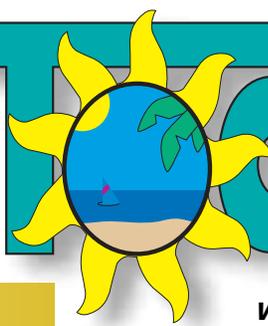


Caribbean Today

AUGUST 2012



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Vol. 23 No. 9

THE MULTI AWARD WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE WITH THE LARGEST PROVEN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA GUARANTEED

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO'S



OF INDEPENDENCE
1962 ~ 2012

On Aug. 31 the twin-island republic of Trinidad and Tobago marks its 50th anniversary of Independence. As the land of calypso and soca celebrates this event, Caribbean Today puts a spotlight on a proud nation with a special feature inside.

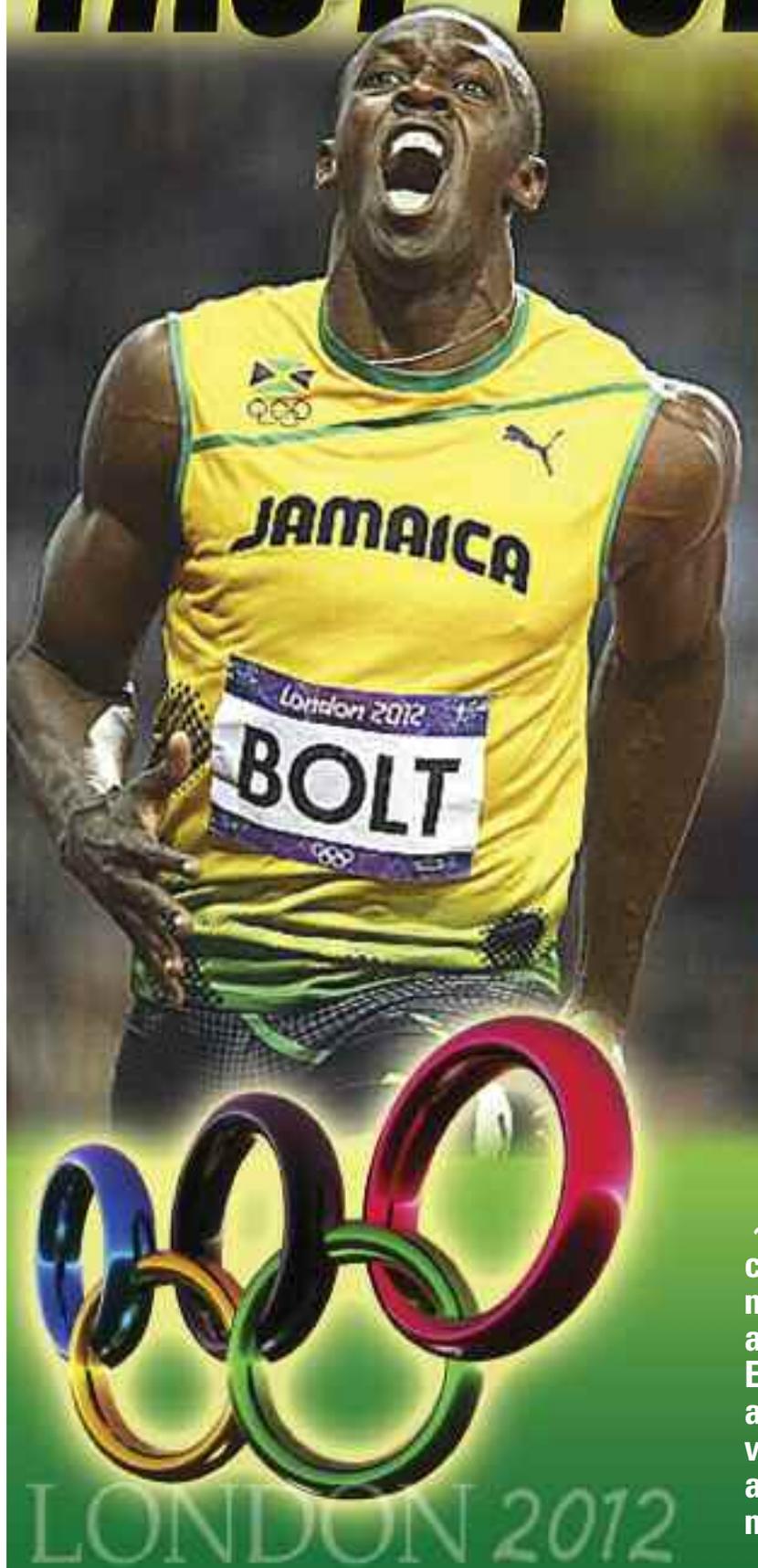


A new report says the wealthiest people in the world have exploited loopholes in international tax rules, evading the taxman and sheltering \$21 trillion or more in offshore accounts in the Caribbean and other places, page 4A.



For close to half century singer Marcia Griffiths has made beautiful music. As her home country Jamaica marks 50 years of Independence, the "Queen of Reggae" looks back on how far the music has come, page 11A.

FAST FORWARD



~ Caribbean sprinters once again conquered the world to win four of six medals up for grabs in the 100 meters at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England. Jamaicans Usain Bolt, left, and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce both won gold. Up to press time Caribbean athletes were in line to win several more medals, page 7A.

LONDON 2012

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Arts/Entertainment	11A	Back To School	16A	Jamaica Feature	7B-11B

CALL CARIBBEAN TODAY DIRECT FROM JAMAICA 655-1479



UNDER SIEGE: U.S. drones hunt drug traffickers in Caribbean waters

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States officials have confirmed they are flying unmanned aircraft, or drones, above the Caribbean Basin in search of narcotics cargo.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency has asked the federal government for \$5.8 million to operate the surveillance drones in the Caribbean theater of Washington's war on drugs.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials said other surveillance technology, including radar-equipped P-3 aircraft, last up to only 10 hours – not long enough to pinpoint drug runners on the high seas. They said the drones can loiter in the skies twice as long.

They also said part-submarine vessels travelling great distances without surfacing to refuel are emerging as a key vehicle for ferrying drugs through the Caribbean Sea. Cocaine-laden speedboats often sail at night to evade capture, the U.S. officials added.

“The goal is to be on station long enough to detect and

track targets making their way through the transit zone and bring in units for the intercept (that) can track a variety of smuggling vessels, including semi-submersibles and go-fast vessels,” said Lothar Eckardt, executive director of DHS Customs and Border Protection national air security operations.

“It doesn't matter what the target is; it matters that we are able to stay out and look for it,” he added.

The CBP, which is part of the DHS, said it hopes that the drones will be able to spot semi-submersible submarines and night-time fast boat trips used by drug traffickers to transport cocaine and other drugs from Central America to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean islands.

PLATFORM

Eckardt said the Guardian, a maritime version of Homeland Security's other Predator drones, is mounted with search radar and an elec-



Unmanned patrols search for smugglers.

tro-optical/infrared sensor.

DHS officials said the trafficking of illicit goods has shifted from the air to the sea in the Caribbean.

“Trying to pinpoint smugglers to one specific means of transport is hard; they like to change the way they do business to prevent us from predicting their movements,”

Eckardt said.

He said tighter border security also is pushing more deliveries to the Caribbean basin and other remote areas off the coast of California.

Eckardt said DHS “works closely with law enforcement authorities in many countries throughout the Caribbean Basin in order to reduce the

flow of drugs from the source zone though the transit zone,” adding that the U.S. government shares intelligence and security technologies with neighbors to the north and south.

Since 2011, U.S. officials said the Miami-based Joint Interagency Task Force South, a command with staff from DHS and the intelligence community, as well as the U.S. Defense and Justice departments, has disrupted five semi-submersibles, each escorting more than 6.5 tons of cocaine.

Of the 214 reported incidents, the stealth vessels evaded authorities 79 percent of the time, the DHS said.

- Edited from CMC.



Ex-Jamaica P.M. visits Florida for medical treatment

Former Jamaica Prime Minister Bruce Golding was admitted to a South Florida hospital late last month, where he was expected to undergo treatment for a back problem, according to a senior official of the main Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

“Mr Golding has been having some back troubles for quite some time now. It has worsened over the last several weeks. He got medical attention in Jamaica and it has gotten to the point where he needed to seek medical attention overseas,” said Delano Seiveright, the aide to Opposition Leader Andrew Holness.

Seiveright confirmed that Golding, 64, left Jamaica on July 29, adding “I can't say if he will require surgery but it was certainly serious enough to warrant further medical



Golding

attention.”

LOW PROFILE

Golding, who quit active politics and stepped down as prime minister and JLP leader in October last year, has been keeping a low profile and has made few public appearances since leaving Jamaica House.

Daryl Vaz, Golding's confidant, said his back ailment

was triggered by a couple of previous operations at a medical facility in Jamaica. Vaz, a former government minister, said Golding's medical trip was not being paid for by the Jamaica government.

“He has gone on his own,” explained Vaz. “He has not been taken on an air ambulance or anything like that, and with any infection, the necessity to treat the infection sooner, as well as after treatment, the better, hence the decision for the trip.

“He had a scheduled back operation, after which complications developed and he developed an infection. They (local doctors) moved to put him on a course of antibiotics, but that has not worked,” said Vaz.

- Edited from CMC.



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Vote August 14th

As a County Commissioner Barbara Jordan has brought millions of dollars in resources to our community. Her legislation has created jobs, improved the quality of life and strengthened businesses in District 1. She is a strong advocate for senior citizens, families, children, businesses and those who care about improving Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Jordan is not afraid to fight for the residents of District 1.

Commissioner Jordan has leveled the playing field for job seekers by giving those living in Miami-Dade County the first opportunity to apply for county contract jobs. She knows that our families can only become stronger if jobs are available to them.

Commissioner Jordan has sponsored legislation that improves transportation in District 1. Her support of improvements to STS Special Transportation has improved the quality of service to our seniors, the disabled and those who rely on this program.

Commissioner Jordan knows that a strong business community is vital to the success of her district. Her support of businesses allows them to create jobs and provide valuable goods and services to our residents.

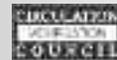
Commissioner Jordan has protected our children by identifying funding sources for summer youth programs. She has supported the improvement of our parks so that our children have safe places to play.

Commissioner Jordan is molding our future leaders by creating and implementing the Summer Youth Internship Initiative, which gives high school and college students the opportunity to gain valuable workplace experience.

Commissioner Jordan has established herself as a proven leader who is highly respected for her tenacity and commitment to fight for her community. With her service as a former Assistant County Manager and eight years of service on the County Commission, Barbara Jordan is a proven leader with the experience to continue moving our communities forward.



NEWS



Trillions hidden from U.S. taxman in Caribbean offshore accounts ~ report

NEW YORK - A new report says the wealthiest people in the world have exploited loopholes in international tax rules, evading the taxman and sheltering \$21 trillion or more in offshore accounts in the Caribbean and other places.

The report, released here by the economic transparency group Tax Justice Network, titled "The Price of Offshore Revisited", noted that between \$21 trillion and \$32 trillion could be hidden in tax havens

in countries like Switzerland and the Cayman Islands.

The report said that about \$10 trillion stashed away in off-shore accounts is owned by only 92,000 people, or 0.001 percent of the world's population.

"These estimates reveal a staggering failure: inequality is much, much worse than official statistics show," said John Christensen of the Tax Justice Network.

"People on the street

have no illusions about how unfair the situation has become," he added.

The report notes that private banks and investment firms have enabled these wealthy individuals and corporations to take advantage of loopholes and gaps in cross-border tax rules.

CONTENTION

Questions about offshore accounts and tax shelters has recently become a major point of contention in the U.S. presidential campaign, with Democrats accusing Republican candidate Mitt Romney of stashing some of his wealth in offshore banks in the Cayman Islands to avoid



Rich accused of stashing money offshore to avoid taxes.

that sub-Saharan Africa and oil producing states like Saudi Arabia have been especially hard hit.

In some cases, the total worth of these hidden assets far exceeds the international debts owed by these countries, Tax Justice Network said,

taxes.

But Romney's campaign dismissed the allegations as an "unfounded character assault."

Tax Justice Network said almost every country has suffered from the billions of dollars in lost tax revenue, adding

noting that it compiled the report using thousands of data and sources, including information from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

- Edited from CMC.



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Antigua wants end to Internet gaming dispute with U.S.

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC – The Antigua and Barbuda government says it is considering several options as it determines how to proceed further in its dispute with the United States at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over Internet gaming.

The Baldwin Spencer administration said it has assembled a team, under the leadership of Finance and Economy Minister Harold Lovell, to handle the case and to see it through to its conclusion.

The team also includes veteran lawyer Mark Mendel, who has handled the legal aspects of the case since its inception, as well as Ambassador Colin Murdoch, permanent secretary in the Department of Trade Industry and Commerce, and Kaye McDonald, director of off-shore gaming.

MEDIATION

An official statement issued late last month noted that as part of its new approach, the government has since approached WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy "with a view to having a mediation effort launched under his auspices.

"It was hoped that the

mediation effort would assist in re-launching the negotiations and removing the logjam that had caused the case to drag on for a number of years", the statement declared, noting that "Lamy responded cautiously to the proposal, while he was awaiting a substantive response from the United States, as they would have to agree before the mediation effort could begin".

The government said it held further discussions Lamy in Geneva in order to clarify certain issues relating to the mediation process.

"Ambassador Murdoch, who led those discussions, came away with the view that the office of the WTO Director-General was engaged in a genuine effort to be helpful in a difficult case that had pitted the world's largest economy against one of the world's smallest", the statement noted.

Spencer



Spencer

In April, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer said Washington has not done enough to settle the long outstanding Internet gaming dispute with Antigua and Barbuda. Spencer held talks with the U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk on the issue, but expressed disappointment that, although the case was first adjudicated in 2003, Antigua and Barbuda and the U.S. are yet to find a "mutually agreeable solution to settle the case."

Spencer said Antigua and Barbuda had put forward several options to settle the case but that "there has been no fairness in the proposals received from the U.S. to date.

In 2005, the WTO ruled that the U.S. had violated international trade agreements by prohibiting operation of offshore Internet gambling sites. Antigua claimed it lost \$3.4 billion a year due to the U.S. action, but the WTO awarded Antigua \$21 million.

- Edited from CMC.



Grant for Haitian Heritage Museum

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States Congresswoman Frederica Wilson (D-Florida) has announced a \$148,769 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant to benefit the Haitian Heritage Museum (HHM), which will be matched by \$264,226 – 1.77 times the amount of federal investment.

"As the representative for one of the largest Haitian-populated districts in Congress, I am very pleased that the Haitian Heritage Museum was awarded the

African American History and Culture Grant," said Congresswoman Wilson in a press release issued late last month.

"It will bolster their efforts to educate our community about Haitian culture and the countless contributions that Haitian Americans have made to our nation. The grant will support several strategic undertakings by HHM, including maximizing accessibility, hiring of key personnel and engaging college students," Congresswoman Wilson stated.



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White House honors Jamaican 'Champion of Change'

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Jamaican Dr. Claire A. Nelson, founder and president of the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) in the United States, was honored as a "Champion of Change" by the White House at a ceremony late last month.

Nelson was one of nine people honored as "leaders who have exemplified extraordinary successes and efforts toward the development of, and diplomacy with, their countries or communities of origin".

She was also recognized for her work with the Caribbean American diaspora and for advancing exchanges and partnerships with both the U.S. public and private sectors.

Roberta Jacobson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs, said "these exceptional individuals, with their work in sports and

community development, in education and financial inclusion, inspire others by their example.

"In a region with such profound human links between our societies, ideas and inspiration spread quickly to the benefit of people all over the Americas and the Caribbean."

MENTOR

Founded here in 1993, the ICS has planned forums and conferences, mentored Caribbean American leaders and organizations around the country, and served as a National Profile Partner for Census 2010.



Nelson

Nelson has also been instrumental in encouraging Caribbean American civic engagement and in promoting Caribbean diaspora participation in the development agenda of the Caribbean region.

An international development expert with over 30 years of experience, she received a doctorate in engineering management from George Washington University.

The "Champions of Change" program was created as a part of U.S. President Barack Obama's "Winning the Future" initiative. Each week, a different sector is highlighted and groups of champions, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community leaders, are recognized for the work they are doing to serve and strengthen their communities.



Jamaica deports American family trio ~ police

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Police have confirmed that three members of a family, who had been hiding here, were deported to the United States late last month.

Donald Henderson, 45, his wife Maria, 43 and daughter Aja Henderson, 21, were handed over to U.S. officials on July 29.

Local investigators sought the assistance of the international police, INTERPOL, to determine whether they had fled law enforcement in the U.S.

The family arrived here on a Carnival cruise ship last month as part of a six-day trip. A few hours later they were

reported missing. Following a search by the police, the Americans, who are from Virginia, were found hiding in a villa in the community of Discovery Bay.

Police said there was no indication the family was on the run from the law.



U.S. hospitals worry over aid cuts for illegal immigrants' emergency health care

WASHINGTON, D.C. – An increasing number of hospitals in the United States say President Barack Obama's health care law is putting tremendous burden on them by cutting aid they use to pay for emergency care for illegal immigrants, including those from the Caribbean.

The hospitals – which range from prominent public ones, like Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan, New York, to neighborhood mainstays like Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, and Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, California – say many of their uninsured patients are illegal immigrants.

The hospitals lament that their large pools of uninsured or poorly insured patients are not expected to be reduced significantly under Obama's Affordable Care Act, even as U.S. federal aid shrinks.

The federal government says it has been spending \$20 billion annually to reimburse these hospitals — most in poor urban and rural areas — for treating more than their

share of the uninsured, including illegal immigrants.

EFFECT

But hospital executives say the health care law will eventually cut that money in half, based on the premise that fewer people will lack insurance after the law takes effect.

Health experts say the estimated 11 million people now living illegally in the U.S., including many from the Caribbean, are not covered by the health care law and legislators, seeking to sidestep the contentious debate over immigration, say they excluded them from the law's benefits.

As a result, so-called safety-net hospitals said the cuts would result in a severe blow to their finances.

All hospitals in the U.S. are obligated under federal law to treat anyone who arrives at the emergency room, regardless of their immigration status.

- Edited from CMC.



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Miami Gardens proclamation honors Jamaica National Hero Marcus Garvey

DAWN A. DAVIS

The South Florida City of Miami Gardens has issued a proclamation declaring Aug. 17 “Universal Marcus Garvey Day”, in honor of Jamaica’s first National Hero.

The date marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of Garvey, a black nationalist whose philosophy calling for the return to African roots is viewed as the inspiration for the Rastafari movement.

This year Garvey receives special recognition by the office of City Commissioner Barbara Jordan, who represents Miami Gardens, home to a large Caribbean population.

“It is seen as an open honor to the community,” said Ras Don Rico Ricketts, a community activist and member of the Garvey Celebrations Committee, who was present to receive proclamation earlier this month.



Commissioner Barbara Jordan, fourth left, presents the proclamation to Ras Don Rico Ricketts. Others present are, from left, Pharaoh Shabaka, Donald Jones, Vernon Martin, Geoffrey Philp, Benjamin Essien, and Emekan Afamefuna.

Aug. 17 will be marked by celebrations around the world. South Florida’s Rastafari community will honor Garvey’s memory with a “Rootz Extravaganza” that will bring together historians, writers and performers.

Ricketts said he has also

been advocating to re-name the city’s major thoroughfare, Seventh Avenue, after Garvey and his two wives – both named Amy.

“Given that Miami Gardens is the largest black majority city in the state of Florida, I thought it would be a

good thing for the city to take advantage of this opportunity to pay homage to international heroes, because all three were significant black leaders in their own right,” said Ricketts.

CHALLENGE

Ricketts said he has been

trying for the street renaming since the beginning of the year, but with little success.

“It has been a bit of a challenge and it is not yet decided by the city council,” he said.

The Miami Gardens City Council is on hiatus until September. There can be no decision on re-naming Seventh Avenue until the members return.

Born in the St. Ann’s Bay, Jamaica, Garvey organized the black nationalist movement and urged people of African descent to return to Africa. As founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), through which he taught black people worldwide to be proud of their race, Garvey became a renowned international figure.

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



FREEDOM: Caribbean observes emancipation of slaves on Aug. 1

Caribbean countries observed the 178th anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in the region on Aug. 1.

In his Emancipation Day address Trinidad and Tobago’s President Richards urged national unity, indicating “we are not immune to the negative side of race relations.”

Richards said with T&T celebrating its 50th anniversary as an independent nation, it is good to take stock of how

far “we have come in the process of emancipation, as we celebrate Emancipation Day 2012.

“While ritual is associated with the proceedings of the day, the observation of this important national holiday should be anything but ritualistic. The year 2012 should register tangible gains, all over the world, in redressing the discrimination against people of African descent that led to the declaration of 2011 as the International Year

for People of African Descent,” he said.

TRIBUTE

In Guyana, President Donald Ramotar said while emancipation did not end exploitation, “it ended that barbaric system of slavery in which millions of persons were transported against their will to foreign lands and made to toil unremittingly without reward or recognition.”

Ramotar said he was paying tribute to “our African

ancestors for their unrelenting resistance, amongst which was the 1763 uprising in Guyana.

In Jamaica, Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller said citizens must acknowledge the uncomfortable truths and find solutions to them. She said as Emancipation leads into Independence, Jamaicans

should reflect on the road already travelled and rise to meet the challenges of the future. She also encouraged Jamaicans to get swept up in the spirit of emancipation, freedom and liberation.

- Edited from CMC reports.



Ex-Haitian telecom boss gets U.S. prison time for bribery

MIAMI, Florida - A United States federal judge has sentenced Patrick Joseph, the former head of Haiti’s state-owned telephone company, to one year in jail for accepting bribes from Miami-based businesses that sold long-distance phone services.

“I’m extremely sorry to be in this position, extremely sorry for what happened,” Joseph, 50, told U.S. District Judge Jose Martinez, during the sentencing hearing here last month. “I’m sorry to you and my family.”

In addition to the one-year sentence, Judge Martinez ordered Joseph to pay \$955,596 of the ill-gotten gains to the U.S. Treasury.

In February Joseph pleaded guilty to a money-laundering conspiracy charge in the case, which has resulted in convictions of seven other Haitian officials and South Florida businessmen. He was scheduled to surrender early this month to U.S. authorities to begin the federal sentenc-

ing that was shrouded in secrecy because of concern for his safety, court officials say.

PROTECTION

Joseph’s protection, handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and other federal agencies, became vital after his father, a retired Haitian official, was murdered, official say. He was assassinated just days after the son began cooperating with the U.S. Justice Department in a related kickback probe into deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Joseph served as Aristide’s director general of Haiti Teleco from Mar. 2001 to June 2003. He has lived with his family at an undisclosed South Florida location since the slaying of his father Venel, a governor of Haiti’s Central Bank during Aristide’s presidency, who was shot outside his home in Haiti.

- Edited from CMC.



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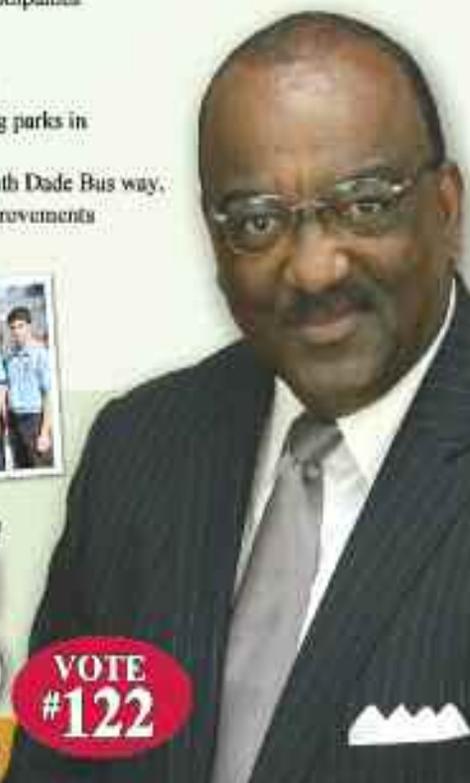
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- ☑ Voted to reduce county departments from 41 down to 26
- ☑ Brought the promised Jackson South public hospital to South Dade
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- ☑ Led the effort to expand bus rapid transit to Florida City via the South Dade Bus way.
- ☑ Crime is down and new sidewalks, drainage, traffic lights, road improvements and landscaping has been completed all over the district.

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~ A Caribbean Today special feature



FAST FORCE: Caribbean sprinters dominate Olympics 100M final



Fraser-Pryce, left, and Campbell-Brown celebrate their success.



Blake, left, and Bolt took the top two places in the 100 meters.

The mighty force of Caribbean sprinting once again imposed its dominance on the track at the 2012 Olympic Games.

Jamaicans Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce led an early celebration of the country's 50th Independence on Aug. 6 by successfully defending their 100 meters title with smashing gold medal performances to retain the crown of world's fastest man and woman.

Bolt set a new Olympic record of 9.63 seconds to cement his legend among the greatest athletes of all time.

"I'm still the best," he said following the race on Aug. 5 at the Olympic Stadium in London, England. "I'm always

gonna be number one."

Bolt was followed to the finish by countryman Yohan Blake, the 2011 world champion in the event, whose 9.75 earned him silver. Justin Gatlin of the United States clocked 9.79 for bronze.

Trinidad and Tobago's Richard Thompson, one of four athletes representing the Caribbean in the final and who won silver at the 2008 Olympics behind Bolt, finished seventh in 9.98.

Jamaica's Asafa Powell appeared injured in the race and struggled home eighth in 11.99.

FIRST

Jamaica captured four of

the six medals available in the men's and women's 100 meters. Fraser-Pryce handed the Caribbean its first success at the Games when she stormed to victory ahead of American Carmelita Jeter and fellow Jamaican Veronica Campbell-Brown on Aug. 4. She clocked 10.75 seconds. Jeter was timed at 10.78 for silver, while Campbell-Brown claimed bronze in 10.81. T&T's Kelly-Ann Baptiste finished sixth in 10.94.

Fraser-Pryce burst from the blocks to take the early lead with Campbell-Brown in pursuit and Jeter just off the pace. After 50 meters, Jeter hauled herself back into

the contest, getting past Campbell-Brown before challenging Fraser-Pryce, who held on for victory.

"I trust not in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God," Fraser-Pryce said after her triumph.

"What man does or says is nothing to me. I believe in somebody much higher and he helped me to come out here...(and win)."

Bolt and Fraser-Pryce became the first non-Americans to repeat as Olympic 100 meters champion.

MORE EXCELLENCE

Other creditable performances from Caribbean athletes

included a fourth place finish in the 100 meters breaststroke by Jamaican swimmer Alia Atkinson. In the women's 400 meters, Jamaican-born Sanya Richards-Ross, representing the U.S., won gold. Jamaica's Novlene Williams-Mills finished fifth and her countrywoman Rosemarie Whyte was eighth.

Up to press time several Caribbean countries were still in contention to pick up Olympic medals. Blake and defending champion Bolt were heavily favored in the men's 200 meters. In the women's 200, two-time defending champion Campbell-Brown was also favored, along with Fraser-Pryce.

World champion Kirani James of Grenada, T&T's Lalonde Gordon and the Bahamian pair of Chris Brown and Demtrius Pinder, along with the Luquelin Santos of the Dominican Republic, all made the Aug. 6 final of men's 400 meters.

Jamaica's Leeford Green, T&T's Jehue Gordon, Puerto Rico's Javier Culson and Felix Sanchez of the D.R. were also down to contest the final of the men's 400 meters hurdles, scheduled for the same day.

Compiled from various sources, including CMC.



St. Kitts bars Collins from competing

LONDON, England – Kim Collins St. Kitts and Nevis's most decorated athlete, was barred from competing in the men's Olympic 100 meters for breaching team rules and says his career for the tiny Caribbean country could now be over.

According to reports, the veteran sprinter was disciplined by St. Kitts and Nevis team management for leaving the athletes village for an extended period of time.

"Kim has not been in camp the last couple of days," Lester Hanley, a St. Kitts and Nevis team spokesman, was quoted as saying earlier this month.

The National Olympic Committee's General Secretary Alphonso Bridgewater said Collins had not been in contact



Collins

with team officials since earlier in the week before he was scheduled to run the 100 meters heats on Aug. 4.

Several media reports noted Collins had been visiting his wife and coach in a hotel.

TWEET

The 36-year-old, who carried the St. Kitts flag at the Olympics opening ceremony late last month, broke the news via Twitter.

"My fans. I won't lie. Won't be running later tonight," Collins noted on Aug. 4. "This can't be right. Olympics number 5 and no Kim Collins." He added: "Even men in prison get their wives to visit."

Collins was entered in the 200 meters and the sprint relay, but the incident cast doubt over his involvement in the remainder of the Olympics.

- Edited from CMC.



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U.S. sends presidential delegation to Jamaica for 2012 Independence

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States President Barack Obama sent a presidential delegation to Kingston, Jamaica early this month as the Caribbean country marks its 50th year of Independence from



Powell

Britain.

Obama announced that General Colin L. Powell, a former U.S. Secretary of State, would lead the delegation to represent the U.S. Joining him was U.S. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke. Both Powell and Clarke have parents who are from Jamaica. U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica, Pamela Bridgewater also made the trip.

Jamaica officially celebrates Independence on Aug. 6.

CELEBRATIONS

In the U.S., many Jamaican organizations are marking Independence with a range of activities, including literary performances, art

exhibitions, outdoor festivals, galas, reggae concerts, and church services in honor of the destination's heritage.

"We can't help but be proud of the historical triumphs that have helped shape our cultural landscape," said John Lynch, Jamaica's director of tourism.

"Through Jamaica 50 events, diaspora communities across the world are showcas-



Clarke

ing Jamaica's history through the various forms of cultural expression that have united our people. We encourage Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica to join us in these celebrations, on island and overseas."

For a complete listing of Jamaica 50 events in the U.S., contact the local Jamaican Consulate.

- Edited from *News Americas*.



N.Y. governor announces ambitious plan to prevent fraud on Caribbean immigrants

NEW YORK – New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced an ambitious plan to prevent fraudulent lawyers and others from preying on young Caribbean and other immigrants.

The plan calls for a "multilingual news media outreach campaign," community programs and the mobilization of lawyers across New York State to help Caribbean and other immigrants navigate the new policy on immigrants by the administration of United States President Barack Obama.

In June, Obama announced that eligible immigrant youth would be spared deportation and granted work permits – an initiative widely applauded was finally granting relief to young immigrants and allowing them to move toward legal status. Entering the U.S. before the age of 16, attending a U.S. school, as well as having no criminal record, are among requirements for immigrants want-



Cuomo

ing to live and work in the U.S. under the Obama policy.

SCAMMERS

Cuomo said a shady, cynical cadre of fraudulent lawyers and notarios has already sprung up, prepared to take advantage of immigrants confused about the new policy and desperate to apply. He said these scammers are charging thousands of dollars in fees and disappearing with clients' money, having provided no legal help or aid.

Cuomo said his plan will pay for a team of immigration

lawyers to work with organizations throughout the state to help illegal immigrants who qualify for the new policy and who seek federal permission to remain in the U.S. legally.

He said the New York Department of State has set aside \$600,000 for the legal counsel team.

Cuomo said he also plans to expand the immigrant service hot line to include information about the policy and to direct callers to service providers who can help young immigrants.

"It's not enough to say to people, 'Be careful; some people want to take your money,'" said Cesar A. Perales, New York's secretary of state.

"What we're saying is we're also providing an alternative mechanism," he added. "That is what distinguishes what New York State wants to do from others who just warn you."



DHS gets ready for 'deferred action'

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is offering provisional legal status to certain immigrant youth under a "deferred action" program.

The DHS is expected to start accepting applications on Aug. 15.

Up to press time the application form for deferred action had not yet been released. Updates on the application process are

expected on Aug. 15.

There will likely be a DHS application fee, but the cost is unknown at this time.

Applications sent in before Aug. 15 will be rejected. However, potential applicants are being advised start collecting documents they will need to prove their eligibility.

For more information about eligibility and required documents, visit www.uscis.gov.



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DEFERRED: New U.S. policy still waiting to come on line

The dream continues to be deferred – at least for now – for the many young immigrants anxious to become beneficiaries of the Obama administration’s version of the “DREAM” Act.

While the June 15, 2012 announcement by the United States

Department of Homeland Security that made clear certain

young people brought to the U.S. as children are eligible to request deferred action has been heralded in many quarters, young people in desperate need of a work permit have been told to keep on waiting.

Applications are still not being accepted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, more than a month after the announcement. The USCIS has advised that it is currently developing a process for these young people to request deferred action and will implement the process soon – as in 60 days!

As such, individuals who may qualify for this immigration relief under the policy change are being advised to stay tuned for the date when they can begin filing their applications seeking work authorizations.

LIMBO

And so the wait continues in this technological era. But what can one expect from an agency that continues to be backlogged with application processing and one that keeps many immigrants in limbo? Add these DREAMERS to the list and let the wait begin.

Still, on the positive side, it’s better these young people at least have the option to apply in 60 days than no option at all.

In the meantime, please advise anyone who may qualify to ensure they stay tuned for the processing date announcement and also to report anyone who claims they can request deferred action on their behalf or apply for employment authorization through this new process before the USCIS announces an implementation date.

To be considered for deferred action under this process, an immigrant must: have come to the U.S. under the age of 16; have continuously resided in the U.S. for at least five years preceding June 15, 2012 and have been physically present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012; currently be in school, have graduated from high school, have obtained a general education development certificate, or be an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; not have been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety and not be above the age of thirty. Any immigrant, regardless of country of origin, who meets the qualifications, can submit an application.

Stay abreast of this issue by logging on to uscis.gov for the latest updates or for more information call 1-800-375-5283.

Felicia Persaud is founder of NewsAmericasNow, CaribPR Wire and Hard Beat Communications.



FELICIA PERSAUD

How ‘manufactured’ women prepare for destiny

The perfection that women strive for is not natural in most cases, and even though they want us to think so, they do a lot of unnatural preparations to try and look natural.

I have seen many natural beauties that are jaw dropping, breathtaking, drop dead gorgeous. But the truth is, women are mostly manufactured.

The last thing that you want to do is not please a woman, tick her off, make her unhappy. But, unfortunately, almost everything that men do causes some degree of irritation or annoyance to women. The perennial question that men ask is, “What did I do now?”

He’ll never know, but he has done something to upset her. Maybe it’s current, perhaps it’s way in the past, or even something to come. And, trust me, women multiply things, giving lie to the rule that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

If you give her sperm, she’ll give you a baby. If you give her a house, she’ll give you a home. If you give her groceries, she’ll give you a meal. Give her a smile, she’ll give you her heart. But give her crap and she’ll rain down a storm of effluence.

BAIT

Still, women keep on trying to be attractive to men, for they want to have them. It’s



not a difficult task for some, but for others, they really have to work at it. When a man goes to pick up a woman, he has no idea what she went through to look presentable for him.

The irony is, even though she wants to look as natural as possible, she uses unnatural products to get the natural look. A woman sent me a list of the things women have to do to prepare for the arrival of their man, or any man for that matter. First, she says, “We have to find ways to disguise the flab on our naked bodies, by using candles, soft lighting, and, for hopeless



TONY ROBINSON

cases, total darkness.”

So don’t think that all that mood lighting and romantic stuff is for the man, it’s really to disguise her flaws. That’s why it’s never wise to pick up women in nightclubs. That soft lighting and smoke makes every woman look attractive. It’s only when you see her in the day that you realize who she really is.

It’s best to meet women in daylight, at the gym, beach, supermarket or church, where you can see everything - as the saying goes - warts and all, and not be surprised.

NO GUESS

Then, she goes on to say, “We have to find the right thing to wear, sexy lingerie, but not too sexy that we look like a hooker.”

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10A)



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Time to fight for what we believe

Editor,

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you on the coverage of the "Jamaica 50th" anniversary, as well as the presidential fight for the White House (in Caribbean Today's July 2012 issue).

As a Jamaican-born United States citizen for the past 30-plus years, I wish there was a way I could just make it crystal clear why this President (Barack Obama) must be re-elected to finish what he started. While we may not agree with some of his policies, and who they protect, we must not fail to realize and understand he is the only one or two (U.S.) presidents (Bill Clinton was the other) who have fought for

issues that positively benefited all people and not just some.

In the article by Dawn A. Davis on undocumented Caribbean people Mr. (T. Willard) Fair, president of the Greater Miami Urban League, stated he is wary of the president's new policy. Why? What about it is insulting? If he believes communities other than those with mostly blacks are benefiting from economic parity maybe we are missing the boat here. What, and how much, are we doing to make our people understand the importance to get up, get out and fight, fight for what we believe and want?

These other communities he speaks of are out there doing what we are not – voting in local elections, getting their voices heard. We cannot just sit home and discuss politics. We have to get out and do our part.

There will never be another president like this one. If we did not give away the Congress, by not voting, we would see a faster growing (U.S.) economy.

I wish you continued success in bringing the news to the Caribbean community

**Thank you,
J.W. Prendergast**



How 'manufactured' women prepare for destiny

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A)

Well, sexy lingerie can be great I suppose, but personally, a loose T-shirt works just fine for me, or even better, nothing at all. Women must know that when they slip into bed stark naked, the man knows that she's ready, willing and able for a night of fun. That takes the guesswork out of the evening, for you know how 'sometimish' women can be.

Only she knows what's going to happen. The man is there at work thinking all day about a night of fun, but she knows from morning that it ain't gonna happen, and comes to bed in her jeans and shirt, or even falls asleep in her work clothes.

She continues, "We have to shave our legs, armpits, upper lips, to avoid competition with the man in the hairy department." They have to prepare.

Then to add to that, she says, "We have to buy creams for soft skin, creams to smell nice, and creams to make our bodies glisten in the right places."

Now hold on just a minute. Are they saying that

the whole healthy body thing is just an illusion, that all that smooth skin and nice smell is merely as a result of Noxzema, Nadinola and Oil of Olay?

It's a process, and the various creams and oils are just part of the process.

TRICK

But the trick is to apply only enough so they don't come across as being plastered like a streetwalker. It has to be applied yes, but applied so that no man can detect it.

I know a woman who has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on her teeth to make them look natural. She still has no man.

Then there is the ubiquitous 'mani-pedi'. It's a fact that many men have a foot fetish, or at least some degree of a foot fetish. A woman's feet can be such a turn on...or turn off. A woman's beautifully sculpted ankles and toes can drive men wild, and conversely her gnarled, grungy feet that resemble turkey claws or the roots of a guango tree can drive men away, even though the rest of her is beautiful.

So enter the mani-pedi to

enhance all this. My source says that the mani-pedi is essential. The fact that some men love to suck women's toes is testament to this.

My source continues, "And don't get me started on the hair. If it's a weave, it should not be detectable. If it's a wig, it must not come off before, during or after passion. If it's natural, it can't be plaited in unappealing childish cornrows."

And finally, "Our home has to be immaculate, with no dishes in the sink, or he'll think that we're nasty. The bathroom must be spruced up with no underwear hanging, and food must be in the fridge."

It's no magical quick fix.

So when you say you're picking her up and she says, "Give me four hours to prepare," don't be upset. She may need that time, or even more.

After all that, make sure you spend on her, for all her preparations don't come cheap.

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I've seen Jamaican music grow so beautifully ~ Marcia Griffiths

In 2012, as Jamaica celebrates 50 years of Independence, Marcia Griffiths marks 48 years of making music. She has made major hits continuously, starting as a teenager in the 1960s with "Young Gifted & Black", a collaboration with another legend Bob Andy. The respected and accomplished singer, sometimes called the "Queen of Reggae", spoke to *Caribbean Today's* freelance writer Jason Walker at the "Colors of the Caribbean" event in Florida recently.

Question: Marcia, after 48 years, how do you keep it going?

Answer: I am inspired by God and by audience. What I just experienced with my audience out there, that is just positive vibration coming to me and it just touches my soul and it

U.S. prosecutors deny new trial for Buju Banton

Jamaican-born entertainer Buju Banton wants another trial, just over a year since his conviction on cocaine charges, but federal prosecutors in the United States say no way.

David O. Markus, the attorney for Banton, born Mark Anthony Myrie, last month filed a motion in Tampa, Florida federal court seeking a new trial on all the charges, or least on the gun charge alone. But a day later the U.S. government filed a motion to strike down the request.

The reggae and dancehall artiste is serving a 10-year prison sentence. The gun charge carries an additional five-year sentence.

In June the federal appeals court in Atlanta, Georgia upheld the entertainer's 2011 conviction on cocaine conspiracy and trafficking charges. The three-judge panel also sided with a Tampa jury's conviction of Banton on a gun possession charge, which the trial judge tossed at his sentencing.

The signer's first trial in 2010 ended in a mistrial when the jury deadlocked.

Banton's 2010 album "Before the Dawn" was the winner for Best Reggae Album at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards.

- Edited from News Americas.



Griffiths

rejuvenates me and it uplifts me. That is one of the main things that keep me going.

Q: How do you stay relevant throughout the generations?

A: I always try to stay current

and I am thankful that I can relate to each generation. That is because I have always been current with collaborations with all the deejays, like Beenie (Man), Bounty (Killer), Buju (Banton) and Beres Hammond and myself have quite a few collaborations...I can always do a show then and now. I can do a dancehall show with the dancehall artistes and I can do a vintage show.

Q: Tell us a little about the evolution of Jamaican music

A: I am happy that I was a part of it. Jamaica has been through a lot, and the journey for Jamaica since we got Independence was a hard struggle. I know we have a long way to go, but for us to get this far at 50, we are doing wonderful! We just need to come together more.

(We need to) unite and be more positive and love each other. Then we will have a better...not just Jamaica, (but) a better world.

(As far as the evolution of Jamaican music) I have been there and done that, especially after touring and travelling extensively with Bob Marley, and then doing it on my own as a solo artiste. I have seen the music grow so beautifully. When I went to Japan in the late 70s with Bob the seeds were planted then and so when I returned to Japan after Bob had passed it was such a wonderful feeling to see that all those seeds were sown and grown and (reggae) was spreading like wild fire, everyone was singing and talking about reggae music and now I cannot believe that I have lived to see dreadlocks become a fashion!

The Japanese have taken over the reggae music. It is in Asia, Europe, the four corners

of the world. That is where our music has gone to and I am so happy to be a part of it.

Q: What was the origin of the "Electric Slide"?

A: That song is written by Bunny Wailer and produced by Bunny. When that song was released in 1983 people were doing the Michael Jackson "moonwalk". Then in 1989 in Washington D.C., they put this dance that is now called the "Electric Slide" to the song.

Q: Where do you see Jamaican music going?

A: Jamaican music is just going to get bigger and bigger. It is big right now! The sky is the limit for our music.

Photographs of Marcia Griffiths in this issue of *Caribbean Today* by Tiffany Stennett.



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CULTURE



OPEN BOOK: A new age of acceptance for Rastafari

• **TITLE: RASTAFARI IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**
 • **EDITOR: MICHAEL BARNETT**
 • **REVIEWED BY: DAWN A. DAVIS**

Gone are the days when Rastafari were scorned, derided or viewed as a scourge of society, at least openly. Today the Rastafari brethren are cautiously accepted as a legitimate movement, welcomed in academia, the political fold and at social tables.

Millennium” offers a comprehensive look at the reach, development and stellar achievements of Rastafari in an anthology with contributions from respected members of academia, politics and the movement.

The forward, written by the late Rex Nettleford, sets the tone of the work evident in his gracious, but stingingly real words: “Rastafarians are not that unsophisticated to be racist but they are by no means foolish enough not to be race conscious. And that delicate balance of sensibility has long marked the move-

ment off from many others fighting for African liberation.”

Indeed, Rastafari have endured the unfair and superficial classification of being a racist group, perpetually angry at the white slave master - Babylon. Nothing could be further from the truth. As the diverse voices in this work have elucidated, the 80-year-old movement is about a spiritual philosophy, Rastafari’s contribution to Caribbean music, Jamaican in particular, and their influence on the lifestyles of many, including those belonging to the ‘upper class’.

BRANCHING OUT

Yes, it may be Africa-centered, but that does not preclude the philosophy and lifestyle from being adopted by other cultures, including the caucasian and Asian races. In fact, the movement spread its tentacles across the globe in countries one would not expect to see Rastafari.

New Zealand is one example. Maori, the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand, embraced Rastafari through the conscious music of Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, and others who spread the universal message against injustice, racism, and identity crisis among blacks across the globe. Their experience mimicked that of Jamaicans under colonial rule.

The historical and religious context is explored as well as the similarities in the practices and symbolism adopted by the Maori. Readers can draw their own conclusions, however.

Alienation and the struggle against a colonial presence seem to be a common thread that inspired the movement in New Zealand and around the world.

Where did the practice of wearing the hair in dreadlocks originate? Researcher Obiagele Lake suggests it could have been inspired by Masai warriors or from the Indian indentured servants and holy men present in Jamaica at the

is in a super-exploited situation since she also has to grapple with gender subordination within her own cultural community,” writes Tafari-Ama.

She adds that male dominance in this context may be “an attempt to reinstate the authority that African men lost during enslavement”.

Even the language that is used to refer to females in the movement is analyzed. What does the term ‘dawta’ mean to you? Lake looks at the term frequently used by Rastamen. Does it contain or empower?

Of course, one cannot look at Rastafari without celebrating their contribution to reggae music worldwide. Several contributors explore this topic that draws inspiration from kumina to R&B and dancehall. But, it does not stop there.

Rastafarians are ably representing a growing cross-over constituency in Jamaica, and indeed across the Caribbean. Although contributor Anita Waters asks the question “why have Rastas enjoyed greater electoral success outside Jamaica than inside,” the tables seem to be turning.

Jamaica’s Minister of State for Tourism and Entertainment Damian Crawford proudly wears locks. He may not be

Rastafarian, but sports the hairstyle as a statement about the prejudice and discrimination that still exists against those who dare to go against the mainstream.

Crawford’s actions, like the themes in this book, celebrate the significant evolution and contributions of the Rastafari, but warns of the persistent stumbling blocks still facing the movement in this new millennium.

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



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CHECKPOINT: Heterosexuals main route of Caribbean HIV infection ~ U.N.

Heterosexual transmission remains the main route of HIV infection in the Caribbean, according to the latest information released by UNAIDS.

In a report titled "Together we will end AIDS" released ahead of the 19th Annual AIDS Conference in the United States last month, UNAIDS also noted that AIDS-related deaths in the Caribbean have declined by almost 50 percent in 10 years.

It stated that AIDS-relat-

ed deaths have fallen to about 10,000 persons in 2011, nearly half what was seen in 2001, in almost 30 years since the start of the AIDS epidemic.

"This is in large part due to the relatively high antiretroviral treatment coverage of 67 percent for the Caribbean as a whole", the report noted. "At present 230,000 people are living with HIV in the Caribbean. The estimated number of persons who were newly infected with the virus last year was 13,000".

UNAIDS said that about 1,100 children became infected with HIV in the Caribbean in 2011 with the majority of these cases being in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, "which together comprise 68 percent of the region's HIV epidemic".

TARGET

UNAIDS said that many of the member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) "are close to achieving elimi-



nation targets for the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT)".

Overall, adult HIV prevalence for the Caribbean is one percent and heterosexual transmission remains the main route of HIV infection.

However, there are high rates of infection among key populations. Prevalence among men who have sex with men (MSM) ranges from an estimated five percent in parts

of the Dominican Republic to 20 percent in Trinidad and Tobago. Guyana follows at 19 percent and Jamaica is highest with 32 percent.

HIV prevalence for female sex workers ranges from 4.8 percent in the Dominican Republic to 24 percent in Suriname, five percent in Haiti and Jamaica to 17 percent in Guyana.



Blacks at high risk for glaucoma, blindness

African Americans ages 40 or older, who have diabetes or a family history of glaucoma, are at higher risk of getting the eye disease, which, if not treated early and properly, can cause blindness.

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that can damage the optic nerve of the eye and result in vision loss. Primary open-angle glaucoma is the most common form. In this condition, fluid builds up in the front chamber of the eye and the optic nerve is damaged by the resulting increase in eye pressure.

"Glaucoma affects more than two million people nationwide (in the United States) and is a leading cause of vision loss and blindness in African Americans," said Dr. James Tsai, chair of the Glaucoma Subcommittee for the National Eye Institute (NEI) National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) in the U.S. "In fact, African Americans are at risk of developing it at an earlier age. Glaucoma has no early warning signs or symptoms, and most people don't know this. It's very important that people don't wait until they notice a problem with their vision to have an eye exam."

DETECTION

As glaucoma progresses, a person may eventually notice his or her side vision decreases.

If the disease is left untreated, the field of vision narrows and vision loss may result.

"Most studies show that at least half of all persons with

glaucoma—to get a dilated eye exam every one to two years, because early detection and treatment may save your sight."

A comprehensive dilated



Early checks can avoid vision loss.

glaucoma don't know they have this potentially blinding disease," said Dr. Paul Sieving, director of NEI, National Institutes of Health.

"Glaucoma can be detected through a comprehensive dilated eye exam. NEI encourages all people at higher risk of glaucoma - African Americans age 40 and older; everyone age 60, especially Mexican Americans; and those with a family history of

eye exam is painless. Drops are placed in the eyes to dilate or widen the pupils. This allows the eye care professional to see inside the eye and examine the optic nerve for signs of damage and other vision problems.

For more information about glaucoma, visit <http://www.nei.nih.gov/glaucoma> or call NEI at 301-496-5248.



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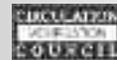
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SPORT



Jamaica, T&T to play soccer internationals in U.S. this month

Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, two of the Caribbean's top soccer teams, will play friendly internationals in the United States this month.

The Reggae Boyz will face El Salvador at RFK Stadium in Washington D.C. on **Aug. 15** as Jamaica prepares for upcoming CONCA-

CAF semi-final round World Cup qualifying games against the U.S. next month.

Jamaica is also scheduled to face Kenya in another friendly international on **Aug. 25** in Hartford, Connecticut.

The Boyz, which qualified for the 1998 World Cup finals in France, play the U.S. in Kingston on **Sept. 7**, then trav-

el to Columbus, Ohio to face the Americans again on **Sept. 11**.

CANADA CLASH

T&T, which appeared in World Cup 2006, was eliminated from soccer's showcase event in 2014. However, the Soca Warriors are scheduled to meet World Cup hopeful

Canada on **Aug. 15** at the Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill, Florida.

Canada is in its final preparation stage for a crucial pair of World Cup qualifiers against Panama next month.

"This has always been a difficult FIFA date due to the time constraints and opening of various club seasons. We felt it important to play as it gives us the opportunity to get a game together on the only available date before September," said Stephen Hart, head coach of Canada and a native of T&T.

Canada has not faced T&T since the two nations squared off a remarkable five



Hart

times in 2000. The Canadians posted a record of two wins, two losses and one draw against the Caribbean nation that year.



Caribbean soccer players on the rise worldwide ~ John Barnes

Jamaican-born England and Liverpool legend John Barnes says the number of Caribbean soccer players on the world stage is increasing.

However, the professional coach insisted that a positive attitude to the sport, particularly in the smaller islands of the region, is desperately needed if the trend is to continue.

The England-based Barnes, who was in the region recently as part of a training program targeting young players, said there is no shortage of talent in the Caribbean.

"Indeed, in terms of the talent across the Caribbean and Central America, it is always as I expect it to be – very high," explained Barnes.

"There is a whole lot of talent – both physical and technical – but I always stress the importance of the mentality that is required to be successful."

tor and pundit for ESPN and SuperSport.

"If success in football was strictly as a result of ability, then the Argentineans would win everything! It's all about applying attitude to ability, and the Jamaican athletes



Barnes

competing in the Olympics at the moment are a fine example of doing just that."

ASIAN MODEL

Barnes, who played for England 79 times, has pointed at footballers in Asia, who he said cannot be compared with players in the Caribbean physically, but who have made international inroads.

"I grew up in Jamaica, so I know there is lots of skill and talent," explained Barnes, who took over as manager of the Jamaica national team in 2008 for a six-month stint. "But if you want examples of what you can achieve with the right mentality, you only have to look at the Koreans and other Asian teams.

"They are not as physically good as the Caribbean teams, but their attitude is what gets them through to the World Cup time and time again."

- Edited from CMC.



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Former P.M. wants multiple captains for West Indies cricket teams

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada - Former Grenada Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell is calling on the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) to introduce a multiple captain system for the Caribbean team's participation in the various formats of the game.

Dr. Mitchell, who once chaired the Caribbean community (CARICOM) sub-committee on cricket, said WICB must adopt such a policy to contend with an international cricket schedule that has become intense.

Speaking in a recent radio interview here, Dr. Mitchell said too many players are punishing their bodies as a result of having to play in more international tourna-

ments than before.

"Clearly, and I am not getting at the personal now am talking about the policy," said Dr. Mitchell, an avid cricketer, who captained the national team from 1971-74.

"The West Indies Cricket Board in my view is making a serious mistake by continuing to have one person captain every single version of the game.

"If he is captain he has to play every single match and therefore I think it is a mistake. It is certainly going to affect the performance of the captain and will affect the performance of the team."

TALKING POINT

The issue of multiple cap-

tains has become a major talking point in international cricket, with a number of teams higher up the ICC rankings experimenting with the policy. Australia and South Africa have used such a system, with one man in charge for both Test matches and one-day internationals (ODI) and the other leading the way in T20s.

The policy has worked for England, where Andrew Strauss has led that country to the number one spot in Test cricket and Alastair Cook has done well in ODIs.

"Players are called upon to exert a lot of pressure on their bodies on a consistent basis. Even some of the best fast bowlers are being rested. So it seems to me that the West Indies Cricket Board



Mitchell

seems to not be learning from this," said Dr. Mitchell, who once led the Windward/Leeward Islands combined youth team.

"Clearly you cannot have one player playing every single version of the game particularly a bowler or somebody of that nature and he is going to break down and when you

need him most you probably would not have his services this same thing can be said about your captain."

Dr. Mitchell, currently Grenada's Opposition leader, says success in West Indies cricket could come at a faster pace if different captains are used for the various formats.

"And I think while there is some improvement and light at the end of the tunnel I believe there will be more aggressive success if we look towards getting a captain for different versions of the game," he explained. "I think we have to come to terms with that."

- Edited from CMC.



T&T, Jamaica in Florida cricket clash to mark 50th Independence

Two Caribbean countries celebrating their 50th Independence will clash on the cricket field this month in South Florida.

The national teams of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago are scheduled to play two Twenty/20 matches on **Aug. 10 and 11** at the Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill.

Both countries have been strong in the limited overs format of the game recently, with

T&T the Caribbean T20 champion and Jamaica ruling in the 50 overs version of the game.

Both days are expected to feature live Caribbean-flavored entertainment. The park is located at 3700 N.W. 11th Place.

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Rain no play, but Barbados wins U-15 Caribbean cricket

BASSETERRE, St Kitts - Barbados wrapped up the Regional Under-15 title in anticlimactic circumstances after the final day of the championship was washed out without a ball bowled here late last month.

Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago were meeting at Conaree Sports Complex; Guyana and Jamaica were scheduled to clash at Warner Park while Leeward Islands and Windward Islands were engaged at the Edgar Gilbert Complex.

Barbados, which played unbeaten, topped the stand-

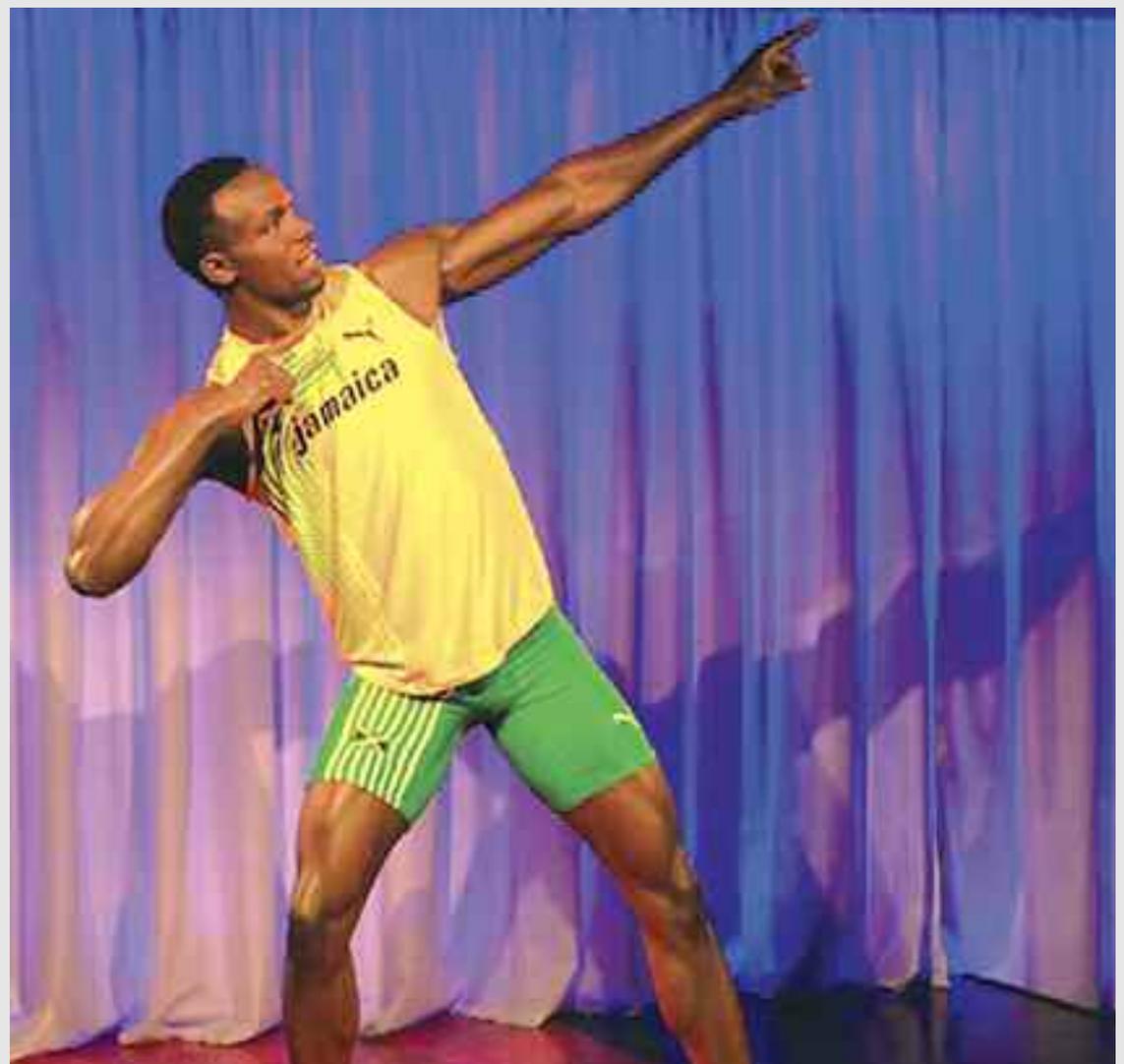
ings with 63.5 points, while the Windwards lost one game to end in second on 57.

Trinidad and Tobago was third with 48.5 and Leewards fourth on 38. Defending champion Jamaica finished one from bottom on 15.5 points after failing to win a game. Guyana finished last on 13 points, also failing to win.

Barbadian Lenico Boucher won the "Most Valuable Player" award after amassing 411 runs at an average of 68.5, while scoring two centuries.



WAXED 'TO DI WORLD'



A wax figure of Jamaica sprint superstar Usain Bolt was unveiled at world famous Madame Tussauds last month in London, England, site of the Olympic Games. Thousands of fans turned up to view the statue, which showed Bolt striking his signature "To Di World" pose. The figure joined the interactive sports zone. Bolt went to the Olympics to defend his titles in the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 meters relay.

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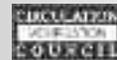


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BACK TO SCHOOL



~ A Caribbean Today special feature

FCAT more vigorous, but are Florida students really improving?

DAWN A. DAVIS

Declaring Florida public schools healthy and comparable to global education systems, Florida Department of Education officials are touting overall student improvement as a direct result of reform involving new assessment methods and more rigorous educator performance measures.

However, questions remain if the state's students

are really improving.

The state's new FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) 2.0 version is becoming more rigorous, attaching new measures for subjects such as algebra, geometry and biology. In addition, assessments are now more critical as the school grading system takes hold.

"Florida assessments are standards-based," explained Jane Fletcher, Florida Department of Education's

director of accountability and policy research.

"They measure whether students are learning the Sunshine State's standards that the state board adopted.

The state board adopted what students are supposed to learn in the different subject areas, not what the teachers teach in the classroom.

Essentially, teachers don't have to do anything special, all they need to do is teach the standards."

Addressing journalists at a recent briefing on education reform hosted by New America Media and the Urban League of Greater Miami, Fletcher emphasized that the changes to FCAT are driven by student achievement. She claimed statistics based on scores have been improving.

"Over the last 10 years we've seen significant change in how well our students are

doing," said Fletcher. "...We are seeing large changes in the positive direction for our students with the implementation of this accountability system."

TROUBLING

Long seen as a system that creates successful test takers, not educated students, questions remain if FCAT should be a measure of students' real ability to succeed. One troubling statistic not reflected in FCAT scores is the high drop-out rates among black and Hispanic students.

The latest report from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), which analyzed numbers from 1972 to 2009, revealed that the high school drop-out rate for blacks was 4.8 percent and 5.8 percent for Hispanics, while the rates for whites stood at 2.4 percent.

How does the Florida education system, and indeed the U.S. education system, catch these students that have been allowed fall through the cracks?

"We are trying to reach kids earlier in the system when they are at the level when they can be positively influenced by additional instruction, reading, intensive help at the elementary level," admitted Edward Croft, the department's bureau chief for accountability reporting. "...It is a big area of concern."

But, even with the concerns, Florida's education system still relies heavily on the FCAT assessment model that many think have failed students. Croft, who heads the office that rates schools with grades from A through F based on student achievement on the FCAT, maintains that the measure is good.

"We are looking at whether students have been

able to increase their achievement level from year to year," he said. "Or, if they were at a satisfactory achievement level, whether they were able to maintain that year over year.

"For kids that are stuck at the lowest achievement level—one or two on the FCAT - if they've made enough of an increase on the FCAT vertical scale year to year, they can still demonstrate learning gains.

"...For kids that were low performers last year who made greater than expected gains this year, they are getting extra weighting in the school grades calculations."

GUAGE

Assessments are good and necessary to determine a child's readiness to move on to the next level. However, when negative statistics, such as the drop out rates mentioned above, are stubbornly holding on, it may be time to re-evaluate how children are being tested. Yet state education officials are adamant that the Florida assessment works and are pushing for its continued use.

Teacher evaluation systems also rely heavily on FCAT, although other measures are taken into consideration. This model involves input from various stakeholders, including administrators, teachers and parents that take into account student, school, and classroom level characteristics.

Juan C. Copa, the education department's director of research and analysis in educator performance, warned that the much talked about teacher evaluations should not be viewed as punitive.

"It is meant to transform (CONTINUED ON PAGE 18A)



Fletcher



Croft



Copa



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BACK TO SCHOOL


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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

SCHOOL DAZE: It's time to get kids ready for new term

JASON WALKER

It's that time again. The time of mad rushes to get all the items children need for school to advance their development.

Parents descend on stores in a modern day re-enactment of the Gold Rush. "Do I have the list of the right items?" "Do I have enough money for all these items?" "What else can I get to help my child?" How do I make my money stretch?"

There's no formulaic path one should take. One gem is simply start early, even from the end of the previous school semester. Ask teachers what to expect so you, as a parent, is in position to involve your child in activities, projects and scholastic endeavors that can support your child's success in the upcoming semester. Find creative ways at home - and wherever your child is for the summer - that engages them in areas that prepare them for school.

One parent offered that for kindergartner students parents should "get their backpacks monogrammed or labeled well since there are



Getting school supplies early is always a good idea.

bound to be a lot of duplicates." Also, be an eco-shopper and hit consignment stores for great deals on clothes. If a parent has eased up on bedtime hours during the summer, get the child back on the routine a week before school starts to reset your child's body clock. Also, prepare to pack healthy lunches for your child.

Take advantage of tax free holidays offered in your state, where tax is not charged on items such as clothing and school supplies below a certain cost. The tax-free holiday in Georgia, for example, runs Aug. 10-11.

Take advantage of local back-to-school giveaways offered by some organizations and churches. One such event, a "Back to School Bash", will be held Aug. 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Trinity Church, 17801 N.W.

Second Ave. in Miami, Florida.

Parents should also help their child concentrate. When they are doing homework or school-related activities, distractions and interruptions should be kept at a minimum. Children also need to learn self-motivation when it comes to their work. Tap into their interests and align them with success in school.

Teach prioritization. Make sure children's energies are appropriately focused on the most important things, especially their schoolwork. Teach children time management and organization.

Story and photograph submitted by Jason Walker, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



WHAT TO BUY

Below are some items you may wish to consider for your children as they return to school:

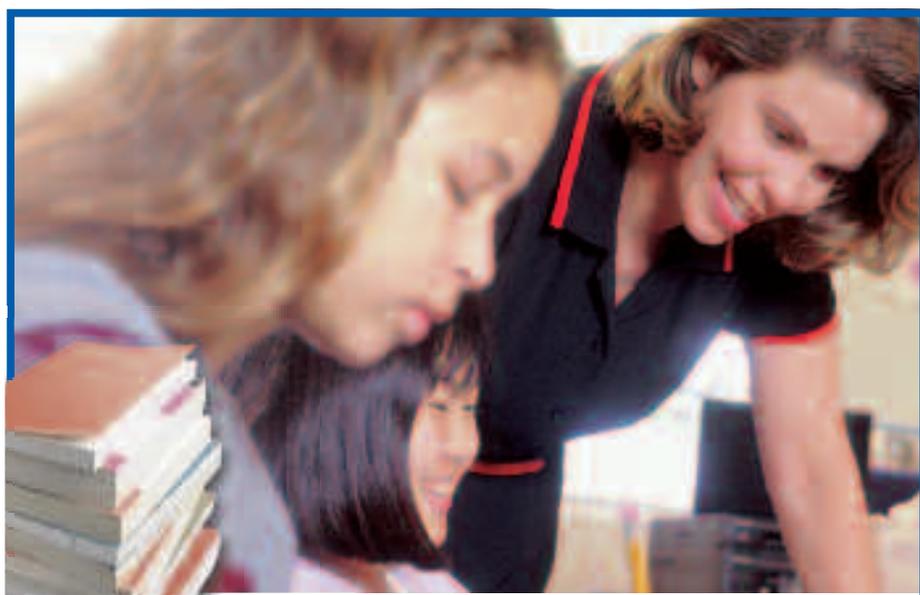
Preschool - art smock, change of clothes for spills or accidents, freezer packs for lunch boxes, lunch bag or lunch box, packaged hand wipes, packaged snacks (healthy choices include pretzels, nuts - if allowed - and dried fruit), plastic crayon keeper or box to store craft projects, plastic drink container with flip top to stop spills, pocket tissue packs, re-sealable gallon-sized plastic bags for taking home craft projects, shoes with slip-proof soles and small umbrella.

Elementary school - art smock, backpack large enough to fit a lunch box, folders, and supplies, box of crayons, pack of washable markers, bottle of glue, glue sticks, freezer packs for lunch boxes, packaged hand wipes, hooded waterproof jacket for rainy days on the playground, eraser, lunch bag or lunch box, number two pencils, packaged snacks, plastic crayon keeper or box to store craft projects, plastic drink container, plastic toolbox to store scissors, glue and other supplies, folders with pockets,

pocket tissue packs, pair of safety scissors, shoes with slip-proof soles, small pencil sharpener, small umbrella and re-sealable gallon-sized plastic bags for taking home craft projects/

Middle school - Agenda or planner to keep track of homework assignments, backpack, binder dividers, one binder per subject, compass (one without a sharp metal point will be the safest), folder per subject for handouts, highlighters in different colors, pack of number two pencils, loose-leaf paper, pens, protractor, ruler, mini stapler, three-subject spiral notebook and zip drive or USB drive to save work done on home and school computers.

High school - Agenda or planner, backpack, binder dividers, one binder per subject, one folder per subject for handouts, calculator (if allowed), two highlighters in different colors, pack of number two pencils, loose-leaf paper (college-ruled or wide-ruled), two packages of 1/4-inch graph paper, pens, ruler, mini stapler, three- or five-subject spiral notebook and zip drive or USB drive.



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Free 'Back to School Vaccination Drive'

Commissioner Rebeca Sosa is partnering with the Miami-Dade County Health Department to offer a free "Back to School Vaccination Drive" for children ages two months to 18 years old this month.

The immunizations will be administered between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Aug. 16 at the Miami Springs Recreation Center, 1401 Westward Dr.

Parents and legal guardians must bring their child's immunization records and arrive to the event no later than 1 p.m. Parents must also be present when

vaccinations are administered.

Children entering Miami-Dade County Schools for the first time must have their physical School Entry Health Exam done by a physician before getting vaccines.

Additional information on school health requirements can be found on Miami-Dade County Public Schools' website at www.dadeschools.net.

For more information, call Commissioner Sosa's district office at **305-267-6377**.



FCAT more vigorous, but are Florida students really improving?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16A)

the way we look at teachers and school leaders to ensure they are pursuing the best practices to improve student performance," said Copa.

"The results from these evaluations can be used to inform school level and district level improvement plans as well as professional development opportunities for teachers...so that we can get to the ultimate goal of improving students' performance."

The teachers' evaluation, based on

Florida's Student Success Act, focuses on three areas: student performance, instructional practice and professional and job responsibility. But, according to Copa, at least 50 percent is based on FCAT results.

In the final analysis, Florida mandated student, teacher, and school grades still comes down to FCAT performance.

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



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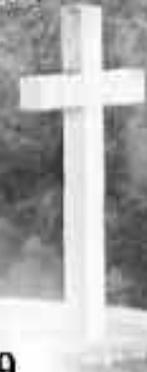
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