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And The Reggae Grammy Goes To ... Page 11 (Getty Image)



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ONE LOVE

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Photo: (Paramount Photo))

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

REGIONAL

Transparency International says only Guyana and the Dominican Republic in the Americas have improved their Corruption Perception Index, (CPI), scores over the past decade, while the others have either stagnated or significantly declined.

The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and businesspeople. It analyses how injustice and corruption impact one another around the world. This year's report will continue to compare levels of corruption over time, highlighting which countries have improved, regressed or stagnated.

In its 2023 CPI report released here on January 30th, Transparency International said Guyana and the Dominica Republic have improved their CPI scores over the past decade. All others have either stagnated or significantly worsened their scores.

In Jamaica, collusion among the powerful, as well as the overwhelming dominance of the executive over the legislature weakens the parliament's oversight capacities, creating conditions ripe for abuse and corruption, Transparency International said.

HAITI

Haiti has called for calm and support for its security forces following the Kenya High Court's ruling against sending troops to the country. The Ariel Henry government emphasized that facing

threats from armed gangs required a cautious approach rather than adventurism. They are monitoring developments in Kenya and expect a swift and positive resolution. Kenya's government intends to challenge the court's verdict, asserting that the National Security Council had sought parliamentary approval for the deployment of Kenyan police officers as part of a UN-backed security mission. CARICOM has not yet issued an official statement on the ruling.

Meanwhile, Haiti's Archbishop of Haiti, Max Leroy Mésidor, says the nuns who were kidnapped along with two other people have been released. On January 19th, armed gunmen hijacked a bus in Port-au-Prince and drove off, taking all of the passengers hostage, including six nuns belonging to the order of the Sisters of Saint Anne.

This latest high-profile kidnapping prompted religious leaders to issue a scathing letter criticizing the government for its inaction toward Haiti's surge in gang-related violence. The statement did not say whether a ransom had been paid or give any detail on who might be responsible.

GUYANA

Dr. Irfaan Ali, the President of Ghana, was honored with the Global African Leadership Award for his significant and transformative leadership in Ghana during the African Prosperity Champions Awards and Presidential Gala Dinner on Jan. 26.

In his acceptance speech,

President Ali expressed pride in leading a nation where he, as a member of the minority religion of Islam, was elected as the country's president. However, there have been allegations of discrimination against Afro-Guyanese, comprising approximately 30% of Guyana's population. President Ali rebutted these claims, labeling them as "racist." He accepted the award on behalf of the people of Guyana and emphasized the nation's commitment to unity and prosperity for all.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago, (FIUTT) reported that it received 950 Suspicious Transaction Reports/ Suspicious Activity Reports, (STRs/SARs), in the previous year, with a combined monetary value exceeding TT\$5.9 billion (equivalent to US\$0.16 cents per TT dollar).

The FIUTT's annual report, covering the year ending on September 30 of the same year, revealed that out of the 950 STRs/ SARs received, 784 transactions, amounting to TT\$1.3 billion, were completed transactions, marking a 12% decrease compared to



Jason Morris, Chief Investment Officer and Executive Vice President, Sygnus, inserts strip as members of the Sygnus, JMMB and Jamaica Stock Exchange teams look on Sygnus Credit Investments, (SCI), made a significant move by listing its preference share offer on the main market of the Jamaica Stock Exchange, (JSE). (NAN image)

the previous reporting period. Additionally, there were 226 attempted transactions with a total value of TT\$4.5 billion, representing a significant increase from the previous period. It is noteworthy that seven STRs/ SARs included both completed and attempted transactions.

JAMAICA

Jamaican company, Sygnus Credit Investments, (SCI), has made a significant move by listing its preference share offer on the main market of the Jamaica Stock Exchange, (JSE). This listing, which occurred on January 19th, marks the first of the year and is part of a larger strategic move by the company.

The preference share offer comprised three tranches and garnered considerable attention from investors. In fact, it was oversubscribed by an impressive

102% following a successful closing in December. This achievement highlights the strong demand for SCI's offerings in the market.

This transaction is noteworthy not only for SCI but also for the JSE. It represents the largest capital raise in SCI's history and stands as the largest capital raise on the JSE in over a year. Additionally, in terms of USD capital raise, it is the most significant transaction on the JSE since SCI's initial public offering.

Meanwhile, The Jamaica government has granted a two-year extension to the London-based United Oil and Gas Plc, (UOG), to continue oil and gas exploration activities in the Walton Morant Basin offshore Jamaica.

In a statement, the Ministry of Science and Energy said the agreement will expire on January 31, 2026, or continue if UOG elects to move into the next exploration phase, which will be the drilling of a well offshore. It said that the extension comes as a result of comprehensive assessments, technical evaluations, and consultations that highlight the continued importance of the oil and gas sector. The ministry said during the extension, UOG will execute the necessary stakeholder engagement exercises required to perform in an environmentally sustainable manner.

- Compiled from CMC News & Loop News



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Will “Bob Marley: One Love” Ignite The Box Office This Valentine’s Day?

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

It’s time to get ready for Paramount’s musical biopic, “Bob Marley: One Love,” on the annual day of love – this Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14th.

The film based on the life of Jamaican reggae great, Robert Nesta Marley and starring Trinidadian roots and British-born actor Kingsley Ben-Adir, is poised to inject life into the somewhat lackluster 2024 box office, which is currently trailing last year’s numbers by 9%.

The movie is expected to dominate the six-day holiday frame from February 14th to 19th, encompassing Valentine’s Day through President’s Day in Black History Month, with an anticipated box office haul ranging from \$27 million to \$33 million.

Directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green, the movie portrays the life of the iconic singer, who passed away at the age of 36 due to cancer.

Paramount recently held the first global screening of

the movie at the Carib 5 Theatre on Tuesday, Jan. 23rd in Kingston, Jamaica, the hometown of the legendary musician. The event was celebrated with the Marley family, the film’s stars, and local fans. Rita Marley received a standing ovation in the theater.

In a surprising turn of events, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, made an unexpected appearance at the premiere. During the event, Meghan and Harry engaged in conversations with fellow attendees on the red carpet, including Ziggy Marley, son of Bob Marley.

The couple also took photos



Bob Marley's son, Ziggy and Trinidadian roots and British-born actor Kingsley Ben-Adir at the premier in Jamaica. (Getty Image)

with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness and Brian Robbins, the president and CEO of Paramount Pictures and

Nickelodeon, along with his wife Tracy James.

Several of the movie’s Jamaican cast also attended the affair.

The film is largely focused on a tumultuous, yet fruitful period in Marley’s life that starts in December, 1976 when he was shot at his Kingston home in what Marley pundits believe was a politically-motivated attack.

It also spotlights on 1977 when he lived in England and recorded the epic Exodus album, to early 1978, when he returned to Jamaica for the ‘One Love Peace Concert.’

Several persons who were part of Marley’s band, The Wailers, and his harmony group, The I Three, are also represented in the movie. They include bass player Aston “Familyman” Barrett, played by his son Aston Jr.; his brother, drummer Carlton Barrett, played by Hector Lewis, and Lashana Lynch who has the role of Rita, Bob’s wife.

Aston Jr. and Lewis attended the premiere and gave ‘Bob Marley: One Love,’ high marks.

“I thought the movie was very engaging, how can you put Bob’s story into one movie? I think the director and persons in charge of editing did a great job by keeping us engaged to the story. Brilliant,” said Lewis.

Lewis, a drummer who has toured with Chronixx and American reggae band

Tribal Seeds, had some acting experience going into the movie. He was approached by producers two years ago and had to do extensive research on Carlton Barrett, who was murdered in Kingston in 1987 at age 36.

“Talking to di family was a great thing, hearing di stories an’ watching rare videos I don’t think di public has ever seen. It was a great honor to do it... very empowering an’ very inspiring,” he said.

Justine Henzell, daughter of Perry Henzell, director of ‘The Harder They Come,’ attended with her mother Sally and brothers Dylan and Jake. She was impressed by what the producers were able to achieve in a two-hour movie, given Marley’s prolific life.

“It is a feat when a film can take a slice of an extraordinarily large and influential life like that of Bob Marley and distill it into a story that unfolds in under two captivating hours,” she said. “Kingsley Ben-Adir clearly did the work necessary to take on the awesome role of Bob Marley. He was completely convincing and I don’t think anyone could have done a better job.”

Like Marley, London-born Ben-Adir’s father is white and his mother black but that is where their similarities end. In an interview with Britain’s The

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

The Least And Most Corrupt Countries In The Caribbean

The 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index, (CPI), released recently by Transparency International, reveals the countries in the Caribbean perceived as the least and most corrupt.

The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories globally by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The data sources used to compile the CPI specifically cover the following manifestations of public sector corruption:

- Bribery;
- Diversion of public funds;
- Officials using their public office for private gain without facing consequences;
- Ability of governments to contain corruption in the public sector;
- Excessive red tape in the public sector which may increase opportunities for corruption;
- Nepotistic appointments in the civil service;
- Laws ensuring that public officials must disclose their finances and potential conflicts of interest;
- Legal protection for people who report cases of bribery and corruption;
- State capture by narrow vested interests;
- Access to information on public affairs/government activities.

Here’s where Caribbean nations stands according to News

Americas’ analysis of the TI rankings and scores:

THE LEAST CORRUPT

1: Barbados

Barbados scored 69/100 and ranked 24 out of 180 countries and the least corrupt in the Caribbean.

2: The Bahamas

The Bahamas ranked 2nd on the Least Corrupt List for the Caribbean as culled by News Americas using the TI data. It scored 69 out of 100 and ranked 30th globally.

3: St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines came in at third on the Least Corrupt List, with TI giving them a score of 60 and ranking them globally at 36.

4: Dominica

Dominica ranked as the fourth least corrupt country in the Caribbean with a score of 56 and a rank of 42 globally.

5. St. Lucia

St. Lucia came in at fifth of the Caribbean’s Least Corrupt list with a score of 55 and a rank globally of 45.

6: Grenada

Grenada rounded out the Least Corrupt list with a score of 53 and a rank out of 180, of 49.

THE MOST CORRUPT

1: Haiti

Haiti continued to rank as the Most Corrupt country in the Caribbean, scoring a mere 17

points and ranking at 172 out of 180 nations worldwide.

2: The Dominican Republic

The second most corrupt nation in the Caribbean according to the data is the DR, which scored 35 and ranked at 108. However, this was an improvement from 2022, with a score increase by three percent.

3: Suriname/Guyana

Suriname and Guyana tied for the title of third Most Corrupt Caribbean nations, scoring a paltry 40 and ranking at 87th, respectively, globally.

4: Trinidad & Tobago/Cuba

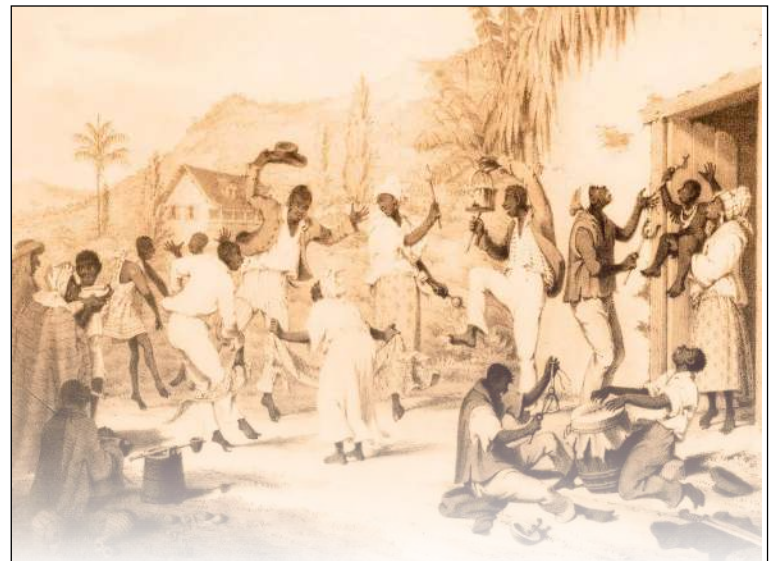
The oil rich Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba ranked as the fourth Most Corrupt nations in the Caribbean with a score of 42 and a rank of 76, respectively.

5: Jamaica

Jamaica brought up the ranks of Most Corrupt Caribbean nations at fifth, with a score of 44 and a rank of 62 globally.

Transparency International calls on governments to give justice systems the independence, resources and transparency needed to effectively punish all corruption offences and provide checks and balances on power. Where necessary, they must also introduce better procedures and laws to help justice institutions shield themselves from and target corrupt acts.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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Former Jamaican MP Charged With Murdering His Wife

Former Jamaican Member of Parliament, Jolyan Silvera, is set to return to court on February 8th to answer charges that he murdered his wife last year.

Silvera, 52, was last week remanded when he made his first appearance before the Home Circuit Court. The businessman is accused of murdering his wife, Melissa Silvera, 42, at their Stony Hill, St Andrew, Kingston, home. He has also been slapped with a gun charge.

Initial reports had indicated that Mrs. Silvera died in her sleep on November 10, 2023 of natural cause, a month shy of her eighth wedding anniversary.

But an autopsy requested by her family and performed three weeks after her death unearthed at least three bullet fragments in her body.

This prompted the police to upgrade the probe to a murder investigation. Investigators used various forensic sciences, including cyber, ballistics, and telecommunications, to gather evidence for the case. The police also discussed the contamination of the crime scene and confirmed their suspicions with technology and assistance from other JCF agents. They confirmed the accuracy of reports regarding the renovation of the home.

Silvera, a land developer and former St. Mary Western representative for the People's National Party, who had openly wept at his wife's thanksgiving service, was then swiftly slapped with murder within a day of his arrest and custody.

Silvera's attorney Peter

Champagnie, however, insists his client is innocent.

Silvera, who chairs the PNP's Founders Group, exchanged wedding vows with

Melissa in December 2015. They shared four sons. But in 2017 the couple suffered the heartbreaking loss of their two-year-old son, Justin, when he

drowned in a pool at their home.

- *Rewritten from the Jamaica Gleaner*



Former Trinidad & Tobago Calypso Monarch Ordered To Pay Quarter Million TT Dollars In Defamation Lawsuit

A High Court judge in Trinidad and Tobago has ordered Weston "Cro Cro" Rawlins, a four-time Calypso Monarch, to pay TT\$250,000 (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) in compensation to businessman Ishan Ishmael.

Ishmael claimed he had been defamed by the singer's calypso song titled "Another Sat is Outside Again," which was released last year.

Ishmael alleged that the 2023 calypso directly defamed him, portraying him as a criminal, a racist, and a thief due to the lyrics of the song. Video recordings of Rawlins' performance at a Trinidad and Tobago Unified Calypso Organisation (TUCO), competition went viral, exacerbating the situation.

In his ruling, Justice Frank Seepersad emphasized that the court would not condone the idea that social media comments or commentary by calypsonians are sacrosanct, or that they should be free to say whatever they please, even if their content is divisive, derogatory, deceitful, dishonest, or defamatory.

While acknowledging that some aspects of the song



Weston "Cro Cro" Rawlins, has ordered to pay quarter million TT dollars in compensation to businessman Ishan Ishmael.

contained "fair comment," Justice Seepersad found that there were defamatory portions that went beyond satire or clever critique, instead being "salacious and derogative."

Rawlins had allegedly written the song in response to social media backlash against Ishmael for comments he made about celebrations held by residents of Beetham Gardens in November 2022 when fellow resident Kareem Marcelle was called to the bar.

The judge noted that Rawlins did not deny that the song was directed at Ishmael, although he attempted to conceal

the businessman's name. Justice Seepersad deemed it reprehensible to use the art form to tarnish a person's reputation.

As part of the ruling, Rawlins has been ordered to pay TT\$215,000 in general damages, with an uplift for aggravating damages. Additionally, Justice Seepersad ordered Rawlins to pay Ishmael exemplary damages of TT\$35,000.

Back on March 18 of last year, just hours before Rawlins was scheduled to perform at a concert series in San Fernando and Port of Spain, Justice Seepersad granted an injunction preventing him from performing the song unless the offending portions were edited out.

Ishmael's defamation claim also initially included the Copyright Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago (COTT), but it was dismissed by the court. Justice Seepersad clarified that COTT merely collects royalties for its members, including Rawlins, and highlighted that the song was not registered with the organization.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Will "Bob Marley: One Love" Ignite The Box Office This Valentine's Day?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

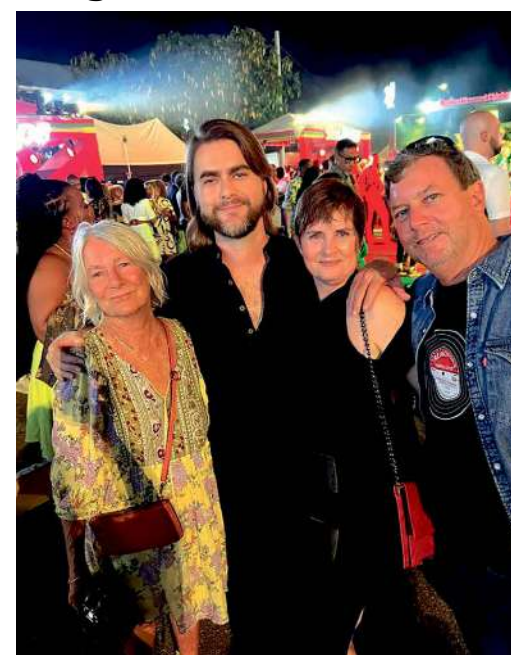
Guardian newspaper, he said playing the reggae king, who died in May, 1981 at age 36, had its challenges.

"Looking back, I may as well have been learning to play a part in French. I was building my understanding of Bob's language from the ground up; the dialect, the flow, the intonation, the feel," Ben-Adir disclosed. "Jamaican patois is deceptive. So much of the English language is in it, you think you know it. But it's more confusing and complicated than that."

Several trips to Jamaica where he met friends of Marley also put the edge on his portrayal, although that too was not easy.

"Many of the people I spoke to in Jamaica were wary of me when I first sat down. And rightly so," he said. "Who are you coming over here to do this? Who are you?" they would ask and I would tell them: 'If I was you, I'd feel the same. But I want to try my best to represent this properly.'"

"I told them: 'Listen, I've



The Henzell family at the January 23rd premiere of Bob Marley: One Love at Carib Cinema in Kingston, Jamaica. L-r: mother Sally, sons Dylan and Jake, and daughter Justine. (Contributed image)

grown up with Jamaicans, believe me I'm not taking this lightly. I've agreed to do it, so I'm f....g going to try my best," Ben-Adir recalled.

Production on Bob Marley: One Love began in London in late 2022. The latter stages of

filming were done in Kingston early last year.

The official release date for the movie is February 14, although there was a Los Angeles opening scheduled for February 6th, which is the singer's 79th birthday.

Perry Henzell helped introduce Jamaican pop culture to an international audience when 'The Harder They Come,' was released worldwide in 1973. She believes 'Bob Marley: One Love' will reintroduce one of music's greatest figures to a new generation.

"Absolutely!

People who know Bob Marley's music will be thrilled to learn some of the stories behind the icon and his message and those that don't, if they exist, have a treat in store," she said.



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Regional Ferry Service Is Coming To 10 Caribbean Countries

A privately led regional ferry service could soon become a reality for Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Dominica, Suriname and Barbados.

“Connect Caribe,” a joint-venture partnership between Upturn Funds Caribbean, a venture capital and advisory firm based in Barbados and New York, and Pleion Group Inc, a Caribbean and US-based company with offices in the USA, Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad, and Jamaica, was launched on Jan. 23rd with the aim of enhancing transportation connections among Caribbean countries.

The initiative represents a significant step towards revolutionizing maritime transportation in the Caribbean region and is set to be a game changer in the transportation industry, with three vessels capable of accommodating up to 8,000 passengers, cargo, and



Co-founder and chief executive officer for the Caribbean region, Dr Andre Thomas, makes a point at the launch of Connect Caribe on Jan. 23, 2024. (CMC image)

various goods.

Dr. Andre Thomas, co-founder and CEO for the Caribbean region, highlighted the consortium’s commitment to making the project profitable and valuable for the Caribbean community, investors, and shareholders. The partnership aims to create a consortium of key players in the maritime industry and incorporate an e-commerce element into the

transportation solution.

The project’s first phase, estimated at US\$50 million, is scheduled to commence operations in the last quarter of 2024, with plans for expansion to new island routes in the Caribbean Sea.

Speaking at the regional launch Thomas, said the consortium has brought together a variety of experts from different fields.

“We actually realize that the key was finding the success equation that will make this project happen and make this project bankable and make this project profitable and add value to the men and women of the Caribbean, add value to investors, add value to shareholders,” he said. “It became very clear to us that what we had to do was create a consortium that would be made up of key players in different sectors of the maritime industry and also to bring in an e-commerce element to it.”

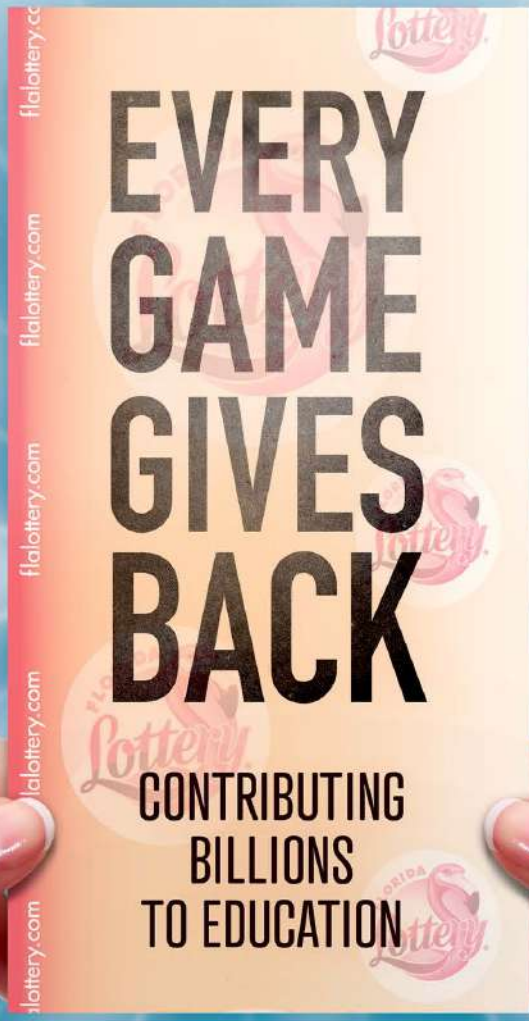
The first phase of the estimated US\$50 million project is expected to come on stream during the last quarter of 2024 and will later be expanded to new island routes in the Caribbean Sea. “Connect Caribe,” said its services will be a game changer in the transportation industry.

This initiative follows recent discussions regarding a regional ferry service linking Trinidad and Tobago with

Guyana and Barbados. The move is driven by the need to facilitate the transport of raw materials and produce within the CARICOM sub-zone, ultimately enhancing food security, stimulating regional production, creating jobs, and supporting affordable prices for agricultural products. CARICOM has set a target to reduce its multi-billion US dollar food import bill by 25 percent by 2025, making projects like “Connect Caribe” vital to achieving this goal. In 2022, CARICOM sought funding from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to establish an intra-regional ferry service, with the Caribbean Development Bank, (CDB), tasked with developing a roadmap study for the initiative, initially focusing on trade between Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, and Barbados.

- *Rewritten from CMC*







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Guyana Aims To Capitalize On Carbon Credits

Guyana is strategically focusing on increasing its revenue from carbon credits as it strives to mitigate its environmental impact, especially in light of its burgeoning offshore oil reserves, Latin Finance reports.

In late 2022, this South American nation inked a significant agreement with US-based oil and gas producer Hess Corporation. Finance Minister Ashni Singh indicated to Latin Finance that Guyana is poised to initiate new carbon credit deals when the market conditions are favorable. The agreement with Hess, a member of a consortium involved in oil exploration in Guyana, encompasses a value of \$750 million in carbon credits spread over a 15-year period.

This landmark deal accounts for approximately one-third of the total carbon credits that Guyana can offer, according to Singh. He expressed that they received multiple offers when finalizing the agreement with Hess, affirming that there is substantial interest from various parties. Singh, in an interview during the World Bank/IMF annual meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, emphasized the importance of timing to secure the best possible price, indicating that carbon credits represent the third source of income for the country, following domestic revenue mobilization and oil revenue. While Singh didn't rule



Guyana's Kaieteur Falls is one of the mega natural attractions of the South American CARICOM country and is located in the Essequibo region being claimed by Venezuela.

out the possibility of issuing a sovereign bond in the future, Guyana is eager to establish its reputation in the carbon credit market.

The Hess deal holds particular significance for Guyana as private companies, led by ExxonMobil, are scaling up oil production more than 100 miles off its coast. With over 25 discoveries in Guyana's waters, the country is expected

to produce approximately 1.2 million barrels of oil per day by 2027.

Guyana's first foray into carbon credits occurred in the early 2000s when it received around \$250 million from Norway for its efforts in forest conservation. Notably, two-thirds of Guyana is covered by Amazon forests, and the government, under President Irfaan Ali, aims to leverage the country's impressive track record in averting rampant deforestation, setting it apart from other members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization. In a new category known as "high forest cover/low deforestation countries," Guyana ranks first among 33 nations globally. The government is resolute

in its stance that preserving standing forests is an efficient means of combating climate change and seeks compensation for its conservation efforts.

Furthermore, Guyana is taking proactive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its energy sector by transitioning to natural gas, hydroelectric plants, and solar power generation, while also ensuring that new transportation

and agri-business infrastructure align with environmentally friendly practices. The ambitious plan includes adding 50,000 acres of new farmland equipped with irrigation and drainage systems designed to minimize environmental impact. Singh underscored that despite Guyana's trajectory as a significant oil producer, its vast forests and minimal environmental footprint position it as a carbon-sink country. He emphasized that the story of sustainable forest management,

in many ways, parallels the narrative of its oil industry and is equally crucial in addressing global environmental challenges.

The push comes as Guyana last month unveiled a trillion Guyana dollar budget and as it has been forced to defend its territory from Venezuela, which wants to annex its Essequibo region, home to most of the country's forests and natural resources.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Biden Fundraises In Florida

With the countdown already on to the 2024 general elections, President Joe Biden visited South Florida on January 30th for two campaign receptions.

Biden traveled to Palm Beach, home of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, and Miami. Politico had reported that Biden was scheduled to attend a fundraiser at the home of Chris Korge, who was the national finance chair of the Biden Victory Fund.

Biden's South Florida visit came after Gov. Ron DeSantis dropped out of the presidential race and endorsed Trump. After Trump's win over candidate Nikki Haley in the New Hampshire primary

Tuesday, the race in November had become all the more likely to be a rematch between Biden and Trump.

Biden and first lady Jill Biden had visited South Florida several times in recent years. Biden had spoken at a rally for gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist and U.S. Senate candidate Val Demings in Miami-Dade County in November 2022 and campaigned in Broward County during the 2020 election, including a rally stop at Broward College's campus in Coconut Creek.

- Rewritten from Sun Sentinel and Politico



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February 2024



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Lifetime Achievement Awards For Cedella Marley, Marcia Griffiths And VP's "Miss Pat"

The countdown is on to the historic musical showcase this Reggae Month, which is set for February 10th from 3 to 9 p.m., at Broward Mall in Plantation, South Florida, one of the region's premier shopping destinations.

The inaugural Reggae Genealogy event, an outdoor concert, will unfold at Broward Mall in Plantation, South Florida, one of the region's premier shopping destinations. Produced by the Island SPACE Caribbean Museum, this event promises a fully immersive experience celebrating the origins, evolution, and impact of Jamaican music, suitable for families, shoppers, and music enthusiasts of all ages.

During this three-hour musical journey, the audience will explore the roots of popular Jamaican music, from the pre-independence era before 1962, encompassing mento, ska, nyabingi, rocksteady, lovers rock, dub, reggae, and dancehall. The showcase will also highlight the profound influence of Jamaican music on genres like hip hop, reggaeton, EDM, and Afrobeats. In addition to the captivating performances and presentations, attendees can indulge in delicious food and explore artisan vendors both in and around the mall.



Cedella Marley, Marcia Griffiths and VP Record's Patricia Chin will be presented with Life Time awards at the Reggae Genealogy event.



Lifetime Achievement Awards will be a central highlight of the event. The Island SPACE Caribbean Museum, the nation's sole Caribbean heritage museum, will recognize three iconic women for their outstanding contributions to Jamaican music on this occasion. The honorees include Cedella Marley, CEO of the Marley Group of Companies and the Bob and Rita Marley Foundation; Marcia Griffiths, widely regarded as the most respected female singer in reggae history; and Patricia "Miss Pat" Chin, co-founder of VP Records, the largest global reggae music label.

Calibe Thompson, co-founder and president of Island SPACE, expressed her satisfaction with this recognition, particularly as a woman leading the organization. "It is all the more gratifying to me that we are presenting our first lifetime achievement awards to this trio of powerful women. They inspire me personally and have collectively inspired generations of women and men," she said.

The Reggae Genealogy concert is designed to blend entertainment and education. Leading up to the main event, various activities and campaigns have been organized to engage the community. A recent prelude

panel discussion titled "The Roots & Fruits of the Reggae Family Tree" attracted over 120 attendees, including City of Plantation Mayor Nick Sortal, who expressed his gratitude for the event and emphasized the importance of continuous learning.

The panel discussion featured moderator Richard Blackford and panelists Willie Stewart, Maxine Stowe, Abebe Lewis, Mr. Vegas, and Copeland Forbes, who discussed topics such as the influence of reggae,

methods for monetization, and how Jamaicans can leverage their music beyond the island's borders.

Gates for the Reggae Genealogy concert will open at 3 p.m., with the show commencing at 6 pm. Attendees arriving earlier can enjoy pre-show activities and tours of the Island SPACE Caribbean Museum within Broward Mall. The event will also creatively feature beloved icons like Harry Belafonte and living legends such as Mykal Rose of Black Uhuru.

Tickets are available for purchase at \$20 in advance or \$25 at the gate. For additional information on tickets, sponsorship, vendor opportunities, and volunteering, visit reggaegenealogy.org.



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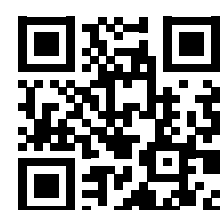
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Jamaican Returns 'Home' To Ghana

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

According to Ghana's Diaspora Affairs Office, approximately 1,500 African Americans settled in the West African country since 2019. That year marked "The Year of Return" initiated by Ghana's President, Nana Akufo-Addo, inviting people of African descent from around the world to come home.

These new arrivals added to the estimated 5,000 African Americans and 4,000 Jamaicans who settled in the country in recent decades. Jamaican-born Rique Kofi Ennis is one of them.

JOURNEY

"The journey has been quite significant. Ghana came up because I've been a student of African history. Ghana is the gateway for most of us in the Diaspora," Ennis told Caribbean Today recently. "There are more dungeons, or as they say in Ghana, castles, than any other country. So, I went to Ghana to see the dungeons and became enamored with the people, the space, the culture. And I've been visiting for several years and eventually had to make it home."

Ennis, a retired teacher, lived in the United Kingdom and the United States for many years. But, it was his search for his African identity that led him to settle in Ghana in 2017, where he bought land and has built a home in Greater Accra, in the village of Ningo Prampram, a suburb of the capital city.

Importantly, Ghana's Right to Abode law enacted in 2001

gave Ennis and any person of African descent, the right to travel to and from the country freely, and certainly, settled residence rights.

In 2020 Ennis was one of the more than 120 people conferred citizenship that year. But as Ennis explained, it is not a simple or easy process, noting that some who have been living in Ghana for 30 or 40 year were among this group of new citizens.

There are indeed still issues just like anywhere else in the world, said Ennis, "but things are getting better."

"We must be ready to grow with the experience. A lot of us leaving the Diaspora are bringing our baggage with us expecting to dump it in Africa and think it will be welcome. You have you got to leave your baggage behind," he said. "You can't come and expect people to embrace you when you're coming with all the chips and all the stresses and all the dysfunctionality."

TRUST

But Ennis also confirmed that one of the biggest problems most settlers have is with land purchase or acquisition. He emphasized that building a community of trusted individuals is key. One purchases land through the custodians of the land - the Chief of the village or a family. Once price, negotiations and actual ownership is settled, you are leased the land for 50, 99, or more years.

Ennis negotiated with a family who were custodians

of the land he was interested in purchasing. He also had the services of a lawyer. At the end of the process, a contract was signed by all parties and Ennis became the proud custodian of his own land. He eventually commenced building his home. But, about one year in an issue cropped up.

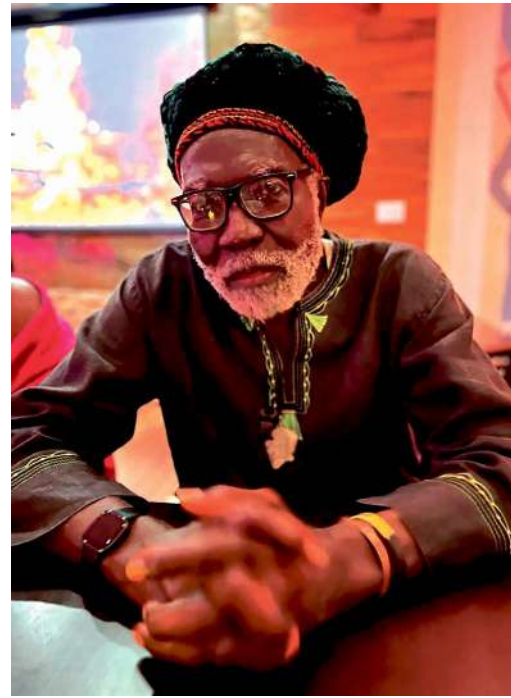
"Traditionally in Ghana, land purchases must be acquired through the right person, meaning the person who sells it to you must come from the patrilineal line of the family," he disclosed. "However, we discovered that my land was purchased through the matrilineal line, therefore I did not officially own it. This created a great big storm and we eventually got the Chief involved. Ultimately, I lost part of the original land parcel and ended up purchasing another piece in a different location."

But he was never deterred. Having built trusted relationships with a few native Ghanians, Ennis continued to successfully conduct business.

DAY-TO-DAY LIVE

But what about social services, conveniences, infrastructure? What is it really like living in Ghana on a daily basis?

"I love to say, we don't have



Jamaican-born Rique Kofi Ennis has returned home to Africa, choosing Ghana as his new home. (Contributed image)

potholes, we have manholes," Ennis disclosed. "But they are always working on improving the infrastructure," Ennis laughs in describing the condition of the roads. Yes, we do have issues with light. But, we're doing a great job in improving the electricity. We get periods when the light goes out and it will be gone for several hours then it comes back on."

Still Ennis remarked about the abundance of food in Ghana with markets everywhere that supplies just about everything - from food, to clothing, to electronics. He added that whatever is available in the West is also obtainable in Ghana and it is about being open to the

experience.

His advice to the curious or those contemplating a new life in Africa?

"Number one, I would say to every African Diaspora member, make at least one trip to Africa," he said. "It doesn't matter which country, it is just put to your foot on African soil. And remember, that's where your ancestors came from."

"Number two is that every skill is needed on the continent today," added Ennis. "So if I'm a doctor, if I'm a street sweeper, if I'm whatever, the skill is needed."

And although the standard of living might be higher in the West, he noted that the quality of life in Ghana is ten times better than anywhere in the West.

"Again, you're going into a different cultural state. And it depends on whether you want to carry America, Jamaica, Barbados, England with you or whether you're prepared to make a transition into a different experience. You only grow if you change."



NYC Immigration Attorney, Son Charged With Immigration Fraud

New York-based immigration attorney Kofi Amankwaa and his son, Kofi Amankwaa, Jr., have been charged with orchestrating a "large-scale" immigration fraud scheme targeting Caribbean and other migrants.

Damian Williams, the Jamaican-American Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced the unsealing of a complaint. This complaint charges Bronx, New York-based immigration attorney Kofi Amankwaa and his son, Kofi Amankwaa, Jr., with orchestrating a "large-scale" immigration fraud scheme targeting Caribbean and other migrants.

Williams, whose father is a Jamaican-born physician, stated, "As alleged, Kofi Amankwaa, an immigration attorney, and his son, Kofi Amankwaa, Jr., sought to make a mockery of the US immigration system by conspiring to defraud the United States and commit immigration fraud. Amankwaa and his son allegedly exploited the Violence

Against Women Act—a law that allows noncitizen victims of domestic abuse a path to lawful permanent residence status—for their own financial gain by falsely claiming that their clients were victims of domestic abuse."

Alfonso added, "Kofi Amankwaa is charged with deceitful practices, whereby he allegedly victimized clients who relied on his legal assistance with their immigration process. HSI is committed to protecting the applicants, petitioners, and requestors of US citizenship who, unfortunately, are often at risk of falling for scams or fraud. HSI is thankful for the collaboration in this investigation with other Department of Homeland Security components, as well as other federal agencies, who continue to help us combat document and benefit fraud."

According to the allegations in the complaint, spanning from September 2016 through November 2023, Amankwaa, aged 69, and Amankwaa,

Jr., aged 37, met with clients and instructed them to sign fraudulent Form I-360 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Petitions, falsely claiming that the clients had been subjected to abuse by their US citizen children. Amankwaa also allegedly signed these petitions, under penalty of perjury, as the attorney preparer.

The complaint further alleges that the defendants utilized the fraudulent Form I-360 VAWA Petitions, among other filings, to request advance parole travel documents for their clients. These documents enable individuals without legal status in the United States to travel abroad temporarily and return. Upon obtaining these advance parole travel documents, the defendants allegedly directed their clients to travel abroad and return to the United States, using this as a basis for their clients to apply for lawful permanent resident status.

The defendants carried out this illegal scheme despite knowing that their clients

had not been abused by their children and without inquiring about any such abuse. Furthermore, they often failed to obtain lawful permanent resident status for their clients, as their immigration applications were denied due to fraud and other reasons. The defendants typically charged their clients \$6,000 for their services, in addition to administrative fees.

Williams noted that in November 2023, following numerous complaints from clients regarding the fraudulent abuse allegations, Amankwaa's license to practice law in the State of New York was suspended. Both the father and son, residents of South River, New Jersey, face charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States and commit immigration fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison, as well as immigration fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.



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The Rise Of Trump Brings With It A Return To Racism And Xenophobia

For those of us who thought the 'Era of Trumpeto' was done and dusted, the rise again of the man who normalized bigotry and xenophobia in politics, represents a horror that is triggering anxiety and fear for the sane in the United States, particularly many immigrants.

Trump has now won two Republican primary elections, and if he wins in South Carolina, then there is nothing and no one who will stand against him as the GOP's Presidential nominee for 2024.

With Death Santis out of the race along with 'Little Trump,' Vivek Ramaswamy, as well 'Uncle Tom' Tim Scott - who have all lined up in a love fest to worship at the altar of The Xenophobe - Nikki Haley is now the dartboard for El Trumpeto's racist and ugly xenophobic attacks.

Like he did to President Barack Obama, Trumpeto is back to his birther playbook - this time his fiery darts are being thrown directly at Haley, his own former US ambassador and a one-time defender of his.

Now he claims Haley is

not eligible to run for president because she wasn't born in the United States, adding deceitfully: "wherever she may come from." Red meat to his racist base of primarily white men who would rather die than see any other person of color in the White House, and he knows it.

Trumpeto has also purposely butchered Haley's name, calling her "Nikki 'Nimrada' Haley" in a social media post, and then dismissing it as not racist but just a bit of "fun."

Haley's real name is Nimarata Nikki Randhawa Haley and she was born in Bamberg, South Carolina to parents Ajit Singh Randhawa and Raj Kaur Randhawaho, are Indian migrants. She married Michael Haley and took his name. It is that fact that Trumpeto is obviously happy to play on. He would have done it to Ramaswamy as well, if he felt he was a big enough threat and even Scott. To him, it's nothing personal - its simply about winning, morals and ethics be damned.

What is sad is that we have been this play before. Trump purposely liked about former President Obama and was a chief promoter of the racist lie that Obama was not born in the US and ineligible to be president. Trump also regularly emphasizes

Obama's middle name, Hussein, at campaign rallies.

What is shocking is that the racist and xenophobe, who committed treason while in office is rising again. A leopard does not change its spots and hate him or not, Trumpeto stays true to who he is and makes no bones about it.

What is scary is that unless

there is a third party candidate who can mobilize the masses at this stage of the game, we are looking at weak Joe and MIA Kamla fighting a losing battle against majority White male voters who see "their" country being overrun by black and brown people, especially immigrants, who have no place in "their America."

It is time to pray for a miracle, so we as a nation will not face another Trumpeto Presidency.

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



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Finance For Females



It's been said that a woman's best protection is a little money of her own. Sure, we all know that a woman has to have a little nest egg hidden away - vex money they call it - just in case the man deserts her and she has to fend for herself. That term 'vex money' is derived from the notion that a woman should always have her own money when she goes out on a date with a man, just in case the evening doesn't turn out well and she 'gets vex,' she can always find



TONY ROBINSON

her way home by taking a taxi with her vex money. Men have been known to put women out of their cars in the middle of an evening because it wasn't going as planned, and women

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

CANNABIS AS A TREATMENT FOR GLAUCOMA

Why some doctors recommend it and some do not

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The Racial Wealth Gap Starts With Black Financial Literacy

BY ROGER CALDWELL

“Distribution of wealth has always been a major issue in the United States. According to the Brookings institution, Black Americans would hold \$12.68 trillion in household wealth if the nation’s wealth was distributed by population size. Instead, Black households held just \$2.54 trillion in 2020.”

The wealth gap exists as a result of slavery, discrimination, and centering of historical injustices. Black financial literacy is a must in 2024, and it starts with budgeting, investing, borrowing, and taxation.

The median White

household’s net worth is 10 times the size of the median Black household’s net worth. The many diverse reasons this exist in America, but the blame must start with Black people talking to each other. Black men are supposed to be the leaders in the household; and they are the worse in the country with financial literacy.

Financial literacy is the possession of the basic skills needed to manage an income, keep debts in control, spend wisely, and invest for the future. It is extremely difficult to stay on top of your financiers, because everything is always changing, and bills are always increasing.

Credit cards take discipline, and if you are not paying attention, they will become a new form of slavery.

“African-American household generally don’t know as much about money and financial literacy compared to mainstream and upper middle-class White communities,” says Teri Williams, president of OneUnited Bank, a Black-owned bank, that has a mission to improve financial literacy in urban communities.

Around the country, Black religious leaders have partnered with banks to teach economic gospel through churches. “We have a captive audience in the Black churches on Sunday morning. Millions of people hear the Gospel preached and also learn how to pay the bills, pay the mortgage and hold on to their housing,” says the Rev. Jonathan L. Weaver.

Education is the name of the game, and banks, schools and churches in the community are working to teach consumers real –life lessons about managing money. When Black people get their hands on \$100,000, they have no idea what to do with

that kind of money. Instead of investing the money, they spend the money feverishly on cars, trips, parties, and very soon the money is gone.

Twenty percent of Black people don’t have bank accounts, and the money is kept under their mattresses, because that was the way mom did it. Mom did not trust banks, and there was never enough money to go around. “I knew there had to be a way to understand how to make and save money – but no one was teaching me that in my Atlanta schools,” rapper 21 Savage wrote in an August 2020 op-ed for Time Magazine. The rapper notes the persistence of myths surrounding wealth and distrust of financial institutions acts as

hurdles to closing the racial wealth gap.

Closing the wealth gap starts with a financial advisor and getting educated on financial literacy. In 1989, Congressman John Conyers Jr of Michigan introduced a bill to study reparations for African Americans for centuries of slavery, segregation, and racial injustice. Similar bills have been introduced in every Congress since then, but none have made it to the House floor.

Closing the wealth gap will take work, education, and leadership. The entire Black community must work together to close the wealth gap and we must trust each other.



Finance For Females

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

have also been known to get so disgusted with the man that they chose to leave the scene as quickly as possible.

But what happens when the woman has more than vex money - much money that the man gets really vexed with her for having more than what he has?

Yes, it does happen, as some men are steeped in the tradition that women must not have more money than them. In his eyes it may be a cause of embarrassment and ridicule from his friends.

“He is the bread winner, but she owns the bakery and makes all the dough, haha hah.”

There is some unwritten law of the universe that states that a man should be more financially viable than his woman, and that should not be deviated from.

This is done even subconsciously by men when they choose a mate, as in most cases, a man will only get involved with a woman who is less financially stable than him. He will not go above his class, but will stay in his lane. Let it not be said by onlookers that, “Oh dear, she married beneath her station.”

You will never see a waiter, security guard or gas station attendant try to romance the female CEO of a major institution. The disparaging remarks would come from without and within. “She’s way out of his league.”

So what happens when a woman is in a higher tax bracket than the man and has far more than he could ever dream of? It may rattle his self esteem, and shatter his ego, for he knows that all the trappings of life that he enjoys, such as the house, car and such, were all bought and paid for with her finances.

Her financial portfolio is five times more than his. She can now purchase what he can only

dream of. With her increased financial upliftment comes great power, more than he could ever dream of, and we all know what power does - it corrupts. As for absolute power, it corrupts absolutely.

Some women will not make a big deal out of it, while others will flaunt it and rub the man’s nose in it. “That little pittance that you’re earning can’t even pay the cable bill.”

There’s this joke about a wife who raced home and breathlessly shouted to her husband: “I won fifty million dollars in the lotto, start packing.”

The ecstatic husband replied: “Yes honey, where are we going, Paris, Rome, Dubai?” To which the wife shouted: “Who said anything about we, I meant you, start packing and get the hell outa my life.”

When a woman is more financially uplifted and has considerably more money than her man, it can manifest itself in a variety of ways, with many not being positive.

The balance of power will have shifted, and she feels her strength. No longer can he call the shots or dictate any terms of her fiscal, fiduciary, financial fantasies.

She now belongs to the millionaire’s club, and he belongs to the kennel club. It’s worse if the man loses his job and his finances are floundering, the pressure will be turned up.

The trouble all began when her finances flourished and his floundered.

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.



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Julian Marley And Antaeus Secure Grammy Victory for 'Colors of Royal'

In a triumph that resonates with the essence of reggae's vibrant spirit, Julian Marley and Antaeus clinched the coveted Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album at the 66th annual awards ceremony Sunday night, Feb. 4th. Their masterpiece, 'Colors of Royal,' emerged victorious in a highly competitive field, pitted against three previous Grammy-winning albums.

The illustrious nominees included Beenie Man (with 'Simma'), Buju Banton ('Born For Greatness'), Burning Spear ('No Destroyer'), and Collie Buddz (for 'Cali Roots Riddim 2023'). Presenter Patti Austin announced the winner during the 66th Annual Grammy Awards premiere ceremony, which was held at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.



Julian Marley clinched the coveted Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album at the 66th annual awards, his first. He was on tour in Australia so the Grammy was picked up by the Greek born Alexx Antaeus, the producer behind the transformative 'Colors of Royal' released last April.

Although Julian Marley was not present at the ceremony, since



Antaeus, l, pose in the press room with the Grammy for Best Reggae Album for "Colors of Royal" during the 66th Annual Grammy Awards at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles on February 4, 2024. (Photo by Frederic J. Brown / AFP)

he is currently touring in Australia, the significance of this win cannot be understated. With three

previous nominations under his belt, this triumph marks his first Grammy victory.

Accepting the award on behalf of the duo, the Greek born Alexx Antaeus, the producer behind the transformative 'Colors of Royal' released last April, dedicated this accolade to the warm-hearted people of Jamaica. In his heartfelt words, he expressed: "I'd like to dedicate this to the people of Jamaica who

have accepted me as one of their own, embracing the country's motto, 'Out of many, one.'"

Released via Antaeus' Monom Records in March 2023, the 8 track Colors of Royal was the first Grammy nomination for the producer.

Dancehall producer NotNice contributed to the album on the song, Robbed. Other tracks include The Tide Is High, Roll and Made For Your Love.

Additionally, another member of their team paid tribute to the Marley family and paid homage to the late Joseph Mersa Marley and the legendary Aston 'Family Man' Barrett.

This victory stands as a testament to reggae's enduring power.

Kabaka Pyramid won the 2023 Grammy for Best Reggae Album.



Reggae Month 2024 Kicks Off Under The Theme 'Come Ketch di RIDDIM'

"Reggae stands as one of Jamaica's greatest treasures," according to Carolyn McDonald Riley, Director of the Tourism Linkages Network.

Her comments come as she kicked off Reggae Month 2024 under the theme 'Come Ketch di RIDDIM'.

McDonald Riley encouraged Jamaicans to engage in various activities, including a Musical Tribute to Reggae Icons, Reggae Gold Award, Dancehall Awards, Dancehall Street Parade, Young Reggae Ambassadors, Jamaica Reggae Industry Association (JaRIA) Open University, and Children of the Icons.

She emphasized that reggae is a defining element of Jamaica's culture, alongside iconic products like Blue Mountain coffee and other beverages.

Representing Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett at the kick-off, she mentioned that Jamaica's tourism industry has exceeded the four-million visitor mark, and reggae plays a significant role in this achievement. McDonald Riley highlighted the impact of Jamaican reggae ambassadors, such as Bob and Rita Marley, Jimmy

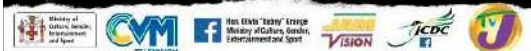
Cliff, Chronixx, Koffee, Judy Mowatt, Marcia Griffiths, and Carlene Davis, who have proudly represented Jamaica on the international stage.

The celebration of Reggae Month, which commenced in 2008, honors the genre's profound influence on Jamaica's social, cultural, and economic landscape, recognizing its significance in global music culture.

For event details and schedules, see below:

6	• MCGES Symposium - Session 1 - Roof Terrace, Min of Culture (Live & Broadcast)
7	• Bob Marley Tribute Concert - Emancipation Park (Live & Broadcast)
8	• JaRIA Reggae Wednesday - Harmony Park, Montego Bay (LIVE)
9	• JaRIA Reggae Wednesday - Rawlins - Part 1 - (Broadcast Only)
10	• Reggae Conversations - Sizzla Kolanji - (Broadcast Only)
11	• JaRIA Reggae Open University - (Broadcast Only)
12	• Young Reggae Ambassadors - Youth Man in Port Royal - (Broadcast Only)
13	• Reggae Conversation - Etana - (Broadcast Only)
14	• Young Reggae Ambassadors - Ladies in Port Royal - (Broadcast Only)
15	• Reggae Conversation - Jimmy Cliff - (Broadcast Only)
16	• ONSTAGE - Sing the Icons - The Music of Marcia Griffiths & Freddie McGregor (Broadcast Only)
17	• JAVAA Reggae Vintage - Night 1 (Broadcast Only)
18	• Young Reggae Ambassadors in Ocho Rios - Island Village, Ocho Rios (LIVE)
19	• Reggae Conversation - Romain Virgo - (Broadcast Only)
20	• Freddy McGregor in Concert - (Broadcast Only)
21	• Groundation - Reasoning with Creatives - IOI Lecture Theatre (LIVE)
22	• Reggae Conversation - Peter Dinklage - (Broadcast Only)
23	• In the Reggae Studio - Mighty Diamonds - (Broadcast Only)
24	• MCGES Symposium - Session 2 - Roof Terrace, Min of Culture (Live & Broadcast)
25	• Reggae Conversation - King Jammy - (Broadcast Only)
26	• JaRIA Reggae Wednesday - Rawlins - Part 2 - (Broadcast Only)
27	• Reggae Conversation - Richie Stephens - (Broadcast Only)
28	• JaRIA Reggae Open University - (Broadcast Only)
29	• Reggae Conversation - Farewell to Ibo Cooper - (Broadcast Only)
30	• Reggae Conversation - (Marcia Griffiths) - (Broadcast Only)
31	• Reggae Conversation - Beenie Man - (Broadcast Only)
32	• Young Reggae Ambassadors in Kingston - Ranny Williams Ent Centre (Live & Broadcast)
33	• ONSTAGE - Sing the Icons - The Music of Jimmy Cliff & Bob Marley (Broadcast Only)
34	• Reggae Conversation - Admiral Bailey - (Broadcast Only)
35	• Groundation - The Importance of Creativity and Culture - IOI Lecture Theatre (LIVE)
36	• Reggae Conversation - Lutan Fyah - (Broadcast Only)
37	• Young Reggae Ambassadors - Ladies on Beat Street - (Broadcast Only)
38	• Reggae Conversation - Ricky Trooper - (Broadcast Only)
39	• In the Reggae Studio - Bob Andy - (Broadcast Only)
40	• Reggae Conversation - Donovan Germaine - (Broadcast Only)
41	• MCGES Symposium - Session 3 & 4 - Roof Terrace, Min of Culture (Live & Broadcast)
42	• Reggae Conversation - Clive Hunt - (Broadcast Only)
43	• Reggae Conversation - Horace Andy - (Broadcast Only)
44	• JaRIA Reggae Wednesday - Rawlins - Part 3 - (Broadcast Only)
45	• Reggae Conversation - Stranah Cole - (Broadcast Only)
46	• JaRIA Reggae Open University - (Broadcast Only)
47	• Reggae Conversation - Cat Coore - (Broadcast Only)
48	• JAVAA Reggae Vintage - Night 2 (Broadcast Only)
49	• ONSTAGE - Sing the Icons - The Music of Toots Hibbert & Ken Boothe (Broadcast Only)
50	• Reggae Conversation - Jack Scorpio - (Broadcast Only)
51	• Launch of the JaRIA Honour Awards - (Live & Broadcast)
52	• Groundation - Envisioning a Jamaican Creative Republic - IOI Lecture Theatre (LIVE)
53	• Global Reggae Night - Part 1 - (Broadcast Only)
54	• Reggae Conversation - Leroy Sibbles - (Broadcast Only)
55	• In the Reggae Studio - Luciano - (Broadcast Only)
56	• Reggae Conversations - Bongo Herman - (Broadcast Only)
57	• Global Reggae Night - Part 2 - (Broadcast Only)
58	• MCGES Symposium - Session 5 & 6 - Roof Terrace, Min of Culture (Live & Broadcast)
59	• Young Reggae Ambassadors - Youth Man on Beat Street - (Broadcast Only)
60	• Reggae Conversations - Romain Virgo - Broadcast Platforms (Broadcast Only)
61	• JaRIA Reggae Wednesday - Rawlins - Part 4 - (Broadcast Only)
62	• JaRIA Reggae Open University - (Broadcast Only)
63	• Reggae Gold Reception & Awards - featuring Third World and other major Artists - Ranny Williams Ent Centre (Live & Broadcast)

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Fireboy DML, Kabaka Pyramid For Afro-Carib Festival

Get ready for the 4th Annual Afro-Carib Festival (ACF) in the City of Miramar, a spectacular celebration of music, culture, and cuisine from the Caribbean and the African Diaspora. Presented by Visit Lauderdale and Memorial Healthcare System and hosted by Vice Mayor Alexandra P. Davis, this highly anticipated event will take place on Saturday, February 17th at the Miramar Regional Park Amphitheater.

This year's festival is set to deliver an unforgettable musical experience with an impressive lineup of artists. Afro-beats sensation Fireboy DML, known for his chart-topping hit "Peru" with pop star Ed Sheeran, will headline the event. Joining him is Kabaka Pyramid, a Grammy award-winning reggae artist celebrated for his powerful and conscious lyricism, seamlessly blending reggae with hip-hop. Completing the stellar line-up is the legendary Nadine Sutherland, renowned as one of Jamaica's foremost female vocalists, famous for her role in the iconic dancehall anthem "Action."

The Afro-Carib Festival is a vibrant convergence of cultures rooted in African origins and Caribbean traditions. Each year, the festival brings together a diverse array of artists representing various genres, including afro beats, reggae, dancehall, kompa, and more, all originating from the African Diaspora.

"Our 4th year will be even bigger and better! South Florida is hungry for an entertainment event that offers this particular combination of musical genres, bringing the best of Black music and culture together on one stage," said Vice Mayor Davis. In addition to the captivating music performances, festival-



Afro-beats sensation Fireboy DML, known for his chart-topping hit "Peru" with pop star Ed Sheeran, along with Grammy award winner, Kabaka Pyramid, and the legendary Nadine Sutherland, are among the performers for the 4th Annual Afro-Carib Festival in the City of Miramar on Feb. 17th.

goers can savour the flavours of the Caribbean and Africa from local food vendors offering mouth-watering dishes. Unique

cultural items will be available from merchandise vendors, showcasing the rich diversity of the Diaspora.

General admission tickets are priced at \$30, premium tickets at \$45, and VIP tickets at \$150, available while supplies last. For more information about the Afro-Carib Festival and to purchase tickets,

visit afrocaribfestmiramar.com or call 954-602-3178.



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We thank you for helping us reach every one of these meaningful milestones, and continue to celebrate the impact they have on countless students in our communities. Remember, every time you play, you play it forward.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



www.caribbeantoday.com

Jamaican Actor Wins Broadway World Award

Jamaican-born actor and playwright, David Heron has taken home the 2023 Broadway World Rhode Island Award for Best Supporting Performer, triumphing over nearly 30 other nominees with his portrayal of Caliban in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

The critically acclaimed production took place from July to August 2023 in Wilcox Park, Westerly, as part of the annual Shakespeare in The Park Festival presented by The Colonial Theatre of Rhode Island.

Winners of the 2023 awards were announced on Broadwayworld.com on January 17th, following a month-long online public vote, with participants from Rhode Island, the USA, and globally.

Heron, who also works behind the scenes, off camera, with the post production team as a Jamaican dialect coach on the new HBO series, 'Get Millie Black,' stood out in a crowded field of 29 actors, earning the top honor.

The *Tempest*, in addition to Heron's award, also secured the



David Heron won for Caliban in *The Tempest*.

Best Costume Design accolade for Jaysen Engel. The production received a total of seventeen nominations, covering categories such as Best Play, Best Director (Marion Markham), Best Acting Ensemble, and Best Choreography, among others.

Heron expressed his gratitude for the win, emphasizing the role of director Marion Markham in addressing the play's racial and colonial themes, making the role more acceptable.

He actively campaigned

for votes during the one-month voting period, leveraging his networks, including his alma maters, corporate connections, family, and friends, as well as the entertainment community in Jamaica and the USA.

The global support he received resulted in a remarkable win that touched people across the Caribbean, North America, Europe, and Africa. Heron's victory has been met with overwhelming joy, and he acknowledges the collective effort that made it possible.

Heron's career spans appearances in various productions off-Broadway as well as in many regional and international productions. He has not only acted but also written plays like *Love and Marriage*, *New York City*, and *Against His Will*.

The Broadway World Awards are prestigious regional theatrical honors presented annually by Broadwayworld.com, a leading entertainment industry website covering theatre worldwide.

The 2023 Broadway World Rhode Island Awards showcased

the Stadium Theatre as the biggest winner, earning fifteen of the eighteen awards, including Best Play (*A Christmas Carol*), Best Musical (*Newsies*), and Best

Theatre For Young Audiences (*Peter Pan*).

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



Rhythms Of Africa Honours Women In Music

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

With March celebrated globally as Women's History Month, Rhythms Of Africa dedicates its next edition to those who made an impact on world music. This year's event takes place from March 16-17th at Miramar Cultural Center.

Willie Stewart, founder of the annual event, said 'Strength Of A Woman' is the theme for the show which will have reggae singer Etana of Jamaica and Barbadian soca star Alison Hinds as headliners.

Also on the bill is Miss Jamaica 2009, Kamila McDonald, who will act as narrator.

"With Rhythms of Africa's theme as Strength Of A Woman,



Alison Hinds is set for Rhythms Of Africa in Miramar from March 16-17th.

it makes it even more meaningful, powerful and relevant considering that March is Women's History Month. Our idea is to pay tribute to and celebrate our icons, choosing songs of some of our great female artists present and past from the Caribbean and around the world," said Stewart.

In addition to performing their original songs, Etana and Alison Hinds are expected to pay tribute to pioneer artists. Rhythms Of Africa 2024 will also salute Ibo Cooper, keyboardist and co-founder of the Third World Band who died in Jamaica last October at age 71.

Stewart and Cooper were members of that Grammy-nominated group for 21 years, playing together on hit songs such as *Now That We Found Love* and *Try Jah Love*.

Students from Miramar High School, who Stewart has tutored, and the Rhythms Of Africa Dancers, are also part of the program. Stewart first staged Rhythms Of Africa in 2010 to highlight the percussive sounds of the Motherland. It has featured several top acts, as well as students from the Broward County school system whom he has taught.

The 2023 show, held at the Miramar Cultural Center, marked its 10th anniversary.

Despite rampant sexism, women have been integral to the development of Caribbean music since the early 1960s. In 1964, Millie Small of Jamaica had an international ska hit with *My Boy Lollipop*, which introduced that sound to pop fans.

That decade saw the emergence of singer Marcia Griffiths in Jamaica, and Sonia Pottinger, who remains the Caribbean's only female music producer of note. In the 1970s, Griffiths was a member of The I-Three, Bob Marley's harmony group which included his wife Rita and Judy Mowatt.

During that period, Calypso Rose made her mark as a calypsonian in Trinidad and Tobago, setting the pace for compatriot Denyse Plummer in the 1980s. Hinds and Destra Garcia of Trinidad and Tobago carried the soca banner throughout the 1990s.



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Learn more at JazzInTheGardens.com

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Hosting a Big Game watch party this Super Bowl? By following the playbook of BBQ experts, you'll have your friends and family cheering for your game day spread.

"The trick to achieving tasty BBQ is real smoke flavour. And, to get real smoke flavour, you need quality, natural hardwoods, with or without a pellet grill," says Levi Strayer of Bear Mountain BBQ. "Start grilling with pellets, and everyone will immediately taste the difference - it's a game changer."

With that philosophy in mind, Bear Mountain BBQ ambassador Jennifer Danella is sharing two BBQ winning recipes. Both incorporate the brand's premium pellets to bring unbeatable flavour to the table.



Stand out with these Sweet Heat Barbeque Wild Turkey/Chicken Bites

Sweet Heat Barbeque Wild Turkey/Chicken Bites

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 boneless, skinless turkey or chicken breast, approximately 2 pounds, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 tablespoon chilli powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon loosely-packed

- light brown sugar
- 1 package centre-cut bacon, cut in half
- Sliced green onions
- Ranch dressing
- Chef's Choice or Butcher's Blend Bear Mountain BBQ Pellets
- 1/2 cup sweet barbecue sauce
- 2 tablespoons buffalo sauce
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat grill to 400 degrees F.
2. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
3. Place 1-inch turkey or chicken pieces into a medium size bowl. Sprinkle chilli powder, paprika, cayenne, garlic salt, black pepper and brown sugar over top. Mix well.
4. Wrap half a slice of bacon around each turkey/chicken piece. Secure with a toothpick and place them onto the parchment paper.
5. Place the baking sheet into your preheated grill and bake for 25 minutes. Meanwhile, combine the barbecue sauce, buffalo sauce and garlic in a small bowl. Brush the turkey/chicken pieces

halfway through cooking. Brush another layer of sauce five minutes before the cook time is over. Cook until the turkey pieces reach 165 degrees F.

6. Garnish with sliced green onions and serve with ranch dressing for dipping.

Beer Cheese Dip

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups cheddar cheese grated
- 1/2 cup gruyere cheese grated
- 8 ounces cream cheese softened
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 of a 1-ounce Hidden Valley Ranch Packet
- 2 tablespoons green onions chopped.
- 1/4 cup German lager beer
- 2 tablespoons baking soda
- 1 can biscuits
- 1 large egg, mixed with 1 tablespoon water, for brushing biscuits
- 12-inch cast iron skillet
- Bear Mountain BBQ's Chef's Choice Blend pellets

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat pellet grill to 350

- degrees F.
2. In large bowl, combine 1 cup cheddar, gruyere, cream cheese, Dijon mustard, Hidden Valley Ranch seasoning, beer and 1 tablespoon green onions. Mix evenly.
3. Cut biscuits in half. Roll each half into a ball, then slice an X across top.
4. Boil 2 cups water in medium saucepan. Once boiling, add baking soda and mix immediately.
5. Add biscuits to grill in batches and cook until puffy, approximately 1 minute. Remove and transfer to skillet, forming ring along inside edge.
6. Brush biscuits with egg wash. Sprinkle with salt.
7. Transfer dip to centre of skillet. Sprinkle with remaining cheddar.
8. Smoke until biscuits are golden and dip is bubbly, 30-35 minutes.
9. Garnish with remaining green onions. Serve!

- StatePoint



Caribbean Cuisine In The Spotlight In The NY Times



Guyanese-born Tavel Bristol-Joseph is chef and owner of Canje in Austin, Texas.

Caribbean cuisine was put in the global spotlight this week by the New York Times as the paper focused on some top Caribbean born chefs making waves across the United States.

They include Guyanese-born Tavel Bristol-Joseph, chef and owner of Canje in Austin, Texas, who draws inspiration from his Guyanese heritage. He introduced Guyanese pepper pot, a dish featuring long-simmered beef with spices like cinnamon and allspice, to his menu. To ensure authenticity, he sourced cassareep, a bitter cassava juice, from Guyana. Bristol-Joseph also adds a Texan touch to his Guyanese pepper pot by using

wild boar, an invasive species in Texas, and local herbs.

Incorporating local ingredients and flavours into classic Caribbean dishes is a trend seen in many of these restaurants. Lisa Nelson, a Trinidadian chef in New Orleans, puts her spin on doubles, a Trinidadian flatbread, using crawfish, a local delicacy while chefs like Rashida Holmes, co-owner of Bridgetown Roti in Los Angeles, are encouraged by the emergence of new

Caribbean chefs across the United States. She believes that the celebration of diverse cuisines is gaining momentum, and there's potential for even more Caribbean culinary experiences to thrive.

As these chefs continue to explore and celebrate the diverse flavours and stories of the Caribbean, diners can look forward to a richer and more authentic culinary experience that goes beyond stereotypes and showcases the true essence of Caribbean cuisine.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Valentine's Day Gift Ideas That Show You Really Care



Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to let that special someone know how you feel about them. Whether it be a spouse, a new boyfriend or girlfriend, or a best friend, let these thoughtful gift ideas show them how much you really care:

1. A perfect brew

As most tea and coffee drinkers know, the ideal temperature beverage can be a fleeting thing, especially with all of life's distractions and demands. That's not the case with Nextmug, a gift that will spoil your Valentine with the perfect brew every time. This temperature-controlled, self-heating mug maintains a beverage at the user's ideal temperature (warm at 130 degrees, hot at 140 degrees, and piping at 150 degrees) for hours using smart technology that requires no app or

data-sharing. Stylish, ergonomic and simple to use, it eliminates the need to reheat a drink after getting sidetracked by workplace duties or household chores. To upgrade your gift, consider an additional docking coaster so they can enjoy a hot drink in multiple locations. To learn more, visit nextmug.com.

2. A better bath

With a bath basket, you're not only transforming a standard household bathroom into a spa-like retreat, you're giving the gift of self-care. Fill the basket with soothing bath oils, fragrant bath bombs, calming soaking salts and aromatic candles. A plush robe and slippers will complete the gift and make your recipient feel pampered and cared for.

3. Tickets for two

Two tickets to a special event shows that you're not only paying attention to your loved one's favourite things, but that you also support their interests. Be it the opera, a basketball game or the concert of a beloved artist, give the gift of a one-of-a-kind date night, and amazing memories.

4. Two-gifts-in-one

Did you know that cozy comfort and awesome audio

can go hand-in-hand? A winter beanie with Bluetooth is a sleek and seamless accessory for cold weather commutes, dog walks and other outdoor activities, keeping your loved one's head and ears warm while entertaining them with the music or podcast of their choice.

5. More time in the evening

Delivering wholesome, nutritious ingredients and recipes to doorsteps, a meal subscription service takes some of the heavy-lifting out of menu prep and grocery shopping, giving your Valentine more time to spend on personal pursuits. From services that emphasize the use of organic ingredients and sustainable packaging to those that are tailored to particular dietary restrictions, you'll be sure to find a service that meets your gift recipient's needs and wishes.

As you make your Valentine's Day plans, remember that the best gifts will not only dazzle and impress your special someone, but also make them feel cared for and appreciated.

- StatePoint



Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves.
If you are going to a party or a formal function, don't you dress well?
We all want to promote a favorable impression of ourselves to other people we meet and talk to.
If we agree on that, then think of this. Why should it be any different for your business?
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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

HEALTH NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

Jamaican Health Accelerator And Incubator Gets USD 750 K Investment

Amid a US warning about travel to Jamaica to inadequate medical services, IDB Lab, the innovation laboratory of the Inter-American Development Bank, (IDB) Group, has announced that it has invested US\$750,000 to support the Jamaican company, Novamed, in building Catalyst, the Caribbean region's first health innovation accelerator and incubator.

Health innovation is considered crucial in addressing healthcare challenges in the Caribbean and enhancing access to quality care. The IDB stated that Novamed's focus on private sector-led healthcare innovation aims to improve the quality and

affordability of care, with the potential to benefit vulnerable populations and public agencies delivering care through public-private partnerships.

Through this grant, IDB Lab and Novamed will collaborate to catalyze and accelerate innovation in healthcare while developing an ecosystem to support and nurture new or improved health solutions in the Caribbean region. This initiative will provide specialized knowledge, connections, organizational capacity, and partnerships to support innovators in the healthcare field.

The funds will be utilized for piloting various projects, fostering regional integration



Flash Back - Medical doctor and Founder of Novamed, Dr David Walcott (centre) with business partner and founder of Infiniti Partnerships, Kirk-Anthony Hamilton and Catalyst Health Innovation Summit host Terri-Karelle Reid at a forum in 2021.

and cooperation to strengthen the regional health innovation ecosystem, conducting knowledge exchange missions with other innovation labs, organizing pitch competitions offering micro-grants, providing capacity building for start-ups, and establishing a health innovation community.

Irene Arias, CEO of IDB Lab, emphasized the

importance of catalyzing investments in the Caribbean region, especially in critical sectors like health, to support emerging ecosystems that promote growth and innovation.

Catalyst, supported by IDB Lab, will address four significant and persistent challenges in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region: non-

communicable diseases (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, and obesity), process innovation to improve resource utilization and healthcare delivery efficiency, mental health services, and communicable diseases such as dengue fever and Zika virus.

David Walcott, Founder and Managing Partner of Novamed, described the collaboration with IDB Lab as a significant milestone in their mission to revolutionize healthcare innovation in the Caribbean. The investment in Catalyst aims to foster a dynamic innovation ecosystem that enhances healthcare delivery, affordability, and accessibility, ultimately benefiting people in Jamaica and across the Caribbean. The Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) and other partners will offer financial counterpart support and technical training to the project.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Final Expense Insurance

So many of us are unprepared financially when our Love One dies, or more unfortunate, when we die.

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SPRING HEALTH



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our readers are highly esteemed. 59.6% own their own homes. 76% are between 25-54 years of age (readership study conducted by Circulation Verification Council).

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DEADLINE IS MARCH 25, 2024

Everyday Habits To Help Protect Against Illness This Season

With only 8 percent of children and 21 percent of adults reporting receipt of the 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccine, less than half the population reporting receipt of a flu vaccine and just 20% of adults 60 and over reporting receipt of the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, it's no surprise that rates of respiratory illnesses are at elevated levels this season.

"Respiratory illness is all too common, particularly during colder months when people spend more time indoors and germs can spread more easily," says Dr. Albert Rizzo, chief medical officer, American Lung Association. "Fortunately, there are many strategies for staying healthy."

The American Lung Association is sharing everyday habits you can adopt to help avoid infection, along with information about available tools to help prevent severe illness:

• Wash Your Hands

Regularly wash your hands with soap and water. If soap and water isn't available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

• Cover Your Cough And Sneeze

Stop the spread of infection by using a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze. You can use your elbow if a tissue is not available.

• Keep Your Distance

Close contact with a

person who is sick increases exposure to respiratory droplets containing a virus. Maintain your distance whenever possible.

• Stay Home

In addition to staying home when you are sick, try your best to keep your distance from household members to help prevent them from getting sick.

• Clean And Disinfect

When someone is sick at home, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces is especially important to help prevent the spread of illness.

• Consider Wearing A Mask

Wearing a mask helps provide protection against circulating viruses, and can help protect people at higher risk of serious illness. Effectiveness does vary depending on the virus and mask quality.

• Get Up To Date

Talk to your doctor to see if you and your family members are up to date on vaccinations. Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. RSV vaccination is recommended for adults 60 years of age and older after having a discussion with their healthcare provider. Maternal RSV vaccination is recommended as an option to help prevent babies from developing severe RSV illness and is given during weeks 32-36 of pregnancy during September through January. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for

everyone 6 months of age and older.

• Learn More About Monoclonal Antibodies

If you have an infant or are an expectant parent, ask your healthcare provider about a monoclonal antibody injection to help provide protection against severe RSV illness. This preventative antibody is recommended for infants under 8 months of age and babies between 8-19 months at increased risk of severe RSV.

• Get Tested, If Needed

If you do get sick, testing can help your healthcare provider determine which virus you have, and inform next steps such as treatment. Talk to your healthcare provider about testing right away if you get sick, especially if you are at increased risk for severe illness.

• Seek Treatment

Antiviral medications available for flu and COVID-19 may lower your risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death if started early and within the recommended treatment window. For more resources, visit, lung.org/viruses.

To feel your best this season, adopt healthy habits. And if you do fall ill, take steps to get the right treatment.

- *StatePoint*



These 7 New Hotels Will Open In The Caribbean This Year

Seven exciting new hotels are set to open in the Caribbean region this year, boosting the region's tourism product. They are:

1: St. Regis Cap Cana, Dominican Republic

Nestled within Cap Cana's exclusive five-star real estate, the St. Regis Cap Cana will open this Spring and will be a luxurious retreat with a 200-room hotel and 70 luxury homes. Surrounded by a scenic golf course, this resort boasts 800 feet of private beachfront and stunning views of crystal blue waters and the Punta Espada Golf Club.

When viewed from above, the St. Regis Cap Cana seamlessly integrates with the picturesque Punta Espada Golf Course. The verdant rooftop of the development adds a touch of serenity to the already stunning beachside vistas, complementing the Dominican Republic's pristine crystal blue waters and the lush scenery of the Punta Espada Golf Course. Acebal's design thoughtfully includes 15 Golf Terrace residences, providing a prime vantage point overlooking holes #1 and #2 for an unparalleled golfing experience.

2: Sandals Saint Vincent and The Grenadines Resort

Nestled in a valley amongst lush mountains and the cobalt blue Caribbean sea, Sandals Saint Vincent and The Grenadines unlocks a new island destination for Sandals Resorts guests, opening March 27, 2024.

Sandals' latest offering will open in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on March 27th. It features 301 rooms, suites, and villas, including two-story overwater villas. There will be sixteen unique



Sandals Saint-Vincent is among the new hotels to be opened this year.

food and beverage concepts, including the brand's first communal restaurant, Buccan. Sandals Saint Vincent and The Grenadines will offer 301 superbly appointed rooms and the portfolio's most expansive suites to date, with Two-Bedroom Butler Villas spanning across the waterfront – a "Sandals First." Interiors throughout feature special biophilic elements and the warmth of local volcanic materials, and views intentionally framing the unique flora.

Vincy Overwater Two-Story Villas reimagine Sandals' iconic suites, with an evolved design across two stories built directly atop the sea, complete with a rooftop outdoor lounge with views as far as the eye can see. Select villas and suites throughout the resort up the ante with a dedicated space for movie nights in, and private fitness rooms with Technogym equipment, athletic programming, and an assortment of free weights. A focal point from the open-air lobby, a 300-foot linear pool appears to meet the horizon, flanked by posh cabanas and Swim-Up Bar access. An adjacent crescent-shaped pool invites guests to

lounge and swim under the Saint Vincent sun, while Parisol's double-crescent infinity-edge pool hugs the sand and overlooks the bay. Built along the riverside, the sound of flowing water will surround Red Lane Spa cabanas to really connect guests with the serene outdoors. Beyond the sand, the destination's prime location on the Atlantic shelf makes it one of the Caribbean's most abundant with local fish, with Sandals all-inclusive resort as a gateway to incredible snorkelling and scuba diving – and other exploration opportunities galore.

3: Zemi Miches All-Inclusive Resort, Dominican Republic

Part of the Curio Collection by Hilton, this resort will open in the DR this year. It will feature opens with 503 rooms and bungalows, including swim-up room options. Enviably located north of Punta Cana in the coastal town of Miches, the brand-new 502-room all-inclusive resort will welcome travellers to an area known for its pristine beaches, sprawling mountain landscapes and lush natural surroundings. The property is owned by Zemi Hotels & Resorts, S.R.L. and will be managed by Hilton. It will

include 123 ground level swim-up guest rooms featuring individual plunge pools that connect via a winding pool allowing guests to swim to other areas of the resort.

4: Bermudiana Beach Resort, Bermuda

Located near Bermuda's pink sand beaches, this Tapestry Collection by Hilton resort will open in October. It will offer 111 rooms, a cliff-top bar, ocean-view pool, and beachfront access. Overlooking Marley Beach, this cliff top resort is five minutes from the famous Horseshoe Bay Beach. The capital city of Hamilton is just 15 minutes away, and Southlands Park is right outside its doors. Each of its suites has a balcony or terrace while the resort will have two pools, a cliff top bar and restaurant, and an outdoor events lawn.

5: Six Senses La Sagesse, Grenada

Set along La Sagesse beach, this wellness resort will open in May. It will offer 71 suites and villas built with repurposed materials. Surrounded by nature, it will also include 56 pool suites combine eco-credentials and comfort, each leading to a private plunge pool for a cooling dip. In addition, there will be 15 villas enjoying a prime hillside or beachfront setting, ranging between one, two, and four bedrooms. The five four-bedroom villas on the Bluff offer a 270-degree view of one of the most coveted locations in the Caribbean.

6: Royalton CHIC Antigua

Blue Diamond Resorts is gearing up to launch an adults-only, all-inclusive resort on

Antigua's picturesque northwest coast in April of next year.

Formerly known as Starfish Halcyon Cove, this resort is currently undergoing an extensive renovation, with significant enhancements planned for the Diamond Club sections, pool areas, spa, restaurants, and lobbies. While two existing buildings will still be utilized for guestrooms, they have been completely refurbished, rendering them practically new inside.

The Royalton Chic Antigua will boast a total of 235 well-appointed guestrooms, each featuring a private balcony or terrace to enhance the guest experience.

Dining enthusiasts will have a delightful array of options with seven restaurants on-site, complemented by five bars. The resort also offers sports and fitness facilities, as well as a rejuvenating spa. For added convenience, guests can enjoy round-the-clock room service during their stay.

7: Hotel Indigo Grand Cayman

Hotel Indigo Grand Cayman is set to open on June 1, 2024 near Seven Mile Beach. The 10-storey hotel being constructed along the Esterley Tibbetts Highway just south of Kimpton Seafire Resort + Spa will feature 282 guest rooms and a 6,700 square foot ballroom, the latter of which will serve well for local and tourist-focused conferences and events. It will also include a stunning ocean-view pool, and pet-friendly accommodations at this IHG Hotel.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Americans Warned About Travel To Jamaica, The Bahamas

The U.S. is warning nationals about travel to Jamaica and The Bahamas.

Concerns about inadequate medical services across Jamaica have prompted the United States to update its travel advisory to level 3, which warns citizens to reconsider travel. This is in addition to the standard caution about crime.

In its advisory issued recently, the Department of State told American citizens to reconsider travel to Jamaica due to crime and medical services. The advisory stated that "local police often do not respond effectively to serious criminal incidents. When arrests are made, cases are infrequently prosecuted to a conclusive sentence."

It added that families of U.S. citizens killed in accidents frequently wait a year or more for final death certificates to be issued by Jamaican authorities.

"The homicide rate reported by the Government of Jamaica has for several years been among the highest in the Western Hemisphere. U.S. government personnel under chief of mission security responsibility, are prohibited from travelling to

several areas, from using public buses, and from driving outside of prescribed areas of Kingston at night."

Concerning emergency services and hospital care, the advisory said this varies throughout the island, and response times and quality of care may vary from U.S. standards.

"Public hospitals are under-resourced and cannot always provide high level or specialized care. Private hospitals require payment up front before admitting patients and may not have the ability to provide specialized care. Ambulance services are not always readily available, especially in rural areas, and are not always staffed by trained personnel."

"We strongly encourage you to obtain traveller's insurance, including medical evacuation insurance, before travelling to Jamaica," the advisory noted, adding that the Department of State does not pay medical bills.

THE BAHAMAS

The United States, meanwhile, blamed "retaliatory gang violence" as the primary motive for murders in The

Bahamas as it warned its nationals to be aware of the situation when visiting the Caribbean Community, (CARICOM) country.

In a statement, the US embassy advised American citizens to be "aware that 18 murders have occurred in Nassau since the beginning of 2024.1.24"

"Murders have occurred at all hours including in broad daylight on the streets.

Retaliatory gang violence has been the primary motive in 2024 murders," it said, urging Americans to "exercise extreme caution in the eastern part of New Providence Island" and use caution when walking or driving at night.

In addition, Americans have been told to keep a low profile and do not physically resist any robbery attempt.

The announcement by the

Embassy follows a statement by Prime Minister Phillip Davis to Parliament on Wednesday, that his government would be tabling amendments to the Bail Act to ensure that bail is automatically revoked for suspects who violate the conditions of their bail.

- CMC





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SCAN ME

BLACK HISTORY MONTH


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Pompano's Tribute To Bahamian Roots Actress Continues This Black History Month

The City of Pompano's tribute to Bahamian roots actress Esther Rolle continues this Black History Month with the "Native Daughter: An Esther Rolle Inspired Art Exhibition" at the Ali Cultural Arts Center.

The exhibition, which opened on November 8 last year, will run through February 10th, and celebrates the life and enduring legacy of Rolle, who was born in Pompano to Bahamian immigrant parents and became famous for her role as the beloved character, Florida Evans, in the classic TV series "Good Times."

The annual exhibition, which coincided with what would have been Rolle's 103rd birthday, is a cherished tradition that commemorates her remarkable achievements as an award-winning actress and passionate activist.

The event showcases a curated collection of new artworks sourced from artists across the nation, including Cesar Ceballos, Tafara Clarke, Sami Davidson, Gregory Dirr, Kim Ferguson, Holly Forbes, Desirae Foston, Joanne Hampstead, Tereza Hazelton, G. Ryan Hudson, Martin Karadzhev, Manzi Liu, Susan Miiller, Leonardo Montoya, Cibby Orozco, Renata Rodrigues, and J.L. Schwartz.

ABOUT ESTHER ROLLE

Rolle, born in Pompano Beach, on Nov. 8, 1920 to Jonathan and Elizabeth Rolle. She was the tenth of 18 siblings. Rolle first attended the Booker T. Washington High School in Miami, Florida, and then, when her family moved to Pompano Beach, Rolle Graduated from Blanche Ely High School.

Rolle initially studied at the Spelman College in Atlanta, however, she soon moved to the Hunter College in New York City, where she worked various jobs at the New York City Garment district to support her college education. Rolle was also a member of the highly prestigious Zeta Phi Beta sorority.

Rolle's career in acting was aided in part by her performances for the Asadata Dafora's dance troupe, which was named Shogolo Oloba. In 1960, Rolle became the director of that troupe, which was later renamed as "The Federal Theatre African Dance Troupe". In New York, Rolle first performed in 1962 for a play called "The Blacks". Rolle then consistently performed for the Negro Ensemble Company under the highly prolific producer, Robert Hooks. Rolle then appeared for "The Crucible" and "Blues for Mr. Charlie," which were both relatively successful. By far, Rolle's most famous stage plays were her portrayals of Miss Maybell and Lady Macbeth for the 1973 Melvin Van Peebles Play and the 1977 Orson Welles Macbeth interpretation respectively.

Rolle's commitment to addressing social and political injustice extended to her involvement with the National Organization for Women, (NOW), and her honorary membership in Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, an organization of college-educated African American women. Her contributions spanned 39 roles in film and television, along with numerous theatrical performances. Esther Rolle's final film, "Train Ride," was released in 2000, two years after her passing, leaving



Bahamian Roots Actress Esther Rolle is among the Caribbean Americans who are a huge part of America's Black History.

an indelible mark on the world of entertainment and activism.

Rolle's journey in the entertainment industry began with an uncredited role in Robert Mulligan's "To Kill a Mockingbird" in 1962. She then

joined her sister, Estelle Evans, for the film "The Learning Tree" in 1969.

However, it was her role in the iconic sitcom "Maude" in 1972 that propelled her to stardom. Portraying the character of 'Florida Evans,' the no-nonsense and open-minded housekeeper, Rolle became a household name.

Her portrayal of 'Florida Evans' was so beloved that it led to a spin-off series in 1974 titled "Good Times," where she took on the lead role. In recognition of her outstanding performance, Rolle received a Golden Globe nomination in 1975 for her work in "Good Times." Her talent further shone in the direct-to-television movie "Summer of My German Soldier" in 1979, earning her an Emmy Award.

Following her success on "Good Times," Rolle predominantly appeared in direct-to-television movies. Her notable

roles included Bruce Beresford's "Driving Miss Daisy" in 1989 and Peter Segal's "My Fellow Americans." She also made a memorable appearance in Fielder Cook's "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings," based on Maya Angelou's memoir, and featured in John Singleton's "Rosewood" in 1997. Throughout her career, Rolle graced the stage with her talent, participating in fifteen stage plays from 1965 to 1989, and took on a variety of television roles spanning from 1964 to 1998.

In addition to her acting prowess, Rolle showcased her versatility by releasing a music album in 1975, titled "The Garden of My Mind." Her multi-faceted career left an indelible mark on the world of entertainment, making her a beloved and respected figure in film, television, and music.

For more information about this exhibition visit pompanobeacharts.org.



South Florida Celebrates Black History Month With A Flourish Of Arts And Culture

South Florida is gearing up for an exciting and culturally rich celebration of Black History Month this February. As the nation collectively acknowledges and honors the contributions and sacrifices of Black Americans, the local community is no exception, with a wide range of cultural events and festivities planned throughout the month.

This year's national theme, "African Americans and the Arts," will be at the forefront of many of these celebrations, highlighting the

significant role of Black artists and creatives in shaping the cultural landscape.

Here's a closer look at some of the top picks for celebrating Black History Month in South Florida:

Brévo Theatre

On **February 11 at 3 p.m.**, Brévo Theatre will present "TM Pride's: Emancipation Blues" at the Pompano Beach Library & Cultural Arts Center. This ballet performance serves as a heartfelt tribute to the resilience, courage, and cultural vibrancy of the Black community.

Sponsored in part by the Broward Cultural Division, "Emancipation Blues" blends artistic expression with historical narrative. The performance incorporates a variety of dance styles, including West African, modern, jazz, tap, and hip-hop, all beautifully synchronized with poetic narration. Set against a backdrop of jazz compositions by legends like Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald, the ballet artfully depicts key historical moments, from the civil rights era to the modern-day Black Lives Matter movement.

I Dream a World Festival

New World Symphony presents "I Dream a World: Mary Lou's Harlem" from **February 4-25**, featuring a range of programs paying tribute to Mary Lou Williams, often hailed as "the first lady of jazz."

The festival kicks off on February 7th at 8 p.m. with a screening of the documentary "The Lady Who Swings the Band." This documentary features "History: A Wind Symphony," an unfinished composition re-orchestrated by composer

and Duke University professor Anthony Kelley. The film is narrated by Alfie Woodard and includes performances by Grammy Award-nominated guest vocalist Carmen Lundy and musicologist Tammy Kernodle, who also serves as the festival's curator.

On **February 8th at 7:30 p.m.**, "Chamber Music: In the Land of Oo Blah Dee" will showcase the works of Mary Lou Williams, Thelonious Mark, Valerie Coleman, David Barker, and more. The event will take place at The Black Archives Historic Lyric Theater in Overtown.

"Cabaret: Mary Lou's Salon," scheduled for **February 22nd**, will be led by Grammy-nominated pianist Aaron Diehl, accompanied by New World Symphony and other guest performers. This cabaret-style show, hosted at New World Center's Truist Pavilion, features works by artists like Monk, Coleman, and selections from Williams' "Zodiac Suite."

"The Soundworld of Mary Lou Williams" will be presented on **February 24th and 25th** at the Michael Tilson Thomas Performance Hall. Led by conductor Andrew Grams, the program includes performances by Carmen Lundy, the Ambassador Chorale of Florida Memorial University, and the Jazz Vocal Ensemble of Florida International University. The presentation will feature selections from Williams' "Zodiac Suite" and "Mass."

Additionally, concert ticketholders will have the exclusive opportunity to explore an exhibition of Mary Lou Williams' artifacts, displayed at New World Center's atrium and Clinton Ensemble Room.



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Get Ready For ICC Men’s T20 World Cup In Broward

The ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024 is set to captivate cricket fans again in Broward county Florida.

The tournament will be hosted across three venues in the USA, including at the Broward County Stadium in Lauderhill, Florida, and six in the Caribbean, promising a thrilling 29-day cricket extravaganza.

Lauderhill will come alive with the first match on June 11th with Nepal facing Sri Lanka while the USA takes on Ireland on June 14th. On June 15th, India will face Canada while Pakistan faces Ireland on June 16th.

With ten of the 20 participating teams kicking off their campaigns in the USA, cricket enthusiasts can expect 16 exciting clashes in Lauderhill,



Broward County will host 4 of the US matches in the June ICC Men’s T20 World Cup for 2024.

Lauderhill Stadium will host matches between Nepal and Sri Lanka; the USA and Ireland; India and Canada and Pakistan and Ireland.

Dallas, and New York. One of the most highly anticipated matches of the tournament, India vs. Pakistan, is scheduled to take place at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Long Island on June 9th.

In the Caribbean, 41 matches will unfold across six different islands, leading up to the semi-finals in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. The grand finale will be held in Barbados on June 29, promising an exhilarating conclusion to the tournament.

The event features four groups, each comprising five teams. The top two teams from each group will progress to the Super Eight phase, followed by the knockout semi-finals and the ultimate title showdown.

Group A boasts co-hosts USA, arch-rivals India and Pakistan, Canada making their tournament debut, and European side Ireland.

Group B features the past two Men’s T20 World Cup winners, England and Australia, who will face off against Namibia, Scotland, and Oman.

Group C sees the West Indies joined by New Zealand, Afghanistan, Uganda, and Papua New Guinea.

Group D showcases South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Netherlands, and Nepal.

The tournament kicks off on June 1 with the co-hosts USA taking on neighbours Canada in Dallas. Meanwhile, fellow hosts West Indies will challenge Papua New Guinea in Guyana on the tournament’s second day.

Cricket fans around the world can look forward to a thrilling competition, with teams battling for T20 cricket supremacy across the USA and the Caribbean.

- NewsAmericasNow.com

For the full fixture list of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024, refer to the provided schedule below:

DATES	MATCHES	GROUPS	VENUES
June 1	USA vs Canada	Group A	Dallas
June 2	West Indies vs Papua New Guinea	Group C	Guyana
June 2	Namibia vs Oman	Group B	Barbados
June 3	Sri Lanka vs South Africa	Group D	New York
June 3	Afghanistan vs Uganda	Group C	Guyana
June 4	England vs Scotland	Group B	Barbados
June 4	Netherlands vs Nepal	Group D	Dallas
June 5	India vs Ireland	Group A	New York
June 5	Papua New Guinea vs Uganda	Group C	Guyana
June 5	Australia vs Oman	Group B	Barbados
June 6	USA vs Pakistan	Group A	Dallas
June 6	Namibia vs Scotland	Group B	Barbados
June 7	Canada vs Ireland	Group A	New York
June 7	New Zealand vs Afghanistan	Group C	Guyana
June 7	Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh	Group D	Dallas
June 8	Netherlands vs South Africa	Group D	New York
June 8	Australia vs England	Group B	Barbados
June 8	West Indies vs Uganda	Group C	Guyana
June 9	India vs Pakistan	Group A	New York
June 9	Oman vs Scotland	Group B	Antigua and Barbuda
June 10	South Africa vs Bangladesh	Group D	New York
June 11	Pakistan vs Canada	Group A	New York
June 11	Sri Lanka vs Nepal	Group D	Lauderhill
June 11	Australia vs Namibia	Group B	Antigua and Barbuda
June 12	z	Group A	New York
June 12	West Indies vs New Zealand	Group C	Trinidad and Tobago
June 13	England vs Oman	Group B	Antigua and Barbuda
June 13	Bangladesh vs Netherlands	Group D	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
June 13	Afghanistan vs Papua New Guinea	Group C	Trinidad and Tobago
June 14	USA vs Ireland	Group A	Lauderhill
June 14	South Africa vs Nepal	Group D	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
June 14	New Zealand vs Uganda	Group C	Trinidad and Tobago
June 15	India vs Canada	Group A	Lauderhill
June 15	Namibia vs England	Group B	Antigua and Barbuda
June 15	Australia vs Scotland	Group B	Saint Lucia
June 16	Pakistan vs Ireland	Group A	Lauderhill
June 16	Bangladesh vs Nepal	Group D	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
June 16	Sri Lanka vs Netherlands	Group D	Saint Lucia
June 17	New Zealand vs Papua New Guinea	Group C	Trinidad and Tobago
June 17	West Indies vs Afghanistan	Group C	Saint Lucia
June 19	A2 vs D1	Group 2	Antigua and Barbuda
June 19	B1 vs C2	Group 2	Saint Lucia
June 20	C1 vs A1	Group 1	Barbados
June 20	B2 vs D2	Group 1	Antigua and Barbuda
June 21	B1 vs D1	Group 2	Saint Lucia
June 21	A2 vs C2	Group 2	Barbados
June 22	A1 vs D2	Group 1	Antigua and Barbuda
June 22	C1 vs B2	Group 1	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
June 23	A2 vs B1	Group 2	Barbados
June 23	C2 vs D1	Group 2	Antigua and Barbuda
June 24	B2 vs A1	Group 1	Saint Lucia
June 24	C1 vs D1	Group 1	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
June 26	TBD	Semi-final 1	Guyana
June 27	TBD	Semi-final 2	Trinidad and Tobago
June 29	TBD	Final	Barbados.

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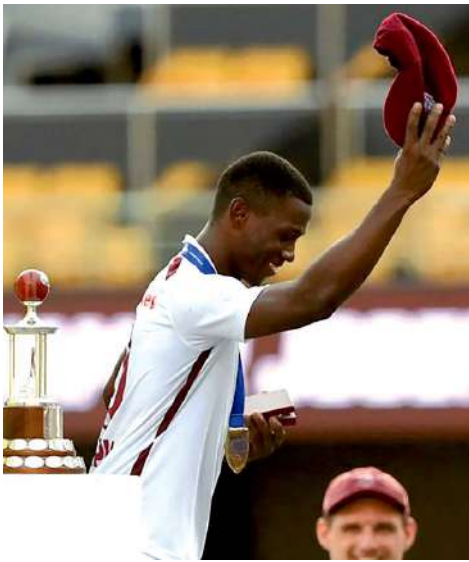
Guyanese-Born, Windies Bowler Joins Peshawar Zalmi For Pakistan Super League

Guyana-born, West Indies' rising fast bowler, Shamar Joseph, has been signed by Peshawar Zalmi for the upcoming Pakistan Super League, (PSL), scheduled for later this month.

This move comes just two days after Joseph's standout performance in the second Test match in Brisbane on January 27th, which helped the Windies men to victory.

The 24-year-old, who recently made his debut in Adelaide, was initially brought in as a replacement for England fast bowler Gus Atkinson. Peshawar Zalmi had initially named Atkinson as a replacement for Afghan spinner Noor Ahmad. However, since Atkinson is currently on England's tour of India, Joseph was chosen as the stand-in.

Peshawar Zalmi confirmed Joseph's inclusion in their squad on X, formerly known as Twitter, stating, "Fans asked, we delivered. Welcome to the Zalmi family Shamar Joseph." Although Joseph was initially signed as a replacement, ESPNcricinfo reported that he



Fresh from his historic performance in Australia, Guyana-born, West Indies' rising fast bowler, Shamar Joseph, has been signed by Peshawar Zalmi for the upcoming Pakistan Super League, (PSL). (CMC image)

is expected to stay with the team for the entire tournament, which runs from February 17 to March 24.

If this arrangement holds, it means that Joseph, who has limited experience with only seven first-class matches, will be available for only the last two rounds of the Cricket West Indies four-day championship, commencing on February 7. Joseph will find familiar faces at Peshawar Zalmi, including West

Indies' white-ball head coach, Darren Sammy, who will serve as Zalmi's head coach for the upcoming season. Additionally, Twenty20 captain Rovman Powell is expected to feature for the team.

Joseph made headlines with his performance during the West Indies' two-Test tour of Australia. He secured a five-wicket haul on his debut in the Adelaide Test, despite the team losing by ten wickets. Joseph continued to impress by taking an astounding seven for 68 in the second Test, leading West Indies to an unexpected eight-run victory at the Gabba.

The under-strength West Indies had initially lost the opening game in Adelaide by 10 wickets but hit back strongly to win the second Test by eight runs in Brisbane, to force a 1-1 draw in the series.

The series result halted a worrisome run of nine consecutive series defeats, with the Brisbane victory marking West Indies' first in Tests Down Under for 27 years. Although Joseph has limited experience in T20 cricket, having played just two matches for the

Guyana Amazon Warriors in the 2023 Caribbean Premier League, his remarkable talent has earned him a spot in the Peshawar Zalmi squad for the PSL.

Joseph was born in Baracara, a small community in East Berbice-Corentyne, Guyana, about 225 km up the Canje River, and two days by boat from the port city of New Amsterdam. Joseph was named Man of the Match and Man of the Series for his shattering wicket-taking at the Gabba.

CRICKET WINDIES

Dr. Kishore Shallow, President of Cricket West Indies, remarked "This victory is a testament to the indomitable spirit of West Indies cricket. It demonstrates our ability to rise above adversity and justly be among the world's cricketing elite."

President Shallow continued, "Captain Kraigg Brathwaite's exemplary leadership has been instrumental in guiding our team through challenges and victories alike. His resilience, determination, and unwavering dedication to the cause have inspired this young

team and every member of our cricketing fraternity."

SIR CURTLY'S ADVICE

Meanwhile, renowned former fast bowler Sir Curtly Ambrose has advised Joseph, to concentrate on the longer format of the game to refine his skills. Following Joseph's impressive performance in the second Test against Australia in Brisbane, Sir Curtly emphasized the importance of establishing a strong foundation in red-ball cricket before venturing into shorter formats.

Speaking on the matter, Sir Curtly stated, "I believe that he loves cricket in general and it doesn't matter whether it's Test, ODI, or T20 cricket. I believe he is just passionate about cricket."

He continued, "But for me, I would love to see him continue playing red-ball cricket for a while so that he can develop his skills. Because we know sometimes as a young player as you gain success you are wanted in the T20 franchise cricket around the world."

- Rewritten from CMC



Memphis 901 FC Signs Jamaican Forward Neco Brett



Jamaican forward Neco Brett has been signed by Memphis 901 FC.

Memphis 901 FC, a United Soccer League (USL) team,

recently announced the signing of Jamaican forward Neco Brett

to a multi-year contract, pending approval from the USL and the United States Soccer Federation.

Brett, formerly with the Birmingham Legion, another USL team, is the latest English-speaking Caribbean player to secure an opportunity in the league. Memphis 901 FC's assistant sporting director, Caleb Patterson-Sewell, expressed his excitement about the acquisition, highlighting Brett's proven goal-scoring record and extensive experience.

"We are delighted to welcome Neco to Memphis,"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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Caribbean Football Star For Super Bowl LVIII



Trinidad & Tobago-born Javon Kinlaw is about to light up Super Bowl LVIII as he takes center stage with the San Francisco 49ers against the Kansas City Chiefs at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas on February 11th. (Getty image)

Get ready, Caribbean football fans! Trinidad & Tobago-born Javon Kinlaw is about to light up Super Bowl LVIII as he takes center stage with the San Francisco 49ers against the Kansas City Chiefs at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas on February 11th (6:30 p.m. ET, CBS). He's the sole Caribbean-born immigrant gracing this year's Super Bowl!

Kinlaw, wearing jersey #99, started his remarkable journey in Port of Spain, Trinidad, facing adversity when he, his mother, and brother relocated to Washington, D.C., and endured homelessness. Despite these hardships, Kinlaw's resilience and passion

for football led him to college at South Carolina and a first-round pick by the 49ers in the 2020 NFL Draft.

His journey was filled with challenges, from struggling with basic amenities to adapting to difficult circumstances. Kinlaw's life took a positive turn when he moved to South Carolina during his ninth-grade year. Football became his escape and a source of stability, even though he faced bullying and doubts about his future.

With perseverance, he earned a scholarship to the University of South Carolina, marking the beginning of his transformation. Despite

academic struggles and trust issues, Kinlaw's dedication and guidance from mentors led him to Jones College in Mississippi, where he earned his GED and an associate's degree.

Today, Kinlaw is a force on the football field, contributing significantly to the 49ers' success. His journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and self-improvement. Stay tuned as he aims to secure the Lombardi Trophy in the upcoming Super Bowl showdown.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Former Cricketer Lawrence "Yagga" Rowe Toasted In Fort Lauderdale

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Few cricketers have been vilified as Lawrence "Yagga" Rowe, the elegant Jamaican batsman who thrilled West Indian fans during the 1970s with his impeccable stroke play.

Rowe has been shunned by many fans and the cricket hierarchy in Jamaica since leading two rebel West Indies teams to Apartheid-run South Africa in 1983 and 1984.

But on January 20th, he was the toast of a gala at The Westin Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. The event was part of a three-day series organized by his Lawrence Rowe Legendary Cricket Foundation.

It was attended by former West Indies cricketers including, Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Andy Roberts, Courtney Walsh, Chris Gayle, Joel Garner, Collis King and Faud Bacchus, as well as Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake.

Presented by Aquaplus and Worldwide Sports, the gala marked the 50th anniversary of Rowe's majestic 302 against England at Kensington Oval in Barbados in March, 1974.

Guests included Broward County commissioners Hazelle Rogers and Denise Grant, and former Jamaica youth cricketer and West Indies Cricket Board marketing officer Chris Dehring.

Rogers presented Rowe with keys to Broward County



Lawrence Rowe receives the Keys to Broward County from Broward County commissioner Hazelle Rogers at the January 20 gala at The Westin Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. The event commemorated the 30th anniversary of the former Jamaica and West Indies batsman's 302 against England at Kensington Oval in Barbados. (Contributed Image)

while Grant presented him with a proclamation for "Lawrence Rowe Day."

Keys to Broward County were also presented to Richards and Roberts, the legendary Antiguan who were key players in the powerful West Indies teams of the 1970s and 1980s.

Dehring, who led organization for the 2007 Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean, was keynote speaker. He was

critical of the spiteful treatment Rowe continues to receive in his homeland, 41 years after the second South African series.

"Black South Africans forgave their oppressors years ago through their Truth and Reconciliation process. To see a mural unveiled at Sabina Park honoring 19 of Jamaica's greatest cricketers, and no Yagga Rowe is as abhorrent to the ground he helped make famous,

as it is to the glorious game itself. It is time to end this farce," said Dehring.

Richards, in a brief address, agreed, saying, "I certainly endorse that."

During his speech, the 75 year-old Rowe spoke about leading a 16-man team of black and Asian West Indian players to South Africa, at a time when that country was globally ostracized because of its policy of racial segregation.

"When I made my decision, I thought about it long and hard. I didn't feel if we went we would have made it any worse for black people in South Africa. But just

by chance, we could have made it just a little better," he said.

He acknowledged the presence of Collis King, the Barbadian all-rounder who went to South Africa as part of the rebel teams. They were given life bans by the West Indies Cricket Board which was lifted in 1989.

Lawrence Rowe made his Test debut against New Zealand at Sabina Park in Kingston in February, 1972. He scored 214 and 100 not out, a record that still stands for a debutant. He played 30 Tests for the West Indies, scoring 2,047 runs at average of 43.55.



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Caribbean Today

Memphis 901 FC Signs Jamaican Forward Neco Brett

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

Patterson-Sewell stated. "Neco is a proven goal scorer at this level and brings a wealth of experience. Throughout our discussions, we learned a lot more about Neco, his desire to win a championship, and what he brings in terms of mentality. We are getting a driven player looking for another big season, and we are delighted it is with us."

With 85 goals in over 200

appearances, Neco Brett ranks third on the all-time scoring list in the USL Championship. Last season, the 32-year-old netted 12 goals in 32 matches for Birmingham, even achieving a remarkable hat-trick in less than 15 minutes of play against FC Tulsa.

Brett commenced his professional career in Jamaica and represented the national Under-17 and Under-20 teams before joining Robert Morris

University on the American college circuit from 2012 to 2015. He was then selected in the second round of the 2016 MLS SuperDraft by the Portland Timbers.

Memphis 901 FC is scheduled to kick off the USL Championship regular season against Las Vegas Lights FC on March 9 at AutoZone Park.

- Rewritten from CMC



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This Black History Month, we celebrate those driven to write their own story, supported by the leaders and mentors who inspire them on their journey. Join the first certified African American master chef and his young protégé in exploring how heritage and history shape the path ahead.

Watch now at publix.com/blackhistorymonth.



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Assistant Sous Cameron Byron

