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THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



Jamaican singers, from left, Freddie McGregor, Marcia Griffiths and Hopeton Lindo, did their part for "I Am Jamaica", a campaign to inspire unity among the Caribbean island's people - at home and abroad - through music, page 17.



As the Caribbean community celebrated the 75th birthday of the calypso king of the world, the Mighty Sparrow, a Brooklyn congresswoman made sure he is listed in the U.S. Congressional Record - a tremendous honor for the man and his music, page 21.



Caribbean Americans are expressing hope that the recent criminal conviction of high profile, Jamaican-born, former Miramar City Commissioner Fitzroy Salesman will not damage their image, especially those seeking public office with local elections looming, page 25.

HAITI'S HOPE?

~ Internationally-acclaimed music star Wyclef Jean has announced his candidacy to contest the presidential elections in Haiti later this year, page 7.

GUILTY OF TERROR

Two Caribbean nationals, Russell Defreitas, left, and Abdul Kadir, have been found guilty of plotting to blow up jet fuel tanks at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, page 11.

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Jamaican-born former U.S. city commish gets prison sentence for bribery, extortion

FLORIDA - A United States federal judge has sentenced a Jamaican-born former city commissioner to more than four years in prison on bribery and extortion charges.

U.S. District Judge James Cohn imposed the sentence on Fitzroy Salesman, 53, who begged for compassion.

Salesman was convicted in April by a 12-member jury after his Sept. 2009 arrest for steering city construction contracts to bribe-paying contractors who were actually undercover FBI agents.

"The shame that has been brought on me and my family, if I could give my life to reverse it, your honor, I would," Salesman told the judge before sentencing last month.

He, however, denied tak-

ing bribes or extorting the FBI agents and informants posing as construction contractors and money managers during



Salesman

the two-and-a-half-year investigation.

"Your honor, I did not go down that road," said Salesman, who also was sen-

tenced to three years of supervised release after his release from jail.

EVIDENCE

During Salesman's trial, prosecutors presented damning audio and video recordings of the former Miramar city commissioner pocketing payoffs and orchestrating contributions from the FBI agents to the campaigns and pet charities of Broward County, Southern Florida politicians in order to win government construction contracts.

Salesman said he was working as a legitimate political consultant while he was suspended from public office. He told the judge that if making contributions to charities

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 25)

Cuban doctor defects to Miami

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Health Minister Therese Baptiste-Cornelis late last month confirmed that a Cuban doctor, who was working under an agreement with the Trinidad and Tobago government, had defected to the United States "a few weeks ago."

Speaking with reporters after a ceremony for Local Government councilors in San Fernando, south of here on July 27, the minister said that the authorities are now reviewing the procedure for recruiting both Cuban and local doctors. She said that while she was not aware that two Cuban doctors had resigned, she was nonetheless not surprised at that development "because a few weeks ago we had a defection of a doctor to Miami from Trinidad.

"That is why right now we are working on compensation packages to try to bring the local doctors into the system and find an alternative method because obviously this methodology of using the Cuban doctors is not working as properly as it should," she said.

Baptiste-Cornelis said that there were many people who did not want to work for the government and that new policies and procedures "for recruitment and retention of local doctors" were being developed.

NO TAKERS

"Every year about 100 doctors graduate from the medical school, they do their internship and they go abroad, what can I do to attract them to stay in Trinidad; those are the things we are looking at," she said.

The Cuban doctors were brought to T&T in 2003 by the Patrick Manning government in an effort to address the critical shortage of medical personnel at hospitals. More than 260 Cuban doctors and nurses have worked in T&T since the government-to-government agreement took effect in 2003. Last December, the then Manning government said that Cuban doctors and nurses working in T&T could have their two-year contracts extended by an additional year.



Cops offer reward for information about killing of Barbadian businessman in U.S.

NEW YORK - Police here have offered a reward for information about the killing of a Barbadian businessman who was shot dead in his home in Brooklyn last month.

Police late last month said they were offering \$12,000 for information on the murder of Stevenson Blackett, 60, who was killed on July 29, just before 2 a.m., in his home while his family slept upstairs.

Blackett, who owned Stevenson Maintenance Inc., a Bronx plumbing company for the past 32 years, was asleep in the basement of his home in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn when the two killers showed up. They broke through the screen on a side door and took advantage of

the victim's habit of leaving his keys in the lock of the second door to gain entry to the home.

The killers spared other sleeping family members - wife, Brenda, 59, three grandchildren and Blackett's father-in-law - and headed straight to the basement.

MOTIVE UNCLEAR

Police said the gunmen tried to tie up Blackett before killing him. They said it was not clear if the men stole anything or fled empty-handed.

"I think it might have been someone we know," Desiree, one of Blackett's daughters, told reporters. "Because how did they know about the key in the door?"

How did they know he was in the basement?"

Police said Blackett was shot twice in the head during a possible robbery, but relatives said it doesn't appear his attackers took anything. "He still had his wallet," Desiree Blackett said.

"Everybody keeps some money at home, but he was always putting what he was paid into the bank," said Antonio Gianfrancesco, his accountant.

The Blackett family said they can't understand why anybody would kill Stevenson Blackett and leave the other members of the family alone.



Haiti resumes international mail services

NEW YORK - Haiti is now back on the global postal grid, with a new United Nations-backed processing center having been unveiled capable of processing mail from all over the world.

The devastating Jan. 12 earthquake had destroyed the country's main post office and the building housing the Express Mail Service (EMS) in the capital Port-au-Prince. Many post offices in other areas also sustained heavy damage.

Member countries of the U.N. Universal Postal Union (UPU) donated over \$500,000 to help get Haiti Post back to operations.

"The Post, because of its omnipresence and the services it provides to people and businesses, must be a priority in the devastated country's

reconstruction efforts," UPU Director General Edouard Dayan said at the facility's unveiling in Port-au-Prince last month.

Stressing the key role that postal services serve in stimulating Haiti's economy, he underlined that the country still requires emergency assistance.

"... We must look to the future and develop the essential infrastructures the country needs, including postal services," said Dayan.

Mail exchanges between Haiti and the United States and France resumed in May, while international postal services officially re-started eight days later. On average, Haiti receives 100 bags of mail every day from abroad.



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Caribbean advocate in U.S. Congress faces charges of ethics rules violations

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A United States House of Representatives' investigative panel says it has found "substantial reason to believe" that an ardent legislative advocate for the Caribbean has violated a range of ethics rules.

The congressional panel said last month that popular Harlem Democratic Congressman Charles B. Rangel, 80, must now face a public trial before the House of Representatives' Ethics Committee.

He will be the first member of Congress to be forced to do so since 2002, when Congressman James A. Traficant Jr. was expelled after a corruption conviction.

Political observers say the finding has dealt a serious blow to Rangel, the former chairman of the powerful House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee, in the twilight of his political career. Rangel was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1970.

EVIDENCE

While the panel did not disclose details about the nature of the violations late last month, Congressional Democrats with knowledge of

the investigation told reporters that the committee found evidence to support allegations that Rangel wrongly accepted four rent-stabilized apartments in Manhattan.

In addition, the committee found evidence to support the allegation that Rangel failed to report or pay taxes on rental income from his beachfront villa in the Dominican Republic.

In March, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct admonished Rangel for trips he and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus took to the Caribbean in 2007 and 2008 that were indirectly paid for by corporate sponsors.

The findings by a four-member bipartisan investigative subcommittee of the full House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct will be aired at a public trial before an adjudicatory subcommittee.



Rangel

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U.S. pushes to extradite more J'cans

The United States says it is looking forward to Jamaica's response to a series of extradition requests for nationals suspected of committing crimes in that country.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Arturo Valenzuela told reporters late last month that Washington is pushing for greater effectiveness of the Proceeds of Crime Act to defeat organized crime in Jamaica.

"There is a series of extraditions that the United States has requested, and we look forward to those being processed," he said, amidst media reports that law enforcement officials in Washington had prepared two unsealed indictments relating to the case against Christopher "Dudus" Coke, who was extradited to the U.S. recently to face gun and drug trafficking charges.

Washington had expressed its displeasure at the Bruce Golding government's initial position regarding the extradition of Coke, but Valenzuela, who visited three Caribbean countries recently, said diplomatic rela-

tions between the two countries were "as good as they have ever been."

TREATY

Earlier, Isiah Parnell, charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy here, told reporters that the two countries have an extradition treaty that has been in effect for more than 20 years.

"It worked successfully for that time; we extradite, 12 to 15, 20 persons per year; that continued even when we had the problem with the one high-profile extradition," Parnell said.

"Now that (Coke's) high-profile extradition is over, we will continue to work together with the law enforcement community and as extraditions arise on either side, from either country, we will process them," he added, even as he refrained from indication how many more persons were likely to be extradited.

Parnell said it was not the practice of the embassy to comment on any specific requests, and that there was no outstanding backlog of requests to be processed.



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U.S. securities accuses brothers of 'elaborate sham' in Cayman Islands

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has filed a civil complaint against two Texas billionaire brothers for allegedly engaging in securities fraud in the Cayman Islands.

The SEC said in its complaint said that Samuel and Charles Wyly created “an elaborate sham system” of trusts and companies, on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea and in the Cayman Islands that produced \$550 million in undisclosed gains on stock sales.

The SEC said that the

Wyllys violated securities laws that require corporate directors and executives to report stock trades.

The regulatory agency accused the brothers of reaping the profits “while sitting on corporate boards by trading stock in those public companies through hidden entities located in foreign jurisdictions to conceal their ownership and trading of those securities”.

The SEC also charged their U.S.-based attorney Michael French and their stockbroker, Louis Schaufele, for their roles in the

alleged scheme.

‘SECRECY’

“The cloak of secrecy has been lifted from the complex web of foreign structures used by the Wyllys to evade the securities laws,” said Lorin Reisner, deputy SEC enforcement chief.

“They used these struc-

tures to conceal hundreds of millions of dollars of gains in violation of the disclosure requirements for corporate insiders,” she added.

The SEC said the offshore trusts and management companies were set up by the Wyllys beginning in 1992.

The charges came as another Texas billionaire,

Allen Stanford, faces criminal and civil charges in an alleged \$7 billion Ponzi scheme involving his Stanford International Bank in Antigua and Barbuda.

Stanford, who is currently in a Houston, Texas, jail, goes on trial in January.



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AA crash passengers file lawsuits against airline



Damaged American Airlines plane at Kingston airport.

– File photograph

Passengers who were on board an American Airlines plane which crash landed in Kingston, Jamaica on Dec. 22 have begun to file legal claims against the airline.

According to a report in the **Jamaica Observer** newspaper last month, a senior public relations manager at AA has confirmed that several claims have been filed.

More than 150 passengers and crew were on board AA Flight 331 when it landed at the

Norman Manley International Airport and then overshot the runway on a rainy night and smashed a perimeter fence before crossing a road and ending up on a beach.

The aircraft broke in to several pieces. No one died at the scene, but more than 90 passengers were reportedly injured.

According to the **Observer**, investigations into the cause of the crash are still in process.



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Cops nab 'Barefoot Bandit' in Bahamas

NASSAU, The Bahamas, CMC – Police arrested a 19-year-old American social network cult hero, dubbed the “Barefoot Bandit” here, ending a three-year crime spree in the United States and Canada.

Colton Harris-Moore was arrested last month after being

airstrip crash-landed there.

Police in The Bahamas said they found Harris-Moore hiding near a powerboat.

Harris-Moore – who reportedly taught himself to fly from video games - is a folk hero on Facebook, with more than 70,000 followers and fans.

‘It was like something you might see in the movies’

- Greenslade

named as the main suspect in a number of burglaries including the theft of cars, boats and planes. He gained the nickname “Barefoot Bandit” because he allegedly carried out his criminal activities without shoes.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) said it switched the hunt to The Bahamas after a light aircraft stolen from an American

‘MOST INFAMOUS’

Police in the U.S. and Canada said Harris-Moore was the “most infamous teen fugitive in North America.”

Ellison E. Greenslade, commissioner of the police in The Bahamas, told reporters that the authorities seized a firearm and several other items from the teenager. He said shots were fired during the capture, but declined to disclose who fired them.

“It was like something you might see in the movies,” said Greenslade.



N.Y. police shifts focus of investigation in murder/suicide involving Jamaicans

NEW YORK - The New York Police Department (NYPD) said it is focusing attention on the mother of a 14-year-old Jamaican as law enforcement officials investigate an apparent murder and suicide in Staten Island.

"We believe that the badly charred note and diary found in the wreckage of the fire were written by the same person - the mother," NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said late last month in a statement, confirming that it was the mother, Leisha John, 30, and

not her teenaged Jamaican son, C.J. Jones, who wrote the note.

He, however, warned that detectives were yet to make "a final determination" about who was responsible for the tragedy.

Police had initially thought that the 14-year-old boy had been responsible for the deaths of two relatives, whose throats were slashed. They also said the boy may have started the fire that resulted in the death of his mother and her

two-year-old son.

PRESSURE

But on July 25, the boy's Jamaican father Earlston Raymond told reporters that pressure on the teen to help raise his siblings created friction between him and his

mother before the tragedy. He said his son had expressed a desire to return to Jamaica.

"I know C.J. wasn't the one to kill himself and kill his brother and sisters," he added.

While the cause of the fire is still under investigation, New York fire marshals said they

found a metal butane lighter near the bodies of the mother and three of the children.

Detectives said they were also examining the burned remnants of the family computer to determine if anyone wrote any plans in an e-mail.



Clinton promises Haiti three more years

NEW YORK - Former United States President Bill Clinton says he will dedicate the next three years of his life in helping to rebuild Haiti after the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake.

The United Nations special envoy to the impoverished Caribbean community (CARICOM) country and co-chair of Haiti's reconstruction commission, said he "wakes up every day sick at heart that we aren't doing more" to help Haiti.

"I don't want to be naive. It's going to be a stretch," Clinton told reporters here last month, referring to his three-year commitment to the country.

"It'll be hard, but I'm excited about it," he added.

"Enough so that after a couple of heart incidents and being sixty-three years old, I am prepared to spend three years on it," he continued. "They want the right things for their country."

MORE

The 42nd U.S. president said more needs to be done on all fronts in Haiti.

"In the camps, we need more sanitation and protection from blow down. In the

streets, we need more jobs. We need to begin reconstruction. Then do something on the education front," he said.

"Then the health-care system needs to be built. I used to say rebuilt, but then I realized there really wasn't one before," he added.

"We'll have to rebuild the infrastructure," Clinton continued.

"We'll have to rebuild the agriculture."

Last month, Clinton said he planned to put pressure on governments that have been slow to deliver on promises to aid Haiti's reconstruction efforts. He said six months after the earthquake, that killed an estimated 300,000 people and left an estimated 1.3 million homeless, most governments that promised to help Haiti have not delivered any funds.

For details on donations to Haiti, turn to page 30.



Clinton

Guyanese-born immigration officer pleads guilty to sexual misconduct

NEW YORK - A New York judge has jailed a Guyanese-born United States immigration officer after he pleaded guilty to coercing oral sex from a 22-year-old Colombian woman.

Justice James P. Griffin, of New York State Supreme Court, sentenced Isaac R. Baichu, 49, to almost four years in prison in the negotiated sentence. He had faced up to seven years in prison. But his sentence was reduced in the plea agreement.

Baichu's demands for sex from the woman were caught

on tape by her in Dec. 2007, prosecutors said.

Baichu, a former adjudicator for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, however, still hoped to avoid the plea deal when he appeared in the Queens, New York courtroom in a wheelchair. His lawyer asked Justice Griffin to delay his sentencing so he could continue medical treatment. He was hit by a city bus in April 2009.

But the judge was not moved by the request.



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Test yourself: What's your IQ on primary elections?

This year's Aug. 24 primary elections are more important than you think. Immigrants are not only considered "hard-to-count" in the census, they are also less likely than native Americans to vote during primary and general elections.

However, we all pay the salaries of elected officials when we pay our taxes. On primary election day, all Americans - regardless of income, race and ethnicity are the same in one respect - each person has one vote.

How much do you know about these primary elections? Choose "True" or "False" for each of the following statements to see if you know what's at stake for the elections.

TRUE OR FALSE?

___ When faced with a ballot of two unknown candidates, most people vote for the candidate that they have the most experience with.

___ Elections for state judges are not as important as elections for federal races like Congressional representative, vice president and president.

___ It's too much of a hassle to go to the precinct to vote.

___ It's too hard to figure out who to vote for.

ANSWERS

1. TRUE - Research shows that when faced with a ballot of two unknown candidates most people vote for the candidate that they have the most

experience with. They vote by ethnicity and gender.

Generally, Italian voters go for Italian names. Irish voters select candidates who have Irish names. Women vote for women, and men vote for men. This pattern of voting has a major impact on election results because some people are more likely to vote than others.

The people who are most likely to show up to vote in every primary election - the supervoters - are older adults, more educated adults, whites, and those who earn more than \$50,000 a year. Middle-age and young adults, less educated taxpayers, people who earn less than \$50,000 a year and non-whites are less likely to show up and vote in primary and general elections.

Although we all pay taxes, voter turnout for primary elections averages 10 percent of registered voters, and 40 percent 50 percent for general elections, although voter turnout in the 2008 Barack Obama presidential election was higher than usual. Non-white candidates therefore have a harder time being elected because the non-white voter turnout is low.

2. FALSE - Although primary elections are less popular than general elections, the election results are permanent. The 2001 Caribbean American Politically Active Citizens survey of 528 Caribbean Americans in Miami-Dade,



Caribbean Americans should vote in this month's primary elections.

Broward and Palm Beach counties revealed that the three most important issues were the criminal justice system, education and immigration. Voters can't change the nation's laws, but they can change judges who are unworthy.

There are 90 Broward county judges, 79 are white and of those 49 are Jewish. Only five of the 90 judges are black. Not sure which judges to vote for? The American Bar Association has defined criteria for judges. judges should:

- uphold the rule of law
- be independent
- be impartial

- have appropriate temperament and character
- possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials
- represent a judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.

Times have changed. There was a time when sitting judges were rarely challenged for candidates' fear of retribution. In the 2010 judicial race in Broward County, for example, 10 of 11 circuit court judges are being challenged. Circuit criminal court judges rule on felony matters (any crime punishable by more than one year in state prison) - murder, sexual offenses, robbery, fraud, crimes against property, drugs, etc. Circuit civil matters include automobile negli-

gence, professional malpractice, condominium lawsuits, mortgage, foreclosures, product liability.

Judges decide who lives, who dies, who pays and how much. Over the course of your lifetime, you are more likely to be directly affected by a judge's decision, than a congressional or presidential decision. Some judges are more sensitive to immigration issues than others.

Taxes are mandatory. Voting in primary elections ought to be mandatory too.

3. FALSE - There are two other ways to vote for the primary election. First, there is early voting Aug. 9-24. Second, there is absentee voting. Call the Supervisor of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

Bouterse elected Suriname president

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, CMC - Former military dictator Desi Bouterse has been elected president of this Caribbean community (CARICOM) country.

Bouterse, 64, defeated Justice and Police Minister Chandrikapersad Santokhi during a parliamentary vote in Suriname last month.

Bouterse's Mega Combination (MC) party struck a deal with his former military rival Ronnie Brunswijk to nominate Robert Ameerali, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KKF), as his running mate.

The outgoing New Front coalition (NF) has nominated Natural Resources Minister Gregory Rusland for the post of vice-president.

Speaking prior to the vote, Bouterse said that he

was confident that he would win. His party won 23 of the 51 seats in Parliament in the May 25 general elections.

In 1980, Bouterse seized power in a military coup and ruled until Nov. 1987 when he lost the general elections.

In Dec. 1990 he seized power again through a so-called "telephone-coup", but again lost the general elections in May 1991.

The former military strongman is now before the court on trial for the Dec. 1982 murders of 15 political opponents of his then-military government.



Bouterse

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Pop star Wyclef Jean to run for president of Haiti

NEW YORK – Internationally-acclaimed pop star Wyclef Jean has announced his candidacy to contest the presidential elections in Haiti later this year. “If not for the earthquake, I probably would have waited another 10 years before doing this,” the Haitian-born superstar told reporters early this month, adding “the quake drove home to me that Haiti can’t wait another 10 years for us to bring it into the 21st century.”

The earthquake on Jan. 12 killed more than 300,000 people and left more than one million others homeless. It also destroyed a number of buildings in the French speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country.

Jean, 37, who had been in the forefront of relief efforts, said he was convinced that now is the best time for him to seek to become president of one of the poorest countries in

the world.

“If I can’t take five years out to serve my country as president, then everything I’ve been singing about, like equal rights, doesn’t mean anything,” said the popular hip hop artist, who was raised in Brooklyn, New York.

FAME

Jean shot to fame in the mid-1990s as a member of The Fugees, a United States-based hip-hop and reggae group. But he now performs as a solo artist.

In 2007, President René Préval, who is prohibited by Haiti’s constitution from seeking a third consecutive term, named Jean a Haitian ambas-



Wyclef Jean

sador-at-large.

Jean had supported Préval in his 2006 re-election bid.

Jean’s uncle Raymond Joseph, Haiti’s current ambassador to the U.S., is also expected to be among the candidates for the Nov. 28 presidential and general elections.

Late last month Jean took legal steps toward contesting the presidential elections. Although he did not

announce his candidacy then, Jean said he is qualified to run for Haiti’s highest office and visited the capital Port-au-Prince to meet with his lawyers and have his fingerprints taken by the judicial police as part of the legal process of preparing to contest the polls. The deadline for candidates to register is **Aug. 7.**

“I basically come out to Haiti...because it was impor-

tant that I do my fingerprints,” Jean said then.

Jean, who is popular among Haitians, particularly the young, is the founding member of the hip-hop trio The Fugees. He established the Yele Haiti Foundation in 2005 to provide humanitarian aid to the people of the country. Jean said that Haiti’s future rested on education, job creation and investment.

Test yourself: What's your IQ on primary elections?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Elections in your area to request your absentee ballot before **Aug. 18.** Absentee ballots must be received at the Supervisor of Elections office by **7 p.m. Aug. 24.** Remember to sign the ballot so that it will be accepted.

4. FALSE - It’s easy if you get a Primary Election Caribbean-

American Voters’ Guide. A non-partisan group of concerned Caribbean Americans attend candidates’ forums, consult with an advisory panel of Caribbean American attorneys and community leaders, and endorse candidates who are more likely to promote the interests of Caribbean Americans in South Florida.



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I began my banking career in Miami-Dade County 32 years ago and I am currently employed with Great Florida Bank. I am proud to have worked with a number of pastors in this community, such as the Collective Banking Group (CBG). I have been actively involved in a host of civic and business organizations in the South Florida region:

- Florida Financial Literacy Council, Chairman.
- South Florida Workforce Investment Board, Finance Committee Chairman. 2006-Present
- American Red Cross Greater Miami & The Keys, Past Treasurer, Board of Directors. 2005-Present
- The Children's Trust Political Committee, Treasurer. 2006-2008
- Kiwanis Club of Little Havana, Past President, Director. 1988 - Present
- Pan American Hospital, Board of Directors Appointed by Federal Judge Jay Cristal. 2005-2007
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Executive Committee. 2002-2004
- United Way of Miami-Dade, Campaign Cabinet. 2000-2001.
- Success by Six: Quality Enhancement Committee Chairman. 1999-2003
- Early Childhood Initiative, Co-Chairman. 2000-2002
- Boy Scouts of America, Board of Directors. 1997-2010, Eagle Scout 1972
- City of Miami Code Enforcement Board. 1988-1991
- Metro-Dade Charter Review Committee / Metro-Dade Budget & Tax Reform Committee. 1989-1991

I am a graduate of St. Thomas University, where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. I live in Pincrest with my two sons.

Dear Neighbor:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as a candidate to serve as your Miami-Dade County Commissioner for District 8. This district is a diverse area and together we can accomplish much more than we have.

I am a businessman that has worked tirelessly for over 30 years to make Miami-Dade County the premier place to work, study and play.

I have seen how our neighbors and small business owners struggle to make ends meet. They have made huge sacrifices due to the economic downturn, while our county government continues to do business as usual and fails to be fiscally responsible.

Over the years I know that South Dade has felt ignored. My goal is to bring our diverse district together, identify strong leadership in the community and bring your needs to the forefront.

My Goal is to provide more resources:

- Jobs • Affordable housing • Safe neighborhoods • Health care
- and most important of all access to your County Commissioner.

I see this election as an opportunity to bring about a new style of leadership that will transform our community. We are all in this together. Help me improve the quality of life and create economic development opportunities.

Sincerely,
Obdulio Piedra

We are all in this together! Help me improve the quality of life and create economic opportunities!



Please visit my website, and learn more about where I stand on the issues and give me feedback. You can volunteer, contribute or view other important information.

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OAS, CARICOM to mount joint electoral mission to Haiti for November polls

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Organization of American States and the Caribbean community (CARICOM) will send a joint electoral mission to earthquake battered Haiti ahead of the legislative and presidential elections in November.

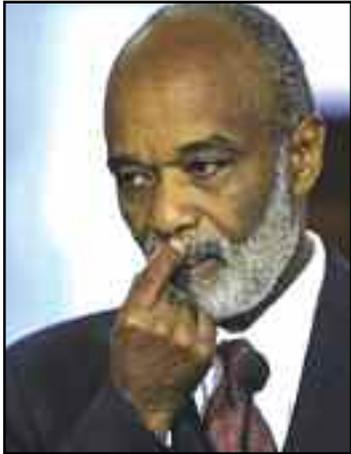
OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin told a meeting of the Group of Friends of Haiti that the mission, comprising more than 150 people, will be deployed throughout the French speaking CARICOM member state ahead of the elections scheduled for Nov. 28.

He said the mission would be charged with following the electoral process in the months before the elections as well as the voting on Election Day.

An OAS statement said it is hoped that a core group of people will arrive in Haiti at the beginning of this month. Ramdin said this would be the first time that the OAS and 15-member CARICOM grouping have partnered to provide electoral observation assistance.

“We believe that if a country is in need of help, whether it’s political, economic or social, or whether it is in

need of technical assistance, we need to work together with the sub regional integration entity or cooperation entity, in this case CARICOM,” he said, adding that preparations for the November elections were moving ahead smoothly. “From a technical perspective, preparations for the elections



Haiti’s elections will decide who replaces René Préval as president.

are well on target, they are on schedule. So if everything goes well in terms of technical preparation we believe we can have free, fair and credible elections.”

SPEED UP

Ramdin said that staging

successful elections could speed up the reconstruction process of the country that was hit by a powerful earthquake on Jan. 12, killing more than 300,000 people and leaving more than one million others homeless.

“If we have elections at the end of the year, we may have a much better situation by February next year to intensify the process of social and economic reconstruction, and work towards sustainable development,” he added.

Legislative elections in the Caribbean country were postponed after the earthquake and the OAS has been involved in various aspects of the electoral process, including the registration of new voters, providing technical assistance to Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) as well as technical expertise and equipment for the establishment of tabulation centers.



Ramdin

People’s Partnership sweeps seats in T&T local government elections

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – The ruling People’s Partnership – an amalgam of five political parties and trade unions – swept the local government elections here late last month, winning 11 of the 14 corporations and regional councils, according to preliminary results.

But the main Opposition People’s National Movement (PNM), whose leader, Dr. Keith Rowley conceded defeat early on July 26, held on to the Port of Spain City Corporation that John Rahael, former mayor and government minister, described as the “crown jewel”.

“I would have preferred to be giving you much better news from Balisier House (PNM headquarters),” said Rowley said in his concession speech., “but...the news is not as good as we would have liked it to be. As of now we would have lost the local government election quite comprehensively, which is not very surprising to us given the fact we view it as a bit of a continuation of an election that took place eight weeks ago.

“Eight weeks ago there was a general election and we suffered a very significant defeat and local election seemed to have gone very much the same way, except that the winners added to their performance.”

‘DIFFICULT’

“It was a very difficult situation for the PNM, notwithstanding our best hopes and expectations,” he added. “We were coming out of a very heavy defeat. There were

changes in the party. We had to get candidates at a short notice. The campaign issues were very restricted in that the Government was only eight weeks old and basically what we were campaigning on was basically our own record,” he added.

The PNM retained the Port of Spain City Corporation, San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation and the Borough of Point Fortin in the elections that had been postponed at least on three occasions by the then PNM government of Patrick Manning.

The PNM had controlled nine of the corporations, while the United National Congress (UNC), a leading member of the People’s Partnership, had control of the other five corporations.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar welcomed the results of the local government elections, saying that it had completed the victory of the People’s Partnership that began on May 24 when it won 29 of the 41 seats in the general elections.

“The victory in Trinidad is now complete. This is a victory of the people, by the people and for the people,” Persad-Bissessar said, adding “politics will never be the same again in TT. No one will ever be allowed to take you, the electors and voters for granted.”

A total of 973,179 persons were eligible to vote in the July 26 elections, but initial reports indicate that that the voter turnout was extremely low.



Opposition member joins Anguilla’s ruling party

The VALLEY, Anguilla, CMC - Jerome Roberts, a member of the fledgling Opposition Anguilla Progressive Party (APP) has crossed the floor and joined the governing administration of Chief Minister Hubert Hughes.

Roberts’s move came as a surprise when legislators gathered recently to debate the revised budget that was presented by Hughes, who is also finance minister.

In a brief address to members of the House of Assembly, Roberts said the current state of the island’s economy and finances

prompted his decision to join the government.

“I will now fulfill my bonded duty to the people of Sandy Hill and the people of Anguilla by extension and finally answer the call to service as I would humbly journey across to the other side of the floor and join the Anguilla United Movement as a proud member of the Anguilla Progressive Party,” Roberts said.

He added that he would continue working and speaking on behalf of the people of Anguilla “for what is good and objecting what is bad.”



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Hate and that Arizona immigration law

The venom of hate has begun flowing rabidly since United States District Judge Susan Bolton slammed the brakes on the controversial Arizona law that would have made it illegal to be "illegal" in that U.S. state.

Ever since the judge's brave and bold ruling late last month, which delayed the most contentious provisions of the law, including a section that required officers to check a person's immigration status while enforcing other laws, the hate mail has begun flowing into her office. A U.S. marshal in Arizona was quoted as saying that Judge Bolton has received thousands of phone calls and e-mails since her preliminary injunction July 28 that put key provisions of the state's immigration law on hold, many "from people venting and who



FELICIA PERSAUD

have expressed their displeasure in a perverted way."

And the outrage from the right against Bolton is not simply focused on her. Arizona Democratic Representative Raul Grijalva, a vocal opponent of his state's controversial immigration law, has closed his district office in Yuma after a bullet was discovered inside, the Hill reports. In a statement, Grijalva's office said one of the office windows had been shattered.

"A shattered window and bullet inside the office were found earlier today. Police are investigating the incident and have not released details about a potential motive," his office said. "Rep. Grijalva intends to open the office again as soon as possible."

The bullet was found one day after a judge blocked the most controversial parts of the Arizona immigration law, which went into effect last month. Opponents of the measure held protests in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Never to commit

I recently saw this article on the 'Net that addressed the issue of why men won't commit. It even gave seven or so clues to look for that indicate that a man will never commit.

Among them were, "He's always taking you to out of the way places where no one will see you together", "Posting his status as 'single' on his Facebook profile", "Never letting you meet his family", "He never takes you to weddings", "You can't visit him without calling first", "He always puts down his exes and calls them crazy", and stuff like that. All tell-tale signs that the guy will never commit.

The irony is, when a woman finds a 'good man' she really sticks to him. But even so, she wants more, and wants him to commit to her only. A difficult task for some men and that is the bane of many relationships.

It's always heartrending for a woman when her man of many years moves on to his next girlfriend and then suddenly commits his life to her. What many women do not realize is that it's not only her that's the factor, but more importantly the timing. So not because he's been with you for donkey's years means anything to him; he just wasn't ready to commit to you at that time.

And women go through it too, for it's not the first great guy that they meet that they commit to. In many cases the guy who they end up with isn't really as good as the previous guys, but she was ready at that time.

Women have this commitment gene that just locks them in like a laser beam on men that they meet. What also happens is that women pressure men into commitment, giving them a timeline, a roadmap, a futures plan regarding where they want to be at a certain time. And we all know that many men don't



handle stress well. Their response is to fight or flee. It's easier to flee.



TONY ROBINSON

CONTROL

This makes the man seem as if he has no control of the relationship, and that it's her who is calling the shots. Men can't deal with that. And in any case, it's after marriage that the woman calls the shots anyway, so let him enjoy his freedom...for now.

Usually, if you just allow things to run its course, the man will do it when he sees fit. And if he doesn't, then so be it. But you cannot force him to commit.

The expert women play their men the same way anglers catch fish. First they reel him in, then relax the pressure on the line, reel him in a little closer, then relax again...reel him in some more, then relax. After a while she has him in her net and he wasn't even aware of what hit him. It's an art.

Men love, and love deeply, but it doesn't mean that the woman who he

decides to settle down with will be his entire world. That's because men love for the moment, and trust me, that moment will pass faster than you can say, "commit to me." That confuses women, for somehow when a woman loves, she loves deeply and oftentimes permanently...at least more permanently than a man.

That's why women will be so confused that a man can profess to love them this week, but move on to another woman next week. That's another reason why men rarely say those three words - "I love you" - to women. The women believe it, take it to heart, and then think that the man is committed to her forever.

DIFFERENCE

So as a result, men don't say it, as it locks them in. Plus men love differently from women. A man will love his woman dearly, yet still sleep with another woman. That too, women will never understand.

Just because he loves you doesn't mean that he has committed his genitals to you only. And that's another reason

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Obama on immigration: Lots of talk, but not enough action

In grappling with the thorny issue of immigration "this administration will not just kick the can down the road," says United States President Barack Obama - after almost a year and a half of kicking that can down the road.

During his presidential campaign, candidate Obama pledged to come up with a comprehensive immigration bill during his first year in office. Recently, almost six months into his second year in office, he delivered his first major speech on immigration. Better late than never.

Yet chances for actual immigration reform legislation this year appear to be more elusive than ever. Obama praised a broad outline suggested by senators Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, and Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat. But they haven't produced a bill.

Even more telling, Obama's speech mentioned not even a hint of a deadline.

On health care, the Afghanistan war and every other issue this administration really cares about, the president sets deadlines. Not this time.

Yet he had to say something, even if the speech was more about politics than policy. Tea Party Republicans have been controlling much of the debate, shifting Congress and the public toward draconian solutions driven more by emotions than good sense.



CLARENCE PAGE

BROKEN PROMISE?

Impatience has caused Obama's popularity rating among Latinos to fall to 57 percent from 69 percent in January, according to a June Gallup poll. "Obama broke a promise," Univision anchor

Jorge Ramos, a leading campaigner for comprehensive immigration reform, recently complained. "It's just that simple."

Obama's Justice Department is expected to file suit against Arizona's new law that requires police officers who have reasonable suspicion to question the immigration status of people whom they have stopped and detained for other reasons.

Obama threw down his marker as firmly on the side of comprehensive immigration reform of the sort that President George W. Bush, Sen. John McCain and some other Republican lawmakers supported before conservative backlash left McCain fighting for his own party's re-nomination this year in Arizona.

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid could use a strong turnout from Hispanic voters, who usually vote Democratic, in his own fight for re-election in Nevada.

Without mentioning the

expected lawsuit, Obama criticized the Arizona law and put the onus back on Republicans for the collapse of progress on comprehensive reform. He made all the right points. Quoting President George W. Bush, he described an approach that was identical to what Bush and McCain supported, then invited Republicans to jump on board again.

CLASH

He outlined the debate as essentially a clash between two goals that need to be reconciled: On one side, control the borders. "We have more boots on the ground on the Southwest border than at any time in our history," he said twice. Yet, that's not enough for opponents who insist on pursuing the impossible goal of actually sealing the border.

On the other side: a "pathway to legal status" for illegal immigrants who already are here. Like Bush's proposal, his plan calls for illegal immigrants to admit they broke the law; be required to register, pay their taxes, pay a fine, learn English and "get right with the law before they can get in line and earn their citizenship."

That sounds reasonable enough to please both sides without fully satisfying either, which is the essence of compromise. But where's the new legislation that might move Obama's promise into law? Don't hold your breath. Obama suggested a good "middle ground" between expelling all illegal immigrants and granting them all blanket amnesty, but he did not offer much in the way of details as to how that semi-amnesty might work.

Obama's omission of timelines indicates he doesn't expect to get anything passed this year and Democrats are only expected to lose congressional seats in November. That means Obama-style comprehensive reform will be even harder to win, unless it's moved during the lame duck session after November when getting re-elected is less of a concern.

Either way, we can expect a lot more talk, with or without much action.

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Never to commit

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

why men fear commitment, they are afraid of limiting their sexuality to one woman only.

Yes, men love in compartments, and can put one section in a box even as they open another box for someone else.

Women will never understand this, for when they love, they love from one box only, and they commit their bodies, brains, emotions and life to that man. That's why women will put up with so much

abuse and crap from men, forever committing to them even as they heap on abuse after abuse. It's because they love, and with that love comes an emotional commitment that will never die.

A man on the other hand will love yes, but still walk out, only to love somebody else, and quickly too. Or he will love concurrently, having a mistress on the side for many years, but still, never leaving his wife.

Still, there comes a time when a man gets tired of the

streets, tired of playing around and he'll commit to one woman. Even so, smart man that he is, and guided by his instincts, he won't let her feel too comfortable.

So many men will never commit, and even when you think that they have committed, do not let your guard down, for he will leave in a flash, and love another...and another...and another.

seido1@hotmail.com



Hate and that Arizona immigration law

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Phoenix in conjunction with the law going into effect.

PROTEST

These two incidents came amidst protests - both against and in support of the ruling that saw police dressed in riot gear arrest demonstrators, including an elderly female church minister. But Arizona and its haters are not giving up. Despite the ruling, which also barred the July 29 enforcement of parts requiring immigrants to carry their papers and banned illegal immigrants from soliciting employment in public places - a move aimed at day laborers that congregate in large numbers in parking lots across Arizona and blocked officers from making warrant-less arrests of suspected illegal immigrants, Arizona officials have appealed Bolton's ruling, with Republican Governor Jan Brewer calling the decision halting the law "a bump in the road."

But for now, immigrants have won a small and needed victory in this tide of racist, anti-immigrant sentiment that has been boiling since a black man took the helm of the White House and the U.S. As

Anthony D. Romero, executive director of the ACLU noted: "This is a major step that will help protect the residents of Arizona against racial profiling and discrimination, and the Obama administration deserves praise for its principled decision to challenge this law despite pressure to stay silent. A single state's frustration with federal policy cannot be allowed to hijack federal authority or dictate federal priorities in ways that impede effective law enforcement, threaten the rights of citizens and non-citizens alike and violate core American values."

Let's make sure the haters and their hate mongering don't win. After all, no human being is an illegal alien despite the copycat measures in as many as 20 other states around the country.

Now it's time for President Obama and the U.S. Congress to get back to work and truly come up with a reasonable and rational solution to the country's illegal immigration woes.

Felicia Persaud is founder of *CaribWorldNews.com*, *CaribPR Wire* and *Hard Beat Communications*.



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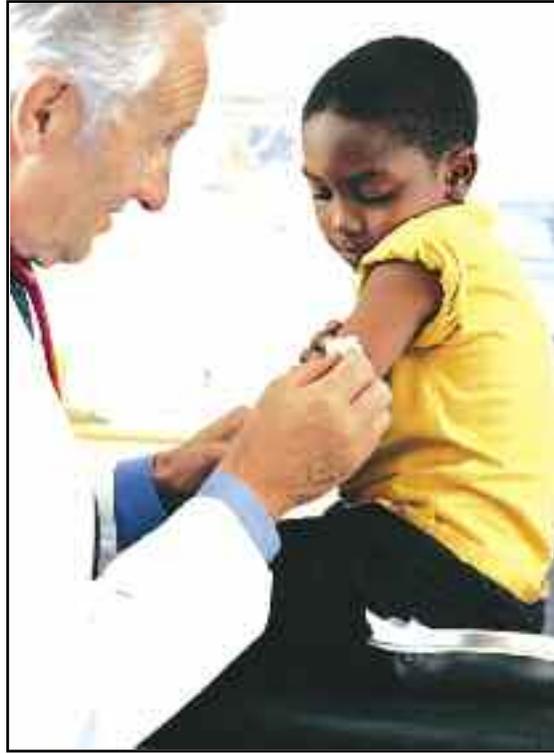
Local South Florida politicians have organized sessions this month for students, who will be heading back to school for the new term shortly, to receive free immunization shots.

Medical staff from the Miami-Dade County Health Department are scheduled to be present to administer the required and recommended vaccinations for children up to age 18. For a child to receive immunizations, his or her parent(s) or legal guardian must show the child's immunization record and also be present at the time the shot is administered.

In addition, staff will provide Certificates of Immunizations (Form 680 or "Blue Card") for attendees. The following is a listing of sessions being offered:

• 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Aug. 9** – Miami-Dade City Commissioner Dennis Moss will host a session at the South Dade Government Center, 10710 S.W. 211th St. in Cutler Bay.

• 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Aug. 19** – Commissioner Katy Sorenson will host a session at Leisure Lake Park, 29305 Illinois Rd., Miami.



Immunization is important for protecting children's health.

Students to get school supplies at 'all star' weekend in Florida

Spase Designz plans to hand out over 1,000 book bags with school supplies inside, during its annual all star weekend this month.

Spase's "7th Annual All Star Weekend" is a series of events targeted at helping parents and children of South Florida prepare for the upcoming new school year.

The weekend kicks off **Aug. 6** with a bowling tournament at Spasez Bowling center, 5325 Sterling Rd. and University Avenue in Davie. The tournament starts at **7 p.m.**

The next event will be staged the following day at the Lou Rawls Theater on the campus of Florida Memorial University, 15800 N.W. 42 Ave. It will feature a motivational seminar delivered by local and national speakers. The seminar, titled "Smart Is

The New Gangster", will highlight successful habits for life and business. Admission is \$10 in advance. The panel will include Jerry Rushin, current president and general manager of WEDR 99.1 and WHQT Hot105.1FM radop stations.

The weekend ends **Aug. 8** at the company's flagship event "The 7th Annual All Star Basketball Game", featuring Hot105.1FM versus The City of Miami Gardens playing alongside celebrities.

Individuals who pay to enter will receive a book bag with school supplies inside - while supplies last. Doors open at **5 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 in advance.

For more information, call **305-986-3926** or visit www.live305.com or www.wantickets.com.



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Planning guide: Weeks before opening bell, it's time for everyone to act

In the weeks leading up to the re-opening of school, parents can take several steps to help their children start the term positively. Below is a listing of some of those tips:

- Talk to your child about his or her goals for this school year - Does he or she want to make new friends? Improve grades? Do better at sports? Learn to play an instrument? Help figure out ways for him or her to have the school year he or she wants.
- Start setting alarm clocks - Gradually roll back bedtimes and wake-up times to ease kids into their new schedule.
- Check the school website for news about the upcoming year.
- Firm up transportation plans - Find out whether the bus route has changed and what time you can expect it to arrive. Confirm carpool arrangements.
- Shop for school supplies - Now is a good time to stock up on basics your kids will use all year, like paper and pencils.
- Push your child to finish summer reading and school-work assignments - Shift into nag mode if necessary.
- Get out the master calendar and mark important dates, activities, and appointments that are missing.

Consider using a different pen color for each child.

A WEEK AWAY

- One week before school starts:
- Many schools will reveal the all-important class lists. Prepare your child in case she doesn't get the teacher she wants or finds out her best friend is in a different class. Show excitement no matter which teacher she is assigned.
 - Print out the school rules from the website and review them with your child.
 - This is a good time to talk about academic expectations, too. Discuss the curriculum and the fun things your child will be learning.
 - Review the school routine. Talk about catching the bus, going to after-school care, and getting to and from activities.
 - Talk with your child about the start of school. Ask what lingering worries he has and what you can do to help.
 - Do a dry run or two—waking up early, getting ready, and leaving the house on time.
 - Go over supply lists to make sure you have everything.

THE NIGHT BEFORE

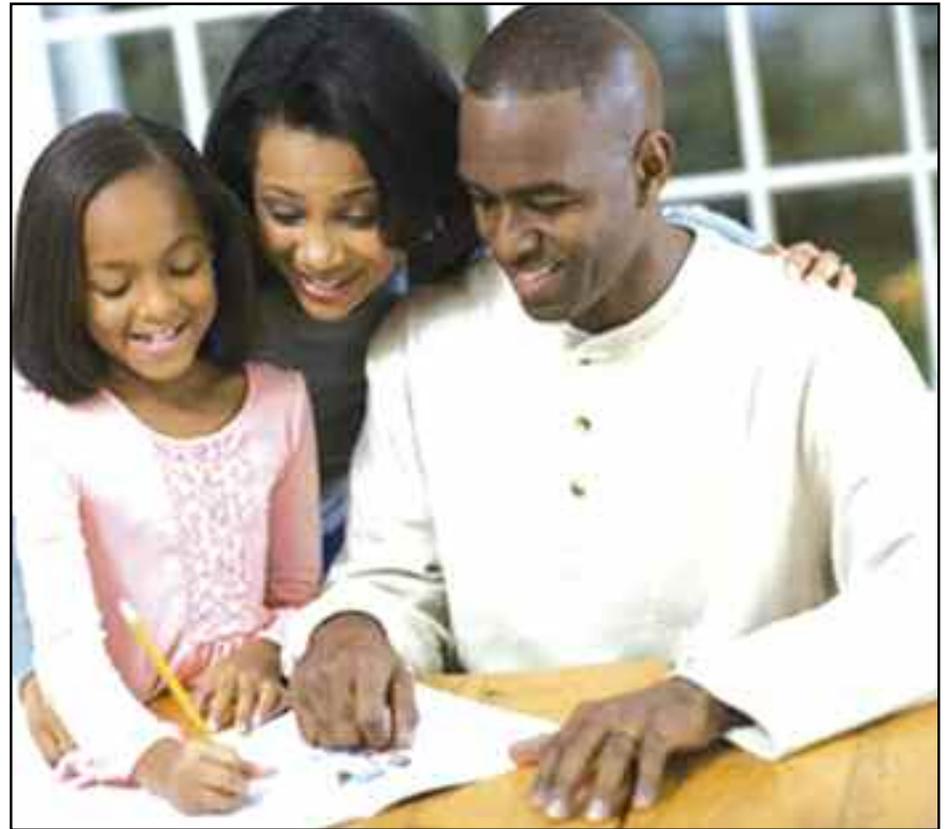
The night before school starts:

- Follow your child's cues about the new school year. He or she may want to talk about the first day, or he or she may prefer to play it cool.
- Pack lunch with your child's help. Or, if he or she is old enough, have him make it himself. If your child is buying lunch at school, include the lunch card or money in his backpack and remind him where it is.
- Help your child pack his backpack.
- Help him or her lay out clothes.
- Do any necessary prep work for breakfast so the morning runs smoothly.
- Set alarm clocks.

THE FIRST DAY

On the first day of school:

- Get everyone up a few minutes earlier than you think is needed just to make sure no one misses the bus.



It is important that parents help children get ready for school.

- Make time for a protein-packed breakfast. Include some cheese, eggs, yogurt, or peanut butter. Even a turkey sandwich will do the trick.
- Make an extra effort to ensure that everyone has what they need before heading out the door.
- If you have time, take a

photo. Years from now you will treasure these first-day-of-school pictures.

- Give your kids an extra hug and some encouragement before they head off to class.

- Edited from School Family



MDC offers 'Lunchtime Orientation' in South Florida

Information on bachelor's degrees, the new accelerated associate degrees, culinary arts management, paralegal studies and other programs at Miami Dade College will be offered during MDC's free "Lunchtime Orientation" this month.

The event will be held on **Aug. 13** at MDC's Wolfson campus.

The orientation will run from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

At 11 a.m., there will be a session for new students and parents. Refreshments will be served at noon.

At **12:30 p.m.**, new aca-

demical programs will be discussed. And, at **2 p.m.**, college officials will discuss various available student services.

Special workshops and courses offered through the Center for Community Involvement, Florida Center for Literary Arts and the Earth Ethics Institute will also be highlighted.

MDC's Wolfson campus is located at 300 N.E. Second Ave.

The event is open to the public. To register, call **305-237-3035**.



UWI introduces sweeping changes to cut costs

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – The Mona campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) is to introduce several belt-tightening measures in a bid to survive, as it struggles to adjust to a one billion Jamaican dollar (\$11.7 million) cut in its subvention from the Jamaica government.

Among the big reforms is putting pressure on permanent lecturers who have been getting full pay for half their scheduled classroom time, resulting in a ballooning wage bill for temps, **The Gleaner** newspaper reported.

The sweeping changes could include cuts in the number of part-time academic staff, a reduction in the num-

ber of administrative staff and changes in areas such as the bursary and the human resources departments.

Though no full-timers will be cast aside, a yet-to-be-determined number of part-time lecturers and non-academic staff may lose their jobs in a shake-up to take place in the short term - by September; the medium term - by December; and the long term - by the start of the 2011-2012 school year.



Shirley

But in a bid to calm fears, Professor Gordon Shirley, principal of the Mona campus, said that job cuts were not the first order of business although all cards are on the table.

OPTIONS

"I have not indicated that there are to be any staff reductions," Prof. Shirley said. "What I outlined are some efficiency measures.

"I also indicated that it may lead there but that's not where we are starting. We have to ensure that we look under every stone to make sure that there is nothing left,"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)



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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

BEST AND BRIGHTEST BEE



— Photograph by JIS

Audrey Marks, right, Jamaica's ambassador to the United States, welcomes Owayne Rodney, the island's participant in the recent 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee Competition to the Jamaican Embassy in Washington, D.C. Marks congratulated Rodney for being champion of the Gleaner Children's Own 2010 All-Island competition and for representing his country at this year's international Spelling Bee competition in the U.S. capital.

"You have done your country, your parents, your school and indeed yourself proud," the ambassador said. "I feel very happy that God has given me the opportunity to represent my country at this national Spelling Bee competition," Rodney responded.

Marks also praised Rodney's coach Primrose Swaby, who she described as a trailblazer for producing this year's champion from the parish of Clarendon and for her commitment to nurturing young people in that parish.

UWI introduces sweeping changes to cut costs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

the professor said.

Shirley indicated that the university was not making the best use of its human resources - representing more than two-thirds of its expenditure for 2008-09, according to its most recent bookkeeping. He explained that full-time academic staff should have 10 contact hours with students each week but, in many cases, full-time lecturers were doing much less.

He added that in some cases, full-time members of the academic staff were collecting salaries while doing as little as five contact hours each week.

RESTRUCTURING

Under the planned restructuring, all full-time staff will be kept on, but they will be required to do the 10 contact hours, allowing for reduced wage allocations to part-timers. Heads of department have been instructed to allocate more teaching hours to full-time staff. This is expected to result in savings

of J\$420 million (4.9 million) annually.

Shirley noted that this would mean that some lecturers would work outside their comfort hours of between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m, which "is the time that everybody seems to

want to teach."

The Mona campus is expected to save a further J\$400 million (\$4.7 million) annually by restructuring its administrative and non-academic staff.



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Minister blasts use of child's photo on Internet to criticize school fees

NASSAU, The Bahamas, CMC – The Bahamas government said that no fees were being charged for students entering public schools after a child's photograph was posted on the Internet criticizing the existing policy.

"As a political figure I expect that I will be attacked publicly; however, I do not expect innocent children to be used in this manner. I was particularly appalled because I am told that even when these images are removed they can still be recalled from cyberspace in perpetuity," Education Minister Desmond Bannister said in a statement late last month.

He said when the matter was raised in Parliament "I expressed my disgust at the manner in which an innocent child was used."

Bannister said Section 38(1) of the Education Act provides that no fees shall be paid

for admission to any public schools and that section also requires the minister to provide books, writing materials, stationery, practice materials and other articles "which are necessary to enable pupils to take full advantage of the education which is provided in so far as his resources permit".

Bannister apart from parents and guardians not having to pay fees for their children entering public schools, "no child is to be denied entry into any public school for any financial reason whatsoever."

He said when the Hubert Ingraham government came to power in 2007 it found a system where schools were seeking to assist parents by charging registration fees. But the main problem with that system, he added, was that there was no uniformity between schools.



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'I Am Jamaica' looks to inspire unity among island's people through music

DAWN A. DAVIS

Jamaica's 48th anniversary of Independence this year will not just be about cultural performances and celebrations. Jamaicans at home and in the diaspora will be encouraged through song to unite for the nation's interest.

Spearheaded by attorney Marlon Hill, a Jamaican Diaspora Board member, the "I Am Jamaica" unity campaign has finally taken shape.

"About a year and a half ago, we had a conversation with Hopeton Lindo, Danny Breckenridge, and some other artistes in the (entertainment) industry to help us to put together a theme song that would capture the message we are trying to communicate - that every person, whether home or abroad, is part of the brand Jamaica and is part of the greater effort of supporting what Jamaica needs and what Jamaican communities need," explained Hill on a recent conference call.

Launched this Independence season, the song "I Am Jamaica" aims to

instill pride, unity and hope for a better Jamaica through its patriotic words:

We may be scattered far and wide, to the four corners of the earth

But we are proud to be Jamaicans, we hold our heads up high

We are part of this diaspora, for what it's really worth Full time we come together, and that's no lie...

COLLABORATION

The song was a collaboration of several noted Jamaicans in the music, entertainment and business industries, including singer Lindo, musician Paul Gauntlett, Hill, musician Robbie Shakespeare, and singer Orville "Shaggy" Burrell.

To demonstrate that unity, performing artistes gave freely of their time and talents, coming together in music studios in Jamaica, Miami and New York to record the song. Those lending their voices include Shaggy, Lindo, Fiona, Freddie McGregor, Anthony Cruz, Marcia Griffiths, Courtney John, Sophia Brown,



Jamaican singers, from left, Freddie McGregor, Marcia Griffiths and Hopeton Lindo, do their part for 'I Am Jamaica'.

Peter Gee and Tony Gold.

The theme song will be rolled out internationally through radio, youtube, facebook, twitter, and distributed by VP Records. An accompanying music video, directed by Lukkee Chong and Max Earle of Frame by Frame Productions, highlighting Jamaican scenes and the actual studio recording sessions, will also be available worldwide.

REACH

Hill said the hope is to reach the diaspora across the globe as well as Jamaicans at home.

"Everyone knows the challenges that we have had over the years, both recent and in the past," he explained. "We are simply looking at this Independence season as an opportunity to individually take hold of the change for the type of positive action we would like to see both in Jamaica and the Jamaican communities."

A website has also been created to help reinforce and carry the message across the globe. Visitors to iamjamaica.org will be able to watch the music video. Also on the site is "A Declaration for Positive Action and Accountability", a personal contract that can be electronically signed and submitted as a pledge of oneness, hope, and collaboration.

"Jamaica means so much

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

'Carib-bean, The Way You Like it' on show in Miami

The colorful, warm and exciting image travelers get when they think about the Caribbean is the focus of a new group art exhibition opening this month in Miami.

"Carib-bean, The Way You Like it", featuring artists Paul Chang, Muriel

Jean-Jacques, Carol Jamie, Lisa Remeny, Patricia Roldan, Norma Trimbora and Brian Wong Won, will be on display at the Diaspora Vibe Gallery from Aug. 12 to Sept. 23. An

artist talk is scheduled for 2:45 p.m. Aug. 14.

According to the presenters, the artists for the exhibi-

Diaspora Vibe Galler is located at 3938 N. Miami Ave. in the city's Design District. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to



tion, some born in the Caribbean, others with parents who are from the region, have been engaged in a dialogue of what the definition of Caribbean art is.

6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call the gallery at 305-573-4046.



'Rootz Extravaganza' to mark Garvey's birth

"Marcus Garvey Rootz Extravaganza", the annual South Florida celebration to observe the birth of Jamaican-born Pan-African patriarch Marcus Mosiah Garvey, will be held on Aug. 17 in Fort Lauderdale.

This year's event, which will mark the 123rd anniversary of Garvey's birth and focus on the theme "Honoring our Pan-African Ancestors

and the Rastafari Elders", will be staged the Joseph C. Carter Park, 1450 W. Sunrise Blvd.

Scheduled keynote speaker will be Dr. Willie Myles, founder of the Campaign to Save a Generation. Activities, which will run from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., include multimedia audio-visual presentations, distribution of back-to-school supplies, issu-

ing of community service awards, spoken word performances and performances by African dancers. Food and refreshments will also be available.

Admission to the event is free. For more information, call the Rootz Foundation Inc. at 954-981-1176 or Carter Park at 954-828-5411.



Gabby wins sixth 'Pic-O-De-Crop' crown

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - Veteran calypsonian Anthony "Gabby" Carter rolled back the years to claim his sixth Pic-O-De-Crop crown as Barbados's top calypsonian for the year.

In a surprise decision, 52-year-old Gabby finished well ahead of the nine other competitors with 441.5 points, beating two-time monarch Adrian Clarke into second place in the most anticipated show of the annual Crop Over Festival late last month.

Gabby, returning after a two-year hiatus, rendered spirited performances of "Oh Haiti" and "Ole Ashe" to claim the crown.

Clarke, who last won the coveted title two years ago, amassed 424 points after performing "Crowd Response" and "No Plastic Bag Day". Stedson "Red Plastic Bag" Wiltshire, the defending 2009 monarch and nine-time winner, finished in third place with 418.5 points.

Wiltshire, the only calypsonian with more titles than Gabby, sang the social commentary "Signs" and the political commentary "La La", in which he made light of the way parliamentarian Hamilton Lashley has switched political allegiance between the island's two main political parties on more than one occasion.

TOUGH FIELD

Veteran performer John King was fourth, followed by Terencia "TC" Coward and former Square One vocalist Anderson "Blood Armstrong", who tied for fifth.

Armstrong and Coward

were victorious in the Party Monarch and Sweet Soca Monarch competitions last month.

Despite strong renditions of "Not My Son" and "Sing" - a song in which he paid tribute to Red Plastic Bag, while at the same time poking fun at the perennial winner's style of calypso over the years,



Gabby

Armstrong was not able to land the coveted double this year.

Crystal Cummings-Beckles, Colin Spencer, Sheldon Hope and Tassa rounded out the field. Gabby won his first crown at age 19 in 1968 and again in 1969, 1985, 1997, 1999 and 2000. In addition to his crown, trophy and cash prizes, the monarch also won a Ford Focus car. The 2010 Crop Over festival was scheduled to climax with the Grand Kadooment street parade on Aug. 2.



Jamaican reggae singer Sugar Minott dies

Veteran reggae singer/producer and sound system operator Lincoln Barrington Minott, popularly known as Sugar Minott, is dead. He was 54.

Family members and friends said that Minott, often referred to as the Godfather of Dancehall, suffered from a heart condition and died last month at the University Hospital of the West Indies in his native Jamaica.

Minott formed his own label, Black Roots, in the 1980s and helped develop talent including the late Garnett Silk. Named "Sugar" because of his

sweet vocals, he managed to blend roots, lovers rock, soul and dancehall rhythms.

Among his most popular hits were "Hard Time Pressure", "Vanity", "Mr. DC" and "Hang On Natty".

He was scheduled to release his latest album "New Day" last month.



CLIFF IN CHARGE



- Photograph by Errol Anderson

Jamaican-born musician and songwriter Jimmy Cliff is in the groove as he wows the capacity crowd at last month's "SummerStage" series in New York. Cliff, who was recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, performed a number of hits, including "You Can Get It If You Really Want", "Many Rivers to Cross" and "I Can See Clearly Now", made popular by the movie "Cool Runnings".

Caribbean natural disasters take spotlight at HistoryMiami

An exhibition featuring images linked to historic disasters, which have affected the Caribbean, including a 1500 hurricane described by Christopher Columbus, is on display in South Florida.

"Natural Disasters of the Caribbean, 1495-2010" presents prints, photographs and images from HistoryMiami's collections, illustrates various

natural disasters, including the 1690 and 1907 Jamaica earthquakes; the 1902 St. Vincent and 1904 Martinique volcanic eruptions; and the 1926 hurricanes in The Bahamas and Cuba.

For thousands of years, the people of the Caribbean have endured earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and hurricanes. Some have caused severe damage, including loss

of life and destruction of property. Among the most recent tragedies is the January earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which killed thousands of people.

The exhibition will run through Aug. 29 at the Museum of HistoryMiami, 101C W. Flagler St. in Miami.

For more information, call 305-375-1492.



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Comprehensive, affordable healthcare for Miami-Dade

Miami-Dade County is a national model for making healthcare more affordable and more accessible to residents.

A year ago, through a partnership with our Office of Countywide Healthcare Planning and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, we launched Miami-Dade Blue, a low-cost and comprehensive healthcare plan designed specifically with Miami-Dade residents and small businesses in mind. Nearly 3,500 people are now enrolled in this insurance program. That's 3,500 people who may have otherwise denied themselves preventive care (that costs all of us in the long run), avoided seeing a doctor until it was too late, or unnecessarily clogged our already crowded emergency rooms because the ER was their primary care provider.

CHOICES

Participants in Miami-Dade Blue can choose from among nearly 2,000 primary care providers and specialists. They gain access to Jackson Health System's three hospitals and its primary care centers, as well as other respected medical centers throughout our community, including Baptist Homestead, Coral Gables, Memorial and Palmetto. With premiums starting as low as \$112 for 35-year-old men and \$124 for women, Miami-Dade Blue has exceeded all expectations and continues to offer so much promise. But even with all of its success, we know Miami-Dade Blue can't reach all of the estimated 600,000 uninsured in our community. We know there are still those who fall through the cracks with incomes so limited they find themselves choosing between mortgage payments, car payments, food and health insurance. So we have found yet another way to enhance an already successful Miami-Dade Blue program.

COVERAGE

With \$500,000 from the state, we will now be able to cover a portion of the monthly insurance premium for approximately 400 low-to-moderate income residents under an initiative named the Health Insurance Utilization Program (HIUP). HIUP provides assistance for individuals making a minimum of \$16,000 and a maximum of \$27,000 a year. This limited premium assistance will only go so far, but it is one more way Miami-Dade County is chipping away at our community's healthcare challenges.

Initial enrollment took place on July 14 - 23, but individuals are encouraged to apply until all slots are filled. Miami-Dade residents who think they are eligible for Miami-Dade Blue and/or premium assistance, can learn more by calling 311 or visiting www.miamidade.gov. Remember, this is not free health care.

Participants will still be responsible for paying a portion of their premium each month.

We know there is no one answer to tackling our health care challenge, but this is yet another component that works with our initiatives on expanding primary care and reducing chronic diseases through our commitment in getting people insured and improving the health of our residents.

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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

• 'Phashionistas' show

"Phashionistas on the Runway: Plus Size Edition" fashion show will be staged at 8 p.m. Aug. 22 at Renaissance Hotel, 1230 S. Pine Island Road in Plantation, Florida.

The show is being presented by Maurice Tucker and Mackenze Model Agency.

For more information, call 954-639-6922 or e-mail info@phashionshows.com.

• JADF launch

The Jamaica Arts Development

Foundation, Inc. (JADF), a Florida-based nonprofit organization, celebrated the foundation's launch in South Florida last month. JADF's mission is to provide educational and developmental opportunities that promote awareness, management effectiveness, and creative excellence among Jamaican arts and entertainment practitioners worldwide.

Compiled from various sources.



'I Am Jamaica' looks to inspire unity among island's people through music

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

to all of us, and to be a part of re-instilling a sense of unity amongst Jamaicans at home and abroad is a great thing," declared Lindo.

"Music is a common language of our people for generations, and at this point in our history we need to bring back

that positive vibe in our music and in our daily actions. The time is right now...Together we can make a difference. I am Jamaica."

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



Simply salmon: A great choice for happy summer seafood grilling

WOLFGANG PUCK

Today almost everybody enjoys grilling fish.

A beautifully browned surface and a hint of smoky flavor work wonders for seafood. So, too, does the intense heat of a grill, which can cook fish fillets through quickly, leaving their surfaces with a touch of crispness while their interiors stay perfectly moist.

The first step is to choose the right kind of fish. Good choices include sea bass, tuna, mahi mahi and swordfish. But one of my favorite choices for grilling is salmon, because it has a fairly high fat content that keeps it extra moist and flavorful.

Make sure it's fresh. Buy your seafood from a store that has a reputation for quality and a frequent turnover of its product. Avoid any fillets that lack bright, moist color, that don't look firm, or that have any kind of "off" smell.

Good fish doesn't need much seasoning. In this recipe, I simply sprinkle the fish with some salt and pepper, and serve it with an intense-tasting warm tomato butter sauce.

HANDS OFF

For the best grilling

results, a simple, hands-off approach is best for fish. Pat the fillets dry, as moisture could lead to them sticking to the grilling. For an added precaution, lightly coat them with nonstick cooking spray, and then season lightly.

NO FUSS

Don't fuss with the fillets once they're on the grill. Just turn them once, halfway through the cooking time.

Don't overcook the fish. To test for doneness, insert the tip of a sharp knife into the center of a fillet: It should still look very slightly undercooked inside, the equivalent of medium for a piece of meat. By the time you get it to the table the residual heat in the fillet will complete the cooking, yielding moist, perfectly done results.

Grilled salmon with tomato butter

Tomato butter

- 2 large, ripe tomatoes, quartered
- 1 garlic clove
- 1 sprig fresh basil
- 4 sprigs fresh parsley
- 2 shallots, thinly sliced
- 1/2 small organic carrot, thinly sliced
- 1 cup dry white wine



Today almost everybody enjoys grilling fish.

- 2 to 3 tablespoons sherry vinegar or red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon tomato paste (optional)
- 6 ounces unsalted butter, softened slightly

Salmon

- 4 fillets salmon, each about six ounces
- Nonstick cooking spray, plain or olive oil-flavored
- Freshly ground white pepper
- 4 fresh basil leaves, for garnish

Method

First, make the tomato butter. Put the tomatoes, garlic, basil, parsley, one shallot, and carrot in a food processor fitted with the metal blade. Process until pureed. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.

Chop the remaining shallot and put it in a large saucepan with the wine and two tablespoons of the vinegar. Bring to a boil and then simmer over medium heat until the liquid has reduced to one tablespoon, about 20 minutes.

Stir in the reserved puree and cook until thick and

intensely flavored, 15 to 20 minutes longer. Taste and, if the flavor needs more intensity, stir in the tomato paste. Reduce the heat to low and, a little at a time, whisk in the butter. Then, hold a fine-meshed strainer over a clean saucepan and pour the sauce through the strainer, using a rubber spatula to press it through.

Season to taste with salt, pepper and, if necessary, add a little more vinegar. Cover and keep warm.

While the sauce is cooking, preheat an outdoor grill. When the grill is hot, lightly spray the salmon fillets on both sides with some nonstick spray and season both sides with salt and white pepper. Carefully place the fillets on the cooking grid and grill just until cooked through, three to four minutes per side.

Spoon the tomato butter onto each of four serving plates. Place a grilled salmon fillet on top and garnish each fillet with a basil leaf. Serve immediately. Serves four.

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a culture so rich you can taste it



Some believe that Jamaica's national bird, the Doctor Bird, got its name because its long tail feathers resemble the formal tailcoats island doctors once wore. Others believe it has healing powers. But everyone agrees that it holds a very special place in this Caribbean country's history and heart.



Happy Independence Day, Jamaica. 8 • 06 • 10

Publix.

Both the Doctor Bird and the Flowers are made from favorite island foods. The Doctor Bird: Peppers, Avocado, Coffee Beans, Coconut, Aloe, Bok Choy, Taro Root, Flavrins, Okra, Green Onion and Bananas. Flowers: Eggplant Steaks, Banana Bunches, Mint Leaves and Stems.

Cultural festivals help spice up T&T's summer

Visitors traveling to Trinidad and Tobago this summer will have the chance to take part in some of the island's revered

For more information, visit www.muhtadidrumfest.com.

Santa Rosa Festival – Aug. 24
The Santa Rosa Festival cele-



The Tobago Muhtadi Drumming Festival helps spice up the summer.

events. Two are listed below:

Tobago Muhtadi Drumming Festival

Showcasing the cross-cultural influences of the drum, the sixth annual Tobago Muhtadi International Drumming Festival will take place Aug. 7-8 at the Dwight Yorke Stadium.

A celebration of rhythm and culture, the two-day event features workshops, individual performances and group productions performed by percussionists from the Caribbean and around the world. Visitors and locals will be treated to rhythms and beats from some of the world's best drummers.

brates the cross-cultural relationship between the Amerindians and Christianity. About 300 descendants of the Carib Amerindians, who settled the Caribbean before Columbus arrived, formed a community near Arima in Trinidad to protect their cultural traditions.

The festival features a procession headed by the Carib Queen, a lunch with traditional Amerindian food, and a display of arts and crafts.

For more information on these events in Trinidad and Tobago, visit www.goTrinidadandTobago.com or www.visittobago.gov.tt.



'Sparrow' listed in U.S. Congressional Record

NEW YORK – As the Caribbean community here celebrated the 75th birthday of the calypso king of the world, the Mighty Sparrow, Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke said that she has ensured that he is listed in the United States Congressional Record.

"It is important that the entire nation knows what the Mighty Sparrow has done for us," Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, told an honor ceremony at Brooklyn Borough Hall, downtown Brooklyn last month.

"So we have entered him in the Congressional Record," added the representative for the predominantly Caribbean, 11th Congressional District.

Reading from the record, Clarke said Sparrow, whose real name is Slinger Francisco, has entertained audiences "from the Caribbean to Asia and all points in between," in a career spanning over 50 years.

She said the Mighty Sparrow was born to poor, working-class parents in Grand Roy, Grenada, and migrated to his adopted homeland, Trinidad and Tobago, when he was a year old. As a child, Sparrow attended New Town Boys School in T&T and sang in St. Patrick's Catholic Church "where his talent was quickly recognized, as he became head choirboy," the congresswoman

said.

She listed among his influences leading American artistes, such as Nat King Cole, Frankie Laine, Sarah Vaughn, Billy Eckstein, Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, as well as Trinidadian calypso pioneers Lord Melody, Lord Kitchener, Lord Christo, Lord Invader and the Mighty Spoiler.

SUCCESS

The Congressional Record states that "The Birdie", as Sparrow is also called, had found success early with his hit "Jean and Dinah" at age 20.

"Not satisfied with early success, he followed up with a

University of the West Indies; and general contributions to music and society, with then New York City Mayor Ed Koch proclaiming Mar. 18, 1986 "The Mighty Sparrow Day", the Congressional Record notes.

"I hope all of my colleagues will join me in celebrating the birthday and extraordinary body of work that The Mighty Sparrow has contributed during his career as a lyricist, composer, singer, comedian and entertainer," Clarke said.

'TOUCHED'

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Sparrow "touched the lives of countless listeners."

"Today's event is a terrific opportunity to commemorate all of your past accomplishments while looking forward to many more on the horizon", he said in a statement read by Roy Hastick, the Grenadian-born president of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

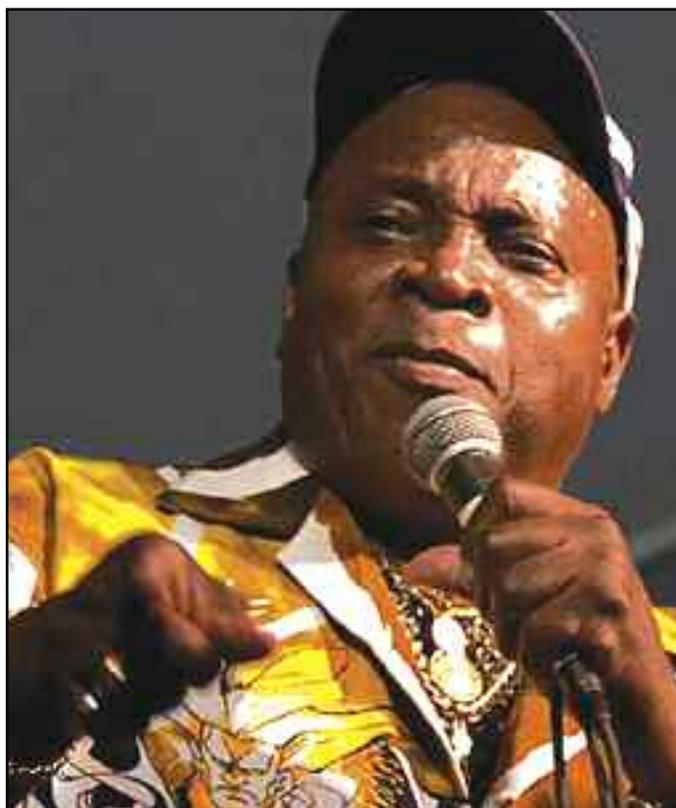
Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz said, in jest, that he became a "Trini" - short for Trinidadian - because of the Mighty Sparrow, stating that

Sparrow's "Congo Man" was one of his favorite songs.

"It is wonderful that you can understand his music and his words," said Markowitz, declaring July 10, 2010 "The Mighty Sparrow Celebration Day".

Citations were also presented to Sparrow by New York State Senate Majority Leader John Sampson, the son of a Guyanese father, and New York State Assemblyman Jamaican Nick Perry.

- CMC



Mighty Sparrow

rapid succession of hits, including 'Carnival Boycott', 'P.A.Y.E.', 'Russian Satellite', 'Theresa', 'Good Citizen', 'Salt Fish' and 'Penny Commission', just to name a few", it noted.

The Record stated that Sparrow's songs cover a "broad range of socially conscious topics including education, tyranny in Africa, animal cruelty and the welfare of his home of Trinidad and Tobago".

The Mighty Sparrow's accomplishments include multiple T&T Road March Competition titles; multiple Calypso Monarch titles; an honorary doctorate from the

Independence Ball set for Aug. 8

The eighth annual charitable ball, to commemorate the 48th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's Independence, will be held on Aug. 21 at the Signature Grand, 6900 W. State Road 84 in Davie, Florida.

Music will be provided by Caribbean Music Farm, Inc. and DJ Maestro.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dinner is at 9 p.m. The function ends at 2 a.m.

Ticket prices and other information about the ball may be obtained from the office of the T&T consulate in South Florida.



CAN WE TALK?



Peter A. Webley,
Publisher

Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves. If you are going to a party or a formal function, don't you dress well? We all want to promote a favorable impression of ourselves to other people we meet and talk to.

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Down to business: Diversification key to T&T's development ~ P.M.

DAWN A. DAVIS

On the heels of her visit to Montego Bay, Jamaica for the 31st Caribbean community (CARICOM) Summit, newly elected Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar stopped off in South Florida to market the twin island republic as the perfect business and trade partner.

Addressing business leaders and politicians at a reception last month, Persad-Bissessar, the island's first woman prime minister, explained to the audience that "alliances must be created between and among business communities" and that "Trinidad and Tobago is ready for business".

Based on the text of her speech, a copy which was obtained by Caribbean Today, she highlighted T&T's strengths. The prime minister explained that T&T long ago established a bustling petroleum industry, which was first commercialized in 1908 with natural gas going the same route in 1953. The twin-island republic quickly became a major source of natural gas for the United States, she noted.

The prime minister explained, however, that T&T must now diversify its oil and gas-based driven economy.

"We must build sectors, which in the next 10 to 20 years will replace some of the income that we now derive from oil and gas", she noted in her prepared speech.

"The non-energy sector is key to our diversification effort and the reduction of our dependence on earnings from the existing exhaustible energy resources which we now possess".

Persad-Bissessar noted that while the production of methanol, ammonia, and steel remain viable areas of investment, the country is looking at renewable energy as a major investment focus for the future.

"We want to make Trinidad and Tobago more competitive, more innovative in our current industries", she explained. "Eventually we will be looking for new marketing and development opportunities and here we will seek to capitalize on the positive relationships we already enjoy with countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia".

According to the prime minister, T&T already has formal trade agreements with countries such as the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, and those from the European



Bissessar

Union, and is currently working on an agreement with Canada. The hope is also to negotiate a trade development agreement with the U.S.

The prime minister noted that T&T's strong eight percent GDP growth over the past 10 years is an indication of the twin-island republic's readiness for a business and investor-friendly climate. She also listed some of the sectors where business opportunities now exist, including the cultural and entertainment sec-

tor, ethnic products, food processing, the maritime industry, services industries, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and food production.

She also noted the development of a new Information Communication Technology Industry (CTI) sector park that she claimed "is poised to be a world-class, state-of-the-art science and technology park and a central location for established and emerging companies".

Persad-Bissessar noted the effect of the global economic crisis, but sought to allay the fears of potential investors.

"There is no denying the fact that the economy of Trinidad and Tobago witnessed negative growth due to the global economic downturn", her speech noted.

"Indeed our economy experienced a contraction of about three percent in 2009, as a result of the global crisis, which adversely impacted commodity prices inclusive of oil and natural".

However, she explained that a major financial group in T&T and in the wider Caribbean has expressed optimism about commodity-based economies like T&T with the

expectation that the twin-island republic will have positive growth in the coming year. The government, according to Persad-Bissessar, expects to return to positive growth by the end of 2010.

The prime minister also implored CARICOM leaders to look at the challenges affecting the region from the external environment and their impact on regional development, but use the adversities as tools for growth.

"Certainly the global economic downturn brought into sharp focus the interconnectedness of world economies", Persad-Bissessar stated.

"Small Caribbean economies intersect with the rest of the world and indeed they are quite easily affected by adverse conditions...I challenge you to allow that convergence of economies, with respect to Trinidad and Tobago, to be one which promotes prosperity, facilitates innovation, creates wealth and improves the standard of living for all our citizens".

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. Photograph by U. Bennett.



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Carnival in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is a dazzling display of both native and multicultural influences. Known worldwide for its distinctive take on an international festival, some consider this island nation the unofficial "birthplace" of the Caribbean's most spectacular celebration of art and history.

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T&T jurist on panel probing international human rights case

UNITED NATIONS, CMC – Trinidadian jurist Karl Hudson-Phillips is among a panel of experts appointed to conduct an independent probe into whether Israel's raid on Gaza-bound aid ships violated international law.

Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow, president of the United Nations Human Rights Council, appointed the experts to an international fact-finding mission to "investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance", which took place on May 31.

In addition to Judge Hudson-Phillips, the other experts are Britain's Sir Desmond de Silva and Mary Shanthi Dairiam of Malaysia.

"The expertise, independence and impartiality of the members of the mission will be devoted to clarifying the events which took place that day and their legality. We call upon all parties to fully cooperate with the mission and hope that this mission will contribute to peace in the region and justice for victims," Amb.

Phuangketkeow said.

MISSION

The establishment of this independent international fact-finding mission was decided on June 2 by the council that had previously held an urgent debate on the raid on the flotilla by Israeli Defense Forces. The U.N. council deplored "the loss of life of innocent civilians" during that debate.

"The experts will now define their plan of action and make contact with all relevant parties prior to travelling to the region. They are expected to report on their findings to the United Nations Human Rights Council at its fifteenth session in September 2010", a recent U.N. statement noted.

Hudson-Phillips, a former attorney general in T&T, served as a judge of the International Criminal Court from 2003 to 2007. He has returned to private practice in T&T and Grenada.

Hudson-Phillips, a former attorney general in T&T, served as a judge of the International Criminal Court from 2003 to 2007. He has returned to private practice in T&T and Grenada.



Hudson

'Heritage Festival' celebrates Tobago own traditions

The lesser-known half of the twin-island republic of Trinidad and Tobago knows how to hold its own in the spotlight.

An annual event which pays tribute to Tobago's traditions and the impact of the destination's predominant African heritage is held each summer. This year, the

"Tobago Heritage Festival" ran from July 16 to Aug. 1.

Over the years the festival has been used as a celebration of culture to educate and entertain visitors and youth. Each village contributes a unique presentation.

The main event each year is the traditional "Ole Time Wedding", hosted in the vil-

lage of Moriah. This marriage ceremony highlights the influences of European culture on the local population, featuring a colorful procession of a satin-garbed and top-hatted wedding party, and guests dancing in the streets.

For more information, visit www.visittobago.gov.tt.



T&T celebrates Emancipation Day on Aug. 1

This public holiday commemorates the liberation of African slaves throughout the English speaking Caribbean in 1839.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the tradition remains strong. Since 1985, locals cele-

brate this day every August with a strong emphasis on African-oriented cultural events, such as street parades featuring towering moko jumbies or stilt-walkers, an Emancipation Village in Port of Spain that offers arts and

crafts, as well as a live showcase with both local and international performers.

In addition, the Great Race, a power boat race from Trinidad to Tobago, takes place during this weekend.



Gov't names commission to probe failed 1990 coup

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – Retired Court of Appeal judge Mustapha Ibrahim, will chair a five-member commission of inquiry into the attempted coup by members of a radical Muslim group that sought to overthrow the Trinidad and Tobago government in 1990, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has announced.

She told Parliament late last month that the other members of the commission are former independent senators Dr. Eastlyn McKenzie and Dianna Mahabir-Wyatt, former Barbados attorney general and senior government minister, Dr. Richard L. Cheltenham, Q.C., and international security consultant and United States war veteran Dr. H.A Mohammed.

Leader of the Jamaat-al-Muslimeen group Yasin Abu Bakr led more than more than 100 members in coordinated attacks on the Parliament and the lone television station on July 27, 1990, hoping to overthrow the then government of Prime Minister ANR Robinson. At least 24 people, including one legislator, Leo Des Vignes, were killed during the six day insurrection that ended on Aug. 1.

Bakr and his men were tried for treason, but the Court of Appeal upheld the amnesty offered to secure their surrender, and they were released. However, The London-based Privy Council, the country's highest court, later invalidated the amnesty, but the Muslimeen members were not re-arrested.

would begin its hearings.





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'BETTER LATE'

Persad Bissessar told legislators that it was important to hold the inquiry since it would provide an opportunity for healing within the country. "Better late than never," she said, adding that the cost in staging the public inquiry cannot be counted in terms of dollars and cents.

"The memory of the trauma is alive," the prime minister said, adding that she hopes many answered questions will be answered as a result of the inquiry.

The prime minister, who defended the decision to appoint the inquiry by pointing to various inquiries worldwide long after the event had occurred, gave no indication as to when the commission

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After the storm: Jamaica promotes safety, fun, beauty

JUDITH HUDSON

“What visitors abroad don’t understand is that what was happening only affected a small part of the island - one city block,” insisted Sheldon Seymour, senior operations manager of The Knutsford Court Hotel in New Kingston, Jamaica.

Seymour spoke in reference to the recent violent uprising in Tivoli Gardens, Jamaica, where, in an attempt to capture alleged “Shower Posse” leader Christopher “Dudus” Coke for extradition to the United States, Jamaican police came under heavy gunfire, allegedly from allies of Coke. The near week-long clash resulted in more than 70 deaths and a possibly marred image of the island paradise.

But appearances may be deceptive as local businesses attest to a short-lived, centralized disturbance.

“Business travelers cancelled reservations, because they did not know whether Kingston was safe,” declared Seymour, “but what was happening in Tivoli Gardens did

not affect us in New Kingston.”

PREVENTION

Karl Angell, director of communications for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), said Tivoli Gardens is quiet now as the military and police are taking a different approach to crime. The security forces intend to go into communities and work with the people. Angell said in the past the military was seen as an outsider and residents who communicated with the police were called “informers”.

“(Now) the security forces will be friendlier to the people,” Angell explained.

In an effort to restore Jamaica’s image as the island paradise, the Jamaican Tourist Board, along with Air Jamaica, recently invited several influential persons to the island. The group included journalists, clergymen, travel agents and Jamaican diaspora community leaders. The venture was dubbed diaspora “Familiarization” tour of Kingston. It included discussions with police and military

personnel on their plans to keep the island safe.

IMPRESSED

At the end of the four days, invitees (which included this writer) were impressed with the beauty and majesty of Jamaica and at no time felt unsafe during their stay. Participants were housed in New Kingston, but toured downtown Kingston, including the Tour Coins and Note Museum at Bank of Jamaica. Devon House and Fort Clarence Beach were also visited.

Kay Chong, director of Air Jamaica, said the objective of the initiative was to broadcast the good news of vacationing in Jamaica and to dispel the misinformation that Kingston is not safe for travel. “Kingston has a lot to offer,” Chong said, “not only for visitors, but for those returning home as well.”

Judith Hudson is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.

St. Lucia kicks off ‘Live the Legend’ promotional tour in North America

NEW YORK – St. Lucia has kicked off its 2010 summer/fall travel road shows in the United States.

The tour is aiming to promote the Caribbean island under the theme “Live the Legend”, which highlights the uniqueness and authenticity of the destination’s products, services and attractions to the travel agent community.

The shows will feature St. Lucia Tourist Board’s (SLTB) marketing and sales teams are scheduled to visit during the first week of August.

According to Nerdin St. Rose, SLTB’s vice president of marketing and sales, her team

will tour about 20 U.S. cities in August, September and early October, before turning over the sales effort to the Canadian office in mid-October.

Scheduled stops include New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland; Washington D.C./ Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida; Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York.



St. Rose

Air Jamaica names Hall as new G.M.

Howard Hall, Air Jamaica’s vice president of finance and information technology, has assumed the position of general manager as the airline continues the integration process with Caribbean Airlines.

Hall’s appointment became effective July 1 after the contract of Air Jamaica’s President and Chief Executive Officer Bruce R. Nobles ended on June 30.

Hall has served two tenures

at Air Jamaica, first as chief financial officer from 2000 to 2004, and again as vice president of finance and IT since Oct. 2008. He will also continue to function in his current role as head of finance and IT.



Hall

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Norma Bancroft: Her gift is to keep on giving to the needy

JUDITH HUDSON

"I was born to help," said Norma Bancroft, president of the Florida Organization of Jamaicans (FOJ). "I am fortunate, so I can give back to the less fortunate."

Bancroft, a native of Jamaica, makes her living as an interior decorator and vendor with Miami-Dade County. However, it is her love for people and her extensive charity efforts that she is best known for.

Bancroft started giving back 30 years ago and her philanthropy has only multiplied since. She asserts that giving back comes naturally to her because she was involved in charity work as a young woman when she joined The St. John Ambulance Association in Jamaica.

Greatly moved by Haiti's devastation from the Jan. 12 earthquake, Bancroft, as she is known for doing, used her own funds to aid that Caribbean nation's recovery. She also embarked on a full force campaigning effort to raise money to assist the

impoverished Haiti's people. According to Bancroft, donations came from as far away as Texas, and though the \$2,000 she raised fell short of her \$6,000 goal needed to ship boxes to Haiti, she had no problem coming up with the rest.



Bancroft, left, helps prepare a charity shipment.

"People were already giving food," Bancroft said. "So I wanted to give blankets, towels, pillows, pillow cases and sheets."

ORGANIZATION
Some FOJ members

helped assemble 153 boxes at the Antilles Freight Corporation, which were later shipped by Food for the Poor to Haiti to be distributed.

"The boxes were already organized," Bancroft explained. "Distributors didn't have to open them to distrib-

ute the items. All they had to do was hand out the boxes." She said she was delighted that the boxes were sent to rural Cap-Haitian instead of the capital Port-au-Prince, which is central to the relief effort.

"When anything is given out on the island, the people in the rural parts of the island tend to be overlooked," Bancroft noted.

Arthur Bell, FOJ's vice president, who has known Bancroft for over 40 years, calls her "a phenomenal person" who "only wants to hear about someone suffering, and she plunges right in to help."

"She never stops," Bell said. "She continues to give of herself. She asks for no reward and no publicity."

CHARITY WORK

Bell emphasized that Bancroft's charity work extends beyond the Haitian relief effort to include Mexican migrant workers and poor Jamaican students in the United States. Bancroft often hosts Christmas parties for the migrant workers and finances scholarships for the students. He added that Bancroft, in collaboration with Barry

University, has set up a scholarship in his wife's name - The Yvonne Bell Scholarship - which allows poor Jamaican students to attend the private university.

In addition, Bell said "(Bancroft) has donated 40 foot containers to be used as classroom in Alligator Pond, Jamaica.

"I just don't know what else to say about her," Bell said. "Her kindness knows no bounds."

Bancroft's wish is to work until she can no longer do so, and to give as long as she has something to give. "My reward is to put a smile on people's faces," she said with her own wan smile when asked what she wanted in return.

Judith Hudson is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



FYI

CELEBRATING JAMAICA
Several events to mark Jamaica's Independence this month will be hosted in the United States. Below is a listing of some. (The events, unless otherwise stated, will be held in Florida.)

Aug. 7

- **2 p.m.** - Family Day Picnic - Jamaica Independence Celebration at Miramar Regional Park Corporate Pavilion. Hosted by Friends of Good Shepherd. Call **954-441-9886** for more information.
- **6:30 p.m.** - Jamaica Gala Fundraiser, The Jamaica Foundation of Houston at Westin Galleria Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 5060 W. Alabama, Houston, Texas. Visit www.jamaicafoundationofhouston.org for more information.
- **7 p.m.** - "Celebration Concert" marking Jamaica's 48th Independence at Berean Church of God, 3601 Davie Blvd. Call **954-792-1110** or **954-792-1115** for more information.
- **7 p.m.** - Annual Independence Ball, Jamaican/American Association of Central Florida at Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Dr., Orlando. Call **407-292-3719** for more information.
- **7 p.m.** - Annual Independence Ball at Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Cobb Galleria, Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, call **770-953-4500**, **404-425-8674** or **404-787-4206**; or visit www.ajaatlanta.org.

Aug. 8

- **Noon to 9 p.m.** - Jamaica Independence Celebrations "Fun Day" at Miramar Regional Park, Miramar. Call **954-251-1643** and

954-394-0758 or visit www.caribbeanriddims.com for more information.

- **3 p.m.** - Mass of Thanksgiving - Jamaica Emancipation and Independence at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, 1400 S. State Road 7. Call **954-974-8453**, **954-443-9248** or **954-485-6840** for more information.

Aug. 15, 3 p.m. - Annual thanksgiving service at First United Methodist Church, 230 Prima Vista Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Florida. Call **772-879-9414** or **772-828-7490** for more information.

Aug. 20 - Caribbean Cultural Association Independence Observance in Tampa, Florida. A joint celebration of Jamaican and Trinidad and Tobago Independence.

Events dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the affiliated organizations or producers for details.

BUSINESS EXPO

Local entrepreneurs will be able to showcase their products and services during Caribbean American For Community Involvement, Inc.'s (CAFCI) 15th annual "Business Expo Family Fun Day" from **1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 21** at Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center, 151 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach, Florida.

This year's theme is "Business Survival in Challenging Times". For more information, call **561-791-1618** or **561-315-3598**.



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Salesman fallout: Image of Caribbean Americans comes under scrutiny

DAWN A. DAVIS

Caribbean Americans are expressing hope that the recent criminal conviction of high profile, Jamaican-born, former Miramar City Commissioner Fitzroy Salesman will not damage their image, especially those seeking public office with local elections looming.

Following a series of legal troubles starting around 2005, Salesman was recently convicted in South Florida of taking bribes and sentenced to four years and three months in prison.

The court's decision has sparked discussions in the Caribbean American community over Salesman's plight. Some opinions have been more vociferous than others, according to checks by Caribbean Today, especially among Jamaican Americans in South Florida. The consensus appears to indicate that the colorful and outspoken ex-commissioner was not representative of the overall community's character, which will lessen the impact of his legal tumble.

Jamaican-born Barbara Savage, a Broward County resident, does not believe the Salesman issue is a stain on the Jamaican American community.

"I don't think all Jamaicans are as cocky as him," Savage told Caribbean Today recently.

"If you were to do a survey among Jamaicans in the community, how many other Jamaicans in powerful positions would be perceived like that? Not many. Plus, if you look at his history, it is clear he has a problem. So, this issue has nothing to do with being a Caribbean person, it is a problem he has to deal with personally."

DISTINCTION

That distinction, she explained, will not be difficult to make, especially by voters.

Jamaican-born former U.S. city commish gets prison sentence for bribery, extortion

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

and campaigns were a crime, "I guess all the way down from the White House to city halls, crimes have been committed."

But Judge Cohn described Salesman's actions as "paradoxical," noting that "Mr. Salesman would openly recognize the illegality of pay to play but, nevertheless, engage in the illegal action."

The sentencing guidelines for

"I certainly wouldn't use one person to judge everybody," Savage said. "With local elections coming up, Salesman's criminal conviction will not be looked at in a Caribbean context. I don't think Caribbean nationals will suffer as a result of Salesman. I think people



Ex-Miramar City Commissioner Fitzroy Salesman in one of his many court appearances in recent years.

will start to scrutinize politicians more."

According to Valerie Martin, a teacher and 21-year Miramar resident, while the ex-commissioner's problems could possibly leave an ugly mark on the Caribbean American community, they also indicate that immigrants are no different those born in the U.S.

"I think the Salesman situation has created somewhat of a stain on the community," said Martin. "But it illustrates that we are not exempt from poor judgment, greed, arrogance, etc. I think to pretend it didn't happen would be to subscribe to denial, but I don't think this incident has or will destroy the credibility of Caribbean Americans."

EXCEPTION

Jamaican-born Lauderdale City Commissioner Dale Holness, who is running for Broward County commissioner for District 9, which incorporates a nine-city area, said Salesman will likely be seen as the exception, rather than the rule, when it comes to how Caribbean Americans are viewed.

"He (Salesman) is one individual and no one should judge what happened to him as something that everyone else would be involved in, whether they are Caribbean or not," said Holness, who added that he does not believe Salesman's legal problems will affect his own campaign.

According to Martin, there are plenty of positive examples in the Caribbean American community.

"Hazel Rogers, Winston Barnes, Eric Brown, Dale Holness, George Pedlar are all Caribbean Americans, just to name a few, who are, or have been public servants who have not been associated with anything illegal," she said. "So why should one person be used to predict the behavior of others?"

There was also confidence expressed in the resilience of Caribbean Americans to withstand the public downfall of one of their own. Broward-based attorney Jahra McLawrence, who was born in Dominica, is therefore looking to the community for support this month in his bid for Broward County Court judge.

"The Caribbean American people that I have come across are enthusiastic about voting, enthusiastic

about getting involved, getting informed about the voting process," he said, adding that legal troubles are not exclusive to Caribbean people. "I don't think they are looking back. They are looking forward. It's our nature."

COPING

Some acknowledged that adversity will always occur, but it is how residents handle it that matters.

"Every community in South Florida has had to deal with leaders who have faced challenges," said Marlon Hill, an attorney and Jamaican Diaspora Board member. "The Caribbean community is just coming into its own and is

not immune from these incidents. The community will learn, move on, and be better or more cognizant from it."

But others, like Jamaican-born retail manager Michael Finlay, do not feel sorry for Salesman.

"Salesman first got himself in trouble when he pulled the gun in the supermarket," said Finlay referring to another incident which landed the ex-commissioner in a legal tangle. "He could have apologized and move on, but he was too cocky. It is definitely an ego thing with him. He behaves in such a way that people always have negative

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)



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Economic crisis batters Caribbean, but there are signs of recovery

NEW YORK – “You’re fired!” The words stabbed him like a knife as David Sullivan became yet another victim of the economic crisis.

He added to the thousands of tourism employees in the Caribbean who have been made redundant as a result of the unfavorable economic climate.

The International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) regional economic outlook, that “the effects of the financial crisis on the Caribbean will likely persist into 2010”, is coming to pass. What adds to the gloom is that remittances are on their way down, argues Jwala Rambaran, Caribbean economist and managing director of CAP-M Research.

“Remittances are down sharply in the Caribbean, especially those coming from the (United States) U.S. which is at the center of the crisis,” said Rambaran.

He said this is destructive to any economic recovery as the Caribbean is actually the most dependent region in the world on remittances. In relation to gross domestic product, remittances accounted for

at least 15 percent of the region’s GDP before the global recession

MIXED VIEWS

The economist further expressed pessimism that the region is growing out of the recession. He argued that even Trinidad and Tobago, the strongest country in CARICOM, is still feeling constraints as a result of the recession. He added that the tourism-based countries in the eastern Caribbean have been hit quite hard and are not expected to recover fully until at least 2011. His outlook for remittances is supported by the report from the IMF, which states that “the outlook for remittances is not favorable”.

But his pessimism is not shared by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). That organization contends that there are definite signs the recession is coming to an end, adding that even during the recession some islands showed increases in tourism arrivals,



The economic crisis has slowed the flow of remittances from the U.S. to the Caribbean and cost people jobs.

which is a major economic indicator for Caribbean. The rate of decline appears to be leveling off and is not as dramatic as the beginning of the recession, which breeds optimistic beliefs, WTTC claims.

Moreover, the United Nation’s World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Barometer states “the Caribbean is showing signs of stabilization and recovery”.

Professor of Economics at Cardiff University Keith Whitfield noted that the Caribbean is definitely on its way to recovery. Whitfield argued that some of the major world economies are on their way to recovery, claiming that some countries are even out of recession, therefore the Caribbean is gradually getting there.

He added that all of the talk about a double dip recession and a long-term depression was over the top.

So if Whitfield’s argument that an improvement in the U.S. economy will bounce onto the Caribbean, then the economic prospect for the region should be optimistic.

The IMF noted “the U.S. economy appears to have hit bottom in the second quarter of 2009 and is showing signs of recovery after a sharp contraction”. Further, the UNWTO noted that experts have picked up an air of optimism from the U.S.

Moreover, UNWTO argued that while things will be challenging, results show that the decline in international tourism may have bottomed out. Data from Oxford Economics support this stance. And in its annual report Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2009, there are positive prospects for growth rates for most countries.

CHALLENGE

However, the organization expressed reservation as to whether the recovery will be constant.

Nevertheless, as the UNWTO noted, one of the main challenges to the recovery of the recession is the unemployment rate and this is both for the Caribbean and major economies.

The IMF noted that “bleak employment conditions and a protracted process of households” balance sheet repair will weigh down on the outlook for remittances and tourism in the LAC region, especially affecting countries in the Caribbean.

This leaves many in the region, especially in the tourism industry, apprehensive, fearing the possibility of hearing the words: “You’re fired!”

- Edited from story by Sarah Peter/Special to CaribbeanWorldNews.



Salesman fallout: Image of Caribbean Americans comes under scrutiny

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25)

things to say about him.” Finlay said Salesman being of Caribbean descent will not have an impact on votes in races involving people with links to the region.

“People will vote for Caribbean candidates just the same,” he explained. But Salesman should not expect forgiveness any time soon.

“As far as I am concerned,” said Finlay, “I would never give him another chance. He is too cocky and behaves as if he is untouchable.”

For Martin and others,

Caribbean Americans’ contribution in the U.S., especially in South Florida, cannot be diminished by Salesman’s problems.

“Caribbean Americans are very much major contributors to what Broward County is and they must be a part of the political landscape,” she said.

“There is no choice in this. Sometimes the public gets an honest politician and sometimes not.”

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



CARIBBEAN TODAY

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Heat wave: Protect yourself when temperatures soar this summer

Even before climate changes kicked in, summers were hot. And whatever the future holds for our environment, summers will be hot.

Summer's heat is more than a hardship, it's a killer. In an average year, about 200 Americans die from heat-related illnesses. In hot summers the toll can double. Many more people suffer less severe heat-related illnesses.

But if heat is inevitable, illness is not. A few simple precautions can protect you from becoming a seasonal statistic. In medical terms, heat can produce three distinct patterns of injury:

- **Heat cramps** - Most men experience muscle cramps from time to time. It's OK to dismiss the occasional cramp as a simple "charley horse", but if you get recurrent cramps in hot weather, you could be heading for trouble. Heat cramps signal dehydration severe enough to deprive muscles of the extra oxygen they need to exercise. The remedy: slow down, tank up with cool water, stretch out and gently massage the tight muscle, and get out of the heat.

- **Heat exhaustion** - Heat cramps are painful but not threatening; that's because body temperature is normal even though muscles are in spasm. But in heat exhaustion, body temperature is high, often above 103 degrees F. Other symptoms include weakness, lethargy, loss of concentration, headache, and nausea; muscle cramps may also occur.

Heat exhaustion impairs mental clarity and judgment, so you may not recognize the problem as it develops. Be alert for early symptoms and take corrective action as soon as they appear. Be watchful, too, for signs of heat exhaustion in others; confusion, profuse sweating, and flushed, clammy skin are among the tip-offs.

Move the victim to a cool place as soon as possible; remove his clothing and fan him en route. You should apply ice packs if they're available, cool fluids if not. Cool fluids on the skin will lower body temperature, but it's even more important to get them down the hatch. Don't force someone who is weak and confused to drink too much too fast, but keep

offering small amounts of fluid until hydration is restored.

- **Heat stroke** - It's the illness that kills each and every summer, even with treatment. There are two distinct forms of heat stroke. Classic heat stroke is the more common. It's also called epidemic heat stroke. The typical victims are elderly people who stay in their stifling apartments without air conditioners or fans. The other form is exertional heat stroke, also called sporadic heat stroke because it occurs in isolated cases rather than in community-wide outbreaks. The typical victim is a man who exercises vigorously in the first few days of a hot spell; many are young, and most are out of shape. Heavy clothing, exposure to direct sunlight, and dehydration often add fuel to the fire — and the hazard is greatest when it's least expected.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency. It starts out looking like heat exhaustion, but its symptoms are more severe, and they progress more quickly, as lethargy, weakness, and confusion evolve into delirium, stupor, coma, and seizures. Body temperature

rises drastically, often exceeding 105 degrees or 106 degrees. Even with so much excess body heat, the victim's skin may be pale and inappropriately dry due to a failure of normal sweating.

Heat stroke is a killer because it damages the heart, liver, kidneys, brain, and blood

clotting system. Survival depends on prompt transfer to an emergency ward for aggressive treatment. Expert metabolic and cardiovascular care is mandatory, but even in this era of high-tech medicine, the best way to lower a heat stroke patient's temperature is to
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

Study rejects higher prevalence of AIDS in Haitian immigrants

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts - A new study has found that the AIDS rate among Haitian immigrants in the United States is similar to the rate for African Americans, challenging previous notions that Haitian immigrants have a higher prevalence of AIDS than all other groups.

The study, titled "HIV among Haitian-born persons in the United States, 1985-2007", is the first to report on HIV surveillance and AIDS trends for Haitians compared to the U.S. population and African Americans. It was conceptualized by the National Haitian-American Health Alliance (NHAHA), in collaboration with researchers from Harvard Medical School, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Cambridge Health Alliance, a Harvard-affiliated health system.

The study was led by Haitian American Dr. Linda Marc-Clerisme, a social epidemiologist who specializes in the psychosocial aspects of HIV/AIDS at the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research at Cambridge Health Alliance.

Researchers analyzed CDC surveillance data from

1985-2007, for Haitian-born adults and adolescents living in the U.S. diagnosed with AIDS. Cases were identified by the designation of "Haiti" as place of birth on the CDC case report form. The population denominators used to compute AIDS rates comparing African-American and Haitian communities were based on data from both the U.S. Census Bureau and Haitian consulates.

OVER-REPRESENTATION

When the research team used census denominators to calculate the AIDS rate among Haitian immigrants, findings showed that per every 100,000, 78 persons from this community were diagnosed with AIDS, which suggests a seven-fold over-representation in the CDC surveillance database. But when population estimates from the Haitian consulates were used, the AIDS

rate ranged from 35 to 46 diagnoses per every 100,000 Haitian immigrant, which is similar to the four-fold over-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

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Fall Health

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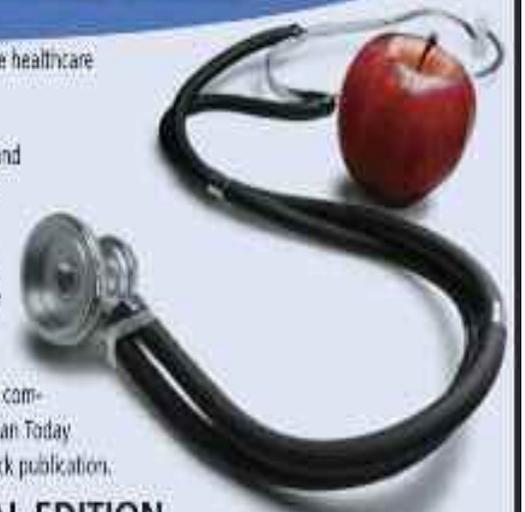
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Baptist Health donates five life-saving machines to Jamaica

MIAMI, Florida - Baptist Health International Center of Miami, a division of Baptist Health South Florida, recently presented five automated external defibrillators (AED) to the Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ) during a press conference in the Caribbean island.

"Baptist Health International is committed to aiding its Caribbean neighbors by providing the islands with vital healthcare resources and access to the latest medical technology," said Jamaican native Dr. Carol Biggs, vice president of South Miami Heart Center, who presented the AEDs.

"Baptist Health's ongoing responsibility to Jamaica is unwavering, and the donation of the AEDs is a testament to the organization's support for the local medical community.

"As a Jamaican who cares

about the country and our people, and a healthcare professional who is critically aware of the importance of immediate response when dealing with a



Dr. Carol Biggs, center, and Dr. John Dylewski, left, both from South Miami Heart Center at South Miami Hospital, demonstrate how the automated external defibrillator works with Dr. Winston De La Haye, president of the Medical Association of Jamaica.

heart-related emergency, I am extremely gratified by this event because this equipment will help save the lives of fellow countrymen."

The MAJ has selected the National and Trelawny stadi-

ums and medical teams for the Jamaica Defence Force, Ministry of Health and University of the West Indies Mona campus as recipients of the equipment. Following the donation, Dr. Biggs conducted a training session for representatives from each team to ensure that they are certified in the proper administration and use of the AEDs.

'GRATEFUL'

"We are extremely grateful for this generous donation from Baptist Health, spearheaded by one of our very own," said Dr. Winston De La Haye, president of the MAJ.

"The organization's mission to bring the highest quality care and medical resources to Jamaica with the guidance of Dr. Biggs is evident through this important contribution, and we hope to continue working together to identify areas that need our attention, including overall heart health, which is a top concern for our citizens."

Dr. Biggs was recently rec-

ognized by the South Florida-based organization Identify, Connect, Activate the Black Accomplished (ICABA) as one of the "100 Most Accomplished Blacks in Law and Healthcare". As vice president of South Miami Heart Center, she is responsible for the strategic development and management of its comprehensive cardiovascular program.

Dr. Biggs has also been instrumental in planning and

implementing ongoing educational and community health outreach programs in Jamaica, including the annual donation of hygienic supplies and clothing to SOS Village in Montego Bay. On July 20 Dr. Biggs joined South Miami Hospital's Caribbean Charity for Children for this year's donation to more than 110 children.

Study rejects higher prevalence of AIDS in Haitian immigrants

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

representation for African Americans in the CDC AIDS surveillance database.

"The U.S. Census Bureau acknowledges that foreign-born populations are often 'hard-to-count' if they are undocumented," said Dr.

Marc-Clerisme. "This may explain the difference in the population estimates used and the resulting discrepancy in AIDS rates."

- Edited from CaribWorldNews

Heat wave: Protect yourself when temperatures soar this summer

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

immerse him in a bath of ice water or to spray him with cold water and turn on a strong fan.

PREVENTION

Hydration is essential, and it takes a lot of liquid to preserve your body's circulation and replace the fluid lost in sweat. Even if you're sedentary, you may need 10 to 12 cups of water a day in hot climates; if you exercise, you'll need much more. Cool liquids are best. Despite the popularity of sports drinks, nothing beats water.

Hydration is necessary, but it's not sufficient to stave off summertime heat. Here are a few additional tips:

- Get away from the heat - An air-conditioned room is best, but even a fan will help. If you can't cool your own home, take refuge with a friend or relative. Some communities provide emergency cooling centers during heat waves.
- When you go out, stay out of the sun and avoid the midday heat as much as possible - Wear loose-fitting, light-colored garments.
- Don't exercise when it's hot or humid - If it's humid and above 80 degrees to 85 degrees, jump in a pool or work out in an air-conditioned gym. If you exercise outdoors, do it in the early morning or evening. Slow down; walk instead of jogging or use a cart.
- Above all, listen to your body - Muscle cramps, fatigue, weakness, nausea, impaired concentration, confusion, lightheadedness, labored breathing, chest discomfort, and a rapid or erratic pulse can all be signs of trouble. Heed your body's warning signals; if you feel ill — even a little ill — get to a cool place, drink plenty of cool water, and be sure help is available if you don't improve promptly.

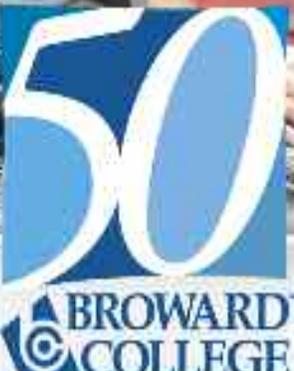
Among summer's seasonal hazards, heat is the worst — particularly when it lingers day after day.

Listen to warnings from the weather service and your body, and take all necessary precautions. It's the cool thing to do.

- Edited from Harvard Men's Health Watch. Distributed Tribune Media Services, Inc.

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Merlene Ottey: Still racing against the world at age 50

Merlene Ottey, the former Jamaican sprint queen, made another bold statement on the track last month by becoming the oldest athlete to compete at the European Championships.

Ottey, now 50, ran the anchor leg on the 4x100 meters relay for her adopted country Slovenia at the meet in Barcelona, Spain. Nicole Brakebusch-Leveque, a marathon runner for France, was the previous oldest to compete at the meet at age 47. Ottey has won 29 medals

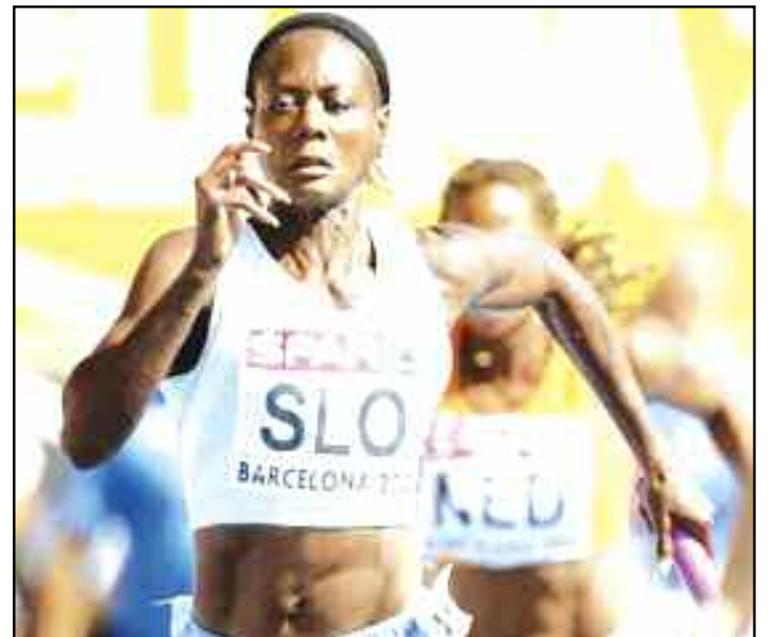
at major competitions, including the Olympics and World Championships, since she made her debut for Jamaica in 1979. She said last month's accomplishment ranked with her best career efforts.

"It's right up there with all the medals I have won," Ottey said. "I don't know if there's any athlete over 40 competing out here in sprinting, so to be competing at 50 is great."

Slovenia did not qualify for the final of the 4x100. Ottey admitted that age does have its drawbacks.

"My leg was difficult because I had the anchor leg," she said. "Normally, I catch people, but this time I couldn't catch anybody so it was difficult."

Ottey competed at seven Olympic Games, the first one in Moscow in 1980. She wants to run at the 2011 World Championships in Daegu, South Korea and is also thinking about the 2012 Olympics in London, England.



Ottey competing against rivals less than half her age.

Heat's Haslem to join 'Hooping for Hope'

American professional basketball player Udonis Haslem is expected to join Jamaican Wesley Frater, president of Miami-based Tournament of Champions, Inc., for the seventh annual "Hooping For Hope Tour" Aug. 11-16 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Haslem is a power forward with the Miami Heat, which won the National Basketball Association (NBA) title in 2006.

The event is being presented by the Jamaica-based Sandals Foundation.

The basketball camps will be held Aug. 13 and 14 at Buckfield Courts in Ocho Rios.



Haslem

Caribbean athletes shine at World Juniors

The young track and field stars of the Caribbean secured 12 medals at last month's IAAF World Junior Championships in Moncton, Canada.

Cuba led the region's medal haul with four, including three gold and a silver. That tally placed the Spanish-speaking island fourth overall in the medal table.

Jamaica led the English-speaking Caribbean nations with three medals – a gold, silver and bronze – to finish tied for 10th. Trinidad and Tobago tied for 16th place with two medals – a gold and a bronze.

The Bahamas and Grenada both finished in 20th spot after each nation won a single gold medal.

Jamaica's Dexter Lee earned his country's only gold by winning the men's 100 meters. Grenadian 17-year-old Kirani James won the men's 400 meters in 45.89 seconds, while T&T's Jehue Gordon won the men's 400 meters hurdles in 49.30 seconds. Shaunae Miller, of The Bahamas, was the English-speaking Caribbean's only female gold medal winner when she secured the 400 meters.



'Wagga' Hunt soccer tourney in Miramar

The Florida chapters of the Calabar and Kingston College alumni associations will present the second annual David "Wagga" Hunt Memorial Classic soccer tournament on Aug. 21 in South Florida.

The tournament, which begins at 1 p.m., will be staged at Miramar Regional Park, 16801 Miramar Parkway in

the city of Miramar. It will include three games: Cornwall Old Boys v. Meadowbrook Old Boys; Jamaica Nats v. Pelican Masters; and K.C. Old Boys v. Calabar Old Boys.

Hunt is a former soccer coach at K.C., Calabar and Meadowbrook high schools. He also coached Jamaica's national under-17 team.



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Caribbean Today

Pay up: World Bank urges countries to keep aid promises made to Haiti

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Six months after Haiti's devastating earthquake, the World Bank is urging donors to deliver on aid pledges in order to keep the reconstruction momentum going in the French-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country.

As fiscal agent for the Haiti Reconstruction Fund (HRF), the Washington-based financial institution said that it has to date received formal confirmation for only \$98 million. In March, the international community had pledged \$5.3 billion to Haiti at a donors' conference at the United Nations.

But the World Bank said Brazil has been the largest contributor to the fund with \$55 million, followed by Norway (\$31.2 million), Australia (\$8.6 million), Colombia (\$3.2 million) and

Estonia (\$50,000).

It said additional contributions are expected from Canada, the European Commission, France, Georgia, Mauritius, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and the United States.

'MAKE GOOD'

"We are currently urging the international community to make good on their pledges, but we also understand that many donor countries need to get approval from their budgetary systems," said Pamela Cox, World Bank regional vice president.

As questions about the pace of reconstruction linger, World Bank officials have stressed the importance of keeping a balance between disbursement of funds and good governance, which they

said proved to be a success in Aceh's reconstruction following its devastating 2004 tsunami. Cox said the bank – as well as donors and partner institutions – are committed to rapid results for Haiti within a good governance framework.



Cox

"The Aceh experience shows that this is the key to success. That means projects must be viable and designed to truly

benefit the poor," she said. World Bank Haiti Country Director Yvonne Tsikata said the fund's actions complement and support any other bilateral initiatives by pooling resources from many donors and reducing transaction costs for government and donors.

"The beauty of this multi-donor approach is that we draw on the comparative advantages of proven international and locally-active partners, such as the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank), the U.N. and others," she said.

PRESSURE

Meantime, former U.S. President Bill Clinton said he plans to put pressure on governments that have been slow to deliver on promises to aid Haiti's reconstruction efforts in the wake of the Jan. 12 earthquake.

"I'm going to call all those governments and say, the ones who said they'll give money to support the Haitian government," Clinton, the U.N.'s special envoy to Haiti and co-chair of Haiti's reconstruction commission, told reporters here.

"I want to try to get them to give the money, and I'm trying to get the others to give me a schedule for when they'll release it," he added, blaming the slow pace of aid partially on the global economic crisis. "I think that they're all having economic trouble, and they want to hold their money as long as possible," Clinton continued.

He said six months after the earthquake that killed an estimated 300,000 people and left an estimated 1.3 million homeless, most governments have not delivered any funds at all.



Not so fast: T&T tells U.S. no 'rush' to extradite

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Attorney General Anand Ramlogan says he will not be rushed into making a decision in the extradition of two financiers of the United National Congress (UNC), a leading partner in the People's Partnership government, to the United States where they face more than 90 criminal charges.

"This is not a decision one can rush, bearing in mind that the situation is susceptible to judicial review. To rush it would be to defeat the very objective that some people have in mind. Due process and the rule of law will prevail and there will be a fair decision at the end of the day," Ramlogan told reporters.

Businessmen Ishwar Galbaransingh and Steve Ferguson lost a constitutional motion challenging the legality of an extradition request from the U.S. last month.

Justice Vasheist Kokaram also dismissed the conservatory order, which was issued on June 16 preventing Ramlogan from authorizing Galbaransingh and Ferguson's extraditions until conclusion of the motion filed.

'UNTIED'

The ruling meant that the decision to extradite the businessmen was up to Ramlogan. "Now that my hands have been untied, there is a process that needs to be followed, and the accused here are in fact behind a bar," he said. "That means the process will now take place to consider the representations made. But

because we objected to bail, it means that we have eliminated the possibility of absconding."

"What has to happen now,

"To rush it would be to defeat the very objective that some people have in mind. Due process and the rule of law will prevail and there will be a fair decision at the end of the day"

– Ramlogan

bearing in mind that any decision we take may be susceptible to judicial review, is a process that will engage, listening to the representations with legal advice from a legal team that is chaired by Mr. James Lewis, Queens Counsel from London, and getting representations from the requested state agency, namely the United States, and then I would make my decision."

However, Ramlogan said Lewis needed time to look over the representations. "I spoke with Mr. Lewis... and he indicated that he can't be rushed with this matter," he said. "The representations made are very detailed and he would require some time to analyse those representations and to rebut them and to respond to them.

"I also need to invite the requesting State, the United

States of America and their Justice Department, to also make representations as to why Mr. Galbaransingh and Mr. Ferguson should be extradited...when I have both sides of the story, then I can independently exercise the discretion given to me as attorney general."

WANTED

Galbaransingh and Ferguson are wanted in Florida, where they were indicted on fraud charges relating to the re-development of the Piarco International Airport here.

The two men had filed for judicial review of a decision by the then Attorney General John Jeremie to commence the extradition proceedings, claiming, among other things, that they would not get fair trials and that Jeremie had been politically biased against them.

They also argued that instead of being extradited they should be tried before local courts and if they were to be extradited via the Extradition Act, then their fundamental rights will be infringed.

The businessmen's initial lawsuit was dismissed by then High Court Judge Nolan Bereaux, who ruled on April 5 that there was no indication on the evidence of bias, nor did the two men have a right to be put on trial locally, and that the lawsuit was premature. The matter was also dismissed by the Privy Council.



Jamaicans believe P.M. lied in 'Dudus' Coke affair ~ poll

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Most Jamaicans believe that Prime Minister Bruce Golding lied to the nation regarding the extradition of reputed gang leader Christopher "Dudus" Coke to the United States and that he no longer has credibility with citizens, according to a poll published here.

The poll, commissioned by the RJR Communications Group last month, shows that 47 percent of those questioned believe Golding should have resigned over his role in the whole affair. However 43 percent disagreed, and felt the prime minister should remain in office.

The poll, which was conducted by Ian Boxhill and Associates from July 17 to 21, examined issues surrounding the Golding's credibility and trustworthiness. The pollsters questioned just over 1,000 persons in the survey that has a margin of error of plus or minus four percent.

DEFENSE

In May, Golding admitted that he knew of attempts to lobby the U.S. government to drop its extradition request for Coke, who faces life imprisonment in an American jail if convicted of drug and gun related charges. The government had in the past defended its decision not to extradite Coke, stating that it would not act hastily and violate the extradition treaty between the two countries.

But in a statement to Parliament, Golding acknowledged that he had "sanctioned" persons in the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) to approach

the U.S.-based law firm Manatt Phelps and Phillips to lobby Washington on the extradition issue.

Coke has since been extradited to the United States and is now awaiting trial.



Golding

The Boxhill poll also indicates that Prime Minister Golding is battling a credibility problem as 54 per cent felt he cannot maintain credibility with the Jamaican people, while 52 per cent felt he did not have the moral authority to lead.

NOT SATISFIED

In addition, 63 percent of those polled were not satisfied with the explanation as to why the extradition of Coke was delayed for nine months.

According to pollsters, just over two thirds of the respondents believe the prime minister has not been truthful with the nation, on his administration's role in the Coke extradition issue.

Only 21.5 percent thought he was being truthful and seven percent were not sure.



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