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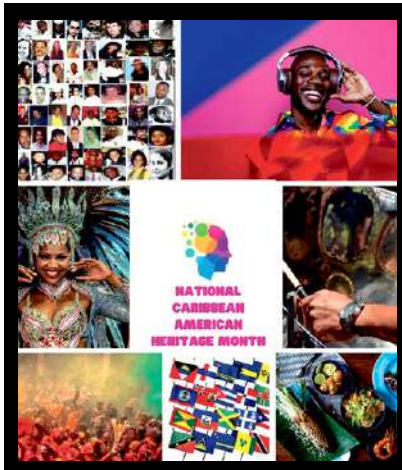
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Saluting Caribbean American COVID-19 Heroes ... Page 1B  
(Credit: Photo by Mulyadi/Unsplash)



**NATIONAL CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Celebrating Caribbean American Heritage Month ... Page 18A  
(Credit: HardBeatCommunications)

# KAMALA'S CHALLENGE



## Can Caribbean American Kamala Deliver Gun Law Changes For President Biden? ...Page 3

Caribbean American US Vice President Kamala Harris speaks on gun violence at a memorial service for Ruth Whitfield, a victim of the Buffalo supermarket shooting, at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Saturday, May 28, 2022, in Buffalo, N.Y.

(Photo Credit: Patrick Semansk/AP)

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# Here Are The Regional Headlines Making News This Week

**REGIONALLY**

The United States says it is still formulating the invitation list regarding the attendance at the Summit of the Americas to be held from June 6-10th, indicating that nonetheless, the four-day event will be a success.

“We are still looking though the invitations, we are continuing to engage in conversations with different countries and once we make the final decision we will make an announcement,” said Juan Gonzalez, National Security Council Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries are divided on whether or not to boycott the June 6-10 event, with St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, confirming Wednesday that he nor any other government minister will be attending the summit in protest over Washington’s decision not to invite the leaders of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

Other countries in the Americas, including Mexico, have also raised concerns regarding their participation at the deliberations, insisting that the summit should be inclusive and not exclusive.

**GRENADA**

The Parliamentary Elections Office (PEO) in Grenada says that 41 candidates have been nominated to contest the June 23rd general elections, with the two

main parties contesting all 15 seats in the Parliament.

In a statement, the PEO said that apart from the ruling New National Party (NNP) and the main opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC), the other parties contesting the elections that Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell called almost a year ahead of the constitutional date, are the Grenada Renaissance Party (GRP), the Independent Freedom Party (IP) that are contesting three seats each.

The Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), which once dominated politics here, is contesting four seats while three is one independent candidate.

Prime Minister Mitchell, who is hoping to win a third consecutive term in office after having led the NNP to consecutive sweeps of all the seats in the Parliament in the last two general elections, said he remains confident that the party will win the polls.

**HAITI**

The United Nations has called on Caribbean governments to do more to help Haitian fleeing insecurity by sea, saying that the numbers of desperate people resorting to risky sea crossings has sharply increased.



Activists protest in Los Angeles against President Joe Biden for excluding Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua from the Summit of the Americas. (PHOTO:Frederic J. Brown/AFP via Getty Images)

Speaking to journalists at the Palais des Nations, Shabia Mantoo, a spokesperson for the UN refugee agency, (UNHCR), said that many of the dangerous crossings in the Caribbean Sea take place in overloaded and unseaworthy boats

Mantoo cited a recent example of a vessel carrying over 800 Haitians, bound for the United States, which instead arrived in Cuba after being abandoned by its captain and set adrift at sea.

According to the world body, Haiti is being rocked by violent gang-related activity, internal displacement, natural disasters and a lack of employment opportunities.

“Under such dire humanitarian and security conditions, the outlook for those pushed back or forced to return to the country is poor,” the UN said.

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

The head of one of the intelligence agencies in the police

force in Trinidad and Tobago, Assistant Commissioner of Police Nazrudeen Pragg, has been charged with two offences of misbehavior in public office.

Pragg, 59, was charged following reports that he told two people employed by the force as intelligence officers that they could tint their private vehicles beyond legal specifications.

When he appeared in court, Pragg who was charged by officers assigned to the Professional Standards Bureau, was granted bail amounting to TT\$200,000.

According to the police release, issued shortly before midnight on Friday, Pragg is accused of “knowingly entering false and misleading information” on a form issued by the Ministry of Works and Transport to recommend a civilian and a soldier to be exempt from the legal tint laws.

Pragg is scheduled to appear before a Port of Spain magistrate on June 30th.

**BAHAMAS**

The US-based rating agency, Moody’s says the Bahamas government fiscal consolidation projections face multiple “risks” due to the absence of any tax increases in the multi-million-dollar national budget that was unveiled in the Parliament recently.

Bahamas Prime Minister Phillip Davis presented a multi-billion-dollar tax free budget to

Parliament as the country begins to rebound from the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and now having to grapple with “great challenges and opportunities,” occasioned by a changing global environment.

But Moody’s said that while the narrowing fiscal deficit was declared to be a “credit” positive for The Bahamas, it noted “over-optimistic revenue projections” in the absence of a wider tax base and difficulties in controlling government spending “in line with targets.”

**Barbados**

The governments of Barbados and Guyana have deepened their partnership in the areas of agriculture and tourism – a move that being called a “win win” situation for both Caribbean Community (CARICOM), member states. The partnership means that Barbados will now have access to farmlands in Guyana and will also be able to explore tourism opportunities and support young people.

**GUYANA**

The Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) has named July 19th as the date to hear an appeal filed by two senior Guyana government officials challenging the country’s Court of Appeal’s ruling regarding an opposition petition challenging the results of the controversial March 2, 2020 general elections.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4A)

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# Can Caribbean American Veep Kamala Harris Deliver On Changes In Gun Laws?



The US' Caribbean American Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband Doug Emhoff visit a memorial near the site of the Buffalo supermarket shooting after attending a memorial service for Ruth Whitfield, one of the victims of the shooting, Saturday, May 28, 2022, in Buffalo, N.Y. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

It's National Caribbean American Heritage Month but emotions are still raw following the massacre of 31 in Buffalo New York and Uvalde, Texas and shootings since. On May 28th, the US' first Caribbean American Vice-President, Kamala Harris, delivered an impassioned plea for a ban on assault weapons in the wake of two deadly mass shootings in the US.

Harris made the plea while attending the funeral of Ruth Whitfield, 86, killed in a supermarket by an 18-year-old White teen in Buffalo, on May 14th and just four days after another 18-year-old massacred 19 children and two teachers in an Uvalde school.

Harris, listing these and other attacks, said it was time to say "enough is enough" to gun violence.

But the reality is, as the VP of President Biden, Harris, should be working to push both sides in Congress to come to an agreement on ending the blood shed that keeps claiming innocent lives.

"Everybody's got to stand up and agree that this should not be happening in our country and that we should have the courage to do something about it," she told the congregants at the funeral.

But does she? So far, Harris has been largely MIA from most major legislative push and as the public face of top issues, including immigration, which she was tasked with by Biden.

Now Harris insists that the solution to the gun carnage is clear - background checks and an assault weapons ban.

"Do you know what an assault weapon is?" she asked, continuing: "It was designed for a specific purpose: to kill a lot of human beings quickly. An assault weapon is a weapon of war, with no place, no place in a civil society."

She is right. But the talk must now translate to action and Harris should be at the helm of

this.

"Why should anyone be able to buy a weapon that can kill other human beings without at least knowing, 'Hey, has that person committed a violent crime before? Are they a threat against themselves or others? That's just reasonable,'" she said on May 28th.

However, attempts to bring in universal background checks and bans on assault weapons

have hit roadblocks. The issue is divisive in the US, with almost all Democrats backing stronger controls, compared to just 24% of Republicans.

US President Joe Biden has made his own call for tighter gun controls.

In National Caribbean American Heritage Month, VP Harris has a chance to help make history and put herself in the spotlight ahead of 2024. She can

and should lead the fight to get changes. Harris should take up the mantle for the administration and use her intellect, charm and motherly love, to get both sides to see that commonsense gun laws does not mean a moratorium on gun ownership.

She is right. As she said in Buffalo: "we have a lot of work to do." She sure does.



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# Over 150 Caribbean Migrants Sent Packing

The United States Coast Guard has sent over 150 Caribbean nationals packing.

Its cutter Vigilant has repatriated 146 Haitian migrants

back to Cap-Haitien, Haiti. The migrants were interdicted about 45 miles southeast of Islamorada in the Florida Keys.

The Coast Guard said a US

Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations air crew spotted the "grossly overloaded vessel . . . and Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant and Station Islamorada crews diverted to the vessel."

The US Coast Guard also returned eight Dominican Republic nationals, 15 Haitians and 12 Uzbek nationals to the

Dominican Republic following the interdiction of two illegal voyages in the Mona Passage near Puerto Rico.

The US Coast Guard said four other Dominican Republic nationals apprehended during these interdictions are facing US federal criminal prosecution in Puerto Rico for attempted illegal re-entry into the United States.

Since October 1, 2021, the US Coast Guard said its crews have interdicted 5,003 Haitian migrants, compared to 1,527 in Fiscal Year 2021, 418 in Fiscal Year 2020, 932 in Fiscal Year 2019, 609 in Fiscal Year 2018, and 419 Haitian in Fiscal Year 2017.



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# A Region Mourns The Loss Of An Icon

CARICOM and Caribbean people around the world are expressing sadness at the passing of one of the region's icon's - poet, novelist, teacher and editor, George Lamming.

The Barbadian-born Lamming died in his homeland on Saturday, June 4th, just four days shy of his 95th birthday.

The celebrated literary icon was known for works such as 'In the Castle of My Skin,' 'The Emigrants,' and 'Water With Berries.' His first novel, 'In the Castle of my Skin,' is still widely celebrated as having been the first Caribbean novel to have won worldwide acclaim.

Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Dr. Carla Barnett, said in a statement that the regional body joins the people of Barbados in mourning the passing of the literary icon.

"He was an authentic Caribbean voice. I extend deepest condolences to the family of Mr Lamming and the Government and people of Barbados on the death of this true Caribbean icon," Barnett said.

Lamming was born on June 8, 1927 in Carrington Village, Barbados to a mixed Afro-Barbadian and English father. After his mother married his stepfather, Lamming split his time between this birthplace and his stepfather's home in St David's Village.

Lamming left Barbados to work as a teacher from 1946 to 1950 in Port of Spain, Trinidad, at El Colegio de Venezuela, a boarding school for boys. He then emigrated to England where, for a short time, he worked in a factory.

In 1951 Lamming became a broadcaster for the BBC Colonial Service. His writings were published in the Barbadian magazine Bim, edited by his teacher Frank Collymore, and the BBC's Caribbean Voices radio series broadcast his poems and



**Literary Icon, George Lamming, is no more.** (Photo by John Stevenson)

short prose. Lamming himself read poems on Caribbean Voices, including some by the young Derek Walcott.

Lamming's first novel, In the Castle of My Skin, was published in London in 1953. It won a Somerset Maugham Award and was championed by eminent figures the like of Jean-Paul Sartre and Richard Wright, the latter writing an introduction to the book's U.S. edition. Lamming was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and became a professional writer.

He began to travel widely, going to the United States in 1955, the West Indies in 1956 and West Africa in 1958. His second novel, The Emigrants, (1954), which focuses on the migrants' journey and the process of resettlement, was described by Quarterly Black Review as "very thought-provoking. It shows how adrift black people can be as they search for a political, economic and social context. It should also be read as an example of how black people have tried to use the novel to tell their own unique story in a unique way."

He entered academia in 1967 as a writer-in-residence and lecturer in the Creative Arts Centre and Department of Education at the University of the West Indies, Kingston (1967-68).

Later, he was a visiting professor in the United States at the University of Texas at Austin,

the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Connecticut, Brown University, Cornell University, and Duke University and a lecturer in Denmark, Tanzania, and Australia. Lamming also directed the University of Miami's Summer Institute for Caribbean Creative Writing.

In 2008, Lamming was awarded CARICOM's highest award, the Order of the Caribbean Community (OCC), "honoring fifty-five years of extraordinary engagement with the responsibility of illuminating Caribbean identities, healing the wounds of erasure and fragmentation, envisioning possibilities, transcending inherited limitations."

"In recognizing this son and ancestor, CARICOM is applauding intellectual energy, constancy of vision, and an unswerving dedication to the ideals of freedom and sovereignty."

In May 2011, the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC), awarded Lamming the first Caribbean Hibiscus Award in acknowledgement of his lifetime's work. In 2014, he received a Lifetime Achievement Prize from the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards.

George Lamming Primary School, located at Flint Hall, St Michael, was named in his honor and opened on September 2, 2008.

His work is celebrated through the George Lamming Pedagogical Centre, housed at the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI), with annual distinguished lecture series held annually in June, the month of Lamming's birth.

His personal literary collection is housed at the Sidney Martin Library, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados.

- Partly rewritten from CMC



# Here are the regional headlines making news this week

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2A)

Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo and Attorney General, Anil Nandlall, are challenging the decision of the Guyana Court of Appeal's that it has jurisdiction to hear the appeal of the dismissal of the petition filed by the opposition coalition, A Partnership for National Unity, (APNU).

Acting Chief Justice, Roxane George-Whilshire had dismissed

the petition, after ruling that the APNU presidential candidate, David Granger, had not been served on time.

The elections petition had been filed by Monica Thomas and Brennan Nurse, who were contending that the elections were unlawfully conducted and/or that the results (if lawfully conducted) were affected or might have been affected by unlawful acts or omissions. They also

argued that from those polls it is Granger who should be declared the duly-elected President of Guyana. On December 21st, last year, the Guyana Court of Appeal by a 2-1 majority ruling said it had jurisdiction to hear the appeal of the petition.

- Rewritten from CMC



# US Warns Against Travel To These Jamaican Parishes

The U.S. State Department is warning Americans to reconsider travel to several Jamaican parishes due to crime there.

The advisory of May 31st warns that crime is high in some areas of Jamaica with violence and shootings occurring frequently, and warns against travel to:

- All of Clarendon Parish, except passing through Clarendon Parish using the T1 and A2 highways.
- Logwood and Orange Bay in the parish of Hanover.
- Cassava Piece, Downtown Kingston, defined as between Mountain View Avenue and Hagley Park Road, and south of Half Way Tree and Old Hope Roads. Downtown Kingston includes Arnett Gardens, Cockburn Gardens, Denham Town, Olympic Gardens, Seaview Gardens, Trench Town, and Tivoli Gardens, Duhaney Park, Grants Pen,



The U.S. is warning Americans to reconsider travel to Jamaica due to crime and to avoid travel completely to several areas across eight parishes.

- Standpipe, Swallowfield, Elleston Flats and August Town in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew.
- Canterbury, Flankers, Glendevon, Mount Salem, Norwood, Paradise Heights and Rose Heights in Montego Bay.
- Steer Town in St. Ann Parish.
- Cambridge, Springmount and Johns Hall in the Parish of St. James.
- And Russia community in Savanna-la-Mar (The Southeastern quadrant of Savannah la Mar east of Darling Street and south of the A2 highway/Barracks Road) and The Whitehall neighborhood of east Negril in the Parish of Westmoreland.

“Violent crimes, such as home invasions, armed robberies, sexual assaults, and homicides, are common. Sexual assaults occur frequently, including at all-inclusive resorts,” the advisory stated. “Local police lack the resources to respond effectively to serious criminal incidents. Emergency services vary throughout the island, and response times may vary from U.S. standards.”

The State department also added that “the homicide rate reported by the Government of Jamaica has for several years been among the highest in the Western Hemisphere” and added that “U.S. government personnel are prohibited from traveling to areas listed below, from using public buses, and from driving outside of prescribed areas of Kingston at night.”



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# It's Hurricane Season, Be Prepared



As hurricane season began on June 1st, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Nikki Fried, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, (FDACS), are reminding residents to prepare for potential storms and avoid scams surrounding natural disasters.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA) has predicted an above-average Atlantic hurricane season with a 70 percent chance that 14-21 named storms will form. Of those potential named storms, 6-10 are predicted to become hurricanes and 3-6 could be major hurricanes.

### Hurricane Fuel Plan Preparations:

FDACS recommends the following tips for hurricane preparedness, along with important fuel safety reminders:

Keep all vehicles at least half full during hurricane season. Keep at least one vehicle filled with gasoline once the earliest predictions indicate a storm may threaten the state.

Pre-purchase fuels (LP gas and gasoline) for generators at the start of hurricane season – properly stored fuels will last at least six months and can be transferred into a vehicle for use should no emergency arise.

Use gasoline fuel stabilizer to keep gasoline fresh and ready to use when it is needed.

### Fuel Safety:

Refill fuel containers on the ground, not in the truck bed or trunk.

Transport and store fuel ONLY in appropriate containers – look for DOT approved containers that close tightly and do not leak. NEVER store or transport

gasoline in milk jugs or open top containers.

Store fuel in a safe and well-ventilated location.

Report Outages/Quality: To report fuel outages or quality issues before or after a hurricane, consumers should contact the department's Division of Consumer Services at 1-800-HELP-FLA, 1-800-FL-AYUDA en Español, or FloridaConsumerHelp.com.

### Consumer Anti-Fraud Tips

Clean-up and repair scams: After disasters, unlicensed contractors and scammers may appear with promises of quick repairs, clean-up, and debris removal. Some may demand upfront payment and not do the work, claim you'll get a discount but quote outrageous prices, or lack needed skills. Before you do business with any company providing these services:

Do your research: Ask for

IDs, licenses, proof of insurance, and references. See if local contact information is on their trucks. Check with FDACS' Division of Consumer Services for complaints.

Get another estimate: Check if other companies offering similar services are providing quotes with comparable prices. Review contracts carefully: Ensure all promises a company makes are in writing and that you understand what you're signing. Never use cash: Always pay with a check or a credit card and never make the final payment until the work is complete.

File a consumer complaint if you are impacted. To file a complaint, complete our online form or call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or 1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832) en Español.

Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th.



## 2022 Atlantic Hurricane, Tropical Storm Names

With the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season underway, here's a look at the names you'll see this year. A few of these names debuted after the disastrous 2004

hurricane season, when four different hurricanes sliced through Florida.

**Alex** - Alex has been used for four tropical cyclones since

its inception in 1998, when it replaced the infamous Andrew. Alex's most recent iteration in 2016 was a rare January hurricane – only the second

hurricane to originate in January. 2016's Alex made landfall in the Azores and also formed abnormally far north.

**Bonnie** - Bonnie has been used seven times dating back to 1980. Bonnies have been in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and the open Atlantic, but its most notable use is in 1998. It was a long-lasting major hurricane that approached the Carolinas in August of that year. It made landfall as a Category 2, but crop damage across eastern North Carolina was extensive.

**Colin** - Colin is known for being a dud in its two iterations since 2010. The 2016 storm was colloquially known as "semicolin" because the heavily sheared tropical storm took on the appearance of the punctuation mark over the Gulf of Mexico. Despite its appearance, it caused six people to drown in the Southeast.

**Danielle** - Danielle has been used on seven different storms since 1980, mostly on storms without much fanfare. Three were long-lived strong storms in the open Atlantic, although one of them did cause some issues in Europe after its tropical phase. The first tropical storm to use this name, in 1980, caused widespread flooding in southeast Texas.

**Earl** - Earl is another name on this list with seven different uses, but one in particular sticks out. In 2010, Hurricane Earl became a long-lasting recurring storm that strengthened into a Category 4 north of the Caribbean and again off the coast of Florida. Rip currents and strong winds were felt from the Caribbean to Canada's Nova Scotia, where the storm eventually made landfall as a

Category 1.

**Fiona** - Storms named Fiona in the Atlantic have been seen "fish" storms in the central Atlantic. Fiona replaced Frances after the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season due to that hurricane's impact on Florida.

**Gaston** - Gaston's first iteration in 2004 was its most destructive storm. After briefly becoming a hurricane near landfall in South Carolina, Gaston went on to bring flooding and tornadoes in eastern Virginia – particularly in Richmond. Nine people were killed in flooding in Virginia, and 350 homes and 230 businesses were either damaged or destroyed.

**Hermine** - Hermine has been on the list since 1980 but has only been used five times. 2016's Hurricane Hermine was the first and only time the name was used on a hurricane. That hurricane made landfall in Florida's Big Bend region. The storm spawned heavy rainfall and gusty winds, which knocked many communities off the electrical grid and caused 80% of Tallahassee to lose power.

**Ian** - "I" names are tough to keep on the list due to their frequent occurrence during the peak of hurricane season, but Ian survived the 2016 season as a mid-Atlantic "fish" storm. Ian replaced 2010's Igor, which replaced Ivan after the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season due to that hurricane's impact on Florida. Ivan was an original name on the 1980 list but wasn't used after that until 1998.

**Julia** - Julia has been used twice since it replaced Jeanne after the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season due to that hurricane's

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7A)



On August 6, 2022, the island of Jamaica marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

**OUR INDEPENDENCE SUPPLEMENT! Jamaica at 60** to be published in July 2022, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people. Promote your products and services in this 28-page keepsake edition, to be distributed widely throughout Florida, New York, Atlanta, and the Caribbean.

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# Dale Holness' Former Campaign Consultant Facing 30 Years In Jail

The Jamaica-born former consultant to South Florida, Jamaican immigrant former Broward County Mayor, Dale Holness, is facing a possible 30-year sentence and a fine of US\$1 million.

Omar Smith was recently arrested and charged with bank and wire fraud arising from a payroll protection loan he received for his business from the federal government during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federal prosecutors contend that Smith, a past student of Jamaica College, lied on his application in June 2020 for a \$212,500 forgivable federally guaranteed Paycheck Protection Program loan on behalf of his company A Star For 1 Incorporated. He is



Omar Smith (REDBROWARD.com image)

also accused of conspiring to commit bank fraud and wire fraud.

Prosecutors said Smith justified the loan application claiming that the company

employed 30 people and had a payroll of \$85,000 per month. Prosecutors say records show that the company employed zero people and had no employees or payroll expenses.

They said that to obtain the loan, which was made by a Utah Bank, Smith submitted fraudulent payroll tax forms.

They said that to obtain the loan, which was made by a Utah Bank, Smith submitted fraudulent payroll tax forms.

The loan was approved on the information and documentation submitted and the money was wired to Smith's company accounts. According to the charging document, he spent the next couple of months creating a paper trail seeking to justify

the loan.

Prosecutors said that cheques were issued from the company's account and made out to others who did little or no work for A Star For 1.

Smith worked for Holness from 2019 to 2021. Holness lost his bid to win the 20th congressional seat in Florida last year in a special election to fill the vacant seat, is again a candidate for the seat running in the Democratic primary set for August 24 this year.

Holness' daughter, Damara Holness, is currently in federal prison in Marianna after pleading guilty to a \$300,000 COVID relief funds fraud.



# Caribbean American Congressmember Urges Haitian Americans To Break Barriers

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Caribbean American Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick has appealed to Haitian Americans to make a difference by running for public office. That way, she believes they can help improve the welfare of a next generation of descendants from the Caribbean country.

Cherfilus-McCormick, a Democrat freshman in the US House of Representatives, made the call during her May 14th speech at the 24th Haitian Lawyers Association Scholarship Gala at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale, Florida.

"Join me in serving, join me in breaking the barriers, join in me in reaching what we all envision a beautiful country that we can go back," she said.

Cherfilus-McCormick told the audience that one of her first assignments as congresswoman was a fact-finding visit to Israel. She

said an American tour guide's 28-year commitment to that country inspired her drive to become even more pro-Haitian.

"This is where we should be. What are our long-term goals? What do we give, not to just to ourselves, but to our generation?" Cherfilus-McCormick asked. "I'm here to inspire, inspire us to be the best. Inspire the next generation!"

South Florida has the largest Haitian community in the United States. Cherfilus-McCormick was born in New York City to Haitian parents but moved to Miami when she was 14.

William Saintilus, president of the Haitian Lawyers Association and chair of its gala, said the organization's primary objective is to help Haitians in dire situations, such as the crisis on the United States Southern Border, and aspiring lawyers who need financial



"Join me in serving, join me in breaking the barriers," said Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick.

assistance.

He disclosed that eight legal aspirants of Haitian descent were awarded scholarships of \$2,500 each. The funds came from several quarters including Holness,

a perennial supporter of the event, the City of North Miami Beach and private donors.

Over 400 persons attended the gala which was held virtually in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19. Eight persons and

organizations were honored.

They were:

- **Theresa Therilus** (Leadership Award)
- **Santra Denis** (Advocacy Award)
- **CITIMED** (Ally Award)
- **Ruth Jean** (Member of The Year Award)
- **Catholic Legal Services** (Pro Bono Award)
- **Vanessa Joseph** (Special Recognition Award)
- **Commissioner Michael Joseph** (Special Recognition Award)
- **Pierre Louis** (President's Award).

Cherfilus-McCormick, a 43-year-old lawyer, won Florida's 20th congressional district special election last January, beating favorite Dale Holness by a mere five votes. They were in a runoff to replace long serving Congressman Alcee Hastings, who died in April 2021.



# 2022 Atlantic Hurricane, Tropical Storm Names

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6A)

impact on Florida. The storms that used this name have been mostly unremarkable, but 2016's version became a tropical storm while just inland over Florida's east coast.

**Karl** - The five Karls of the last four decades have had an apparent attraction to the open central and eastern Atlantic, with one exception. 2010's Hurricane Karl traveled through the Caribbean and eventually became a multi-billion-dollar disaster for Mexico's Veracruz state.

**Lisa** - Lisa is a common name for tropical cyclones around the world. It has been used for nine such cyclones, including three hurricanes

and one tropical storm in the Atlantic. None of the Atlantic systems have been notable. The name "Liza" has also been used in the Pacific.

**Martin** - This is the first new name on this year's list. It replaces Matthew, which was retired after the 2016 season. **Nicole** - Nicole has been used four times since 1998. 2016's Nicole made landfall on Bermuda, where it downed much of the electrical infrastructure. Other uses of the name have been fairly uneventful.

**Owen** - This is the second new name on this year's list. It replaces Otto, which was retired after the 2016 season.

**Paula** - Paula has only been used once in the Atlantic, although other variations of the

name (Paul, Pauline, Paulette) have been used. 2010's Paula was a Category 2 that traversed the western Caribbean and caused minor damage in Cuba. **Richard** - Richard has only been used once in the Atlantic. 2010's Richard made landfall in Belize as a Category 2 and left behind relatively minor damage.

**Shary** - 2010's Hurricane Shary passed just to the southeast of Bermuda with no known damage. It is the only time that name has been used.

**Tobias** - Tobias is the third unused name on this list. It replaced Tomas after the 2010 hurricane season.

**Virginie** - This name has never been used in the Atlantic, but "Virginia" was once a common name in the western

Pacific for tropical storms and typhoons.

**Walter** - This name has never been used in the Atlantic

but has been used in the Indian Ocean.

- *Rewritten from Weather.com*



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**FEATURE**



# Jamaican Named On Queen Elizabeth's 2022 Birthday Honors List

British Staff Sergeant Felicia Watkinson, who hails from Clarendon, Jamaica, has been named on Queen Elizabeth's 2022 birthday honors list that was released today.

She'll be awarded the MBE, which stands for Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, the third highest ranking Order of the British Empire award (excluding a knighthood/damehood)

Watkinson, also called Nadine, has served in the British army since 2003, and is a member of the Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support Branch). She is currently serving at the army headquarters in Hampshire, England, and has previously served in Belize, Germany & Belgium.

Watkinson said she was 'surprised' at the honor. "This is something I didn't

expect or believe would ever happen to me! It is a great honor," she said.

"I see this award as a further example of how the British army has changed and become more diverse and inclusive. I know that my family will be very proud of me," she added. "I consider that I am accepting this award on behalf of myself and all my colleagues."

This year's honors

list is also in celebration of the Queen's 70 years on the British throne, her platinum jubilee.

*- Rewritten from the Jamaica Gleaner*



Felicia Watkinson be awarded the MBE, which stands for Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, the third highest ranking Order of the British Empire award. (Contributed photo/Jamaica Gleaner)

# This Black Caribbean American Restaurateur Has Raised \$25 Million In Series A Funding

A black Caribbean American restaurateur with a vegan restaurant chain has raised \$25 million in Series A funding for her company, the Slutty Vegan, a plant-based burger restaurant chain in Atlanta, Georgia.

The raise puts Aisha "Pinky" Cole, who was born and raised in Baltimore parents from Jamaica who are Rastafarians, sitting on top of a company now valued at \$100 million according to Forbes.

The \$25 million round was led by entrepreneur Richelieu Dennis' New Voices Fund and Enlightened Hospitality



Caribbean American Aisha Pinky Cole, founder of the Slutty Vegan.

Investments, which is led by restaurateur Danny Meyer. With the latest investment,

Cole reportedly has plans to open up 10 additional Slutty Vegan restaurants by the end

of the year. The goal is also to add another 10 locations in the near future.

In July 2018, Cole was inspired to create a vegan restaurant due to her own cravings for vegan junk food. She came up with a name Slutty Vegan as a provocative hook.

In 2018 she sold her first vegan burgers through Instagram from her two bedroom apartment, and opened a food truck in September of that year. In January 2019, she opened the first Slutty Vegan brick-and-mortar restaurant in the Westview neighborhood of Atlanta.

The restaurant is known for its long lines with hours-long wait times. Cole also operates two Slutty Vegan food trucks and

opened a second restaurant location in Atlanta in the summer of 2019.

Cole's mother, Ichelle Cole, is a musician in the reggae group Strykers' Posse.

*- NewsAmericasNow.com*



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# From Undocumented To Entrepreneur ~ A Caribbean Immigrant Story

"Undocumented immigrants" or "illegal aliens" are most often stereotyped as migrants who come over the border to take "away jobs from Americans." Listen to Fox News or any right-wing propaganda and the adjectives will become a lot more colorful. Few stories are told of undocumented immigrants who are highly skilled and go on to create businesses and jobs.

Caribbean immigrant Felicia J. Persaud fits into the latter category. She came to the US in 1996 as a high-skilled immigrant but due to unfortunate circumstances became undocumented. Despite having a company sponsor, the process left Persaud in limbo for a decade as she waited on a Labor Certification approval to be able to move on to securing a green card or permanent residency.

Yet, this immigrant managed to turn her struggles into action as a journalist, advocate and later an entrepreneur and green card holder turned US citizen. Today, Persaud owns and heads up the ICN Group of Companies, which owns the brands Hard Beat Communications, a woman and minority-owned, digital PR and AD agency; CaribPR Wire, the PR wire of the Caribbean and partner of CISION PR Newswire; Invest Caribbean, the global private sector investment agency of the Caribbean and News Americas News Network, the Black Immigrant Daily News.

Persaud is now one of 20.2% of the self-employed immigrant workforce and one of 25% of immigrant startup founders in the US. She has also spent over 20 years of her life advocating for the respect of the region and its people as



Caribbean immigrant entrepreneur Felicia J. persaud was once an undocumented immigrant.

a leader in the US Caribbean Diaspora, including ensuring Caribbean nationals were able to be counted on US Census forms; is listed in the US State Department Speakers Database and quoted by many media.

For the first time, this immigrant entrepreneur, editor

of Caribbean Today, and podcaster of #HardToBeat on Anchor, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music Radio Public, Sticher and Pocketcast, is sharing her story of being undocumented with podcaster Helena J.

Hear the story on 'Defining You with Helena J,' Episode #15 on Apple Podcasts at https://apple.co/3HVvsg6 on Spotify at https://spoti.fi/3BAII3R; on Google Podcasts at https://bit.ly/helenajgoogle; on YouTube at https://bit.ly/helenajyoutube or directly at helenajoseph.com/podcast and be inspired.

"Listen to the full interview to learn more about the clues that will open your mind to your own power in this inspirational story," host Helena J commented.





# The GOPs Love Of Guns Matches Its Hate Of Immigrants

In the aftermath of the massacre of innocents in Buffalo and Uvalde, it has become abundantly clear that the Grand Ole Party and its band of right-wing replacement theorists are no more going to help change America's gun laws than it will the nation's archaic immigration laws.

What is obvious is that the GOPs love of guns, sold to mindless right wingers as a "constitutional right," matches their hate for immigrants, especially black and brown ones, who they feel are threatening their majority control, aka, replacing them.



**FELICIA J. PERSAUD**

Even before details were known about the shooter who killed 19 children and two school faculty at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, the right-wing fringe media were quick to post that the shooter was an "illegal immigrant from El Salvador."

Quickly after the gunman's name was announced, users on a number of fringe platforms jumped to spout this lie, basing it undoubtedly on the shooter's Latino surname. Some even claimed that President Biden's "lax" immigration policies were to blame and as such, "blood was on his hands." Others added to the false claim that the shooter was transgender, which coupled with "illegal alien," was enough to send right winger through the roof.

However, it was soon announced by the Governor of Texas Greg Abbott that Salvador Ramos, the murderer, is as American as Apple Pie. He was born in North Dakota not El Salvador or any other countries Donald Trump and his toxic band label as S-hole countries.

Yet, conspiracist and click bait nut, Alex Jones, and even Republican Congressman Paul Gosar, all helped spread the false information on Twitter, Reddit and other social media platforms. Some right-wing users added embellishments, including that he was "on the run from Border Patrol."

"He was an illegal alien wanted for murder from El Salvador," read one tweet that was liked and retweeted hundreds of times. "This is blood on Biden's hands and should have never happened."

Gosar fit both unfounded claims in a single now-deleted

tweet that also misspelled the killer's name. "It's a transsexual leftist illegal alien named Salvatore Ramos," Gosar tweeted on Tuesday night, May 24th.

Ten days before, White supremacist Payton Gendron, 18, had killed 10 in a Tops Supermarket in Buffalo. In nearly 700 pages of his private diary, dating back seven months, he wrote that he sought to kill Black and immigrants because he wanted to prevent white people from losing their rightful control of the country.

A recently published poll found that almost half of Republicans believe that immigrants are being brought to the United States as part of such an effort. Right-wing rhetoricians in the United States portray undocumented immigrants as the primary threat.

Fox News host Tucker Carlson, a leading purveyor of replacement theory rhetoric, has promoted the idea on more than 400 episodes of his program, according to an analysis by The New York Times. Representative Elise Stefanik of New York ran paid ads on Facebook during her re-election campaign that combined imagery of immigrants with the accusation that "Radical Democrats are planning their most aggressive move yet: a PERMANENT ELECTION INSURRECTION."

Her ad continued, "Their plan to grant amnesty to 11 MILLION illegal immigrants will overthrow our current electorate and create a permanent liberal majority in Washington."

By contrast, GOP voters and lawmakers have made gun rights central to everything they do. About 100 mid-term GOP ads are proliferated with gun toting wannabe lawmakers, or lawmakers, showing how strong they are with a gun. It's almost as if the subtle message is 'elect me so we can use our guns to keep out the immigrants and ensure our White majority.'

That's the love and hate fervor logical Americans and people of color are up against in the war for white supremacy. What's the answer? More blacks and immigrants becoming legal gun owners and NRA members. See how fast those GOP members will change those gun laws when that happens.

*The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com – The Black Immigrant Daily News.*



## Full Control

There are some persons who just like to have control over others. They have to laud themselves above them, tell them what to do, when to do it, where to do it and how to do it too. It just feels good to be in control of another person, to have them do your bidding and wait on you hand and foot. And control comes in all forms, ranging from the physical to the mental and emotional.

There are persons involved in relationships who are emotional dons, and in most cases it's carried out by men, although some women are controlling too. When it gets horrific though, is when one person is hell bent on fully controlling another. In most instances it's done by men who wield absolute power and control over their women. And how do they do this? With money. They live by the golden rule, he who has the gold, makes the rules.

There are still men around who forbid their women from working, and by doing so, have full dominion over them. Everything that she buys, every



**TONY ROBINSON**



dollar that she spends comes from him. He has full control, as she has to go to him every time she needs money. Economic control is extremely effective.

Many times he also takes her wherever she wants to go and picks her up after, often saying: "Make sure you wear this dress." There are men who don't even allow their wives to go to the supermarket without them. Some even secretly install tracking devices on their wives' cars, just to be able to monitor their movements.

Even if the woman works, she has to account for her income and her spending. But some are clever, and manage to have secret accounts and other sources of income. Another method of

control is to deprive the women of further education, so they forbid them from pursuing any method to advance their schooling or career for fear that she'll gain her independence, resulting in him losing his control.

It's little wonder that those feminist groups were formed and gained traction, all because women sought to escape from the control of men. "Rise up sisters, let us break free from the yoke of oppression."

I still know of men who have their women wait on them hand and foot, seven days a week, while they do absolutely nothing to help. And these are educated women too, who earn a good salary. They have to cook for the man every

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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# Ninth Summit Of The Americas: Failure Or Success?

BY ELIZABETH MORGAN

This June 6-10th will be only the second time that the US will host the Summit of the Americas, since its inauguration in Miami, Florida, in December 1994.

This Summit's possibilities for making meaningful progress seem limited already, although this should be an opportunity for dialogue and building partnerships in a time of global crises.

As host, the USA can determine which Heads of State and government will be invited to the Summit in accordance with democracy criteria agreed in 2001. As it did for President Biden's December 2021 Summit on Democracy, it has been signaled that the USA will not be inviting all Heads of States and Governments of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, (LAC).

For this Summit, it will be excluding three – President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela, President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, and President Miguel Diaz-Canel of Cuba. This exclusion has ignited opposition in the LAC.

As President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico has said, this is a Summit of the Americas and should be inclusive. Heads of State and governments, including Mexico, have been threatening not to attend.

Regarding Canada, the White House readout of a conversation between President Joe Biden



and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on May 6th indicates that they discussed the Summit of the Americas and their shared priorities on goals, such as green and equitable growth in the hemisphere.

So, it seems Canada intends to be there. I would not doubt that Canada has its own issues to raise.

The White House and the State Department have been on a mission to persuade LAC Heads to attend the Summit – Vice President Kamala Harris, the President's wife, Jill Biden, and others were dispatched to specific capitals to encourage attendance.

It now appears, after these demarches, that Brazil's President, Jair Bolsonaro, will be attending. It appears the US would accept a lower-level delegation from Cuba. President Diaz-Canel has said he will not attend under any circumstances.

The controversy extends to the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) where

heads have also raised their concern about the lack of inclusion in Summit invitees and it is said that the Heads are being lobbied by Washington. Although some countries have signaled their intention to attend, it is still not certain that all 14 CARICOM countries will be present. At least one Head is not planning to attend.

This controversy over attendance is most unfortunate at this time of world crises, which should be on the agenda – continuing COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, rising inflation, food insecurity, climate change, and prospects for economic recovery.

At the hemispheric level specifically, other critical issues include Haiti, migration, trade and investment, and security, including gun control. The lack of gun control in the USA is a problem for many countries in this hemisphere. In addition, the Summit allows discussion on the status of democracy, which is threatened not only in the LAC, but also clearly in the USA. There is reason for concern in Canada as well.

As pointed out in the Hill publication, failure of this Summit is not without its consequences for the USA. It would highlight the divisions between the USA and its neighbors, and would further open the door to other powers, not just China, but also Russia and even India, to challenge the USA in what it considers its sphere of influence.

The USA is not required to like all governments in the hemisphere or to agree with their policies, but to borrow from Winston Churchill, it is always better to 'jaw-jaw,' to promote dialogue.

This Summit should be a welcomed opportunity for dialogue. Now, more than ever, should be a time for building bridges, and not walls, in this hemisphere, and for creating situations which foster the growth of democracy.

Creating and strengthening partnerships should be a priority. Illegal migrants would not flood into the USA, if it did more to support development in the LAC countries.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Elizabeth Morgan, who writes for CMC, is a specialist in international trade policy and international politics.**

- CMC



## Full Control

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

day after work, and no leftovers are allowed either, for he wants his meals to be fresh.

Does love contribute to controllers having their own way, or is it fear? Why would anyone allow themselves to be under the thumb of a controlling person? Maybe they feel safe, secure, protected, devoid of responsibilities as they leave everything up to the man. Perhaps they had daddy issues and felt that they were still little girls expecting to be taken care and protected by this new 'daddy.'

But what about the female controllers? They do exist. How do they control their men? It's simple - the answer is physical. Women who are controllers use their bodies as leverage. Men use money, women use sexuality, and

this has been going on from Adam and Eve, Samson and Delilah and others.

How could a small frail woman have such control over a big strong man? The trick is, it's very subtle, so most men aren't even aware that they're being controlled. But the fact is, they do the bidding of the little woman with the enthusiasm and fervor of a trained Labrador.

Most may not admit to it, but a few may whisper: "She's in full control, for I have a weakness for sweetness." Controllers are a part of life, but you haven't got to be a part of their lives, unless you secretly enjoy it.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Tony Robinson can be reached at seido1yard@gmail.com**



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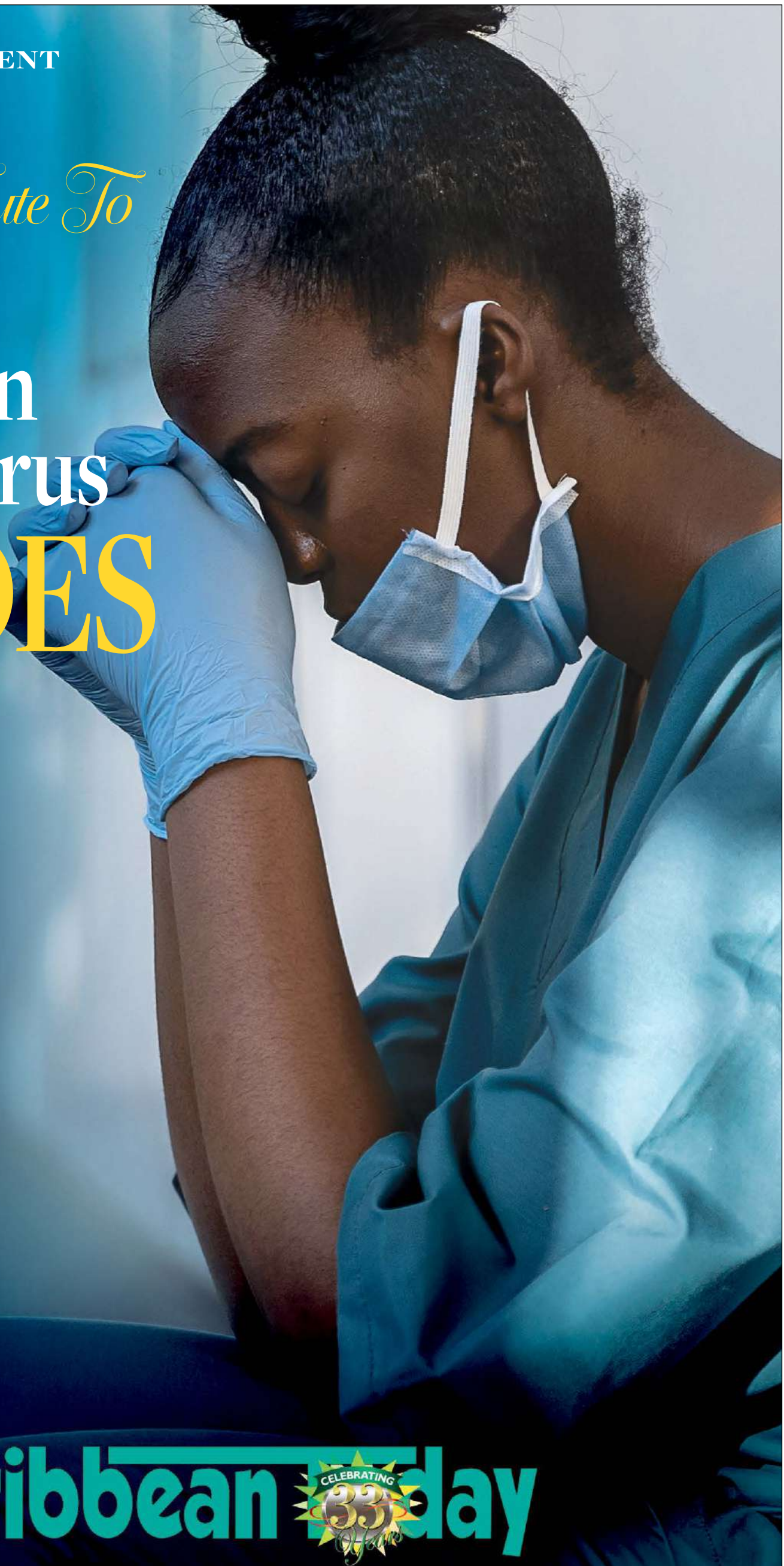
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*Tribute to our* COVID-19 Heroes



*A Message from*  
**DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA**  
*Mayor, Miami-Dade County*

As Miami-Dade County continues to navigate a changing COVID-19 pandemic, our community has shown incredible resilience and unity. Our county owes an immense debt of gratitude to our Caribbean COVID-19 heroes and sheroes, who worked on the front lines, despite the great risk that doing so posed to both you and your families.

Your commitment to our community helped to save countless lives. You were the ones who braved those uncertain early days of this pandemic, and you were the ones who administered the vaccinations that finally brought it under control. You continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.

Because of you, our community continues to heal after two years of uncertainty. It is my honor to serve as

mayor for such a selfless and dedicated community. Every day, our continued efforts to move forward through the pandemic commemorate all the brave souls who made this possible and all those no longer with us.

While our local economy continues to improve, there are many small businesses still in need of support. Our minority-owned businesses are the backbone of our local economy, and with partners across the county, we are providing entrepreneurs ongoing resources through the Strive305 program.

Our entire community is deeply grateful for all that you have done, that we stand united behind our Caribbean community, and that we know Miami-Dade County has come so far thanks in large part to your heroic efforts.



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## Caribbean Today Salutes The Following Caribbean Immigrants Who Have Gone Above And Beyond In Helping Patients Suffering From COVID-19

### Caribbean American COVID Hero ~ Maureen Allen

Meet Jamaican-born nursing manager Maureen Allen of Homestead Hospital, which is part of Baptist Health.

Even in the darkest hours of the pandemic, Nurse Allen dug into her reserves and encouraged others in the COVID-19 unit at Homestead Hospital.

“I had to be the motivator,” explained Allen, 65. “Even if I came into my office, closed the door and thought, ‘Will this ever end?’ when I stepped back through that door I would say,

‘Come on, we can do this. We can get through this together.’”

A former high school teacher, Allen became a nurse almost 30 years ago after she moved to Miami from Jamaica. Her unit, normally a medical-surgical floor, was converted to care exclusively for COVID-19 patients. Allen says she definitely felt tested. “I had to call on my own faith,” she says.

Nurse Allen is proud of her staff’s teamwork, creativity and problem-solving to carry the community through the worst of the pandemic. “We

are all stronger than we know,” says Allen, who attributes her resilience, work ethic and determination to her Jamaican roots.

She is relieved that the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations has now receded, but she takes nothing for granted. “We can only hope that we never see something like this again,” she told Caribbean Today. “But we must use what we’ve learned to prepare for anything else that comes our way.”



Jamaican-born nursing manager Maureen Allen

### Caribbean American COVID Hero ~ Duxson Michel



Haitian American nurse and patient care supervisor Duxson Michel.

Meet Haitian American nurse and patient care supervisor Duxson Michel. Having served as a combat engineer in the U.S. Army before he became a registered nurse, Michel understands what it takes to face a powerful enemy. But he couldn’t have anticipated what fighting COVID-19 would be like.

Michel is a patient care supervisor in the emergency department of Doctors Hospital, part of Baptist Health. Especially at the beginning, the pandemic was the most challenging period of his 16 years at the hospital.

“I would get up to go to work, kiss my daughters, and then cry in the car because, my gosh, it was like I was going into battle,” recalls Michel, 47. His biggest fear was for his family.

“I didn’t know what I might bring back to my house.”

Still, staying strong was key to serving the community, especially as a supervisor.

“You have to be there to support the staff,” he says. “They have the same fear that you have. But you have to put that fear aside.”

Michel is proud of how his ER came together in

tough times. “No matter what happens, we are here,” he says. “We are ready to help anyone who comes through our door.”

Michel, who moved to

Miami during high school, credits the Haitian culture for his compassion and dedication. Most of all, he does not consider himself a hero. “I was

just doing my job,” he told Caribbean Today.



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# Caribbean American COVID Hero ~ Dr. O'Neil Pyke

Jamaican born Dr. O'Neil Pyke is the chief medical officer at Jackson North Medical Center. He describes the COVID-19 pandemic as the most trying time of his career.

The emotional toll the pandemic has taken on health-care workers is immense, he said. Dr. Pyke, whose career has spanned more than 25 years, and his team, overcame the hardships of the pandemic by relying on each other during difficult moments.

"I practiced clinically during the first wave of the pandemic," said Dr. Pyke, who was previously a physician in rural Pennsylvania. "Like many doctors around the world, I

witnessed an overwhelming number of people get sick and later die."

In March 2021, Dr. Pyke moved to South Florida and began working at Jackson North, a 382-bed hospital in North Miami Beach where he is responsible for clinical oversight. Although Dr. Pyke is no longer on the frontlines caring for patients, he still plays an important role as the clinical administrator in charge.

Like most hospitals, the pandemic and its multiple surges placed a strain on Jackson North. Under Dr. Pyke's expertise and leadership, Jackson North has provided life-saving care to the residents

of north Miami-Dade and south Broward counties. They have helped many people recover from the virus, while also continuing to treat patients with other chronic and life-threatening illnesses.

Dr. Pyke also served as a vocal advocate and trusted medical leader in educating the community about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"Moving to South Florida and working for Jackson has been such a privilege for me," he said. "I've longed to provide care to people from my community and playing a role in helping them recover has been a blessing."



Jamaican born Dr. O'Neil Pyke is the chief medical officer at Jackson North Medical Center.

# Caribbean American COVID Hero ~ Captain Wilbert Hall



Jamaican-born Captain Wilbert Hall of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department.

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

With Hurricane Season beginning on June 1st, Jamaican-born Captain Wilbert Hall of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Department was busy, helping to put in place the region's safety requirements. The past two years have been frenetic for the Jamaican, who was a spearhead in his hometown's fight against

COVID-19.

In 2021, Hall was appointed Covid Branch Director of Miami-Dade County. That position saw him overseeing over 200 professionals including

police and firefighters, registered nurses, members of the national guard, and the Office of Emergency Management.

It was the biggest challenge for Hall since he entered the medical field over 25 years ago. During that period, he has been involved in various aspects of the sector such as emergency response, responding to exposure to blood or body fluids, and lecturing paramedic students at Miami-Dade College.

Hall, who is in his early 40s, credits comprehensive training for preparing him to combat a mystery virus that has killed over 1 million people in the United States. Statistics from Johns Hopkins University & Medicine showed Miami-Dade as third on the Top 25 Confirmed Cases by County, behind Los Angeles and Maricopa in Arizona.

"Being a registered nurse for over 22 years, an educator, teaching nursing, emergency medical technician, and paramedics, along with a decade of managerial experience as a lieutenant and captain as prepared me for this role," Hall told *Caribbean Today*.

Hall was born in Kingston, Jamaica's capital. He moved to South Florida 30 years ago and earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Barry

University.

After working as an RN with Maxim Health Care in 2003, he joined the City of Sunrise Fire Department in 2004. Since 2006, Hall has been a firefighter/paramedic with the Miami-Dade Fire Recue Department; he was appointed lieutenant in 2016 and made captain four years later.

Hall and his team collaborated with the office of Miami-Dade County mayor Daniella Levine Cava in the fight against COVID-19. At the pandemic's peak, he estimates they tested 227,000 persons in the county; as many as 5,000 persons a day at some of the busier sites in Miami-Dade which has large Latin and West Indian communities.

According to usafacts.org, as of May 31, 2022, there were 1, 235, 510 reported cases of Covid-19 in Miami-Dade, with 6,472 deaths. One of Hall's greatest challenges was ensuring the message from his office was consistent.

"Managing the misinformation regarding vaccines and the pathophysiology of the virus. I believe that we will be better prepared for the next event. More cohesiveness on a national level will aid tremendously," Hall said.



## Survey Reveals Optimism Among Business Owners Despite Pandemic Challenges

Supply chain issues top the list of concerns for small business owners over the last six months, but they see those pressures easing by mid-year, according to new research. In the meantime, inflation is expected to continue impacting business owners, with a majority planning to further raise their own prices.

The latest PNC semi-annual Economic Outlook survey of small and mid-size business owners and executives is a good gauge of the overall economy; however, analysts point out that the situation in Eastern Europe that's unfolded since has likely intensified some of the sentiments expressed by respondents.

"The events in Ukraine were not on the minds of business owners when the survey was conducted in January," says PNC chief economist, Gus Faucher, "There was concern at that time about rising prices, and that worry has likely intensified, given the rapid increase in energy prices, among other factors."

In January, 34% of owners who rely on a supply chain said timeliness had worsened in the previous six months and 28% of businesses that rely on inventory are faced with the challenge of not having enough supply to meet expected demand. However, 57% expect these issues to improve in the next six months.

"Supply chain problems have been a big contributor to the highest inflation the U.S. has seen in almost 40 years. But it's encouraging that most small businesses see this easing soon," Faucher said. "The wild card now is how long inflationary factors due to the Ukraine crisis last."

Rising prices also are on the minds of business owners – 51% expect to increase their prices in the next six months and 34% percent say their prices have already gone up in the past six months.

"Six months ago, businesses were raising prices because demand was strong enough that they could. Now it appears higher costs are forcing them to," Faucher said.

### Turnover and Hiring Impacts

Forty-three percent of business owners report losing staff since the start of the pandemic, which they agree is bad for business. Top reasons for employee departures are illness or death (50%), worker concerns over health or safety (46%), and changes in lifestyle or priorities (36%).

Among businesses with employees, 26% say it's become harder to hire qualified personnel. Businesses are



(Flamingoimages / iStock via Getty Images Plus)

responding to recruiting challenges, most notably through improved work conditions,

like health and safety improvements, allowing more flexible work arrangements, and

increasing compensation. In the meantime, businesses are coping with worker shortages by increasing existing employees' workloads, having owners or managers cover shifts and by increasingly relying on technology or automation.

### Other key survey findings include:

- **Vaccine boosterism:** Fifty-six percent of business owners say a majority of their workforce has a COVID-19 booster vaccination. Sixty-five percent have taken some action to encourage boosters through a requirement (31%), assistance and/or education (29%), incentives (22%) or restrictions for those who choose not to receive the booster (19%).

- **Tempered optimism:** Business leaders' expectations about their own companies remain strong with 47% feeling highly optimistic and only 2% feeling pessimistic. However, their outlook for the national and local economies has shifted to cautious.

- **Business adaptation:** Small and mid-sized businesses have made dramatic, lasting changes to adapt to the pandemic environment. Ninety-two percent have made at least one change to policies, processes, operations or use of technology, and almost all of those owners expect one or more of the changes to become permanent.

- StatePoint



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## Florida Sees New Uptick In COVID-19 Infections

Is Florida in the grip of another COVID-19 surge?

More than three-quarters of Floridians live in counties at “high” risk of COVID-19, according to federal data released on June 2nd and analyzed by the Tampa Bay Times.

That is due to the state reporting a seven-day average of more than 10,200 cases on Friday, June 3rd. Positivity rates have also been rising in South Florida. Miami-Dade County reported a positivity rate of 26.7 percent while Broward County has a positivity rate of 23.9 percent.

That means residents should all wear masks in public indoor spaces, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, and get tested if they have symptoms.

“Based on new cases per week and hospitalization going up, that means it’s time to start protecting ourselves with a mask when we go indoors or in crowded areas,” Laura Arline, a doctor of internal medicine and pediatrics and BayCare’s chief quality officer,



Florida is seeing a new spike in COVID-19 infections.

told the Tampa Bay Times.

It’s harder than ever to measure the virus’s spread. Widespread testing is no more. Many rely on at-home tests, the results of which are not reported to health officials.

Test positivity jumped to 19.8% in the last week of May, up from 18.3% the week before. The state is also recording the fewest test results since the start of the pandemic, which could contribute to high positivity rates.

Florida hospitals reported

2,465 confirmed COVID-19 patients on June 2nd. That’s a 20% increase from the 2,068 patients being treated the week before.

Arline told the Times that hospitalization rates are still low compared to the delta surge in the summer of 2021 because this version of the virus is not as virulent. But it is highly contagious and could match delta’s caseloads, although a more accurate number of infections may be unknown because of the increased use of home tests,

she said.

Unlike other surges, however, our defenses against this one are weaker, she said and vaccines are less effective at preventing infection, and while they can still stave off disease and death, immunity wanes over time. Those who haven’t gotten a booster, or were vaccinated months ago, are vulnerable.

That’s why it’s still important to get vaccinated or get the latest booster, Arline said. COVID-19 vaccines, she said, are still highly effective at preventing severe symptoms, hospitalization and death from this variant.

However, statewide there were 4.6 times as many COVID-19 patients at the peak of the omicron wave in January. Still former White

House coronavirus response coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx should, on a visit to Palm Beach recently, said Florida should expect an “exponential” COVID surge this summer.

Birx spoke to an audience of more than 200 people at the Kravis Center for a lunch hosted by Forum Club of the Palm Beaches, where she touted her recently released book, “Silent Invasion.” Few attendees wore masks.

But Birx warned of a summer swell of COVID infections and hospitalizations across Florida and the South. She also described some of what went on behind the scenes in the Trump administration as the coronavirus spread in 2020, which she details in her book.

- *Rewritten from the Tampa Bay Times and several other sources*



## COVID Safety And Summer Travel

BY DR. TINA CARROLL-SCOTT

Pandemic fatigue is real, as many people have completely abandoned mitigation measures. But the virus is still circulating though, with new sub variants on the rise.

Although symptoms have been milder than with earlier variants, we cannot let down our guard. There is a randomness and unpredictability that we’ve seen with this virus throughout the pandemic. So, we need to stay ten steps ahead and be proactive and not reactive. This means getting vaccinated if you have not already done so and boosted as well.

Our vaccines are still working well to protect us from getting severely ill, hospitalized or dying. The preponderance of hospitalized COVID-19 patients continues to be in the unvaccinated. Natural infection can provide some protection, but it is a variable immunity. We don’t know how strong it is or how long it will last before reinfection.

Vaccine induced immunity provides stronger protection and is the safer option. It is a gamble to risk infection if you are unvaccinated and expect to only have an asymptomatic or mild infection. We have seen

multiple instances throughout the pandemic with some people in the same household having mild disease, and others being hospitalized or dying. The virus is always looking for more ways to change and escape our immune response.

We must not give it additional opportunities to do so and build up a wall of immunity. Vaccines are the best way to do that. Booster shots help to increase neutralizing antibodies which are our first line of defense from getting infected in the first place. Fully vaccinated and boosted people should feel safe traveling this summer.

Mitigation measures such as masking and social distancing should continue based on the situation. Everyone will make decisions based on their own risk tolerance, but a layered approach provides the best protection from infection. We are not in March of 2020, as we now have many more tools in our toolbox to fight this virus.

Let’s remain vigilant though so we can all have a safe summer!

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott is the medical director At FAAP.*



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# Heads Of State Of Caribbean, Latin American And International Organizations Call For A Commitment To Learning Recovery

The significant loss of learning during COVID-19 school closures in the Caribbean and Latin America is now putting millions of children at risk of dropping out of school, the World Bank, the Inter-American Dialogue, UNESCO and UNICEF warned on June 2nd during an event streamed live worldwide.

The event dubbed “My Education, Our Future,” pointed out that the region’s students have lived through some of the longest, uninterrupted COVID-19 school closures in the world.

And more than two years into the pandemic, not all students in the Caribbean or Latin America are back in the classroom.

Despite significant efforts made by countries in the region, children who are back at school have fallen, on average, between one and 1.8 years behind, according to new World Bank estimates.

“The education crisis affecting the region is unprecedented. If we do not act now to recover learning losses, an entire generation of children and young people will be less productive in the future and have fewer opportunities for progress and well-being,” said Carlos Felipe Jaramillo,



Students in the Caribbean are now lagging behind the rest of the world in the post-pandemic era.

World Bank Vice President for Latin America and Caribbean. “According to our estimates, today’s students could see their lifetime earnings decline by as much as 12 percent. This is the time to act, to prevent these losses, to support the future of the next generation.”

During the “My Education, Our Future” event the World Bank, the Inter-American Dialogue, UNESCO and UNICEF called for urgent and coordinated action to ensure that an entire generation of children get back on track academically. To this end, they

made public a “Commitment to the recovery and protection of learning in the Caribbean and Latin America and” which relies on four key actions:

- Place education recovery at the top of the public agenda.
- Reintegrate all the children that abandoned school and ensure they stay in it.
- Recover lost learning and ensure the socio-emotional well-being of children.
- Value, support and train teachers.

“Today we urgently call on all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to commit

to the recovery and transformation of their education systems,” said Claudia Uribe, Director of the Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC/UNESCO Santiago). “The loss of learning and well-being that millions of children and young people suffered during the pandemic puts their future and their hope at risk. There is no time to lose to take all necessary measures to repair this damage and prevent

its consequences from becoming permanent or irreparable.”

Ariel Fiszbein, Director of the Education Program at the Inter-American Dialogue, remarked that “school closures have had very serious consequences on the education trajectories, learning and emotional well-being of students, and that there will be long-term

effects not only on education, but also on countries’ productivity levels and employment prospects.” However, he also recognized that the pandemic has produced important lessons on how to improve teaching practices and that there are opportunities to build on those going forward.

In closing the event, Jean Gough, UNICEF’s Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, urged all countries in the region to turn commitments into action.

“While many schools have now reopened their doors, the learning crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean is far from over; it’s just less visible than before,” said Jean Gough. “It’s not just a few students, but millions at risk of falling behind. Small-scale learning recovery programs won’t be enough. To address the crisis, we need to develop and implement large-scale learning recovery systems. We can invest now or leave an entire generation behind. The choice is ours.”



## US Experts Training 400 Local Guyanese Physicians On Long-COVID Detection

Top experts from the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York are in Guyana to provide training to 400 physicians here to help them better detect and treat patients with long-COVID.

Generally, between 10 to 20 per cent of persons affected by COVID-19 will have persistent symptoms months after falling ill. This is referred to as long-COVID syndrome. While many Guyanese have recovered from the deadly respiratory disease, many are still experiencing symptoms. “One of the things that we’re trying to do is to educate physicians so that they can recognize these signs and symptoms, and be able to appropriately treat these patients,” Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony said during his COVID-19 update on June 2nd.

President Irfaan Ali had engaged officials of the hospital during a recent visit to Guyana, requesting that they assist doctors in understanding long-COVID.

The first training session was held on June 2nd, and it

included discussions on post-acute COVID-19 syndrome and unexpected outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Anthony said the training will allow physicians to provide better treatment options.

“I think this is a very good start-up session, and after the discussions, I’m sure that the local physicians would be more aware of long-COVID, what to look for and how to treat long-COVID,” he said.

Symptoms of Long-COVID range from mild to severe. They include fatigue, shortness of breath, loss of smell and taste, headaches, depression, anxiety and memory loss.

Since the pandemic began in Guyana, the Ministry of Health has established a multidisciplinary team at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) where persons experiencing long-COVID symptoms can be tested and treated.

- CMC



## IMF Says Eastern Caribbean Faces Lingering Pandemic

The International Monetary Fund, (IMF), says the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), economy is facing a lingering pandemic. “The near-term policy priority should be to protect the vulnerable through health spending and temporary targeted transfers and enhanced social safety nets to cope with rising living costs,” said the Washington-based financial institution in a concluding statement of the 2022 Article IV Mission on Common Policies of Member Countries.

It said the ongoing pandemic has inflicted large output losses in the ECCU, leaving scars on the tourism and transportation sectors, education, labor force and fiscal position. The IMF said headline inflation increased strongly across the region, driven by rising food, fuel and transportation prices.

The IMF added that the

current account deficit is estimated to have widened further in 2021, as higher goods imports offset the improvement in services balance. Analysts said the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank’s (ECCB) stock of international reserves remained stable, and the labor market remained weak with high unemployment.

“The outlook is subject to large downside risks, primarily from rising food and energy prices and outbreaks of new COVID variants amid vaccine hesitancy, which could affect tourism and construction activities,” it added. “The ECCU remains highly susceptible to natural disasters.”

The IMF said, however, the ECCU financial system has remained “broadly stable” so far, despite lingering legacy weaknesses.

Over the medium term, the IMF urged that policies

should shift focus towards supporting resilient and inclusive growth, with climate resilience building, investment in renewables, and a strong framework for financial inclusion and payment system modernization, including the central bank digital currency.

### St. Lucia

In St. Lucia, the IMF says economic growth in St. Lucia is projected to recover to the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic level by 2024 as tourism returns to pre-pandemic levels, but thereafter growth is expected to decline gradually to 1.5 per cent. Regarding economic policies, IMF officials said that in the near-term, the government should pursue fiscal policies to relieve the social hardship from the rise in inflation.

- Rewritten from CMC



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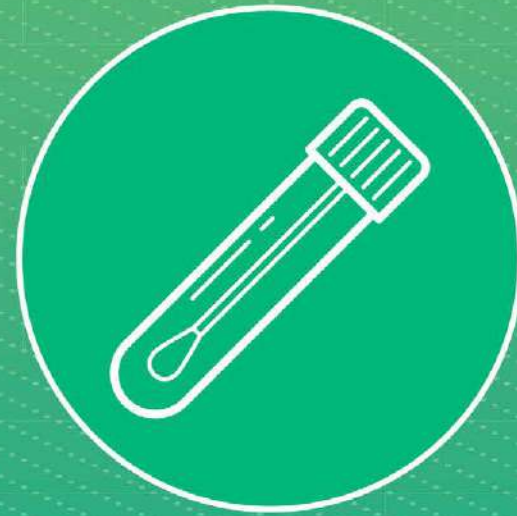
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## Call Him 'Dr. Shaggy'

Dancehall megastar Shaggy can now be called 'Dr. Shaggy.' The singer, born Orville Burrell, was conferred with an honorary doctorate by Brown University and received the honour during the Undergraduate Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 28th.

The University, in its citation of Shaggy on its website, describes the Kingston native as a reggae icon and a US Marine who "got his start as an emcee in New York City's dancehall scene after moving to Brooklyn in his teens, and who after serving four years in the U.S. Marines, including two tours of duty in the Middle East as part of Operation Desert Storm, earned his first record deal and scored a global crossover hit with 'Oh Carolina.'

"As the only diamond-selling dancehall artist in music history, Shaggy has sold more than 40 million album units to date in addition to landing eight singles on the Billboard Hot 100 and seven albums on the Billboard 200, including four in the top 40. He is among the top three streamed reggae artists of all time on Spotify," it read.

The University also lauded Shaggy as "not only a pioneering songwriter", but one who has "used his platform to strengthen his community and homeland".

"In 2009, he established the Shaggy Make a Difference Foundation and organized the first of many Shaggy and Friends benefit concerts, which to date have raised millions for the Bustamante Children's Hospital in Kingston," it stated.

Shaggy joins his compatriots Lieutenant Stitchie, who has been the recipient of two honorary doctorates, as among Dancehall firsts to attain such accolades.



Shaggy has been conferred with an honorary doctorate by Brown University.

Stitchie received his first in 2011, from the Cornerstone Christian University in Orlando, Florida, in recognition of his contribution to Gospel Reggae, and again in November last year, courtesy of the Dayspring Christian University, in Ontario Canada.

Brown University has, since 1769, five years after it was established, bestowed honorary degrees upon people it describes as "individuals of distinction and accomplishment, recognizing their leadership and contribution to society in many fields and disciplines." The university, which is located in Providence, Rhode Island, also describes its honorary degree candidates as being selected for "both their renown and the reflection in their life and in their work of the values and mission of Brown as an academic community."

The Commencement Ceremony was staged for students who missed their in-person Commencement experience due to the pandemic, during the institution's Commencement and Reunion Weekend.

- *Rewritten from Dancehallmag.com*



## Bounty Killer Says He's Been Hacked



Bounty Killer says he's now a victim of hackers.

Reggae star Bounty Killer, born Rodney Price, has issued a statement saying his Facebook and Instagram pages have been

hacked.

Killer, in a message distributed by Images Newsletter, says the hackers have begun impersonating him and are soliciting money in his name.

His original Instagram page is @Grunggaadzilla and Facebook is lunogeneral

"Please do not embark on or make any business arrangements with this person or any other persons claiming to be me," he stated. "We have made a report of this person for impersonating me and they are now being investigated for committing fraud. This is now a police matter."

Killer also urged anyone wishing to do business with him to contact his Business Manager Mr. Paul "Bankey" Giscombe at: bankeylousproductions1.com@yahoo.com.



## Beres Returns To Live Performances

The Godfather of Lover's Rock, Beres Hammond, will return to live tours this summer.

Beres's blueprint; the playful smile, the unassuming demeanour, the beard and the cap combined with his penmanship and right choice of riddim make him Jamaica's greatest practicing singer / songwriter.

He remains cool, though he knows that he's one of a handful of people responsible for maintaining

a mighty legacy of soulful reggae music - a select group of artists like Toots and Gregory, like Dennis and Bob.

In the year 2021, Beres performed his virtual concert 'Love From a Distance' which has been viewed more than 1.6 million times on YouTube. He also released new



singles "Call to Duty" and "God is Love" featuring Popcaan.

His 2022-2023 tour dates will feature 10 concerts beginning on August 12th beginning in New Haven, Connecticut at the College Street Music Hall and coming to Fort Lauderdale on September 2nd and 3rd.

Get tickets on Ticketmaster beginning June 8th at 10 a.m. Est.

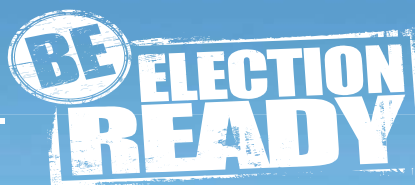


# Be Election Ready in 2022

Every 10 years after Census data is recorded, voting districts are redrawn to represent changes in population. Redistricting affects which races and candidates you will see on your ballot.

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BE informed.  
BE involved.



## Here's How To Cook Like A Caribbean Pro This Month

It's the 16th annual Caribbean American Heritage Month. Here are two recipes that will have you cooking like a pro this CAHM.

### COCONUT RICE AND BEANS

#### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup diced yellow onions
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 cup canned coconut milk
- 1 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth (or stock)
- 1 cup white rice
- 1 small Scotch bonnet (or jalapeño) pepper
- 1 (15.5 oz) can pinto (or red) beans
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- ½ teaspoon pepper

#### Method



Coconut Rice and Beans

Preheat medium saucepan on medium-high 2–3 minutes. Place oil in pan, then stir in onions and thyme; cook and stir 2–3 minutes until onions soften.

Stir in coconut milk and broth; bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Stir in rice and add whole Scotch bonnet pepper.

Cover and reduce heat to low; cook 18–20 minutes

without stirring until liquid has been absorbed and rice is tender.

Drain and rinse beans.

Remove pan from heat; stir in beans, butter, and pepper.

Remove whole pepper; cover and let stand 5 minutes to heat beans before serving.

Photo: Coconut Rice and Beans (Publix Aprons image)

### CARIBBEAN-STYLE BEEF LETTUCE WRAPS

#### Ingredients

- 12 oz lean ground beef, 7% fat
- 1 tablespoon Caribbean (or jerk) seasoning
- 1 mango
- 1 small red onion
- 2 cups broccoli slaw
- 1 tablespoon lemon vinaigrette



Caribbean-Style Beef Lettuce Wraps (Publix Aprons image)

- 1 (8.5 oz) pouch cooked quinoa & brown rice blend
- 8 lettuce leaves (such as romaine, butter, or iceberg)

#### Method

Preheat large, nonstick sauté pan on medium-high 1–2 minutes.

Place beef and seasoning in

pan; cook 4–5 minutes, stirring to crumble, until no pink remains and beef is 160°F.

Cut mango sides away from seed; score and remove flesh. Slice onion.

Combine in large bowl: mangos, onions, slaw, and vinaigrette. Stir rice blend into beef; cook 3–4 minutes until hot.

Remove pan from heat. Place lettuce leaves on serving platter.

Fill each leaf with about 1/2 cup beef and rice mixture, top with slaw, and serve.

*Bon Appetite*

- Recipes from Publix Aprons



## Tips For Hosting Your Next Backyard Summer Gathering

It's the time of year for backyard bashes with friends and family. The best part about being the host? Creating relaxing summer vibes with great food and wine.

Joe Welch and Zach Feinberg, good friends and co-founders of In Good Taste, a new kind of winery on a mission to make wine more accessible and less intimidating for the everyday drinker, offer these backyard party tips for warm weather fun:

#### Summer Sips

The best wines for summer are refreshing and feature high acidity, a light-to-medium body, and a dry flavor leading to a crisp

finish. Think whites, rosés and light-bodied reds. To invigorate your guests and enhance the subtle tasting notes of these wines, serve them at a slight chill. Be sure to consider your glassware, too. “Stemmed glassware keeps warm hands-off cold wines and helps maintain the right temperature for longer,” says Welch.

#### Pairing Tricks

When pairing wine and cheese, an easy place to start is by looking for cheese from the same region where the grape first originated. While this works in most cases, these quick, additional rules that look at age, depth and

complexity can help you take pairing a step further:

- Young and soft cheeses with silky textures and creamy body pair especially well with young and lively wines full of fruit, good acidity and spirited aromas.
- To stand up to the richness and in many cases, sharpness of aged cheeses full of rich, fatty and savory flavor, choose old, bold and rich wines with good tannins that leave a tacky feeling on your tongue.
- Salty cheeses pair especially well with sweet wines, as the saltiness brings out the sweetness even more.

#### Take a Flight

Anyone who has enjoyed a thoughtful wine flight knows that variety is the spice of life. Whether you're throwing the party yourself or need the perfect hostess gift, consider In Good Taste's flights, which are offered at every price point in the brand's patented 187 milliliter mini bottles, giving hosts the ability to put eight different wines on ice. Really delivering on those light, summery vibes is their California Wine Mixer tasting flight, which includes all the greats, including Rosé, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, along with some surprises. The brand makes snacks easy for hosts too, offering

a premium selection of meat and cheese with Antonelli's Cheese Shop's carefully curated Cheese Meats Treats tray. To shop flights and gifts, book a virtual or in-person wine tasting with an expert, or for additional wine 101, visit [ingoodtaste.com](http://ingoodtaste.com).

“You don't need to be a sommelier to get wine right at your backyard gatherings and other events,” says Feinberg. “Wine is for anybody who enjoys it, and with a little bit of know-how, this aspect of summer hosting can be fun, not stressful.”

- StatePoint



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# A Grand Trelawny Tradition Recently Returned To New York

BY DERRICK SCOTT

The annual Trelawny Picnic in New York, recently returned after a two-year COVID-enforced absence and drew more than 3,000 Trelawnyites from across the United States, Canada, and Jamaica to the Rockland County State Park in Nyack, upstate New York on May 29th.

Unbridled delight oozed from the picnic goers as they started streaming in from about 7 a.m. to fill the recreation site, home to this annual Jamaican festival-like gathering for over forty years.

By the midday, the numbers had swelled, the grills fired up, the aromas wafting through the park, far and wide. Families, friends, and acquaintances old and not-so-old, hailing from all corners of the parish of Trelawny in Jamaica, coming together to have a grand time.

They took with them tents, their ever-present Reggae music and fancy grills and gear, as well as their famous Trelawny

yams stuffed with cod fish, with ackee and roasted breadfruit on the side in the company of other Jamaican delicacies, which many had stored up over the course of the year, to boast and share with their friends and parishioners.

And, of course, nothing is ever for sale - all is shared! It's really an All Trelawny Family Affair and continued as it was first conceptualized over forty years ago when a few friends from Falmouth - Horace Harrison, Linval Brown, Richard Chambers, Eli Nish, Mr. and Mrs. DK Mullings and Peter HoShing - got together in their backyard on the Memorial Weekend Sunday. Thus, was born the annual event.

As Richard Chambers' tells it, the picnic sprang from a 1970s Bronx, New York, backyard barbeque for people from Falmouth. Over the years, it has been a draw for Trelawnyites from far and wide.

"In a short while, it became known as the Falmouth picnic. We then started to invite friends



A section of the large crowd that turned up for the annual Trelawny Picnic on Sunday May 29th at the Rockland County State Park in Nyack, New York. (DERRICK SCOTT photo)

from Duncans, Clarks Town and other areas of the parish," Chambers recalled.

"As the gathering grew, it took on the name of the 'Trelawny Day Picnic' and has ballooned to the extent that one year, we had over six thousand people at the upstate New York meeting place, all claiming to be from Trelawny," the now Dallas Texas resident said, adding that he is pleased the event has not lost its character as a "family"

affair that now boasts first- and second-generation Trelawnyites in attendance.

"The fact that I take the most pride in is that in over forty years, we have never had an incident where we have had to invite law enforcement to be involved," Chambers added, while noting that the credit goes to the people of the parish.

Falmouth's mayor and Trelawny Municipal Corporation chairman Colin Gager, a regular at the annual fun gathering, was none too shy about making it known he was back, touring the grounds, greeting picnic goers with relish.

"I am here again at the Trelawny Reunion. Now COVID has eased and of course we get a chance to sell Falmouth - and Trelawny as a whole - and that is one of the reasons why I am here

today," he said.

Gager doubled down on his sales pitch for his parish: "On June 17, we will be having the groundbreaking of the new Fire Station in south Trelawny and before that, on June 16, we will be having the handing over of the new repaired Market and Transportation Centre in Clark's Town. We have constructed a drop-in centre, which will house the homeless on a nightly basis. This was the first of its kind outside of Kingston, where we feed the homeless."

Garth Wilkinson, councilor for the Falmouth Division, himself another regular, had journeyed from Jamaica, too, not wanting to miss out on this excitingly Trelawny tradition.

Getting in on the act as well, Trelawny's Custos Rotulorum, Hugh Gentles, sent a message to mark the occasion, thanking organisers and guests for "staying the course with us for 42 years through thick and thin. The contribution of the diaspora to Jamaica is special."

By the time the sun went down, the reality began to set in that all good things must come to an end. Reluctantly, but facing reality, the diaspora Trelawny people pulled themselves together and mustered the courage to say goodbye. Until next year of course.



# Bob Marley's Three Little Birds For Arsht Center For The Performing Arts

Bob Marley's 'Three Little Birds,' is coming to the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County this National Caribbean American Heritage Month. The musical, featuring the timeless music and lyrics of reggae legend Bob Marley, is based on the children's book, 'Every Little Thing,' by his daughter Cedella

It is set for June 22nd to July 9th in the Arsht Center's intimate Carnival Studio Theater and features a live reggae band playing onstage.

Bob Marley's Three Little Birds is a tale of peace and love. "Mama says breathe but Ziggy's afraid to leave the house. He's too busy worrying about tropical storms, evil spirits and steering clear of that sneaky, hair snatching Duppy! But with the help of Doctor Bird and his feathered friends, Ziggy's reminded that 'every little thing gonna be all right!'"

The musical is directed by Gladys Ramirez with musical direction by Jamie Hinckson and choreography by Sandra



The cast of 'Three Little Birds.' (Photo by Diana Garle)

Portal-Andreu. The cast includes: TJ Pursley ("Ziggy"), Noelle Nicholas ("Nansi"), Frankie Midnight ("Duppy"), Malik Archibald ("Doctor Bird"), Toddra Brunson ("Cedella") and Deanna Gamboa ("Tacoomah.")

"My own children loved singing 'Three Little Birds' when they were little. It was like their own little mantra, and that's what inspired me to write the book. Seeing this story come to life onstage illustrated by my

father's music gives it an added dimension. It's positive, uplifting vibe is something the world needs more of, especially these days," said Cedella Marley.

Tickets to Bob Marley's Three Little Birds are \$20 (children up to 12), and \$30 (12 and up and may be purchased at the Adrienne Arsht Center box office by calling (305) 949-6722, or online at [arshtcenter.org](http://arshtcenter.org).



# Julian Marley Music Set To Drop New EP

Two-time Grammy-nominated artist Julian Marley says his upcoming EP, '1692,' will be out this September via Monom Records. He recently shared the first single, an electronic take on the 1967 rocksteady single, "The Tide Is High," originally written by John Holt and performed with his legendary vocal group The Paragons.

Julian Marley's new interpretation brings the beloved classic back to its Jamaican roots, over a bouncy dancehall beat supplied by producer and Monom Records chief Alexx Anteaous of Earth, Wind & Fire, Rolling Stones, Jah Vinci, Yaksta fame.



Julian Marley



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

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Peter A. Webley  
Publisher

## PAHO Calls For Caribbean Countries To Be Prepared For Threats Of Seasonal Flus, Hurricanes 2020

The director of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Dr. Carissa Etienne, has called on countries in the Americas, including the Caribbean, to exercise additional vigilance as the influenza and hurricane seasons begin amidst a rise in the number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the region.

The Dominican-born PAHO senior official said that countries in the region have reported a



PAHO's Executive Director Dr. Carissa Etienne

10.4 per cent jump in cases of COVID-19, and a 14 percent increase in deaths in recent days, boding a "double threat of a potential influenza surge alongside a rise in COVID-19 cases."

She said influenza cases have been exceptionally low since COVID-19 began over two years ago, but things have started to change. Dr. Etienne said that while most countries have integrated COVID-19

surveillance with efforts to track the influenza virus, they must build on that capacity "to quickly identify the different respiratory viruses circulating in the Americas."

The PAHO director also urged people to ensure they are up to date with the flu vaccine as this reflects the strains circulating now and can provide better protection to all at risk.

"Our wellbeing and that of our societies depend on the

resilience of our health systems. This is an important lesson from COVID-19 that we cannot ignore," she said.

The issue is expected to be further addressed during the ninth Summit of the Americas getting underway in the United States on June 6th.

- CMC



BY NINA LEVINE

For Floridians, mosquitoes are nothing new. In fact, since Florida temperatures are typically always above 50 degrees, mosquitoes are present in Florida year-round. We know one thing for certain, with the rainy and warmer season right around the corner, mosquitoes will be out in full swing.

These pesky nuisances aren't just annoying, they can also carry transmittable viruses such as Zika, chikungunya, West

Nile and Dengue. The risk of disease transmission through bites of infected mosquitoes to humans often increases during the warm, rainy months.

To protect against mosquitoes, the Florida Department of Health in Broward County recommends Floridians "Drain and Cover."

"Everyone should be aware of mosquitoes and take steps to protect themselves," says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of the Florida Department of Health in Broward County. "The best way

to do that is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. We recommend a practice called Drain and Cover."

### TIPS

- Drain standing water in and around the house.
- Eliminate even puddles because Aedes can breed in containers as small as a bottle cap.
- Get rid of water that collects in garbage cans, tires, buckets, roof gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots and plants with pockets, such as bromeliads.

- Discard items where rain or sprinkler water collects.
- Clean bird baths and pet water bowls twice a week.
- Inside the home, mosquitoes can breed where water collects, such as refrigerator ice makers, electric toothbrush holders and drips under sinks.
- Cover yourself and the openings in your home. If you go outdoors when mosquitoes are active, wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves.
- Spray your skin and clothing with repellent containing DEET

or other approved ingredients (check the label).

- Keep windows and doors closed, and repair damaged screening.

Visit [cdc.gov/mosquitoes/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/index.html) for more information on protecting yourself and your family from mosquitoes.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Nina Levine is with The Florida Department of Health in Broward County.



## The Mental Health Crisis of Moms: What You Need to Know

A new survey reveals that the mental health of American moms is going largely unattended, with many living under a near-constant state of stress and few seeking support to ease the burden.

The research, commissioned by MDLIVE, an Evernorth company and leading provider of virtual care services in the United States, finds that 33% of mothers feel stressed or overwhelmed by their responsibilities as a mom at least five days a week. Drivers of their stress and anxiety may include financial concerns, ripple effects

of the pandemic, including the mental health crisis among teens, work responsibilities and being a caregiver simultaneously to both children and aging parents.

Yet, for many moms, the prospect of managing their mental health has become a source of stress in and of itself. For 37% of moms, concerns about their own mental health are among their biggest stressors, second only to finances (40%).

Possibly even more concerning is that 70% of moms admit to holding back their feelings and not telling their partner or family when they're

stressed, and 61% feel that they have no one to turn to or confide in for help.

"Our research shows that many moms are suffering in silence and not getting the support they need," says Dr. Shakira Espada-Campos, who brings more than two decades of direct practice experience to her role as behavioral health medical director at MDLIVE. "I cannot stress enough how important it is for them to prioritize their own well-being."

**To help moms manage their mental health, MDLIVE offers the following tips:**

### 1. Prioritize self-care

Recognize that practicing self-care is not selfish. In addition to things like eating well, exercising, practicing good hygiene, getting enough sleep, and seeing a health care professional routinely for preventive screenings and other care, self-care also means taking time to pursue hobbies or personal interests that bring you pleasure or fulfillment or offer you a way to relax and unwind – activities you may have abandoned after having kids because it would mean time away from family responsibilities. Practicing self-care puts one in a better position to help care for others because your own well-being is in check.

### 2. Make time to cultivate relationships

Connecting with people



(Getty Image)

who are important to you is essential to mental health. Make it a priority to spend time with partners, family, friends, colleagues, or anyone else who may be important to you, away from the house and kids, even if it's just for a short period of time.

### 3. Seek help when struggling to manage stress and anxiety

If your emotional state is interfering with your daily life – if you're having difficulty controlling your mood, withdrawing from loved ones, feeling fatigued, having trouble sleeping, lacking motivation, or frequently "zoning out" – it's definitely time to seek professional help.

Acknowledging the importance of mental healthcare, many health plans and employers have expanded the resources available to their members and employers in recent years. New options include digital tools that can help with tracking mood,

support meditation, help build life skills, and provide self-care advice. Additionally, telehealth visits with behavioral health professionals offer private, convenient, quality care quickly.

For example, MDLIVE's platform makes it easy to search for providers and schedule appointments with one of their psychiatrists or licensed therapists. MDLIVE is a covered benefit for more than 60 million Americans through health insurers such as Cigna, Aetna, certain Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, and many regional and local plans. To learn more or to register, visit [mdlive.com](https://www.mdlive.com).

"Although it's natural to feel like you need to be a superhero, it takes a toll. You should never feel like you're alone in your mental health journey or that you need to suffer in silence," Dr. Espada-Campos.

- StatePoint



## Final Expense Insurance

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This Caribbean American Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of the Caribbean, their unique culinary traditions, and the communities that take pride in their heritage.

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## Curacao Is Now Home To A Sandals Resort



The new Sandals Resort in Curacao.

Sandals Resorts International (SRI) has debuted in the Dutch Caribbean Island of Curacao.

SRI opened its 16th Sandals Resort, Sandals Royal Curaçao, welcoming its first guests on June

1st. It is located within the exclusive, 3,000-acre Santa Barbara estate – just 15 miles from the Curaçao International Airport. Its signature, west-facing position on the southernmost part of the island authentically intertwines nature with the resort experience, while capturing one of the Caribbean’s most spectacular sunsets.

SRI says couples can discover the beauty and geographic diversity of Curaçao, known for its adventurous terrain, pristine beaches, limestone caves,

spectacular diving sites, and vibrant capital city Willemstad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The resort includes the brand’s first ever bi-level Dos Awa Infinity Pool; 351 rooms and suites including the Kurason Island Poolside Butler Bungalows and Awa Seaside Butler Bungalows and eleven culinary concepts, including eight restaurants – seven of which are new to the brand and only available at this resort – along

with three beachside gourmet food trucks and 13 bars.

“Our vision for the Sandals Royal Curaçao experience was inspired just as much by the island’s natural beauty and colorful culture, as it was by our guests and the many ways they can engage with this amazing destination,” said Sandals Resorts Executive Chairman Adam Stewart. “This resort - a true labor of love years in the making with my father

and our late founder, Gordon “Butch” Stewart, at the helm - is a testament to the transformative power of tourism via next-generation experiences that not only up the ante on all-inclusive vacations, but celebrate the local people, flavors and terrains every step of the way.”

To learn more or book, visit [sandals.com/royal-curacao/](http://sandals.com/royal-curacao/).



## This Caribbean Island Is Celebrating The Humble Mango

A tiny Caribbean Island, known as the birthplace of America’s Greatest immigrant and the US’ first secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, is putting the spotlight on the humble mango.

The Caribbean Island of Nevis will celebrate the fruit from July 1st – 3rd at the Nevis Mango Festival. Nevis is home to 44 varieties of mangoes and each year, Nevisians come together for an entire weekend totally dedicated to the fruit, as they watch some of the island’s (and the Caribbean’s) best chefs make some deliciously creative cuisine with the fruit.

Participating chefs embrace an epic culinary challenge which sees them create a meal that



Nevis is set to again celebrate the humble mango.

must include mango in every course. If that’s not enough, visitors to the island can get involved in a mango-eating competition and try their hand at a mango-inspired cocktail competition. One for the foodies to check out this July! See more at [nevismangofest.com/](http://nevismangofest.com/).



## Here Comes The Miami/ Bahamas Goombay Festival

This June 11th and 12th you can experience the culture of The Bahamas without leaving South Florida.

The cultural celebration of Bahamian heritage will reconvene as City of Miami Commissioners collaborate with Miami-Dade College Wolfson and Gibson campus, Congresswoman Frederica Wilson and the Bahamas Consulate General Miami for the “Return of the Miami/ Bahamas Goombay Festival.”

This free two-day community event will be held on Saturday, June 11th and Sunday, June 12th at Virrick Park.

Hosted by Rodney Baltimore of Hot 105 and Brandi Troup of 99 Jamz; the event will feature live music by DJ OvaDose, DJ Selector Chronic and DJ D Mac with performances by Julien Believe, Melodic Vibrations, Angels of Praise, Gia Wyre, Jay

Shepard, Zamunda Futuristic; along special guests, world-renowned R&B singers Michael Sterling and Michel’le. Festival participants will also be able to party carnival style with the Junkanoo Band.

This family-friendly event will also include food/merchandise vendors, interactive sip and paint sessions, kids’ areas, a historical overview of Coconut Grove, cooking with the Commander and more. Free trolley service will also be offered throughout both festival days with pick up/drop-offs at the Douglas Metrorail station located at 3060 SW 37th Court.

For more information regarding the event or for vending opportunities, contact vonCarol Kinchens-Williams via email [goombayfestival@miamigov.com](mailto:goombayfestival@miamigov.com) or (786) 768-7318.



## GREENING OUT

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# Get Ready For West Indies Vs. India In Lauderdale

It will be the showdown of the summer for South Florida cricket fans this August as the West Indies face-off with India in Lauderdale, Florida.

India will tour the Caribbean and feature in three ODIs and five T20Is from July 23rd to August 7th.

Cricket fans will be able to see the final two T20s at the Central Broward County Stadium on August 6th and 7th.

The first T20I in the Windies versus India clash will be held at the Brian Lara Stadium, Port of Spain, Trinidad on July 29th and be followed by two games at St Kitt's Warner Park on August 1st and 2nd respectively.

## Bangladesh

Prior to the Indians arrival, the West Indies cricket squad will face Bangladesh from June 16th to July 16th for two Tests, three ODIs and three T20Is. Bangladesh will take on West Indies in tests in Antigua and St Lucia from June 16-28th, before clashing in the first two T20 Internationals at Windsor Park in Dominica on July 2nd

and 3rd, the venue hosting international cricket for the first time in five years since the damage wreaked by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The final T20I is scheduled for July 7th at the Guyana National Stadium which will also host all three ODIs from July 10th-16th.

## New Zealand

New Zealand will then clash with West Indies in a three-match T20I and ODI series from August 10th -21st, to round out 30 match days of cricket across three months.

West Indies' long summer will wind up when they face the Black Caps in three T20s from August 10-14th at Sabina Park in Jamaica, followed by three ODIs under lights at Kensington Oval in Barbados from August 17th-21st.

All nine ODIs form part of the ICC Super League, the qualifier for next year's World Cup in India.

"We are delighted to announce the match schedule for the men's international



The West Indies and India will clash in Broward this August. (CMC Image)

calendar at home for the rest of the year," said Cricket West Indies chief executive, Johnny Grave. "We know our supporters will be delighted with the news that the matches are being played all across the region as well as those living in the USA will be able to see their

favorite players in action. This is the busiest year of cricket ever in the West Indies."

West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran said of the upcoming series, "We have a young team that is eager to restore the brand of cricket the West Indies team is known for

playing. As I take charge of this team, our ambition is to always be competitive, as we look to use this series to fine tune our preparations for the upcoming T20 and 50 Over World Cups."

- Rewritten from CMC



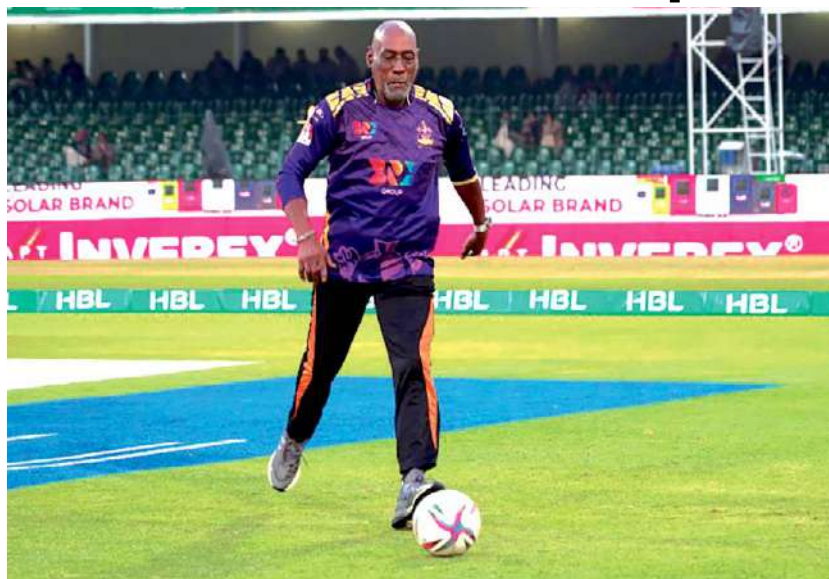
# Sir Viv Could Receive Top CARICOM Honor

Former West Indies cricket captain, Sir Vivian Richards, is being considered for the Order of the Caribbean Community, the highest award to be given by CARICOM governments.

The Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) cited sources as saying Richards is among three being considered for the award.

The others are former Barbados government minister, Dame Bille Miller, and the Trinidad and Tobago calypsonian, David Michael Rudder. The award will be bestowed during the CARICOM Summit scheduled for Suriname in July.

The Order of the Caribbean



Sir Vivian Richards is being considered for the Order of the Caribbean Community.

Community is an award given to "Caribbean nationals whose legacy in the economic and cultural metamorphoses of Caribbean society is phenomenal." The award was initiated at the English Conference of Heads of State and Governments of CARICOM in 1987 and was first bestowed in 1992.

Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, who represented the West Indies cricket team between 1974 and 1991, is widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen of all time.

Richards made his test debut in 1974 against India

and scored 8,540 runs in 121 Test matches at an average of 50.23, including 24 centuries. He also scored 1281 runs in World Series Cricket with five tons at average of over 55 which was regarded as highest and most difficult cricket ever played.

A captain, the Antigua and Barbuda national captain, won 27 of 50 Test matches and lost only 8. He also scored nearly 7,000 runs in One Day Internationals and more than 36,000 in first-class cricket.

He was knighted for his contributions to cricket in 1999.

- Rewritten from CMC



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## HIT & RUN FATALITY

**VICTIM/PEDESTRIAN**  
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On Sunday, May 2, 2021, at approximately 9:25 p.m., the above-pictured victim/pedestrian began crossing at SW 184 Street and SW 112 Avenue, Miami, Florida, when the subject vehicle, a Hyundai silver in color, struck and killed him. The driver of the subject vehicle fled the scene without rendering aid and/or reporting the crash.

SUBJECT VEHICLE DESCRIPTION: HYUNDAI SILVER IN COLOR. NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

Anyone with information on the above HIT & RUN FATALITY, the whereabouts of the subject vehicle and/or its driver is requested to contact Miami-Dade Police Department Traffic Homicide Detective J. Childers at (305) 471-2425. If you wish to remain anonymous, then contact Miami-Dade County Crime Stoppers at the following:

- (305) 471-TIPS (8477) or 1 (866) 471-8477
- Visit [www.CrimeStoppers305.com](http://www.CrimeStoppers305.com) and select "Submit a Tip"
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ISSUE DATE: 5/11/2021 RN SUPERVISOR: Sgt. Francisco Armendariz MDPD C/N PD210502138114

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# CARIBBEAN HERITAGE



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## White House Again Proclaims June National Caribbean American Heritage Month

The White House on May 31st again proclaimed June National Caribbean-American Heritage Month for the 16th year, as the US celebrates its first Caribbean born White House spokesperson and first Caribbean American vice-president as well as several Caribbean born and Caribbean White House roots administration members.

In issuing the proclamation, President Joe Biden said “millions of Caribbean Americans strengthen our country through their vibrant cultures, traditions, languages, and values.” He saluted the Caribbean Americans in his administration, including Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice.

And he recognized other public servants with Caribbean heritage, such as the US’ first Supreme Court Justice of Puerto Rican descent, Sonia Sotomayor, and the late General Colin Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants and the first Black Secretary of State.

“Every day, we see the invaluable contributions Caribbean American communities have made to our

country,” President Biden stated. “Our Nation has seen the persistence and character of generations of Caribbean Americans who have fought for equity and equality despite continued discrimination and hardship... Caribbean American entrepreneurs, scientists, medical professionals, teachers, artists, police officers, athletes, and contributors in every field have also left a lasting impact on our society.”

The President also recognized the barriers of race and disparities that continue to face many Caribbean Americans and said his “administration has taken a whole-of-government approach to advancing racial justice and equity in order to begin healing those wounds and strengthening opportunity for all.”

“During this National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we honor the generations of Caribbean Americans who



U.S. President Joe Biden is encouraging all Americans to join in celebrating the history, culture, and achievements of Caribbean Americans with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

have built our Nation, shaped our progress, and strengthened our national character,” the President stated. “I encourage all Americans to join in celebrating the history, culture, and achievements of Caribbean Americans with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

Read The full proclamation below:

America’s strength has always been rooted in our diversity. Since our Nation’s founding, generation after generation of immigrants have helped build this country, and the prosperity and opportunity that draw so many immigrants to America would not be possible without the contributions and legacies of Caribbean Americans. Today, millions of Caribbean Americans strengthen our country through their vibrant cultures, traditions, languages, and values. In recognition of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we honor the immeasurable ways Caribbean Americans have added to our American dream.

This month, our Nation also celebrates the extraordinary leadership and achievements of

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black American of Jamaican heritage to hold this high office. I am also honored to celebrate alongside brilliant and dedicated public servants of Caribbean heritage — including Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice.

Every day, we see the invaluable contributions Caribbean American communities have made to our country. Our Nation has seen the persistence and character of generations of Caribbean Americans who have fought for equity and equality despite continued discrimination and hardship. In addition, public servants like our Nation’s first Supreme Court Justice of Puerto Rican descent, Sonia Sotomayor, and the late General Colin Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants and the first Black Secretary of State, have made essential contributions to American society and blazed new trails in service to the American people. Caribbean American entrepreneurs,

scientists, medical professionals, teachers, artists, police officers, athletes, and contributors in every field have also left a lasting impact on our society.

In spite of innumerable achievements and undeniable contributions, too many Caribbean Americans continue to face systemic barriers to success. Caribbean Americans have been impacted by systemic racism and disparities in opportunity. My Administration has taken a whole-of-government approach to advancing racial justice and equity in order to begin healing those wounds and strengthening opportunity for all. We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to ensure that every American — no matter who they are or where they come from — has equal access to the American dream.

During this National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we honor the generations of Caribbean Americans who have built our Nation, shaped our progress, and strengthened our national character.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2022 as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. I encourage all Americans to join in celebrating the history, culture, and achievements of Caribbean Americans with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

Joseph R. Biden Jr.





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## “Pieces Of Jamaica” Exhibition For Island SPACE Caribbean Museum



‘Wha Sweet Yuh’ by David I Muir Pieces of Jamaica Jamrock Edition will be part of the showcase.

In honor of Jamaica’s 60th anniversary of independence, artists David I. Muir and Sean Henry have collaborated to produce the new Pieces of Jamaica®. This project and exhibit coming to Island SPACE Caribbean Museum showcases Jamaica through an expansive lens that captures overlooked cultural aspects of the island. With a series of events planned, The Pieces of Jamaica® exhibition opens on June 4th with an opportunity to meet the artists from 4-7 p.m.

On June 23rd, Island SPACE Caribbean Museum will host a Pieces of Jamaica® reception where friends of the museum, distinguished guests, and art lovers alike can mingle and enjoy the showcase over wine and light refreshments. The exhibition’s events culminate on August 18th, providing visitors with the opportunity to purchase the coffee-table book and interact with project sponsors the Jamaica Tourist Board and Sagicor, as well as local Jamaican dignitaries.

The exhibition is curated by Anna Visnitskaya, Island SPACE’s

curatorial consultant. Reflecting on the curation process, Visnitskaya states, “David Muir shares his access to the authentic Jamaican experience in a way that celebrates how many Jamaicans in the diaspora think of their country. In choosing images to include in the show, two main criteria were considered: the artistic quality of the shot and its importance to the narrative.” She adds, “Every photograph was impactful in some way, but the final selection beautifully summarizes this particular series in David Muir’s body of work.”

A photographer, entrepreneur, community leader, and author, David I. Muir has the experience and passion to capture the essence of Jamaica’s beauty. His photography, proudly displayed in his native land and the U.S., centers around candid shots depicting Jamaican culture and lifestyle. David is currently the president of Island Syndicate, a multiple-award winning publishing company dedicated to storytelling excellence. He is also the co-founder of Island

SPACE Caribbean Museum, a non-profit organization promoting the excellence and vitality of arts and cultural projects representing the Caribbean and its diaspora in South Florida.

Sean Henry works with various mediums, drawing realistic illustrations of Jamaican scenery and portraits in watercolor, pastel, ink, charcoal, and mixed media. His fine arts pieces are known for instantly transporting viewers into aesthetic worlds. Henry notes, “The fine art pieces that I’ll include will bring a different element to the project. Some of the places we capture, to some, are no longer in their glory days. My watercolor pieces will show the beauty that they still possess today, in another form of art.” With this vision, it is no surprise that Henry graduated from the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts and later founded IYA Limited, Jamaica’s leading screen printing and graphics company, known for developing custom-made apparel for individuals and businesses.

Access to the Pieces of Jamaica® gallery exhibition is included with general museum entry. Visit islandspace.org to learn about this unique experience or other activities and exhibitions

at Island SPACE Caribbean Museum.

Island SPACE Caribbean Museum is open Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. through 7 p.m. and Sundays from 11:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m. General

entry fees are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Donations, sponsorships, memberships and volunteer commitments are encouraged.



## US’ First Caribbean Born Press Secretary Makes Passionate Plea For Gun Law Changes

The US’ first Black, Caribbean born White House Press Secretary is making a passionate plea for Washington lawmakers to come together to address gun violence in the country.

The Martinique-born, Haitian roots, Karine Jean Pierre, speaking after the massacre in Uvalde, Texas said: “These are elementary school children. They should be losing their first teeth, not their lives.”

The gay mother of an elementary student, called on the country to tighten gun laws in the wake of the mass shooting in Texas and on the heels of the shooting in Buffalo.

Jean Pierre was raised in Queens, New York by Haitian immigrant parents and received

her MPA from the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University in 2003.

She previously served as the chief public affairs officer for MoveOn.org also served as the chief of staff to then Democratic vice-presidential candidate and now vice-president, Senator Kamala Harris, whose roots also extend to the Caribbean through her Jamaican father.

Jean-Pierre later joined the Columbia University faculty in 2014, where she is a lecturer in international and public affairs. She lives in the Washington, D.C. area with her partner, CNN correspondent Suzanne Malveaux, and their daughter.



## U.S. Census Data Puts West Indian Population At Over 3.5 Million

People claiming West Indian or Caribbean ancestry are estimated at 3,549,627 according to the latest U.S. Census American Community Survey data from 2020, News Americas has found.

This comes as Caribbean Americans kick off another National Caribbean American Heritage Month in the U.S. today. The total includes 250,977 people claiming Guyanese ancestry since Guyana is part of the Caribbean Community.

The largest group of non-Hispanic West Indians are Jamaicans who are estimated at 1,161,976.

They were followed by Haitians at 1,024,503.

Here’s where other nationalities rank by third largest to least on the ACS ancestry estimates.

Trinidadian and Tobagonian - 229,384

Other West Indians which include nationals from Grenada, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines – 290,615

British West Indian excluding Bermudans - 113,811

Barbadian - 69,902

Belizean - 61,050

Bahamian - 56,123

Dutch West Indian- 33,459

U.S. Virgin Islander - 22,715

Bermudan - 6,995.

According to Pew Center, Black immigrants born in the Caribbean came to the U.S. earlier than their African-born counterparts.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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