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JUNE 2020

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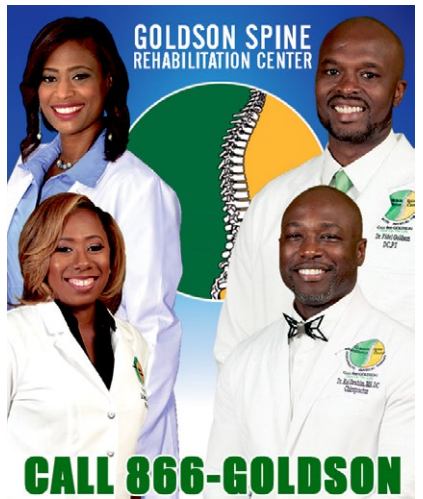
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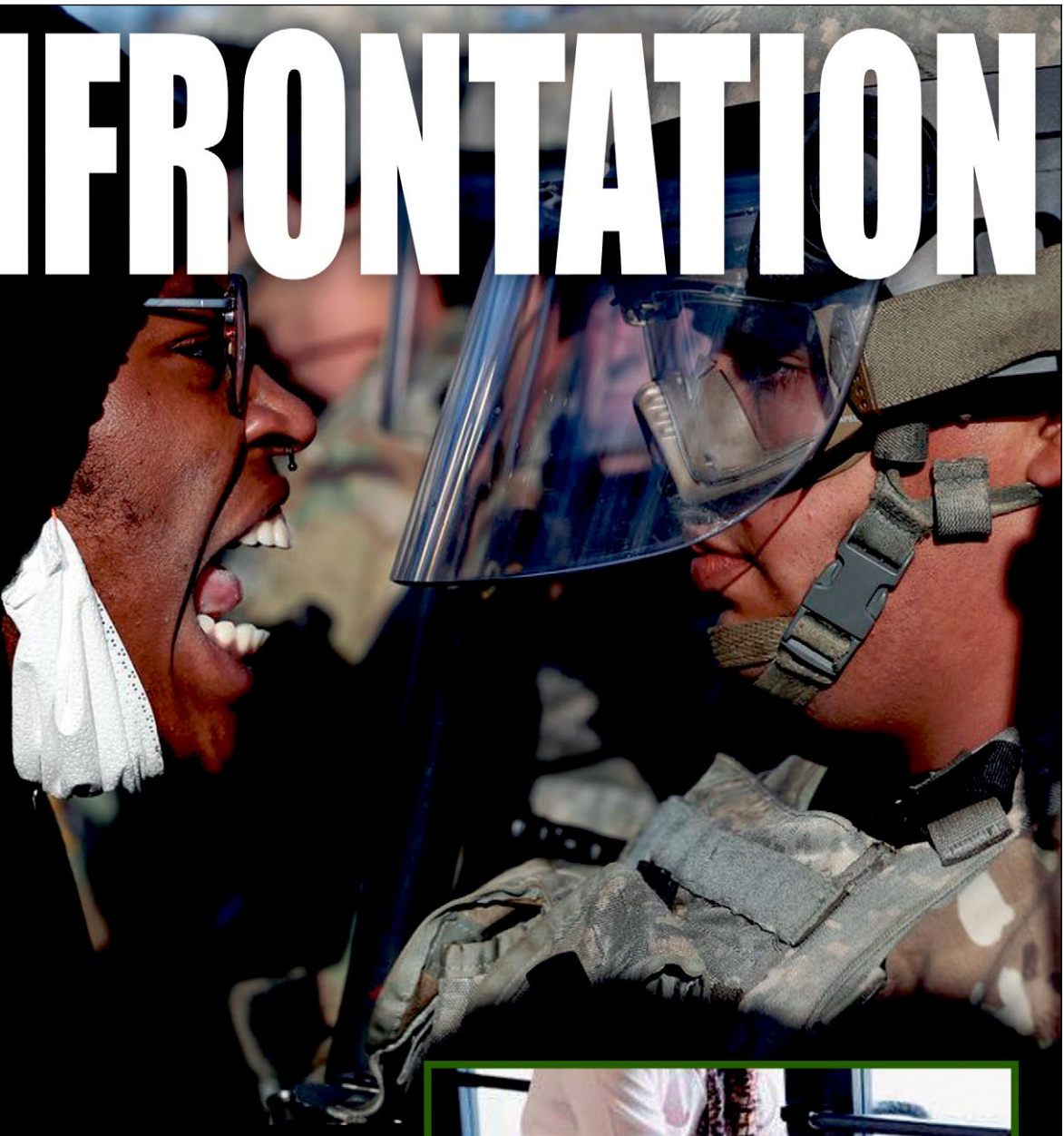
The United States government is scrambling to free thousands of prison inmates, in a bid to slow the coronavirus spread in lock-ups, but there will be no quick release for more than a dozen Caribbean nationals on Death Row, page 2.



The largest Caribbean carnival celebration in the United States is set - for now - to go on as planned this Labor Day in September. But organizers are monitoring the lingering threat from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), page 15.

# CONFRONTATION

~ The United States erupted last month over the killing of an unarmed and defenseless black man by a white police officer. Civilians clashed with law enforcement during protests in major U.S. cities. Prominent Caribbean nationals weighed in on what they call racism, which they see as a threat to people from the region as well, **page 3.**



# OPEN AND SHUT CASE

~ States are re-opening from the shutdown caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic, which has infected two million and killed more than 100,000 in the U.S. However, Caribbean nationals are not all eager to return to what used to be a "normal" life before COVID-19, **page 7.**



## INSIDE

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# NO WAY OUT: Caribbean nationals stuck on Death Row in U.S. during COVID-19

**GORDON WILLIAMS**

The United States government is scrambling to free thousands of non-violent inmates, in a bid to slow the coronavirus spread in prisons, but there will be no quick release for more than a dozen Caribbean nationals on Death Row.

According to Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC), at least 15 Caribbean nationals were incarcerated under the sentence of death in U.S. prisons through Dec. 2019. Some have exhausted court options and await execution or pardon. Others have appeals pending.

Cuba, with eight, represents the biggest cluster of U.S. Death Row inmates from the region, followed by two each from Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, and one from The Bahamas, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis, respectively.

Two women, St. Kitts and Nevis-born Linda Carty, who also claims British citizenship, and Cuba's Ana Maria Cardona, are among Caribbean Death Row inmates scattered across several penal institutions in the U.S. At least three Caribbean

nationals who were sentenced to death await re-sentencing or a new trial following a ruling by an appellate court.

**UNLIKELY**

Yet it is unlikely any of them will benefit from an early release to escape contracting the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in prison.

Government authorities fear the absence of social distancing will lead to catastrophic levels of contracting the virus among prison inmates and staff. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP), through May 20, reported 2,265 inmates and 188 staff tested positive for COVID-19. Some 58 inmates and staff at BOP institutions had died from the virus up to that time.

However, Death Row inmates usually occupy a cell alone and generally do not mingle with the rest of the prison population. In addition, their crimes -almost all have been convicted of murder - make them violent offenders and therefore not considered eligible



Carty

for early release due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yet some Caribbean nationals are fighting their death sentence. Dolan Darling, of The Bahamas; Jamaica's Lancelot Armstrong; plus Dane Abdool and Noel Doorbalo of Trinidad and Tobago are awaiting re-sentencing or new trial.

**WAIT**

For others, like Carty, they await execution, pardon or exoneration resulting from political pressure. Carty, who is being held in Texas after being convicted two decades ago, is "facing possible execution in the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

# Cuba blasts U.S. for slow action to shooting attack at its embassy

The government of Cuba is complaining about lack of action by the United States following what it called a terrorist attack on its embassy in the U.S. capital.

A gunman reportedly fired shots at its embassy in April, damaging the front of the building in Washington, D.C.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, in an interview with U.S. cable network CNN last month, accused the U.S. of being sluggish in sharing information about the attack and failing to condemn it.

"The attacker confessed that he aimed to kill," Rodriguez Parrilla told CNN. "It's a very serious issue. Can you imagine that which would be the U.S.



Parrilla

reaction in a similar case of a similar attack against an American embassy anywhere in the world?"

The U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service, however, insisted Cuban diplomats in the U.S. are safe as "the security and safety of foreign missions in the United States" is ensured.

**ARREST**

Cuban-born Alexander Alazo, a resident of the U.S., was arrested in connection with the shooting, which occurred on April 30. He was charged with possessing an unregistered firearm and assault with intent to kill, plus charges relating to attacking a foreign embassy. He is currently in custody awaiting trial.

Surveillance video reportedly

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

# Caribbean-raised doctor dies after contracting COVID-19

A United States-born physician, who was raised in the Caribbean, is among front line workers who have succumbed to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Dr. James A. "Charlie" Mahoney, who grew up in military housing in Bermuda, died in April after contracting the disease working in Brooklyn, New York. He was 62.

Mahoney, a pulmonary and critical care attending physician, worked at the University Hospital of Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate, the same institution where he attended medical school, starting 1982.

"He was the first one on the front lines taking the onslaught,"

Dr. Robert Foronjy, chief of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division at SUNY Downstate, told CNN. "He was our backbone. He saw this as his calling."

Dr. Mahoney also worked at Kings County Hospital Center, a healthcare facility frequented by Caribbean nationals in New York City. He left behind a wife and three children.



Mahoney

# Jamaican businessman, media tycoon dies at 75

Prominent Jamaican businessman and media figure Oliver Frederick Clarke died in his home country last month after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was 75.

The **Jamaica Gleaner** newspaper, which he managed and chaired for four decades, described him as a "quintessential media tycoon, Caribbean luminary, humanitarian and banker who had an almost inexhaustible list of accolades".

Clarke was one of the most influential and renowned media magnates across the English-speaking Caribbean. He supported the formation of the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) in the 1960s and later the



Clarke

Media Association of Jamaica (PAJ). He was also associated with the Inter-American Press Institute.

He also served as chairman of the Jamaica National Building Society.

Clarke is survived by daughter Alexandra and wife Monica Ladd.



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# Prominent Caribbean nationals blast U.S. police for death of black American

GORDON WILLIAMS

The killing of unarmed black American George Floyd sparked outrage and violent clashes between law enforcement and protesters across the United States last month.

It also drew the wrath of Caribbean nationals in the



Patterson

U.S., including scholars and elected officials, who bashed the police for consistently making minorities the targets of brutality.

Floyd, 46, died on Memorial Day, May 25 after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota knelt on his neck, as he was handcuffed and laying face down in the street, while three other cops at the scene did little to stop their colleague.

The incident, which was caught on cell phone video by a teenage girl, drew fiery backlash across the U.S., and sparked massive protest marches in dozens of cities. Many were peaceful, but some led to riots, destruction of property, looting and injuries to police and protesters. Hundreds of protesters were reportedly arrested and there were multiple reports of police brutality in cities like New York and Atlanta, home to large Caribbean communities.

Prominent Caribbean nationals weighed in with harsh criticism of the police. Many tied the Minneapolis incident to other cases of cops killing or abusing unarmed black men in the U.S. over the years. Jamaican-born Orlando Patterson, a sociology professor at Harvard University in Massachusetts, called Floyd's death dehumanizing.

"(The officer) was someone who did not recognize that he had a human (Floyd) being under his knee," Patterson explained during an appearance on the "Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell" on MSNBC television May 29.

"It's as if you're euthanizing an animal and that is what is so chilling about it; the lack of recognition of the humanity of the victim."

## ROUTINE

Patterson blasted not only Chauvin, but overall police practices in the U.S. when it

involves minorities.

"For that I blame not just this inhuman person (officer), but the organization to which he belongs," he said. "... The warrior mentality and that culture, in fact, persists not just in Minneapolis, but in many other departments."

According to a medical report, Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for eight minutes

and 46 seconds. In the final two minutes and 53 seconds Floyd showed no response. During the ordeal, Floyd repeatedly told the police "I can't breathe" and called for his mother, who is deceased.

Many Caribbean Americans believe Chauvin's action was, at least partially, motivated by Floyd's race.

"George Floyd is a casualty

of racial profiling by police," Haitian American New York State Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC). "... A black man was murdered in public by the very people charged with carrying out justice and keeping our communities safe."

The incident, Bichotte added, has sparked heightened

concern among the non-white community in the U.S., which includes more than four million people who trace their roots to the Caribbean.

"The nation is reeling from the trauma of his death," she said. "Parents are asking how they can keep their kids safe when the offenders are the people wearing a badge, and they

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



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**Under pressure, U.S. backs off on deporting Haitians infected with COVID-19**



Bastien

Immigration authorities in the United States did an abrupt about-face last month, backing off deporting several Caribbean nationals infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Five Haitians, who were in U.S. detention and scheduled for return to the French-speaking Caribbean nation, were taken off

a flight from San Antonio, Texas by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers on May 11.

The other 50 passengers, roughly half of the number originally expected to land in Port-au-Prince that day, included 14 children. More than a dozen of the deportees had criminal records. All deportees were quarantined upon arrival in Haiti.

The change-of-mind by ICE resulted from mounting pressure following published reports indicating U.S. intent to send infected Haitians back to the Caribbean.

**OPPOSITION**

Multiple Haitian organizations in the U.S. publicly opposed the deportation of Haitians infected with COVID-19, claiming that would exacerbate the virus outbreak in the Caribbean nation.

Haitian American Marleine Bastien, executive director of the Florida-based Family Action Network Movement, penned an open letter to Jovenel Moise asking Haiti's president to halt the deportation of Haitians from the U.S.

"This request is desperately urgent," noted the letter, dated April 21.

Other Caribbean nations have expressed concern over U.S. deportations, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

U.S. President Donald Trump has warned nations they must accept deportees or face sanctions. U.S. authorities promised not to send deportees infected with the virus to the Caribbean. However, at least one country – Jamaica – reported it had received deportees infected with COVID-19 from the U.S.



**Cuba blasts U.S. for slow action to shooting attack at its embassy**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

showed the gunman shooting through a fence at the embassy at about 2 a.m. The shots shattered a window and pierced a statue of Jose Marti, a Cuban revolutionary hero. No one was injured, although Cuban embassy staff and diplomats were inside and bullets entered the building.

Rodriguez Parrilla also criticized U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for "constantly advocating against Cuban medical co-operation (during the novel coronavirus pandemic)," telling CNN Pompeo had "slandered Cuban medical doctors instead of saying one word about the terrorist attack that happened a few blocks not

only from the White House but from the State Department."

Cuba-U.S. relations have soured appreciably in recent years, with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump rolling back sanctions relief implemented by former President Barack Obama.



**NO WAY OUT: Caribbean nationals stuck on Death Row ...**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

near future," according to the DPIC.

The former schoolteacher in St. Kitts has maintained her innocence in the murder of Joana Rodriguez. The prosecution claimed Carty helped organize the kidnapping and murder of Rodriguez. Three court witnesses said Carty was the brain behind the scheme. They were spared Death Row. At least one recanted his testimony, claiming he was pressured by law enforcement

with threats of the death penalty if he did not identify Carty as part of the murder plot. Carty has repeatedly claimed her innocence.

"No. I can truthfully say to you I did not commit this crime," Carty reportedly told the England-based **Telegraph** newspaper last year. She called her trial "a farce."

"Everything was there in my case, the evidence was there to exonerate me, it was just we didn't have the proper counsel to go after it," Carty said.

The British government is reportedly still working on her case. St. Kitts has weighed in as well, including providing affidavits that "attested to Ms Carty's good character," describing her as a "highly credible primary school teacher."

More than 120 foreign nationals were on Death Row in the U.S. through 2019. They represent 32 nations, with Mexico having the most inmates with at least 50.



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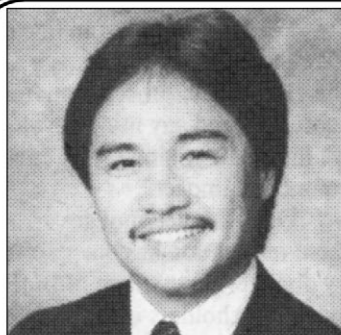
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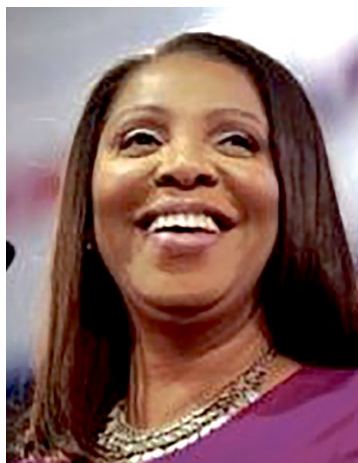
## Lawyers challenge arrest of Caribbean immigrants at state courthouses

NEW YORK – New York Attorney General Letitia James is leading a coalition of 14 attorneys general trying to halt the arrest of Caribbean and other foreign nationals in and around state courthouses in the United States without a judicial warrant or court order.

In an amicus brief filed in support of the plaintiffs against the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and others, the coalition late last month urged the court to uphold a Massachusetts District Court's preliminary injunction that effectively halted arrests by ICE.

The brief followed a suit James filed last year challenging the legality of the federal government's expanded policy of arresting Caribbean and other immigrants in or around state courthouses in New York, and a brief she filed earlier this year opposing the same policy in the state of Washington.

"ICE's continued efforts to arrest immigrants at or near state courthouses endanger us all and threaten every New Yorker's safety," James said. "These unconstitutional arrests have skyrocketed since President



James

(Donald) Trump took office, as the president has pushed an anti-immigrant agenda for purely political reasons.

"ICE's unlawful arrests clearly trample all over states' rights, obstruct true justice from being carried out, and unnecessarily threaten immigrants for cheap political points, which is why our coalition will continue to fight them every step of the way," she added.

### LAWSUIT

James said "we will continue to pursue our own lawsuit against ICE to halt these illegal arrests that have had a chilling

effect here in New York."

In April 2019, both the Middlesex County district attorney and the Suffolk County district attorney in Massachusetts, along with immigrant advocates, sued ICE and DHS, among others, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

They argued the federal government's policy and practice of arresting the foreign nationals – both undocumented and those with legal status – at or around state courthouses violated the Administrative Procedure Act, the Tenth Amendment and the right of access to courts, which is protected by the First, Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

The plaintiffs had filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to immediately halt the Trump Administration's policies and were successful.

The Trump Administration appealed the preliminary injunction to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

- Edited from CMC.



## Stay out of Guyana's elections, congressman warns U.S. gov't

NEW YORK – A United States lawmaker has strongly urged his government not to interfere in Guyana's Mar. 2 election results, the votes for which were still being counted at the end of last month.

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries accused the U.S. State Department officials of interfering in the elections to benefit Guyana's main Opposition People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C).

"Traditionally, we can monitor how democracy is playing itself out in different parts of the world," Jeffries said last month, "but to interfere in such an extraordinary way and in a manner which favors one party, the Opposition party, potentially to the detriment of the ruling party, is deeply troubling to a lot of us in Washington, D.C.," Jeffries, who represents the 8th U.S. Congressional District in New York, said on a television show hosted by Rickford Burke, president of the Brooklyn, New York-based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy.

### THREATS

Burke claimed U.S. government officials have also made several threatening

statements against officials of President David Granger's ruling APNU+AFC coalition government and officials of the Guyana Elections Commission.

"I do find it somewhat ironic that, at the same time, when the U.S. government may be trying to direct Guyana as to how it should conduct itself in the form of an election, that we've been so irresponsible in many parts of the country," said Jeffries.

He called on U.S. government officials to allow the Guyanese people to freely elect its government without interference from the U.S. government.

"It is appropriate to broadly ensure that there is a free and fair election in Guyana and in other parts of the world that is carried out independently and in a manner that does not result in the United States trying to sway or alter the results, one way or the other," Jeffries said.

- Edited from CMC.



Jeffries

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## U.S. intercepts guns, drugs, money destined for Caribbean

MIAMI, Florida – Illegal guns, drugs cash intended for the Caribbean were seized in multiple operations launched by United States law enforcement here last month.

The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said it intercepted two weapons, over 38 pounds of marijuana and \$48,000 in different outbound shipments of cargo from Miami International Airport (MIA).

“The outbound cargo environment in Miami is the gateway to the Caribbean and South America, in which criminal enterprises attempt to use transportation routes traffic drugs, guns and money,” said Christopher D. Matson, CBP port director at MIA.

The shipments of contraband

originated from the eastern region of the U.S. and were destined to Guyana, Antigua and Costa Rica, CBP said. On May 8 officers seized four packages containing cereal boxes, cans of crackers and an iced tea container concealing marijuana weighing over six pounds destined for Guyana.

On that same day, CBP said officers intercepted over 32 pounds of marijuana concealed in cereal and diaper boxes destined for Antigua.

Five days later, the CBP said it seized a M4 rifle, a Tech 9 pistol and ammunition magazine that were manifested as toys and destined for Guyana.

- Edited from CMC.



## Jamaica's labor, social security minister dies

Jamaica's Minister of Labor and Social Security Shahine Robinson lost her long battle with cancer late last month.

Robinson, who succumbed to the disease at age 66, had

been member of Parliament for St. Ann North East since 2001.

She became labor and social security minister in 2016 after her Jamaica Labor Party was won the general elections earlier

that year. Robinson also served as minister of state in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Transport and Works



## World Bank to aid Caribbean in coronavirus pandemic fight

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Five Caribbean community (CARICOM) nations are among 100 that will benefit from a World Bank Group emergency operation to fight the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Caribbean countries are St. Lucia, St. Vincent and

the Grenadines, Suriname, Dominica and Haiti.

“This assistance, the largest and fastest crisis response in the Bank Group's history, marks a milestone in implementing the Bank Group's pledge to make available US\$160 billion in grants and financial support over a 15-month period to help

developing countries respond to the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and the economic shutdown in advanced countries,” said World Bank Group President David Malpass.

- Edited from CMC.



## Prominent Caribbean nationals blast U.S. police for death of black American

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

are not held accountable for their actions.”

All four officers at the scene in Minneapolis were fired. However, up to the end of May, only Chauvin had been indicted. He faces third degree murder among other charges. The sentence, if convicted, carries a

25-year prison sentence.

The manner of Floyd's killing and conduct of the other cops during the incident didn't escape the ire of Patterson, author of several books on race and culture, who believes the killing black men by cops is no longer deemed significant or unusual by police.

“It's worse than a hate

crime,” he said. “It's sort of the normalcy of killing.”

### NOT JUST U.S.

Patterson, however, said the mistreatment of blacks and racism is not restricted to the U.S. or black Americans, highlighting time spent in Britain which showed Caribbean nationals were also vulnerable.

“I lived in Britain during the '60s and for many years the police there were just as racist in many respects as the Americans,” Patterson told MSNBC.

“And so, racism is there, but it's secondary. Because the British police are racist and they harass the newly arrived West Indians, especially Jamaican youth mercilessly.”

However, he added, there are differences in the U.S.

“There is an organizational framework in Britain which prevented even the most sort of debased racist (cop) from killing,” Patterson explained. “And you get this in other European countries.”

### INCIDENT

The Memorial Day incident occurred when police arrested Floyd after he allegedly tried to use a counterfeit bill in a deli.

Video evidence shows Floyd being taken from a vehicle, handcuffed and then allowed to sit on the sidewalk. He was then taken across the street, where at least three cops knelt on him.

The video recorded Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck shortly before he died as the three other officers looked on and passers-by screamed at the police to stop hurting Floyd. In the days that followed, the video went viral and protests broke out in U.S. cities, as most protesters demanded justice for Floyd, even after Chauvin was arrested and charged on May 29. A Minnesota police precinct was set on fire and vehicles damaged. Business places were burned and looted across the U.S.

### PATTERN

The death of Floyd follows a series of incidents in the U.S. where blacks have been killed by cops or falsely accused of crimes by whites. Guyanese-born Rickford Burke, president of the Brooklyn, New York-based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy, blasted “the

continued police violence against black citizens.” Burke defended the protesters, describing them as frustrated and angered by injustice.

“This is why our young people are taking a stand all over America to say enough is enough,” he told CMC. “... I stand firmly with them.”

Floyd's death fueled outrage, with people - of all races - demanding the police and whites not target blacks and that they be held accountable for racism if they do.

“And that's why, by the way, it really makes little difference whether the (police) chief is a black person or not,” Patterson explained.

“The chief in Minneapolis is a black man, but it's not surprising that it made little difference because the culture, the organizational structures, a set of assumptions which make violence and the use of violence a first resort rather than a last resort; which sees the community as the enemy and which sees these killings as routine.

“It's chilling,” he added.

The fallout from Floyd's killing further raised questions over U.S. President Donald Trump's leadership. Trump used the social media platform **Twitter** to call the protesters “THUGS.” He tweeted that “When the looting starts, the shooting starts,” a phrase previously used by a Miami, Florida police chief to threaten blacks during civil rights protests in the 1960s. Trump also threatened protesters who gathered in front of the White House on May 30 with attacks from “vicious dogs” and “ominous weapons.”

The president's comments drew backlash from members of his own Republican party.

“Those are not constructive tweets,” black South Carolina Senator Tim Scott,” told “**Fox News Sunday**” on May 31, “without any question.”



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# 'STILL SCARED': Caribbean nationals hesitate to return to normal in pandemic

GORDON WILLIAMS

Caribbean nationals in the United States are hesitating to embrace a return to normal as the nation

they follow standard protective measures such as wearing masks, practicing social distancing and frequently washing their hands. "There is this urgency to

look like this year." The worry has echoed across other regions, some which continue to see a spike in infections.

"Yeah, we're a little bit scared, because a lot of people are still trying to figure this virus out," said Massachusetts-based Andrew Sharpe, president of the Authentic Caribbean Foundation. "... There's hesitation towards re-opening."

Official U.S. statistics were unavailable up to press time, but anecdotal evidence reveals a significant number of Caribbean nationals are among those infected and killed by COVID-19, especially in states like New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Georgia, Texas and Florida. Many contracted the virus while working in hospitals and nursing homes. That has heightened the concern.

"We have relatives and friends on the front lines," said Clare, who lost a brother to COVID-19. "So they (Caribbean nationals) are cautious."

## FEAR

The staggering number of infections and fatalities has driven fear into many Caribbean nationals, especially since certain states – Florida and Georgia among them – have been accused of fixing statistics to make COVID-19 infections and deaths seem lower than the actual number.

Public celebrations, like May 25 Memorial Day, were noticeably toned down in Caribbean communities. They're also steering away from once-routine activities, including visits to beauty salons and stores, even as states relax restrictions.

"No, I don't think so,"

Jamaican-born \*Andre M., a Georgia resident, said last month when asked if he would be getting his regular twice-a-month trim. "I think it's too early. I desperately need a haircut, but I'm not going."

President Donald Trump has pushed states towards re-opening, although no vaccine or cure is available. Trump is concerned a continued lockdown will permanently damage the U.S. economy and his chances at re-election.

In mid-May, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Infections (CDC) issued

guidelines for re-opening. Yet many states didn't meet all the guidelines before proceeding. That's not comforting for Caribbean nationals, especially since they make up at least a quarter of the minority community in the U.S., which has been the country hardest hit by the virus. "Data has shown that the black and brown community has been significantly affected by COVID-19," said Sharpe.

## WARNING

Meanwhile, Dr. Anthony (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



- Photograph by miamicarnival.org

COVID-19 has left carnival plans in limbo.

re-opened during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which had infected close to two million, killed over 100,000 and cost more than 40 million jobs through the end of May.

Checks across communities heavily populated by Caribbean nationals reveal they, like the majority counted in U.S. opinion polls, remain unconvinced it is totally safe to leave their homes for school, work, shopping or places of worship, even if

get back, but we're still afraid," Irwine Clare, a Jamaican American immigration advocate in New York, told **Caribbean Today** last month. "There are significant concerns."

So much so that major Caribbean events, such as the Miami Broward One Carnival, scheduled for October, are still in limbo. According to organizers, they are "diligently monitoring" COVID-19 before making "a decision as to what our event will

## Caribbean American legislators in New York oppose racial profiling

NEW YORK – Haitian American legislator Rodneyse Bichotte late last month reintroduced a bill in the New York State Assembly she says will help prevent racial profiling by increasing data collection and reporting standards.

The bill from the Democratic assemblywoman came as the Caribbean community here expresses outrage over what is described as the disproportionate and discriminatory arrest of blacks and other people of color over social distancing amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Bichotte is the chair of the Brooklyn Democratic Party and daughter of Haitian immigrants. She told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** that current legislation does not provide adequate rules for tracking and reporting of racial profiling. Bichotte, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn,

also said guidelines that would give the public transparency are lacking. She pointed to a leaked New York Police Department (NYPD) report that states 90 percent of the people arrested for coronavirus-related crimes between Mar. 16 and May 5 were black or Hispanic.

The report also states 81 percent of people who received summonses for violating social distancing rules, during the same time period, were black or Hispanic.

## NEIGHBORS

"I know who the heroes of this crisis are, because they are my neighbors," said Bichotte, whose Brooklyn district



Bichotte

comprises parts of Flatbush, Midwood and Ditmas Park.

"My district is home to many essential workers. They are the people caring for our loved ones who are sick, making sure our grocery stores are stocked and that public transit is operational.

"Unfortunately, they are also the people succumbing to the virus at rates much higher than the general population, losing wages and facing food insecurities. The last thing they, or anyone else, deserves is to be discriminated against by law enforcement. Our heroes should be praised, not punished."

Bichotte said the bill, which she has re-introduced and another piece of legislation, re-introduced on the by Democratic Senator Brian A. Benjamin, would "create a tangible way for our state to prevent and track these violations, and an avenue for remedies for anyone whose civil rights are

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

BROWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

## ARE YOU READY?

Directly Speaking  
By Sandy-Michael McDonald, Director  
Office of Economic and Small Business Development



The County has finalized its guidelines for the reopening of some of Broward's Businesses. On May 18th, the County initiated Phase I of our reopening. Understandably, some of our businesses and residents were eager to reopen and to have their favorite location available to frequent. As an Economic and Small Business Development Office, we also recognize the importance of getting back to economic vitality and the need to do so in a safe manner. We can advise on the questions of if we should reopen, and when to reopen, but we do not make the final decision. As we now know it, that decision was carefully made by our Commission. We also recognize beyond Phase I, that one day all industries and successfully sustained businesses through this crisis, will be reopening. With Phase I and all future reopenings, we acknowledge that the safety of the employees and the customers are the number one priority. However, my question for my business community and especially my small business community is "Are You Ready"?

### Your business model post COVID-19, will it work?

Getting the State's and the County's permission to reopen was very important, but equally important for many industries (maybe not all) but for a great percentage of them, is the question, "Are we ready to assure to the best of our ability the safety of our employees, customers, patrons, and clients"? This is far more than just a check the box action item on a "To Do" List prior to reopening. Your ability as a business to answer these questions now become part of your marketing strategy for the return of your customers, your potential new customers and possibly your own employees. You not only need to be ready; you now have a responsibility for promoting a message that will possibly lead to your success or failure in this post COVID-19 business reopening.

At no fault of your own, you were asked to close. Some of you, using better judgement chose to close. While others, in some cases, you were ordered to shut down. These circumstances were unfortunately outside of your control. However, as we entered this Phase I reopening and eventually reopening all businesses over time, you should have begun or must begin your assessment to be ready. Not just ready to provide your quality service, but ready to demonstrate that your quality service awaits your customers, patrons, clients and your employees in a safe environment. It needs to be clear that they will have that reasonable degree of assurance that you are doing your part to keep them safe.

Though we are into the Phase I of reopening, we are not insensitive to the fact that some businesses will not recover due to this pandemic and some who will reopen may not be able to sustain. We are still sharing as much information as we can on resources that are available to assist you as you try to sustain your business. We are working with Chambers and Business Development Specialists and others to look at helping some businesses reposition themselves, their service or their product post COVID-19. Please keep in touch with our office through our website about upcoming virtual workshops as well as our daily virtual hours and assistance.

Lastly, as we seek to determine the continued impact of COVID-19 on our local businesses, we still need your feedback. Please take a few minutes to complete our 9-question survey on our website, [Broward.org/EconDev](http://Broward.org/EconDev). Your responses will help us to find other ways to assist you.

For more information, contact the Office of Economic and Small Business Development at 954-357-6400.



## STEPPING UP: Caribbean Americans named Florida Supreme Court judges

Two judges of Caribbean heritage have been named to fill vacancies on the Florida Supreme Court. Jamaican Renatha Francis and John Couriel, an attorney of Cuban heritage, were appointed to the Florida Supreme Court.

The announcements were made by the state's Governor Ron DeSantis during a press conference last month in Miami.

Francis, a trial judge on the 15th Circuit Court in Palm Beach, Florida, is the first Jamaican to be appointed to the state's highest court. She has served in that position since 2019. Before that she was also on the bench in Miami Dade County. She will begin her stint on the Supreme Court in September, when she fills the requirement of

being a member of the Florida Bar for at least a decade.

### COMMITMENT

According to DeSantis, "Judge Francis has demonstrated a strong commitment to the rule of law as well as to the judicial craft.

"Her years of experience prior to being a county, and then

a circuit judge, as well as her experience on the Bench makes her well equipped to be able to be a great justice on the Florida Supreme Court," the governor said.

Francis, who was born and raised in Jamaica, said she was grateful for "the confidence that you have shown in giving me this tremendous opportunity to serve

the people of the great state of Florida."

She grew up in Portmore, St. Catherine and attended St. Hugh's High School, later earning a bachelor's degree from the University of the West Indies. Francis moved to Florida in 2004 and studied law at Florida Coastal School of Law.



## Caribbean American legislators in N.Y. oppose racial profiling

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

determined to have been violated.

"The pandemic has led to discriminatory practices by police and ratcheted community tensions. New Yorkers are begging for relief from racial discrimination by law enforcement.

"The same community is simultaneously facing another problem in the face of the coronavirus pandemic," added Bichotte, alluding to New York City Health Department data that show that neighborhoods with high populations of black and latino residents suffer the highest death rate.

### LOSS

"Communities already plagued with devastating loss cannot bear an additional weight, that which is added when police patrol black neighborhoods, making social distancing arrests and issuing summons, while, in

white neighbourhoods across New York City, officers hand out masks to people out socializing," she said.

Benjamin, chairman of the New York Senate's Committee on Revenue and Budget said that "communities of color are on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 as essential workers, and we are also dealing with a disproportionate number of deaths and infections in our neighborhoods and families.

"We cannot allow our law enforcement officers to add additional stress and trauma in this time with an unfair double standard for the enforcement of social distancing rules," said Benjamin, the son of Caribbean immigrants, who serves as the senior assistant majority leader of the Senate.

"The bill that Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte and I have introduced will prohibit law enforcement officers from

engaging in racial or ethnic profiling to help ensure we have one system of enforcement for our city and state," added Benjamin.



Williams

### 'RELIEVED'

Last week, New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams, son of Grenadian immigrants, said he was "relieved" New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio announced a revised approach to social distancing over racial disparity amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The mayor said the revised enforcement will limit summonses after data showed deep racial disparities in enforcement and cases of aggressive over-policing surfaced.

"After more than a month

of pressure from our office and many others, I'm relieved that the administration is acting to reduce the unequal over policing in social distancing enforcement that we predicted, warned against, and offered alternatives to," Williams said.

"More masks and fewer summonses are definitely a positive step. It is also heartening to hear that this effort will begin to push education as the integral tool to compliance. It will mean fewer summonses, fewer arrests, and, thankfully, for the administration, fewer viral videos," he added.

Last month, a Jamaican-born legislator in Brooklyn called on his legislative colleagues, and all New Yorkers, to join him in his push to



Perry

pass the "Right to Monitor Act" (A.1360) that would codify into law the right of all New Yorkers to record police activity throughout New York State.

New York State Assemblyman Nick Perry, who represents the largely Caribbean 58th Assembly District in Brooklyn, said that "a quick scan of social media in the past week will highlight the benefit and great need for New Yorkers to feel assured that they, indeed, have a right to monitor and record police arrests and activity occurring in public places."

- Edited from CMC.



## 'STILL SCARED': Caribbean nationals hesitate to return to normal in pandemic

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the U.S., last month warned against re-opening states too early.

"My concern that if some areas - cities, states or what have you - jump over those various checkpoints and prematurely open up, without having the capability of being able to respond effectively and efficiently, my concern is we will start to see little spikes (of COVID-19 infections) that might turn into outbreaks," Fauci told the U.S. Senate.

Still, states have responded by re-opening to varying degrees. In late April, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp allowed many businesses in his state, including barbershops, to re-open to the public. For Caribbean nationals like Andre M. it's too much, too soon, especially since the federal and state governments were unable to test all U.S. residents for the COVID-19 and protective and medical equipment are still in short supply, even as reports of infection spikes continued.

"You don't know who's positive or negative for the virus," he said. "Even if they seem negative now, they may become positive."

### ECONOMY

The federal government has

granted financial relief through multiple stimulus packages - up to \$2,400 per couple depending on how much they earn. However, there is real fear the U.S. economy will nosedive further under COVID-19 and Caribbean nationals will be among those who suffer as businesses which employ or sustain them go bankrupt.

"We ought to do what we can to avoid these outcomes," said U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell last month.

According to Powell, nearly 40 percent of households, which earn less than \$40,000 a year, lost jobs in March. By the end of April, the unemployment rate in the U.S. was near 15 percent.

Yet even while facing the dire threat of losing much needed income, Caribbean nationals have not been eager to hit the streets just yet. Many continue to work from home. Business owners, however, have mostly kept their places shuttered.

"(Caribbean nationals) recognize the economic situation," Clare explained. "We have businesses that will never come back. But we are not eager to go out unless some systems are in place. There are significant concerns."

### PLAN B

For students, COVID-19 has forced them, for the time being, into classrooms at home. It's

not a permanent fix and already some schools are considering alternatives, knowing the virus could be around for years.

"So I think there are some creative solutions that we're going to try to employ," Trinidadian-born Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, president of Howard University, a predominantly black college with Caribbean students in Washington, D.C., told **MSNBC** television last month.

Howard is considering starting the fall semester later and ending it by Thanksgiving to eliminate at least a month of the regular flu season, according to Dr. Frederick. It is also eyeing establishing shared housing, which would allow specific areas for students needing isolation and quarantine, and limiting actual time students spend in classrooms each week.

### JUGGLING

The juggling act during the pandemic has become more complicated with reports of rising food prices due to COVID-19's disruption of the production chain. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, grocery prices rose 2.6 percent in April, the largest hike since 1974.

Yet even if consumers have the money, food is becoming scarce during the pandemic. People are buying more than normally needed, leaving a shortage on shelves and forcing

some grocery stores to limit the amount that can be purchased during each visit. High demand for limited stock leads to price hikes.

It's not all gloom and doom, however. Caribbean nationals in some parts of the U.S. appear confident their local government is doing a fair job, despite obstacles.

"Yes, we are upset we're not able to get the situation from a federal level," said Sharpe, whose state of Massachusetts, he estimates, has more than 700,000 Caribbean nationals. "But we're happy with our own state. We have that kind of spirit of champions."

That spirit may be leading Caribbean nationals to respond in creative ways they were familiar with living in the region. Andre M., for example, said he "may wait a couple more weeks, maybe longer, or try to trim myself."

For some, it's back to a familiar road of hustling to survive - a life they thought they'd left behind in the Caribbean.

"I see people out there taking risks," Clare said. "... Some people see the pandemic as an opportunity. The typical Caribbean person may be better equipped to handle this adversity (COVID-19)..."

"We're still fighting, using lemons to make lemonade."

\*Names withheld on request.



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Vol. 31, Number 7 • JUN 2020

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## Trump coming after immigrants as coronavirus pandemic rages

As of May 21, 96,228 people living in the United States had died from COVID-19.

That is more than all the Americans who died in combat in six wars, as well as 9/11, combined.

The Korean War claimed 33,686 lives; American Revolutionary War, 8,000; the War of 1812, 2,260; Mexican American War 1,733; Iraq War, 3,836; war in Afghanistan, 1,833; and 9/11 2,977 lives.

That's a combined total of 54,325 – tens of thousands less than the number of Americans who have so far lost their lives because of this administration's mismanagement of the coronavirus.

But don't hold your breath for the 45th POTUS to hold a moment of silence for these poor souls. He is far too busy scapegoating immigrants for his epic failure.

Never mind that many immigrants have died or are dying at a rapid rate from COVID-19, including on the frontline of this COVID-19 war within our borders. No, the xenophobic administration is now happy to use this virus to carry out its revolting agenda of ridding the country of immigrants.

### AGENDA

Here are three ways they are busy executing this agenda:

**1. DNA collection** - The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has started a pilot project in Dallas to collect the DNA of undocumented immigrants who are arrested, even as U.S. Customs and Border Protection started another pilot program months ago, according to Politico. This as the DHS moves toward implementation of a decades-old law to collect DNA from undocumented immigrants arrested by its officers.

On May 1, ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations arm began the pilot program as it ramps up to fully implement a little used 2005 rule.

**2. H 1/B visa holders** - The administration of President Donald Trump says it is unlikely to allow laid-off holders of H-1B and other work visas to extend their stay in the country amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to the New York Times.

The administration is also



Trump

expected within the next few weeks to halt the issuance of new work visas, such as the H-1B, for high skilled foreigners, and the H-2B, for seasonal employment.

### BOOTED OUT

The new measures would also eliminate a program that enables foreign graduates of U.S. universities to remain in the country and work. Many H-1B workers have been waiting in a backlog for several years to obtain permanent legal residency through their employer, and now face the prospect of being booted out.

But the biggest fall out from this is that, should the H-1B doctors on the frontline of the coronavirus fight die, then their families could be deported, since under the rules if a H-1B visa holder dies, any H-4 dependent family members become undocumented and instantly subject to removal.

### 3. Impact on voting

On March 18, 2020 – due to the coronavirus pandemic – the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, (USCIS), stopped doing naturalization interviews and ceremonies. A new report by Boundless Immigration, a technology company that helps immigrants obtain permanent residence and citizenship, says the delay has already left well over 100,000 future Americans in limbo.

Further, it says 2,100 per day will run out of time to vote on Nov. 3, 2020, if the USCIS offices remain closed.

This comes at a time when the USCIS says it is tightening the U.S. citizenship test and as fees have been increased for naturalization services.

All this comes while Americans, including countless immigrant families, are mourning. But Trump and his band of xenophobes, led by chief bandleader Stephen Miller, are all too happy to push the limits amid the distraction and push more immigrants out.

*Felicia J. Persaud is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.*



## Caribbean needs differentiated treatment due to COVID-19 pandemic

MIA MOTTLEY  
DIDIER TREBUCC

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are characterized by their exposure to a variety of risks and limited capacity to deal with them when they occur.

This is particularly true in the Eastern Caribbean, being especially prone to natural disasters that are up to six times more damaging when compared to developed countries.

Now we are bracing up for yet another hurricane season, while dealing with the dramatic impacts of COVID-19.

Countries in the region have responded well on the health front, despite the global tension to access medical and protective equipment and supplies. However, the implications of the COVID-19 crisis are manifold given this region's economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities. The regularity of natural disasters – as evidenced by Dominica during the deadly 2017 hurricane season – gives countries a very narrow window of opportunity to recover and rebuild their resilience.

### VULNERABILITIES

Limited resources and economic diversification in Eastern Caribbean countries, compounded by their small size and remoteness, constrain development. Regional integration, when fully realized,

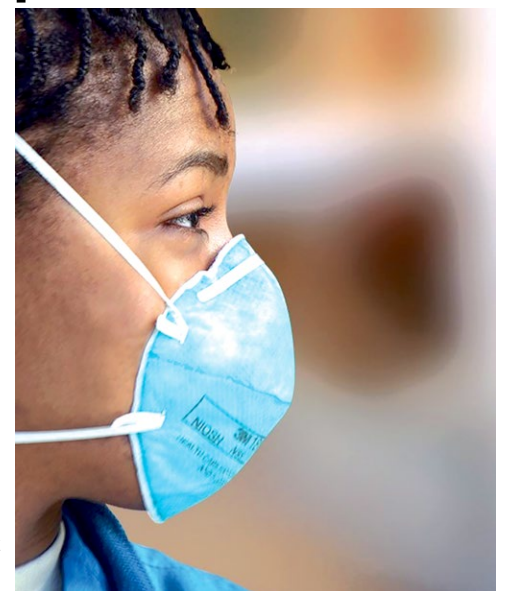
will contribute to widening markets, but until then doing business will call for some ingenuity.

The Caribbean has successfully used its natural patrimony to develop service-based economies, which account for as much as 75 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Tourism can account for up to one-half of GDP and provide jobs for a similar proportion of the labor force. It is without doubt the region's most prized asset.

However, with 80 percent of tourists from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, it has become a key vulnerability with COVID-19.

Border closures and travel restrictions within the COVID-19 context have taken a toll, impacting citizens of all walks of life from hair braiders and crafts persons on Grand Anse Beach in Grenada to large tour operators and hoteliers on Barbados's prized West Coast. No one is exempt!

Lingering reconstruction costs of past disasters squeeze fiscal space to tackle COVID-19. Financing past disaster recoveries through debt has, for many, crowded-out development expenditures. High public debt



The virus has left the region vulnerable.

– domestic plus external – levels of well over 60 percent of GDP were commonplace before COVID and limit fiscal space for years to come.

As governments resort to fiscal stimulus measures to keep their economies afloat, COVID-19 will only add to this region's debt burden. The time for debt forgiveness is now.

### TROUBLES

High unemployment and aging populations, with a concomitant prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), add to this region's troubles.

Regional unemployment ranges from 10 percent to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

## CARIB Comments

• **“We are not going to be driven by a date, we are going to be driven by protocols that make us safe because we want to remain safe for our people, we want to remain safe for people who are visiting us”** – Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, chair of the 15-member Caribbean community, says the region will not rush to re-open for tourists in the age of the COVID-19 pandemic.



States, with our borough's death toll exceeding the combined death toll of 46 entire states” - Caribbean American

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke explaining her support in the U.S. House of Representatives for the HEROES Act, which supports essential workers and others in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

• **“My beloved Brooklyn has the distinction of having more COVID-related deaths than any county in the United**



• **“The people of Guyana should be able to decide, as they have done in the past, who they see fit to lead them**

into the future” - Congressman Hakeem Jeffries warns U.S. not to interfere in Guyana's election results.

• **“The unusual conduct is egregious, intolerable and beneath the dignity of this House”** - Trinidad and Tobago Speaker of Parliament Bridgid Annisette-George blasts an Opposition legislator for writing the United States government complaining he had been refused permission to raise as a matter the alleged sale of oil from T&T to Venezuela in defiance of U.S. sanctions.

Compiled from various sources



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# WEDLOCK OR PADLOCK: Pandemic lockdown causing matrimonial meltdown

It's lockdown time now because of the COVID-19 pandemic and many married people aren't happy.

It's interesting - and perhaps a tad ironic - that marriage is called tying the knot.

Marriage is also referred to as wedlock. Notice the lock at the end. It's called a union, attachment, commitment, pledge, betrothal, troth, ties that bind. All words of adhesion or confinement.



**TONY ROBINSON**

But amidst all this, there is also the pleasure side of marriage, or so many people wouldn't keep on jumping into it. Interestingly, those who jump out of it often seem to feel a sense of liberation, a freedom from the ties that bind and are able to be themselves



once again. At least some do, especially men, but women are not exempt.

### AGE FACTOR

It doesn't matter what age either. I recently met up with an old friend of mine in the supermarket and had a most informative chat. I noticed that

he was walking with an unusual gait, so I asked what was wrong. He explained that many years of doing sports, plus rigorous army life had taken its toll and left him with some joint problems.

But that didn't stop him from enjoying physical activities. I asked him his age and he replied 78. He then said that

life after marriage had really liberated him and he now has a girlfriend who's 31.

The man is almost 80 and post-marriage. Yet he's having the time of his life with young women. He was liberated from his padlock.

Based on my research, it seems as if marriage for many men is akin to some sort of padlock as, for some reason, they lose their freedom - real or imagined. They give up their friends and things that they used to do before. They get upstaged by things that the wife deems more important.

### CONTRAST

In contrast, women find marriage to be paradise, as they feel secure in a relationship. The man is always there to do her bidding, she feels protected, has her children in a safe environment and she can boast that she has a husband.

Experts have said that women actually do enjoy

marriage more than men do. And it's not that the men don't love their wives, but they somehow feel muzzled, constrained, restrained, confined.

For this reason many men try to sneak out of the house every now and then, not necessarily to do wrong, but just for a few moments of liberation. That's why they're crying for bars to be reopened in this COVID time.

Some men feel obligated to keep their mouths shut after they get married, for anything they say will be met with a torrential tirade of turbulence.

Naturally there are women who live in the padlock of marriage too, but that's usually from the actions of an abusive husband. That's different.

What the polls show is that in many "happy" marriages, the women are in wedlock, but the men are in padlock.

seido1yard@gmail.com



## Caribbean needs differentiated treatment due to COVID-19 pandemic

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

25 percent. COVID-related job losses within the service industry, will exacerbate this

situation.

Aside from wasted economic potential, joblessness induced by this pandemic harbors a darker side and could further fuel a

host of other socially adverse consequences.

With old age-dependency above the global average, pressures on public finances to

meet the health, pension and social security commitments are high. Health systems have become further stretched by a high prevalence of NCDs. While spending on health varies across the region (between three and seven percent of GDP, Eastern Caribbean health systems perform substantially below the global average, forcing this region on the back foot as it tackles this health crisis.

The poor and vulnerable are particularly at risk, including employees who would have lost their jobs in the tourism sector and fisherfolk belonging to vulnerable households suffering from the lockdown. Many also operate in the informal sector (accounting for as much as 40 percent of GDP) are uninsured and have difficulty accessing social protection schemes.

A lot has been done in the region to protect the most vulnerable. However Caribbean governments will require adequate fiscal space to develop effective and progressive social safety nets, as they seek to restore livelihoods and income security following this crisis.

After COVID-19, the Caribbean's needs will be far from over. Climate change – an existential threat – will continue to put significant financial strain on Caribbean countries. The need for increased investment for resilience is ever-present.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it necessary for Caribbean countries to reassess their preparedness against a wider range of increasing risks – including health pandemics. Accustomed to the impacts from natural disasters, the Caribbean will not only need resilience against global warming, but also

to a new wave of health risks that threaten the lives and livelihoods of its citizens.

### LEADERSHIP

Effective response demands decisive leadership and commitment from all partners around the globe to ensure that "no one is left behind" and "no country is left behind".

This is why the United Nations COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Response Plan and Funding Appeal for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean states was launched on May 6 to support the region to tackle this crisis with resources it urgently needs. This appeal will prioritize health and wellness, food security, economic recovery, social protection, education, and protecting the most vulnerable.

It complements the ongoing advocacy by the SIDS nations for a differential treatment, based on their vulnerability. But the sustainability of this response will depend on solidarity and international support.

A regional compact to deliver debt relief and increase resilience financing is also needed between Caribbean countries, bilateral, multilateral agencies and private sector. This will augur well in disrupting the vicious circle of uncertainty, debt-dependency and unrealized sustainable development potential.

*Mia Amor Mottley is prime minister of Barbados and chair of the Caribbean community (CARICOM).*

*Didier Trebucq is the United Nations resident coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.*



## BEFORE JOE BIDEN WON ALL 67 COUNTIES IN FLORIDA, HE SPOKE WITH CARIBBEAN TODAY & THE BLACK PRESS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA.



Missed the interview? Read and listen to it at [CaribbeanToday.com](http://CaribbeanToday.com)

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Trump praises contributions of Caribbean nationals

United States President Donald Trump is saluting the contributions of Caribbean Americans to the “success, spirit, and character” of the country.

In a proclamation issued to mark June as Caribbean Heritage Month, Trump also expressed America’s gratitude to the millions of Caribbean nationals in the U.S.

“For generations, their skills, knowledge, innovation, and initiative have enhanced and advanced many aspects of our society,” the president’s statement read.

“During National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich history and vibrant culture of the more than 4 million Americans with origins in the Caribbean.

“Caribbean Americans have



Trump

helped improve our Nation by leading communities, advancing science and medicine, and advocating for the common good. We are especially grateful for the Caribbean-American men and women who proudly wear our Nation’s uniform as members of the Armed Forces and those serving as first responders,

medical professionals, and other essential personnel on the front lines in the fight against the coronavirus. Our Nation is safer, stronger, and healthier because of their service and sacrifices,” he added.

The president mentioned the “indelible marks on American culture” left by Caribbean nationals, in sports, the military and government service. He also mentioned the importance of the Caribbean to the U.S. as trading partners, calling the region the “third border.”

“This month,” Trump stated, “we pay tribute to Caribbean Americans for all they have done to drive our country forward.”



## Art showcases history of Broward’s Caribbean American community

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida – The life and times of Caribbean Americans in a South Florida county they heavily occupy will be showcased through an art exhibition this month.

Guests to “The Island Imprint: The Art and History of the Caribbean Community in Broward County” exhibition, produced

by cultural nonprofit Island SPACE, can enjoy the free interactive, virtual exhibition through June 29 at the Island SPACE website [islandspacefl.org](http://islandspacefl.org).

They may also visit the physical exhibition at History Fort Lauderdale ([historyfortlauderdale.org](http://historyfortlauderdale.org)), in The New River Inn, 231 S.W. Second Ave., beginning June 15.

The exhibition is part of Caribbean Heritage Month celebrations.

“We are thrilled to welcome the public back to History Fort Lauderdale with this culturally significant exhibit that highlights the history and contributions of our Caribbean-American population,” Patricia Zeiler, executive director of History Fort Lauderdale, was quoting as saying in a recent press release to promote the exhibition.

“We’re excited to continue our relationship with Island SPACE to share these visually compelling artworks and relevant stories.”

### MULTI-YEAR

The exhibition is the second staging in a multi-year initiative celebrating Broward County’s Caribbean heritage by displaying



Jamaican artist Krystle Sabdul’s “Boys Laughing” will be featured at the exhibition.

the works of artist-contributors.

Jamaican David I. Muir, shares a selection of photographs from the “Caribbean-American” collection, printed on canvas and featuring Caribbean scenes around Broward County.

Two-time photography participant Sonya Sanchez-Arias from Trinidad shares pieces from her “Fragments” collection, in which images she has captured from the Caribbean region are digitally manipulated, printed on metal, and mounted on natural, reclaimed materials.

Mixed media artist Krystle Sabdul, from Jamaica, has included expressive, oversized portraits.

The historical aspect of the exhibition, curated by Jamaican Calibe Thompson traces the Caribbean community’s roots in Broward through news clippings, archival photographs and information displaying the influence of diverse island people on the fabric of Greater Fort Lauderdale.

### GOAL

“Our goal with ‘The Island Imprint’ project is to showcase art, history and our region’s untold stories as a unique

collective, and to stimulate further discussion on diversity and culture,” Thompson, executive director of Island SPACE, was quoted as saying.

“We are excited that through the new virtual feature, even those who aren’t able to travel due to the health crisis or other reasons can still enjoy the exhibition from anywhere in the world.”

Admission to exhibition is free with History Fort Lauderdale general museum admission - \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors and \$7 for students through age 22 with valid student identification. Admission is free for members, military and children ages six and under.

In compliance with local and state health guidelines, visitors are required to wear a mask and practice safe social distancing of six feet apart. Hand sanitizer will be available at the front desk admission point. Additionally, guests will be asked to sign-in, daily, for contact tracing.

For more information about History Fort Lauderdale, call **954-463-4431** or visit [historyfortlauderdale.org](http://historyfortlauderdale.org).



## Caribbean Canadian is Princeton’s first black valedictorian in 274 years

PRINCETON – Princeton University, a prestigious Ivy League university in New Jersey, has named Caribbean Canadian Nicholas Johnson, son of a Bahamian father and Jamaican mother, the first black valedictorian in the school’s 274-year history.

Johnson, an operations research and financial engineering concentrator from Montreal, is valedictorian of the Class of 2020.

Johnson, whose mother is Dr. Anita Brown-Johnson and father Dr. Dexter Johnson,

said he plans to spend this summer interning as a hybrid quantitative researcher and software developer at the D. E. Shaw Group before beginning doctoral studies in operations research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall.



Johnson

## U.S. joins region to kick off Caribbean Heritage Month

The United States Department of State joined the Institute for Caribbean Studies (ICS) to launch National Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebrations in June.

The opening ceremony, scheduled for June 1, was hosted virtually on the Zoom social media platform. It was expected to feature keynote speaker Cynthia “Cindy” Kierscht, deputy assistant secretary of the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, which includes Haiti and the Caribbean.

Other scheduled guest speakers included Noel Lynch, ambassador of Barbados to the U.S., and Dr. Claire Nelson of the ICS.

“Our Shared History, Our Shared Future” is the theme for Caribbean Heritage Month, which is being celebrated across the U.S. in recognition of the contribution of the Caribbean people to the culture and economy of the nation.

“This year’s events reflect the growing consciousness of our

community on the need to show up and show off especially in this a presidential election year,” said Nelson, ICS founder and president.

Members of the Congressional Caribbean Caucus and experts and scholars are expected to participate in policy discussions affecting the Caribbean American community during “Legislative Week”, June 22-27.

National Caribbean American Heritage Month has been celebrated annually since June 2006. This year, it represents an opportunity to bring together Caribbean people across the world to address common concerns; allow Caribbean people to feel a sense of place in the public discourse on the post-COVID global future; and strengthen the Caribbean voice in the world.



Kierscht

## BRIEFS

### Millie Small dies in England

Jamaican-born Millie Small, who scored a monster international hit with the ska song “My Boy Lollipop” in the 1960s, died last month in England. She was 73.

Small was still a teenager when she topped the United Kingdom’s music chart and went to number two position on the United States chart, greatly raising the profile of Caribbean music.

“Lollipop” reportedly sold more than seven million copies and made Small an international star.

### Nonprofit plans Caribbean museum

A nonprofit organization in South Florida has announced its intent to elevate the profile of Caribbean art, history and culture.

The team behind Island Society for the Promotion of Artistic and Cultural Education (Island SPACE) has been involved in several ventures aimed at promoting Caribbean cultural

and creative excellence. Now Island SPACE is looking to create a Caribbean museum of history, tentatively named the “Island Archives”.

### N.Y. carnival launches ‘WIADCA Cares’

The Brooklyn, New York-based West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA), has launched “WIADCA Cares” coronavirus (COVID-19) response initiative for seniors and other vulnerable populations.

WIADCA, the organizer of the annual Caribbean carnival parade, explained in a statement issued last month that “WIADCA Cares” allows the organization “to continue the important work we do as cultural catalysts, by engaging our community, particularly our youth, in new and impactful ways.”

- Compiled from various sources.





# HEALTH



## SUN PROOF: COVID-19 resistant to temperature swings

Hot temperatures - even those above 75 degrees - don't have an effect on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Neither does cold.

Furthermore, no area of the United States has less of a risk of COVID-19 spread than others right now because of its climate.

"You can catch COVID-19, no matter how sunny or hot the weather is. Countries with hot weather have reported cases of COVID-19," according to the World Health Organization.

"To protect yourself, make sure you clean your hands frequently and thoroughly and avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose."

COVID-19 can also spread in hot and humid climates.

### SEASONS

Meanwhile, there's still a question of seasonality with COVID-19. Early on in the outbreak, experts suspected the virus could be like other coronaviruses and have a shorter lifespan at higher temperatures and in higher humidity. Most illnesses have an easier time surviving and reproducing in the colder months. But we won't know for sure this will happen with COVID-19 until the seasons change and more research comes.



Exposure to extreme heat or sunlight will not kill the virus.

"We don't have direct data for this virus, nor do we have direct data for a temperature-based cutoff for inactivation at this point," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The necessary temperature would also be based on the materials of the surface, the environment, etc."

There also isn't evidence that an extreme cold outside temperature will have an effect on the virus.

WHO notes that there is "no reason to believe that cold weather can kill the new coronavirus or other diseases."

Our normal body temperature typically remains around 98 degrees, give or take, regardless of the external temperature or weather.

### EXPOSURE

Direct exposure to intense

temperatures through other methods will also not eliminate COVID-19.

Hand dryers, hot baths, ice baths, UV lights and other related methods will likely not prevent a COVID-19 infection on their own. The same goes for methods like dousing yourself in chlorine or alcohol sprays — just in case that was something you were considering.

WHO warns that attempting these methods may end up being harmful. For example, extremely hot showers can burn you, and UV radiation can cause skin irritation.

Bottom line: Practicing social distancing and good hygiene is your best option for warding off coronavirus.

- Edited from HuffPost.



## Questions, answers to help manage severe asthma

The majority of the more than 25 million Americans living with asthma enjoy active, healthy lives. But for others, despite using high dose asthma medicines and avoiding triggers, severe symptoms are a part of daily life.

If this describes your experience, it could be severe asthma, a type of asthma that affects approximately five to 10 percent of those with the condition.

Severe asthma is dangerous; increasing the risk of death, illness, and depression, and limiting one's ability to work or go to school. It is responsible for 50 percent of all asthma healthcare costs.

Even with severe asthma control is attainable,

**Severe asthma is dangerous; increasing the risk of death, illness, and depression, and limiting one's ability to work or go to school.**

according to American Lung Association, which is offering these four questions and answers to help you determine your next steps:

**1. How do I know if my asthma symptoms are under control?** - With severe asthma, people tend to have three or more symptoms (sometimes daily), such as shortness of breath, chest tightness, coughing or wheezing, and most likely wake-up nightly due to those symptoms.

Also, if you've gone to the emergency department or were hospitalized due to asthma at least two times during the past year and were given oral corticosteroids to keep asthma under control, your asthma is most likely not well controlled.

Despite all your efforts to take your medications as prescribed, your symptoms continue. If this sounds like you, you may have severe asthma.

**2. How do I know if I have severe asthma?** - There are several different types of asthma and knowing what kind you have can help in your treatment plan and management of symptoms.

Testing for severe asthma may involve taking a blood sample, analyzing your lung mucus or taking a breath droplet test. These tests are looking for biomarkers, or identifiers that cause Type-2 inflammation, or other factors that cause non-Type-2 inflammation, resulting in your daily uncontrolled symptoms.

Common types of severe asthma include allergic, eosinophilic (also known as e-asthma) and non-eosinophilic



- Photograph © AaronAmat / Getty Images

There are steps to help control effects of asthma's

asthma. If your specialist confirms a diagnosis of severe asthma and determines your specific type, they will develop a personalized treatment plan with you.

**3. What severe asthma treatments are available for me?** - Treatment options may include:

- Biologics: medicines targeting biomarkers causing Type 2 inflammation.
- Bronchial Thermoplasty (BT): a minor lung procedure that applies heat to the airways to decrease overgrowth (remodeling) of the smooth muscles and improve symptoms.

- Antibiotic medicines or oral corticosteroids: medicines targeting non-Type 2 inflammation caused when there are unknown biomarkers, or as a result of other health conditions. Note: If possible, it is important

**There are several different types of asthma and knowing what kind you have can help in your treatment plan and management of symptoms.**

to discuss with your doctor how to best reduce the need for oral corticosteroids.

**4. Where do I go from here? What actions can I start today?** - Gaining control of your asthma starts by taking American Lung Association's My Asthma Control Assessment to determine your level of asthma control. Once you have a better understanding of your asthma, you may need to see a specialist who can better explain what type of asthma you have and what treatment options are available.

Make an appointment to visit your asthma doctor to start the discussion, and download the Lung Association's Shared Decision-Making Worksheet. This tool, available at Lung.org/severe-asthma, can help you discuss with your specialist which treatment plan might be best for you.

- Edited from StatePoint.



# JAMAICA AT 58





On August 6, 2020, the island of Jamaica marks the 58th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

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## Guyana marks 54th Independence amid election re-count turmoil

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Guyana celebrated its 54th anniversary of political Independence from Britain on May 26.

However, that was overshadowed by the disputed Mar. 2 regional and general elections, the results of which, up to last month, were still to be decided by a re-count of votes.

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) was engaged in a re-count of the ballots cast in the elections that the ruling coalition, A Partnership for National Unity (APNU), and the main Opposition People's



Independence Guyana

Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) claimed victory.

In his Independence address to the nation, President David Granger urged Guyanese to await the declaration of the results.

However, PPP/C presidential candidate Irfaan Ali said that after 54 years of Independence Guyana should have developed various institutions that would have protected the rights of citizens.

Granger said that Guyana is celebrating the Independence anniversary while “recalling the sacrifice, suffering and struggle of our working people who struck the first blows against colonial oppression 115 years ago in Georgetown.”

## Opposition leads preliminary Suriname elections vote count

PARAMARIBO, Suriname – Official results of general elections in the Caribbean community (CARICOM) nation of Suriname were still unknown through the end of last month, but a preliminary count of votes showed the Opposition Progressive Reform Party (VHP) held a majority of seats in the National Assembly.

According to the Electoral Observer Mission (CEOM), “up to this point in time” the May 25 elections, Suriname

had successfully staged “a free, fair, transparent, and credible election.”

Preliminary figures showed VHP, the largest party in the Opposition, headed by former Justice Minister Chandrikapersad (Chan) Santokhi, had secured 20 seats. The Algemene Bevrijdings-en Ontwikkelingspartij (ABOP), headed by former rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk, had won eight.

The ruling National

Democratic Party (NDP) of President Desi Bouterse, according to the preliminary results, had won 16 seats in the elections, down from the 26 seats it had enjoyed in the last 51-member National Assembly. At the end of May Bouterse urged voters to await the final official results of the elections.

Meanwhile, Santokhi said he expected the NDP to cooperate in electing the new president to the National Assembly.

## GEORGE FLOYD'S DEATH: The 'old pirate has robbed I' again

### SIR HILARY BECKLES

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Martin Luther King Jr, when he felt he could not breathe, came to Jamaica.

When the threats to his life were constant and closing in around his neck, he took this measure to maintain his life.

His visits to Jamaica's north coast filled his lungs with the “freer” air of our space. He returned to the mainland more battle ready for the struggle to achieve the God-given right to the dignity of black life.

Island and mainland have always been a common survival space. Borders cannot contain consciousness nor isolate the intellect. Kiing was retracing the footsteps of Marcus, his mentor, the incomparable Mosiah Garvey, who also travelled from this north coast - his ancestral home - to Harlem, there to dedicate his life to the struggle for the dignity of black life.

### DIGNITY

Garvey's Jamaican voice was heard in every American community where the dignity of black life was denied. He would have flown to the side of George Floyd, and embraced his forlorn family while preparing to prosecute those who demeaned his dignity and denied his “livity”.

Bob Marley, the “Buffalo Soldier” from this said north coast, was idolized by every African American who was



What's happening in the U.S. echoes in the Caribbean.

empowered by “old Marcus Garvey” to get up and stand up and defend their right to life with dignity.

Malcolm, socialized as an X West Indian, took up the struggle of the islands on the mainland, connecting the legacies of Marcus and Martin to the West Indian commitment to rightness, fairness and dignity in plantation America.

Where there were plantation overseers there are now police officers. Through them, black life remains prime for deletion as if on the plantation.

### FIGHT

This Minneapolis fight was Marcus Garvey's fight; it was Martin's fight; it was Malcolm's fight; it was Marley's fight. It's a Caribbean fight and it's a global fight.

West Indians have been in it all along. Professor Orlando Patterson, Harvard don, but

bred and adorned at the Mona Campus of The University of the West Indies, told his MSNBC interviewer that what we have seen is a special breed of evil from the depth of hell. We must exorcise it, he said, and return it from whence it came.

Patterson spoke as a Caribbean scholar in America, the finest sociologist they have, on loan from us to them. His classic work, “The Sociology of Slavery”, shows us how history can haunt communities; how privileges from the past become the pain of the present.

From that horrible history when Europeans stole 15 million of our ancestors from Africa and scattered them across plantation America - the Caribbean getting the lion's share - shattering family bonds, the future was cast in the concrete again, in which the face of George Floyd was crushed.

From that moment, when the British government in 1636, took the first step to legally classify all blacks in their colonies as non-human, chattel, property, and real estate and proceeded with their European partners to build and manage with it a global business model for 400 years, the greatest “financial juggernaut” of world history, humanity was poisoned with the toxic pandemic of race hatred.

## St. Kitts/Nevis votes June 5

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts – St. Kitts and Nevis is scheduled to hold general elections on June 5.

The two main political parties named candidates to contest all 11 seats.

Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris, led his coalition Team Unity into the polls. Team Unity consists of the People's Action Movement (PAM), People's Labor Party (PLP) and the Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM). The coalition came together in 2013 to contest the 2015 elections, winning seven seats.

PAM and PLP will contest eight seats on St. Kitts, while the CCM, which controls the Nevis Island Administration (NIA), will contest the three seats up for grabs there.

Former Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas led the main Opposition St. Kitts-Nevis Labor Party (SKNLP), which will contest the eight seats on the mainland and support the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) in Nevis.



## Cayman Islands elections May 2021

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands - Voters in the Cayman Islands will go to the polls in 12 months.

The governor of the British Overseas territory last month confirmed that the next general elections will be held on May 26, 2021.

The 2021 elections will be the second general elections to be held under the “one person, one vote” system with single-member electoral districts.

“The Cayman Islands has a proud history of fair, well run democratic elections with high levels of voter participation,” said Governor Martyn Roper.

“I am confident that the

Elections Office will continue this practice in the 2021 election.”

Candidates will contest 19 seats, as defined by 2015 Electoral Boundary Commission's report. However it is not known if the referendum on the government's cruise port project will also take place that day.

The date for the cruise port referendum was originally set for Dec. 19, 2019. A group, known as the Cruise Port Referendum has been advocating to have the referendum on the same day as an election.

- Edited from CMC.



And from that date in 1783, when Chief Justice Mansfield of England, in the Zong Trial, boldly proclaimed that the blacks in the case before him are no different from so many horses, sheep, and goats, the poison had permeated every community in the western world.

### CULTURE

It is this culture of centuries upon which the American nation is built that continues to choke the air from black lungs.

The Americans won their national Independence from Britain, and proceeded to retain slavery as the development model of the nation; the same model in which the western world defined and treated black people as animals. It is the legacy of this model, embedded in a national security institution that took the life of “Big Floyd”.

It is this license to treat animal life as dispensable that led the pack of hunters to pin a citizen to the concrete, using the knee like a blunt knife to the throat for nine minutes, while posing and posturing like a fisherman in triumph over his catch of the day for all to see!

It is this cultural triumphalism of killing black prey that has caught afire the heart of a hitherto race hardened world made to participate virtually in an actual live extinction of life; typified by a dying man calling out for his deceased mother who at the moment answered her son

because she knew it was time to call him home.

The UWI, too, has heard the call of George Floyd. We wish to invoke the memory of Marcus and Martin to bring to the islands young African Americans, here to breathe before returning to the mainland fight for dignity. We owe it to Martin, to Marcus, to Malcolm, and to Marley; and to all the ruptured minds of Minneapolis.

This is our cause. Every university that stands for freedom, justice, and the celebration of human dignity must stand up like a gorilla for justice for George Floyd. Minneapolis is just another place where our eyes have detected evil, beyond hate, that has erupted from the depth of hell.

Not only the souls of black folks have been scarred forever by this latest event in the genocidal war against young black men; the soul of the world is awakened.

Every person on the planet who carries a spirit of love for humanity has become a protesting priest. We need our prophets now more than ever. The “old pirate has robbed I” once again. And yet we shall rise!

Edited from CMC. Sir Hilary Beckles is vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies, president of Universities Caribbean, and chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission.





## TOURISM/TRAVEL



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## Jamaica to re-open borders to international travelers June 15

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The government here is set to re-open the Jamaica's ports of entry for international travelers on June 15.

The announcement was made to tourism stakeholders in a letter signed by Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett late last month.

The announcement came as Jamaicans returned to work on June 1 and various agencies of the state resumed operations on a phased basis following the shutdown caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Jamaicans overseas were also allowed to come home on that date.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr. Christopher Tufton reminded



Bartlett

Jamaicans that it is still important for everyone to remain "vigilant in their infection prevention and control measures to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. "Everyone must understand

that as more persons return from overseas, our numbers of positive cases will go up and there will be increased likelihood of spread at the community level," Dr. Tufton noted. "We can, however, stop the spread if we apply the measures of physical distancing and personal and environmental hygiene."

Jamaica's tally of COVID-19 infections was close to 600 by the end of May, with nine deaths.

- Edited from CMC.



## Is Caribbean ready for post-COVID-19 air transport?

TAHSEEN SAYED

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In the Caribbean, with connections and relations spread across the region, inter-island travel is frequent.

Travel serves to deepen relationships, enhance trade, and leads to a deeper regional connection. Whether it's traveling to carnivals or to watch a cricket match or exploring business opportunities on another island, air travel brings the Caribbean people together.

Airports make such travel fast and frequent and are the portal for the rest of the world to experience the Caribbean. Nearly 9.1 million tourists visited the Caribbean in 2019, and a large number of those pass through airports.

### DIFFERENT

No doubt, those numbers will be different for 2020, with border closures and the halt in tourism due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). However, while some borders remain closed, it is an opportune time to prepare for

resuming travel.

In addition to passenger travel, air transport is also essential for facilitating trade for island nations. The volume of freight attributed to air transport in the Caribbean small states increased over 50 percent between 2016 and 2018. While you may not see cargo moving through airports, some of what you will be purchasing – including food – travels by air. This is not only true for imports, but exports as well.

Recently, the World Bank worked with the governments of Dominica, Grenada and St. Lucia to develop a series of projects to improve their airports and air transport sectors. Some \$75 million will be used to improve safety and resilience of the air transport sector in these countries. Another \$84 million project was also approved for Haiti.

### IMPACT

Airport improvements will directly provide more safety and comfort to travelers. The new

projects will help these airports comply with international safety standards and will improve connectivity in the Caribbean.

Connecting the region is a priority for the Caribbean community (CARICOM). In his final address for 2019, CARICOM's Secretary General Irwin Larocque said that an increase in air travel can boost growth and employment.

Air travel can play an important role in stimulating economic activity throughout the region and in supporting continued regional integration and cooperation.

Countries in the Eastern Caribbean are at high risk from natural disasters. The new projects will provide critical infrastructure and equipment to support increased resilience of the airports and the air transport sector.

### VULNERABLE

As we are learning, air travel is also vulnerable not only to climate related disasters, but also to other crises, like the current pandemic.

When speed is essential, supplies, equipment and personnel are rapidly flown in to provide support where it is most needed.

Notwithstanding risks, airports are the gateway to opportunities. Airports can become a catalyst to regenerate economic activity as the small island states begin to reopen.

Improvements in the air transportation sector will help meet the future flow of travelers, whether visiting family, coming for business, or to enjoy the sun, sea and sand of the Caribbean.

Looking ahead, the Caribbean is preparing to welcome these travelers.

- Edited from CMC. Tahseen Sayed is the World Bank country director for Caribbean countries.



## Bahamas eyes commercial flight resumption on July 1

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The Bahamas government says it is looking at the possibility of allowing commercial travel into the Caribbean archipelago by or before next month.

"As of now, we are looking at a possible opening date for commercial travel on or before July 1st," Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis said mid-May.

However, the government insisted opening date would depend on the current state of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak here.

The Bahamas, up to press time, had recorded more than 100 infections and a about dozen deaths from the virus, that was first detected in China last December and linked to the deaths of more than 300,000 people and the infection of five million others globally.

### NOT FINAL

According to Minnis, the opening date may change depending on the circumstances.

"I want to repeat however

that this date is not final," he said. "It will be adjusted if we see a deterioration in the COVID-19 infection trends or if we determine that the protocols and procedures are not in place sufficiently to warrant an opening. Our opening will depend on your co-operation."

Minnis said the government is starting a gradual re-opening of inter-island travel and that the Ministry of Health has developed a policy and protocol for the approval and monitoring of individuals traveling to islands that have resumed normal commercial activity.

He added that individuals may apply and, once cleared for travel, each traveler must present the COVID-19 Travel 22 Authorization Card to the relevant ticket agent.



Minnis

## St. Lucia, Antigua to re-open

CASTRIES, St. Lucia – The governments of St. Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda plan to re-open their borders this month after the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) shut down the Caribbean nations' international travel industry.

St. Lucia said it would begin the gradual re-opening early this month, after indicating the island had been able to curb the COVID-19 spread. Prime Minister Allen Chastanet last month told the nation that "as of June 4th 2020 we will begin to gradually open our borders to regional and international travel" after health authorities shared "our strategic plan to re-open our economy and country in phases,

after weeks of a partial shutdown due to COVID-19."

Antigua and Barbuda also said it will, this month, welcome its first international flight since the island shut its borders. Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez said an American Airlines flight from Miami is scheduled to land on June 4.

- Edited from CMC.



Chastanet

## ...Cayman will wait until Sept. 1

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands - The borders of the Cayman Islands will remain officially closed, at least until Sept. 1.

This was disclosed by Tourism Minister Moses Kirkconnell last month. According to Kirkconnell, no cruise ships will be landing here before then, despite cruise lines advertising sailings to the territory in August.

Kirkconnell said the Cabinet has affirmed the new timeline for the border closure, which was originally due to expire on May 31. Last month, Premier Alden McLaughlin said Cabinet would be considering a revised reopening date for the borders. Concerning cruise lines

advertising port calls in August, the minister said the "Cabinet has passed a policy that the port will not be open to cruise lines until September 1, 2020," but added that there was no guarantee the port would be re-opened by then.

Kirkconnell, who is also deputy premier, said it may be some time before those ships touch local shores.

"I don't think that we're going to see cruise vessels back in Grand Cayman (for the) second, third quarter or fourth quarter, to be quite honest," he said.

- Edited from CMC.



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## FULL SPEED AHEAD: N.Y. West Indian carnival is on - for now

NEW YORK – The largest Caribbean carnival celebration in the United States is set to go on as planned this fall - for now - despite the threat of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), according to organizers.

The Brooklyn, New York-

in the U.S. An estimated three million people attend the parade each year.

### CHALLENGES

Health experts have predicted the likelihood of another wave of COVID-19 in

Indian American Day Carnival Association are planning to proceed with our year-round

community programs and New York Caribbean Carnival Week with several new offerings,” the

statement added.



- File photograph

The annual carnival is a major New York attraction.

based West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) last month said it plans to proceed with its year-round community programs and the New York Caribbean Carnival Week “with several new offerings,” even as it remained concerned about the impact of the pandemic worldwide.

New York has been among the American states hardest hit by the virus that has killed at least 100,000 people and infected two million in the U.S.

WIADCA’s President Dr. Jean Joseph in mid-May told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that the board will meet soon to make a definite decision on holding the Sept. 7 carnival parade, which takes place along Eastern Parkway and coincides with the Labor Day activities

the U.S. during the fall.

In a statement to community members and supporters, WIADCA noted that “the rise of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has us facing unprecedented and daunting challenges daily.

“This pandemic has us all filled with anxiety, as we digest information from the latest press conferences regarding the necessary precautions to which we must adhere in order to protect ourselves and loved ones,” it added.

“... However, based on the increasing public health interventions and measures being implemented domestically and internationally, along with a considerable amount of time to assess and respond to developments between now and September, we at the West

### BRIEFS

**Beenie, Bounty clash on ‘Verzuz’**  
Two Jamaican dancehall legends renewed their decades-old verbal rivalry online last month in front of a global audience, including celebrities from the Caribbean and the United States.

Beenie Man and Bounty Killer clashed on Instagram as part of the “Verzuz” series. More than 473,000 viewers, including Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness and Barbadian pop star Rihanna tuned in.

**St. Lucia cultural icon dies**

St. Lucia cultural and sporting icon Joyce Auguste died last month at her home on the outskirts of

St. Lucia’s capital. She was 76. Auguste led the popular folk band Hewanorra Voices, which was instrumental in the resurgence of folk music, and also wrote extensively about music.

**Buju Banton, John Legend team up**

Jamaican reggae/dancehall icon Buju Banton has, for a second time, teamed up with American R&B star John Legend. They’ve worked on a new single, titled “Memories”, for “Upside Down”, Banton’s upcoming first full studio album in a decade.

- Compiled from various sources.



### CITY OF MIRAMAR NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY COVID-19 Emergency Assistance

The City of Miramar announces the availability of approximately \$296,460 for Temporary Emergency Rental Assistance and Utilities Payments (water and electricity). Temporary emergency payment of renters’ late installment(s) and late fee(s) are included. These funds will be used by the City of Miramar for **extremely low, very low and low-income households**. Applications will be processed on a first come, first served, first qualified basis for the SHIP COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Program until funds are exhausted.

Applications will be available to download on May 18, 2020 on the websites below:

Community Redevelopment Associates of FL, Inc. Website: <https://www.crafla.com>  
City of Miramar. Website: <https://www.miramarfl.gov>

Community Redevelopment Associates of FL, Inc will accept applications starting May 22, 2020

Completed application along with all required documentation can be emailed to [ncasado@crafla.org](mailto:ncasado@crafla.org) or placed in the drop box at: Community Redevelopment Associates of Florida, Inc.  
8569 Pines Blvd., Suite 207  
Pembroke Pines, FL 33024

Please note that incomplete applications will be rejected.

Residents with limited or no access to a computer/technology should contact City of Miramar’s Community Services Department at (954) 889-2719

If you have previously received assistance from the City of Miramar, you may qualify for the emergency assistance.

If you are disabled and need further assistance, please call (954) 431-7866 (Ext. 110).

Household Size	Extremely Low Income 30% AMI and Lower	Very Low Income 31% to 50% AMI	Low Income 51% to 80% AMI
1	\$18,750	\$31,200	\$49,950
2	\$21,400	\$35,650	\$57,050
3	\$24,100	\$40,100	\$64,200
4	\$26,750	\$44,550	\$71,300
5	\$30,680	\$48,150	\$77,050
6	\$35,160	\$51,700	\$82,750
7	\$39,640	\$55,250	\$88,450
8	\$44,120	\$58,850	\$94,150

Effective April 1, 2020, the Median Family Income for Ft. Lauderdale HMFA (Broward) is \$74,800.

Information on the program may be obtained by visiting [www.crafla.com](http://www.crafla.com) or by calling Nercida Casado, Program Specialist at (954) 431-7866 Ext: 110 or email [ncasado@crafla.org](mailto:ncasado@crafla.org) for more information.



City of Miramar  
Denise A. Gibbs, CMC  
City Clerk

Attention local businesses.  
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# FACTS ON FILING: Ways to weather the 2020 U.S. tax season

Over half of adults in the United States say financial stress negatively impacted their personal health and work performance in 2018, according to recent research from Lincoln Financial Group.

When it comes to tax season, preparation is key to easing anxiety, according to experts.

“Tax season can be stressful for many people, but it’s also an opportunity to strengthen your financial plan,” says Michael Corr, chief estate and business planning strategist, Lincoln Financial Advisors, National Planning Team.

“The good news is that there are some simple ways to manage the process.”

To weather the 2020 tax season, Corr offers these tips:

**Get the 411** - Whether preparing your own tax return or paying a professional, good organization saves time and money. In addition to collecting the common tax documents (W-2s, 1099s and mortgage interest statements etc.) you should gather receipts, evidence of



- Photograph © natasaadzi / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Preparation is key.

deduction amount means many taxpayers won’t itemize deductions, thereby simplifying tax return preparation.

Be proactive - Consider what actions you can take prior to the end of tax season to lessen its financial burden.

For example, if you qualify and act prior to the new tax filing deadline of July 15, you may deduct

contributions to charities and 529 plans, and basic information on assets sold during 2019.

Also consider milestones that impact taxes, such as marriage, divorce, birth of a child, adoption and sale of a home. Organizing this information is the first step toward ensuring timely filing.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act significantly increased the standard deduction for federal tax purposes. For the 2019 tax year, the standard deduction is \$12,200 for individuals and \$24,400 for married couples filing jointly. This higher

deduction amount means many taxpayers won’t itemize deductions, thereby simplifying tax return preparation.

Or, if you participate in a high deductible health plan, you may be eligible to contribute to a health savings account with pre-tax dollars through July 15. For the 2019 tax year, the contribution limit is \$3,500 if you’re single and \$7,000 for families, with an additional

\$1,000 catch-up contribution for those 55 or older.

**Use technology** - Embrace these technological advances to reduce tax preparation and filing burdens:

- Whether self-preparing or hiring a professional, tax information from documents filed with the IRS (W-2s, 1099s, etc.) can be downloaded directly into tax-prep software, so be sure to access electronic versions of these documents.

- Online banking makes it easy to manipulate account information and organize data about relevant expenses paid during the year, like estimated tax payments, medical and tuition payments and business expenses.

- The IRS has offered the opportunity for electronic filing of tax returns for several years. Taxpayers who e-file typically receive acknowledgement that their returns have been filed and get their refunds faster than those who paper file.

More information about financial planning and taxes can be found by visiting [lfg.com](http://lfg.com).

- Edited from StatePoint.



# Beware Social Security scam

Social Security and its Office of the Inspector General continue to receive reports about fraudulent telephone calls from people claiming to be Social Security employees.

Social Security Administration employees will never threaten you for information, promise a benefit in exchange for personal information and money, or:

- Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended;
- Demand an immediate payment;
- Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone;
- Require a specific means of debt repayment;
- Demand that you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe; or

- Promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase, in exchange for information or money.

Report the scam to our Office of the Inspector General at [oig.ssa.gov](http://oig.ssa.gov).

- Edited from Social Security Administration.



# Summit to discuss TPS June 19

The search for a permanent solution to the issue of temporary protection status (TPS), which affects thousands of Haiti and other nationals in the United States, will be the focus of a virtual discussion this month.

The annual TPS summit,

to be held 11 a.m. June 19 via Zoom, is being presented by the Family Action Network Movement (FANM) and Florida Immigrant Coalition.

For more information, call FAMN at 305-756-8050.



# New Broward re-opening guidelines during COVID-19

Broward County, Florida late last month extended its re-opening guidelines during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

In recognizing COVID-19 remains a serious threat to public safety, the county stated that social distancing, facial covering and sanitation requirements remain in place for businesses that re-open and the individuals who patronize them.

Other highlights of the new order include:

- All beaches can open with limited hours (sunrise to sunset). Ocean activities such as surfing, swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding and body surfing are allowed; also walking, running and biking.

- Beaches are not yet opened for picnicking, sunbathing, sitting or lying on the beach. Group or organized sports (such as volleyball), umbrellas, canopies, chairs, loungers and coolers are also not yet allowed,

and no group gatherings of more than 10 people.

- Commercial gyms and fitness centers, including but not limited to dance, martial arts, yoga, spinning and personal training studios can open, with adherence to the guidelines.

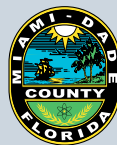
- Hotels, motels and commercial lodging establishments can open with adherence to guidelines. Staff is required to wear facial coverings and gloves for all customer-facing activities. Guests must wear facial coverings in all common areas.

County residents can also report guideline violations anonymously online at [MyBroward.Broward.org](http://MyBroward.Broward.org) or by calling the Broward County Call Center at 311 or 954-831-4000.

For the latest updates, visit [FloridaHealth.gov](http://FloridaHealth.gov), e-mail [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov) or call the COVID Call Center at 954-357-9500.



**Daniella Levine Cava**  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 8



## SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FORGIVABLE LOANS AVAILABLE NOW

Small businesses, with 25 or less employees, affected by COVID-19 can now apply for forgivable loans up to \$25K.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Businesses located and operating in Miami-Dade County.
- Not already receiving PPP loan funds.
- Creating/retaining jobs for individuals with low to moderate income.

### USE OF FUNDS?

- Rent.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Salaries.
- Operational Expenses.

### HOW TO APPLY?

There are 2 ways to apply.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go to website: <a href="http://pseinc.org">pseinc.org</a></li> <li>• See COVID-19 Small Business Relief Loans.</li> <li>• Click Apply Now.</li> <li>• Click start your Application Now!</li> <li>• Download and complete the Application Package.</li> <li>• Gather your supporting documents.</li> <li>• Upload your application &amp; supporting documents online.</li> <li>• Drop off application on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3000 Biscayne Blvd. Suite 215, Miami, FL 33137.</li> <li>• Get technical assistance: Email <a href="mailto:success@partnerforselfemployment.org">success@partnerforselfemployment.org</a> or call the Loan Application Hotline at 786-605-8585.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go to website: <a href="http://tfcmiami.org">tfcmiami.org</a></li> <li>• See Small Business Assistance Forgivable Loan Program.</li> <li>• Click Apply Now.</li> <li>• Scroll down &amp; click Download Application.</li> <li>• Complete application &amp; print.</li> <li>• Gather required documentation.</li> <li>• Email application &amp; documentation to <a href="mailto:info@tfcmiami.org">info@tfcmiami.org</a> or drop off application: Call 305-200-5568 or 786-708-2129 to schedule an appointment Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|



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Donate your car, truck or van. Help veterans find jobs or start a business. Call Patriotic Hearts Foundation. Fast, FREE pick-up. Max tax-deduction. Operators are standing by! Call 1-833-909-0926 (m)

## FINANCIAL

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Need some cash! Sell us your unwanted gold, jewelry, watches & diamonds. Call GOLD GEEK 1-877-330-2105 or visit [www.GetGoldGeek.com/cpf](http://www.GetGoldGeek.com/cpf) BBB A Plus Rated. Request your 100 Percent FREE, no risk, no strings attached appraisal kit. Call today! (m)

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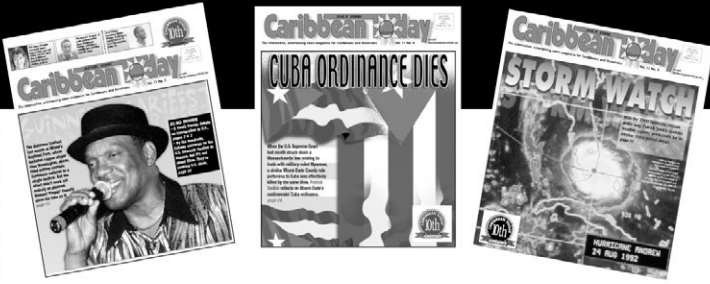
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Peter A. Webley, Publisher

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Climate change producing powerful storms; 2020 looking bleak ~ NOAA report

Man-made climate change is helping to make hurricanes bigger and more powerful, according to a recent study in the United States.

The study, done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Wisconsin and published last month, noted that the warming of Earth over the last four decades has made it eight percent more likely a tropical cyclone will turn into a hurricane of Category 3 strength or higher per decade.

Global warming has been recognized by scientists as a main contributing factor in worsening of extreme weather conditions like hurricanes. According to the 2015 National Climate Assessment, which is mandated every four years by the U.S. Congress, "hurricane intensity and rainfall are projected to increase as the climate continues to warm."

**SPEED FACTOR**

The speed of hurricanes have also reportedly slowed



The power of Hurricane Dorian left parts of The Bahamas devastated.

down when traveling over water and land. That, scientists believe, can lead to increased torrential rain, flooding and storm surge.

"The trend is there and it is real," James P. Kossin, lead author of the study, told *The New York Times*. "There's this remarkable building of this body of evidence that we're making these storms more deleterious."

The Caribbean has felt the brunt of some of the most

powerful storms in recent times. Last year, for example, Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5, devastated parts of The Bahamas. Some scientists believe that is a sign of things to come.

Most climate watch organizations have predicted 2020 will produce an above-average hurricane season in the Atlantic.



## Florida helps getting ready for 2020 hurricane season

TALLAHASSEE — Hurricane season begins June 1 and above-normal activity is predicted.

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) is offering ways to help the public get ready a storm emergency.

"Getting a hurricane plan in place is even more important this year as we also consider the recommended COVID-19 restrictions," PSC Chairman Gary Clark noted in a recent press release.

"If a hurricane hits in the early part of the hurricane season, customers might experience longer power outages, as Florida's utilities implement measures to protect public health as they restore service.

"Make sure to take time to prepare emergency supplies in the event of a storm. The PSC encourages you to have plenty

of non-perishable food, water, flashlights, hand sanitizer, and other provisions ready to help your family quickly recover if a storm hits."

**TOOLS**

To assist with hurricane season preparation, planning tools are available on the PSC's website. The PSC's "Hurricane House", done in English and Spanish, includes 19 preparation tips for your home and family, from planning an evacuation route to dealing with downed power lines.

The public can also find consumer tips for making a hurricane kit and the PSC also ensures Florida's electric utilities are prepared for storm season.

For more information, visit [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com) or follow the PSC on Twitter @floridapsc.



## Getting storm kits ready

The hurricane season begins on June 1 and lasts five months, with storms typically peaking in August and September.

Knowing the essentials of how to prepare for the season could be a life saver. It is important to create a kit of supplies that you could take with you if you are forced to evacuate. This kit will also be useful if you are able to stay in your home, but are still affected by the storm, such as through the loss of power.

If you prepare your kit ahead of time, you can alleviate potential stress. You should create your kit in a bag that you can easily carry. Recommended items include:

- Water and non-perishable food (enough to last at least three days);
- First-aid kit (include any

prescription medication you may need);

- Personal hygiene items and sanitation items;
- Flashlights and battery operated radio (have extra batteries on hand);
- Waterproof container with cash and important documents;
- Manual can opener, lighter or matches;
- Books, magazines, games for recreation;
- Special needs items, including pet supplies and baby supplies if applicable;
- Cooler and ice packs; plus
- A plan for evacuation and one if family members are separated.

- Edited from *StateofFlorida.com*.



## Know common terms used during hurricane forecasts

It is vital people understand what the forecasters and news reporters are saying during hurricane season. The following are some definitions:

**Tropical depressions** - These are cyclones with winds of 38 miles per hour (mph).

**Tropical storms** - They vary in wind speeds from 39 mph to 73 mph.

**Hurricanes** - Carry winds 74 mph and greater.

Typically the upper right quadrant of the storm (the center wrapping around the eye) is the most intense portion of the storm. The greatest threats are damaging winds, storm surge and flooding.

**Tropical storm/hurricane watch** - Tropical storm/hurricane conditions are possible in the area. Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm/hurricane force winds.

**Tropical storm/hurricane**

**warning** - Storm/hurricane conditions are expected in the area. Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of tropical storm/hurricane force winds.

**Eye** - Clear, sometimes well-defined center of the storm with calmer conditions.

**Eye wall** - Surrounding the eye, this contains some of the most severe weather of the storm with the highest wind speed and largest precipitation.

**Rain bands** - Bands coming off the cyclone that produce severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, wind and tornadoes.

**Storm surge** - An often underestimated and deadly result of ocean water swelling as a result of a landfalling storm, and quickly flooding coastal and sometimes areas further inland.

- Edited from *StateofFlorida.com*.



# SALUTE TO



# THE BAHAMAS!

In June, Caribbean Today will spotlight the Bahamas-3000 islands, cays and inlets located in the Atlantic Ocean. With a population of over 385,000 people, this nation continues to influence its Caribbean cousins and The United States mainland, Florida in particular. The Bahamas is located in the same island chain as Cuba, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti) and is one of the richest countries in the Americas per capita. Come with Caribbean Today as we focus on the great people of The Bahamas and learn of their contributions to the Caribbean region and the U.S. Let us show you why the land of the conk thinks life is better in The Bahamas.

**The Bahamas celebrates Independence on July 10.**

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# PAY CUT: Cricket West Indies slashes salaries for players, staff due to financial troubles

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua – The Caribbean's cricket ambassadors will have to make do with less money for now.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) last month slashed staff and player incomes in half, in an attempt to remain viable amidst mounting financial troubles due to the global novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The board of CWI described the move as a "temporary measure" it "deeply regretted" having to make the cuts, but claimed it was left with little choice "in the face of debilitating economic challenges which have resulted from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic."

The measures, adopted following "close consultation with all stakeholders," will also extend to the funding for territorial boards, territorial board franchises along with the West Indies Players Association



Captain Jason Holder, forefront, and his team will take a pay cut.

(WIPA).

Retainers and allowances for directors and executive management are also being slashed by half.

CWI approved the measures during a meeting held by teleconference on May 25, acting on recommendations put

forward by its Financial Strategy Advisory Committee established in April and chaired by Jamaica Cricket Association President Wilford "Billy" Heaven.

The board said it did not envisage the measures lasting beyond "three to six months."



# Caribbean sports personalities test positive for coronavirus

Two prominent sports figures who have represented the Caribbean tested positive for the novel coronavirus last month.

Jamaican-born former basketball great Patrick Ewing, a Hall of Fame member who played in college at Georgetown University in the United States and as a professional for multiple teams in the National Basketball Association, tested positive for COVID-19 and was admitted to hospital.

Ewing, who played as a center for many years with the New York Knicks, is currently coach of Georgetown University.

Also testing positive was Adrian Mariappa, a current member of Jamaica's national senior men's soccer team.

Mariappa, a defender, plays club soccer for Watford in the English Premier League. He was subjected to self-isolation and not allowed to train with the team unless he cleared testing protocol.

Through the end of May most sporting activities globally were still shut down. However, several professional soccer leagues slowly began returning to play. Germany's top soccer league, for example, resumed competition by playing in stadiums without fans present. In the U.S., college sports was still on lockdown. However, some sports, like auto racing, resumed limited competition schedules.



Ewing



Mariappa

# Haiti's soccer boss suspended over sexual abuse claims



Jean-Bart

ZURICH, Switzerland – Suspended Haitian Football Federation (FHF) President Yves Jean-Bart said he expects to be exonerated and reinstated at the end of ongoing sexual abuse investigations that triggered soccer's governing body FIFA to provisionally ban him from the sport.

Announcing the decision, which took effect on May 25, FIFA said Jean-Bart, also known as "Dadou", would not be allowed to take part in any

national or international soccer-related activities for 90 days.

It is alleged that within the last five years, the 73-year-old soccer boss coerced several underage females at the country's national training center in Croix-des-Bouquets into having sex. Jean-Bart, who is under investigation by the juvenile protection brigade of the Haitian judicial police, has denied the allegations.

## DENIAL

His spokesperson issued a statement on May 27 describing the allegations as baseless and politically motivated.

"While Jean-Bart continues to unequivocally deny the baseless allegations against him, he will comply with FIFA's provisional suspension – which is a standard practice of the ethics committee – and expects full exoneration and reinstatement once the investigation concludes," the statement noted.

"Fully transparent from the start, the Federation and its President were actually the first to issue requests for inquiries by the Haitian judicial system, as well as the respected human rights group Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains, in order to prove that the despicable, politically motivated allegations against him have no truth."

The statement added that the FHF had previously asked FIFA to send experts from the FIFA Guardians/Child Safeguarding Program to verify the conditions at the national youth training facility and to do its own investigations.

Meanwhile, Jean-Bart, who has served as FHF president for two decades and was elected to a sixth term in February, has filed a public defamation lawsuit against a blogger who published anonymous accusations against him.

- Edited from CMC.



# Usain Bolt is a father

Jamaica's legendary sprinter Usain Bolt is now a dad.

Bolt and girlfriend Kasi Bennett welcomed a daughter last month.

"Congratulations to our sprint legend Usain Bolt (@usainbolt) and Kasi Bennett on the arrival of their baby girl!" Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew

Holness tweeted.

In January, Bolt and Bennett announced they were expecting a baby. Bolt, who last competed in 2017 but still owns individual world records in the 100 and 200 meters, celebrated becoming a father with "Girl Dad" on Instagram.





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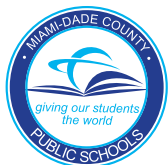
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## EAT UP: Grubhub rates top 12 Caribbean restaurants in major U.S. cities

Afraid to go out but craving Caribbean food in a major United States city?

There are a bunch of cities where you could just hop over to and place your order, although you should place your order at least an hour ahead.

Here are the top-rated Caribbean restaurants in 12 major U.S. cities, according to Grubhub users:

**Chicago, Illinois** - Jamaica Jerk Villa Bar & Grill which has received four out of five stars, the most for any Caribbean restaurant in that city. Check out the jerk chicken dinner, jerk wings, jerk catfish and oxtail.

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** - Morgan's Caribbean Restaurant received four out of five stars as 89 percent of people raved about its jerk chicken, oxtail and brown stew chicken platters.

**Miami, Florida** - Griot 305 received four out of five stars. Praised for its fried pork, fried turkey and stewed vegetables with meat, among other dishes.

**Boston, Massachusetts** - Singh's Roti Shop received four-



There are plenty places to dine.

and-a-half-stars for dishes such as the vegetarian roti dinner, as well as boneless chicken roti, jerk chicken roti and oxtail roti.

**Los Angeles, California** - The Jerk Spot is known for its speciality - jerk chicken. It received four-and-a-half stars out of five from 779 reviews, with 94 percent saying the food is definitely good.

**Baltimore, Maryland** - West Indian Flavor secured a four-star review from those who have ordered there, especially for its jerk chicken and curry chicken buss up shut meals.

**Washington, D.C.** - Spice - A Caribbean Jerk Joint got a four-and-a-half-star rating for its

jerk chicken sandwich, jerk chicken, oxtails, curry goat and curry chicken.

**Houston, Texas** - Four-and-a-half-star-rated Island Flavorz is known for its stewed chicken, oxtail and more.

**Las Vegas, Nevada** - Four-star rated Big Jerk Caribbean Cuisine is known for patties, jerk wings, jerk chicken and more.

**San Diego, California** - Rock Steady Jamaican Restaurant has received a four-and-a-half-star review for its menu items like jerk chicken and brown stewed chicken.

**New York, New York** - In Manhattan, the four-and-a-half-star-rated Guantanamera serves excellent Cuban cuisine, including the famous Cuban sandwich, empanadas, tostones and ropa viega.

**Brooklyn, New York** - Four-and-a-half-star rated Fisherman's Cove is known for its oxtail meal, stewed chicken and more.

- Edited from News Americas. ✨

## Sip on some sumptuous beef soup - yummy and healthy

There is no better time to focus on immune boosting foods, with an added collagen benefit. So try the yummy traditional Caribbean beef soup.

Here's how you can make it at home, according to this Grace Foods recipe:

### INGREDIENTS

- 24 cups water
- 1 lb. soup bone/meat
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/2 lb. carrot, cubed
- 1/4 lb. turnip, cubed
- 1 lb. pumpkin, cubed
- 1/2 lb. chocho, peeled and cubed
- 1 lb. yellow yam, peeled and cubed

### FOR DUMPLING MIXTURE

- 1 lb. flour
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup water

### SEASONING FOR SOUP

- 1 packet Grace Cock Soup Mix
- 1 stalk scallion
- 1 sprig thyme
- 1 tbsp. all-purpose seasoning
- 1 whole scotch bonnet pepper
- 1 tsp. salt
- 5 whole pimento berries

### METHOD

In a large pot bring water to a boil. Clean and chop soup bone/meat and add to the pot



Beef soup

along with crushed garlic.

Add carrot, turnip, pumpkin, chocho and cook until the meat is tender. Peel and add yellow yam.

For dumpling mixture, combine flour with one-eighth teaspoon of salt and half cup water and knead to form a smooth dough. Cover and allow to relax for 10 minutes.

Cut dough in about 12 pieces and shape into dumplings and add to the soup.

**Seasoning for Soup:** Stir in Grace Cock Soup Mix, beaten scallion, thyme, all-purpose seasoning, scotch bonnet pepper, salt and pimento. Allow to simmer for 20 to 30 minutes.

Serves five.

- Edited from News Americas. ✨

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