure goodbye indicator.

## SIGNS

The subtle signs can just be as ominous. For example, when she refuses to make long term plans with her man, that’s a sure indicator.

When friends become more important than you, then that’s a sure goodbye indicator. A year or two ago, you were both inseparable, but now everything is about her friends, never you.

Work is also the curse of many relationships. In some cases it’s truly a legitimate reason, but in other instances it’s merely an excuse to stay away. It’s a sure sign that he or she would rather be at work rather than be with you.



## Immigrants find refuge in U.S. courts as ‘Trumpism’ reigns

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have frequented Massachusetts courthouses as they have many nationwide, surveilling, arresting and detaining immigrants.

The degree to which these civil arrests are occurring in courthouses is unprecedented in American history and have severely undermined the administration of justice and access to judicial redress in the Commonwealth.

The lawsuit seeks a declaration from the court that ICE’s policy and practice of arresting people while coming to, attending or returning from court is illegal. The suit also asks the court to immediately enjoin ICE from conducting any more courthouse arrests.

“This lawsuit provides a powerful blueprint for advo-

cates across the country who want to protect access to the courts and to judicial redress,” said Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal, executive director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, which represents the Chelsea Collaborative, an organization with immigrant and non-citizen members who have been unable to enforce basic state-law rights for fear of ICE arrest and deportation.

Thank God for these Angels of Mercy in the form of immigrant rights attorneys and advocates and thank God for the justices in courts across America who, unlike Barr, are upholding the constitution and rule of law in these United States.

*Edited from News Americas. Felicia J. Persaud is publisher at NewsAmericasNow.*



**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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## Bermuda joins others, green lights Buju's performances

HAMILTON, Bermuda — National Security Minister Wayne Caines has granted Jamaican reggae/dancehall star Buju Banton permission to perform in Bermuda, despite the artiste's well-publicized drugs conviction in the United States.

Caines said he had decided to allow the 45-year-old, whose real name is Mark Myrie, to visit the island. He is scheduled



Buju Banton

to appear on Aug. 17 at Bermuda's National Stadium.

Banton was released from a U.S. prison last December after he served eight years of a 10-year sentence for conspiracy to import cocaine.

"As it relates to Mr. Myrie's particular situation, he has served his mandated period of incarceration, and has publicly said that he wishes to

use his personal experience of incarceration as a way to uplift, motivate and help others," Caines said.

### REDEMPTION

Caines said his ministry backed "any type of personal, rehabilitation, redemption and social commitment, particularly as we ourselves engage with at-risk young people on a regular basis."

He added that Banton has also been granted permission to perform in Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Guyana, the British Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, The Netherlands, Belgium, The Bahamas, Suriname, France and Germany.

"Ultimately, we believe that if given the opportunity to perform in Bermuda, Mr. Myrie's performance will have an exceedingly positive effect on our community," Caines added.



## 'Sprinter' races into theaters

"Sprinter", a movie which follows the life of a Jamaican teenager as he pursues his dream of becoming a top track athlete, is currently in United States theaters.

The film stars Akeem Sharp as "Rasta Rocket", who yearns to be Jamaica's next sports sensation. It takes viewers on Sharp's trip to the U.S. to reunite with his mother, who has been living in the North American country as an undocumented immigrant for over a decade.

However, the Rasta

Rocket's rise is stymied by turmoil at home, generated by his volatile father and unruly older brother.

Executive producers of the film are American movie stars Will and Jada Smith, and former professional basketball player Richard Jefferson. Lorraine Toussaint and David Alan Grier also star in the film.

The film is playing in select theaters. Tickets are pre-sold at [www.sprinterthefilm.com](http://www.sprinterthefilm.com).



## LIKE A DIAMOND



Barbadian pop star Rihanna is shining bright like a diamond outside the music industry as well. Rihanna, 31, last month announced she has created a luxury clothing line for the French conglomerate LVMH, which also houses brands like Celine, Christian Dior and Louis Vuitton. According to Rihanna, who told T Magazine she's "slowly evolving throughout the fashion world," her fashion ideas are "really strong and edgy." However, she's not about to ditch her music career. Her ninth studio album is expected to be a compilation of reggae songs.

## T&T steel band sues NYPD for 'unconstitutional arrests'

NEW YORK — Four Trinidadian-born steel band players in the Caribbean j'ouvert festival in Brooklyn have filed a federal lawsuit against the City of New York and the New York Police Department (NYPD) officers following their alleged "unconstitutional arrests" last September.

Michael Demas, Catherine Nunes, Gwynn Glasgow and Jennifer Frederick, members of the Heart of Steel Band, filed the lawsuit on May 21 through their civil rights attorneys at the Manhattan law firm of Lord & Schewel PLLC. Demas is the leader of the band.

The lawsuit claims that members of Heart of Steel Band and their guests were "unconstitutionally rounded up and arrested at a Pan Yard celebration in Flatbush, Brooklyn" on September 1, 2018." It noted that Sergeant Alan Chau, a NYPD officer, "has been sued seven times in the last year alone for illegal arrests related to alleged alcohol offenses in the 67th precinct" in East Flatbush.

Attorney Abraham Rubert-Schewel told the Caribbean Media Corporation



Band members claim cops unfairly targeted them.

(CMC) that, like the prior lawsuits, the one filed on behalf of his clients claimed that Sgt. Chau, who is responsible for enforcing all alcohol-related laws in the 67th Police Precinct, "unconstitutionally targeted and arrested guests at Caribbean and West Indian celebrations in Flatbush.

"The Heart of Steel plaintiffs seek to hold Sergeant Chau and the City of New York accountable, through a Monell claim, for the persistent and unconstitutional harassment continuously suffered by the Caribbean community in Flatbush," Rubert-Schewel said.

He said the j'ouvert steel band players and their guests were arrested for the administrative code violation ABC 64-B - "operating an unlicensed bottle club."

### DENIAL

Rubert-Schewel said his clients, including Nunes, 71, and Frederick, 65, "deny ever serving, consuming or selling alcohol.

The attorney said in the civil complaint that members of Heart of Steel Band were "arrested, without probable cause, and charged with oper-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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TEEN SENSATION



- Photograph by Phrenchi

Jamaican-born Hazelle Rogers, second left, mayor of the City of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, stands with Andrew Robichaud, winner of the 2019 Teen Sensation Live Singing Talent Competition last month. At left is Lynore Dyer, the show's executive producer. Robichaud, 17, of Plantation, performed Roy Orbison's song "Crying". He received the winner's trophy and a prize of \$1,000. The competition is produced by People for A Better Community, Inc. in partnership with the Greater Caribbean American Cultural Coalition and the city.

Hammond, Bolton headline N.Y.'s 'Groovin' In The Park'

Jamaican crooner Beres Hammond will match soulful sounds with American Michael Bolton at "Groovin In The Park" this month in New York.

The show, which will also feature British broadcaster David Rodigan, will be held on June 30 at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens.

For Hammond, this year will mark his third appearance at "Groovin". He is known for a slew of reggae ballads, including "Rock Away", "What One Dance Can Do", "Step Aside", "Double Trouble" and "Putting Up Resistance".

"(Hammond) has delivered excellent performances twice before, pounding the park with his chart-topping sing-along list of love songs,"

Groovin's Chief Executive Officer Christopher Robert noted in a recent press release promoting the event.

"We are confident the third time will be the charm."

Bolton is a multiple Grammy-winning artiste who has sold more than 50 million albums and singles worldwide, including hits such as "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You?" and "Soul Provider".



Hammond

For more information, visit [www.groovininthepark.com](http://www.groovininthepark.com) or [www.groovinradiony.com](http://www.groovinradiony.com).



T&T steel band sues NYPD for 'unconstitutional arrests'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

ating an unlicensed bottle club, pursuant to ABC law 64-b," noting that ABC law 64-b only applies "if a person or corporation is operating a place for profit or pecuniary gain and permitting the consumption of alcohol," and that the arrest of all of the plaintiffs were "made by officers in the 67th precinct at the instruction of Sergeant Chau."

Rubert-Schewel also told CMC that the 67th Precinct "contains large Caribbean and West Indian communities who are routinely and consistently harassed and arrested without probable cause and charged with petty or administrative offenses, such as operating a bottle club without a license." He said that data gathered from a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request from the NYPD shows that on the Saturday and Sunday prior to j'ouvert, officers in the 67th Police Precinct made 34 arrests.

PAN YARD

Prior to the annual j'ouvert festival – which precedes, the West Indian American Day Carnival Parade on Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway on Labor Day, the first

Monday in September – Rubert-Schewel said that steel bands, in the Caribbean community in Brooklyn, such as Heart of Steel, practice their routine and songs at meetings called pan yards, which are approved by the NYPD.

Rubert-Schewel said on Aug. 31, 2018 and extending into the morning of Sept. 1, 2018, Heart of Steel Band was holding a pan yard event and that admission to the pan yard was free. At about 1:50 a.m. on Sept. 1, 2018, he said, "numerous NYPD officers and police vehicles arrived at the pan yard" and his clients were arrested.

Rubert-Schewel said he hopes the lawsuit will "put an end to the pattern and practice of reckless and unconstitutional policing by Sergeant Chau and other officers of the 67th precinct.

"J'ouvert is an incredibly important cultural event for the Caribbean community, and the vast majority of participants are non-criminal and non-violent," he told CMC. "The arrests in this case ... are perfect examples of the over-policing that can accompany j'ouvert."

- Edited from CMC.



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## Caribbean touch spices up Spanish seafood paella



Seafood paella

The arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Caribbean meant the introduction of the paella, a Spanish delight. Add Caribbean-style touch and you've got the seafood paella recipe below.

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 2 medium tomatoes, diced small
- 1 sweet orange pepper, seeded, cut into thin strips
- 1 sweet orange pepper, seeded, cut into strips
- 2 cups parboiled rice, unwashed
- 3/4 cup white wine
- 3 1/2 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons Island Spice Fish Seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon Spanish saffron threads
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup frozen green peas
- 1/2 lb. raw scallops, washed
- 1 lb. muscles, optional
- 2 lobster tails, split
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice

### Method

In a large pan or paella pan, add canola oil, onions,

garlic and sauce for two to three minutes.

Add tomatoes and let mix boil and caramelize. Follow by adding sweet red and orange peppers.

Fold in the rice then add white wine at medium heat. Stir the mix occasionally and, when the rice starts to absorb the wine, pour in chicken broth followed by fish seasoning, saffron threads, salt and pepper.

Let the liquids come to a boil, then put the at low and cover the pan to let the rice cook for at least 20 minutes. In a small separate pan, sear lobster at medium heat for

three minutes on each side. Set aside in a plate. Ten minutes before the rice is fully cooked, add green peas, scallops, shrimps and lobster tails tucking them into the rice.

Cover the pan again. Let cook for 10 minutes or until the seafood is cooked and rice is fluffy. Remove the pan from heat, drizzle in a little olive oil, followed by lime juice, cover it then let stand for another 10 minutes before serving.

- Edited from *Island Spice*.



## Fruits galore at Redland summer festival' June 22-23

MIAMI, Florida - Tropical fruit, ripe and ready for tasting, will be available for the family at this month's "Redland Summer Fruit Festival" in Miami.

The festival is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **June 22 and 23** at Preston B. Bird/Mary Heinlein Fruit & Spice Park.

Those who attend will have the opportunity to sample fruit and browse and shop displays of local agriculture

and tropical fruit plants. Fruit-based treats like smoothies, ice-cream and conch fritters will also be available.

The festival includes a children's area with games, pony rides and a watermelon-eating contest. There will also be workshops and classes giving tips on growing tropical fruit.

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## 'Taste of the Caribbean' comes to South Florida June 21-25

A dozen teams from the Caribbean are scheduled to participate in this month's "Taste of the Caribbean" cooking competition in South Florida.

The event, which will feature some of the top chefs in the Caribbean, will take place **June 21-25** in Miami.

Since 1993, "Taste of the Caribbean" has been the Caribbean's leading culinary competition. It is held annually under the auspices of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA). The four-day event showcases the best chefs and bartenders from around the region.

"Taste of the Caribbean" also offers participants an opportunity to receive expert advice from culinary connoisseurs to help build the region's food and beverage industry.



## SPORTS



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## Jamaica makes historic Women's World Cup soccer berth

Jamaica's Reggae Girlz will carry the Caribbean's hopes for global soccer glory when they make a historic berth at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup, set to kick off this month in France.

Jamaica, the first senior female team from the region to qualify for the game's biggest tournament, will play in Group C alongside Brazil, Italy and Australia in France.

The Girlz, ranked 53rd by world soccer's governing body FIFA, will face 10th ranked Brazil on June 9 in Grenoble, Italy (15th) in Reims on June 14, then return to Grenoble to play the Aussies (sixth) on June 18.

Six groups of four nations each will start the tournament, which officially kicks off June 7. After round robin play, the top two in each group will advance to a knockout stage. The final will be played on July 7.

Jamaica will be represented by several players and coaches based in the United States. Head coach Hue Menzies runs a soccer club in Florida. His assistant Lorne Donaldson operates in Colorado.

Players who have lived and competed in Florida include captain Konya Plummer, who played at University of Central Florida. Lauren Silver is a Florida native. Marlo Sweatman and Cheyna Matthews played at Florida State University. Ashleigh Shim represented Florida International University. Nicole McClure and Trudi Carter played for University of South Florida, while Havana Solaun represented University of Florida. Teenager Jody Brown played for Montverde Academy.

### EMBRACE

The team, nation and Jamaicans overseas have embraced the magnitude of its accomplishment and the opportunity to play in the World Cup.

"I think it's a significant achievement for the country,



Jamaica's women celebrated World Cup qualification last year. Soccer's biggest stage awaits.

for female soccer and the Girlz specifically," Nodley Wright, the Jamaica Football Federation's (JFF) press officer, told *Caribbean Today*.

"The country has really embraced the team. I think it's the whole diaspora as well, because some of the players were born in the diaspora."

The Girlz are confident they can excel on the field as well. The team played its final home warm-up game on May 19, a 3-1 victory over Panama in Kingston, and days later won a practice match 2-1 against club team F.C. Surge in Florida, where they also trained.

However, on May 28 Jamaica lost 3-2 to Scotland in another friendly before arriving in France. Of major concern in that game was a leg injury suffered by top striker Khadija Shaw, which forced her to leave the game after scoring both of Jamaica's goals.

### STRUGGLE

Yet, despite the enthusiasm and optimism of the team, the Girlz still struggle to find funding. Years ago Jamaica disbanded the women's program. Even now, there have been glaring questions about the level of support from the JFF. A story published in the *New York Times* also painted an unflattering picture about the lack of financial support for the Girlz, including

painstaking efforts to raise money. The JFF, however, has denied claims it has short-changed the Girlz.

Meanwhile, players and coaches finally settled a drawn out contract dispute with the JFF last month. Yet, en route to France, barely two weeks before its first match, Jamaica mangled travel arrangements, which stranded some team members.

Still, the huge task of representing a nation and region has not escaped Jamaica's team.

"The players also understand the significance of the achievement and recognize their responsibility as ambassadors of Jamaica," said Wright.

Jamaica's World Cup squad includes: Plummer, Silver, Sweatman, Matthews, Shim, Carter, Brown, McClure, Solaun, Shaw, Allyson Swaby, Chantel Swaby, Chinyelu Asher, Chanel Hudson-Marks, Sashana Campbell, Kayla McCoy, Tiffany Cameron, Deneisha Blackwood, Dominique Bond-Flasza, Toriana Patterson, Yazmeen Jamieson, Olufolasade Adamolekun and Sydney Schneider.

For complete World Cup match dates, times and venues, visit [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com).

- Gordon Williams



## Caribbean contingent takes aim at girls U-17 World Cup

A large batch of Caribbean nations will journey to Florida this summer to contest soccer qualifiers, aiming for a place in the girls Under 17 World Cup.

Four groups consisting of four teams each will play in the qualification stage of CONCACAF, for nations in North and Central America and the Caribbean, between Aug. 17 and 25 at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. All except one of those 16 teams - Honduras - are linked to the Caribbean community.

Group A includes Honduras, St. Lucia, Anguilla and Bonaire. Group B features Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Cayman Islands and Martinique. Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, United States Virgin Islands and Belize will play in Group C. Bahamas, Curacao, Guyana and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will contest Group D.

### KNOCKOUT

The winner of each group

## Haiti earns U-17 men's W.C. spot

Haiti will represent the Caribbean in this year's Under-17 men's soccer World Cup, the only nation from the region to qualify.

Haiti survived a penalty shootout against Honduras last month to advance to the semi-final of the CONCACAF Championship for countries in North America and Central America and the Caribbean to guarantee a place in the game's biggest showcase in Brazil. More than two dozen other teams from the Caribbean participated in the World Cup qualifiers, which began in March and were played at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. Three were among the four which advanced to the knockout round of 16 after playing in an early group stage for lower ranked teams.

Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico were then joined in the knockout round by Caribbean nations Curacao, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Those teams qualified for the round of 16 by surviving another group stage that kicked off on May 1.

### ELIMINATION

But all the Caribbean nations, except Haiti, were soon eliminated from World Cup contention. Jamaica, after finishing third in Group E, was knocked out in the round of 16, losing 2-1 to El Salvador. T&T, second in Group E, lost 4-1 to Honduras and Puerto Rico was defeated 2-1 by Mexico. Curacao and Guadeloupe

in the qualification stage will advance to the knockout round of 16 teams. There they will be joined by countries contesting another group competition. In that stage, eight Caribbean nations will be spread across four groups. Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Bermuda and Dominican Republic will play in Group E. Group F includes Canada, Costa Rica, Panama and Cuba. In Group G, host U.S. will play alongside Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Nicaragua. Group H will feature Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador and Grenada.

The top three finishers from each of those groups will advance to the knockout round of 16.

The top two teams in the knockout stage, plus the third place finisher, will gain an automatic berth at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2020.



were also eliminated in the round. Curacao was blanked 4-0 by Canada and Guadeloupe was smashed 8-0 by the U.S.

Haiti, which earlier won Group G, advanced from the round of 16 after defeating Caribbean neighbor Dominican Republic 2-0. The win placed Haiti in the quarterfinals. There Haiti faced Honduras. After a 0-0 first half, Carl Fred Sainete gave Haiti the lead in the 65th minute. Hector Medrano equalized for Honduras 10 minutes later.

The game ended 1-1 through full and extra time. Haiti secured its World Cup place by winning the penalty shootout 4-3.

### NOT EASY

For many Caribbean nations, the CONCACAF Championship was a rough baptism for their young players. Some teams left better players at home to allow them to prepare for school examinations. And, unlike some higher ranked nations, Caribbean teams were loaded with amateurs.

"Generally the competition is not as easy as some people are making it out to be," Jamaica's coach Hopeton Gilchrist told *Caribbean Today* after his team was eliminated. "We had high expectations, but nonetheless I thought we did our best."

Gilchrist also blamed his own team's lack of proper (CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

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## PASSING THE BATON: T&T, Jamaica grab medals at IAAF World Relays in Japan

Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica were the only Caribbean nations to win medals at last month's IAAF World Relays in Japan.

The region finished the meet with one gold, two silver and a bronze.

T&T, led by a stellar anchor leg from Rachel Cedenio, won the men's 4x400 meters. Cedenio teamed up with Deon Lendore, Jerem Richards and Asa Guevara to

clock a world leading time of three minutes 00.81 seconds. Jamaica finished third in a season's best 3:01.57, but the team of Demish Gaye, Akeem Bloomfield, Rusheen McDonald and Nathon Allen was moved up to second place and awarded the silver after the United States was disqualified for a lane violation.

### MUFFED

Jamaica earned silver in

the women's 4x100. Gayon Evans, Natasha Morrison, Shashalee Forbes and fast closing Jonielle Smith clocked 43.29 seconds to finish behind the U.S. in 43.27.

However, muffed baton changes cost



Cedenio anchors T&T's victory.

Jamaica's team of Elaine Thompson, Stephenie Ann McPherson, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson dearly in the women's 4x200. They clocked 1:33.21 for fourth, but was promoted to third and awarded the bronze fol-

lowing disqualification of the U.S. The gold was won by France in 1:32.16, with China second in 1:32.76.

The U.S. topped the team points standing with 54, followed in second by Jamaica with 27. T&T finished 15th with eight points. No other Caribbean nation earned a point.



## West Indies hunts third Cricket World Cup

The West Indies last month began its hunt for a third Cricket World Cup title with a decisive victory over Pakistan in its opening game of the 50 overs tournament.

The Caribbean representatives, being captained by Jason Holder, beat Pakistan by seven wickets on May 31. Pakistan was bowled out for 105 runs. Oshane Thomas finished with bowling figures of

four wickets for 27 runs. In reply, the West Indies scored 108 for three to win by seven wickets with 218 balls remaining. Chris Gayle top scored with 50.

The Windies next play Australia on June 6, South Africa on June 10, England (June 14), Bangladesh (June 17), New Zealand (June 22), India (June 27), Sri Lanka (July 1) and Afghanistan on

July 4.

The top four teams will contest the semi-finals on July 9 and 11. The final is set for July 14.

The West Indies won the World Cup, which is staged every four years, in 1975 and 1979. Australia won the last tournament in 2015. England is currently ranked number one in this format of the game.



## Barbadian-born bowler emerges as England's 'X-factor' at CWC

NOTTINGHAM, England – Barbadian-born Jofra Archer's debut for England at the 2019 International Cricket Council's World Cup (CWC) has already caught the attention of several players.

On May 30, the 24-year-old Archer bowled with express pace against South Africa, grabbing three wickets including the prized scalp of Proteas' captain Faf du Plessis in England's opening game of the 50-overs tournament.

Du Plessis was among those who had high praise for Archer, including the fact that he was surprised by the young man's pace.

"Archer bowled really well with the new ball," du Plessis said. "As I said before this game, a lot of guys haven't played against him. It will take time for international batters to get used to his action; he's a little bit nippier when he hits the crease and that's why he's such an X-factor bowler. He broke through our opening three there and that, pretty much, was always going to be a tough ask from there."

### VARIETY

The skipper said Archer also bowled with much variety.

"You can see towards the end – with Rassie (van der Dussen) – he bowls slower-ball, slower-ball, 80 percent ball, 80 per cent ball and then a quick



Archer

bouncer. There's some thinking behind it. When he does bowl that short one it is a bit quicker than his other balls.

"When we get an opportunity to face England again we'll know how his short-ball is his wicket-ball. He's not necessarily a guy that will swing the ball as much as other bowlers but his short-ball will be his wicket-taking ball," du Plessis explained.

England captain Moeen Ali said Archer's pace was among the fastest he had ever faced. He described his younger teammate as a game changer.

"Jofra is amazing," said Ali. "He just makes good batters do different things, that pace he has is incredible. He is the fastest I have ever faced."

"It is unbelievable. He gives us that something else, he can win you games even if he goes for a few runs. Knowing you have him in your side makes a big difference."

- Edited from CMC.



## West Indies cricket great Seymour Nurse dies

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Legendary former West Indies batsman Seymour Nurse has died. He was 85.

The Barbadian, who played 29 Test matches between 1960 and 1969, passed away here after battling illness.

"My coach, my mentor ... thanks for everything you have done for me," renowned former West Indies batsman Desmond Haynes posted on his Facebook page.

Nurse scored 2,523 runs at an average of 47.60. He made

six centuries and 10 half-centuries.

A stylish batsman, Nurse scored a career-best 258 in his final inning in Tests before quitting international cricket.



## Dexter St. Louis, T&T table tennis star, Olympian dies

Trinidad and Tobago's Olympic table tennis star Dexter St Louis has died.

The 51-year-old passed away on May 16 in France following a short illness. His wife Jeromaine and two daughters, Rheann and Axelle, were reportedly at his bedside.

St. Louis was the only table tennis player from T&T to qualify for the Olympics,

turning out at the Atlanta games in 1996 and the Beijing showpiece in 2008.

In a statement issued on the behalf of his family, St. Louis was hailed as "indomitable".

"Dexter will be remembered for his relentless work ethic, sense of humour and passion for justice, as well as for his honesty, fair-play and

his open and transparent approach to sport and to life," the statement noted.

St. Louis most recently represented T&T at last year's Commonwealth Games in Australia, going out in the preliminary stages. He played professionally in France after landing a contract in the early 1990s.



## Eight Caribbean nations hunt soccer's Gold Cup

Eight Caribbean nations will contest the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup, the top soccer tournament for nations in Central America, North America and the Caribbean.

The 16-team tournament, which will be played across the United States and, for the first time, in the Caribbean and Central America, is scheduled to kick off on June 15 and run through July 7.

Cuba and Martinique have been drawn alongside Mexico and Canada in Group A. Bermuda and Haiti have been placed in Group B with Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Group C includes Jamaica, which has reached the final of the last two Gold Cup tournaments, plus Curacao, El Salvador and Honduras.

Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have been placed in

Group D, alongside U.S. and Panama.

The first ever Gold Cup games in the Caribbean will feature a double-header in Kingston, Jamaica on June 17, where Curacao will play El Salvador and the host face Honduras.

For more information on the tournament, visit [www.concacaf.com](http://www.concacaf.com).



## Haiti earns U-17 men's W.C. spot

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

preparation time, failure to secure international warm-up games and hiccups in team management. The young Reggae Boyz also left for the tournament without a medical doctor and one of the team's best players missed early games in Florida because he reported-

ly could not secure a U.S. visa when the team was ready to leave Jamaica.

"No way to prepare and compete," Gilchrist admitted. "... Generally we are a distance behind (the Central American and North American countries). You're talking about teams being together for a year, two

years and having gone to tournaments all over the world. It's hard to beat that.

"So when you try to match up to them it's difficult. You find yourself playing ugly at times. It's hard."

- Gordon Williams



## Windies women happy with 3-0 win over Ireland in T20 tourney

DUBLIN, Ireland – Hayley Matthews, West Indies women cricket vice-captain, said she was extremely satisfied with both her and the team's performances during their tour of Ireland, which ended late last month.

Matthews scored an unbeaten 107 runs to help the Windies women post their second highest ever T20 score of 188 for one against Ireland on May 29.

They then restricted Ireland to 116 for three off its 20 overs to clinch a 3-0 series victory.

Matthews said she was happy the Windies women

were able to achieve their goal of winning all three matches.

"Coming out here we knew we had a job at hand and that was to win the series 3-0," she said. "We played some really good cricket ... every game we improved our scores."

Matthews said she was delighted at her individual achievement and that the series was good preparation for the Windies upcoming tour of England.

"I think the girls are going to take a lot of confidence from this series," she said.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CITY OF MIRAMAR

#### 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

June 2, 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) \$449,046.80**  
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 \$129,010.00**  
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 \$100,000.00**  
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 \$10,000.00**  
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 \$172,014.20**  
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 \$206,619.90**  
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 providewritten comment. Copies of the documents are available for review and comment during the 30-day period commencing June 2, 2019 and ending July 2, 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, July 10, 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

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## U.S. institute wants solidarity with indigenous peoples

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Washington-based Institute for Caribbean Studies (ICS) has called for solidarity with indigenous peoples of the Caribbean.

ICS said it made the call during the recent 18th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

“Indigenous communities across the Caribbean have reached out to us at ICS, through our membership in UNIPOP- an alliance of NGOs and Universities across the Caribbean and Central America committed to a new paradigm of Integral Development – Inclusion, Empowerment, Equality and Equality,” said Dr. Claire Nelson, ICS’s Jamaican-born founder and president.

“These communities are organizing and mobilizing to advance their vision of the future they want, and they seek allies among those of us who

understand that we are all in this journey together,” she added. “The (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development asks that we leave no one behind, and that we stretch to reach the furthest behind first.

“On this closing day of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples, we at ICS pledge our support of their agenda in our journey to 2030,” she continued. “We ask that Diaspora Civil Society organizations include in their scope the plight of the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean.

“Further, we urge Member States of CARICOM (Caribbean Community) and of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) to work with us in



Nelson

the diaspora and with civil society partners on the ground to translate the vision of the declaration into concrete action and further our arrival at a smart future and smart Caribbean,” Dr. Nelson added.

### DECLARATION

In 2007, the U.N. General Assembly adopted the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. It sets the minimum standards and embodies global consensus on the rights of indigenous peoples.

Nelson said the adoption of the declaration marked the culmination of decades of struggles of indigenous peoples for a universal framework for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.

“For the first time in U.N. history, indigenous peoples and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

## ‘Caribbean 305’ returns to Miami

A celebration of Caribbean food, drinks and culture will be staged this month in South Florida.

“Caribbean 305” will be held **June 22** at Mana Wynwood, a new location for the annual event.

Featuring flavors from more than a dozen countries and territories, Caribbean305 spotlights chefs and mixologists from 14 destinations, including The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Grenada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos. The event will also feature cultural influences from Antigua and Barbuda, and the Dominican Republic.

Guests will be welcomed by moko jumbie stilt walkers and carnival dancers. Live Caribbean entertainment, including reggae, soca, salsa and zouk, will also be available.

Caribbean305 offers the opportunity to learn about travel in the region while meeting Caribbean tourism representatives.

“We look forward to our third edition of Caribbean305, which is a wonderful event to celebrate the region’s culture garnished with some of the finest culinary talent available anywhere,” Frank Comito, director general and chief executive officer of the event producer Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, was quoted as saying in a recent press release promoting the event.

Patrons will also be able to sample tapas-style treats and an open bar.

“This is the perfect event for foodies, Caribbean travelers as well as the Caribbean diaspora,” Comito added.

For more information, visit [www.caribbean305.com](http://www.caribbean305.com).



## ‘Island Imprint’ exhibition zooms in on Broward’s Caribbean life

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida – An art exhibition celebrating Caribbean American contribution in one South Florida county will be staged this month in Fort Lauderdale.

The exhibition, titled “Island Imprint: A History of the Caribbean American Community in Broward County”, will be on display **June 1-29** at History Fort Lauderdale.

An opening reception is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. June 5 at The New River Inn, 231st S.W. Second Ave. The public is invited. Reservations can be made by visiting <http://bit.ly/IslandImprintatHFL>.

“Fort Lauderdale embodies a rich tapestry of cultures that is heavily influenced by the colorful traditions and significant multidisciplinary contributions of our neighboring island nations,” Patricia Zeiler, execu-



Campbell’s “Fervent Hope” will be on display.

utive director of History Fort Lauderdale, stated in a recent press release promoting the exhibition.

“We’re pleased to be working with Island Syndicate on this immersive art and history exhibit and on a variety of other initiatives designed to educate and engage guests of all ages.”

### ROOTS

The exhibition, part of a multi-year initiative celebrating

Broward County’s Caribbean heritage, traces the Caribbean community’s roots through a variety of fine art mediums, historical news clippings, archival photos, memorabilia and artifacts displaying the diverse influence of island culture on the vibrant fabric of Fort Lauderdale.

Works featured include Jamaican Paul Campbell’s “Fervent Hope”, pieces from Jamaican Karl “Jerry” Craig and Cuban photographer Silvi Lizama. The installation will also include a storytelling aspect of the shared Caribbean communities’ history via personal memories and mementos allowing for an immersive foray into local Caribbean American culture.

“According to the U.S. Census, approximately one in four South Floridians was born (CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

## Pembroke Pines to host Caribbean exhibition, festival



Performers, from left, Tropical Vibes, Anthony, Meyers, Vargas, Robinson and Grant.

Music, exhibits and food from the region will feature at this month’s Caribbean American Exhibition and Festival in South Florida.

The event, scheduled for **4 p.m. to 10 p.m. June 29**, will be held at The Grounds and

Auditorium - Holy Sacrament, 2801 N. University Dr., Pembroke Pines.

Among the scheduled performers are Tropical Vibes from the United States Virgin Islands, Jamaicans Hal Anthony and Ed Robinson,

Cliff Meyers from Dominica, Cuba’s Kate Vargas and Robbie Grant from St. Vincent.

For more information, call **954-292-6848** or visit [www.CAHMUSA.com](http://www.CAHMUSA.com).



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# CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## 'ARRIVAL DAY': Guyana celebrates multiculturalism

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – President David Granger has praised the contributions made by the Indian community to Guyana as the country recently marked the arrival of the first Indian migrant here in 1838.

“Arrival Day is a national celebration,” Granger said at the unveiling ceremony for the Indian Arrival Monument in Palmyra, East Berbice. “It commemorates the combination and culmination of events which led to the creation of this nation ... It is the face of the population and the foundation of society.”

He reminded the population that Portuguese Arrival Day was observed May 3, marking the arrival of the first indentured immigrants from the Madeira Islands in 1835. He said Chinese Arrival Day was observed on Jan. 12, marking the arrival of the first Chinese migrants in 1853 and Indian Arrival Day, observed last month, marked the arrival of the first Indian migrants in 1838.

“Arrival Day celebrates the contributions of all of our peoples – Amerindians, Africans, Asians and



Granger, third from right, unveils the Indian Arrival Monument.

Europeans,” Granger said, adding that it recognizes the nation’s diversity.

“It signifies the creation of a conglomeration of cultures. The nation is multicultural, and always will be and each culture enriches national integration despite differences in origin.”

Granger said that multiculturalism has overcome historic challenges.

“All ethnic groups, partic-

ularly after the emancipation of the enslaved Africans in 1838, were brought together in a common geographic space,” Granger explained.

“... It is the challenge of the present generation to overcome those differences and to continue to construct a cohesive country.”

- Edited from CMC.

## Double Chaconia is T&T's official flower

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Trinidad and Tobago now has an official flower following the recent amendment to the National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago Regulation Act Chapter 1904 in the Senate.

The flower – the double Chaconia - is now formally recognized as T&T's third emblem.

The other emblems established in the 1967 Act, the Coat of Arms and the national flag,



are unique to T&T. The third emblem, the single Chaconia, has, however, been subject to debate over its uniqueness to the country.

### BRIEFS

#### Carnival Showcase

The Miami Carnival Showcase will be **June 9** at the Little Haiti Cultural Center, 212 N.E. 59th Terr., Miami, Florida.

#### Caribbean Village Festival

Entertainers Kevin Lyttle, Alison Hinds and Shenseea are listed among the scheduled performers at the “Caribbean Village Festival” **June 23** at Miramar Regional Park Amphitheater, Miramar, Florida.

For more information, call **754-209-9928**.

#### CTO to honor stalwarts

Stalwarts of Caribbean tourism are scheduled to be honored by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) on **June 6** in New York.

The honorees are former Grenada Tourism Minister Brenda Hood; Colin James, chief executive officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority; Rosa Harris, tourism director of the Cayman Islands; Laura Davidson, president and founder of Laura Davidson Public Relations; Noel Mignott, president and chief executive officer of The PM Group; and Annette Stowe, Internet and conference administrator at CTO-USA.

New York television anchor Brenda Blackmon will also receive the first “Distinguished Friend of the Caribbean” for her support of Caribbean tourism.

- Compiled from various sources.

## 'Island Imprint' exhibition zooms in on Broward's Caribbean life

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

in the islands, yet the Caribbean as a unified community is not uniquely celebrated as a whole in Broward County,” Calibe Thompson, creative director of Island Syndicate, was quoted as saying in the press release.

“Our goal with ‘Island Imprint: A History of the Caribbean Community in Broward County’ is to showcase art, history and our region’s untold stories as a unique collective and to stimulate further discussion on diversity and culture.”

#### HOMAGE

“Island Imprint” is a 2019-2020 initiative featuring a series of events and installations paying hom-age to Caribbean culture, traditions and history. The project celebrates the diversity of West Indian heritage that

merges in Broward County with interactive, educational entertainment including historical exhibitions, cultural displays, theatrical performances, cuisine, music, artisan crafts, and more, presented in settings that show multi-cultural Broward County.

“Island Imprint: A History of the Caribbean Community in Broward County” is produced by Island Syndicate whose directors include the visionaries behind the recent “Taste the Islands” special event, television series and Island Origins Magazine.

Support has been provided

by the Community Foundation of Broward, the Helen and Frank Stoykov Charitable Endowment Fund, the David and Francie Horvitz Family Foundation, Ann Adams Fund and the Mary and Alex Mackenzie Community Impact Fund.

Admission to the exhibition is free with general museum admission. For more information about History Fort Lauderdale, call **954-463-4431** or visit [historyfortlauderdale.org](http://historyfortlauderdale.org).

## U.S. institute wants solidarity with indigenous peoples

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Member States worked alongside to draft the declaration,” she said. “This collaboration has become an established practice and captures the principle of nothing about us without us, which remains important to achieve the ends of the declaration.”

#### PROGRESS

Since the adoption of the declaration, Nelson said there has been progress at the international, regional and national levels for achieving the rights of indigenous peoples, with some member states incorporating the declaration into national law.

But she lamented that progress has been “uneven, and varies within and among countries and regions and, in this

case, the Caribbean.

“We still have a long way to go to effectively realize of the development rights of indigenous peoples across the Caribbean,” she said.

“The Caribs (Kalinago) in Dominica, from whence we get our name (Caribbean); the various indigenous peoples in Belize, Guyana and Suriname and the quasi-indigenous peoples of the Garifuna and the Maroons are all the beneficiaries of benign neglect with respect to their rights to development, including effective, sustainable management of their lands, territories and resources and to self-determination,” Nelson added.

- Edited from CMC.

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6/2 • 12 – 4 P.M.

**Jacaranda Plaza**  
8101 W. Sunrise Blvd.  
Plantation  
(954) 452-1362  
6/3 • 4 – 8 P.M.

**Colonial Plaza Shopping Center**  
9510 SW 160th St.  
Miami  
(305) 971-9790  
6/7 • 4 – 8 P.M.

**Inverrary Falls**  
5855 W. Oakland Park Blvd.  
Lauderhill  
(954) 735-1328  
6/8 • 12 – 4 P.M.

**Miramar Commons**  
11000 Pembroke Rd.  
Miramar  
(954) 441-7918  
6/9 • 12 – 4 P.M.

**Cypress Lakes Town Center**  
1297 S. State Rd. 7  
North Lauderdale  
(954) 973-3337  
6/10 • 4 – 8 P.M.

**Plantation Towne Square**  
6921 W. Broward Blvd.  
Plantation  
(954) 327-9705  
6/14 • 4 – 8 P.M.

**Ives Dairy Crossing**  
19955 NW 2nd Ave.  
North Miami Beach  
(305) 654-5771  
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