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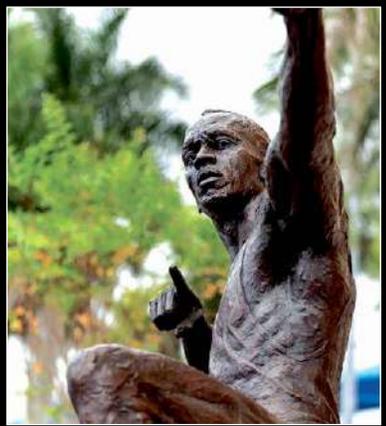
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LOW BLOW

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(PHOTO CREDIT: Roll Call/NBC News)



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

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, has issued a strong message of resolve and determination following the tragic shooting incident in Kingstown that claimed the lives of five individuals.

In a video message from Morocco, Gonsalves expressed his deep condolences to the families affected by the senseless violence and assured the nation that every effort will be made to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Describing the incident as a terrible tragedy, Prime Minister Gonsalves called for calm and unity among the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines. He emphasized the importance of resolute action against criminals and highlighted that additional measures are being taken to address the situation, though he could not disclose specific details for tactical and operational reasons.

Gonsalves urged the community to assist the police by providing any relevant information they may have. He reassured the public that law enforcement agencies, including the police, border control officials, customs, and immigration, are on high alert and working diligently to ensure the safety and security of the nation.

The Prime Minister acknowledged that the police have obtained certain leads and expressed confidence that, in the coming days, a clearer picture will emerge regarding the individuals responsible for the tragic incident. He stressed that the government is fully committed to uncovering the truth and holding those accountable for their actions.

HAITI

The U.N. Security Council has called on secretary-general Antonio Guterres to come up with options to help combat Haiti's armed gangs, including a possible U.N. peacekeeping force and a non-U.N. multinational force.

In resolution adopted unanimously by the council, Guterres was asked to report back on "a full range" of options within 30 days to improve the security situation, including additional training for the Haitian National Police and providing support to combat illegal arms trafficking to the impoverished Caribbean nation.

It also authorizes up to 70 U.N. police and corrections advisers to scale up support and training for Haiti's understaffed and underfunded national police force. And it "encourages" countries, especially in the Caribbean region, to respond to appeals from Haiti's prime



EU, Caribbean and Latin America leaders met in Brussels, Belgium for the European Union and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) summit at the EU Council headquarter on July 17, 2023. Heads of state and government of the EU and CELAC held the high-level meeting on July 18 and 19 in Brussels, eight years after the last meeting organized in 2015. (Photo by Thierry Monasse/Getty Images)

minister and from Guterres for the deployment of an international specialized force. Last week, Guterres, who visited Haiti earlier this month, called for a robust international force to help the Haitian National Police "defeat and dismantle the gangs."

JAMAICA

The state-owned Development Bank of Jamaica, (DBJ), has been accredited by the Green Climate Fund, (GCF), the world's largest climate financing body.

The new status will allow the bank to access funding at a concessional interest rate, to implement projects or programs of varying sizes, which are geared towards climate change resilience. In a statement, the

DBJ said this accreditation will see Jamaicans benefiting significantly through the various impactful climate related projects or programs, which will be implemented by the bank and or its partners. The complex accreditation process for the bank started in 2018.

GUYANA

Oil production in Guyana's Stabroek block is projected to average some 1.2 million barrels of oil per day by the end of 2027. Currently, Guyana's crude oil production is averaged at 400,000 barrels of oil per day. Guyana's total recoverable oil reserves low stand at more than 11 billion barrels of oil, with crude oil reserves ranking at number 17 in the world and third in Latin

America and the Caribbean.

Since the discovery of oil offshore Guyana in 2015, international interest has increased in the country, especially for its oil potential and the potential of various developing sectors - a development driven by funds acquired from the production of oil and gas. Industry analysts estimate that by 2035, just over a decade from now, Guyana's oil output will reach 1.7 million barrels of oil per day, surpassing United States oil production and becoming the fourth-largest oil producer in the world.

BARBADOS

The Korea-based Green Climate Fund, (GCF), is set to approve a US\$15 million investment in the capital of the proposed Blue Green Bank (BGB) of Barbados.

The Barbados-based Blue Green Bank is expected to have a capital base of more than BDS\$80 million (One BDS\$=US\$0.50 cents) and a capacity to lend BDS\$500 million.

The BGB is intended to invest in green affordable homes, assisting with providing hurricane resilient roofs, the electrification of transport, and other 'Paris-aligned' investments.

- Compiled from CMC



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Florida Congressman's Anti-Haitian Rant - Matt Gaetz Attacks Haitians In Vicious Op Ed



Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz has criticized Haitians in language reminiscent of the "S-Hole" comment reportedly made by Donald Trump.

BY CT STAFF WRITER

"Don't Haiti My Florida!"

That's the title of a recent op ed, published by Republican Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz, in the Daily Caller. Pointing to Customs and Border Patrol statistics between January and May of 2023, Gaetz said CBP encountered 23,490 "illegal Haitians in its Florida sector."

The Coast Guard routinely interdicts Haitians on the ocean attempting to reach Florida through the Florida straits as well as the Bimini and Bahamian passageways.

"Every Haitian that gets to land functionally gets to stay in Florida forever," stated Gaetz. "Unlike when illegal immigrants cross the Southern border, and disperse throughout the country, these Haitians are congregating in Southeast Florida and overrunning taxpayer resources. Haiti is not sending its best on these boats. . . . These aren't software engineers being caught at sea."

He claimed that a 2005 study of Haitian immigrants in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood found that just 22 percent had a High School degree while over 85 percent of adults nationwide had a high school degree.

Gaetz also claimed that the impact of Haitian illegal immigration on Florida's social services is significant. "They are more than twice as likely to use food stamps, Medicaid, and other major welfare programs than their native-born peers," he stated. "These illegal migrants also impose a significant burden on Florida's hospitals. A 2005 study found that nearly a third of Haitians in Miami used taxpayer-subsidized healthcare. Haitian migrants in Miami have higher rates of chronic health conditions, such as HIV/AIDS and the country is one of the worst for tuberculosis. This is due to a number of factors, including poverty. Haitians are the poorest national group in Miami-Dade County."

He added that Haitians "don't just burden our state's

social services, but also our state's prisons."

"Fort Myers police officer Adam Jobbers-Miller was killed in 2018 after being shot in the head by an alien from Haiti with an immigration detainer. That was an avoidable death," Gaetz stated. "The fact that Haiti is close to Florida, does not mean that my state should be inundated with illegal Haitian immigrants."

He added: "We need

to be honest about the impact of unfettered illegal immigration from Haiti," stated the Congressman.

"We are not Haiti. We must surge Department of Defense resources, including the Navy, to stop this invasion of Florida. Every illegal immigrant caught trying to come to America must be swiftly returned back to his nation."

"One of the things that separates our wonderful country

from a place like Haiti is the rule of law. Let's enforce it," Gaetz concluded. "I cannot sit idly by as Biden tries to Haiti my Florida."

The Haitian American Mayor of the City of North Miami, Alix Desulme, told CT that Gaetz's comment smacks of "misinformation about Haitian immigrants arriving in South Florida," and its is "disheartening."

"Haitian immigrants have

a long history of enriching the cultural fabric and contributing to the economic prosperity of South Florida," Mayor Desulme said. "They have played an instrumental role in various sectors, including healthcare, education, business, and the arts. Their resilience, hard work, and determination to build better lives for themselves and their families are commendable."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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NEWS



Jamaica Downplays Strained Relations With The US Over Visa For Spouse Of Same-Sex Diplomat

The Jamaican government has sought to downplay suggestions of a diplomatic row with the US, after media reports said that the two countries are at odds over a posting of a LGBTQ+ diplomat.

Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Kamina Johnson Smith, has in a statement, dismissed media reports of the diplomatic row reportedly sparked by a plan by the United States to post a diplomat involved in a same-sex marriage in Kingston.

"In accordance with diplomatic practice and within the ambit of Jamaica's Constitution, Jamaica grants privileges and immunities to incoming diplomats, their staff,

and families to either reside in or visit the country," Johnson Smith said.

"All requests made to the foreign ministry are considered within this context. Members of staff from both countries continue to reside and work in each other's territory and are expected to observe the laws of their host country," she added.

Earlier this year, the United States government formally requested that the Jamaican government grant diplomatic immunity and privileges to the married partner of a diplomat who was about to be posted in Jamaica and was in a same-sex relationship. However, RJR News reported that the Jamaican

government did not respond to the request in a timely manner.

In response to the lack of a timely response, the US sent another diplomatic note demanding a definitive answer. The Jamaican government reportedly replied by rejecting the request. A senior government source quoted by RJR stated that approving the request would require Jamaica to recognize same-sex marriages, which is currently illegal in the country.

In retaliation, the US reportedly rejected a request from the Jamaican government to extend the stay of three diplomats working in Jamaica's embassy and consulates in the United States. The US government has reportedly served notice that the trio must leave immediately upon the expiration of their five-year diplomatic visas. This is a departure from the usual practice of routinely granting extensions to Jamaican diplomats beyond the five-year period.

Among those reportedly



FLASHBACK: Jamaica's PM Andrew Holness, L, Senator & Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Kamina Smith, c., and US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. (Twitter image)

affected by this decision are Jamaica's ambassador to the US, Audrey Marks, and Consul General Oliver Mair, who is based in Miami. They have been instructed by the Americans to

depart and return to Jamaica this year, RJR reported.

- *Rewritten from RJR News.*



Florida Congressman's Anti-Haitian Rant - Matt Gaetz Attacks Haitians In Vicious Op Ed

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

He added that what "the spread of false narratives and negative stereotypes targeting the Haitian community ... perpetuate division and prejudice and ignore the contributions and potential that Haitian immigrants bring to our region."

"Diversity is the bedrock of our society, and it is through inclusion and acceptance that we can foster more robust communities and achieve collective growth," Desulme added. "As a society, we must reject xenophobia and discrimination in all forms. We encourage everyone to educate themselves about the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Haitian community in South Florida."

Djenane St. Fleur Gourgue, vice president of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce, in a statement to CT, called the comments "bigoted" and "disappointing," but said she is not surprised.

"He is a proud Trump protégé who seeks the limelight by being controversial," she said of Gaetz. "I encourage the congressman to mature his approach to politics, immigration and even history. As he continues to give his office a bad name with crazy political stunts; his words go against the values of respect, inclusivity, and equality that many Americans I believe in. His illegal spendings not being reported in his congressional

spending records, the continuous complaints and investigations are proof that he needs to retire like his former boss."

St. Fleur Gourgue added: "I believe that his family roots are from Normandy and if members of Congress back then did not represent their constituents, he would not be here. He can try to be a decent lawyer and start working on pathways to citizenship."

She also insisted that "it is important that members of Congress embrace and celebrate our differences rather than perpetuate harmful stereotypes."

HAITIANS IN THE US

Haitian immigrants account for less than 2 percent of the U.S. foreign-born population and are put at around 687,000 nationally. Miami-Dade is home to around 228,000. Florida does have the highest number of Haitians in the United States, with 487,632 individuals, representing 2.15% of the state's population.

The median household income in Little Haiti is 25,774.73 but that also includes Downtown/East Little Havana/Liberty City/Overton. Many can vote and are US citizens. In 2016, Trump won about 20 percent of the Haitian vote, according to an analysis of data from University of Florida political scientist Dan Smith.

According to the Migration Policy Center, 79 percent of Haitians ages 25 and over

in the United States had a high school degree or higher, compared to 78 percent of the overall Caribbean immigrant population and 73 percent of the total foreign-born population. Over 32 percent of Haitians in Little Haiti have a high school diploma, according to FIU data.

The share of Haitian immigrants with a bachelor's degree or higher was 19 percent, compared to 32 percent of the total foreign-born population. Among Haitian immigrants ages 16 and older, 71 percent participated in the civilian labor force, compared to 66 percent of the overall foreign-born population and 62 percent of the U.S.-born population. Haitian immigrant women were also more likely to be in the labor force than the overall female immigrant population – 66 percent compared to 57 percent.

Haitian immigrants were more likely to be employed in service occupations and less likely to be in management and related occupations than both foreign- and native-born populations." The data also said the Haitian-born population held health insurance at roughly the same rate as the overall immigrant population – 83 percent compared to 81 percent. And a larger share of Haitian immigrants had private health insurance than public coverage, at similar rates as the total foreign-born population.



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Over 50 Percent Of Caribbean People Cannot Afford A Healthy Diet



(Image: UNICEF/Mrazikova)

the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) found that in Jamaica, an estimated 8.3 per cent of the population experienced undernourishment for the period 2020 to 2022. In Haiti, a total of 4.9 million Haitians – nearly half of the country’s population – are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, according to the UN-supported report.

A shocking new report from the United Nations has put a number on the percentage of people in the Caribbean who cannot afford a healthy diet.

According to The Regional Panorama of Food and Nutrition Security 2022, 52 percent of the Caribbean population cannot afford a healthy diet. This is due to the higher average daily cost of healthy diets in the Caribbean compared to the rest of the world’s regions, reaching USD 4.23 in the Caribbean.

The joint publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) along with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO); the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and

More shocking was that between 2019 and 2021, hunger reached a prevalence of 16.4 percent.

The report’s authors said this problem is related to different socioeconomic and nutritional indicators.

The report also reveals that the rise in international food prices experienced since 2020, exacerbated after the start of the conflict in Ukraine, and a regional increase in food inflation above the general level, have increased the difficulties for people to access a healthy diet.

“There is no individual policy that can solve this problem independently. National and regional coordination mechanisms need to be strengthened to respond to hunger and malnutrition,” said Mario Lubetkin, FAO

Assistant Director and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean. “To contribute to the affordability of healthy diets, it is necessary to create incentives for the diversification of the production of nutritious foods aimed mainly at family farming and small-scale producers, take measures for the transparency of the prices of these foods in markets and trade,

and actions such as cash transfers and improving school menus.”

“Food insecurity will continue to rise due to the food and fuel price crisis caused by the conflict in Ukraine and the aftermath of COVID-19,” added Lola Castro, WFP Regional Director. “We must act now, but how can we do it? Supporting governments to expand social protection networks because

the pandemic once again demonstrated that social protection is useful to improve the affordability of a healthy diet, preventing crises like this from hitting affected populations even more.”

- *Rewritten from NewsAmericasnow.com*



Jamaica Assumes Chair Of OAS Permanent Council

Jamaica’s Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States, (OAS), Audrey Marks, has assumed the chair of the OAS Permanent Council until September 30th.

“I look forward to a very productive chairmanship that will result in tangible and fruitful outcomes for the benefit of our hemisphere,” Marks said during the handing-over ceremony on July 17th at the OAS headquarters.

She said the OAS General Assembly in June “reminded us of the inextricable links between human rights, democracy and sustainable development.”

Marks said that many countries in the region, especially in the Caribbean, continue to face challenges such as “food and energy insecurity, non-communicable diseases, challenges to democratic governance and development agenda, which are constantly undermined by crime and violence.”

She said therefore that multilateral mechanisms, such as the OAS Permanent Council,



Jamaica’s Permanent Representative to the OAS, Audrey Marks, assumed chairmanship of OAS Council.

“have an even greater role to play, as it allows the further deepening of our engagement, in our efforts to collectively address these challenges plaguing our region.”

Honduras’ Permanent Representative, Carlos Quesada, will serve as vice chair of the Council during the July-September period.

Jamaica takes the chair of the Council from Uruguay, whose Permanent Representative, Washington Abdala, held it from March to June. The OAS said the Chair of the Permanent Council rotates every three months among member states of the hemispheric body, in alphabetical order, while the vice chair rotates every three months but in reverse alphabetical order.



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Jamaican Diaspora to Stage Massive Independence Celebrations Across US

BY DERRICK SCOTT

Plans are in high gear for the staging of Jamaica's independence celebrations, in a number of states including Washington DC Metropolitan Area, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia and New York, are set to celebrate Jamaica's 61st anniversary of independence with a range of activities over several days.

The events have been organized by the Embassy of Jamaica, the consulate in New York, various honorary consuls, alongside various Diaspora organizations.

The action officially kicked off on Friday July 28th when the Rochester New York Jamaica Organization staged an anniversary ball to be addressed by Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Her Excellency Audrey Marks.

On Sunday July 30th, the Embassy of Jamaica hosted a Service of Thanksgiving at the Sligo Seventh Day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland at 11 a.m., to mark the 61st anniversary of Jamaica's Independence. Among the special guests will be Maryland's Governor Wes Moore of Jamaican parentage, members of the diplomatic corps, elected officials, and representatives of international organizations.

On August 19, the Jamaica Association of Maryland will



Flag bearers enter the sanctuary in Takoma Park, Maryland, signaling the commencement of the Thanksgiving Service to mark Jamaica's Diamond Jubilee and 184 years of Emancipation. Leading the procession is Rick Nugent, president of the Jamaican Association of Maryland. Bearing the Jamaica flag is Mrs. Kerry Anderson-Dixon (right) and Mrs. Ingrid Jallier (with the USA flag), both Embassy staff members. At right is Ambassador Audrey Marks. (Photo by Derrick A Scott)

stage its "Jamaica 61 Gala" under the patronage of Her Excellency Audrey Marks. The event will be held at Martin's West ballroom commencing at 8 p.m.

Led by Jamaica's Honorary Consul in Philadelphia, Christopher Chaplin, Jamaicans in Philadelphia will celebrate "Jamaica 61" with a flag raising ceremony on Thursday August 4 at the City Hall in Philadelphia commencing at 10:30 am.

On August 13, the "Jamaican Diaspora Pastors," of the Great State of Pennsylvania will hold a "Jamaica 61" church service at the First African Baptist Church

in 6700 Lansdown Avenue in Philadelphia, commencing at 4 p.m.

In New York, the Jamaica 61 celebrations will take place on Independence Day, Sunday (August 6) with a church service at the New Life Tabernacle in Brooklyn beginning at 4pm. The sermon will be delivered by the Senior Pastor of New Life Bishop Michael Mitchell.

Jamaica's Consul General in New York Ms. Alison Wilson will deliver welcome remarks.

The Consulate will continue its Independence activities which will feature a grand

Independence Gala on August 19th at the New York Hilton Hotel in midtown Manhattan. The function is expected to recognize seven outstanding Jamaicans including award winning actress Sheryl -Lee-Ralph and Grammy Award winning recording artist, Orville "Shaggy" Burrell.

Over in New Jersey, the Jamaica Organization of New Jersey had a Flag Raising Ceremony on July 28th at the East Orange City Hall, where Mayor Ted Green will participate in the ceremony.

On August 13th, they will have a thanksgiving service to celebrate their 25th anniversary as

an organization and Jamaica's 61st year of independence. The service will be held at the New Hope Baptist Church of New Jersey commencing at 4 p.m., with guest speaker being the pastor of the Montclair Seventh Day Adventist Church Dr. Dwayne Frazer.

On August 26th, the Jamaica Organization of New Jersey will stage their 25th Anniversary and Independence Awards Gala at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Newark New Jersey. The guest speaker will be Her Excellency Audrey Marks, while US Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

and Comedian Oliver Samuels will be recognized by the organization.

In Atlanta, Georgia, the Independence activities in Atlanta begin on Saturday August 12th, when the Atlanta Jamaica Association will stage its annual Independence Ball and Scholarship Awards at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway Hotel. Special guest will be Ambassador Audrey Marks while the guest speaker will be President of the Institute of Caribbean Studies in Maryland, Dr. Clare Nelson.

On Sunday August 13th, the Benevolent Missions of Atlanta will stage its annual fundraising brunch at the Mayfair Tower in Atlanta, at which time, Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks will deliver the keynote address.

On August 20th, starting at 3 p.m., the Jamaican community in Atlanta will attend an ecumenical thanksgiving church service at the PeachTree Road United Methodist Church the Preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Denzil Holness while the service will be moderated by the Rev. Dr. Noel Eerskin.

On September 17th, the Jamaican Embassy will be staging "Jamaica Fest" an event which will showcase Jamaica's rich culture and music. This will be held at the Veterans Plaza in downtown Silver Spring Maryland, beginning at noon.



Help Jamaica Medical Mission Returns To Jamaica This September

The renowned Help Jamaica Medical Mission, based in New Jersey, is making its much-anticipated return to Jamaica from September 6th to 14th. The mission will extend its services to seven communities in Kingston, St. Thomas, and St. Catherine.

Dr. Robert Clarke, Founder and President of the Help Jamaica Medical Mission,

expressed his excitement about the upcoming mission. Since 2010, the organization has been dedicated to serving Jamaicans, having provided medical attention to an impressive 46,000 patients over the past decade.

The team, comprised of volunteer specialist doctors and nurses from the tri-state area of New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut, will offer a range

of medical services during their mission. This includes physical exams, health screenings for various illnesses such as STDs, diabetes, prostate diseases, hypertension, sickle cell, certain cancers, mental health issues including depression and bipolar disorder, and different types of heart diseases.

Dr. Clarke, a Jamaican-born medical professional, serves as the medical director at Silver Lake Hospital in Newark, New Jersey, as well as a physician advisor at three other hospitals in the state. Additionally, he is an attending physician at two nursing homes and runs a private medical practice in East Orange Medical, New Jersey.

Reflecting on the mission's accomplishments, Dr. Clarke emphasized the positive impact they have made on the lives of countless individuals in Jamaica. At the organization's annual Black and White Elegant Boat Ride event held on June 24th in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, he stated, "We have been saving lives, restoring sight, and improving overall health through our yearly medical mission to Jamaica."

The mission's commitment to providing free, high-quality healthcare services to those in



Dr. Robert Clarke, President of Help Jamaica Medical Mission (HJMM), warmly greets Mr. and Mrs. Henry Small as they board the 'Cornucopia Majesty' for the Black and White Cruise event at the Perth Amboy port in New Jersey on June 24th. (Photo by Derrick Scott)

need has benefited thousands of Jamaicans. The dedicated team of doctors, nurses, and medical practitioners has generously offered their expertise in treating a wide range of conditions, including eye diseases, heart problems, diabetes, hypertension, and other illnesses.

As the immediate past president of the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations, (NAJASO), Dr. Clarke estimates that the New Jersey Medical Mission has invested approximately \$1-3 million in delivering medical services to

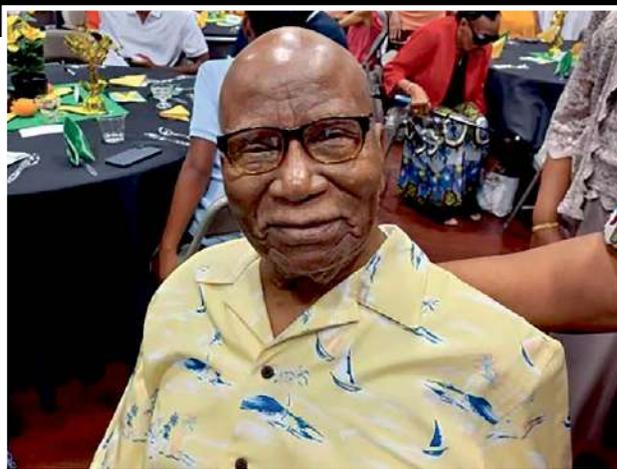
underserved communities in Jamaica over the years.

To support their upcoming mission in September, the organization recently raised over \$77,000 through a successful boat ride fundraiser on June 24th. These funds will contribute to the vital medical services provided during their visit.

The Help Jamaica Medical Mission was established by Dr. Robert Clarke, along with the assistance of Dr. Rudolph Willis, with the goal of providing healthcare services to those in need across Jamaica.



Congratulations!



Congratulations To Selvyn Hibbert, who celebrated his 100th Birthday on July 18th, 2023. He and his wife Olive have been married for 71 years now and have three children Jackie, Gerry & Pat.

Caribbean American US Veep Slams Florida's 'History with Lies'

Caribbean American US Vice President, Kamala Harris, has taken a jab at Florida's new revisionist black history.

In a passionate speech in Jacksonville, Harris condemned the state's new education standards for Black history in K-12 schools and criticized the guidelines that suggest slavery had benefits for the enslaved people, calling it misleading and false propaganda aimed at children.

Harris also expressed her disapproval of the new requirement for high schools to teach that African Americans

were perpetrators in racially motivated massacres, describing it as an attempt by extremists to rewrite history with lies.

The changes to the social studies curriculum were approved by the Florida Board of Education, sparking controversy just months after the state rejected an Advanced Placement course on African American studies.

The most criticized change in the curriculum is the assertion that slaves developed skills that could benefit them personally, which Harris called absurd and insulting. She emphasized the horrors of slavery, including



Caribbean American US VP Kamala Harris speaking in Jacksonville, FL. (Screengrab)

torture, family separations, and the dehumanization of individuals.

Furthermore, high school

students will be taught that some racially motivated massacres, like the 1920 Ocoee Massacre, were perpetrated by African Americans. This view was met with opposition from state Senator Geraldine Thompson, who argued that blaming the victims obscures the true perpetrators of such violence.

Elementary school lessons on famous Black figures like Rosa Parks and George Washington Carver were also criticized for lacking depth and failing to include their histories and struggles.

Educators and the Florida

Education Association expressed concerns that the new standards only scratch the surface of African American history, leaving elementary school students with a limited understanding of the significant contributions and challenges faced by these prominent figures.

Governor Ron DeSantis, who seeks the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, however, accused Harris of lying about Florida's educational standards on Facebook, claiming it is part of a larger agenda to indoctrinate students.



Caribbean Heritage Cops Are Mayor's Picks for NYPD Commissioner And Deputy

In a groundbreaking development, two veteran cops of Caribbean heritage have been chosen by Mayor Eric Adams as the next police commissioner and deputy of the NYPD.

Puerto Rican roots Edward Caban was appointed as the next NYPD commissioner, on July 18th, becoming the first Hispanic person to lead the nation's largest police department. He replaces Commissioner Keechant Sewell as the 46th police commissioner. Sewell announced last month that she was stepping down after 18 months.

Accompanying this historic announcement, Mayor Adams has also named Tania Kinsella, who was born in NYC to Jamaican and Guyanese immigrant parents, as the next first deputy

commissioner. Kinsella is also the first woman of color to serve in that position in the history of the NYPD.

ABOUT CABAN

Caban, 55, was born and raised in The Bronx, joined the NYPD in 1991 and rose through the ranks to sergeant three years later. He made his way up to inspector and has worked in a variety of precincts, most recently as the adjutant in Brooklyn North patrol.

Over the past 32 years, he has served in several roles, including as a sergeant, lieutenant, captain, deputy inspector and inspector. In 2022, he was named first deputy commissioner.

Caban's father, Juan Caban, was a transit officer at the same

time as New York Mayor Eric Adams, and was the president of the Transit Police Hispanic Society. He retired as a detective.

"The NYPD is the most consequential police department in all of law enforcement," Caban said. "Its storied history, its living legacy of valor, bravery and sacrifice, of ordinary New Yorkers who did extraordinary things."

KINSELLA

A dedicated 20-year veteran of the NYPD, Deputy Commissioner Kinsella has held various roles across different precincts in the five boroughs, including captain, commanding officer, deputy inspector, and inspector. She rose through the ranks to become the commanding officer of the 120th

precinct in Staten Island.

Previously serving as the executive officer at the office of the chief of patrol, Kinsella has consistently displayed exceptional leadership qualities. Her recent promotion to deputy chief further demonstrated her capabilities within the department.

Mayor Adams expressed his confidence in both Commissioner Caban and First Deputy Commissioner Kinsella, highlighting their remarkable achievements and emphasizing the significance of their appointments. He emphasized the need for a diverse leadership team that represents the richness and possibilities within the NYPD, aiming to address the department's image problem and strengthen community bonds.

Kinsella, during her address as the newly appointed first deputy commissioner, expressed her honor and described her love for the police department as "love at first sight." She acknowledged the rewarding nature of her job, emphasizing the importance of building community alongside ensuring public safety.

The appointments of Commissioner Caban and First Deputy Commissioner Kinsella signify a transformative step toward a more inclusive and representative NYPD, fostering stronger relationships between law enforcement and the diverse communities they serve.

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FEATURE



Usain Bolt Is Now Immortalized In Miramar

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Triple Olympian and the world's fastest man, Dr. Usain Bolt, OJ, CD, OLY, never ran a competitive race in Miramar, but the legendary sprinter will leave a lasting mark on the South Florida city in another way. On July 15th, a statue in his likeness was unveiled there at Ansin Sports Complex.

The lanky Jamaican attended the ceremony along with Miramar mayor Wayne Messam, vice mayor Alexandra Davis, Jamaica's Sports minister Olivia Grange and Basil Watson, the Jamaican sculptor who did the monument, which is cast in bronze, done in clay and lays on a two-tier granite base.

Davis, who is of Jamaican heritage, commissioned the project which cost \$250,000 and took two years to complete. She said it is a honor to have a monument in her city saluting arguably the greatest athlete ever.

"I am so proud to be spearheading the erection of this statue in honor of the greatest sprinter of all time, Usain Bolt, in our city of Miramar," said Davis. "The world has not known a faster athlete and it's our honor to have the first monument for our Art in Public Places initiative installed at the Ansin Sports Complex. This statue will serve as a constant reminder to all aspiring athletes that 'Anything is Possible, No Limits' as quoted by the man Usain, himself."

That quote is at the base of the statue which captures the six-foot, five inches Bolt in his

signature 'To The World' pose. He kneeled and pointed to the sky after each of his victories, most notably at the Olympics, World Championships and Diamond League meets.

Bolt, 36, was presented with the key to the City of Miramar at a function the previous evening. He posed for photos with fans and thanked administrators for recognizing his achievements.

It is the second statue of Bolt done by Watson, a 65-year-old Jamaican who lives in Atlanta. His first depiction stands at Independence Park in Kingston, Jamaica's capital.

"I've followed his career since Beijing, and he has had a remarkable career. It's an honor



Dr. Usain Bolt, OJ, CD, OLY, adopts his famous Lightning bolt pose as also immortalized in the Miramar statue.



Dr. Usain Bolt, OJ, CD, OLY, poses with Jamaican born master sculptor, Basil Watson and Miramar Vice Mayor Alexandra P. Davis and brainchild for the US statue, at right, while Minister Babsy Grange, I, and Mayor Messam, far left, look on.

to be asked to do any piece on Usain Bolt," he said.

Bolt exploded at the Beijing Olympics in China, winning three gold medals (the sprint

double and anchoring Jamaica's 4X100 meters relay team), a feat he repeated at the 2012 and 2016 Games in London and Rio de Janeiro.

At the 2009 World

Championships in Berlin, Germany he set world records of 9.58 seconds and 19.19 seconds in the 100m and 200m races, respectively. Bolt retired from athletics after the 2017 World Championships in London.

He had some inspirational words of advice for South Florida youth as he helped unveil the first US statue in his honor.

"Begin taking your dreams seriously at an earlier stage," he said. Holding a mini clinic with

budding track stars, including those aspirants to the Special Olympics, the top athlete took time out to also teach the young athletes a little about their form and how to have a good start in a race.

"Looking back, I realize I wasn't as focused when I was younger," he reflected. "It took me some time to fully comprehend the depths of my talent and what I could truly accomplish with it. If I could impart advice to my younger self, it would be to embrace dedication and seriousness much sooner."

Bolt's visit was the culmination of years of planning for a sculpture of his likeness erected at the Ansin Sports Complex as the first installation of the City's Art-in-Public-Places initiative.

The whirlwind set of

events started with a banquet on Friday, July 14th, with Jamaican Government officials including Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Ms. Olivia "Babsy" Grange and members of the Jamaica Amateur Athletics Association, (JAAA) sports fraternity.

The Fundraising banquet had performances from comedian Johnny Daley, music artiste, Nadine Sutherland and Poet, Sharon Corinthian, with a silent auction benefiting two charities - the Usain Bolt Foundation and Do the Right Thing of Miramar, Inc., where Bolt memorabilia from his winning races were sold to the highest bidders. A proclamation was also given to Bolt declaring Friday, July 14, 2023, Usain Bolt Day in the City of Miramar, and he was also presented with the keys to the City by Mayor Wayne M. Messam.

On Saturday, July 15th, with hundreds of good wishes coming out to see him, Bolt - amidst cheers and screams of joy - helped pull the curtain aside to unveil the statue in his honor.



This Caribbean Man Is Alive Thanks To The Tissue From A Cow's Heart

Prepare to be amazed by the extraordinary feat achieved by the Caribbean Heart Institute, (CHI), and its exceptional team led by renowned CEO and Guyanese-born heart surgeon, Dr. Gary Stephens. In a groundbreaking medical triumph, the CHI conducted the first-ever open-heart surgery of its kind in the country, utilizing innovative cow tissue to reconstruct a patient's ailing heart.

The life-saving operation, performed on the brave 24-year-old Guyanese national, Dexter George, involved the complete removal of a cardiac tumor and partial removal of the right atrium, followed by an ingenious reconstruction using bovine pericardium - tissue derived from a cow's heart.

Dr. Stephens, a visionary in the field, shattered the boundaries of conventional wisdom about the heart's resilience with this procedure. It showcased the extraordinary ability to remove substantial portions of the heart with overwhelmingly positive outcomes, defying all expectations. This monumental achievement has opened doors



The life-saving operation was performed on the brave 24-year-old Guyanese national, Dexter George. (NewsGuyana image)

to more audacious approaches, propelling medical boundaries to uncharted territories.

George's heart-wrenching journey began earlier this year when a seemingly innocent lesion in his right atrium swiftly transformed into a colossal tumor within a mere nine months. The tumor wreaked havoc on his heart's functionality, drastically impairing his daily life. Facing the dire circumstances of an advanced-stage tumor, the surgical team initially grappled with limited options.

Yet, their audacious proposal to employ bovine pericardium for the intricate reconstruction of the damaged right atrium provided a glimmer of hope. Although the chances of success were less than 1%, George and his family, fueled by immense courage, fearlessly consented to the procedure that could potentially save his life.

Since the groundbreaking surgery on June 22, 2023, George has astounded everyone with his remarkable progress. While he endures some physical

discomfort, his unwavering determination propels him forward, pushing through rigorous exercises on his path to complete recovery. Grateful for the tireless efforts of the surgical team, Dexter remains optimistic, steadfastly believing in a future of restored health and vitality.

Situated within the prestigious Georgetown Public Hospital, the Caribbean Heart Institute stands at the vanguard of cutting-edge cardiovascular care and groundbreaking research. Having successfully treated a staggering 25,000 patients grappling with various heart ailments, the institute continues to redefine the realm of cardiac medicine, revolutionizing healthcare throughout the region. Brace yourself for an era of unprecedented advancements in the realm of heart surgery, guided by the trailblazing Caribbean Heart Institute and its visionary leader, Dr. Gary Stephens.

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J.B. Pritzker - The Antithesis To Ron DeSantis?

When it comes to immigration, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker is swiftly establishing himself as the polar opposite of Florida's Ron DeSantis. Illinois is home to over 1.8 million immigrants, with an estimated 425,000 of them being undocumented. In comparison, Florida is estimated to have 4.6 million immigrants, with 725,000 reportedly being undocumented.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

The response to dealing with immigration couldn't be more different in the two states. While DeSantis has implemented the most stringent immigration rules, causing immigrants to leave Florida and leaving many employers without employees, Pritzker is focused on creating a more welcoming environment for undocumented immigrants in Illinois.

While Florida is now rejecting driver's licenses issued by certain U.S. states, including Connecticut, Rhode Island, Hawaii, and Vermont, immigrants in Illinois, regardless of their immigration status, will be able to obtain standard driver's licenses for identification purposes.

Governor Pritzker recently signed House Bill 3882, eliminating the "Temporary Visitor Driver's License" (TVDL) that non-citizens, including the undocumented, previously used to legally drive in Illinois. This new legislation enables them to obtain regular driver's licenses instead.

Pritzker emphasized: "This legislation is a significant step towards removing the barriers to opportunities faced by many undocumented immigrants. We

are ensuring that every eligible individual can obtain a driver's license, making our roads safer, reducing stigma, and creating more equitable systems for all."

Furthermore, starting from January 1, 2024, Illinois landlords will be required to rent or sell properties to undocumented migrants. Protections will be implemented under the Illinois Human Rights Act, addressing housing discrimination based on immigration status and discriminatory advertising. The law will include immigration status as a protected class.

Additionally, Illinois passed a bill allowing certain immigrants, including those with legal authorization to work or protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Act, to apply for police officer positions. This legislation circumvents the federal law that prohibits non-U.S. citizens from becoming police officers.

And since August of last year, over 11,000 migrants, mainly from Central and South America, have arrived in Illinois, with many being transported from Texas after crossing the southern U.S. border illegally.

In contrast, DeSantis supports the idea of sending migrants from Texas to states like Illinois and California and has been accused by officials in Texas and California, and civil rights attorneys in Massachusetts, of engaging in human trafficking himself, even though his immigration bill makes says he is fighting human trafficking in Florida.

He criticizes sanctuary cities like Chicago, blaming them for exacerbating the migration problem, and advocates for "closing the border."

Pritzker's support for

immigrants has garnered recognition. Last month, he received an award from the national Immigrants' List for his advocacy of immigrant rights, including the signing of legislation in Illinois that supports immigrant families. The immigration council commended Pritzker for signing bills that severed ties with federal immigration enforcement, recognized immigration status as a potential motive for hate crimes,

and established protections against workplace discrimination.

Pritzker has openly criticized DeSantis on numerous occasions, even during a visit to Florida last year, where he headlined a Florida Democratic Party event. In a passionate speech, Pritzker accused DeSantis of attempting to disguise covert racism, homophobia, and misogyny as a more reasonable form of Trump Republicanism.

It's unfortunate that Pritzker is not running for president; a clash between these two contrasting state leaders would undoubtedly be intriguing.

The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com - The Black Immigrant Daily News. She can be reached at felicia@caribpr.com



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CANNABIS AND MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Is Marijuana Dangerous to Men's Mental Health?

A recent national study shows that frequent marijuana use can negatively impact your mental health, especially if you're a man between the ages of 18-30.

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Watch the conversation.

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Passionate Crimes



that in their legal system, and people who commit such crimes are treated differently than the other common curs who rob, maim and kill for other reasons.

A crime of passion: French: 'crime passionnel' in popular usage, refers to a violent crime, especially homicide, in which the perpetrator commits the act against someone because of sudden strong impulses such as anger or jealousy, rather than a premeditated crime.

So, in other words, the French will give you a pass, show some leniency, if your crime was brought on by passion instead of just evil, greed or pure wickedness. Passion is a strong and barely controllable emotion. It's what often propels people to do great things, sometime positive, other times negative.

The passion that I'm referring to though, is that powerful, almost animalistic urge (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Passion is such a powerful force and comes with powerful consequences and also extreme results. So much so, that certain types of crimes are classified under its umbrella.



TONY ROBINSON

The French actually have

VIEWPOINT



www.caribbeantoday.com

Caribbean Climate Crisis Demands Urgent Action By Governments And Investors

BY ALEJANDRO GUERSON,
JAMES MORSINK,
SONIA MUNOZ

The Caribbean is the most exposed region to climate-related natural disasters, with estimated adaptation investment needs of more than US\$100 billion, equal to about one-third of its annual economic output.

Moreover, with electricity largely generated using fossil fuels, energy prices in the Caribbean are among the highest in the world, highlighting the need for investment in lower-cost and lower-carbon energy production.

The current level of private climate finance in the Caribbean region falls well short of what is needed. Some recent initiatives are promising, including:

- Issuance of blue bonds combined with debt-nature swamps for debt service reduction opening fiscal space for nature conservation investments in coastal areas (Belize and Barbados).
- Issuance of a catastrophe bond for financial protection against hurricane damage (Jamaica).
- State-contingent debt instruments that provide debt service relief after natural disasters in the context of debt restructuring in IMF-supported programs (Barbados and Grenada).
- However, Caribbean countries have only been approved for about \$800 million from climate funds (Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Fund, and Adaptation Fund).

While most countries purchase disaster insurance from the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility and a few countries are also enrolled in World Bank contingency credit lines, coverage levels are below the needs for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Access to private climate financing has been low due

to several factors. A pipeline of bankable climate projects is critical for raising private financing, but this remains insufficient due to limited capacity and expertise for project preparation. Similarly, qualification requirements to access climate funds are often beyond the administrative capacity of small country and microstates' governments, given the fixed costs of project evaluation and appraisal.

The multifaceted nature of climate finance operations, which include finance, legal, environmental and budget aspects, requires the involvement of several departments across the public administration leading to costly and lengthy preparation periods.

Also, data gaps undermine project appraisal and monitoring, limiting risk pricing and impact evaluation. Also, private financing usually requires information about collateral and creditworthiness, which is often not readily available. Finally, a lack of effective carbon pricing reduces the incentive of investors to channel funds into climate-beneficial projects.

In many countries, the high level of government debt reduces the fiscal space for sharing risks (for example, government guarantees for private sector financing). This is particularly critical considering that climate investments are needed now while the return accrues in the long term. Also, the fixed costs of issuing financial instruments to raise money for climate adaptation constrain access to private financing.

COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

Addressing these obstacles to private climate finance requires coordinated action by all those involved.

Governments need to strengthen the institutions and processes that develop, execute,



The Caribbean is facing a growing crisis as climate change becomes a global issue (Photo: UNDP/Zaimis Olmos)

and fund climate-related projects. These include green tagging of projects in budgets, accreditation to apply to climate finance, and upgrading procurement, transparency and reporting standards.

To overcome constraints related to small size, Caribbean countries could pool administrative resources to reduce costs, while strengthening communication across departments involved in climate finance operations. Sustainable fiscal positions, supported by transparent and binding medium-term fiscal frameworks to signal commitment to debt sustainability, are critical to sustain access to climate finance at favorable terms.

Governments could also facilitate access to private sector finance with the modernization

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

that people feel about anything that they get involved with. That passion drives them to go above and beyond the ordinary, making them achieve heights that mortals can only dream of.

That can apply to almost any endeavor, but when it comes to relationships and romance, it has no equal. Passion is a burning red-hot desire and feeling that a man has for a woman or a woman for a man. They cannot keep their hands off each other, they cannot

of foreclosure procedures and accounting and reporting standards, and the establishment of credit bureaus. Given that social benefits will be larger than private benefits, governments should also remove bottlenecks at the sectoral level by adopting clear legal and regulatory environments for renewable energy and eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, especially those for electricity production.

Financial markets that supply climate finance can simplify application processes, qualification requirements, and financial instruments, without weakening standards. Some options include establishing frameworks to pool applications of several countries and projects, making application requirements proportional to the amounts

being requested. Climate finance instruments can be standardized to reduce appraisal cost and potentially facilitate the development of secondary markets for climate instruments.

The IMF and other international financial institutions can give advice to help countries maintain fiscal sustainability and provide climate-specific technical assistance to develop administrative capacity, and climate data and diagnostic tools. The IMF also provides long-term concessional climate financing to strengthen the enabling environment, institutions and implementation capacity to address climate challenges and helps support private climate financing with the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. Multilateral development banks could play role in helping Caribbean countries with high levels of government debt to leverage equity financing from private sources.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Alejandro Guerson, James Morsink, Sonia Munoz, are senior officials of the International Monetary Fund, IMF.

- CMC



Passionate Crimes

get enough of each other, they cannot stand to be apart from each other, and have an insatiable hunger and thirst for each other. "What's wrong with them? They have this burning passion. They might explode."

That sort of feelings will drive people to madness and let them do crazy irrational things that they would not normally do. It's almost like temporary insanity. In fact, it's akin to absolute madness. And that's why the French, in their wisdom recognize this.

If you have all those powerful explosive, volcanic, cataclysmic feelings for your woman, only to walk in and witness her and another man wrapped up in the coils of an embrace, like two serpents, doing what you thought was your privilege, what would you do?

It's enough to drive a man crazy, and that's what often happens. If you flew into a rage and bashed in her head with a sculpture or stabbed the man, or even strangled him with your bare hands if you could, that would be a crime of passion if you were in France.

My advice would be to just walk away. But remember what I said about passion leading to insanity, and for that single moment, people may just snap. But passion lets people do crazy things and addles the brain. I prefer to call it a passionate crime.

"I just wasn't thinking

straight your honor. When I saw them together in our matrimonial bed, I just snapped."

"I understand your passion, admonished and discharged."

Sometimes, just based on the sheer brutality of the crime, you can deduce even with an untrained eye, that it's a passionate crime. "The victim was stabbed one hundred and forty-five times."

Passionate crimes seem to be the most gruesome when it comes to domestic crimes, and yet seemingly normal people do the most ghastly, heinous horrific acts. It's so ironic that an emotion as powerful, pleasurable, and beautiful as passion can lead someone to do such barbaric deeds.

But remember, passion is often akin to insanity it's been said, and that's why they also have crimes that fall under that designation: 'By reason of insanity.'

Passion elevates the senses, lifts your spirits, makes you feel exhilarated, motivates you to achieve, and yes, to experience great pleasures. Without it you are nothing but a shell without feelings.

Passion has no equal, but the crimes that are committed because of it, we can do without.

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Excitement Builds For Highly Anticipated Bob Marley Film - "One Love"

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Anticipation for the release of 'Bob Marley: One Love,' has been high since a director and lead actor were named for the movie about reggae's biggest star. Its three-minute trailer released July 7 by Paramount Pictures, piqued interest even more.

Directed by American Reinaldo Marcus-Green, it has scenes showing Kingsley Ben-Adir, who plays Marley, at the height of stardom. But he is caught between the glamor of the music business and political strife back home in Jamaica. The trailer attracted over 10 million views in a matter of hours.

Jamaican film-maker Lennie Little-White watched it several times and liked what he saw.

"A movie trailer is like

an appetizer before the main course," he said. "The first trailer for the Marley movie promises a lot with an intricate blend of music, drama and storytelling. The cinematography is spot-on and the lead character captures the essence of Bob Marley in a very nuanced and understated way. If the movie is as interesting as the trailer, it should be a winner."

'Bob Marley: One Love,' is scheduled to open in January, 2024. Scenes depicting the One Love Peace Concert in April, 1978 and life in Trench Town, where Marley lived during the 1950s and 1960s, were shot in Kingston, Jamaica in March.

David Muir, co-founder of the Island SPACE Caribbean Museum in South Florida, was also impressed with the trailer.

"Based on the trailer, I

think the Marley movie looks amazing," Muir told CT. "It is needed as we do not have enough representation of Jamaicans, Caribbean people, reggae music and of our culture on the big screen. I'm excited by the prospect of the story being told by Jamaicans, Bob's business and his family. I'm eager to watch the full film and believe that I will thoroughly enjoy it."

But Little-White, who directed the 1978 movie Children of Babylon, warned Jamaicans especially not to expect too much.

"It is important that Jamaicans do not get carried away and expect a facsimile of the real-life Marley. Feature film production is a very expensive



A scene from the "Bob Marley - One Love" trailer featuring Kingsley Ben-Adir, who plays Marley. (YouTube Screenshot/Paramount Movie)

undertaking which is only financially successful if it can garner wide international appeal which will make it a success at the box office," he noted. The movie focuses on a tumultuous time in Marley's life. In December 1976, he returned to Jamaica following a successful three-month international tour to

promote his Rastaman Vibration album.

He agreed to headline a concert in Kingston called Smile Jamaica, held by the government of prime minister Michael Manley to ease tension between politically aligned gangs. Three days before the show, he was shot while rehearsing with his band The Wailers, at his home.

Fearing more violence, Marley went on self-imposed exile to the United Kingdom where he recorded the epic Exodus album, rated as one of pop music's outstanding works. He returned to Jamaica in early 1978 for the One Love Peace Concert, another event aimed at uniting a fractious country.

Bob Marley died from cancer in May, 1981 in Miami at age 36.



Reggae Sensation Christopher Martin Joins Forces With Bounty Killer And Busy Signal For A Captivating Collaboration

Reggae artist Christopher Martin has joined forces with dancehall heavyweights Bounty Killer and Busy Signal, not only for their explosive single "It's Guaranteed," but also for an accompanying music video. This dynamic collaboration showcases the combined talent and energy of these renowned artists, delivering a vibrant and infectious musical experience.

Building upon the joyful

vibes of Christopher Martin's original song "Guaranteed," the trio amplifies the promise of a good time with their new track. Released through VP Records, "It's Guaranteed (Remix)" takes listeners on a journey to a worry-free world. Each artist contributes their unique style, offering visions of carefree partying, luxurious jet-setting lifestyles, and, above all, the joy of being in good company.

The music video, directed by the talented Sameel "SAMO" Johnson, perfectly complements the infectious energy of the song. With captivating visuals and dynamic performances, the video brings the essence of the track to life, immersing viewers in a world of vibrant celebration.

Produced by Robert Livingston, the "It's Guaranteed (Remix)" is a testament to the power of collaboration and the

seamless fusion of reggae and dancehall genres. It serves as an open invitation to embrace the carefree spirit and embrace the joys of life.

Be sure to check out the exciting collaboration between Christopher Martin, Bounty Killer, and Busy Signal as they deliver an unforgettable musical experience. Watch the music video and stream the single, available now via VP Records.



Bounty Killer, Busy Signal and Christopher Martin say "It's Guaranteed." (VP Records image)



One Year After OD, Lord Creator Joins The Ancestors

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

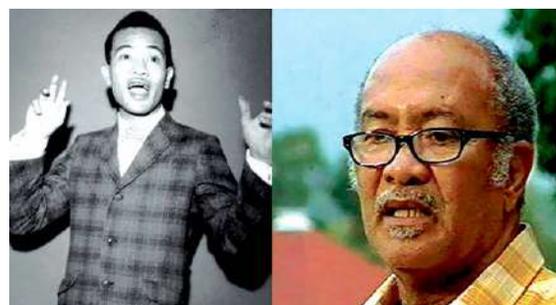
A year after he was awarded the Order of Distinction, Jamaica's fifth highest honour, singer/songwriter, Lord Creator, has joined the ancestors.

Although he was born in Trinidad and Tobago, Lord Creator made no secret of his love for Jamaica, the country he lived for a total of 45 years. He died there, in rural Hanover parish on June 23rd, at age 87.

The jocular musician, best known for songs such as 'Independent Jamaica,' 'Evening News' and 'Kingston Town,' had a number of health challenges in the past 20 years. Those included a stroke in 2005 that ended his career and complications from back surgery that left him wheelchair-bound for the past four years.

Neseline Patrick, his wife of 31 years, said he was hospitalized last December for breathing problems.

Lord Creator endeared himself to Jamaicans with 'Independent Jamaica,' a song he wrote to celebrate the country's independence from Great Britain on August 6, 1962. Vincent 'Randy' Chin of VP Records released 'Independent Jamaica,' released on Randy's



Lord Creator, OD, passed away on June 23rd in Jamaica.

Records.

ABOUT THE SINGER

Lord Creator was born Kenrick Patrick in San Fernando, Trinidad. He was part of a contingent of Caribbean artists who went to Jamaica for the independence ceremony. Others included Jamaica Trinidadians Lord Laro and Lynn Taitt and Barbadian singer Jackie Opel.

The success of 'Independent Jamaica' encouraged Lord Creator to settle in Kingston where he had follow-up hits with 'Don't Stay Out Late,' and 'Kingston Town.'

After falling on hard times, he returned to Trinidad and Tobago in the 1970s. But when British group UB40 covered Kingston Town in 1989, his fortunes took a turn for the better. It allowed Lord Creator

to resettle in Jamaica during the 1990s, where a new generation of fans discovered his music. VP Records issued a statement saluting his legacy. "VP Records is

deeply saddened by the passing of Lord Creator, an iconic artist whose influence has left an indelible mark on Caribbean music," the company said. "Throughout the years, the relationship between the VP family and Lord Creator has been a profound one, stretching back to his encounter with Vincent 'Randy' Chin, the co-founder of the label. ... Their initial collaboration, Independent Jamaica, released on Randy's Records, marked the beginning of a series of musical endeavours that showcased Lord Creator's immense talent and boundless creativity, which became the hallmarks of his illustrious career."

Funeral arrangements were unknown at press time.



DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

Lena Lee

Late of: Kingston 6 & Former Proprietor of

Lynzilee LTD.

DIED: APRIL 28, 2023

Leaving: sons Anthony "Tony" (Jennifer), Gregory (Donna); daughter Anna-Kay; niece Genevieve; grandchildren, siblings Sonia Hew & George Atkinson; dear friend & business partner Dorothy Lindsay other relatives & friends. She was predeceased in death by husband Gerald "Gerry" A. Lee

Thanksgiving service will be held on
**Friday, May 26, 2023 at the Sts. Peter & Paul Church,
 120 Old Hope Road, Kingston At:10:00 A.M.**
Inurnment: Sts. Peter & Paul Columbarium
*No floral tributes, donations will go towards
 Sts. Peter & Paul Church & St. Vincent de Paul Charity*
Funeral Director: Delapenha Funeral Home. 20A West Kings House Road.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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The Countdown Is On To The Annual Toronto Caribbean Carnival

The city of Toronto launched the month-long lead up to 56th edition of the Toronto Caribbean Carnival this week at Nathan Phillips Square. Mischa Crichton, CEO of the Festival Management Committee, expressed her enthusiasm for this year's Carnival. "We are thrilled to be launching the 56th edition of the Toronto Caribbean Carnival, where everyone can feel accepted and included," said Crichton, highlighting the festival's theme of "Diversity and Culture Live Here!"

The month-long celebration is packed with a series of vibrant events, culminating in the highly anticipated grand parade on August 5 along Lake Shore Boulevard. Spectators can expect a mesmerizing display of colourful costumes, energetic performances, and infectious Caribbean rhythms that will sweep the city.

But the excitement doesn't stop there. The festival calendar includes a range of captivating events designed to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean. From the Junior

King and Queen Showcase at Scarborough Town Centre to the Junior Carnival Parade at Malvern Community Centre, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Other highlights include the OCPA Calypso Showcase at the Latvian Culture Centre, the King and Queen Showcase at Lamport Stadium, the Pan Alive Panorama at Lamport Stadium, and the Pan in de Park event at Malvern Recreation Centre/Malvern Park. As part of the festivities, visitors can also indulge in the TCC International Food Festival at Malvern Park.

The Toronto Caribbean Carnival has become an integral part of the city's identity, drawing attention not only for its cultural significance but also for its economic impact. While rising costs present challenges for the organizers, the City of Toronto has demonstrated its commitment to cultural festivals by providing significant funding. Additionally, the federal government has invested \$1 million in support of the Toronto Caribbean Carnival. With this assistance, the festival will continue to dazzle audiences



Dressed-up revellers perform during the official launch ceremony of the 2023 Toronto Caribbean Carnival in Toronto, Canada, on July 11, 2023. The annual event kicked off here on Tuesday to showcase Caribbean music, costumes and culture through plenty of events until Aug. 7. (Photo by Zou Zheng/Xinhua)

and maintain its high standards.

As one of the largest street festivals in North America, the Toronto Caribbean Carnival has become a renowned symbol of unity and celebration. Its inclusive nature invites individuals from all walks of life to participate, watch the events, and support the rich Caribbean culture on display.

Adding another dimension of excitement, the Toronto

Caribbean Carnival will collaborate with the Toronto Blue Jays for pregame activities and interactive experiences during the game, blending sports and cultural celebrations in a unique fusion.

Metrolinx, the official transportation partner, will also be part of the festivities by unveiling a Toronto Caribbean Carnival-themed double-decker GO bus, adding a touch of

carnival magic to the city's public transportation.

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant colours, infectious music, captivating dance, and rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean at the Toronto Caribbean Carnival. This month-long extravaganza promises to create unforgettable memories while honouring diversity and fostering cultural pride. Stay tuned for updates and surprises as the city counts down to the grand parade!

The festival features a packed schedule of events as follows:

Aug. 3: King and Queen Showcase at Lamport Stadium.

Aug. 4: Pan Alive Panorama at Lamport Stadium.

Aug. 6: Pan in de Park at Malvern Recreation Centre/Malvern Park.

Aug. 6: TCC International Food Festival at Malvern Park.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Minister Marion Hall's Dynamic Performance Shines At Reggae Sumfest Night Two

Minister Marion Hall, previously known as Lady Saw in her secular days, took the stage on Night Two of Reggae Sumfest in Montego Bay, exuding raw energy and captivating the audience with her free-flowing set. Dressed in a military-style outfit with matching hard boots, she channelled her former self in mannerisms and delivery, showcasing her commanding stage presence. However, in contrast to her past raunchy content, her performance was now infused with gospel flavors, proving her potency as a performer remained intact.

During her electrifying set, Minister Hall addressed criticism of her unorthodox style of Christianity, asserting that her mission was to win souls rather than dancehall titles. She recounted a pivotal moment when she received a Bible



Minister Marion Hall, previously known as Lady Saw, performing at Reggae Sumfest 2023. (Screengrab)

from a Christian woman after a performance, an event she believes played a crucial role in her transformation from Lady Saw to Minister Marion Hall.

She fearlessly defended her song "Kiss Out Mi Bible," supported by her pastor, Bishop Everton Thomas, who read scripture to affirm the song's intent.

Freddie McGregor, who is still recovering from a stroke, emotionally graced the stage with the support of his children, Daniel, Stephen, and Yashemabeth. He delivered a highly moving set, expressing gratitude for God's grace and the ability to answer the call to perform at Reggae Sumfest.

In addition to Minister Hall and Freddie McGregor's exceptional performances, King Jammy's Tribute left a lasting impression. The legendary sound man used dubplates from various artists he worked with over the years, accompanied by live performances from other renowned artists, to highlight his impact and the global popularization of reggae. He was honored with the Red Stripe Living Legend Award at the end of his performance.

Richie Spice and Tanya

Stephens delivered outstanding sets, engaging the crowd with their hits and powerful vocals. Morgan Heritage paid tribute to their late father Denroy Morgan, belting out their best-known songs. Romain Virgo pleased the audience, especially with songs that resonated with the ladies. Grammy Award winner Kabaka Pyramid showcased his lyrical prowess, leaving the crowd wanting more.

Other acts like the Las Vegas-based Bonafide Band, Trinidad & Tobago-based Joe Archer, Mackeehan, JahFrikan, D'Yani, and Jada Kingdom all contributed to making Reggae Sumfest a resounding success.

- Rewritten from Jamaica Gleaner



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Over 16 Percent Of Caribbean People Are Suffering From Hunger - UN

Between 2019 and 2021, hunger reached a prevalence of 16.4 percent in the Caribbean.

That's according to The Regional Panorama of Food and Nutrition Security 2022, a joint publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

The new report also found that 52 percent of the Caribbean population cannot afford a healthy diet. This is due to the higher average daily cost of healthy diets in the Caribbean compared to the rest of the

world's regions, reaching USD 4.23 in the Caribbean.

This problem is related to different socioeconomic and nutritional indicators. The report presents a clear relationship between the inability to afford a healthy diet and such variables as a country's income level, the incidence of poverty, and the level of inequality.

In Jamaica, 8.3 per cent of Jamaica's population experienced undernourishment for the period 2020 to 2022, the report said. In Haiti, a total of 4.9 million Haitians – nearly half of the country's population – are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, according to a UN-supported report.

The report also reveals that the rise in international food prices experienced since 2020, exacerbated after the



Many Haitian schoolchildren receive meals supported by the UN. (UNICEF/Georges Harry Rouzier image)

start of the conflict in Ukraine, and a regional increase in food inflation above the general level, have increased the difficulties for people to access a healthy diet.

"There is no individual policy that can solve this problem independently. National

and regional coordination mechanisms need to be strengthened to respond to hunger and malnutrition," said Mario Lubetkin, FAO Assistant Director and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean. "To contribute to the affordability of healthy diets, it is necessary to create incentives for the

diversification of the production of nutritious foods aimed mainly at family farming and small-scale producers, take measures for the transparency of the prices of these foods in markets and trade, and actions such as cash

transfers and improving school menus," Lubetkin concluded.

"Food insecurity will continue to rise due to the food and fuel price crisis caused by the conflict in Ukraine and the aftermath of COVID-19," said Lola Castro, WFP Regional Director. "We must act now, but how can we do it? Supporting governments to expand social protection networks because the pandemic once again demonstrated that social protection is useful to improve the affordability of a healthy diet, preventing crises like this from hitting affected populations even more."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Saluting Jamaica And Trinidad & Tobago With Two Unique Dishes

It's the month when both Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago mark another birthday or independence anniversary from Britain. Both Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago turn 61 this month. To celebrate these two nations significant birthdays, here are two unique dishes you can make at home this weekend.



Geera Pork from Trinidad and Tobago. (Chris De La Rosa image)

Geera Pork From Trinidad & Tobago

INGREDIENTS

- 3.5 lbs of Pork
- 1 Lime, juiced
- 1 1/2 Tbsp Roasted Cumin Powder
- 1 Tbsp Green Caribbean Seasoning
- 3/4 tsp Salt
- 1/4 tsp Freshly Ground Black Pepper
- 2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil
- 1/2 tsp Cumin Seeds
- 1 bunch Scallions, chopped
- 2 scallions per 6 servings
- 4 cloves Garlic, crushed
- 8 Red Bird's Eye Chili Pepper, chopped
- 2 Pimiento Peppers, diced
- 2 Tbsp Chopped Fresh Cilantro
- 1 Tbsp Chopped Fresh Parsley
- 1 1/4 cups Water

DIRECTIONS

Step 1

Cut the Pork (3.5 lb) into 3/4-inch pieces and wash with the juice of a Lime (1) and cool water. Drain and place in a bowl.

Step 2

Season with Roasted Cumin Powder (1 1/2 Tbsp), Green Caribbean Seasoning (1 Tbsp), Salt (3/4 tsp), and Freshly Ground Black Pepper (1/4 tsp). Mix well to coat and combine.

Step 3

Heat the Vegetable Oil (2 Tbsp) in a wide pan on medium heat, then add the Cumin Seeds (1/2 tsp). Turn the heat down and

allow them to cook for about 3 minutes. The goal is to create a wonderful base of flavour. Then go in with the Scallions (1 bunch), Red Bird's Eye Chili Pepper (8), Pimiento Peppers (2), Garlic (4 cloves), Fresh Cilantro (2 Tbsp), and Fresh Parsley (1 Tbsp).

Step 4

After about 3 minutes after adding the peppers etc, turn up the heat to medium-high and start adding the pieces of seasoned pork to the pot. Stir well to coat the pieces of pork with that amazing base of flavours we created. Do not cover the pot as we want to sear the pieces of pork.

Step 5

Allow the natural juices to cook on medium-high until that liquid burns off and you can see the oil we started with at the bottom of the pot. It will take about 8-10 minutes.

Step 6

Then it's time to add the Water (1-1/4 cups), bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to as low as it can go so the pot is gently simmering.

Step 7

Place the lid on the pot slightly ajar and allow this to cook until the pork is tender. After 35 minutes the pork should

be tender. If you like your Geera Pork to be free of gravy, keep cooking to reduce the liquid to your liking.

Step 8

Just before turning off the stove, you can toss in a bit more cilantro and seasoning peppers to add a bit of colour to the overall dish if you want! Serve warm.

- Sidechef.com

Pepper Pot Soup From Jamaica

INGREDIENTS

- 1-pound salted beef, pre-soaked, cubed
- 1/2-pound fresh beef stew, trimmed, cubed
- 1 cup White Vinegar
- 14 cups water
- 4-ounce all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 2 tablespoons Grace Vegetable Oil
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 slices breadfruit, peeled, sliced
- 1 pound yam, peeled, diced
- 1/2-pound cocoa, peeled, diced
- 2 stalks scallion, chopped
- 2 sprigs thyme
- 1 whole scotch bonnet
- 6 whole okras, cut in halves
- 2 cups Coconut Milk
- 5 whole pimiento berries
- 2 stalks callaloo, stripped, chopped
- 1 packet Grace Cock Soup

DIRECTIONS

- Clean and wash meat in a solution of Grace Vinegar and (2 cups) water.
- In a bowl, combine flour salt and enough water to form dough, knead and set aside to relax for 10 minutes. Place remainder of water on to boil.
- Heat Grace Vegetable Oil in a soup pot and add pre-soaked salted beef, fresh beef stew,

garlic, sliced breadfruit, yam, and cocoa, stir well.

- Add 12 cups boiling water to the pot, stir and leave to simmer for 45 minutes.
- Add scallion, thyme, whole scotch bonnet pepper, okras, and Grace Coconut Milk, pimento berries, callaloo and Grace Cock Soup Mix, stir well (to prevent food from sticking to the pot).
- Shape spinners and add to pot and leave to simmer for another 15 minutes.
- Adjust consistency with remaining boiling water if desired and season with remaining 1 teaspoon salt.



Pepper Pot Soup from Jamaica. (Grace Foods image)

- To Serve: Serve hot in a soup bowl.

- GraceFoods.com



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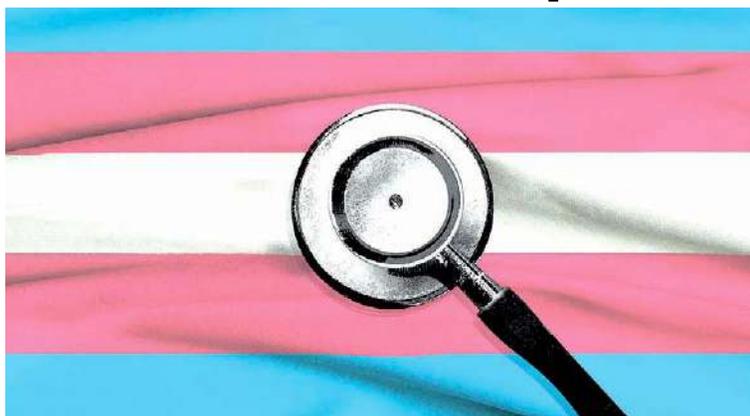


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Florida Implements Further Restrictions On Transgender Medical Care Despite Court Rulings

In a setback for transgender individuals in Florida, the state's approach to gender-affirming health care has faced new restrictions even after recent court rulings criticizing the state's policies. Last week, the state boards of medicine and osteopathic medicine issued new rules regarding hormone replacement therapy and surgery for transgender adults. These rules are part of the informed consent process required by Senate Bill 254, which came into effect in May.

Under the new guidelines, trans adults are mandated to undergo psychological evaluations every two years to continue hormone treatment. The rules also require a witness signature in addition to the patient and their doctor. For trans minors, the boards have



issued a separate set of forms, necessitating a suicide risk assessment every three months and ongoing counseling with a mental health professional during treatment.

These requirements add more obstacles to care for patients who have been on treatment for years, according

to advocates. The state has already implemented bans preventing new minor patients from starting gender-affirming care, with existing patients being grandfathered in.

Furthermore, the regulations stipulate that adults must have an in-person consultation with a physician to initiate hormone

therapy. This means that nurse practitioners and providers offering telehealth services are prohibited from prescribing hormones.

Trans people and advocates have raised concerns that medical providers can refuse care based on religious, moral, or ethical beliefs, which could further limit access to gender-affirming care providers.

These new rules in Florida reflect a larger trend of attacks on health care access and public life for transgender people and the LGBTQ community across the country. However, some of these policies have faced legal challenges, with federal courts questioning the rationale behind these regulations.

While Florida has appealed the rulings blocking certain restrictions, including the ban on

Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care, proponents of the policies argue that such care is experimental and ineffective. The issued forms from the state boards also downplay transition-related medical care, citing limited and poor-quality research, contrary to the positions of major medical associations that support gender-affirming care as evidence-based and sometimes life-saving.

The ongoing battle over transgender medical care in Florida underscores the challenges faced by the transgender community and the legal and medical complexities surrounding these issues.

- *Rewritten from Axios*



How One Father's Dream Empowered His Son To Drive Change

Strengthening communities is often a family affair. At least it is in the case of Alioune Thiam and his siblings.

Thiam, a senior systems engineer at Amazon Web Services, (AWS,) who is now based in Minneapolis, doesn't take his own education for granted. He was born and raised in a village in Senegal where many parents didn't enroll their children in school, often due to a more pressing need for basic resources. His father, however, was a believer in the life-changing power of education and required his children to pursue it. Thiam would walk nearly 6 miles roundtrip to attend the nearest school from his home. Seeing this barrier his own children faced, Thiam's father eventually established a local school for the village.

Thiam's father passed away in 2016, and two years later,

Thiam and his siblings founded KT & Fils, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting, supporting and funding education in their hometown village. The organization is named for their father, Kaiba Thiam, and "fils" which means "sons" in French.

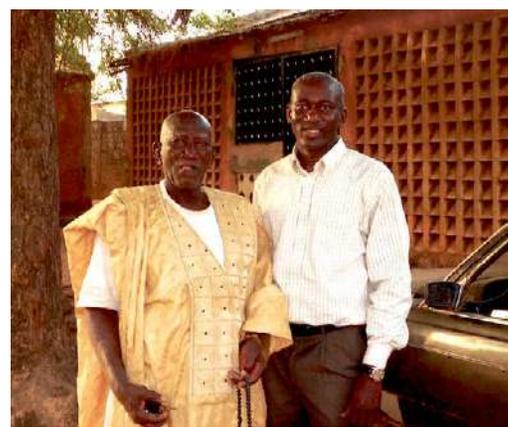
Thiam learned about the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (ID&E) Innovation Fund, a micro-grant program that awards funding to AWS employees seeking to make a positive impact in underrepresented communities. With a colleague's encouragement, Thiam applied last year on behalf of KT & Fils.

The ID&E Innovation Fund is one of the ways AWS scales its ID&E strategy globally. The organization has employees from all over the world, and they play a powerful role in advancing inclusion, diversity, and equity in their local communities.

Thiam was one of the 28

AWS employees who received a grant to partner with nonprofits or support their own nonprofits to make a difference in marginalized communities worldwide. With the grant, KT & Fils was able to build a solar-powered water pump that serves the village of over 500 residents and its school of 150 students. Ready access to clean water means that students have fewer illness-related absences, the school has functioning bathrooms, and girls do not have to miss class due to lack of water in the bathroom, their menstrual cycles, or to collect water for their families.

Thanks to this basic resource, more students have enrolled and are able to be



Alioune Thiam and his father. (StatePoint image)

successful there, according to Thiam. However, he notes that there is still a lot more work to be done, which is why as part of the third annual Innovation Fund this year, AWS chose to renew his project, along with four other recurring projects. With this continued support, KT & Fils will identify and address other pressing roadblocks to education access in the village.

Among the organization's ideas are to establish a sustainable agricultural system, whereby the nonprofit can grow food for the students and school staff. They are also brainstorming ways to leverage tech for good by providing devices for students and building a virtual library.

"My father was the most generous and inspirational man I have ever known, and I feel grateful to continue his legacy and commitment to expanding access to education from thousands of miles away," says Thiam. "We won't rest until 100% of the kids in our area have the opportunity to go to school and 80% of them graduate from high school. We believe all kids deserve the opportunity to access education that will transform their lives."

- *StatePoint*



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CDC's "Bridge Access Program" To Offer Free COVID-19 Vaccines To Uninsured And Underinsured Adults

In an effort to ensure continued access to free COVID-19 vaccinations for millions of uninsured and underinsured American adults, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is set to launch the "Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines" this fall.

Currently, there are approximately 25-30 million adults in the U.S. without insurance, and there are also additional adults whose insurance will no longer cover the cost of COVID-19 vaccines once they transition to the commercial market for procurement, distribution, and pricing later this fall. The pandemic has revealed longstanding barriers to adult vaccination, including limited accessibility, availability, and

confidence. To address this issue, the CDC will manage the Bridge Access Program, which will offer free COVID-19 vaccinations to uninsured and underinsured adults for a limited time. Dr. Mandy Cohen, Director of the CDC, emphasized the agency's commitment to protecting people from COVID-19, stating that CDC is collaborating with state and local public health agencies, health centers, and pharmacies to ensure nationwide access to lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccination remains crucial, especially as fall and winter approach, bringing with them the likelihood of increased circulation of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases. The Bridge Access Program will temporarily bridge the gap and

is set to conclude in December 2024. As a more permanent solution, the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program has been proposed in both the FY 2023 and 2024 Presidential Budgets. This program, modeled after the successful Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, aims to cover all recommended vaccinations at no cost for uninsured adults, but it has not yet been enacted into law. Ongoing efforts related to the launch of the Bridge Access Program will be updated in the coming weeks and months. For more information, visit the official CDC website at cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge/index.html.



Caribbean Programmers Dumped Again As Another NY Radio Station Is Sold

In a move that seems like history repeating itself, yet another New York radio station that allowed Caribbean Americans to broker time and present radio programs, has been sold.

WVIP, a Westchester radio station that was founded by the late Bill O'Shaughnessy and which sold time slots to Caribbean American programs, was sold to Hope Media Group for \$8.15 million by his descendants.

O'Shaughnessy died in May 2022 at the age of 84.

WVIP had been the station

many Caribbean American radio hosts in the New York Tri-state pivoted to after the sale of WNWK 105.9 FM and then WWRL 1600. It has been one of the few places Caribbean programming could be heard and where issues germane to the community were discussed. Independent broadcasters on WVIP spent between US\$500 to US\$1,000 per hour for airtime on the station.

"This is sad news," Bobby Clarke, founder of IRIE Jam radio, which had numerous hours of programming on the station

for the past 30 years, told the Jamaica Gleaner: "This leaves a major void in the community... We are hoping that there might be a way to continue our services to our community here, but right now we are not sure," he shared. Clement 'Ras Clem' Hume, Groovin' In The Park executive and host of Groovin Radio, added to the Gleaner: "This is shocking news! I still cannot believe it," he confessed.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Expansion Capital Options For Black And Caribbean American Businesses

Securing capital to foster the growth of your business in the United States can be a significant challenge, particularly for Black and Caribbean American business owners. Fortunately, Invest Caribbean officials assert that there are numerous financing options available to address this issue. These options encompass working capital loans, business loans, equipment loans, and commercial real estate loans. By availing yourself of these funds, you can propel the expansion of your business. Here's an overview of how you may qualify for each category:

Working Capital Loans:

Financing up to \$500,000
Minimum 2 years in business
Loan term of 10 years
Minimum credit score of 700
No prepayment penalty
No collateral required

Business Loans:

Various loan options, including SBA Express, SBA 7(a), SBA 504, USDA, conventional, and non-conforming financing
Loan amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$25 million
Short and long-term loan options available
Sole proprietors are eligible
Funds can be used for any



business purpose, such as real estate acquisition or construction, business acquisition or startup, working capital, debt refinancing, or consolidation of merchant cash advances
No or low collateral required
High loan-to-value (LTV) financing available
Nationwide coverage, including rural locations

Equipment Loans:

Loan amounts from \$5,000 to \$5 million+
Terms of up to 10 years
0% down payment for purchases
Startup-friendly terms
Expedited approval process, with same-day funding available
Financing for new and used equipment

Commercial Real Estate Loans:

Loan amounts from \$25,000 to \$30 million+
High LTV financing
Non-profits are eligible
No prepayment penalty
Interest-only repayment option available
Unrestricted cash-out
Expedited closing process
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For more information, visit <https://www.investcaribbeannow.com/our-services> and navigate to the US SME Loans section.



Why Black And Caribbean Businesses Should Outsource Social Media Management

Social media has become a powerful tool for businesses to connect with their target audience, build brand awareness, and drive growth. However, managing social media effectively requires specialized skills, dedicated resources, and continuous effort. Recognizing the challenges, many Black and Caribbean American businesses are turning to outsourcing social media management. Caribbean American digital agency, Hard Beat Communications offered CT several reasons why. They include.

Access To Expertise

Outsourcing social media management provides businesses with access to a team of experienced professionals who specialize in social media strategy, content creation, and engagement. These experts stay updated on the latest trends, algorithms, and best practices, ensuring that your social media presence remains competitive and effective.

Cultural Understanding And Localization

Caribbean and Latin American businesses have unique cultural nuances that resonate with their local audience.

By outsourcing social media management to professionals familiar with the region, businesses can ensure culturally relevant content, appropriate messaging, and engagement strategies that connect authentically with their target markets.

Cost-Effectiveness

Hiring and training an in-house social media team can be costly and time-consuming. Outsourcing social media management offers a cost-effective solution as businesses can access the expertise, they need without the overhead

Florida Ranks High Among CNBC's Top States For Business



Florida has climbed three spots to secure the No. 8 position in CNBC's 2023 America's Top States for Business ranking. After narrowly missing the top 10 last year, this impressive jump is a testament to Florida's growing economic strength and business-friendly environment.

The ranking evaluates the marketing pitches of each state, with the weight of each category determined by the prominence of specific themes in these pitches. CNBC's comprehensive study incorporates feedback from business leaders, policy experts, and the states themselves to create a comprehensive analysis of state competitiveness.

This year, the ranking considered 86 metrics across 10 categories of competitiveness, with a focus on workforce, life, health care, inclusion, infrastructure, and the economy. Let's take a closer look at Florida's performance in key categories:

Economy: Florida claimed the top spot in the economy category, demonstrating its robust economic growth and favourable business climate. This is an improvement of three spots from last year, further solidifying Florida's position as an economic powerhouse.

Workforce: While still a strong contender, Florida slipped to No. 15 in the workforce category, down from its eighth-place ranking in the previous year. The state continues to emphasize the development of a skilled and talented workforce to drive economic success.

Infrastructure: Florida secured the No. 14 position in infrastructure, showcasing its commitment to building and maintaining a strong foundation for transportation, utilities, and public services. Although there was a slight decline from last year's 13th place, Florida remains focused on infrastructure improvements.

Inclusion and Technology: Florida's performance in inclusion and technology categories saw some changes. The state now ranks No. 41 in inclusion, compared to No. 39 last year, highlighting the ongoing efforts to foster diversity and equality. In the technology category, Florida is positioned at No. 26, down from No. 16, underscoring the need for further technological advancements.

Business Friendliness: Florida's business friendliness saw significant improvement, climbing to No. 26 from No. 39 in 2022. This jump indicates the state's commitment to creating a favourable environment for businesses to thrive and succeed.

Cost of Living: Florida's cost of living ranking landed at No. 36, experiencing a slight drop of nine spots from the previous year. The state continues to offer a relatively affordable living environment for its residents.

North Carolina claimed the top spot for the second consecutive year, while Alaska rounded out the list at the 50th position.

- Rewritten from CNBC



expenses associated with full-time employees. This allows businesses to allocate their resources more efficiently and focus on core competencies.

Time And Resource Optimization

Managing social media accounts can be time-consuming, requiring consistent monitoring, content creation, and community management. By outsourcing these tasks, businesses can save valuable time and free up internal resources to concentrate on core business activities. This increased focus allows for greater efficiency and productivity.

Consistent And Engaging Content

Maintaining a consistent and engaging social media presence is essential for businesses. Outsourced social media management teams specialize in content creation and can develop captivating visuals, compelling copy, and interactive campaigns that resonate with the target audience. This consistency helps build brand identity and fosters stronger connections with followers.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

BLACK BUSINESS NEWS


www.caribbeantoday.com

NREL Partners With Black Farmers' Collaborative To Plan Solar Panels For Florida Farms And Churches

On Cetta Barnhart's demonstration farm in Monticello, Florida, she grows citrus trees, leafy greens, and other produce that often goes to the community-supported agriculture project she founded, Seed Time Harvest Farms. Soon, there will be a new addition on her property: solar panels.

Barnhart's farm is one site where U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) researchers are helping the Black Farmers' Collaborative further plans to incorporate clean energy technology on farms and in communities. On top of helping Barnhart scope out plans to integrate solar panels on her farmland—a concept called agrivoltaics, in which solar panels benefit crops or livestock around them—researchers also helped the community lay the foundation for installing solar panels on houses of worship in and around Bealsville, Florida—a town about 25 miles east of Tampa. They hope the concepts will serve as models for generating solar energy throughout the state.

"I had already looked into doing solar on my property and

was just looking at it to have solar as the backup," Barnhart said. "But when we started talking as a team and then we found out about the agrivoltaics portion [and] how that can be incorporated into farming, it really brought forth a bigger and better opportunity to not just benefit by having it but also sharing that with other farmers."

Agrivoltaic systems have the potential to not only increase income for farmers, she said, but also provide a chance to build wealth for future generations.

The work was a part of the Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Expert Match program, a U.S. Department of Energy initiative that pairs communities with researchers from national laboratories to provide short-term technical assistance to address clean energy goals. Bealsville and the Black Farmers' Collaborative were among dozens of communities that applied for and received support for their energy goals through the program as of June 2023, and more communities are in the pipeline to work with researchers to address their local energy challenges.



Members of the Black Farmers' Collaborative visited Jack's Solar Garden in Colorado with NREL researchers to learn about agrivoltaics. (Photo from Dana-Marie Thomas, NREL)

The Black Farmers' Collaborative, a group based near Bealsville that was founded by pastor and community advocate Rev. Jerry G. Nealy, spent about 18–20 months honing their energy priorities, gathering support, and forming a relationship with NREL researchers before applying for assistance through the Expert Match program. Velma Deleveaux, a member of the Black Farmers' Collaborative team, said it takes time to develop trust even when researchers enter Black communities with good intentions.

"There's so much loss that Black farmers have experienced through discrimination, so there is a lot of skepticism when people come into communities with new programs," said Deleveaux, managing partner of the business consulting firm Veaux Solutions. "Listening on everybody's part—that made it a great team, and I think that common interest on all sides is what made this work." Deleveaux was among a diverse group of stakeholders that participated in meetings with NREL researchers throughout the Expert Match process. Alexandra Kramer, an NREL researcher who helped the Black Farmers' Collaborative develop plans for installing solar panels on houses of worship, said having perspectives from an array of invested community members—including farmers, local and state leaders, educators, and consultants—was valuable throughout the project.

"The biggest thing I learned from them is to build a coalition and bring it to the table," Kramer said. "They had buy-in from so many fantastic professionals, and they had community leaders who had deep relationships with their communities."

The NREL research team helped the Black Farmers' Collaborative narrow their focus

to two solar-energy projects, create designs and plans for implementing them, and prepare to apply for funding to build the systems.

"It's collaborative," said James McCall, an NREL researcher who worked on the community's agrivoltaics design and analyses. "We're not going to go off and get you an answer; we really want to work with you."

"You have to think strategically about building momentum and credibility along the way," Deleveaux said. "You could roll out a really great design with a farmer that nobody knows about or trusts. But we chose a demo farm, right? And it just happens to be run by a woman who is just great, respected, and known in the community."

NREL agrivoltaics researchers worked with Barnhart and the collaborative to design six options for agrivoltaics systems that could integrate with different crops on one acre of her farm, starting with string beans. The team also provided modeling to understand the balance between installation costs, energy output, and crop production.

"There's no one-size-fits-all solution," McCall said. "It's really about providing this landscape and then allowing the community to say, 'This is what I want to do.'"

The Black Farmers' Collaborative hopes Barnhart's agrivoltaics becomes a model for other farmers who want to implement solar energy systems. "It was a game-changer when we really started looking at how incorporating agrivoltaics into farming could play into families," Barnhart said. "The project has helped me develop that conversation and come up with a real plan of implementation that can be duplicated."

- NREL



Optimism Prevails Among Minority Business Owners, Survey Shows

Even as minority business owners face new economic challenges, including supply chain disruptions and inflation, results from PNC's recent Economic Outlook survey show an impressive resiliency and positive mindset among these business leaders, according to Marshalyne Odneal, national sales executive for Minority Business at PNC Bank.

According to PNC's survey, more than two-thirds (68%) of minority business owners feel highly optimistic about the prospects of their own company in the next six months, compared to just 60% of non-minority-owned businesses.

While business owners as a whole remain cautious about the national economy, the gap between optimism among minority business owners for their own company versus the broader U.S. economy is 40 percentage points, significantly higher than the 31-point difference among non-minority owners.

"I have no doubt that minority business owners who were able to manage through the pandemic had to make unprecedented decisions related to staffing, business models and pricing. In doing so, they faced a Goliath—and won. It's unsurprising that their mindset about the future of their businesses, despite current economic challenges, is optimistic," Odneal said. According to PNC's survey,

65% of Black- and Hispanic-owned business owners stated they have a business plan suited to the current direction of the economy, significantly more than non-minority owned businesses (55%). This highlights the importance of access to crucial resources for these business owners. The survey reinforces this point, showing that 86% of Black- and Hispanic-owned businesses interacted with or leveraged resources from the Small Business Association (SBA), a local chamber of commerce or a community economic development organization. Only 69% of non-minority business owners reported doing the same.

"The truth is that the unique financial challenges minority-owned businesses have long faced were amplified during the pandemic. As a result, more minority business owners are now seeking Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification, which is also an important and needed resource," Odneal said.

Businesses that become MBE-certified gain exclusive access to premium networking events, affordable consulting services and technology programs, among other benefits, according to the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

"Our survey revealed that 87% of Black-owned businesses are now MBE-certified, up from 69% last year. Three-quarters of Hispanic-owned business

are MBE-certified, compared to 67% last year. Of MBE-certified businesses, 80% of Black- and 84% of Hispanic-owned businesses said that certification has been a helpful business development tool," Odneal said.

PNC has taken significant steps in doing more for minority-owned businesses and providing necessary resources to help them overcome roadblocks.

As a part of its Small Business organization, PNC's Minority Business Development Group's mission is to deliver solutions and resources that foster financial wellness for small businesses within diverse communities. They've been able to do this, in part, through the PNC-Certified Minority Business Advocate initiative, a voluntary advocacy program that helps PNC employees understand the challenges facing minority-owned business owners.

"If the optimism of these entrepreneurs is realized and the U.S. business landscape prospers further down the road, minority business supporters must continue to execute against their mission and accelerate their efforts. The outlook is bright, but we must continue to do our part to advocate for these entrepreneurs and help their communities thrive," Odneal said.

- StatePoint



Why Black And Caribbean Businesses Should Outsource Social Media Management

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

Analytics And Insights

Outsourced social media management teams have access to advanced analytics tools and expertise to track and analyse key performance metrics. By monitoring engagement rates, audience demographics, and other valuable insights, businesses can gain a better understanding of their social media performance. These insights enable data-driven decision-making and the ability to refine strategies for better results.

Scalability And Adaptability

As businesses grow and evolve, their social media needs may change. Outsourcing social media management offers scalability and flexibility to

accommodate these changes seamlessly. Whether it's expanding into new markets, launching new products, or adapting to emerging platforms, outsourcing provides the agility required to stay ahead of the competition.

Outsourcing social media management is a strategic choice that allows Black and Caribbean American businesses to leverage expertise, optimize resources, and enhance their social media presence, says Hard Beat. By partnering with professionals who understand the cultural nuances, businesses can effectively engage their target audience, drive brand growth, and stay ahead in the digital landscape.



Get Ready For The Barbados Food And Rum Festival

It's time to soak up the rum and chow down on some great food as the Barbados Food And Rum Festival returns this Fall.

Director of Public Relations and Communications for the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI), Aprille Thomas, said the Festival weekend promises good food, rum and vibes with a range of activities for every appetite. The full schedule of activities from October 19th-22nd, includes seven signature events:

1. Oistins Under the Stars - Thursday, October 19th: A fish fry which fuses Bajan cuisine and local entertainment.
2. Chef Classics - Friday, October 20th: Intimate cooking demos with world-renowned chefs Anne Burrell of the USA, Shelina Permalloo of the UK and Juan Diego Vanegas of Colombia.
3. Rum Route- (Friday, October 20th: A unique experience to learn more about Barbados' rum heritage in a moving party bus.
4. Rise & Rum: Breakfast Party - Saturday, October 21st: The premium all-inclusive breakfast sunrise beach party.



The Barbados Food and rum festival returns this Oct. 19th-22nd.

5. Bajan Fair - Saturday, October 21st: A new family-friendly event filled with non-stop fun and laughter.

6. Junior Chef Cook-Off Competition - Saturday, October 21st: The most anticipated culinary showdown of top local aspiring chefs ages 16-21.

7. Liquid Gold Feast - Sunday, October 22nd: An ultra premium all-inclusive gala featuring the best local and international entertainment, delectable food and exquisite cocktails.

Afrobeats superstar, Ayra Starr, will be bringing her World Tour to Barbados for the highly anticipated Festival.

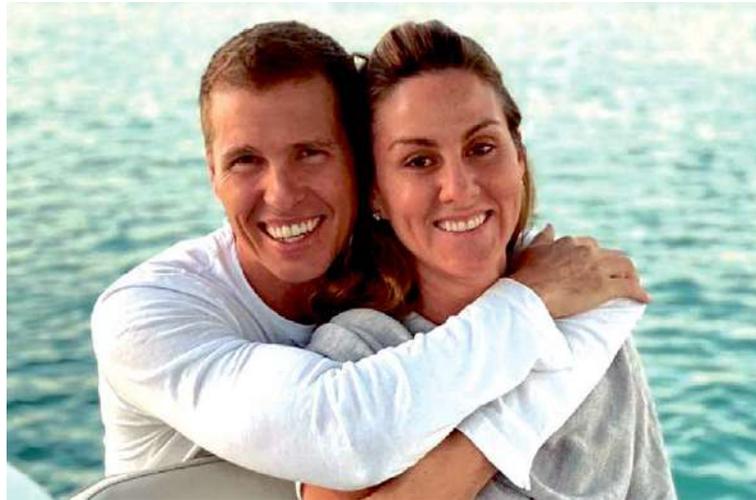
The Nigerian performer, who has taken the world by storm with her hit songs 'Rush,' 'Bloody Samaritan' and others, recently celebrated her birthday with friends in Barbados and is returning to take the stage at the island's famous Festival.

Starr will perform at Liquid Gold Feast, the red-carpet finale of the Festival. She will perform alongside other top local acts for an unforgettable musical and cultural display to end the Festival in style.

Tickets for the Barbados Food and Rum Festival are available at foodandrum.com.



Wife Of Sandals Resorts Chairman Loses Battle With Cancer



Adam and Jill Stewart (Facebook image/Adam Stewart)

Jill Stewart, the cherished wife of Adam Stewart, the executive chairman of Sandals Resorts has died after a battle with cancer.

Mrs. Stewart passed away on the evening of Friday, July 14th, surrounded by loved ones, her grieving husband stated on social media.

Over a year ago, she had been diagnosed with cancer, and throughout her courageous battle, she openly shared her journey with her followers on social media. Adam Stewart expressed his heartfelt gratitude, stating, "From the moment we received her terrible diagnosis... Jill was certain she wanted to share her journey, our family's journey, wherever it led. Opening herself to this community was brave and generous, just like Jill."

Stewart, who also serves as the chairman of the Jamaica Observer, further revealed that Jill remained deeply touched by the words of comfort she received from others. She hoped that her story would make a positive impact and help others in their pursuit of prevention.

Adam and Jill Stewart had recently celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary and were blessed with three beautiful children. Stewart paid a heartfelt tribute to his beloved wife, saying, "To our beautiful Jilly, you taught us the true meaning of selfless love, and we will love you forever."

Condolences have poured in from Caribbean governments including Jamaica's prime minister and its minister of tourism as well as Chester Cooper, Deputy Prime Minister

and Minister of Tourism, Investments & Aviation in the Bahamas.

"The love they shared and the care that he offered is so powerful and strong that it makes the real point about how true love and marriage ought to be," said Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Hon Edmund Bartlett in a statement.

Sandals Resorts is a Jamaican operator of all-inclusive resorts for couples in the Caribbean founded by Adam's father, the late Gordon 'Butch' Stewart in 1981. It is a part of Sandals Resorts International, the parent company of Sandals Resorts, Beaches Resorts, Fowl Cay Resort, and several private villas.



American Airlines Enhances Barbados Flight Offerings

In a significant expansion initiative centered around Miami, American Airlines has unveiled plans to increase its flight frequency to Barbados during the upcoming winter holiday period.

The airline has confirmed the addition of a third daily flight between Miami International Airport and Barbados' Grantley Adams International Airport, catering to the heightened travel demand over the holidays. This enhanced service will be available from December 20th to January 7th, as communicated by the carrier.

This announcement serves as a further testament

to Barbados' thriving tourism industry, which has experienced a robust recovery throughout 2023. The island has witnessed a prosperous summer season, with events such as the immensely popular Crop Over festival contributing to the surge in visitor interest.

By bolstering its flight offerings, American Airlines aims to meet the growing demand for travel to Barbados and provide passengers with increased accessibility to this coveted Caribbean destination during the festive season.



The Caribbean Tourism Organization Gets First Female SG

The Caribbean Tourism Organization, (CTO,) has made history by appointing Dona Regis-Prosper as its new Secretary-General and CEO, marking the first time a woman assumes leadership of this intergovernmental body.

With over 22 years of experience in the tourism industry, Regis-Prosper will officially assume her role on September 1st.

Hailing from St. Lucia, Regis-Prosper has worked in various Caribbean destinations, showcasing her expertise and knowledge. She has held key positions such as director of marketing and product development for St. Lucia Air and Seaport Authority, director of business development for Margaritaville Caribbean Group in Jamaica, CEO of the Tortola Pier Park in the British Virgin Islands, and currently serves as the general manager of the Antigua Cruise Port.

CTO Chairman Kenneth Bryan, who also serves as the Minister of Tourism and Ports of the Cayman Islands, expressed his utmost satisfaction with the



The CTO will get its first female SG on Sept. 1st.

appointment, stating, "We are extremely pleased to welcome Dona Regis-Prosper to lead the CTO. Her extensive experience, strategic insights, and remarkable track record in the tourism sector make her an exceptional choice to drive our organization forward into a new era."

Regis-Prosper will succeed Neil Waters, CTO's director of finance and resource management, who has been serving as the Acting Secretary-General and CEO since the retirement of Hugh Riley in 2019.



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SCAN ME

SPORTS NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

Get Ready For The West Indies In Lauderhill



WI's Alick Athanaze at the India vs West Indies match in Dominica last month. (Credit: Twitter/@ICC)

US-based Caribbean and Indian cricket fans are in for a treat this August as the West Indies face-off against India in Lauderhill, if they are willing to shell out the big bucks.

The four and fifth T20I match between the two teams is set for August 12th and 13th at Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground, in Lauderhill, Florida. Match-time is 10:30 each day.

But ticket prices for the US matches are through the roof. The costs range between US\$150 for standard seating to \$200 for

premium. By contrast, a premium ticket in the Caribbean is USD 25-50.

The clash of titans, intense battles, and the electric atmosphere will undoubtedly provide cricket enthusiasts with unforgettable moments and enthralling encounters. The Indians have so far won the first test match in Dominica, beating the Windies by a whopping 141 runs. For the Lauderhill match, get tickets at tickets@cricketwestindies.org.



LeBron Welcomes Messi To America



NBA great LeBron James shares a hug with Lionel Messi on July 21, 2023. (Instagram image/LeBron James.)

NBA legend LeBron James was among the stars welcoming soccer star Lionel Messi to America and South Florida, during his debut with Inter Miami on July 21st.

On Instagram, the 38-year-old shared heartwarming photos of the two hugging in the stadium stands after Messi's impressive goal that helped Inter Miami to a 2-1 victory against Cruz Azul from Mexico City. Messi thrilled fans with his brilliance by scoring a 94th-minute free kick to secure the win.

"Welcome brother!!!"

Always good to see and be in the presence of GREATNESS!!! @leomessi. #ComingToAmerica,"

wrote James in his post. In response, Messi expressed his gratitude, writing, "Thanks a lot brother!!! It was really nice to see you!!" on James' post and his own Instagram Story. The momentous match in Fort Lauderdale was also attended not only by James and passionate soccer fans but also by numerous Hollywood A-listers, including Kim Kardashian, Serena Williams, David Beckham, an Inter Miami co-owner, and his wife, Victoria Beckham. Messi's next match this month, his third since joining Inter Miami, is scheduled for August 20th against Charlotte FC in Charlotte at 7:30 PM EST.



Jamaica, Haiti Women's Soccer Squad Makes History At FIFA World Cup

Both the Jamaican and Haitian women's soccer teams are making history at this year's women's FIFA World Cup soccer competition. Jamaica

In a remarkable display of resilience and determination, Jamaica's women's football team, the Reggae Girlz, earned their first-ever point in Women's World Cup history with a hard-fought 0-0 draw in their first match on July 23rd against the highly favoured France.

Having previously appeared in the World Cup in France four years ago, Jamaica experienced a disappointing campaign, losing all three games. However, in the 2023 tournament, they immediately surpassed their previous efforts with a battling performance.

Led by the immensely talented Khadija 'Bunny' Shaw, Jamaica put up a spirited fight against one of the top contenders in the tournament, showcasing their determination to succeed on the world stage. The match in Sydney witnessed Jamaica, ranked 43rd in the world, securing their first-ever World Cup clean sheet.

As the game neared its conclusion, Shaw received a second yellow card and was sent off, leaving Jamaica to defend with ten players against the French onslaught. Despite the absence of their star player, the Reggae Girlz showed tremendous courage and composure, successfully preserving the historic draw.

For France, ranked fifth in the world, the result represents a missed opportunity, as they were unable to convert their dominance into goals. The team's wastefulness in front of the goal



Jamaica won its first ever Women's World Cup point in a 0-0 draw against France. (David Gray/AFP/Getty Images)



Betina Petit-Frere of Haiti controls the ball against Alessia Russo of England during the teams' opening game at the Women's World Cup in Brisbane, Australia on July 22, 2023. Haiti is one of eight newcomers at the tournament this year. (Getty Images)

prevented them from claiming all three points.

This draw also puts a dent in France's hopes of topping Group F, as they now face a tougher challenge to secure the top position with Brazil still to play. The Girlz will face Panama and then Brazil on August 2nd.

HAITI

In an exhilarating showdown, Haiti's women's football team made their debut in the Women's World Cup, facing England in a hard-fought match that ended in a 1-0 victory for England on July 22nd.

But despite the loss, Les Grenadières showcased

their extraordinary talent and determination, earning widespread praise and respect from fans worldwide, both Haitian and non-Haitian.

The match saw Georgia Stanway score England's lone goal through a penalty kick in the 29th minute. Haiti's valiant efforts to find the net, including two glorious opportunities from counter attacks, unfortunately did not result in a goal. The team took seven shots, with two on target, while England fired 21 shots, 11 of which were on goal.

Haiti's goalkeeper, Kerly Theus, emerged as one of the standout performers, making an impressive 10 saves to keep her team in contention. Star player Melchie "Corventina" Dumornay also displayed her skills, providing a crucial pass to Roselord Borgella, who narrowly missed scoring.

Despite facing some unfortunate injuries during the match, the Haitian team displayed unwavering resilience and determination, fighting till the end. As they look ahead to their upcoming games against China and Denmark, Les Grenadières will aim to secure a spot in the knockout stage by finishing in the top two spots in their group.



Shericka Jackson Loses Again To Sha'Carri Richardson

Jamaica's Shericka Jackson is proving to be no match for the US' Sha'Carri Richardson this season. The American again triumphed over Jackson in the 100-m event at the Silesia Diamond League meeting in Poland on July 16th.

Richardson crossed the finish line in a time of 10.76, narrowly edging out Jackson, who finished with a time of 10.78. Poland's Ewa Swoboda secured third place with a personal best of 10.94.

Richardson expressed her excitement after the race, describing it as an amazing competition and emphasizing her enjoyment in the sport. She commended her performance, particularly her time of 10.76, and expressed her satisfaction with executing her race plan

effectively.

Despite a challenging day for Caribbean athletes, the eighth Diamond League meeting delivered outstanding performances ahead of the upcoming World Championships.

Among the Caribbean athletes, Megan Tapper of Jamaica achieved the highest placement, finishing fourth in the 100m hurdles with a time of 12.49, just behind Danielle Williams, the 2015 world champion, who secured fifth place with a season-best time of 12.55.

In the 800-m event, Natoya Goule of Jamaica delivered another season-best performance,



finishing third with a time of 1:57.90. However, she was narrowly outpaced by Uganda's Hallimah Nakaayi, who set a new national record of 1:57.78. Mary Moraa of Kenya stole the show with a meet record and season-best time of 1:56.85, positioning herself as a strong contender for a medal at the upcoming World Championships.



Jamaican High Jumper Romaine Beckford Joins Arkansas Razorbacks

Jamaican Romaine Beckford, the double 2023 NCAA champion in high jump representing South Florida, has signed with the Arkansas Razorbacks for the upcoming 2023-24 season.

Beckford recently showcased his incredible talent by winning the high jump title at the 2023 Jamaica Championships, clearing an impressive mark of 7-3.75 (2.23). His exceptional performance has earned him a spot on the Jamaican team for the NACAC U23 Championships in Costa Rica, where he aims

to secure qualification for the 2023 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

During his NCAA career, Beckford achieved remarkable success, clinching the high jump title both outdoors and indoors in 2023 with impressive marks of 7-5.25 (2.27) and 7-4.25 (2.24), respectively. Not only did he become a double NCAA champion, but he also set new school records for South Florida in both outdoor and indoor high jump events.

Beckford's dominance continued in the 2023 American

Athletic Conference meets, where he emerged as the champion in the high jump (7-1.5 | 2.17) and showcased his versatility by winning the javelin event with a career-best throw of 194-10 (59.38). He also secured victories at prestigious meets like the Penn Relays and the Florida Relays, solidifying his reputation as a rising star in the high jump world.

In his earlier athletic pursuits at South Plains Junior College, Beckford demonstrated his prowess by winning the NJCAA Outdoor high jump



Jamaican Romaine Beckford

title in 2021, alongside his participation in discus and javelin events. His talent was further showcased in the NJCAA Indoor championships, where he claimed victory in high jump and showcased his versatility by finishing 10th in heptathlon.

Beckford's journey as an athlete has already seen him represent Jamaica in the 2022

Commonwealth Games, where he placed eighth. Now, as he joins the Arkansas Razorbacks, he is poised to take his high jump skills to new heights and make a lasting impact in the collegiate track and field scene.

- *Rewritten from SportsMax*



This Cricketer Is No More

Former Leeward Islands captain Ralston Otto has passed on. He died on July 14th at his home in Antigua. He was 65 years old.

Otto was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease eight years ago and has been battling with his health over the period. He played 48 first-class matches and 29 List A matches during his career between 1980 and 1990, and during that period, he helped to form one of the most powerful batting line-ups for the Leewards that also included Vivian Richards, Richie Richardson, Enoch Lewis, and Luther Kelly.

Otto scored 2 550 runs from 83 innings at an average of 34 after making his first-class debut against Windward Islands in 1980 at the now decommissioned Antigua Recreation Ground, with his best knock of 165 against Trinidad & Tobago in 1986 at Warner Park in the St Kitts capital of Basseterre.



The late Ralston Otto

After achieving very little in his first five matches between 1980 and 1983, he had a breakthrough season in 1984 when he set the record for the most runs in a single tournament for the West Indies Championship of 572 runs. In so doing, Otto bettered the previous mark of 553 set by Easton McMorris of Jamaica in the inaugural season of the modern West Indies Championship in

1966.

He found his best form with a vengeance and reeled off three of his six career hundreds against Jamaica, champions Barbados and T&T, batting with style and confidence at all times and compensated in some measure during that season for the absence of Richards and Richardson away on a West Indies Tour of Australia.

He gained selection to several West Indies composite sides that played against touring international teams on tours of the Caribbean, and he was a member of the West Indies B team that visited Zimbabwe in 1986 under the leadership of Barbadian Carlisle Best, but he never played an international match.

- CMC



Reggae Boyz Striker Michail Antonio Attracting Interest From Saudi Pro League

Michail Antonio, the Jamaican international Reggae Boyz who considered leaving West Ham during the January transfer window for either Everton or Wolves, has emerged as a sought-after target for the lucrative Saudi Pro League.

As his contract with West Ham is set to expire at the end of the 2023/24 season, the 33-year-old forward has caught the attention of clubs in Saudi Arabia, with a potential fee of £10m being discussed. The allure of a significantly higher salary than his current reported £85,000-a-week with the Hammers adds to the appeal for Antonio.

Although he didn't score for the Reggae Boyz in the recent CONCACAF Gold Cup, Antonio remains an essential part of Jamaica's plans for the 2026 FIFA World Cup finals under head coach Heimir Hallgrímsson.

Entering the twilight years of his career, the London-born forward has the opportunity to secure a lucrative deal in the



Reggae Boyz Striker Michail Antonio has emerged as a sought-after target for the lucrative Saudi Pro League.

Saudi Pro League, particularly with Steven Gerrard, the former Aston Villa and Rangers head coach, taking charge at Al Ettifaq in Dammam. Gerrard recently managed to attract England midfielder Jordan Henderson to the Prince Mohamed bin Fahd Stadium and now seeks a top-notch striker before the new season commences on 14 August.

It seems that Gerrard's choice for the striker position is

between Antonio and AC Milan's Belgian forward Divock Origi, a former Liverpool star.

For West Ham, losing Antonio would be a significant blow, as he holds the title of their leading top-flight scorer since 1992, having scored an impressive 61 Premier League goals during his eight-year tenure at the club.

- *Rewritten from SportsMax*



Announcement

It's with a deep and saddened heart that we announce the passing of

WAYNE MARTIN

of Valrico, FL.

Wayne fought a good fight, but went home to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 5:21 pm at Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, Florida. He was a wonderful son, a loving dad and uncle, and the greatest brother that had ever walked this earth, and dedicated employee of Brandon Business Machines, Brandon, FL. Words cannot explain how much we will miss him.



A memorial service will be held at Brandon Cremation & Funeral Services on SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023, at 12PM.

We encourage all who knew Wayne to join his family and friends.

The Martin, Asencor, and Lyle Families.

Announcement

Marice Antoinette Powell

Born December 30, 1960
In Kingston Jamaica,
Died June 13, 2023 in
Miami, Florida.

Marice is survived by her children Sean and Deborah, her father, 7 siblings, a multitude of family members and an abundance of friends who love her.

Marice was a Special Education teacher in Dade County Public Schools for over 30 years.

Marice is severely missed by her family and all whose presence she graced.

Love, Hope, Faith

The Family of Marice A. Powell



BACK TO SCHOOL



www.caribbeantoday.com

There Is Still Time To Cash In On Tax-Free Days



The annual Back-to-School sales tax holiday is still on. If you are looking to purchase last minute supplies, the tax-free days run through August 6th.

The Florida Department of Revenue has confirmed that “consumers can enjoy

tax exemptions on qualifying back-to-school supplies during the 2023 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday.” This initiative aims to provide financial relief to families and encourage educational readiness.

To access a comprehensive

list of qualifying items, visit the official Florida Department of Revenue Back to School page, which offers valuable information and promotional materials for consumers, businesses, and all interested parties.

Don’t miss out on the opportunity to save money while shopping for school essentials. Mark your calendars, gather your lists, and make the most of the upcoming tax-free days. Start the school year on the right foot without the burden of additional taxes!

The second tax-free holiday will take place from January 1 to January 14, 2024.



These Companies Are Offering Special Back-To-School Deals Return For Teachers, Students



Get ready for another exciting round of back-to-school deals at two major stores this year. This comes as The National Education Association reports that over 90 percent of teachers spend their own money on classroom supplies, often exceeding \$500.

Target is hosting its teacher appreciation event through August 26th. Eligible teachers, including K-12 teachers, homeschool teachers, daycare center teachers, early childhood learning center teachers, university/college professors, and vocational/trade/technical schoolteachers with valid identification, can take advantage of this special event.

To support these dedicated educators, Target is offering a one-time, 20 percent discount on the entire purchase for eligible

teachers who are signed up for Target Circle and have a valid school ID. This discount is available both in-store and online during the event period.

But that’s not all! Target is also extending its appreciation to college students. College students who are signed up for Target Circle and have a valid student ID can also enjoy a one-time, 20% discount on their entire purchase, both in-store and online through August 26th.

Meanwhile, Walmart is joining in on the back-to-school excitement with its own campaign. They are offering essential school supplies at the same price as last year, with a bundle of the 14 most popular school supply items available for just \$12.94, both online and in-store.

In a new initiative, Walmart is launching an online classroom registry where teachers can share their classroom wish lists. Walmart customers can easily search for these registries by the teacher’s last name and state.



Support The CDTC Back To School Drive

Children’s Diagnostic & Treatment Center, (CDTC), a subsidiary of Broward Health, is pitching in to help students locally, with the 2023 Back to School Supply Drive. The goal is to collect and fill 600 backpacks to help children with special healthcare needs prepare for the new school year.

CDTC is accepting donations now through Friday, August 4th. Supplies can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at CDTC’s headquarters located at 1401 S. Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale.

There are three ways you can help:

- Donate a backpack filled with basic supplies.
- Host a drive with your business

or group.
• Make a donation online to help purchase needed supplies.

CDTC’s wish list includes basic school supplies such as backpacks, notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, folders, glue sticks and more for preschoolers through high school aged students.

“Our students already face so many challenges going to school due to their health concerns,” said Ana Calderon Randazzo, Ph.D., executive director of Children’s Diagnostic & Treatment Center. “By ensuring they are prepared to learn, we can ease at least one burden. We are so grateful to the community that helps us make preparations for the new school year a little easier for these amazing and dedicated families.”

Parents are expected to spend, on average, \$661 per child in grades K-12 on back-to-school purchases according to a 2022 Deloitte Back-to-School Survey of 1,200 U.S. parents.

The annual Back to School Drive has become a tradition at CDTC, offering families who are struggling financially an accessible way of preparing their children for the classroom while helping reduce added financial burdens.

For details on CDTC’s back to school drive or to make a donation, visit childrensdiagnostic.com/back-to-school/. For more information or to schedule a delivery please contact Gloria at 954-728-1088 or gwrayment@browardhealth.org.



Must-Have Items For Your High Schooler’s Back-To-School Shopping List

Setting your high schooler up for a successful school year all starts with having the right educational tools and personal supplies. Here are the must-have items to add to your cart this back-to-school shopping season:

A Tablet or eReader

If you remember your own high school years as being defined by lugging heavy textbooks around campus all day and then home with you each night, consider sending your teen back to school with an e-reader or tablet. This slim, back-saving technology makes it possible for students to access the educational content of all their many courses in one place. What’s more, some studies suggest electronic devices facilitate learning better than physical textbooks. Look for options that offer annotation and note-taking capabilities, as well as a full-color display, so that textbook diagrams and images can be fully understood.

A Graphing Calculator

In high school STEM

classes such as trigonometry, calculus and physics, students need to go beyond simply arriving at the correct answer. They must also understand the theory and foundation behind the mathematical principles they are studying. That’s where a highly functional graphing calculator can come into play. Designed for high school students and beyond, Casio’s affordable fx-9750GIII graphing calculator builds on the cutting-edge capabilities of its predecessors, offering a more seamless learning experience, an enhanced natural display and an improved keypad for fractions, standard-to-decimal conversion and scientific notation. Expanded menu options include Exam Mode, to comply with major standardized test-taking rules, as well as a Python Add-In, giving students the ability to create, save, edit and run Python files, as well as import and export these files with streamlined computer connectivity.

Personal Items

Send your teenager to school with some basic personal supplies

that they can leave in their locker. Having access to these items between classes will help them feel their best throughout the day and eliminate distractions, so they can better concentrate on learning. A stick of deodorant is especially useful for students enrolled in physical education or who are involved in sports. Also include a bottle of hand sanitizer to help fight infections, particularly as cold and flu season draws near, feminine hygiene products, dental floss and tissues. An extra layer is also always helpful in both cooler weather and during the warmer months when the air conditioning may be running at full force.

In high school, the coursework becomes much more challenging and the social terrain much more complex. However, with the latest tech tools and a stash of personal supplies, your teenager can navigate both arenas with less stress.

- StatePoint



Medicaid And CHIP Help Families Access Mental Health Services For Kids

The state of mental health among youth continues to be of public concern. According to the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey, youth mental health problems have increased significantly over the past decade, reaching an all-time high.

For instance, from 2011 to 2021, the rate of female high school students saying they feel sad or hopeless increased from 36% to 57%; for male students this rate increased from 21% to 29%.

Stressors at school, home or elsewhere can cause mental health disorders to arise, leading to negative impacts on how children learn and build relationships with others. If your child may need mental health support and doesn’t currently have health coverage, you have options. Free or low-cost coverage through Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offers many benefits, including doctor’s visits, prescriptions, emergencies and the coverage of behavioral health



services, including mental health services through pediatricians, mental health professionals, local community providers and organizations, as well as school systems. People who are pregnant or postpartum may also be eligible for this health coverage and mental and behavioral health services.

Who qualifies for Medicaid or CHIP? Eligibility varies by state and is determined by how many people are in a household and household income. For instance, in most states, a family of four with household income up to \$60,000 per year may qualify for Medicaid, CHIP or both. To learn more about state-specific options, visit InsureKidsNow.gov or call 1-877-KIDS-NOW.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

Tips To Get Your Student Prepped For College Entrance Exams



Is the SAT or ACT on the horizon for your high schooler? A lot of emphasis is placed on college entrance exams, and your child may be anxious about their scores. To adequately prepare for the SAT or ACT, consider these tips:

- Practice, Practice, Practice**
 Encourage your student to take free online practice tests early and often. Not only is this an effective way to get familiar with the types of questions that will be on the test, it can give your child a sense of where they stand currently and help them identify areas where they may need some extra review. It's helpful to simulate test day as much as possible. Have them take the practice test in a quiet place and time each portion of the test accurately.
- Have the right STEM tools**
 Acing the math portion is easier

when you fully understand the principles behind the test questions. Fortunately, you can affordably equip your student with tools that facilitate that understanding. Casio, dedicated to making STEM

education more engaging, has developed the fx-CG50, a graphing calculator in the brand's PRIZM line-up that offers a color LCD with a full textbook-style display. Jam-packed with features that enable students to solve the most challenging equations, it offers the ability to easily draw three dimensional graphs such as planes, cylinders and spheres, and view them from various angles in order to better analyze their shape. Plus, a cross-section option and special zoom function can be used for greater analysis.

- Build vocabulary**
 An expansive vocabulary is not just useful in the real world, it can greatly improve a student's chances of success in the English, reading and writing sections of the exam. Getting familiar with some of the more frequently used words on the test is important. However, it's

best to break up the studying into chunks. Select a few words to master each day with flash cards. Hopefully, students will start to see etymological patterns that will help them make educated guesses when they don't know a word.

- Take A Break**
 It's tempting to assume a last-minute study session the evening before the exam is going to make or break their performance, but a mental breather is actually a better use of time. Urge your child to get a good night's sleep not just the night before the test, but that entire week. Pre-test jitters may lead to insomnia, but having a solid foundation of rest will help ensure your student is alert on test day. The morning of the test, encourage them to eat a healthy, filling breakfast and do activities that will warm up their brain, such as reading a book or solving a crossword puzzle. Sufficient preparation and great study tools can alleviate college entrance exam anxieties so that your student walks into their testing center with confidence.

- StatePoint

Broward Education Foundation Launches Annual Back-to-School Drive



for their students' essential educational tools.

This year, businesses have the opportunity to adopt a school, ensuring that every child on the campus receives a backpack filled with supplies.

The most needed school supplies include backpacks, black

The Broward Education Foundation has officially kicked off its annual back-to-school drive, providing teachers from Broward County Public Schools with free supplies to support their students' education.

Located in Pompano Beach, the foundation's center welcomes teachers twice a year, allowing them to gather the necessary supplies for their students' academic success without any cost.

With approximately 200,000 students in Broward County Schools living at or below the poverty level, many families face the difficult decision of choosing between basic needs and school supplies. The back-to-school drive helps alleviate this burden by empowering teachers to shop

composition books, crayons, pink rectangular erasers, two-pocket folders, glue, glue sticks, individual hand sanitizers, highlighters, single-hole punchers, index cards (3"x5"), markers, three-hole notebook paper, pencil pouches, pencil sharpeners, #2 pencils with erasers, mechanical pencils, black and blue ink pens, rulers, children's scissors, wide-ruled spiral notebooks, and clear tape.

The foundation is accepting donations until August 25th, contributing to the success of students in need. For more information on how to donate or get involved, visit <https://browardedfoundation.org/>



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BACK TO SCHOOL



www.caribbeantoday.com

Teach Kids Kindness And Gratitude With Thank You Notes

Nearly 60% of Americans say they send thank you notes at least occasionally to show their appreciation for a gift or favor, according to a recent poll from AmericanGreetings.com. While writing thank yous might seem time consuming, it's actually a wonderful opportunity to teach children important life lessons such as kindness, gratitude and empathy.

Whether they are thanking their new teacher, their favorite fall sports coach, or a friend or family member, here are a few tips and tricks for creating meaningful – yet simple – thank yous with kids this back-to-school season and beyond.

Focus On The Positive

It's important to give children a "why." Parents should explain that when people receive a thank you note, it not only

makes them feel good, but it lets them know that the gift arrived safely and was appreciated. By placing the emphasis on the person who gave them the gift – rather than on themselves – it changes thank yous from a pain-point to a positive.

Make It A Fun With Devices

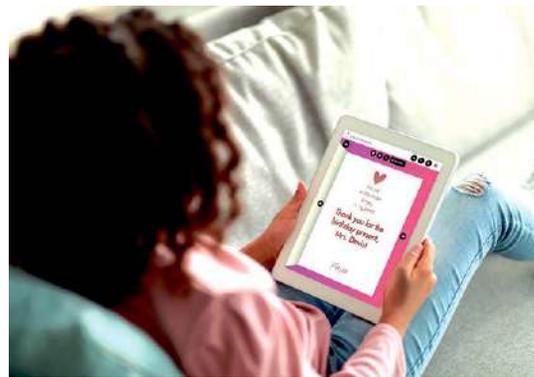
Kids love devices – so put their screen time to good use with apps like American Greetings Creatacard for iPad. The app offers a fun, easy and engaging tool to make and send greeting cards. Plus, receiving them will be just as exciting – as homemade cards from kids are enjoyed by 93% of Americans!

Whether making a card from scratch, coloring a card or customizing a pre-made design, the Creatacard app allows kids to explore their imaginations. Simply choose from a variety of

virtual (and mess-free) tools, such as pencils, paint, markers, photo frames, stamps and stickers to add designs, images and personalized messages. Best of all, the app is free to download, and cards can be sent instantly via email, text, messaging apps or shared on social media.

Power Of Personalization

According to the American Greetings poll, personalized messages are the most important and enjoyed part of thank you notes. Parents should encourage kids to think about what made the gift so special and be sure to communicate that message. Was it something they really needed



or wanted? Will they use the check or money for a specific purpose? Spending a few extra minutes personalizing each note will go a long way to show their sincere appreciation.

Timing Is Everything – The Sooner The Better!

It's proper etiquette to be timely in sending thank you notes. In fact, 54% of Americans say they should be sent within

one week of receiving a gift. Build good habits with kids by sending thank yous as soon as possible. It may be helpful to plan ahead and establish a set time within a week of the celebration for children to create and send their cards. And luckily, if you're sending digital greetings, they'll arrive instantly, save money on postage, and save time by eliminating the need to find current street addresses.

Teaching kids the importance of properly showing gratitude is a life skill they can take with them as they grow older. Starting small with thank you notes can be an invaluable step to becoming a kinder and more gracious person.

- StatePoint



Delicious, No-Fuss Dinner Ideas For The Back-To-School Season

Whether it's shuttling the little ones to their after school activities, or helping older students cram for their exams, families get super busy, quickly when kids return to school in fall. But that doesn't mean you can't regularly sit down together for weeknight dinners.

"Parent-chefs can effortlessly turn up the flavor by relying on single-use spice packets. They take the guesswork out of creating the perfect combination of seasonings and can make whipping up weeknight dinners during the back-to-school

season so much easier," says Glen Schutzman, vice president marketing, Convenient Meals, McCormick.

To help make the transition a little bit easier and a little more delicious, McCormick, a global leader in flavor, is sharing its recipe for Taco Casserole, which can be prepared in just 30 minutes with seven simple ingredients. A great way to switch up your taco night, this family-pleasing dish, which has the potential to become a mainstay in your recipe repertoire, incorporates McCormick Original Taco Seasoning Mix. Adding a vibrant, Southwest kick to any dish, use this classic seasoning mix to spice up soups, chilis, casseroles, fajitas, dips, nachos and of course, tacos.

TACOS

Ingredients:

- (makes 6 servings)
- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef or ground turkey
- 1 package McCormick Original

Taco Seasoning Mix

- 1 can (16 ounces) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can (11 ounces) whole kernel corn or Mexican-style corn, drained
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup coarsely crushed tortilla chips



Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Brown meat in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat.
2. Stir in seasoning mix, beans, tomato sauce and corn. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spoon into 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and tortilla chips.
3. Bake 5 to 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with assorted toppings, such as sour cream, cilantro and

avocado, if desired.

To shop spices and seasoning mixes, and for additional recipes and weeknight inspiration, visit mccormick.com/recipes.

Don't let the hectic back-to-school season overwhelm you. With simple ingredients, you can put together tasty dinners that will win over family members of all ages.

- StatePoint





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Everything You Need To Know About Student Loans



More American families are borrowing for college. At the same time, merit aid and the use of personal income and savings is falling.

That's according to an annual College Ave Student Loans survey of college students at four-year universities, conducted with Barnes & Noble College Insights. The survey also found college affordability is top-of-mind for the majority of students (57%). Despite financial concerns, 81% of students report that a college degree is crucial for their future.

"The mix of methods that families use to pay for college has shifted, however one thing remains consistent: students and families value the investment in higher education," says Angela Colatrisano, chief marketing officer of College Ave.

To borrow smart for college this Fall, consider these tips and insights:

EXHAUST ALL OPTIONS

Before turning to private

student loans, first exhaust other sources of financial aid. Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be considered for grants, scholarships, work-study programs and federal student loans. If your selected school is one of the 400 institutions that requires the CSS profile, submit that too to qualify for institutional aid. Finally, search for private scholarships offered by companies and non-profit organizations. One easy one to apply for is the College Ave \$1,000 monthly scholarship sweepstakes.

If you do need to borrow, turn to federal student loans in the student's name first, which generally offer the lowest rates and come with additional benefits. They don't depend on credit scores, and offer longer deferments and forbearances, income-driven repayment plans and student loan forgiveness.

PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS

Federal student loans have annual and aggregate loan limits. If you find yourself needing to borrow parent or private loans to cover remaining costs, consider these factors:

- **Costs**
Compare costs of different loans by looking at the actual interest rate you'll be charged, not the lowest advertised rate.

Understand the difference between variable and fixed interest rates, and be aware of any fees and available discounts, such as those offered for using autopay.

• Cosigners

A creditworthy cosigner doesn't just increase the odds of loan approval, even if the student can qualify on their own, cosigning may yield a lower interest rate, reducing the overall cost of the loan.

• Total Debt

Borrow only what you need. With private loans, you can usually borrow up to the total cost of attendance. However, borrowing less than the maximum can help you save over time. A simple rule of thumb you can use to determine how much student loan debt you can afford: If total student loan debt at graduation, including federal and private loans, is less than the student's annual starting salary, you can likely repay the loans in 10 years or less.

• Repayment

Look for repayment flexibility to match your needs. For example, College Ave Student Loans offers 5-, 8-, 10- and 15-year repayment options, along with the choice of deferring payments until after graduation or beginning payments right away. No matter what option you select, understand the terms.

For more resources,

including an online student loan calculator, and to learn more about paying for college, visit

CollegeAve.com.

- StatePoint



Medicaid And CHIP Help Families Access Mental Health Services For Kids

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

Enrollment is open year-round.

What if my child currently has Medicaid or CHIP coverage? Medicaid and CHIP coverage must be renewed annually. If you or your children have Medicaid or CHIP, it's time to pay attention to your health coverage. Keep an eye on the mail for renewal information from your state. When it comes, complete the forms and send them back right away. Failure or delay in responding can result in you losing coverage, even if you are eligible for Medicaid and CHIP. If you have lost coverage, go to HealthCare.gov to find quality plans and help paying costs.

What types of services are covered through Medicaid and CHIP? To help care for all parts of a child's health, Medicaid and CHIP also cover routine health care visits, like preventive care, dental and vision checkups, specialist visits, physical, speech and occupational therapies, and emergency services. These programs also cover a wide range of mental health and substance

use services such as counseling, peer support services, inpatient psychiatric services and case management services for needed medical, educational and social services. Services are covered through Medicaid for children and teens up to age 21 and through CHIP up to age 19.

States have flexibility to determine if services may be delivered using telehealth. These services are necessary to prevent, diagnose and treat a broad range of mental health symptoms and disorders, as well as substance use disorders.

Caring for mental health is caring for overall health. Early detection and intervention of mental health and substance use issues is crucial to the overall health of kids, teens and people during and after pregnancy, and may reduce or eliminate the effects of a condition if detected and treated early. Take the time today to explore coverage options through Medicaid and CHIP.

- StatePoint



SCAN ME



Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.sheriff.org/Community> for important back-to-school safety tips.

Sheriff Gregory Tony and the Broward Sheriff's Office

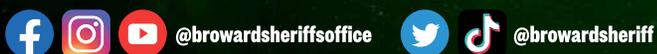
welcome you

BACK TO SCHOOL

"The safety of our students is our top priority. Let's work together to create a safe and secure learning environment."

- Sheriff Gregory Tony

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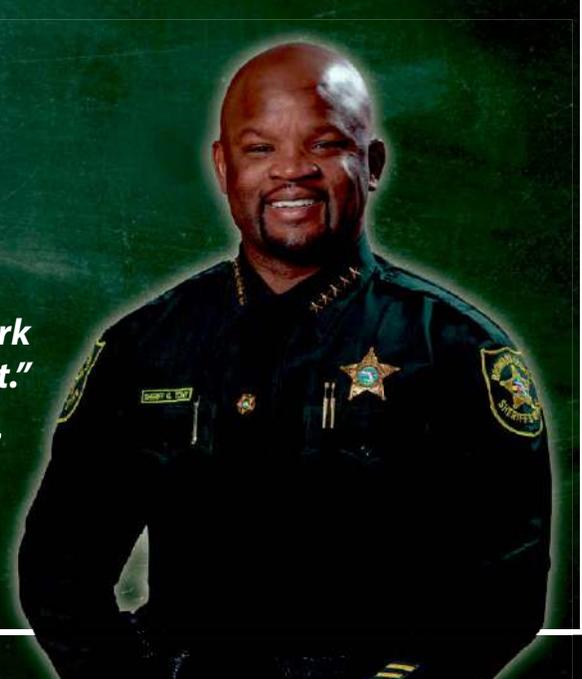
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