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VOTING TEST



~ Caribbean American voters in Florida, who go to the polls in the Aug. 28 primaries and Nov. 6 general elections, may encounter one of the longest ballots in the state's history. That has sparked fears voters will cast ballots in some races and ignore others, including constitutional amendments. Caribbean Today's "Election Fever" special feature begins on page 11.

BRILLIANT BRIANA
 ~ South Florida-based Jamaican Briana Williams turned in superb performances to win the sprint double and lead the Caribbean's medal charge at the IAAF World Under 20 Championships last month in Finland, page 20.
 - Photograph by IAAF/Getty

Caribbean Americans may be on a list of travelers receiving added scrutiny as part of a controversial policy implemented by United States law enforcement claiming to be on the hunt for terrorists. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), has gone to untraditional lengths to track certain passengers, although those passengers have never committed a crime or are on any terrorism watch list, page 2.

Look! Tiger's in the area, a bam bam. So too Marcus Garvey, looking regal. Sprinkle in some Salt & Pepa, a touch of Fugees, "Fighting Shirley", McKay's words of hope and a splash of Marley. They are among people with Caribbean roots featured, for their contributions to United States development, at the The National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., page 8.

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'QUIET SKIES': Are Caribbean Americans drawing tougher TSA scrutiny?

GORDON WILLIAMS

Caribbean Americans may be on a list of travelers receiving added scrutiny as part of a controversial policy implemented by United States law enforcement claiming to be on the hunt for terrorists.

Several reports late last month have revealed that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), which provides security primarily at U.S. borders, including airports, has gone to untraditional lengths to track certain passengers, although those passengers have never committed a crime or are on any terrorism watch list.

TSA, according to several confirmed news reports, has been secretly watching travelers as part of what is called "Quiet Skies" since 2010, but only recently has the program received public scrutiny. Under the program, U.S. air marshals follow certain pas-

sengers who TSA suspect could have links to terrorism, but who may not have any previous record indicating that.

The tracking can include following passengers into airport bathrooms and monitoring other tendencies, such as sleeping patterns, body odor and facial expressions.

The undercover marshals are required to submit written "minute-by-minute" reports to TSA.

SECRET

The TSA's own assessment, reportedly outlined in a bulletin issued in March and obtained by the Boston Globe newspaper, indicates that about 35 people are tracked each day or thousands each year since "Quiet Skies" began operations. Passengers selected for additional screening can remain in the program for up to three months.

There was, up to press



TSA steps up security.

time, no known cases of arrests made based on "Quiet Skies", according to press reports.

The plan appears to have remained a secret for several Caribbean nations, unaware that their citizens may be under stepped-up scrutiny by the U.S. Recent checks with

multiple Caribbean officials indicated they were either unaware of specific details of the TSA's activities or unwilling to officially acknowledge it.

"I may have heard of it, but I would not be able to comment officially on it until we get a letter from the U.S. about the TSA's program," a

junior government minister from one Caribbean nation, who did not want to be named for this story, told **Caribbean Today**.

DEFENSE

The TSA has defended the program. According to a

statement issued to the **Washington Post** newspaper by James Gregory, a spokesman for the agency, the TSA's policy "makes sense" as no passenger is selected based on race or religion.

"We are no different than the cop on the corner who is placed there because there is an increased possibility that something might happen," Gregory told the newspaper. "When you're in a tube at 30,000 feet ... it makes sense to put someone there."

Gregory claimed the TSA "analyzes information on a passenger's travel patterns while taking the whole picture into account. If that person

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

N.Y. courts rule in shooting death of governor's Jamaican aide

NEW YORK – A 12-member jury last month found two men not guilty of murdering a Jamaican former legal aide to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Prosecutors said Carey Gabay, 43, was shot in the head in a crossfire while walking home after gunfire erupted between two rival gangs outside the Ebbets Field Houses in Crown Heights, Brooklyn during the Caribbean j'ouvert celebration on Labor Day 2015.

While jurors in Brooklyn Supreme Court late last month acquitted the two men of the murder rap, they found one, Micah Alleyne, 26, guilty of manslaughter. Alleyne, of Jamaica, Queens, was also found guilty of criminal possession of a weapon.

Stanley Elianor, 27, of Brooklyn, was convicted of reckless endangerment.

'RIDICULOUS!'

After the jury forewoman read the verdicts, Gabay's brother Aaron McNaughton blurted out: "This is ridiculous! Where's the justice? It was murder. Where's the justice? My brother was murdered."

He then then turned to the jurors: "You should be ashamed of yourselves, all of you."

Elianor's attorney Douglas Appel told reporters outside the courthouse that his client was "very happy with the jury's verdict."

"Obviously, if he got convicted of murder, he could've spent the rest of his life in prison," Appel said. "Now he'll have a much shorter sentence. I think, in the end, justice prevailed."

Elianor had earlier turned to jurors, after the verdict was read, saying: "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Both men will be sentenced on Sept. 12.

AQUITTALS

Also last month, a Brooklyn Supreme Court jury acquitted another defendant, Keith Luncheon, of Brooklyn, of all charges – murder, manslaughter, weapons possession and reckless endangerment – in Gabay's death.

But, during the same week, the jury convicted another Brooklyn defendant,

Kenny Bazile, 33, of second-degree manslaughter and criminal possession of a weapon. He was cleared of the murder charge. Bazile was the sixth man charged with the Gabay's murder.

In June 2016, Tyshawn Crawford, 22, of East New York, Brooklyn was indicted for murder and related charges for his alleged role in the shooting.

Gabay, the first deputy general counsel at a state economic development agency, "was an inspiring public servant whose life was cut short by senseless gun violence," said Cuomo in a statement.

INCIDENT

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, who traces his roots to Puerto Rico, said the incident took place during the early hours of Sept. 7, 2015 in front of 1680

Bedford Avenue. At the time of the shooting, Gonzalez said the patio and street in front of the building were filled with hundreds of people, many of whom were celebrating j'ouvert, a traditional predawn festival that precedes the annual West Indian American Day Parade.

Gonzalez said the building's large patio was known to be controlled by the Folk Nation street gang, "which has been engaged in a years-long war with the 8-Trey faction of the Crips gang," among others.


At about 3:40 a.m., he said a group of 8-Trey members walked up from Montgomery Street, apparently heading toward the j'ouvert procession on Empire Boulevard, about two blocks to the south.

"Their presence in 'enemy territory' sparked a gun battle between Folk Nation members and their affiliates, who were shooting from the street and the patio, and the 8-Trey members who fired from the street before fleeing north," Gonzalez said. "An estimated two to three dozen shots were fired in two consecutive volleys from at least eight firearms, according to the investigation."

Gonzalez said Gabay was walking north on Bedford Avenue with his brother and a couple of friends after attending the j'ouvert procession.


"A bullet struck Mr. Gabay in the head, and he was taken to Kings County Hospital Center (in Brooklyn), where he died a week later on Sept. 15, 2015," Gonzalez said.

- Edited from CMC.



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U.S. calls Antigua/Barbuda 'model' in fight against human trafficking

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Antigua and Barbuda is being cited by officials of the U.S. State Department as an example to other countries to improve their machinery for combatting trafficking in persons.

This information was pro-

U.N. body elects Vincentian prez

UNITED NATIONS – I. Rhonda King, St. Vincent and the Grenadines' permanent representative to the United Nations, has been elected, by acclamation, the new president of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

King, who was appointed as ambassador to the U.N. by Vincentian Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves in 2013, was elected ECOSOC president during its 2019 opening session late last month.

ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the U.N., responsible for coordinating the economic, social and related work of 15



King

U.N. specialized agencies, their functional commissions and five regional commissions.

The General Assembly selects 18 new members for ECOSOC annually for the term of three years, with a provision that a retiring member can be reelected. The ECOSOC has 54 members. ECOSOC holds one seven-week session each year in July.

'DEFINING'

ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the U.N. system.

King, who was born in Curaçao, to Vincentian parents, told the Caribbean Media Corporation late last month that she is the fourth female, first woman from the Latin American and Caribbean region and first woman from the Global South to serve as the ECOSOC president.

In her opening address, the Vincentian envoy said she hopes to make the year ahead "a defining" one for ECOSOC, which leads the U.N.'s ambitious drive for sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

- Edited from CMC.



vided by Dr. Kathleen Vogel and Shelly Westebbe of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the U.S. State Department in a meeting with Sir Ronald Sanders, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States.

The U.S. officials congrat-

ulated Antigua and Barbuda for demonstrating the political will and establishing the machinery to stomp out trafficking in persons, saying



Sanders

their entire office is pleased with how much had been achieved.

Sanders said it is a firm policy of the Gaston Browne-led government to rid Antigua and Barbuda of human trafficking. He also stated that "the Trafficking in Persons Committee in Antigua, backed up by the attorney

general, had performed admirably to improve Antigua and Barbuda's situation by coordinating the efforts of several government offices, including the police and immigration."

- Edited from CMC.



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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Ex-attorney general dismisses CIA role in ending T&T coup

Suggestions that the United States was involved in suppressing a 1990 radical Islamic coup in Trinidad and Tobago is being dismissed by a former attorney general in the Caribbean twin island republic.

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – A former attorney general here has dismissed suggestions that the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was involved in helping Trinidad and Tobago authorities suppress the 1990 coup by a radical Islamic group.

According to Anthony Smart, who served as attorney general during the insurrection, his then Cabinet colleague Dr. Brinsley Samaroo, while “a respected historian,” was not even present when the negotiations regarding the hostages were taking place.

Speaking on a television program last month, Samaroo, a former government minister, told viewers that the attempt by the Jamaat Al Muslimeen group, led by Yasin Abu Bakr to overthrow the then ANR Robinson government, had far implications including a possible overthrow of the government in Venezuela by Libya.

At least 24 people, including legislator Leo Des Vignes, were killed during the six day insurrection that ended on Aug. 1, 1990. Bakr led more than 100 men in trying to overthrow the Robinson government.

They were later tried for treason, but the Court of Appeal upheld the amnesty offered to secure their surren-



Bakr

der and they were released. The London-based Privy Council, T&T's highest court, later invalidated the amnesty, but the Muslimeen members were not rearrested.

MONITOR

Samaroo, who was a member of the Robinson government, said that the U.S. had installed special equipment to monitor what was taking place in Parliament, where Robinson and several legislators were being held by the Muslim group. Samaroo said the situation was saved by four CIA advisers who had long experience in dealing with hostage situations and gave continuous advice to Cabinet members who had gathered at a nearby hotel.

“... It is my firm view that

the situation was saved by the four CIA advisers,” said Samaroo. “The American Ambassador (Charles Gargano) arranged for the two CIA women and the two CIA men to come to join us.”

Smart dismissed his claims. “(Samaroo) wasn't even there,” he said.

“All the activities took place between the 27th of July, the 28, the 29th and by the 30th we had the situation under control and that's when Brinsley entered the picture and by the next day the hostages were released.”

Up to press time, the U.S. Embassy here had not commented on Samaroo's statement.

Bakr never appeared before a commission of inquiry established by the former People's Partnership government to examine the circumstances leading to the insurrection. Last month he said he would not apologize for the 1990 coup.

- Edited from CMC.

'QUIET SKIES': Are Caribbean Americans drawing tougher TSA scrutiny?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

does all that stuff, and the airplane lands safely and they move on, the behavior will be noted, but they will not be approached or apprehended.”

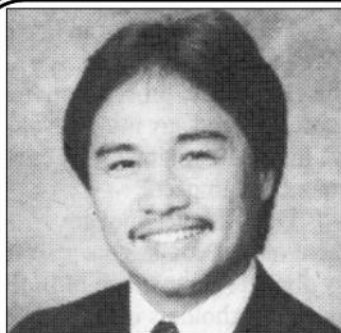
However, civil rights group have lashed out at “Open Skies”.

“Such surveillance not

only makes no sense, it's a waste of taxpayer money and raises constitutional concerns,” the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) stated on the social media network Twitter. “Given TSA's track record of using unreliable and unscientific techniques to screen and monitor

travelers who've done nothing wrong, we should remain especially vigilant.”

Meanwhile, the U.S. government currently has more than a million people on a list of terrorism suspects or known terrorists.



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U.N. wants Caribbean nations to pay contributions 'on time, in full'



Guterres

UNITED NATIONS – United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has urged Caribbean community (CARICOM) and

other member states to pay their mandatory contributions “on time and in full,” warning that the global body is “at risk of running out of cash.”

In a letter to U.N. staff last month, Guterres stated that he had “written to member states regarding the troubling financial situation facing the United Nations.”

He said it was necessary for the world body to continue delivering on its key mandates.

“Caused primarily by the delayed contributions of Member States to the Regular Budget, this new cash shortfall is unlike those we have experi-

enced previously,” he wrote.

LOW FLOW

“Our cash flow has never been this low so early in the calendar year, and the broader trend is also concerning: we are running out of cash sooner and staying in the red longer,” he added.

At the end of June, the

U.N. said the amount of money paid by member states for the 2018 assessment stood at around \$1.49 billion. At the same time last year, the amount paid to the regular budget was just over \$1.70 billion.

In a table complementing the report, the U.N. said that, as of July 25, 112 member

states have paid their regular budget assessments in full, with only five of the 14-member CARICOM states having done so. They are Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica and St. Lucia.

- Edited from CMC.



Guyanese deportee gets police clearance, U.S. group demands explanation

NEW YORK – The Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) here has called on Guyana’s police commissioner and minister of national security to explain how a Guyanese-born deportee, who served 20 years in a United States jail for murder, was able to secure police clearance for a security guard license and gun permit with an alleged false identity.

Late last month, CGID said the alleged breach is in contravention of Guyana’s Criminal Offenses Amendment Act (2002) and the Prevention of Crimes Act (2002). CGID said Robert Goodluck, the security guard in question, is employed by KGM Security Firm, which provides security for a mall at Providence Village in Guyana.

The group said in 1991 Goodluck, whose real name is Robert Wren, was convicted for second degree murder, drug sale and unlawful possession of a firearm in Brooklyn. CGID said Goodluck served 20 years in prison in the U.S. from 1991 to 2010. He was paroled in 2010 and deported to Guyana.

CGID said he has since been operating under the identity of Robert Goodluck, which CGID has labeled “identity fraud.”

EXPOSED

The institute released what it said are portions of Goodluck’s (Wren) New York criminal record, as well as his Guyana Police Force deportee arrival intake form, to corroborate its contentions. CGID said Goodluck (Wren) and his colleague Hash Ramroop were on duty in the parking lot at the New Providence Villiage mall on July 8 when an armed confrontation broke

out with Guyana’s Junior Minister of Natural Resources Simona Broomes. CGID said Broomes, who had received a number of death threats, and her staff were visiting the restaurant for dinner. The group said the minister’s driver, a police officer, had removed an unattended sign that prohibited parking in the vicinity of the restaurant’s entrance, and attempted to drive Broomes directly to the entrance.

“Goodluck (Wren), armed with a high-powered assault rifle, rushed up, stopped the minister’s vehicle and replaced the signs,” CGID charged. “An exchange between the driver and Goodluck (Wren) ensued. Subsequently the minister exited the vehicle and removed the signs for the driver to proceed.”

CGID said police were called and the guards were arrested.

THREAT

Broomes told police that Goodluck (Wren) “cocked his gun and threatened her” and, according to CGID, it’s against the law to threaten the president of Guyana or a minister of government. The minister also told police that she pushed down the signs after Goodluck (Wren) allegedly shouted an expletive at her.

Broomes said the guards allegedly followed her into the restaurant, where they continued to direct expletives at her.

CGID said Guyana’s police last month announced that the director of public prosecutions has advised that no criminal charges will be instituted against Goodluck (Wren).

- Edited from CMC.



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SECOND CHANCE: New York governor pardons Caribbean nationals

NEW YORK – New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has granted pardons to Caribbean and other immigrants convicted of minor offenses, even as President Donald Trump and the United States federal government continue to wage war on immigrant communities.

On July 23, Cuomo issued pardons to seven individuals, including nationals from Jamaica, Barbados and the Dominica Republic, who faced

deportation and other consequences as a result of previous minor criminal convictions.

It was the third time the governor had used his pardon authority to protect individuals facing potential deportation. Most recently, in December, he issued pardons to 18 other individuals.

“At a time when President Trump and the federal government are waging a war on our immigrant communities, New

York stands firm in our belief that our diversity is our greatest strength,” said Cuomo.

“While President Trump engages in policies that rip children out of the arms of their mothers and tries to ramp up the deportation of New Yorkers to advance his political agenda of hate and division, we will protect our immigrant communities.

“With the Statue of Liberty in our harbor, New

York will always stand against the hate coming out of Washington and instead serve as a beacon of hope and opportunity for all,” the governor said in a statement.

REHABILITATED

Cuomo said the pardons issued are in recognition of the individuals rehabilitative efforts and to remove the barriers that their criminal records present to their immigration status. He said some are facing deportation, while others wish to be able to participate in their communities as citizens of the country they call home.

In each case, Cuomo said a pardon will make immigration-related relief possible, if not automatic. He said every recipient is in good standing, having given back to their communities and families in a variety of ways, and having “demonstrated a substantial period of crime-free, good citizenship.”

Cuomo said Jamaican Tamar Samuda, 35, left the U.S. to travel to Jamaica for family funeral and, on return, was detained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency as a result of convictions from 17 years ago.

“She was released on immigration parole in February 2018, and continues to fight her deportation,” the governor said.

Since her convictions for low-level assault and petit larceny, Cuomo said she obtained a GED, a high school diploma equivalency, and completed medical assistant training, and works in home health care and doctors’ offices.

Cuomo said Samuda is a single mother of three school-

aged children. She was cleared to work as an aide in New York City public school special education, but immigration detention prevented her from doing so, Cuomo said.

‘CRIME-FREE’

He said Barbadian national Frank Barker, 43, has been “crime-free” for nine years. Barker was convicted of criminal possession of stolen property and controlled substances and identity theft from a short-term period of criminal activity resulting from drug addiction. Cuomo said he has been sober for eight years and works as a coordinator at an HIV/AIDS supportive housing provider in New York City, is a certified substance abuse counselor and a community advocate in the Bronx.

“He is the financial provider for his family including his daughter with special needs,” the governor said.

The New York governor said the other parolees are from the Dominican Republic and Colombia. The Dominican Republic nationals are Carlos Suarez, 41; Elpidio Rodriguez, 57; Ludames De La Cruz, 53; and Jose Rafael Cruz, 53.

The Colombian national is Marino Soto, 43.

Cuomo said he has used his ability to grant clemency to reward rehabilitation, reunite families, protect against deportation and help New Yorkers become fully contributing members of our society.

Since taking office, he said he has issued 34 pardons, 12 commutations and 140 conditional youth pardons.

Cuomo said last month’s pardons are the latest actions he has taken to support the immigrant community and defend immigrants against what he deemed as “federal attacks.”

- Edited from CMC.



Cuomo

Passenger tries to smuggle snake onto Barbados flight

FLORIDA – Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers at Miami International Airport here stopped a woman on her way to Barbados attempting to sneak a snake on a plane last month.

TSA spokesperson Sari Koshetz said the reptile, a young ball python, was “artfully concealed inside the electronics of a hard drive” in a bag checked in for the flight to Grantley Adams International Airport.

“Upon the TSA officer’s discovery of the organic mass, one of our TSA bomb experts was called into the baggage



The python was found in a computer hard drive.

screening room to investigate the innards of the hard drive and that is when he discovered the mass was a live snake,” Koshetz added.

“While this mass inside

the electronic device was obviously not an imminent terrorist threat to the traveling public, the interception did prevent a possible wildlife threat on an aircraft. Animals of many species have been known to escape and chew through wires with fatal results.”

The United States Fish and Wildlife Services, which was notified of the discovery, took the snake and fined the unnamed passenger.

- Edited from CMC.



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U.S. Customs nab passenger with cocaine on flight from T&T

NEW YORK – The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency says officers have arrested a woman who was found with cocaine in her luggage when she arrived at the John F. Kennedy airport on a flight from Trinidad and Tobago last month.

According to the CBP, officers stopped Diamonaire Smith, a United States citizen and, during the baggage inspection officers noticed that the sides of the suitcase felt “unusually thick.”

“The CBP officers, thereafter, probed the suitcase, which revealed a white powdery substance. The white pow-

dery substance field-tested positive for cocaine.”

Smith was arrested for the importation of a controlled substance and turned over to U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. The total weight of cocaine seized was about five pounds, with an estimated street value of \$85,000.

Smith faces U.S. federal narcotics smuggling charges and will be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the U.S. Eastern District Court of New York.

- Edited from CMC.



ONE FAMILY: Jamaica basks in glory of 56th Independence celebrations

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica - The signs something special was coming soon were unmistakable here.

Massive ribbon arrangements, in the black, green and gold colors of Jamaica's national flag, sprung up downtown, uptown and numerous places in between across the Caribbean island.

Ol' time festival songs, like "Bam Bam" "Land Of My Birth" and "Nuh Wey Nuh Betta Dan Yard" boomed frequently across the air waves, in "robot" taxis as they bobbed and weaved to avoid



- Photograph by Gordon Williams
Campbell is decked out in national colors.

Day falls on Aug. 1. Independence Day is Aug. 6. The celebrations begin before, in many cases, and runs long after those dates. Among this year's biggest attractions is the village. It carries the Independence theme "Jamaica 56 - One Love ... One Family" and features booths with food and merchandise, plus free entertainment.

The village, open Aug. 1-6 is, according to organizers, the "designated the cultural hub for the 2018 Independence celebratory activities." Opinions of promoters of the numerous - and popular - dances and parties that spring up during this period may differ. Yet they all agree Jamaica is in a decidedly happy mood come Independence

bration schedule.

But even before Aug. 1 Jamaicans were revved up for this year's celebrations. On July 31 an "Emancipation Jubilee" was scheduled at the Seville Heritage Park in St. Ann. Other parishes marked the occasion with "Emancipation Vigils" as well.

Throughout the celebrations, Jamaicans were urged to participate in the festival fashion theme "Bandana be Bold with Black, Green and Gold". That meant wearing bandana outfits with the flag's colors. Many locals heeded the call, adding to the color and pageantry that make

"Emancipation" in Jamaica truly special.

The Grand Gala show at the National Stadium on Independence Day offers the celebrations' crowning glory. It's a culmination of pride and excitement. It's a Jamaican jewel, one of its greatest treats.



- Photograph by Gordon Williams

Independence Village attendees join the fun.

traffic, stores hoping to draw customers and even sidewalk vendor stalls.

Hundreds of returning residents and visitors alike flocked to the Caribbean country, eager to submerge themselves into the "yard" vibes.

Independence celebrations are special in Jamaica. It's a time the beauty of the island's culture emerges in full bloom, the people brim with pride and, at least for a time, "forget their troubles and dance," as the late Jamaican icon Bob Marley once sang.

"Celebration," said 66-year-old Skip Campbell, dressed from head to toe in the black, green and gold colors of Jamaica's flag while visiting the "Independence Village" set up across from the National Stadium here. "Everybody is enjoying themselves."

CELEBRATIONS

In 2018 Jamaica marks its 56th anniversary of liberation from Britain. Emancipation

season. Problems plaguing the nation, at least for a while, seem to fade away.

"You don't see any crime here so," Campbell said. "Everybody enjoy themselves."

The village, free and open to the public, carried family activities, booths and displays of cultural items, live shows and food exhibitions. There was also a "Kiddies Village" complete with rides and a traditional "August Mawnin' Market".

SHOWTIME

At the National Arena, next to the village, nightly shows were scheduled between Emancipation Day and Independence Day, adding to the festival atmosphere, including the coronation of Jamaica's Festival Queen. "Mento in the Village", "World Reggae Dance Championship", "Mello-Go-Roun" and "Jamaica Gospel Song Grand Final" were also on the cele-

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Afro American museum unleashes Caribbean impact on U.S. culture

GORDON WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Look! Tiger's in the area, a bam bam. So too Marcus Garvey, all decked out and regal. Sprinkle in some Salt & Pepa, a touch of Fugees, "Fighting Shirley", McKay's words of hope and a splash of Marley.

They are among thousands of photographs, writings, video and audio recordings of people – many living, others long gone - who trace their roots to the Caribbean. All make a telling case of pride and power. That they're displayed at The National Museum of African American History and Culture here is a stunning reminder of the Caribbean's influence in molding the United States into the model on global show today.

While it took a 2003 Act of the U.S. Congress to kick-start the Smithsonian Institution's latest museum in the nation's capital, many believe it was way overdue. The story of a rich culture was often hidden from the full public spotlight as the contributions of the African American experience was underplayed in the U.S. Yet from inventions and art to oratory and cuisine, the impact is undeniable, inescapable and truly breathtaking. With more than 36,000 artifacts spread over five floors, the museum is at once filling history's holes while making up for lost time.

AIM

It officially opened just under two years ago. The aim is to document the life of African Americans, starting with their ancestors' capture and journey on Trans-Atlantic slave ships, to present day. Many rose from institutionalized abuse to positions of prominence. There are heroes on show at the museum. Villains too.

According to the museum, it offers "nearly 3,000 objects, 12 exhibitions, 13 different interactives with 17 stations, and 183 videos." It's an important foundation from which to look back while pondering the path forward.

The Caribbean influence plays a key role in understanding that journey. During a recent visit, a child no more than five spotted a photo of dancehall artiste Tiger. He yelled "Beenie Man!" His mom read the caption and corrected him. "It's not Beenie Man," she said. "It's



Marcus Mosiah Garvey Jr.
In the 1920s Garvey's organization, the UNIA, was the largest nonreligious African American association in the United States. Library of Congress

The Rise of Marcus Garvey

Jamaican-born Marcus Garvey was a political leader, journalist, and orator who immigrated to New York City in 1916. Garvey advocated Pan Africanism, which encouraged a return to Africa as well as economic and political solidarity among African descendants worldwide. To spread his ideas and achieve his goals, he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and his newspaper the *Negro World*. He also created the Black Star Line, a steamship company established to carry people back to Africa and promote economic trade.

Garvey rose from Jamaica to prominence in the U.S.



'Fighting Shirley' traced her roots to Barbados.

Tiger, another Jamaican deejay."

No such identification is needed at the station highlighting Bob Marley, the late Jamaican icon who took reggae music and Rastafari from the Caribbean island and branded it on the world.

The rise of the late Shirley Chisholm, a child of Barbadian and British Guiana parents, to prominence is also told. "Fighting Shirley", who called herself Barbadian American and battled for gender equality and the end to racial discrimination, became the first black woman elected to the U.S. Congress. She later ran for president and, in 2015, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously by then President Barack Obama. Chisholm's roots is explored in the museum's "Coming To The United States" section called under



The Notorious B.I.G. took Jamaica to rap.

"From the Caribbean to America: The Chisholm Family".

ELEVATION

Marcus Garvey's journey from Jamaica to the center of the movement to elevate African Americans is also documented at the museum. So too the Haitian influence in the hip hop group The Fugees and the Jamaica flavor in another rap assemble Salt & Pepa. The late great rap star Notorious B.I.G. also gets a huge shout out. So too Foxy Brown, who also traces her roots to the Caribbean.

The museum, however, is not all entertainment. The horrors faced by African Americans brings sobering reality. The remnants of a slave ship, whips, chains, lynching's and judicial abuse are all part of the display. The coffin of Emmitt Till, the boy who was murdered by whites after being wrongly accused of flirting with a white woman, gets prominent display. So too the life of civil rights heroes Martin Luther King Jr. and Caribbean American Harry Belafonte. In the museum's basement, a train used during the "Jim Crow" era, when

African Americans were deprived of privileges such as the right to sit in the same seats, looms as a grim reminder of times past.

CHEER

Yet there is plenty to cheer at the museum. A photo of a sound system operating in Trench Town, Jamaica back in the day brings a smile. The words of late Caribbean American poet Claude McKay in "If We Must Die" remain striking, yet soothing all these years later. People of African descent like the Maroons, found in places like Cuba and Jamaica, who fought back against oppression, to preserve their culture, get props.

So too the athletes who ripped up stereotypes which pigeon holed African Americans as inferior.

The museum also tells the tales of common folk whose stories, unintentionally, found their way into the spotlight. Cuban American Charles Z. Smith became the "first African American appointed to the Washington Supreme Court". St. Croix-born Hubert Henry Harrison founded the Liberty League, a "militant organization devoted to racial equality".

Jamaican-born Luther Powell came to the U.S. in 1920 and married Maud Ariel McKoy. They had two children. One was Colin, who later became a distinguished military officer and U.S. secretary of state.

The museum will probably need more room as the Caribbean influence in the U.S. grows. Bahamian Deandre Ayton was recently selected first in the National Basketball Association draft. A Grenadian American is running for lieutenant gover-

nor of New York. A Trinidadian once held that post in Florida. Political candidates with Caribbean roots are filling up ballots across the U.S. Caribbean Americans are becoming more influential in the census and at the ballot boxes.

Judging from the mix of races exploring its offerings on two recent visits, it appears the museum's message is catching on.

"It helps all Americans see how their stories, their histories, and their cultures are shaped and informed by global influences," declares one of the museum's four pillars.

The Caribbean experience is certainly part of that.

Admission to the museum is free. However, on some days reservation tickets must be obtained online in advance.

Photographs by Gordon Williams.

More features on page 16.



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Trump's terror state for immigrants

On June 9, days after the suicides of famous designer Kate Spade and chef and travel show host Anthony Bourdain, it was reported that an immigrant attempting to cross the United States border and separated from his family, had killed himself in a jail cell in Texas.

His death did not make any major television news-cast or trend on social media, unlike the suicides of Spade and Bourdain. Luckily, the **Washington Post** reported the story,

which would have otherwise gone ignored, since it was not publicly disclosed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security even though it occurred in May 2018.

According to a copy of a sheriff's department report obtained by The Washington Post, Marco Antonio Muñoz, a 39-year-old Honduran immigrant, was found on the floor of his cell May 13, 2018 in a pool of blood with an item of clothing twisted around his neck. Starr County sheriff's deputies recorded the incident as a "suicide in custody."

'LOST IT'

According to the Post, quoting Border Patrol agents, Muñoz crossed the Rio Grande with his wife and three-year-old son on May 12 near the tiny town of Granjeno, Texas. Soon after he and his family were taken into custody, they arrived at a processing station in nearby McAllen and said they wanted to apply for asylum. But because of the new Donald Trump policy of separating families, Border Patrol agents told the family they would be separated.

That's when Muñoz "lost it," according to one agent the Post quoted, who told the paper they "had to use physical force to take the child out of his hands." A day later, Muñoz was dead from apparent suicide. He was the first immigrant to kill himself after being separated from his family since the horrendously racist and heart-breaking Trump policy.

Muñoz's death came months after an undocumented immigrant in southern California committed suicide in the San Fernando Valley and over a year after a Nicaraguan man, in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, hanged himself in his cell at the Adelanto Detention Facility in Adelanto, California.

On Feb. 9, Luis Castaneda,



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

a 40-year-old tattoo artist, fatally shot himself over fears that he would be deported back to his native Guatemala, his mother told Fox LA. And on Mar. 22, 2017, Osmar Epifanio Gonzalez-Gadba was found hanging in his cell where he had been detained for three months awaiting deportation and died at a hospital later.

These are just reported cases. We are not sure how many cases have gone unreported.

LAPSES

As a 2017 report by Human Rights Watch and Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement also noted, serious lapses in mental health care at immigration detention centers across the U.S. has led to premature and preventable deaths.

According to the joint report, immigrants detained in private and public centers are continually exposed to medical abuse and neglect. In some cases, the lack of adequate care, as well as poor ICE oversight, has led to the premature and preventable deaths of detained immigrants, the report charges.

And that is just immigrants in ICE custody.

In the current anti-immigrant atmosphere, created by Trump, the stress many undocumented immigrants or even legal immigrants with petty criminal records are going through at just the thought of arrest, detention and deportation, is enough for many to spiral into depression and consider suicide or go through with it. Trump has created a terror state for immigrants, both legal and undocumented, much like his 'hero' Andrew Jackson created for Native Americans.

But suicide should not be considered as an option in the battle to live in Trump's America. Please consider prayer. Reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline for confidential support 24/7 at 1-800-273-8255 or talk to your priest, pastor or friend or family member if you are entertaining thoughts of suicide.

Remember, when you think your life is bad, there is always someone who is going through much worse. Stay prayed up and believe. While things may look dark now, the light always comes bursting through.

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



What is Caribbean Americans' role in U.S. elections?

PATRICK SMIKLE

The role of Caribbean Americans in the United States electoral process is important. Caribbean-Today sought the views of community members about that role in the upcoming elections and U.S. politics in general. We highlight the views of two: Winston Barnes and Marlon Hill.

Barnes is a writer and broadcaster who hosts a talk-show "The Open Line" on WAVS1170AM, a station which promotes itself as "the Heartbeat of the Caribbean". Barnes is also an adjunct professor at Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens. He was elected to the City of Miramar Commission in Mar. 2003.

Hill is an attorney, writer, broadcaster and community activist. He is a past president of the Caribbean Bar Association and is a frequent guest on WPLG's Sunday morning talk-show "This Week in South Florida".

Their responses are edited for space and clarity.

QUESTION: What is your sense of the extent to which candidates for various offices are reaching out to the Caribbean American community?

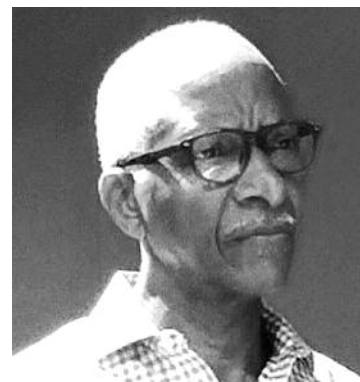
BARNES: The candidates are reaching out so far in the sense they have invited elected officials to a number of meet-and-greet events and fundraisers. As usual very few commercials have been purchased, to this point on 24/7 Caribbean-oriented radio stations.

I do not expect much advertising to come in the direction of Caribbean media in South Florida. For two reasons: One is that such media is usually ignored and secondly, sometimes (advertising) buys are done only as part of an "urban" buy, along with an R&B outlet, which is popular with the Jamaican-Caribbean community in South Florida.

HILL: I believe the Caribbean American community is a maturing electorate in the state of Florida. In this regard, the community's integration and visibility is not fully on the GPS of most campaigns.

Most campaigns overlook the multi-cultural and multilingual dynamism of Caribbean Americans; The growth of the numbers of Jamaicans and Haitians in South Florida and Puerto Ricans in Central Florida. You will be able to tell whether a particular candidate values the Caribbean American when you see evidence of the campaign in media or socio-cultural spaces.

Q: What issues should Caribbean American voters



Barnes

focus on in making their decisions as to who to support in August and November?

BARNES: Decidedly the number one issue Caribbean American voters will or should be paying attention to is immigration. Many across the community have literally disappeared, some gone underground some even back home to the Caribbean and I suspect, to other states which are not as transparent as the "Sunshine State".

HILL: For August, first and foremost, it is important for Caribbean Americans to remember that it is a closed primary election on Aug. 28. In this regards, voters will only be able to elect the candidate of choice based on chosen party affiliation.

As a voter, you have the right to change your party affiliation at any particular moment and have your say in a competitive race. Registration must be updated and complete prior to July 30. Otherwise, you won't have a say until the general election.

Caribbean Americans must also focus on the candidate that aligns with your own core values and the interests of your families. As such, issues related to public education, healthcare, affordable housing, or making ends meet with a livable wage and salary directly impact most of us on a daily basis.

Q: Do you think the Caribbean American community is sufficiently involved in the electoral processes in South Florida?

BARNES: Caribbean American voters have tended to vote for individuals instead of on issues so they tend to



Hill

focus on presidential elections, even as attempts are made to raise awareness, on radio for example, and in newspaper and magazine articles, for voters to become more involved on local issues. Even the increased election of Caribbean American persons has not, in my opinion, increased the awareness that local elections are critical.

HILL: Unfortunately, I do not believe most Caribbean Americans recognize the power and value of their vote. This is the challenge of immigrant groups still making their way to full integration in a society.

However, our clock is running out. There are no more excuses for procrastination. There are far too many Caribbean Americans who are eligible for naturalization, but failing to complete this necessary process of being contributing citizens. As our numbers continue to peak in South and Central Florida communities, in particular, the impact of elected leadership will be felt more and more. We are discarding the currency of our vote in return for zero benefit for our families. We have to stop skylarking.

Q: If in your view this involvement is insufficient, what should be done about it and by whom?

HILL: Our increased involvement will have to be inspired from many fronts. The Caribbean American community gathers inspiration from our places of worship, our venues cultural enjoyment and our activities of social interaction. All these organizations play a significant role and responsibility in elevating our civic engagement.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Trump officials work to roll back affirmative action

ROGER CALDWELL

As United States President Donald Trump's administration works to reverse all of former President Barack Obama's policies and programs, it should come as no surprise that his team is trying to repeal affirmative action.

According to Wikipedia, affirmative action is the policy of a country protecting members of groups that have suffered from discrimination. Since a black man (Obama) was elected president, many Americans think discrimination no longer exists in the U.S. Everywhere you look around the country, blacks and people of color are in position of authority and many whites believe they are now being discriminated against.

"The whole issue of using race in education is being looked at with a new eye in light of the fact that it's not just white students being discriminated against, but Asians and others as well," said Roger Clegg, president and general counsel of the conservative Center for Equal Opportunity. "As demographics of the country change, it becomes more and more problematic."

KEY

In the 1970s, affirmative action was key to many being able to graduate and get a well paying job. Many of these youths were first generation college graduates in their family.

As second, and in some cases third generation of families were able to achieve a higher level of education, a larger percentage of blacks and people of color have been able to live, and experience the American Dream.

Everyone living in the country wants a piece of the dream.

The Declaration of Independence states that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with unalienable rights, which among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But, with the election of President Trump, a transformation is taking place in the country, where white supremacy and white men rule.

In a joint letter, the

Education and Justice Department announced that it had rescinded seven Obama-era policy guidelines on affirmative action, which the departments said "advocate policy preferences and positions beyond the requirements of the Constitution."

'NEW SHERIFF'

Rescinding policy guidelines does not have the power and force of the law, but Trump is letting everyone know that there is a new sheriff in town and equality and diversity will no longer be enforced. The Trump administration will be promoting racial neutral policies as opposed to race-based policies.

Quietly, the Trump administration is rolling back the government's policies back to the George W. Bush era. The administration has posted a policy document online that states: "The Department of Education strongly encourages the use of race-neutral methods for assigning students to elementary and secondary schools."

Not only is Trump's administration asking superintendents of elementary and secondary schools around the country to stop using race-based policies, but he is expected to tell university presidents to use race-neutral admission policies. This will make it harder for African Americans to get into college and pay for their education.

There has always been controversy in America when favoring African American and minorities in the admission process. Many whites think that they are being discriminated against in the admission policy and the job market.

But racism is a system in which the dominant race benefits off the oppression of others, and that is the reason why America still needs affirmative action. There have been decades of oppression, and discrimination to blacks and people of color and affirmative action levels the playing field.

Roger Caldwell is chief executive officer and president of On Point Media Group. His views do not necessarily represent those of Caribbean Today.



Beat the odds, live a healthy, disciplined lifestyle

It's great if you can live long and still be healthy.

So many persons try to get fit and stay fit by whatever means possible.

Suddenly they've taken a new lease on life and are jogging, running, walking, exercising, eating right and doing all the correct things.

Back in the days of my parents and grandparents, there were no gyms around except for boxing gyms. People used to live long and healthy. They ate and drank everything and were ignorant of words and phrases such as cholesterol,

excess sugar, caloric intake, body mass index and fitness level. That's because they were more active, walked more, and ate natural foods. Then suddenly one day, scientists dropped a bombshell that certain foods were bad for you, people weren't as active as they used to be and most illnesses were caused by lifestyle. You had to change your lifestyle.

And so the era of the gym began. Everybody and their cousin started a workout regimen, signing up and paying big bucks to go and sweat. People who never sweated before now started to perspire profusely as they rode cycles that went

NEW ERA

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And so the era of the gym began. Everybody and their cousin started a workout regimen, signing up and paying big bucks to go and sweat. People who never sweated before now started to perspire profusely as they rode cycles that went

The leadership in our community comes in different shapes and sizes. We are not monolithic in those we lean on for influence. We will be a powerful force when these spheres of influence recognize there is a collective benefit from full on engagement.

Q: In her recently published book "The Caribbeanization of Black Politics", University of Florida political scientist Dr. Sharon D. Wright Austin suggests that there is need for a coalition of black voters (native-born black Americans, Haitian Americans and immigrants from the Anglophone Caribbean) to better influence policies from elected officials. Her argument is that such a coalition does not now exist. What are your thoughts on this issue?

BARNES: This coalition mentioned by Dr. Wright Austin may probably never exist. Too many English speaking Caribbean Americans fail to come to an understanding of the commonalities which bind



nowhere, lifted dumbbells, pumped iron, did pushups, sit-ups, pull-ups as they pursued the elusive fitness for a better life.

Even their language and conversation took a different slant. Now it's all talk about abs, glutes, triceps, biceps, caloric intake, fluid retention, six packs and workout routines.

Getting fit requires discipline, as does eating right. One does not have to be a fitness fanatic or become obsessed with their food intake to be fit. With discipline you can train by yourself every day and become fit. But the key word is discipline. As long as you're consistent with your training and don't eat whenever you feel like, you'll be okay.

CHANGE

If people were to walk more, use the stairs, eat more fruits, drink more water, exercise consistently, they too could become fit. A sedentary lifestyle

and gorging on too much food, fast food or slow food, is a recipe for disaster.

When I talk to some people I cannot believe how much they eat in one day.

"Oh, not much, only breakfast of eggs, liver, boiled bananas, porridge, then a snack before lunch, then a small afternoon morsel, then home for dinner."

All this as they boast about the gym that they attend. Their spreading waistline gives them away, as they're only fit in their minds.

Life has no guarantees, as fit people drop down too. The human body is a complex, wonderful, but sometimes unforgiving structure. But statistics continue to prove that a healthy lifestyle will put the odds more in your favor than an unhealthy one.

seido1@hotmail.com



What is Caribbean Americans' role in U.S. elections?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

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BARNES: This coalition mentioned by Dr. Wright Austin may probably never exist. Too many English speaking Caribbean Americans fail to come to an understanding of the commonalities which bind

us to African Americans, in great part because of absolute ignorance about contributions Caribbean (people) have made to U.S. history, culture and education, and the military over the centuries.

In addition, many Caribbean (people), especially in South Florida, but not exclusively so, have tended to assume attitudes about African Americans from their usually white employers. This is usually a totally inaccurate and many times racist attitude. Many Caribbeans still cling to those notions, however.

Hopefully this will change as our young become as American as they are Caribbean, and/or when the community attains a better understanding of the history of black folk in the U.S. without the biases many have already developed through sheer ignorance. And, black Americans must be bold, not necessarily in a rude way, in demanding that Caribbeans learn this history!

HILL: Given the multicultural nature of the Caribbean American community, the actu-

al numbers are way understated within the typical boxes of American society.

Though our community is predominantly black, Caribbean American culture extends to and includes others who are of the same culture, but may be of a different racial box, such as East Indian, Chinese or white.

To date, Jamaicans and Haitians lead the growth of the African American population as foreign-born blacks. As a result, the actual number of African Americans in the state of Florida and other states of America is driving the change in landscape especially in urban areas across the state. As a result, it is incumbent on Caribbean Americans to ensure that there are building coalitions and relationships with other communities of color. This is all part of our integration process.

Patrick Smikle is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. Caribbean Today's "Election Fever" special fever begins on page 11.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

DEBATE: Voting rights restoration for ex-convicts sparks heated election talk

PATRICK SMIKLE

The issue of restoring the voting rights of citizens who have been convicted of felony offenses, has for decades been one of the most hotly debated in Florida.

This election season, voters have the ability to settle the issue once and for all.

If more than 60 percent of voters support Constitutional Amendment 4, one of 13 on the November general election ballot, convicted felons who have served their sentences, completed parole and paid any court ordered restitutions, would have their voting rights restored.

The provision would exclude persons convicted of murder or sexual offenses.

The 50 states in the United States have varying policies on this issue which, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, can be grouped into the following four categories:

1. In Maine and Vermont,

felons never lose their right to vote, even while they are incarcerated.

2. In 14 states and the District of Columbia, felons lose their voting rights only while incarcerated, and receive automatic restoration upon release.

3. In 21 states, felons lose their voting rights during incarceration, and for a period of time after, typically while on parole and/or probation.

Voting rights are automatically restored after this time period. Former felons may also have to pay outstanding fines, fees or restitution before their rights are restored as well.

4. In 13 states, felons lose their voting rights indefinitely for some crimes or require a governor's pardon for voting rights to be restored, or face an additional waiting period after completion of sentence (including parole and probation) before voting rights can be restored.

FLORIDA'S STATUS

Florida is in the fourth



Voting rights for ex-cons has raised controversy.

category and is one of the four most restrictive states in restoring voting rights of citizens who have been convicted of felonies.

These citizens have to wait five years before they can appeal to the Clemency Board, chaired by the governor and comprising members of his Cabinet, to regain voting rights. The fate of an applicant essentially depends on the leanings of the governor.

Under Governor Charlie Crist, considered a moderate Republican, far more appli-

cants had their voting rights restored than under current Governor Rick Scott, a more conservative Republican. Under the Scott administration, the Clemency Board met four times a year, which meant the

process of restoring voting rights could take up to 10 years.

In March, a Federal District Court ruled that the system was unconstitutional. However, that ruling was appealed. Observers believe it is unlikely the legal case will be completed before the November vote.

PARTY LINE

All five Democrats vying for that party's nomination in the race for governor have

voiced support for the amendment. The Republican candidates have not taken a position.

The amendment also has the support several civic organizations, especially the influential non-partisan Florida League of the Women Voters, which helped gather enough signatures to have it put on the ballot, and is campaigning for its passage.

Bradette Jepsen, president of the League's Broward Chapter, told Caribbean Today the current system is "archaic" and is based in "the racism just after the civil war." She said it was "designed to keep black voters from voting, because back then you could be charged with a felony very easy."

The League estimates that the current system disenfranchises more than 1.5 million citizens in Florida.

Patrick Smikle is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Broward county households to get sample ballots in mail

Broward County voter households should be on the lookout for a generic Primary Election Sample Ballot arriving in the mail, which started late last month.

The sample ballot contains the candidates for this month's primary election and important election information that will help the citizens prepare to vote.

For the Aug. 28 primary election, citizens are being reminded that Florida is a closed primary state and only voters with a major party affiliation are eligible to vote in a primary when electing that party's nominee for the general election.

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

There will be a few races on this primary election ballot that are considered a universal primary race. This means that all the candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner of the primary election will not face any opposition in the general election.

Therefore, all registered voters can vote for any of the candidates for that office in

the primary election.

Voters are also being asked to cross-reference the sample ballot with their Voter Information Card to identify their precinct's assigned congressional, legislative, county commission, and school board district numbers on the ballot



The county is giving residents a jump start on voting.

in the upcoming election.

One sample ballot will be sent per household.

Early voting in Broward County will be held 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 18 through Aug. 26. Visit www.browardsoe.org for early voting locations.

The last day/time to request an absentee ballot to be mailed is **Aug. 22 at 5:00 p.m.**

Primary Election Day is **Aug. 28, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

- Information provided by Dr. Brenda C. Snipes, supervisor of elections.



Miami-Dade to decide on school district tax

The Miami-Dade County Commission has approved a resolution to place a proposed school district ad valorem tax increase on the Nov. 6 ballot.

If approved by the voters, Miami-Dade home-owners would pay an additional 75 cents per thousand dollars of their home's taxable value to pay for higher teacher salaries

and increased school safety.

The special tax would be levied for four years from 2019 to 2023.

The ballot measure was requested by the school board and was placed on the county commission agenda at the request of Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.

The school board said it

needs more money to attract and retain quality teachers and hire more school resource officers and security personnel in the wake of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School shooting and a new state mandate for schools to beef up security.



Please Elect FRANCIS DAVE RAGOO for the City of Miami Gardens Council Seat 2.

The boundaries for Seat 2 is as follows: On the North 215th St (County Line Rd) West to 27th Ave, South to NW 199th St., East to the East side of the Turnpike, then South to NW 183rd St, 183rd St. East to North Miami Ave, North on N. Miami Ave to NW 199th St, East on 199th St to NE 2nd Ave, then North to County line Road, (NW 215th Street).

Francis was born in Trinidad and migrated to Miami in 1981, a Realtor by profession for over 35 years. A life member of NAACP, a board member of UPPAC (Unrepresented People Positive Action Council) that meets every Saturday morning for the last 31 years at Greater New Bethel Baptist Church, currently, the Miami Dade County School Board Representative for the \$1.2 Billion Dollar Bond, Legislative Chair for Norland Senior High School PTSA, 15 year member of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of North Dade, has served for 25 years with the Miami/Broward Carnival Committee. That's only a snippet of Francis Dave Ragoo community service over the years. Please log onto to www.fdrseat2.com to learn more about his involvement in our community. We ask that you vote for FRANCIS DAVE RAGOO, Punch #192 for the City of Miami Gardens, Council Seat 2. Early vote starts August 13-26, 2018 at the North Dade Regional Library located at 2455 NW 183rd St, Miami Gardens.

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ELECTION FEVER



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

ELECTION CONSEQUENCES: The truth about politics will set America free

ROGER CALDWELL

As United States President Donald Trump appoints his second Supreme Court nominee in less than two years since he was elected, he will personally determine the ideology and direction of the country for decades.

Elections have consequences, and since 50 to 60 percent of Americans didn't vote, it is too late to complain once the results are in.

On a local level, most Americans don't know who their representative is on a city or county level and they don't know who their representative is on a statewide level. Most Americans are overwhelmed when it comes to politics, because making a living is a full-time job.

Americans work to take care of their families, attend church and/or party. Most residents do not put politics on the agenda because it would take time to carve out additional time when there is not enough time already.

Most people who are engaged in politics started young with their parents and ancestors, and politics is discussed around the kitchen

table or someone in the family has held a political office. Others have gotten involved when they went off to college, and some have gotten involved after retirement.

TIME

But politics takes time, and the majority of America's residents don't have time and have no idea who is running for office.

As Democrats start a campaign to block Trump's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, something is fundamentally wrong with his choice. It starts with the truth. Kavanaugh is an ultraconservative and many of the policies enacted by former U.S. President Barack Obama will be repealed if he is appointed to the Supreme Court.

"Here's what we know about Brett Kavanaugh, Donald Trump's pick for the Supreme Court: 1. He won't protect a woman's right to choose, 2. He won't defend our right to the Affordable Care Act, and 3. He thinks the president is above the law," says Sheryl Stolberg of The New York Times.

Instead of working to improve the quality of life for



Under Trump, Americans are seeing what the vote means.

all Americans, conservatives would work to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and make it harder and more expensive for poor and middle-class residents to get health care. This makes no sense, and Kavanaugh was also on the legal team to stop the Florida recount, and secured George W. Bush the presidency.

According to Trump, Kavanaugh was introduced to the country as one of the finest and sharpest legal minds of our time, or maybe he has been appointed to the

Supreme Court because he knows how to play the game. He is on record stating that a sitting president should not be subject to criminal investigation while in office. It is obvious that he will protect Trump and he is one of the good old boys.

PLAYING POLITICS

With the appointment of Kavanaugh, the rule of law is being thrown out the window, and corruption is okay as long as Trump is in office. Instead of supporting the Muller's investigation, Kavanaugh is

telling Trump and other Republicans that he has got the president's back.

It does not matter that the president is being investigated for collusion and obstruction of justice, and he may be impeached.

Recently, Rod Rosenstein announced Mueller's indictment of 12 Russian military officials for hacking the DNC campaign office. This indictment proves that Mueller's investigation is not a witch hunt and Russians did in fact hack the 2016 election. The question is who helped them get the stolen information and material?

There are nine different Trump associates who have been indicted with a number of charges, and pleading guilty of lying appears to be the major infraction. As the big shoe continues to drop, the master of lying, our president, appears to be in the center of the mess.

The truth will set America free, but how long will we have to wait?

Roger Caldwell is chief executive officer and president of On Point Media Group.



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- Vote on August 28, 7 AM — 7 PM

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

DECISION TIME: Florida voters face long ballots, multiple issues

~ League of Women Voters urges vote by mail

PATRICK SMIKLE

Voters in Florida, who go to the polls in the Aug. 28 primaries and the Nov. 6 general elections, will encounter one of the longest ballots in the state's history.

That inevitability has sparked fears that, out of fatigue, voters will cast ballots in the main races, such as the contest for governor, and ignore others, including constitutional amendments.

The League of Women Voters of Florida is urging voters to request mail-in ballots, take the time to research and study the issues and then vote.

"If want to conscientiously vote for every item on the ballot, and you're in the polling booth, it's going to take a long time," Bradette Jepsen, president of the League's Broward Chapter, told Caribbean Today.

"If you have your ballot at home you can take your time. You can use your computer to do research. You can look up the League of Women Voters and see what our position is. You can look up other groups and see what their position is on a particular amendment. You will have plenty of time to do that."

REASONS

There are numerous reasons the ballots this election cycle are extraordinarily long and complicated. Against the background of the administration of United States President Donald Trump being rocked by constant controversies, voters across the country go to the polls on Nov. 6 to elect all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 members of the U.S. Senate.

Conventional wisdom indicates the party of the

incumbent administration loses seats in the midterms. So there is talk of the Democrats could control the House and maybe the Senate.

Florida, a traditional swing state which went narrowly for Trump in the 2016 presidential election, is attracting national attention. Two congressional seats in South Florida, currently held by Republicans - one who is retiring from politics - are considered vulnerable to Democratic challengers. The constitution precludes two-term Governor Rick Scott, a Republican, from contesting a third term. He is campaigning for the Senate seat which has been held by Democrat Bill Nelson since 2000.

GOVERNOR

Some 26 candidates have filed to run for governor. That number will be reduced by at least five in Aug. 28 primary, when registered Republicans select one of the two candidates vying to represent the party in November, and registered Democrats select one of their five.

Add to these contests the various races for the Florida House and Senate, judicial races, the county and municipal elections and several local issues, such as a Broward School Board tax levy, and voters will have a lot to ponder.

Florida law allows local governments to put issues to the voters and this election cycle there are several. For example, City of Miami voters will decide the fate of a plan, put forward by a group headed by retired soccer star David Beckham and businessman

press release announcing his candidacy.

Dempster moved to North Miami Beach in 1992. He attended North Miami Senior High School and Stetson University. He has a bachelor's degree in economics, the release noted.

Dempster is a member of the Miami-Dade Democratic Executive Committee and is on the board of the People's Progressive Caucus of Miami-Dade.



Jepsen

Jorge Mas, to build a stadium on city-owned land, as part of their effort to launch a Major League Soccer team in South Florida.

PETITION DRIVES

And then there are the constitutional amendments.

Civic groups or individual citizens can, through petition drives, collect enough signatures to have proposed constitutional amendments placed on the ballot. There are four such amendments on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Also, every 20 years, a Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) is empaneled by the Florida Legislature to hold public hearings across the state and make recommendations for constitutional changes based on concerns raised by citizens at these hearings. The 2018 CRC (the third in the state's history) has placed nine such amendment proposals on the Nov. 6 ballot.

But it gets even more complicated. These nine CRC amendments are not single issue questions. They cover 15 different issues. In some cases unrelated issues are grouped



Trump

into a single amendment.

Amendment 9, for example, would prohibit off-shore oil and gas drilling in state-owned waters, as well as ban vaping in enclosed indoor workplaces.

"They really did not do a good job and it's causing a lot of confusion for a lot of people," Jepsen said.

CONCERN

She said the League of Women Voters is concerned voters will be so confused and overwhelmed that they ignore the amendments altogether. Jepsen said the League is hoping people request a mail-in ballot and take the time to examine candidates and research issues on the ballot.

To help voters do this, the League has posted information which give the pros and cons

of each amendments, plus other election issues. The website is <http://www.lwvbcfl.org/>. The League has also launched a new website at <http://www.vote411.org/> specifically dedicated to this election cycle.

Jepsen said the aim is to encourage citizens "to take a more analytical approach."

Detailed instructions about how to vote by mail is available by telephoning the office of the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) in each county or by visiting their website. The deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot for the Aug. 28 primaries, is Aug. 22.

Patrick Smikle is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



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Jamaican American running for mayor of N. Miami Beach

Jamaican-born Robert Dempster has thrown his hat into the race for mayor of North Miami Beach, Florida.

Dempster, a Communications Workers of America Local 3122 (CWA) union steward and progressive activists, was born in Kingston.

"I am running to return integrity to the City of North Miami Beach Commission, and I pledge to work every day to earn back the community's trust," Dempster was last month quoted as saying in a

ELECTION FEVER

www.caribbeantoday.com

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Caribbean American candidate submits nearly 70,000 signatures to secure ballot

NEW YORK – Jumaane Williams, a Caribbean American running for lieutenant governor of New York, last month joined dozens of advocates in front of the state's Board of Elections in announcing his campaign has collected more than 68,000 petition signatures in support of his candida-

cy in order to secure ballot access.

"I'd like to thank Governor (Andrew) Cuomo and his Lieutenant Governor (Kathy Hochul) for blocking our nomination during May's Democratic Convention," Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants, told reporters.

"Because of their incumbent protection politics, our team has quickly built out a highly functioning campaign that has allowed us to engage with countless voters across New York by gathered a historic number of petition signatures.

"I want to extend my sin-

cere gratitude to all of the dedicated volunteers who have helped our grassroots campaign to achieve such strong momentum toward my becoming the people's lieutenant governor," added the New York City councilmember, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

eagerly await the opportunity to debate."

TARGET

Some 15,000 signatures from registered voters across New York are required for ballot access to compete in the Sept. 13 Democratic primary

CELEBRATION

Advocates from the Working Families Party, Citizen Action, the New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN) and other progressive organizations joined Williams to celebrate as the historic number of petitions were submitted on July 12.

In addressing the gathering, Williams called on Hochul to accept his request to "debate the issues" and the role of the lieutenant governor position itself, "to give the voters an opportunity to determine who they believe would be the best Democratic nominee and representative of the people."

"The CuomoHochul machine has done everything that it can to prevent true progressives from having an option in this primary, seemingly out of fear," Williams added.

"Now that it is clear those efforts were unsuccessful, the voters of New York deserve a chance to hear from the candidates on who best represents their progressive values. And I



Williams

elections.

Williams said his progressive, grassroots campaign has secured endorsements from local and state elected officials across New York and progressive organizations, including the Working Families Party.

Williams is an advocate for affordable housing, anti-gun violence measures, fair policing, quality education, criminal justice reform, equity and social justice.

- Edited from CMC.

**Jamaica selects new director of elections**

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ) has appointed Glasspole Brown the country's next director of elections.

In a statement, the ECJ noted that the eight commissioners were unanimous in their selection of Brown, who will also head the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ).

Brown replaces Orrett



Brown

Fisher who resigned in March. Brown was approved following a selection process that was open to internal and external applicants.

Fisher resigned while in the middle of a court case that would determine whether or not he would continue as director. He had taken the ECJ to court over its decision to extend his contract by one year after his initial seven year stint as director of elections had ended.

- Edited from CMC.

**Broward offers information on 2018 election cycle**

The Broward Elections office in Florida is offering information to the public about the upcoming election cycle.

The office recently kicked off a new social media campaign by hosting a live broadcast of its Neighborhood Partnership Committee meeting on July 25 at its Voting Equipment Center.

With the Aug. 28 primary election date approaching in the county, more information can be obtained by visiting www.browardsoe.org. General elections are Nov. 6.

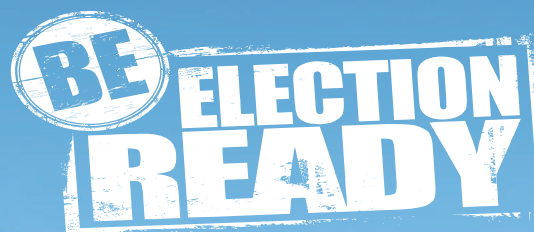
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MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

BIG HITTER: Sanders endorses Gillum in Florida governor's race

Tallahassee Mayor Andre Gillum has secured the endorsement of a nationally-known election figure in his bid to become governor of Florida.

Senator Bernie Sanders, from Vermont, has weighed into the governor's race by

backing Gillum in the Aug. 28 Democratic primary election.

Sanders ran as a candidate for United States president in 2016, losing the Democratic nomination to Hillary Clinton, who eventually lost to current President Donald Trump. However, he is standing behind Gillum.

"I'm proud to endorse Tallahassee Mayor @andrewgillum in his race for governor of Florida," Sanders posted on the social medium forum Twitter.

Gillum embraced Sanders's endorsement.

"It's an honor to have Senator Bernie Sanders' endorsement in this cam-



Gillum



Sanders

paign," the candidate noted in a statement. "He has been an unapologetic fighter for everyday working peo-

ple standing up to the special interests. From Medicare-for-All, to a \$15 minimum wage, his ideas and platform have become the Democratic Party's north star on economic justice for those who need it most."

Gillum is being chal-

lenged in the Democratic primary by a field that includes former U.S. Congressman Gwen Graham, Philip Levine, a former mayor of Miami Beach, Jeff Greene and Chris King.

Haiti P.M. quits

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – Turmoil over rising fuel prices, which led to violent protest in Haiti, has forced the country's Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant to resign.

Lafontant resigned on July 14 after facing a motion of no confidence following the protests that led to the death of at least seven people. He told Haiti's Chamber of Deputies that he had sent President Jovenel Moise his resignation letter.

The deputies had called on the prime minister to answer questions after riots erupted from July 6-8 to protest the government's attempt to raise fuel prices by up to 51 percent as part of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The French-speaking Caribbean nation signed an agreement with the IMF to carry out structural reforms to promote growth. The IMF said that getting rid of the fuel subsidies would free up cash for other things like education, health and job creation.

However, on July 12, the Washington, D.C.-based lending agency suggested "a more gradual approach" to ending fuel subsidies which were expected to generate around \$300 million.

- Edited from CMC.



DR. BRENDA C. SNIPES
BROWARD COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

2018
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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LOVE LABOR: West Indian American Day to Carnival mark 50 years

The biggest public display of Caribbean spirit and culture in the United States will mark a half-century of celebrations this year.

The West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) will hold its 50th anniversary of Caribbean Carnival Week in Brooklyn, New York, culminating with the annual Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4.

"It's good that we got to the 50th anniversary," costume-clad Trinidadian Kay Mason, described as the "Queen of Labor Day Carnival" told the **Caribbean Media Corporation** during a recent launch of the event in New York.

"I want to thank WIADCA for their organization over the years," added Mason, who won WIADCA's "Carnival Queen" nine times and was representing perennial West Indian American Day Carnival Parade's "Band the Year Champions" Sesame Flyers. "It's a milestone to bring this culture together, so we can celebrate."

LAUNCH

The launch featured other mas bands, including Trinidad and Tobago-owned Detailz Mas, Antoine International, Amezilia Costumes and Diamond Entertainment.

"This is my first year; and, so far, so good," Giselle Thomas, the Trinidadian designer of Amezilia Costumes, said during the launch. "It's very interesting."

During the launch, Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke spoke, perhaps, for the Caribbean community in New York, stating it was "important that we stand with pride."

Later, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, led the audience to a chant of "Get out the Vote," while calling for President Donald J. Trump's ouster, with the refrain, "As

soon as possible."

WIADCA President William Howard assured the crowd that "you'll have a good time (during the Carnival Parade on Eastern Parkway on Labor Day, September 4). We'll see you for Labor Day," he said.

KICK-OFF

The 50th Annual New York Caribbean Carnival Week kicks off Aug. 31 with "Reggae Unda Di Stars". WIADCA said its "funky reggae party" will feature reggae ambassadors Coco Tea, Ghanaian dancehall reggae artiste Stonebwoy and Brooklyn's Afrobeat songstress WUNMI. Stephen "Ragga" Marley is also expected to



Excitement marks the street parade in Brooklyn each year.



Costumes highlight the event.

appear, commemorating his late father Bob Marley's visit to the same Brooklyn stage he debuted "Uprising".

The annual Summer Jam: Stay In School Concert & Youth Fest will be featured on Sept. 1, along with the Brass Fest concert starring soca ambassadors D'All Stars Blaxx; 2017 Party Monarch King Ricardo Drue (Antigua); Teddyson John (St. Lucia); Lyrikal (T&T); Farmer Nappy (T&T); 2017 "Road March King" Problem Child (St. Vincent and the Grenadines); Lavaman (Grenada); and 2017 "Road March King" MX

Prime of Ultimate Rejects (T&T).

Music for the Brass Fest will be provided by deejays Sounds 4 Life, Starboy Movements and Spice.

The Junior Carnival and Panorama take place on Sept. 2.

BLESSED

The Dimanche Gras finale, to be held the following day, will feature The Mighty Sparrow, Calypso Rose, David Rudder, Swallow, Ras Iley and Dane Gulston, along with the "King and Queen of the Bands" costume presentations.

"We are blessed to have



Lezama was known as the "Father of Brooklyn's Caribbean Carnival".

marked 50 years of Caribbean impact, culture, education, economic contribution, services and carnival in New York State," Howard said.

"This year, we celebrate our long-standing partners and welcome new ones that will help sustain this legacy for the next 50 years."

According to WIADCA, Caribbean carnival was officially established on Lenox Avenue in Harlem, New York by Trinidadian Jessie Wardell and friends in the mid-1940s. But WIADCA said Wardell and some of her West Indian friends started the Caribbean festival in Harlem in the 1930s by staging costume parties in large enclosed places, like the Savoy, Renaissance and Audubon Ballrooms "due to the cold wintry weather of February.

"This is the usual time for the pre-Lenten celebrations held in most countries around the world," WIADCA said. "However, because of the very nature of carnival and the need to parade in costume to music, in door confinement did not work."

BACKGROUND

WIADCA said the earliest known carnival street activity was held during the 1940s, when Wardell secured the first street permit for a parade type event on the streets of Harlem. During the 1960s, WIADCA

said another Trinidadian, Rufus Goring, brought carnival to Brooklyn.

In 1967, Goring passed the reigns over to another Trinidadian Carlos Lezama, who became WIADCA president. Lezama was widely credited as the "Father of Brooklyn's Caribbean Carnival".

In 2001, due to his ill-health, he retired. His daughter Yolanda Lezama-Clark, a registered nurse, served as president until 2011. Trinidadian Thomas Bailey was elected president in 2012, until he was replaced by African American Howard, considered a long-standing friend and die-hard supporter of the Caribbean community in New York.

WIADCA said Wardell, Goring and Lezama's collective legacy "lives on today, as the organization continues to preserve the core values of institutional transference of information, cultural pride and preservation, diversity, inclusivity and intergenerational leadership.

"Today, those values still remain the focal point for WIADCA, while bringing together over 1.5 million visitors to New York from around the world to participate in the annual West Indian Carnival Parade on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn on Labor Day," WIADCA said.

MISSION

WIADCA said its mission is to "promote, develop and celebrate West Indian/Caribbean culture, arts, history and traditions through year-round programs to expand our cultural reach throughout the world, which culminates with a week-long display of festivities and a grand finale Carnival Parade."

WIADCA is a non-profit tax-exempt organization comprising "experienced and skilled business and community representatives and from within the (New York) tri-state area, many islands and the U.S.A."

The five-day festival begins at the Brooklyn Museum grounds from this Thursday – before Labor Day – through the weekend, culminating in the spectacular and massive New York Caribbean Carnival Parade on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn.

WIADCA said the influx of tourists from all over the world has benefited New York City on "an economic level, most recognizably with large corporations, small businesses and the tourist/service industries."

- Edited from CMC.



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Muir's 'love affair' with reggae to unfold in South Florida photo exhibition

An exhibition of photographs capturing the reggae music experience will be on display through next month in South Florida.

The exhibition of David I. Muir's work, caught on camera in "Reggae Reel - Moments in Music", is scheduled to run from Aug. 10 through Sept. 30



Dancehall star Capleton is featured in the exhibition.

at the Pompano Beach Cultural Center.

According to releases promoting the event, the exhibition "celebrates the music, message and masters of reggae." It reportedly features Muir's collection of 26 reggae music performance photos, including images of reggae royalty such as Marcia Griffiths and Buju Banton, current stars including Tarrus Riley, Mavado and Chronixx, plus rising artistes like Koffee and Sevana.

The exhibition is also expected to feature a video installation and montages with select lyrics from reggae songs. In addition, the center is presenting a concert by Rootz of Music, entitled "The American Roots of Jamaican Music" at 7 p.m. Aug. 26. Earlier that afternoon, at 3 p.m., Muir is scheduled to present an artist talk about his collection. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.ccpompano.org.

LESSONS

"I've had a love affair with reggae for as long as I can

remember," Muir was quoted as saying in recent press release. "I took most of these images for my own, selfish gratification. Now, it's a welcome pleasure that I'm able to share them in this way.

"... The lyrics in reggae music are a path to the truth," the Jamaican-born photographer added. "They teach us how to love and unite. Through this music and through the strength of the Jamaican culture, we can learn many lessons. That is why this exhibit, especially at this time, is so important."

According to the release: "Reggae originated in Jamaica in the 1960s as a rhythmic language giving voice to a voiceless people. At its origin, its



For decades Stephen "Cat" Coore has enjoyed playing reggae.

lyrics shared messages of peace, unity, and the protest of injustice. Today, it is embraced worldwide, conveying love, pride, struggle, and every human emotion in every language. Just as the featured artist-messengers share their stories through the music, Muir shares the passion and power of their performance in still shots."

Exhibition viewing times are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Admission is free and open to the public.

- Photographs by David I. Muir



Anguillan wins 'Miss Universe Great Britain'

Anguillan Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers last month became the first black woman to win the "Miss Universe Great Britain" since the pageant started more than 65 years ago.

The 25-year-old will represent Anguilla and the United Kingdom at the "Miss Universe" competition in December in the Philippines. Anguilla is a British territory.

"It's really humbling and I think it's also a privilege for me to become the first black woman who is crowned Miss Universe Great Britain," she told BuzzFeed News. "I believe that this is the direction that the pageant has been going in for the last couple of years because Britain is a diverse nation, we are a multi-cultural society and it is time that that diversity is seen on a stage where other young black girls and girls of all ethnicities can see that this is something for everybody not just some of us."



Kentish-Rogers is flanked by runners up at the Miss Universe Great Britain competition.

EXCITING

Kentish-Rogers competed against 40 other women from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and other British overseas territories. She was crowned "Miss Anguilla" in 2017.

The former athlete won a heptathlon silver medal at the Central American and

Caribbean Games and bronze at the CARIFTA Games.

Kentish-Rogers is believed to be the first to compete in Miss Universe Great Britain wearing dreadlocks.

"... That is absolutely most exciting to me," she said told media.



Big crowds flock 2018 St. Kitts Music Festival



American singer Patti LaBelle was among the performers.

BASSETERRE, St Kitts – A mixture of Caribbean and overseas-based artistes helped

pull big crowds to the 22nd annual St. Kitts Music Festival, which ended here last month.

In addition, for the first time in the event's history, its hashtag #SKMF2018 was trending on Twitter.

"I was extremely pleased to see such a positive reaction to our diverse range of performers this year, both in person and on social media," said Minister of Tourism, International Trade, Industry and Commerce Lindsay Grant. "We had a record number of nightly attendees." Among the performers were Grammy-nominated Nailah Blackman, Destra Garcia, KES the band, Spice and local bands Nu Vybes International and Small Axe Band.

Also hitting the stage during the festival were Chakademus and Pliers, Sizzla, Ishawna, Wayne Wonder, August Alsina, Byron Messia and Dejour.

Patti LaBelle of the United States was also on show, along with American compatriots Lauryn Hill and rap artiste Fetty Wap.

- Edited from CMC.



Vybz Kartel's appeal to get 'some priority attention'

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The Court of Appeal here has reserved its decision in the challenge filed by incarcerated dancehall artiste Vybz Kartel and three others against their murder convictions and prison sentences.

Although he stressed that he would give no indication when the decision will be handed down, President of the Court of Appeal Justice Dennis Morrison said on July 24, after defense attorneys wrapped up their oral submissions, that the case will be

given "some priority attention."

Up to press time there was no date set for the judge's decision. The registrar will advise of the date when the judgement will be handed down.

'LIZARD'

Kartel, whose given name is Adidja Palmer; fellow dancehall artiste Shawn Storm, real name Shawn Campbell; Kahira Jones; and Andre St. John are appealing their 2014 convictions and life

sentences for killing Clive "Lizard" Williams in Aug. 2011. Frank Williams and Patrick Brooks, their lawyers, argued that their right to a fair trial was prejudiced by a number of factors, including the admission of "contaminated" evidence during the 17-week murder trial.

Prosecutors insist the integrity of the evidence remained intact.

- Edited from CMC.



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Project seeks change to Caribbean healthy eating views

Are you from Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic or Trinidad and Tobago?

If so, a group of nutrition and fitness advocates need your advice and they are offering a \$25 gift card for your time.

The group is rewriting “healthy eating” information to give it a Caribbean flavor. To do that, members need eight volunteers from each of the five countries. The volunteers will attend a focus group meeting and give opinions on how to make cooking demonstrations, brochures and nutrition lessons more meaningful to island folks.

The program is called the Caribbean Diaspora Healthy Nutrition Outreach Project, led by Nova Southeastern University’s Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine (NSU MD).

NSU MD and community partners from the Nutrition and Fitness Task Force of Broward believe that the typical advice on healthy eating does not ring a bell with many

Caribbean people in the United States. Why? Because it is believed that it often promotes eating vegetables, fruits, grains, lean meat and dairy products they’re not normally familiar with.

CHANGE

The group wants to change the message. Members believe people from the Caribbean would listen more to nutrition advice if it focused on healthy foods that are familiar or if an expert showed them how to substitute healthier ingredients for foods they love.

For example, they could cook healthy meals with callaloo as well as kale or spinach, make picadillo with shredded turkey instead of beef, use lean ham, multi-grain bread and lower-fat cheese to make a healthier media noche sandwich from Cuba or mix grated cauliflower with white rice.

“People from the Caribbean would be much more receptive to cooking and

eating healthy if they recognize the foods or if they learn how to use healthy ingredients in their recipes,” says Dr. Farzana Haffizulla, principal investigator in the project.

The idea for the project came from the task force, led by the Florida Department of Health in Broward (DOH-Broward). Dr. Haffizulla, a T&T native who is NSU MD’s assistant dean for community and global health, secured a \$15,000 NSU Quality of Life Grant to make the project happen.

After the focus groups give their advice, members of the task force will hit the streets to do cooking demonstrations, presentations on nutrition and distribute flyers and brochures. Each of the five focus groups will meet from noon to 3:30 p.m.

The schedule is as follows:

Haiti – Aug. 17, Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC) in Hollywood.

Jamaica – Aug. 21, Alvin Sherman Library at NSU in Davie.

Dominican Republic – Aug. 28, DOH-Broward in Fort Lauderdale.

Cuba – Sept. 7, Tyrone Bryant Library in Fort Lauderdale.

T&T – Sept. 10, BRHPC. To volunteer, contact NSU at MDHealth@nova.edu.

Edited from an article submitted by Bob LaMendola, Florida Department of Health in Broward County.



Going green with St. Lucian fig salad



Green fig salad

Here’s a recipe popular in the Caribbean island of St. Lucia. It’s green fig or green banana salad. Give it a shot.

Ingredients

- 1 lime
- 2 sweet peppers, diced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 6 green bananas/green figs
- 1 cup oil
- 1 egg, boiled and chopped
- Mayonnaise

- Salt
- Black pepper

Method

Boil, then peel green bananas. Allow to cool then dice into bite sized pieces and place in a bowl.

Add onions, sweet peppers, egg, mayonnaise, salt to taste and black pepper.

Put in the refrigerator. Serve cold.

- Edited from News Americas.



Antigua and Barbuda presents: Fungie and saltfish buljolde

Here’s the recipe for the unusual, but delicious combination of fungie and saltfish buljolde that is most popular in Antigua and Barbuda.

Ingredients

- Fungie**
- 12 okras
 - ½ lb cassava flour (tapioca flour) or corn flour
 - 3 cups water
 - 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - A few threads of saffron

Saltfish buljolde

- 2 lbs. cod (4 pieces)
- 3 tomatoes, diced
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 carrot cut into strips
- 1 leek sliced
- 1 red pepper cut into strips
- 1 red onion
- 1 red hot pepper sliced
- ½ bunch cilantro
- Peanut oil
- ½ cup water
- Salt
- Pepper

Method

Fungie
Mix cassava flour and a cup of cold water in a large container. Put aside.

Cut the ends of the okras and cut in half inch slices. Boil



Fungie and saltfish buljolde

the second cup of water and bleach the okras.

Boil the third cup of water to infuse the saffron and set aside.

Slowly add the wet cassava flour mixture to the okra and water. Mix vigorously with a spatula or a wooden spoon.

Reduce the heat and slowly add the reserved cup of boiling water. Stir vigorously. The mixture should be like a jelly and should come away from sides of the pan (like a puff pastry).

Simmer over low heat, covered, about 20 minutes, stirring regularly. The fungie should be quite compact.

Finally, add the butter.

Saltfish buljolde

Chop cilantro, onion and garlic with a hand blender or a chopper. Put aside.

Put a little oil in a pot and heat over medium heat. Pour the onion, garlic and cilantro mixture. Sauté for two minutes.

Add tomatoes. Cover and simmer for five minutes over low heat.

Add water, cod and the rest of the vegetables. Toss, reduce heat and simmer about 45 minutes.

Increase the heat after cooking.

- Edited from News Americas.



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Jamaican events mark 56th Independence

Jamaica will celebrate its 56th Independence with several events this month in southern United States. The following is a list of some upcoming events provided by Jamaica's Consulate in Miami:

SOUTH FLORIDA

Aug. 4

• **6 p.m. to midnight** - Third annual International Music and Food Festival (IMFest) at Betty T. Fergu-son Recreational Complex, 3000 N.W. 199th St., Miami Gardens. For more information, call **305-622-8000 ext. 2208**.

• **6 p.m. to 10 p.m.** - Annual Jamaica Independence Celebrations, Shirley Bianca Park, 6900 Miramar Pkwy. Hollywood. Admission is free. Featuring Code Red Band, DJ Fergie, Dr. Sue, Sierra Norwood Children and Ikaya.

• **7:30 p.m.** - Jamaica Independence Gala and Awards, hosted by the Jamaica United Relief Association at Signature Grand, Davie. Visit www.jurainc.org for more information.

• Jamaica Independence

Dinner/Dance, 408 17th St., West Palm Beach.

Aug. 5

• **4 p.m.** - Official Independence Church Service, hosted by the Consulate General of Jamaica, Cooper City Church of God, 9191 Stirling Rd.

• **10 a.m.** - Jamaica Independence Service at Grace Episcopal Church, 3600 N. Australian Ave., West Palm Beach.

• **5 p.m.** - Jamaica Independence Celebration Service, Church of the Ascension, 11201 S.W. 160th St., Miami. For more information, call **305-238-5151**.

• **Noon to 10 p.m.** - Jamaica Flag and Independence Day Celebration, Lauderhill Sports Park, 7500 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Lauderhill. For more information, call **954-336-6223**.

• **3 p.m. to 10 p.m.** - Jamaica Independence Festival, N.E. 4th Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

• **Aug. 6, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** - "A Likkle Bit O' Jamaica" celebration and reception Miramar City Hall, Miramar.

• **Aug. 11** - Annual Street Dance, Truck Stop, Weston.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Aug. 11

• **7 p.m.** - Independence Gala, Jamaican/American Association of Central Florida, Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Major Boulevard, Orlando. For more information, visit www.jaaocf.com or call **407-276-3685**.

• **10 a.m.** - Jamaica Independence Service, Beulah Baptist Church, 1006 W. Cypress St., Tampa.

ATLANTA

• **Aug. 11** - Annual Independence Gala & Scholarship Awards, - Sheraton Atlanta Hotel.

HOUSTON

• **Aug. 5, 10 a.m.** - Ecumenical Independence Church Service, Windsor Village Church. For more information, visit www.jamaicafoundation-houston.org.



Bahamas honors citizens in U.S. diaspora

Bahamians in South Florida marked their home country's 45th Independence last month while honoring outstanding citizens in the diaspora.

Among the activities was an ecumenical service celebrating Caribbean nation's Independence held under the theme "Celebrate Bahamas, We've Come This Far by Faith". The service was held at St. Agnes Anglican Church in Overtown, Miami, Florida.

To mark the occasion, participants cut a Bahamas "birthday" cake. The Bahamian community also honored several prominent South Floridians with Bahamas roots, described by The Bahamas Consul General to Florida Linda Mackey as "educated and humble men and women who accomplished their dreams despite setbacks, disappointments and challenges, and doing so uncompromised. They were faithful as they trusted God to be faithful, and he was always faithful."

HONOREES

Among the honorees was newspaperman Garth Reeves, who has been recognized by some as "The voice of Miami's black community." Reeves

was born in The Bahamas, but raised in the United States. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1970 he was named publisher and chief executive officer of The Miami Times, a newspaper founded by his father.

Other notable Bahamians honored last month included Thelma Gibson, another well known activist in the Florida community. She is a descendant of some of the first Bahamians to settle the Coconut Grove community of Miami, Florida.

Dr. Gershwin Blyden, a leading physician in the field of oncology in South Florida, was also honored, along with Georgianna Johnson Bethel. Mayor Eric Jones of the City of West Park, Florida, who is of Bahamian descent was also honored.

The ecumenical service is organized and hosted annually by The Bahamas Consulate General Office in Florida. Bahamian-born Reverend Father Denrick Rolle, rector of



Bahamians and those of Bahamian descent in South Florida help cut a cake marking the Caribbean nation's 45th Independence anniversary last month.

St. Agnes, welcomed the audience, estimated at more than 300, including participation by clergymen of Bahamian descent from various denominations, Bahamian government representatives and other officials.

This year's Independence message was brought by Rev. C. Lloyd Newton, of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach Florida. Kay Forbes-Smith, president of The Bahamas Senate, brought special greetings from Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis and the government of The Bahamas.



Belize to re-open consulate in Chicago

The government of Belize has announced the re-opening of the Passport Station and Consulate in Chicago, Illinois, scheduled for either this month or next.

According to the Belizean government, it had finalized its internal processes to re-open the consulate but delayed that "until all necessary procedures with the State Department of

the United States Government had been completed," a release from the Embassy of Belize stated last month.



SIGNING ON



Sir George Alleyne, right, autographs a copy of his book "The Grooming of Chancellor" for Audrey Marks, Jamaica's ambassador to the United States, during a book launch ceremony last month at the Embassy of Barbados in Washington, D.C. Barbadian Alleyne is chancellor emeritus of the University of the West Indies. Marks is also chairman of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Caucus of Ambassadors.

A 'Carib queen' dies in T&T

Jennifer Cassar, who in 2011 was elected Carib queen of Santa Rosa First Peoples Community in Trinidad and Tobago, died last month after a brief illness.

Cassar was 66.

She succeeded Valentina Medina who died at the age of 78, and served as queen until the time of her death.

A statement from the Santa Rosa First Peoples' Community said Cassar would be remembered as "a very warm, humble and compassionate Queen of the Community, who worked tirelessly with the young Community members.

"She has been a cultural

activist for over 20 years and her advocacy for the Arts will be greatly missed," it added.

Carib Chief Ricardo Bharath-Hernandez described Cassar's passing as a great loss to the community, especially coming on the eve of the Santa Rosa De Lima Festival on Aug. 26, the 223rd anniversary of the festival.

"She was indeed a queen, for our time," she said.

Queen Cassar is survived by her husband Augustin Cassar, a retired school principal and Cadet Force officer, and children Vanessa Cassar-Blakely and John Cassar.



What hurricanes can do to life, property

Hurricanes have the power to cause widespread devastation and can affect both coastal and inland areas.

Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over the water and move toward land. Threats from hurricanes include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents and tornadoes.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale classifies hurricanes into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure and wind damage potential. With wind speeds of 111 miles per hour or more, Category 3, 4, and 5 hurricanes are major according to this scale. Category 1 and 2 hurricanes can also cause damage and injuries.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October. The Eastern Pacific hurricane season began May 15 and ends Nov. 30.

Each year, many parts of the United States experience heavy rains, strong winds, floods, and coastal storm surges from tropical storms and hurricanes. Affected areas include all Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico

coastal areas, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, parts of the southwest, the Pacific Coast, and the U.S. territories in the Pacific.

FALLOUT

Hurricanes can cause loss of life and catastrophic damage to property along coastlines and can extend several hundred miles inland. The extent of damage varies according to the size and wind intensity of the storm, the amount and duration of rainfall, the path of the storm, and other factors such as the number and type of buildings in the area, the terrain, and soil conditions. The effects include the following:

- Death or injury to people and animals;
- Damage or destruction of buildings and other structures;
- Disruption of transportation, gas, power, communications, and other services;
- Coastal flooding from heavy rains and storm surge; and
- Inland flooding from heavy rains.

Edited from information provided by City of Miami Emergency Management.



SPORTS



www.caribbeantoday.com

BRILLIANT BRIANA: Jamaican wins double sprint gold at World U-20

GORDON WILLIAMS

South Florida-based Jamaican Briana Williams turned in superb performances to win the sprint double and lead the Caribbean's medal charge at the IAAF World Under 20 Championships last month in Finland.

Williams's victories in the women's 100 and 200 meters also helped push Jamaica to second place in the overall medal standings behind Kenya and ahead of the United States.

Jamaica earned 12 medals, including four gold, five silver and three bronze. Kenya claimed less medals (11), but more gold (six). The U.S. won 18 medals, most of any country, including three gold, eight silver and seven bronze.

Cuba was the only other Caribbean nation to win a medal, earning five, including a gold, silver and three bronze.

DOMINANCE

Sixteen-year-old Williams, who was born in the U.S. but chose to compete for Jamaica where her family is from, started her sprint dominance by winning the 100 meters. She beat highly touted American Twanisha Terry into second, clocking 11.16 seconds. Terry was timed in 11.19.

Williams returned to crush the field in the 200 meters, clocking a championship record 22.50 seconds to finish ahead of American

Lauren Rain Williams (23.09).

The Jamaican's time was also a national youth and junior record. For Williams, her performance was reward for testing preparations.

"I put in a lot of work," she told IAAF Athletics after the 200. "... This is what I trained for all season and I'm just glad that I came out here to get the gold."

SURPRISE

Williams's coach Ato Boldon, a former multiple Olympic sprint medalist for Trinidad and Tobago, told

The Caribbean mined gold in other events as well. Jamaica's Damion Thomas won the men's 110 meters hurdles in 13.16 seconds, finishing ahead of compatriot Orlando Bennett, who clocked 13.33 for silver.

Jamaica's Kai Chang won the men's discus (1.750 kilograms) with a personal best throw of 62.36 meters, while Jordan A. Diaz earned Cuba's only gold medal of the meet by winning the men's triple jump with a leap of 17.15 meters.

men, with Christopher Taylor (45.38) and Chantz Sawyers (45.89) finishing second and third, respectively, in the event won by Belgium's Jonathan

silver for Jamaica in the women's 400 meters hurdles. Her compatriot Wayne Pinnock earned bronze in the men's long jump.



Williams wins women's 100 meters

trackalerts.com he expected her to do well, but admitted her stunning performances, especially in the 200 and after going through the qualifying rounds for both events, pleasantly caught him off guard.

"This is a nice surprise," said Boldon, who also coaches T&T's young sprint star Khalifa St. Fort. "I didn't know she had this left in her."

PHOTO FINISH

Britany Anderson ran a personal best 13.01 seconds to secure a silver medal for Jamaica in the women's 100 meters hurdles. Anderson's time was exactly the same as Tia Jones of the United States, who was declared the winner in a photo finish.

Jamaica claimed more medals in the 400 meters for



Thomas, left, and Bennett take top two places in the hurdles.

Sacoor in a championship record 45.03 seconds.

Cuba's Maikel Y. Vidal finished second in the men's long jump. His female compatriots Silinda Oneisi Morales and Yaritzaq Martinez won bronze in the discus and hammer throws, respectively, the same medal Davisleydi Velazco earned in the women's triple jump.

Shiann Salmon picked up

Jamaica closed out the meet with a bronze medal in the women's 4x400 meters relay. The team of Salmon, Janielle Josephs, Stacey-Ann Williams and Calisha Taylor finished behind the U.S. and Australia.

- Photographs by Getty/IAAF.



Players with Caribbean roots grace World Cup stage

Players with strong Caribbean roots were a big part of the 2018 World Cup, which ended last month.

Although no nation from the region qualified for soccer's greatest showcase tournament in Russia, the Caribbean was well represented.

At least three players from France's squad, which won the World Cup by beating Croatia 4-2 in the final, trace their background to the Caribbean. They are Raphaël Varane, whose roots, through his father, are in Martinique, Thomas Lemar, who was born in Guadeloupe, and Presnel

Kimpembe, whose mother is from Haiti.

England, which reached the World Cup semi-final, featured the most players with Caribbean background. Jamaican-born Raheem Sterling moved to London with his mother when he was five. Three years earlier his father had been killed in Jamaica. Sterling had also played in the 2014 World Cup.

Three other England players trace their roots to



Lemar

Jamaica. Danny Rose's parents were born in the island. The fathers of Ashley Young and Kyle Walker are also from Jamaica.

Another England player with Caribbean connections was Marcus Rashford, who is of Kittitian descent. Jesse Lingard's grandparents are from St. Vincent.



Sterling

SPORT BRIEFS

Windies, Bangladesh clash in South Florida T20s

Caribbean cricket representatives the West Indies will once again perform for fans in the United States diaspora during two Twenty20 Internationals against Bangladesh this month in South Florida.

The matches, scheduled for Aug. 4 and 5, will be played at Central Broward Regional Stadium in Lauderhill, Florida. They are the final two of a three match series.

Recently, the West Indies beat Bangladesh 2-0 in a Test series, the longer format of the game, in the Caribbean, but lost the one-day international series 2-1.

The T20s are expected to feature Caribbean stars such as Marlon Samuels and Andre Russell. Bangladesh, which is coached by former West Indies great Courtney

Walsh, will be led by Shakib Al Hasan.

The matches will be played under lights.

'Hero' 20/20 cricket in Fort Lauderdale

Top cricketers from around the world will be featured in several games of the Hero Caribbean Professional League Twenty20 tournament to be played this month in South Florida.

The Jamaica Tallawahs will play three games at Central Broward Regional Park and Cricket Stadium: On Aug. 18 against Guyana Amazon Warriors (8 p.m.); Aug 19 versus Trinbago Knight Riders (6 p.m.); and Aug. 22 against Barbados Tridents (6 p.m.).

For more information, call 754-223-3686.



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BACK TO SCHOOL



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Early preparation helps kids rediscover reading



- Photograph © Rob Lewine - Image Source

Make reading a priority in your home.

As summer comes to a close, it can be hard for both kids and adults to get back into an academic mindset.

Whether you're a parent

that's dreading the start of the school rush or struggling to help your children rediscover reading success, the trick is to plan ahead.

"Identify strategies and approaches to stay organized to help ease your child seamlessly back into a

reading and learning mindset," says Christine Willig, president of McGraw-Hill Education's School Group. "Savvy parents use the

week or two before school begins to give kids a jumpstart on refreshing their reading skills, and help prepare them for the school year ahead."

Willig offers parents the following tips to ease kids back into a reading and learning mindset:

Make it entertaining - Reading should be fun. Let kids pick their own material to ensure the subjects engage them and help them develop a love of reading.

Play games - Reading board games can be very useful in helping kids build their spelling, vocabulary and comprehension skills. Games can reinforce skills in ways that

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

Florida's health department offers free back-to-school immunizations



Some vaccinations are required by law.

Getting children ready for school means immunizations. The best choice is to have the children vaccinated by your family doctor. If that's not possible, county offices of the Florida Department of Health (DOH) are offering free immunizations over the summer.

DOH-Broward will offer immunizations during a campaign **Aug. 7-22** at Lauderhill Mall in Lauderhill.

"Vaccines are safe and have helped us wipe out many communicable diseases," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of DOH-Broward. "Parents who want to fully protect their children should have them immunized."

In the United States some unvaccinated children have come down with diseases that previously were virtually eradicated.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

AAA offers shopping tips for school items before classes start

The American Automobile Association (AAA) has offered the following tips for those shopping for back to school items:

• **Shop at home** - Once you create your back-to-school shopping list, take an at-home inventory. School lists often carry over items from the pre-

vious year, so make sure you aren't buying things you already own.

• **Spread out shopping** - The majority of Florida parents (73 percent) begin their back-to-school shopping one to four weeks before school starts. Sometimes you will find better deals if you spread out shop-

ping and begin earlier or wait until school starts. For instance, often times retail stores will have deep discounts on clothing in the fall in order to make room for winter inventory.

• **Shop online** - Before you buy, pull out your phone. Sometimes you can find a better deal for the item online or at another

store. The majority of parents (50 percent) will use smart phones or tablets to compare products and prices and about one-third (31 percent) will use it to make a purchase.

• **Shop tax free** - In Florida, there are back-to-school tax-free holiday, usually in early August. Parents can skip some

of the taxes on clothing and school supplies.

• **Use membership savings** - Membership organizations like AAA offer instant discounts and rewards at a variety of retailers. Check aaa.com/specialoffers for savings on back-to-school items. ★

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

STOCK UP: Tips when you're on a budget

Back-to-school season can put a strain on household budgets. Here are some smart ways families can reduce costs as students head back to class:

End-of-season sales -

Take advantage of end-of-season sales to stock up. This concept may not help you this fall, but it's a great habit to adopt now for long-term savings. You can stock up on summer clothes now and great fall items once the weather gets chillier.

Add it up - Bigger ticket school supply items can cost you a pretty penny if you don't comparison shop. For example, required tools, like a high-quality graphing calculator, can come with a price tag of \$75 or more. Get more for your money with an affordable model.

Take stock, buy in bulk -

Don't buy things you already own and take advantage of bulk discounts for the stuff you need. Before making your shopping



Back to school shopping can be expensive.

list, take stock of what school supplies you already have from the last school year.

For those necessities that kids will need all year long take advantage of bulk sales at discount stores and online retailers.

Go green - Brown bags, plastic baggies and plastic silverware are small expenses that add up quickly. Instead, opt for reusable lunch container alternatives and a one-time expense.

- Story and photograph from StatePoint.

Getting around high cost of college textbooks

A recent study by the United States Government Accountability office showed that the average prices for college textbooks have risen 82 percent in just 10 years.

However, there are options, ways you can save, including price comparison websites

CheapestTextbooks.com and **TextbookRentals.com**. Both free services help students locate the cheapest prices for books.

Here's a list of the ways the college textbook industry gets you to pay more, and some tips for paying less:

• College specific books -

Colleges have started asking students to buy college specific books.

• The workaround -

Ask the professor if it's O.K. to use the book's common version. It'll be the exact same. When you rent or buy it online, you'll be able to rent or buy it used from anybody.



- File photograph

College textbooks can be expensive.

• Book bundling - Students are sometimes required to buy a "book bundle" with extra class materials that add to the cost.

The workaround - E-mail the professor or wait until the class starts and ask if the professor will be using the supplemental material. If the answer is no, then buy just the textbook online.

• New Editions -

Publishers release new versions of books every few years, even though little changes. Usually, buying an older edition gives you the information you need.

• eTextbooks -

eTextbooks are usually more expensive than buying a book used or renting it, and they typically expire after six months or a year.

The workaround - Shop around. Most eTextbooks are available from multiple sellers.

• Timing - Sometimes students don't learn what textbooks they need until a couple of weeks before classes start, giving them little time to shop around.

The workaround - If you don't mind a little inconvenience, then wait until you're a couple of days into the school year before buying. If it's required, you can shop online and still have the book within a couple of days.

- Edited from an article featuring opinions by Chris Manns, through News and Experts. Manns is managing director of Cheapest Textbooks.com and TextbookRentals.com.



Florida's health department offers free back-to-school immunizations

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

cated, including measles, chickenpox and whooping cough.

THE LAW

Florida law states children cannot start school unless they have received all vaccinations against nine contagious and potentially fatal childhood diseases.

Back-to-school shots are especially important for children entering kindergarten and seventh grade, because different requirements begin at those grade levels.

Vaccinations required for school include:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough)

- Polio
- Measles, mumps, rubella (German measles)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Hepatitis B

Parents are encouraged to consider additional vaccinations not required for school, but recommended by federal health officials. These include vaccines against flu (yearly starting at age six months), rotavirus, haemophilus influenzae B, pneumococcal disease, hepatitis A, human papilloma virus and meningococcal disease.

For back-to-school needs, DOH offers free shots provided through the federal Vaccines for Children program:



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

are fun and memorable, so concepts truly stick.

Take advantage of free library programs - Many community libraries offer special programs for kids, particularly in the summer or weeks leading up to school. Beat the heat and take advantage of these opportunities whenever possible.

Incorporate technology -

There's no denying it, children today are comfortable using all forms of technology, whether computers, tablets or smart phones.

Getting kids to enjoy reading and to do it more often could be as simple as

presenting it in a preferred medium. Many great books for kids of all ages are available digitally and provide interactive experiences that bring reading to life.

For example, Fusion Reading, a mobile learning app from McGraw-Hill Education, is a reading intervention program for students in grades 6-12. It features interactive lessons and games to make reading fun, so struggling students can quickly become fluent, competent, and confident readers.

Build on schoolwork -

These tips can also be used when your child is back in school. For example, parents

should stay involved with their children's schoolwork to help them build on progress made throughout the school year.

Many classrooms are improving the way reading is taught in order to make it fun, modern and interactive, while ensuring students meet state and national standards.

To help improve grades across the board, make reading a priority in your home. For greater success this school year and beyond, find opportunities to read that are fun, stress-free and engaging.

- Edited from StatePoint.



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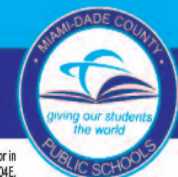
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