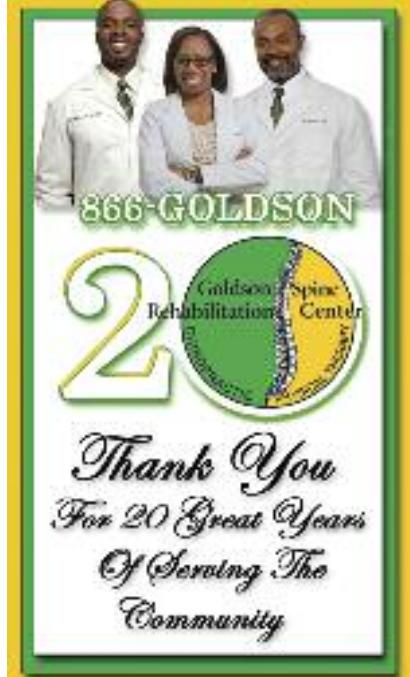


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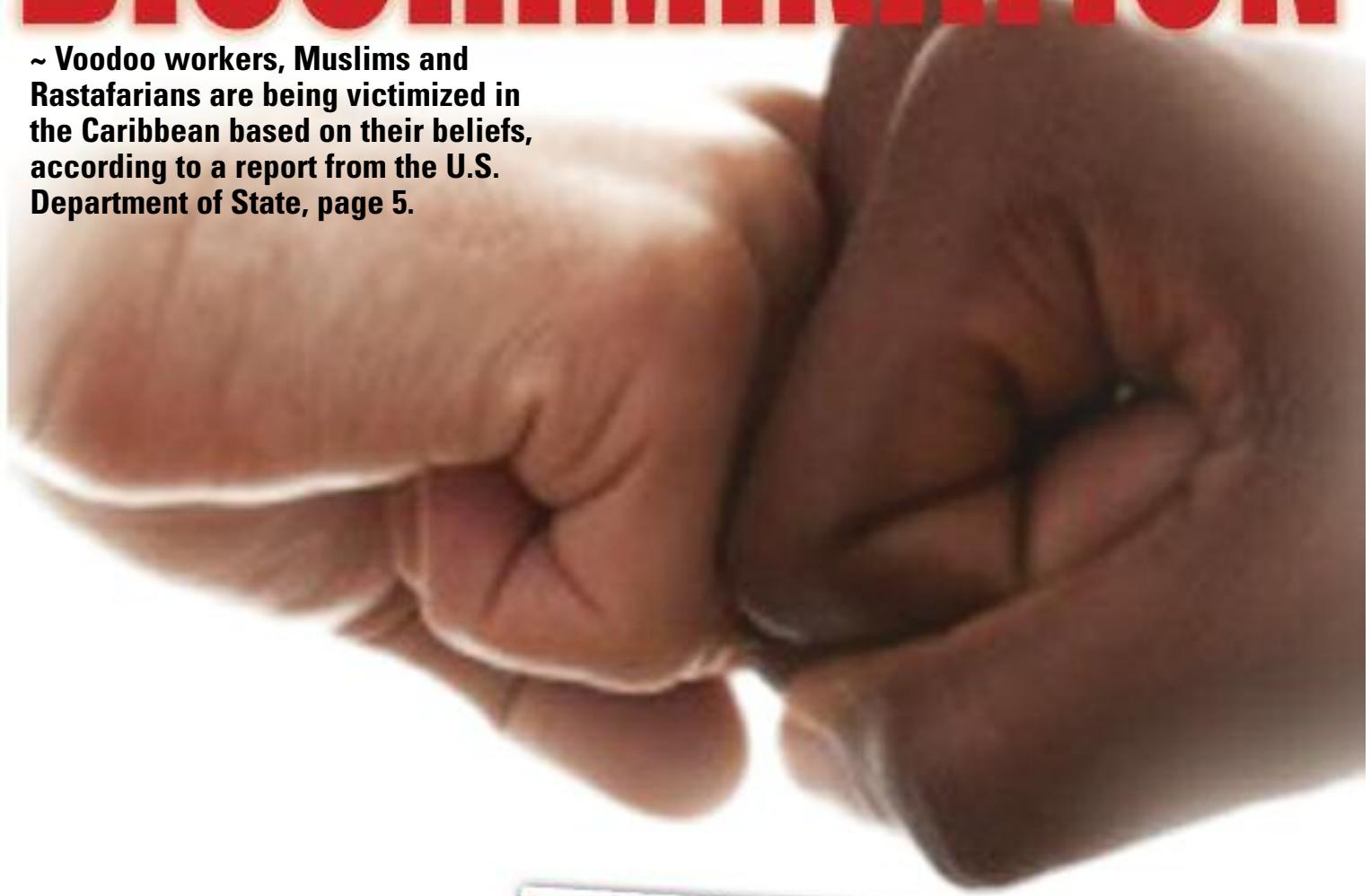
Dr. Marie O. Etienne, a Haitian-born nursing professor at Miami Dade College in Florida, is to receive the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal from American Red Cross, page 12.



U.S.-based Ryan Johnson will lead Jamaica's attack in three crucial World Cup qualifying matches this month to determine if the Caribbean's lone survivor can make it to soccer's biggest show, page 22.

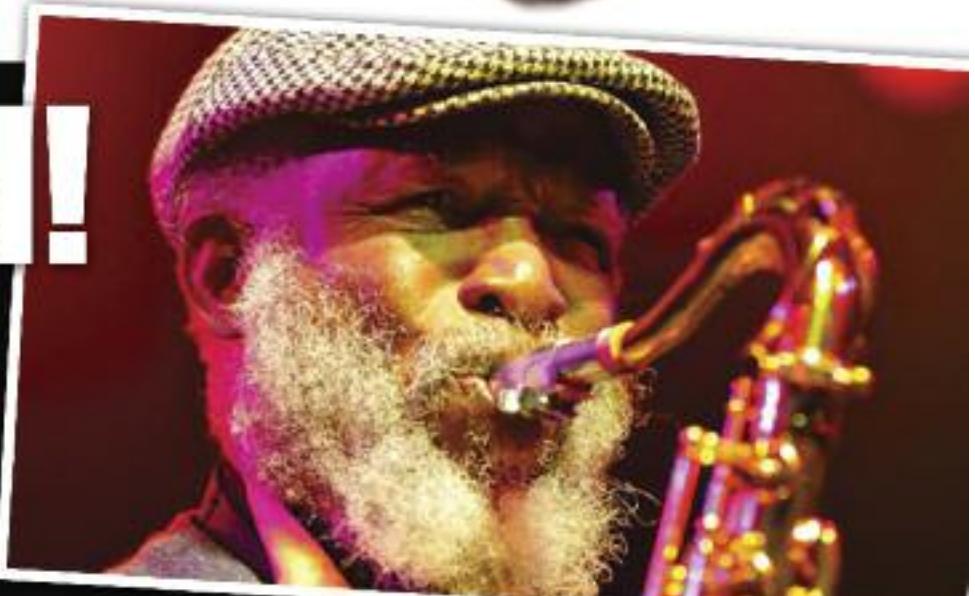
DISCRIMINATION

~ Voodoo workers, Muslims and Rastafarians are being victimized in the Caribbean based on their beliefs, according to a report from the U.S. Department of State, page 5.



HAIL IM!

~ Cedric "Im" Brooks, one of the Caribbean's most influential musical trailblazers, died last month in the United States. The impact of his ideas and innovations ranks with the best ever produced by the region, page 19.



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'Frank, cordial' talks mark U.S. vice president's Caribbean visit

PETER RICHARDS

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – United States Vice President Joe Biden held "frank and cordial" talks with Caribbean community (CARICOM) leaders late last month and pledged Washington's assistance on a wide range of issues affecting the socio-economic development of the 15-member regional grouping.

"I want to thank you all for the important discussions...but more importantly for the frankness and directness we were able to engage in," said Biden, who wrapped up a 21-hour visit here as part of a tri-nation tour of South America and the Caribbean.

"It was completely open, completely frank and completely straightforward even where we disagreed."

"That's how friends should treat friends and we need you" he said, adding that he hoped Washington would be able to play a part in the overall development of the region.

'GREAT SUCCESS'

CARICOM Chairman and Haiti's President Michel Martelly, described the talks

at the Diplomatic Centre on the outskirts of the capital "as a great success," adding, "we have come out from a very frank but cordial conversation with the vice president.

"We believe that (May 28) discussions further strengthen the relationship between the Caribbean and the United States. It would no doubt help the United States articulate clearly its policy towards the Caribbean which would provide an overarching framework for the relationship and cooperation.

"The Caribbean took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of its sustainable development growth and the need for the United States to partner with the region in achieving this," Martelly said, noting that trade is important in facilitating such growth "and we stressed the importance of trade being conducted on a level playing field and respect for the rules established by the World Trade Organization (WTO)."

AGREEMENT

Martelly, who together with Biden signed a trade investment framework agreement (TIFA) to galvanise trade and investment activities



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, left, in discussion with T&T Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar in Trinidad.

between the two sides and within CARICOM, said the regional leaders called on Washington "to engage early and meaningfully with CARICOM countries with a view to addressing in a sympathetic manner the region's concern with regards to rum and inter-

net gaming." CARICOM countries have said in the past that they will continue to oppose subsidies being granted to United Kingdom-based Diageo, one of the world's biggest producers of rum, because of the impact the subsidy is having

on rum producers in the region, while Antigua and Barbuda continues to haggle with Washington to abide by the WTO ruling in its favor on Internet gaming.

- Edited from CMC.



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NEWS

OLINT investors in line to recover lost money

Caribbean Americans who lost money investing in companies operated by Jamaican-born David A. Smith, doing business as Overseas Locket International Corporation (OLINT) and related companies, may be eligible to receive compensation from the United States government.

Last month the U.S. Department of Justice issued a statement outlining that possibility.

According to a press release issued by PRNewswire, Smith claimed that the companies were private investment clubs that purportedly traded in foreign currency on investors' behalf. Smith made statements indicating members could expect high returns on their investment with low risk to principal.

However, rather than investing the funds as promised, Smith used them for personal gain and paid returns using new investors' money, in a classic Ponzi scheme.

CONVICTED

Smith was convicted in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida in Sept. 2011 on multiple counts of wire fraud and money laundering, in the case of United States v. David A. Smith, No. 6:10-cr-232-35DAB (M.D. Fla.). As



Smith

part of his criminal sentence, Smith was ordered to forfeit assets seized by federal authorities.

The forfeited funds will be returned to victims of the scheme through a process called remission. To be considered for remission, a Petition for Remission Form must be submitted to the Remission Administrator. A copy of the form can be obtained from the Remission Administrator's website: www.gilardi.com/DSmithRemissionFund. The form must include evidence of relevant investments and returns, including copies of all required supporting documentation.

Persons needing assistance in completing the form or with questions about the Remission Fund may call 1-877-281-4446; or send an email to classact@gilardi.com; or visit the Remission website at www.gilardi.com/DSmithRemissionFund.

- Edited from PRNewswire.



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Doctors indicted for U.S. tax crimes in Caribbean

FLORIDA - The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) says a federal grand jury has indicted a husband and wife doctor for federal tax crimes in the Caribbean.

The DOJ said that David Leon Fredrick and his wife Patricia Lynn Hough were indicted for conspiring to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by concealing millions of dollars in assets and income in offshore bank accounts at UBS and other foreign banks.

According to the indictment, the married doctors, served on the Board of Directors of two Caribbean-based medical schools, located on Saba in the Netherlands Antilles, and the other in Nevis.

The indictment claims that Fredrick had an ownership interest in the medical school on Nevis until 2007, when both medical schools were sold.

CONSPIRACY

The indictment alleges that Fredrick and Hough conspired with each other and with Beda Singenberger, a citizen and resident of Switzerland who is under indictment in the Southern District of New York, and a UBS banker to defraud

the IRS.

"They carried out the conspiracy by creating and using nominee entities and undeclared bank accounts in their names and the names of the nominee entities at UBS and other foreign banks to conceal assets and income from the IRS, including the sale of real estate associated with the medical school on Saba and shares they owned in the medical school on Nevis," the indictment alleges.

"The real estate was sold for more than US\$33 million, all of which was deposited into one of their undeclared accounts in the name of a nominee entity," it adds.

BIG BUYS

The indictment further alleges that Fredrick and Hough used e-mails, telephone and in-person meetings to instruct Swiss bankers and asset managers to make investments and transfer funds from their undeclared accounts at UBS. According to the indictment, Fredrick and Hough "caused funds from the medical schools" undeclared accounts to be transferred to undeclared accounts in their individual names or in the names of nominee entities.

"Fredrick and Hough then used the funds in their unde-

clared accounts to purchase an airplane, two homes in North Carolina and a condominium in Sarasota, Florida," it alleges, adding that Fredrick also transferred more than one million dollars to his relatives.

OBLIGATION

Fredrick and Hough were also charged with four counts of filing false tax returns for 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The indictment alleges that Fredrick and Hough filed false tax returns which substantially understated their total income and failed, on Schedule B, Parts I and III, to report that they had an interest in or signature or other authority over bank, securities or other financial accounts located in foreign countries.

The DOJ said US citizens, resident aliens and legal permanent residents of the U.S. have an obligation to report all income earned from foreign bank accounts on their tax returns. It said the conspiracy charge carries a maximum potential penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

It also said the false return charges each carry a maximum potential penalty of three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.



Two jailed for using Caribbean to smuggle humans into U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - United States law enforcement officials say two foreign nationals were imprisoned in Texas last month for smuggling humans into the U.S. using the Caribbean.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) said Indian national Kaushik Jayantibhai Thakkar and Brazilian Fabiano Augusto Amorim were each sentenced to 36 months in jail for their roles in smuggling undocumented migrants to the U.S. for private financial gain.

In addition to their prison terms, Thakkar, 33, and Amorim, 28, will serve two years of supervised release. Both men pleaded guilty to "one count of conspiracy to

bring undocumented migrants into the United States for profit and to one count of unlawfully bringing two undocumented migrants into the United States for profit".

NETWORK

According to court documents, Thakkar and Amorim worked together and with other co-conspirators to smuggle individuals from India into the U.S. using the Caribbean as well as South and Central America. The court was told that to support their activities, Thakkar and others recruited individuals in India who were willing to pay up to \$60,000 to be smuggled into the U.S.

"For their smuggling operations, Thakkar and Amorim

and their associates used a network of co-conspirators in South America, Central America, the Caribbean and the United States, including the state of Texas.

"Using this network, Thakkar, Amorim and their co-conspirators transported groups of undocumented migrants from locations within India through South America, Central America and the Caribbean and then into the United States by various means, including by air travel, automobiles, water craft and foot," according to the court documents.

- Edited from CMC.



Daughter of U.S. House speaker marries Jamaican

FLORIDA - The eldest daughter of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives John Boehner has tied the knot with her dreadlocked, Jamaican-born construction worker boyfriend.

Lindsay Marie Boehner, 35, married Dominic Lakhan, 38, last month in a ceremony held in a lush garden here. She wore a flowing white strapless gown, showing off a

huge tattoo etched across her arm. Lakhan wore a grey suit with his dreadlocks flowing down his back.

The Republican House Speaker walked his daughter down the aisle at Sundy House. About 60 guests were invited to the wedding, including Boehner and his wife Debbie, and their younger daughter Tricia, 32. Male guests reportedly sported Hawaiian shirts and slacks,

while the women wore sun dresses and semi-formal gowns.

Lakhan was arrested in 2006 for possessing marijuana, with the arresting officer reporting that Lakhan admitted to possessing it for "personal use," Boehner is a strong opponent of legalizing the drug.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean discrimination against Rastafarians, Muslims ~ U.S. report

NELSON A. KING

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States says several Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries, including Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Haiti and The Bahamas, are engaged in discriminatory practices against Rastafarians, voodoo practitioners and Muslims.

In its International Religious Freedom Report for 2012, the Department of State says while there were no reports of abuses of religious freedom in Haiti, some members of the voodoo and Muslim communities "complained they did not enjoy the same legal protections as Christians".

Voodoo, which is widely practiced in Haiti, is often blended with elements of other religions, usually Catholicism. The leader of a prominent multi-denominational group reported that half the Haitian population practices some form of voodoo and that leaders and civil society representatives have expressed concern that the passage of a constitutional amendment in May, could criminalize the practice of voodoo and lead to increased discrimination.

But the report says government officials, including the prime minister, immediately responded to these concerns and stressed that the new amendment would not limit the freedom of religious expression. It says government officials noted that a 2003 presidential decree, recognizing voodoo as a religious



A Rastafarian family in Jamaica.

- File photograph



Muslim women in Trinidad and Tobago.

- File photograph

practice, remained in force.

RELUCTANCE

The report says that some Muslim religious leaders claimed that the Haitian government was reluctant to recognize Islam, and that Muslims married in a religious ceremony did not receive the same government recognition accorded to Christians who

married in the church. The Muslim leaders complained that religious ceremonies could obtain government recognition only through a civil court.

According to the U.S. State Department, the press reports a "growing number" of Muslims in Haiti since the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake.

In Jamaica, the State

Department says there were reports of societal discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice, stating that Rastafarians alleged the overwhelmingly Christian population discriminated against them, "although there were signs of increasing acceptance.

Rastafarians said that elements of their religion, such as wearing dreadlocks and smoking marijuana, presented serious barriers to their ability to find employment and achieve professional status in the official economy", the report states.

It cites a Rastafarian group, the Church of Haile Selassie I, which it said is seeking religious incorporation "for the 15th year without success.

"Some Parliamentarians maintained Parliament should continue to deny incorporation because church members used marijuana, which was illegal, in religious services", the report states.

CLOUDY

However, the report says it was not clear whether the reported discrimination was based on religious belief or was due to the group's alleged illegal use of marijuana as part of religious practice.

With the exception of the concerns raised by Rastafarians, the State Department says there were no other reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice in Jamaica.

During a three-month state of emergency in Trinidad and

Tobago, the State Department report notes that authorities in Port of Spain arrested 16 Muslim men who were allegedly plotting to assassinate the prime minister and three other Cabinet ministers. The report notes that the government never charged the men with any crime and released them after one week.

ONGOING'

In The Bahamas, the State Department says Rastafarians alleged that prison officials were responsible for "ongoing discrimination against detainees at Fox Hill Prison.

"Specifically, they reported that prison officials cut the dreadlocks of Rastafarians held in custody for possession of small amounts of marijuana", it says, stating that, under Bahamian law, "persons convicted for possession of as little as one marijuana cigarette face a maximum sentence of four years in prison".

The report notes that the Bahamian government defended the practice of cutting Rastafarians' dreadlocks as "standard procedure for hygienic reasons". But the report says Rastafarians contended "it was in fact based on discrimination rather than hygiene".

Washington also says Rastafarians reported that Fox Hill Prison "failed to meet their religious dietary requirements," and that on Nov. 19, The House of Rastafari, a Rastafarian group, declared its intention

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

U.S. charges Caribbean American state senator with embezzlement

NEW YORK - United States federal prosecutors have charged a powerful Caribbean American legislator with embezzlement.

New York State Senator John L. Sampson, who represents the largely Caribbean 19th Senatorial District in Brooklyn, was charged with stealing funds from the sale of foreclosed properties and using the money to help finance his race for Brooklyn district attorney.

Sampson, a lawyer and a former leader of New York State's Democratic caucus, is currently the ranking Democrat on the State Senate Judiciary Committee, as well as the Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents said they took Sampson into custody last month and federal prosecutors have also accused



Sampson

him of seeking information from an employee of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Brooklyn about whether he was under criminal investigation and for the names of any potential witnesses who could be used to testify against him.

INDICTMENT

In the 24-page indictment, federal prosecutors accused Sampson of embezzling about \$440,000 in funds involving the

sale of foreclosed properties that he kept for himself instead of returning to court officials in Brooklyn. Sampson was serving as a referee in the sale of the properties, prosecutors said.

They charged that he used part of the money that he steered to himself to finance an unsuccessful campaign in 2005 to be elected the district attorney in Brooklyn.

"For years, Senator John Sampson abused his position of public trust to steal from New Yorkers suffering from home foreclosure and from the very county he was elected to represent," said Loretta E. Lynch, the U.S. attorney in Brooklyn.

"But the former senate ethics leader didn't stop there. Senator Sampson allegedly stole that money to fund his own ambition to become Brooklyn's top prosecutor," she said in a

statement.

SELFISHNESS

Lynn said the criminal charges against Sampson undermines the public trust in their elected representatives and "causes people to become more cynical". She said the underlying ethos behind Sampson's alleged illegal conduct was selfishness.

"The fact that he was trying to become the top state prosecutor in this borough shows the extreme arrogance and hubris," she said, adding "it's all about him."

In their investigation, FBI agents recorded Sampson saying he would track down an informant implicating an associate and "take them out."

Sampson's arrest added yet another name to the notorious list of New York politicians brought down in recently by U.S. federal prosecutors. According to last month's

indictment, after embezzling the funds, Sampson, fearing that he would get caught, allegedly pressured Queens businessman, Guyanese-born Edul Ahmad, to "loan" him \$188,000 to cover his track. Ahmad, a real estate broker, was charged by federal prosecutors and pleaded guilty to committing a "massive mortgage fraud" and the FBI said he immediately began cooperating with agents.

The FBI said Sampson, worried that Ahmad would reveal details of the secret loan, began offering to help Ahmad find witnesses the federal government was using against him. Federal prosecutors also charged that Sampson is ensnared in a bribery scandal involving a former colleague.

- Edited from CMC.

NEWS

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Jamaican gets 20-year prison sentence in U.S. for murder in aid of racketeering

BALTIMORE, Maryland - The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency says a Jamaican-born member of a marijuana trafficking organization has been jailed for murder in aid of racketeering.

ICE said that U.S. District Judge William D. Quarles last month sentenced 52-year-old Hubert Downer, otherwise known as "Doc", to 20 years in prison followed by three years of supervised release for murder in aid of racketeering.

The victim, a drug courier, was kidnapped and dismembered in a bathtub, ICE said. It said the sentencing came after an investigation by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Baltimore County Police Department and the Anne Arundel County Police Department in Maryland.

William Winter, special agent in charge of HSI Baltimore, said Downer's sentence for murder in aid of racketeering "is the culmination of a long-term investigation for HSI special agents, who, since 2009 have been investigating the Jean Brown drug trafficking organization, which spanned five states and three countries."

"HSI special agents have seized approximately 100 pounds of marijuana, US\$853,000 in cash and bank

accounts and six firearms from these co-conspirators, who used intimidation and violence to further their criminal activities."

PLEA

According to the plea agreement and court documents, Jean Brown and Carl Smith led a drug organization that obtained marijuana in Arizona and California and used trucking companies that Brown owned and operated to transport the marijuana to Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York on a monthly basis.

Court documents indicated that Downer helped distribute the marijuana for Brown and that the conspirators transported as much as 1,000 pounds of marijuana per month from 2000 until Brown's arrest in 2010.

The documents stated that on Dec. 16, 2009, Brown and Smith met with Michael Knight, another member of the organization, in Maryland. They said Knight was holding about a million dollars in drug proceeds for Brown, but when they came to collect the money about \$250,000 was missing.

Winter said Brown, Smith and Dean Myrie took Knight, bound with a telephone cable, to an apartment in White Marsh, Maryland, where

Brown "assaulted and interrogated Knight."

"Subsequently, Brown and Smith got Downer and Peter Blake, another member of the drug organization, to help torture Knight to reveal the location of the money. When Knight did not provide the location of the money, Brown ordered Downer and Blake to kill Knight."

"Downer and Blake took a large knife into the bathroom where Knight was being held, and Blake stabbed him to death in the bathtub with Downer's help," Winter said.

LIFE

Brown was sentenced to life in prison after she was convicted by a U.S. federal jury at trial of the drug conspiracy, kidnapping and murder in aid of racketeering, and conspiracy to commit murder in aid of racketeering, Winter said. He said Myrie pleaded guilty to kidnapping in aid of racketeering and was sentenced to 108 months in prison.

Michael Reid and Blake have also pleaded guilty to their roles in the conspiracy and are awaiting sentencing, Winter said, adding that Smith was killed in 2010.

World's second oldest man dies



Sisnett

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - James Sisnett of

Barbados, believed to be the world's second oldest man, died last month at age 113.

James Emmanuel "Doc" Sisnett, who was born on Feb. 22, 1900, was the second oldest man behind Jiroemon Kimura of Japan, who is 116 years old.

Sisnett was one of the last two living men verifiably born in the 19th century and the oldest and last surviving verified man born in the year 1900.

Man accused of killing 14-y-o Jamaican girl in New York

New York police say a man accused of smothering a 14-year-old Jamaican girl to death here, shoving her body in a suitcase and setting it aflame on a Brooklyn beach, murdered the teen because she said she was pregnant with his child and refused to get an abortion.

New York City Medical Examiner's Office confirmed that Shaniesha Forbes wasn't pregnant.

Police said Christian Ferdinand, 20, was arrested in Maine and charged with killing Forbes and dumping her remains near an extinguished bonfire at Gerritsen Beach, nearly three miles from the girl's home in the predominantly Caribbean Flatlands section of Brooklyn. Law enforcement officials said he then tried unsuccessfully to set Forbes's body on fire.

Police said Ferdinand told them that he met Forbes on the social media network Facebook and began a sexual relationship with her. When she told him she was pregnant, but wouldn't get an abortion, police said Ferdinand smothered her with a pillow in his cousin's Brooklyn apartment.

mother, Sandra Price, 40, said she knew her daughter was dating but didn't know she was involved with a 20-year-old man.

Police said Ferdinand kept Forbes's body in a suitcase on the rooftop of his cousin's home for two days before dumping it on the beach.

"The victim in this case was found naked and burned on the beach," Brooklyn Assistant District Attorney Wilfredo Cotto told a judge at Ferdinand's indictment on murder charges.

Relatives said Forbes disappeared in January after leaving her Brooklyn home, saying she was going to school. Police said The Academy for Young Writers freshman was found dead on the beach on Jan. 6.

Police ruled her death a homicide by asphyxiation in April after the medical examiner's office found that the girl's lungs did not contain soot, proving that she was killed before being dumped.

- Edited from CMC.

MOM'S IGNORANCE

Forbes's Jamaican-born

Caribbean discrimination against Rastafarians, Muslims

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

to appeal to the judiciary about these practices.

The State Department says Rastafarians in St. Kitts and Nevis "complained about the government's prohibition of marijuana use, which they described as integral to their religious rituals."

"Members of the group stated they were being marginalized and were victims of religious intolerance," it says, noting that, on Aug. 17, the Nyabinghi Theocracy Order, a Rastafarian organization, held a march and rally in the capital.

"The prime minister affirmed that the government would not legalize marijuana,"

the report says, adding that Rastafarians continued to complain of discrimination, especially in hiring and in schools.

Rastafarians continued to complain of the same alleged practice in Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the report notes.

In Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the report notes that Rastafarians also complained about the prohibition on marijuana use, "which was integral to their religious rituals".

- Edited from CMC.

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TANGLED WEB: 'E-mailgate' spins T&T's politics into turmoil

PETER RICHARDS

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – As had been expected, the Opposition motion of no confidence against the coalition People's Partnership government of Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar last month was doomed to failure.

But Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Rowley has been successful in getting the Trinidad and Tobago population to debate whether or not Persad Bissessar and senior members of her government, including Attorney General Anand Ramlogan, were involved in a sinister move to undermine the judiciary, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) and the media.

Rowley, who has since been taken before the Privileges Committee of Parliament over his disclosure, told legislators that he had received, in December last year, a total of 31 e-mails, from a "whistle blower" indicating how operatives within the government had sought to undermine those institutions. He said he had passed them on to the Office of the President.

Prominent attorney Israel Khan has labeled the e-mails an "international scandal" and said if they were true then the major players "should be arrested, charged and prosecuted." But at the same time, he also acknowledged that if the e-mails "are false then those responsible for perpetrating these nefarious lies should be arrested, charged and prosecuted."

"I have had discussion with a computer expert who advised me that any 10-year-old with the information which was already in the public domain could have hatched those e-mails. It is my considered opinion that the government should advise the president to set up a commission of enquiry into the entire scandalous state of affairs concerning these e-mails which attracted the attention of Parliament and the world at large," Khan said.

CONCERN

Rowley said the e-mails, dating back to Sept. 2012, were from people concerned with the government's defense of the early proclamation of Section 34 of the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act that had the effect of allowing people, whose trial has not started after a 10-year period, to walk free and a verdict of not guilty entered against their names.

Critics say that the clause

was aimed at supporting businessmen Ish Galbaransingh and Steve Ferguson, who have been described as financiers of the ruling United National Congress (UNC), the biggest partner in the four-member coalition People's Partnership government. The two are facing fraud and laundering charges relating to the re-development of the Piarco International Airport in 2001. They are also wanted in the United States on a number of related charges.

The government later repealed the section and Persad Bissessar dismissed her then Justice Minister Hebert Volney, a former High Court judge, on the grounds that he misled Cabinet into believing that the Chief Justice Ivor Archie and the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Roger Gaspard had supported the idea of the early proclamation.

Rowley told legislators that the contents of the e-mail collaborated strongly with events that unfolded in the country last year as the government sought to defend its decision over the controversial legislation, and read into the Hansard the exchange of correspondences between people with e-mail addresses like "anan@gmail.com, kam-lapb@gmail.com, surujram-bachan@hotmail.com and garygriffith@hotmail.com purporting to come from senior government ministers and officials.

DENIAL

Persad Bissessar said while the e-mail address was hers, she was not the author, and that she had passed them to the police for investigation.

"These e-mails, I want to say, are a total fabrication," she said, adding she had written to Acting Police Commission Stephen Williams regarding the "very serious allegations and ascertain the authenticity of those e-mails and to take such action as is required according to the law."

For his part, Ramlogan, as well as other government legislators, sought to bore holes into the e-mails, with the attorney general, who had previously threatened Rowley with making the statements out of the immunity of the Parliament, indicating that he was now prepared to publicly debate the Opposition leader on the matter.

Ramlogan described the e-mails as "entirely misconceived, totally devoid of merit, completely unjustified, and an abuse of Parliament," adding "in this era of technology, it is easy to forge e-mail accounts,

or to create accounts that are either very similar or appears to be an authentic existing e-mail."

PROBE

But Rowley and the Opposition are insisting that the matter be investigated by the Integrity Commission, and



Persad

is also holding out for an independent investigator from outside of the country.

Volney has called on Ramlogan to step down while the investigation proceeds, but the attorney general has brushed aside these calls telling the population "the commissioner of police also by virtue of an amendment to the



Rowley

Police Service Act has the power to contract specialist officers as of when necessary and deem them police officers so they can be co-opted into the Police Service if their expertise is required.

"So if for example the police investigator were to recommend the services of an IT specialist from a particular firm or a particular country, that is something within the remit of the commissioner of police," said Ramlogan.

Former Attorney General Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj, who has called on the senior government ministers implicated in the controversy to hand over their cellular

phones and computers used in Sept. 2012, said it was not enough for the prime minister to pass the information to the police for investigation.

"This, with due respect to the honorable prime minister, is treating this matter not with the seriousness with which it deserves. It is trivializing this serious matter. It is giving a cosmetic and superficial response to a matter which strikes the root of democracy," he said, urging also that all the politicians should "in good faith, swear under oath" that the e-mails were not created by them.

DEMAND

The Roundtable Group, comprising Opposition political parties, trade unions and non-government and civil society organization, has issued an eight-point demand so as to ensure transparency in and during the investigations.

It wants the Trinidad and Tobago government to "invoke the provisions of the various existing mutual legal assistance treaties with one or

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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FEATURECIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCILwww.caribbeantoday.com**ZOOMING IN: Samuels keeps focus on West Indies cricket goals****KEVIN PILE**

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Resurgent Marlon Samuels says he is unfazed by the responsibility of having to shoulder the brunt of the West Indies batting over the last year.

The gifted Jamaican right-hander has emerged as the linchpin of the regional side's batting but says he is now more equipped than at any other point in his life, to deal with the pressure of expectations and the demands of international cricket.

"If I told you about my off-the-field life and the issues, you can understand why I can go on the field and take on so much responsibility," Samuels told CMC Sports last month.

"The responsibility I have right now on the field is much easier than what I have off the field because there are so

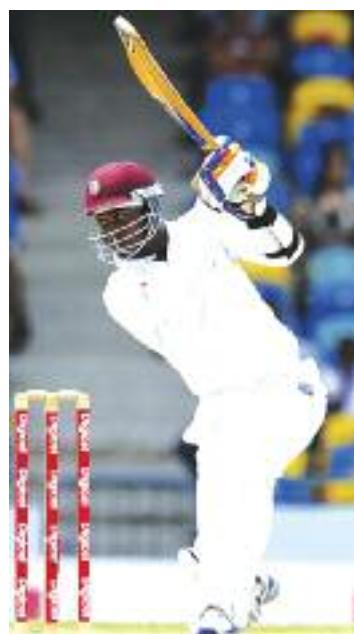
much people for me to take care of, plus my family as well."

"I have found myself. I am not really floating around on earth. It is always good when you find yourself and you are comfortable with yourself then everything goes according to plan."

"I am a man with a plan so I make a lot of plans and I execute all my plans properly. I am just giving thanks that everything is working out how I want it to work out."

PROMISE

With a well documented two-year ban now behind him, the 32-year-old has finally begun to realize the immense promise that heralded his arrival on the international scene 13 years ago as a teenager. Two half-centuries in first four Test innings on return in 2011 hinted at what was to come but it was last



Samuels in action for the West Indies.

year's ill-fated tour of England where Samuels proved his weight in gold.

West Indies failed to win a single game, but an in-form

Samuels scored 386 runs in the three-Test series at an average of 96, reeling off scores of 31 and 86 at Lord's, 117 and 76 not out at Trent Bridge, and 76 at Edgbaston.

Samuels followed up with 123 and 52 in the second Test against New Zealand in Kingston before unfurling a career-best 260 against Bangladesh in the second Test in Khulna.

His high class 78 in the Twenty20 World Cup final against Sri Lanka was the basis of West Indies' eventual triumph.

PRESSURE

Samuels, one of the five Wisden Cricketers-of-the-Year for 2012, said it was important now that he achieved the high standards he set for himself.

"I put extra pressure on myself by saying in the media that I am going to score a

hundred or 250 or stuff like that," he explained.

"That's just the extra pressure I put on myself. I am not really overconfident, it's just me pushing myself to a next level because I know people are listening and they are going to be looking to see if I can do what I say, and I always like to defend what I say."

Samuels left the Caribbean late last month with the West Indies squad for the ICC Champions Trophy in England and Wales, which runs from June 6-23. The tournament, the final edition to be played, will provide Samuels with yet another chance to put his skills on display.

MARK

In his only Champions

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

TANGLED WEB: 'E-mailgate' spins T&T's politics into turmoil

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

more jurisdictions – U.S., Canada, U.K. - in order to obtain the competent person or persons with experience in cyber investigations" and that a special counsel be appointed so that the investigation could begin "immediately."

Integrity Commission Chairman Ken Gordon told a local newspaper that "as of now, I am not saying yeah or nay" with regards to whether or not the commission would proceed with an investigation, said "it is something which requires being looked at carefully. And it has to be looked at in the context of the fact that it is breaking new ground.

"Is it ground that you can chart successfully, and when I say successfully, I mean in terms of the legality of the commission's decision to investigate or not? One would have to get a view of the law which could stand the test of all the rigors to which it would be put," he added.

Gordon confirmed that former President George Maxwell Richards had sent him a letter regarding the e-mails in March, a few days before the expiry of the term of office of four members.

"If I had taken the matter up with the old commissioners...here are people who are going out of office in seven days. There was absolutely no prospect of getting a decision made in the remaining seven days.

"And all that you would be doing would be involving people in something which you knew they couldn't

address and putting confidentiality at greater risk. It made absolutely no sense," he added.

IMPLICATIONS

The Chamber of Industry and Commerce says while it welcomed the disclosure that a police investigation has started, the announcement in the Parliament "carry serious implications for all persons and, indeed, the entire national image.

"The chamber believes that nothing less than an urgent, efficient and thorough investigation is required. We believe this investigation must be given top priority, and conducted with the requisite accountability and transparency that is expected. The chamber also expects that should there be any need for an independent expert with the requisite technical expertise to assist, this would also be done expeditiously."

Both the government and

the Opposition have taken the matter to the streets. Last month, Rowley, addressing supporters of the People's National Movement (PNM), said he was satisfied that he had done his job and if the Privileges Committee of the Parliament acts to send him to jail "I would prefer to be in jail with criminals than in Parliament with criminals."

- Edited from CMC.



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Successful Caribbean Women In Business

In September Caribbean Today will spotlight Ten Successful Caribbean Women In Business.

Join Caribbean Today as we showcase these hard working women from the Caribbean who have left their mark on the business community in South Florida.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: AUGUST 27TH, 2013

Let immigration tango begin

Dear Mr. President,

Now that the "Gang of 18" in the United States Senate's Judiciary Committee has run out of amendments and actually pushed the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act on to the floor for a full-vote soon, the real tango begins.

It's especially so since U.S. House Speaker John Boehner, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, Republican Conference Chairman Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte knocked heads together and announced on May 23 that while "the House remains committed to fixing our broken immigration system...we will not simply take up and accept the bill that is emerging in the Senate if it passes."

Too bad last November's election results are now pushed aside in the memory banks of Republicans, even though they were quick to switch sides on this issue in the face of tremendous loss immediately after owing to a lack of diversity of their base.

The reality for the GOP and Boehner is that America's changing face of voters will keep on changing even without this measure and you can't do a darn thing to stop it.

It's time for the Tea Party and Republican base to face this, embrace this bill and join us all in a Kum Ba Yah moment or keep on losing!

Respectfully,
Felicia Persaud

The above is one in a series of articles edited from News Americas and written by Felicia Persaud, founder of NewsAmericasNow, CaribPR Wire and Hard Beat Communications.



Income-based diversity push falls short

A few years ago, Harvard University startled the academic world - and many of the rest of us - by offering what many would call a form of class-based affirmative action.

Essentially, the elite university offered a free college education to high-achieving students whose families earned less than \$40,000 a year. Other elite schools, including Yale, Princeton and Stanford, have made similar offers in various ways, and Harvard, among others, has since raised the bar

to family income of \$60,000 a year.

How has it worked out? Unfortunately, not as well as many had hoped.

MARGINAL

One study of the Harvard initiative's first year found that the number of students whose family income fell below the threshold increased by only about 15 students in a class of about 1,650 freshmen.

University officials at Harvard, and other colleges with similar offers, lament that

tion bill that passed the Senate Committee was at the same juncture in June 2007, before it died a painful death.

Now with Republicans like Goodlatte holding the gate in the House committee and talk of a different bill that is stamped approved by Republican leaders, who knows if we are heading for the summer of disbelief all over again. I certainly hope not.

The reality is there are enough in the 300-plus amendments in the Senate bill to more than meet Republicans and Tea Party approvals. Not one of these 11-plus million undocumented migrants will be handed citizenship papers until the border is secured. We get that and can hold our noses and take it, if it means this bill can finally make it on to your desk and become law.

SWITCHING SIDES

Too bad last November's election results are now pushed aside in the memory banks of Republicans, even though they were quick to switch sides on this issue in the face of tremendous loss immediately after owing to a lack of diversity of their base.

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It's time for the Tea Party and Republican base to face this, embrace this bill and join us all in a Kum Ba Yah moment or keep on losing!

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The stupid man will not only put his body at risk for a girl that loves him, but will also risk his finances, family and reputation.

The irony is that many times the girl does not really love him, but will take all that she can from him, milking him, eating him out.

The term "no fool like an old fool" is usually ascribed to older men, as somehow they seem to take leave of their senses when faced with the prospect of pleasure with a young woman. But it's not just old men who are deemed fools. A recent report making the airwaves, titled "Are Men Stupid?", has opened a whole new can of worms.

Would any wise man just take \$4,000 and give it to a complete stranger for a few moments of pleasure? Would you? Yet some bigwig eminent men have done exactly that, as they pursue pleasure perennially.

PROOF?

Men really do stupid things and these acts are chronicled throughout history. Is there a stupid gene? Some seem to think so, as this recent blurb in the mainstream media pointed out. The article was written by a woman, but what she said was true. She asks: "Are men stupid? How else can we explain the endless parade of otherwise successful individuals, who by all appearances seem intelligent and competent, and yet risk destroying their careers and their personal lives over the chance of having a sexual escapade?" Then she lists examples such as U.S. politicians, and the U.S. Secret Service agents and their behavior in Cartagena,

there simply is not a large enough pool of high-achieving low-income students and that there's not much colleges can do to change that.

But that widespread belief is disputed by a new study by economists

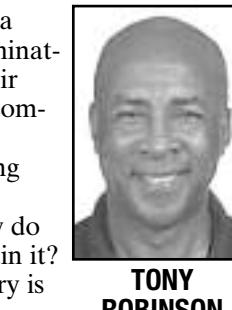
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

VIEWPOINT

Men's stupid gene



Colombia that culminated in their careers coming to a screeching halt.



TONY ROBINSON

them down the Secret Service agents in Colombia, not sex. Men will spend untold amounts of money, risking their careers that they spent decades building up, endangering their families as they put their wives at health risks, all for a little sex. Why? Is it because men are inherently stupid, or is there some scientific, biological, mental, physical, emotional, logical reason why men do what they do? Let's face it, so many men couldn't be all so stupid? But they just may be.

SLAVERY BLAME

In the Caribbean diaspora
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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NEWSCIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCILwww.caribbeantoday.com**Men's stupid gene**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

ra, where sex is the national sport, some sociologists put the blame squarely on our historical background of slavery. The reality is, many men do things when pursuing women that they would not do otherwise, bringing us to often say, "What a man stupid, look how he risk and lose everything, all for a woman."

Don't knock it, for kings have abdicated their thrones for women, and politicians have brought down governments. Was mighty Samson stupid for allowing Delilah to get close to him, sleep with him, then sap his strength? Was King David stupid to risk his honor by sending Uriah to the battlefield, all because he wanted his wife, even though David had countless wives?

WEAKNESS

Is it stupidity or simply a base weakness on a man's part that makes him throw all reasoning and logic out the window when faced with the prospect of prurient pleasure? There must be some trigger, some mechanism that short circuits good sense and overrides it with the stupidity gene.

History is replete with

stories of great men, judges, presidents, kings, pastors, teachers, coaches and others who all do stupid things in the pursuit of women. It defies logic and yet the logic is simple: It's not only stupidity, it's weakness. Weakness can let otherwise intelligent men throw off the mantle of respectability and don the gown of carnal pleasure.

Women are aware of this. So all this talk about women being the weaker sex is nothing but hogwash. I'm sure that no woman is going to spend hard-earned money taking care of a lover at the expense of her family and household. Women aren't stupid. Of course there are a few who do silly things, but the stupid acts of the men really overshadow them.

So many men have been brought down by their stupid acts as they chase women that it boggles the mind. But still they continue, and when you think that they can't get more stupid, another one comes along and eclipses all the others. So is there a stupid gene in men? The jury is out, but it does point to that.

- seido1@hotmail.com



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Caroline Hoxby at Stanford University and Christopher Avery at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. They looked at the 236 colleges and universities that are viewed as "most competitive" in Barron's Profiles of American Colleges and at high school seniors whose grades were in the top four percent nationwide and whose college aptitude test scores were the top 10 percent of test-takers.

The analysis, published in December, finds a surprisingly abundant supply of high-achieving low-income students who are not applying to selective colleges, Hoxby and Avery wrote, even though "selective institutions would often cost them less, owing to generous financial aid, than the resource-poor two-year and non-selective four-year institutions to which they actually apply."

And in case you were wondering, the low-income high achievers who do apply to selective institutions are admitted and graduate at high rates, the study points out.

SECRET

Why are low-income students and their families passing up these opportunities? More than anything else, Hoxby and

Income-based diversity push falls short

Avery conclude, the students simply don't know what they're missing. They don't know because nobody is telling them.

Some 70 percent of gifted low-income students came from 15 large metropolitan areas, the study found. Most attend highly respected public magnet schools where elite colleges tend to have long-established pipelines of contacts with high school counselors and other informal talent scouts.

Students at such schools also are more likely to talk about and apply to elite colleges as an option than students in schools, families or communities who view such colleges as faraway havens for snooty rich kids.

"The students whom (colleges) see are the students who apply," Hoxby told NPR science editor Shankar Vedantam in a recent interview. "And if a student doesn't apply to any selective college or university, it's impossible for admissions staff to see that they are out there."

As remedies, colleges need to broaden their searches, publicity and outreach to more cities and smaller towns. The high schools and local communities also owe it to their promising students to improve their own outreach.

The success or failure of income-based outreach by elite

colleges is important to the rest of us, too.

EXCITEMENT

With the Supreme Court looking at the future of affirmative action by universities, income-based diversity efforts in any form excite those of us who have been looking for alternatives to race-based affirmative action.

The Harvard model strives to offer the merit-based model that critics of affirmative action have idealized as a return to merit-based academic rewards.

"The Hoxby-Avery study offers further evidence that universities care more about racial diversity than economic diversity," said Richard Kahlenberg, senior fellow at The Century Foundation and a long-time advocate of class-based outreach. "They don't seem to have the same appetite to go out and recruit low-income students of all races."

Or to paraphrase the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., we need to judge students, not by the color of their skin but by the content of their academic achievement.

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DEAR DAD: Caribbean Father's Day tributes 2013

**MICHELLE CAWLEY
DRESERIS**

Father's Day is June 16. To show appreciation, Caribbean Today offers special tributes to dads.

In the Caribbean, they are called "daddy", "papa" or other terms of endearment.

How will you celebrate your father on Father's Day 2013? Why do you love your father? What have you learned from your father? People with Caribbean connections offer answers below.

**Ann Marie Young Mignot,
Jamaican American**

Harry Young was a prominent retail businessman in Spanish Town, Jamaica. He and wife Esmie were first generation Chinese Jamaicans. The couple had 11 children and the family later moved to South Florida. Her parents are deceased now, but Ann Marie has fond memories of them.



Young Mignot

"In my view, Father's Day is a special day to show our fathers – while they are still with us – that they are loved and appreciated for the role they play in our lives," she said. "My dad passed away 18 years ago, but every Father's Day, I still think about my daddy with great love and respect. I also say a special prayer – as a Catholic – for the repose of his soul."

"...Although I did not fully appreciate his protectiveness in my teenage years, today I fully understand why he was so protective, and I am very thankful that he was."

"What have I learned from my daddy? All the personal positive characteristics I have today are a direct result of the lessons I learned from my dad and my mom. Honesty, openness and self-reliance..."

"The characteristics that my family, and my sisters and brothers, have today is a result of my parents raising us as Roman Catholics. We got our love of God, and our faith from daddy and mommy."

Patricia Pennant, Jamaican American

Patricia Pennant, a social worker in Virginia, United States who works with homeless and emotionally disturbed adults, is the daughter of late Jamaican realtor and businessman David Pennant.

"I celebrate my dad on Father's Day by remembering the good times we had during his life," she said. "...I'm very

grateful that he was always in my life, loving, protecting and supporting me. The first few Father's Days after he died were very difficult for me. But, now I

think of it as a celebration, because he has gone home to be with God...In some ways, I still feel his presence, and it's a good thing.

"I love my dad for many reasons. He instilled many things in me – as a child – that I took for granted then. For example, every Christmas, dad would put on a big celebration at his office. He put on a big luncheon, for poor and indigent people living in the area, a couple of days before Christmas.

"My dad would buy food in bulk, and get his staff to cook hot meals for everyone. He'd also give out presents. He would take us – my sisters and my brother – to help pass out the food and gifts to the people for Christmas. He was teaching us, by example, to help people less fortunate than ourselves.

"Daddy also instilled in us that we must always make people respect us. He did this especially with his daughters, and he was very protective over us. I didn't really appreciate this until I was older."

"Dad also taught us to love learning...Because of dad, we learned a lot about events in the USA during the civil rights movement."

"My father was a very honest man, and people really liked him. He was very straightforward, and he would always speak his mind! I definitely got my directness from him! My dad also taught us about money and saving, and that we must work for financial stability and security."

**American Wendy Maus,
Jamaican father**

Maus was born in New York. Her dad Vincent is a Jamaican American and her late mother Judy was a New Yorker.

"To celebrate Father's Day 2013, my husband and I plan to take my dad for a nice family lunch at a restaurant near the water in West Palm Beach, (Florida), with his grandchildren, his friends and his family. We'll give him a present."

"I love my dad because he loved me and he was always there for me and my brother. He has always been a wonderful role model. He loves his family and enjoys being with us. We shared many interests when I was little."



Pennant

"My dad has taught me how to eat and love spicy Jamaican food! He has also taught me to observe and love nature, even in our own backyard! I loved walking along the beach with him when I was growing up."

"...I've also learned about my Jamaican family history from him, as he researched many generations of our Jamaican family history."

"...Because he's Jamaican, dad has a very strong love for his family. I think his love of nature comes from being Jamaican..."

- Story and photographs by Michelle Cawley Dreseris, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Maus

Music, cruise celebration at Deering Estate, Cutler

Music and a bay cruise will highlight a two-day celebration of Father's Day at the Deering Estate in Cutler, South Florida.

At 8 p.m. June 15 a "Summer Cabaret Concert", featuring Kirk Green, will be held inside the historic Stone House Ballroom.

A cruise of Biscayne Bay aboard the "Pelican Island Skipper" Pontoon Boat, a 45-foot Corinthian Catamaran, is scheduled for **2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** **June 16**, Father's Day. A Deering Estate education and interpretive staff member will discuss birds, sea mammals, Native Americans and early pioneers. The boat will pass Chicken Key, a seven-acre mangrove island and restored bird rookery.

For more information on both events, call the Deering

Estate Ticket Office at **305-235-1668 ext. 233** or visit www.deeringestate.org.

Miramar offers book displays

Adult book displays featuring "Caribbean Heritage Month" and "Father's Day" will be on show this month at The Miramar Public Library, 2050 Civic Center Place, Miramar, Florida.

For more information, call **954-357-8090**.



Jamaica at 51



On August 6, 2013, the Island of Jamaica marks the 51st Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation.

Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

OUR INDEPENDENCE SUPPLEMENT! *Jamaica at 51* – to be published in July 2013, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people.

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Caribbean Today





Haitian nursing professor to get Florence Nightingale Medal from Red Cross

A Haitian-born nursing professor at Miami Dade College (MDC) is to receive the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal from American Red Cross.

Dr. Marie O. Etienne, who has spent much of her career providing medical aid to underserved and disaster-impacted communities, including some in her home country, is being honored for her service by the Florence Nightingale Medal by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The medal, awarded bi-annually, recognizes exceptional courage and devotion to victims of armed conflict or natural disaster. It also recognizes exemplary service or a "pioneering spirit" in areas of public health or nursing education. The 32 recipients of

the award hail from 16 countries.

TRANSFORMATIONAL

Dr. Etienne joined MDC's Benjamin Leon School of Nursing more than 10 years ago and has been a transformational member of the faculty.

"I challenge my students to overcome their limitations and to always strive for excellence," Dr. Etienne, who holds a doctorate of nursing practice, said in a recent press release issued by MDC.

Colleagues have heaped praise on her efforts.

"Dr. Etienne is one of our outstanding faculty members who is instrumental in our students' success," said Dr. Armando Ferrer, president of the Medical Campus.

"She is also conscious of



Etienne

Photograph from MDC website.

"(Dr. Etienne) is also conscious of inequities in our community and internationally and searches for ways to provide care for the underserved and in need" - Dr. Armando Ferrer

inequities in our community and internationally and searches for ways to provide care for the underserved and in need. She is one of the great assets on this campus and the communities we serve."

RESPONDER

Dr. Etienne has been committed to nursing outside the classroom. When a devastating earthquake struck her hometown of Port-au-Prince in 2010, she was one of the responders who aided survivors.

Since 2007, Dr. Etienne has led groups of MDC students on medical missions to the Dominican Republic and provided health screenings to uninsured, low-income immigrant communities in South Florida. She was appointed to the National Nursing

Committee of the American Red Cross in January 2011 and sits on the American Red Cross Scientific Review Committee.

In February, Dr. Etienne was among five MDC nursing professors honored by Online Schools of Florida for having made a difference in the field.

In 2012, she received the South Region 2012 Advanced Practice Nursing Award and was also awarded the Trailblazer Award by the Black Nurses Association for 2012. Dr. Etienne was also honored as "Haitian Woman of the Year" by The National Center of the Haitian Apostolate (NCHA).

- Edited from information submitted by MDC.



TEXTING BAN

Texting while driving is now against the law in Florida.

Late last month Governor Rick Scott signed into law the legislation which bans the use of wireless communications devices while at the wheel of a motor vehicle on the state's roads.

MDC JOB FAIR

Miami Dade College's Homestead Campus will partner Miami-Dade County Commissioner and MDC alumna Lynda Bell to host the

"South Dade Community Job Fair" from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 5 in buildings D and G at the campus.

The event is free and open to the public.

YOUTH SPEAK OUT

Preventing juvenile delinquency will be the focus of "Our Youth Speaking Out", a forum to be held at **6 p.m. June 12** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The event will be held at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk

Bld. For more information, call 954-652-9513 or AARL-CC Programs at 954-357-6224.

CALABAR AFFAIR

Friends of Calabar will hold a "Green and Black Affair" to support the Jamaican high school's soccer team on **June 15** at Karu, 1000 Florida 84, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

FRUIT FEST

This summer, enjoy the many different fruits that are in season at the Redland Summer Fruit Festival **June**

CARING FOR A NATION



Photograph by Derrick A. Scott.

Their outreach and health missions have touched many lives and helped improve healthcare delivery in Jamaican institutions. This "sterling contribution" to quality healthcare, including providing medical equipment and helping to improve several health facilities is "a genuine expression of patriotic devotion and an expression of love for Jamaica," Stephen Vasciannie, Jamaica's ambassador to the United States, said of the support provided by members of the health sector in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as well as members of the Organization for Strategic Development in Jamaica (OSDJ). Vasciannie's delivered the keynote address at a dinner held in Minneapolis last month to recognize health practitioners drawn from the Hennepin County Medical Centre, Gillette Children's Specialist Health Centre, Minnesota Children's Hospital and Clinics, Mayo Clinic and the Minnesota School of Public Health. Photograph shows Vasciannie, second left, speaking with Jamaica's Tourist Board Business Development Manager for the Mid-West USA Mark McDermoth, left. Looking on are, from right, OSDJ President Wayland Richards; Lois Morris, treasurer of the Jamaica Minnesota Organization; and Dr. Sherry Ann Brown, a Jamaican who is an internal medicine resident physician at the Mayo Clinic.

Tips for hurricane season

Hurricane season begins this month. The United States Health and Human Services Secretary recently issued the following steps you can take to keep you and your family safe:

- Discuss with your family what you will do if you need to evacuate. Where will you meet? What will you take with you? How will you check in so that you'll know who is okay and who isn't?
- If you have a pet, make a plan for your pet if you have to evacuate.
- Get backups for things you need every day. For example: Do you have backup clean drinking water? Do you have a backup supply of medication and a copy of your current prescription? If you use electricity to run medical equipment (like a nebulizer, oxygen concentrator, or ventilator) or to keep your medication refrigerated, do you know where to go if the power goes out? Do you know where you can go to recharge your batteries? Do you know who you will call if you need help getting there?
- Do you have a backup copy of your medical record? You can ask your doctor to print a copy for

you, or save an electronic copy in the cloud or on an external hard drive or enter the information into a smart phone or tablet application.

- Make sure you know how to use a backup generator safely.
- Talk to your friends and family about your emergency plans and how you could help each other and communicate during and after a hurricane.
- If you know a storm is coming, follow the instructions of your local emergency officials. If they suggest evacuating, get out of harm's way.
- Make sure to fully charge your cell phone or other mobile devices. Plan to text, e-mail, or use social media to let everyone know you're okay.

For more information, visit:
www.phe.gov/hurricanes;
[http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/;](http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/)
[www.foodsafety.gov/keep/emergency/index.html;](http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/emergency/index.html)
[www.fda.gov/Drugs/EmergencyPreparedness/ucm085200.htm;](http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/EmergencyPreparedness/ucm085200.htm)
[www.Ready.gov;](http://www.Ready.gov/)
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare>



Colorful events to mark 40th

The Bahamas will mark its 40th anniversary of Independence in 2013 by hosting a colorful calendar of events.

The Bahamas celebrates Independence Day on July 10, but Charles Carter, co-chair of the 40th Independence Anniversary Committee, at a recent press conference, said the program will include an extensive variety of activities from homecomings, regattas, festivals, concerts, sporting events and official state ceremonies.

Carter said events started



Carter

in Nov. 2012 with the Sir Sydney Poitier Bridge and will continue to Boxing Day Junkanoo Dec. 2013.

"This anniversary allows us abundant opportunities to tell and re-tell our stories to a new generation of Bahamians who would need to appreciate that the journey to nationhood started long before them but requires (that) they continue its development and ignite our country's future with (the) inspiration only true Bahamians could give it," he said.

The Secretariat for the 40th Bahamas Independence Celebration is located at The Bahamas Law Enforcement Cooperative Credit Union Building.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The following is a select listing of events marking The Bahamas Independence celebrations in the United States and The Bahamas:

- **June 7** – 37th annual Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival in Coconut Grove, Florida.
- **June 7-8** – Labor Day Holiday Regatta and Junkanoo in Long Island.
- **June 8** – Pineapple Fest in Eleuthera.
- **June 12-14** – "The Bahamas At 40: Reflecting On The Past, Envisioning The Future", a College of The Bahamas special forum.
- **June 13-14** – Cultural Heritage

Festival in Eleuthera.

- **June 22** – Theater In The Park, Centerville Constituency.
 - **June 27, 30** – Nassau Festival Of Arts And Crafts, Music, Drama at the National Art Gallery.
 - **June 29** – Bahamas National Symphony Orchestra in concert at the College of The Bahamas.
- Visit <http://www.bahamas.co.uk/about-the-bahamas/bahamas-40th-independence-celebration-events-calendar> for a more detailed listing of events.



Top primary students honored

Some of the best and brightest from primary schools across The Bahamas were rewarded for their achievements at the Bahamas Primary Student Award Ceremony held in Nassau last month.

Some 123 students assembled in the nation's capital. A special medal ceremony was held at Government House on May 17 where students were honored. Oswald Ingraham, deputy to the governor general, awarded medals to top students. The following day, students gathered at Golden Gates World Outreach Center for the awards ceremony, which was also attended by family members, teachers and friends.

Each student was awarded a trophy. Dr. Ricardo Deveaux, president and chief executive officer of the Bahamas Primary Student of the Year Foundation declared that "every student in order to participate in this ceremony are already winners."

Lauryn Kayshan Rolle, of



Finalist Leigha Campbell with her trophy.

St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School in New Providence, was named the overall winner of the "Bahamas Primary Student of the Year". She received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Bank of The Bahamas.



PRICELESS BAHAMAS



MasterCard executives, participating merchants and guests enjoyed Junkanoo at the 2013 Priceless Bahamas program launch held recently. Photograph shows costumed junkanoo dancers with several members of MasterCard's team, including Ray Mercer, second left, territory head, Western Caribbean; Rafael Fuentes, director of acceptance, to his left; DeAndra Bannister, Miss World Bahamas, wearing sash; and to her left MasterCard's Lorena Holguin, vice president of marketing for the Caribbean; and Rafael Puebla, head of marketing for the GeoCentral region.

CARIBBEAN TODAY



In December, Caribbean Today will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary by honoring 25 living legends who have made our community in South Florida a better place for all of us to live.

Over the past 25 years, Caribbean Today has developed close ties throughout the South Florida Community and has taken the role of chronicling the many Caribbean American leaders that have made our community so unique.

25 Living Legends Nominations

As valued community members, C.T. seeks your suggestions by nominating candidates who you think fit these parameters and should be celebrated as a Caribbean Today Living Legend. We ask for your assistance in the nomination process.

Living Legends Prerequisites:

- Nominees must have made a significant imprint on the development of the Caribbean community in South Florida over the past 25 years.
- Nominees must be able to attend the 25th anniversary event in December 2013.

Please e-mail your nominations along with a one page explanation about why you are nominating this candidate to Peter Webley at Peter.Webley@CaribbeanToday.com with the subject line: Living Legends Nomination.



Thank you all for your kind assistance.

BAHAMAS INDEPENDENCE

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CAUTION: U.S. warns nationals about crime in The Bahamas

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The United States is urging nationals travelling to The Bahamas to be wary of the crime situation in the country after a U.S. citizen was shot and killed during an armed robbery last month.

The U.S. Embassy here stated that so far 40 people had been murdered here since the start of the year and U.S. citizens "residing in and travelling to The Bahamas, to be aware of their surroundings and remain on heightened

alert to avoid being a victim of crime".

It noted that "armed robbery remains a major threat facing U.S. citizens in The Bahamas" and that since the start of the year "a number of U.S. citizens have fallen victim

to armed robbery with some having been seriously injured in the commission of these crimes".

The embassy said the local police have warned of the increased number of armed robberies in the capital,

quoting the police as indicating that for Jan. 1 to April 15 "there have been 328 armed robberies, 111 robberies, and 660 house break-ins.

- Edited from CMC.



THE BAHAMAS : Many islands, one nation



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The Bahamas extends 760 miles from the coast of Florida on the northwest, almost to Haiti on the southeast.

The group consists of 700 islands and 2,400 cays with an area of 5,358 square miles. Thirty of the islands are inhabited.

Principal islands include Abaco, Acklins, Andros, Berry Islands, Bimini, Cat



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According to the 2000 census, the population of The Bahamas is 306,611. Most live on New Providence, Grand Bahama or Abaco.

The Bahamas achieved

Independence from Britain July 10, 1973, and is now a fully self-governing member of the Commonwealth and a member of the United Nations, the Caribbean Community and the Organization of American States.

- Edited from Bahamas Information Services and Department of Archives.





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FINGER FOOD: Fish cakes with tartar sauce

No need for knives and forks here. Just grab some fish cakes and tartar sauce, courtesy of Publix Apron Simple Meals Recipes, and enjoy the taste of the Caribbean.

Fish cakes

Ingredients

- 12 oz fish fillets (snapper, mahi, halibut, or cod), thawed
- 1/4 cup fresh green onions, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh Italian parsley, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons cornmeal
- 3/4 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 egg (or 1/4 cup egg substitute)
- 1/4 cup light mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3 tablespoons canola oil

Preparation

Pat fish dry with paper towel; cut into 1/2-inch-pieces. Chop green onions and parsley. Place cornmeal on plate.

Method

Combine all ingredients

(except cornmeal and oil) until blended. Shape mixture into eight half inch-thick patties. Coat both sides of fish cakes lightly with cornmeal; press with fingertips to evenly coat (wash hands).

Preheat large sauté pan on medium-high 2–3 minutes. Add oil then add fish cakes; cook 2–3 minutes on each side or until golden and 145° F. Drain on paper towels. Top with Green goddess tartar sauce and serve.

Green goddess tartar sauce

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons fresh Italian parsley, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh tarragon, finely chopped
- 1/2 avocado
- 2 oz deli goat cheese



Fish cakes and tartar sauce.

- 2 tablespoons light mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons light sour cream
- 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Preparation

Chop parsley and tarragon. Mash avocado and goat cheese until smooth.

Method

Combine all ingredients until well blended. Chill until ready to serve.



Miami-Dade offers summer service

Miami-Dade County Public Schools will sponsor a Food Service Summer Program for Children in several eligible schools during summer school - June, July and August.

The program, similar to the National School Lunch Program, provides nutritionally balanced meals to children regardless of race, color, sex, disability, age or national ori-

gin, during the summer.

All children ages 18 years and younger are eligible for a lunch and/or breakfast at no charge.

Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish). *

E.U. supports Caribbean project for food security

The European Union is providing an Euro 8.6 million (one Euro = US\$1.29) grant to support a project to improve Caribbean food security in the context of climate change.

The project is being conducted in Belize, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago and is being organized by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). It was discussed at a two-day conference here last month.

Barbados will plant sweet potato and yam, while Belize will grow corn and beans and St. Kitts and Nevis sweet potatoes, beans, peas and pigeon peas. T&T will also be responsible for sweet potatoes and corn.

The project is aimed at producing plant materials that are resilient to extreme climate and which must be put in the hands of the farmers and ensure that consumers have access to these nutrition rich foods.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

MONEY MATTERS: Caribbean Investment Forum for T&T June 10-11

The third annual Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF), an initiative of Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment

(MTII), and presented by investTT, will be held June 10 and 11 at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre.

The forum is expected to

offer high level discussions on investment opportunities in the Caribbean.

T&T Senator Vasant Bharath, minister of trade, industry and investment, said the aim was to not only bring investors to his country, but to keep investors there.

According to Kelvin Mahabir, president of investTT: "As a platform for face to face discussion, Caribbean businessmen and industry experts have the opportunity to showcase the competitive advantages that their businesses and countries have to offer to the potential

investor. It is an avenue for direct engagement of international counterparts and a direct link to new projects and investment profiles."

BUILD

CIF 2013 is aiming to build on the success of last year's forum, which hosted more than 500 business persons and over 60 international, local and regional speakers to T&T in an effort to develop industries with the potential for growth.

The targeted industries, which will be the focus of parallel and plenary sessions at

CIF 2013, include maritime, agribusiness, tourism, business process outsourcing, ICT, creative industries and energy. Presentations will surround the 2013 theme: "Caribbean Competitiveness - The nexus of Innovation and Entrepreneurship" and is expected to provide examples of opportunities for development and growth.

Leading the cadre of international speakers will be Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben & Jerry Homemade Inc., who will discuss successful business models.



RANK AND RECOGNITION



Jamaican-born Pat Baccas-Bowen, second left, founder, chief executive officer, producer and host of Atlanta, Georgia-based Future Movement Radio (FMR), was recently appointed "Lieutenant Colonel" by the state's Governor Nathan Deal, third left. The presentation was made to Baccas-Bowen in recognition of her work in broadcasting and efforts to advance the Caribbean American agenda in Georgia. Baccas-Bowen, who grew up in Westmoreland, Jamaica, moved to the United States more than two decades ago. For nearly a decade, she owned and operated a business in Queens, New York before she moved to Atlanta to launch Future Movement Radio (FMR) on 1010 AM, WGUN. Today FMR can be heard daily on 1420 AM WATB, 1430 AM WGFS as well as <http://futuremovementradio.net> and <http://watb1420.com>. At left is State Senator Steve Hanson. State Representative Billy Mitchell is at right.

Actress Tamara Renee Tunie is celebrity spokesperson for Caribbean Week in N.Y.

African American actress Tamara Renee Tunie, best known as the medical examiner Melinda Warner on NBC's television series "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit", and for her portrayal of attorney Jessica Griffin on the CBS soap opera "As the World Turns", is the scheduled celebrity spokesperson for the Caribbean Tourism

Organization's 40th celebration of Caribbean Week in New York.

Tunie will engage the media as the official spokesperson for the June 1-8 event.

"I am thrilled to work with the Caribbean Tourism Organization taking the Caribbean's wonderful message across New York during this exciting week of celebration of the region's vibrancy and diversity," Tunie was quoted as saying.

Tunie recently starred in the Paramount Oscar nominated movie "Flight" and guest starred on "The Good Wife" and "Fall to Rise". Other television roles include Alberta Green in first season of the series "24", as well as guest appearances on "Law and Order", "Sex and the City" and "NYPD Blue".

Caribbean Week in New York is supported by the Association of Travel

Marketing Executives (ATME), the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), Cayman Islands, Dominica, the Empire State Building, Face of Fashion, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Hard Beat Communications, Jamaica, Jewel Resorts, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St Eustatius, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Martin/St. Maarten, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

For a list of activities for Caribbean Week in New York and for information on how to participate, visit www.caribbeanweekny.com.

- Edited from News Americas.



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HOLLYWOOD SHOW: South Florida to host 'Colors of the Caribbean'

A celebration of Caribbean culture will be held on **June 15** in the South Florida city of Hollywood.

"Hollywood ArtsPark Experience: Colors of the Caribbean", featuring Trinidadian soca star Kes in concert, will be staged from **4 p.m. to 11 p.m.** at the ArtsPark at Young Circle. The free public event is

being presented by the City of Hollywood and Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency. It is produced by Caribbean American Heritage Florida Inc. and The Rhythm Foundation.

Live music, dance, arts and crafts, food and drinks representing the Caribbean community will be available.

The event will be hosted

by WPLG Local 10 television's weekend anchor Neki Mohan and NBC 6 Miami's weekend Anchor Sharon Lawson. It will kick off with a Bahamian junkanoo procession through downtown Hollywood before entering the park to officially start the party.

ON STAGE

In addition to Kes, other Caribbean performers include

soul singer E.sy Kennenga from Martinique, reggae band The Resolvers and the Lauderhill Steel Ensemble.

"Colors of the Caribbean" will also feature expanded educational and entertainment outreach to children the

YMCA Kids Zone. The program will offer rock climbing, gymnastics, outdoor wilderness fishing, face painting, diva camp.

"We invite everyone to

come out and celebrate the culture and heritage of the Caribbean," said Asa Sealy, executive director of Caribbean American Heritage of Florida, Inc. "This family event has something for everyone and we are excited to...raise awareness about the contributions that Caribbean American people have made to our country."

**Guyanese is new police chief of Miami Dade Public Schools**

The Miami Dade County School Board has appointed Guyanese-born Major Ian A. Moffett its next police chief.

Moffett was born in Georgetown and, along with



Moffett

ate of the University of Louisville, Southern Police Institute Command Officers Development Course.

Moffett has worked and trained in responding to critical incidents and has given workshops focusing on youth violence, gang awareness, school safety, weapons of mass destruction, emergency management and tactical training. He is a certified instructor and holds a specialty in firearms through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

ACTIVE

Major Moffett is also an online faculty instructor for the University of Phoenix and teaches critical incident management and concepts of physical facility security and personal protection to graduate level students. He is co-chair for the Training Committee under the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Region 7 Domestic Security Task Force and the training representative for the City of Miami Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

BRIEFS

• Caribbean American exhibition
"Expressions", a multi-cultural showcase of Caribbean products and services, will be held from **5 p.m. to 9 p.m. June 6** at the Inverrary Vacation Resort in Lauderhill, Florida.

For more information, call **954-292-6848** or **954-435-4717**.

• Indian Arrival Day cultural show
The Consulate General of Trinidad and Tobago and the honorary consul of Guyana will present an "Indian Arrival Day Celebration" from **6 p.m. to midnight June 8** at the Walter C. Young Resource Center in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

The event will feature an Indian orchestra, drumming, dancers and popular songs from Guyana and T&T.

For more information, call **305-374-2199 ext. 102** or **305-389-0537**.

• Celebration in New York City

Several attractions have been lined up to mark "Caribbean Week in New York". Among them are the Caribbean Media Marketplace from **3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. June 6**; and three events on June 7: a networking breakfast for ministers and directors of tourism and allied members, from **7:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.**; a Caribbean Marketing Conference and Awards Luncheon from **9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**; and a Rum and Rhythm Benefit and Auction from **8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.**

For more information, call **212-635-9530**.

- Compiled from various sources.Æ

CARIBBEAN POSE

Models at the recent Irie Fashion Rave (IFR) in New York, which featured work by Caribbean designers and hairstylists, strike the pose at the event. Designers utilized a variety of textures and colors.

Miramar's 'Culture in the Night' series to celebrate Caribbean

The public is being invited to celebrate Caribbean American culture through music, dance and poetry this month in Miramar, Florida.

The "Culture in the Night Concert Series - Caribbean American Heritage Celebration" will be held from **4 p.m. to 10 p.m. June 22** at Shirley Branca Park, 6900 Miramar Parkway.

The free event will

include performances by Glen Washington, Code Red Band, Laura Viva & Remix, Caribbean Music Farm, Audley Rollen, Steel Band, Body Nation Dancers, comedian Rohan Gunter, Shleu Shleu- Haitian Band, Kali Akeylah and DJ Trooklyn. A "Kidz Zone" will be open for children.

Vice Mayor Alexandra P. Davis, who traces her roots to

the Caribbean, said "the event highlights the diversity of our great City by providing an opportunity for all to see the many facets of our Caribbean community."

Those planning to attend are being encouraged to bring blankets, chairs and cameras.

For more information, call **954-602-3319**.

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Guyanese is new police chief of Miami Dade Public Schools

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Moffett is also the chairman for the Florida Criminal Justice Training Center Directors Association and represents all 40 certified training centers in the state. He is vice president for the National Association of School Safety

and Law Enforcement Officials (NASSLEO) and a subject matter expert for the United States Department of Education on issues related to emergency management in schools.

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'Taste Of The Caribbean' culinary festival, contest set for June 26-30 in South Florida

The region's culture will be on display this month at the annual "Taste of the Caribbean in South Florida.

Chefs and bartenders from the Caribbean will compete for culinary honors **June 26-30** at the Hyatt Regency in Miami.

"The Caribbean is united in the promotion of the region's indigenous flavors and products," Josef Forstmayr, chairman of Caribbean Hotels and Tourist Association (CHTA) and chairman of "Taste of the Caribbean", said in a recent press release promoting the event.

"From the world's best spices to the best coffee, rums, beers and tropical fruits, our national cuisines are an important part of our destination marketing.



Mixing and blending of Caribbean tastes in Florida.

"Our distinct cuisines are part of our national identities and Taste of the Caribbean showcases our region in a very powerful way," Forstmayr added.

Culinary teams from several Caribbean countries are

registered for the event, including Anguilla, The Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Curacao, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Celebrate Trinidad & Tobago at 51

Join Caribbean Today as we celebrate this twin-Island nation's 51st anniversary of independence on August 31st, 2013.

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School help for Broward County parents, students

A team of Caribbean educators from Broward County Schools in South Florida will this month host a free seminar aimed at informing parents of children in grades K-12 about how to meet their educational needs.

BACE (Broward Alliance of Caribbean Educators) will stage the seminar from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 29** at the William Dandy Middle School, 2400 N.W. 26th St. in

Fort Lauderdale.

Caribbean teachers and administrators, some also parents, are expected to share information on how to navigate the school system to ensure children receive the best learning experience to be ready for college and/or a career.

For more information or to register for the seminar, call **954-915-4333**.



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STAR PICKS: Caribbean trio up for BET awards



Rihanna

Three Caribbean artists have made the list of this year's BET nominations.

Barbadian star Rihanna, and Trinidad's Nicki Minaj and Trinidad Jame\$ are among the nominees.

Rihanna has been nomi-



Trinidad Jame\$

nated in the "Best Female R&B/Pop Artist" and "Video of the Year" and "Coca-Cola Viewers Choice Award" categories for "Diamonds".

Minaj is up for "Best Female Hip Hop Artist", while Trinidad Jame\$ has



- File photographs.

been nominated in the "Best New Artist" category.

The awards show will be staged on June 30.

- Edited from News Americas.



'Bob Marley, Messenger' exhibit set for October

An exploration of Jamaican reggae legend Bob Marley as a private, spiritual man and a powerful performer whose lyrics gave voice to the disenfranchised, is scheduled to open in South Florida later this year.

On Oct. 13, HistoryMiami

will launch "Bob Marley, Messenger". Curated by the GRAMMY Museum at L.A. Live, the exhibition is expected to feature original artifacts on loan from Marley's family, music and performance footage.

A community input meet-

ing is scheduled for this month to preview themes, photographs and artifacts that will appear in the exhibition and solicit feedback on ideas for public programs and ensuring wide public awareness of this exhibition.



SOUNDS AND PLEASURE: Remembering Jamaican music great Cedric 'Im' Brooks

JABULANI TAFARI

After a prolonged illness, accomplished Jamaican musician Cedric "Im" Brooks, died in New York on May 3, days after his 70th birthday on April 27.

The influential saxophonist, who fused music and Rastafari spirituality, was buried May 18 following last rites performed by an Ethiopian Orthodox priest at a service held in Davie, Florida.

Skatalites Band musician Lester Sterling played saxophone solos at the remembrance service and at the graveside, while Malachi Smith recited a specially written poem in Brooks's honor. The eulogy was given by his sister Etossi Brooks.

Born in 1943, Brooks was a graduate of Kingston's renowned musical academy Alpha Boys School. He started to learn music theory and clarinet at age 11 before taking up the tenor saxophone and flute in his late teens.

In the early 1960s, Brooks was a member of ska era groups such as The Vagabonds and the Granville Williams Band. In the late 1960s he found commercial success teaming up with another Alpha old boy, trumpeter

David Madden, to form the duo "Im & Dave". The Brooks-Madden duo released a series of hit instrumental singles on Clement "Coxsone" Dodd's Studio One label.

Brooks also became a regular studio musician at Dodd's Brentford Road studio in Kingston, playing alongside maestros like Sterling, guitarist Ernest Ranglin, keyboardist Jackie Mittoo, trombonist Roland Alphonso and trumpeter Vin Gordon. One of the first major recordings Brooks worked on was Burning Spear's debut album for Studio One.

COUNT OSSIE

In 1970 Brooks teamed up with legendary Rastafarian drummer Count Ossie and released tracks such as "So Long Rastafari Calling", "Black is Black" and "Give Me Back My Language and Culture". He, Count Ossie, and Ras Sam Clayton formed The Mystic Revelation of Rastafari, with Brooks acting as musical director for the ensemble and leader of the horn section. Out of this collaboration came the collector's item, triple album set "Grounation" and "Tales of Mozambique".

In 1974 Brooks started



Brooks

the Divine Light band, subsequently renamed The Light of Saba. The group's first album, "From Mento to Reggae to Third World Music", was recorded for the Institute of Jamaica and incorporated mento, junkanoo, ska, rock steady and reggae in a collection exploring the history of Jamaican music. Light of Saba recorded two additional albums of jazz-influenced Rastafari roots reggae, before Brooks produced the 1977 solo album "Im Flash Forward".

Over the decades, Brooks fused ancient Rasta Nyahbinghi drum patterns with elements of calypso,

Toots hit in head by bottle injured at U.S. concert

Toots Hibbert, lead singer of the legendary reggae group Toots and the Maytals, was injured during a performance in the United States last month.

Police arrested a 19-year-old man and charged him with aggravated assault after the Hibbert was hit in the head by a bottle thrown on the stage while the group was performing at the Dominion Riverrock concert in Richmond, Virginia. He was taken to hospital and treated. Up to press time police had not named the alleged attacker.

Toots and the Maytals, known for classics such as "Pressure Drop", "Sweet and Dandy" and "54-46", asked fans who may have evidence of

the alleged crime to contact them.

"Any fans who were present and who saw anything, please send this page...with your contact info so our staff can reach out to you. Thank you," Toots and the Maytals wrote on their Facebook page.

Organizers of the three-day festival said the concert was immediately stopped after Hibbert was hit, and spectators were asked to leave. Despite the incident, they said Hibbert remained in good spirits and was disappointed the concert had to be ended early.

- Edited from CMC.



BRIEFS

• One Love Concert

Veteran reggae singers, including Barrington Levy, Sanchez, John Holt and Leroy Sibbles, are scheduled to perform at a "One Love Concert" June 15 at the Atlanta Civic Center in Georgia.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Showtime is at 7 p.m. For more information, call 770-482-5575.

• Cuba to host Caribbean film

forum

Cuba will host the International Forum and Caribbean Film Market June 13-15.

The event is being organized by the Travelling Caribbean Film Festival and aims to provide a greater visibility to the films produced by Caribbean film makers.

- Compiled from various sources.



recordings for other artists.

He migrated to South Florida in 1991 and joined the Skatalites in 1999 after the death of Tommy McCook. In 2004 Brooks traveled to Ethiopia on a scholarship to study religion. While there he performed at the "Africa Unite" Bob Marley 60th birthday festival in Addis Ababa in 2006.

On June 16, 2011, Brooks was honored with a proclamation by the New York State Assembly in Albany in recognition of a lifetime spent developing the musical and cultural history of Jamaica and for his musical contributions worldwide. This was the first time such a presentation was made on the New York House of Assembly floor.

Brooks died in the New York Hospital in Queens after suffering a cardiac arrest. The longtime Rastafari advocate and activist had been in a coma-like state since Feb. 2010 and never regained consciousness. He is survived by seven children, four sisters and one brother.

- I. Jabulani Tafari is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



BUSINESS

BUSINESS BUZZ: Guyana unveils plans for boosting already stable economy

EDWIN H. ALI

Guyana is celebrating its 47th Independence anniversary against a backdrop of a stable political and economic climate, steady increase in its gross domestic product - above its neighbors like Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago - and offers of promising opportunities for investors.

The only English speaking country in the northeastern tip of South America, 83,000 square mile Guyana is rich in resources, including gold, manganese and bauxite, plus an abundance of territory with the potential to develop a vibrant tourist sector.

Guyana is an Amerindian word meaning "Land of many waters", because of the many rivers and creeks across the land. The country is also called the "Land of six peoples", because of its multi-racial population.

ASSURANCE

Irafaan Ali, Guyana's minister of tourism, industry and commerce, assured potential investors that their investment would be secure as the banking system is sound and the country provides opportuni-



Minister Irafaan Ali assures investors of Guyana's potential.

ties for growth and development. The minister was speaking at the Caribbean Trade Center's (CTC) Invest Guyana Forum arranged to celebrate Florida World Trade Month, Guyana's Independence anniversary and the CTC's fifth anniversary. It was attended by business representatives from several companies.

CTC President Michael Matthews, in his welcome remarks, called Guyana the gateway to the world. Sponsors outlined their activities and achievements over the years. Representatives of Laparkan, Sea Freight, Highland, Latin Biz Medical Tourism Association and Caribbean Tourism Association also addressed the

gathering, outlining successes working with Guyana.

TARGET

Ali explained that Guyana can be a vehicle to target other countries in the Caribbean region and should be considered an investment destination, which can provide a market for some 500 million people. He said Guyana has built some 100,000 new homes; hotel rooms

have increased from 623 to more than 37,000 and a new Marriott hotel is being constructed, along with a new \$100 million airport.

The minister assured investors that Guyana has land and the cheapest skilled labor.

One plan in the works is for a new hydroelectric plant, which has the potential to reduce electricity costs in a few years. Discussions are also underway between Guyana and Suriname for bridging the Berbice River.

However, Ali said what is needed for Guyana to move forward is a more efficient, reliable and cost effective freight system and for an increased airlift to the region.



U.S. backs Caribbean economic growth, development



Biden has signaled co-operation between U.S. and Caribbean.

Trinidad and Tobago, Biden signed the United States-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) on behalf of the U.S. Haiti's President Martelly, serving in his capacity as chairperson of CARICOM, signed on behalf of the 15 member states.

The agreement provides a strategic framework and principles for dialogue on trade and investment issues of mutual interest. The TIFA establishes the United States-CARICOM Trade and Investment Council that will guide implementation of the agreement.

AGREEMENT

During his visit to

United States Vice President Joe Biden late last month met with Caribbean leaders and discussed America's commitment to deepening economic collaboration, expanding prosperity and social inclusion in the region.

During the meeting, attended by 15 presidents, prime ministers and other senior ministry officials from the Caribbean, Biden also discussed citizen security co-operation and the importance of building safe communities that contribute to a favorable business and investment climate.

The U.S. said it supports the region's economic growth and social inclusion efforts through multiple, complementary programs that contribute to: building strong, capable and transparent institutions; facilitating trade and creating favorable business and investment climates; expanding access to reliable, clean, and affordable energy; and investing in human capital so that citizens are prepared to contribute to the development of their communities.

ACTIVITIES

Other examples of U.S. economic and development activities in the Caribbean include:

- Facilitating trade and creating favorable business and investment climates;
- Expanding access to reliable, clean, and affordable energy;
- Building strong, capable and transparent institutions; and
- Investing in human capital.

- Edited from The White House Office of the Press Secretary.



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Smart tips for tax refund use

Like any sudden in-flow of cash, your tax refund presents an opportunity to spend your money wisely or foolishly.

And while it would be easy to blow the cash on fleeting fun, like a shopping spree or a slew of the latest gadgets, experts say the money would be best used to pay down debt and invest in saving plans that can help you grow your nest egg.

Here are some ideas to help you make the most of your refund this tax season:

Eliminate debt - Interest can build quickly, so consider using your tax refund to pay off a portion of your outstanding debt. Whether it be credit card debt, student loans, or a mortgage, opt to pay off the obligation with the highest interest first. Or, eliminate an entire smaller debt in full if possible. Doing so will give you a sense of accomplishment and motivate you to keep going.

You can use financial calculators online to help you calculate where your refund would be most beneficial.

Budget - Budget and plan how you will use your refund. Once you know the amount you're due to receive, spend time planning how you wish to

allocate the money. Free online services like www.Mint.com can help you establish a budget for your goals. Or use personal finance desktop software, like Quicken, to help you manage the sudden cash flow.

Remember to budget in a little fun. Treating yourself to a small reward that you can afford responsibly may help you stay on track with your more serious priorities.

Invest - Consider investment options that can help you grow your wealth. A no-fee, self-directed IRA that provides predictable returns with tax advantages is a decent choice for long-term savings. Experts say that with the right investment tools, you can expect to grow your wealth substantially over time.

"The key to doubling and redoubling your money is avoiding mistakes and investing smarter," says financial advisor, Brendan Ross of Ross Asset Advisors, Inc.

More tax refund ideas and tips can be found at www.Mint.com/blog.

- Edited from StatePoint.



Popular Social Security services available online



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Peter A. Wesley,
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SPORT

Reggae Boyz face tough tests in World Cup soccer qualifiers

Jamaica, the lone Caribbean country still with a chance to play in soccer's biggest tournament, will face a triplet of stiff tests this month in its bid to secure a spot at the 2014 World Cup.

The Reggae Boyz have three games lined up over eight days in early June, which could have huge effect on their chances of being one of possibly four nations from the Caribbean, North and Central American region (CONCACAF) to qualify for Brazil.

On June 4 Jamaica faces Mexico at home in Kingston. Three days later, on June 7, the Boyz host the United States. On June 11 they travel to play Honduras.

BOTTOM

After three games each, Jamaica is sitting at the bottom of the six team hexagonal group, which also features Costa Rica and Panama.

Jamaica has two points, earned from draws against Mexico (0-0) away and Panama (1-1) at home. The Boyz also lost away to Costa Rica (2-0).

Undefeated Panama currently leads the group with five points, followed by Honduras, Costa Rica and the U.S. on four points, Mexico three, and Jamaica two.

The top three finishers in the hexagonal qualify for World Cup 2014. The fourth place country will compete in a play off with a team from the Oceania region for a spot in Brazil.

Last month Jamaica held a training camp in The Bahamas. Two friendly games were scheduled. The first against English Premier League team Tottenham Hotspurs ended 0-0. The second versus The Bahamas was cancelled.



Caribbean duo keys to Wigan's surprise English F.A. Cup win



Lawrence

Two Caribbean men played key roles in Wigan Athletic's surprise win in the English F.A. Cup final last month.

Former Trinidad and Tobago international Dennis Lawrence, a coach on the club's staff, and defender Emerson Boyce, a current Barbados international, helped Wigan to a 1-0 win over favorites Manchester City at Wembley Stadium in London.

Wigan entered the game

underdogs against high powered City. Lawrence is an assistant to Roberto Martinez, manager of Wigan, which activated the history, making feat by producing the biggest FA Cup final upset for 25 years. Lawrence, a former Swansea City, Wrexham and Defence Force player, is remembered mostly for his winning goal versus Bahrain that pushed T&T through to the final round of the 2006 World Cup.



ZOOMING IN: Samuels keeps focus on Windies cricket goals

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

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Trophy to date, Samuels managed a measly 22 runs from six innings back in the 2006 tournament when West Indies lost to Australia in the final. He now hopes to leave an indelible mark on the campaign.

"I've been looking forward to this tournament. This is the last time this tournament will be played so I want

NEW YORK - Jamaican sprinters stole the spotlight in the sprint events at the Adidas Grand Prix, New York Diamond League meet at Icahn Stadium last month.

Veronica Campbell-Brown romped to victory in the 200 meters in 22.53 seconds ahead of fast finishing Annesha McLaughlin (22.63) also of Jamaica. Their compatriot Sherone Simpson finished in fourth place with 22.96.

Jamaican Aleen Bailey sped to victory in the women's 100 meters in 11.37 seconds ahead of Americans Mikele Barber and Lekeisha Lawson who finished second and third respectively.

Jamaica's Olympic 200 meters bronze medalist Warren Weir made light work of the field to clock an effortless season's best 20.11 seconds with Panama's Edmond Alonso (20.38) in second. Jeremy Dodson of the United States (20.65) was third. Jamaicans Ramone McKenzie and Kevin Thompson finished fifth and seventh, respectively.



Bailey



Campbell

win in the 100 meters, clocking 10.16 seconds, with his country man Ryan Bailey second. Trinidad and Tobago's Ketson Bledman secured third spot, while Jamaica's Nesta Carter was fourth.

Jamaica's other finalists, Jacques Harvey, Nickel Ashmeade and Kemar Bailey Cole finished fifth, sixth and seventh.

Mario Forsythe, a Jamaican 200 meters specialist, won the men's 400 meters 'B' race in 46.65 seconds, beating three compatriots to the line -Dwayne Barrett, 46.85; Allodin Fothergill, 47.01; and Nicholas Maitland, 47.05.

Former world champion, Barbadian Ryan Braithwaite, also shared the spotlight for the Caribbean by winning the 110 meters hurdles in a season's best 13.19 seconds. Cuba's Orlando Ortega (13.24) finished second.

- Edited from CMC.

**FINALISTS**

Meantime, America's Tyson Gay raced to an easy

Grenada makes big move in FIFA soccer rankings

ZURICH, Switzerland, CMC-Grenada has emerged as the most improved team in the latest FIFA soccer rankings. The Spice Boyz, crowned Windward Islands Football champions in April, climbed 20 spots to 121st in the global rankings and 16th in the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Football (CONCACAF).

The movement is owed in part to the two victories in the Windward Islands Football Association (WIFA) Tournament in St Vincent. Grenada defeated the host 1-0 and St. Lucia 2-1 to win the three-team tournament following the withdrawal of Dominica after the tragic death of the coach and a player a few days before the kick-off.

FALL

St. Vincent had the biggest drop in points (35) and ranks

to make a big impact in terms of playing my role so that the team can benefit from my all-round performance," Samuels said. "I want



Samuels



Grenada, the home country of Major League Soccer star Shalrie Joseph, is making strides in soccer.

(10) to 131. Mexico remains CONCACAF in the rankings at 16th in the world, followed by the United States 29th, Panama 38th, Costa Rica 48th and Honduras rounding off the top 50.

Jamaica, the only Caribbean team still with a chance to qualify for World

Cup 2014, is 53rd in the world and sixth in CONCACAF. The Reggae Boyz top the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) ranking.

- Edited from CMC.



to play whatever role I am required to play so the team can benefit as much as possible."

He has recovered from the groin injury that cut short his run in the Indian Premier League and said he had been in training and was now back to full fitness.

"I am always ready. It's just that once you are playing

so much cricket, you're going to get a few things that always set you back a bit but nothing that sets you back will set you back for a long time," he explained.

"You will always come back again and use your will powers and continue to play cricket and give it your all."



Sweet Celebration: Colorful excitement marks 2013 USVI Carnival

Brilliant sunshine, rhythmic steel band music and a fantastic display by the Children's Parade combined to make the recent 2013 Virgin Islands Carnival a success.

Thousands lined the main streets in Charlotte Amalie, the capital, dancing to the tunes which accompanied the bands. The Caribbean Ritual Dancers emerged winners of the Children's Parade. Spectrum band won the 2013 Road March competition. Costumes worn by participants were of the highest standard and evoked continuous cheers from onlookers.

The following is a partial list of winners from Carnival 2013:

Children's Parade

Troupes under 50

1st - Caribbean Ritual Dancers; 1st runner-up - Sun Children Presents "Local Sweets & Treats".

Troupes over 50

1st - Joseph Gomez

Elementary – "Gems In Paradise".

Floupe

1st – Academy Presents "Unity Under the Sun".

Majorettes

1st - St. Thomas Majorettes, Inc.; 1st runner-up – Sebastien Majorettes and Marching Band.

Traditional

1st – Traditional Indians.

Road March

1st – Wake Up to Wuk Up (Spectrum Band).

Adult's Parade

Troupes Under 50

1st – Caribbean Ritual Dancers; 1st runner-up – The Jesters Carnival Troupe Presents "A Hibiscus Fantasy"; 2nd runner-up – Party Lovers.

Troupes 50 to 100

1st – What-AH Party Carnival Troupe; 1st runner-up –

'EXCITED'

He said nationals in the diaspora are noticeably "more excited and more vocal than those at home" about the international airport, primarily because "people outside are



Children perform at the carnival.

University of the Virgin Islands; 2nd runner-up – Bobby and the Moo Moo's.

Troupes over 100

1st – The Gypsy Troupe

Presents: "Gypsies Medical Scene".

Floupe 300 And Over

1st – Hugga Bunch Presents: "Tahitian Splendure".

- Edwin Ali

more familiar with the hassles of getting home.

As construction of the international airport progresses, McKie noted that even Opposition legislators support the project.

"We're beginning to see a difference, whereas, the Opposition was playing politics, there are clear and visible signs (of support)," he said.

At a town

hall meeting in Brooklyn, New York recently, Opposition Leader Arnhim Eustace expressed concern about construction of the air-

port satisfying international standards.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines expect tourism boost from international airport

NEW YORK – St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Tourism, Culture and Sports Minister Cecil "Ces" McKie believes his country's tourism sector will get a significant boost once work is completed on the Argyle International Airport.

McKie, on a stop-over in New York from Taiwan recently, told the Caribbean Media Corporation that the ministry anticipates between 190,000 and 250,000 tourist arrivals by air annually within the first two years of the airport's completion.

Currently, the country gets, on average, 80,000 visitors annually via air transportation, he said.

Despite the need for more

funds to complete the largest capital project in the nation's history, McKie said construction is "progressing on schedule," with the terminal building expected to be completed by the end of the year and "the strip and other amenities will be completed early next year the latest."

"I am very confident that will be realized," said the tourism minister, referring to the \$80 million still needed.

'EXCITED'

He said nationals in the diaspora are noticeably "more excited and more vocal than those at home" about the international airport, primarily because "people outside are

more familiar with the hassles of getting home.

As construction of the international airport progresses, McKie noted that even Opposition legislators support the project.

"We're beginning to see a difference, whereas, the Opposition was playing politics, there are clear and visible signs (of support)," he said.

At a town

Jamaican gets Hall of Fame Award

Carrole Guntley, director general in Jamaica's Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment, received the Hall of Fame Tourism Award in Atlanta, Georgia.

Guntley, who made history as the first woman to be named director of tourism in Jamaica, was honored during the African Diaspora World Tourism Awards and Travel Expo.



Guntley

because we have shining stars who have worked hard to push forth agendas related to black culture and heritage tourism."

Guntley has worked in tourism for over 31 years and has held her current position with the Ministry of Tourism since 1999. During her tenure as director of tourism, between 1984 and 1990, Jamaica hosted a million visitors.

She was awarded Jamaica's national honor, the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander (CD) in 2003, and the Prime

Minister's Award for contribution to Jamaica's tourism in 1995.

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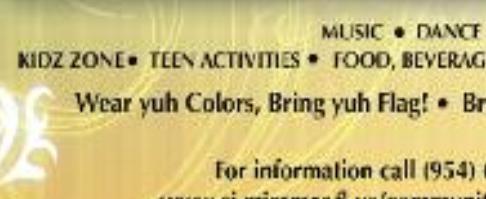
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SPREADING JOY: Florida man brings new school to kids in Jamaica

COCONUT CREEK, Florida – Compassion, philanthropy and love of family are making the educational experience a healthy and safe learning environment for dozens of students in Steerfield, St. Ann, Jamaica.

For more than a decade, three-to-six-year-olds have attended school in the Steerfield Community Center, which had no kitchen, sick bay or private bathrooms. It was overcrowded, unbearably hot and infested with wasps. Steerfield, a rural community that sits in a valley, is located some 30 miles from the tourist destination of Ocho Rios.

Recently, many from the area and the United States attended an inauguration of the town's only new school. In attendance was the South Florida businessman who helped make the dream of a new place to learn a reality through the international relief and development organization Food For The Poor. Jeff Levitetz's bond with the Caribbean island began more than two decades and two dozen trips ago. Levitetz founded Purity Wholesale Grocers, Inc. in 1982. The once small independent company in the U.S. midwest is now a nationwide network of companies and is headquartered in Boca Raton,



Jeff Levitetz cuts the ribbon to open the new school. Also pictured are, at left, Lisa Hannah, Jamaica's minister of youth and culture.



Levitetz meets some of the students at the school.

Florida. The Levitetz Family Foundation funded the school project.

"I love Jamaica and the people of Jamaica," said Levitetz. "I am very, very proud to be giving back by way of Food For The Poor. This school will help many children, who will learn to help themselves, who in time will grow up and help others. I am very excited for that reason."

GRANDPA'S LEGACY

The name of the new facility, Steerfield Basic School in Honor of Grandpa Charlie, has a story behind it. Charles

"Grandpa Charlie" Levitetz was Jeff's grandfather. He was born in 1897 and raised on the west side of Chicago. Like his grandson, he was also a successful businessman who believed in giving back. He and his brothers owned a commercial laundry and were considered pioneers of the trade.

Grandpa Charlie died in 1994 at age 96, but the way he lived his life made an impression on Jeff.

"It was only fitting that the Levitetz Family Foundation would build a school in Jamaica in honor of my grand-

father," said Levitetz. "My grandfather and the great-grandfather of my two sons was a wonderful mentor, especially for me. He had a kind heart, a glowing smile and he loved people – he was my best friend."

MORE SCHOOLS

Food For The Poor has committed to build or upgrade 50 basic schools within 50 months in celebration of Jamaica's 50th Anniversary of Independence, which was Aug. 6, 2012. Each school constructed will have an office, sick bay,

kitchen, bathroom/sanitation, and one large classroom that can be subdivided into three learning spaces. There will be an average capacity of 40 students per school, but depending on the size of the structure, up to 100 students could be in attendance. There's typically one teacher and a teacher's assistant in the smaller schools, and three or more in the larger schools.

"Words cannot express the gratitude we have for our donors, such as the Levitetzes," said Robin Mahfood, president/chief executive officer of Food For The Poor. "They are the ones who are making this monumental goal to build 50 schools possible. Since last August, we've completed 10 school projects in Jamaica. These schools are a great blessing to so many of Jamaica's children now, and for many years to come. I am thankful we are a part of this lasting legacy."

- Edited from an article submitted by Food For The Poor, which also submitted the photographs.



Are You Ready?

Hurricane Season 2013 Started June 1st

The 2013 hurricane season is here, and **now** is the time to prepare. Making a hurricane plan ahead of time and stocking up on vital supplies will go a long way in helping you and your loved ones stay safe in the event of a storm. You may also want to check some of the following off your list as the season starts:

- Sign up to receive text alerts for weather advisories and other emergency events with Miami-Dade Alerts: www.miamidade.gov/alerts.
- Check your shuttering materials to make sure they are in working order, and that no necessary pieces are missing.
- Properly prune trees and shrubs before a hurricane approaches in order to reduce debris generated during a storm.
- Learn your new Storm Surge Planning Zone at www.miamidade.gov/hurricane and be prepared to leave if an evacuation is required.
- Know where your nearest Hurricane Evacuation Center is located, but keep in mind that it should only be considered a refuge of last resort.

Be prepared this hurricane season.

For more information on what to do before, during and after a storm call 3-1-1 or 1 or click www.miamidade.gov/hurricane.

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