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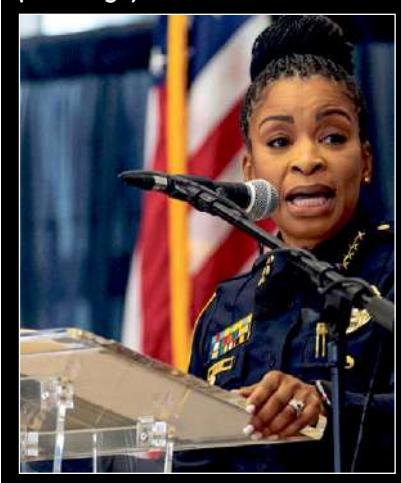
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Call Them Excellencies

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Here Are Some Of The Top Headlines Making Caribbean News This Week:

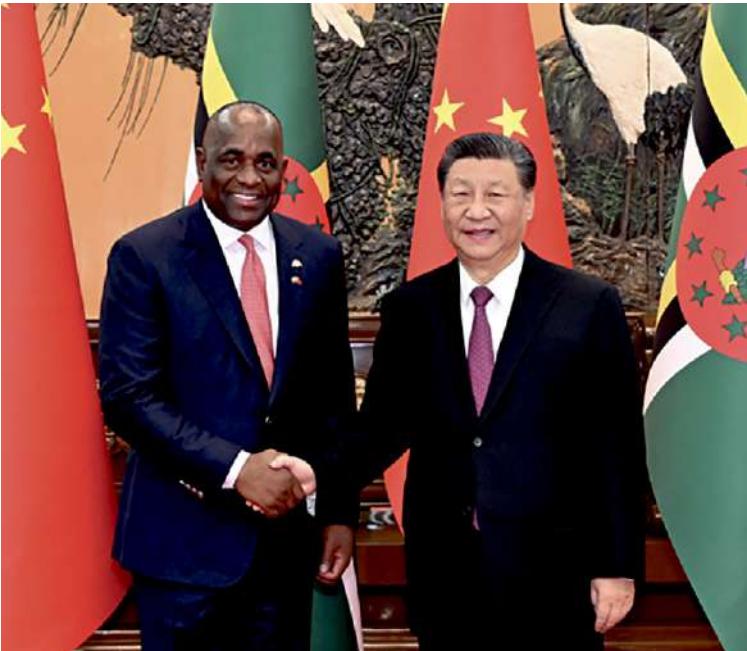
REGIONAL

Two prominent members of Congress are urging the United States to take stronger action against China's growing influence in the Caribbean and Latin America, following a report by Newsweek on China's extensive involvement in Antigua.

Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL), a member of the Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and the Select Committee on Intelligence, expressed concern over China's heightened presence in the hemisphere. In an email to Newsweek, he emphasized the need for the U.S. to address China's expanding influence, which includes diplomacy, loans, grants, and investments.

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), the Ranking Member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), echoed these sentiments in a telephone interview with Newsweek. Krishnamoorthi, also a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, stressed the economic and security challenges posed by China's activities in the region. He emphasized the importance of responding to China's actions with measures aligned with its level of engagement.

Their remarks come in response to Newsweek's report detailing a private agreement signed in January for a new



TWO US lawmakers are urging the United States to take stronger action against China's growing influence in the Caribbean and Latin America even as Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit, met China's President Xi Jinping during a recent visit to China. (China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs image)

Chinese "Special Economic Zone" in Antigua, along with other agreements. The report also highlighted concerns from the U.S. military's Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) regarding China's expanding presence in the area.

HAITI

Two men, including one of the most wanted figures by the St James police, were apprehended in Haiti recently. The individuals, identified as 25-year-old Oshane 'Bruk Hand' Francis, wanted by the St James police on multiple murder charges, and 31-year-old Jason Latouche, were captured after Haitian residents

reported suspicions of them carrying firearms in a local community.

Arold Jean, a spokesperson for the Haitian police, stated that Interpol is facilitating the extradition of Francis and Latouche to Jamaica, although the timing for their transfer remains undetermined. Presently, both individuals are detained in a jail located in the city of Cap-Haïtien.

Francis has been a prominent figure on the Jamaican police's wanted list for some time due to his alleged involvement in a series of double and triple murders. According to Haitian authorities, the two men had

reportedly been residing in Haiti for approximately two months.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Sixteen individuals, including 11 from the Dominican Republic, face charges in connection with a large-scale "grandparent scam" that targeted elderly Americans, the US Justice Department announced. The indictment, unsealed in New Jersey, outlines charges such as mail and wire fraud conspiracy, money laundering, and more.

Allegedly operating from call centers in the Dominican Republic, the defendants deceived seniors in the United States. Additionally, five individuals based in the U.S. were charged with wire fraud conspiracy for their roles as cash couriers picking up funds from victims in New Jersey, New York, and beyond. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Arun G. Rao emphasized the Justice Department's commitment to pursuing those who exploit vulnerable individuals through fraudulent schemes, whether domestically or internationally.

JAMAICA

Jamaica's Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett announced during the 2024/25 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives that the country is poised to achieve a record-breaking revenue of US\$4.38 billion from the tourism industry in the fiscal year 2023-24.

Bartlett revealed that stopover arrivals are forecasted to reach 2.96 million, marking a notable 9.4 percent increase compared to the previous period. Additionally, cruise arrivals are expected to rise by nine percent to 1.34 million. For the first three months of the year, Jamaica welcomed an estimated 1.34 million visitors, generating US\$1.27 billion in earnings. Stopover arrivals saw a 7.4 percent increase, reaching 788,000 visitors, while cruise passengers experienced a significant growth of 16.1 percent, totaling 554,560 passengers.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Antigua & Barbuda's Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. "Chet" Greene criticized former Puerto Rican legislator José Aponte Hernández for making unfounded allegations against Antigua and Barbuda. Greene urged Hernández to refrain from maligning the country for personal political gain. Greene emphasized that Antigua and Barbuda's

infrastructure developments, including its airport, serve tourism purposes and do not align with Hernández's claims of military involvement with China.

He asserted that Hernández's statements are baseless and may stem from his desire to annex Puerto Rico to the United States as a state. Greene highlighted Antigua and Barbuda's status as a popular tourism destination, welcoming visitors from around the world, including US citizens. He emphasized that no credible sources have supported Hernández's allegations.

BARBADOS

Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados (CBB), Dr. Kevin Greenidge, has announced that the Barbadian economy is forecasted to continue growing throughout 2024. The growth is expected to be supported by the ongoing expansion of tourism and investments from both private and public sectors. Greenidge stated that the economy has already surpassed its pre-pandemic size, with further growth of around 3.9 percent projected for the year.

The CBB highlighted strong growth in the first quarter of 2024, driven by robust tourism activity and infrastructure investments. Despite this, the agricultural sector experienced a decline due to unfavorable weather conditions, with output falling by 6.8 percent year-on-year.

GUYANA

The Guyana government says it may reconsider bids for the sale of the Marriott Hotel following the death of Ramy El-Batrawi, whose bid was the highest. Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo stated that they may reassess bids or issue new requests for proposals. El-Batrawi's company, X LLC, had submitted a bid of US\$90 million, with iNtegrated Group Guyana Inc submitting the second highest bid at US\$86.1 million. Jagdeo mentioned that if the successful bid is no longer valid, the government may opt to retain ownership of the hotel instead of selling it. Initially, the National Industrial & Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL) had received six bids from various companies after issuing invitations for bids.

- Compiled from CMC News & Loop News Caribbean



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Jamaica, Barbados Join CARICOM Nations Supporting A Palestinian State



Palestinians walk past destroyed houses in the Gaza Strip's Jabalia refugee camp.
(MAHMOUD ISSA/REUTERS iamge)

In a significant move, Jamaica and Barbados have joined 11 other CARICOM nations in officially recognizing the State of Palestine.

Emphasizing Jamaica's commitment to a two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kamina Johnson Smith, highlighted the importance of ensuring Israel's security while upholding the dignity and rights of Palestinians. By extending recognition to Palestine, Jamaica aims to bolster its efforts towards achieving a peaceful resolution.

This decision underscores Jamaica's adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter, promoting mutual respect and peaceful coexistence among nations, along with the recognition of peoples' right to self-determination.

Johnson Smith reiterated Jamaica's support for a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and humanitarian aid access for Gaza's residents, emphasizing the urgent need for de-escalation and lasting peace in the region.

Barbados Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kerrie Symmonds, emphasized that Barbados views the recognition of Palestine as pivotal to achieving a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly through the establishment of a two-state solution. The foreign affairs minister stressed that Barbados has always maintained at the United Nations that there should be a two-state solution.

"But ironically, despite having said to the world that we would like to see a two-state solution, Barbados itself has never recognised the State of

Palestine. And therefore, there is an incongruity and inconsistency because 'how can we say we want a two-state solution if we do not recognise Palestine as a State?' So, I have taken to Cabinet the necessary paper in order to allow us to formally recognise, I think, an error that we have made through the years and to correct that. And now, we have formally reached out to the State of Palestine to signal our intention to formally recognise them as a State," Symmonds said.

With Jamaica and Barbados's recognition, they now join a coalition of around 140 UN member states and 11 Caribbean

Community (CARICOM) countries that have acknowledged the State of Palestine. The other CARICOM nations are:

- Guyana
- Haiti
- Suriname
- Cuba
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Kitts & Nevis.
- and the Dominican Republic.

CARICOM previously expressed condemnation for the attacks in Israel and Gaza, advocating for a UN-backed

two-state solution to achieve comprehensive peace and security between the two sides. The organization highlighted the dire living conditions faced by Palestinians and emphasized the need to address underlying issues to break the cycle of violence.

While Jamaica's Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, has shown solidarity with Israel and called for peace within agreed guidelines, he refrained from commenting on specific military actions in Gaza.

- Rewritten from multiple sources



British Man Charged With Raping School Girls In Cayman

A British man residing in the Cayman Islands faces serious charges involving three school children, as reported by local authorities.

The charges include rape, sexual communication with minors, and possession of indecent images. The man is accused of grooming the girls and posing as a teenager to commit the offenses. The man is facing 18 counts including rape, sexual communication with a child, meeting a child following sexual communication and having indecent images of a child. He is accused of grooming the girls but cannot be named due to an order made at the Cayman Islands

Grand Court. The man's age has also not been released.

Detectives discovered extensive evidence, including thousands of messages and illicit content on seized phones. They say he was reported to police at the end of 2023 after the mother of a young girl intercepted communications between her child and the man. He is currently in custody awaiting trial and is also facing five further charges relating to separate offenses against a different child relating to a separate incident on similar charges involving a fourth alleged victim that took place in March 2023. He pleaded not guilty to all the charges against him and

denies any wrongdoing.

Detective Superintendent Peter Lansdown emphasized the importance of parental vigilance regarding children's online interactions. "It appears contact with the victims was initiated through social media. This situation serves to stress the importance of parents and guardians being actively aware of the communication young persons are engaging in on messaging services and social media networks, via, predominantly, their mobile devices," he said.

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Guyana President Among Caribbean Leaders Honored At American Foundation For The University Of The West Indies Event

The President of Guyana, Mohamed Irfaan Ali, was among six honorees at the recent American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) fundraising gala, held on April 18th in New York City.

Ali was presented with the Legacy Award by Guyana-born actress, CCH Pounder of NCIS New Orleans fame. In accepting the award, the President announced that a University of the West Indies Medical School will be built in Guyana.

He also reflected on the profound impact of colonization on the region and reiterated the imperative need for reparatory justice and praised the University of the West Indies and Vice

Chancellor Sir Hillary Beckles, for its efforts in advancing this cause.

President Ali also emphasized the significance of investing in and leveraging indigenous resources as pivotal for fostering collective development amidst the region's ongoing healing journey from colonial legacies. Underscoring Guyana's commitment to regional and global obligations, the President, who is also the current chairman of CARICOM, the Caribbean Community, stressed that the nation's prosperity is intertwined with that of the wider Caribbean.

The 27th annual legacy gala raises funds in the US Diaspora



Guyana President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, second from left, receives the AFUWI Legacy Award from UWI Vice Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles, second from right and Guyana born actress CCH Pounder, r. (AFUWI image)

to open doors for Caribbean students from underprivileged backgrounds to pursue the dream of higher education.

The other honorees were:

- Don Christian, a partner at

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, who received the Caribbean Luminary Award;

- Antony Mark Desnoes Hart, the executive chairman of Caribbean Producers Jamaica Ltd., who was presented

with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Business Leadership and Community Engagement;

- Attorney Darren Skinner, the Jamaican born partner and co-general counsel of the Washington, D.C. office of Arnold & Porter, who received the Pinnacle Award;
- Michele Chow-Tai, the managing director of Business Development at Fairview Capital Partners, who was presented in absentia with the Vice Chancellor's Achievement Award, and;
- Rev. Patrick Perrin, who from Jamaica to New York, has dedicated most of his life to guiding his congregation and youth, received the Pelican Award.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



British National Injured In Tobago Shark Now In Miami Hospital

The 64-year-old British national, who was severely injured after being attacked by a shark in Tobago, is now at the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

Peter Smith, 64, was transferred from the Scarborough General Hospital and airlifted out of Tobago on April 30th. Smith sustained injuries to his left hand, left thigh, and stomach after being attacked by a bull shark while bathing at Courland Bay, also known as Turtle Beach.

Having undergone multiple surgeries at Scarborough General Hospital, Smith's condition remains critical. His wife, Joanne Smith, expressed gratitude to Tobago residents and friends who intervened during the attack. The rare incident prompted the temporary closure of ten beaches on the island.

The Tobago House of Assembly, (THA), initially offered a TT\$10,000 reward to registered fishermen for capturing the bull shark



Peter Smith, 64, and his wife, in an undated photo. (News Handout image)

responsible for the attack. However, THA Chief Secretary Farley Augustine later retracted the offer due to confusion surrounding the bounty.

Augustine clarified that the intention was to safely relocate the shark to prevent further harm

rather than to capture it. He urged fishermen to collaborate with the Coast Guard and other stakeholders to ensure the safety of beachgoers.

- Rewritten from CMC



Rickelle Williams Appointed Interim Miami Beach City Manager

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

The Miami Beach City Commission has appointed Rickelle Williams interim city manager, until officials can find a permanent replacement to run the day-to-day operations.

Williams, who is of Jamaican descent and previously served as assistant city manager, temporarily takes over for outgoing City Manager Alina

Hudak who resigned amid political turmoil at city hall. The appointment came during a city commission meeting last month.

Hudak told the city commission he promoted Williams because she's an outstanding addition to the staff.

Williams will be at the helm for six months when by that time the city hopes to have a new city manager on board. She said she's not a candidate for the position

on a permanent basis.

Williams was promoted assistant city manager in 2022 after joining the administration two years earlier as director of economic development.

Miami Beach Mayor Steven Meiner, who was elected in November, cast the lone 'no vote' for Williams' appointment.



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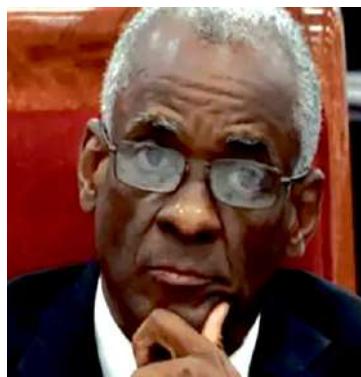
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Haiti Has A New President, PM



The former president of the Haitian senate, Edgard Leblanc Fils, has been named as the president of the Presidential Transitional Council (CPT). (CMC image)

Amid gang violence, Haiti has named a new president and prime minister, marking a significant step in ongoing efforts to restore peace and security in Haiti.

Former Haitian Senate President Edgard Leblanc Fils has been appointed as the President of the Presidential Transitional Council (CPT). Fils' appointment on April 30th follows a high-level meeting held by members of the Council at the Reception Villa (Primature) the day before, where they engaged

with the leadership of the High Police Staff Nationale d'Haiti (PNH) and the Armed Forces of Haiti (FAd'H), led by Frantz Elbé and Colonel Jodel Lesage respectively.

During the meeting, discussions centered on analyzing the security situation in Haiti and identifying potential solutions to address issues such as insecurity and kidnappings, which have become major concerns for the population.

In addition to Fils' appointment, former Sports Minister Fritz Belizaire has been named as the country's Prime Minister, replacing Michel Patrick Boisvert, the former Minister of Economy and Finance who served as the interim Prime Minister. While Belizaire may not be widely known, Fils expressed confidence in the choice, stating, "this is a very good choice for prime minister."

The nine-member transitional council, seven of whom have voting rights, reportedly supported Belizaire's appointment, with four members endorsing him. Belizaire

previously served as the Sports Minister during the second presidency of René Préval from 2006 to 2011.

Haiti has been grappling with political turmoil and social unrest following the assassination of President Jovenel Moise on July 7, 2021. Rival gangs have exacerbated the situation, leading to widespread

insecurity and prompting foreign agencies to evacuate non-essential staff from the country.

Since the installation of the CPT, seven countries have officially informed the UN Secretary-General of their intention to contribute personnel to a Security Council-backed support mission for Haiti. Kenya has offered to lead the

multinational mission, which aims to bolster the national police force and regain control of the streets from gang influence. Other countries pledging support include the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Chad, and Jamaica.

- Rewritten from CMC

Consulate General of Barbados Invites All To Barbados For ICC Cricket World Cup



Barbados Consul General Rudy Grant addresses the audience at Island SPACE as he introduces ICC World Cup Cricket coming to Barbados this summer. (Photo by K Rich Photography)

Launching their promotional efforts for the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup slated for next month, the Consulate General of Barbados in Miami, alongside the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc, recently hosted a reception at Island SPACE Caribbean Museum on Saturday, April 27th, welcoming approximately 100 guests.

Among the distinguished attendees was former Barbadian ambassador to the United States, Noel Lynch, who delivered a compelling keynote address. Lynch shared insights into Barbados' investment of \$50 million in preparations for the event, projecting a conservative revenue estimate of over \$110

million. He also encouraged early planning for visits, highlighting game tickets starting at just \$17.

Peter Mayers, USA Director of Tourism for BTMI, provided an overview of the island's tourism sector for 2024, inviting the Diasporas to participate in "We Gatherin'" – Prime Minister Mia Mottley's initiative for an inclusive Bajan homecoming.

Legendary Barbadian cricketer Joel "Big Bird" Garner graced the occasion, offering words of wisdom and presenting a signed West Indies jersey and cricket bats as gifts to the museum, alongside cricketers

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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University Of Glasgow Repatriates Giant Galliwasps To Jamaica

In a landmark collaboration, The University of the West Indies, (The UWI), and the University of Glasgow, (UofG), have announced the repatriation of a Jamaican Giant Galliwasps specimen from The Hunterian collection at UofG in Scotland, UK. This significant event marks the first-ever repatriation of a natural history specimen in the Caribbean, symbolizing a pivotal moment in scientific research and cultural heritage preservation.

The joint effort, facilitated by a team comprising members from The UWI, and the Institute of Jamaica, (IOJ), underscores a commitment to rectify past injustices and ensure Caribbean ownership of its scientific and cultural treasures. The repatriation exercise is a tangible outcome of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The UWI and UofG, aimed at fostering collaboration in research and education while addressing the historical legacies of colonialism.

The Galliwasps, believed



(L-R) Mike Rutherford, Zoology Curator, The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, Professor Simon Anderson, Board Director of the GCCDR holding the wet specimen of the Jamaican Giant Galliwasps and Steph Scholten, Director, The Hunterian, University of Glasgow. (Photo Mike G Rutherford/UofG)

to be extinct, will return to its homeland, Jamaica, after being collected in the 1850s. Accompanied by a joint team from The UWI and IOJ, the specimen will be deposited in the Natural History Museum of Jamaica on permanent loan, ensuring its accessibility to all

Jamaicans.

Upon the specimen's return to Jamaica, an official handover ceremony will be held as it will be deposited in the Natural History Museum of Jamaica on permanent loan in the national flora and fauna collection for safekeeping and allowing it to

be accessible to all Jamaicans.

Members of the public are invited to stay tuned to follow the repatriation journey of the Jamaican Giant Galliwasps from Scotland to its homeland.

This initiative reflects ongoing strategic collaborations between The UWI and UofG, including the Glasgow-Caribbean Centre for Development Research (GCCDR) and the joint Masters Programme in Reparatory

Justice. The repatriation of the Galliwasps signifies a commitment to social justice and cultural equity, highlighting the importance of addressing historical injustices and fostering greater understanding of repatriation issues in the museum sector.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Consulate General of Barbados Invites All To Barbados For ICC Cricket World Cup

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Lawrence Rowe and Adrian Griffith.

Consul General Rudy Grant served as the evening's emcee, encouraging guests to connect with Barbados, cricket, and Island SPACE. Other speakers included Father Anthony Holder, Island SPACE president Calibe Thompson, and Consul Marvin Brathwaite, who concluded the event.

Guests were treated to rum cocktails and traditional Bajan dishes, including fish cakes, macaroni pie, and pelau, courtesy of culinary ambassadors Philip "Casanova" Antione and Chef Creig Greenidge.

For more information on the 2024 ICC World Cup cricket in Barbados, visit barbadoscricket.org.



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North Miami Mayor Faces Three Challengers In 2024 Re-Election Bid

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Three candidates are challenging incumbent North Miami Mayor Alix Deslume in this year's city election, which should see a large voter turnout because of the U.S. presidential race.

While Deslume, who was appointed in 2022, is seeking another two-year term, former Florida Agriculture Commissioner candidate and community activist, Naomi Esther Blemure; former state Senator Daphne Campbell, and former mayor candidate Hector Medina, are all also vying for the mayoral seat.

North Miami postponed its 2023 election to November 5, 2024 following controversy involving former Mayor Phillippe Bien-Amime, who tried to hold on to his position after losing a run-off election to Marliene Bastien for Miami-Dade County Commissioner.

The council unanimously voted for Deslume, who was the vice mayor, to assume the duties of mayor.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, North Miami has a population of 60,191 residents, most of whom are of Caribbean descent, and is the seventh largest city in Miami-Dade County.

The city encompasses 10.2 square miles and is home to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami Auto Museum, Oleta River State Park, the largest urban park in Florida, the Arch Creek Park and Chinatown, a 90-acre planned revitalization district located on NW 7th Avenue that is still under construction.

Deslume filed papers to run for re-election after he had a health scare in August 2023, when he suffered a seizure in Africa and was flown to John Hopkins Hospital near Washington, D.C. for treatment. He fainted during a dinner banquet and as everyone in the room rushed to his aid.

Deslume was part of a South Florida Delegation of elected officials visiting Africa when he fell ill in Sierra Leone and told the Miami Herald: "It was the scariest moment of my life."

Deslume said he's been a North Miami resident for the past 30 years and experiences the same challenges his constituents face each day.

He is advocating for more affordable housing, bolstering public safety, prioritizing financial stability and investing in infrastructure for more resiliency.

He also said the city is progressing during the post-COVID-19 era.

"We've worked to root out internal problems, like wasteful spending, and we've dealt with external challenges like crime



North Miami Mayor Alix Deslume, l., is being challenged by former Florida Agriculture Commissioner candidate and community activist, Naomi Esther Blemure, c.; former state Senator Daphne Campbell, second from right, and former mayor candidate Hector Medina, r. (Contributed images)

and the COVID crisis," Deslume said. "But I'm proud to share that the future of our city has never looked brighter."

Deslume said his political platform includes advocating to protect seniors living on a fixed income, from inflation by offering programs like the NoMi Golden Silver plan and providing social events. "We've cared for our environment, spearheading efforts to improve community cleanliness and climate change resiliency," he added. "And we've cared for those facing housing insecurities, creating our city's first housing and social services department."

In 2009, Deslume made history as North Miami's first Black City Clerk and the youngest Haitian American to hold such a position in the United States. In 2015, he again made history when he was elected to the North Miami City Council, representing District 4.

BLEMUR

Blemur is a Haitian-American minister and currently serves as vice chair for North Miami's Commission for Women and the city's Planning commission.

Blemur said he's focusing on optimal resident services, prioritizing infrastructure upgrades, combat wasteful spending, boosting the city's economy by helping local businesses and advocating for comprehensive beautification projects to enhance the quality of life for residents.

Blemur has 20 years of experience in retail-management and commercial banking and non-profit management. U.S. Congressman Alfred Lawson Jr., has endorsed Blemur for her candidacy for mayor, calling her the residents' fighter for a better quality life.

"North Miami needs a strong leader who will fight for affordability, fiscal responsibility, sustainability and the rights of all citizens," Blemur said.

CAMPBELL

Campbell is seeking to bounce back after losing her 23-year-old son, Jason Campbell, to gun violence in 2021 and losing her state Senate seat to fellow Democrat Jasson Pizzo in 2018. She also lost the rematch

with Pizzo two years later.

Campbell did not return messages for an interview up to press time. But her campaign papers she filed to run for North Miami mayor are in question.

According to the Miami Herald, in April 2022, Campbell listed an address on Northwest 132nd Street in North Miami, a single-family home she purchased in November.

Questions about residency have followed her in the past, in 2018, the Herald found holes in her residency record that made it unclear if she lived in her state Senate district as required, though no official action was taken.

North Miami's charter says candidates for mayor must live in

the city continuously for at least a year before qualifying to run for office.

In addition, Campbell posted a video to YouTube showing her accepting a designer purse stuffed with cash from the pocket of a healthcare nonprofit executive at a 2017 campaign fundraiser, but later insisted it was a "joke."

The Florida Ethics Commission imposed a \$22,500 penalty on Campbell this March after finding she violated state financial disclosure laws by filing forms that failed to include unpaid taxes.

The 66-year-old registered nurse represented North Miami for eight years in the Florida Legislature, first as a state

representative and then as a senator.

MEDINA

Medina is a longtime North Miami resident and activist. He unsuccessfully ran for mayor in 2017 and decided to give it another shot in 2024.

Medina said he's running to serve the community with honesty and dedication rather than being driven by personal gain or ambition.

"My commitment to clean air and quality of life has resonated with voters and I will continue to advocate for these rights," he said.



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FEATURE

Jamaican Briton Is One Of The World's Largest Collectors Of Jamaican Art

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

What better way to celebrate your culture than living with the visual and spiritual language of your people? That perfectly encapsulates Theresa Roberts – a Jamaican-Briton and passionate art collector and cultural ambassador for her beloved country of Jamaica.

Philanthropist and entrepreneur, Roberts migrated to the United Kingdom during her formative years – at age 8). But Jamaica has never left her heart. She is that same little girl who grew up in St. Elizabeth, and that spirit is palpable when she speaks about Jamaica.

"I went to Jamaica with my husband to the Half Moon hotel. When I walked in, there was a print of a little girl with a little bangle earring sitting by the roadside selling mangos," she told Caribbean Today recently. "I realized that represented me because that's what I used to do as a little girl. I didn't have the bangle earring, but I was on the street selling mangos to people who were driving to Kingston. I looked at it and I said oh my god, that's me. Then all of a sudden, I had this overwhelming feeling. I knew I had to do something with Jamaican art."

CONNECTION

This was the connection that started Roberts' relationship with Jamaican art and artists. That fateful trip led to her and her husband Andrew, to begin researching the art of Jamaica.

Indian Arrival Day To Again Be Celebrated In Jamaica

BY CONNIE AITCHESON

The count-down is one to another Roti Festival this Indian Arrival Day in St. Catherine, Jamaica, May 14th - the 179th anniversary of Indians to Jamaica.

The events always feature a never-ending display of singing and dancing, including traditional Indian classical songs, folk songs, and Ghazals, as well as new songs of Chutney and songs from Bollywood. Vendors always line the side of the park, selling the mandatory curried goat, curried chicken, dahl and rice, varieties of Choka, varieties of Rotis, curried mango, curried potatoes, curried chick peas and other Indian delicacies.

The island's national motto, "Out of Many, One People," is always on full display. Jamaicans of Indian, African, Chinese, European and other ethnicities dance and lounge about, eating - while children play.

Indo-Caribbean nationals from other islands and Diaspora communities in the US are always at the event. It's an annual pilgrimage to catch up with friends and family. Entertainers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname and the USA came to grace the stage. Everyone was there to celebrate Indian Arrival Day.

"I didn't realize that such a small country like Jamaica had such a large community of great artists," the philanthropist exclaimed.

Today, as one of the world's largest collectors of Jamaican art, her collection is divided between the couple's home in London, their palatial home, Hanover Grange in the exclusive Tryall estate in Hanover, Jamaica, and some in storage.

But, her foray into art began years earlier, in the 1990s when she was introduced to the work of British sculptor, David Begbie, whose monumental pieces and especially his mesh-wire work, inspired her to start collecting art. One could say 'the rest is history,' as the philanthropist started buying artwork from emerging artists, many of whom are now fully established in the industry.

"I always wanted to support up and coming artists, so I would always buy a small piece not really thinking I would become a collector. I buy because I love art, I want to wake up to art," she told CT.

Not discounting the value of art, Roberts buys pieces that move her. She buys what she loves, not solely for investment purposes. Her collection is varied, from paintings, to sculpture, to photography, and includes some of the Jamaican masters, such as Albert Huie, to undiscovered artists with great talent. Indeed, her collection and passion is so well-known across Europe and the Caribbean that Roberts has become an influential figure in the



Jamaican-Briton Philanthropist and entrepreneur, Theresa Roberts, L., and Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness at Hanover Grange. (Contributed image)

art industry. It is for this reason that she was appointed Jamaica Ambassador/Special Investment Envoy for Culture and Arts by Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness in 2023.

"I love my country and I love my Prime Minister. I think he is doing a good job... As ambassador for the arts, I am already doing that. The investment envoy is what I'm really working hard at now because I want to bring investment to Jamaica," she added.

PHILOSOPHY

Roberts' philosophy behind art collecting is to buy good quality pieces from the Jamaican artists she admires because it is her intention to promote them internationally. Her first exhibition showcased Jamaican female artists at Cambridge University in 2010 and featured a number of artists from Jamaica's Edna

Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts. In 2012, she held an exhibition entitled 'Jamaican Men - A Collector's Choice,' at London's Europe House. The House of Lords was also one of the prestigious venues to highlight artistic talent from her beloved country.

Her unending promotion of Jamaican art reached new heights with the 2022 opening of 'Jamaica Making — The Theresa Roberts Art Collection,' at the Victoria Gallery and Museum at the University of Liverpool. To date, that exhibition has had more than 8,000 attendees. As well, the book of the same title that was produced for the show has been placed in more than 900 universities and libraries worldwide. And, with another book on Jamaican art due out soon, the art collector noted that it all came together because of the quality of the art and the genuine support from the museum and university.

Part of her drive to promote Jamaican culture is also evident in her entrepreneurial side. Roberts and her husband are owners of the Jamaica Patty Company, (JPC). Established in 2013, JPC opened in the heart of London on Liverpool Street, the only Jamaican specialty eatery in the buzzing business district. A second location, in trendy Covent Garden, is continuing Roberts' mission to bring another taste of Jamaican culture to the UK, but with a much more refined, elegant flair.

Roberts explained that she wants to elevate the Jamaican patty. The patties are not the

microwavable kind that can be found in supermarkets. Instead she uses high quality fresh ingredients in a semi-puff pastry that make JPC products stand out from the rest. With a choice of beef, chicken, curry goat, ackee & saltfish, and vegan options, there is a patty for every taste.

They also carry other island faves like Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee and the delectable Tortuga Rum cakes, both sourced directly from the Jamaica. Her game plan has always been to introduce the culture and delight the senses of international audiences. This strategy has proven successful, so much so that she will open her third location in yet another up market area in London — Canary Wharf.

Whether its art, food, or family Roberts' passion never wavers.

"My grandchildren and great grandchildren is part of what gives me the drive... They know they have a Jamaican Nan. They know that Jamaica is one of the best countries in the world and that I'm passionate about what I'm doing," she added with a smile.



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governments have officially recognized the day, with similar celebrations as in Jamaica, and it is a national holiday in Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname - countries with the largest Indian population in the Caribbean. Less than two percent of Jamaica's population is of Indian Descent.

Those Indian forebears stayed in the Caribbean and greatly impacted every sector of society, in particular agriculture, agriculture economy, education, civil service, culture, medicine and business.

Their descendants, and other islanders, now use Indian Arrival Day to remember and honor the resilience, fortitude and strength of their ancestors. But there are some who lament that the day is even acknowledged given the pain it caused those early migrants and its connection to colonization.

However, Indian Arrival Day is a treasured event. In Jamaica, it has been observed and produced by the National Council for Indian Culture in Jamaica for the past 25 years.

Last year in Jamaica, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange, spoke to those celebrating the day at Chedwin Park. Her Ministry has helped fund the event for several years and she, or a representative of the Ministry, has always attended. Another dignitary to attend was

HISTORY

After the British ended slavery in 1833, and an apprentice period of forced labor for the former slave population that ended in 1838, the colonizers needed workers for the sugar cane plantations. From 1834 to 1917, CARICOM and other organizations, have estimated that approximately 500,000 Indians came to the Caribbean.

They were recruited to the region to fill that labor shortage. They were lured with false promises and experienced harsh treatments on the plantations, racism, sexual violence, forced name changes and religious conversion. Although they were promised they could return to India after a few years of servitude work in the Caribbean, most never returned. The islands were now their permanent homes.

The sentiment of Indian Arrival Day was first celebrated in Trinidad and Tobago in 1945. Over the years, the name of the tribute was changed and in the early 1980s the celebrations became known as Indian Arrival Day, aka Arrival Day or Landing Day. The countries recognize the exact day the first ship arrived with Indians aboard. The day is also recognized by some Indian Diasporas in Africa, North America, Europe and parts of Asia.

Several Caribbean

Immigration Judges Order Record Number Of Deportations In First Half Of FY 2024 TRAC Finds

In a startling revelation, US immigration judges issued a staggering 136,623 deportation orders during the initial six months of Fiscal Year 2024.

That's according to a meticulous analysis conducted by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), a non-partisan, non-profit data research centre affiliated with the Newhouse School of Public Communications and the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University.

This figure marks a significant surge compared to the peak removals observed in FY 2019 under the Donald Trump administration, with today's pace of new removal orders soaring by 50 percent. Notably, this surge coincides with the expansion of immigration judges during the current administration.

The findings shed light on the geographic distribution of these removal orders, providing a detailed portrait of the areas most affected across the country. New York City emerged as the epicentre of deportation activity, with just under 11,000 removal orders issued to immigrants residing there. Following closely behind was Harris County, Texas, which witnessed over 8,000 removal orders, while Los Angeles County, California, faced nearly 6,000 removals.

Despite the prominence of those three top regions, Dallas County, Texas, and Miami-Dade County, Florida, also witnessed substantial deportation figures - albeit lower than the leading three. The disparity is evident in Miami-Dade County, with only one-fourth of the removal orders compared to New York City and less than half compared to Los Angeles.

The trend persists as the next four counties with the highest deportation numbers are primarily located in Texas and California. Montgomery County, Texas, stood out as the residence for just under 2,000 immigrants ordered removed, with San Bernardino County, California, and Travis

Wife Search

Because of this apparent shortage of wife-material-women, many men are left out on a limb, living in limbo, bereft of female companionship because they cannot find a suitable woman to be their wife.



**TONY
ROBINSON**

It was always the belief that this issue was the domain of women who are constantly bawling that they cannot find a man, but clearly that is not so. The consensus is, many men have lost faith in women and view them with suspicion. Of course, many guys

County, Texas, closely trailing behind. Furthermore, Orange County, California, registered the ninth-highest deportation figures, showcasing the contiguous counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Orange as significant deportation hotspots, collectively accounting for over 9,000 removal orders in the past six months.

In contrast, Cook County, Illinois, represented by Chicago, ranked tenth in deportation numbers, reflecting relatively fewer completed court cases despite its status as a major metropolitan area and a recipient of new asylum seekers.

These findings underscore the widespread impact of deportation orders across various regions, highlighting the complex dynamics within the U.S. immigration system and the urgent need for comprehensive reform to address the challenges faced by immigrant communities nationwide.

ALARMING LACK OF REPRESENTATION

Meanwhile, analysts also found that as immigration judges accelerate the issuance of removal orders, fewer immigrants ordered for removal manage to secure legal representation to advocate their cases. An examination by TRAC of year-by-year trends over the past decade reveals a nuanced trajectory.

Between 2016 and 2019, while the total number of removal decisions saw a modest increase, there were notable improvements in representation rates. However, the onset of partial government COVID-19 shutdowns precipitated a sharp decline in decisions, coinciding with a surprising uptick in the likelihood of finding legal representation. This anomaly likely stemmed from the decreased

demand for immigration attorneys due to the reduced number of court hearings, subsequently alleviating supply constraints, TRAC found.

Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, representation rates have plummeted as removal hearings surged. Last year, representation rates dwindled to a mere 20 percent. Alarmingly, data for FY 2024 illustrates a further decline, with only 15 percent of immigrants

ordered for removal managing to secure legal representation. This sharp decrease starkly contrasts with the current representation rate of 30 percent for all immigrants in the Court's backlog.

The implications are profound: immigrants without legal representation face significantly higher odds of being ordered for removal. This disparity underscores the urgency

of addressing the challenges encountered by immigrants navigating the legal intricacies of deportation proceedings in the Democratic Joe Biden administration.

Felicia J. Persaud is the publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com, a daily news outlet focusing on Black immigrant issues.



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COUNCILwww.caribbeantoday.com**Have Young Blacks And Black Men Given Up On Voting In 2024?****By Roger Caldwell**

President Biden and Vice President Harris cannot win the 2024 election without the Black vote. Recent polling show President Biden is underperforming with Black voters, particularly with Black men and young Black voters. Many Black young voters are unsure of who to vote for, and many are thinking about staying home.

There is a generational divide between Black older voters and many of the young Black voters, who have no knowledge of civil rights, and why voting is sacred to older Black women. Many young Blacks don't know the history of lynching, homes being bombed, and communities being massacred for the right to vote.

How easily did Blacks forget in 1865, when the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, and the 14th and 15th Amendment gave Black citizenship and the right to vote. Even though these laws

were passed, many Blacks lost their lives as a result of racism, discrimination, and fighting for the right to vote.

In 2012, the turnout of Black voters exceeded that of White vote for former President Barack Obama's election. This was the first time in history that this happened, and there is no reason this can't be done again.

President Biden's approval rating is lower now than when he took office, and Democrats cannot win without the Black vote. Age has become a big discontentment for young Black voters, and many of the Democratic leaders are not reaching the young voters. When Obama spoke, he inspired Blacks to get excited, and he impacted thousands to get out and vote.

The state of Black voting men in 2024 starts with education, and the importance of an informed voter. There are over 10 million Black men registered to vote, but the number should be larger, and more Black men must be registered and voting.

In the next presidential

election cycle, Black men want to be taken seriously, and our issues discussed with solutions. The Democrats must have a comprehensive plan for Black male problems, and provide resources with solutions in our communities. There are 35% of Black men who always vote. There are 30% who never vote, and there are another 30% in the middle, who will vote with the right message.

The largest demographic that the Democrats can join our party is the young voter age group 18 to 30. The majorities in this age group are independents, and many are frustrated with the high death toll in Gaza. Many young voters are blaming the high death toll on America, because America is providing Israel with the weapons to kill. When President Biden stops providing Israel with weapons, there can be a cease-fire. Somewhere President Biden missed peace, and everywhere we look around the world there is war.

The young voters are correct

when they are asked to join a political party, and they ask for peace. The difference between an older Black Democrat and a young Black Democrat is the young voter is an informed and knowledge voter.

The young Black voter needs informed messages from Democratic leadership to be engaged and enthusiastic. If Democrats want Black men engaged, they must have a comprehensive plan that fits our needs and desires.

Finally, President Biden does have a positive story for

Black young voters - student loan debt, and forgiveness. In three years President Biden has kept his promise and cancelled \$153 billion student loan debt for \$4.3 million people.

Black men and young Black voters have not given up on voting, and the Democratic Party. They must be better informed with integrity and trust. Democratic leadership must have a plan, to get these groups excited, enthusiastic, and to the polls.

**Wife Search**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

The quest is real, the situation is dire, the concern is great, and the frustration is omnipresent. Many women are disappointed with who they married, but just live with their circumstances. But men, ah men, what do they look for in a woman to be a wife? First of all, looks are important and don't be deceived by people who say that looks don't matter. They lie. Nobody wants to be married to a toad, male or female, and kissing it won't change it either.

No man wants to be saddled with a woman who has no kerb appeal. Like it or not it's true, and until they eliminate the phrase, 'beautiful bride,' from the wedding ceremony, I will stand by my statement.

Secondly, he doesn't want a woman who is too needy and greedy, for that'll be an emotional and financial drain on his psyche and his purse. Emotional baggage can be the most burdensome of all, for she comes with all the weight of her past relationships on her shoulders and dumps it right in his lap. A wife should fly light with just a carry-on as luggage. The wife must have desire for the man, not the fake kind that disappears right after the ring goes on, but a genuine feeling, making him feel as if she wants him as much as he wants her.

A wife must be a partner to the man, support him in whatever area of his life that he

chooses and not be his harshest critic. That has been the downfall of many relationships that eventually led to ruination, the constant criticism by the wives to husbands.

"It's as if I can't do anything right, as far as she's concerned, everything I do is wrong."

There's this story about this guy, who after constant criticism from his wife, decided to hang himself because he couldn't take it anymore. When his wife walked in and saw him hanging from the ceiling, her remark was: "You tied the knot in the rope wrong, you got dirt on the chair."

Still, here's what some men had to say. "My wife makes me proud to be her husband; "My wife understands me better than everyone;" "There is no one more loving than my wife."

Any woman who can hear those words from her man is the genuine article. But how many men can say that; how many women exist in this modern day world of Tik Tok, You Tube and Facebook and have no clue how to be a wife?

How many men will continue the wife search?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tony Robinson is an independent contributor to Caribbean Today and the views expressed here are his own. He can be reached at seido1yard@gmail.com for feedback.



In June, Caribbean Today will spotlight the Bahamas-700 islands, cays and inlets located in the Atlantic Ocean. With a population of over 385,000 people, this nation continues to influence its Caribbean cousins and The United States mainland, Florida in particular. The Bahamas is located in the same island chain as Cuba, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti) and is one of the richest countries in the Americas per capita. Come with Caribbean Today as we focus on the great people of The Bahamas and learn of their contributions to the Caribbean region and the U.S. Let us show you why the land of the conch thinks life is better in The Bahamas.

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A Caribbean American Trailblazer To Join The Ranks Of Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Yet another person of Caribbean descent will be inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame.

The latest is Suzanne De Passe, who was once vice-president of Motown Records and whose lofty accomplishments include working with The Jackson 5 and coordinating the Motown 25 show.

Fifteen people from different areas of the music comprise the Class of 2024 which was announced on April 21st. Performers include Foreigner, Peter Frampton, Dave Matthews Band, Ozzy Osbourne, Cher, Dionne Warwick, Jimmy Buffett, Big Mama Thornton, John Mayall, Alexis Korner, Kool & The Gang and A Tribe Called Quest.

The 77-year-old De Passe and music producer Norman Whitfield, who was also part of Motown's glory years, are being recognized as non-performers. De Passe was born in New York City to a Jamaican father and American mother whose parents were from Jamaica.

She joins reggae legends



Suzanne De Passe, whose roots extend to Jamaica, is set to be inducted into the 2024 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. (Michael Tran/AFP via Getty)

Bob Marley and Jimmy Cliff, and Hip-Hop pioneer DJ Kool Herc who were born in Jamaica, in the 'Rock Hall.'

De Passe will receive the Ahmet Ertegun Award, named in honour for the founder of Atlantic Records. In a 2022 interview with Josh Flagg of Flagship Media Group, De Passe acknowledged her diverse heritage.

"My mother used to refer to us as Caribbean cocktail. Because the French, the Scots, the English, all that Caribbean spread. There are also many

Asian-Jamaicans; it's all because of how the culture evolved," she said.

Shortly after graduating from Syracuse University, De Passe went into the entertainment industry. While helping to develop the Jacksons' image, she excelled as a filmmaker, being nominated for an Academy Award in 1973 for Best Adapted Screenplay for Lady Sings The Blues, starring Diana Ross.

Two years later, she produced the hit movie Cooley High, which starred Glynn Turman and Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs.

Another major achievement for De Passe was being executive producer for 'Lonesome Dove,' the wildly successful 1989 mini-series starring Robert Duvall, Tommy Lee Jones and Danny Glover.

Produced by Motown Productions, 'Lonesome Dove' won a Golden Globe Award and Peabody Award.

The 2024 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony will air live on Disney Plus on October 19th from the Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in Cleveland.



God Is Good Says Buju As He Re-Enters US

"God is good" declared veteran dancehall deejay, Buju Banton, who is now back in the United States after being deported following a stint in jail in 2018.

The singer, whose real name is Mark Myrie, declared "God is amazing. I want to send nuff love to all the people out there ... nuff love to my fans.... The Gargamel is back."

He was introduced by an excited DJ Khaled from his residence in Miami on an Instagram Live. Khaled said he "could not keep this [news] to myself."

"I'm in Miami ... Buju Banton is back in America," Khaled said, as Buju entered the frame. "Buju Banton has not been in the United States of America for more than 15 years."

An enthusiastic Buju added: "Greetings my people, it's a long time I haven't seen you. It's a long time these feet have not walked these shores. Let's get music going."

"This is a celebration. We are having lunch and we are celebrating with the Banton," DJ Khaled stated. "Shoutout to Jamaica and to everybody in



Buju Banton, l. with DJ Khalid in Miami. (IG Live screen grab/DJ Khalid)

Jamaica. Buju Banton is officially in Miami."

Banton was deported to Jamaica on December 7, 2018, following his release from McRae Correctional Institute Telfair County, Georgia, USA. Sentenced in 2011, he had served close to 10 years for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine.

It is unclear how Banton secured a US visa to return to the US. Under US rules, a non-citizen who was removed because of an aggravated felony likely has to stay out of the U.S. for 20 years. But a deportee can apply for a waiver to re-enter the US if they spent at least ten years of a 20-year ban outside of the US.

- NewsAmericasnow.com



Christopher Martin Creates History With Penn Relays Performance



Reggae sensation Christopher Martin made history at the Penn Relays with Team Jamaica Bickle.

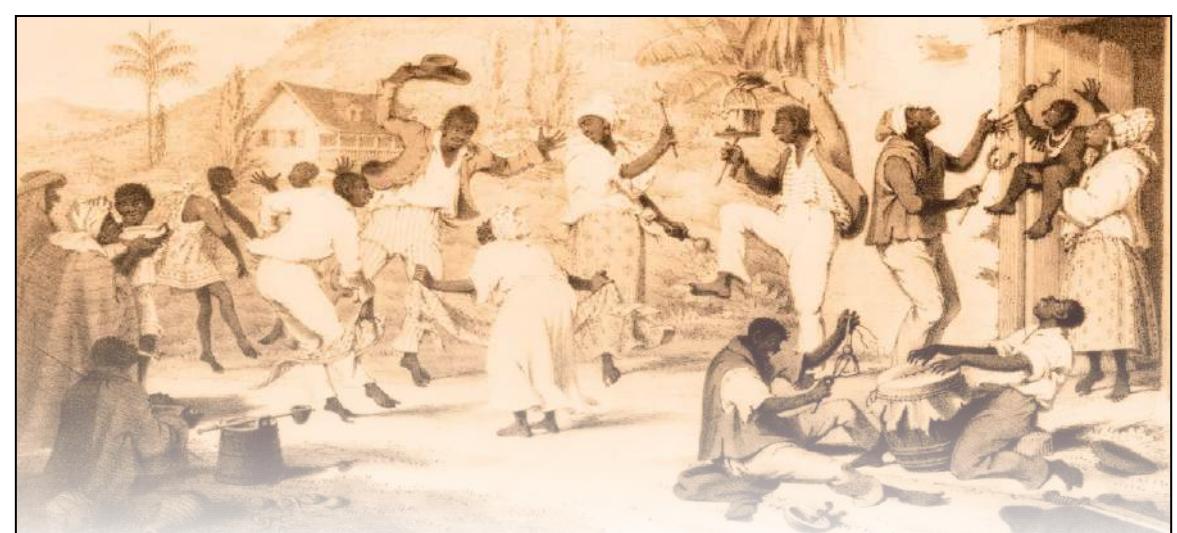
Reggae sensation Christopher Martin made history on April 27th, with a groundbreaking 20-minute performance at the Penn Relays, becoming the first-ever reggae artist to headline the prestigious annual athletic competition held at Franklin Field.

The event, organized by Irwine Clare Sr., founder of Team Jamaica Bickle, was a collaborative effort involving VP Records, The University of Pennsylvania, the Jamaica Consulate in New York, Hypa Active Sounds, Jamaican Dave Productions and Reggae Sumfest.

Penn Relays, established in 1895, stands as America's

oldest and largest track and field competition. Held at Franklin Field in West Philadelphia, the event attracts top athletes from high schools, universities, and Olympic Development teams across the USA, Canada, Jamaica, and the Caribbean.

As part of its 30th anniversary celebration, Team Jamaica Bickle provided meals and hospitality to Caribbean athletes participating in the event, further cementing its commitment to supporting and nurturing athletic talent from the region.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reggae Veteran Ginjah Strikes Gold With 'Tun Up' - South Florida Reggae Chart Topper

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

March brought excellent news for Ginjah. The veteran singer, regarded as one of contemporary reggae's most talented songwriters, scored a comeback hit song with 'Tun Up.'

The Jamaican artist has released three albums since 2021 including the much-touted 'The Reggae Soul Man.' None have produced a major chart-rider as 'Tun Up,' which topped the South Florida Reggae Chart for three weeks.

'Tun Up,' which is produced by Tad's International Record, is a nod to the ladies. While elated with his return to the charts, Ginjah told Caribbean Today that he never thinks of hit songs when writing.

"I just think to always create a beautiful song," he said.

Ginjah has been in the trenches for some time. That hard work has been rewarded with hit singles such as 'Guilty Conscience' and 'Sweet Killer,'

as well as tours with heavyweight singer Beres Hammond, whose Harmony House label he was once signed to.

His link with a high-profile artist such as Hammond placed Ginjah in the one-to-watch bracket. And even though he had a massive hit post-Harmony House with Sweet Killer in 2013, similar success has since proved elusive.

The 45-year-old vocalist is not perturbed.

"I never get frustrated because music is a way of life for me, I put my trust in God. When you balance the spiritual with the physical, there's nothing to get you down," he reasoned. "Remember is me sey when me sing I don't have to be rich. I stand by that until this day, my love for music keeps me going."

Ginjah is from Hanover, a coastal parish in western



Reggae singer Ginjah is thrilling fans with 'Tun Up.'

Jamaica. Much of his early years, however, were spent in Central Village, a tough community on the outskirts of the capital Kingston.

For all the songs he has recorded, Ginjah's biggest achievement is non-musical.

"My greatest accomplishment is The Reggae Soul Man Day on June 12 (2022), in the city of Buffalo, New York. That is really something because a king never get crown inna him yard," said Ginjah.



Broadway World Award Winner, Jamaican David Heron, To Premiere Alwin Bully's 'McBee' In NYC

Celebrated Caribbean immigrant actor and producer, David Heron, winner of the Broadway World Award, is set to produce and direct the American Premiere of Dominican playwright Alwin Bully's Caribbean drama "McBee," in Jamaica, Queens, this June, Caribbean American Heritage Month in the US.

The play, inspired by Shakespeare's Macbeth, will be staged as a one-night-only event at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center (JPAC) on Sunday, June 23 from 7 p.m., with a Caribbean cuisine reception starting at 5:30 p.m.

David Heron, c., flanked by Dominican playwright, the late Alwin Bully, l., and his wife, Anita Bully, r. (Photo courtesy of David Heron.)

Heron, a Jamaican-born talent, recently received acclaim for his



Jamaican-born actor David Heron and Patrice Foster as Lord and Lady Montague in Romeo and Juliet. (Photo courtesy of Shakespeare Festival of St Louis.)

role in The Colonial Theatre of Rhode Island's production of "The Tempest." His decision to present "McBee" during New York City's Caribbean American Heritage Month celebrations is a tribute to Bully, a renowned Dominican playwright and mentor to Heron, who passed away.

"McBee" tells the gripping tale of politician Allan McBee and his wife Alice as they navigate ambition and destiny in the backdrop of a Caribbean island. Written by Bully in the 1990s, the play makes its American debut following Bully's passing in 2023. Heron, deeply influenced by Bully's legacy, aims to honor the playwright's vision by bringing "McBee" to American audiences.

Born in Roseau, Dominica, Alwin Bully was a cultural administrator, playwright, actor and artist who designed the national flag of Dominica. His association with Heron and many other major Jamaican artists flourished during his two decades in Jamaica as UNESCO's Caribbean Cultural Advisor. In addition to McBee, his other plays include The Ruler, Good Morning, Miss Millie and The Nitebox. He received Dominica's second highest national honour, The Sisserou Award of Honor, in 1985. Upon his passing in 2023, he was hailed throughout the Caribbean as a cultural icon and was accorded a full state funeral by the Dominican government.

In addition to his award-winning role in The Tempest, Heron's Shakespearean resume also includes Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Othello and Hamlet among others.

With an illustrious cast from stage, film, and Broadway, the production promises to be a memorable cultural experience. Casting announcements will be made soon, and tickets for the premiere will be available for purchase in early May. Don't miss this exclusive theatrical event celebrating Caribbean heritage in the heart of Jamaica, Queens at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center, 153-10 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, New York, 11432.

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Jamaican Chef's Eatery Named Among Top Fried Chicken Spots In America

Jamaican-born Chef Nicola Blaque's culinary prowess has once again captured national attention as her acclaimed San Antonio restaurant, The Jerk Shack, secured a spot in Eat This, Not That's esteemed list of the best fried chicken restaurants in America, ranking fourth.

This latest accolade follows the eatery's recent feature on a popular episode of the Food Network series, Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives.

Taking to Instagram to share the exciting news, The Jerk Shack humbly expressed gratitude for the recognition, emphasizing their initial aim to



Jamaican-born Chef Nicola Blaque

simply share Caribbean heritage through culinary artistry and foster community connections. "Who would've thought our little Caribbean restaurant would be recognized on two national platforms for best fried chicken in America?" remarked Chef Blaque.

Highlighting Chef Nicola's dedication to inclusivity and accessibility, the restaurant's

owners shared insights into her culinary philosophy, emphasizing her mission to make Caribbean cuisine accessible to people from diverse backgrounds. The addition of fried chicken to the menu in 2022 further expanded their reach, reflecting Chef Nicola's commitment to serving the local community.

Chef Nicola Blaque's culinary achievements extend beyond The Jerk Shack, earning her recognition as a best restaurateur on the StarChefs rising star list for Austin-San Antonio. Moreover, her culinary empire expanded with the launch of Freight Fried Chicken in 2023, a venture rooted in homage to the resilience of southern Black women in post-Civil War America, who sold fried chicken to railroad passengers to sustain

themselves. With a steadfast commitment to preserving culture and history, Chef Nicola continues to inspire through her culinary creations, inviting patrons to savor not just delicious meals, but also the rich narratives embedded within them. Born and raised in Jamaica until she was five years old, Chef Blaque is passionate about introducing people to the flavors

of the Caribbean.

For those eager to indulge in The Jerk Shack's acclaimed fare, visit their locations at 10234 TX-151, Suite 103, San Antonio, TX 78251, and 312 Pearl Pkwy., Building 6, San Antonio, TX 78215.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Big Flavour Doesn't Have To Come With Maximum Effort In The Kitchen

• 1/2 cup milk

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place oven rack in lowest position. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Heat oil in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add vegetables and 1 teaspoon Flavor Maker Seasoning. Cook and stir 5 minutes until softened. Remove from heat.

2. Prepare pie crust as directed on package for one-crust pie using 9-inch pie plate. Layer vegetable mixture, bacon and cheese in pie crust. Whisk eggs, milk, and remaining 1 teaspoon Flavor Maker Seasoning in medium bowl until well blended. Pour egg mixture over filling in pie crust.

3. Bake on lowest oven rack 40 to 45 minutes until set, and knife inserted in centre comes out clean. If necessary, after 15 to 20 minutes of baking, cover crust with strips of foil to prevent excessive browning. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing and serving. Sprinkle with additional Flavor Maker Egg Topping, to taste.

Tip: Flavor Maker Egg Topping Seasoning is also great sprinkled on scrambled or fried eggs or stirred into omelettes and breakfast casseroles.

This versatile collection of spices is available in the following varieties: Chicken, Veggie, Pasta, Avocado, Egg, Sandwich, Pizza, Chili, Salmon, Potato, Asian-style Rice Bowl, Mac & Cheese, Mediterranean, Ramen and Taco. To shop the collection, visit shop.mccormick.com/collections/flavormaker, Walmart.com, or head to a Walmart to find select products on store shelves.

Big flavour doesn't have to be accompanied by maximum effort. With well-crafted spice blends, you can simplify meal planning and easily turn breakfast, lunch and dinner into a culinary adventure.

- StatePoint



Celebrate Haitian Heritage Month With This Recipe

It's officially Haitian Heritage Month and a great time to give Haitian food a try. Here's a simple but authentic recipe you can try this weekend.

DIRI DJON DJON

Diri Djon Djon is a savory rice dish made with dried mushrooms called djon djon (hence, the name). It is absolutely delicious!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups of dried black mushrooms (djon djon)
- 8 cups of water
- 1 cup of oil
- 1 (14 oz.) bag of fresh lima beans
- 1/2 tsp of rosemary
- 1/2 tsp of black pepper
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 tsp of parsley
- 1 tsp of seasoning salt

- 1 tbsp of garlic powder
- 6 cups of rice
- 1 tbsp of butter

METHOD

Step 1:

In a large pot, add water and the dried mushrooms.

Step 2:

Bring it to a rolling boil, remove from heat, and let it cool for a few minutes.

Step 3:

Using a strainer lined with a cheesecloth or paper towel, pour the liquid into a separate bowl. (This method is to remove any excess particles.) Discard the mushrooms. Reserve the liquid.

Step 4:

Heat oil in a saucepan over medium-high heat.

Step 5:

Combine the beans, spices, and



Diri Djon Djon

seasonings. Simmer for about 5 minutes.

Step 6:

Pour in the reserved liquid and rice.

Step 7:

Stir in butter then cover over low heat until the water has evaporated.

- HaitianRecipes.com



Caribbean Restaurant In Queens, NY Makes New York Times Top 100 List

The Trinciti Roti Shop of 11-03 Lefferts Boulevard in Ozone Park, Queens, logged a high 18th place on the list. The author, Pete Wells, lauded the restaurant for its Trini chicken curry doubles, aloo pies and bake and shark. Other items on the menu include sada

roti, buss up shot roti, phoulorie and lots of other curries to choose from, including vegan curries. Wash it all down with your choice of local drinks, including sorrel, mauby, and peanut punch.

"I treat Trinciti as a

destination of its own, worth a separate trip," he wrote.

The restaurant has received tons of reviews with 4,764 reviews on Google, 3,640 on GrubHub.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

A Maternity Oasis In A Maternity Desert

BY CONNIE AITCHESON

Black women and their babies' are more likely to die during and after childbirth. The Centers for Disease Control, (CDC), has estimated that each year Black women are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than other women. The reasons for the disparities are known and complex, and increasingly, the many stakeholders are trying to address the problem.

To acknowledge the importance of the crisis, organizers of a new maternity care center, in Lauderdale Lakes held a media round-table ahead of its opening this month.

The location of the center is in a "maternity desert," meaning there is little to no obstetric care offered in the neighborhoods of Lauderdale Lakes, Oakland Park, Lauderhill and Sunrise, or the zip codes of 33311 and 33313, Broward County, Florida. The zip codes are also the residents for a large Caribbean Diaspora. This has led to the new Heart Community Resource Center and Broward HealthPoint Maternity Care Center, in Lauderdale Lakes Marketplace.

In the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Program 2021 Annual Report by the Broward Healthy Start Coalition, those zip codes were cited among four with the "highest rates and counts of fetal death, infant mortality and

preterm birth in 2021 in Broward County." The report also said "in 2021 there were 124 fetal deaths and 107 infant deaths in Broward County." The new maternity care center hopes to help lower those numbers.

A group of organizations applied for and received a grant of \$850,000 from the Health Foundation of South Florida for the Broward Black Maternal Health Collaborative. The group led Community Care Plan, includes Broward Health, the Urban League of Broward County and Broward County Healthy Start Coalition, partnered to improve the viability of these women by incorporating the social help they may need with clinical care.

Community Care Plan - a part of Broward Health and Memorial Healthcare System - will manage the Heart Community Resource Center, and Broward HealthPoint will manage the maternity care center. They will collaborate with over 200 community-based organizations, among them Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, the Urban League of Broward County and the Broward Healthy Start Coalition.

The idea for the maternity care center came when practitioners realized that though community women were being treated, the death rates were still high. They recognized there wasn't one solution to the problem but that many organizations and skilled



The Heart Community Resource Center and Broward HealthPoint Maternity Care Center opened on April 19th. L-R are: Melida Akiki, Corporate Transformation Executive for Broward Health; Loreen Chant, President and CEO of Health Foundation of South Florida; Christopher Pernicano, Chair of the North Broward Hospital District; Dr. Miguel Vereneo, M.D. Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Community Care Plan; Shane Strum, President and CEO of Broward Health; Amy Pont, Director of Community Health at Community Care Plan; Jessica Lerner, President and CEO of Community Care Plan and Monica Figueroa King, Chief Executive Officer, Broward Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

practitioners had to come together to offer a variety of services to the women and their families.

This is the third pre-natal site for Broward Health. "We recognized that the zip codes 33311 and 33313 were OBGYN deserts so we opened this site to create more capacity," said Rose McKelvie, Associate Vice President of Women and Children's Service Line at Broward Health. "We will have one of our physicians and nurse practitioners here five days a week working

with the patients that live in the community to help open up some access."

Additional days and hours will be added on.

"You as an OBGYN have to take a step back and say 'what's wrong with this picture?' We know there're many factors that play a part in maternal health. The biggest being 'hear my voice,' or 'listen to what I am saying,' because hearing is just one of the five senses, right? But listening requires interpretation. It requires

perception and there's implicit bias in what words are spoken."

Contributing factors to the high death rate of Black women and their babies revolve around historical and systemic bias of health care providers and social determinants, such as, income, housing, transportation and support, among others.

However, the CDC stated that, "more than 80% of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. are preventable." The experts at the roundtable stressed that one of the main functions of the center is to treat women before they're pregnant and address underlying health conditions early in their pregnancy. They will refer patients to primary care physicians and specialists.

"We want this to be a boutique center," said Dr. Miguel Vereneo, and Senior Vice President and the Chief Medical Officer for Community Care Plan. "Our plan is really good at getting our members to have pre and postpartum care. We really hand hold our members to make sure that they get care."

Approximately 25 women will be seen each day for maternity care, and there will be Creole and Spanish speaking practitioners on site. In addition to the gynecological and prenatal care offered, the centers aims to bridge several gaps with the varied programs offered.



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BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Recognizing the unprecedented impact of climate change on the Caribbean, Grenada is leading the way in creative sustainable systems to help stem the negative effects on the island that depends on tourism for survival. In fact, since tourism is the major revenue source for the region Grenada's efforts can serve as a blueprint for its neighbors.

The Caribbean Tourism Organization's Sustainable Tourism Conference, held in Grenada from April 22-24 highlighted how the island is working to protect its people, environment, and undersea life.

Produced in partnership with

the Grenada Tourism Authority, the conference focused on five overarching principles that bolster tourism – People, Planet, Prosperity, Purpose, and Partnership — with the aim of stimulating transformative action towards a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future for Caribbean tourism.

For example, an artificial reef, Grenada's Underwater Sculpture Park, created by Jason de Caires Taylor and installed in 2006, has helped to invigorate damaged and dying surrounding reefs as well as attracting marine life. This underwater site has also become a popular snorkeling tourist attraction.

A similar project, the

Grenada Artificial Reef Project created in 2013 by Dive Grenada, is also helping to bring back life to the coral reef through the construction of cinder block pyramid-like structures submerged to create an artificial reef system. With 49 of these pyramids placed in the sea around the island, they are attracting myriad marine life and acting as a natural reef corridor, thus repairing what has been impacted by climate change, storm damage, and overfishing.

The 3000+ acres of the Grand Etang Forest Reserve, with its central lake created by an extinct volcano,



Sandals Resorts International's Executive Chairman Adam Stewart addressing the Caribbean Tourism Organization's Sustainable Tourism Conference in Grenada.

is Grenada's oldest and largest protected area. It is home to a variety of birds, animals, and rare orchids and is the island's major inland tourist attraction. Additionally, these lands serve as a vital water source to surrounding communities. But, devastated by hurricanes in the early 2000s, the reserve has naturally mended itself and is cared for under the Grand Etang Forest Management Plan to help protect it while meeting the needs of those it serves.

Of course, the social and economic healths of its people are also an integral part of

making tourism sustainable. Sustainable tourism in action means looking beyond the usual to create economic benefit for all. It's not just about hotel workers, restaurant staff, or official tourist taxis. Tourism must also embrace the non-traditional such as hair braiders, beachside massage therapists, or Rastafarians giving talks/tours on natural living. Certainly not unique to Grenada, the region is thinking outside the box.

Indeed, it takes working together as one Caribbean region to create sustainable tourism across the board. As Sandals Resorts International's Executive Chairman Adam Stewart remarked: "We have to recognize that we are not competing with each other. Antigua is not competing with St. Lucia, St. Lucia is not competing with Grenada, Grenada is not competing with Jamaica. The world says Caribbean; they put us together. We are in the same pot whether we like it or not. We're competing against France, Italy, Germany, London, Paris, Singapore, Dubai. What we can offer differently, I promise you they can't do."



St. Thomas Emerges As Top Trending Caribbean Destination



St. Thomas, USVI has emerged as a top Caribbean choice for visitors. (Visitusvi.com image)

remarkable 45 percent increase compared to the previous year.

This surge in interest reflects St. Thomas' ongoing renaissance, which gained momentum during the pandemic era. The island's

tourism sector is thriving, with anticipated arrivals for the 2023-2024 winter season projected to increase by 20 percent, as shared by USVI Tourism Commissioner Joseph Boschulte. Furthermore, overall air arrivals across the US Virgin Islands are expected to rise by 28 percent compared to the same period in 2023.

St. Thomas' allure as a top travel destination underscores its enduring appeal and underscores its status as a must-visit destination in the Caribbean.

- Rewritten from Caribbean Journal



Celebrity Cruises To Now Stop In CocoCay, Bahamas



Perfect Day at CocoCay in the Bahamas. (CelebrityCruises.com image)

Celebrity Cruises has joined the ranks of cruise lines making waves at the renowned Perfect Day at CocoCay in the Bahamas. While this private island has long been a favourite stop for Royal Caribbean guests, Celebrity Cruises is making its debut with

visits from both the Celebrity Reflection and Celebrity Beyond.

This milestone marks the expansion of Celebrity's "short Caribbean itinerary" cruises departing from South Florida. Laura Hodges, President of Celebrity Cruises, expressed that this addition was driven by guest feedback, offering travellers seeking quick beach getaways close to home an exciting new experience.

Guests aboard these cruises will have the chance to explore the island's exclusive Hideaway Beach, featuring four unique bars and lively DJ sets. The Celebrity Reflection and Celebrity Beyond will make stops at Perfect Day at

CocoCay as part of their five-night sailings departing from Fort Lauderdale. Alongside this exciting new port of call, these itineraries also include visits to Bimini, Cozumel in the Mexican Caribbean, Grand Cayman, and Key West.

The first stop occurred on April 23, 2024.

- Rewritten from Caribbean Journal



New Flights Announced For These Caribbean Destinations

American Airlines is reinforcing its commitment to the Caribbean with the addition of another daily non-stop route, while a new flight has been launched to Abaco, Bahamas from South Florida.

Beginning this December, American Airlines will offer daily non-stop flights between Dallas-Fort Worth and Grand

Cayman in the Cayman Islands, signalling significant growth for the upcoming winter season.

The new flight launch coincides with the continued resilience of tourism in the Cayman Islands, with 2023 registering 93 percent of the destination's highest year on record.



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SCAN ME

SALUTE TO HAITIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGECIRCULATION
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COUNCILwww.caribbeantoday.com**Meet The First Haitian American Female Police Chief Of North Miami**

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

In August 2023, Cherise Gause became the first Haitian American female police chief for North Miami.

Chief Gause was born in New York and raised in South Florida. She became the first police officer in her family. With a law enforcement career that spans 31 years, Gause rose through the ranks first as a dispatcher, patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, major and assistant chief, all with the City of Miami. She then became the first woman of Haitian descent to serve as the assistant police chief for the City of Miami.

Today, she oversees over 100 sworn officers and personnel staff who serve the 10-square mile city of North Miami, which has a population of 60,000.

After taking on the role as the 15th police chief in North Miami's history, Chief Gause was recognized this year by the city and the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce for making history.

"For Women's History Month, we would like to highlight our very own Chief Cherise Giordani Gause, the first Haitian American female Police Chief in North Miami," the city said on social media.

Chief Gause began her career with the Miami Police Department in 1993 as a dispatcher and progressively ascended through the ranks. During her tenure, she held assignments that spanned Field Operations, Administration, and Criminal Investigations. She is passionate about public safety, community policing and constitutional policing."

Gause was also honored by the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida for her milestone achievement and a law enforcement career that has inspired other women in the field. The organization called her a "Community Champion."

Chief Gause said leading the North Miami Police Department is her greatest feat and ensures the community her officers are working diligently to fight crime but at the same time offer community policing.

"This is a personal achievement for me, it means a lot," she said. "I am honored to serve the community as a police officer, and you have my full commitment. "This is a testament to young girls, Black, white, Hispanic, and people that aspire to have a career in law enforcement, that they, too, can achieve this level of leadership."

Gause was one of only three



Cherise Gause is the first Haitian American female police chief for North Miami.
(Contributed image)

women in the 126-year history of Miami policing to reach the rank of assistant police chief. She oversaw 1,000 officers in field operations and led criminal investigations and managed the agency's almost \$300 million budget.

When Gause left the City of Miami Police Department to be the top cop in North Miami, Miami Police Chief Manny Morales said he had mixed reactions about her new role.

He said he hated to lose her

but at the same time is happy for her new endeavors in her law enforcement career.

"She's absolutely the best candidate for any job," Morales said. "I had wished I could've talked her into staying."

U.S. Rep. Fredrica Wilson, who was on hand for the ceremony when Gause took the oath to be the new police chief, said she's a trailblazer who inspires women to follow their dreams.

"As a Haitian American leader with extensive law enforcement experience, I have no doubt she will make our community safe and proud," Congresswoman Wilson said.

Chief Gause's contributions extend beyond the police department. In February, she was among 200 people who gathered in Miami Gardens to honor the memory and birthday of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old who was shot and killed in 2012 by George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida.

The message for participants at the 12th annual Trayvon Martin Peace Walk was to end gun

violence, hate and prejudice. The event also recognized parents who also lost their children to gun violence and channeled their grievances into a crusade to curb firearm shootings among teenagers.

Gause was at the rally to show solidarity with Martin's parents and others whose children died due to gun violence.

Chief Gause said she attended each of the Martin Peace Walk and said the message gets louder and clearer every year.

"It's a testament to honor Trayvon Martin whose life was cut short but his spirit lives with us," she said. "Trayvon Martin's death sparked a call for justice and a demand for change."

Gause earned a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership, a Bachelor of Public Administration degree, and an associate degree in criminal justice. She is also a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy, the Senior Management Institute for Police, the Command Officer Development Course from the Southern Police Institute, (S.P.I.), and Executive Leadership Institute, (PELI).

Chief Gause is a member of several professional organizations including the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police, where she serves on the Community Relations Committee, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, (NOBLE), National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, (NAWLEE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, (IACP). Chief Gause is also a founding member of the Florida Association of Law Enforcement Professionals.

She is a married mother of three children.

Miami Marlins To Celebrate Haitian Heritage On May 19th

Join the Miami Marlins for a vibrant celebration of Haitian Heritage at loanDepot Park on Sunday, May 19th at 1:40 p.m. Cheer on the Marlins as they face off against the New York Mets while immersing yourself in the rich tapestry of Haitian culture.

Here's what you can enjoy with the Haitian Heritage ticket package:

Exclusive Haitian Heritage Marlins T-shirt: Receive a special commemorative t-shirt to showcase your team pride (available while supplies last).

Support Local Charities: A portion of your ticket purchase will directly benefit Haitian non-profit organizations, contributing to meaningful causes.

Festive Atmosphere:

Bring your flags and musical instruments (excluding wind instruments and noisemakers) to create a lively and celebratory atmosphere at the ballpark.

Additional Details:

Choose from various seating options to tailor your experience. T-shirts will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis starting at gate opening (12:00 p.m.) until the end of the 4th inning.

Ticket prices may vary, and the Haitian Heritage Celebration t-shirts are available in limited quantities.

For more information or inquiries about groups of 10 or more, contact Kendel Parkinson-Olivares at (305) 480-1528.

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Call Them Excellencies - Gayle, Bolt Named ICC T20 World Cup Ambassadors

Renowned Jamaican-born, West Indies cricketer and reggae artist Chris Gayle, along with eight-time Jamaican Olympic gold medallist and music producer, Usain Bolt, have both been appointed as ambassadors for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

The tournament is set to take place in the USA and Caribbean from June 1-29.

Gayle, known as the Universe Boss, has made significant strides in the music industry, notably leading the album "Tropical House - Cruises to Jamaica: The Asian Edition." His collaboration with Indian rap artist Emiway Bantai on "Jamaica To India" garnered widespread attention, accumulating 80 million views on YouTube.

Expressing his excitement, Gayle highlighted the opportunity to promote cricket in the USA market and thanked the ICC for selecting him as an ambassador.

Meanwhile, track and field legend Bolt has made waves in the music scene, co-producing dancehall mixtapes and receiving accolades for his collaborative album "Country Yutes." The ICC's announcement regarding Bolt as an ambassador



Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt bantering recently in an ICC promo video. (ICC video screen grab)

emphasized his anticipation for the vibrant atmosphere of Caribbean cricket and the potential impact of the sport's expansion into the American market.

Bolt's appointment adds to the anticipation surrounding the tournament, which promises to be the biggest cricket carnival ever seen, inspiring a new generation of fans.

Bolt's global appeal, coupled with his extraordinary athletic achievements and ability to transcend boundaries, makes him a natural fit for the prestigious role of ambassador. Renowned for his record-breaking performances at the

Olympic Games, Bolt's journey to worldwide stardom began with his historic 'Triple-Triple' feat at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

As an ambassador, Bolt will play a pivotal role in promoting the event, starting with an appearance in the official anthem music video alongside acclaimed artists Sean Paul and Kes. He will also attend T20 World Cup matches in the West Indies and participate in fan engagement events aimed at promoting cricket in the United States.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the role, Bolt emphasized the special place cricket holds in Caribbean culture and his excitement for the growth of the

sport globally. He highlighted the significance of cricket's expansion into the American market, noting the immense potential it holds, particularly in light of the sport's inclusion in the LA Olympics in 2028. "I am thrilled to be an ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Coming from the Caribbean where cricket is a part of life, the sport has always held a special place in my heart, and I look forward to attending West Indies matches at the World Cup and making a contribution to the growth of cricket globally," he said.

Thousands of fans recently enjoyed a bellyful of laughs with the recent antics of the two on social media, which has seen Gayle challenging fastest man, Bolt, to a race, which he insists he will win.

"All Usain Bolt will be seeing is a lot of dust and the Universe Boss just going down the stretch," an enthusiastic Gayle stated confidently in a video shared by the ICC.

Bolt is definitely here for it. "We all know Chris can't run. We have seen him. We know Chris doesn't do quick singles or anything. We're not worried about Chris," was his calm reply.

Never one to back down, Gayle called out Bolt's statement as "a big lie".

He assured, "I run a lot of ones, twos, threes, you name it ... sometimes even fours. So, Bolt, get your running spikes ready. And if you want to bring any other athlete along, you know, Yohan Blake, Asafa Powell, anybody, somebody gonna come fourth. And it's not me!"

Fans say this is the video they never knew they wanted and the ICC is labelling this a "Match-up of the Caribbean legends: Usain Bolt and Chris Gayle" and is asking the question: "Whose side are you on?"

With Bolt and Gayle's presence adding an extra dimension of excitement, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 promises to be action-packed. Fans can anticipate witnessing the world's best teams compete for glory, with the tournament's opening match featuring co-hosts USA taking on Canada at the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Dallas, Texas on June 1. For match fixtures, tickets, and hospitality packages, visit tickets.t20worldcup.com.



West Indies Hope To Capitalize On Home Advantage In ICC T20 World Cup Tournament

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Home court advantage is a big deal in professional sports, and supporters of the West Indies are hoping that will spur them to victory in the International Cricket Council's T20 World Cup tournament next month.

The month-long showpiece starts June 1st, with the United States playing Canada at Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas, Texas. Most of the matches will be played in seven Caribbean territories, with four of them taking place at Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium in Lauderhill, South Florida.

Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York will host eight matches.

Darren Sammy, head coach of the West Indies, is optimistic playing at home can give them a third hold on the trophy. He was a member of the teams that won in Sri Lanka in 2012, and India four years later.

"Hosting the World Cup in the Caribbean is everything. We hosted it in 2010, we did not win but to have it on our home shore again, the impact it will have not only on us as cricketers, but the different countries, in the islands, in the region," said Sammy. "You know, from the tourism industry to the hotel workers, the people coming in. It will be an amazing spectacle for us in the Caribbean," he told TTT Live Online in April."

The West Indies first hosted the 20-over World Cup 14 years ago; that tournament was won by England.

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, St Lucia, St



Former West Indies star Chris Gayle at an ICC Cricket promotion. (ICC image)

Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago will host matches in the T20 World Cup. Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados hosts the final on June 29th.

Former West Indian captain Vivian Richards, arguably the greatest batsman in the history of cricket, is also looking for an outstanding showing from the regional team.

In an interview with Jamaican company SportsMax, he spoke of their chances.

"As I look ahead to the matches, I'm backing my West Indies team to deliver on the big day. We have a very good team, and they look united under (captain) Rovman Powell, so I'm throwing my full support behind my team," said Richards. "It would be great to win this ICC Men's T20 World Cup on our home soil. We won twice before ... those were way (in Sri Lanka in 2012 and India in 2016), so a third title would be great, and where better, than at home in front of our great West Indian fans to celebrate."

Four matches will be played at Central Broward Park and Broward County Stadium. They are Sri

Lanka against Nepal on June 11th, the US against Ireland on June 14th, India versus Canada the following day, June 15th, and Pakistan versus Ireland on June 16th.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup Schedule is as follows:

SAT, 1 JUN '24

1st Match, Group A (N)
Dallas, Texas
United States Of America vs Canada
8:30 PM (12:30 am GMT | 7:30 pm Local)

SUN, 2 JUN '24

2nd Match, Group C
Providence, Guyana
West Indies vs Papua New Guinea
10:30 AM

MON, 3 JUN '24

4th Match, Group D
New York
Sri Lanka vs South Africa
10:30 AM

5th Match, Group C (N)

Providence, Guyana
Afghanistan vs Uganda
8:30 PM

TUE, 4 JUN '24

6th Match, Group B
Bridgetown, Barbados
England vs Scotland
10:30 AM

7th Match, Group D

Dallas, Texas
Netherlands vs Nepal
11:30 AM

WED, 5 JUN '24

8th Match, Group A
New York
India vs Ireland
10:00 AM

9th Match, Group C (N)

Providencia, Guyana
Papua New Guinea vs Uganda
7:30 PM

10th Match, Group B (N)

Bridgetown, Barbados
Australia vs. England
8:30 PM

THU, 6 JUN '24

11th Match, Group A
Dallas, Texas
United States Of America vs Pakistan
11:30 AM

12th Match, Group B

Bridgetown, Barbados
Namibia vs Oman
3:00 PM

FRI, 7 JUN '24

13th Match, Group A
New York
Canada vs Ireland
10:30 AM

14th Match, Group C (N)

Afghanistan vs New Zealand
7:30 PM

15th Match, Group D (N)
Dallas, Texas
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka
8:30 PM

SAT, 8 JUN '24

16th Match, Group D •
New York
Netherlands vs. South Africa
10:30 AM Local Time

17th Match, Group B •
Bridgetown, Barbados
Australia vs. England
1:00 PM Local Time

18th Match, Group C (N)
Providence, Guyana
West Indies vs. Uganda
8:30 PM Local Time

SUN, 9 JUN '24

19th Match, Group A
New York
India vs. Pakistan
10:30 AM Local Time

20th Match, Group B
North Sound, Antigua
Oman vs. Scotland
1:00 PM Local Time

MON, 10 JUN '24

21st Match, Group D
New York
Bangladesh vs. South Africa
10:30 AM Local Time

TUE, 11 JUN '24

22nd Match, Group A
New York
Canada vs. Pakistan
10:30 AM Local Time

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

SPORTS NEWS

Washington Mystics Bolster Roster With Jamaican Roots Aaliyah Edwards

The Washington Mystics made strategic moves in the 2024 WNBA Draft, selecting forward Aaliyah Edwards from the University of Connecticut as their sixth overall pick.

Edwards, a former basketball standout at Connecticut, hails from Kingston, Ontario and was born to Jamaican parents Stanford and Jacqueline Edwards, who actively coached her.

Expressing enthusiasm about the draft selection, General Manager Mike Thibault stated: "We are really excited to draft Aaliyah Edwards. We needed to select a player who complements Shakira Austin in our front court. Her competitiveness, high-end defensive motor, and fast-improving offensive game will fit well with what we are trying to build for our culture and future success."

Standing tall at 6 feet 3 inches, Edwards showcased impressive statistics during her senior year with the Huskies, averaging 17.6 points, 9.2 rebounds, 2.1 assists, and 1.7 steals per game while maintaining a shooting percentage of .593 from the field. Her performance earned her recognition as the Big East Player of the Week twice during the 2023-24 season, further solidifying her impact on the court.

Notable achievements include scoring 24 points in the NCAA Elite Eight clash against USC and achieving a career-high five steals in the Final Four showdown versus Iowa. Edwards concluded her collegiate career with impressive accolades, ranking 15th in school history for career points, eighth in rebounds, and sixth in double-doubles.

Her prowess on the court garnered multiple honors, including selections to the 2024 Big East First Team, 2024 AP All-America honorable mention, and the 2024 USBWA Second Team. She was also a top-10 finalist for the 2024 WBCA All-America and the prestigious 2024 Wooden Award.

Edwards' journey to success extends beyond collegiate basketball, as she was named the 2023 Big East Most Improved Player during her junior season and received recognition as the 2021 Big East Sixth Woman of the Year as a freshman.

Internationally, Edwards has represented Canada on the senior national team since the age of 16 and notably participated in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics as the youngest member of the Canadian squad, further solidifying her impact and potential in the world of basketball.





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West Indies Hope To Capitalize On Home Advantage In ICC T20 World Cup Tournament

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

23rd Match, Group D
Lauderhill, Florida
Nepal vs. Sri Lanka
7:30 PM Local Time

24th Match, Group B (N)
North Sound, Antigua
Australia vs. Namibia
8:30 PM Local Time

WED, 12 JUN '24
25th Match, Group A
New York
United States of America vs. India
10:30 AM Local Time

26th Match, Group C (N)
Tarouba, Trinidad
West Indies vs. New Zealand
8:30 PM Local Time

THU, 13 JUN '24
27th Match, Group B
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Bangladesh vs. Netherlands
10:30 AM Local Time

28th Match, Group D
North Sound, Antigua
England vs. Oman
3:00 PM Local Time

29th Match, Group C (N)
Tarouba, Trinidad
Afghanistan vs. Papua New Guinea
8:30 PM Local Time

FRI, 14 JUN '24
30th Match, Group A
Lauderhill, Florida
United States of America vs. Ireland
10:30 AM Local Time

31st Match, Group D (N)
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Nepal vs. South Africa
7:30 PM Local Time

32nd Match, Group C (N)
Tarouba, Trinidad
New Zealand vs. Uganda
8:30 PM Local Time

SAT, 15 JUN '24
33rd Match, Group A
Lauderhill, Florida
Canada vs. India
10:30 AM Local Time

34th Match, Group B
North Sound, Antigua
England vs. Namibia

1:00 PM Local Time
35th Match, Group B (N)
Gros Islet, St. Lucia
Australia vs. Scotland
8:30 PM Local Time

SUN, 16 JUN '24
36th Match, Group A
Lauderhill, Florida
Ireland vs. Pakistan
10:30 AM Local Time

37th Match, Group D (N)
Kingstown, ICC Men's T20 World Cup
Bangladesh vs. Nepal
7:30 PM Local Time

38th Match, Group D (N)
Gros Islet, St. Lucia
Netherlands vs. Sri Lanka
8:30 PM Local Time

MON, 17 JUN '24
39th Match, Group C
Tarouba, Trinidad
New Zealand vs. Papua New Guinea
10:30 AM Local Time

40th Match, Group C (N)
Gros Islet, Trinidad
West Indies vs. Afghanistan
8:30 PM Local Time

Wed, 19 Jun '24
41st Match, Super Eights, Group 2
North Sound, Antigua
TBA vs. TBA
10:30 AM Local Time (A2 v D1)

42nd Match, Super Eights,
Group 2 (N)
Gros Islet, St. Lucia
TBA vs. TBA
8:30 PM Local Time (B1 v C2)

THU, 20 JUN '24
43rd Match, Super Eights, Group 1
Bridgetown, Barbados
TBA vs. TBA
10:30 AM Local Time (C1 v A1)

44th Match, Super Eights,
Group 1 (N)
North Sound, Antigua
TBA vs. TBA
8:30 PM Local Time (B2 v D2)

Fri, 21 Jun '24
45th Match, Super Eights,
Group 2
Gros Islet, St. Lucia
TBA vs. TBA
10:30 AM Local Time (B1 v D1)

50th Match, Super Eights,
Group 2 (N)
North Sound, Antigua
TBA vs. TBA
8:30 PM Local Time (C1 v B2)

SAT, 22 JUN '24
47th Match, Super Eights, Group 1
North Sound, Antigua
TBA vs. TBA
10:30 AM Local Time (A1 v D2)

48th Match, Super Eights,
Group 1 (N)
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
TBA vs. TBA
8:30 PM Local Time (C1 v B2)

SUN, 23 JUN '24
49th Match, Super Eights, Group 2
Bridgetown, Barbados
TBA vs. TBA
10:30 AM Local Time (A2 v B1)

50th Match, Super Eights,
Group 2 (N)
North Sound, Antigua
TBA vs. TBA
8:30 PM Local Time (C2 v D1)

MON, 24 JUN '24
51st Match, Super Eights, Group 1
Gros Islet, St. Lucia
TBA vs. TBA
10:30 AM Local Time (B2 v A1)

52nd Match, Super Eights,
Group 1 (N)
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
TBA vs. TBA
8:30 PM Local Time (C1 v D2)

Wed, 26 Jun '24
1st Semi-Final (N)
Tarouba, Trinidad
TBA vs. TBA
8:30 PM Local Time

THU, 27 JUN '24
2nd Semi-Final
Providence, Guyana
TBA vs. TBA
10:30 AM Local Time

SAT, 29 JUN '24
Final
Bridgetown, Barbados
TBA vs. TBA
10:00 AM Local Time



World Athletics Breaks Ground: Introduces Prize Money For Olympic Gold Medallists

In a historic move, World Athletics has announced its groundbreaking decision to introduce prize money at the Olympic Games, marking the first time an international federation will financially reward athletes for their achievements at the pinnacle of sporting excellence. Beginning with this summer's Olympic Games in Paris, athletes who secure gold medals in each of the 48 athletics events will receive a substantial prize of US\$50,000, totalling a prize pot of US\$2.4 million.

This initiative, made possible through a dedicated portion of the International Olympic Committee's revenue share allocation to World Athletics, reflects a significant commitment to recognizing and empowering athletes. Moreover, World Athletics President Sebastian Coe affirmed the federation's intention to extend prize money to Olympic silver

and bronze medallists at the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

President Coe expressed the pivotal nature of this decision, highlighting its importance in acknowledging athletes' contributions to the success of the Olympic Games. He emphasized World Athletics' ongoing dedication to reinvesting IOC revenue into the sport, which began with Olympic dividend payments to Member Federations in 2015. The introduction of prize money for Olympic gold medallists represents a continuation of this commitment, aimed at enhancing athlete support and fostering the growth of athletics globally.

While recognizing the intrinsic value of Olympic success, President Coe stressed the significance of initiating a system to directly reward athletes for their dedication and achievements. He underscored the role of athletes in making

the Olympic Games a renowned global spectacle and emphasized the importance of reinvesting revenues generated by athletes back into their sport.

The distribution of prize money will be subject to World Athletics' ratification process, including adherence to anti-doping protocols. Each individual Olympic champion will receive US\$50,000, with relay teams sharing the same amount among team members. Details regarding the format and structure of bonuses for the LA28 Olympic Games will be announced in due course, closer to the event.



Bunny Shaw To Miss Manchester City Women's Final Due To Foot Surgery

Manchester City Women's striker and Jamaica's Reggae Girl, Khadija 'Bunny' Shaw, will miss Manchester City Women's final three matches of the Barclays Women's Super League season as she recovers from foot surgery.



Manchester City Women's striker and Jamaica's Reggae Girl, Khadija 'Bunny' Shaw in hospital post surgery. (SportsMax image)

Shaw recently underwent surgery for a broken foot sustained during a Women's Super League match against West Ham United. During that match, she scored twice in the 5-0 victory but had to be substituted at half-time due to the injury just before the interval at the Joie Stadium. Shaw will now have to focus on her recovery journey versus the finals. Taking to Instagram, Shaw expressed gratitude for the support received following her surgery, stating, "Gutted to know

impressive 21 goals in just 18 WSL appearances. Additionally, in March 2024, she became Manchester City Women's record goal scorer.

Shaw's resilience and positive outlook reflect her determination to return stronger, continuing her impactful contributions both on and off the pitch. Fans eagerly await her comeback, following her recovery journey closely.

- Rewritten from SportsMax





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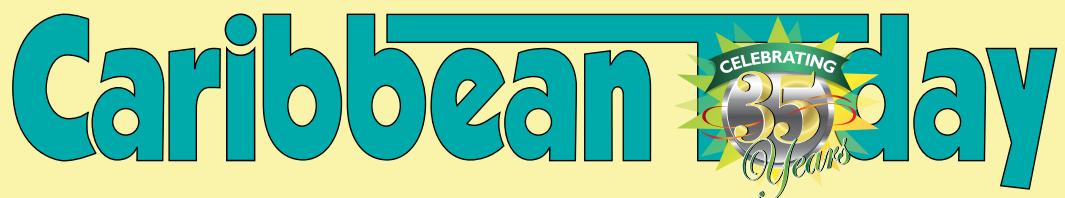
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