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editor@caribbeantoday.com
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CHAMPIONS!

~ Members of West Indies teams celebrate with their trophies after winning the 2016 Twenty20 World Cup men's and women's cricket titles in India. The two championship victories heaped pride and praise on the Caribbean, page 2.



It's just over a month since Jamaica elected Prime Minister Andrew Holness and a new government. Focus

has already drifted from political mud wrestling, rehashing ballot boxes and party slogans. The people are optimistic, but alarm bells have already started going off about broken promises and business as usual, page 7.



Alvas Powell, left, has been joined by international teammate Jermaine Taylor and five other Jamaicans signed by Major League Soccer club Portland Timbers. It's the largest contingent of Caribbean players inked by any franchise in North America's premier soccer competition and they're already making their mark, page 8.



FALL FROM GRACE

Marsha Gay Reynolds was once a beauty queen. The Jamaican was also bright and athletic. But last month the JetBlue flight attendant was charged with leaving 70 pounds of cocaine at Los Angeles International Airport. She's been denied bail and faces a long prison term in the United States if convicted, page 3.

INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE

News.....	2	Food.....	13	Classifieds.....	19
Feature.....	7	Spring Health.....	14	Sports.....	20
Viewpoint.....	9	Guyana Independence.....	17	Summer Education.....	22
Arts/Entertainment.....	11	Local/FYI.....	18		

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GENUINE CARIBBEAN FLAVORS ENJOYED WORLDWIDE

RALLY 'ROUND!': West Indies crowned double champions in world 20/20 cricket

The cricketers from the Caribbean rose to the pinnacle of the global game after both senior male and female teams scored thrilling victories on the same day to win Twenty20 World Cup titles in India.

The West Indies men beat England on April 3 at Eden Gardens in Kolkata to secure their second championship in the international game's shortest format, having won in 2012. Earlier, the women of the Caribbean earned their first crown, defeating three-time defending champion Australia at the same venue.

For both teams the victories were a culmination of a long road of struggles, with cricket in the region – possibly the one unifying force for Caribbean people – beset by plenty on-field failures and political wrangling off it. But the Caribbean had shown signs of revival in 2016, winning the men's Under-19 World Cup, and the region's ambassadors, motivated by harsh criticism both at home and abroad, rallied impres-



Matthews, left, and Samuels were each named player-of-the-match in the finals.

sively to triumph over the game's best teams again.

"I am (on top of the world)," elated West Indies women's captain Stafanie Taylor said after her team's win. "I've been waiting for this for a long time."

"Everybody know West Indies are champion!" exclaimed men's captain Darren Sammy defiantly during a post-final interview in



which he lambasted the West Indies Cricket Board while praising those who supported his team, including coaches, the manager and regional heads of state.

WOMEN'S WORLD

Taylor and teenager Hayley Matthews fashioned half-centuries as West Indies women produced a superb run chase to beat Australia by

eight wickets.

Set 149 runs for victory, the team reached the target with three balls to spare. Matthews top-scored with 66 from 45 balls and the in-form Taylor got 59 from 57. The pair put on a magnificent 120 runs for the first wicket to take Australia out of the contest, and, even when Matthews fell in the 16th over, Deandra Dottin (18 not out) joined Taylor to add 24 for the second wicket to keep the Caribbean side on top.

The result sparked scenes of jubilation across the outfield as the remainder of the women's team, along with members of the West Indies men's touring party, ran on to the ground to celebrate. Matthews was voted player-of-the-match, while Taylor was adjudged player-of-the-tournament for the women.

DECISIVE

The West Indies men then pulled off a magnificent victory of their own, defeating England by four wickets. Final score: England 155 for nine

wickets off 20 overs, West Indies 161 for six off 19.4.

The game ended in dramatic fashion. Needing 19 runs off the last over, Carlos Brathwaite smashed sixes off the first four balls bowled by Ben Stokes to decisively end the contest, which once ebbed and flowed as both teams exchanged ascendancy. Brathwaite scored 34 not out from 10 deliveries as the West Indies won with two balls to spare.

But it was Marlon Samuels, just as he did in 2012, who held the West Indies innings together, top scoring with 85 not out from 66 balls. Samuels, who was named player-of-the-match, underlined the importance of victory to the region.

"This is a win for the Caribbean," he said after the final. "It means a lot."

- Edited from multiple sources, including CMC. For more sports, turn to pages 20 and 21.



Caribbean hails 'the most memorable victories in West Indies cricketing history'



West Indies captain Darren Sammy basks in the celebration of his team's triumph.

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada – Grenada's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell has praised the twin triumph by the West Indies men's and women's teams at the Twenty20 World Cup in India and has pledged CARICOM's continued commitment to improving the standard of governance in the sport regionally.

Mitchell, the veteran leader who chairs CARICOM's Subcommittee on Cricket Governance, said despite the "daunting adversities on and off the field," both teams had maintained their focus and dis-

played the skill and composure to pull off "the most memorable victories in West Indies cricketing history, and indeed the most memorable in recent times."

"It is with exhilarating pride that I extend the heartiest congratulations, on behalf of the Government and people of Grenada, as well as all the CARICOM Prime Ministers, to our region's cricketers," Mitchell noted in a statement issued April 3.

"The Under-19 earlier this year in the ICC World Cup, the Women's Team earlier



West Indian woman Deandra Dottin leaps in victory as Australian opponents look on dejectedly.

today for securing the T20 championship, and now the men's team for achieving this great World T20 victory."

He added: "The sport continues to be a major catalyst for positive social transformation. As such, the West Indies organization must be reminded of the tremendous role they play in regional development.

"This is why we are so happy today, after these victories. Hopefully, we are witnessing a major turnaround in West Indies cricket."

REFORM PUSH

Mitchell has been at the forefront of the push in recent months for the reform of the

"The sport continues to be a major catalyst for positive social transformation. As such, the West Indies organization must be reminded of the tremendous role they play in regional development"

– P.M. Keith Mitchell

West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), which governs the game in the region. The CARICOM subcommittee commissioned an investigative panel, headed by University of the West Indies Cave Hill Principal Professor Eudine Barribeau, which recommended the "immediate dissolu-

tion" of the board.

Last February, Mitchell and the CARICOM heads threw their support behind the panel's recommendations and committed to ensuring their implementation.

On April 3, Mitchell said CARICOM would continue to give its "unwavering support" to regional cricket development "on an all-encompassing basis, including its governance, so as to ensure that on all levels, the players receive the necessary guidance and nurturing to harness their potential."

- Edited from CMC.



U.S. prosecutors block bail for ex-Jamaica beauty queen facing drug trafficking charges



Reynolds

NEW YORK – A Brooklyn, New York judge agreed to release on bail a JetBlue flight attendant and former Jamaican beauty queen charged with leaving 70 pounds of cocaine at Los Angeles International Airport, but United States federal prosecutors immediately blocked the judge's decision.

Marsha Gay Reynolds appeared in Brooklyn Federal Court on Mar. 25 supported by family, her minister and a former New York City councilman. She faces at least 10 years in prison if convicted.

Reynolds was given \$500,000 bail, but Assistant U.S. Attorney Alicia Washington requested a stay until an appeal could be heard by a U.S. federal magistrate judge in Los Angeles.

Reynolds had surrendered to police at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on Mar. 23.

U.S. federal prosecutors argued Reynolds abandoned two pieces of luggage after she was randomly selected for checkpoint screening.

Canada charges Guyanese linked to terror plot

OTTAWA, Canada - A 23-year-old former Canadian engineering student whose roots extend to Guyana was officially charged late last month with participating in the activities of a terrorist group.

Kevin Omar Mohamed, a former student of the University of Waterloo and the J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate in Ajax in 2010, was formally charged three days after he was detained over fears he might commit a terrorist act.

Mohamed, of no fixed address, appeared in a Toronto area court to face the charge that he participated in, or contributed to, the activities of a terrorist group over a two-year period. He was remanded until April 19 for a bail hearing that prosecutor Sarah Shaikh said

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Reynolds, 31, kicked off her Gucci shoes and fled the airport leaving behind the drugs valued at \$3 million and, according to media reports, somehow made her way home later to Queens, New York, where she surrendered to authorities.

"The defendant's co-conspirator also has tried to flee to Jamaica as recently as last

night," Washington told Justice Viktor Pohorelsky.

Reynolds's unidentified alleged co-conspirator has access to forged travel documents, Washington said.

SUSPENDED

Reynolds, a former beauty queen in her native Jamaica, is a graduate of New York University and is studying to

be a nurse at Mercy College while working for JetBlue, according to the **New York Daily News**. She was suspended from her job.

According to a source who knows Reynolds and is familiar with the case, she never appeared overly flashy although she usually wore clothing, such as shoes, which could be considered expen-

sive. The source, who wished to remain anonymous, said he had no idea Reynolds could be involved in any criminal activity. However, he indicated that others who know her said she always appeared to have money.

The Brooklyn judge approved the bail bond for the defendant, which was to be secured by homes owned by

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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NEWS



South Florida man pleads guilty to role in fraudulent Jamaica-based lotto scam

MIAMI, Florida – The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) says a South Florida man has pleaded guilty for his role in a Jamaica-based telemarketing fraud scheme.

Delroy Drummond, 26, of Broward County, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code,

Section 1349. Drummond is scheduled to be sentenced on May 31. He faces a maximum statutory sentence of up to 20 in prison.

According to documents and information presented in court, beginning in or about April 2015, Drummond's co-conspirators contacted elderly victims in the U.S. and falsely

informed them that they had won a lottery. The victims were told that they had to pay several thousand dollars in taxes and fees in order to collect their purported lottery winnings. It said the co-conspirators then instructed the victims on how to send the money – that was directed to Drummond.

fraudulent scheme. At that time, the DOJ said Drummond was “confronted with the fact that he was participating in a lottery scheme and was warned by law enforcement to stop receiving money from victims of telemarketing fraud.”



Drummond

who had been falsely told he/she had won a \$2.5 million lottery prize. Drummond used fraudulent identification in order to receive the funds.

It's reported that between April 2015 and Dec. 2015, Drummond received numerous packages containing money via the U.S. Mail, Federal Express, and United Parcel Service from multiple victims located throughout the U.S. As a result of the fraudulent scheme, the victims lost about \$500,000.

- Edited from CMC.



CONFRONTATION

In Sept. 2013, the DOJ said Drummond was contacted by law enforcement regarding a package, which was sent through the mail, containing money from a victim of the

In April 2015, the DOJ said Drummond obtained money wired to him under a fictitious name from a victim

Antigua apologizes after minister calls U.S. diplomat 'old lady'

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua – The Antigua and Barbuda government has apologized over statements made by a senior government minister regarding the appointment of the United States ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

Senior Minister and Former Prime Minister Lester Bird, in an emotional contribution to Parliament on the international banking services act last month, described the new United States diplomat Linda Tagliatela as an “old lady” while also questioning her credentials.

But Foreign Affairs

Minister Charles “Max” Fernandez said the statements made by the 78-year-old politicians were “unfortunate and without merit.”

“I want to put on record Mr. Speaker that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Government apologizes for the said comments expressed ... in this honourable House,” Fernandez said, adding “Ambassador Tagliatela is, as far as we know, without repute and someone of very good standing.”

Bird, the island's second prime minister, who held office from 1994 to 2004,

asked what Tagliatela could do for Antigua and Barbuda.

“The Americans just insert themselves,” he said. “I know you (are) going to get vex with me, but they send some old lady down here saying she is the ambassador to Antigua ... What are her credentials to make her come ...”



Tagliatela

- Edited from CMC.



Canada charges Guyanese linked to terror plot

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

could last two or three days. In a statement after the new charge was laid on Mar. 29, the RCMP said the arrest followed an “extensive” investigation dubbed “Project Swap” that began last August amid suspicion that Mohamed had traveled to Turkey in April 2014 to join Jabhat Al-Nusra, a listed terrorist entity in Canada. Mohamed returned to Canada a month later, police allege.

“We were able to not only disrupt this threat to our country's national security, but also to bring this individual before the Canadian justice system,” the Mounties said in the statement.

“At no time during the course of this investigation was there any risk to public safety.”

DETENTION

Mohamed was arrested

Mar. 25 in Waterloo, Ontario under a recent law that essentially allows detention without charge. Police also charged him with two minor weapons offenses related to his alleged possession of a hunting knife. He watched closely but said little during the five-minute appearance in which he appeared in handcuffs before being led back to jail.

His lawyer Anser Farooq said his client had been brought to court Mar. 29 expecting to sign a peace bond and get released; his father had brought him fresh clothes. Instead Mohamed found himself charged with a crime that carries a maximum 10 years in prison.

Farooq said he had little idea of what evidence police might have to back up their allegations but said he hoped to know more this month. He also

said he saw little reason Mohamed should not be able to win bail.

Mohamed, on his Facebook page, listed himself as a Sunni Muslim. In 2014 on his Facebook page, he had insisted: “Misguided groups like ISIS don't represent me,” while adding: “I can't understand how some Muslims legitimize attacking innocent non-combatants. Where did they learn that is fine?”

About 60 Canadians who traveled abroad to join terror groups are now back in the country, and another 180 are estimated to be overseas engaged with extremists, Canada's spy chief Michel Coulombe told a newspaper in February.

- Edited from News Americas.



U.S. prosecutors block bail for ex-Jamaica beauty queen facing drug trafficking charges

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Reynolds's mother and the Pentecostal minister. She would have been required to stay at her parents' home in Queens, but could attend school.

“Miss Reynolds is a very good young woman,” said Allan Jennings, a former New York City councilman at that time, stating that he was a spokesman for Reynolds's family. “She's done all the right things in life except for

this one situation.

“She may not have been fully aware of what was in the bags,” he added.

- Edited from CMC.



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Cayman companies plead guilty to hiding \$130 million

NEW YORK – The United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) says two Cayman Islands affiliates of Cayman National Corporation have pleaded guilty in helping to hide over \$130 million from the United States International Revenue Service (IRS).

U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara, Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General Stuart Goldberg, of the U.S. Justice Department's Tax Division, and IRS Chief of Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI) Richard Weber, last month announced the guilty pleas of Cayman National Securities Ltd. (CNS) and Cayman National Trust Co. Ltd. (CNT).

The officials said the Cayman Islands affiliates provided investment brokerage and trust management services

to individuals and entities within and outside the Cayman Islands, including citizens and residents of the U.S., meaning taxpayers.

USDOJ said CNS and CNT pleaded guilty to a criminal information, charging them with conspiring with many of their US taxpayers to hide more than \$130 million in offshore accounts from the IRS and to evade U.S. taxes on the income earned in those accounts.

"CNS and CNT entered their guilty pleas pursuant to plea agreements requiring the companies to, among other things, produce through the treaty process account files of non-compliant US taxpayers who maintained accounts at CNS and CNT, and pay a total of US\$6million in financial penalties," the USDOJ said.

It said the plea proceeding took place before U.S. District Judge Thomas P. Griesa for the Southern District of New York.

FIRST

"The guilty pleas of these two Cayman Islands companies today represent the first convictions of financial institutions outside Switzerland for conspiring with U.S. taxpayers to evade their lawful and legitimate taxes," Bharara said.

"The plea agreements require these Cayman entities to provide this office with the client files, because we are committed to finding and prosecuting not only banks that help U.S. taxpayers evade taxes, but also individual taxpayers who find criminal ways

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Guyanese woman accused of 'faking cancer' under investigation in New York

NEW YORK – Police here are investigating circumstances surrounding the disappearance of a Guyanese woman who has been accused of faking terminal cancer.

Shivonie Deokaran's battle with leukemia reportedly united her community behind her. Local newspaper – **The Journal News** of the Lower Hudson Valley – reported that residents of Ardsley village in Westchester County donated over \$60,000 to Deokaran and her family after learning in August she had only 18 months to live.

Deokaran's boyfriend denied allegations that she could be faking terminal cancer.

However, according to the



Shivonie Deokaran, center, and her sons.

police, Deokaran, her boyfriend Nikhlesh Parekh and two children moved to Florida last month after investigators working on a tip, asked for her medical records.

PLEA

"I just really hope that she was honest with everybody because it will make it much harder to raise funds for other people who desperately need to be helped," Paul

Feiner, the town supervisor of Greenburgh, which includes Ardsley, told the News Journal.

"I put her situation on the town website and, within 24 hours, we raised probably \$12,000."

Deokaran and Parekh, ran a struggling restaurant called Samosa Cafe in nearby Dobbs Ferry. According to Parekh, the family moved because New York weather is too cold for Deokaran in her condition. He said she gave her medical records to people who had supported the family when rumors began swirling around the small town.

He told the newspaper a "legal process" prevented Deokaran from immediately giving the medical files to police.

- Edited from CMC.



BREAKING BARRIERS



United States President Barack Obama, right, shakes the hand of Cuban Leader Raul Castro when the two met on Mar. 21 at the Palace of the Revolution in Old Havana. A day earlier Obama arrived in Cuba for a historic visit, the first by a U.S. president in close to 90 years. The visit was part of the U.S. leader's continuing push for increased relations between the countries.

Turn to page 9 for an edited version of Obama's speech in Cuba.

U.S. Coast Guard removes 'Conditions of Entry' on vessels arriving from Cuba

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Coast Guard has removed the Conditions of Entry on vessels arriving from Cuba.

Following an assessment, the Coast Guard said it has determined that "Cuba meets the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code requirements established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and has effective security measures in their ports.

"Vessels arriving to the U.S. are no longer required to employ additional security measures while in Cuban ports," said the US.. Coast

Guard in a statement last month.

Conditions of Entry related to Cuban ports were originally imposed in 2008.

However, the Coast Guard said all U.S. immigration policies remain unchanged, adding that the Office of Foreign Assets Control travel restrictions remain in effect. Additionally, the Coast Guard said the governing regulations, entitled "Unauthorized Entry to Cuba", also remain in effect.

- Edited from CMC.



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U.N. demands Haiti elections 'without further delay'

UNITED NATIONS – A day after the United Nations top official in Haiti said Haiti's only path to institutional and political stability is by going to the polls, the U.N. Security Council called on Haitian authorities to complete elections "without further delay".

In briefing the Security Council on Mar. 17, Trinidadian-born Sandra Honoré, special representative of the secretary-general and head of the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), said a protracted political crisis in Haiti may hamper the stabilization gains achieved in recent years and further decline the nation's economic growth.

Deeply concerned by the continued suspension of electoral rounds in Haiti, the Security Council on Mar. 18 called for the completion of the polling cycle "without further delay to allow the Haitian people the opportunity to vote for their elected representatives in a free, fair, inclusive and transparent contest". The council noted the Feb. 5 political accord, which it said provided a



Honoré

Haitian-led and owned road map for the swift conclusion of the current electoral cycle. It strongly urged all relevant actors to adhere to the accord and implement its provisions within the agreed timeline, underscoring the importance of formally reinstating the Provisional Electoral Council in this regard.

On Feb. 14, the Haitian National Assembly elected Jocelerme Privert as the French-speaking Caribbean country's interim president, a week after former President Michel Martelly departed without a successor being elected. Privert is scheduled

to serve as interim president for 120 days, with an election scheduled for April 24, following an agreement – known as the February 5 Agreement – between Haitian stakeholders "to preserve institutional continuity and further the electoral process," the U.N. stated.

Security Council members further noted the increasing number of challenges Haiti faces, "which can only be effectively resolved through close coordination between a democratically-elected government and Haiti's international partners," the U.N. added.

Reiterating its strong condemnation of any attempt to destabilize the electoral process, in particular through violence, the council urged all candidates, their supporters, political parties and other political actors to "remain calm, refrain from violence or any action that can further disrupt the process and political stability."

- Edited from CMC.



...Lawmakers set April 24 date, approve new P.M.

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – It was second time lucky for Haiti's interim President Jocelerme Privert after Parliament late last month approved his choice for prime minister less than a week after rejecting United States-trained economist Fritz Jean.

Lawmakers in the French-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country gave the nod to Professor of Administrative Law Enex Jean-Charles, who has also served as an advisor to several heads of state.

The Lower House Chamber of Deputies voted in favor of Jean-Charles serving as a transitional government's prime minister by a 78 to one vote, with two deputies abstained. The Senate had unanimously ratified his policy statement earlier.

'FRIEND'

Well known in politics since 1988 as "the friend of everyone", the new interim prime minister is a graduate of the University of Missouri

in Columbia, U.S., as well as the University of Brussels.

Since 1991, the 55-year-old is professor of administrative law at the Faculty of Law and Economics (FDSE) of the State University of Haiti and has published numerous articles and research reports on the administrative policy development, local



Jean-Charles

participation and decision-making in administrative matters. He is the author of the Haitian Administrative Law Manual.

Privert, who had earlier said he would wait for Jean-Charles to get the nod from Parliament before naming members of the CEP, will now seek to move ahead with plans for development, as well as fresh presidential elections scheduled for April 24.

- Edited from CMC.



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Cayman companies plead guilty to hiding \$130 million

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

not to pay their fair share," he added.

"We will follow them no matter how far they go to hide their accounts, whether it is Switzerland, the Cayman Islands, or some other tax haven."

Goldberg said the "convictions make clear that our focus is not on any one bank, insurance company or asset management firm, or even any one country.

"The department and IRS are following the money across the globe – there are no safe havens for U.S. citizens engaged in tax evasion or those actively assisting them," he said.

SHAM

The USDOJ said the sham Caymanian structures that CNT set up for U.S. taxpayer-clients included trusts, which were nominally controlled by CNT trust officers, but which in fact were controlled by the US taxpayer-clients; managed companies, for which CNT ostensibly provided direction and management services, but which in truth were shell companies that served only to hold the assets of the U.S. taxpayer-clients.

The USDOJ said CNS treated these sham Caymanian structures as the account hold-

ers and then permitted the U.S. taxpayer-clients to trade in U.S. securities, without requiring them to submit Form W-9s, which are IRS forms that identify individuals as US taxpayers, as CNS was obligated to do under its obligations for accounts held by U.S. persons that held US securities.

CNS and CNT agreed to maintain these structures for U.S. taxpayer-clients after many of them expressed concern that their accounts would be detected by the IRS, the USDOJ said.

As part of their plea agreements with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, CNS and CNT have agreed to cooperate fully with the office's investigation of the companies' criminal conduct. To date, it said CNS and CNT have already made substantial efforts to cooperate with that investigation.

In connection with their guilty pleas, the USDOJ said CNS and CNT have agreed to pay the U.S. a total of \$6 million, which consists of the forfeiture of gross proceeds of their illegal conduct, restitution of the outstanding unpaid taxes from U.S. taxpayers who held undeclared accounts at CNS and CNT, and a fine.

- Edited from CMC.



WAIT AND SEE: Jamaica emerges from national elections with hope for better, but doubts remain

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica – In the midst of a swirling cauldron of gut-busting cheers, flag-waving, horn-blowing and pounding drums at the National Stadium here, the only signs of intense rivalry, a month after Jamaica elected a new government, were limited to track and field competition and trash talking by loyalists obsessed with high schools participating in the event known as “Champs”.

The focus had long drifted from verbal mud wrestling between political parties vying for seats in Parliament. And even though many of the combatants in the campaign which led to the Feb. 25 general elections flocked to the National Stadium late last month, their attention, like the rest of the thousands present for the five-day spectacle, had far more to do with witnessing the superb sporting showcase than rehashing ballot boxes, scarce benefits and spoils, and party slogans.

Even the vanquished acknowledged that life on the island had already shifted gears, down from fever-pitched election “juggling” to kick back irie Jamaica feel.

“We lost,” said a senior People’s National Party (PNP) official shrugging as he settled into his seat to watch the athletic competition. “What we will have to do is rebuild. These things happen, but life goes on.”

The PNP, with then Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller at the helm, was booted from power by the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), led by Andrew Holness. The margin for control of the 63-seat Parliament was nail-biting narrow. After re-counts, the score stood at 32-31.

However, Jamaicans were grateful that the political battle had been contested without massive bloodshed and fraud that had stained elections past. Even the losing PNP official conceded the election machinery in Jamaica operated more with a quiet purr than an



Holness is pointing to a brighter future.

unsettling roar.

“A lot of the corruption of the past has been eliminated,” he said. “It’s not like it used to be in the 1970s and 1980s.”

PIVOT

The country has already pivoted to what comes next. The JLP promised a “road-map to prosperity” for the working class, including the removal of the income tax burden from people making under J\$1.5 million a year. It’s a first step towards eliminating much of the income tax in the country, the JLP reasoned. But while lower income Jamaicans

anxiously awaited the implementation of the plan – the JLP government was originally scheduled to announce its tax policy following a late March Cabinet retreat – some observers fear the move will eliminate valuable income streams for the government and eventually plunge Jamaica into economic mish-mash. As last month closed out, however, the new government had already started to backtrack on its income tax promise, claiming its implementation would likely be pushed back until after the budget debate, which kicks off May 12.

“So if you read between the lines, it could be that that is contingent on when the budget is passed,” Information Minister Ruel Reid was quoted as saying.

Then, later in the month, Finance Minister Audley Shaw dropped a bombshell: The entire income tax relief plan was in danger because the previous PNP government had not accurately disclosed the amount of funds from a

gas tax was available to help offset the tax break.

“You will recall we had suggested that part of the pay back for the \$1.5-million tax break would be use of the tax on fuel — that was supposed to be a special fund that was set aside, couldn’t be touched,” Shaw explained in a statement. “Well, now ... I’ve found that the oil hedge was not set aside ... So in other words, it’s not available as part of the solution to financing the tax break.”

PATIENCE

Still, a month into the Holness-led government, Jamaicans showed some patience, albeit with doses of skepticism. There was relative calm. The reasons varied. Some suggested the country was weary of politics, distracted by “Champs”, Jamaica’s vital World Cup soccer qualifying match a week later, the Easter season or West Indies cricketers’ march to the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Ex-diplomat urges Jamaica to make use of diaspora community in U.S.



From left, Earl Jarrett, JNBS general manager and CaPRI vice chairman, Clarke and Ward.

NEW YORK – A former Jamaican diplomat says the island needs to look to its diaspora in the United States to improve its socio-economic fortunes in the future.

Curtis Ward, former ambassador to the United Nations, told a forum here late last month that Jamaica needs to better engage members of its diaspora to advocate its concerns.

“Many Jamaicans are familiar with working with the U.S. government. Former New York City Councilwoman, Una Clarke, can tell you how many times she has been to Capitol Hill in a private capacity And, it far exceeds advocating for Jamaican and Caribbean issues than the advocacy of the Caribbean diplomatic corps in Washington,” he told the forum about Security and Good Governance in Jamaica, led by the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CaPRI)

and the U.S. Embassy in Kingston, with support from Continental Baking Company (CBC) and Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS).

“This is an area where we need to fill that gap,” he added, arguing that the CBSI was framed with the U.S. to assist countries in the Caribbean to build capacity against drug trafficking and related activities.

INADEQUATE

But he informed the 200-strong audience that the resources from Washington have not been adequate. Ward also told the forum, the fourth in a five-part series of discussions by CaPRI and the U.S. Embassy under the “Dialogue between Democracies: the Future of U.S.-Jamaica Bilateral Relations” project, that funding for the U.S. Southern Command, which is responsible for securing the

U.S. southern border and cooperate with governments in the region in drug interdiction, has been insufficient.

He said the U.S. Congress had cut in half the original appropriations requested by President Barack Obama to fund the CBSI, although, he added, the CBSI has been underfunded since inception. However, he said that successive Jamaican governments

have equally failed to make a strong case for more funding.

“As a result, the level has been far less than what is needed to deal adequately with the problem,” he said, adding that there was also need to support Jamaica with gathering and using intelligence effectively.

Against that background he called for Jamaica to make better use of its people in the

diaspora to support its causes.

SUPPORT

In her presentation, Clarke, called on Jamaicans overseas to strengthen their organization in the U.S. so they can be better positioned to represent the concerns of Jamaica and the Caribbean.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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JAMAICAN INVASION: Major League Soccer club Portland Timbers signs seven Reggae Boyz

~ Most players from a single Caribbean country with one franchise

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Before his Major League Soccer (MLS) career began in the United States several years ago, the only Portland familiar to Jermaine Taylor was his home parish in Jamaica.

It's been less than three months since Taylor moved from the Houston Dynamo in Texas and signed to play for the Portland Timbers in Oregon in MLS, but he's already settling in the U.S. northwest, where a city known for persistent rain and cold has warmly embraced him and the six other Jamaicans under contract with the club.

"First, the locker room is just like a family," the 31-year-old defender said while here last month preparing for two games against Costa Rica as part of Jamaica's 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign.

"That's one of the things I really love and I admire. Every morning we're inside the locker room it's shake hands and laughter. That's pretty much comfortable. The guys welcomed me very well."

Timbers supporters have chipped in too.

"With the fan base, I mean, it's something to talk about," said Taylor. "It's remarkable. They cheer, they bang the drum, they do everything just to cheer their team on."

The fresh influx of Reggae Boyz to Portland – only Alvas Powell had spent a full season with the Timbers before the 2016 MLS season – is no accident.

"I love Jamaicans man," Timbers head coach Caleb Porter who, years ago, guided the University of Akron and recruited heavily from the Caribbean island, said while attending January's MLS Players Combine in Florida. "I've been over there a lot."

Now quite a bit of Jamaica has come to Portland. Locker room humor has taken on a distinctly island flavor. Taylor has been a target of needling.

"Portland, yeah, a lot of guys make fun of that," he said smiling. "When they heard I was from Portland (Jamaica) they were like 'So you leave from one Portland to the next'. So that was a bit of a joke."

"I think everyone is trying to speak Jamaican," added national striker Darren Mattocks, who helped Porter win a national collegiate title at Akron and joined the Timbers shortly after the 2016 season began. "(They say) 'Waa gwaan yardies'. So that's really good."

EXCHANGE

Although the Timbers hasn't gone totally "yard", a robust cultural exchange is in full swing.

"It's definitely not just about the Jamaicans," said Mattocks, "but it's like everyone, people from different nationalities. I try to speak Spanish with some of the guys who speak Spanish and they try to speak Jamaican. So it's a really good and healthy atmosphere."

In addition to Taylor, Mattocks and Powell, a starting

fullback who helped Portland win MLS Cup 2015, Portland has signed Jamaicans Rennico Clarke, a defender, mid-

fielder Andre Lewis, selected in the top 10 of the 2014 SuperDraft by the Vancouver Whitecaps but later released, and Neco Brett, a rookie striker drafted in January. Michael Seaton, another national striker, joined the club midway the 2015 season from MLS team D.C. United.

Powell, among the youngest of the Jamaicans at the Timbers, has accepted the role of adjustment facilitator for his countrymen although, he made clear, they "know what they're here for." The Jamaicans hang out together. Some share the same apartment complex.

"I encourage them to continue to work hard," said the 21-year-old Powell while here with the Boyz. "... We're all like brothers in Portland."

He understands a happy locker room often means a successful one.

"It's always a great feeling to have Jamaicans in the camp," said Powell. "(They make it) more comfortable, more vibesie. Players tend to get out their shell."

PRIORITY

Success in Portland, which means repeating as MLS champion, is the Timbers' priority,



Taylor



Mattocks

however. The club is off to a rocky 2016 season. The Jamaicans know they now have the backing of a city, but only winning will let them keep it. More

Jamaican music in the locker room and a dreamy island accent cannot be their main contribution. So the Boyz of Portland are focusing on the challenge.

"They were defending champion last year and we want to try and repeat something like that for them this season," said Taylor, who lost MLS Cup finals at Houston.

According to Mattocks, Porter's familiarity with Jamaicans – their personalities and soccer abilities – should speed up the assimilation by the club's newcomers, increasing the chances of continued success.

"It helps us (as Jamaicans) a lot seeing that he's coached a lot of Jamaicans," Mattocks said. "... I think players would like that."

They do. Comfort at work means they can spend more time getting used to the city they will call home for most of the year. So far, they don't have much else to go on. Taylor admitted that after much "research" the closest he's come to finding a Jamaican outlet is a Caribbean store.

"And it's not even a Caribbean store," he said laughing. "It's more of an

African store."

Mattocks's early calculation indicates the Jamaican influence in Portland, Oregon could be limited to the locker room.

"I think the largest population of Jamaicans in Portland would be with the Portland Timbers," he said laughing. "So that's like, kind of crazy you know. But, to be honest, you have very nice people over there. It's a really good atmosphere and I think anyone who plays professionally would definitely like to play in Portland."

Brett, 24, and 19-year-old Seaton have made the MLS roster. Lewis, 21, and Clarke, 20, are assigned to the Timbers' second team – "T2" – for now. They should have a fair opportunity to succeed in Portland.

"Coach will give them chances if they continue to work hard," said Powell.

That's good enough incentive to put down Jamaican roots in Portland – Oregon, that is.



Ex-diplomat urges Jamaica to make use of diaspora community in U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

"We are here in the United States with the same ability and brain power, therefore, if we would cooperate with each other, the way other ethnic communities do; and, especially to vote, so that candidates can understand that

our vote could pose a threat to their office; then, we would get what we want for Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean," she said.

Clarke said, however, that there needs to be stronger coordination between Jamaica and diaspora communities, so that Jamaicans overseas are

clear about what the nation's issues are so that they can be better able to identify how they can advance Jamaica's interests.

"We need to reconfigure and work with (those positioned in Jamaica) so that there is no lack of information about what the needs are for

Jamaica," she said. "We have to insist the ways other (ethnic) groups insist, because it is our tax dollars that goes someplace else."

- Edited from CMC.



WAIT AND SEE: Jamaica emerges from national elections with hope for better, but doubts remain

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Twenty20 World Cup.

Jamaicans embraced the opening of the new North-South Highway, even while grumbling about pricey tolls projected to use the route. In a bid to fend off another backlash, Holness, during the official opening of the highway, announced a 25 percent discount on the tolls until the price was finalized.

However, pothole-ridden roads all over the country have not eased the public's concerns. Neither did prob-

lems with water supply in some communities or the stagnant dollar. Small business owners also moaned about the burden of complicated processes to keep their stores open and the heavy load of import tariffs, which they believe are unfair.

"They charge the small businessman the same as the larger businesses," said a small apparel manufacturer. "How do they expect us to compete?"

Competition from the "opening" of Cuba, some argue, also looms as a real

threat to Jamaica's cash cow – tourism. With global belt-tightening forcing visitors to be more cautious with their spending dollars, the mysterious Cuba could become first choice of visitors in the region, which would be a big blow for Jamaica.

Yet post-elections Jamaica appears back to normal. Holness received a warm crowd reception when his presence was announced in the near-packed National Stadium during the Mar. 25 World Cup soccer qualifier against Costa Rica. Spectators

didn't appreciate the draw in that game and vented their views. Holness would have seen – up close – the public's desperation for positive performance results. Failure to come through, especially with such a thin Parliamentary advantage, could mean desperate days ahead for Jamaica.

For coverage on "Champs" and the Caribbean's World Cup soccer qualifying campaign, turn to pages 20 and 21.



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Trump is like a wrecking ball

Donald Trump, the Republican presidential frontrunner who began his campaign by calling Mexican immigrants rapists and drug dealers, insisting he will make them pay for a border wall and, most of all, preaching forced deportation and a ban on Muslim immigrants, has now pulled a Mitt Romney.

That's right, Trump has suddenly seen the light following his Super Tuesday GOP Primary wins and flip flopped somewhat on his draconian immigration stance. The Donald got an epiphany at the recent GOP debates and insisted he is "changing."

Wow, really? But the primary is not over yet? Do you think you have the crazy vote under lock and key that you can simply flip flop your way into the general election?



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

For those of you who missed it, Trump, in a stunner, now seemed to be embracing President Barack Obama's "DREAMERS" plan. At the debate, Trump made a case for allowing highly educated immigrants to remain in the country.

"One of the biggest problems we have is people go to the best colleges - they'll go to Harvard, they'll go to Stanford, they'll go to Wharton, as soon as they're finished they get shoved out," he said. "They want to stay in this country. They want to stay here desperately. They're not able to stay here. For that purpose, we absolutely have to be able to keep the brainpower in this country."

OBAMA COPY

Sounds like language straight out of Obama's immigration reform mantra and, most of all, his executive orders which Republicans have blocked; you know - the same ones that would allow young immigrants, especially those in college, to secure a work permit and live legally in the U.S. So either the Donald has woken up, is playing "Mitt" politics before the general or is simply showing his true colors.

Either way, when questioned about whether he is abandoning his tough pledge to enforce the mass deportation of the undocumented population, Trump told debate moderator Megyn Kelly he was simply "softening the position, because we have to have



Trump

talented people in this country."

Sounds like the Donald that his Republican challengers have painted him to be. After all, as far back as 2013, Trump did meet with a group of DREAMERS, or undocumented immigrants brought to the country as youths.

So this begs the question - who exactly is the real Donald? Is he the anti-immigrant bigot that his rhetoric on the campaign trail has made him out to be? Is he the "liberal" his challengers claim hiding under the dark conservative cover but really ready to give DREAMERS a chance?; or is he simply playing politics to win and saying what he needs to, to now bring the immigrant and huge Latino voting bloc over to his side after winning the right wing conservatives who have been so quick to embrace bigotry and demagoguery?

If that's the game, then that ship has sailed Donald! No amount of "softening" will win over the majority of this bloc even though I'm sure you will win a smattering of good old Uncle Toms in both the black and Latino communities. Tuesday, Mar. 1 proved that.

Or are you Donald, the wrecking ball that's come to take out the Grand Old Party? Even if it's unintentional, you certainly are doing a great job of it. Democrats are purring like Cheshire cats on the other side, certain of a win this November and remaining in the White House. So let's sing my adapted Miley Cyrus chorus for the sad demise of the party of Lincoln. Won't you join me ... Let's go - one, two, three: "You came in like a wrecking ball; and never hit so hard you know. All you wanted was to build some walls; but all you ever did was wreck me. Yeah, you wrecked me!"

Edited from News Americas. Felicia J. Persaud is CMO of Hard Beat Communications, which owns the brands News Americas Now, CaribPR Wire and Invest Caribbean Now.



Obama makes historic visit to Cuba with message of hope

The following is the edited version of a speech delivered by United States President Barack Obama during his visit last month to Cuba. It was the first time in almost 90 years that an American president had gone to that Caribbean nation.

In his most famous poem, Jose Marti made this offering of friendship and peace to both his friend and his enemy. Today, as the president of the United States of America, I offer the Cuban people el saludo de paz.

Havana is only 90 miles from Florida, but to get here we had to travel a great distance - over barriers of history and ideology; barriers of pain and separation. The blue waters beneath Air Force One once carried American battleships to this island - to liberate, but also to exert control over Cuba. Those waters also carried generations of Cuban revolutionaries to the United States, where they built support for their cause. And that short distance has been crossed by hundreds of thousands of Cuban exiles - on planes and makeshift rafts - who came to America in pursuit of freedom and opportunity, sometimes leaving behind everything they owned and every person that they loved.

Like so many people in both of our countries, my lifetime has spanned a time of isolation between us. The Cuban Revolution took place the same year that my father came to the United States from Kenya. The Bay of Pigs took place the year that I was born. The next year, the entire world held its breath, watching our two countries, as humanity came as close as we ever have to the horror of nuclear war. As the decades rolled by, our governments settled into a seemingly endless confrontation, fighting battles through proxies. In a world that remade itself time and again, one constant was the conflict between the United States and Cuba.

I have come here to bury the last remnant of the Cold War in the Americas. I have come here to extend the hand of friendship to the Cuban people.

I want to be clear: The differences between our governments over these many years are real and they are important. I'm sure President (Raul) Castro would say the same thing - I know, because I've heard him address those differences at length. But ... we also need to recognize how much we share. Because in many ways, the United States and Cuba are like two brothers who've been estranged for many years, even as we share

the same blood.

LIKENESS

We both live in a new world, colonized by Europeans. Cuba, like the United States, was built in part by slaves brought here from Africa. Like the United States, the Cuban people can trace their heritage to both slaves and slave-owners. We've welcomed

both immigrants who came a great distance to start new lives in the Americas.

Over the years, our cultures have blended together

So even as our governments became adversaries, our people continued to share these common passions, particularly as so many Cubans came to America. In Miami or Havana, you can find places to dance the cha-cha-cha or the salsa, and eat ropa vieja. People in both of our countries have sung along with Celia Cruz or Gloria Estefan, and now listen to reggaeton or Pitbull. Millions of our people share a common religion ...

For all of our differences, the Cuban and American people share common values in their own lives. A sense of patriotism and a sense of pride - a lot of pride. A profound love of family. A passion for our children, a commitment to their education. And that's why I believe our grandchildren will look back on this period of isolation as an aberration, as just one chapter in a longer story of family and of friendship.

But we cannot, and should not, ignore the very real differences that we have - about how we organize our governments, our economies, and our societies. Cuba has a one-party system; the United States is a multi-party democracy. Cuba has a socialist economic model; the United States is an open market. Cuba has emphasized the role and rights of the state; the United States is founded upon the rights of the individual.

BOND

Despite these differences, on December 17th 2014, President Castro and I announced that the United States and Cuba would begin a process to normalize relations between our countries. Since then, we have established diplomatic relations and opened embassies. We've begun initiatives to cooperate on health and agriculture, edu-



Better Cuba-U.S. relations are here, says Obama.

cation and law enforcement. We've reached agreements to restore direct flights and mail service. We've expanded commercial ties, and increased the capacity of Americans to travel and do business in Cuba.

And these changes have been welcomed, even though there are still opponents to these policies. But still, many people on both sides of this debate have asked: Why now? Why now?

There is one simple answer: What the United States was doing was not working. We have to have the courage to acknowledge that truth. A policy of isolation designed for the Cold War made little sense in the 21st century. The embargo was only hurting the Cuban people instead of helping them. And I've always believed in what Martin Luther King, Jr. called "the fierce urgency of now" - we should not fear change, we should embrace it.

That leads me to a bigger and more important reason for these changes: Creio en el pueblo Cubano. I believe in the Cuban people. This is not just a policy of normalizing relations with the Cuban government. The United States of America is normalizing relations with the Cuban people.

And today, I want to share with you my vision of what our future can be. I want the Cuban people - especially the young people - to understand why I believe that you should look to the future with hope; not the false promise which insists that things are better than they really are, or the blind optimism that says all your problems can go away tomorrow. Hope that is rooted in the future that you can choose and that you can shape, and that you can build for your country.

I'm hopeful because I believe that the Cuban people are as innovative as any people in the world ...



VIEWPOINT



KEEPING TRACK: When Father Time comes to claim his due, it's up to you how much he's paid

Growing old, is it a blessing or a curse?

The passage of time takes its toll on us all, even though some people tend to defy the ravages of ageing and still maintain a modicum of youthfulness. Those are the lucky ones who somehow seem to postpone the wrinkles, gray hair and sagging skin.

Others aren't so fortunate, as they show every minute, every hour, every day, month, year of their aged lives. Some even hasten the process, as they look older than they really are.

"Is how she look so old and mash up and we were in school together?"

Scientists say that it's genetic, as some people just don't seem to age at all.

"Can you believe that he and I are the same age, yet he looks like he could be my father."

And yet, eventually Father Time comes a knocking, and knocks you down as the age starts to show. It often comes as a shock. That's the sad thing about growing old, it robs so many people of what they cherish most, their dignity. The old saying rings true: "Once a man, twice a child." Suddenly strong, lusty, virile, vibrant people are reduced to



doddering, dribbling, drowsy, drooling derelicts.

"But wait, muh Trevor that ... how him mash up so?"

"He grew old."

It was just a few weeks ago I phoned an old friend of mine who I hadn't seen in many years. I asked him how he was and he lamented: "Man, I didn't know that growing old could



TONY ROBINSON

stay so boss." He then went on to say that arthritis had mashed him down, so he was in pain and hobbling, which made him feel even older.

Parents give you an idea of what to expect. Even so, my friend said when it came his turn to feel the arthritis, the high blood pressure, the diabetes and the incontinence, it still knocked him for a loop. No longer are your parents the fountain of knowledge and wisdom, teaching you stuff, guiding you, taking care of you, advising you, allaying your fears as you circumnavigate the parlaying your fears

as you circumnavigate the pitfalls of life. Instead, now they depend on you to guide, support and protect them as the roles are reversed.

It's often not a pretty sight or an easy burden to bear them, put them out to pasture, or so it would seem to those looking on. In reality, they simply cannot.

ROBBERY

Nothing is wrong with putting your parents in a nursing home if they're too old or ill for you to take care of them. An old sick parent is a huge challenge for even the best intentioned and capable offspring who tries to take care of them at home.

Growing old also robs people of their physical attributes. For women it's their looks, and for men it's their strength, and God forbid, their virility. No wonder someone, a few years ago, wrote an article titled "I have outlived my penis."

The strength ebbs, the virility waxes and wanes, the eyesight, hearing, memory all start to fade. I see old people all the time, and I hear them in their dotage saying, "Growing old is no fun at all."

I'm not being maudlin, morose or melancholy, but at

times I look around and I see the bright flames of youth flicker and fade, as people who I know, family and friends, grow old. It does make one think of one's future. But then, I look on the bright side and see many old people who are still vibrant, lusty and strong.

Truth be told, many young people call down old age on themselves and act old long before their time. If you think old you will act old and ultimately become old.

There are people who will not give in to growing old. I see them taking part in those five and 10-mile races even though they are in their 80s. Yet I see young persons who look and act like old people. Their outlook on life is negative, their physical being has a pop-down posture. They walk slow and seem to have embraced Old Father Time himself.

Growing old is inevitable and some will be luckier than others regarding how they look. But one thing is certain, if you act old too early, you will become old very early.

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FESTIVAL FEVER: Mixed bag of musical talent for St. Lucia's 25th jazz fest

A mix of Caribbean and international talent representing a wide range of musical genres, including reggae, rock, R&B and jazz, will form the main attraction at the 25th annual St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival beginning late April.

Confirmed performers for the **April 29 to May 8** festival so far include Shaggy, George Benson, Kool and the Gang, Air Supply, Omi, Kassav, Donald Harrison Jr., and Joey Alexander. More names were to be confirmed as the festival draws near.

"This year's festival commemorates 25 years of star-studded musical performances that have commanded world attention over the years," St. Lucia's Tourism, Heritage and Creative Industries Minister Lorne Theophilus noted in a recent press release to promote the event.

"We are honored to continue the tradition and take great pride in providing a plat-



Shaggy

form for internationally acclaimed musicians, as well as showcasing Saint Lucian artisans, entertainers and cultural enthusiasts during the two-week celebration."

LOCATIONS

The 10-day festival runs through May 8 and will feature a multitude of musical performances and art showcases throughout the island.

Locations span from St. Lucia's Pigeon Island National Park, where main stage events will kick-off on May 6, to various other venues island-wide.

With a continued emphasis on the arts component of the festival, a tribute to Sir Derek Walcott – one of St. Lucia's two Nobel Laureates – will be presented through the

play Omeros and produced by Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. An Arts Village with a dedicated site in the north of the island will feature literary, visual and performing arts, while the fashion show "Hot Couture" will return with a spotlight on St. Lucia and the region's style.

Completing the line-up

will be a string of other local entertainers, together with more than 100 local artisans, who will perform at jazz venues island-wide throughout the festival.

For more information about the 25th annual festival, visit <http://www.stlucijazz.org> or call 1-800-456-3984.



T&T film set for European premiere at Cannes festival



A scene from the movie "Trafficked".

The Trinidad and Tobago film "Trafficked" is scheduled to make its European premiere at the 13th Festival International du Film PanAfricain de Cannes **April 16- 20** in France.

"Trafficked", a 72-minute feature film directed by Sean Hodgkinson and presented by Eye On Dependency and Quirky Films, centers around a trio of vacationing friends on a Caribbean beach who are seduced into a dangerous con when they become involved with a charismatic stranger.

Inspired by true events - as told to Garth and Natasha St. Clair on their radio program Eye on Dependency - the film seeks to raise awareness about the dangers of drug trafficking in the Caribbean.

"The film captures almost perfectly the ills and dangers of Human and Drug Trafficking," St. Clair, executive producer, noted in a recent press release.

"Trafficked is not only a fan-

tastic and hair raising film, but it is an important crime fighting tool and shows the darker side of what people believe is a tropical paradise."

The film has been subtitled into both Spanish and English. A team is working on subtitling the film into French for the release at the festival.

"Trafficked" was first shown at the trinidad+tobago film festival in Sept. 2015. It earned the title for "Best Local Feature Film". It has been featured at the following film festivals:

- Bahamas International Film Festival 2015;
- Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano 2015;
- Festival del Global Cine Dominicano 2015;
- Martinique International Film Festival 2015;
- Pan African Film Festival 2016; and
- New Voices in Black Cinema 2016.



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GARDEN JAZZ



Robert Kool Bell, left, and Regina Bell link up with Najee during last month's "Jazz In The Gardens" in Miami Gardens, Florida. - Photograph by Mychal Watts/Getty Images

Caribbean, int'l artistes line up for Tobago jazz festival

A variety of Caribbean and international artistes have been booked for this year's "Tobago Jazz Experience", dubbed "Much More Than Music".

The nine-day festival,

scheduled for April 16-24 on the Caribbean island, will feature American star vocalist Lauryn Hill, plus Maxwell, J. Cole, Arturo Tappin and band.

Shaggy, Third World, Roy

Cape featuring Blaxx, and Etienne Charles are also listed as performers.

For more information about the festival visit www.tobagojazzexperience.com



Canadian-born singer helps environment plan in SVG

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent - The St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Preservation Fund has been launched here with Canada-born singer-songwriter Bryan Adams serving on its board of advisors.

Adams, a Hollywood Hall of Fame inductee, told the launch event recently that he was originally going to Jamaica in 2002, when a friend invited him to Mustique, one of the islands that form the Grenadines.

"And the next morning, I went to look for a home here," said Adams. "I am now a Vincentian. Actually, I'm a Vincy. And I want to make my contribution, as a Vincy, to this beautiful place. And this fund, I think, I believe, will make a huge difference, and it has already started.

"I want to preserve that for my children and for all children, for your children as well," added Adams, whose songs include "I Do It For You".

He has spent the last six years as head of the environmental committee in



Adams

Mustique.

"I think that Mustique acts as a small model of what could actually happen here (St. Vincent). We've had huge advances in our sustainable energy, we are rebuilding our coral reefs, we've got an incredible environmental programme to protect fauna and the species on the island and I believe that this is what should happen in St. Vincent. And this was really the impetus for me to be here and create this fund. I am happy to support this," Adams said.

- Edited from CMC.



BRIEFS

Soca queen is keynote speaker at Florida conference

Caribbean soca queen Alison Hinds is the scheduled keynote speaker for the 42nd annual conference presented this month by the Florida Caribbean Students Association (FCSA) and Caribbean Students Association at the University of Tampa, Florida.

The conference, with a theme "Many Shores, Waters Meet - One Land Under Our Feet", which will be held April 7-10. It will include development workshops, cultural programming and community service.

Hinds, who has received numerous regional and international awards, is viewed as a trailblazer for her work in promoting Caribbean music. She has also distinguished herself with philanthropic service to regional and international charities.

For more information and to register for the conference, visit <http://rsvpbook.com/UT2016>.

'A Day at the Beach' concert

Timeless reggae ambassadors Third World band is scheduled to headline the April edition of the "A Day at the Beach Concert Series" in South Florida.

The show, which will also feature Jo Mersa and Yohan Marley, Big Harves, The Baboons, Uma Galera, Monkey Village, Afrobeta and Guitars Over Guns, will be

staged April 16 and 17 at the North Beach Bandshell, 7275 Collins Ave., Miami Beach.

Doors open 4 p.m. on the first day, at noon on the second.

Mother's Day, Caribbean style

Jamaican singer Jack Radics, appearing with Love & Laughter, plus Christopher Williams, The Blak Diamond Band and Sons of Mystro are scheduled to perform at a "Caribbean Style Mother's Day" show on May 7 at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center in South Florida.

Doors for the show open at 7 p.m. Showtime is an hour later. The LPAC is located at 3800 N.W. 11th Place, Lauderhill.

For more information, call 954-777-2055.

'Best of the Best' set for May 29

The 10th anniversary staging of "Best of the Best", one of South Florida's longest running Caribbean entertainment shows, will be held May 29 at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami.

Among the artistes already announced for the show are Half Pint, Lawless Cham, Alison Hinds, Lady G, Nesbeth, Little John and Vershon.

- Complied from various sources.



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ACKEE AND CODFISH: A delightful Caribbean brunch favorite

MINNA LA FORTUNE

Getting an invitation to attend a Caribbean breakfast or brunch is the invitation to a special experience.

Caribbean breakfast foods are special because they are meals that are also served at lunch and dinner. They are large meals that contain all the major food groups complimented with fresh herbs and spices and medley of several tropical fruits.

To ask a Caribbean national in the region or in the diaspora what is their favorite breakfast or brunch dish is to get a list of starches, fish, meats, vegetables, beverages and fruits. The responses will vary from island to island.

While I have only sampled breakfast dishes from Jamaica, Haiti, Antigua, Guyana and Grenada, given the variety of breakfast meals that are prepared in Jamaica, I would venture to say that Jamaica serves more breakfast meals than anywhere else in the world. Some examples of breakfast meals that are prepared in Jamaica are as follows: Ackee, codfish and Johnny cakes and fried plantains; calaloo, cod fish with

roasted breadfruit or boiled green bananas; cabbage, codfish with hard-dough bread and butter or Johnny cakes; steamed fish with boiled green bananas; beef liver with boiled green bananas; beef kidney or beef heart or light with boiled green bananas; codfish and roach with codfish and roasted breadfruit, or boiled green bananas; Sardines with onions omelettes; fried, scrambled or boiled eggs; cornmeal, oat, plantain or banana porridge; fried sprat with harddough bread and butter; escovitched fish with fried bammy; salted mackerel or shad or herring with boiled green bananas; codfish onions and tomatoes and Johnny cakes; and okra with codfish, boiled eggs, harddough bread and butter.

In general, however, cod fish or bacalao and bakes or Johnny cakes is a staple breakfast meal in the Caribbean. Porridges are also popular and so are hot cocoa



Ackee and saltfish with Johnny cakes.

beverages and herbal teas.

My favorite Caribbean breakfast menu is a Caribbean fruit salad, cornmeal porridge and Jamaica's national dish – ackee and codfish – served with Johnny cakes and fried plantains, toast with guava jelly and Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee.

Here's the recipe for Jamaica's ackee and salt fish which was voted as the "second-favorite on a top-ten list compilation of national dishes by National Geographic in

their book, 'Food Journeys of a Lifetime: 500 Extraordinary Places To Eat Around The Globe'.

Ackee and Codfish Ingredients

- 1 pound boneless salted codfish
- 1/2 cup coconut oil
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 4 sprig fresh thyme
- 2 large onions, sliced
- 2 large tomatoes
- 4 scallions, chopped

- 1 cup sliced red bell peppers
- 1/4 Scotch bonnet pepper,
- Two cans ackee, drained
- 3 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoon Butter

Instructions

Reduce the salt in the cod fish by in cold water overnight. Drain water and cook cod until tender.

Flake in small pieces and put to the side. Drain canned Ackee in a colander and set aside.

Sauté chopped onion, red bell pepper, tomatoes, garlic and scotch bonnet pepper in hot coconut oil until onion is transparent. Do not burn ingredients.

Add flaked cod fish and black pepper to saucepan. Gently fold in ackee and sprinkle with remaining pepper.

Add butter scallion and thyme. Simmer on low heat for five to 10 minutes. Serves six to eight.

- Edited from *News Americas*.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

CHECK-UP: Spring cleaning your health

DR. DONOVAN TAYLOR

Spring is the season of new beginnings. Flowers begin to bloom as we all do our best to rejuvenate our homes with a little spring cleaning.

As the environment around us begins anew, how do we ensure our bodies get a fresh start as well? An annual physical exam is often the simplest solution.

Your annual physical, or yearly check-up, is the most essential part of any doctor's visit. It's so important that most insurance companies cover 100 percent of it.

Early detection is the main goal of your annual physical. Health issues, including heart disease and even some cancers can be prevented or treated if they are discovered early. That's where your annual physical exam comes into play.

REVIEW

During your physical, your doctor will review your medical history and address any health issues you may have. Then comes a complete head-to-toe evaluation.

Doctors use multiple screening measures to test for common ailments. Type 2 diabetes and the number one



- File photograph

A physical check-up can detect problems early.

killer of Americans, heart disease, are two conditions that I personally screen for heavily since they affect black Americans at higher rates. Cervical and prostate cancers can also be detected early to limit their threat.

Although you may be completely healthy one year, things can change suddenly and without any obvious signs.

This spring, be sure to make an appointment with your doctor for your annual physical exam. Early detection and peace of mind makes for a healthy and stress free life.

Dr. Donovan Taylor practices at Taylor Family Medical Center in Miami, Florida.



Tips to get much needed nutrients in your daily diet

Getting all the nutrients you need each day to function or even thrive can be a challenge.

After all, there are only so many meals in a day.

Here are some creative ways to pack the necessary nutrients into your day, without going over your tight calorie budget:

Make each bite count - It's tempting to sneak in "empty calories", with foods and beverages that have little in the way of nutritional value. Don't give in to sugary treats or easy fixes. You will ultimately feel more satisfied by foods that work to fuel your body.

Plan meals ahead to ensure they each include a healthful balance of proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins, amino acids and minerals. Eating colorfully with each meal can help, because fresh fruits, vegetables, beans, nuts and seeds of different colors can provide a rich mix of these valuable nutrients and antioxidants.

Also, don't let unhealthy snacking be your downfall. Snacking doesn't have to carry the connotation of mindless consumption in front of a television. Carefully planned bites between meals can be just what the nutritionist ordered.

For instance, consider a cup of high fiber cereal mixed with a few nuts or pumpkin seeds to tide you over between meals. A piece of whole wheat toast with a little nut butter also can do the trick, as can a piece of fruit with a slice of cheese.

Get to know the healthful options on restaurant menus and take the time to chew and enjoy your food.

Easy replacements - Some of the most essential nutritional components include protein, good carbohydrates, healthy fats, vitamins, minerals, fiber, enzymes and probiotics. While many foods contain some of these important



- Photograph from Statepoint

Don't easily give in to sugary treats.

nutrients, landing on the right formula can be an ongoing and time-consuming challenge. It doesn't have to be.

Consider fast tracking your way to all eight of these core nutrients with a high-quality meal replacement. For example, Illumin8, a plant-based USDA Certified Organic powder from Sunwarrior goes well beyond a traditional protein supplement and can be used as a meal replacement, snack or pre/post workout shake.

Available in three flavors, vanilla bean, Aztec chocolate and mocha, clean eating can also taste good.

Healthy lifestyle - Match your nutrient-filled diet with a healthy lifestyle. Get plenty of sleep each night, at least eight hours, and move more during the day, with at least 20 minutes of activity.

Be sure to stay hydrated all day long with glasses of clean, clear liquids. Water aids digestion and helps you skip the sugary soft drinks, which are high in calories but offer no nutritional value. Opt for water and green tea instead.

- Edited from StatePoint.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Muppets join Caribbean campaign in Zika virus fight

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says Sesame Street Muppets Elmo and Raya are taking on the Zika virus by helping to raise awareness and share critical information to reduce the spread of the disease.

On Mar. 23, PAHO said the virus had been reported in 33 countries and territories of the Americas, including the Caribbean.

The Muppets are being featured in two public service messages, sharing tips for avoiding mosquito bites with families in Latin America and the Caribbean, as part of a joint PAHO campaign.

According to PAHO, Elmo and Raya's first message aims to stop the mosquito-borne illnesses before it starts. Included in the message, children are taught not to let standing water accumulate, to empty and cover water bowls and basins, cover trash containers and to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.

The second public service announcement focuses on prevention: The Muppets show children that wearing long sleeves and pants, using repellent, and keeping doors and windows screened can help



Raya, left, and Elmo

protect them and curb the spread of the virus as friends proclaim, "If the mosquito doesn't bite, goodbye Zika!" PAHO said. The two 30-second public service messages are being produced in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

OUTREACH

"We are pleased to collaborate again with Sesame Street in this important outreach to children families, and the general public in the Americas as part of our campaign to educate the public on preventing the spread of Zika," said Dr. Marcos Espinal, director of PAHO's Department of Communicable Diseases.

"Our most important tool to combat Zika - and at the

same time, dengue and chikungunya - is control of the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes that transmit these diseases," he added.

"Since these mosquitoes live in and around houses, this will take a concerted effort with intensified community engagement to reduce the number of mosquitoes in the Americas," Espinal continued.

"We are also looking urgently at improving control methods including insecticides and other technologies."

Sesame Workshop, the non-profit education organization which produces Sesame Street and other educational programs, was given the "Champion of Health" award by PAHO in 2009 for its promotion of vaccination through participation in PAHO's Vaccination Week in the Americas.

- Edited from CMC.



3 tips for achieving fitness goals

Was your New Year resolution to get more active this year? A whopping 60 percent of these resolutions fall by the wayside after only six months, according to research from the University of Pennsylvania.

You might have already cancelled your gym membership, but warmer weather and enjoyable time outside is ideal for revamping a fitness routine.

Improving your fitness level can mean a variety of things depending on your goals and abilities - beginning marathon training, trying out a new physical activity or simply taking longer walks around the neighborhood.

To help map out a plan to get back on track, Dr. Fred Pescatore, natural physician and author of the New York Times best-selling book, "The Hamptons Diet", is sharing three tips for achieving fitness goals this season.

• **Set a goal** - Want to look great for your 10-year high school reunion? Do you have a big trip on the horizon? Do you have a health hurdle to overcome?

"Determining a goal and setting milestones has been successful for many of my patients," says Dr. Pescatore. "Achieving the little steps in



- Photograph © Monkey Business - Fotolia.com
Expect slow, steady progress.

between an end goal provides extra motivation."

• **Slow and steady wins the race** - "You can't expect overnight results - you need to be realistic," says Dr. Pescatore. "While it may seem like people in magazines magically get amazing results in a few days, a realistic and maintainable plan often takes weeks or in most cases, months to achieve."

• **Natural support to enhance your routine** - Establishing a diet strategy has its obvious benefits, but that isn't all your body needs to achieve maximum results.

"Supplementation with

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

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SPRING HEALTH



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Healthy sleeping tips for young children

For babies and young children, high quality sleep is crucial for development and overall health.

By adopting good, safe sleep habits early, the entire family can get the rest needed to thrive.

However, any sleep children do get should be as safe as possible, as sleeping presents hazards just like any other activity. Dr. Deena Blanchard, a partner at Premier Pediatrics in New York City, is offering parents tips for helping young ones sleep soundly and safely.

- At around six to eight weeks of age, infants start to develop circadian rhythms. At this point, create a consistent routine before bedtime, such as dimming lights. Your baby will start to pick up on these habits as sleep cues.

- For safety, the crib should be free of bumpers, blankets, pillows, wedges and



- Photograph from Statepoint
A proper mattress ensures comfort.

stuffed animals.

- Sleep safety evolves as your child develops, so consider developmental milestones. Once your little one rolls over, make sure that she is no longer swaddled. It's always best to put your baby on her back to sleep, but once your baby rolls over, it's not necessary to go into the room and flip her onto her back. Likewise, when your

child starts to pull to stand, make sure the crib mattress is adjusted to the lowest level and there are no nearby items that she can pull into the crib.

- Go green. Choose paint, furniture and a baby mattress for your child's bedroom that are free of harmful chemicals. Read labels carefully.

Conventional and even organic mattresses typically have waterproof covers that contain PVCs that children breathe in all night. However, a mattress made from fibers woven to create air pockets offers maximum breathability.

- Children tend to make a mess. Keep bedding clean and avoid build-up of bacteria or mold. Wash linens regularly and seek out a washable mattress.

- Edited from StatePoint.



Miami-Dade kicks off 'Autism Awareness Month' April 5

April is "Autism Awareness Month" and, as part of the recognition of the occasion, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz will kick off the event at 1 p.m. April 5 in the lobby of the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 N.W. 1st St in Miami, Florida.

This year's theme is "Expressing Yourself". Therefore, eight-year-old musi-

cian Jacob Velasquez will perform on the piano at the center. Fifteen-year-old Bryan Fernandez-Cornejo will unveil one of his new a new painting he has been working on. Both youngsters have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

"These kids are truly amazing and are an inspiring example of every person's ability to overcome challenges and

excel," Commissioner Diaz said. "We are all very proud of them and their accomplishments."

Other participants will be South Florida Autism Charter School, the Dan Marino Foundation, Autism Speaks and Hialeah Gardens Elementary.



3 tips for achieving fitness goals

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

natural, proven ingredients is essential for a variety of health benefits, including sports nutrition," says Dr. Pescatore. "One of my personal favorites and a go-to recommendation is Pycnogenol, a natural French maritime pine bark extract."

The extract is one of the most well-researched ingredients on the market, according to experts. Indeed, a study published in the "Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness" found the super antioxidant improves overall fitness, per-

formance levels and recovery in both recreational and serious athletes.

"To me, it's a no-brainer," says Dr. Pescatore. "Many of my patients have said they noticed results in just eight weeks' time, and I'm talking faster running times, stronger endurance, better blood flow and even the ability to hasten post exercise recovery by alleviating cramping."

More information about Pycnogenol can be found at Pycnogenol.com.

While it might not be easy

to change one's attitude toward fitness, there are countless health benefits that can be achieved with even the smallest lifestyle adjustments. Setting a realistic goal with the help of your healthcare provider, establishing a slow and steady nutrition and fitness routine, and supporting your body with natural, nourishing ingredients, can help you reach health and fitness goals.

- Edited from StatePoint.



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Guyana president to headline Jubilee Week in New York



Granger

NEW YORK – Guyana's President David Granger will be the grand marshal of the 2016 Guyanese American Unity Parade and Mashramani in New York City on June 12, organizers have announced.

The Brooklyn-based Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York) said Granger will also address a Unity Rally, at the end of the parade, to conclude "Guyana Jubilee Week" here. It will be Granger's first address to Guyanese nationals in New York since his election to the presidency in May 2015.

Several celebrities of Guyanese heritage; including actors, singers, professional basketball, soccer and football players will also march in the parade, the committee said. The parade, the second annual Guyanese American parade in Brooklyn, will commemorate the historic 50 years of Independence of the Republic of Guyana. Guyana gained Independence from Great Britain on May 26, 1966.

CELEBRATION

The Brooklyn-based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) and Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York) are sponsors of the carnival-styled parade, called Mashramani, an Amerindian word for community celebration.

The parade will start on Church Avenue at Bedford, proceed east to Ralph Avenue, south on Ralph Avenue to Flatlands Avenue and West into South Shore High School Park, where Granger will address the Unity Rally. The committee said it has collaborated with

the Guyana New York Consulate and United Nations Mission in planning "a spectacular" Golden Jubilee celebration for the New York metropolitan region, from June 4 – 12, 2016.

The "Guyana Jubilee Week" will be held under the theme: "Reflect Our Journey: Forging Unity and Embracing Modernity."

Granger, Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo and other officials of the Government of Guyana, as well as United States federal, state and local officials, will be guests of honor at various "Jubilee Week" celebration events, the committee said.

"Guyanese nationals throughout the U.S. are being mobilized to participate in the celebrations," the statement said. "Nationals are invited to participate in the costume bands parade or in their hometown section to help display Guyana's rich cultural splendor."

- Edited from CMC.



Guyanese women shine in America's political arena

Guyanese are prominent in American politics. This month, **Caribbean Today** salutes women of Guyanese descent who have been elected to office in the United States.

Commissioner Lisa Cupid of Georgia - Cupid was born to Guyanese parents in Brooklyn, New York.

She is currently the commissioner of District 4 in Cobb County, Georgia after winning election to the post in 2012.

District 4 is home to attractions like Six Flags Park, Silver Comet Trail, the Mable House Amphitheater and the new Riverside Epicenter.

Cupid, 38, was raised in Southfield, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. She graduated from Georgia Tech and Georgia State College of Law.

New York State Senator Roxanne Jacqueline Persaud - Guyanese-born Persaud was

elected to the 19th State Senate District in New York in Nov. 2015 after serving in the State Assembly for less than a year.

She replaced convicted former Guyanese American State Senator John Sampson as district representative for Canarsie, East New York, Brownsville, Mill Basin, Sheepshead Bay, Bergen Beach, Marine Park, Flatlands, Persaud Mill Island, Georgetown, Ocean Hill and Starrett City, Brooklyn.

Persaud immigrated with her family to Brooklyn at age 17. She obtained a bachelor's and master's degree from Pace University. She later served as a school administrator with New York City Public Schools and was also involved with the community board in Canarsie.

- Edited from News Americas.



Cupid



Persaud

Caribbean Airlines joins Independence celebrations

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Caribbean Airlines (CAL) has come on board to support the government and people of Guyana in commemorating the country's 50th jubilee anniversary.

The airline has partnered with the Ministry of Education, Department of Culture, Youth and Sport to brand three of their aircraft with the 50th anniversary logo.

The branded planes were unveiled at a ceremony at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport recently.

Addressing a press briefing, Minister within the Ministry of Education Nicolette Henry said CAL has been the only airline to approach the National Commemorative Commission to partner in support of the 50th Independence anniversary celebrations.

Apart from the logo, which is branding and publicity, the airline has agreed to airlift to Guyana, free of cost, certain items, including memorabilia and souvenirs that the National Commemorative Commission would require to purchase outside of Guyana, for the celebrations. The arrangement also caters for reduction in passenger fare



CAL has become a partner with Guyana.

for VIP passengers who would be required to travel to the country or to Toronto and New York as part of the celebrations there.

However, Henry said the partnership does not make CAL the official airline of the jubilee celebration.

"This is not a case of sole sourcing," she said, explaining that the government is still open to, and would welcome, other airlines coming on board and offering similar packages. Given the volume of the activities planned and the amount of air traffic expected, "we might very much need other support," she noted.

Dion Innis, the airline's sales executive for Guyana, said CAL is delighted that the government and people of Guyana have chosen it as one

of the preferred carriers for the 50th celebration.

"Fifty (50) years is quite a momentous occasion, it provides opportunities for reflection, celebration and going forward, great expectations, and we are happy to be associated with this celebration," said Innis.

She said throughout the year CAL will also collaborate with other ministries as part of the celebration.

- Edited from CMC.



Former deputy prime minister dies

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Haslyn Parris, a former deputy prime minister, died late last month after an emergency operation. He was 75 years old.

Parris, who in the 1970s became a member of the then ruling People's National Congress, suffered an aneurysm on the night of Mar. 27 at his residence in Buxton, East Coast Demerara.

In 1991, the economist and mathematician demitted office as deputy prime minister, at age 50.

President David Granger

hailed Parris, who received the Cacique Crown of Honor (C.C.H.) in 1980, as a "distinguished Guyanese" who "made tremendous contributions throughout his life as a very young man to the present time." He said his "intellect and his public service are well-recognized and we certainly would miss him."

Parris, a former chief economist at the Bank of Guyana, who also served as coordinator of an Oversight Committee on Constitutional Reform Commission from 1999 to 2000, was also a former member of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM).

- Edited from CMC.



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VICTORY: Judge rules U.S. immigration residency rule unfair in remarriages

NEW YORK – Caribbean immigration advocates won a major victory when a United States federal judge ruled that part of an immigration regulation has set the bar too high for obtaining lawful permanent residency for spouses of Caribbean and other immigrants taking a second shot at marriage.

Southern District Court of New York Judge Andrew Carter ruled that U.S. immigration officials imposed a tougher standard through a regulation than was authorized by law as they required proof that an immigrant's first marriage was for real and not just a ruse to get permanent residency.

The **New York Law Journal** noted that Judge

Carter's decision came in *Chen v. Board of Immigration Appeals*, where petitioner Huai Zhou Chen said the board and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services applied an invalid regulation from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) covering so-called "spousal second preference petitions".

Chen, an immigrant from China, obtained lawful permanent resident status on Feb. 2, 2006 by virtue of his marriage to a U.S. citizen in 2005, the *Journal* stated.

PETITION

It noted that the couple divorced on May 2, 2007 and Chen married Chinese citizen Ping Xiao three months later.

In Nov. 2007, the *Journal* stated that Chen filed on Ping Xiao's behalf a Petition for Alien Relative, referred to as a Form I-130. The Citizenship and Immigration Services denied the petition in 2010 on grounds that Chen failed to show by "clear and convincing evidence" that his first marriage was not a sham designed to evade the immigration laws - a requirement of Section 1154 of the Immigration and Nationality Act that INS supposedly matched when it adopted the regulation.

On Aug. 28, 2012, more than five years since being granted permanent resident status, the *Journal* stated that Chen tried again with a second petition, arguing that the regu-

lation was invalid because it went beyond the statute. His petition was denied in 2014, and the Board of Immigration Appeals affirmed in 2015.

It noted that Chen filed suit in the Southern District in Brooklyn, New York, under the administrative procedure act, claiming that the regulation was an impermissible interpretation of the regulation and he prevailed. Judge Carter said the plain meaning of the statute was clear - the heightened burden for proving the validity of the first marriage is required "only if five years have not elapsed between the time that the petitioner acquired" lawful permanent residence status "and the time the attorney general approves the petition."

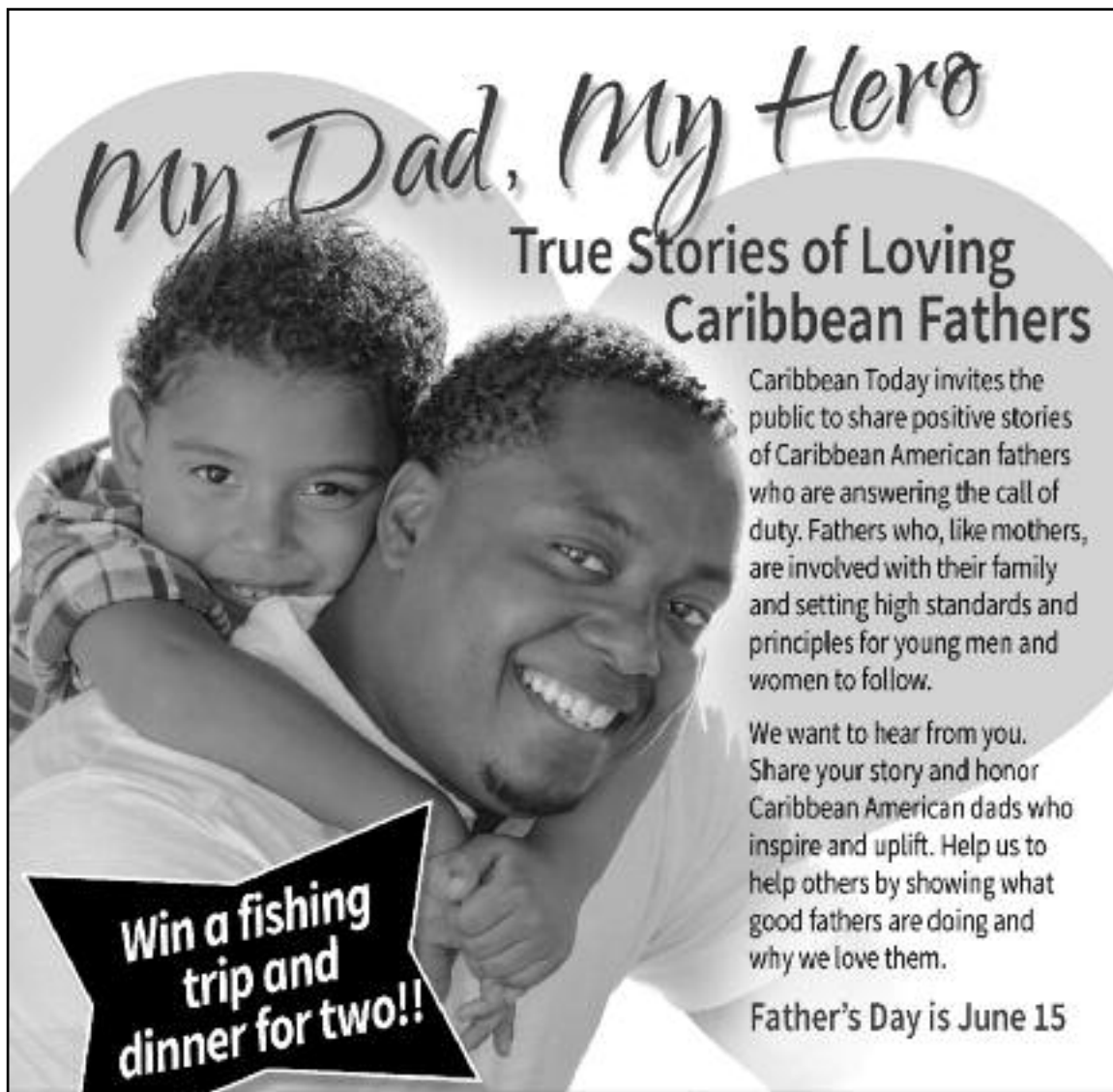
The U.S. government had argued that the law was ambiguous because it failed to set the point at which the five-year period begins to run, according to the *Journal*. It had asked Carter to hold that the attorney general may not approve a spousal second preference petition unless five years had elapsed between the date Chen acquired his permanent resident status (Feb. 2, 2006) and another event - either the date of the second marriage; the date of filing of the petition; the date of the decision on the petition or the date when final appellate review is required.

- Edited from CMC.



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Issues affecting the African diaspora and developing a collective action-oriented agenda for Miami-Dade County's black population will be the focus of a forum from **9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 7.**

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Jean Monestime, along with county commissioners Barbara Jordan, Audrey Edmonson and Dennis Moss, plus Miami City Commission Chairman Keon Hardemon, will co-host the free conference at the Florida Memorial University Smith Conference Center, 15800 N.W. 42nd Ave., Miami Gardens, Florida.

The event is titled "ONE HERITAGE: State of Black Miami". Registration begins at **8:30 a.m.**

The event is sponsored by Florida Memorial University, New York Life African-American Empowerment Plan and Jackson Healthcare System.

For more information or to RSVP, call **305-694-2779.**

CITIZENSHIP DRIVE

Miramar City Commissioner Winston F. Barnes will host a free citizenship drive from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 9** at the Youth Enrichment Center, 7000 Miramar Parkway.

The event is aimed at assisting individuals seeking United States citizenship. U.S. citizens have the right to vote in elections, including the 2016 presidential election in November.

Applicants are being asked to bring identification, two separate checks for photograph and application fee, and any additional documentation that may help their case, such as a permanent resident card, also known as "Alien Registration Card" or "Green Card"; birth

certificate; naturalization certificate; certificate of citizenship; marriage license; divorce degree; and passport.

For more information, Shari Covington at **954-602-3142.**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A team of resource officers from the Jamaican Consulate General and partnering agencies will be in the Tampa, Florida on **April 9** to meet with nationals and friends of Jamaica residing in the area.

The event is a Community Outreach Program hosted by the consulate general in Miami, Florida to provide relevant services and pertinent information. It will be held from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, at the University Area Community Development Center, 14013 N. 22 St.

The program will cover a range of consular services, including the processing of Jamaican passport and citizenship applications; providing information about land titles and property valuations, estate management and probate information in Jamaica; returning residents and financial services.

The event is free and open to the public.

'PROTECT THEM GALA'

Jamaica's Minister of Education, Youth and Information Ruel Reid is the scheduled guest speaker for a "Protect Them Gala" in aid of child abuse prevention to be held this month in South Florida.

The formal affair will be held from **6 p.m. to 10 p.m. April 23** at the Carolina Golf Club in Margate.

For more information, including reservations, call Edwin Allen **954-328-5892** or Donna-Lee Raymond **954-663-6744.**



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POWER SURGE: Jamaica's high school 'Champs' unleashes superb Caribbean athletes

~ ... But pool of track and field talent for U.S. college recruiters drying up

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The immense wealth of emerging track and field talent in the Caribbean was again on full display during last month's high school Boys and Girls Championships here.

But even as the excitement bubbled up and over, records tumbled in spectacular fashion and Calabar and Edwin Allen successfully defended their male and female "Champs" titles, respectively, there were ominous signs that what was once a deep pool of gifted athletes for United States college athletic programs to easily fish from, is now drying up as the cream of budding stars from Jamaica look closer to home in pursuit of their sporting and academic dreams.

Yet for the army of faithful who follow one of the most competitive track and field meets in the world each year – the final of five days of competition in 2016 packed well over 30,000 into the National Stadium here with untold numbers watching broadcast streams – it was all about high quality performances wrapped in a fever-pitched high school spirit. Athletes turned in scintillating performances in a frenetic atmosphere stoked by flag-waving, chanting, horn-blowing and drumming. Several won



Taylor



Bromfield

multiple events.

Topping the list of stars was Calabar's Christopher Taylor, who grabbed two individual records among four gold medals, Kingston College's Akeem Bloomfield and St. Elizabeth Technical High School's (STETHS) Nigel Ellis also shone for the boys. Among the girls, Junelle Bromfield of STETHS was the most outstanding with four gold on the track. St. Jago's Kimone Shaw shattered the girls Class 2 (ages 15-16) 100 meters record with 11.40 seconds to provide another memorable Champs moment on the track.

TAYLOR SHINES

Taylor smashed the Class 2

(ages 14-15) records in 200 and 400 meters, clocking 20.8 and 46.33 seconds, respectively, and was part of Calabar's record breaking 4x100 meters relay team. He also stepped up to impressively anchor his school's winning 4x400 team. Bromfield won the Class 1 girls (ages 17-18) 400, 800 and 1500 meters, then helped her school to the 4x400 relay

crown.

Ellis grabbed the Class 1 (ages 16-19) sprint double and Bloomfield easily retained his Class 1 400 meters title, despite failing to better his record run from 2015.

Yet it Bloomfield's losing effort which stirred the most debate. In the final event, the boys open 4x400 meters, his duel with Taylor brought the meet to a fitting crescendo. He received the baton on the final leg well behind Taylor. In a stunning move Bloomfield swept by the younger star around the halfway mark. But the effort, a 44.5 seconds leg split, took its toll and a composed Taylor (45.3 split) rallied to outsprint Bloomfield down the stretch and secure the win

for Calabar, ending the championships in magnificent fashion and capping his school's fifth straight victory. Edwin Allen won its third girls title in a row.

Calabar's Dejour Russell was declared overall boys champion, while Bromfield was tops for the girls.

DROUGHT

Yet while U.S. college coaches flocked to the meet, an annual rite of spring, most resigned themselves to leaving Jamaica without the quality recruits they had become so accustomed to in years past. The expansion of tertiary institutions on the Caribbean island, many which offer high quality track and field programs, plus solid education, has given promising young stars wider options. Many choose to stay in more comfortable home surroundings. The U.S. schools have acknowledged they're no longer prime choice.

"We're still going after those (elite) athletes," said Travis Geopfert, assistant coach at Arkansas University. "But it's gotten tougher (to recruit), especially in the sprints. I think it's significantly harder to get athletes to go abroad."

The recruiting job is even difficult for those who, by virtue of their background with Jamaica's athletics, had

the inside track.

"The big thing that has happened is it has reduced the recruitable athlete," former Jamaica quarter miler Davian Clarke, who currently coaches at the University of Texas El Paso, said of the expansion and upgrade of college athletic programs here. "There's less athletes to select from."

For Jamaica, however, that appears to be no problem. The Olympic Games loom later this year and the Caribbean country is favored to again shine, especially on the track, with the likes of sprint sensations Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, both Champs alumni. If the 2016 high school meet is any indication, the pool of Jamaican stars-in-waiting is still heavily stocked.



'CHAMPS' TOP 5 RESULTS - POINTS

BOYS – 41 FINALS

Calabar - 287.50
Kingston College - 238
Jamaica College - 229.50
St. Jago - 177
St. Elizabeth Technical 100

GIRLS – 46 FINALS

Edwin Allen 329.50
Hydel 263
St. Jago 241.50
Holmwood 184
Vere Technical 139

Caribbean wins seven track medals at World Indoors

The Caribbean captured seven medals – a gold, two silver and four bronze – at the 2016 IAAF World Indoor Championships held Mar. 17-20 in Portland, Oregon.

Jamaica's Omar McLeod won the region's only gold in the 60 meters hurdles, clocking 7.14 seconds. His country was the most successful from the Caribbean, winning three medals.

McLeod's compatriot Asafa Powell produced identical world leading times in the men's 60 meters – 6.44 seconds – heats and semi-final, but could only manage 6.50 in the final. That was good enough for second behind American Trayvon Bromell, who won gold in 6.47. Ramon Gittens of Barbados was third in 6.51, a national indoor record.

Trinidad and Tobago's Deon Lendore ran 46.17 seconds to earn the bronze in the men's 400 meters behind winner Pavel Maslak (45.44) of the Czech Republic and Abdalelah Haroun of Qatar (45.59).



McLeod

The Bahamas and T&T finished second and third, respectively, behind the United States in the men's 4x400 meters relay. The Bahamians clocked 3:04.75 and T&T 3:05.51. The Americans were timed in 3:02.45.

Meanwhile, Jamaica's Elaine Thompson secured the bronze in the women's 60 meters in 7.06 behind the winner Barbara Pierre of the U.S. (7.02) and Dafne Schippers of the Netherlands (7.04).



KEYS FOR A KING



- Photograph by Flawless Pictures.

Jamaican-born Broward County Commissioner Dale Holness, left, presents the keys to the county to former West Indies batting king Brian Lara of Trinidad and Tobago, right, as another ex-Windies star, Jamaican Lawrence Rowe, looks on. Lara and many other greats from the Caribbean participated in the "Cricket Legends Weekend" put on by the Lawrence Rowe Legendary Cricket Foundation last month at the Broward County Regional Park in South Florida.

T&T shines as SVG, Haiti, Jamaica falter in Caribbean battle for 2018 World Cup soccer places

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The "Road To Russia" - destination soccer's premier event World Cup 2018 - took some tight turns for at least one Caribbean nation, while another found smooth sailing and two more drove towards the precipice of elimination.

Four Caribbean teams among 12 countries, split into groups contesting the semi-final round of qualification for the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF), were in action late last month. After two games by each, the Caribbean's push for places in Russia endured a bumpy ride.

Defending regional champion Jamaica, which performed admirably against several of the sport's top nations

last year, tied 1-1 with Costa Rica in Group 2 here on Mar. 25, then lost the return game away 3-0 to the Central American powerhouse four days later. If the Good Friday result put Jamaica in a bad spot, the drubbing in Costa Rica made it worse. With only the top two teams in each group advancing to CONCACAF's final stage of six, the Boyz have already dropped five of a possible six points at home and three of six away and are currently stuck in third place in the group on four points from four games in this round. Costa Rica leads with 10 points. Panama is second on seven. Haiti has one.

"We would say it's a disappointing result," said Jevaughn Watson, who scored to give Jamaica the lead against Costa Rica here. "... The group is getting tight."



Watson

T&T BETTER

Trinidad and Tobago had much better fortunes. The Soca Warriors beat St. Vincent and the Grenadines 3-2 away and then hammered SVG 6-0 in Port of Spain to take control of Group 3, which also includes the United States and Guatemala. T&T has 10 points, three more than the U.S. with Guatemala on four. SVG is pointless and already eliminated.

Haiti secured its first point after a 0-0 draw at home with Panama in Group 2, but then lost away to the same opponent 1-0, its third

defeat by that margin.

With two games remaining for each team in the CONCACAF semis, SVG has already been eliminated from World Cup contention. Haiti, barring a miracle including high scoring wins in its last two games plus favorable results elsewhere, is also likely to be out. A win by T&T in one of two games ensures the Warriors advance, while Jamaica must win twice to secure a spot in the final round. All remaining games are set for September.

The four teams contesting Group 1 are Mexico, Canada, El Salvador and Honduras. Mexico has already advanced from the semi-final CONCACAF round after winning its first four group games.

The best three teams from the final round CONCACAF group of six will gain an automatic berth in the 2018 World Cup. The fourth place team will be allowed a play-off with a country from another region to qualify.



Jamaican suffers seizure during professional soccer debut in U.S.

Jamaica international Omar Holness suffered a seizure during his first game as a professional soccer player last month in the United States.

Holness, who in January was selected in the first round of Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft by Real Salt Lake, was affected by the seizure in the first half of a game for RSL's affiliate club Real Monarchs on Mar. 26. He also separated his shoulder after collapsing and was rushed to hospital, according to reports.

The shoulder injury is expected to sideline Holness for six to eight weeks. It was unclear up to press time when he would recover fully from the seizure to resume his playing career.

Holness played collegiate soccer for the University of North Carolina. Prior to that he captained Jamaica's team to the Under-17 World Cup in



Holness

2011. He has also represented the senior Reggae Boyz.

"I'm just happy to be back at the stadium with a great group of guys," Holness noted in a statement on RSL's website Mar. 28.

"Obviously, my debut never turned out the way I hoped, but I'm just grateful to be alive and I thank God for that fact."



Haitian U-17 girls fall short of World Cup soccer glory

Haiti had much to celebrate after putting up the Caribbean's best showing in the region's quest to qualify for the 2016 Under-17 World Cup soccer for girls. But the team fell short of its goal at the final hurdle.

After storming back from a goal down to beat Canada and earn a place in the semi-final round for teams in the Caribbean North and Central America (CONCACAF), the

Haitians were then beaten 3-0 by Mexico.

A win would have guaranteed a place in the World Cup.

Then Haiti lost 4-2 to Canada in the third place game, where a win would have also booked a place at the World Cup.

Grenada and Jamaica, the other regional teams in the CONCACAF round, failed to get beyond the group stage.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

WORRISOME: Low percentage of young Caribbean nationals in higher education concerns UWI

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – The University of the West Indies (UWI) has expressed concern at the low percentage of young people in the Caribbean seeking higher education as it outlined new initiatives aimed at making the regional education institution more responsive to a changing global environment.

UWI Vice Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles, speaking at the Campus Council meeting of the St. Augustine Campus last month, said greater access to higher education is important and lamented the fact that “we still don’t have enough of our citizens in higher education, professional training skills.

“We need to continue to push for more of that,” he said, noting that “we in the English-speaking Caribbean have the lowest percentage of our young people in tertiary

education in this hemisphere.

“It is very disturbing to me that that’s the case,” he told the council, adding “and we have to do better.”

‘MORE ALERT’

The Barbadian-born historian and academic said it is also true that the university has to be “more alert to global opportunities” and welcomed the number of projects outlined by the outgoing St. Augustine Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat for the coming months ahead.

“This is also significant in globalizing our university,” he said, noting that the “alertness of global opportunity will be an agenda at our next strategic plan.”

But he said, critically also will be the university’s determination to align itself to industry.

“We have to naturalize



- File photograph

Younger graduates missing.

the relationship of the university to industry. There must be no space between the university and industry. Industry and academia must go hand in glove, together conceptualizing the development of our economies,” he said.

Sir Hilary warned that wealth generation is important to keep the university functioning, adding “it is within this context the university has already created the context for a new kind of professorship...” He said in the next

academic year “we are going to be offering ... professors of expertise. Professors of practice that is the concept we are formulating.” He said the new initiative is a “globally respected concept where universities offer and confer professorships on distinguished members of the wealth creating community, entrepreneurs, investors, innovators, who bring tremendous values to their economies.”

Sir Hilary said that the professors will be assessed and approved in the traditional way to establish the credentials and their excellence which will be respected.

BRIDGE

“The concept of professor of practice, hopefully will be a bridge between the university and industry where entrepreneurs and professors operate side by side together. This is how it is done ... in South East Asia where we have seen spectacular rates of economic growth over the last 20 to 30 years.

“Professors, entrepreneurs and investors working hand in gloves together often times in the same space. But we do recognize and you have heard that this is a difficult time for commodity prices for countries such as Trinidad and Tobago and we have seen difficulty being faced in this country as result of this global trend,” Sir Hilary said.

He told the council that he has given the government the assurance that the UWI would work “closely” with it “in the management of this fiscal situation so that we can plan in the most dignified ... way how we proceed.

“When the country has had surplus that surplus was shared generously with this university that surplus is no longer there and we have to share the hard times with the same purpose and dignity as we have shared the surplus,” Sir Hilary added.

- Edited from CMC.



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Arts just as crucial as mathematics, science ~ experts

Science, technology, engineering and math - known collectively as STEM - has been the buzz phrase for educators for some time.

But, with many school districts eliminating art, music and other humanities classes, there has been a recent push by educators in the United States to change the focus from STEM to STEAM, and add arts back into the mix for a more well rounded education.

Whatever the present academic focus of your local school district is, you can help support a more comprehensive education for your children at home, while making it fun. Here’s how to incorporate STEAM learning into your children’s playtime:

Art time - The school day may not offer daily opportunities for creativity to flourish, but you can turn the playroom at home into an artists’ studio. Keep on hand arts and crafts supplies such as glue, construction paper, glitter, scissors, string and paint.

Take a trip to a museum or gallery and learn about different artists and styles to get kids inspired.

New technologies - Handing over your expensive, breakable mobile technology to your young children may not sound ideal for on-the-go learning, but there are durable tablets built for children that



- Photograph © Monkey Business - Fotolia.com

Arts key to kids’ development.

support learning apps combining STEM subjects with the arts.

For example, InnoTab MAX, VTech’s most powerful and versatile seven-inch tablet, features access to more than 650 educator-supported apps, including hand-picked Android learning games and age-appropriate learning software and content through VTech’s Learning Lodge, as well as creative onboard apps such as Movie Maker and Art Studio. The apps feature a wide curriculum of language arts and reading, math, science, social studies, problem solving and creativity, that have been reviewed by a panel of education and child development experts.

Music - Participation in music education has been

proven to improve grades in STEM subjects. Not only that, it’s a ton of fun.

If your school offers opportunities such as band or chorus, encourage your kids to get involved. If arts programs are scarce, invest in a keyboard or guitar for the home. Even if private music lessons are out of the budget, there are plenty of online tutorials that can help with the basics.

While there’s no doubt that math and science comprehension are critical, education experts advise parents to support an interdisciplinary approach to learning that incorporates the arts as well.

- Edited from StatePoint.



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Dominica to probe reason for rise in school dropouts



Shillingford

ROSEAU, Dominica – A former government minister has been appointed to investigate the increase in the number of school dropouts in Dominica.

Education Minister Petter Saint Jean says the ministry has engaged the services of Gloria Shillingford, former minister for social services, community development and gender affairs.

The minister made the announcement while delivering an address at the Dominica Association of Teachers (DAT) 13th Biennial Conference on Mar. 30.

“I wish to advise and inform that against the serious challenges that confront us within the classroom and the wider community, and of

course within the Ministry of Education and government been quite aware of the multiplicity of social issues which may result from an increased number of students who drop out from the school system,” said Saint Jean.

He said in the coming months the government will address several issues which impact personally on the performance of teachers and officers within the Ministry of Education.

CONCERN

Shillingford told Dominica News Online that the government, particularly the Ministry of Education is concerned about a “relatively high” dropout rate, “particularly in our secondary schools.”

“We are investigating into the matter at both secondary and primary schools, and I will be doing that and giving my findings to the government and also my recommendations,” she noted.

“My recommendations, my reports, everything has to be done within a year.”

- Edited from CMC.



FREE RIDE: Tips for students seeking scholarships

College is expensive, and while families should focus on saving what they can, students should not forget to apply to the wealth of scholarships available nationwide.

Millions of scholarships, worth billions of dollars, are awarded annually. Beyond in-house scholarships offered by the institutions themselves, a number of federations and organizations offer money to students with particular aptitudes, achievements and aspirations.

The following are scholarship application tips offered by college financing experts at Sallie Mae:

- **Applying is worth the time and effort** - Even if the award is small, take the time to apply to every scholarship for which you are eligible. It is money that doesn't have to be paid back.

- **Deadlines and details matter** - Missing a deadline or overlooking application requirements will likely disqualify an applicant.

- **Apply each year** - Approximately half of available scholarships are for students already enrolled in college.

- **Impress the judges** - A



- Photograph © BillionPhotos.com - Fotolia.com

Applying early and often can give students the edge.

thank you note can have a large effect on how an application is regarded. Be courteous and thoughtful throughout the process.

- **Shop around. Go deep** - There are scholarships for students who want to study diverse subjects. Additionally, scholarships are available for particular circumstances.

- **Don't spend** - Guidance counselors and school financial aid offices can recommend free, reputable scholarship search sites, such as Scholarship Search by Sallie Mae.

- **Continue to save and plan** - Landing a scholarship is just one component of being

prepared for college. Continue to set aside savings. Free college planning tools are available online in Sallie Mae's College Planning Toolbox.

For more tips on how to get started finding free money for college and for information on saving, planning and paying for college, visit www.SallieMae.com.

Spend some time investigating all your college financing options. Scholarships are an excellent way to supplement your savings and other funding sources.

- Edited from StatePoint.



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Gonsalves wants Caribbean education system revamped

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua – St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has underscored the importance of education to the socio-economic development of the Caribbean, but warned also that quality teaching and quality leadership is lacking in the region's education system.

As he delivered the 12th Dr.

Alistair Francis Memorial Lecture here last month, Gonsalves told the audience, which included Governor General Dr. Sir Rodney Williams, members of the Cabinet of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Opposition Leader Baldwin Spencer, that education is the veritable oxygen which contains and refreshes a civilization's standards, values and beliefs and that the returns on investment in education take a long time to be realized in any civilization. He said an educated nation has little poverty and its material challenges are considerably less than an uneducated or poorly



Gonsalves

educated nation.

A former University of the West Indies (UWI) lecturer, Gonsalves said the education system, particularly at the primary level needed to be revamped placing much more emphasis on quality teaching and quality leadership in the schools.

PUZZLED

"I have never been able to understand how primary school teachers can have a child for seven years ... a normal child ... who is not afflicted by any intrinsic learning disabilities of one kind or another...but when that child finishes seven years of primary education that, that child cannot read or write our count with a level of proficiency to allow them to pursue secondary education without remedial work," he said.

He said it was important for the region to find a way "not in any divisive manner, but a conversation has to start as a matter of urgency with all the stakeholders to see those teachers who are assessed not to be quality teachers, how we can retool them."

- Edited from CMC.



New technology can improve how students learn

For the last decade, there have been great shifts in the ways students study and learn, as education companies have developed new digital learning platforms.

Recently, the Association of American Publishers hosted "webinars", where educators discussed digital learning platforms. Here are a few of their:

1. Increase student engagement with assigned material - "I've got all these digital tools that make the classroom more exciting and help solidify students' knowledge to bring material to life. It's not just pushing information out; it actually kind of pulls them in to the material" - Patty Worsham, Accounting, Norco College (California).

2. Quickly gauge how students are progressing - "I have more data about what my students don't know and what their strengths and weaknesses are. I know exactly what objectives they have the most trouble with and where they need more practice with concepts I am teaching" - Lynda Haas, Rhetoric and Composition, University of California Irvine.

3. Build skills for developmental students - "Students in developmental education



- Photograph © Monkey Business - Fotolia.com

Students may be getting better learning experiences.

need skill-building opportunities. Instead of doing that in class, I use a digital platform in my developmental reading class, and students can go online on their own time and complete activities that help them build skills they need" - Kristi Barker, Developmental Reading and College Success Strategies, South Plains College (Texas).

4. Focus on more difficult tasks in class - "I'm doing harder stuff in the classroom. But the way that I use digital stuff outside of class, there's often room for application and real world headlines and the messiness of the macro economy in the classroom" - Solina Lindahl, Economics,

California Polytechnic.

5. Encourage more faculty-student interaction - "One of the biggest changes has been better communication with my students. It builds a rapport, enables them to ask more questions and really focus on the way they're thinking. If we have an issue that needs to be changed, I can continually adapt my course so that it's interesting and engaging to my students" - Kelly Dreier, Reading, Richland College (Texas).

For more information about digital learning materials visit aapbacktocampus.org.

- Edited from StatePoint.



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